

THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER

A Non-Partisan Publication Dedicated To The Reporting Of Your Local Government At Work
Serving Posey, Vanderburgh & Warrick Counties & Their Communities

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VANHAAFTEN LEADS LOCAL OFFICIALS IN LOBBYING

By Franz Schroeder, Contributor

No matter how you spin it, lobbying is a high-dollar industry. While on a local or state level, there are thousands of dollars spent on lobbying, the amount distributed at the federal level reaches the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Mary Beth Schneider, a writer for the Indianapolis Star, reported yesterday in "Lobbying has a near-record year at the Statehouse" that over \$24 million was spent in this year's legislative session to woo legislators.

In her story, she states that "groups representing energy, water and telecommunications organizations and firms spent more than \$2.1 million lobbying the legislature this session."

These facts have been verified by the Indiana Lobby Registration Commission. IRLC representatives also said that the state has 150 legislators, 751 lobbyists, 795 groups and law firms currently registered with their department.

When asked what was reported by the lobbyists, the state gave a list of items included and not included by law. Among those things not listed were sporting events tickets from universities and events in which all legislators were invited to during the session. Among the things reported were trips, dinners, tickets to special events, golf outings, Presidential Inauguration, gifts, hotels, dining, etc.

Several local groups were listed in the state database as lobbyists, including AT&T, Vectren, local unions, and Aztar. AT&T apparently spent over \$463,000, according to Schneider, because of House Bill 1561, which is "a bill that created a statewide system to show Hoosiers' high-speed Internet availability." This

is a bill authored by Democrat State Representative Trent VanHaaften

On the local scale, Posey County resident Rep. VanHaaften led the way, and posted numbers for second place in the state for the recent legislative session. He was received \$4,335.33 in gifts and perks from May 1, 2008, through April 30, 2009. Of that total, \$4,233.89 was received from AT&T, while \$101.44 was received from Vectren. These were not cash disbursements, but rather gifts, such as pro-am golf, the Democratic National Convention, the Indiana Inaugural Ball, and golf.

VanHaaften reportedly told Schneider that the gifts did not influence him. According to the article, he said "I make my decisions in the legislature based upon what I think is right and wrong, not who invited me to dinner."

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Is It True...



we are *still* wondering about the status of the McCurdy Condo Project?

POLITICS

A few minutes with Evansville City Councilman Dan McGinn

Fifty-nine-year-old Dan McGinn is married to his college sweetheart Pam and they have lived in Evansville since 1974. They have two daughters, Molly, an Evansville school teacher, and Megan, a peace corp worker. Upon graduation from law school, Dan started practicing law with Gerling Law Offices and remained there until he retired early while still in his 40's.

Mayor Russ Lloyd offer Dan the opportunity to bring back the wonderful attraction, Mesker Zoo, from its deteriorating state and he accepted the position. Dan worked hard to regain AZA accreditation for the zoo and he spear headed the charge for Amazonia, which is currently a huge draw at the Zoo. Dan left the position of director of the Zoo last year to spend more time at his cabin in Spencer County and to be able to spend Sundays with his family.

Q. Why did you run for public office?

A. I truly missed talking to the people about public issues. People who came to the Zoo paid my salary so I stood at the gate at closing and talked with them. I always tried to tell the visitors "goodbye" and asked how we could make their next visit better. I care deeply for the Zoo and want to keep it in the public eye so we never allow it to go down the way it had. So, I figured if I wanted to secure the Zoo I would have to speak up against what I viewed as wasteful in-

efficiency in government and my way to do that is to be on the City Council as the representative from the First Ward.

Q. What has been your biggest surprise on City Council?

A. There have been a few. There is no rule book. I find that difficult. There are city ordinances but no specific book of rules for the Council. Also, I know department heads are dedicated workers and that is different from the view most people have of public workers. I have found it easy to talk to the department heads but then they are in a unique position. Many times politicians want to present a united front, for various reasons, and the department heads do not feel free to discuss their budgets with the City Council. Since the Council allocates the funds, they have to discuss their budgets with us but sometimes you can tell they are not being as open as they would like. But, since I was one of those department heads under two mayors, I have a good grasp of how things are handled.



Q. How have you handled the new position with the current council?

A. Everyone has been great to me. Curt John and Dan Adams have been particularly helpful.

Q. What do you see as your role on council?

A. As the lone Republican member, I see myself as an advisor. I will not be a critic without a better plan. If you do not like what is presented then you should be prepared to present an alternative. I also want to help bring industry and jobs to this area.

Q. How do you view Evansville?

A. I think Evansville is a great place to live. In fact, I have traveled quite a bit and I think this country has a wonderful system. We are lucky to have the community we have for our tax dollars. I view education, parks, zoo, and the stadium as quality of life issues. Life is too short to only work and sleep and wait for retirement. Evansville provides many ways to enjoy life.

Q. Did you find the accreditation issue to be a challenge or was it not that difficult?

A. It was difficult but I had so much help locally and at the AZA

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McGinn interview continued from page 2

level that we were able to accomplish what we set out to do.

1) Almost all of the staff had left by the time I was appointed. So, the first task was to hire new staff.

2) We had to turn around the citizens perception of the Zoo

3) We had a few issues with hourly workers but the Teamster Officials were a big help and we were able to smoothly run the Zoo.

4) The AZA requirements were overwhelming. I wasn't sure we would even be able to meet all of them.

5) The Zoo had been ignored. It was like an unwanted step child.

6) A Zoo is expensive to maintain and it is even more expensive to maintain a good zoo. The Mayor, the City Council and the Parks Board all realized that the Zoo needed to be fixed so over 3.5 million dollars of Riverboat funds were spent at the Zoo from 2000 to 2003. Many more thousands of dollars were donated by private citizens and businesses so we made substantial physical improvements in a short period of time. It is a quality of life issue and I had to find a way to get enough money in the budget to do a good job and also get a viable not for profit group to help secure funds.

7) There are over 2400 animal facilities licensed to exhibit in the US. Only about 220 of those are accredited by the AZA. Evansville should be very proud of that.

8) It should embarrass those in charge if we ever lose accreditation again. Now that we have it we should work hard to keep it. As a city councilman, I plan to watch the operations and funding of the Zoo.

9) Our Zoo could be a Midwestern tourist destination if sufficient capital improvements are regularly made.

Q. What were the steps to accreditation?

A. There were several large steps and many smaller steps.

1) An on site review by AZA inspectors pointed out the Zoo's problems.

2) We had to revamp all daily work routines. We had to completely revise the animal record keeping system.

3) In 2002 we went to the AZA meeting in Kansas. I made presentation before the committee on behalf of the Zoo. Mayor Lloyd came along to show support from the local governmental agency. Two members of our support group, Nancy Drake and Becky Kasha, used their own personal funds to make the trip to support the Zoo. After my presentation and about a 15 minute deliberation by the committee, we were told we regained our accreditation.

4) We had to make many improvements to the physical parts of the Zoo, both for safety and animal health and to win back the respect of the Public.

