

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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Contractual transparency... Evansville-style *John J. Kish and Associates Inc. Contract*

By Jamie Grabert, Publisher

As part of our continuing series on the contracts for the new multi-purpose arena in Downtown Evansville, this week the City-County Observer is focusing on the project manager's contract.

The City, through the Redevelopment Commission, approved a professional services agreement with John J. Kish and Associates Inc. on January 21, 2009. This was accomplished through the passage of Resolution 09-ERC-03. Again, there were no specific terms discussed in the resolution, and no dollar amounts were given.

The resolution states, "On August 19, 2008 the Evansville Redevelopment Commission ("Commission") adopted Resolution 08-ERC-48 Authorizing the Appointment of a Consulting Team to Evaluate the Issues Identified in the Multi-Purpose Arena Venue Feasibility Study; and

Whereas, the City of Evansville, by and through its Redevelopment Commission, intends to undertake the development, design and construction of a new multi-purpose arena in Evansville, Indiana ("Project")...

The resolution goes on to state that the appointed board sought Kish's services "to assist it in undertaking and successfully completing the Project, and

Whereas, the Project Director possesses independent qualifications and abilities to perform such services. "

The Resolution then notes, under Section 1, "The project program, project budget and project schedule, which were developed during the feasibility study for the Project, are hereby approved."

Section 2 of Resolution 09-ERC-03 authorizes Redevelopment Commission President Bob Goldman to authorize and execute the contract with John J. Kish and Associates Inc. to act as the Project Director.

The resolution passed with a unanimous 4-0 vote.

Since that resolution, Kish has been authorized, through various resolutions to enter into change orders and such. In one instance, Kish was given this power through Resolution 09-ERC-47, which is for the relocation of Vectren's gas lines at the site of the new arena.

Under the terms of Kish's contract, in the Statement of Work, the contract states, "The Project Director shall report to

and act under the direction of the Executive Director of the Department of Metropolitan Development or his designee...Project Director shall confer and cooperate with the Commission, representatives of the City, the Consultants and other firms or contractors that may be retained by the Commission or City in order to undertake and complete the Project."

In the Consideration portion of the contract the Commission agreed to pay an hourly rate for Kish's services. The contract states at the top of page 2, "It is, however, expressly agreed that the total hours to be paid by the Commission for services rendered by the Project Director in any consecutive twelve (12) month period during the term of this Agreement, shall not exceed 1500 hours unless the Commission agrees, in writing, to increase the number of hours."

continued on page 2



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COVER STORY

John J. Kish And Asso. Inc ... from page 1

The rate is spelled out in Exhibit B, which states, "John J. Kish \$195.00 per Hour —this rate shall be subject to adjustment on an annual basis, subject to the written approval of the Commission."

Paragraph two states, "...the Commission shall also pay the actual costs incurred by the Project Director (without mark-up for overhead or profit) for reimbursable expenses...It is, however, agreed that the reimbursable expenses to be paid by the Commission for any calendar month will not exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), unless the Commission agrees, in writing, to increase that amount for a particular month."

The contract then moves to the terms of the agreement. According to the contract, the contract was to begin on January 21, 2009 and extend until September 30, 2011. If the project is not completed, then Kish's contract automatically renews on a month-to-month basis.

Under item VI. Confidentiality of City Information, terms are spelled out again. "The Project Director agrees and understands that data, materials and information disclosed to or de-

veloped by the Project Director in the course of performance of this Agreement may contain confidential financial information, trade secrets or advisory or deliberative materials, including expressions of opinion or information of a speculative nature, which is communicated as between the parties for the purpose of the Owner's decision making with respect to the Project. These materials shall, therefore, be treated and maintained as CONFIDENTIAL information to the extent consistent with Indiana's Public Access Records Act. The Project Director shall communicate such information only to the representatives of the Owner and Consultants who are involved with the Project."

Section XXIV Office is included in the contract. It states, "The Owner [City] shall provide the Project Director with access to and use of office space during the term of this Agreement, in proximity to the Project or to the Commission staff, together with telephone, computer, email service and such other office and business equipment necessary to fulfill the Project Director's duties and responsibilities."



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FIRST ON THE SCENE - #10 & #14

Photos courtesy Ron McMullen



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Presentation of the Local 357's Assessment of Fire Station Closures

Publisher's Note: The following information was presented to the Evansville City Council by the Evansville Firefighters Local 357. This was originally created as a PowerPoint presentation but has been re-typed for space allocation.

PURPOSE OF ISO

•“ISO believes your primary objective should be to IMPROVE SERVICE and ENHANCE PUBLIC SAFETY...reductions in insurance premiums for property owners should be only a collateral benefit.”

•Reducing taxpayer service in any area is NOT IMPROVING SERVICE.

WHAT IS AN ISO RATING?

•Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS) recognizes fire protection features only as they relate to suppression of fires in structures.

•This is only a small part of the fire department's overall responsibility.

WHAT IS OUR RATING?

•The EFD needs to make up 3.01 points to regain a Class 3 PPC.

HOW DOES THIS AFFECT INSURANCE RATES?

•In speaking with Kenan Schultheis of Schultheis Insurance and Don Inman of Inman Insurance the following information was obtained.

o Dropping from 3 to even a 5 ISO rating will make no difference in insurance premiums on residential and commercial property.

□ The proposed station closures will have no effect on insurance rates to attract businesses or taxpayers into this city.



A Special Thanks

We the people would like to thank
Evansville City Council Members
Wendy Bredhold, Dr. Dan Adams, Dan
McGinn, Connie
Robinson and Don
Walker for their support in keeping Fire
Department Hose
Houses 10 and 14 open
for the people!



This ad paid for by Proud American Pat Pittman

FIRE SUPPRESSION RATING SCHEDULE

•According to the ISO, the rating schedule is a fire insurance tool.

•It is NOT INTENDED to analyze all aspects of a comprehensive public fire protection program.

•It SHOULD NOT be used for purposes other than insurance rating.

FIRE DEPARTMENT SERVICE TO THE TAXPAYERS

•The fire department's responsibilities include much more than fire related incidents.

- We respond to
 - o Medical Emergencies
 - o Auto Accidents
 - o Carbon Monoxide Checks
 - o Lockouts
 - o And much more

FIRE DEPARTMENT'S NEW RESPONSIBILITIES

•Due to the renegotiation of AMR's contract, as of October 1, 2009, the Evansville Fire Department responds to 1400+ more medic runs a year.

•The daily run totals stated in the earlier presentation are underestimated.

•These medical responses are not reflected in ISO ratings or the Chief's letter in the newspaper.

HOW DO WE MAKE UP 3.01 POINTS?

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NEWS

Assessment of Fire Station Closures

THE CHIEF'S PLAN

•Eight areas were indentified by EFD Administrative staff as areas for improvements.

oCredit for Dispatch Circuit (1.73 points)

□A second dispatch circuit will be added for our fire stations and apparatus.

• Hoosier Safe-T radios will be installed in all fire stations and trucks.

