

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

DECEMBER 10, 2009

VOLUME II, ISSUE 31

A precious gem: An Interview with Reverend Gerald Arnold

By Michelle Peterlin, Contributing Editor

Diamonds are the most beautiful and valuable gemstones in the world. They are also one of the hardest and most durable substances. When you look at a polished diamond, it sparkles and radiates light. To polish a diamond, you have to use harsh abrasives. The human soul has much in common with a diamond and life acts like the abrasive constantly polishing, refining and making the spirit shining and radiant.

I have known Reverend Gerald Arnold, Executive Director of the local NAACP, for over 15 years. I believe you have to know something about a person's history if you are really going to hear their message. Rev. Arnold was born in Seattle, Washington, in 1944. He is the fourth child in a family of 14 children. While working as a bridge welder, his father witnessed a grisly accident. He watched another welder plunge to his death. The elder Arnold decided to move his family closer to his relatives in Louisiana.

The family settled in the city of Monroe where the Rev. Arnold's father changed careers and became a mechanic. Monroe was a city with two completely independent communities within it. The African-American community was self sufficient and had its own industries, groceries store, doctors and every small business that makes up a life.

After a time, Rev. Arnold's father opened his own garage, became successful and had several employees. Eventually, he diversified and bought other businesses like a taxi cab company and a grocery store. It is important to note the senior Arnold couldn't read or write. He was successful because he had a head for business, good mechanical skills, understood customers and hired the right people to compensate for where he was weak.

Rev. Arnold's personal history includes all the horrors of



Rev. Gerald Arnold

growing up African-American in the Deep South before Civil Rights Amendment was the law of the land. Monroe was deeply segregated and the railroad tracks were the dividing line. His early memories include witnessing lynching, white on black violence and having members of his family disappear in a police car never to be seen again. When Rev. Arnold was 14 years old he began to work for Civil Rights by joining the CORE, and the NAACP followed.

Rev. Arnold is a firsthand witness to some of the most remarkable events in American history. At some point in the early 60's, several major factors impacted Monroe's minority community. After over a century of white brutality, the community reached its breaking point and decided it could tolerate it no longer. The minority

community made up of business owners, radio stations and many other influential people, realizing they had some power, came together. Social activists came on the scene like Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Black Muslim movement. It impacted Monroe's minority community both positively and negatively forcing to deal with major issues head on. This was happening all over the country.

As a young man, Rev. Arnold moved to New York City and became a professional with Bristol-Myers. The sixties were now in high gear and racial relations were breaking apart under the pressure. Marshal Law set in. Malcolm X came onto the scene. One of things Rev. Arnold took away from Malcolm X was his Two Wars Concept, with one in the South, where African Americans had no rights, and the other in the North, which promised rights but didn't act on it. Much good came out of a volatile time in America from this decisive moment. Rev. Arnold believes it is not over yet.

When asked what the effect election of President Obama was having on the African American community, Rev. Arnold
continued on page 2

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COVER STORY

Rev. Gerald Arnold interview ... from page 1

said it has made things worse because bigots who were in the closet have come out and racial problems are more evident than they have been in a long time. I asked him why Obama's election hasn't had a greater positive impact and Rev. Arnold summed it up by saying Obama is one man who found his way and made his own path. There are many behind him who are trying to do the same.

The conversation moved to local issues. Evansville's inner city neighborhoods are declining faster than ever. Every race and nationality has been affected. As a community, we must begin an honest examination of the problem and find the reasons why it is happening. Rev. Arnold has been working in the community for many years and for racial equality his entire life. He has decades of experience and insight into understanding many different levels of human need. I asked him to explain poverty and inner city decline. Rev. Arnold said he can't point to one thing as the cause of poverty. He said that Urban Renewal starts with one part of a community changing their social and economic situation. They move up and out of their former area creating a void. Another part of the community moves in to fill it. The former community had few resources and the new one who moves into the void has even less.

I asked him about all the grant money, like Front Door Pride, and other programs designed to improve neighbors. Rev. Arnold praised the programs for being there, but he said that the people who truly need them will not apply because they lack resources like neighborhood associations, training and/or don't know how to apply. They also need to be taught how to repair and maintain their homes. Throwing money at the problem without proper training will not help. You just can't give someone a house; they need to be taught how to maintain it. Rev. Arnold said, "My mother taught me to put bleach in the water when I clean. We need more 'Bleach in the Water' training."

Other causes of poverty are more ephemeral and hard to understand. They include deep economic, social and psychological issues. Rev. Arnold used the example of a beat dog who can only cower and must be re-taught how to trust. Some of our poor have a mentality of being held for so long they don't bother to get up anymore. This is a spiritual problem. Many poor families are made up of single parent households where there is one sole provider and caregiver. This person works many jobs and every resource goes into basic survival, leaving nothing for home repair, proper

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Rev. Gerald Arnold interview ... from page 2

hygiene, strong parenting and family bond-building. The cycle becomes generational, and there is no role model available to show the way out.