5) We had to prove to the AZA that the City was behind the zoo both morally and financially.

Q. Was it difficult to get Amazonia built?

A. February 2003 we got the bond issue to build Amazonia. The

bond issue started at 19.9 million and went down to 17.1 million but ended at 15.3 million. Then, Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans. The increase in the cost of building materials put us over budget so we had to downsize the entry in order to keep Amazonia as planned.

Q. Could you give us a brief statement on the following issues:

1) Arena process

A. The process is legal but I would have supported a referendum. I want the city to prosper. Since the arena appears to be a done deal, I want to be a part of the process to make sure it is done right and cost effective and does not cause an increase in property taxes either directly or indirectly.

2) Urban blight

A. Urban blight is not just limited to one area. All areas of town have areas that we should concentrate on. Every project should have a plan and each individual plan should complete the entire master plan. This administration seems to want to concentrate all resources to one area, complete that area and then move on. I would rather see some of the effort directed toward troubled areas in the other wards as well.

3) Annexation

A. Residents of the County do utilize City facilities. They use City roads and streets, parks, soccer fields and stadiums. If a City can provide necessary services to those annexed, I feel it is only fair that they also pay their share of the expenses

4) Unification

A. Unification was not helped by the State so annexation is being used. The bottom line is simplicity of government. I support an orderly process to simplify government, eliminate duplication of services and stretch our hard earned tax dollars.

5) Homestead tax credit

A. I wasn't on council and I haven't heard much about it. I'd have to see what services would suffer if we give up that money. I do think the issue should be voted for or against in a public forum. The public has a right to know the reasons for the elimination of a tax credit.

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Meeting held for arena

Don Counts, Staff Writer

On Wednesday, July 15th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the 1st Presbyterian Church at the corner of Mulberry and SE Second we heard from our mayor. High attendance was expected and the populace turned out. The Evansville community has been reading, seeing and hearing news reports of what is going on in his office and with our elected officials. The public wants to know the rest of the story.

The head table consisted of Evansville Police Chief Brad Hill, Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel, Evansville Arena Project Director John Kish, and Evansville Fire Chief Keith Jarboe. There were tables surrounding the audience where City Department Heads and other government officials were seated.

The Mayor brought the new signs, drawings, et cetera of the New Arena. He anticipated many comments about the Arena which he received. As he took the mike he said the initial focus was going to be on the Arena and would talk about other issues as time permits. He said if you have issues that you do not want to talk about publically feel free to talk to the department heads that are here.

The Mayor began by detailing the location of the New Arena. The tear down of a portion of the Executive Inn will be replaced with a \$25 million hotel with 250 rooms. He said this needed to be done. He said in September 2007 Evansville Hosted the Association of Cities and Towns at the Executive. He was embarrassed with all the complaints he received. He said there will be walkways from the Hotel, Centre and a remodeled parking garage to the Arena. He believes that the Arena will attract bigger and more conventions. The money that

Browning will invest in the new hotel will add value to the property tax roll. The \$400,000 Main Street assessed value will be replaced by the value of the Arena. The Arena will use green technology and be designed to operate more efficiently. He said that 25 years ago Indianapolis downtown was virtually a ghost town. They realized that they had to do something. They knew that they needed to invest in downtown to thrive; we are going to follow the same philosophy. The mayor said there are more entry and exits downtown than at Roberts. He said there is a study project going on now to change some one way to two way streets and additional access will need to be added. He said that they are discussing Main Street to reverse the current flow or make two way traffic, no decision has been made. The Arena and the new hotel will bring more economic development. Now borrowing costs are lower, labor material costs are down. He believes this investment will jump start the economy. The Mayor said that when they started work on the Arena project they brought parties, business, labor and the public together for their input. The same thing was done on the sewer project and the city pools.

The Mayor said that if they waited to build the Arena there would be increased costs. Construction costs and interest would be up as the economy rebounds. He was asked about unexpected cost overruns. The EPA has run core samples and didn't find a problem. There are always some unexpected expenses and there has been money set aside in the \$128 million in reserve. This brought up what would happen to that money if it is not spent and the Mayor said it would be set aside for the next project. He said most cost overruns are because of design changes.

Another source of income for the Arena will be naming rights and sale of suites, which hasn't begun.

The Mayor said that the New Arena will be able to support hockey, football and music shows. He said he has been contacted by two hockey teams and two leagues that are interested. Roberts is 20 feet short of regulation size. He will give them the opportunity but the city will not subsidize them. Larger groups can come to the arena and can spill over into the Centre. We will be able to attract more conventions, shows and bring economic development.

The Mayor said that the Area Building Authority maintains the Civic Center and would be able to maintain the Arena. He said they want to keep admissions as affordable as possible, if they are making too much money then they would need to reduce tickets.

The question of security in the downtown area was asked. The Mayor said there would be exterior lighting around the Arena and additional walking patrols added. Police Chief Brad Hill said there would be a strong police presence. With more people downtown crime would not be rampant. He said that people were concerned about crime when the boat arrived and that didn't happen,

The question was asked about simultaneous events at the Arena, Centre and the Victory. They will try to coordinate scheduling.

Charles Powers said he was totally against the Arena when he came to the meeting. He is now for the Arena. He said he has lived in other towns and is really enthusiastic now.

Jim Braker said that he believes this is the wrong time to build

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— THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER —

NEWS

an Arena considering the economy. Who will come? The Mayor said yes the economy is bad now. We are better off than many Indiana cities. For example Betty Plastics is spending \$120 million creating more jobs. There is no escaping the National and World economic problems. The Mayor also said that it will take two and a half years to build the Arena and he believes the economy will turn up by then. Jim also asked if the Mayor was going to make \$5 million on the Arena deal. The Mayor responded by saying he won't make anything on the project.

The Mayor was asked if any thought had been given to if something happened to the boat. He said that they would use gaming money in the early years for the Arena. There would have to be a change in State law for the boat to move. There could be a challenge if there was more competition. The boat is very profitable and has increased profit in Evansville. The creditors of Tropicana will be requesting a gaming license.

The mayor said that the construction of the Arena would use local labor to the fullest extent possible. He said they will have to use people that have built an Arena before. They are currently using two local contractors. The contractors would use local labor, knows that it would not be feasible for contractors to bring in workers.

The Mayor was asked why there was no referendum on the Arena. No politician took a position in the last election. He said that State law prohibits a referendum on this type of project. If there is a Government unit or Capital unit that wants to spend money they are required to have a referendum. He was asked if a referendum can't be done, how about sending everyone a letter and ask them if they want to Arena or not. The Mayor asked who was against the Arena and less than half held up their hands.

An attendee asked about the poor people that live in this proposed site. The Mayor said he will try to help the low income people in the area.

John Kish said that half of the Arena site is public owned and this would take the lease amount off the property tax rolls. He was asked about the wear and tear on the streets during construction. He said fixing them after construction is part of the budget.

