

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

JUNE 5, 2009

VOLUME II, ISSUE 6

Local city finds solution to urban blight

By Jamie Grabert, Publisher

It's no big secret that many communities are faced with finding ways to stop urban blight. One local community is on a mission to end this problem and reclaim the city's beauty.

Situated just 15 minutes west of Evansville, Mount Vernon is shaking up landowners and the community's landscape. The city is working diligently and economically to clean up the dilapidated houses. The plan is really pretty simple – clean it up or tear it down.

In a recent interview with Sherry Willis, who is the building inspector for the dilapidated houses in the city, she stated that 38 pieces of property were addressed in 2008. Eleven of the properties were brought up to code and 16 houses were removed.

This year, the city has closed out seven properties so far, with six of the structures being removed or razed. Willis said that she is currently working on nine properties and, at the time of the interview, she said that one of the properties is in the process of being some and will undergo an extensive rehabilitation.

Willis also said that she has five homes that she applied for stimulus money to help clean up in the Safe Routes to School area. "We want this clean up to be in conjunction with the Safe Routes Program. We will be able to purchase the property and clean it up, if we get the money to help make the West kids walk to school better."

She was quick to note that the 2006 and 2007 files were completely empty

Although Willis daily serves as Mayor John Tuck-

er's secretary, she dedicates an additional 10-20 hours per week working to clean up the city's version of urban blight. She said hardest part of this task is tracking people down, especially when the property is tied up in estates or becomes a probate matter.

She then explained the process. "It usually begins with someone calling the office and stating that a house is in disrepair. They will say the windows are out or the roof is caving in. I go look at the property and take pictures. Then I find out who owns the property. We then send out a letter giving the property owner 30 days to clean up the property or tear down the structure. The next step is a hearing."

continued on page 4

IS IT TRUE...



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

— THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER —

POLICE BEAT

Swat Team Assists in Drug Bust

Investigators with the Evansville-Vanderburgh County Drug Task Force conducted controlled purchases of crack cocaine from Corey Lamont Simpson at 614 Washington Ave, Apt. C.

Due to Simpson's criminal history, the Evansville Police Department's SWAT team made entry into the apartment and served the search warrant today at approximately 7:00AM.

Simpson and another subject, Ricardo Torain were located in the bathroom attempting to flush illegal drugs down the toilet and taken into custody. A loaded handgun was found in the bathtub. Detectives recovered approximately 12.9 grams of crack cocaine, 22.6 grams of marijuana, a stolen handgun, \$2,447 in U.S. currency, prescription drugs and numerous other items indicative of the illegal distribution of narcotics.

Both Simpson and Torain were arrested and booked into the Vanderburgh County Confinement Center. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives took custody of the handgun and are considering filing federal charges.

Arrested were:

Corey Lamont Simpson

B/M 04/13/86

614 Washington Ave. - Apt. C

Evansville, IN 47713

Charges: Conspiracy to Deal Cocaine (A felony), Possession of a Schedule III Controlled Substance (D felony), and Possession of Marijuana (A misdemeanor)

Ricardo Demarcus Torain

B/M 08/30/87

1703 Henning Ave.

Evansville, IN 47714

Charge: Conspiracy to Deal Cocaine (A felony)

Applications available for FOP Scholarships

On June 1, 2009 the Fraternal Order of Police, Evansville Lodge #73 will begin accepting applications for the Annual Scholarship Award Program. The Evansville F.O.P. has been awarding scholarships to college students pursuing studies and careers in Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice fields for several years. Since then the Evansville F.O.P. has awarded thousands of dollars in scholarships. The Annual Scholarship Award Program is just one of many activities and functions that the Evansville F.O.P. participates in throughout the year to stay involved and active in the community its members serve.

Completed scholarship applications will be accepted until July 1, 2009. The F.O.P. Scholarship Committee will then score the scholarship applications. The scholarships will be awarded to the winners at the Evansville F.O.P. Lodge #73 meeting on July 15, 2009.

Scholarship applications are available at:

- The Fraternal Order of Police Evansville Lodge # 73 located at 801 Court Street.

- Evansville City Police Department Record Room.

Scholarships applications will also be available at the University of Southern Indiana, Ivy Tech and University of Evansville campuses.

Anyone wanting further information regarding scholarships can contact either Detective Tim Bickel 436-7904 or Sgt. Debbie Thompson 436-7949.



Mount Vernon prepares for 2010 census



Pictured is Mayor John Tucker and his secretary Sherry Willis, Jeff Howell with Regency Properties (Real Estate Representative), and from St. Matthew School is the principal Vickie Wannemuehler, Michele Gondi is the Art Teacher that headed up the school-wide project and several students of St. Matthew School. Pictured is Mayor John Tucker and his secretary Sherry Willis, Jeff Howell with Regency Properties (Real Estate Representative), and from St. Matthew School is the principal Vickie Wannemuehler, Michele Gondi is the Art Teacher that headed up the school-wide project and several students of St. Matthew School.

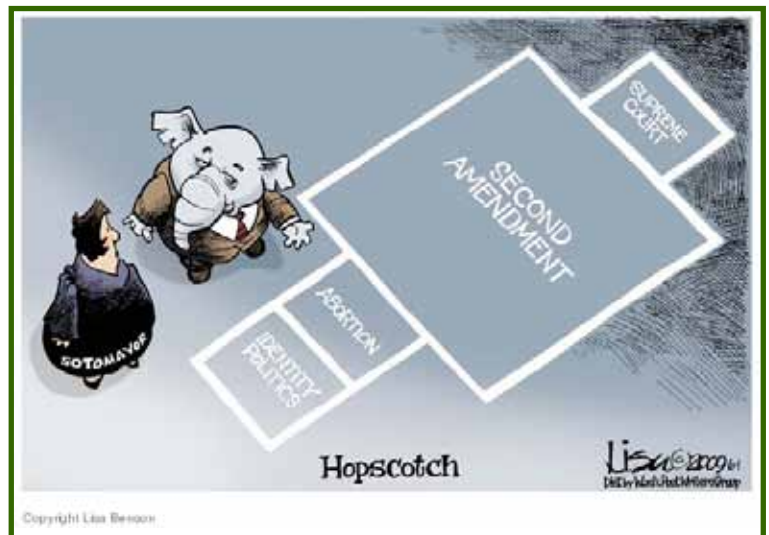
The City of Mt. Vernon is working to be prepared for the upcoming Census in 2010. Mayor John Tucker has appointed his secretary, Sherry Willis as Chairman of The Complete Count Committee.