When Rev. Arnold speaks of his role models, he starts with his parents and moves to some of the men his father hired. His parents gave him the basics like a strong faith in God, taught him manners, hygiene, basic housekeeping, how to care himself, how to budget money and to take care of what you have. The men who worked for his father taught him the social value of polished shoes, ironed clothes and conducting yourself with integrity. They gave Rev. Arnold an image of what kind of man he wanted to be.

Rev. Arnold is one of 14 children and each one became successful. He himself retired from Bristol-Myers after a 20-year career. Truly, this is an example of what good parenting can do for a family.

Rev. Arnold was then asked to describe what types of changes he would like to see in Evansville to make it a more diverse community. He talked about getting more minorities in the police force, prosecutor's office, fire department, government and the judicial system. He said the current recruiting system within the police department skims the best off the top without taking diversity into account. He has recommended to the mayor, the police chief and the F.O.P. to change the system to take the top percentage from a cross-section of each minority group giving each a chance at getting into the department. Rev. Arnold said there used to be about 20 African American officers, but when they retired, there wasn't a system in place to recruit more. There are many reasons Rev. Arnold feels this will help our community but in his mind the most important one is that it will show by example how all careers are open to everyone.

The conversation turned to the issue of public assistance's impact on poverty. Rev. Arnold's insights were unique. He believes that public assistance is designed to help people on the back end, meaning they react to situations not try to prevent them. They are set up to keep people down and offer incentives to keep them there. People today are lacking even the most basic training and public programs should move to work on prevention.

Rev. Arnold believes our community should develop more programs that teach parents, students and young adults the basics like hygiene, housekeeping, parenting, citizenship, how to put together a budget and manage a check book. He works closely with local organizations, like Habitat for Humanity, and teaches people how to keep their new houses. He also helps people plan out how to buy a home. He provides budget counseling to teach people how to manage their finances and live within their means. There are many ways his organization helps provide assistance on many levels.

Rev. Arnold is an educated man with several degrees including a Bachelor of Human Resources Management from Oakland Col-

lege and another in theology from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is an ordained minister and currently the pastor of Independence Missionary Baptist Church located on Evansville's Westside.

As a pastor, Rev. Arnold has watched the destruction of nuclear family and the loosening of society's moral fiber. He knows the impact these factors have on poverty. He believes the way out is through the hope and love given to each person by God.

Every time I see Rev. Arnold, he has a big smile on his face. When he enters a room he is genuinely happy and excited to see and meet everyone in it. The man simply loves people. While we were talking, a couple of folks came into the office to see him, and he made time for each one. They lit up when they saw him, and he was just as delighted.

Rev. Arnold has seen the worst side of human nature for a great deal of his life. I asked him what makes him so full of hope. His answer was clear. Rev. Arnold said "I believe I have a calling by God, who has called me to be a servant for Him and His people. I was once one of those people who felt beat way down, but God took me out of that place. I believe there is a great joy when you get the opportunity to work with someone and show them there is a greater power and in that power there is a promise and a hope. The smile on my face is an indication that the promise and hope are a reality."

Rev. Gerald Arnold's smile sparkles and radiates bright light, just like a polished diamond.

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Calendar by and courtesy of Sharon Harrison

Wesselman Nature Center Renovation & Addition Contract Approved

(EVANSVILLE, IN) – The Evansville Department of Parks and Recreation Board of Park Commissioners today approved a contract with Hafer Associates to renovate the Wesselman Nature Center. The Nature Center is out of date and undersized, which limits the number and quality of programs and services it can provide to the citizens of Evansville.

The City will pay up to \$850,000, which was funded by riverboat money in the 2009 budget, for the improvements. The payment is part of an agreement with the Wesselman Nature Society to manage and operate Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve (including the Nature Center and Recycling Center) and the Howell Wetlands.

“One of the reasons the City decided to contract with the Nature Society was because we knew they would be good stewards of Wesselman Woods and the Howell Wetlands. It will also lower operating costs for the City,” said Mayor Jonathan Weinzaepfel. “Today’s decision will allow the Nature Society to begin renovation of the Nature Center which will greatly enhance the visitor experience.”

Hafer Associates’ plans include improving classroom, exhibit

and office spaces; expanding restrooms to become ADA accessible; and new wall, ceiling and floor finishes inside the Nature Center. In addition, some siding and trim will be replaced on the building’s exterior, new windows and doors will be installed, and there will be mechanical and electrical upgrades.

Hafer is also aiming for LEED certification, which provides independent verification that a building project meets the highest green building and performance measures. LEED-certified buildings are designed to:

- Lower operating costs and increase asset value
- Reduce waste sent to landfills
- Conserve energy and water
- Reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions
- Demonstrate an owner’s commitment to environmental stewardship and social responsibility.

Work on the Nature Center is expected to begin next spring and be completed in early 2011. Throughout the renovation, Wesselman Woods will remain open and the Wesselman Nature Society will continue to offer programs as well.

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

to our hardworking and dedicated City Council members Dan McGinn, Dr. Dan Adams, Wendy Bredhold, Connie Robinson, and Don Walker for challenging the administration on their choice to close neighborhood fire stations #10 and #14. Also a special thanks to Jim and Charlene Braker, members of the United Freedom Makers, for spearheading the effort to keep the fire stations open.