The Mayor said we would have to spend 10s of millions to upgrade Roberts. Downtown is an entertainment and financial district. To upgrade Roberts's income tax would have to be raised to cover the \$65 million needed to build there. Roberts's parking lot holds 3,000 vehicles and the new Arena will have 3,000 spaces plus street and private parking. The Mayor said we may be actually able to park closer to the Arena than at Roberts. One attendee wondered about underground parking at the Arena. The Mayor said it would cost about \$25,000 per space and is just not economical and pumps would be required to run 24/7. He said that Roberts currently just about breaks even.

A comment heard about all the money that has been spent through the years to revitalize downtown. This has never helped, is this going to be another boondoggle?

Brenda Barkowitz said she has lost confidence in the Mayor and City Officials with what was done on the Homestead Credit. The Mayor said that he realizes that they should have made this more public. He said that

the credit will be reinstated for 2010 and the 2009 full credit will be applied to the Fall installment.

Another person asked the Mayor if all this money for the Arena is available to support the Arena, why did you have to take the Homestead Tax. The Mayor said you cannot move money from one account to another. The TIF money can only be spent on infrastructure, gaming money will come from the boat and the food and beverage tax is used to pay off the Centre and when that is paid the money will go to the Arena.

The mayor said that the City budget problem stems from the State Property Tax Caps of 1% for individuals, 2% for business and 3% for industry. He said they talked about how to deal with the loss and the Homestead tax was one way. He said State law determines how certain money can be spent. He said that property taxes will not go up and he doesn't foresee any taxes going up. The budget is designed for 3% growth and he has seen about 4-5% growth. The lease with the casino will run for 5-10 years. He said assuming there is no City growth and he knows it will. People have to tighten their belts and so does the City. The 2010 budget will be \$6 million less than 2009. The City will have to check options. There are several things that they can do. EMS is currently being subsidized by the City, this could be eliminated. There would be no pay raises and will have to look at health insurance. He said they are getting new software to help them be more efficient. The number of Hose Houses could be reduced and people eliminated. With a \$6 million budget, we will have to look at everything. This will be done in the next couple months. He said that all communities in Indiana will have to make difficult decisions.

Charlene Braker said she has lost respect for the Mayor as a Christian she is praying for him. She said they will keep track of what is said and hold the City accountable. We don't want Chicago politicians. Some call this Heavensville. We are organized now and know we can watch. The Mayor said he is tired of nobody showing up at these public meetings. He said when we do bad let us know and when we do good let us know.

The Mayor was thanked for having the courage to stand before us. All of us want to get the story and want to build it right. He said some things sell itself. There are at least 100 people praying for you.

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Sinkhole on the High Road



By
**Kathleen
Parker**
*Washington Post
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WASHINGTON -- Followers of Sonia Sotomayor's Supreme Court confirmation hearings were witness to a now-familiar phenomenon. Women are treated differently than men in such settings.

To wit: Questions posed to Sotomayor about her temperament -- is she a bully? -- wouldn't likely be posed to a similarly qualified man.

Judicial temperament is a legitimate concern, of course. But watching Sotomayor take questions about her moods from the nearly all-male Senate Judiciary Committee, one couldn't help wondering how those same fellows would hold up under similar scrutiny while a roomful of women took aim at their ... fortitude.

Obviously, we're talking about Republican chaps. Democrats were practically tossing raiment over puddles as they lobbed loving little queries her way.

It's hard to figure what Republicans could have been thinking. It's nearly a foregone conclusion that Sotomayor will be confirmed. Essentially attacking her personality is, at minimum, bad political strategy. The first Latina to rise to the highest bench with a record of accomplishment few can match isn't the best person for target practice when Hispanic voters are the golden means to a political future.

Senators also hammered Sotomay-

or about her ethnic identification and whether she could rule fairly without undue influence from her gender or political preferences. Wait, let me guess, you're White Guys! Are we to infer that males of European descent are never unduly influenced by their own ethnicity, gender or political preferences? Can anyone affirm this assertion with a straight face?

When your party looks like a Wonder Bread convention during flu season, picking on ethnic identity and sex seems an un-brilliant way to proceed. Yet, these same gentlemen don't understand how Sotomayor could have expressed the thought that she, as a Latina, might be able to reach a wiser decision than a white male?

Sotomayor's explanation about that unfortunate remark, distorted in importance through endless repetition, seemed reasonable enough. She was trying to inspire her audience of mostly minority women. Anyone who has given hundreds of speeches -- or even dozens -- will wind up saying something regrettable.

But a few random comments extricated from the contexts of time and place, not to mention audience, is evidence unbecoming a fair judge in assessing another's character and body of work.

More troubling were questions based on anonymous hearsay aimed at Sotomayor's bench personality. Here's what women hear when men ask a female candidate about her temperament: "Are you really the bitch everybody says you are?"

Men can be temperamental and still be great; women are merely impossible to deal with. Why is that? While Sotomayor is pondering some of the Deep Thoughts suggested by her interrogators, perhaps those same wise blancos might give that question some reflection.

Deny as we might, the whole package

of an individual being scrutinized for any position -- from cashier to Supreme Court justice -- includes appearance, personality and likability as well as qualifications, character and intelligence. It's our nature.

Which explains in part why the same Republican men who can't quite bring themselves to accept Sotomayor still swoon over their party's last vice presidential candidate. Extrapolate at your own whim -- and risk.

I don't doubt that Republicans are sincerely concerned about how Sotomayor views such issues as gun ownership, abortion rights, executive power and eminent domain -- core issues that divide us. To that end, consideration of Sotomayor's affiliations, rulings and public statements was all fair game.

But pounding her on her ethnic identity and temperament collapses the high road Republicans like to claim and betrays an intuitive vacuum that suggests, dare I say it, a lack of empathy.

I say this both with disappointment (I'm partial to men) and, yes, concern. I'm disappointed when men play the B card, by inference, if not explicitly. It concerns me that the Democratic Party may not have enough worthy adversaries in the coming years to save us from the tyranny of sustained one-party rule.

If confirmed, Sotomayor soon will blend into the folds of black robes as all the others have, and few will remember what the fuss was about. Something about a wise Latina. Did she wink?

But those who picked the wrong battles during her confirmation, reminding Americans that they are blind to their own biases and attitudes, may find themselves increasingly lonely in that great big tent.

IS IT TRUE?

2009 BEST OF THE BEST IN VANDERBURGH, WARRICK, POSEY COUNTIES

THE “BEST OF THE BEST” IN VANDERBURGH, WARRICK AND POSEY COUNTIES THE BEST MAYOR?

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TOM SCHNEIDER POSEY, TRACY RIPPLE –POSEY
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CITY – COUNTY EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR
DEPUTY CRAIG BLESSINGER, VANDERBURGH

Publisher’s Note: Please accept our apologies. We inadvertently inserted the draft test for the 2009 “Best of the Best” last week. We are sorry for the errors and omissions, and as such are re-running the list this week. We will resume our normal “Is It True” section next week. Thanks for reading.

