

# 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

JULY 2, 2009

VOLUME II, ISSUE 10

## TAX PROBLEMS PLAGUE RIVER HOUSE

*By Gavin Kent, Staff Writer*

The River House has been a main topic of conversation for Evansville residents for several years. In recent days, local residents have seen the dilapidated state of the former iconic building. In further research, the property's condition may be the least of the owner's problems.

According to Vanderburgh County Treasurer Rick Davis, The River House is owned by Van Natta Holdings VII LLC of Seymour, Ind., and is comprised of two parcels. He also said the property currently has an outstanding tax debt of \$14,503.71 as of June 30, 2009, just to stay off the tax sale list. As the deadline came and went, the River House has not made a single dollar towards the tax debt.

Davis then spelled out the three-step process that has varying amounts of money owed depending on the time of their payment.

"The minimum amount owed today for one parcel is \$7,313.45 and \$7,190.26 for the other parcel, totaling \$14,503.71 in order to stay off of the tax sale list. Those amounts include everything that was owed in Spring 2008 plus penalties and interest. The deadline for that total to be paid to the Vanderburgh County Treasurer's Office is June 30, 2009. After today, our office will compile the list of tax sale properties. Once that compilation is complete, we will officially certify the tax sale list. Between today's deadline and the actual certification, which may take a few days, the River House can still make the minimum payment in order to stay off of the certified tax sale list," said Davis.

But once that certified list is compiled, the River House will then owe a minimum \$35,140.32 on one parcel and \$59,560.41 on the other parcel, which is a total of \$94,700.73, and is due before Sept. 14,

which is the tax sale this year. The total includes all taxes, penalties and interest from last spring, last fall, and this spring.

Once the tax sale occurs on Sept. 14, 2009, the MINIMUM BID on the first parcel is \$54,789 and \$101,615.95, which includes all prior taxes plus the fall amount. The River House has one year to pay those two sums in order to redeem their property. The winning bidder of both parcels at the Sept. 14 tax sale will receive their money back plus interest.

According to Vanderburgh County Assessor Jonathan Weaver, the first parcel, located at 127 SE First Street, assessed for \$443,500 in 2007 to be paid in 2008, and \$3,177,600 in 2008 pay 2009. The second parcel, which is located at 207 SE First St., assessed for \$451,000 in 2007 to be paid in 2008, and \$1,484,600 in 2008 to be paid 2009.

The Health Department also presented its report this week. The recommendations said the property violated

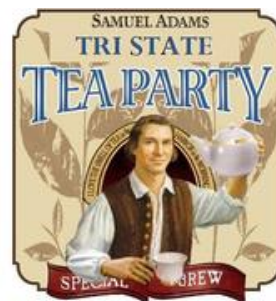
*continued on page 19*



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# Mayor Requests Local Homestead Tax Credit Renewal in 2010

(EVANSVILLE, IN) – Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel announced today that a resolution has been filed with the Evansville City Clerk to establish the full 8% Local Homestead Tax Credit in 2010.

“With this action today, I am following through with my promise to the people of Evansville to ask City Council to reinstate the full Local Homestead Tax Credit for 2010. We estimate that amount to be about \$3.1 million based on 2008 figures,” said Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel. “In the days and weeks ahead, my administration will be taking a critical look at the 2010 City budget in order to accommodate the Local Homestead Tax Credit and the \$3.2 million in revenue lost due to the property tax caps enacted in 2008.”

The first reading of the resolution is scheduled to take place before the Finance Committee of the Evansville City Council on July 6th. On July 13th at 5:25 p.m., a public hearing will be held during the Council’s regularly scheduled session in room 301 of the Civic Center. The Local Homestead Tax Credit must be passed by the Vanderburgh County Income Tax Council by August 1st.

A reminder that funds, which were available because the Local Homestead Tax Credit was not renewed for 2009, are being used for City operations. None of that money is being used for the arena project. Conversely, the revenue streams available for the arena project- downtown TIF, Food and Beverage Tax and gaming proceeds- can only be used for capital projects like the arena as set forth in state and local law.

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# — THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER —

## NEWS

Resolution No. C-2009-\_\_\_\_\_

Introduced by: Council as a Whole  
Committee: Finance

A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EVANSVILLE  
APPROVING AN ORDINANCE OF THE VANDERBURGH COUNTY INCOME TAX  
COUNCIL ESTABLISHING THE PERCENTAGE CREDIT ALLOWED FOR HOMESTEADS FOR  
2010 AND CASTING THE VOTES OF THE  
COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EVANSVILLE ON SAID ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, I.C. 6-3.5-6-2 establishes a County Income Tax Council, provides that the membership consists of the fiscal body of the county and the fiscal body of each city or town that lies within the county, and authorizes the County Income Tax Council to establish the homestead credit in its county; and

WHEREAS, I.C. 6-3.5-6-4 provides that a member casts its votes by passing a resolution and transmitting the resolution to the Auditor of the County; and

WHEREAS, I.C. 6-3.5-6-7 provides that before a member may propose an ordinance or vote on a proposed ordinance, the member must hold a public hearing on the proposed ordinance and provide the public with notice of the time and place where the public hearing will be held; and

WHEREAS, I.C. 6-3.5-6-13 provides that an ordinance may be adopted after March 31 but before August 1 of a calendar year establishing the homestead credit for the following calendar year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Evansville, Indiana, as follows:

1. That the Common Council of the City of Evansville, Indiana hereby proposes an ordinance of the Vanderburgh County Income Tax Council amending the percentage credit allowed for homesteads at the maximum allowed by state law, not to exceed a net of 8%, to be funded out of local income taxes in 2010. A copy of said ordinance is attached hereto.

2. That the Common Council of the City of Evansville, Indiana casts its \_\_\_\_\_ votes for the proposed ordinance of the Vanderburgh County Income Tax Council, which ordinance reads as follows:

(Ordinance attached hereto is hereby incorporated herein.)

