

# NORTH VALPO

NEIGHBORS

JANUARY 2025

## Inside This Issue

Basketball Schedules  
Kitchen Trends  
Quilts of Valor  
TV's Evolution

*Teeing Up  
Life Together*  
**with the McCoys**

Cover photo by Angie Januchowski, Aspen Studios

POWERED BY



BEST VERSION MEDIA



PHOTOS BY ANGIE JANUCHOWSKI, ASPEN STUDIOS

■ BY CHERYL WOOTEN-WILCOX

### A PASSION FOR GOLF AND EACH OTHER

"Golf is the closest game to the game we call life. You get bad breaks from good shots; you get good breaks from bad shots—but you have to play the ball where it lies." This famous quote by Bobby Jones captures the spirit of the McCoy family perfectly. For Ryan and Jill McCoy, along with their daughters Katelyn and Kristin, golf is more than a game—it's a metaphor for their journey together and a shared passion that anchors their close-knit family.

### A LOVE STORY THAT BEGAN ON THE GREEN

For Jill and Ryan McCoy, golf has been a cornerstone from the start. Their paths first crossed at Purdue University, where both were business management students. But it was their shared love for the game that brought them together. Jill's mother introduced them on the golf course during a league game, and from there, their connection blossomed.

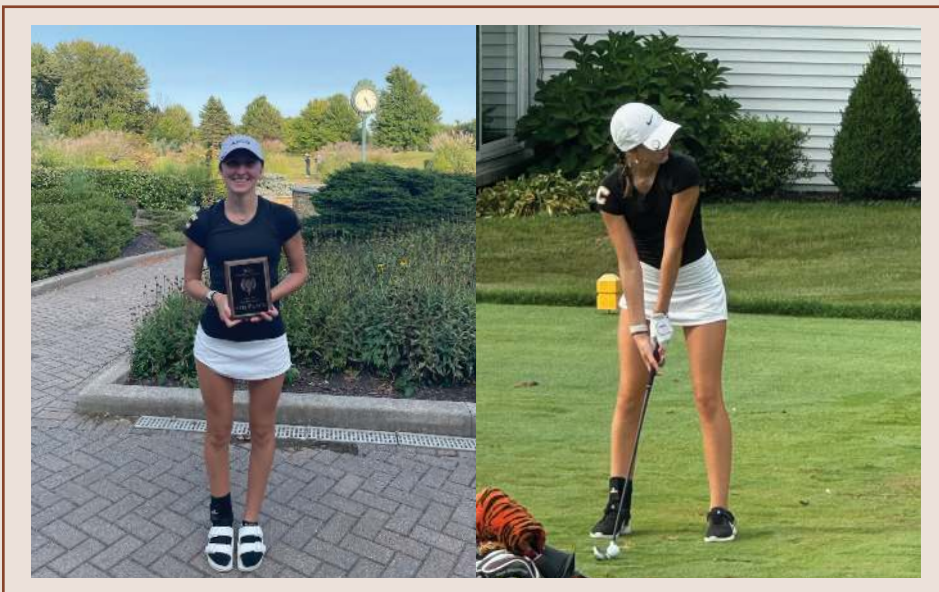
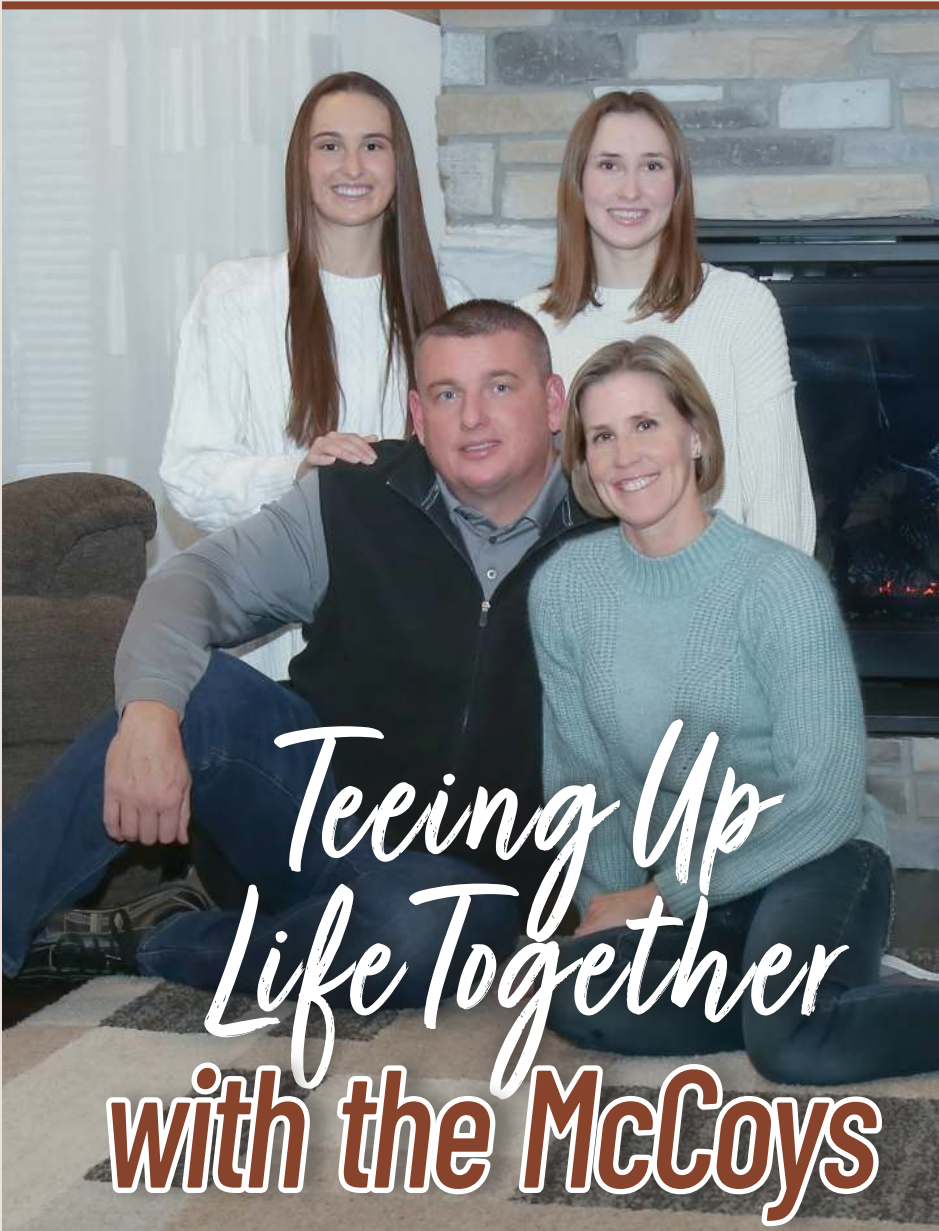
"I met Ryan on the golf course, and later, he sat next to me in class," Jill recalls with a laugh. "He's such a social butterfly—he just started talking, and we got to know each other from there." Their relationship grew steadily, and in October 2002, they were married in a traditional Catholic ceremony in Jill's hometown of West Lafayette, Indiana.