POOL IS A FOUR LETTER WORD

By Judge James Redwine

The *Music Man* by Meredith Wilson opened on Broadway in 1957. Robert Preston plays a conman who tries to warn the people of River City about the perils of pool. As he almost said:

Well, either you're closing your eyes to a situation you do not wish to acknowledge or you are not aware of the caliber of disaster indicated by the presence of a pool in your yard.

I cited this authority to Peg about two weeks into our pool project that was projected by WalMart to take about an hour. Well, Gentle Reader, she ignored my logic and my citation of precedent as readily as if she were a federal judge.

It became quite clear to me that there was to be neither reprieve nor respite from the completion of Neptune's temple. The pool gods must be appeased. I accepted my fate, but felt a moral obligation to warn others.

Therefore, I am chartering an organization patterned after another highly respected method of helping those who may be in danger of succumbing to bad decisions. I call it PA, Pools Anonymous.

Should your wife just mention in passing that a swimming pool might be a delightful diversion for the kids, grandkids, the neighbors or a Little League baseball team, call me immediately. I will cite chapter and verse of why Pool is a

four letter word.

It starts with "P" for pricey and ends with "L" for labor intensive. In between you have double "OO" for numerous moments of "Oh, Oh". Of course, should you still be weakening and your backbone be closer to a jellyfish than a swordfish, I will point out that if you build it, people will come.

Since this is a new therapeutic model, all steps are not yet in place. For now, I urge you to fall back on that standard approach that husbands have taken for thousands of years; pretend you did not hear the word "Pool" and continue doing nothing. Hey, if Adam had taken this approach before biting that apple, he'd still be in the Garden of Eden.

In summary, I suggest trouble starts with "T" and that rhymes with "P" and that stands for Pool. Almost finally, I remind you that as with many four letter words, it is best to avoid pool(s) altogether.

The reason I said almost finally is because Peg could not abide my analysis and made me include her observation that an even more time-consuming, expensive, frustrating four letter word is GOLF and there is no Golf Anonymous.

And now, finally, we have exhausted me, and probably you, and the subject of pools. Next week, if you are not out leveling your yard, we will begin an exhilarating expo-

sition of the art of judging. As preparation you may wish to review what you learned in Sunday School and Kindergarten; that and several years of living are really about all that are required for good judging whether one serves on a trial court or the United States Supreme Court.

Order Judge Lynch today!



A work of historical fiction by Jim Redwine. Order it at www.authorhouse.com. Price \$29.00 + S & H.

Seven black men were murdered by a mob of 300 influential white men during one week of October 1878, in Posey County, Indiana. These horrific crimes have remained hidden from public scrutiny for over 100 years. The events and their subsequent cover-up are examined in depth in this new novel. Southwestern Indiana and southeastern Illinois provide several of the locales for the book.

Watch for Judge Redwine's soon to be released collection of Gavel Gamuts!

THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

These letters and notes have been received the last two weeks. They arrived via email. We would like to thank those of you who have been submitting tips and emails.

In favor of the Unions!

Throughout history, people who have risen to power quickly have lost power quickly.

When it comes to advice, it is often difficult to convey the message adequately to the recipient, especially since "Wise men seldom need it, and fools don't heed it."

After saying that, I have noticed all the media hype on the local homestead tax credit boondoggle, the arena drama and politics behind closed doors. I understand that Mayor Weinzapfel's political problems and worries are all self-inflicted, but it appears that he has surrounded himself with people that offer opinions that do not differ from his. They merely follow what he says and wants.

I am a person that believes in redemption. Basically, the new downtown arena is basically a done deal. It is my hope that the mayor and the powers that be will commit to use local workers and suppliers to complete this project.

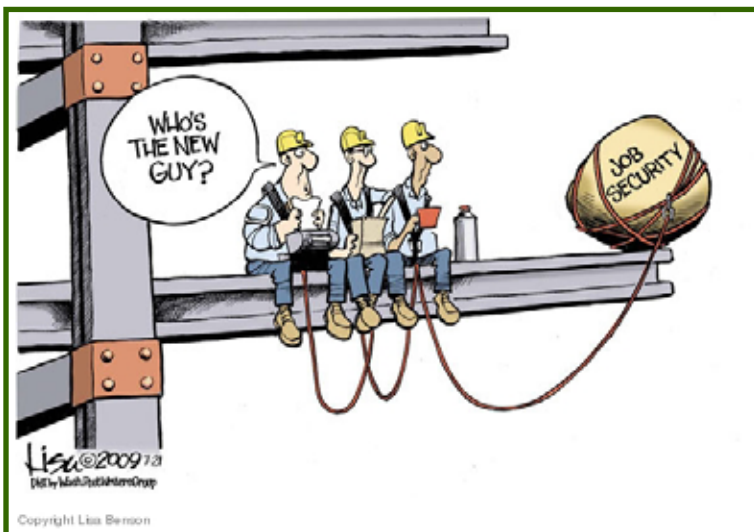
This looks unfavorable at this time, since the design firm is from out of state, the hotel developer is from the Indianapolis-area (and they own a construction company), and the bond lawyers are also from Indianapolis. Let's not forget that the fact that the project manager is also from Indianapolis.

At this time, the project that was supposed to be helping stimulate the local economy is not showing a local focus. It's showing a Central Indiana focus, which I find ironic considering the fact that the mayor is toying with the idea of running for governor. (How easy to raise campaign dollars when you can offer high-dollar contracts.)

Case in point, when you are stating that a project is going to bring local jobs and stimulate the local economy, shouldn't you begin the process by getting the local construction industry together first? How is bringing in out of town people going to get this economy going? Does that put food on the table of the local tradesmen, union workers and minority business owners? Does that enable the local construction worker to pay his mortgage and support his family?

Finally, it is my opinion that the mayor and redevelopment commission should use their power to insure the local people are the beneficiaries of this project socially and economically and for the long haul.

J. Stone, Evansville, IN



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Letter to Senator Bayh regarding recent credit card legislation

The following information was sent through Consumers Union (Below is what was included in the letter.)

Several major banks just hiked interest rates and fees on our credit cards, turning a blind eye to the millions of Americans struggling with the collapsing economy and higher unemployment.

Media reports show Capital One hiked interest rates to 17.9% from 12.9%. Citibank raised their rates an average of 3%. While over at Chase, customers had a “choice” of paying a \$120-a-year fee and a higher minimum payment, or a higher interest rate. Meanwhile, the interest rate banks charge each other for overnight loans is as low as 0%.

The Federal Reserve Board passed a new rule to prevent these sudden rate hikes, but it won't go into effect until the middle of 2010. How many times before then will we get slugged with higher rates and fees just so the banks who got billions in taxpayer bailouts can increase their profits?

The chairman of the Senate Banking Committee just reintroduced his bill to put an end to these abuses, saying, “Mark my words: in the coming months, they will end.” Other bills also have been introduced to crack down on these abuses.

Let's help make it happen now. We can't afford to wait until mid-2010 for credit card reform!

Response from Senator Evan Bayh

Dear Mr. Don Counts:

Thank you for contacting me in regards to credit cards. I appreciate hearing your thoughts and value your input on this matter. I've heard from thousands of Hoosiers who have been gouged by credit card companies for far too long.

