

# 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

NOVEMBER 18, 2009

VOLUME II, ISSUE 29

## Redevelopment Commission discusses bonds, GAGE loan

*By Jamie Grabert, Publisher*

The Evansville Redevelopment Commission met Wednesday afternoon with three of five members present to discuss the extension of GAGE's loan and bond issues for the parking garages.

As part of their regular agenda, the commissioners questioned items on the accounts payable voucher register. They asked Jane Reel, Asst. Director of Metropolitan Development, about a \$25,000 lease reimbursement payment to GAGE.

Reel said it was part of the five-year agreement, which is in its third year.

Board Member Phil Lieberman asked if this was part of the CTP (Certified Technology Park) TIF.

Reel said it was.

The board first called on Arena Project Director John Kish to talk about Resolution 09-ERC-84, which is a resolution "Authorizing Seeking Bids for the Structure, Building Envelope and Food Service Equipment for the Downtown Arena." Kish told the board he was ready with the design documents and that there were 12 bid packages in all associated with this resolution. The board then approved the resolution with President Bob Goldman, Board Member Lieberman and Board Member Sara Miller voting unanimously.

The Redevelopment Commissioners then heard from Reel, regarding Resolutions 09-ERC-79 and 09-ERC-80.

These resolutions were about the adoption of a bond resolution and the additional appropriation of bond proceeds for the parking garages.

A brief discussion was held about the reason for these resolutions and the required public hearing to follow. Reel began and asked Jerry Malone, with Umbaugh and Asso., to intervene if necessary. She said that the bond was for the parking garages. She then told commission members that this appropriation of \$2 million was part of an existing bond. She said there was money left on those bonds.

It was then stated, by Lieberman that the bond proceeds are legally (by state law) allowed to be used for infrastructure. The division of the proceeds will be divided. According to DMD employees Reel and Lana Abel, \$1.5 million will be used for projects in the neighborhoods of Goosetown I and II and \$500,000 will be used for the parking garages.

According to Reel, the city is working with Walker Restoration to rehab the parking garages. She said the plans are still being developed, and they are waiting on the final figures.

Lieberman and Goldman then asked questions about the interest rates on the bond issue. The actual rates were not discussed.

Goldman then asked about the impact of this on the tax-

*continued on page 2*

Check out the City-County Observer every day! We are now featuring daily updates on our website about issues important to our readers!

### STAY TUNED!!

The City-County Observer is holding a "MONSTER" announcement about the next mayoral race!

## Redevelopment Commission ... from page 1

payers. Malone said it would cost the city annual \$720,000-\$730,000 for the 3-year term of the bond, which works out to about \$6 per taxpayer per year.

Lieberman asked if another bond would be needed for the parking garages.

Reel said there is another bond coming due next year with funds available.

The Redevelopment Commission then moved to Resolution 09-ERC-81 – Extending GAGE loan re-payment term. GAGE (Growth Alliance for Greater Evansville) Board Members went before the commission to ask for an extension on a \$280,000 loan agreement from the Redevelopment dated July 17, 2009.

According to the “Terms of Note and Mortgage” of the agreement, the principal amount is \$280,000 and calls for no interest to be paid. This was an unsecured loan. The loan was officially due November 17, 2009, (yesterday). The agreement was signed by Thomas Barnett, as Executive Director of the Dept. of Metropolitan Development, who is also an

ex-officio member of the GAGE Board of Directors.

The resolution, which was unanimously approved, allowed GAGE a six-month extension on the loan. Board members stated that they were “trying to monetize assets” to repay the loan and that was the cause for the extension request.

“GAGE is a public-private, not-for-profit, 501C3 corporation. It is governed by a 21-member Board of Directors from business, government, and education—the founding entities of GAGE. Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel serves as the chairman of the board,” according to GAGE’s website.

Check back with us next week as we further review the contract between GAGE and the Redevelopment Commission.



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## Weekend Backpack – Food for Kids Program Featured in National Report on Combating Childhood Hunger

*Submitted by the City of Evansville*

(EVANSVILLE, IN)- Evansville's Weekend Backpack - Food for Kids Program is highlighted in a report being released today by The U.S. Conference of Mayors. The program is among 45 initiatives in 24 cities across the country that the report says is contributing to President Obama's goal of ending childhood hunger in the U.S. by 2015.

The EVSC and the Tri-State Food Bank have joined with community leaders to supply a weekend backpack containing six nutritious meals and two snacks to more than 600 children from low-income families. The Food Bank also provides weekend backpacks during the summer months to supplement the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Summer Food Service Program. The backpacks, distributed on Fridays by school social workers and several other agencies that run after-school programs, also include exercise and hygiene items, books, and nutrition education materials.

"58% of EVSC students are eligible for a free or reduced price school lunches. For many, the weekend backpack program may provide their only balanced meal of the day so it plays a critical role in making sure they receive proper nutrition. In addition, studies have shown that nutrition is important to the development of a child's brain and thus can impact learning capabilities," said Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel.

The mayors' report, published with the support of the Sodexo Foundation, is intended to provide local officials across the nation with examples of successful approaches to meeting the nutritional needs of low-income children of all ages in their schools, communities, and homes. It includes descriptions of mayors' efforts to organize anti-hunger efforts city-wide, examples of how cities are making national programs fit their unique local situations, and examples of how individual institutions such as schools and hospitals are creating innovative solutions to their cities' childhood hunger problems.

"Because childhood hunger results in poorer academic performance, increased absences and tardiness, learning from the successes outlined in this report can help spread initiatives that break the cycle of hunger and poverty," said Stephen J. Brady, president of the Sodexo Foundation. "We hope that this report inspires and encourages the increased efforts that are necessary during these continued difficult times when so many Americans are facing hunger."

"Ending childhood hunger in America by 2015 is an enormous challenge. We need reports of successful models if we are to inspire and motivate people to take action," said Tom Cochran, CEO and Executive Director of the Conference of Mayors. "In publishing reports like this one, our goal is to help mayors learn about the variety of programs they can employ and strategies they can pursue

to combat hunger in their cities."

Among the 23 other cities whose successful efforts to combat childhood hunger are described in the report are Boston, Chicago, Dallas, New Haven, Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Seattle.

The mayors' report, Childhood Anti-Hunger Programs in 24 Cities, is available at [www.usmayors.org](http://www.usmayors.org). Information on the Evansville program is available from Mary Blair, Executive Director, Tri-State Food Bank, (812) 425-0775 or [mblair@tristatefoodbank.org](mailto:mblair@tristatefoodbank.org).