Ms. Willis said she thinks the Complete Count Committee is an effective tool to bring awareness. "It is a proven fact that more things get done with a larger amount of people rather than just one." She has enlisted the help of the faculty and students of St. Matthew School to be her subcommittee to help spread the word.

The entire school has worked very hard to dress the empty store windows at the Southwind Shopping Center to educate the public of the upcoming Census 2010. The Census impacts the community in so many ways. It's very important that everyone be counted.

By having a successful 2010 Census, the City hopes to get State and Federal money coming into the city to do some special projects that the City does not have money in their budgets to

do. Census information is also extremely valuable when trying to bring new businesses to Mt. Vernon.



Answer to urban blight

continued from page 1

Hearings are scheduled monthly. Willis said she has had as many as seven hearings in one month.

The hearings are set for the property owner to meet with hearing officers Willis, Alan Topper and Leon Clark and City Attorney Beth McFadin-Higgins. At that time, a time table is set. Willis noted that the committee looks at each situation on a case by case basis. She said they also take weather into consideration.

“Most of the time, the property owners want to clean up the property. We want the property owner to fix it if possible. We understand these are hard times economically, and we will work with people who will work with us. That’s why we set up a workable time table,” she said.

“This has been very challenging, but it’s worth it when you see an eyesore turn into a beautiful home again,” Willis commented.

The City of Mount Vernon has identified the problem, and is working every day to find solutions and working with the people to make the city a better place to live.

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.

IDEM invites local businesses to discuss environmental innovations

Who: The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) and the Partners for Pollution Prevention

What: Partners for Pollution Prevention quarterly meeting

When: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (local time), Thursday, June 11, 2009

Where: ArcelorMittal Indiana Harbor West, 3001 Dickey Road, East Chicago, Ind.

R.S.V.P: Please contact Bobbi Steiff by Friday, June 5, 2009 via e-mail at rsteiff@idem.IN.gov or call (800) 988-7901.

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) and the Partners for Pollution Prevention invite business owners and environmental managers to their quarterly meeting on from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, June 11, 2009, at ArcelorMittal Indiana Harbor West, 3001 Dickey Road, in East Chicago, Ind.

“The meeting offers an excellent opportunity for business leaders to discuss the processes they are using to reduce pollution in their facilities,” said IDEM Assistant Commissioner Rick Bossingham. “We’re also hopeful to see new business representatives join us, as there’s a lot we can learn from one another.”

In addition to Asst. Commissioner Bossingham’s agency update, Vince Griffin of the Indiana Chamber of Commerce will present “2009 Legislative Review and Indiana’s Energy Status,” and Kay Nelson, Director, Northwest Indiana Forum Environmental Affairs, will discuss “Partnering with Environmental Groups.” A tour of ArcelorMittal is also on the agenda.

For more information, businesses should contact Bobbi Steiff by Friday, June 5, 2009, at rsteiff@idem.IN.gov or call (800) 988-7901.

About Partners for Pollution Prevention

The Partners for Pollution Prevention is an organization comprised of Indiana manufacturers, businesses, not-for-profits, institutions, and governmental agencies invested in promoting the financial and environmental benefits of pollution prevention (P2). The Partners provide a forum where Indiana businesses can network and exchange ideas about P2 experiences and discuss how P2 fits into current and future IDEM programs. The Partners believe that pollution prevention is the arena where the environment and economics can meet on common ground. For more information on Partners for Pollution Prevention visit www.idem.IN.gov/4129.htm.

Mesker Park Zoo Continues to Shatter Attendance Records

(EVANSVILLE, IN) – Residents and visitors are flocking to Mesker Park Zoo & Botanic Garden. A record 31,583 people passed through the Zoo gates in May 2009. The previous record for May was set back in 2005 with 27,841 visitors. Attendance increased by more than 4,500 in May 2009 as compared to May 2008 (27,011).

The overall attendance record was set last August with the opening of AMAZONIA when 37,303 people visited the Zoo. In fact, records have been broken every month since AMAZONIA opened with the exception of January and February when the ice storm could have contributed to lower attendance.

“AMAZONIA has really provided a great boost to Mesker Park Zoo. It is gratifying to see parking lots packed with cars and buses bringing visitors young and old to the Zoo,” said Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel. “The City is committed to creating a world class zoo and the addition of

AMAZONIA is a great step toward that goal along with the hiring of our new Zoo Director and the Zoo’s 1st full time veterinarian.”

With higher attendance comes greater revenue. An increase of more than \$101,000 in revenue was generated in May 2009 (\$261,436) as compared to May 2008 (\$160,299). Revenue is also coming from membership sales. Nearly 700 memberships were sold in May generating nearly \$32,000 in revenue.

Mesker Park Zoo & Botanic Garden is open 365 days a year from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; the entry gate closes at 4:00 p.m. Admission for adults is \$8.50 and \$7.50 for children ages 3-12. Children under 3 are free. In recognition of their support, Vanderburgh County residents receive a \$1 discount. Please visit www.meskerparkzoo.com for information regarding yearly memberships or other Zoo services.



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EDITORIAL

Mars and Venus Collide



By
**Kathleen
Parker**
*Washington Post
Writers Group*

Listening to President Obama and former Vice President Cheney give their respective national security speeches Thursday put me in mind of John Gray, author of “Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus.”

Different men, different planets. Or are they?

Obama, standing before the U.S. Constitution and speaking to members of the Judge Advocate General’s Corps, was the calm voice of confidence, redeemer of reason. He spoke loftily of American ideals and invoked our better angels.

Reiterating his case for closing Guantanamo, voted down by the Senate a day earlier, he also said there’s no guarantee that terrorists won’t attack again or that Americans won’t die as a result. But, we’ll win anyway. How?

By being good people.

“Because the terrorists can only succeed if they swell their ranks and alienate America from our allies, and they will never be able to do that if we stay true to who we are; if we forge tough and durable approaches to fighting terrorism that are anchored in our timeless ideals.”

Thus spake Venus.

And I thought: What a good man. This is what America needs.

Then came Cheney. Speaking at the American Enterprise Institute, he pulled no punches in his criticism of the Obama administration’s security policies or in

defending the Bush administration’s.