3. That the City Clerk of the City of Evansville is hereby directed to deliver an original executed copy of this Resolution and the proposed Ordinance of the Vanderburgh County Income Tax Council to the Auditor of Vanderburgh County forthwith.

4. The County Auditor is hereby requested to deliver an original executed copy of the Ordinance of the Vanderburgh County Income Tax Council, along with each local unit's resolution, to the appropriate State of Indiana agency so that the local homestead credit will become effective in 2010.

5. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage by the Common Council and signing by the Mayor.



## West Side Annexation Boundary to be Redrawn

(EVANSVILLE, IN)- Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel and Councilman B.J. Watts yesterday announced changes to the boundary of the proposed West Side annexation area. It will now only include primarily commercial property along Pearl and Westin Drives.

“The public hearing on annexation gave the public an opportunity to respond to the proposal that was presented several months ago. We listened to concerns from folks on the West Side and made changes to our initial plan based upon their feedback,” said Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel.

The newly proposed area for annexation is bounded generally by Hogue Road to the north, Boehne Camp Road to the west and the commercial area south of the Lloyd Expressway. It measures about 326 acres and shares approximately 32.6% of its border with the City, which is greater

than the one-eighth (12.5%) required by State Statute for annexation.

“Annexation is a logical next step in the growth of the City. By changing the proposed boundaries of the West Side annexation area, we have accommodated residents on the West Side while still adding to the City and increasing its tax base,” said City Councilman, B.J. Watts.

The City will need to revise the legal description of the area to be annexed and amend the fiscal plan to incorporate these changes.

The assessed value of the area is \$137,058,500. Annexation will decrease the tax burden on Evansville residents because it will spread the City’s property tax levy among more people and properties.



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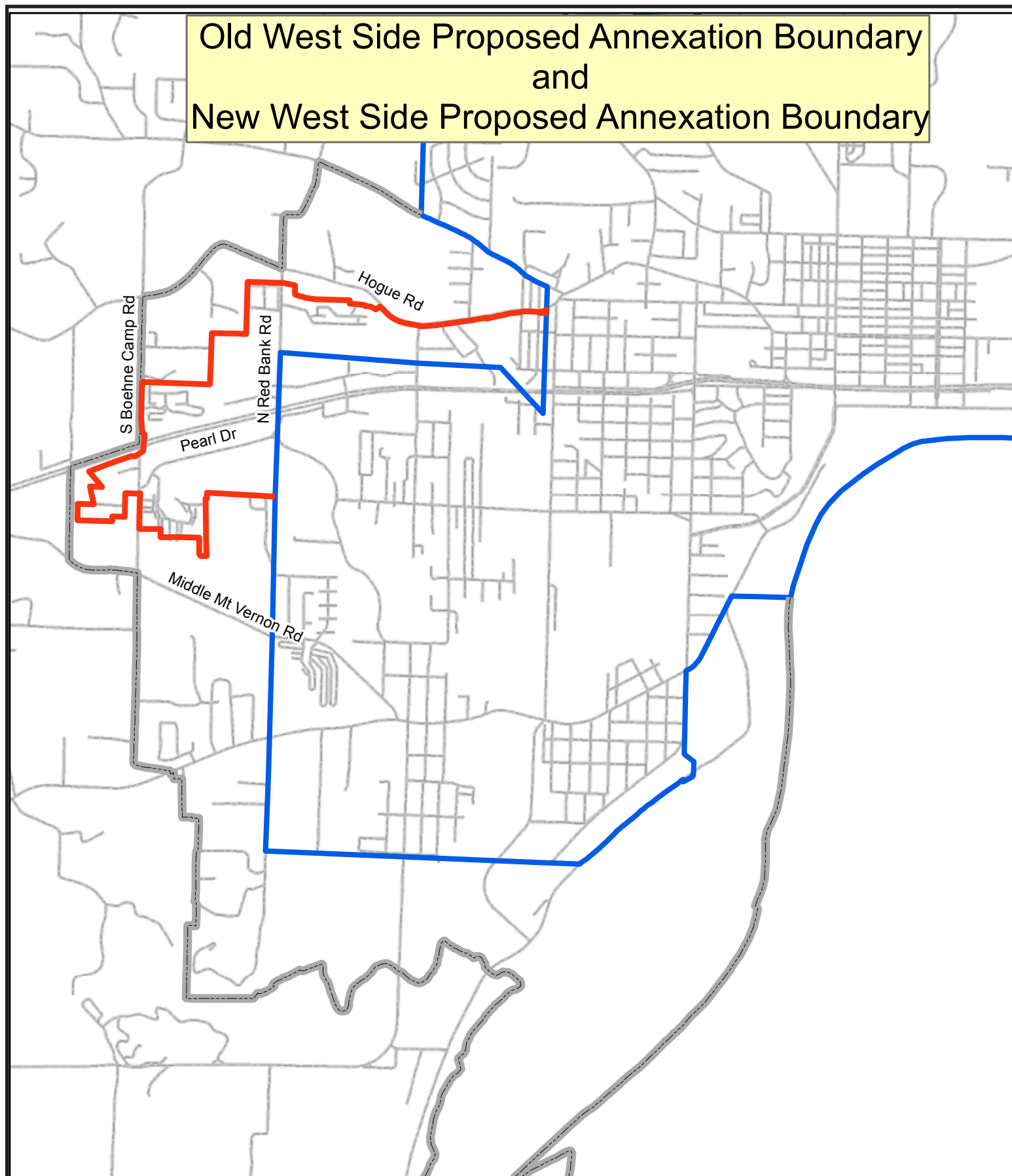
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# — THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER —

## NEWS



# The Meaning of Neda



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

WASHINGTON -- Every revolution needs a unifying symbol, and members of Iran's opposition movement now have theirs.

That was one dumb sniper who took out the young woman millions now know as Neda. Or was he?

No one seems to know the identity of the rooftop shooter who pierced Neda's heart with a bullet Saturday. Was he a Basij sniper, as some witnesses have reported? Was it a mistake? Or did the shooter see an opportunity to create a necessary martyr?