□This will make up 1.73 points of the 3.01 needed.

oCredit for Ladder Service

oCredit for Reserve Ladders and Service Trucks

oCredit for Engine Companies

oCredit for Reserve Engines

oCredit for Distribution

oCredit for Training

oEquipment Deficiencies

AREAS OF AGREEMENT

•We hope that the additional 1.34 points can be made up by the Chief's recommendations of

oCredit for Ladder Service

oCredit for Reserve Ladders and Service Trucks

oCredit for Engine Companies

□When EFD was rated, no credit was given for the two new Engines we now have in the fleet. We only need 3.01 credits to achieve a PPC class 3.

oCredit for Reserve Engines

□By adding the two new Engines to our fleet, our reserve fleet will also be better equipped.

oCredit for Training

oEquipment Deficiencies

EQUIPMENT

•The ISO identified some areas where we could improve our rating by reallocating equipment.

oAddition of additional Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) bottles on apparatus

oVarious hand tools

oAdding salvage covers to apparatus

oAddition of 2 ½ inch nozzles on some of the apparatus.

STATIONS 10 AND 14

•Station 10 and 14 provide service to many schools, churches, and older residential neighborhoods.

•Stations 10 and 14 responded to 1800 +/- runs a year BEFORE the added medical runs

•Stations 10 and 14 respond to highly concentrated residential areas with a very heavy fire load.

EFFECTS OF PROPOSED REASSIGNMENTS

•Stations 10 and 14's area will be responded to by existing stations with a much increased response time

•The proposed reassignments will cause increased wear n apparatus and increased fuel costs due to longer responses.

RESPONSE TO ANNEXATION??

•We would like to remind the Council that the last major annexations were in 1987 and 1988.

oThe response to these annexations was to add two fire stations, apparatus and 19 new firefighters.

•Do we also plan on moving some of the existing street lights and sewers for the newly annexed area?

oIt is not right to take services from the existing area to provide for the annexed area.

•The Mayor has stated to the media that these proposed moves are being made to serve the newly annexed area.

•The proposed moves will take service from established taxpayer areas and move them to an annexed area whose taxes will be phased in over several years.

HOW DO WE MAKE UP 3.01 POINTS?

•Local 357 would like to research the ISO report and determine if the necessary ISO improvement can be made by implementing all proposed changes EXCEPT for the station closures.

CONCLUSION

•In conclusion, I would ask this Council to form an advisory committee to study the ISO Report and bring back to this council all the options. I also ask that the Council freeze the Chief's proposed moves until Local 357, City Council, and the tax-paying citizens we serve are convinced we are doing what is right. Please listen to the taxpayers that you serve.



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Political Correctness Gone Amuck

By Jamie Grabert and Michelle Peterlin

Chaos ensues. A war begins. A treaty is signed. A social change is needed. Enter the 1950's. In theory, all lives reflected that of "Leave It to Beaver" and Ozzie and Harriet. Enter the 1970's. A new revolution begins. Welcome to the Politically Correct World.

Civil Rights are an important part of our history in the United States. The United States Constitution and Declaration of Independence call for freedom. The people called for equality; it's their God-given inheritance. While some may argue that equality still doesn't exist, in mass expanses, it does. Society has made great strides in the last 50 years. But then, as we often do, we allowed it to be taken too far.

We need to be allowed as a people to rise to the next level of understanding equality. We must be allowed to truly accept all people as equal regardless of race, color, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and creed. With this acceptance, comes the new challenge for all people to accept responsibility for themselves and be subject to all laws governing decency, social and behavioral order.

Take into consideration the tragic events at Ft. Hood last week. Is this an exercise in reverse political correctness? Fact: As alleged suspect Maj. Nidal M. Hasan was shooting up Ft. Hood, he was screaming (in Arabic) "Allah is great!" Fact: People who worked with him at Ft. Hood, stated that his dialogue with them was becoming radical. They have stated they did not want to report this because they did not want to be seen as or considered as religiously biased. Fact: Officials have found correspondence between the suspect and Al-Qaida leaders on his government-owned computer. Fact: He had a poor performance record at Walter Reid Hospital and co-workers interviewed on November 10, 2009, on NPR, stated that they kept him because they need more Muslim diversity on their staff. Fact: The guy attended a mosque in Virginia at the same time that several 9/11 terrorists attended with the same cleric leader. This same cleric, now living out of the country, claimed Hasan and issued a statement of support on his website.

Logic would lead you to believe that this man is a terrorist; however, if you are a member of the media, the President of the United States, or an Army official you see him as a disturbed individual who did not receive the proper

healthcare at the time he needed it. This is clearly an example of a larger problem that is crippling our ability to effectively use common sense and logic in dealing with people.

Fact: The growing Middle Eastern population in the United States is living out the American Dream and is the fastest growing sector of our population in the professional service area. These people are an example of the best America has to offer in the form of doctors, surgeon, attorneys and small business owners. They are showing their majority to be model citizens who have accepted this country in its entirety and are proud to live here.

Muslim American were the first to condemn what happened at Ft. Hood and saw it for what it was. Everyone else deserves the same privilege. We are insulting people's intelligence when they cannot state the obvious and react accordingly. In doing that, we take away the people's ability to utilize their integrity.

Speaking of integrity, we should all be disturbed as American citizens that the only people who had guns on a military base and were in a position to return fire were civilian police officers. Our soldiers should be carrying weapons in a time of war – that time is now. This is especially true on their own base. In addition to losing their brothers and sisters in battle, these soldiers suffered the senseless indignity of being the greatest fighting force in the world but not having a weapon to defend themselves at home.

In any country in Europe, the regular civilian police force walking down the streets of London, Paris and Rome are carrying top-of-the-line weapons as they walk among the people. It is incomprehensible why we send out our civilian police force with revolvers and, for special occasions, a rifle in the trunk.

There was no equality at Ft. Hood on that tragic day. A lone, radical gunman ironically was more powerful than the United States Army. Why? Because he was not reported for any of the tell-tale signs of being a terrorist. He was able to order superior weapons, privately as a private citizen. Our government didn't trust our own soldiers, who they trained and were ironically preparing to send to fight on foreign soil and to carry weapons, and it failed to arm our civilian police force with the very best weaponry available.

Ironically, a woman police officer shot a better-armed

OP-ED

Political Correctness...from page 6

Al-Qaida sympathizer, ironically who the Army trained how to shoot with a revolver. You may ask yourself, why did an Al-Qaida sympathizer join the U.S. Army, especially knowing that war in the Middle East was eminent? His own family has publically stated that the answer was to take advantage of the Army's tuition benefits program.

Perhaps, it is time to revisit the guidelines for social, political and racial correctness education. We should never go back to the way things were prior to 1970, but we need to correct the obvious defects in the current system. We need to consider how we screen people for admission into our Armed Forces. We need to examine how concerned citizens can report suspicious activity and people without being labeled inappropriately. This will not be an easy task because we can never go back to the "witch hunts" of the past, but we need to be allowed to trust each other again to do the right thing. We cannot live in fear of the potential backlash associated with reporting viable threats to the

proper authorities. We need to support measures to protect our rights and liberties and allow them to take up arms to do so.



