CRESCENT

MAGAZINE



SEPTEMBER 2026

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CRESCENT MAGAZINE

is the University of Evansville's student magazine. It is written, edited and designed by and for UE students and published during the academic year. A circulation of 250 is distributed to 18 campus locations and housed online at www.crescent.evansville.edu The Crescent is funded through advertising sales and a subscription fee paid on behalf of students by the Student Government Association.

LETTER SUBMISSIONS

Crescent Magazine welcomes letters from UE students, faculty, staff, administrators and alumni, but material the CMEB regards as libelous, malicious and/or obscene will not be published. Letters should not exceed 250 words. For verification, letters must include the author's name, class standing or title and email address. Crescent Magazine does not print anonymous letters or those that cannot be verified. Letters will be edited as needed.

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Commentary expressed in unsigned editorials represents a consensus opinion of the magazine's Editorial Board. Other columns, reviews, articles and advertising are not necessarily the opinion of the CMEB or other members of staff.

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"IN THIS EFFORT TO ATTAIN SECURITY, INDEPENDENCE AND PRIVACY OF COURSE WERE **SUSPECT**."

URSULA K. LE GUIN, **CITY OF ILLUSIONS**

ALWAYS WATCHING

FLOCK SAFETY

By Lola Sills

Includes Interviews with Law Enforcement Officers and Opposing Organizations

In modern times, it's impossible to disappear completely. Our phones, computers, and smart watches are constantly tracking us. Now, even our cities have the tools to see where we go. Automatic license plate recognition (ALPR) is not a new technology and has been around for about 50 years. Flock cameras, and the Flock Safety program created by Garrett Langley, Paige Todd, and Matt Feury, have been around for nearly a decade. The company started as a kitchen-table project after a series of crimes in one of the founders' hometowns encouraged him to make affordable ALPRs that could be used in any county. Flock says its license plate readers capture license plates and vehicle characteristics. In communities, organizations like DeFlock, a national nonpartisan organization dedicated to mapping where Flock cameras are in the nation, express concerns over their privacy and civil liberties. They're trying to make people more aware and educated about what these cameras are, what they record, and why they believe they're wrong.

In Vanderburgh County, there are about 50 Flock cameras around the area. Authorities opted in for the national Flock database, meaning that authorized agencies elsewhere can search the images and data Evansville has made available through the network. The claim is that this technology helps with nationwide searches, whether for a missing person or a stolen vehicle, and can solve crimes that cross state borders quicker and more efficiently. They first started using this technology in 2022, along with already using Clearview AI, a database with over 30 billion pictures of people, since 2020. On September 16th, the **Evansville Police Chief requested an additional $265,000 for investigative tools,** including Flock cameras, and the city council is set to vote on budget requests later this year.

Evansville is not new to AI technology, and not new to the misuse of it. In 2024, an officer was placed on suspension after it was discovered that he was using Clearview AI, a separate facial recognition system, for his own personal use (Tristate). He was then fired after this was investigated. In early 2025, the Washington Post released an article that discusses how police departments have made arrests based on AI evidence alone, collecting no further independent evidence. Evansville was on that list, along with 14 other police departments (Washington Post). The Evansville Police Department (EPD) later disputed the claim that they used

exclusively AI evidence to make an arrest, and no real public information can be found to prove that they did. On the other hand, many officers have found ALPR technology incredibly helpful when looking into especially difficult cases. Sheriff Noah Robinson explained one specific case that happened just earlier this year, saying "a woman was followed home from the casino, and a man held her at knife point and robbed her." The man then drove away, and although the woman wasn't positive what car he was driving, with her description they were able to identify the vehicle using Flock cameras and arrested him.

While Flock cameras were made to provide a quick and efficient way to read license plates and deter crime, they have evolved into a tool that can help solve crime that, previously, would have gone unsolved. Now, many citizens are concerned about the impact these cameras have on their privacy. Adam Carey, an administrative

> **"A MISTAKE TO ALLOW NATIONWIDE LOOKUP IN OUR COMMUNITY."**
> Sheriff Noah Robinson

member of the nonpartisan and nonprofit organization called DeFlock Evansville, explicitly said that they believe "ALPRs in general are a breach of the Fourth Amendment", which is the protection against unlawful search and seizure, and that it "essentially aligns with stalking; it makes stalking easier." While these privacy concerns are a central part of the debate surrounding Flock, Sheriff Robinson said that the sheriff's department and EPD have safeguards in place to prevent their officers from using these photos as independent evidence. At the same time, however, Robinson expressed his concern as well, saying "[he] gets a little nervous about some of [the] agencies that have nationwide access to all of these [Flock] cameras", going on to express that he "doesn't know what safeguards [those agencies] have, so that's where [he] gets a little bit worried." He then told me that he and Chief Smith with EPD plan to have a meeting, concluding on whether they will remove the city from the national lookup database. Robinson said that although "[he] thinks it was done with the best intentions," it was still "a mistake to allow nationwide lookup in our community." A differing view, however, comes from a member of the Evansville Police Department. Taylor Merriss is the Special Projects Coordinator and mainly works within the community. She explained that she is a proponent of Flock Safety, despite knowing that officers in the country have misused it. She expressed that the safeguards that EPD has in place to prevent the personal use of the technology are trustworthy and secure. She, like Sheriff Robinson, explained a time that she found Flock especially helpful, saying she "remembers when Flock was first introduced, it was all about finding stolen vehicles", until "there was a kid that was kidnapped, and all we knew was that he had gotten on a scooter-type vehicle, and that it was red", using simple-language in the Flock database, they were "able to track the direction that the kid was going. He was literally on the back of a moped with somebody who ended up being a sex offender as well." They were able to locate the child within an hour.

The debate around Flock cameras doesn't come from whether it can read a license plate. The larger questions are what information the cameras collect and where that data goes. One still image of a vehicle doesn't provide much information, and the biggest argument that Flock has made is that the pictures are designed to focus on the license plate and the make/model of the vehicle rather than who is driving it. For someone who has never been suspected of a crime, that information may seem insignificant, but the concern comes from those images being put together collectively. When multiple cameras capture the same car throughout the day, it can provide a much more detailed picture of where that vehicle has traveled and can potentially reveal locations associated with where a person lives, travels, what they do for work, etc., and for those opposing the technology, they wonder if having all of that information about people in the city is truly helpful, necessary, and safe.

Sheriff Robinson provided some reassurance when asked about this and said that "[they] can see exactly how many times the database has been looked at in a day", and that there are random audits done to see how many times a specific officer has looked at the database. If it appears that they're using it much more than they should, it's investigated. When it comes to the national database, though, Robinson said his office could not see who at outside agencies were searching the shared data or what they were viewing.

> **"ALPRs in general are a breach of the Fourth Amendment."**
> Adam Carey, DeFlock Evansville

The national database is almost a separate issue that concerns officers and opponents alike. As previously stated, Sheriff Robinson opposes the national database himself and plans to discuss the idea of removing Vanderburgh County from it. Taylor Merriss, however, finds it incredibly useful and beneficial, and spoke about how when a crime crosses state lines, it's important that they can use the technology to get a clearer picture of what happened, stating "it would be a disservice if we didn't look that up nationally." The national database brings up the question of the Fourth Amendment and what is considered unlawful search. Sheriff Robinson described Flock cameras as no different from someone "standing on a street



corner and taking photos of passing cars in a public space", but Carey argues that it changes things when suddenly other people who aren't typically in those spaces can also see what is happening, and again, have a lot of information about where specific vehicles can typically be found. As Robinson stated before, Vanderburgh County officers cannot see who is searching their database outside of the county, and that begs the question of whether these outside officers are doing so with a valid reason. There are no clear answers yet, despite the topic becoming a national issue, with many cities even covering and removing their own Flock cameras as they try to reach a decision. For Evansville, it becomes a much more immediate question as officials try to expand the budget for Flock in the upcoming City Council budget hearing. Sheriff Robinson said, that while at the moment he supports Flock for the community, if he "finds out that Flock Safety is lying to [him] about data retention, [he] will personally cut down the cameras [himself]."