The thought is inescapable that the beautiful Neda Agha Soltan might have been selected from the crowd not to scare away protesters, but to unite them.

It is not impossible to imagine that someone had a greater purpose in mind for the young philosophy student. If stories emerging from Iran are accurate, even Neda seemed to anticipate what might happen. When a friend begged her not to join the protesters, Neda said: "It's just one bullet and it's over."

Just one bullet was all it took. Neda reportedly died within two minutes, blood seeping from her nose and mouth as onlookers shouted "Do not be afraid." That phrase, a single word in Farsi, has become a chant among protesters.

In a matter of hours, a video of Ne-

da's death was circulated through YouTube, Twitter and Facebook. No matter who pulled the trigger or why, Neda is now the undisputed symbol of reform-minded Iranians' demand for freedom.

What follows next is by no means predictable, but history provides hints. Neda's anointment as a martyr could become crucial in the next month. Followers of the Shiite branch of Islam participate in cycles of mourning -- on the third, seventh and 40th days after death. These cycles served as rallying points during the 1979 revolution and conceivably could serve the same purpose now.

In the meantime, it is reasonable to ask why Neda so captured the imagination when many others have died since the June 12 election. On the same day that Neda died, at least 9 other protesters were killed.

At first, reports were that she was a teenager, just 16, walking with her father. Perhaps the world's initial reaction was tied to the belief that the government had slaughtered a child. Later, we learned that Neda was 26 and that the man with her was her music teacher. By then, the image of the young woman's dying face was firmly imprinted on the international psyche and the mythology of Neda had taken root.

What of all those others? Were they only men? Were they not as beautiful?

We are a video culture attracted to drama and beauty, an admission of which does not diminish the tragedy of Neda's death or the terrible loss for her family and friends. But as the days unfold, it will be interesting to watch how Neda, whose name means "The Voice" or "The Calling," is incorporated into

the developing narrative of Iran and especially of Iranian women.

In fact, the protest movement's martyr needed to be a woman. And she needed to be a modern woman. It is noteworthy that Neda was wearing jeans and sneakers, uniform of the West, rather than the traditional garb of hijab or chador. Whatever's one attitude toward Muslim dress -- and many women don't feel the need to buck tradition -- it was clearly Neda's choice to ignore her government's preference that women hide their feminine features.

What better symbol for the repressive rule of old clerics than a liberated beauty brutally cut down in the prime of youth? Symbolically, Neda's death isn't about voting irregularities, but about the clash between superstitions that justify men's dominion over women and the universal yearning for freedom.

Women's rights were at the center of opposition candidate Mir Hossein Mousavi's reform agenda. His wife, Zahra Rahnavard -- in stark contrast to the nearly invisible wife of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad -- was front and center throughout the campaign urging a "religious democracy, which would allow young women of our time to thrive and flourish by providing them with security, freedom and employment."

That message may have been the sniper's target. With his bullet, he delivered another: Women either will behave and follow the rules, or they will die. Whatever the shooter's true aim, the body he left in the street has become immortal in the story of Iran.

Neda -- the voice of freedom -- can never be silenced now.



# — THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER —

## EDITORIAL

# IS IT TRUE?

*By The City-County Observer Moles (1-43...and counting)*

Is it true that the highly-regarded Howey Politics Indiana has a extremely interesting article about Mayor Weinzapfel entitled “Tax Cloud Over Weinzapfel Rising Star?” (Click here for full story) Is it true that this weekly briefing on Indiana Politics also reported in this article that our own Eighth District Congressman, the Honorable Brad Ellsworth is looking at a run for Governor? Is it true if Congressman Ellsworth runs for Governor, Mayor Weinzapfel’s dream for being elected to that high office shall all but be dashed?

Is it true we wonder if citizens don’t want to be part of a city designated TIF District they have recourse? Is it true we wonder why Councilwoman Connie Robinson isn’t telling the taxpayers in the Fourth Ward how they can object to becoming a part of a proposed TIF District in that Ward? Is it true money collected in a TIF District must be spent in that district? Is it true Fourth Ward TIF money can be used to pay for the new downtown arena since its located in the Fourth Ward?

Is it true that our prediction of the new downtown arena being built on D-Patrick Land Downtown was wrong? Is it true that the new downtown arena shall be built where the Executive Inn currently stands, from Walnut and Main St.? Is it true that there is a concern about the upper floors extending over Martin Luther King Blvd. because a foot print of that property is a tad smaller? Is it true that we won’t be surprised to hear about a new hotel being built next to the new arena?

Is it true we don’t buy the public remarks made County Councilman/Finance Chairman Jim Raben, concerning the local Homestead Tax Credit issue? Is it true that Finance Committee Chairman Raben is well-known as the best governmental financial watchdog in this region? Is it true when he was told that the county had additional and unexpected \$2-3 million that was added to the county coffers, wouldn’t you think he would inquire where it came from?

Is it true that this entire Homestead Tax Credit boondoggle was created by Mayor Weinzapfel? Is it true that the following people conspired to carry through with the taking 2009-2010 Homestead Tax Credit from approximately 45,000 Vanderburgh County homeowners? Is it true that the following, past and current, City Council Members, (newly appointed Fire Chief Keith Jarboe, John Friend, Missy Mosby, Curt John, Joe Kiefer, Dr. Dan Adams, B.J. Watts, Steve Melcher, Connie Robinson and Wendy Bredhold), all worked with Mayor Weinzapfel to hide the decision from the taxpayers about the local Homestead Tax Credit? Is it true we are asking past and present County Councilmen members Tom Shetler Jr., Lloyd Winnecke, Mike Goebel, Royce Sutton, Ed Bassmeier and James Raben to stand up?