It may please you to know that Congress recently enacted the Credit Card Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure Act of 2009, sweeping legislation that gives cardholders a fair chance to manage their debt by targeting credit card companies' exploitive practices found in the fine print of their agreements. We passed this bill for the sake of middle-class families who are working hard to make ends meet during this recession. This is a victory for consumers who deserve to be treated fairly.

As a member of the Senate Banking Committee, which has jurisdiction over consumer lending, I worked with my colleagues to enact meaningful reforms that will protect consumers from the most abusive practices in the industry. The Senate passed the credit card bill with my support on May 19, 2009, and it was signed into law by President Obama on May 22. This could not have come at a better time, with card issuers squeezing their customers more than ever.

When the new law goes into effect, credit card issuers will be subject to a number of strict new rules. For instance, the Act reins in unfair changes to interest rates, including retroactive increases

on existing balances at any time, for any reason. Contract terms must be honored for the first year the account is open and promotional rates may not last fewer than six months. Cardholders will be entitled to 45 days notice of a change in APR or any other significant change to the agreement. For those whose rates have been increased, their credit card issuer will be required to review the account every six months and lower the interest rates when warranted.

The Act also ends fee traps, such as requiring that statements be mailed no fewer than 21 days before the payment is due. Consumers will also find it easier to avoid over-limit fees because institutions will have to obtain a consumer's permission to process transactions that would exceed the credit limit on the account. And most importantly, the terms of credit card contracts will be clearly disclosed in plain language and made available on the internet, enabling consumers to avoid unnecessary costs and better manage their finances.

The Credit Card Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure Act strikes a good balance between the need to rein in the most abusive practices and our desire to ensure that affordable credit remains available to average consumers. I am aware that some credit card companies responded to the passage of this law by threatening to raise interest rates or impose punitive fees on even their best customers, in order to make up for lost revenue. It will remain a business decision for each card issuer to determine how to structure its contract terms - within the confines of the law, of course. Some of these offers may include annual fees and other features. In the end, I believe that Hoosiers are smart shoppers who will choose a credit card with the terms and conditions that best suit their individual needs.

I will be closely monitoring the implementation of this new law. The Banking Committee will continue its oversight of the credit card industry to ensure that creditors are playing by the rules, and that regulators assess the appropriate penalties when they do not. I hope this will sufficiently discourage issuers from committing violations, including failing to make proper disclosures to their customers. Please rest assured that we intend to hold federal regulators accountable for enforcing the law by requiring annual reports to Congress on the enforcement of credit card protections.

Again, thank you for contacting me. I hope the information I have provided has been helpful. My website, <http://bayh.senate.gov>, can provide additional details about my work in the Senate, including legislation and state projects. You can also sign up for occasional email updates. I value your input and hope you will continue to keep me informed of the issues that matter to you.

Office of Senator Evan Bayh

Evansville MS Society opens local center

The Indiana State Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society opened the Evansville Service Center in April. The chapter exists to mobilize people and resources to drive research for a cure and to address the challenges of people affected by MS.

MS is a chronic, often disabling disease that attacks the central nervous system (CNS), which is made up of the brain, spinal cord, and optic nerves. Symptoms may be mild, such as numbness in the limbs, or severe, such as paralysis or loss of vision. The progress, severity, and specific symptoms of MS are unpredictable and vary from one person to another. Today, new treatments and advances in research are giving new hope to people affected by the disease.

The Indiana State Chapter serves 90 counties in Indiana and Daviess and Henderson counties of Kentucky. In addition to the Evansville Service Center, the main office is located in Indianapolis with additional staff based in Fort Wayne, Griffin and South Bend.

In April, the Chapter held the Evansville MS Walk downtown. Congressman Brad Ellsworth kicked off the walk which featured Tony Maslan of Custom Fit as the Master of Ceremonies and the Evansville Children's Choir.

Currently, there are over 700 individuals registered as living with MS in Gibson, Pike, Dubois, Perry, Vanderburgh, Warrick, Spencer, Perry, Daviess (KY) and Henderson (KY) counties. Among the programs and services that registered clients have access to include our financial assistance program, neurologist



referral, newly diagnosed information, education and social programs. Brittainy Norman, Community Development Manager for this part of the state is working on a program for couples impacted by MS in conjunction with Community Marriage Builders. The program will focus on the challenges living with a chronic disease can present to a relationship and provide attendees with communication and coping skills to help alleviate conflict. Brittainy is also working on a Research Update program scheduled for August 27th in Terre Haute.

The chapter is also hosting the "On the Move" luncheon at Biaggi's on Thursday September 17th. Sean Coleman, St. Joseph County Treasurer will be the keynote speaker.

If you are interested in learning more about programs and services in Evansville, please contact Brittainy at (812) 401-2810.

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Berry Plastics Corporation Announces Estimated Quarterly Results

EVANSVILLE, IN - July 20, 2009 - Berry Plastics Corporation (the "Company") estimates that its net sales will total approximately \$770 million during its fiscal 2009 third quarter, representing a decrease of 18% over \$940 million in the fiscal 2008 third quarter. This decrease includes an estimated reduction in sales volume of 7% and estimated net selling price decreases of 11% primarily resulting from lower raw material costs. Also, the Company estimates that its fiscal 2009 third quarter Adjusted EBITDA, which is a Non-GAAP measure, will be approximately \$141 million, an increase from \$138 million for the fiscal 2008 third quarter. These amounts reflect management's estimate as of the date of this press release; actual results may vary from these results. The following table reconciles net income (loss) to the Company's estimate of Adjusted EBITDA for fiscal 2009 third quarter and 52 weeks ended June 27, 2009 and reported Adjusted EBITDA for fiscal 2008 third quarter:

(S in millions)	Unaudited		
	Thirteen Weeks Ended		52 Weeks Ended
	Estimated June 27, 2009	Actual June 28, 2008	Estimated June 27, 2009
Adjusted EBITDA	\$141	\$138	\$513
Pro forma synergies	(2)	(8)	(17)
Pro forma cost reductions	(2)	(5)	(15)
Net interest expense	(60)	(64)	(267)
Depreciation and amortization	(64)	(65)	(258)
Income tax benefit (expense)	(3)	6	20
Business optimization expense	(6)	(2)	(23)
Management fees	(2)	(2)	(6)
Restructuring and other non-cash items	-	(3)	5
Stock based compensation	-	(6)	(16)
Net income (loss)	\$2	(\$11)	(\$64)

Adjusted EBITDA is a financial metric utilized in the calculation of the first lien leverage ratio as defined in the Company's senior secured credit facilities. While the determination of appropriate adjustments in the calculation of Adjusted EBITDA is subject to interpretation under the terms of the Credit Facility, management believes the adjustments described above are in accordance with the covenants in the Credit Facility. Adjusted EBITDA should not be considered in isolation or construed as an alternative to our net income (loss) or other measures as determined in accordance with GAAP. In addition, other companies in our industry or across different industries may calculate bank covenants and related definitions differently than we do, limiting the usefulness of our calculation of Adjusted EBITDA as a comparative measure.