*The U.S. Conference of Mayors ([www.usmayors.org](http://www.usmayors.org)) is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,139 such cities in the country today, each represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the Mayor.*

*Sodexo, Inc. ([www.sodexoUSA.com](http://www.sodexoUSA.com)) is a leading integrated facilities management services company in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico, with \$7.7 billion (USD) in annual revenue and 120,000 employees. Sodexo serves more than ten million customers daily in corporations, health care, long term care and retirement centers, schools, college campuses, government, and remote sites. Sodexo, Inc., headquartered in Gaithersburg, Md., is a member of Sodexo Group, and funds all administrative costs for the Sodexo Foundation ([www.SodexoFoundation.org](http://www.SodexoFoundation.org)), an independent charitable organization that, since its founding in 1999, has made more than \$11 million in grants to fight hunger in America. Visit the corporate blog at [www.sodexoUSA.com/blog](http://www.sodexoUSA.com/blog).*



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# RISING STARS

This week's "Rising Stars" have proven they are working to serve the people as office holders.

**Jim Raben**  
Vand.  
County  
Council

**Mary Hart**  
Pigeon  
Twp.  
Trustee

**Rick  
Davis**  
Vand.  
Treasurer

**Don  
Walker**  
City  
Council

**Alberta  
Matlock**  
E-ville  
City Clerk

**Dr. Paul  
Perry**  
Warrick  
Cty Council

**Bill  
Fluty**  
Vand. Cty.  
Assessor

**Tom  
Shetler, Jr.**  
Vand. Cty.  
Council

# Local Officials to Encourage Census Participation, shoot PSA's

*Submitted by the City of Evansville*

(EVANSVILLE, IN)- In order to spread the word about the importance of taking part in the 2010 Census, various local officials have been enlisted to videotape public service announcements to air on local TV stations and cable TV. They are being recorded in English and in Spanish.

Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel and EVSC Superintendent Dr. Vince Bertram have already taken part in the project. Congressman Brad Ellsworth has also agreed to tape Census PSA's. Evansville Police Chief Brad Hill recorded his PSA's on Monday, November 16th, at 11:00 a.m. at the Christa McAuliffe Center, at 401 East Columbia.

In addition to the PSA's for television, reminders about the Census are being prepared for radio as well.

The U.S. Constitution mandates a decennial census of population and housing and April 1, 2010 is Census Day. The U.S. Census Bureau relies on partners to reach out to various segments of the community and explain the importance of complet-

ing the Census. The City of Evansville will be working with the U.S. Census Bureau to ensure the 2010 Census is an accurate and complete count.

The Census is important because it determines how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives as well as the boundaries of legislative districts. Census data is also used to help award more than \$300 billion in federal funds to states and communities.

The 2010 Census questionnaire is easier than the one that was used in 2000. It asks only name, relationship, gender, age and date of birth, race, and whether or not a person owns or rents his or her home. The information gathered by the Census is strictly confidential. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's answers with anyone, including welfare and immigration agencies. Also, every Census Bureau worker takes an oath for life to protect the confidentiality of Census responses.

For more information about the 2010 Census, please go to [www.evansvillegov.org](http://www.evansvillegov.org).

## The City-County Observer Mission Statement

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

## A Special Thanks

**City Councilman Dan McGinn deserves a pat on the back for his efforts in holding the right people accountable for their actions. Councilman McGinn is looking into making renters responsible for keeping the address in which they reside cleaned up.**

**He wants code enforcement officers to be able to issue citations to the tenants who create the mess, instead of citing the property owner. We wish Councilman McGinn well in this endeavor and are proud that he is stepping up to help fight urban blight in this community.**



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# Health Care Reform for Dummies

*By Michelle Peterlin, Columnist*

Every year, we journey down South for my husband's family reunion. The participants range in age from 8 to 77 years. We are blessed to have six trial attorneys and two doctors in the family. Occasionally, the debates have been tinged with more hot sauce than the crawdaddies.

As a nation, we have all been subjected to months of debate over how to reform healthcare. Everyone seems to be in agreement that something needs to happen.

I am not an expert in healthcare. I have this in common with Congress. Also, I am something that most Senators and Representatives are not; I am a small business owner.

It seems lately that patients and doctors are in hand to hand combat with each other. It is a schizophrenic relationship.

Here's what it looks like: Doctors are trying to stay in business, help people who need them and do it using the skills they paid for so dearly, effectively. From a doctor's point of view, every patient who comes through the door has the potential of turning into an enemy combatant. They are trained that every patient has the potential to sue them, ruin their practice, destroy their careers, cost them hundreds of thousands of dollars and put their staff on the street. If that is not bad enough, they get to fight insurance companies to be compensated and pay ridiculously high premiums to cover injury/legal disasters that may never happen. Every conversation, medication and test has to be documented in minute detail not just for the patient's treatment benefit but to justify their actions to some unseen boogey man of a lawyer. Not only do they have to know their jobs with perfect accuracy, but they must also possess unrealistic knowledge of law and insurance regulation. No wonder we have a shortage of doctors. Mix the above with standard physician working hours, 24 on-call schedules, and daily subjections to human misery; it is understandable why there are not as many takers for the job.

How many of you have enjoyed being a patient recently? I can't imagine many hands. So far this year, I have had numerous dreadful experiences with the healthcare system. I had to write insurance companies to beg for coverage on simple procedures, had an employee's premium quadruple because of his age, reported fraudulent billing, and, more than once, have been subjected to outrageously rude treatment. I was verbally attacked by a poorly-trained secretary after I asked, politely, when the two-hour-with-no-end-in-sight waiting period would end as I had three hungry kids in tow who were now fully engaged in running amuck. I was informed the reason was because there were more important patients ahead of me. I had been to this doctor before. He is a highly-skilled specialist and cares deeply for patients. He has no idea what his staff is doing to his business. Then, there

was an incident of a half-crazed surgeon who clearly was in no condition to see patients who had a complete meltdown in our exam room. We had only met a few minutes before his attack. Like you, I could fill volumes with true horror stories. Are these bad people? No, they are reacting to being asked to do an impossible job.

The American Healthcare System failure is directly linked to three things: they are the legal system, insurance and the government. Here is some food for thought.

- We need immediate tort reform. Stop making it so easy to sue somebody. Have complaints go before a review board to see if they have enough merit to advance to the court system. Reform laws to make it difficult for people to file frivolous lawsuits. Yes, people who have been legitimately injured by sheer incompetence need to have the right to compensation protected, but we have to deny access to idiots who clog the court system. There is a cottage industry of people supplementing their income by suing with the intentions of getting some kind of settlement either in or out of court because it's too expensive to prove your innocence. Let's make the legal system fair.

- Reform health insurance. As any small business owner will tell you, the largest portion of their budget goes to insurance. Small businesses have no power to lock into a contract guaranteeing health insurance premiums for a specific rate and time. Insurance companies raise their premiums without notice or clear explanation at will. In my business, our premium has been raised a total of \$8,400 over a 12-month period. This is a kick in the teeth businesses do not need. Here's another suggestion, make insurance rating fair and decent. We can't allow insurance companies to sock it to insurers if they are a certain age, get sick during the policy period, etc. We would like the policies written in simple terms, please. Let's say no more than 10 pages of full coverage disclosure spelling it out with no legalized language, printed in size 12 font for easy reading. Lastly, do away with my number one peeve; stop papering us with outlandish legal disclosure forms. Again, reform the legal system so you don't have to write them in the first place. Life is risky. Accept it as is.