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EDITORIAL

IS IT TRUE?

Compiled by Moles Number 1 through 97...and counting

CONSULTING WHAT?

IS IT TRUE that the Redevelopment Commission paid Walker Parking Consultants \$4,000 on November 2, 2009 for “August Professional Services?” IS IT TRUE that, according to the minutes, on the same date the Redevelopment Commission paid Walker Parking Consultants an additional \$4,000 for the Third Street Parking Garage and \$4,800 for the Sycamore Garage? IS IT TRUE that according to the Indiana Secretary of State’s Office, Walker Parking Consultants operates out of Indianapolis? IS IT TRUE it doesn’t surprise us that the Mayor is using yet another Indy firm for another city project?

REVENUE Verses SPENDING

IS IT TRUE the City Of Evansville’s problem isn’t a lack of revenue, it’s spending on non-essential pet political projects?

FINALLY!

IS IT TRUE it’s about time the Office Inspector General finally address the questionable medical discrepancies at the Marion VA Medical Center/Hospital? IS IT TRUE it didn’t take a “Rocket Scientist” to realize that the medical treatment provided by Marion VA Medical Center Hospital staff to our area Veterans was less than adequate? IS IT TRUE we are extremely glad to hear that some key staff members that were employed at this medical facility could lose their jobs? IS IT TRUE it’s about time we turn our outstanding VA Clinic located in Evansville, Ind., into a VA Medical Center/Hospital and make the Marion Facility a VA Clinic?

WILLIAMS IS RIGHT!

IS IT TRUE we believe that County Commissioners Steve Melcher and Lloyd Winnecke should heed the professional wisdom and advice that Vanderburgh County Sheriff Eric Williams

is giving them concerning the Security Checkpoint at the Civic Center? IS IT TRUE we wonder if we have any troubles at the Civic Center Security Checkpoint that arise, who would you call for help, a political person or law enforcement officer?

BUSINESS 101

IS IT TRUE Business 101 Class should have taught the Mayor and his Arena Czar that you never tell people you want to buy property to build an Arena and expect to get a bargain on the land purchase?

THE VISIT

IS IT TRUE that is didn’t surprise us to find out that Evansville Fire Chief Keith Jarboe visited Fire House #10 last week? IS IT TRUE the Fire Chief told a couple of the firefighters to get ready to pack to move? IS IT TRUE we expect that in the near future that one of our city council members will tell Fire Chief Jarboe to shut up and sit down? IS IT TRUE the reason is that they make public policy decisions for the city, not an appointed department head?

IS IT TRUE that the City Council can VETO the Mayors political appointees, including the department head appointments by a majority vote?

ATF

IS IT TRUE that the powers that be have called the FEDERAL-ATF to come in and look at the remaining evidence and/or clues concerning the recent fire at WOODY’S on Main Street?

NEW WATERING HOLE

IS IT TRUE that certain members of a locally-elected board and an appointed City Department Head will have to change their social habits? IS IT TRUE the above individuals will have to find another after the meeting “watering hole” since Woody’s burnt down this week?

JUST WONDERING

IS IT TRUE we are still wondering what happened to cause the Marina Pointe restaurant complex to burn to the ground?

THE PEOPLE’S EMPLOYEES

Is it true the following information is about refers to United States employees? It is true the following information is tragic? Is it true you need to read the following information about your employees:

- ▶ 36 of them have been accused of spousal abuse
- ▶ 19 of them accused of writing bad checks,



The Mole



EDITORIAL

MORE IS IT TRUE?

Compiled by Moles Number 1 through 97...and counting

- ▶ 7 were arrested for Fraud.
- ▶ 117 have directly or indirectly bankrupted 2 businesses.
- ▶ 3 have done time for assault,
- ▶ 14 have been arrested for drug related charges,
- ▶ 71 can not get credit cards because of bad credit.
- ▶ 8 have been arrested for shoplifting,
- ▶ 21 of them are currently defendants today, AND
- ▶ 84 of them have been arrested in the last year for drunk driving?

ing?

Is it true these are our 435 members of the U.S. Congress?

SITE HITS

IS IT TRUE the City-County Observer.com website had over a 10,000-viewer spike last Thursday and Friday following the Publisher's on-air radio conversation with Les Shively?

CAMPAIGN FINANCIAL REPORTS

IS IT TRUE we can't wait to review the Annual Campaign

Financial Reports to be submitted to County Clerk's Office on January 20, 2010 at noon? IS IT TRUE we have been told that city and county consultants and vendors will be prevalent in these reports? IS IT ALSO TRUE you shouldn't be surprised to see many out-of-towners (INDY AREA) on certain COUNTY COMMISSIONERS and City Council reports?

SWING VOTE

Is it true that Councilman John Friend is now the City Council swing vote in the investigation of closing neighborhood Fire Stations 10 and 14? Is it true that we hope Councilman Friend sides with the taxpayers and starts promoting open government? Is it true Councilman Friend cannot afford to make any more political mistakes because of the highly-regarded, financially adept opponent he will face during his re-election bid? Is it true this opponent will enjoy bipartisan support?

JOSEPH H. HARRISON, JR.

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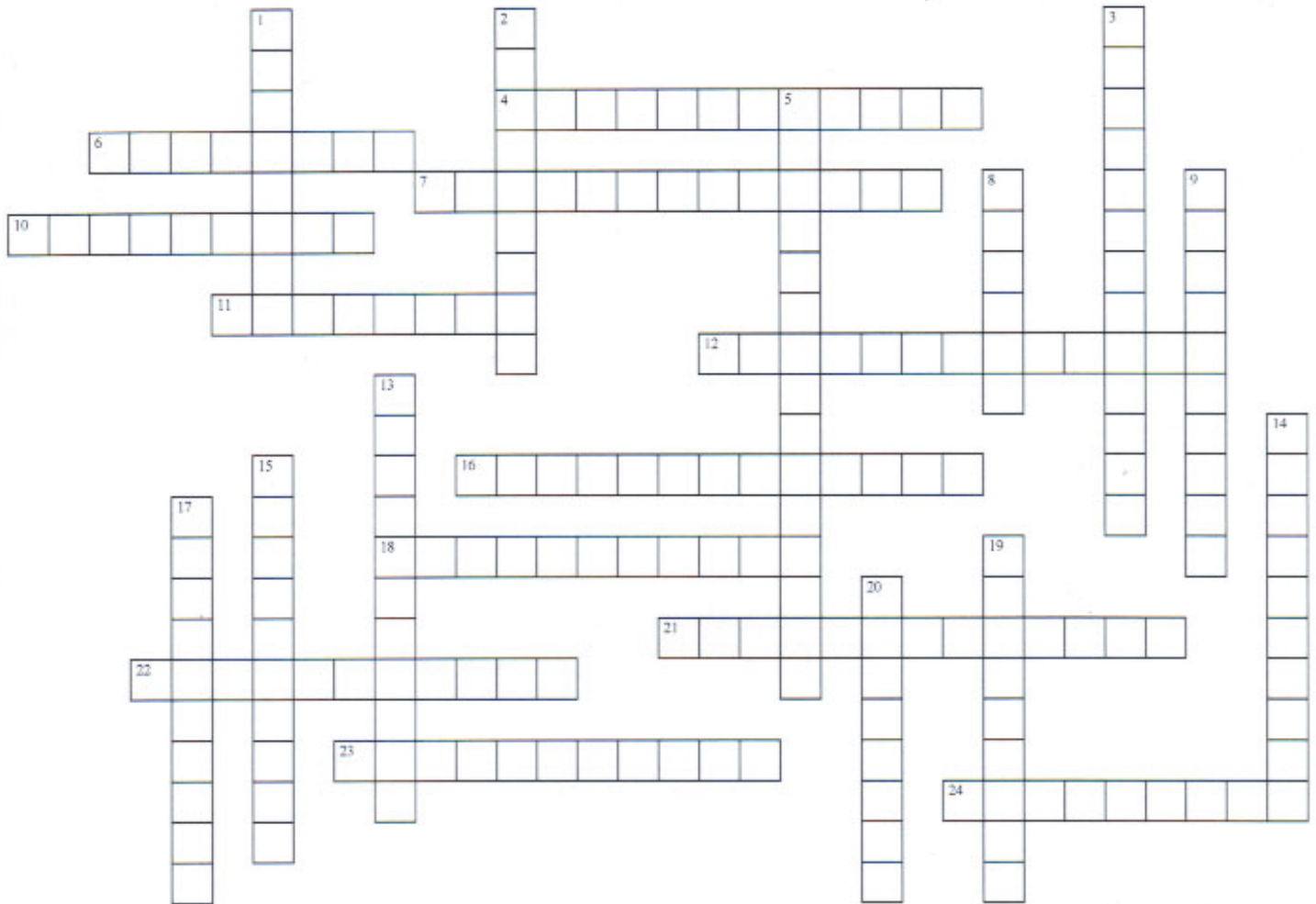
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PUZZLE