### BUILDING CAREERS AND A FAMILY

Jill, who started golfing at age five under the tutelage of her father, has turned her passion into a lifelong career. A former Big Ten Champion at Purdue, Jill has been a PGA professional for over two decades in Ohio and Indiana. Locally, as the head golf professional at the Brassie Golf Club in Chesterton from 2014–2018, Jill currently serves as the Director of Golf and Assistant General Manager at Sand Creek Country Club in Chesterton, where she leads all aspects of golf operations and programs for golfers of all levels and ages. Her leadership extends to coaching of the Valparaiso University Women's Golf Team since 2017.

"I can't imagine sitting in an office," Jill says. Although she's most at home on the green, Jill manages everything from merchandise to tournaments to junior golf programs and finds fulfillment in teaching the next generation to love the game as much as she does.

Ryan's career has taken a different but equally dynamic path. A business management graduate like Jill, he worked in the steel industry for six years then for 17 years with Cargill in the food and agriculture industry



KRISTIN



KATELYN, JILL, RYAN AND KRISTIN

before transitioning to the public sector. Now serving as the Director of the Ports of Indiana – Burns Harbor, Ryan oversees operations that are integral to the state's economy. "Seventy percent of what we handle is steel based," Ryan explains. "It's fascinating to see how raw materials come together to create everyday products."

Despite their busy careers, the McCoys have made family their top priority.

### RAISING THE NEXT GENERATION OF GOLFERS

Katelyn, 20, and Kristin, 15, have embraced the family's golfing tradition wholeheartedly. Both began playing golf at a young age and have excelled in the sport. Katelyn, a junior at Valparaiso University, balances her studies in nursing with competing on the women's golf team, which Jill coaches. Katelyn uses the discipline and focus she has learned in golf and applies it to her nursing studies. She hopes to become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) after graduation. Katelyn also enjoys cooking, working out at the gym and playing pickleball.

Kristin, a sophomore at Chesterton High School, captains the varsity golf team and led them to state in her freshman year. Her enthusiasm for golf is matched by her interest in exploring new activities, from pole vaulting to athletic training. She loves being part of a team and trying new things. Kristin plans to follow in her sister's footsteps by pursuing nursing, starting with a program at the Porter County Career Center next year. A very social person like her dad, Kristin is a connector. "I got a group of friends together and we started playing pickleball which is a lot of fun," she shares.