Is it true that last Tuesday evening, people attending The Weinzapfel Traveling City Hall, gave the Mayor an earful of concerns? Is it true their concerns were about local Homestead Tax Credit, new downtown

arena, transparency in government issues (secret caucuses), and annexation, to name a few? Is it true that one of the more vocal attendee’s put the Mayor’s General Legal Council (Dave Jones) in his place, when she reminded Mr. Jones “You work for us, we don’t work for you. Please sit down.”? Is it true that Weinzapfel’s Traveling City Hall’s are expected to generate more media coverage because future attendee’s will be demanding an open forum type meeting, from this point forward?

Is it true that the in June 11, 2009 issue of the City-County Observer, stated, “Is it true that the Mayor and City Council President B.J. Watts (Sixth Ward) are indeed backing away from the Westside Annexation issue by only annexing the commercial area? Is it true that Westsiders know how to fight City Hall and win?” Is it true we received a news release from the Mayor’s Office on July 1, 2009, stating that annexation will now only include commercial property along Pearl and Westin Drives? Is it true we want to personally thank the City-County Observer Mole #13 for passing on accurate information to us?

Is it true that City County Observer Mole #37, in our June 11, 2009 edition, predicted last night that County Commissioners discussed and voted 2-1 on the employment contracts concerning our hardworking, professional and dedicated Sheriff Deputies? Is it true we are thankful that County Commissioners, Steve Melcher and Troy Tornatta, made the right decision on this issue? Is it true that Mr. Tornatta’s vote has enhanced his chances of becoming the next Mayor of Evansville? Is it true that Mr. Winnecke has hurt his chances at being future Mayor of Evansville, not only because of this vote, but also for the local Homestead Tax Credit issue and attending secret meetings?

Is it true that we are extremely pleased that our Congressman, the Honorable Brad Ellsworth, voted against The Cap and Trade legislation? Is it true that this kind of political stance would attract appropriate financial and political support if he decides to run for Governor of Indiana?

Is it true that Mayor Weinzapfel made a statement to the media on June 17, 2009, that the Evansville Police and Fire Departments comprised 80 percent of the city’s budget? Is it true the City-County Observer has reviewed the 2009 budget? Is it true the city’s total budget was in the neighborhood of \$220,191, 854? Is it true this includes salaries, wages, pension, employee education and capital improvements? Is it true the Evansville Police Department’s portion of the city’s operating budget \$35,695,545? Is it true Evansville Fire Department’s portion of the city’s operating budget \$22,865,004? Is it true the actual percentage of the 2009 city operating budget for the police and fire departments is 26.6 percent, not 80 percent as described by the mayor?

Is it true that our cartoonist Dan Kisner, is working on a monster political cartoon for the next issue of The City-County Observer? Is it true that this political cartoon is called “The Puppet Master”? Is it true that this shall be worth the wait?

# USES FOR GAVEL GAMUT

*By Judge James Redwine*

This past weekend Peg and I were engaged in one of those conversations that wives seem programmed to initiate and husbands cannot escape. They usually occur on Sunday afternoons and almost always when the wife is enjoying some household activity and the husband is involved in some important endeavor.

As I was watching the U.S. Open Golf Championship on TV, Peg kept running the sweeper back and forth in front of the television causing me to have to constantly shift my position on the couch. When I told her I could barely hear the commentary on how one can improve their golf game by playing more golf and mowing the yard less, she yanked the cord out of the electrical socket and said those words all husbands fear, "We need to talk!"

Now, never let it be said that I am one to shirk his domestic duty, so I said, "Why, of course, Peg. Why don't you join me on the couch?" It was a mere fortuitous coincidence that just at that moment the announcer had said play was stopping due to rain.

"Have you even noticed that while you have spent two hours planted on that couch I have weeded the vegetable garden that I planted, done the laundry and run the sweeper?"

"Well, I certainly noticed that you were running the sweeper."

"Can you tell me what you plan to do around here today?"

"Sure, I plan to write next week's Gavel Gamut as soon as the golf tournament is over."

"Gavel Gamut! What earthly benefit is that to anybody?"

Well, gentle reader, that made me mad. So I wittily retorted, "Let me count the ways." I told her:

"You will note, Miss Peg, just around here you yourself use copies of my column for several things. Rolled up you swat buffalo gnats and flies, with it. You use it to train the dog. You shred it for mulch in the garden and for your flowers. You spread it out in the garage for the cat litter. When I have thoughtfully brought you fish from the pond, you use it to clean the fish on. After you have raked the leaves and picked up limbs in the fall you use it to get the burn pile started. You cover the floor in your work room with it when you want to spray-paint furniture. When you send presents to the kids and grandkids you use it for packing. I could go on if you want."

"No, that is quite enough. Besides I must finish the vacuuming. But, before I get back to my domestic pleasures, can I get you anything? A glass of iced tea? A sandwich? Perhaps a pillow?"

Now, gentle reader, I am not obtuse. I felt the totally unwarranted sarcasm. So, I replied, "No, thank you, and don't forget you are the one who started this argument by running down Gavel Gamut." That stopped her, but only for a second. She retorted:

"First of all, I noticed none of your so-called uses involve anyone actually reading your column. And what's more, I noticed that none of them involve you doing anything. Most significantly, I noticed all the uses involve some waste product. It's just too bad we don't have an outhouse!"

## Order Judge Lynch today!



A work of historical fiction by Jim Redwine. Order it at [www.authorhouse.com](http://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.



EDITORIAL

# MY AMERICA

*By Jamie Grabert, Publisher*

The America we see today is not the America we know. We've moved from a society that strives to reach the American Dream to a society that's striving to survive. We used to live in fear of foreign attacks. Now, we fear losing the very rights our forefathers died for and gave us. This is not my America.

We hold these truths to be self-evident...

My America is proud of the Constitution and the blanket of freedom it provides. To that end, my America is proud of the men and women serving in the Armed Forces that protect the rights spelled out in the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

My America is pro freedom of speech. We are not afraid to ask for what is already ours. We are not afraid to question those we elect to work for us. It is not only our right, but it is our duty to do such things. The First Amendment is vital to making sure the American people are adequately informed. That is not the case in this America.