His voice was also calm and reasonable, his remarks simultaneously sharp and blunt. Cheney said he remains a strong proponent of enhanced interrogation, which he said was used with only “hardened terrorists after other efforts had failed.” The interrogations “were legal, essential, justified, successful, and the right thing to do.”

Cheney was especially forceful in criticizing Obama’s “selective release” of documents on the interrogation program without also releasing the intelligence those interrogations produced.

“The public was given less than half the truth,” he said. “The released memos were carefully redacted to leave out references to what our government learned through the methods in question.”

Hail, Mars! I’m thinking: This is just what the nation needs. Someone who shoots straight (well, figuratively speaking).

So: Soaring, inspiring rhetoric on the one hand and gritty determination on the other. Two very different men, worlds apart in nearly every way. The old-timer with decades of experience and a shiv for a smile versus the newcomer with a moonbeam in his eye. Which one is right? Is the answer only a matter of ideology or is there some larger truth therein?

Perhaps both are right in their own time and place, given their experiences and perspectives. From the relative security of hindsight, it is easier to say what we might have done differently. As Cheney put it: “Watching a coordinated, devastating attack on our country from an underground bunker at the White House can affect how you view your responsibilities.”

It may be that Obama was simply wiser than all those other Americans who sup-

ported the invasion of Iraq. Maybe he is a man of greater moral character than those in the CIA and Justice Department who determined that enhanced interrogations were justified to prevent another attack.

Obama said it best: “There are no neat or easy answers here.”

But it is also true that seven years ago, the burden of protecting the nation from another attack did not fall on Obama’s shoulders. Since taking office, he has discovered the weight of that burden and tweaked his promises and policies accordingly.

Transparency isn’t always in the national interest, he said Thursday. Obama sounded like George W. Bush or Cheney when he reversed himself on releasing photos of detainee abuse in Iraq and Afghanistan, saying that their release would inflame anti-American sentiment and further endanger American troops.

Likewise, Obama has reserved the right to order enhanced interrogation techniques should circumstances warrant. What would those be, one wonders? Perhaps a massive terrorist attack on American soil? Bloody right.

Yet, as Cheney said, Obama’s team speaks “as if they have resolved some great moral dilemma” in how to get terrorists to talk. In reality, they’ve postponed the decision “while assigning a presumption of moral superiority to any decision they might make in the future.”

Nobody ever said Obama wasn’t artful.

Whether Obama’s worldview is the right one -- and Cheney’s wrong -- may become clearer with time. We can all pray that Obama doesn’t have to experience the revelations that occur in the White House bunker. But if he does, we might also pray that the man from Venus indulges his inner Martian just a little.

— THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER —

EDITORIAL

IS IT TRUE?

IS IT TRUE that the unofficial office for an exploratory committee for a soon-to-be announced candidate for governor may be located on in Indianapolis on Meridian Street?

IS IT TRUE the newly appointed Mayor's Arena Committee is getting ready to experience a major challenge convincing the masses to support the soon to be built downtown arena? IS IT TRUE if this issue was put on the ballot today it would lose big? IS IT TRUE we wonder why this committee is needed because plans have been approved; money has been committed to build a downtown arena? IS IT TRUE the new downtown arena is a done deal? IS IT TRUE that this group of intelligent and community minded citizens could use their abilities and skills be used to come up with master plan to correct Urban Blight in all area of our fine city?

IS IT TRUE we are very proud of City Councilman John Friend for speaking out about our citywide problem of urban blight? IS IT TRUE we agree with him that all areas of our fair city should be able to participate in the Front Door Pride Program?

IS IT TRUE that Governor Daniel's went back on his word by signing a bill that includes a tax increase of the Food and Beverage tax? IS IT TRUE that the governor's pledge not support any new tax increases was broken when he signed that new tax bill?

IS IT TRUE that 3rd ward Council person Wendy Bredhold should less time in collecting litter at Garvin Park and more time pushing the city Administration in correcting the major Urban Blight problems (alley and dilapidated homes) in her Ward? IS IT TRUE that Council person MISSY Mosby (2nd ward) should take a tour of the Blighted Areas in her ward also?

IS IT TRUE that the USS LST Ship Memorial Inc. is a not-for-profit tax exempt organization? IS IT TRUE this not-for-profit organization, at the end of 2007, had \$1,098,888 in their cash fund balances? IS IT TRUE that the city taxpayers subsidized this operation to the tune of \$400,000 plus a year? IS IT TRUE we wonder how much this organization has in their coffer now?

IS IT TRUE that U.S. House of Representatives Republican candidate Greg Goode has moved out of the Eighth District?

IS IT TRUE that Don Walker, a highly respected and well-known working Democrat, pulled a political coup when he beat Matt Alexander, who was supported by Mayor Weinzapfel and County Commissioner Troy Tornatta? IS IT TRUE what made this vote newsworthy is that Mr. Walker handily defeated other candidates on the first ballot? It is true that the unannounced, but official, vote count was Walker 36, Alexander 21, and the other candidate 3? IS IT TRUE that this major political coup was masterminded by County Treasurer Rick Davis, Betty Knight-Smith, Ex-State Sen. Paul Bitz, Don Mosby, David Cosby, Rick Riney and Al Lindsey? IS IT TRUE that the above mentioned people are part of the Kennedy Club, an independent Democratic Group?

IS IT TRUE that on April 9, 2009, Mayor Weinzapfel flew to Tulsa, Okla., for an arena site visit?

IS IT TRUE that Hoosier Drilling Contractors are presently doing core sample drilling at the following downtown locations? IS IT TRUE the sites are Farmers Market, Civic Center parking area, corner of 4th and Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. on Locust and D-Patrick properties?

IS IT TRUE that new Evansville Fire Chief Jarboe is considering appointing a firefighter with the rank of private to be the next head of the EFD EMS?

— THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER —

EDITORIAL-GAVEL GAMUT

BACK TO BASICS

By Judge James Redwine

If given one minute to name ten people who are responsible for our present government, most of us could come up with: President Obama, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, our own congressional representative and, perhaps, one of our senators, and the governor of our state. At this juncture, we might begin to start hem hawing.

But, if we were asked to name the founders of the United States, many Americans could rattle off: Washington, Jefferson, Adams, Franklin, Hamilton, Madison, Hancock, Paine, and most likely several others with little effort.