For a resident, it's easy to overlook a Flock camera. You pass by a few on your way to school, a friend's house, a restaurant, and there's no physical interaction indicating that anything has happened at all, but a picture remains. One only shows a passing car, but multiple images collected over time can show a greater amount of information that is then shared and can be searched on a national database. Flock technology was designed to help make communities safer and to aid law enforcement in investigations that may involve vehicles. Now, communities must decide how much information they're willing to collect in pursuit of that goal, and what safeguards should apply when that information is shared.

Evansville Police have also reported damage to Flock cameras. On September 28th, it was reported that, in total, **14 cameras around the city had been vandalized or completely removed.** According to 14 News, Sgt. Anthony Aussieker, EPD public information officer, said damaging a Flock camera can lead to a felony charge. He went on to say that the issue "could probably be fixed through some education and conversation". Amid the debate and the reported vandalism, Evansville officials have an incredibly difficult choice to make. How should Evansville weigh the cameras' potential to help solve crimes against residents' concerns about privacy and oversight?

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Album Recs

by Heidi McCombs

As summer winds down and campus life starts up again, it's hard not to miss our precious weeks of freedom. Throughout my own hours of traveling this summer, I listened to *a lot* of music — some new releases, some not-so-new. Here's a handful of albums that I think are worth checking out!

JINX (2026)

Waterparks

Alternative / Pop-Rock



I'd definitely regret not mentioning the newest release from one of my favorite bands. I was lucky enough to see Waterparks on the Prowler tour last fall/winter, and I'm a little disappointed I'll be missing them on their next one during my time in Harlaxton. Still, *JINX* is so much fun from start to finish. It opens with "TELL ME WHY", a three-and-a-half minute wild ride packed with guest features (including Blink-182's Mark Hoppus) that poses the universe (and God himself, voiced by Eric Nally of Foxy Shazam) a long list of questions about the way life works. The album dips into some of the band's older sounds and even includes some reworked tracks including "GWEN STEFANI", a COVID-era unreleased demo, and "TASTES LIKE TANGERINE", which stemmed from a song on frontman Awsten Knight's solo project *VIDEO GAME MUSIC* from 2024. The album closes with "GIRLS NEED GUNS", a heartfelt, mostly-spoken track that contains a conversation with Knight's mother about the current and past states of women's rights (particularly abortion) that leaves the listener thinking. There are so many things, from samples to sound effects, hidden in each track that make this album worth more than one listen.

my pick:
"TASTES LIKE TANGERINE"

I Don't Want to See You in Heaven (2025)

The Callous Daoboys

Metalcore / Mathcore

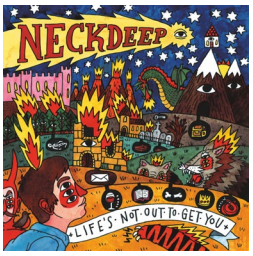


If you love an album with continuity and a story behind it, *I Don't Want to See You in Heaven* is definitely one to check out. I discovered this album via a Spotify blend with a friend a few months ago, and I haven't looked back. The Callous Daoboys have such a unique sound and bring a real freshness and vibrancy to the genre, especially through the inclusion of violin throughout their discography. Their lyrics are so clever and are truly unlike anything else I've ever heard before. *I Don't Want to See You in Heaven* opens and closes with ambient tracks to situate the listener in the album's conceptual framework: it is meant to be heard (300 years in the future) as an exhibit in the Museum of Failure. The album as a whole is anything but a failure; it's chock-full of genre-bending and a daringness to push the band's limits. "Distracted by the Mona Lisa" and "Lemon" both break free of the crunchiness of metal vocal styles in favor of beautiful clean vocals from frontman Carson Pace, giving the listener a handful of breaks from the heaviness of the rest of the album. Still, this isn't to discount Pace's ability to scream and growl; the rest of the album gives him plenty of room to shine – see "Tears on Lambo Leather" and "The Demon of Unreality Limping Like a Dog".

my pick:
"Two-Headed Trout"

Life's Not Out to Get You (2015)

Neck Deep
Pop Punk

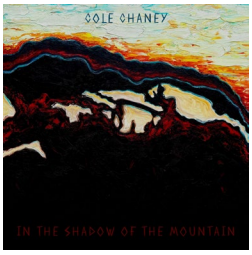


Life's Not Out to Get You is, in my opinion, one of the quintessential positive pop-punk albums. At times it seems overly positive (a sentiment echoed by the band across many interviews and magazine features), but it's a light in the sometimes overwhelmingly-bleak landscape of the genre. The song certainly is not devoid of breakup songs (par for the pop-punk course), but overall it focuses on a better future and coming to terms with yourself and the place you were born ("The Beach is for Lovers (Not Lonely Losers)", "Can't Kick Up the Roots"). Though the album had its ten-year release anniversary last year, I still believe it's timeless and rings true in a landscape that has changed so much since the mid 2010s. It's not afraid to face the topics of mental health struggles and feeling like you're losing the war against yourself at times ("Life's Not Out to Get You", "Smooth Seas Don't Make Good Sailors"). It's strong from start to finish and nothing feels out of place. The album visuals, created for the by Ricardo Cavolo, was created before the artist had heard the songs at all, but matches remarkably well with the album's overall feel. The Welsh pop-punk band packs a punch in under forty minutes, making it a perfect introduction to their discography if you're unfamiliar.

my pick:
"Kali Ma"

In the Shadow of the Mountain (2025)

Cole Chaney
Country / Americana



I would be remiss to not give a spot to something in this genre, though it was certainly hard to narrow it down. I've had the pleasure of watching Cole Chaney's music develop all the way from his debut album Mercy back in 2021. Age and performing experience, as well as an undeniable chemistry with his backing band Kyova, has led to a second album that was definitely worth the wait. Chaney's low, rough voice melts into the grunge-influenced-bluegrass style of the instrumentals, often accompanied by beautiful storytelling invoking images from his home in Appalachian Kentucky. I was lucky enough to see the band on the second leg of their tour for this release over the summer in St. Louis. They are phenomenal live performers, adding bluegrass traditionals into the setlist along with their original material. The album opens with a swelling instrumental with Intro, leading seamlessly into the haunting title track. The album does not stray from more upbeat sounds, however; The Unsatisfied is a bright, playful song that draws on Chaney's background and his restlessness when it comes to anything but music. Where Mercy was raw and at times unpolished, Shadow leans into a more developed sound that sends chills down my spine. Even if you think you're not into bluegrass, I'd recommend giving In the Shadow of the Mountain a taste.

my pick:
"The Unsatisfied"

If you enjoyed my recommendations, consider tuning into my shows on Fireside Aces Radio where I run *Side One* (pop-punk, hardcore, alternative rock) and *Homegrown* (country, americana, folk).

fireside.evansville.edu

CACAO IN THE MAYA FUNERARY LANDSCAPE



By Mia Gallagher

Over the summer, I received a wonderful opportunity to intern at a local museum in my hometown. My research consisted of a focus on Mesoamerican cultures, namely Aztec and Maya, with a focus on plants found in the funerary landscape for the larger scale exhibit opening in 2027. Given the broadness of the topic, I started relatively small with a short piece on marigolds, a flower still commonly used in funerary practices today. Other topics included, early Aztec religion, cacao, the funerary tomb, and a preliminary jump into a plant called bourreria huanita. My favorite, however, had to be the research on the Maya funerary tomb, with a focus on cacao residue. Here's what my research found.