Good People to Know in Government Offices



ACROSS

- 4 V.P. of Local 357 Firefighters Union
- 6 Head of the Mount Vernon Parks Dept.
- 7 Newburgh Town Manager
- 10 Supt. of the Mount Vernon Water Dept.
- 11 Assistant City Clerk
- 12 Human Relations Commission
- 16 Director of Evansville METS
- 18 Vanderburgh County Surveyor
- 21 In charge of Voter Registration
- 22 Second in Command in the Vanderburgh County Auditor's Office
- 23 Chief Deputy of Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office
- 24 Glue that keeps Vanderburgh County Council members organized

DOWN

- 1 Director of the Levee Authority
- 2 Vanderburgh County Clerk
- 3 Chief Deputy Treasurer of Vanderburgh County
- 5 Director of Weights & Measures
- 8 Vanderburgh County Recorder
- 9 Chief Deputy Clerk-Treasure in Mount Vernon
- 13 Evansville EPA
- 14 Asst. Director of the Evansville Parks Dept.
- 15 Asst. Evansville Police Chief
- 17 Airport Authority Director
- 19 Asst. Director of the Evansville Public Works Dept.
- 20 In charge of Evansville's Historic Preservation Commission

— THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER

COMMUNITY

HOLA to host annual Women's Health Fair November 14 at Nativity Church

EVANSVILLE, IN-Hospitality and Outreach for Latin Americans (HOLA) will hold our third annual Health Fair for Women on Saturday, November 14 from 10-3pm. It will be held at Nativity Church, 3635 Pollack Avenue, from 10-3. Services include free pap smears, breast exams, AIDS testing, blood pressure, cholesterol, pulse and respiratory testing as well as appointments for free mammograms. There will also be a pediatrician available to consult with families, activities for children from the Boys and Girls Club and free haircuts from Impulse Salon. The Police Department and Sheriff's Office will bring cars, dogs and other interactive experiences, as well as provide kids IDs and fingerprinting. Food will be available for \$3 a plate. To set up your appointment for pap smears or pediatric consultations, call Pilar Tirado at (812) 476-7704. Other partners include the USI and UE nursing departments, the Juan Diego Center, Vanderburgh County Department of Health, Matthew 25, the Arthritis Foundation and many more!

According to the US Department of Health and Human Services:

"Hispanic/Latina women have the highest rates of new cases of cervical cancer and the second highest death rate from cervical cancer (behind African American women). In fact, Hispanic/Latina women are about one and a half times as likely as white women to die from cervical cancer. One reason for this is that Hispanic/Latina women have low rates of Pap testing. It is thought that as many as 80 percent of these deaths could be prevented by regular Pap screening and patient follow-up." (<http://www.womenshealth.gov/minority/hispanicamerican/cc.cfm>)

Other health concerns for this demographic include heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes. These problems are exacerbated by the fact that one out of every three Latinas is uninsured, and therefore unlikely to receive consistent preventative care.

With a fast growing Latino population in the greater Evansville area, HOLA is working to enhance appreciation of cultural diversity and promote the successful inclusion of Latinos in the community. HOLA is helping ensure the success of Latinos in the areas of education, health, safety, workforce, economic strength and leadership.

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with Feature
November 22

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Tomes Announces Senate Candidacy

My name is Jim Tomes and I am a Republican candidate for Indiana State Senate in District 49.

My wife, Margie and I were born and raised in this area. We have been married for 39 years. We have resided near Blairsville for 30 years. We have three grown children; our oldest daughter, Cherie, also lives in Posey County with her husband Scott and their three children. Our second oldest daughter, Lori, lives in Evansville and is an Indiana State trooper and our son, Nick, is a 2nd Lieutenant in the National Guard and also lives in Evansville.

We are parishioners of St. Wendel Catholic Church. I graduated from Mater Dei High school. I served in the Army for 3 years and am a Vietnam Veteran. I am currently the Commander of the Wadesville VFW Post 6576.

I am one of the founders of the 2nd Amendment Patriots gun rights grassroots organization and have been the Director since its conception in January of 1999. This group is dedicated to protecting one of our most precious Rights, the Second Amendment, guaranteed in the Bill Of Rights. We were the recipient of the NRA's Grassroots Organization of the Year 2000 Award. Under my leadership this group was instrumental in establishing the first and only Lifetime Handgun license in the country.

Governor Daniels honored me with the Distinguished Hoosier Award in July of 2006 and I received a Certificate of Appreciation from Indiana State Senator Johnny Nugent in 2005 for the efforts of the 2nd Amendment Patriots under my leadership.

I am retired from the trucking industry after 33 years. As a Teamster and Union steward during most of that time I have a crystal clear understanding of the needs of both management and labor. I know the struggles of the working class and those of small business owners.

Margie is a board member of the Posey Right to Life and we both fully support Right to Life. Also she was a teacher's assistant for 8 ½ years.

I ran as a Republican candidate for State Representative in District 76 in 2004 and then just as now I am compelled to dedicate my service again to my country and my state of Indiana and all its citizens to establish Indiana as a sovereign state and a leader in the principles of freedom, liberty and prosperity.