- Social security/Medicare wants every doctor to offer services to its participants. It also requires doctors who accept their public insurance patients to wait for months to be paid. How would you feel if you worked and did your job promptly, but your boss decided to hang on to your paycheck for 3 to 6 months? It is not a fair. In the end, it does little for the people who can't afford care on their own because their pool of providers is small.

This is what I want to be able to do for my family, employees and our business. I want to be able to pay a primary care doctor a flat rate for contractual basic health care. Here's how it might

OP-ED

## Health Care Reform...from page 6

work: I could pay the doctor some kind of set fee to be paid monthly, quarterly or annually. Services and fees would be negotiated. This would cover routine exams, blood tests, etc. and because most people don't go to the doctor weekly or even monthly, the money pools up, and it is used for the collective. I guarantee contractual payment, and, in exchange, I know what my basic medical expenses are and can budget accordingly. Everybody wins here. The doctor gets income they can count on without the reimbursement fight and the patient gets better control over their health, and they can go to whatever doctor they need to go. Yes, there would still be a need to carry major medical insurance, which is significantly cheaper than full group policies.

It is shameful that politicians are deciding how American citizens' health should be treated. Clearly, they know nothing about it and with the exception of a small few, are not trained physicians. As a country, we need to stop unqualified politicians from making decisions about how to run businesses and how to take care of our healthcare. They need us, and we need them to take our advice and act accordingly.

I think some of you may agree with me and there are thousands of weekly readers of this newspaper. If you want to make a difference, call or write your senator. Please tell them your own ideas. The contact information is below. Also, check out them out on the web, facebook and Youtube.

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101 NW Martin Luther King Boulevard  
Room 122  
Evansville, Indiana 47708  
(812) 465-6313 p  
(812) 421-1883 f

Senator Evan Bayh  
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EDITORIAL

# IS IT TRUE?

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

## CHANCES ARE EXCELLENT!

IS IT TRUE that well-known and highly-regarded Westsider Rick Riney will be a candidate for PERRY TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE? IS IT TRUE that the chances of Mr. Riney defeating the current PERRY TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE are excellent?

## PUBLIC BID?

Is it true we are wondering if high-dollar projects approved by the Water and Sewer Utility were put out to bid as required or were just awarded to companies?

## NOW IN THE CITY!

IS IT TRUE that Evansville Regional Airport is now located in the city limits, not in the county? IS IT TRUE we wonder what the motivation (of the Evansville Mayor, Airport Authority and Airport Authority legal counsel) was for doing this? IS IT TRUE this could be a push for yet another TIF District? IS IT TRUE this may have been done because the Mayor's proposed plan to buy the Whirlpool plant, tear it down and construct a multi-million dollar research park? IS IT TRUE even the City County Observer "MOLE" can't figure this move out?

## MEETING TIME AND DAYS MOVED

IS IT TRUE that the Evansville-Vanderburgh County Airport Authority District has 5 members? IS IT TRUE that two members are appointed by the county council and the other three members are appointed by the mayor? IS IT TRUE this board held its meetings on Mondays, until they recently changed them to Friday afternoons at 4 p.m.? IS IT TRUE the reason they

changed the meeting times is to make it more difficult for the public and the media to attend their meetings? IS IT TRUE the media and the taxpayers should attend these meetings to see where their money is going and to ensure that this board will not continue to lose hundreds of thousands of dollars like they did last year?



*The Mole*

## PRO-ARENA ADVOCATE

IS IT TRUE that the number one (1) pro-arena advocate and past City Councilman Steve Bagby is planning to announce that he is a candidate for Knight Township Trustee? IS IT TRUE that the Republicans are very happy to hear this because they will remind the East and South Eastside voters not only is stance on the unpopular downtown Arena but also about Mr. Bagby's excellent relationship with our highly-unpopular Mayor?

## BAR AND RESTURANTS UPDATES

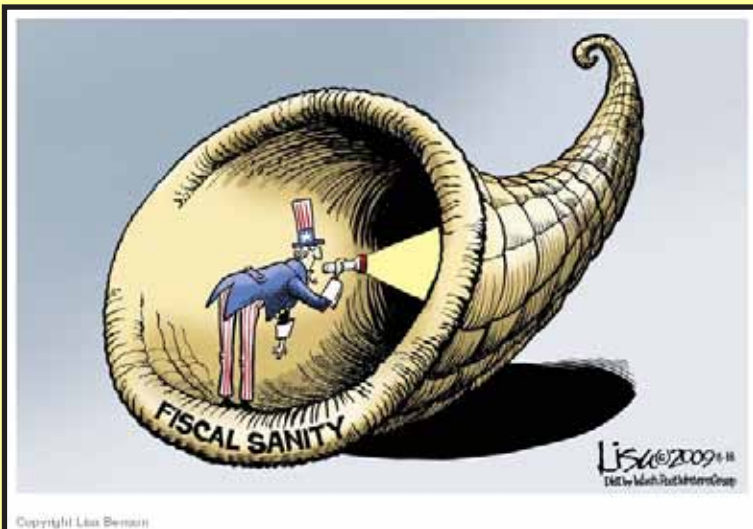
IS IT TRUE that Woody's Bar on Main Street is a total loss? IS IT TRUE that Woody's is going to move to a new location (with liquor license) at a soon-to-be announced location on the Westside? IS IT TRUE investors are working on plans to start up a new downtown restaurant across from the soon-to-be built ARENA? IS IT TRUE that the popular North side restaurant, BIG MOMMA'S is now closed? IS IT TRUE that Heavenly Ham is no longer opened for business? IS IT TRUE that Zuki's Restaurant is expanding on its existing space?

## OVER QUOTA!

IS IT TRUE that a well-known, national pharmacy chain is considering requesting that the local Alcoholic Beverage Commission approve its petition to sell beer and wine in their stores? IS IT TRUE we are pleased to announce that their request is dead on arrival because permits to sell beer and wine at grocery stores, convenience stores, and pharmacies are way over quota? IS IT TRUE that the City-County Observer continues its opposition to beer and wine to being sold at convenience stores and pharmacies?

## ENCROACHING

IS IT TRUE we are wondering what is the legal status of the Mesker Park Zoo lawsuit regarding the caving in of the road-





# — THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER —

## EDITORIAL

# MORE IS IT TRUE?

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

way going to and from the older part of the zoo to the new part? IS IT TRUE that we are concerned about the erosion that is now encroaching upon the Amazonia Building? IS IT TRUE we wonder why the Mayor hasn't had the city street and road crews working to stop the erosion?

### MEGA FIRE STATION

IS IT TRUE that there is \$1.2 million already budgeted for this year to purchase two new ladder fire trucks? IS IT TRUE that there has been some serious discussion by the powers that be for the tentative plans to build a new mega-fire station around the intersection of Covert and Green River Road? IS IT TRUE that the only way they can achieve this move is to close fire station 16?