This ad paid for by Proud American Pat Pittman

LETTER TO ELECTED OFFICIALS

Pass HR 3126, Put the people before the banks!

Dear Brad Ellsworth,

In today's economy we need the credit card reforms to be enacted NOW. We are depending on you to help your constituents. I vote in every election. I will remember who supported the common man when I vote in the next election.

It's time we applied practical, common-sense rules on the free-wheeling banks and lenders who drove our economy into the ditch. They took advantage of weak laws, pro-industry loopholes and the fact that no one government regulator puts consumer protection above corporate profits. And we were left to clean up the mess with our tax dollars.

A Consumer Financial Protection Agency would have one job -- make sure institutions that lend money comply with rules that protect consumers from abusive financial practices; and stiff penalties for those who don't.

Right now, there is no federal banking agency whose primary job is to predict and prevent harm to consumers from new banking and credit practices. It takes years after the start of a bad lending practice or outra-

geous bank fee before anyone in the federal government deals with the harm it is doing to our budgets just look at the credit card industry's tactics. We need a strong federal watchdog to write new consumer protection rules against unfair practices, and keep those rules up to date. Those rules should apply to every type of credit product, bank account and payment method.

We need a strong federal watchdog to write new consumer protection rules against unfair practices, and keep those rules up to date. Those rules should apply to every type of credit product, bank account and payment method. And the states should be allowed to set even stronger rules to protect against new threats facing their residents.

I urge you to bring to the floor and pass HR 3126, the Consumer Financial Protection Agency, so consumers like me can have sensible protections from financial abuses -- rather than taxpayer bailouts to the big banks that got us into this mess.

Sincerely,
Counts Don

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LETTER TO ELECTED OFFICIALS

The Congressman's Response

Dear Don,

Thank you for contacting me with your views on consumer-focused reform of our financial services industry. I appreciate your comments, and I welcome this opportunity to update you with my thoughts.

We have a lot of challenges left ahead on the road to economic recovery, and I believe the federal government has a role to play in helping hardworking Americans turn their economy around. As a part of that effort, Congress must pass the reforms necessary to protect American consumers, safeguard hardworking families' investments, and begin to restore confidence in our financial system. Without these reforms, it will be impossible to rebuild our economy and start creating jobs in the long term.

One of the most important areas Congress will focus on in this effort will be consumer protection. In the lead up to this economic crisis, too many consumers were steered toward mortgages, loans, investments, and other "financial products" that were not in their best interest. Nearly half of all subprime mortgage borrowers actually qualified for prime mortgages but were convinced?"against their own interests?"to choose a loan whose risk was hidden in complex contracts. Meanwhile, investment banks sold collections of subprime mortgages knowing full well the potential for these investments to collapse without advising consumers about that risk. To be sure, consumers need to acknowledge a new responsibility in protecting their own interests.

But, with the complexity of today's investments and contracts, it is more important than ever for the financial industry to be held accountable for the products it sells. Of course, as Congress begins to debate the details of these reforms, we must avoid burdening legitimate activities of bankers, mortgage brokers, and investment advisors. That means these reforms can't just add new red tape or additional piles of paperwork for honest businesses. That is not effective reform.



Congressman Brad Ellsworth

There are a number of proposals being considered by the House Financial Services Committee to address this issue. In March 2009, Congressman William Delahunt introduced the Financial Product Safety Commission Act, H.R. 1705, which would establish "product safety rule" for financial products, establish a best practices guide for financial product providers, comment on federal agency actions affecting consumer financial products, and establish a customer hotline for such products.

In July 2009, Congressman Barney Frank introduced the Consumer Financial Protection Agency Act, H.R. 3126, which would establish a similar independent agency designed to "promote transparency, simplicity, fairness, accountability, and access in the market for consumer financial products or services".

These proposals present honest efforts to ensure Congress makes the reforms necessary to put our economy back on the right track, and I look forward to working with the authors of these bills, local financial sector workers, and 8th District consumers to determine how best to accomplish our common goals.

As you know, this is an especially important and complex issue. That's why I will take time to examine the specific details of any bill or amendment that eventually comes to the House floor for a vote. As the issue continues to develop, I would encourage you to stay in touch with your comments and concerns.

Thanks again for taking the time to share your views with me. If you would like to learn more about my positions on issues important to you or receive regular updates on developments in Congress, please visit my Online Office at www.ellsworth.house.gov and sign up for my e-Newsletter.

Sincerely,
Brad Ellsworth

— THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER —

EDITORIAL

IS IT TRUE?

Compiled by Moles Number 1 through 109...and counting

Is it true we are wondering why Building Authority Director Dave Rector is moving housekeeping activity to the daytime? Is it true this will affect the efficiency of all workers in the building? Is it true we wonder why this sudden change in a policy that has worked for a number of years?

Is it true we are wondering if the new Civic Center Health Clinic is giving our city employees their much needed flu shots?