My America is proud of its Judeo-Christian founding principles. We are proud to be "One Nation Under God." My America is proud to be a nation that allows people to believe what they choose without fear of persecution. In my America, people are free to share what they believe. This America wants to limit what ministers preach to their congregations to satisfy a political agenda. Imagine a nation where ministers are sent to jail for a "hate crime" for speaking the truth.

My America is proud of the Second Amendment and its ability to protect itself. People have the right to possess weapons with reasonable care. They have the right to hunt game, much like our forefathers, to feed their family and friends. They have the right to protect their home and family from intruders. They don't have to have marked ammunition or only possess certain types of weapons.

My America bows to no other nation. She stands tall and ready to fight for her people's freedom. She does not cower. She does not waiver. She is the most powerful nation in the world, and she is proud of that fact. My America stands for Democracy, and to that end will join the fight to help other nations do the same.

My America is not a nation of greed. It is a nation of helping thy neighbor. We have organizations, like the United Way and local churches, that help those less fortunate. We

are a giving nation.

My America has worked hard for what she has. Farmers plow fields to provide countries from around the world with food for their tables. Men and women work 12-hour shifts to make ends meet. Bankers and investment brokers care about their clients, not about lining their pockets. People who buy a home aren't drawn into more than they can afford, so that when the bottom drops out, they will be forced into foreclosure. There's a distinct difference between capitalism and greed.

My America is for the people, by the people and of the people. This nation is nothing without her people. We need to take care of the people in this city, county and country first. We do not need projects like the new stadium or unnecessary annexation or \$20.3 million in taxpayer dollars to immigrate Hamas refugees to my America, especially not when "Joe the Plumber" is struggling to pay his own way.

My America is a nation of integrity. Our leaders serve the people, not political agendas. They make decisions for the people with the people's input, not behind closed doors in secret meetings. Those elected realize that it is the people who pay their salaries. This is not a dictatorship. It is a Democracy, and we expect representation for our taxation.

## 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."**

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# A Young Woman's Letter to Congressman Ellsworth

Congressman Ellsworth:

I hope earnestly that this letter finds you and is not met by a go-between, glanced over, and trashed. My name is Stacey Kandel and I'm twenty-two. I live in Vanderburgh County, graduated from William Henry Harrison High School in 2005, went on to attend the University of Southern Indiana, and graduated with honors in December of 2008. I now work and live in that same community.

I share this with you because I want you to understand that we are "neighbors." Your wife is even my family's dental hygienist. Your family and my family drive on the same roads, go to the same parks, shop at the same stores, pay the same price for gas, have the same employment opportunities, and are watching the same businesses close their doors one after the other.

When I watch the news and C-SPAN, and see the amount of spending going on in Washington D.C. I am appalled, angered, and frightened. When I drive down Green River Road, I wonder what things will look like in the coming years. Will there be boards over all of the windows? Will there be cars on the road? Will Schnucks have a bread line? Will it have bread? Will the Presidential seal be on the doors of what were once privately owned businesses?

It is frightening to watch MY government, MY President appoint Czars to bypass YOU... the voice chosen for the people, by the people. It is infuriating to watch President Obama talk about his "respect" for the law, and his "reverence" for the U.S. Constitution, though his actions speak louder than his words. YOU

have a responsibility to protect the Constitution and the people it protects. What is happening in this country, Congressman?

After graduating from USI, I had an opportunity to work at an orphanage in Haiti for a month. There was some sort of gas shortage going on in Port au Prince at the time. I'm not sure of the specifics on what exactly was going on, or why. But I do know that we had a heck of a time getting gas for our car to go to the grocery store, just to buy food to feed our thirty-three little ones. When we finally found gas and were able to leave the orphanage, it was apparent others were not as fortunate.

The streets were empty. Tap-Taps (trucks used for public transportation--a small business, if you will) were stalled in the middle of the road and being pushed by the passengers. Going from gas station to gas station, only to find the pumps empty, was something I had never fathomed until my time in Haiti. Now I wonder if this could happen here, in OUR community, in OUR state, in OUR country.

You are my representative. Stop looking out for your Party and start protecting the rights of my parents, my siblings, my nieces and nephews, my unborn children, and their children. Fight for your children, your grandchildren, and your great-grandchildren. Let's leave a legacy for the generations to come, our children and their children! I don't want to pay for your party's spending plans, and I don't want my future children to pay for it. Tell them to Stop! Stop, please. Use YOUR voice because it is mine.



# — THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER —

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Letter to Congressman

STOP SPENDING. STOP TAXING.

Thank you for voting NO on the Waxman-Markey Cap-and-Trade Bill. However, that is a bill supported by your party, and backed by the presidential candidate I watched you campaign for on my college campus last fall. Please continue to fight these overreaching bills and amendments that threaten the liberty of our nation, and possibly even the security of our Union.

Be a man, like John Adams and Thomas Jefferson. The men who risked everything to declare our independence from a government that was so disconnected from its citizens, it was destroying them with taxes. The men who wrote the very Constitution that is meant to protect us from the type of tyrannical government they risked their lives to fight against. Men who are responsible for the very birth of one of the most powerful countries in the world.

They stood for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Do not let Barack Obama cut the citizens of this country off at the knees with his social or fiscal policies. Do not let him find loop holes to bypass our system of accountability. Do not let him shred our Constitution with his ideas for change. PROTECT the rights our Founding Fathers were so meticulous to include in the Constitution! Speak out! Represent the people. THAT is your duty as a "public servant." It's not worrying about reelection.

Be careful to remember that the individuals dubbed ambiguously as "The Rich" are not nameless, faceless monsters, who deserve what they get. The people our President feels have too much, and intends to punish with heavy taxes, are hard working men and women. They are men like my father, the son of a grocer, who worked hard to go to college, has continued to work hard, and has been my example of integrity and diligence. They are widows like my grandmother, who invested wisely in the stock market years ago so that she would have security now, when she needed it.