Aside from maize, cacao is one of the most popular plants found throughout Mesoamerican culture. In fact, the seeds of the theobroma cacao tree were one of the most culturally valued plants. One of the reasons the plant was so valued was due to its stimulating effects because of the small amount of caffeine. While the dosage of caffeine found in the plant is considered to be minuscule for today's standards, with lack of other stimulants at the time, the small amount was enough. Along with use as a stimulant, cacao was popular for trade. Traditionally, both the seeds and pulp were eaten; however, seeds were placed in higher value due to their portability along trade routes. The plant was not only popular for trade, but also within the funerary world of Maya.

A good portion of what is known about cacao found in tombs is due to the ECAP project. The ECAP project (Early Copan Acropolis Program) ran by the University of Pennsylvania's museum, excavated the lowest levels of Copan's acropolis where in the base, they found 2 royal tombs. Within these elite Maya tombs, excavators found several vessels. Many of which contained cacao residue or were inscribed with the glyph marking for cacao, found through residue analysis. Thus, revealing the importance of cacao as a ritual offering in burial settings.

Aside from residue analysis, the importance of cacao was also highlighted through iconography and texts. While no cacao iconography remains from the early classic period (250- 550 CE), it is abundant in the late classic art (550-900 CE), with the plant appearing occasionally as a tree or as pods. The most common depiction, however, is found in the form of ceramic vessels representing cacao trees. These vessels typically took one of three forms, one of which is an offering vessel with a human face floating on the surface–likely representing an ancestor. The representation of ancestors as cacao trees appears to tie into the belief of rebirth– in modern times, the community of Santiago Atitlán plants a tree on each grave to follow this idea. However, this practice is not unique solely to this community and can be observed with varying plants among different groups.

Cacao and other goods are commonly offered in sets of 5, representing the quincunx, apart of Maya cosmology belief. The offering would be placed in a square which would serve as the four corners of the world, the offering in turn, serving as the axis mundi. This offering could be performed in varying forms-- from seeds to beverages, but the vessel that contained the offering was relatively consistent, a cylinder-shaped tripod vase.

Food and drink were not the only way cacao was offered as well. During their excavation ECAP also found a male figure in one of the caches. It is depicted with cacao pods growing from his sides while bearing the glyph for a tree. Simon Martin, a Mayanist scholar, has argued that the figure represents the maize god–writing that the cacao is the first fruit to grow on the god, continuing to link the funerary space to the maize god.

In terms of offering foods, the Maya enjoyed foamy beverages of cacao and maize for major celebrations, with high importance seeming to be placed on the buttery foam topping the beverages. The drinks typically combine atole (a mixture of maize and water) with chocolate. Questions of what created the foam are ever present, and while these 2 ingredients don't combine to produce the foam on their own, it turns out that in some communities, the secret ingredient for the staple foam is a ritually treated pataxte cacao paste. Because of this addition, it places an emphasis on the creation of the drink.

The funerary landscape of the Ancient Maya was far more complex than just cacao offerings, and spans far more than just the Copan area mentioned. While my internship was brief, it not only granted me an opportunity to learn more about my field, but also an opportunity to delve into an area of study I hadn't stopped to fully consider.

Dear Mayor Terry,

I am writing to share a concern that has been on my mind: how Evansville responds to people in the middle of a mental health crisis. I want to start by acknowledging the work already being done. The Evansville Police Department's use of the Crisis Intervention Team model reflects a real commitment to handling these situations with care. At the same time, relying primarily on law enforcement to respond to behavioral health crises is often not the most effective approach.

Evansville is a community where many residents are navigating significant stressors. With a large portion of the population living with disabilities and many households facing economic strain. Mental health crises are often rooted in ongoing, complex challenges such as these. When such crises are met first with a police response, the situation can unintentionally escalate even when handled with the upmost professionalism. For some individuals, particularly those who have had difficult past interactions with authority, the presence of law enforcement can heighten distress rather than reduce it.

This is not a critique of our officers, but rather a reflection of the limits of the system we are asking them to operate within. CIT training is meaningful, but it cannot replace the depth of clinical training that mental health professionals bring. As a result, response to crises can vary heavily depending on which officers respond and what resources are immediately available.

Additionally, officers who are CIT trained often spend extended periods waiting with individuals in emergency departments for psychiatric intake, which takes them away from other public safety responsibilities. There is an opportunity here to build something that better serves everyone involved. A Mobile Crisis Unit, staffed by trained behavioral health professionals, would allow Evansville to respond to many of these calls with the kind of care they truly require. Other cities have already demonstrated that this model works. Programs like Denver's STAR and Oregon's CAHOOTS have reduced unnecessary law enforcement involvement, lowered costs associated with emergency services, and helped people stabilize in a culturally competent and compassionate way.

Evansville is in a strong position to move in this direction. With access to resources like the Indiana Mobile Crisis Accelerator Program, the city has the tools to make a meaningful shift. A model that sends the right type of responder to these situations would allow law enforcement to focus on safety-related concerns, while ensuring that individuals in crisis receive timely and appropriate care.

A response system that meets people where they are, has the potential to reduce harm, strengthen trust, and make more efficient use of city resources.

Thank you for your time, your leadership, and your continued investment in the well-being of this community.

Sincerely,
Bee Hammond

ALL POINTS EAST

A Review by Heidi McCombs

My first weekend in Harlaxton proved to be eventful. Within a few days of touching down in England, Chance and I were invited by our friend Kyla to see the final day of All Points East in Victoria Park, London. While I honestly wasn't sure what my concert profile for the fall semester would look like, I was overjoyed to have an early opportunity to put at least one on the board. With Twenty One Pilots headlining, we knew we couldn't say no.

After a quick trip to Grantham on Friday and some exploring in Nottingham on Saturday, we got up early and headed to the train station. If there's one thing the UK has figured out, it's public transportation. Our changes were smooth and went along without much trouble (not including dragging our bags from the station to our hotel, which was an entirely different can of worms). We had just enough time to drop off our bags and freshen up before we were off to catch the tube to the park.

It's always fun to see other people on their way to the same concert, but it's especially true when it comes to Twenty One Pilots. The fans are unmistakable, decked out in red and yellow tape, costumes from the music videos, and the (in)famous black-painted hands and neck. We knew we were headed in the right direction when we found ourselves surrounded by people who couldn't be headed anywhere else but Victoria Park.

After a long queue and some ticket troubles (thanks, UK cell service…), we finally found ourselves on the festival grounds. All Points East was the first music festival I've ever attended, and part of me regrets not being able to see more of it. I caught part of Honey Revenge's set while waiting in the longest merch line that I think I've ever encountered, and after we finally were able to get our shirts, we headed to bbno$'s stage. While I honestly can't say I've listened to much of his music, his set was so bizarre and such a fun time that I'm truly glad I went. He has a very genuine and engaging stage presence that filled the tent from its dirt floor all the way to its peaked ceiling, from the stage to the open back. His visuals were great as well, and I admire his dedication to using human-made artwork and animation in a time that seems so domineered by AI and computer-generated visuals.

I don't know if I ever could have been prepared for the sheer number of people attending APE for Twenty One Pilots' set. We arrived around an hour before the set was supposed to start, and it seemed that people had been there all day already. With that said, we weren't close to the stage, but the Pilots have a way with their concerts that makes you feel every word no matter where you end up.

Their setlist contained a staggering 28 songs and was chock-full of covers, including snippets of Milky Chance's "Stolen Dance", The Beatles' "Let It Be", Radiohead's "Creep", and, in full, "Seven Nation Army" from The White Stripes. Each one was a very welcome surprise, and seeing my friends' reactions and the ones from those around us made it even more fun. I loved the variety in the setlist and how it felt like a great mix of songs across their discography while not leaving out their biggest hits.

