

THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER

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

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Public scrutiny needed at Evansville Redevelopment Commission

By Jamie Grabert, Publisher

For the last six months, the staff of the City-County Observer has been carefully combing through the minutes, resolutions and contracts of the Evansville Redevelopment Commission. Many of these documents are vague and leave questions as to the transparency of this board and the Department of Metropolitan Development (DMD). The staff recently started attending meetings in hopes to obtain more information about this board and its many projects.

Tuesday morning, the Redevelopment Commission held a regular meeting, just past 8:30. The open meeting was preceded by an Executive Session. The door was locked during the meeting. Many people found this peculiar. "Why not just post a note on the door that an executive session was being held?" was one attendee's response.

The meeting began with a question of a payable claim. The question raised by Ted Ubelhor was the reason behind the claim. The claim was to be paid from the American General/Arena Fund (Account 080). Tom Barnett, Executive Director of the DMD, agreed that it was not specified and called the account a "catch-all." When Jane Reel entered the room, she clarified the claim and noted that it was for the Greyhound Station.

No dollar amounts were listed. No claims were discussed beyond that.

Ironically, at their last meeting, the Redevelopment Commission read off a list of claims, ranging in size from 54 cents to a payment to Populus for the arena in the amount of \$1.058 million.

The Redevelopment Commission then discussed a proposed contract with Expert Title. The commissioners voted to move their business from Trustworthy Title to Expert Title. They did so at the request of Charlene Salpietra, who formerly worked with Trustworthy Title and is not employed by Expert Title. Commission President Bob Goldman asked Salpietra about any pending "no compete" clauses in her contract. She said there were none. The commissioners then approve the change and noted the Expert Title is an independent contractor and would go by the rules and contract terms

as such, as long as proof of insurance was provided.

The arena project then took center stage for the remainder of the meeting. The first such item on the agenda was Resolution 09-ERC-54 – Authorizing Agreement With VPS to Conduct Historical Architecture Survey. The agreement, as noted by Pres. Goldman, was set at an hourly rate not to exceed \$10,000 plus \$1,000 for expenses.

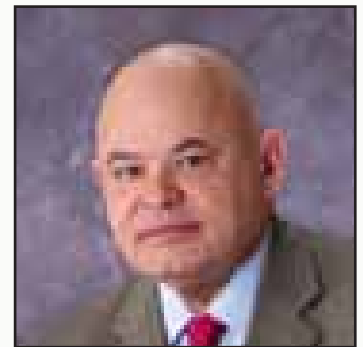
Commission member Phil Lieberman asked about the need for such a contract. He asked if the local Historic Preservation Office could handle the work.

Arena Project Manager John Kish told the commission that VPS has experience with this type of work and that survey work would be needed; he noted that VPS is better equipped to handle the job.

The commissioners then voted in favor of the agreement with no votes against the document.

Next on the agenda was Resolution 09-ERC-55 – Authorizing Agreement With AT&T for Relocation of Facilities at MLK Jr. Blvd. and Locust St. In Evansville, IN. Pres. Goldman questioned the costs associated with the labor and materials. Kish offered an explanation. The commissioners then approved the agreement, with no "nays." Again, no dollar amounts were given.

The commissioners moved to Resolution 09-ERC-56 – Authorizing Agreement With Patriot Engineering and Environmental, Inc. for Pile Testing. Kish explained this was for testing the soil for its weight-bearing capacity for the piles. He was quick to say this had already been approved by the Design Review Committee.



Tom Barnett
*Director, Dept. of
Metropolitan Development*

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Sister City Delegation to Visit Evansville Mayor, Orchestra and Dignitaries from Tochigi City

Submitted by the City of Evansville

(EVANSVILLE, IN) – The City of Evansville and Tochigi City, Japan are marking the 10 year anniversary of their Sister City relationship. In honor of that anniversary, nearly 60 residents of Tochigi City will arrive in Evansville on Saturday, September 19th. Among the delegation is Mayor Yoshiyuki Higano of Tochigi City, who will be visiting Evansville for the first time, along with the Chairman of the Tochigi City Council and other dignitaries. In addition, four dozen members of the Tochigi City Wind Orchestra (TCWO) will be here for two special performances.

"I am excited to have the opportunity to host Mayor Higano and his distinguished delegation here in Evansville. They were always very generous to me during my two visits to Tochigi City," said Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel. "I understand a special piece has been composed in honor of the Sister City relationship between Evansville and Tochigi City. I am looking forward to hearing it being performed by the Tochigi City Wind Orchestra."

The Tochigi City delegation has a very full schedule during their short visit to Evansville. They will attend an Official Welcome Reception Saturday night at Old National Bank fol-

lowed by the Jazz, Wine and Arts Festival. There will also be a tour of Mesker Park Zoo & Botanic Garden and AMAZONIA. A special stop for the delegation will be the New Haven subdivision built by Habitat for Humanity. The citizens and government of Tochigi City generously sent two donations to help residents build new homes there after the devastating November 6, 2005 tornado.

The TCWO will have its first performance on Sunday the 20th at the University of Evansville's Neu Chapel. The performance starts at 3:30 p.m. and admission is free. The delegation will attend a dinner hosted by Dr. Stephen Jennings Sunday night and have a meet and greet the next day at Mayor Weinzapfel's office.

All of this is leading up to the TCWO's performance of "The Orient Express" at the Victory Theatre on Monday, September 21st, at 7:30 pm. A large screen behind the orchestra will provide visuals as the music follows the journey of the Orient Express from Istanbul to London. The TCWO has performed this concert in China as well as Tochigi City. Tickets for the performance are \$15 (\$5 for students) and are available at the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra box office (530 Main Street). For more information, call (812) 425-5050 or go online at www.evansvillephilharmonic.org

The relationship between Evansville and Tochigi City began in November 1998. A 'Friendship Agreement' was signed when a delegation from Tochigi City visited Evansville. In April 1999, Mayor Frank McDonald led a delegation to Tochigi City which was followed by a return visit from Tochigi City in July 1999 led by Mayor Suzuki. It was during this visit that the 'Sister City Agreement' was signed by both Mayors. Mayor Weinzapfel first visited Tochigi City in 2005 and then again in 2007.

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AMERICAN EXPRESS VISA

Redevelopment Commission *continued from page 1*

Pres. Goldman spoke out again, asking why they did a test to do another test.

Kish noted this was fairly common and stated that it was a test to confirm projections from the previous test.

Again, no dollar amounts were given. No specifics of the contract were noted.

The commissioners then moved on to Resolution 09-ERC-57 Authorizing Agreement With Vectren for Relocation of Gas facilities to Accommodate the Multi-Purpose Arena. Kish explained that a gas line on Locust Street needed to be relocated.

Again, no dollar amounts were given. No specifics were given.

According to the agenda, the next item was "Other Business." Under that heading was "Arena Update – misc items." Two of the most important aspects of the project were discussed without any more mention than that – the labor agreement and project insurance.

The commissioners then discussed Resolution 09-ERC-59, which was referred to as the contract for project labor for work stabilization. Joe Hogsett, with Bingham McHale of Indianapolis, handled the presentation. He noted the project labor contract called for an open-bid process, meaning union and non-union contractors could bid on the jobs. He said the contract was critical to using local labor. Before closing, he noted that the contract had already been

approved by the Local Building Trades Council.

The commissioners then heard from a representative of Old National Bank Insurance Company, who prepared and is writing the specs for coverage on the project. He presented the board with a list of coverages and potential premiums. The only amount discussed was \$10 million in limited liability. There was a question raised and the representative said it was a typo. The representative and the commissioners seemed careful not to discuss dollar figures.