### LOOSELY USED TERMS

IS IT TRUE that the Fire Chief Jarboe, an ex-president of the City-Council loosely used the terms "pro-active" and "transparency" when he was on the council? IS IT TRUE we think Fire Chief Jarboe's time and energy would best be spent going around and personally driving and inspecting all firefighting vehicles to see if they are up to snuff to fight two, three and four alarm fires? IS IT TRUE that we sincerely believe fire Chief Jarboe would be amazed at the unreported and undocumented problems that some of these firefighting vehicles have? IS IT TRUE that is called being pro-active? IS IT TRUE if he then calls a news conference and announces his findings to the people that's called transparency?

### THANKS, MR. CHAIRMAN

IS IT TRUE we appreciate of the efforts of Redevelopment Commission President Bob Goldman for keeping the City-County Observer and the residents of Evansville informed about the happenings of this Board?

### MINORITY CONSIDERATION

IS IT TRUE that the School Board has awarded a painting contract for the new North High School to a firm located in INDY? IS IT TRUE, if this is correct,

we wonder why two locally-owned minority businesses didn't have proper consideration in the bidding process?

### DEAD ON ARRIVAL

IS IT TRUE that a retired city of Evansville Department Head that was appointed by Mayor Weinzapfel is considering running for Center Township Trustee? IS IT TRUE if he does seek this office, his campaign is "DEAD ON ARRIVAL" because his opponent will be none other than-JIM "TIGER" RITTER?

### GLAD TO HEAR

IS IT TRUE we are glad to here that Mary Hart is going to run for re-election for Pigeon Township Trustee in the upcoming election cycle? IS IT TRUE we feel that Ms. Hart has done an outstanding in this elected office and should be re-elected? IS IT TRUE the answer is "YES"!

### BLAME THE CHAIRMAN

FINALLY, IS IT TRUE the reason why the City0County Observer has very little news about the current happenings of the local Democratic Party is because they don't send us any news? IS IT TRUE that loyal Democratic supporters should complain about not getting its fair share of news in the CCO to their party chairman?



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# Managing the cost of County government... brings in new jobs

A few years ago, when the economy seemed to be on a positive upswing, I heard a local economist sounding the alarm bells on our local economy. He cited statistics which indicated Vanderburgh County's population was aging at a faster rate than that of the State and national population. For a community that has experienced near stagnate growth for the past four decades this is alarming and must be addressed if we are to maintain our economic vitality.

Attracting new business to our area is not an easy feat. The competition among communities is fierce. Cities and counties must be innovative and imaginative to be in play.

Ultimately, business will make the decision based largely on cost. When they do their due diligence, many components are studied to justify the cost of a project, not the least of which is the tax burden placed on a company. Therefore, local government must manage the cost of delivering essential government services to the taxpayers in the most efficient manner possible. Lower property taxes benefit everyone; businesses, those on fixed incomes and young families.

The County Council has the fiduciary responsibility to manage the cost of county government, as good stewards we must keep the cost of government low. It is my opinion that we need to cut property taxes. Two years ago, in 2008, I laid out a plan to address this issue. The plan has clear objectives and has moved forward in a deliberate and methodical manner. Vanderburgh County is positioning itself well for the next economic boom.

The first objective was to stabilize the cost of county government. The process began in 2008 when the council asked the elected officeholders to forego any pay increases for FY 2009. This was embraced by all the elected office holders of both political parties and established the precedent for freezing pay levels for all county employees for FY 2010. The cooperation of the employees has been greatly appreciated; many are working longer hours for the same pay.

The second objective was to cut the cost of county government. The County Council adopted a hiring freeze to reduce our payroll cost. The projected savings is in excess of \$100,000 this year alone and will be even greater as time goes forward.

We recently implemented a second tier payroll schedule for "new" hires. The council conducted a study comparing what lo-



**Tom Shetler, Jr., Pres.**  
**Vanderburgh County Council**

cal business is paying for entry level salaries vs what the county is paying. We discovered that the county's starting pay package was very generous. On November 4th of this year we corrected that disparity. The county is now in line with what local private business is offering. The county will realize a savings of about \$50,000 the first year, a quarter of million the second year and a savings of over one million dollars per year by the seventh year of the initiative.

The next task was to reduce the county budget for the year 2010 from where it is today, in 2009. This was accomplished with bi-partisan support from all members of the council, all

the elected office holders, Democrats & Republicans alike, and the sacrifice of the many dedicated county employees, who are doing more for less. The result was a 2010 budget that is \$60,000 less than last year's. This will hold down property taxes & allow us to keep more of our hard earned income.

The third objective is to plan for the future. I have asked the County Commissioners to take a close look at the county benefit package. County government has many inequities in its present package. This needs to be addressed to insure fairness among employees as well as potential cost savings as an employer.

Finally, it is imperative that we eliminate many of the political & territorial divisions that exist within the civic center. In order for us to maximize our resources, of equipment and labor, it is essential for us to work within a framework that invites cooperation as opposed to competition. Rebecca Ratcliff, a former Democrat City Councilmember, who served in the 60's, once told me, "as political combatants we fight like heck during the election, but the day after, we fight like heck for our community". Vanderburgh County is fortunate, in that many of our elected officials, Democrats and Republicans, follow that motto. The interest of the taxpayer always comes first.

If we are successful at lowering the cost of government; I have no doubt that we will present a bottom line that will be attractive to prospective new businesses. Lowering county property taxes will bring in new jobs!

*Tom Shetler, Jr., President  
Vanderburgh County Council*

GUEST EDITORIAL

## Citizens Wake Up!

On November 16th & 17th, we will see further deterioration of the common citizen's right to freely enter our local government building. There will, however, be an elite class established who will not be affected by the new "security measures." They will be allowed free access ahead of, in front of, and unlike we common folks. This loss of freedom for most of us (not all of us!) has been steam-rolled by the "powers that be," based on unsubstantiated fear. There has been virtually no public hearing, and not one common lay person has been appointed to any security committee to date. Go figure that one. My public comment was swept aside with snickers, winks, and nods.

If such measures are necessary, it should be for all, not just some. As it stands, once the "security system" is in place, we ordinary folks will have been demoted, and the bureaucrats elevated, in a very blatant manner. Most of us will have become "potential terrorists," while those deemed elite will have a "get out of jail free card."

Civic Center bureaucrats cry that it would be quite a hassle for public servants, that it will cause their staffs to arrive late for work, and that public employees "can be trusted." But are these not the same inconveniences the rest of us face? If we have business at

lines in inclement weather. And so can they! Perhaps if they had to endure the inconvenience themselves, they would be less eager to implement the system at all. And was the phrase "going postal" not born out of a tragedy involving a "trusted servant?" Similar inside job as the recent horror at Fort Hood? The ruling elite's make a list of those deemed trustworthy, but we are not...for mere convenience sake? How many non-employees will be exempted.