These people are YOUR neighbors, the guy behind you in the grocery check-out, or the lady pumping gas next to you. They are the people you have vowed to represent and protect. Not target with a 90% income tax. Do not allow the fruits of OUR labor to be squandered at the hands of a "good intentioned" government. Do not let us be punished for our careful and persistent hard work. My generation is going to be left to clean up the mess that is being left today. Do not let this government dig a hole we won't be able to get out of.

Congressman, I am afraid of what is happening to my country.

Stacey Kandel

### Our Policy:

The City-County Observer accepts letters to the editor and op-ed pieces. We reserve the right to edit such items to maintain the integrity of this publication, space constraints, or for misleading and accusatory statements. We will not print letters that have not been signed and are not verifiable with the original source. From time to time, we reserve the right to print (or electronically publish) correspondence from your local officials. Again, all emails and letters must be able to be verified. Any items without accurate contact information and are not signed (a digital signature is acceptable) will not be published. We encourage our readers to submit letters to the City-County Observer, regardless of your political affiliation.

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# CountryMark and Core Minerals announce oil drilling plans

Securing American energy is a top priority of Indiana-based CountryMark and today the oil refiner announced plans to drill additional oil wells in the Illinois Basin in partnership with Core Minerals, headquartered in Evansville, Indiana.

CountryMark is the largest buyer of Illinois Basin crude and refines the sweet crude at its Mt. Vernon, Indiana, refinery.

The Illinois Basin is a 53,000 square mile depression located underneath most of southern Illinois, western Indiana and western Kentucky. According to CountryMark CEO and President Charlie Smith, it is one of the most plentiful sources of domestic crude oil in the Midwest.

"Approximately 35,000 barrels of crude oil are produced daily from this region," said Smith. "This is an extremely dependable, secure supply of energy for Indiana and surrounding states."

CountryMark selected Evansville, Indiana-based Core Minerals as a technology partner for drilling in 2009.

"Core has had great success finding new oil in old areas of the Illinois Basin," said Smith. New technology is also enabling the companies to drill in geological formations where drilling was not successful before.

Core Minerals is the largest, privately held independent oil and gas exploration and production company in the Illinois Basin. Core Minerals' in-house geological, engineering, land, regulatory and legal staffs possess the skills and the experience necessary to fulfill the mission of the partnership.

"To optimize marginal wells and to develop new energy resources, we are aggressively applying advanced seismic imaging, innovative drilling and completion technologies, and enhanced recovery techniques," said Core CEO and President James Rode.

In 2008, CountryMark successfully partnered with Pioneer Oil Company in drilling wells in Indiana and Kentucky. "The wells drilled with Pioneer met or exceeded our expectations and I'm sure we will partner with Pioneer again in the future," said CountryMark Business Development Manager Bill Herrick.

Smith added that a dependable source of affordable energy is critical to the success of this country. "We believe projects like this, along with the drilling activity of all the other producers in the area, are a step in the right direction for American energy security," said Smith.

One concern CountryMark has going forward is proposed climate change legislation.

"We're concerned that proposed climate change legislation will increase America's dependence on foreign oil, increase energy costs for American families, and will place American companies at an economic disadvantage to other countries," said Smith.

CountryMark is Indiana's only American-owned oil refining and marketing company and is recognized nationwide as a leader in the distribution of biodiesel and ethanol. The company operates a refinery in Mount Vernon, headquarters in Indianapolis and fuel terminals located in Mount Vernon, Switz City, Jolietville, and Peru, Ind; as well as Henderson, Kentucky. Eighteen regional cooperatives deliver CountryMark fuels, and an estimated 90 fuel stations carry CountryMark branded fuels in and around the state of Indiana.

To learn more about CountryMark, go to [www.CountryMark.com](http://www.CountryMark.com).

To learn more about Core Minerals go to [www.coreoperating.com](http://www.coreoperating.com).

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# UE Concrete Canoe Team Scores at National Competition

The University of Evansville's Concrete Canoe team hit the water in Alabama this weekend, as one of only 22 teams from across America invited to the American Society of Civil Engineers' National Championship.

The UE team, which is comprised of the Aces' student chapter of ASCE, took 15th place overall in the competition, which was held at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. Of the 22 competitors, UE was by far the smallest university to qualify for the competition; first place was won by the University of California-Berkley.

UE earned its berth in the championship by knocking off perennial national champion the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the Great Lakes Regional competition.

"This has been such an amazing ride, and I'm incredibly proud of our students for what they've accomplished this year," said Mark Valenzuela, UE associate professor of engineering and the team's faculty advisor. "To be one of the smallest schools both in the Great Lakes Regional and National competitions, and to achieve what we have achieved, says a great deal about the University of Evans-

ville, the engineering program, and especially the students who put countless hours into making this project an unqualified success."

Members of the UE Concrete Canoe team included Project Manager David McManaway, Jamin Heldt, Scott Lorimer, Justin Ramirez, Wendy Stiller, Annette DeWolf and Michelle Miller. UE students Ryan Farnum, RK Seitzinger, Tim Catron, Matt Chenault, Jennifer Dieterlen, Eric Wenz, Aaron Ricketts, and Ryan Witters provided team support.

The UE team was accompanied to Tuscaloosa by faculty advisors Valenzuela and James Allen, assistant professor of engineering.

The team also wishes to thank UE's Academic Affairs Office, College of Engineering and Computer Science, President's Office and civil engineering alumni and "the parents of Jamin Heldt - Glen and Paula Heldt - and the parents of Scott Lorimer - Bill and Marion Lorimer - and the generous donation of a truck rental from ARC Construction in memory of R.F. Connor."

## 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."**



# USI Teaching theatre approved in state budget

A project long-awaited by the University of Southern Indiana was approved in the budget passed Tuesday by the Indiana General Assembly. The General Assembly authorized \$15 million in bonding authority for a teaching theatre to be located on campus.

The University's operating appropriation in 2009-2010 will be \$39,044,222, a decrease of approximately 3.3 percent from 2008-2009. In 2010-2011, the University's operating appropriation will increase by .3 percent to \$39,172,365.

