

Clearly Kosciusko Podcast Series

Celebrates what is unique, what is special what is...Clearly Kosciusko

Episode 13: Tony Metzinger, OrthoPediatrics & Warsaw School Systems

- Tony grew up as a Hoosier in in Lafayette, Indiana. Tony was first exposed to machining in his dad’s machine shop. Tony spent several years learning machining and welding, and when his dad sold his business, Tony headed in a different direction and enrolled at nearby Purdue to pursue a degree in engineering.
- Fast forward, Tony had heard about a company called DePuy in Warsaw, Indiana. Not knowing what to expect and with little experience in orthopedics, Tony headed in the door at DePuy for his first interview. After landing a job with DePuy, he and his family journeyed to Warsaw. Tony worked several years for both DePuy and Zimmer Biomet.
- About a year ago, Tony was approached by a recruiter to join the team at OrthoPediatrics. He now serves as the VP of Engineering, Trauma and Deformity Corrections at OrthoPediatrics.
- Tony said, “There’s a lot of amazing talent and businesses that you would not expect to see in a town this size. From the restaurants all the way up through the supply chains for orthopedic companies.” Tony referenced [110 Craft Meatery](#), [Cerulean](#), [Noa Noa](#) and [Rua](#). “The quality of restaurants and the entrepreneurs we have here...it’s such a blessing to have,” Tony said.
- Tony shared that the friendships he and his family have made have been invaluable. Tony, Alan and Jody all agreed that even if you don’t live on the lake, you can still spend time at one of the lakes. You can always find a friend who has a boat. 😊
- Tony’s kids have had ample opportunities to learn and grow here. From learning opportunities through [Warsaw Area Career Center](#)—where his oldest son received his private pilot license as a high schooler—to extracurricular and athletic opportunities.
- One “well-kept secret” that shouldn’t be a secret, is local robotics programming. Both [Warsaw](#) and [Wawasee Schools](#) have top-rated robotics programs.
- Tony highlighted another gem in the community—[Stonehenge Golf Club](#) in Winona Lake. Tony said we’re blessed to have a course of that caliber in our own backyard, AND it’s affordable.

Are you new to the community or do you know someone who is new to the area? Check out KEDCO’s [Outside the Fishbowl](#) monthly meetup for newcomers.

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Episode 14: Brittany Lyon, from East Coaster to Hoosier and staying active in Kosciusko County

- Brittany grew up in Vermont just across the Canadian border--Brittany could literally throw a stone into Canada.
- As a child, she and her siblings lived part of the year in Indiana with aunt and cousins, which is how she came to know and love the area. Brittany said, "I love this community. When I came here as a kid I knew this was going to be home."
- After finishing high school, Brittany enrolled at Grace College, packed everything she owned, and journeyed from the east coast to plant permanent roots in Indiana.
- With interests in different areas, Brittany has worked in the nonprofit sector, and also has a background in criminal justice. She currently serves as a business development associate for Kosciusko Home & Hospice, and is also a reserve officer for Winona Lake Police Department.
- When asked what Brittany enjoys doing in the wintertime, she admitted she loves to cozy up with a book, but still enjoys staying active at the gym and/or on the trails. She also noted that Kosciusko County has plenty of great restaurants to visit. One thing Brittany would love to see come to life in the community is a rock climbing gym!
- As someone who enjoys an active lifestyle, Brittany recommended checking out [CrossFit Haymaker](#), [Get Fit 24](#), [Giverny Fitness Studio](#) and the [Kosciusko Community YMCA](#).
- Brittany recommends checking out the [Beyer Farm Greenway Trailhead](#) and the [Wagon Wheel Center for the Arts](#) is a must-go if you haven't been!

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Episode 15: Jim Katris—from Chicago to Warsaw and a journey in the local restaurant and hospitality industry

- As a CPA from the Chicago area, now local resident and owner of [American Table Restaurant](#), Jim Katris couldn't have predicted that he would end up in Kosciusko County, but he's sure glad he did.
- Jim journeyed to the area when his dad and brother asked him to come on board and join them in the restaurant industry after they'd opened the American Table Restaurant in the late 1980s. In 2000, Jim and his brother started the well-known [Boathouse Restaurant](#) at Winona Lake then later sold to a partner in 2010.
- Jim later met his wife, Amber and they started a family, and now have four children. Jim shared that he's observed that when people come to the area they don't want to leave. He expressed that it's a great place to raise a family, and he's gained many friendships here.
- What are 'best kept secrets' in Kosciusko County? Jim said the trail system is excellent, and he enjoys mountain biking on the trails. He also recognized the variety and caliber of independent restaurants, owned by local people—*good* people.
- You can easily pursue your interests and hobbies or explore a new passion here. As a competitive wrestler for many years, Jim now enjoys doing Jiu Jitsu and teaching classes in the area.
- Jim also shared his perspective regarding local service providers here versus the support you receive in larger cities. "You build relationships with these people," he said. He shared an example of getting HVAC work done and how you can trust the person to come to your house when you're not even home.
- Jim recommends checking out [Stonehenge Golf Course](#), and co-host Alan also mentioned the ice rink project in the works at the [Village at Winona](#).
- In addition to his leadership in the local restaurant and hospitality industry, Jim is also involved in local commercial real estate with his company Agora Investments LLC.

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A PODCAST THAT CELEBRATES WHAT IS UNIQUE, WHAT IS SPECIAL, WHAT IS...CLEARLY KOSCIUSKO

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Episode 16: Wesley Gensch: A baseball injury that led him on an entrepreneurial journey

- Wes Gensch grew up in Pierceton and found his way further west when he enrolled at [Grace College](#) to study business and sports management, and play baseball. After suffering from a baseball injury, he couldn't have predicted it would lead him on an entrepreneurial journey.
- While pitching on the baseball team, Wes suffered from an elbow injury that led him to apply ice at least six times daily. Not only was it difficult to accomplish what he desired throughout the day, the ice didn't last long and he wasn't finding the compression he needed. Wes hacked a temporary solution by making a gel sleeve with supplies from the local grocery store.
- After testing the concept with the pure desire to help another teammate through an injury, Wes realized he could help more people than just himself. That was exhilarating for him.
- Shortly after winning a business plan competition at Grace College, Wes launched his business [CoolCorp, Inc.](#), which offers personal cryotherapy products.
- Part of what kept Wes here was the community of people who wrapped around him to support him on his entrepreneurial journey, and the opportunities in Warsaw as the Orthopedic Capital of the World®.
- Wes mentioned that as a business owner, it's a good thing to recognize that you don't need to know *everything*. He recognized several mentors who have helped him along the way, and shared that you [business owners] learn to lean on other people who have the expertise you need, like neighboring business in the medical device industry, [EnPak, LLC](#), which has provided manufacturing and distribution support for CoolCorp.
- When asked about the best spots to eat, Wes said he's been described as a "meat and potatoes" kind of guy, but he loves [Oak and Alley](#) and [Mi Lindo Acapulco](#).
- Wes still enjoys playing in a baseball league, and you may also find Wes playing "Spike Ball" during the summer months at [Center Lake](#). He's also gotten connected with a group of friends that regularly participates in outings and Bible studies together. He emphasized that the sense of community you get in Kosciusko County is irreplaceable.