Thankfully, a few elected officials (Dan Adams, Steve Melcher, Russ Lloyd, Jr., and Royce Sutton) have spoken out against this class-setting, freedom-robbing folly. Lloyd Winnecke is on the fence, hopefully he will avoid a hemorrhoid. All elected officials take notice – WE WILL BE WATCHING HOW YOU VOTE, WE WILL REMEMBER YOU AT THE VOTING BOOTH. Please note the poll taken on Tristate Home Page – 86.4% said NO - Treat everyone the same.

I, for one, do not go to the Civic Center for a sight seeing trip. I go to conduct business and try and stop the bureaucratic, partisan steam-roller. Make your voice heard! Attend the City Council meeting on November 16th, and the County Commission meeting on November 17th.

~Michael C Wilson, Evansville, Ind.

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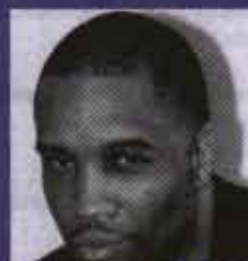
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**November 22**

**NO SHOW November 29**

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# Tomes Announces Senate Candidacy

His name is Jim Tomes and he is a Republican candidate for Indiana State Senate in District 49.

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

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

Jim is one of the founders of the 2nd is Amendment Patriots gun rights grassroots organization and has 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 Jim with the Distinguished Hoosier Award in July of 2006 and he received a Certificate of Appreciation from Indiana State Senator Johnny Nugent in 2005 for the efforts of the 2nd is Amendment Patriots under Jim's leadership.

Jim retired from the trucking industry after 33 years. As a Teamster and Union steward during most of that time, he has a crystal clear understanding of the needs of both management and labor. He knows the struggles of the working class and those of small business owners.

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

Jim 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, he saw 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."

Jim clearly understands the concept that the Founding Fathers branded into our Constitution were those elected to office answer



*Jim Tomes*

directly to those who elect them. If elected to the Indiana senate his allegiance will be to the citizens by virtue of our Constitution and not to a political party or its leadership. He also fully understands 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 is American citizen."

Laws that have been enacted to restrict our freedom of speech, to express Christian beliefs, and exercise our right to bear arms are intolerable. As a state senator, he would be but one vote, but many voices for there are people too numerous to count that share his 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."

He is neither timid nor embarrassed to profess that which he believes no more so than those who would support me.

He asks for your support to allow him to represent Posey, Vanderburgh, Gibson counties.

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EDUCATION

# Area students compete in “We the People” Constitutional event

Area middle and high school students will be tested on their knowledge of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights on Nov. 13, at this year’s district level hearing of “We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution” competition.

Students from three EVSC middle schools and four high schools and Vincennes Lincoln and Castle will competed at the Southern Indiana Career and Technical Center.

Students have studied for months to prepare for their roles as experts testifying on selected constitutional issues in a simulated congressional hearing. The winning high school team will go on to compete at the state finals in December in Indianapolis. The team winning at state will represent Indiana at the national finals in Washington, D.C. The winning middle school team will advance to the state competition in Indianapolis also in December.

Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education by an act of Congress. When combined with the noncompetitive elementary and middle school levels, more than 26.5 million students have participated in the program since the program’s inception in 1986.

Results for “We the People” Competition are below:

Middle School

1st – Thompkins

2nd- Oak Hill

3rd – Plaza Park

High School:

1st- Castle

2nd- North

3rd – Central

Castle and Thompkins will advance to the State We the People competition to be held in Indianapolis Dec. 13-14 for high school and Dec. 15 for middle school. It is possible that North and Oak Hill could receive “wild card” bids to compete at state as well. We will know Nov. 24.

Following is a complete list of schools who participated:

Middle Schools

Thompkins

Oak Hill

Plaza Park

High Schools

Central

Bosse

Reitz

Castle

Vincennes Lincoln

North

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EDUCATION

# McKeag Named Interim Dean of Schroeder Family School of Business Administration

The University of Evansville is proud to announce Christine McKeag as the interim dean of its Schroeder Family School of Business Administration.

McKeag, who currently is the assistant dean and an assistant professor of accounting, will assume the role of interim dean on January 1. She will temporarily replace Robert Clark, who is leaving the University of Evansville to become president of Husson University in Bangor, Maine.

A search is underway for Clark's permanent replacement.

"Mrs. McKeag has been a leader among the faculty for many years and serves on our academic leadership team," said Susan Kupisch, UE senior vice president and vice president for academic affairs. "As the Assistant Dean of the Schroeder Family School of Business Administration, she is quite knowledgeable about the programs, activities, and student needs in the school, and will provide a solid and smooth transition as we plan for the next school year.

"We are delighted that Chris will be serving as the Interim

Dean."

McKeag joined the University of Evansville faculty in 1977, and served as the Director of Assessment from 1997-2005. For the past three years, she has served as the Assistant Dean of the Schroeder Family School of Business Administration. She holds degrees from the Pennsylvania State University and the University of Pittsburgh, and is a Certified Public Accountant in Indiana.

She was the recipient of the United Methodist Church Exemplary Teacher Award in 2006, Indiana CPA Society Outstanding Teacher for 2007, and several Dean's Teaching Awards. Her research in the areas of accounting pedagogy and assessment has been published in the Journal of the Academy of Business Education and the International Journal of Education Research, among others.

McKeag also is on the board of the Warrick County Community Foundation, the finance committees of the United Methodist Youth Home and the Community Foundation Alliance, and the endowment committee of the Newburgh United Methodist Church.



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COLLEGE EDUCATION

## UE Again Ranks Among Top 10 in Study Abroad

The University of Evansville's Study Abroad program is once again among America's elite, according to the nation's leading source on the subject.

Information for the Institute of International Education's (IIE) annual Open Doors report was released today, ranking the top Study Abroad programs in the nation. Among Master's Degree-granting institutions, the University of Evansville ranks 9th in the nation in Study Abroad participation, with 58.3 percent of graduates having studied abroad during their time on campus.

In all, 330 members of the graduating class of 2008 studied abroad while at UE, with the majority of those spending at least a semester outside the country.

"Everyone at the University of Evansville is extremely proud of our sustained excellence in the area of Study Abroad, as evidenced by once again placing among the

top 10 in the IIE study," said UE President Stephen Jennings. "The experiences our students gain from traveling and studying abroad – whether it is at our British campus, Harlaxton College, or anywhere else in the world – give our students a cultural awareness and well-rounded education that can't be replicated in a traditional classroom.

"So we are very excited by this additional recognition, and by what it signifies to the University of Evansville and our students."

While the IIE report quantifies the tremendous Study Abroad opportunities UE offers its students, it does not recognize the opportunities UE offers students at other universities through its British campus, Harlaxton College.

Currently, UE has signed partnerships with 20 other colleges across America who send students to Harlaxton regularly.

"The University of Evansville truly does offer students – both at UE and at our partner institutions – the opportunity to get a truly global education, and our ranking in the IIE Open Doors report illustrates," said Earl Kirk, director of UE's Study Abroad program. "But, while the recognition is nice, the most important thing we learn from these distinctions is that our students truly are receiving the kind of life-transforming educational experiences that our Study Abroad program is designed to offer.