At June 27, 2009, the Company had estimated \$29 million of cash and \$70 million outstanding on the revolving credit facility

providing unused borrowing capacity of \$280 million under the revolving line of credit subject to the solvency of our lenders to fund their obligations and our borrowing base calculations.

In 2009, BP Parallel LLC agreed to invest in the Company's 10 1/4% senior subordinated notes and purchase assignments of the Berry Plastics Group, Inc. senior unsecured term loan. The following table presents the status of these investments at June 27, 2009:

This press release is for informational purposes only and is

	Open		Completed Investments	
	Principal	Cash Due	Principal	Cash Paid
Berry Plastics Group, Inc. Senior Unsecured Term Loan	\$123	\$37	\$391	\$129
Berry Plastics Corp - 10 1/4% Senior Subordinated Notes	6	4	44	20
Total	\$129	\$41	\$435	\$149

not intended to serve as a solicitation to buy securities or an offer to sell securities.

Berry Plastics is a leading manufacturer and marketer of plastic packaging products and is headquartered in Evansville.

The City-County Observer Mission Statement

The primary focus of this online publication will be built upon the foundation of honesty, trust, and strong principles of journalistic integrity. Our mission will be to give out readers the answers to vital, often complex information they need to live safer and more enriched lives. This publication shall be non-partisan with consistent and objective reporting. We will not only report and inform our readers about political events, but we will seek out and provide insight into the not-so-apparent political issues, which help shape our lives. In essence our publication will be built on the cornerstone of service and trust to the taxpayers and citizens of Posey, Vanderburgh and Warrick Counties. While we strive to educate and inform, we shall serve as a community watchdog by sounding the alarm whenever our citizens rights are in danger of being violated by our elected and appointed officials.



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B&W delivers first of two nuclear reactor closure heads to AREVA NP for PG&E's Diablo Canyon Power Plant

Babcock & Wilcox Nuclear Power Generation Group, Inc. (B&W NPG) has completed the manufacture of the first of two nuclear reactor closure heads as part of a contract to AREVA NP for Pacific Gas & Electric's Diablo Canyon Power Plant located in San Luis Obispo County, Calif. The closure head left The Babcock & Wilcox Company's (B&W) Mount Vernon, Ind., plant last week en route to California. An ASME N-Stamp-accredited facility, the Mount Vernon facility is the only plant in the United States that is certified to manufacture heavy pressure vessels for the nuclear industry. B&W NPG is a major operating unit of B&W.

"As anyone who is familiar with nuclear manufacturing in the U.S. will tell you, this is an historic day for our industry domestically," said Richard E. Reimels, President of B&W NPG. "For many years, the manufacturing of heavy vessels for the nuclear industry has been done outside of the United States. B&W is leading heavy commercial nuclear manufacturing in the United States and is helping to keep manufacturing jobs in our nation. We appreciate AREVA NP's confidence for this job. We're looking forward to finishing the second closure head in

the first quarter of 2010, and taking on new projects after that."

B&W began precise cladding, machining and welding work on the closure head after receiving the forged "blank" head from Japan Steel Works in October 2007. After adding the control rod drive housings, the entire assembly was placed in a protective cover and began its trip to the Diablo Canyon Power Plant. The closure heads are being provided to AREVA NP to replace the existing closure heads during a routine maintenance outage at the plant.

About The Babcock & Wilcox Company

The Babcock & Wilcox Company (B&W), a major operating subsidiary of McDermott International, Inc., is a leader in advanced energy technology innovation and service, primarily in nuclear and fossil power. Providing quality products and technical services to commercial and government customers, B&W is focused on issues such as energy efficiency, clean air, global market competitiveness, and safe and secure resolution for nuclear waste. B&W has locations worldwide and employs more than 20,000 people. The company is located on the Internet at www.babcock.com.

Education leaders to talk with faculty about P-12 education changes

Leaders from the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation and the Indiana Department of Education will speak to faculty involved in teacher preparation programs at the University of Southern Indiana at 9 a.m. July 28 in Carter Hall of the University Center.

The Distinguished Speakers Symposium will feature Dr. Vince Bertram, EVSC superintendent, and Patrick W. Mapes, director of the Office of Educator Licensing and Development for the Indiana Department of Education. They will speak on changes in preschool through high school education that will impact higher education. A question-and-answer session will follow the presentations. The symposium also will include a videotaped presentation prepared especially for the event by Dr. Tony Bennett, Indiana superintendent of public instruction.

Dr. Julie H. Edmister, dean of the Bower-Suhrheinrich College of Education and Human Services, said the chang-

ing landscape in P-12 education will impact teacher education programs.

“Faculty understanding of the changing needs and requirements at the local and state levels is essential to offering programs and services that meet our stakeholder needs,” she said. “This will be an excellent opportunity for us to discuss how we can work together to improve student success.”

Bertram joined EVSC in his present position in 2007. Mapes assumed his present position in March after more than 20 years in K-12 education. He was most recently superintendent of the Delaware Community School Corporation in Muncie, Indiana.

USI faculty involved in teacher preparation programs in the Bower-Suhrheinrich College of Education and Human Services, Pott College of Science and Engineering, College of Liberal Arts, and College of Business will attend the symposium, which is sponsored by the Department of Teacher Education.

EVSC Announces New Principals at Caze, Plaza Park

Plaza Park Middle School and Caze Elementary School will have new building leaders this fall.

L. Shane Browder has been named principal at Plaza Park and Mikka Solomon has been named principal at Caze Elementary School. Both were approved by the Evansville Vanderburgh Board of School Trustees July 6.

Browder, former assistant principal at Plaza Park, holds a B.S. degree, two M.S. degrees and an Ed.S degree from Jacksonville State University. Browder has certifications as a building level administrator and superintendent. He replaces Jo Adams who will move to Helfrich Park STEM Academy as assistant principal.

Solomon was most recently teacher and grade level chair for Hood Avenue Primary School in Fayetteville, Ga. She holds a B.A. degree from the University of Southern Indiana and two M.A. degrees from Central Michigan University. She is currently working on her Ed.D degree from Argosy University. Solomon replaces Anna Jo Wyman who will be a counselor at Harrison High School this fall.



Posey County Community Foundation accepting Grant Proposals To Benefit Women and Girls in Posey County

Posey County, Indiana – The Women’s Fund of Posey County is about strong, caring, and focused women determined to make a difference in the lives of our community’s women and girls. At its heart, the Women’s Fund is about women helping women.

The Women’s Fund is used to make yearly grants supporting a variety of resources serving women of all ages, such as programs that prevent domestic violence, secure family-supporting jobs, promote health and education and perhaps most importantly, develop confidence. Last year, the fund awarded grants to support after-school programs for girls at West/Hedges Elementary schools; to purchase resources to instruct parents on the proper way to care for their sick children; to conduct four fiber arts classes at the New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art; to support Tai Chi classes offered through the Posey County Council on Aging; to purchase materials to be used by Willow Tree of Posey County in community outreach projects; for Posey County Steps Ahead Council to purchase ten portable beds; and for St. Peter’s United Methodist Church to offer classes that will teach single mothers about meal planning, food preparation, and proper food storage.