As to what was the philosophical foundation on which the Founding Fathers based our country, many of us would say the democratic traditions of ancient Greece and Rome and the theories of individual liberty as set forth in the Enlightenment in England and France.

But the names of the most influential Enlightenment thinkers, Montesquieu and Locke, might not come to mind as readily as Jefferson and Madison, et. al., who studied these two men's ideas and based our Constitution on them.

The basic principle of American democracy is that power corrupts. Even the best of us needs limiting influences. What France's Baron de Montesquieu (1689-1775)

and England's John Locke (1632-1704) called for was a living democratic government that survived because power originated in the hands of the governed and those who were selected to govern had an inability to usurp power beyond the functions of the office they were chosen to fill.

Locke believed in the inherent goodness of humans and that common people had the right to have their persons and property protected. Both he and Montesquieu ascribed to the theory that the best government was one in which individuals were protected by their government and from their government.

Montesquieu is often credited with the term "separation of powers" and Locke with the term "checks and balances". However, for thousands of years people of all races and nationalities have recognized the danger of placing too much power in one person or one branch of any government such as a legislature, an executive, or the judiciary.

It is not the idea of separate and equal branches of government that is hard to grasp. It was the devising and preserving of a written constitution and applying it so that it would keep the United States united that was the spark of genius to which we owe so much.

Of course, governments are simply the people who com-

pose them and governments often behave as their citizens would if left unfettered. Ergo, since 1789 when our federal constitution was ratified, there has been a great deal of Sturm und Drang between our three branches of government and between our federal government and the governments of the states. After all, each state has a constitution that is, also, based on those proven principles of separation of powers and checks and balances.

Next week, if you are in a reflective mood, we might look to Indiana's Constitution for further enlightenment from the Enlightenment.

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.

Analyzing the local real estate market

By Marsha Abell

It seems the one question that I get the most when people learn that I am a realtor is, "How bad is the market right now?" Well, I could tell them the truth but they watch national TV so they assume that our area is as bad as Florida. Not true. So, rather than my trying to convince you, I will quote statistics from the Evansville Area Association of Realtors.

First let's compare May 2008 with May 2009. In that month of 2008, there were 377 residences sold and in 2009 there were 352; a difference of only 15 less sold in 2009 than 2008.

The average price in May 2008 was \$122,000 but it was up to \$133,000 in 2009. In May 2008, residences sold for 96% of their list price and in 2009 that was down to 95%; just 1% less a year later. The average days on the market in May 2008 was 105 and that was up to 119 in 2009.

During that year between May 2008 and May 2009, January 2009 seemed to be the most non-productive month with only 196 residences sold at an average of 115,000 and selling for about 93% of the list price after being on the market for 98

days. During that time, the residences sold in February 2009 averaged being on the market 127 days; the longest period.

The lowest percentage of sale price to list was 93% in April 2009. What can we make of all of this. I do not think these figures are strong enough to declare the slump is over and real estate is back. But, you can take away the fact that the lows and highs in the real estate market in this area do not differ much.

While we did not have; nor probably never will have; homes of less than 1,000 square feet selling for over \$300,000, we didn't have those same homes selling for 50% of their list price. So the highs were never a part of the Midwestern real estate market and the lows will not be either.

We live in a stable economy in this area and while we have peaks and lows, we remain pretty consistent. We always will be somewhat affected by the national trend because we are a part of this nation but we are a part of and not a leader.

If you have a question regarding a general real estate subject please e-mail me at marshaabell@fctuckeremge.com.

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New Harmony Theatre's 2009 season celebrates the American dreamer

New Harmony Theatre, the Tri-State's only professional Equity theatre, will stage a season of classics of the American stage in 2009. The season, which opens runs June 12 – August 16, 2009 at New Harmony's Murphy Auditorium, features a company of seasoned performers with credits including Broadway, major regional theatre, film, and television. According to Lenny Leibowitz, artistic director, the season "celebrates the American dreamer in all of her grace, fragility, and oddball exuberance. These plays – 'A Streetcar Named Desire,' 'Harvey,' and 'Guys and Dolls' – capture the limitless vitality of our nation's spirit. When audiences first encountered these plays, they were finding their footing after a generation of war and upheaval. These three pinnacles of post-war American theatre ask us – now as they did then – to reflect on and re-chart our course. Their leading players - Blanche, Elwood, and Sky – are inveterate dreamers who hold fast to their aspirations and ideals, resisting the inexorable drumbeat of conformity. They embolden us all to dream with ardor and panache."

The season opens on June 12, 2009, with Tennessee Williams' Pulitzer Prize-winning masterpiece, "A Streetcar Named Desire." The play debuted on Broadway in 1947 to tremendous acclaim and was made into a wildly popular film starring Marlon Brando and Vivian Leigh in 1953. Set in New Orleans' French Quarter during the restless years following World War II, Leibowitz called the play "lyrical and primal, brutish and sensual." Blanche is a fragile hot-house flower whose allure is intense but fading. Running from her crumbling dreams and the demons of her past, she seeks shelter with her sister, Stella. Blanche quickly finds her most lethal adversary in Stanley, Stella's crude, carnal husband. According to Leibowitz, "the clash between these two titanic personalities unleashes fire and poetry and brings into sharp relief the eternal struggle between idealism and cynicism, compassion and cruelty." "A Streetcar Named Desire" runs through June 28, 2009.

The season continues with "Harvey," Mary C. Chase's Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy, running July 10 – 26, 2009. It opened on Broadway in November, 1944, and ran for more than four years. Amy Estes, managing director of New Harmony Theatre, said, "Harvey" is a play that we need now. It seems to have been forgotten by regional theatres around the country, and we are thrilled to bring it to our audiences. It shimmers with madcap humor and genuine charm." Elwood P. Dowd is a lovable lush whose best friend is Har-



vey, a six-foot rabbit invisible to everyone but Elwood. Veta, Elwood's high-strung sister, is at wit's end with Elwood's shenanigans and the havoc Harvey has wreaked on her social life. When Veta decides to have Elwood committed, Harvey – a mischievous but benevolent prankster – intercedes. Leibowitz said, "'Harvey' celebrates the oddball eccentrics who inspire us to pursue our most high-flying dreams with ardor and imagination."