"These experiences are part of our mission to prepare students to engage the world as informed, ethical, and productive citizens."

While the IIE's annual publication, Open Doors – where the rankings eventually will be published – notes that study abroad is on the rise nationally, UE still remains well above the national average.

"At UE, we have many parents and students who say the chance to study abroad was a decisive factor in their choosing UE," Kirk said. "I think it teaches us to be more open-minded, and to listen to the viewpoints of others – we see things in different ways when we have the chance to study other cultures up close.

"That's why we have a very strong institutional commitment to study abroad – and for that, I'd like to express my thanks to the faculty and staff, who work very hard to support these programs."

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# Luttrull's Selection Puts Him Among Elite

University of Evansville soccer player Mike Luttrull (Indianapolis, Ind./Avon) joined one of the most elite groups in collegiate athletics today when he was chosen as an Academic All-American. The junior forward is a second team selection on the ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America® Men's Soccer Team. Luttrull is an accounting major with a 3.82 grade point average.

He becomes the 42nd University of Evansville athlete chosen for one of the official Academic All-America teams, dating back to 1972. Team members are selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). Luttrull is the fourth men's soccer player at UE to earn the Academic All-America distinction, joining Steve Church in 1991 and 1992, Pedro Delgado in 1998 and 1999, and Jason Pele in 2005 and 2006.

Luttrull helped lead the Purple Aces to their fourth consecutive winning season, and to the championship of the State Farm Missouri Valley Conference Tournament. Luttrull scored UE's goal in Sunday's 2-1 tournament championship loss to Drake, and was named UE's Player of the Game by Fox Sports. Luttrull scored six goals and added one assist for 13 points this season, ranking him fourth in the MVC

in goals and ninth in total points. He will go into his senior year with 20 career goals, the 18th most in school history. Luttrull was chosen earlier this month as a second team all-MVC forward. He was the Offensive Most Valuable Player at the ProRehab Aces Soccer Classic in September.



*Mike Luttrull celebrates one of his 20 collegiate goals.*

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SPORTS

# UE Women Fall Short To Samford At The Buzzer, 69-66

EVANSVILLE, Ind.—Samford guards Monica Maxwell and Emily London combined for 24 second-half points on Sunday to help power the visiting Bulldogs to a 69-66 victory over the University of Evansville women's basketball team at Roberts Stadium in Evansville.

The duo did most of their damage in a crucial 22-5 Samford run with under 10 minutes to go which turned a 17-point Evansville lead into a tie contest. Both players chipped in nine points during the run, Maxwell on three three-pointers and London on three lay-ups and three free throws, to turn a 56-39 UE lead into a 61-61 tie with 3:47 to play.

UE freshman forward Samantha Heck would quickly end the run with a lay-up with 2:59 to play to give the Purple Aces a 63-61 lead. Samford would battle back though to grab a 66-64 cushion on a pair of free throws by freshman Hannah Dawson and a three-pointer by junior forward Savannah Hill with 1:48 to play after a Stephanie Bamberger free throw for UE.

Heck would get Evansville back to even with a pair of free throws with 1:25 to play to tie the game at 66, before



*Sophomore Chelsea Falkenstein had a career-high 14 points and nine rebounds Sunday for UE.*

Maxwell would have her final say. Her free throw with 1:08 to play would give Samford a 67-66 lead, and after an offensive foul call against Evansville and a pair of empty possessions for both teams, her two free throws with nine seconds remaining gave the Bulldogs a 69-66 cushion. Evansville tried to send the game into overtime with a three-pointer at the end of regulation, but sophomore forward Chelsea Falkenstein's try from the right wing came up strong.

Falkenstein led four Purple Aces in double-figures with 14 points and a game-high nine rebounds, both career-highs. Heck joined her in double-figures with 13 points on 5-of-6 shooting from the floor, while fellow freshman Chelsea Hawkins and senior guard Amy Gallagher both pitched in 11 points each for UE.

Maxwell led all scorers with 17 points, while London and Hill added 16 points each for Samford.

With the victory, Samford improves to 2-0 on the year. Evansville, meanwhile,

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SPORTS

# Volleyball lands two on All-GLVC team

EVANSVILLE, Ind.—University of Southern Indiana volleyball senior setter Melanie Pund and junior outside hitter Brittani Oliver were selected third-team All-Great Lakes Valley Conference in a vote by the league's coaches.

Pund led the Screaming Eagles with 9.06 assists per set in 2009 and was second on the team with 2.65 digs per game. She also has averaged 0.64 blocks per frame.

This marks the first time in Pund's career that she has earned All-GLVC honors. She ranks fourth all-time at USI in career assists (2,444), ninth all-time at USI in block assists (203), and 10th all-time in digs (933).

Oliver, who is earning All-GLVC accolades for the second straight year after netting third-team honors a year ago, led the Eagles with 2.96 kills per game while attacking at a career-best .230 clip. Oliver racked up 10 or more kills in 15 matches, including a career-high 24 in USI's season-opening victory over the University of Minnesota-Crookston.

Like Pund, Oliver also is moving up the USI record books. She ranks 12th all-time with 894 kills, just 106 away from becoming the 10th player in school history to eclipse the 1,000-kill plateau.

No. 11 Lewis University, the top seed in the GLVC Tournament, had the GLVC Player of the Year (Stephanie Sagat) and GLVC Coach of the Year (Lorelee Smith), while No. 9 University of Indianapolis, the second seed in the GLVC Tournament, had the GLVC Freshman of the Year (Kristina Kerrigan).

USI (17-13, 9-5 G L V C )



*Melanie Pund (left) and Brittani Oliver (right) were named third-team All-GLVC Thursday evening.*

opens the GLVC Tournament Friday at noon (CST) when it takes on the University of Missouri-St. Louis in Romeoville, Illinois. The Eagles, who defeated Missouri-St. Louis in four sets two weeks ago, are the sixth seed in the GLVC Tournament, while the Tritons are the third seed.



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SPORTS

# USI hosting 2009 NCAA II Cross Country Championships for second time in five years

Many of the country's top intercollegiate athletes will be converging on Evansville, Indiana, on November 21 when the University of Southern Indiana hosts the 2009 NCAA Division II Cross Country National Championships. USI is hosting the national cross country event for the second time in five years.

The NCAA, which announced that USI would host the 2009 NCAA II National Championships in February, brings in 48 teams and more than 400 student-athletes and coaches each year. The University has hosted three NCAA national championship events since 2000 (men's basketball in 2002 and men's and women's cross country in 2004 and 2009).

"I think it's great for the department and the University," USI Director of Athletics Jon Mark Hall said. "We have a wonderful campus and wonderful people that work here. Events like this show the NCAA staff and other Division II member institutions what we are all about."

USI hosted the 2004 NCAA II Cross Country Championships and USI Head Coach Mike Hillyard is excited to have the chance to do it again. "We had a lot of positive feedback from other coaches and athletes when we hosted in 2004," said Hillyard. "I feel like 2004 was a tremendous success and would like to duplicate that effort."