Is it true that former Second Ward City Council member and present local ABC Board Commissioner Steve Bagby will be appointed to the Public Safety Board to replace deceased member Rick Borries? Is it true that the Public Safety Board has control over the city fire stations and equipment per the adopted ordinance?

Is it true the Safety Board approved to pay facilitators of the Advisory Board appointed to study the feasibility of closing neighborhood fire stations 10 and 14 \$200 per hour per person for two (2) people? Is it true these people will also be paid \$200 per hour for prep work? Is it true we wonder why the City- has no money to pay is hard-working and dedicated employees a well-deserved and earned raise, but they can afford to pay facilitators?

Is it true that the soon-to-be opened downtown bar, named Main Gate Bar, is going on December 22, to ask the local ABC Board for permission to sell alcoholic beverages at their location on Main Street near the proposed entrance to the new arena? Is it true that the project consultants know their way around City Hall, which helped fast-track this project? Is it true that there is a great deal of curiosity concerning this project by our readers?

Is it true the City-County Observer is extremely proud of City Councilman Dr. Dan Adams' challenge to Council President B.J. Watts (at the last city council meeting) for allowing people to speak on their topic of choice at the last City Council meeting? Is it true that we encourage our readers to contact WNIN and find out when this meeting will be televised again? Is it true this will be worth your time and effort to watch? Is it true we are thankful that Council members Don Walker and Dan McGinn agree with our precious right to freedom of speech? Is it

true some City Council members don't believe this to be an inalienable right? Is it true, if they don't, they can find it in the Constitution or on one of the pillars of the Four Freedoms Monument?

Is it true the best known political secret in Evansville is that City Councilman Curt John and Councilwoman Connie Robinson will not be on the ballot in the next city election cycle?



The Mole

Is it true that all eyes are on Democratic Councilman John Friend to see if he is going to be reasonable and objective as the swing vote on many crucial issues facing the city? Is it true that so far, he has not displayed independence? Is it true that if he does not make this adjustment by next year, his bid for re-election is in jeopardy because he resides in a highly-Republican ward?

Is it true we are wondering when the clean-up at Woody's Bar on Main Street will begin? Is it true the city has a street and sidewalk maintenance crew that is paid to do that?

Is it true the city could keep fire stations 10 and 14 open and the city would still retain current its ISO rating? Is it true the answer is a resounding "yes?" Is it true good public policy would keep them open? Is it true we hope that political aspirations will not get in the way of the public good?

Is it true we are extremely proud of local police, fire and sheriff's office employees for making Christmas special for disadvantaged children? Is it true that this is one example why we hold these employees in high regard?

Is it true we are wondering about the status of the Evansville Police and Fire Department negotiations for employment contracts with the city?

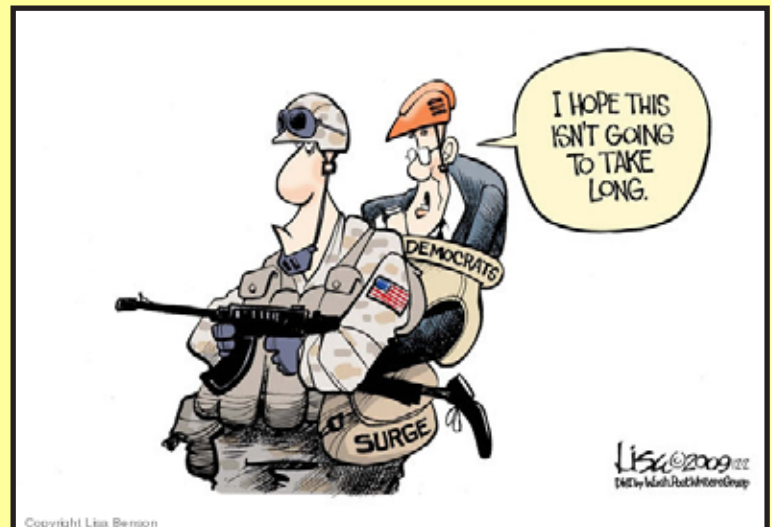
Is it true McCarthyism is alive and not-so-well in Evansville? Is it true that we are very much aware of the discussions among a few local politicians regarding the possible investigation of anyone who challenges or opposes their political agenda?



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EDITORIAL

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A DAY IN INFAMY

By Judge James Redwine

In 1937 Japan initiated military action against China in Manchuria. Some of the world took note and much of the world continued to sell war materials to Japan.

In 1938 Germany annexed Austria. A few other countries took note and did nothing.

In March 1939 Germany seized Czechoslovakia. Little note was taken by the rest of the world and nothing was done.

In September 1939 Germany invaded Poland. France and Great Britain, joined by its progeny, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the Union of South Africa, declared war on Germany.

In 1940 Germany took control of Denmark and Norway. Later in 1940 Germany invaded the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxemburg.

France surrendered to Germany in June 1940. As yet, America remained ostensibly neutral, but provided material support to our "first cousins" and closest ally, Great Britain.