The Foundation is pleased to announce that it is accepting grant proposals from nonprofit organizations serving Posey County which will support the Women’s Fund mission: to give opportunity, encouragement, knowledge and hope to our community’s women and girls. Proposals are sought for charitable projects and activities that address needs and opportunities in health, human services, arts and culture, education, community development, and other areas that would improve the quality of life for women and girls in Posey County.

Only those agencies or organizations which are tax exempt under sections 501 (c) (3) and 509 (a) of the Internal Revenue Code are eligible to apply for approximately \$5,000 available to grant. Multiple grants will be awarded from the total amount. Proposals must be postmarked or delivered to the Foundation office in the Old National Bank Building at 402 Main Street, in Mt. Vernon by 4:30 pm on July 28, 2009. Funding guidelines and proposal instructions may be obtained at the Foundation office or by visiting our website at www.poseycommunityfoundation.org.

If you would like more information on the Women’s Fund of Posey County or any of our seventy funds at the Foundation, please call Julie Eickhoff, Foundation Director, at 812.838.0288 or visit our website at www.poseycommunityfoundation.org. If you would like to make a contribution, make a check payable to the Posey County Community Foundation and mail it to PO Box 746, Mt. Vernon, IN 47620. Include a note indicating you would like your contribution to be credited to the Women’s Fund of Posey County or

any of the other funds within the Foundation.

The Posey County Community Foundation, a member of the Community Foundation Alliance, Inc., is a nonprofit public charity established in 1992 to serve donors, award grants and scholarships, and provide leadership to enrich and enhance the quality of life in Posey County.

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USI Softball announces three signings

EVANSVILLE, Ind.—The University of Southern Indiana softball team announced that junior third baseman LeAnn Collins (Rolling Prairie, Indiana) as well as freshmen utility players Samantha Barbee (Jasonville, Indiana) and Jessica McCullough (Evansville, Indiana) have signed national letters of intent to play for Head Coach Sue Kunkle's Screaming Eagles in 2010.

Collins comes to USI from Wabash Valley Junior College where she hit .488 with 16 home runs and 79 RBIs after hitting .438 with six home runs and a school-record 83 RBIs as a freshman in 2008.

An All-Great Rivers Athletic Conference and All-Region XXIV performer, Collins helped Wabash Valley to the 2009 NJCAA I Region XXIV title and a berth in the NJCAA I National Championship Tournament in St. George, Utah.

In two seasons, Collins has helped Wabash to a 91-10 overall record as well as two GRAC championships. The Warriors won the 2008 Region XXIV title and were seventh at the NJCAA I National Championship.

Collins graduated from New Prairie High School (New Carlisle, Indiana) where she earned All-State honors as a senior in 2007. She also helped NPHS to a second-place finish at the IHSAA Class 3A Tournament as a junior in 2006.

"LeAnn is a tremendous player with a great glove and an outstanding bat," Kunkle said. "She has a lot of power at the plate and will be an impact hitter immediately. LeAnn had an amazing career at Wabash Valley and we are looking for her to do the same at USI."

Barbee is currently a senior at North Central High School (Farmersburg, Indiana) where she has earned varsity letters in cross country, basketball, and softball. She was the Ladybird Pride Award winner in 2006 and 2007 and earned the TRC Awards for cross country and softball. In 2009, Barbee hit .449 with seven doubles, three home runs, and 13 RBIs. She also brings a good glove as she finished her senior year with a .987 fielding percentage in 158 chances.

McCullough is finishing up her senior year at Reitz High School where she has earned four varsity letters in softball. In the last two seasons, McCullough has hit .277 with two home runs and 14 RBIs.

Last summer, McCullough hit .260 with a home run and 12 RBIs for her travel ball squad, the Lakeview Lady Aces.

Barbee, Collins, and McCullough join freshman infielder Stephanie Bittner (Evansville, Indiana) and freshman outfielder Katherine Belsito (Greenwood, Indiana) on USI's list of newcomers for the 2010 season. Bittner and Belsito signed national letters of intent during the early signing period last fall.

UE Soccer Recruiting Class Ranks #1

TopDrawerSoccer.com has ranked the University of Evansville men's soccer recruiting class number one in the Missouri Valley Conference. The Purple Aces have eight newcomers joining 17 returning players for the 2009 season, which begins with an exhibition match against UE alumni on Saturday, Aug. 22. Forward Gavin Chura is ranked #49 in TopDrawer's list of the nation's top 100 new players to watch in 2009. Also mentioned in the rankings were attacking players Jesse Sharp and Patrick Kalua, goalkeeper Robert Randant and defender Cole Page.

The TopDrawerSoccer.com rankings did not make note of two transfers who could make an immediate impact. Sophomore Aaron Henkle was a starting defender during the University of Akron's NCAA Tournament run last November, and junior forward Tyler Kincaid earned all-region honors at Division II St. Joseph's College last year after scoring 13 goals.

Head coach Mike Jacobs has led the Purple Aces to winning seasons in each of his three years, and has nine starters returning in 2009 from a squad that was one of only nine in the country to rank nationally in the Soccer Times poll (21st on Sept. 15), earn the NSCAA Team Academic Award (12th best team GPA in the nation), and rank among the nation's top 40 in attendance (38th).

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SPORTS

Gist Named Director Of UE Women's Basketball Operations

University of Evansville women's basketball head coach Misty Murphy announced today that Candice Gist, formerly an assistant coach at nearby Wabash Valley Community College, will assume the role of Director of Women's Basketball Operations beginning on August 1.

Gist will take over the Director of Basketball Operations role at UE formerly filled by Nicki Motto, who was promoted to a full-time assistant coach on the Purple Aces' staff at the start of July. Gist will be in charge of travel and assist with UE's film exchange, while being in charge of UE's student managers.

"Candice is a very hard-working young coach who is eager to get her start at the Division I level," said Murphy.

"She has experience in running the daily operations of a program at the junior college level, and that experience will be an asset to our program. We are thrilled to have Candice as the newest member of our UE family."

Gist served as an assistant coach at Wabash Valley Community College in Mt. Carmel, Illinois last season after beginning her basketball coaching career in 2007 at Harvest Preparatory High School in Columbus, Ohio. Gist graduated from Ohio Valley University in Vienna, West Virginia in 2007 with a degree in psychology after being a three-year starter for the Fighting Scots. She is a native of Kettering, Ohio.

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SPORTS

Former Ace Strait Named To Texas League All-Star Game

Former University of Evansville baseball player Cody Strait has been named to the Class AA Texas League All-Star Game after a strong first half of play for the Northwest Arkansas Naturals of the Kansas City Royals' organization.