"I think it is always good, anytime you can have a major event on your campus," Hillyard continued. "It certainly puts the University, the administration, and your student athletes in the spotlight. It's great for the community and it's great for our student-athletes to have that op-

portunity."

Hosting the NCAA II National Championships also can have a positive economic impact for the Evansville area, generating a possible \$796,000 of revenue. "I think the plus about hosting the championship is that it brings a tremendous amount of people to the Evansville community," Hall said. "Hotel rooms are being booked and meals will be ordered in Evansville restaurants."

Having hosted the event in 2004, Hall feels like USI will do an even better job this year. "Times have changed and the event has probably changed a bit," Hall said. "We have a great venue for it and I don't want to say it will be easier this time around, but I think anytime you have experience at something, you'll do a better job."

With strong, nationally ranked squads in 2009, USI is looking forward to the chance of having its men's and women's teams compete at the national meet. The men's team is ranked eighth nationally by the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association, while the women's team is ninth. Both squads won their respective Great Lakes Valley Conference championships in October.

The women's squad features Mary Ballinger, from Chesterton, Indiana, and a six-time All-American in cross country and track.

"It's a rare opportunity for your student-athletes to have a chance to run a national championship on their home course," Hillyard said. "We have a couple of good teams this year and are definitely excited about the possibility of that happening."

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## COMMUNITY

### Downtown Holiday Parade To Support Food Bank

Evansville, IN - The 21st Annual Holiday Parade takes place in Downtown Evansville at 3 p.m. on Sunday, November 22, with marching bands, floats, horses, motorcycles, vintage vehicles, football stars, clowns, a locomotive, ladies on roller skates – and jolly old St. Nick!

The festivities start at noon with Santa's Workshop in the park at Fourth and Main streets presented by Fifth Third Bank. Holiday music will fill the air, Downtown vendors will be selling tasty treats and children will enjoy crafts, a coloring contest and photos with Santa.

The parade, presented by the Growth Alliance for Greater Evansville (GAGE), will feature more than 70 units including the Reitz High School Marching Band; Boomer, the Indiana Pacers official mascot; gymnasts and dancers; and several Hadi Shrine units. Sixteen floats have entered, including one featuring a puppet show. The parade will be led by the Central High School ROTC.

Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel will light the official Christmas tree in the park at Fourth and Main streets.

The parade will move from the Civic Center parking lot along Sycamore Street to Third Street, then along Main Street to Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and back to Sycamore Street.

This year's parade supports the Tri-State Food Bank, and everyone is encouraged to bring a donation for this worthwhile cause. Donations of food and money will be collected by food bank representatives along the parade route, and a collection container for non-perishable food items will be located in the park at Fourth and Main streets.

A tradition in Downtown Evansville, the 2009 parade is sponsored by GAGE, the Evansville Courier & Press, The Women's Hospital, Rudolph, Fine, Porter & Johnson, WEVV 44, TRU Event Rental, Fifth Third Bank and Regent Communications.

Santa's Workshop and the Holiday Parade will be held weather permitting.

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## Saving Money and Protecting the Environment City Selects New Copier & Printer Vendor

*Submitted by The City of Evansville*

(EVANSVILLE, IN) – The Board of Public Works today gave its approval for the City to enter into contract negotiations with a local Xerox vendor to provide multifunction printing and copying devices at a savings of potentially up to \$1 million over the next five years.

“Today’s selection marks yet another step toward greater government efficiency and savings of taxpayer dollars. By selecting one vendor to provide multifunction devices to all City departments, we are drastically cutting down on the amount of equipment that needs to be purchased and serviced. We will also reduce the amount of paper and ink being used,” said Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel.

Seven vendors responded to the City’s RFP for multifunction devices. The number was then reduced to three: AlphaLaser, Xerox and Lang. The decision was based on several criteria including cost, quality of service, the ability to service the City’s needs, and green initiatives. Each of the three vendors held a demonstration of their equipment and then was scored by each City department

based on print quality, copying speed, capability and ease of use, and faxing/scanning to email.

Under the agreement, 358 machines will be replaced by 70 multifunction units which will centralize printing, copying, faxing, and scanning within the various City departments. This will reduce the cost of maintenance and repairs, and replace multiple monthly invoices with one fixed price for consistent budgeting.

The Xerox multifunction devices will also help with the City’s sustainability efforts. The devices are ENERGY STAR qualified and have a smaller carbon footprint. They use cartridge free solid ink which produces 90% less waste than comparable laser devices. Unlike toner cartridges, solid ink waste primarily involves a small amount of packaging which can be recycled locally and it is non-toxic. The Xerox devices will utilize as much as 50% less paper with automatic two-sided printing and copying. Software will automatically detect and remove unwanted pages prior to printing.



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# — THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER —

## LETTER FROM CONGRESSMAN ELLSWORTH

### A Response to citizen writer

***Publisher's Note: The information below was sent to Staff Writer Don Counts in response to a letter he submitted to Congressman Brad Ellsworth.***

Dear Don,

Thank you for expressing your views on the health care reform legislation recently approved by the House of Representatives. I appreciate your comments, and I welcome this opportunity to share my thoughts.

When I came to Congress, I pledged to work with my colleagues from both parties to change the status quo on major issues and start solving Americans' problems. For too long, Americans had demanded action from their representatives in Washington on the issues they face every day, and for too long Congress had avoided making the hard choices necessary to address those issues. That's why our country is still dependent on foreign oil 30 years after our first energy crisis. That's also why our national debt has ballooned even in times of widespread economic growth. As you know, reforming our health care system has been at the top of that list for Congress for almost a century. Presidents Teddy Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Richard Nixon, and Bill Clinton all proposed various plans to make health care affordable and accessible for every American. But, time and again, through Democratic and Republican-led Congresses, special interests with a stake in the status quo stopped these efforts.

Meanwhile, the problem has only gotten worse for American families. Skyrocketing costs have forced many small businesses to either shift the growing cost of their insurance programs to their employees or eliminate their health plans altogether. The result: the majority of workers haven't seen any increase in their buying power in the last decade, since any additional compensation is quickly absorbed by their increasing health insurance premiums. At the same time, millions of Americans can't even hope to afford health insurance, meaning a catastrophic illness would quickly turn into catastrophic debt. These Americans are unemployed, self-employed, or work at small businesses. Under the current system, they occasionally go to the Emergency Room?"when they can't wait any longer for care?"but those of us with insurance end up paying for most of the bill. That's one reason why the average American family will pay \$3,000 more for health care next year than they paid this year. That type of high inflation will drive up annual insurance premiums for a Hoosier family from an average of \$13,235 today to over \$22,500 in 2019 unless we change the status quo.

This is a serious problem for families in the 8th District, but it's also a growing problem for the federal government. In fact, unless current policies are changed, federal government spending on Medicare and Medicaid will double over the next 25 years. The growth of these two programs?"caused by the same out-of-control health sector inflation causing premium hikes for individuals and businesses?"has been identified as the central long-term challenge for our nation's budget.