The season concludes with "Guys and Dolls," July 31 – August 16, 2009. This beloved American musical is currently being revived on Broadway. Inspired by characters and stories created by Damon Runyon, Leibowitz called "Guys and Dolls" "brash and brassy, sizzling and snazzy," and said it "vibrates with can-do optimism and the

thrill of making that impossible bet." Sky Masterson, an inveterate gambler, is rolling the dice, but this time the stakes are much higher than money – his very heart is on the line. The show-stopping numbers from "Guys and Dolls" include "Luck Be A Lady," "Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat," "Adelaide's Lament," and "I'll Know."

All plays in the summer mainstage season are performed at Murphy Auditorium at 419 Tavern Street in New Harmony. Show times are on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Subscriptions and single tickets for the summer mainstage productions are on sale now. Subscriptions are \$55 for adults and \$50 for seniors (60 and over). Single tickets for "A Streetcar Named Desire" and "Harvey" are \$22 for adults, \$20 for seniors, and \$10 for anyone 25 or younger. Single tickets for "Guys and Dolls" are \$29 for adults, \$27 for seniors, and \$12 for anyone 25 or younger.

In addition to the mainstage productions, New Harmony Theatre's series of play readings in Mallette Studio Theatre on the campus of University of Southern Indiana will continue for a third year in 2009 with a collection of master works from the world theatrical literature including Chekhov's "Uncle Vanya" on Wednesday, June 17 Ibsen's "The Master Builder" on Wednesday, July 15 and Shakespeare's "Hamlet" on Wednesday, August 5. All of the readings begin at 7:30 p.m. According to Estes, only 75 tickets will be sold for each reading and seating will be on a "first come, first served" basis. Tickets for the readings are \$10 each.

For more information about New Harmony Theatre's 2009 season or to purchase tickets, contact the box office at 812/682-3115 or toll free at 1-877-NHT-SHOW (648-7469), or visit the theatre's new web site at www.newharmonytheatre.com.

April 2009 Indiana Employment Report

INDIANAPOLIS (May 22, 2009) - The Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) today released Indiana's April employment report.

Indiana's preliminary seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate in April was 9.9 percent, a 0.1 decrease from March. Indiana was the only state among its neighbors to record a decrease in month-to-month unemployment. Kentucky reported no change at 9.8 percent. Michigan rose 0.3 percent to 12.9 percent. Illinois increased 0.4 percent to 9.4 percent. Ohio posted a 0.5 percent increase to 10.2 percent.

This 0.1 percent decrease is not considered statistically significant. The state added 12,600 jobs in April (non-seasonally adjusted). The greatest areas of gain included typical summer hiring in "Leisure and Hospitality" (+8,200) as well as "Construction" (+5,900). Manufacturing shed 5,400 positions in April.

"Flat unemployment is a positive in this economy, however this number does not fully tell the story," said Teresa Voors, Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. "Indiana's April unemployment rate does not reflect recently announced layoffs in the automobile industry and major steel operations due to the timing of our survey. I expect we will see the effect of the automotive decline on Indiana's unemployment rate to a greater extent in the next few months."

EDITORS NOTE: The May 2009 employment report will be released on June 19.

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WHEN, not IF: Preparing Your Business For Disasters

INDIANAPOLIS -- Officials from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) urge businesses to plan now for future disasters. When the next flood or other disaster strikes, getting your company back to business quickly may depend on emergency planning done today.

“Planning for disasters, natural or manmade, will help protect your business investment and give your company a better chance for survival,” said Regis Phelan, FEMA federal coordinating officer.

Business owners should include these additional factors in their disaster planning:

- . Carefully assess the risks (e.g., flood, fire, tornado, etc.) for each specific business location and plan accordingly.

- . Identify operations critical to your company’s survival and recovery.

- . Determine which staff members, materials, procedures and equipment are necessary to keep the business operating and establish procedures for succession of management.

- . Plan what you will do if your building, plant or store is not accessible.

- . Your employees and co-workers are your business’s most valuable assets and should be included at all levels in planning for and responding to a disaster.

- . Maintain two-way communications with employees before, during and after a disaster; promote family and individual preparedness and support employee health after a disaster.

- . Establish a means of contacting employees who have been displaced from their homes by the disaster. Also, be sure employees have an alternate method of contacting the business if it is forced from its normal location.

- . Make an evacuation plan should a disaster require employees, customers and visitors to leave the workplace quickly

- . For situations where it is best to stay where you are, such as during a tornado or a chemical incident, plan for sheltering in place.

- . Maintain a list of telephone and fax numbers of employees, customers, vendors, bankers, attorneys, insurance agents, professional recovery services, equipment rentals and emergency agencies.

- . Prepare for extended utility interruptions during and after a disaster. Speak with service providers about potential alternatives and identify back-up options such as portable generators to power the vital aspects of your business in an emergency.

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), Office of Disaster Assistance, recommends businesses have an annual insurance “check-up” to assure coverage meets the specific risks at the business site, to be sure both the building and its contents are covered, and to protect against business interruptions. The SBA reminds

business owners that most hazard insurance policies do not cover flood losses and that a separate policy through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) may be required.

The SBA also stresses the importance of preserving vital business records, financial data, accounting records, personnel information, marketing strategies, insurance records, inventory information, etc. Computerized records should be backed up daily and the backups, along with other vital records, should be stored off-site at least 500 miles away.

For more information on business preparedness and to order free sample emergency plans, business preparedness checklists and more, call 1-800-BE-READY (237-3239). You can download disaster preparedness information at www.sba.gov/services/disaster-assistance or at www.ready.gov/business.

FEMA leads and supports the nation in a risk-based, comprehensive emergency management system of preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation, to reduce the loss of life and property and protect the nation from all hazards including natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters.

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.

Lt. Governor Skillman to Host Third Annual *Advancing Hoosier Women in Business* Seminar Series

Lt. Governor Becky Skillman, the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs, and the Indiana Small Business Development Center Network are pleased to announce they will once again host the Advancing Hoosier Women in Business seminar series during summer 2009.

This popular event will be held in four locations: Columbus, Valparaiso, Huntington, and Evansville.

“Hoosiers must continue to develop innovative businesses in order for our state to remain competitive in the global marketplace,” said Lt. Governor Becky Skillman. “This series is a great chance for women who are interested in starting or growing a business to gather information and share ideas with their peers through resource panels, speakers, and networking opportunities.”