During most of this period America continued to build up its naval presence in Hawaii. Hawaii was strategically located in the Pacific Ocean within striking distance of the Marshall Islands and the Philippines. Japan saw our military installation on Oahu at Pearl Harbor as a major impediment to its plans in the Pacific. On December 7, 1941 the Japanese, without warning and without declaring war, launched a full-scale attack on Pearl Harbor. President Franklin Roosevelt called for Congress to declare war on Japan and said December 7, 1941 was "a Day that would live in Infamy."

More importantly, at least from the perspective of Japan and Germany, what occurred, according to Japanese Military Marshall and Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto was

that, "A sleeping giant was awakened and filled with a terrible resolve."

Last week, completely by coincidence, it was my privilege to have dinner with Pennsylvania native and WWII veteran Harold (Hank) Detweiler who served in the Pacific Theater and Massachusetts native and Korean War veteran, Dante Spadoni. Both remember Pearl Harbor Day clearly. Hank joined the military in answer to the attack. Dante's teacher had the students listen to the radio as the President called for war. Both men still remember where they were and what they were doing when the attack was announced.

And while I was not born until after that infamous day, throughout all twelve years of my grade school and high school, every Pearl Harbor Day was commemorated publicly and solemnly. Perhaps the memories have faded or other national tragedies have intervened, or political correctness and economic values have trumped as December 7 now appears to pass with little fanfare. But, fortunately, we still have some who lived through the ordeal. Of course, since we are rapidly losing those heroes, it remains to be seen if the lessons learned will survive them.

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ENTERTAINMENT

US CO-HEADLINE TOUR WITH THREE DAYS GRACE AND BREAKING BENJAMIN WITH SPECIAL GUEST FLYLEAF

Three Days Grace and Breaking Benjamin are about to set out on a US co-headline tour with special guest Flyleaf that will play Roberts Stadium in Evansville, IN on Friday, January 29.

The Toronto-based rock band Three Days Grace is comprised of Adam Gontier (vocals, guitar), Neil Sanderson (drums, piano), Brad Walst (bass), and Barry Stock (lead guitar). The band's most recent release *Life Starts Now* debuted at #3 on the Billboard Top 200 charts making it the highest debut ever for the band. "Break" the first single from *Life Starts Now* has reached #1 on the Active Rock BDS Charts and Top 5 at Mainstream Rock.

Their first album, the self titled *Three Days Grace*, was released in 2003. The album generated 3 hit singles, "I Hate Everything About You" which reached #2 on the Mediabase Modern Rock charts and Top 5 on the Mediabase Mainstream Rock charts, "Just Like You" which went to #1 on both the Mediabase Modern Rock and Mediabase Mainstream Rock charts, and "Home" which went to #2 on the Mediabase Mainstream Rock charts. *One-X*, the band's sophomore album was released in 2006 and debut on the Billboard Album Chart at #5. That album also produced 3 #1 Mediabase Mainstream Rock singles "Animal I've Become," "Pain" and "Never Too Late." For 2007 Mediabase ranked Three Days Grace as the #1 artist in airplay across all rock formats (Modern Rock, Active Rock, Mainstream Rock). That same year R&R/Billboard also ranked Three Days Grace as #1 Active Rock Artist of the Year, #1 Rock Artist of the Year and #2 Modern Rock/Alternative Artist of the Year.

Both Three Days Grace and *One-X* have been certified Platinum. Three Days Grace has sold over 4 million albums worldwide.

Multi-platinum rockers Breaking Benjamin (Ben Burnley, vocals/guitar; Aaron Fink, guitar; Mark James, bass; Chad Szeliga, drums) returned with a vengeance this year with their latest release *Dear Agony* which debuted #4 on Billboard's Top 200, while their first single "I Will Not Bow", an anthemic rocker, spent 5 weeks at #1 at Rock radio and was recently named #1 rock song of 2009 by AOL Radio listeners.

Over the course of their nearly decade-long career, the band has had five #1 singles, and "So Cold" from their 2004 album *We Are Not Alone* spent an amazing 37 weeks in the Top 20

on the Billboard singles chart.

Dear Agony, released on September 29, 2009, debuted at #4 on Billboard's Top 200. The band's 4th album is a career high, selling 135,000 copies in its first week, debuting #1 on iTunes album chart, and has over a quarter of a million sales to date. The previous two Breaking Benjamin releases – 2004's *We Are Not Alone* and 2006's *Phobia* – have been certified platinum.

Tickets go on sale Saturday, December 12 at 10 a.m.

Reserved and General Admission tickets are \$39.75 and will be available at the Roberts Stadium box office, all Ticketmaster outlets, Charge By Phone at 800-745-3000 or online at Ticketmaster.com

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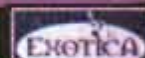
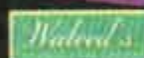
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POLITICS

Governor takes more action to offset revenue shortfalls

INDIANAPOLIS - Governor Mitch Daniels today took additional action to reduce state spending following another month of lower than forecast state revenues.

For November, revenue collections were \$144 million below the forecast amount for the month. Since the fiscal year started on July 1, general fund revenues are \$475 million or 9 percent below the May forecast. This is the 14th consecutive month of below forecast receipts.