In my many trips to the state house to speak in House and Senate hearings I see the need for a solid conservative individual able to boldly present southern Indiana's expectations and do it in the manner of a statesman instead of a politician. These times require a public servant who can engage all issues that stand before us and those yet to come with the determination and common sense to prevail.

I clearly understand the concept that the Founding Fathers branded into our Constitution were those elected to office answer directly to those who elect them. If elected to the Indiana senate



Jim Tomes

my allegiance will be to the citizens by virtue of our Constitution and not to a political party or its leadership. I also fully understand the burdens that come to bear with that philosophy.

Liberty and freedom have been traded away over the decades for intrusive laws, government control of our personal lives and abuses by an endless list of agencies that have been instituted often without the approval of the American citizen.

Laws that have been enacted to restrict our freedom of speech, to express our Christian beliefs, and exercise our right to bear arms are intolerable. As a state senator I would be but one vote, but many voices for there are people too numerous to count that share my beliefs in the desire to bring our nation back to a virtuous nation.

I will take every step possible to end abortion in Indiana, reverse the insidious drain to tax payers and small business that fund unaffordable projects that too often only benefit a select few. I would hope to influence a change in our public schools that would incorporate a sense of dignity, courtesy, pride, personal responsibility, consideration and moral character that I think would help nurture a better learning environment that would enhance a student's ability to become a productive and reliable citizen.

I am neither timid nor embarrassed to profess that which I believe no more so than those who would support me.

I ask for your support to allow me to represent Posey, Vanderburgh, Gibson counties. Thank you.

~Jim Tomes

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EDUCATION

EVSC Foundation Announces Hall of Fame; Vectren Gives \$50,000 in Support of Project and Strategic Plan Initiatives

Honoring alumni of the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation and letting the public know about the work and character of these distinguished individuals is what the EVSC Foundation's newest endeavor – the creation of the EVSC Foundation Hall of Fame -- will do in the very near future. The Vectren Foundation has donated \$50,000 for the Hall of Fame and for other priority initiatives affecting student achievement laid out in the school corporation's Strategic Plan.

EVSC Foundation will use the Vectren gift to begin work on the Hall of Fame and to form partnerships with corporations and private donors to fund innovative projects such as naming opportunities, alumni relations, the Strategic Plan Fundraising Campaign, EVSC Foundation Scholarship, Endowed Giving and the Planned Giving Program, all of which will raise funding for the EVSC Strategic Plan initiatives, academic programs, athletics and more.

"The direct correlation between the quality of a child's education and his or her future achievement and contribution to society is compelling. Providing the initial seed money for the EVSC Foundation's efforts to further enhance the quality of education is a sound community investment," said Niel C. Ellerbrook, Vectren's chairman and chief executive officer.

"The generosity and support, both in funding and the time and sharing of talents and other resources from the Vectren Corporation exemplify why it is such a great community partner," said EVSC Su-

perintendent Vince Bertram.

"This program of recognition is intended to inspire EVSC students to seek excellence in their own education and careers, and is also intended to emphasize the importance of philanthropy and the stewardship of community resources," said Gayle Long, EVSC director of development.

The EVSC Hall of Fame will honor graduates of the EVSC who have outstanding achievements in their life's work, as well as others who have made an impact on public education in Vanderburgh County.

The Hall of Fame will be accepting nominations late this year. For more information regarding nomination, please check the EVSC Foundation website, www.evscfoundation.org or contact Gayle Long at 812-435-0913.

The Hall of Fame Selection Committee is comprised of Bix Branson, Jim Byers, Ed Cole, Susan Enlow, Joan Finch, George Flowers, Carl Heldt, James McCarty, Sr., Pat Shoulders, and Jon Siau.

Recipients will be honored at a special event in the spring.

The City-County

Observer Mission Statement

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

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EDUCATION

English Language Learners in EVSC Surpass State Targets and Performance

Students in the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation who have Limited English Proficiency (LEP) have tested above state targets and state performance levels in all categories. This is an annual accountability measurement for Title III and Limited English Proficient Program Services.

There are 421 students in the EVSC who were reported to the state as English language learners. Of those, 315 are limited English proficient and 106 have attained Level 5 fluency (fluent English proficient). There are currently 30 different native languages represented by students in the EVSC from 26 different countries. Languages with the largest number of students are: Spanish, Russian, Chinese (Mandarin), Japanese, Vietnamese, Ukrainian, Chinese (Cantonese), Marshallese, Gujarati, Punjabi, and Nepali.

“The success of the ESL program is a collaborative effort among EVSC administrators, ESL teachers and mainstream teachers in helping each learner progress in both English language proficiency and in meeting rigorous academic content standards,” said Sandra Madriaga, director of English Language

Learners and High Ability Programs. The EVSC serves English language learners in a variety of ways including through the International Newcomers Academy Program at Washington Middle School and at Bosse High School. Students who have not yet reached level 5 may attend these programs at their respective grade level for a portion of the school day. The instructional programs at the International Newcomers Academies focus on academic vocabulary development, basic language skills, and literacy development through content focused instruction. For example, students study science and social studies content to develop academic skills on par with English speaking peers.

The remainder of the day is spent in regular education classes in middle or high school. At the elementary level, English as a Second Language itinerant teachers serve students in the elementary schools through either a pull-out or a push-in program, whichever meets the needs of the student best. A K-5 district-wide English Language Development Program is also offered each summer.



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COLLEGE EDUCATION

USI Trustees' agenda includes new degree program and new construction plans

The University of Southern Indiana Board of Trustees met on Thursday, November 5 and approved a new degree program, the candidates for degrees for the 2009 fall Commencement, and authorized the finance/audit committee to approve design plans, cost estimates, and construction schedules for a teaching theatre on campus.

Sport management degree approved

The trustees approved a Bachelor of Science degree in sport management. The degree will help meet regional and state needs to fill employee positions in an industry that is the fourth largest in growth in the United States. The program will have four distinct student constituents. The degree is designed for college freshmen who seek to study the sport management field in pursuit of a career for practitioners such as coaches and health/fitness managers to advance their skills, knowledge, and careers through professional development current USI kinesiology majors seeking to expand their specialization with coursework in sports management and for students earning a minor in sport management and/or coaching

wanting to expand their knowledge. The program will be offered through the Bower Suhrheinrich College of Education and Human Services. The degree will prepare students for entry-level positions for recreation centers and theme parks, fitness clubs, collegiate and professional sport organizations and leagues, sport marketing agencies, recreational sports, and more. With state agency approvals, the degree could be offered in fall 2010.

Fall 2009 Commencement

Over 550 students who will complete degree requirements in the fall semester were approved for the December Commencement, scheduled for Saturday, December 10 in the Physical Activities Center on campus. Two ceremonies will be held that day. At 10 a.m., students in College of Business, College of Nursing and Health Professions, and Pott College of Science and Engineering will graduate and at 1 p.m. the students in the College of Liberal Arts, the Bower Suhrheinrich College of Education and Human Services, and Extended Services will march. Dr. Kevin Valadares, director of the Health Services program and the 2009

Integra Bank Distinguished Professor, will deliver the Commencement address at both ceremonies.