TWENTY ONE PILOTS
ALL POINTS EAST
Victoria Park, London | 30 August 2026

1. Overcompensate
2. The Contract
3. Center Mass
4. Shy Away
5. Heathens
6. Next Semester
7. One Way (w/ cover)
8. Tear in my Heart
9. Robot Voices (w/ Emi Grace & cover)
10. Routines in the Night
11. Message Man
12. Pet Cheetah
13. Polarize
14. Chlorine
15. Jumpsuit / City Walls
16. Nico & the Niners
17. Heavydirtysoul
18. Drum Show (w/ cover)
19. RAWFEAR
20. Drag Path
21. Doubt (Demo)
22. Ride
23. Seven Nation Army
24. Tally
25. Downstairs
26. Guns for Hands
27. Stressed Out
28. Trees

via setlistfm



Photo Credit: **@mixitallup**

As always with concerts, especially ones of this magnitude, there is real beauty in being surrounded by those who just seem to get it. Not only were we surrounded by the band's signature colors and merch as far as the eye could see, but we also found ourselves in a sea of people who, like us, knew and felt every word. Even standing shoulder-to-shoulder with strangers and thousands of miles from Evansville, Victoria Park felt something like home.

I've been listening to this band for over a decade now. To say this band has been a huge part of my life would be an understatement. In the earliest times I can remember struggling with my mental health, it was such a huge comfort to have a band that faced those topics head-on. Chance and I saw Twenty One Pilots on their Breach tour last year, and while that was my first time seeing them even with such a long following under my belt, it was life changing. We held each other through the raw emotions we felt for the songs that seemed to see us clearly and the overwhelming gratitude for making it through to today. The same rang true at All Points East – we, along with Kyla, turned to each other several times with tears on our faces and red cheeks, overwhelmed by the music and the sensation of being seen. That vulnerability is, in my opinion, part of what makes this band so special.

The pair have undeniable chemistry and a great stage presence that made for an unforgettable evening and a perfect first festival experience. As we left, again surrounded by a huge swath of fans just like us, the fatigue barely registered. The post-concert high made the tube ride home (and navigating back to the hotel) much more bearable. I couldn't have asked for a better first weekend in the UK, and I hope to attend more concerts during my time here.



The Donut Burger Changes Hands!

A Transition of Tradition within the Community

By Cooper Vaught

EVANSVILLE, Ind. [SEPT. 2026]

The famous donut burger food truck has fallen into new hands!

The Grace and Peace Lutheran Church have passed the torch of the donut burger onto the Evansville African American Museum (EAAM). On Saturday, September 5th, the EAAM had its first run with the food truck at Bayard Park on Family Day. From noon to 8:00 PM, the event featured music, games, and a welcoming atmosphere.

But what is a "donut burger"? Who are the EAAM? Why did the church donate the food truck to them? What is Family Day? I had the chance to speak with Kori E. Miller and some other vendors at the event to learn more.



Kori is the Executive Director of the EAAM – In his words, the museum was made to preserve African American culture both in and outside of Evansville. They weren't always a museum, though. Before that, the entire area was a PWA program; an organization and community with the goal of getting people back to work. The area, named Lincoln Gardens, was located within Baptisttown and lasted from 1938 to 1997. It was a strong black community in its time, offering jobs and homes to hundreds. The area fell into despair around the late 90s, but Sandra Matthews saved the museum. The Housing Authority was about to tear it down until Matthews bought it from them for $1. Sandra had a vision for the place and, just 10 years later, the museum officially opened.

Alternatively known as the Luther burger, the donut burger's concept is very much told through its name. It has all the similarities to a "classic" burger, except the bun is replaced with a donut. Within Evansville, the donut burger is a huge staple at the Fall Festival; an annual, week-long event that's known for its bizarre food. Last



year alone, almost 300,000 people showed up to the event. There's no actual documentation of its origin, but the story goes as such: Down in Georgia, there was a bar named Mulligan's and one night the owner ran out of buns for his burgers. In a fit of panic, he substituted the buns with glazed donuts.



As to why it's nicknamed the Luther burger, it's also solely from rumor. The famous artist, Luther Vandross, allegedly loved the donut-burger combination and frequently visited Mulligan's. So, the owner of the establishment titled it under his name. Kori explained to me why this was so significant. In his own words, Miller regarded Vandross as one of the best African American soul singers. Additionally, he emphasized just how phenomenal Luther was. Preceding his 2026 Rock and Roll Hall of me induction, he achieved 11 platinum albums in a row! To quote Kori himself, "Some people can sing… Luther can sang." With his contributing list of achievements, Kori and I agreed that his induction should've happened sooner.

Kori was incredibly stoked when they were allowed to run the Luther burger. From his account, he received a call from Rachel Mayes, one of the church officers at the Grace and Peace Lutheran Church. They wanted to donate the food truck, and they felt handing it off to the EAAM would promise more volunteers and longevity. They gladly accepted the offer, as they were aware of the burger's significance to Evansville.

As mentioned before, the EAAM treated Family Day at Bayard Park as a sort of test run and fundraiser. Donut burgers were nine dollars, and all proceeds went to funding the EAAM. Family Day itself hasn't occurred in years, the last time the event was held was pre-COVID. According to other vendors and onlookers, the gathering is meant to bring the community together. From promoting several small businesses to performing live music, the day was fun for all ages and walks of life. I got to taste some of the community's food, and I had a great time getting to know everyone. As for the EAAM, they sold out of all their donut burgers before the end of the day. From speaking with Kori, it seems they have hopes to bring this beloved meal to several future events. The future for them is bright, and the donuts are amazing!





Fall Festival Gets an App!

By Cooper Vaught

Download It Here!



Download It Here!

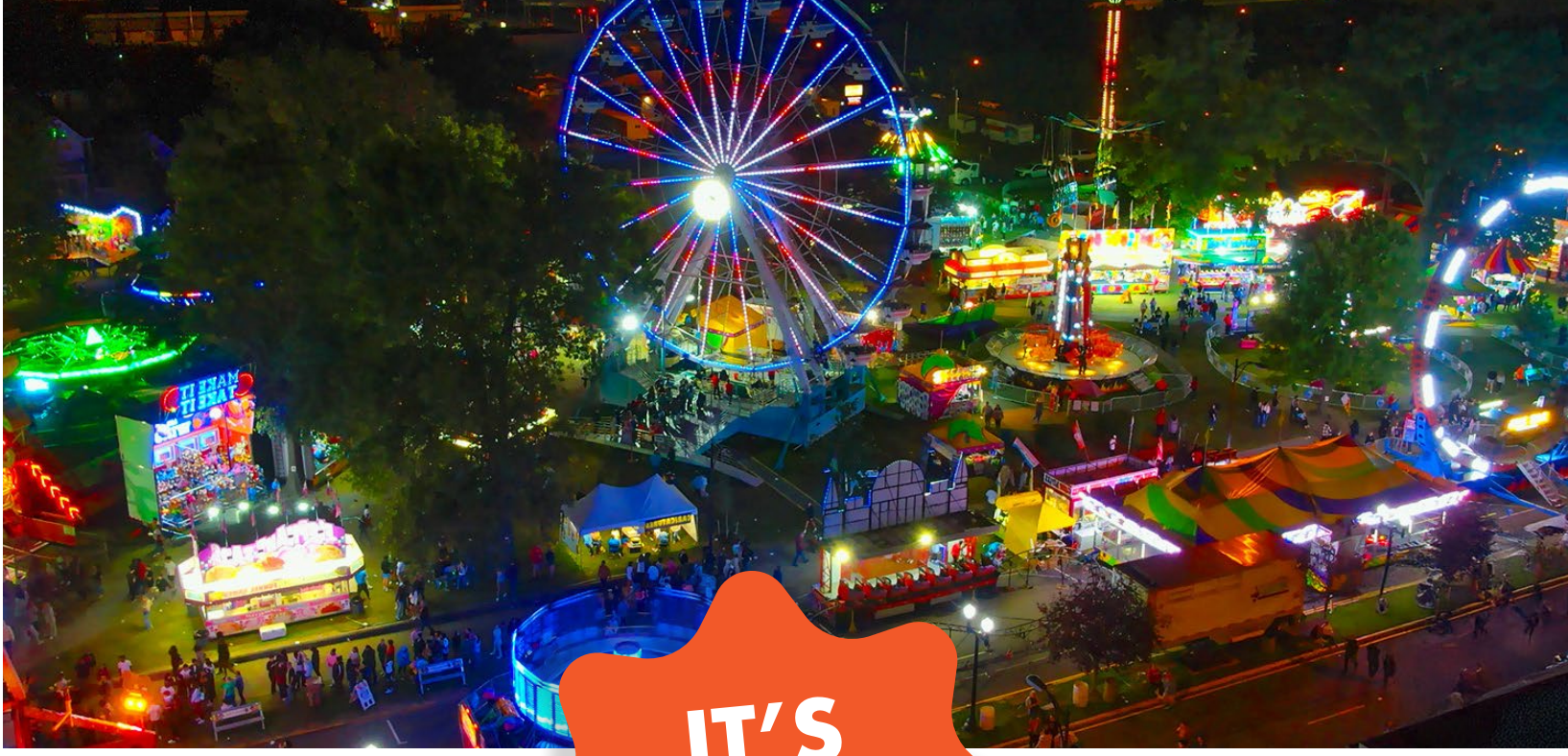
EVANSVILLE, Ind.–[SEPT. 2026]–It's finally here! The West Side Nut Club has dropped an app for the Fall Fest!