The McCoy sisters' achievements on the golf course and in school reflect the values of hard work and a focus on community instilled by their parents.

### LIFE BEYOND THE LINKS

When they're not on the golf course, the McCoys enjoy a variety of activities together. Family dinners, movie nights, and working out are staples of their routine. They share a love for travel, with Disney World being a favorite destination. "We do it all at Disney," Jill says. "From opening to closing the parks, we make the most of every trip."

The family's recent adventures include a Disney Cruise and a trip to the Atlantis resort in the Bahamas, where they swam with sharks and visited Pig Beach on Grand Bahama Island to swim with the swine. One recent trip to Tampa to support Katelyn's college golf tournament included taking the entire VU women's golf team to the beach. "We loaded up two SUVs with everyone and had dinner on the beach," says Ryan. "It was great!" Even on vacation, golf is never far from their minds—they often squeeze in a round or two at new courses.

Their home in the Troon subdivision of Valparaiso is a haven for the family. "We've been rooted in this community for almost 20 years," Ryan says. "This is home." The McCoys attend St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Chesterton. Family rescue dog, Berkley provides plenty of love and joy in the McCoy home.



KATELYN

### KATELYN AND JILL ON THE LINKS



### LESSONS LEARNED ON THE COURSE

For the McCoys, golf isn't just a pastime—it's a way of life. The game has taught them patience, resilience, and the importance of family support. Ryan and Jill cherish their time as spectators, cheering on their daughters at tournaments while playing family rounds whenever they can.

**Arbor  
Pro CARE**  
ISA CERTIFIED  
TREE ARBORIST,  
Mike Cieply

### SERVICES:

- ✓ TRIMMING, REMOVAL
- ✓ STUMP GRINDING
- ✓ TREE SAFETY
- ✓ INSPECTIONS
- ✓ 24/7 EMERGENCY STORM CLEAN-UP

Arbor Pro Care | [www.ArborProCareTree.com](http://www.ArborProCareTree.com) **219-617-8227** Free Estimates

*Tree Safety Inspection, only \$100! Just one inspection can save you thousands and help mitigate your exposure to liability.*



**Kinetico®**  
water systems

**NO ELECTRICITY  
NO WASTED REGENERANT  
NO WASTED WATER  
NO COMPARISON**

A Kinetico Water Softener is Unique.  
Non-Electric.  
Twin Softening Tanks.




**CALL OSBYS FOR A FREE ESTIMATE**

**OSBY**  
water systems  
[www.OsbyWater.com](http://www.OsbyWater.com)  
219.996.4743 | 800.552.6729

**ELLA JAYMS**

*Happy New Year,  
Valpo Neighbors!*

**ENJOY 25% OFF**  
YOUR PURCHASE NOW THROUGH 1/31/25  
WITH CODE VALPO25

260 S FRANKLIN ST | [ELLAJAYMS.COM](http://ELLAJAYMS.COM)

**Trusted Insurance Solutions LLC**

**Medicare INSURANCE**

**219.369.2564**

**Cynthia Finelli**  
Medicare Insurance Representative

501 Lincolnway Suite B  
[cynthia@trustedinsurancesolutions.com](mailto:cynthia@trustedinsurancesolutions.com)





KRISTIN AND RYAN

KRISTIN AND KATELYN ON PAR

Even during Northwest Indiana's cold winters, the McCoys keep their game sharp with indoor simulator sessions at Sand Creek. "Golf is something we can do together, no matter the season," Ryan says.

As the McCoys look ahead, they plan to continue golfing, traveling, and making memories together. Their shared love for the game has not only strengthened their family bond but also inspired others in their community to pick up a club and join in the fun.

And as they'd likely tell you themselves: in golf, as in life, the key is to keep swinging. Whether it's a birdie or a bogey, the McCoys play every shot with passion, purpose, and love for the game.

**DO YOU KNOW A NEIGHBOR WHO HAS A STORY TO SHARE?** NOMINATE YOUR NEIGHBOR TO BE FEATURED IN ONE OF OUR UPCOMING ISSUES! CONTACT US AT [CWOOTEN@BESTVERSIONMEDIA.COM](mailto:CWOOTEN@BESTVERSIONMEDIA.COM).

**VBC VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
[vbcvalpo.com](http://vbcvalpo.com)

**COME AND SEE**  
SERVICE TIMES 9:15 & 10:45  
VISIT US AT [VBCVALPO.COM](http://VBCVALPO.COM)