Design beginning on new theatre

With construction funding for a teaching theatre authorized by the 2009 Indiana General Assembly, the trustees directed the finance/audit committee to approve design plans, cost estimates, and construction schedules for the new theater. Holzman Moss Architecture of New York City, which has an international reputation for the design of theater and performing arts facilities, partnered with the Evansville firm of Hafer Associates for related engineering, will provide design services for the theatre, which will be attached to the University Center expansion currently under construction. The expansion of the University Center was designed by the same architectural team. The theater will seat 350, and has a project budget of \$16,500,000. Funding for the theatre will come from state funding, private donations, and University resources. Planners and designers are meeting with USI theatre faculty and others to discuss needs and expectations for the new facility. A construction start is possible in the coming academic year. The on-campus theater replaces a deteriorated facility long operated by the University off-campus on Iglehart Avenue.

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USI Volleyball begins quest for GLVC title

EVANSVILLE, Ind.—The University of Southern Indiana volleyball team begins its quest for a conference title when it opens the Great Lakes Valley Conference Friday at noon in Romeoville, Illinois, against the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

USI enters this weekend's tournament, which is hosted by top-seeded Lewis University as the sixth seed, while the Tritons enter as the third seed. All matches will be aired live via the web at B2 Networks.

The Screaming Eagles (17-13, 9-5 GLVC) enter the league's post-season tournament on a roll, having won its last five matches. Included in the five-match winning streak was a four-set victory over Missouri-St. Louis.

Junior outside hitter Brittani Oliver had 14 kills and a .407 attacking percentage in USI's win over Missouri-St. Louis. Sophomore middle blocker Danielle LaGrange added 11 kills and a .556 attacking clip as the Eagles rallied from a one-set deficit.

For the season, LaGrange is second on the team with 2.68 kills and 0.80 blocks per set. She leads the Eagles with a .302 attacking percentage, including a blistering .363 attacking clip against GLVC

competition.

Oliver leads USI with 2.96 kills per game, while senior setter Melanie Pund is averaging a team-best 9.06 assists per frame. Senior middle blocker Ashley Henricks, USI's all-time leader in block assists, is averaging a team-high 0.93 blocks per set, while sophomore libero Krista Coccaro is averaging a team-high 3.21 digs per game.

UMSL (21-10, 11-3 GLVC) enters this weekend's tournament having won three straight matches and five of its last six. Sophomore middle hitter Weslie Gaff leads is third on the team with 2.43 kills per set and leads the Tritons in attacking percentage (.340) and blocks per game (1.09).

Other first round match-ups Friday include Drury University, the seventh seed, taking on the second-seeded University of Indianapolis (2:30 p.m.); the fifth seed, Rockhurst University, taking on fourth-seeded Northern Kentucky University (5 p.m.); and top-seeded Lewis taking on the eighth seed, Saint Joseph's College (7:30 p.m.).

The single-elimination tournament resumes Saturday with the semifinals at 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., while the GLVC Tournament Championship is Sunday at 2 p.m.

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Aces Win 11th; Missouri State Is Next

It had been 13 years since the University of Evansville soccer team won 11 matches or more. Now the Aces have their 11th of 2009, and they'll be looking for more Friday afternoon when they play Missouri State in the semifinals of the State Farm Missouri Valley Conference Tournament at Des Moines, Iowa.

First half goals by Tom Irvin and Robby Lynch were enough to give Evansville a 2-1 victory over Bradley on Saturday at UE's Black Beauty Field in the final match of the regular season for both teams. UE finished 5-4-1 in the league, and will go into Friday's tournament semifinals with an 11-7-1 overall record. That's the biggest win total since the 1996 squad went to the NCAA Tournament and finished with an 18-5 record. Evansville finished in a tie with Creighton for third place in the league. The Aces go into the tournament as the #4 seed, and will play league champion Missouri State Friday at 3:30. #2 Drake and #3 Creighton fol-



Robby Lynch scored the game-winner on a header to give UE a 2-1 win over Bradley. Now it's on to the MVC Tournament against Missouri State.

low at 6:00, and the winners meet Sunday at 1:00 for the MVC championship and an automatic berth in the NCAA Tournament.

Irvin put the Aces on the board first on Saturday at 23:23 when he slipped around a defender, got a good look at the goal, and rifled a shot past Bradley goalkeeper Kyle Orne from 22 yards out. Lynch made it a 2-0 match just seven seconds before the end of the half when his header found the back of the net, following a corner kick. Irvin, Lynch, Tad Kreamalmeyer and Mike Luttrull each have five goals this season to lead Evansville.

Bradley got back into the game in the final seven minutes when MVC scoring leader Chris Cutshaw connected for his 10th goal of the year over Evansville keeper Phil Boerger from the 18, but the Aces' defense held off the Braves to preserve the 11th victory. The Aces finished with 20 shots, and eight on goal. Bradley had 14 shots, with two on goal.



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SPORTS

IHSAA AND INDIANAPOLIS COLTS CHALLENGE INDIANA HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAMS TO TACKLE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

The Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) and the Indianapolis Colts have teamed up to implement a state-wide program that encourages Indiana high school football teams to create and execute community service projects during their off-season. The IHSAA Blue Horseshoe Award program invites participating teams to then submit their completed projects for a panel of judges to evaluate, with the winning team being honored at a 2010 Indianapolis Colts game.

“When the IHSAA approached the Colts about sponsoring the high school football tournament, we also wanted to encourage high school athletes to become more involved in their communities,” said IHSAA Commissioner Blake Ress. “Thus the IHSAA Blue Horseshoe Award program was born.”

After the 2009 high school football season has ended, high school football programs are urged to create programs that support their home town communities and put them into practice. Suggested projects include: assisting a food pantry in collecting, organizing and delivering food, or sponsoring a food drive; cleaning a local public park, road or common area; conducting a winter clothing drive; conducting a football or sports camp for under-privileged children; and designing and executing a program for elementary students where team members speak about the dangers of drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

Participating teams are asked to thoroughly document the activities in which they participate, including photographs and videos, as well as

written accounts and testimonials from those they have assisted. Entries will be judged by a Blue Ribbon Panel which will choose a winner.

All entry forms and corresponding materials must be received by April 30, 2010.

The Indiana high school football program that is chosen as the winner of the IHSAA Blue Horseshoe Award will be invited to a 2010 Indianapolis Colts game as guests of the team. The winning squad will be treated to an NFL game at Lucas Oil Stadium, and be honored at halftime in front of 63,000 fans. An announcement will be made concerning the first annual IHSAA Blue Horseshoe Award Winner on or before July 1, 2010.

“Together, the IHSAA and the Indianapolis Colts are encouraging Indiana’s high school football teams to take the lessons they have learned on the field and apply them to situations beyond the sidelines,” said Ress. “Which is exactly what the Blue Horseshoe program is all about.”

For more information regarding the IHSAA Blue Horseshoe Award program call Ira Maher at 317.633.1456.

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SPORTS

USI Women's golfers finish third at Midwest Shootout

WATERLOO, Ill.—The University of Southern Indiana women's golf team shot a closing round 307 Sunday to finish third out of 10 teams at the Midwest Shootout at the Annbriar Golf Course.