105 years strong, the Fall Festival is coming back for another week of fun. Packed with food, games, and parades, the event is a staple of Evansville's community. Everything is deep-fried, everyone puts in to the half pot, and everyone wants apple cider. And now? There's an app for it! Guiding you through all the food, all the stalls, and all the essentials. But what exactly is a Fall Fest? Why is everyone talking about it? Why do you need an app for a festival? What are any of these foods they're talking about? I'll answer these questions, as well as give my personal recommendations on how to spend the week.

Since 1921, the Fall Festival has been held in Evansville. It began as a one-night Halloween event but has since evolved into what it is today. Last year alone broke several records. With over 280,000 people attending, 47,000 showing up on Wednesday alone, $8.3 million in economic impact, and $2.6 million put into the half pot… this event is no joke.

This festival, held on West Franklin Street during the first full week of October, is regarded as the second-largest festival in the Country! People come from out of town, out of county, and even out of state! If you EVER wanted to see as many state plates as possible in a week… this is your week. While some only travel a few minutes, others travel several hours to stay the week. Some go for the shows, others go for the rides, and everyone goes for the food.

Speaking of, the biggest hype for this event is all the treats you can eat. With over 130 booths, this week-long event has a wide variety of things to munch on. And now… there's an app to help you with it all! Named the Nut Club Fall Festival, the app has many helpful features. For starters, there's an interactive map of the street, including booth numbers and areas for games. Additionally, there's a helpful list for food. Deemed the "munchie map," this guide gives you a full list of every bite there! From deep-fried PB&J to donut burgers, this event is the place to try any and every crazy meal you can think of. If you're interested in what a specific booth is selling… you can now see that, too! While prices aren't listed, most items usually go for $3-$10. Some other features of the app include a height guide for rides, the amount of credits (digital tickets or tokens, essentially) you need for



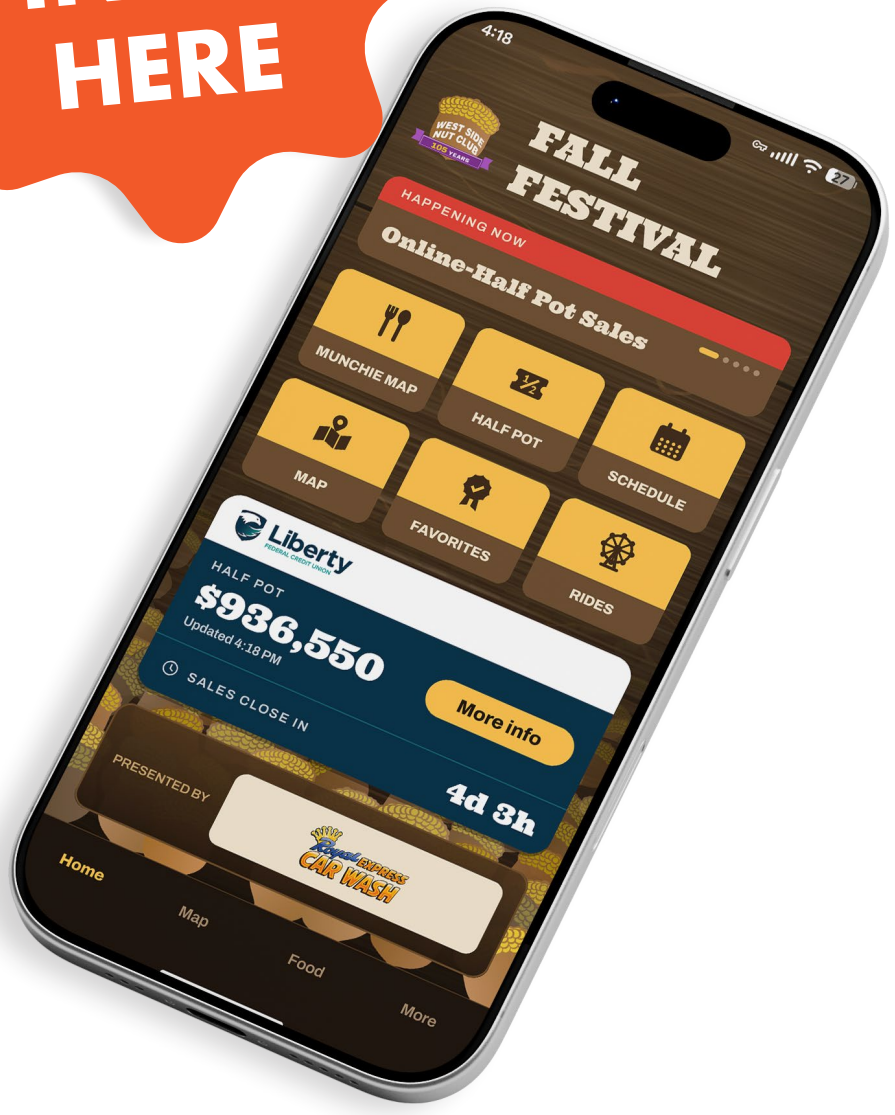
Fall Festival, Evansville, Indiana

IT'S FINALLY HERE

each ride, a way to purchase half-pot tickets from your phone, and a set schedule of shows and parades.

Personally, my big 5 for this year are the Pronto Pup, the Pizza Burger, the deep-fried mac & cheese bites, the Grippo's combinations, and all the Monster floats I can down. And these are just the tame options you have! I'd argue that the craziest thing you can eat there is a brain sandwich. And no—it's not a metaphor! It contains the actual brain of a pig, deep-fried and slapped in between two buns. But if wild and savory isn't your thing, there are also sweet options for all of the candy lovers out there! They've got funnel cakes, ice cream floats, churros, monster ears, and too many more for me to name. And even if neither of those are your thing, I promise you, you will find something that piques your interest!

This year, the fall fest will last from October 5th until October 10th. So, it's time to start setting that spending money aside. Personally, my best recommendation would be to set aside $150-$200 for the week; that way, it accounts for both the food and any games or rides you'd like to partake in. Have a great Fall Fest, and live up the hype!