Each seminar will provide Hoosier businesswomen with technical and educational resources. Success stories of how

rural women have launched entrepreneurial careers will be featured.

Attendees can look forward to panel discussions, Lt. Governor Skillman’s keynote address and other notable speakers.

The registration fee for each one-day seminar is \$20.00 per person and lunch is included. Each event will be held from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. local time, with the exception of the Evansville event, which will be held from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Dates are as follows: Columbus, June 18; Valparaiso, June 30; Huntington, July 7; and Evansville, July 23.

Please log on to <http://www.in.gov/ocra/2341.htm> or call the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs at 800.824.2476 to register for any of the Advancing Hoosier Women in Business seminars.



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North's Nurrenbern Named Outstanding Teacher

Diane Nurrenbern, math teacher at North High School, has been named the Indiana PTA Outstanding Teacher of the Year. She received the award on May 17 at a ceremony in Indianapolis.

Nurrenbern, now in her 18th year of teaching, projects an extremely positive attitude toward everything she does and goes above and beyond to help students succeed, according to the nomination by the North High School PTSA. One of her Algebra I students said, "Mrs. Nurrenbern makes sure ALL students understand what she is teaching. She is very helpful and students are not intimidated to ask questions. She makes math class fun! She is always available before and after school to help students with homework questions or to help students catch up if they have gotten behind."

The nomination goes on to say that Nurrenbern is known for stepping outside traditional teaching methods with "outside the box" techniques. She established relationships with students, so that they know she cares. She works to inspire them to take pride in what they do and to show them that a little effort pays off. She addresses the needs of individual students and implements accommodations that other teachers might not pursue.

One of her former students, Chelsea Riess, had this to say: "Mrs. Nurrenbern is a one-of-a-kind teacher, a teacher one will never forget. She will help any student of any age or level, before, during or after school. She takes pride in her job and makes math fun, while also challenging students to the best of their ability. Not only is she an outstanding teacher, she is also a dependable friend and mentor."

The nomination also explained that Nurrenbern believes in the importance of parent interaction with students regarding the learning process. She takes the time to speak and work with parents to investigate different teaching strategies if needed to help students succeed. She is proactive and works to keep students on track. They have the opportunity to receive help when needed, rather than waiting to call parents once it is too late to implement change for improvement.

"Nurrenbern embodies the PTA purpose of promoting the welfare of youth in the home, school, community and place of worship. Both through involvement with her own school-age children and through involvement with her stu-

dents, she understands first-hand how support from parents is necessary for students' sense of accomplishment and self-confidence.

The nomination noted that the priority that Nurrenbern places on good communication with parents is an example of the PTA purpose of "bringing into closer relation the home and school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth."

She was selected as the North math teacher to receive a donation of a new computerized teaching tool called an ACTIVBOARD. These electronic "whiteboards," connected to a computer and projector, allow teachers to use the internet to develop and present lessons. For children who grew up with computers and video games, it is an exciting way to engage them in the learning process, the form noted.

Nurrenbern has proven to be a true leader and a "go-to" person for other teachers in the math department. She has devoted a great deal of her own time to learning the new ACTIVBOARD technology and has developed lessons and mentored other teachers in its use.

First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

MacLeod Named Outstanding Teacher

The University of Evansville is proud to announce that James MacLeod, professor of history, has been named the University's Outstanding Teacher for the 2008-09 academic year.

The award, which was announced today during UE's 151st Commencement, is given each spring by the UE Alumni Association. MacLeod, who has taught at the University since 2001, was chosen after receiving several nominations and high marks from students, many of whom praised his ability to bring history to life in the classroom.

"Dr. MacLeod is one of the best teachers or professors I've ever encountered," one student wrote. "He makes whatever we are discussing relevant and important to our lives; he teaches with humor, thoughtfulness, and morality. "I looked forward to coming to his class every time."

MacLeod has been a part of the University of Evansville community since 1994, when he joined the faculty at Harlaxton College, UE's British campus, as an assistant professor of history. He came to the UE campus in August 1999 in the same role, before being promoted to associate professor in May 2001. He since has been promoted to full professor. During his time at UE, MacLeod has been recognized several times for his excellence in the classroom.

In 2002, he received the UE College of Arts & Sciences

Dean's Teaching Award; then, during the 2003-04 academic year, he earned the United Methodist Church's Exemplary Teacher Award.

"Honestly, it is hard to believe that Dr. MacLeod hasn't already received this award, so high is his reputation as an outstanding teacher," said Susan Calovini, UE's dean of arts and sciences. "And, in addition to being a valuable and inspiring classroom teacher, James is a fine scholar – with numerous publications and presentations to his name – as well as a dedicated professional and colleague at the University. "He is clearly very deserving of this highest teaching honor."

MacLeod received his MA in history at the University of Edinburgh in 1988, and followed that with his PhD from the same institution. His thesis was in nineteenth century Scottish history, entitled "The Origins of the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland." It is because of his ability to translate a passion for that subject, and for the rest of history, that MacLeod's students hold him in the highest esteem. For that reason, he is the University of Evansville's 2008-09 Outstanding Teacher.

"Dr. MacLeod has a unique approach unlike any other I have experienced," another student concluded. "It allows us to better understand the concepts – not just the facts – of history."

UE Names Bohrnstedt Director of Global Assistance Program

The University of Evansville today announced a new face for its relationship with the global business community, as officials in UE's Institute for Global Enterprise in Indiana welcomed Brian Bohrnstedt as the new director of its Global Assistance Program.

Bohrnstedt, who began work in the newly-created position on May 20, comes to the University of Evansville after having established his own firm, Bohrnstedt & Associates, which provided management consulting services from their home office in Newburgh, Indiana. His primary responsibility at UE will be to work with Robert Clark, dean of the Schroeder Family School of Business Administration, and University faculty to facilitate collaboration with students and local businesses in addressing global business and educational needs.

"After conducting an extensive search for the position of GAP director, we were excited to find someone as qualified and energetic as Brian living and working in Newburgh," Clark said. "He has a tremendous resume in the field of strategic marketing, which is a necessary component for a position that will spend a great deal of time liaising with the public and the local

business community. He also has spent time working both for major international corporations, like Ford and Accuride, and as an entrepreneur, which is one of the major capstone experiences of our business program. "With that kind of experience under his belt, he seemed like a natural fit for this exciting new position inside our Institute for Global Enterprise in Indiana."