USI, which had to wait until Sunday morning to finish the first 18 holes after rain halted first-round play Saturday, was in fifth midway through the two-day tournament after recording a first-round 316.

The Screaming Eagles, however, posted the second-best score of the final 18 holes to move up two spots and finish a stroke behind Drury University, which was second with a 622.

The University of Indianapolis won the tournament, which featured 10 of the 13 GLVC schools that compete in women's golf, after recording rounds of 306 and 300.

Senior Kimberly Gottwald led the Eagles with a two-round total of 148 after shooting an even-par 72 in the final round. Gottwald finished two strokes off the winning pace, set by Bellarmine University's Sarah DuPlessis.

USI had five players finish in the top 25 of the 63-player field, with seniors Jessica Dooley and Angela Dehning finishing in a tie for 15th and 20th, respectively. Dooley posted scores of 79 and 77 to finish 12 strokes off the lead, while

Dehning finished with a two-day total of 159 after closing the tournament with a 79.

The Eagles conclude their fall schedule when they compete at the Triton Invitational October 5-6 in Madison, Illinois.



Kimberly Gottwald shot an even-par 72 Sunday at the Midwest Shootout.

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Testing to Begin for Census Workers

(EVANSVILLE, IN) – The U.S. Census is about to begin a targeted effort in Evansville to recruit workers to take the census next spring. Census takers (also known as enumerators) are hired to make sure our city is represented as accurately as possible. Their primary responsibility is to collect responses to the census from residents that have not returned their 2010 census form. Census takers also explain the purpose of the census.

Census takers will be placed in their own communities. These temporary jobs have flexible schedules and will not exceed 40 hours per week. Census takers will be paid for training and reimbursed for work-related travel.

Testing to become a census taker begins next week. To apply, call 1-866-861-2010 to schedule an appointment to take the census test. Applicants may not show up at a testing site without an appointment. For more information, including a practice test, go to the jobs@census link at www.census.gov.

All census takers must pass a security background check.

To qualify for a job with the census, applicants must:

- Be a U.S. Citizen
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Bank on Evansville Reaches a Milestone

Submitted by the City of Evansville

(EVANSVILLE, IN) — Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel announced today that Bank on Evansville has reached more than half of its goal in less than a year. When the program was kicked off in February 2009, we set a goal of opening 1,200 accounts in two years. Through the first three quarters of 2009, our 15 financial partners have opened a total of 625 accounts, more than 51% of our goal.

During the 3rd quarter of 2009, 347 Bank on Evansville accounts were opened in the County and 95 outside of the County. The average monthly balance was \$207. The highest number of accounts opened occurred in the 47714 zip code (54) followed by 47710 and 44713 (45 each). Each of our banks and financial institutions reported their results to the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis for tracking purposes.

“Bank on Evansville has already exceeded our expectations. The number of accounts opened proves that there are many people who have the desire to enter the mainstream banking system; they just needed access to checking accounts which recognize their unique needs and challenges,” said Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel. “We are also pleased Bank on Evansville’s success paved the way for Bank on Indiana, which will enable all Hoosiers to have the opportunity to build their financial equity.”

Evansville was the first Indiana community to implement the “Bank on Cities” model, and we have received attention from the National League of Cities, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) and the Federal Reserve Bank for the highly collaborative and innovative manner in which we are implementing the model. This spring, we were named a Faculty City for the National League of Cities and we are providing assistance to nine cities, including Indianapolis and Louisville. In addition, we have been asked for technical assistance by the Federal Reserve to help launch projects in Cincinnati, Owensboro and Memphis.

Bank on Evansville was developed as a response to the high cost of basic financial services for individuals and families who don’t have a checking or savings account. Based on the 2000 U.S. Census and area income data, it’s estimated that there are at least 6,000 households in Evansville that do not have a bank account. “Unbanked” individuals spend on average nationwide more than \$800 a year to cash paychecks or government checks and for check writing to pay their bills.

Bank on Evansville accounts are low cost/no cost, have no minimum balance and offer a second chance for people that have had previous trouble with banking; fraud is the exception. Our financial partners include:

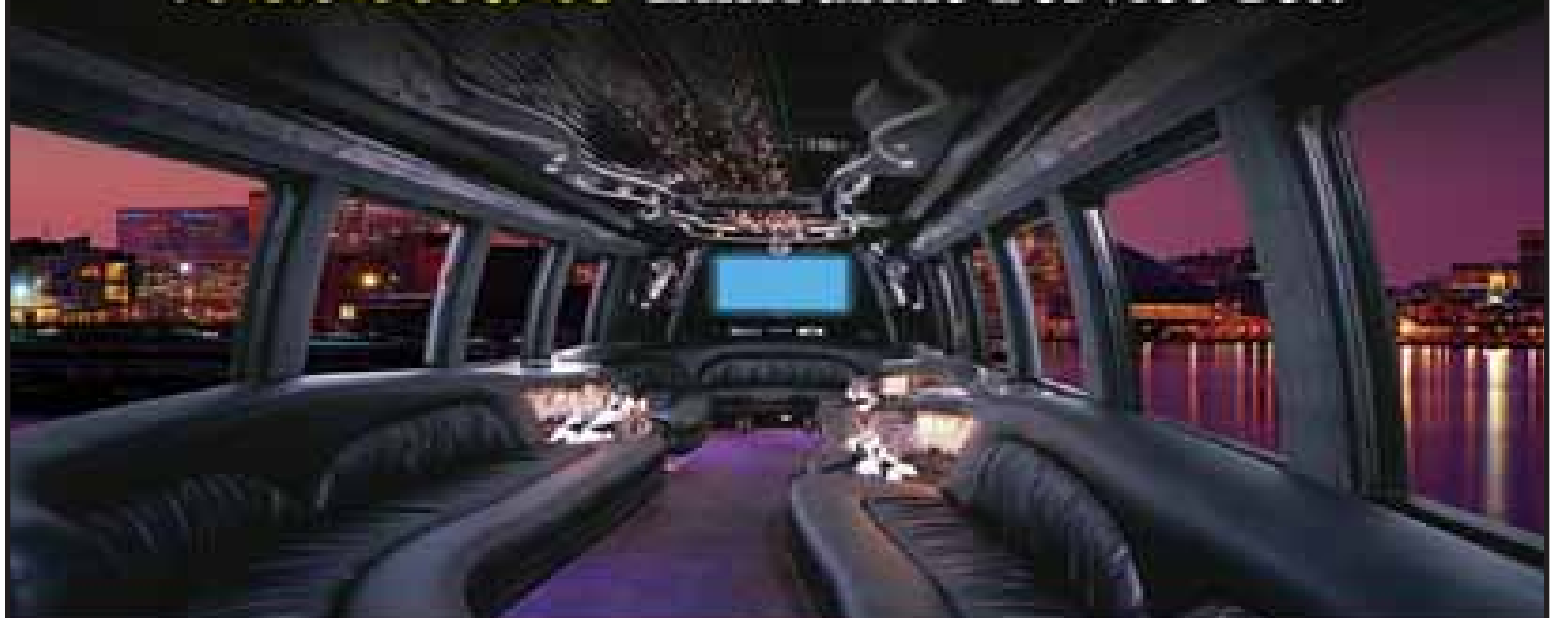
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The United Way of Southwestern Indiana is also a partner with 211 acting as the referral service for Bank on Evansville. The 211 specialists will ask callers a series of questions to help determine which bank or credit union and accounts are most appropriate for them.