Strait, who earned Missouri Valley Conference Newcomer of the Year honors in 2004 at UE, was named to the all-star team as a reserve outfielder after shining in center-field for the Naturals. Strait currently ranks fourth on the team in both batting average (.297) and home runs (four), while also ranking second in both doubles (14) and stolen bases (eight). Overall, he ranks in the Texas League's top 15 in both doubles and stolen bases, while also ranking 23rd in the league in hitting. He has helped the Northwest Arkansas Naturals to a 33-20 record through the first half of play, as they currently sit just two games back of division-leading Springfield (Mo.) in the Texas League's North Division.

For Strait, this is his first all-star game experience at the Minor League level. His professional career began in 2004 in the Cincinnati Reds' organization, after the Reds drafted Strait in the 12th round of the 2004 Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft out of the University of Evansville. At UE, Strait earned MVC Newcomer of the Year honors and second team American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA)/Rawlings All-Midwest Region honors after hitting .350 with 11 home runs and 40 RBI in his lone season as a Purple Ace in 2004.

Strait will join Northwest Arkansas teammates Jordan Parraz (OF), Corey Smith (3B) and Kurt Mertins (2B) on the Texas League's North Division squad in the Texas League All-Star game, which is scheduled for Wednesday, July 1 in Frisco, Texas.

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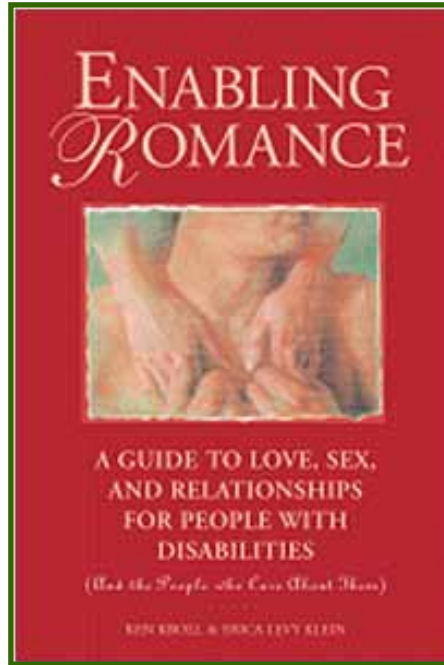
Publisher's Note: City-County Observer Staff Writer Don Counts is passionate about the equal treatment of people with disabilities and making sure society is aware that they may have limitations, but they have the same wants and needs as every other person. The following is a book review. Please read with care and caution.

Book Review by Don Counts

I have been an advocate for people with disabilities for over 20 years. Though the years I have been asked all sorts of questions. Parents have asked about their children as they mature physically and sexually. Through my contacts I have received flyers about this book. Thought it may contain important information for the disability community. I was not disappointed and highly recommend this book. Several years ago at a disability conference one of the speakers spoke about sexually transmitted diseases and the disabled. She stated that just because a person has a disability, it doesn't mean they are asexual. This book takes sex and the disabled to the next level.

The preface to this book starts with "A Word About Language and Research" stating that where possible the wording uses the preferred terminology outlined by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research in "Guidelines for Reporting and Writing About People with Disabilities."

Part One – The Final Taboo: Sexual Satisfaction for People With Disabilities. The beginning of this book describes the author's story of how they got together. This is a very readable book by a married couple, Ken Kroll who has dystonia, a neuromuscular disorder, and uses a wheelchair; his wife Erica is non disabled. This book is a useful and understanding guide to love and sexual relationships for People With Disabilities. This book should be useful for counselors, teachers, and other professionals. This book provides insight into what it is like to be a social, romantic and sexual being that also has a disability. The book is based on the authors' own experience and the experiences of over seventy-five couples who response to their questionnaires. It mainly addresses heterosexual couples, there is a great deal of material that applies to gay or lesbian couples as well.



People with disabilities are many times treated as non-people. The authors found disability plays a relatively minor role in most relationships once the couple has decided they genuinely want to be together. Sometimes adaptations need to be made.

Neutered no more shattering sexual stereotypes. There are more than 56 million people with disabilities in the United States and Congress passed sweeping disability rights legislation in 1990. The need for sexual expression is not lost due to illness or accident, every person is a sexual being, and hardly anyone is too disabled to have some pleasure from his or her sexuality—with a partner if possible, or alone, if necessary. "It is up to each person to discover the kind of sexual expression that works for him or her and the best way to achieve it," they write.

The beginning chapters deal with the fears about disabilities that are ingrained in our culture. This book offers practical advice about how to open honest communications, how to be in a relationship or friendship, and how to deal with the problems of a "mixed relationship"—one that involves disabled and non disabled partners.

As in most everything in society, opposites attract. There is a chapter dealing with disabled people with non disabled partners. This provides a deeper insight into their relationships, how they met, and how their relationships grew. Usually "it is up to the disabled person to make the nondisabled person comfortable with the aspect of the relationship." "It is important to put your best foot forward and act like your disability really doesn't matter." "Above all be friendly and interested in other people" per the authors. Perhaps the most difficult challenge in any "mixed" relationship. "Learning how to ignore negative messages from those who would prefer to see the relationship fail."

It is important for the person with a disability to build their self-esteem in an all too often unaccepting world. It is important to understand that the disabled part of their body is only part of their whole body machine that makes them the very special human being that they are. There is a growing awareness among counseling and rehabilitation professional that directly addressed the sexual needs of disabled people is essential to building a positive self-concept.

Lobbying the legislators

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Boonville Democratic Representative Russ Stilwell was also listed on the site. Rep. Stilwell received \$108.03 from AT&T for the Democratic National Convention.

Other locally-elected State Legislators were not listed by the IRLC as having received gifts. They include Vanetta Becker, Dennis Avery, Suzanne Crouch, Bob Deig and Gail Reicken.

While searching for information on Federal legislators, it became clear that state laws are much stricter than federal laws regarding lobbying. After hours of searching for information on federal legislators, the information could only be found on Watchdog.net.

According to that site, Congressmen representing this region received the following in lobbyist contributions from 2008:

In 2008, Congressman Brad Ellsworth received \$183,389 in lobbyist contributions. Listed among the contributors were AT&T, Chrysler, Babcock & Wilcox Co., Ameriqua, Wal-Mart and Mcapital Management.

In 2008, Senator Richard Lugar received \$155,445 in lobbyist contributions. His top lobbyist contributors were the University of Illinois and Indiana University, which gave him \$146,920.

In 2008, Senator Evan Bayh received a total of \$120,729. A few of his contributors were Mcapital Management, AT&T, Babcock & Wilcox Co., Cook Group and Ameriqua.

As more information is available, more information will be presented on the City-County Observer website.

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Office	848	1,040	Retail	848	1,040	Warehouse	3,000	1,250
Office	1,500	1,250	Retail	1,500	938	Warehouse	4,200	1,750
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Office	7,200	6,000	Retail	12,000	3,500	Warehouse	12,000	3,000

Office: \$10/sfNNN Retail: \$7.50/sfNNN Warehouse: \$5/sfNNN NNN: \$.65/sf

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