Dear The University of Evansville,

I am writing this letter as an inquiry and a request for support in what I believe to be a shared passion for creating safer and more supportive environments. I am currently in my second semester at the University of Evansville, and I wanted to reach out in curiosity and ask about how we promote campus safety and sexual health on campus and virtually. I will start by disclosing that I personally have yet to encounter any promotion relative to addressing sexual health and safety, and I only became aware of the Project SafeSpace Initiative because I googled the university in combination with "IPV." From my perspective, I wonder if there is more that could be done?

Currently, Indiana does not require comprehensive sex education to be taught within the school systems and state law currently specifies that sex education, if taught, is not required to be inclusive or instructional to all persons or safe sex practices but instead is only allowed to be taught through the standard instruction of abstinence only, apart from marriage. Essentially, some high school graduating students in Indiana will enter into college life possibly never having received any form of sex education at all, likely leading to higher rates of unplanned pregnancy which is tied to a large portion of female school dropout rates and increased chances of contracting sexually transmitted infections or disease. Furthermore, considering one in three high school students will likely have had sex prior to graduating high school, and almost 80% of college students report engaging in partner related sexual activity, there may very likely exist a gap in needed inclusive and comprehensive sexual education for individuals starting college at the University of Evansville.

Ineffective and inaccurate sex education, one could argue, ultimately amounts to sex-based discrimination. For example, not addressing differing responses and sex practices, omitting lessons about consent, providing information on how to identify Intimate Partner Violence (IVP) and resources to help respond, and not discussing reproductive health and menstruation can cause negative impacts to students inequitably, with many of negative consequences affecting women and minorities. Good quality sex education must be provided through a racial justice lens, be nongender stereotyping, and inclusive of all student's sexual diversity. As racial justice is central to the sexual health and rights of all people, reproductive and sexual health rights often disproportionately affect minorities and Persons of Color negatively as they are denied information about their bodies and how to keep them safe. Furthermore, efforts should be made to address racism as it shows up in sex education efforts. Improving sex education and its delivery should be about identifying racial, gender, and sexual orientation barriers and continually and consistently evaluating the policies and practices from which they extend.

Comprehensive sexual education is about overcoming such barriers to provide all students who are disproportionally affected by ineffective, inaccurate, or entirely absent sexual education programs with the knowledge and resources needed to keep their bodies and overall wellbeing safe and healthy. Comprehensive sexuality education focuses on respect, inclusion, nondiscrimination, equality, empathy, responsibility and reciprocity and has been shown to delay sexual activity, increase safe sex practices, lower unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections, increase knowledge an improve attitudes related to sexual and reproductive health and behaviors (UNESCO, 2026).

Comprehensive sexuality education is a positive step toward inclusively helping all people to be responsible and safe with their bodies and in their actions, and the college environment provides an important opportunity to allow for students to gain access to vital health- and self-care knowledge.

Continued...

This is not only a vast opportunity to educate but to also to be proactive in assisting others to lower their risk of harm and increase their ability to understand the options and resources available within their community.

Many college students do not have a consistent or coherent way of defining the action of sexual consent. This likely contributes to the U.S. Department of Justice's existing sexual assault statistics reporting women on college campuses experience three times the risk of sexual assault, and male-identifying college students are 78% more likely be raped or experience sexual assault in comparison to their peers outside of college. Furthermore, the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey indicated that 45% of women and 40% of men reported first experiencing intimate partner violence between the age of 18-24. This age range is critical as it encompasses most college students. Additionally, the CDC reports that one in four college students reportedly has a sexually transmitted infection, with more than half of all new STI diagnoses occurring within people between the ages of 15-24.

Considering the risk and prevalence of violence and harm, college students are vulnerable; however, within this campus there are people who already experience lived disadvantage and marginalization, which raises the importance of ensuring safety and acting proactively. The Project SafeSpace Initiative and sexual health and safety education is knowledge no one should have to seek out as a response to harm, but instead it should exist as knowledge they already had to make the most informed decisions regarding their lives and their bodies.

It is imperative that our campus be able to provide all students with culturally sensitive and competent comprehensive sexual education as needed and/or desired for each student. The university also has an obligation to its campus to increase social justice initiatives by providing sexual education efforts that are evaluative to reducing gender and racial biases, stereotyping, and discrimination to serve all individuals within the college community to the highest possible standard of consideration and care. I believe we have a great start with the Project SafeSpace Initiative.

This letter is not intended to scrutinize, blame, or degrade, but to open the conversation as to how improvements can be made to progressively foster within these walls our intended mission to empower students to think critically, act bravely, serve responsibly, and live meaningfully in a changing world. My letter merely asks that we examine how we are offering sexual education to

Our students love and care for themselves and each other in order for them to best function within the college environment and beyond. How are we providing, evaluating, and reforming this education to protect and serve our students in an inclusive manner? And, lastly, what do we plan to do in an effort to maintain inclusivity and minimize harm to marginalized groups on a continuum? More than anything, this letter is meant to start the discussion in hopes that community collaboration sparks growth and progress toward a more educated, confident, and empowered student body.

Thank you for your time.

Best Regards,
Cristin Colston

Harlaxton Manor:

From Victorian Vision to American University Campus

By Chance McDowell

By the edge of Grantham, Lincolnshire, stands a building that seems almost too grand to belong in the English countryside. Harlaxton Manor has been a family home, wartime headquarters, religious seminary and an American university campus. Its remarkable journey is a story of ambition, changing fortunes and one university's determination to give its students an education far beyond the classroom.

Just five kilometers (3.11 miles) west of Grantham, Harlaxton Manor dominates the surrounding landscape. With its towers, terraces, ornate stonework, elaborate gardens and dramatic combination of architectural styles, it is unlike almost any other country house in England. Today it is the British home of the University of Evansville. But the reason an American university came to own a grand Victorian manor in Lincolnshire is only the latest chapter in a history stretching back centuries.



Ordnace Survey 6th Map, 1886

A Village with a Long History

Harlaxton itself is considerably older than the present manor. Archaeological evidence indicates settlement in the area going back thousands of years, while the village appears in the Domesday Book of 1086 under the name "Herlavestune." The Harlaxton History Society explains that the name probably derives from an Old Norse personal name combined with the Old English word tun, meaning a farmstead or settlement. Several manor houses stood at Harlaxton before the building visitors see today. A medieval manor stood near the center of the village, and local tradition associates an earlier house with John of Gaunt, the son of King Edward III, who is said to have used it as a hunting lodge. In 1619, Daniel de Ligne, a Flemish Protestant refugee who had fled religious persecution, purchased the estate.

Gregory's Extraordinary Vision

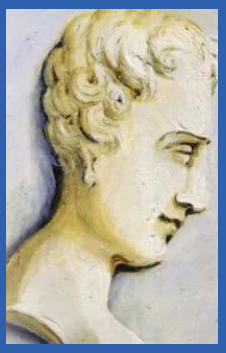
When Gregory Williams inherited the estate in 1822, he adopted the name Gregory Gregory. A wealthy landowner and enthusiastic collector, he had traveled in Europe and developed a fascination with art, architecture and grand country houses. He decided that Harlaxton needed a new home, one that would reflect his tastes and ambitions. In 1831 he commissioned the architect Anthony Salvin, and construction began the following year. Salvin worked on the project until 1838, when disagreements with Gregory led to his replacement by William Burn and his partner David Bryce. Historic England dates the principal construction from 1832 to 1844, with decoration and completion continuing into the 1850s. Harlaxton combined Elizabethan and Jacobean Revival architecture with Baroque influences. Its grand interiors incorporated architectural features and decorative objects collected from Britain and continental Europe. The Harlaxton History Society describes the house as Gregory's "personal vanity project." He spent years collecting furniture, tapestries, paintings, and other objects for a house that was not merely intended to be comfortable, but to be a personal architectural statement. The cost was enormous. The History Society estimates that the house cost around £100,000 ($135,894.99), roughly £10 million ($13.6 million) in today's money. Gregory never married and had no children, so the magnificent house he spent decades creating would soon pass to relatives.