Even before being elected to Congress in 2006, I had already met with hundreds of patients and providers to listen to their thoughts on reforming the health care system. As the health care reform debate began in earnest this year, I urged every stakeholder to take their seat at the table because Congress needed to hear every perspective on

this issue. Since the release of the draft House health reform bill in early June, I have received over 25,000 letters, emails, and calls from constituents. At the same time, I met face to face with hundreds of constituents?"some while I was traveling around the district, some in my local offices, and some in my Washington office. Throughout that process, I heard the thoughts and concerns of patients, doctors, nurses, hospitals, nursing homes, insurance agents, and business owners?"each expressing their unique perspective on reform. Every constituent had different needs, and every constituent had a different take on how to solve the problems facing our country. That's why this was such a difficult decision for me; one that I struggled with for months.

In the end, I supported the Affordable Health Care for America Act, H.R. 3962, because I believe it starts to fix what's broken in our current system while building on what has been proven to work. For instance, large employers currently have lower health insurance costs because they can put their employees into a plan where the risk is shared widely among the healthy and the sick. That means everyone is better protected from high out-of-pocket costs in case of an illness, but everyone's premiums are kept relatively low. H.R. 3962 creates a national Health Insurance Exchange that will offer that kind of broad-based plan to the unemployed, the uninsured, and employees of small businesses. No one gets a free ride; people will be responsible for paying some or all of their premiums. But those Americans will now have a choice of multiple insurance plans, which will have to compete for customers on both quality and price.

At the same time, H.R. 3962 stops insurance companies from de-

*continued on page 30*

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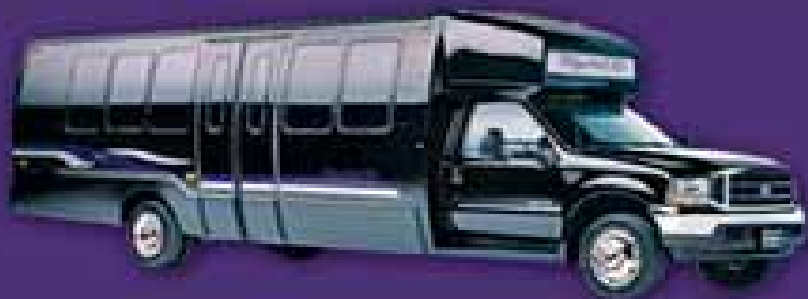
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## Home buyer advice



**By Marsha Abell**  
**Realtor**

Most articles on real estate have to do with the selling of the property. However, for there to be a sale, there must be a buyer. If you are thinking about purchasing a home you need to know how to be an informed

buyer.

The best way to be informed is to be represented by a realtor. It does not cost the buyer to use a realtor as the seller has agreed to pay the real estate commission in the contract he or she signed with the listing agency, so why go into this complex process without being represented by a realtor?

The following are things you need to know if you want to make an offer on real estate. If you have decided you want to buy this property, you need to check previous similar sales to see if you are paying the proper amount. You can find out information on sale prices at your county assessor's office.

Once you have established your price, you need to negotiate your terms and make your offer. The offer should be in writing and you will need to give the seller some money, earnest money, to show that you are serious about buying this property.

How you pay for the property is determined by your financial status. If you pay cash, it is your decision about things such as title insurance, but if you are borrowing money, your lender will have many requirements.

You should always have the home inspected, at your cost, to determine if there are any hidden problems. There are home inspectors listed in your local phone book. You will need someone, a clos-

ing agent, to facilitate the closing which includes having a proper deed prepared and a clear title.

Closings of real estate are quite detailed and need experienced people to handle them. Many issues, such as who will pay taxes due, need to be settled and the inexperienced buyer would not know all that needs to be done. In fact, when it come to real estate, many people don't know what they don't know.

While it is possible to make a real estate transaction without a realtor; it is not a smart choice. If you are planning to buy property, find a realtor for yourself and have that person show you properties and protect your interest in buying your home. Happy hunting!





## Former Rep. Hostettler to discuss his book about Iraq War at USI

On Thursday, November 19, John Hostettler, former U.S. Representative for Indiana's Eighth District, will speak and sign copies of his book, *Nothing for the Nation: Who Got What Out of Iraq*, at the University of Southern Indiana. Hostettler will appear at 7 p.m. in Mitchell Auditorium in the Health Professions Center.

The Republican was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1994. It was his first run for public office. He served in the House from 1995 to 2007 and was a member of the House Armed Services Committee throughout those years. He was one of only six Republican House members to vote against a resolution authorizing then-President George W. Bush to invade Iraq in 2002.

According to Hostettler's website, his book "reveals



*John Hostettler*

why political leaders and their subordinates sought to remove Saddam Hussein from power. Nothing for the Nation reminds us that when it comes to relations between rival nations - and rival national leaders - America's founders were wise to give us a republic and not a monarchy. The sages who secured for us the blessings of liberty would not have been surprised by the true motivation of those who sold America on the idea of ousting the Butcher of Baghdad."

To read more about the book, go to [www.nothingforthenation.com](http://www.nothingforthenation.com). Copies will be available for purchase at the event, which is free and open to the public.

Hostettler's USI visit is sponsored by the Social Work Department and Chapter 104 of Veterans For Peace. For more information, call Gary May, associate professor of social work, at 812/465-1694.

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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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## CONTACT INFORMATION:

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

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## PUZZLE ANSWERS

### Congressional Response

nying any American health insurance just because of a pre-existing condition like diabetes, cancer, or high blood pressure. It also stops insurers from rescinding your policy once you get sick just because of a typo on your original application?"even one outside your control. Lifetime benefit caps and limitless cost sharing will also be things of the past. For too long, bad practices like these have prevented Hoosiers from accessing health care when they needed it most. Evidence has shown the health care delayed and denied to Americans affected by these practices only made their conditions worse and increased the costs for to the entire system in the long term.

Most importantly, the independent, non-partisan Congressional Budget Office's (CBO) analysis of H.R. 3962 shows the bill starts to slow the rate of health inflation over time and actually reduces the deficit over the next two decades. In fact, according to the CBO, H.R. 3962 reduces the federal debt by \$109 billion over the next decade alone. Meanwhile, a report from the country's top CEOs estimated that the reimbursement reforms in H.R. 3962, such as value-based purchasing and accountable care organizations, could reduce the rate of future health care cost increases by 15% to 20% once they have been implemented. That means lower, sustainable monthly premiums for both individuals and businesses.

H.R. 3962 is not a perfect bill, but the process is far from over. That's why I will continue to work with my colleagues in the House and Senate to improve the legislation passed by the House. The final bill must reduce long-term health care costs for families, businesses, and government; increase choices for consumers; improve access for the uninsured and underinsured; address the unique challenges faced by rural patients and providers, and accomplish all of these things in a fiscally sustainable manner. If I think the final bill does not effectively reach those goals, I will not support it with my vote. If I think the bill will make a positive difference on these measures, I will be proud to support it.

Sincerely,

Brad Ellsworth

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