The latest changes ordered by the governor are estimated to save the state at least \$159 million more over the next 18 months. In November, Daniels took actions that are expected to save the state \$300 million to \$400 million by the end of the biennium.

"We are taking steps to offset shortfalls as they occur. The chance that revenues will suddenly begin to resemble the forecast seems highly unlikely," said Daniels. "So it's highly likely these are not the last steps we'll have to take. Unwelcome as these actions are, we will do what's necessary to protect Indiana taxpayers from the tax hikes being imposed in almost every other state."

Budget actions taken today:

- General fund support of the state's public colleges and universities will be reduced by \$150 million over the remainder of the biennium. This amount represents 6 percent of state general fund support of operating expenses and was reached in consultation with the Commission on Higher Education. The governor has charged the Commission to work with each institution to determine its share. The cut as a percentage of the institutions' total revenue is about 2 percent.

- A \$15 bi-weekly matching contribution to state employees for deferred compensation retirement accounts will be suspended for calendar year 2010, a frequent cost-savings suggestion from state employees. Savings are estimated at \$9 million.

- The governor directed the Department of Administration to further reduce the number of state-owned vehicles. Since 2005, the number of state-owned vehicles has been reduced by over 2,500.

Additionally, the governor will submit a package of cost savings initiatives to the Indiana General Assembly. It will include a proposal to combine the administration of the Public Employees Retirement Fund and the Teachers' Retirement Fund, which is projected to reduce investment management fees and administrative duplication by at least \$50 million per year. The proposal also will include merging or eliminating several boards and commissions.

The state ended Fiscal Year 2009 with \$1.3 billion in reserves. If the current revenue trend continues and the governor had not taken the above actions, state budget agency officials estimate the state's reserves would have been depleted by July 2010.

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EDUCATION

IS IT TRUE...



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

UE Student Earns Prestigious Gilman Scholarship for Study Abroad

The University of Evansville is proud to congratulate Heather Smyser, a senior majoring in French, who has received a prestigious Gilman Scholarship to support her plans to study abroad during the Spring 2010 semester.

Smyther has been awarded a \$5,000 Gilman Scholarship for her program at the Ecole Supérieur de Direction et de Gestion in Rabat, Morocco – a study being done in conjunction with the Council on International Education Exchange.

The Gilman Scholarship is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and administered by the Institute of International Education (IIE). The Gilman Scholarship Program seeks to diversify the kinds of students who study abroad and the countries and regions where they go. Specifically, the Gilman Program offers scholarships for students who have been traditionally underrepresented in education abroad.

Smyther is the second Gilman winner from UE this year. Max Vargas is currently benefitting from Gilman support this semester in Japan at the Nagoya University of Foreign Studies (NUFS). NUFS was also the study abroad site for UE student Nicol Johnson, who studied there last year with a Gilman Scholarship.

The University of Evansville recently was listed as one of the Top 10 institutions in America in the area of study abroad participation, with nearly 60 percent of graduates studying abroad during their time on campus.

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UE to Hold Winter Commencement Dec. 16

The University of Evansville will confer 113 degrees upon 107 students during its 2009 Winter Commencement ceremony this Wednesday, December 16.

The ceremony, held in the UE Student Fitness Center, will be followed by a reception in the Small Gym of Carson Center. This year's commencement speaker will be James MacLeod, professor of history and the University's Outstanding Teacher Award winner at the Spring Commencement in May 2009 – an award given each year by UE's Alumni Association, to a faculty member nominated by students, faculty, and the University community as being an exemplary teacher.

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

During his time at UE, MacLeod has been recognized several times for his excellence in the classroom. In 2002, he received the UE College of Arts & Sciences Dean's Teaching Award; then, during the 2003-04 academic year, he earned the United Methodist Church's Exemplary Teacher Award. And in 2009, he earned the

Outstanding Teacher Award. MacLeod received his MA in history at the University of Edinburgh in 1988, and followed that with his PhD from the same institution. His thesis was in nineteenth century Scottish history, entitled "The Origins of the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland."



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COLLEGE EDUCATION

Winning ARC Ideation Contest ideas will help local business

Evansville ARC could start manufacturing Neil Kassinger's concept tomorrow, and that's part of the reason the University of Southern Indiana freshman won first place in the ARC Ideation Contest sponsored by the USI College of Business and the Center for Applied Research.

Kassinger, a business administration major with minors in management and entrepreneurship, submitted the winning entry, a communication tool for young adults and children. Because the concept is copyrighted, details are not available for publication at this time, but Bryan Bourdeau, instructor in business in the management department, said, "It would be a user-friendly product in the medical industry for children that have hearing or speaking disabilities, or some comfort issues with providing answers to physicians, dentists and the like."

Kassinger, of Owensboro, Kentucky, is an Apollo High School graduate. As first place winner, he will receive a \$500 cash prize, the chance to see his concept manufactured, and the opportunity to help ARC Industries, a division of Evansville ARC, a local not-for-profit organization that serves individuals with developmental disabilities.

ARC Industries employs over 300 workers every year in its ISO certified manufacturing facility, more than 200 of whom have disabilities. Bourdeau said, "Evansville ARC is very excited about the idea. Next we're going to sit down and talk about the feasibility of production, sales, and marketing."