The General Assembly also appropriated funds to restore operating support to the fiscal year 2009 level to institutions of higher education through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The University will receive approximately \$3 million over the biennium to be used for one-time expenditures and \$1.4 in 2009-2011 for repair and rehabilitation projects.

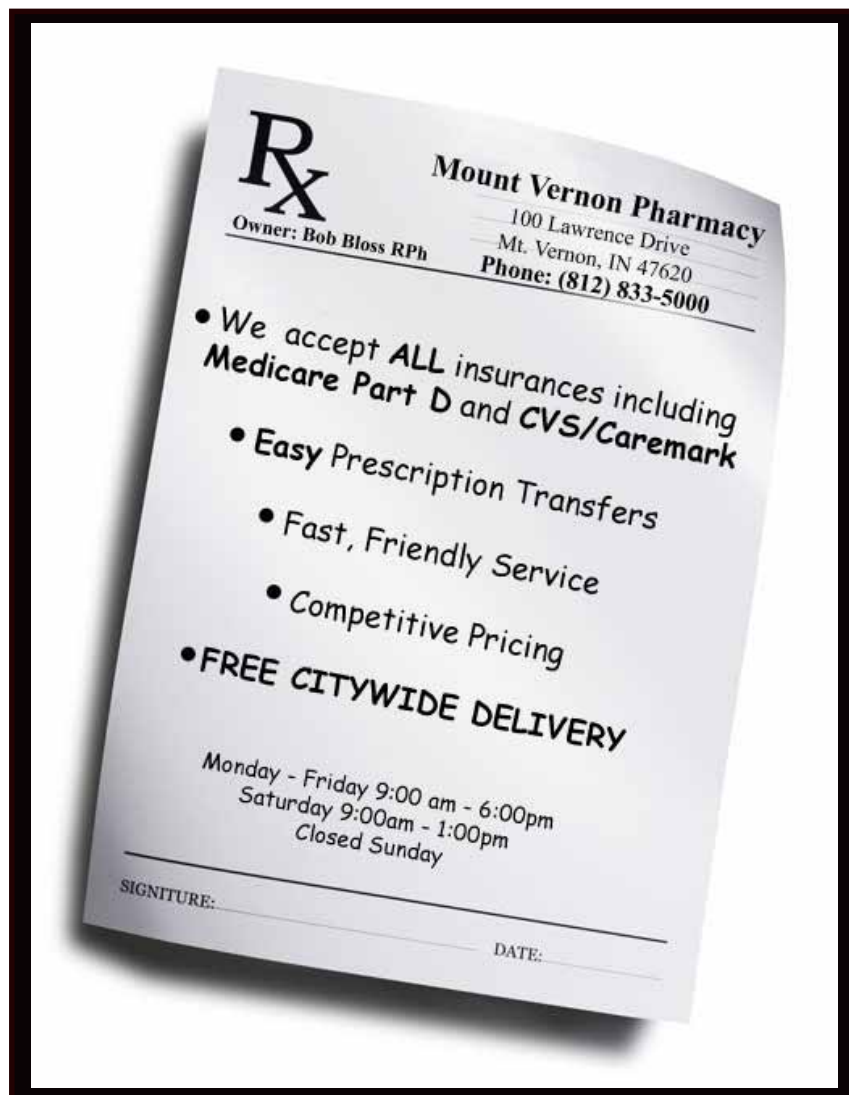
The teaching theatre, to replace the current off-campus facility and supporting buildings, was the University's number one capital priority for the 2009-2011 biennium. The proposed 350-seat theatre will replace the 50-year-old off-campus theatre located four miles from campus that is in the path of the future widening of Highway 62/the Lloyd Expressway.

Plans for construction of a performing arts facility have been part of the University's 10-year Capital Improvement Plan for almost 20 years, since 1991-1993. The proposed teaching theatre will be constructed adjacent to the expanded University Center. The initial authorization by the General Assembly allows the University to move forward on design of the project, which must then be reviewed by the Commission for Higher Education and the State Budget Agency before funds are released for construction.

Cynthia S. Brinker, vice president for Government and University Relations, said the University must carefully evaluate how to spend the federal stimulus money. "It's wonderful that we have these funds to fill in the gap, and it is going to bridge a

difficult time, but we have to be mindful of the fact that the stimulus money is one-time funding and does not provide ongoing dollars. These funds will not carry into the 2011-2013 biennium."

Brinker acknowledged the hard work of local representatives during a tough special legislative session. "We are very appreciative of the work of our local legislative delegation and of the fiscal leaders in both the house and senate for their support of the University of Southern Indiana," she said.



# I Know What You Did Last Summer!

*What will your teammates say about you when you report to practice this fall?*

*By Tony Maslan, CSCS, Via Diva Las Sports*

Most of you are familiar with the movie that had this title. The title referred to an event that the stars of the movie were trying to keep a secret. I would like to put this title in a more positive light. I want you to think about what your teammates are going to say about you when you show up to practice this fall. Are they going to be able to see a noticeable difference in the condition you are in? Will you be the one leading the sprints? Will you come to pre-season conditioning already in great shape?

I have had the opportunity to work with high school athletes and with Division I athletes at the University of Evansville and the University of Utah. Even at the college level it would always be obvious which of the athletes had put in a little extra effort over the summer.

There are four things that I would advise a junior high or high school athlete to focus on during the summer. These are:

1. Flexibility
2. Strength in Bodyweight Exercises
3. Footwork
4. Sprint Speed

Flexibility is probably the most forgotten component of most athletes' training programs. Stretching is boring, takes time to do right, and most people (especially guys) aren't very good at it, so it is often ignored. This is a huge mistake! Flexibility, particularly in the hips and hamstrings is a key component of sprint speed. If you can improve your flexibility and add an extra inch to your stride length it will make the difference of a step or more on your 40 yard dash and put you an extra step ahead of your competition.