Uebelhor questioned the gaps in quotes, such as price ranges and the duration of need.

The commissioners then asked Kish about the insurance on the project. Kish said the premiums are a little higher than what he projected on the high-end.

The commissioners agreed to move forward.

Hafer Associates then discussed safety matters and eventual street closings. Uebelhor asked that the construction managers be sensitive to the timing of the closures to prevent problems during the busiest traffic hours.

Goldman followed by asking about the parking situation. He specifically wanted to know where the construction workers were going to park. The commissioners were told that the details were still being worked out.

JOSEPH H. HARRISON, JR.

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Levee System Receives Certification Review

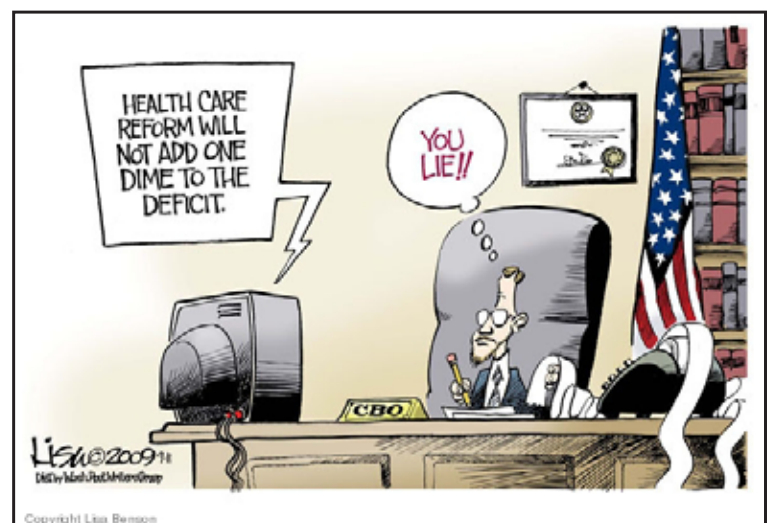
certification of the Evansville-Vanderburgh County Levee system. Only minor issues were discovered during the inspection of the flood protection system, which took place from August 31st to September 4th, and involved nearly three dozen mechanical, electrical, structural, geotechnical and hydrology inspectors.

The inspectors walked the entire earthen levee as well as the concrete floodwalls and roadway levees. In addition, they inspected all pump stations, gate wells, sluice gates and any drainage structures associated with the levee system. The group said they were pleased with the results of the inspection.

"The results of the certification review should provide a level of comfort to the residents of Evansville regarding the ability of our levee system to protect our City from flooding of the Ohio River," said Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel. "Not only will our levees be able to keep river water from reaching homes, soon neighborhoods will be protected from storm water flooding as planned projects are started in the next several months."

Certification from the Corps means the levees should be able to withstand a 100 year flood event. In addition, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will redraw its flood insurance maps. If the levees did not receive certification, home owners in the 100 year flood plain would most likely be required to carry flood insurance on their homes as well as businesses.

This is the first time flood protection projects are being certified. The certification inspections will now be performed every ten years. November 12th is the target date for certification. The Corps will continue to perform its annual and periodic inspections.



EDITORIAL

IS IT TRUE?

KEY PLEASE!

IS IT TRUE that the Chairmen of the Evansville Port Authority and LST CAPTAIN, Robert Jorlin had a heated conversation over a request by the PORT AUTHORITY Board that they be given a key at the LST docking station at a recent Port Authority meeting? IS IT TRUE we can't print Captain Jorlin response to the Port Authority Board members? IS IT TRUE that there are concerns that LST BOARD of Directors might just move the ship to Peoria, Ill., when they re-negotiate the 5-year contract clause section of the agreement with the city?

FOLLOW THROUGH!

IS IT TRUE we are wondering when 2nd Ward City Councilwoman Missy Mosby will bring a request to Evansville City Council to make FRONT DOOR PRIDE a city-wide program? IS IT TRUE when she made the public statement that the FRONT DOOR PRIDE should be expanded city wide, many people agreed with her? IS IT TRUE Missy Mosby's constituents and the CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER readers are watching to see if she will follow through with her public comments on this important matter by asking city council to vote on this issue?

CONGRATS WENDY!

IS IT TRUE we once again want to publically congratulate 3rd Ward City Councilwoman Wendy Bredhold for pushing the powers that be to continue to rid of dilapidated houses and keeping the alleys clean in her ward? IS IT TRUE we are hearing some positive comments concerning Wendy's follow through from people in her Ward? IS IT TRUE that people get re-elected by doing what their constituents want?

STILL WONDERING!

IS IT TRUE we are still wondering what the status of the 2006 lawsuit filed by the City of Evansville concerning suing its insurance companies to recoup the damages and its costs it has paid so far in its efforts to address Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO)?

IS IT TRUE we are still wondering about the status of the downtown McCurdy project that was announced about 3 years ago?

IS IT TRUE we are still wondering about the status the proposed downtown WI/FI project that was announced about 3 years ago?

IS IT TRUE we are wondering about the status of the "BEE SLOUGH" odor problem being corrected by the city? IS IT TRUE City COUNCILWOMAN CONNIE ROBINSON promised the fine people of the Historic District when she ran for re-election last term that this problem would be corrected IN ABOUT A YEAR?

OFFICIALLY DEAD!

IS IT TRUE that the WEST SIDE annex ion issue is officially dead until next year? IS IT TRUE that the CITY COUNTY OBSERVER predicted many issues ago that the WEST SIDERS AGAINST ANNEXION would win this battle?

DON'T BE SURPRIZED!

IS IT TRUE that the push to merge CITY and County government into one entity may get put on the ballot in the next election cycle? IS IT TRUE the Homestead Tax Credit fiasco, out of control spending by the MAYORAL appointed and controlled Evansville Redevelopment Commission, taking away the city employees Cost of Living raises for this year and next, cutting back on vacation dates, cutting back on Medical benefits, annexation of West, Northwest and East sides of Evansville, meetings behind closed doors, increased user fees (water-sewer- and trash pick up and Parks and Recreation) to name a few reason why?

CALL TO ARMS

IS IT TRUE that the CITY COUNTY OBSERVER call every citizen who care about accountability and good public policy to start attending Redevelopment Commission meetings in order to monitor future decisions made by this political entity?

TRUE COUNTY

IS IT TRUE we a re-wondering which estimate totals are correct concerning the numbers of people attending the NATIONAL TEA PARTY events in WASHINGTON, D. C., last week? IS IT TRUE that a LONDON newspaper figure of 2 million was correct or is the WASHINGTON D. C., Park Police figure of 2.5 million is correct? IS IT TRUE what ever figure is correct this gathering of peaceful demonstrators is extremely impressive?

TAKING HEAT

IS IT TRUE that the Mayor and his team are meeting with the city firefighters this coming Friday, September 18, 2009 in an effort to mend political fences? IS IT TRUE this meeting will take place at the Labor Temple on Fulton Ave. at 5 p.m.?

OVERWORKED ALREADY

IS IT TRUE that a long-time, professional and knowledgeable employee will lose his job on October 28, 2009, because of budget cuts? IS IT TRUE the position he holds is Assistant Building Commissioner? IS IT TRUE that the administration also cut two part-time positions from this important commission? Is IT TRUE that the Building Commission is over-worked as it is?



The Mole

EDITORIAL

Silence Isn't Golden In Politics



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

COLUMBIA, S.C. -- When people think of South Carolina, they think of ... I know, Comedy Central. Really, shouldn't Jon Stewart send South Carolinians a cut of his pay?