A graduate of Regents College in Albany, New York with a BS in Business/Management Information Systems, Bohrnstedt earned his MBA in Strategic Management from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School in 2001. He began his career with the Ford Motor Company in Dearborn, Michigan, that same year as a financial analyst (after serving as an intern with the company the year before). He left Ford in 2005, after ascending to the level of manager of global advertising finance.

From 2005-2008, he served as director of strategic pricing for Accuride; from 2007-2008, he added the title of director of strategy and marketing development for the same company.

In 2008, he started Bohrnstedt & Associates, where he worked with several major corporations to improve top-line performance and enhance brand image.



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UE Department of Nursing Launches RN-to-BSN Program

The University of Evansville is excited to announce a new opportunity for registered nurses looking for a leg up in their careers.

The UE Department of Nursing will launch its RN to BSN program this summer, allowing nurses with a two-year RN degree to attend UE part-time and earn their Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing. The program will give credit for the two years of education required for the RN degree, offering students advanced placement toward UE's Bachelor of Science for Nursing.

Classes in the program will begin in June.

"Increasingly, hospitals like St. Mary's and Deaconess are expecting nurses to earn a Bachelor's Degree before allowing them to advance into administrative roles," said Lynn Penland, dean of UE's College of Education & Health Sciences.

"For that reason, we've heard a strong demand from the nursing community for a user-friendly program like this – a program that will allow nurses who already are working full-time to get the education and training they need to take that next step in their career.

"UE's RN to BSN program offers the opportunity to get the best available nursing education and training in a supportive, flexible environment."

In addition to meeting general academic guidelines required for admission to the University of Evansville, the RN to BSN program requires the following for admission:

- * Completed transfer admission application indicating a desire to study nursing
- * Unencumbered current U.S. registered nurse license
- * Graduate from state-approved diploma or associate's degree nursing program
- * Minimum cumulative college GPA of 2.5
- * Once enrolled, all students in the RN to BSN program will receive UE's special Adult Tuition Rates.

For more information on the RN to BSN program, the public may contact the UE Department of Nursing at (812) 488-2343, or nursing@evansville.edu.

Eagles add three to 2009 roster

EVANSVILLE, Ind.—The University of Southern Indiana volleyball team announced that 5'10" freshman right side hitter Emily Meyer (Prospect, Kentucky), 5'10" junior middle blocker/outside hitter Katie Knott (New Albany, Indiana), and 5'9" junior setter/outside hitter Kristi DeWulf (Murphysboro, Illinois) have chosen to continue their playing careers with Head Coach Leah Mercer's Screaming Eagles in 2009.

They are the fourth, fifth, and sixth players that Mercer has added since the early signing period in November. In addition, Mercer added 5'8" freshman setter Ashley King (Columbus, Indiana), 5'7" freshman defensive specialist Abbi Williams (Louisville, Kentucky), and sophomore middle blocker Danielle LaGrange (Santa Claus, Indiana).

Meyer is currently a senior at Mercy Academy (Louisville, Kentucky) where she was a member of the 2008 KHSAA State Championship team. Mercy Academy also finished third in the ESPN RISE Fab 50 poll with a 40-1 overall mark last fall.

In addition to her athletic abilities, Meyer brings a strong academic resume to USI. She ranks second in her class and is a member of numerous organizations including the National Honor Society and the Spanish Honor Society.

Meyer also has competed at the national level in club volleyball and is currently competing for the MidAmerica Volleyball Association 18 Blue squad.

"Emily comes from outstanding high school and club programs," Mercer said. "Her experience will add to the winning tradition we are establishing at USI. I expect her to make an immediate impact while adding depth to our right side."

Knott comes to USI from Parkland College (Champaign, Illinois) where she helped lead the Cobras to the semifinals of the NJCAA II Tournament and a final record of 36-13. Knott, who was an honorable mention All-Region performer in 2007, also helped Parkland to back-to-back MWAC titles as well as the NJCAA II Region XXIV title last fall.

A graduate of Providence High School (Clarksville, Indiana), Knott earned second-team

All-State honors as a senior in 2006 after finishing ninth in the state in attacking percentage (.445). She was fifth in the state in attacking percentage as a junior in 2005.

"Katie also comes from a very successful high school program and carried her success into the junior college ranks at Parkland," Mercer said. "I look forward to having Katie's experience and presence on our roster. She will add depth at both our middle and outside hitter positions."

DeWulf comes to USI from John A. Logan College (Carterville, Illinois) where she averaged 1.1 kills, 1.8 digs, and 4.0 assists per set as a sophomore in 2008. DeWulf, who helped the Lady Vols to a 38-10 record in 2008, graduated from Murphysboro High School (Murphysboro, Illinois) where she earned varsity letters in volleyball and softball.

"Kristi is a solid athlete that will add depth to our setter and outside hitter positions," Mercer said. "She is the 15th player on our roster and I am looking forward to having a deep bench and a very competitive atmosphere at practice."

In addition to the six newcomers, USI returns nine players from a squad that advanced to the GLVC Tournament Championship match for the first time since 2004 and the sixth time since 2000.

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McKee Named 2009 MVC Scholar-Athlete

University of Evansville softball pitcher Jennifer McKee was chosen as a 2009 Missouri Valley Scholar-Athlete honorable mention by the league's sports information directors for their efforts in athletics and academics this season.

McKee, a junior from Hamilton, Ohio, holds a 3.70 grade-point-average in visual communication and was part of the 2008 UE team that was named a NFCA Girls Got Game Top 10 Academic Team.

McKee led the team with 100 strikeouts and had seven wins in the pitching circle. She threw 14 complete games and struck out a career-high 12 batters in the Aces' win over Middle Tennessee State. She also pitched a one-hit shut-out over Butler and allowed the league-leading Creighton Bluejays to just one run earlier in the season. At the plate, McKee earned her first career double and RBI in the Aces' final weekend of play against Illinois State.

To be eligible for selection to the team, a student-athlete must have a cumulative grade-point-average of at least 3.0, be at least a sophomore in academic and athletic standing and participate in at least 75% of the regular season.



Jen McKee hurls the ball to the plate.