Last year's Ideation Contest was not associated with a particular company, but only required students to submit feasible, profitable business ideas that would benefit society. This year, the fourth year for the contest, students were asked to tackle a real-world problem to benefit a local company.

"Evansville ARC's issue this year has been sustainability of their workforce," Bourdeau said. "ARC is beholden to our community and our region. They don't have their own proprietary product, so if their customer's business suffers, their business suffers through no fault of their own."

ARC also is enthusiastic about the second- and third-place ideas, and may look into their feasibility as well. "The

judging was very close. It was just a matter of a couple of points, but it came down to rapid accessibility to market and what Evansville ARC could start producing immediately."

Second-place winner Matt Herman, a freshman business administration major, submitted a new product idea for animal transportation and won a \$300

prize. Marquis Dennis, a sophomore engineering major, won third place and \$200 with a high-tech clothing idea.

Deidra Conner, president of Evansville ARC, said, "The University was looking for an opportunity for students to exercise their entrepreneurial and problem-solving skills to benefit a local organization, and ARC Industries was looking for a product we could own and manage. We now have several great ideas from the USI students we believe could be viable products for the marketplace and viable products to be manufactured in our local facility - creating more jobs and income for individuals with disabilities."

The process by which the ideas were collected is called crowdsourcing. Bourdeau said, "Crowdsourcing is focusing the collective intelligence of a group on solving the specific issues of a company. It saves time, money, and resources. If it works for ARC it could work for other businesses. Through the College of Business we could potentially crowdsource the entire Evansville community and assist other local businesses. It is possible to expedite economic development."



Neil Kassinger

Eagles cage Lions for ninth straight win

Courtesy USI News & Information Services

EVANSVILLE, Ind.—Five University of Southern Indiana women's basketball players scored in double figures as the Screaming Eagles outlasted the University of North Alabama, 91-62, Wednesday night at the Physical Activities Center.

The Eagles (10-2) used a 19-2 run throughout the final six minutes of the contest to turn away a Lions' comeback attempt and capture their ninth consecutive victory, their longest winning streak since the 2001-02 campaign.

USI, which shot 55.7 percent from the field, used a 16-4 run throughout the final four minutes of the opening period to turn a 31-24 advantage into a commanding 47-28 halftime lead.

North Alabama (4-7), which saw the Eagles bench outscore its reserves 47-12, trimmed USI's lead down to 14 with 15 minutes to play in the game, but a three-point play by junior forward/center Courtney Perry switched momentum back into USI's favor.

Despite building its lead back to 20 points with 13 minutes to play, USI saw the Lions chip away at the deficit, bringing it down to 12 points with six minutes remaining in the game.

USI's defense stiffened up, though, as the Eagles limited the

Lions to just two points throughout the final six minutes en route to the game-clinching run. Junior guard Ellen Young, who finished with 14 points, started the run with a lay-up, then sophomore forward/center Ashton Mertens increased USI's advantage to 16 points (76-60) with another lay-up.

In a span of four minutes, the Eagles turned a 72-60 lead into a comfortable 89-60 cushion with two minutes to play in the contest.

Mertens, who came off the bench, led the Eagles with a season-high 19 points, while junior guard Amie Newhart finished with 12 points and a game-high five assists. Senior guard/forward Abby Williams added 11 points and a game-high six rebounds for the Eagles, who out-rebounded North Alabama, 36-24.

Junior guard Lauren Meneghetti added 10 points and four rebounds off the bench as USI reached the 80-point plateau for the seventh time this season and the 90-point plateau for the third time in 2009-10.

USI will have the next three weeks to prepare for its next contest as the Eagles do not return to action until December 30 when they host Midwest Region foe Ferris State University. Tip-off is slated for 6 p.m.

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Baseball Signs Eight In Early Signing Period

University of Evansville baseball coach Wes Carroll announced his second recruiting class as head coach on Saturday, as the Purple Aces inked eight high school standouts to letters of intent during the early signing period.

Right-hander Ryan Billo (Orland Park, Ill./Carl Sandburg) and two-way star Peter Spear (Itasca, Ill./Lake Park) will join the UE pitching staff next season, while Ohio slugger Jacob Mahon (Plain City, Ohio/Jonathan Alder) will battle for time at both first base and catcher. Versatile players Kevin Kaczmariski (Cary, Ill./Prairie Ridge), Brett Wiley (Huntington, Ind./Huntington North), Matt Wilkinson (Evansville, Ind./North), Tim Bodine (Gurnee, Ill./Warren Township), and David Patton (Wolcottville, Ind./East Noble) will meanwhile add depth, athleticism, and speed to both the UE outfield and infield.

"When we began the process for putting this class together, one of our main goals was to become more athletic as a team and add depth and versatility to our roster," said Carroll. "I feel that we were definitely able to accomplish that with this class.