Please visit our website, www.BankOnEvansville.org, for more information.

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THE AMAZING HOOSIERS

By Judge James Redwine

Casey Stengel managed the New York Mets baseball team made up of loveable losers. After suffering through countless errors, sloppy base running, innumerable missed signs and almost expected losses snatched from the jaws of victory, Stengel said:

"I've been in this game for almost a hundred years, but I keep seeing new ways to lose games I never knew existed before."

Stengel was involved in major league baseball as both a player and manager for several clubs. He and Yogi Berra are not only both known for their malapropisms and non sequiturs, but they both managed the Yankees and the Mets. I guess the gods were simply having fun with them.

To get to manage the most successful sports franchise in history their penance was to manage the club that represented the Charlie Brown of baseball. And, just as Charlie Brown always believed Lucy really would let him kick that football, Mets fans of those years kept hoping for redemption.

Because I have been an Indiana University football fan since 1964, I totally relate to the fans of those Amazing Mets. The only thing more amazing about the new ways we Hoosiers find to blow games is my naiveté in believing, this time, we will win.

The very first IU football game I saw, we managed to lose after it was over. Near the end of the game we scored to go ahead by less than a touchdown. Then, with about 20 seconds left, we had to kick off. Well, the IU players started celebrating the long awaited victory as time expired. Unfortunately, the other team kept running through our jubilant players until they scored.

This season I was reminded of this painful debacle when we had a comfortable lead over Michigan, a comfortable lead over Northwestern and a comfortable lead over Iowa. And just like Charlie Brown and the Amazing Mets, we managed to find new ways to fall down.

However, I have finally taken the lessons of half a century of IU football to heart. No more, respite and nepenthe, as Edgar Allan Poe wrote in The Ra-

ven, I am cured of the curse of false hope.

As I was expiating my demons, my friend and bailiff, John Emhuff, came in wearing his IU tie and red blazer. John is even older than I am and has bled Hoosier red for even longer.

John had just received a new solicitation from the IU Varsity Club for more money. In the fancy and costly brochure it was pointed out that our next opponent, Wisconsin, is having a down year and that our team is healthy. According to the Varsity Club, we have a really good chance this week.

John and I can't wait. "How much should we send in, John?"



— THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER —

LOCAL POLITICS - LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Bucshon responds to healthcare legislation

Dear Editor,

After spending the August recess listening to the American people voice their opposition to Nancy Pelosi's planned government takeover of our healthcare system, the Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives choose to ignore the will of their constituents. They passed a \$1.3 trillion dollar healthcare bill that creates 118 new federal bureaucracies, grows the size and cost of government, and will lead to a rationing of healthcare. This is not the bill that the people want.

The American people have made their voices heard to anyone willing to listen. They want lower healthcare premiums, increased access to healthcare, less red tape and government bureaucracy, more freedom and choice in their care, and above all, the highest quality care that only the U.S. healthcare system can provide. This bill that Congress passed provides none of these.

We are fortunate in that we have the greatest healthcare system in the world, but it is not perfect. As a doctor, I can assure you that our system needs reform. We need to increase the freedom that patients have to choose plans and physicians. We need to address medical liability reform which could save the system over \$54 billion dollars. We must allow medical decisions to be made between a patient and their doctor, not by a Healthcare Czar appointed by the executive branch of our federal government.

If this bill promoted by the democratic leadership was so good, why did they rush to vote? Why was there not extended debate? Why were congressmen voting on a 2032 page bill that they had hardly had time

to print out, let alone read and comprehend? Why wasn't this bill, unaltered, in its entirety, posted online for the American people to review? The passage of this bill will have great ramifications on our economy. Unemployment is at record levels. More than one in ten people are unemployed. This bill is projected to kill another 5.5 million jobs. Even

as our economy fights to return from our current recession, this bill raises taxes on individuals and small businesses to the tune of \$729 million dollars. It cuts Medicare by almost \$500 billion dollars, and it substantially grows the size of government. This congress has already passed a \$1.1 trillion dollar stimulus bill, a \$410 billion omnibus spending bill, and now a \$1.3 trillion healthcare bill.

I am running for Congress to promote freedom, lower taxes, and to renew the American dream for our children and grandchildren, not to saddle them with enormous debt. With his vote this weekend, Congressman Ellsworth has proven that he does not stand for lower taxes, he does not stand with small businesses, he wants to grow the size and cost of government, and he wants the taxpayers of the 8th Congressional District to foot the bill. Enough is enough. We cannot continue to lead this country further into debt just to appease the liberal leaders of congress. Congressman Ellsworth was instrumental in reaching a compromise to see that this bill received enough votes to pass. For that, the voters should hold him accountable.

*Larry Bucshon
Candidate for 8th District Congress*



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Office	848	1,040	Retail	848	1,040	Warehouse	3,000	1,250
Office	1,500	1,250	Retail	1,500	938	Warehouse	4,200	1,750
Office	3,000	2,500	Retail	3,000	1,876	Warehouse	5,700	2,375
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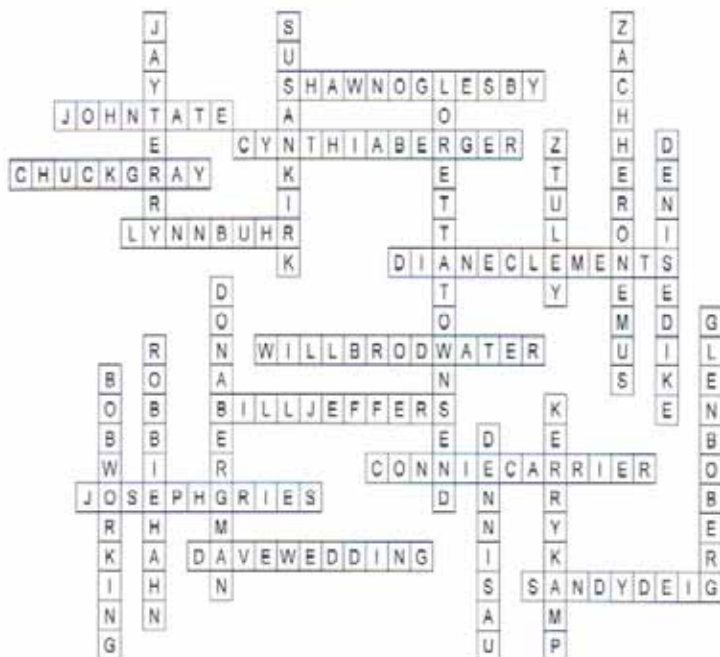
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— THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER —

PUZZLE ANSWERS

THE ANSWERS TO THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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