Larsen earns two All-America honors

EVANSVILLE, Ind. — University of Southern Indiana senior right-handed closer Shaun Larsen (Tell City, Indiana) was named second team All-American by Daktronics and the NCAA Division II sports information directors and third team All-American by the American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA). Larsen becomes just the third USI baseball player to earn All-America honors in back-to-back seasons, joining Kevin Brown and Mike Fetscher, who won the awards in 1993 and 1994.

In addition to being named All-American for a second straight year, Larsen was recognized as pre-season All-American by Collegiate Baseball Newspaper; first team All-Midwest Region by Daktronics and the ABCA; and first team All-GLVC by the conference head coaches. He also was named the Integra/USI Male Student Athlete of the Year in April.

Larsen has been dominant for a second straight season on the mound and tied for the NCAA Division II lead with 16 saves. He also posted a USI-best 2.48 ERA, while ranking third on the team with 62 strike outs in 58 innings of work and a 7-5 overall record.

The senior right-handed reliever also was successful in a starting role, winning his first and only career start in the NCAA

Division II Midwest Regional. Larsen allowed seven hits and three runs, while striking out eight in the complete-game victory over top-ranked Ashland University.

The Eagles' closer finished his career ranked first at USI with 33 saves and fourth all-time with a 2.89 ERA. He also had an 11-6 overall record as an Eagle.

We are looking for sports stories that haven't been told. The City-County Observer is looking for any kind of sports information you would like us to publish. Have a tournament coming? Did your T-Ball team win a game? Do you have an interesting sports story to tell, email it to us at citycountyobserver@live.com.

Ballinger claims national title in steeplechase

SAN ANGELO, Texas—University of Southern Indiana junior All-American Mary Ballinger (Chesterton, Indiana) claimed her first national championship of her career Saturday as she finished first in the 3,000-meter steeplechase Saturday evening at the NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field Championships.

Ballinger dominated the field as she finished the race with a school-record time of 10 minutes, 22.98 seconds, less than three seconds off the NCAA II meet record. Her time also was nearly 15 seconds faster than that of Western State College's Lisa Thomas, who was second with a time of 10 minutes, 37.48 seconds.

"She had her eye on the Division II record all spring," Head Coach Mike Hillyard said. "We talked about that being the focus and how it would affect the pace of the competition if she went after the mark."

Ballinger was aggressive from the start, with just one runner keeping up with her throughout the first 1,200 meters. "She had a couple of 86-second laps and closed with an 81-second lap," Hillyard said. "It was pretty windy on the back-stretch and with her running so far ahead of the field, she really had no shielding. The only thing that matters though is that she won the national championship."

"I went out hard from the gun," Ballinger explained. "I ran my own race and that's what my goal was."

The national championship is the seventh in USI history and the third by a female student athlete at USI. "It's great for the entire athletic program to add another one to the mantle," Hillyard said. "It's great for our program to have another national championship and with Mary being a junior, we have a good chance to get another one next year."

"I had never won anything like this before, not even a state championship" Ballinger recalled. "The last lap was probably the toughest, but it was thrilling coming toward the finish line and it was awesome to know that I was going to win my first big race."

Ballinger joins former standouts Heather Cooksey and Candace Perry as the only female student athletes in Screaming Eagles' history to win the national championship. Cooksey won a national title in the 3,000 meters to conclude the 2004 outdoor season, while Perry captured a national championship in the long jump to finish the 2005 outdoor campaign.

USI and GLVC Hall of Fame member Elly Rono captured a national championship in cross country in 1997 and pair of national titles in indoor and outdoor track in 1998. The men's basketball team captured the school's first-ever national championship in 1995.

Aces Announce 2009-10 Signees

The University of Evansville swimming and diving team has announced the seven swimmers and divers that will join the Aces for the fall season. Michea Reinitz, Alexander Seward, Jordan Van Wyk, Cassy Cude, Austin Phelps, Michael Grassmyer, and Justin Shotwell have committed to UE for next season.

"I am very excited about this incoming class," said head coach Rickey Perkins. "There will be tremendous athletes in the pool and students in the classroom. They all have a lot of experience with high-level competition and will help us get to a new level."

Michea Reinitz is a senior at Mt. Vernon High School and has been a two-time Most Valuable Swimmer for the Wildcats. While in high school, Reinitz was named an all-American in two individual events and one relay in 2008-09. She also holds four individual and three relay school records.

Alexander Seward is a four-year letterwinner from San Antonio, Texas. Seward ranked in the top-30 in the nation in the 100 fly during his senior year and was named the San Antonio Express "2009 Boy Swimmer of the Year." He helped the Churchill Chargers to a state championship in the 2008 and was named an all-American in five events.

Jordan Van Wyk comes to UE from Wassenaar, The Netherlands where she qualified for the Dutch Nationals in 2008. She was named her team's MVP the last two seasons and holds four records for the American School of the Hague. The Trojans finished third in the International School Sports Tournament and first for the sixth year in a row in the Northern European Community of International Schools.

Cassy Cude is a four-year letterwinner for the Hornettes of Nashville Community High School in Nashville, Illinois. Cude holds school records in the 100 free, 200 free, 500 free, and 100 backstroke. While at Nashville, she helped her team to a fourth place finish at the 2009 district championships and three third place finishes.

Austin Phelps hails from Owensville, Indiana where he lettered for two years in swimming and one year in football. During his time at Gibson Southern High School he was named the "Rookie of the Year" and "Best All-Around Swimmer" while also serving as a team captain for the Titans. He also holds three individual school records and a 200 medley relay record.

Michael Grassmyer comes to UE from Salem High School in Salem, Indiana where he was named the Lion's Most Valuable Swimmer for three years. Grassmyer was one of the Lion's team captains and also holds three conference records. During his senior season, he only had three non-first finishes.

Justin Shotwell rounds out the 2009-10 newcomer class. Shotwell is from Pickerington, Ohio where he was a team captain for the Cardinals this season. He is a two-time state qualifier and was named All-Ohio this season. He was a four-time scholar-athlete and helped lead the Cardinals to a state championship in 2008 and three runner-up finishes.

"They all have a desire to continue competing at a high level," said Perkins. "They know what it takes to win."



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Office	636	780	Retail	636	780	Warehouse	2,700	1,125
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
Office	3,000	2,500	Retail	3,000	1,876	Warehouse	5,700	2,375
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