As an athlete it is extremely important to be able to move and control your body through space. I strongly believe in four basic bodyweight movements as an essential component of an athlete's

strength training program: pushups, pull-ups, squats, and lunges. These four movements will work every muscle in your body. As an athlete you are always moving and performing your skills on the go, so it is important to design your strength training programs around exercises that move your body through space rather than just machines. If you are strong enough to do these movements with extra resistance (especially the squats and lunges), that is even better.

The easiest way to improve your footwork is by jumping rope. Mix up how you jump (each foot, both feet together, running, etc.) and gradually try to increase the amount of time and the speed at which you jump. If you are familiar with dot drills and ladder drills those are great additions to your footwork and agility training.

My favorite method for training sprint speed is to sprint

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# Title IX Beat Goes On

*By Greg Granger, Via Diva La Sports*

Two recent settlements involving Title IX claims have made news for their breath of application involving gender equity. One of the cases corrected the scheduling of girls' high school sports. The second case addressed the percentage of a university's participation in athletics by women athletes.

The Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) after 11 years in the judicial system agreed to pay \$6 million dollars in legal fees and to reschedule the girls' athletic schedule to be compatible with the boys'. The boys' athletic seasons mirrored the seasons utilized by colleges and universities. The Title IX lawsuit claimed that the MHSAA scheduling of girls' sports did not follow colleges and universities and was therefore detrimental to female athletes because it limited news coverage of their games and their ability to play for college recruiters that follow the university schedule. The United States District Court Judge agreed and ordered the MHSAA to reschedule the girls' athletic season to be compatible with the boys' athletic season.

The second case involved the University of California - Davis and three female athletes in club sports. In previous Title IX cases, the courts have held that a particular university or college is in compliance with Title IX if the proportion of athletes who are women is within 5 percent of the representation of women in the total enrollment. However in the settlement in the University of California - Davis case, the University is held to a stricter 1.5 percent standard or 3 times the previous accept-

able standard. Davis has 10 years to bring female participation in varsity sports to within 1.5 percent of the proportion of the overall student population. The settlement provides for the addition of a women's field hockey team and the contribution by the University of \$110,000 to a fund that will help develop club sports. Additionally, Davis is permitted to trim the rosters of men's teams to comply.

At a time when the economy is negatively impacting athletic department budgets and women's enrollment is increasing universities will be challenged to minimize the impact upon women's sports and comply with Title IX's requirements.

*Greg A. Granger is a partner in the Evansville, Indiana law firm of Bowers Harrison, LLP. He was counsel to the Evansville Bluecats, formerly a member of the United Indoor Football Association. Greg was previously a Certified Contract Advisor with the National Basketball Players Association and The National Football League Players Association. Greg has been in private practice in Indiana since 1983. He graduated from Indiana University Bloomington with a B.A. in Forensic Studies in 1978 and received his J.D. from Indiana University in 1983.*

*In addition to his sports law practice, Greg practices in the area of civil litigation before state, federal and appellate courts. He is a member of the Evansville and Indiana State Bar Associations as well as the Sports Lawyers Association.*

## Fitness article cont. from page 16

uphill. This is a fantastic way to improve your sprint speed as well as strengthen your legs. Find a hill, (I use a few different driveways), sprint to the top and walk back down to the bottom. When you reach the bottom, sprint back up to the top. Start off with 3-5 repetitions and try to add one or two each week until you can do 20.

This summer, put forth a little bit of extra effort to improve these four areas: flexibility, strength in bodyweight exercises, footwork, and sprint speed, and next season when you show up for practice, your teammates will definitely be telling you, "I know what you did last summer!"

*Tony Maslan is a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist. He is the owner of Custom Fit Personal Training, LLC. Tony can be reached at 812-437-2378 or tmaslan@cfpt.us*

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# Near-record spring season for turkey in Indiana

The 2009 spring season harvest was Indiana's second highest since modern-day turkey seasons began 40 years ago, exceeding the 2008 harvest by 789 birds.

Of the approximately 59,000 hunters who pursued wild turkey in the state this spring, 12,993 were successful. Wild turkeys were killed in 88 of the 92 counties open to turkey hunting during the regular season, April 22 to May 10, and the youth season, April 18 and 19.

A total of 978 birds-7.5 percent of the statewide harvest-were taken during the youth season, which is held before the regular season.

"Adult gobblers made up 81 percent of the total harvest. Many hunters reported not seeing jakes (juvenile males) this spring. The below-average reproductive success of 2008, especially in those areas that experienced extensive flooding during the brood rearing period of early June, was a contributing factor," said Steve Backs, DNR wildlife biologist.

Backs said the reasons for the increased harvest number probably were a combination of general turkey population

growth around the state and the steady increase in turkey hunter numbers.

"Lower production was most evident in the western portions of the state, especially west-central Indiana, where the only regional decline occurred. The south-central and southeast regions still account for more than 50 percent of the harvest. The harvest in the north region of the state continues to increase as those turkey populations grow, with several county harvests in the north taking over 200-plus birds," Backs said.

Switzerland County topped the hunter success list with 530 turkeys, followed by Harrison (511), and Jefferson (447).

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](mailto:citycountyobserver@live.com).

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## River House cont. from page 1

various health and building codes. To view the memo, click the “Extras” tab on the City-County Observer homepage.

Enter Benjamin Miller C.B.O., the Interim Director Building Commissioner. Miller completed a thorough inspection of the property, complete with photos. Overall the report is nine pages long. The report also said the violations are fixable. To view the report, click the “Extras” tab on the City-County Observer homepage.

According to the Mayor’s spokesperson Audra Levy, the property is in the hands of the building commissioner. She noted that the building commissioner’s office is working with the property Van Natta, to try to get the list of violations fixed.

Levy also said the next step will be to take this matter to a hearing, where fines will be determined by a hearing officer.

## 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.”

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Warehouse	1,500	625
Warehouse	2,700	1,125
Warehouse	3,000	1,250
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## CONTACT INFORMATION:

Contact: Frank Peterlin (o)(812)425-1906 Ext.1103 (f)(812)425-2585 [PeterlinVI@AOL.COM](mailto:PeterlinVI@AOL.COM)

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