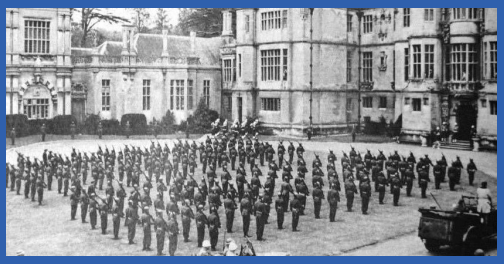
The Old Manor House, Harlaxton by C. Richardson. Source Holme (Ed.) 1915 Old English Mansions

From Country House to Wartime Headquarters

The Gregory family remained connected with Harlaxton for generations, but by the twentieth century the great country-house era was coming to an end. In 1937, Philip Pearson Gregory decided to sell the estate. The Manor was purchased by Violet Van der Elst, an entrepreneur, inventor and campaigner against capital punishment. She renamed the property "Grantham Castle," although the name Harlaxton Manor eventually returned. Van der Elst made her own mark on the house, including installing electricity and adding features such as the great chandelier in the Great Hall. The Second World War brought another dramatic transformation. The War Office requisitioned the Manor, which was used in connection with the nearby RAF station and subsequently by the British 1st Airborne Division. Harlaxton became associated with the preparations for the airborne operations of 1944, including Operation Market Garden. After the war, Harlaxton entered an entirely



Thought to be a portrait of William Gregory, 1786-1854



different phase of its history. In 1948, the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) purchased the Manor and used it as a training center for novice priests. The building that had once symbolized Victorian wealth was now serving a religious and educational purpose. And that educational role would ultimately lead to Harlaxton's most unusual chapter.

The Americans Arrive

During the 1960s, American universities were becoming increasingly interested in providing students with educational experiences overseas. The Jesuits leased Harlaxton to Stanford University in California in the mid-1960s, establishing an early American university presence in Britain.



Under President Wallace B. Graves, UE took over the sublease in the early 1970s. The first University of Evansville students arrived at Harlaxton in 1971. Rather than treating Britain as simply a destination for occasional trips, the university developed Harlaxton as a genuine overseas study center where students could live and study together.

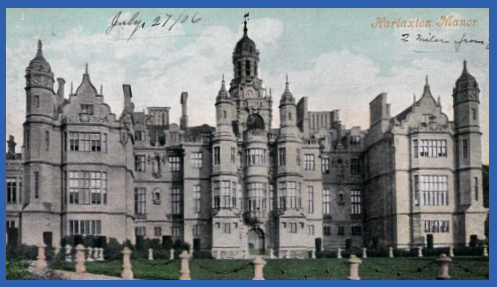
Students could study British history, politics, literature, and culture while living within an historic English estate. They could visit London and other parts of Britain, travel elsewhere in Europe, and experience the difference between reading about another culture and living within it.

So Why Did Evansville Buy Harlaxton?

By the early 1970s, UE had already demonstrated that Harlaxton could work as an overseas study center. The question was whether the university should make that relationship permanent. The answer came partly through the enthusiasm of one individual: Dr. William L. Ridgway, a University of Evansville trustee.

According to the University of Evansville, Ridgway became captivated by Harlaxton's history and intrigued by its potential as a center for international study. He eventually purchased the Manor after Melvin Peterson, a major supporter of the university, encouraged him to do so. On 27 July 1978, Ridgway and the University of Evansville trustees secured Harlaxton Manor and its grounds.

This created a crucial distinction: Ridgway bought the property rather than the University buying it outright with university funds. That arrangement protected the program's future. Ridgway purchased the Manor and initially leased it back to the University of Evansville for its educational use. In 1986, he made the ultimate commitment by giving Harlaxton to the university.



A New Life for an Old House

The transition from Victorian mansion to university campus required substantial adaptation. The grand state rooms could be preserved, but a functioning college needed classrooms, student accommodation, dining facilities and other modern necessities.

The upper and historic parts of the building retained their character, while areas such as the lower levels and former servants' quarters were adapted for student use. The result was a fascinating mixture of old and new: students could attend classes in a building designed for a nineteenth-century country gentleman while living a distinctly twenty-first-century university experience. The gardens became part of that educational environment as well. Harlaxton's grounds include formal terraces, an Italian garden, a Dutch ornamental canal, English landscape walks and a huge walled kitchen garden. Today, Harlaxton College remains the University of Evansville's British campus, and the program has also expanded beyond Evansville itself, with students from partner institutions using Harlaxton as an international study center.

A Remarkable Journey

Gregory Gregory created it as an extraordinary expression of personal ambition. Violet Van der Elst rescued and modernized it during another period of change. During the Second World War, it became a military headquarters. The Jesuits transformed it into a seminary. Stanford introduced American university education to the building, and the University of Evansville ultimately gave Harlaxton a permanent role in international higher education.

The irony is striking. Gregory Gregory built Harlaxton as a monument to his own interests, but, more than a century later, that same building became a place where young Americans could cross the Atlantic and experience those cultures for themselves.

For Evansville, buying Harlaxton meant securing something far more valuable than bricks, stone and acres of land. It meant securing a permanent doorway into Britain and Europe for generations of students.



Chi Omega, Harlaxton, Fall 2026 Class

And so, a Victorian country house found an unexpected second life as an American college campus in the English countryside, a role it continues to fulfill more than fifty years after the first Evansville students arrived.

Further Reading:

Harlaxton History Society. "Gregory Gregory and the Building of Harlaxton Manor" and "History of Harlaxton Manor and Village." (harlaxtonhistory.co.uk).
Historic England. "Harlaxton Manor, Harlaxton." National Heritage List for England, Grade I listed building.
Harlaxton Manor Archives. "The History of Harlaxton Manor."
University of Evansville / Harlaxton College. "Harlaxton College" and "Harlaxton Manor: A History" (Historical Materials).

The *Lore* in the Cracks of Party Games

By Kaitlyn Heath

Notice: Most of this was written prior to the third game's early access release. Whatever new lore is revealed in the third game's early access, this will not have it.

Trivia Murder Party has been a series from Jackbox Games that's been going on for several years now. There are already two games, with a third game in early release and scheduled to make the full release next year. The series seems just like a spooky trivia party game on the surface, however there is a lot more to it than just the chaos and gameplay. With the release of the third game, Jackbox was revealing more bits and pieces of lore in regard to the dolls that are featured in this third installment, but especially bringing to light the history of the trilogy's mysterious host – [REDACTED].

On the surface, there isn't much known about the mysterious killer host in terms of his appearance. To players, he's the host who uses a voice filter in his games, sounding a lot deeper than his actual voice actor. Despite having odd, creepy, and eccentric behavior, it's clear that creepy is not the only thing the host can be. The character is also known for being a little less serious, constantly cracking jokes and acting in a playful manner even when he's committing murder.

Back in August, Jackbox premiered a podcast titled "Trivia Murder Podcast", a comedy podcast that tends to poke fun at the typical true crime podcast. The podcast follows Abby Russell, the host who plays an in-universe version of herself, as she uncovers the story and the mysteries surrounding the killer in a similar fashion to the typical true crime podcast host. It's clear on how this plays off of true crime podcasts, but at the same time, makes fun of them to some extent. Abby frequently comments about how she exploits different aspects of the case for her audience, including her own past with the killer, as she uncovers [REDACTED]'s backstory, piece by piece. She constantly researches and looks everywhere to try and find him. What was the killer's history with his parents like? How did he discover this summer camp that he's using for the third game? How has he managed to get away from the law for so long? Those questions and more all get answered in the podcast.