What people do not typically think of is black Republicans, a perception that could change soon if a young man named Marvin Rogers has his way. This 33-year-old, Spanish-speaking former aide to South Carolina Rep. Bob Inglis has a plan for the GOP: He wants to change its complexion.

Until 2008 when he ran unsuccessfully for the state House of Representatives, Rogers may have been better known in Latin America, where he was an itinerant preacher for several years, than in North America. "Unsuccessfully" in this case should be qualified. Rogers won 32 percent of the vote in a blue stronghold, running as a black Republican in the year of Obama.

All things considered, not bad.

Rogers' story is, shall we say, unorthodox. Born in the tiny town of Boiling Springs, S.C., he was raised by working-class parents with values rather than ideology. "So I was largely removed from the acrimony between the African-American race and the Republican Party."

Without preconceptions about where his race placed him politically, Rogers began examining issues on paper and recognized that he was philosophically more aligned with Republicans than

Democrats. But then a funny thing happened. When he began attending political meetings, he noticed, "Oh, my, I'm the only black guy here. What's up with that?"

That question led Rogers on a quest that has resulted in a book nearing completion, "Silence Is The Loudest Sound," in which he attempts to explain how the party of Lincoln lost its black soul.

Through five years of study and interviews, Rogers reached the conclusion that the chasm between the black community and the Republican Party is more emotional than philosophical. And, he says, that chasm is more a media template than reflective of reality.

The best explanation for what's gone wrong, he says, was articulated by Jack Kemp, who told him during an interview: "The Republican Party has had a great history with African-Americans and they turned away from it. The Democratic Party has had a terrible history, but they overcame it."

Part of the turning away followed the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and Richard Nixon's "Southern strategy" that tried to harness votes by cultivating white resentment toward blacks. Rogers is no Pollyanna and recognizes this period for what it was -- a "bruise" on the GOP. But he insists that Democrats use the Southern strategy when it suits them.

The biggest problem for today's Republican Party, he says, is tone-deafness, as manifested by conservative talk radio and TV. Rogers says he and most blacks can't listen to Rush Limbaugh because all they hear is anger.

"They might agree with Rush on the issues, but they can't hear him because he sounds mad. People don't follow fussers. People don't follow angry men. They follow articulators."

What about Michael Steele, the Re-

publican Party chairman? Is he changing the perception of the GOP as a party of whites?

Rogers takes a moment to consider, and answers carefully.

"Let's say I think that when he ran for the Maryland Senate seat, and when he was lieutenant governor, that was when he was most effective in changing this perception."

Another reason the GOP limits itself among African-Americans, says Rogers, is because Republicans don't talk about issues that have currency in the black community -- poverty, the challenges of single-parent homes, social justice, recidivism, black capitalism and crime. Studying Republican speeches through the decades was how Rogers came up with his book title.

The way for Republicans to attract black voters is pretty simple, says Rogers: Show up and solve problems.

When he moved to Rock Hill, where he currently lives, Rogers made his home in the inner city rather than the suburbs. When a local basketball team needed money for jerseys, Rogers helped them. Thus, when this inner-city team hit the court, their jerseys said, "York County GOP."

"People don't care what (political affiliation) comes after your name," says Rogers. "They just want the jersey."

With Rogers on the hustings, Democrats have cause for concern. Among other things, he's telling African-Americans that they have rendered themselves politically impotent by voting monolithically. "If one party can count on our vote, then they can take us for granted. Predictability is suicidal."

Predictability would seem not to be a problem for a Spanish-speaking, black Republican wonk who just might make South Carolina less of a joke.

EDITORIAL

COMMON SENSE



*By Benjamin Clark
Political Analyst*

RESULTS OF NAFTA

The area and the Whirlpool employees were hit with an economic bomb shell two weeks ago when Whirlpool announced it plans to move to MEXICO. The immediate financial impact will be felt throughout the region because of the loss of 1,100 plus employees

and direct parts suppliers will have an immediate negative impact. Kudos to Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel and Greg Wathen (President and Chief Officer Of the Economic Development Coalition of Southwest Indiana), Chamber of Commerce of Southwest Indiana, Central Labor Council of Southern Indiana and the United Way for attacking this problem early on!

The Berry Plastics expansion should help some of the displaced Whirlpool employees. One could say with confidence that the owners of Berry Plastics got it right when they decided to not only make Evansville its world headquarters but also spent millions of dollars to expand its operations in Evansville. We urge you to buy the products that Berry Plastics, an outstanding corporate citizen manufactures because it will insure that they will continue to be profitable! Another "flea brain" idea (NAFTA) from Washington, D.C., caused pain and suffering on the local folks! And the national politicians wonder why we don't trust their opinion and ideas!

BUY AMERICAN MADE!

As far as Whirlpool Corporation is concerned, once they leave Evansville and move to Mexico, it is popular opinion that the fine people of this area should not buy any products made by Whirlpool in Mexico (that were previously manufactured in Evansville) after that

time! Bottom line- they didn't support the community, so why should local people continue to support them! Buy AMERICAN Made!

ECONOMIC STIMULUS

Frog Follies hosted by the Evansville Iron Street Rod Club at the 4-H Fair Grounds was once again a smashing success with about 4,500 vintage trucks and cars. The economic impact has been tremendous over the years from this most important event. This event draws people from all parts of the county. Over a number of years, the Frog Follies has raised \$100,000 of thousands of dollars for local organizations and charities. Thank you Evansville Iron Street Rod Club for putting on this important event and helping our community. Your organization helps make Vanderburgh County a great place to live and raise a family!

Another Economic Stimulus held in down town Evansville recently was the new and renewed Thunder On the Ohio! Just think, they did it without local governmental financial help! From exciting boat races, County Music concerts, great food, the Event Committee and Event Chairmen Tom Sawyer got it "GOT IT RIGHT." Now, if Growth Alliance for Greater Evansville (GAGE) spent their time, energy and financial resources on economic matters and left the planning for next year's Thunder on the OHIO event to Mr. Sawyer's group, the public good will be well served! We strongly feel that the Whirlpool situation is something that GAGE should devote all their and energy to. The fine people working at GAGE can help find jobs for the soon to be displaced employees from WHIRLPOOL CORP. Now is the time for GAGE to prove their worth!

OH, WE GOT IT!

The Mayor and City Council can nip the idea of the Airport Commission desire to purchase the soon to be vacated Whirlpool plant on Highway 41. Let the Airport Commission purchase Whirlpool land and Building; build a new run way for this extremely busy airport; and take this site off the tax roll. Let's do it because this site then wouldn't be available for a similar manufacturing plant that pays property tax and provide good paying jobs to our highly-dedicated and qualified work force! Oh, we got the answer to this issue! Mr. Mayor and City Council members -JUST SAY NO!

FREE CITY HEALTH CLINIC?

On the issue of the providing city employees with a free, CITY-sponsored medical clinic on premise at the CIVIC CENTER, the question should be asked, "Did the Mayor and City Council get the best deal for the taxpayers by selecting NOVIA CARE CLINICS to provide city employees with this service since it wasn't put out to public bid?" Also, how can the city leaders tout that this program as FREE since the city pays \$25 a month for each non-union employee that works for the city? Are the Mayor and City Council members now on this same (Novia Care Clinics) healthcare plan?

DON'T BACK AWAY!

Indiana State Treasurer RICHARD MOURDOCK is asking the U.S Supreme Court to re-examine the bankruptcy sale of Chrysler to Italian automaker FIAT. He argues that this sale was unfair to secured creditors, such as the Indiana Major Moves Transportation Fund, State

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THE UNCIVIL WARS

By Judge James Redwine

When I began practicing law in 1970 I was with a large law firm that did not handle domestic relations cases. Therefore, it was surprising to me to both observe and engage in the rancorous battles waged by former lovers and their lawyers once I opened my own law firm.

My first divorce clients often had a rather simple agenda they wanted followed: Destroy the soon to be ex-spouse and often their parents and supporters while obtaining one hundred percent of the marital assets; and, most importantly, obtain exclusive and complete custody of the children including weekly support payments that were in excess of the ex-spouse's total income, or were, at least, high enough to keep the ex-spouse's new significant other from enjoying life with the ex-spouse.

It actually turned out that the courts of those days acceded to those demands more often than you might guess. The watch word of the day was "contested" and the cases almost always were. Couples who had fallen in love, had children, and shared the vicissitudes of life as a team were given two options: (1) agree to whatever their ex-partner wanted; or (2) invest a fortune in treasure and emotion. Of course, the children were often just an afterthought.

For some reason I was reminded of these old wars of attrition when I recently reread Abraham Lincoln's first and second inaugural addresses and the letter Robert Dale Owen sent to the President urging him to issue the Emancipation Proclamation.

You will recall that President Lincoln took office and made his First Inaugural Address as his fellow Kentuckian, Jefferson Davis, was taking over the reins of the Confederate States of America. President Lincoln saw his most important duty as preservation of the Union. He took great pains to placate the South:

"I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists."

Even the odious Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 was cited and supported by President Lincoln in his First Inaugural Address:

"There is much controversy about delivering up of fugitives from service or labor. The clause I now read is as plainly written on the Constitution as any other of its provisions: 'No person held to service or labor in one State, under the laws thereof, escaping into another, shall in conse-

quence of any law or regulation therein be discharged from such service or labor, but shall be delivered upon claim of the party to whom such service or labor may be due.'"

On the other hand, President Lincoln made his resolve to preserve the Union clear:

"I trust this will not be regarded as a menace, but only as the declared purpose of the Union that it will constitutionally defend and maintain itself."

In doing this there needs to be no bloodshed or violence, and there

shall be none unless it be forced upon the national authority.

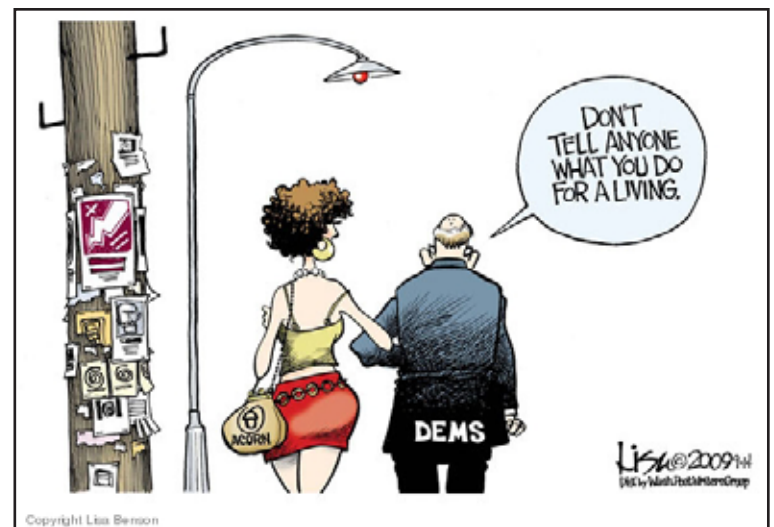
Plainly the central idea of secession is the essence of anarchy."

In his First Inaugural Address, President Lincoln contrasted the disintegration of the Union to a divorce:

"A husband and wife may be divorced and go out of the presence and beyond the reach of each other, but the different parts of our country cannot do this. They cannot but remain face to face, and intercourse, either amicable or hostile, must continue between them."

Attorney Lincoln obviously practiced during the times when divorce was seen as a grab for total victory or total separation. Fortunately, in Posey County, those days are (almost) gone.

Over the next few weeks, should you wish to make rejoinder to me or, perhaps, to the thoughts of Abraham Lincoln and Robert Dale Owen, I will see you here.



Common Sense continued from page 7

pension funds for teachers and police officers. The rub here is that Mr. Mourdock claims that unsecured stake-holders, such as the United Auto Workers Union, received more value. He also claims that because of this sale, the secured creditors have lost about \$6 million in value! Congratulations to Mr. Mourdock for fighting to correct an obvious wrong and wish him well with this issue!

WOW

The Trustees who oversee the Social Security system are projecting there won't be any cost of living (COLA) increases for the next 2 years. It's time the advocate groups to come forward to speak up for SENIORS because of raising costs in health care, tax increase (sales and property taxes), food costs, transportation, un-expected lose of sock portfolios, electric and heating bills and the lack of part-time jobs available because of the economy! If the politicians allow the trustees of the SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION to keep our seniors from getting even a token raise—all we can say is "WOW!"

JOB Well Done!

Best wishes to Rosemary Knight, who recently retired as the Executive Director of ECHO. Mrs. Knight has done an outstanding job with ECHO over the last 10 years! She deserves our public gratitude and respect for job well done!

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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— THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER —

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Virtual March for Veterans Hits Washington - Drove of Web Users Take Part in "Million-Claims March"

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16 - As more than 30,000 people found out Tuesday, standing up and marching for veterans has never been easier. With participants from every state in the nation and countries around the world, people who care about our nation's heroes are taking part in the first-ever "Virtual March on Washington for Veterans," which began Tuesday.

The Disabled American Veterans, one of the nation's premier veterans service organizations, launched the online event to draw attention to serious problems facing veterans and saw an instant increase in e-mails to lawmakers.

Thousands of e-mails from "marchers" filled inboxes on Capitol Hill Tuesday, demanding the Department of Veterans Affairs' disability benefits process be revamped as the claims backlog nears 1 million. In the one day, the DAV tracked more than 3,000 e-mails sent through its advocacy page, or roughly six times what the veterans organization typically sees in a whole week.

"Those who care about veterans are really responding to this issue," said David W. Gorman, the executive director of the DAV's Washington Headquarters. "We're hoping they stay involved, keep pressing their elected officials and share this information they are picking up in the virtual march."

"Marchers" viewed video messages and took part in on-line chat sessions with DAV's leadership Tuesday. More chats are scheduled throughout the week. Representative John Hall (D-N.Y.) chatted Tuesday and Rep. Tim Walz (D-Minn.) is slated to chat Thursday morning. Video messages were from veterans, veterans' advocates, lawmakers and actor Gary Sinise. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, as well as the chairmen and ranking member of both the Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committees participated.

Randy Reese, DAV's National Service Program Director, said in a video message the "harsh reality" is that the VA's benefits program "has failed its core mission." He said the VA's own reports show 924,132 claims and appeals await adjudication as of the end of August.

"These statistics can be creatively catalogued. They can be sorted. They can be presented in different medias," Reese said. "However, the fact remains that veterans are not well served. There is no significant reason to believe the future is going to be any brighter."

Employing Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn and other social networking sites, about 25,000 "marchers" have registered. And more than 30,000 logged onto the Virtual March's Web site, <http://march.dav.org/>. Being an online event, the march will remain active and continue to ask supporters to register and contact lawmakers.

The 1.2 million-member Disabled American Veterans, a non-profit organization founded in 1920 and chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1932, represents this nation's disabled veterans. It is dedicated to a single purpose: building better lives for our nation's disabled veterans and their families.