While there's plenty of lore scattered around [REDACTED], social media pages help promote other

pieces of this story like the camp and the dolls that are being featured in this new game. An Instagram page was made for the fictional camp, the user being @campmassacres, where developers used mostly stock footage in efforts to promote aspects of this camp that is being featured in game, in a similar fashion to how an actual camp would promote their activities to viewers. Not all of this is stock footage though. One video featured an employee standing outside in the woods at night, frantically promoting the new game and claiming that the host would come after him if he didn't.

In terms of the lore surrounding the new game's dolls, a post on the developers' main Instagram page reveals a little more about them aside from living plush toys. All of the dolls have a family of some kind that they write back to and have their own thoughts about the camp that they talk about with their guardians and their own way of writing about them. They write about the aspects they enjoy or their own odd murder filled memories of it. This can clearly show how the dolls behave outside of simply being just player characters -Some filled with chaos despite their circumstances, Some trying to survive, some fueled with determination in their work, and others just along for the ride.

Despite the developers revealing a lot more of the lore in anticipation of the third game, there was already a bit of information being revealed to players in the first two games, mainly about the killer. A lot was revealed through the host's voice lines scattered throughout the rounds in both games, as previously stated, but one minigame in the sequel gives us a little extra insight into the family history of this mystery killer – Gifts. Each of the gifts in question comes from/connects to each of [REDACTED]'s family members. They also trigger voice lines and special endings as well, clearly showing how this seemingly mysterious host feels about each family member that is connecting to each gift. For example, the reactions that he has over the gifts that connect to his parents (Wig for his Mother, Hat for his Dad) are vastly different. While he dotes and adores his "mother" (Or anybody who's wearing her wig), his "father" (or players wearing the hat) suddenly becomes a walking target, sent to the killing floor in any opportunity the killer may have.

With the third game's early access release, a lot was also revealed in the demo's voice lines. For example, the third game's demo brought the introduction of [REDACTED]'s unnamed mother. There was a clear contrast between how he dotes on her, in comparison to how she acts. While he adores and favors his mother, she's very critical of him in response. She comments constantly about his game, nagging him when players manage to survive.

I have no clue what to expect from this third game (outside of what I've seen with the demo back In June), but the way that they've been doing the buildup like this has absolutely caught my attention. Curiosity about this whole thing has been reeling me in and I can't help but wonder about the direction this whole thing is going to go moving forward. So much has already been revealed about the character and I wonder if there's going to be even more on the way in terms of lore.



THE UE FRESHMAN EXPERIENCE

By Kara Bonifer



From the freshman fifteen, figuring out Greek life, joining clubs and trying not to cry when you realize you must do your own laundry, becoming a freshman means starting fresh, while also having two million new challenges. I would know, I'm a freshman! However, the University of Evansville freshman experience is not the average one.

Starting college, I knew it was going to be different than high school. I would have to make new friends, have harder classes and have to wake up without my mom making sure I get to class on time. What I didn't realize was how much I would have to remember. What time is my class? Did I have a reading assignment? Do I have food in my dorm? I ask myself these questions more times than I can count. In reality though, everything always works out.



One of my favorite things about UE is meeting the people here. It's like kindergarten all over again. You say hi to someone and the next week you are going to lunch with them every day. My friend group met in Shaklin hall with a simple "so who wants to be friends"! Now we talk every day. The University of Evansville is full of amazing people, so if you're looking for a friend, just say "Hi". I promise you everyone is just as nervous, I know I was.

Let's be real though, can we talk about the dining hall? I'm not going to have freshman fifteen, it's going to be freshman fifty with those amazing cookies and brownies! I feel like college dining is dangerous, not because the food is bad but because suddenly, you have food anytime you want! Breakfast? Duh! Dessert? Get me two cookies! I can have as much food as I want with a swipe of a card. Don't worry though, the gym will be seeing me soon with all that food!

All of this is like other colleges but it's the little things that make the UE freshman experience so different. Did you know a rock could represent your future? I didn't until I came here! The traditions I have been part of and the experiences I have had here are like no other.
There is something really special about this community.

Overall, my start of freshman year has been interesting! Some days I think I have everything all figured out and others I'm staring at the mess of my room and all my homework wondering why I did this to myself. If you are feeling any of this, don't worry because you are not alone. This messy transition time of freshman year is only half the fun of being a college student. Afterall, it wouldn't be college if it wasn't messy. So have fun, make sure to study, and overall…

WELCOME TO UE!



The Study Abroad Diaries:

Things to Know Before Coming to Harlaxton

By Rachel Hoke

Studying abroad at Harlaxton has been an amazing time. However, there are some things about Harlaxton that I wish I had known before getting here. Some of this stuff you can probably find online, but if you are like me and didn't think about looking this stuff up, this article is for you.



The Refectory Serving Area



The Manor



Grantham Train Station

1. Every room comes with a sink.
I was surprised when I went into my room for the first time, and there was a sink in it! It makes it very convenient for morning and nighttime routines.

2. There is a set menu for the week.
You don't have any choice in what you eat at Harlaxton if you want to try to only eat the food in the refectory (cafeteria). They make one main dish and a couple of side dishes, and that's all there is. If you don't like what is being served, you can buy something at the Bistro.

3. Book school-facilitated weekend and day trips early.
When I talked to friends about their time at Harlaxton, a lot of them said that they decided which school trips they went on while at Harlaxton. I do not advise waiting! The weekend trips get full quickly, and some have deadlines before school begins.
I was hesitant to book trips before getting to the manor, because I wanted to go with people I knew, but that meant I missed out on some of the trips I wanted to go on.

4. Public transportation.
I had gotten tips about public transportation before coming to Harlaxton, but it really is a different beast in the UK. You have to Uber or take a taxi (Uber is cheaper, but the taxi is more reliable) to get to Grantham. Grantham will have the nearest shops and is where the nearest bus and train station is. I suppose you could walk too, but it would take about an hour, and you have to carry all of your things. Grantham trains do not go directly to most places (at least not the places I have booked), so you will have a short period of time between getting off one train to get to another. Trains are also not as reliable as I thought they would be, considering that many people use them daily in the UK. There was an instance where the train I was on got cancelled, and we got dumped off at a stop that wasn't ours! Always give yourself plenty of time in case issues arise with public transportation to places (because it's likely there will be an issue).

5. Apps to get!
Thanks to one of my professors, I did know this information beforehand, but many people did not know this before coming to Harlaxton, but there are apps you absolutely need while here. You need a railcard, so you need the railcard app. A railcard helps you to get cheaper train tickets. To book trains, everyone here suggests Trainline. Citymapper and Rome2Rio can help you get around.

6. You have to pay to do your laundry, and there aren't many machines.
I knew I had to pay to wash and dry my clothes, but I didn't expect there to be only three washers and three dryers in the manor! The carriage house also has its own washers and dryers.

7. Bring a water bottle!
Trust me, you'll need it.

8. The history of Grantham!
I got to know some of the history of Grantham during a clinical experience I had. Grantham has ties to Issac Newton and many important points in history, including the World Wars!

9. You will make friends!
My best friends did not come with me to Harlaxton, and I was so scared that I wouldn't find friends and travel buddies. However, I became fast friends with some amazing people. I chose to get random roommates, and that really helped me in getting to know people!

Being away from the US and trying to do things the "UK way" has definitely been a learning curve. The biggest surprise I have been having lately is how secluded Harlaxton is. It makes planning travel just a tad bit more tedious, but the benefit is how beautiful the area is. There are so many trails and pathways to explore. Studying here is as good as UE, the professors, and your friends say it is. I hope this was helpful to those of you who are planning to study at Harlaxton, and for those who are not, I hope you liked this glimpse into what life in the manor is like.



Exploring Grantham!



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