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Sunday, September 27

USI Fall Visiting Writers Reading Series begins September 24

The fall 2009 RopeWalk Visiting Writers Reading Series includes readings by Lee Martin, Brett Eugene Ralph, a group of “eccentric” women authors, and Lili Wright. Each reading will be held at 5 p.m. in Kleymeyer Hall in the Liberal Arts Center. A book signing will follow each program.

Here’s the schedule:

Lee Martin, September 24

Lee Martin is the author of the novels *The Bright Forever*, a finalist for the 2006 Pulitzer Prize in Fiction, *River of Heaven*, and *Quakertown*. He also has published two memoirs, *From Our House* and *Turning Bones* and a short story collection, *The Least You Need To Know*. His fiction and nonfiction have appeared in *Harper’s*, *Ms.*, *Creative Nonfiction*, *The Georgia Review*, *Story*, *DoubleTake*, *The Kenyon Review*, *Fourth Genre*, *River Teeth*, *The Southern Review*, and *Glimmer Train*. He is the winner of the Mary McCarthy Prize

in Short Fiction and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Ohio Arts Council. He teaches in the MFA Program at The Ohio State University.

Brett Eugene Ralph, October 15

Brett Eugene Ralph spent the better part of his youth in Louisville, Kentucky, playing football and singing in punk rock bands. He is author of *Black Sabbatical* (Sarabande, 2007) and his work has appeared in publications such as *Conduit*, *Mudfish*, *Willow Springs*, and *The American Poetry Review*, and his poems have been anthologized in *The McSweeney’s Book of Poets Picking Poets* and *The Stiffest of the Corpse: An Exquisite Corpse Reader*. He has taught at the University of Massachusetts, Missouri State University, and the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies in the Himalayas of northern India. Currently, he lives in Empire, Kentucky, and teaches at Hopkinsville Community College. His country rock ensemble, Brett Eugene Ralph’s Kentucky Chrome Revue, can be heard in seedy dives throughout the South.

XX Eccentric Women, October 29

Six contributing authors will read from their short stories in *XX Eccentric: Stories About the Eccentricities of Women*, the latest anthology published by Main Street Rag. Award-winning novelists and short story authors, C. Jane Bradley, Amy Locklin, Molly McCaffrey, Nicole Louise Reid, Kathryn Shaver, and Josh Woods will share the stage for an evening of eccentricity.

Lili Wright, November 12

Lili Wright worked as a newspaper reporter for 10 years before she earned her MFA in creative nonfiction from Columbia University. She is author of the travel memoir, *Learning to Float: The Journey of a Woman, a Dog, and Just Enough Men* (Broadway, 2002). Her essays and journalism have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Newsweek*, *Esquire*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *Maize*, *Grand Tour* and other publications. She teaches writing at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, where she lives with her husband and two children. Her essay, “Pilgrim,” is excerpted from a work-in-progress called *Mother at Sea*.

The readings are free and open to the public. Publications by these authors are available to purchase at USI Bookstore and Barnes & Noble Booksellers. Presented by USI’s College of Liberal Arts, the RopeWalk Visiting Writers Reading Series is made possible through the support of RopeWalk Writers Retreat, Southern Indiana Review, USI Society for Arts & Humanities, National Endowment for the Arts, Indiana Arts Commission, and USI Student Writers’ Union.

For more information, call Nicole Reid, assistant professor of creative writing, at 812/464-1916.





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EDUCATION

UE Nursing Receives Grant for Simulation Lab Equipment

The University of Evansville's Dunigan Family Department of Nursing & Health Sciences will receive a boost in equipment this semester, thanks to a generous grant from the Southwest Indiana Area Health Education Center (SWI-AHEC).

SWI-AHEC awarded UE the grant, in the amount of \$14,258.95, to enhance clinical simulation education in UE's Dunigan Nursing Laboratory, located on the first floor of Wallace Graves Hall.

The grant will allow UE Nursing to purchase several new pieces of equipment for the lab, thus giving students more comprehensive and realistic experience with equipment used in today's health care facilities.


"Earlier this year, we received word from SWI-AHEC that they were offering one-time grants for equipment that would enhance the clinical education of nursing students,"

said Amy Hall, chair of UE's Dunigan Family Department of Nursing & Health Sciences.

"Obviously, we jumped at the opportunity, and were excited to learn that our request had been granted. Through these funds, we will be able to give our students an even stronger educational experience, helping them better understand everything from the administration of intravenous fluids to the proper methods for giving CPR."

Among the equipment UE will purchase with the SWI-AHEC funds are IV pumps; automatic external defibrillators; and anesthesia, emergency, and isolation carts. All of the equipment is expected to be purchased before the end of the current semester.

For more information, contact the University of Evansville, 1800 Lincoln Ave., Evansville, Indiana 47722, 800-423-8633.



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Constitution Day Lecture at USI: “The First Amendment in a Time of Twitter”

The University of Southern Indiana’s 2009-2010 University Core Curriculum Speaker Series builds on its tradition of bringing notable scholars and musicians to the campus and the region.

The series begins with USI’s Constitution Day Lecture presented by Gene Policinski, vice president and executive director of the First Amendment Center.

Policinski will present “The First Amendment in a Time of Twitter” at 2 p.m. Friday, September 18, in Carter Hall in the University Center at USI.

Policinski is a veteran journalist whose career has included work in newspapers (he was a founding editor of USA Today), radio, television, and the web.

He oversees operations and programs of First Amendment Center, which works to preserve and protect First Amendment freedoms through information and education.

The center serves as a forum for the study and exploration of free-expression issues, including freedom of speech, press, and religion, and the rights to assemble and to petition the government.

With offices at Vanderbilt and at the Newseum in Washington, D.C., the First Amendment Center is an operating program of the Freedom Forum.

Policinski is co-author of the weekly syndicated newspaper column, “Inside the First Amendment,” and executive producer/host of the touring multimedia stage production, “Freedom Sings.”

He also serves as an adjunct professor at Winthrop University in South Carolina and is a member of the journalism alumni board at Ball State University. He is a Ball State graduate and attended the Nashville School of Law.



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EVSC RELEASES ISTEP SCORES

The Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation showed an average of 62% of its students in grades 3 through 8, passing the language arts cut mark for Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress-Plus (ISTEP+); and 60% passing mathematics in the Spring 2009 testing. A science component of the test was given to grades 4 and 6 and in those grades, 54% passed. A Social Studies test was administered in grade 5 and 7 for the first time in Indiana and 50% of EVSC students passed this portion of the test.

Last school year, students took ISTEP+ tests both in the fall and the spring. The changes were part of a larger testing plan for Indiana that included moving ISTEP+ to the spring (grades 3-8), replacing the current Graduation Qualifying Exam (GQE) with Algebra I and English 10 End-of-Course Assessments (ECA) and offering new computer-based teaching tools to local schools on a voluntary basis for grades K-8. This school year, the test will be administered only in the spring.

According to the Indiana Department of Education website, the ISTEP+ measures what students know and are able to do at each grade level. Based on Indiana's Academic Standards, ISTEP+ provides a learning check-up to make sure students are on track and signal whether they need extra help.

While each year the EVSC has continued to see improvements made in individual student progress at many schools, large scale improve-

ments in the numbers of students passing the ISTEP cut score will take time. Chief Academic Officer David Dimmett said the EVSC began administering short, interim assessments over the past two years that give teachers immediate feedback on the academic needs of children in a particular subject area.

"We want to develop the whole child so that they have 21st century skills for success such as problem solving, critical thinking, creativity and the ability to collaborate," Dimmett said. "We are looking at school models which will develop these traits in our students."

One example now beginning its second year is the Helfrich Park STEM Academy, which integrates the subject areas of science, technology, engineering and math, into all curriculum at the school.

Early Childhood Education also is a primary component to future success, Dimmett said, and on Aug. 31, the first program at Daniel Wertz Elementary School opened its doors for 60 west side students. Future programs will open at Culver School in 2010 and at the North High School building on Stringtown Road in 2011.

One key to student success is creating more engaging learning environments that include data-informed teaching and learning. Some strategies and approaches to content are going to be more effective for different elements of the corporation's diverse student population. For example, hands on, problem-based learning found in the New Tech

High School model will be powerful for some students. Other students will benefit from the connectedness of full service schools where schools also include classes for parents, healthcare clinics and other options to provide for the whole child.

"It is essential that we provide learning opportunities and settings that are as diverse as our students' needs," Dimmett said. "Doing so will create more powerful learning environments with greater opportunities for student achievement."

The 2008-09 school year was the first time that a spring test was administered, and because the test was revised – it had to also be re-normed, said Dr. Susan McDowell Riley, assistant superintendent for assessment and research. Teachers from throughout the state met this summer to set the standards that students must pass. As a result of this norming process, test scores are just now being returned. Actual individual student scores will not be sent to parents until they are received from the state in mid-September.

"These scores are considered a baseline because of the re-norming of the cut scores," McDowell Riley said, "and should not be compared to ISTEP scores from previous years."

In future years, test scores will be returned in May, before school is out.

Students who do not pass ISTEP+ are provided extra help including classroom remediation, small group instruction and additional instructional time to address any areas of need.

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SPORTS

Johnson Finishes Fourth In Field Of 58

LEDBETTER, Ky. -- University of Evansville junior Emily Johnson finished fourth today in the 58-player Murray State Drake Creek Invitational at Drake Creek Golf Course.

Johnson shot 76 today in breezy conditions to finish at 10-over-par 226 after shooting 77 and 73 in Monday's opening two rounds. Lauren Ellerman was right behind Johnson, shooting a team-best 75 today and finishing 10th overall. As a team, Evansville moved up one spot to finish sixth out of nine teams at 944. Host Murray State won the event with a team score of 907, and Western Kentucky's Emily Wolff was medalist at 6-over-par 222.

"I was proud of our girls," said Coach Jim Hamilton. "Emily and Lauren played very well, and it's always good to move up a spot in the final round like we did today."

The Aces play again Sept. 28 in the Cincinnati Invitational.

TEAM SCORES:

1. Murray State 907; 2. Eastern Kentucky 916; 3. Western Kentucky 930; 4. Austin Peay 932; 5. Belmont 933; 6. Evansville 944; 7. Tennessee Tech 949; 8. Austin Peay Red 959; 9. Lipscomb 984.

EVANSVILLE SCORES:

T4. Emily Johnson 77-73-76=226; T10. Lauren Ellerman 76-78-75=229; T32. Maggie Wood 78-82-82=242; 44. Alyssa Key 75-89-83=247; 58. Chelsea Zusan 93-90-98=281.

Medalist: Emily Wolff, Western Kentucky, 76-72-74=222

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SPORTS

Aces Dominate Tennessee-Martin 3-0 in Home Opener

The home opener was a bang for the University of Evansville volleyball team (6-4), as the Aces took a convincing 3-0 win (25-12, 25-19, 25-20) over the Tennessee-Martin Skyhawks (5-4) Monday night at Carson Center.

“Offensively, to hit over .400 is just unbelievable,” said Evansville head coach Mike Swan. “It didn’t matter the position, we were able to connect. It was great to play in front of a home crowd and get them excited about this team. Hopefully we can take this confidence into Carbondale when we open up Valley play, and I hope we see a resemblance of tonight.”

Evansville had four players hit over .400 in the match with Brooke Maher collecting a game-high 15 kills. Emily Wandersee posted a .500 attack percentage after 11 kills on 20 attempts and one error. Kaisi Nixon and Ginta Gabruseva also tallied attack percentages over .400 to lead the team to a .424 hitting percentage for the night.

The first set had UE strike with the first point. The Aces gained a quick advantage when UTM had back-to-back errors on their serving points, and UE kept rolling to an 11-4 lead. The home team kept the momentum after a Skyhawk timeout to go up 20-8 with a Nixon kill that bounced off an opposing player’s head. An ace from April Lubrecht put UE up 1-0 after a 25-12 win in the set.

In the next contest, the Skyhawks found the first point. The visitors kept a tight grip on UE after the Aces found the lead, as UTM stayed within one or two points early. A 4-0 scoring rally put UE ahead 13-8. Although UTM got within striking distance at 14-12, UE fed off the home crowd’s energy to get a 25-19 victory.

The Aces climbed to a 3-1 lead in the third outing, but UTM kept pushing back. After seven tied scores and four lead changes, the Aces were able to find their niche and go up 17-13 before a UTM break. The Skyhawks



Senior Ginta Gabruseva was one of four players to hit over .400 against Tennessee-Martin.

pulled within three, but a kill from Gabruseva and an error on UTM capped the 25-20 win for UE.

Evansville starts league play in its next match when the team takes on Southern Illinois in Carbondale on Friday, September 18 at 7:00 p.m.

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SPORTS

Simcock earns GLVC weekly honor

EVANSVILLE, Ind.—University of Southern Indiana junior midfielder Michael Simcock has been named the Great Lakes Valley Conference Men's Soccer Player of the Week as announced by the league office Monday.

Simcock, who becomes the first men's soccer player since 2003 to earn GLVC Player of the Week honors, helped lead the Screaming Eagles to a pair of wins in GLVC play, marking the first time since 2005 that USI has posted back-to-back wins against league opponents.

On Friday, Simcock recorded two assists to help lead USI to a 4-2, come-from-behind victory over the University of Indianapolis. Simcock's first assist came on USI's game-winning goal, while his second assist came on the Eagles' fourth goal, both of which were recorded in the final six minutes of the contest.

Simcock, a psychology major in his third year with the Eagles, returned Sunday to score two goals in USI's 4-1 victory over Saint Joseph's College. He put the Eagles

on the board in the 11th minute with the contest's first goal; then scored the eventual game-winning goal in the 57th minute on a penalty kick.

On the year, Simcock is tied for the team-lead with seven points on three assists and two goals. He also is tied for first on the team in assists and second on the squad in goals.

USI (2-2-0, 2-1-0 GLVC) returns to action

when it visits the University of Wisconsin-Parkside Friday at 3:30 p.m. and Lewis University Sunday at 2:30 p.m.



Michael Simcock

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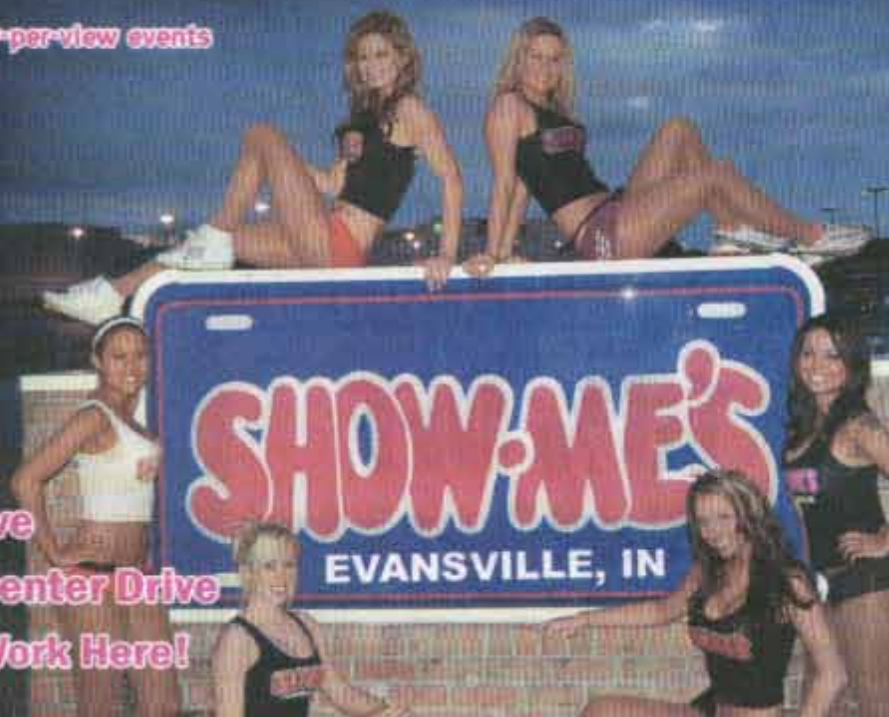
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Community Cinema Series Presents

Courtesy University of Evansville

The University of Evansville, WNIN, and the Evansville Courier & Press are proud to announce the second season of the groundbreaking Community Cinema Series – a free series of films hosted monthly at the University of Evansville.

The series, run in conjunction with PBS, will include nine films this year, all of which focus on major national or lifestyle issues. Each film will be shown on a Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. on UE's campus, and immediately followed with a panel discussion among academic experts, community leaders, and UE students about the content of the film. The first film, "D Tour," tells the story of musician Pat Spurgeon, whose burgeoning career as an indie rock artist derailed when his body began to fail him. "D Tour" follows Spurgeon as he searches for a transplant for his failing kidney – while continuing to tour with his band (even performing dialysis daily on the road).

The film will be shown on Sept. 23 at 7 p.m. in the Smythe Lecture Hall (room 170) of UE's Schroeder Family School of Business Administration Building. Its presentation is free and open to the public.

"We're excited to partner with the University of Evansville to bring these films to the people of Evansville," said Suzanne Hudson Smith, vice president of development for WNIN. "The 2009/2010 Community Cinema Series includes a tremendous group of films; films that explore the history of hip-hop music, teenagers' struggle to fit in during their high school years – even a film that follows a group of fun-loving seniors in their quest to become the best show choir in their region!

"And, along with the films, of course, comes the opportunity to discuss the themes, subjects, and ideas presented in them through a panel of men and women versed in the subjects at hand."

"D Tour" will begin airing at 7 p.m.; at 8 p.m., the panel discussion will begin. Facilitated by Evansville Courier & Press Editor Mizell Stewart, the panel also will include:

- Tony Cabello of the Indiana Organ Procurement Organization and father of a donor recipient
- Dave Bertorello, recipient of a double lung trans-

plant

- Glenda Ralph, UE Class of 1979 and kidney transplant recipient

"We're looking forward to a terrific slate of films, beginning this month with 'D Tour,'" said Rachel Carpenter, UE's assistant dean of students and director of the Center for Student Engagement. "Not only is this a wonderful educational opportunity for our students, but it's a great opportunity for the entire community to learn about the issues presented in the film, and to be part – along with the panel and others in the audience – of a discussion of those issues. "As a University, we're very excited about this opportunity, and very grateful to WNIN for partnering with us in this endeavor."

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AMERICAN VETERANS

WHAT HAPPENED TO VETERANS PREFERENCE?

By Don Counts, Staff Writer

I first heard about this a few weeks ago. Simon J. Leon Jr. who works with Veterans at Work brought this to the attention of the Vanderburgh County Veterans Council. I asked him to send me a copy of the regulations and what is going on at Work One.

The laws were enacted as a way for veterans to find work after their time of serving our County. This is an outrage the system needs/must be changed to comply with the law. As a Marine Corps veteran with 24 years of service I am outraged. The following information is being presented to the Vanderburgh County Veterans Council. Copies of the law follows Leon's letter and a list our representatives with their contact information follows that.

To: Vanderburgh County Veterans Council, Veterans Service Organizations of Evansville, Indiana

Re: Veterans Preference in Indiana

Veterans Preference is mandated by Public Law 107-288-NOV. 7, 2002

Section 1. Short Title; References to Title 38, United States Code.

(a) Short Title.-This Act may be cited as the "Job for Veterans Act".

Under this act Preference for Veterans is provided for and mandated. This included under

"(2) The term 'qualified job training program' means any workforce preparation, development, or delivery program or service that is directly funded, in whole or in part, by the Department of Labor and includes the following:

"(A) Any such program or service that uses technology to assist individuals to access workforce development programs (such as job and training opportunities, labor market information, career assessment tools, and related support services).

"(B) Any such program or service under the public employment service system, one-stop career centers, the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, a demonstration or other temporary program, and those programs implemented by States or local service providers based on Federal block grants administered by the Department of Labor.

"(C) Any such program or service that is a workforce development program targeted to specific groups.

"(3) The term 'priority of service' means, with respect to any qualified job training program, that a covered person shall be given priority over non-veterans for the receipt of employment, training and placement services provided under that program, notwithstanding any other provision of law.

As can be seen Veterans Priority of Service has been passed by congress and up till the fall of 2008 was given to veterans thru the Departments CS3 system for posting job order and for job searches

by veterans and the general public.

But, since October 2008 when the Indiana Department of Workforce went to the ICC system (IndianaCareerConnect.com system) for job searching there is no Veterans Priority of Service provided to veterans. The ICC system was to have a veterans hold on job orders placed into the system so that all veterans had a chance to see the new job order for 2 days prior to being released to the general public. The veterans hold has never work in the new system and when the Indiana Department of Workforce Development went active with the new self service system Veterans Preference went out the window. Employers that put in a new job order today and run a match will get everyone in the general public with the vets that match. In effect there is not Veterans Preference in the State of Indiana on Job Orders.

The Vet Staff – DVOP's & LVER's in the State of Indiana have notified the Indiana Department of Workforce Development of the problem and the situation. The State of Indiana has failed to act on this problem for over 10 months. The problem still exists today and it seems that the ICC system will not be fixed in the near future to remedy this situation. The Vet Staff have complained to their supervisors and management at both the State and Federal Level here in Indiana. Nothing seems to be affected by this. It appears that the people in charge of this situation here in Indiana do not care about the problem.

It is now time for this situation to be brought to our legislators at both the State and Federal level and that a remedy is requested so that those Veterans that have freely given of themselves to protect our way of life and liberty are give the rights mandated by law from Congress for "Veterans Preference". If the State of Indiana chooses to disregard the law and only give lip service to the law, then it is time for them to be penalized for their failure to act and right this wrong.

In November 2009 one year will have passed with the Veterans of Indiana being robbed of their right to Veterans Preference by the State of Indiana. I ask that all Veterans, past and present with their families lift up their voice and demand that the right of Veterans Preference be returned to those veterans that need it in these times of economic hardships. It seems ashamed that we must request a right that has been given and mandated by the 107th Congress of the United States of America.

Respectfully Yours,

Simon J. Leon Jr.

Jr. Vice Commander, Vanderburgh County Veterans Council

Commander, James B. Gresham DAV Chapter #7

Jr. Vice Commander, American Legion Post #187

Quartermaster, Charles Denby VFW Post #2953

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ALBERTA MATLOCK
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July 17, 2009

Pat Pittman
320 S.E. Riverside Drive
Evansville, IN 47714

Dear Mr. Pittman:

I am the attorney for the Evansville City Council. Councilwoman Connie Robinson and all members of council requested that I inquire into your question concerning gas meter testing.

Vectren is a public utility and is regulated by State law. The state regulates public utilities through the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission ("Commission"). The Commission has issued rules and regulations which address your issue as follows:

1. The utility is required to keep records pertaining to each meter, including its year of purchase, and the record and results of its most recent test.
2. There are specific standards for the accuracy of the meter, testing equipment, and methodology of testing.
3. A utility must make a test of a meter upon written request by a customer. A second test may be requested after twelve (12) months. A written report of the results of each test shall be made to the customer, and a complete record of the test shall be kept on file. An appeal can be filed to the Commission within five (5) days of the report.
4. A customer can apply to the Commission for a test. If requested, a test will be made of a customer's meter by the utility under the supervision of an employee of the commission.

I hope that this information is helpful to you. The Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission has an extensive website at www.in.gov/iurc/. Their toll free number is 1-800-851-4268.

New Harmony Lecture Focuses on Owen Family Role in Establishment of Smithsonian Castle

NEW HARMONY, IN – Historic New Harmony is pleased to announce a lecture entitled “How the Devil It Got There: The Politics of Form and Function in the Smithsonian “Castle.” Brown University Visiting Scholar, Dr. John F. Sears will give his presentation at the Atheneum/Visitors Center on Friday, October 9 at 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

The lecture will examine the influence of Robert Dale Owen, who was a founding Smithsonian Regent, and his brother David Dale Owen on their involvement in the creation of the Smithsonian as an institution, and their role in the design of its first home, the “Castle.”

Dr. Sears was invited by the Smithsonian Institution to give his presentation and participate in a panel discussion at the “Castle” this past March. Historic New Harmony staff, University of Southern Indiana trustees and Owen family members traveled to Washington, D. C. to share in the night of programs.

This event is co-sponsored by Historic New Harmony and New Harmony’s Working Men’s Institute.

The Atheneum/Visitors Center is located at 401 N. Arthur Street in New Harmony, Ind. For more information

about the lecture, please contact Jan Kahle at 812.682.4488 or jkahle@usi.edu.

About Historic New Harmony:

Historic New Harmony’s mission is to preserve New Harmony’s utopian legacy by inspiring renewal and fellowship between people and communities through its programs and collections. Historic New Harmony is a unified program of the University of Southern Indiana and the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites. For more information on Historic New Harmony, please visit www.newharmony.org.

Smithsonian Institution:

Founded in 1846, the Smithsonian is the world’s largest museum and research complex consisting of 19 museums and galleries, the National Zoological Park and nine research facilities. There are 6,000 Smithsonian employees, including approximately 500 scientists, and more than 6,500 volunteers. Approximately 25 million people from around the world visited the Smithsonian in 2008 with more than 175 million visits to the Smithsonian Web sites. The total number of objects, works of art and specimens at the Smithsonian is estimated at 137 million.



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Deig congratulates local arts organizations

INDIANAPOLIS —This week, the Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana will announce grant awards to 24 arts organizations. Sixteen of the organizations operate in Senate District 49 which includes parts of Gibson, Posey, and Vanderburgh counties. State Senator Bob Deig (D-Mount Vernon) says he is happy to see local arts organizations receive these funds to continue the programs that impact local communities in such a positive way.

“It is very important that we maintain our arts and culture industries to ensure our communities are strong and diverse,” said Deig. “I applaud each of these arts organizations for the work they do and congratulate them on receiving the awards from the Arts Council.”

Five of the grants will be given to arts organizations for general operating expenses and 11 will go to arts projects taking place between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010. The grant awards will be presented at The Bower-Suhrheinrich Foundation Gallery, at 318 Main Street, in Innovation Pointe, downtown Evansville.

A total of \$98,418 is allocated by the Indiana General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts and distributed to the Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana through the Indiana Arts Commission (IAC). As one of 10 Regional Partners of the IAC, the Arts Council adjudicates grants for a seven county region including Gibson, Knox, Pike, Posey, Spencer, Vanderburgh, and Warrick. Grant awards for FY2010 will be awarded to organizations in Gibson, Knox, Posey, Vanderburgh and Warrick counties.

“Every one of these organizations plays a vital role in bringing different perspectives of the art and culture to our community,” continued Deig. “Through the creative investment made possible by these grants, I believe our communities will profit from what each of these organizations bring to the table.”

For more information on Sen. Deig, his legislative agenda or other State Senate business, call 1-800-382-9467 or visit www.senatedemocrats.IN.gov.



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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
Office	7,200	6,000	Retail	12,000	3,500	Warehouse	12,000	3,000

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CONTACT INFORMATION:

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

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Bank on Evansville Paves the Way for Bank on Indiana

Submitted by the City of Evansville

(EVANSVILLE, IN) – Taking its lead from “Bank on Evansville”, the State of Indiana has approved funding to take the “Bank On” program statewide. Evansville is the only community in Indiana to implement the “Bank on Cities” model. The City was asked to assist in the creation of “Bank on Indianapolis” and the launch of “Bank on Indiana”. “Bank on Indiana” will work with cities and towns throughout the State to implement the program.

“Bank on Evansville is truly a community achievement. Without active participation from the City, our 15 financial partners, and community organizations, we could not have created this opportunity for residents to save money on the financial services they need,” said Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel. “Our goal is to continue to strengthen the program by adding other product innovations and by creating a group of trained volunteer financial coaches who are available to help Bank on Evansville account holders set and reach their financial goals.”

The Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority Board (IHCDA) recently approved funding for Bank on Indiana, which will be formally launched in October. The State estimates

there are currently 217,000 unbanked in Indiana. They spend approximately \$1,000 per year on check cashing and bill payment.

Initiated in June 2008 by Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel, Bank on Evansville’s goal is to measurably improve the lives of our City’s low-to-moderate income residents through financial education and better access to the financial mainstream. According to the National League of Cities, Evansville has achieved the fastest launch of the “Bank On” program and is a pace setter when it comes to financial education. “Bank on Evansville” opened a total of 324 accounts in the first two quarters of 2009.

Evansville has also received attention from the National League of Cities, the Office of the Controller of the Currency (OCC) and the Federal Reserve Bank for the highly collaborative and innovative manner in which the “Bank On” model was implemented. This spring, Evansville was named a Faculty City for the National League of Cities and is providing assistance to eight cities including Indianapolis and Louisville. The City was also asked by the Federal Reserve to help launch “Bank On” programs in Cincinnati, Owensboro and Memphis.

For more information about “Bank on Evansville”, please visit our website at www.bankonevansville.org

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City to Implement Efficiency Software

(EVANSVILLE, IN) – The Board of Public Works will open bids today on a single system to replace the City's out-of-date financial, human resources, community development and utility software. The work of several departments will be streamlined by enabling them to work together and share information. The software will also create a system for online bill payment.

"We cannot continue to utilize software that is so antiquated that not only does it slow down the process, but is nearly impossible to maintain. It drives up the cost to the City and the taxpayer. The new software solution will allow us to save money and create efficiencies between departments, both of which will benefit customers," said Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel.

The new software will increase efficiency and allow for a quicker response to customer requests. It is believed the software can be implemented for nearly the same cost as the City's current systems.

The older software is cumbersome to use, difficult and expensive to maintain, and doesn't share information easily, if at all. It also does not allow online bill payment for customers.

The bids will be taken under advisement for 60 days and a committee of department heads will be established to review them. The goal is to have the new software system in place by the end of 2010.



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