Billo is a four-year standout on the mound at Carl Sandburg High School outside of Chicago. He earned all-conference and all-area honors last year for the Eagles, while posting a 7-1 record with two saves and a 1.00 ERA. Billo owned an seven-to-one strikeout-to-walk ratio as a junior, recording 55 strikeouts to just eight walks in 63.0 innings of work. He comes from good baseball bloodlines, as his father, Gregory, pitched for Lewis University from 1979-83, while his older brother, Greg, led the Kansas City Royals' farm system in earned run average this past year with a 1.81 ERA in his second professional season.

"Ryan has a lot of upside with his ability to pound the strike zone," said Carroll. "He has the potential to be a real power pitcher at the college level, and we have high hopes that he will develop into a weekend starter for us in the MVC."

Spear missed his junior year with Tommy John surgery, but has been one of the top prospects in the Chicagoland area as a pitcher and shortstop. Spear was named one of the top prospects/athletes in 2008 by PrepBaseballReport.com, and played on the "Top Prospect Team" at the 2007 Perfect Game Nationals in Fort Myers, Florida. He was the starting pitcher for the Lake Park Lancers in the 2008 regional championship game, and helped his summer league team to the CABA World Series championship.

"In the field, Peter is an athletic, left-side of the diamond-type player with a very strong arm and good actions," said Carroll. "On the mound, he already has a mid- to upper-80s fastball. His recovery from Tommy John surgery has gone very well so far, and we are confident that he will be able to bounce back and be a strong part of our pitching staff over the next four years."

Mahon has been one of the top hitters in the Columbus, Ohio area over the last three years, as he has earned three all-county honors and a pair of all-district selections for the Jonathan Alder Pioneers. Mahon is a career .420 hitter at the high school level with over 70 career RBI, while helping the Pioneers to a 51-21 record. Mahon also comes from good baseball bloodlines, as his father, Jerry, played four years at Ohio State.

"Jacob is a switch-hitter who can play both first base and catcher

who is one of the better hitters in Ohio," said Carroll. "He is a middle-of-the-order-type hitter who will help replace the loss of guys like Andy Pascoe and Tom Heithoff next season."

Kaczmariski has been one of Illinois' top base stealers over the last three years at Prairie Ridge High School on the north side of Chicago. Kaczmariski hit .430 as a junior with three home runs, 23 RBI, and 34 stolen bases for the Wolves on his way to all-conference, all-area, and honorable mention all-state honors. He helped Prairie Ridge win the Illinois state title as a sophomore and hails from a good baseball family as well, as his father, Randy, played in the San Diego Padres' organization and two of his uncles played college baseball.

"Kevin is a pure center fielder who is a lead-off-type hitter," said Carroll. "He really fits our style of offense and will be really fun to watch over the next four years, as he can be a game-changer on the base paths with his speed."

Wiley was one of the top offensive threats for the Huntington North Vikings last season, as he hit .429 with a team-best 36 hits, five home runs, and 23 RBI. A smooth-fielding second baseman as a junior, he is expected to make the move to shortstop this season, a position he is expected to battle for playing time at as a Purple Ace.

"Brett is an athletic middle infielder with great actions," said Carroll. "He's a very versatile player who can play multiple positions if needed, and is a very hard-nosed player who fits our mold."

Wilkinson earned honorable mention all-metro honors last year as a junior at nearby Evansville North High School, after hitting .449 for the Huskies. Wilkinson helped North to a 17-8 overall record last season, while also helping the Eugene Pate Legion Baseball team to a sectional championship.

"Matt was a solid player for North last year who has showed a great bat last season," said Carroll. "He is a guy who can play multiple outfield positions. He is a hard worker and has great passion for this program, and we are excited to see him in our outfield over the next four years."

Bodine is a speedy outfield prospect who runs a 6.6 60-yard dash. He was selected to play in the Northwest Suburban All-Star tournament last year for the Warren Township Blue Devils and is a career .337 hitter with 76 stolen bases in 78 attempts over the last three years. He hit .615 with six runs scored and four stolen bases this past summer in the high school regional tournament.

"Tim will provide us with great athleticism and speed in the outfield," said Carroll. "He transitioned this year from the infield to the outfield, and that has really helped his game. He is a speed-type guy who can do a lot with the bat."

Patton was one of the top offensive players in the Northeast Hoosier Conference last year, ranking among the league's leaders in hits (5th-33), runs (5th-28), doubles (4th-9), home runs (2nd-7), and RBI (2nd-39) for East Noble High School. He also excels in the classroom as an academic all-state selection and a member of the National Honor Society.

"David combines speed and athleticism with a good bat," said Carroll. "He is another person who can play multiple positions and has played for a good high school and summer-league team."

SPORTS

Young nets GLVC weekly honor

EVANSVILLE, Ind.—Junior guard Ellen Young has been named the Great Lakes Valley Conference Player of the Week for her efforts in leading the University of Southern Indiana women's basketball team to wins over rivals Bellarmine University and No. 20 Northern Kentucky University.

Young averaged 27.0 points, 2.5 rebounds, 1.5 assists, and 2.0 steals in the Screaming Eagles' victories, which improved their mark to 9-2 overall and 2-0 in the GLVC.

Young began the week with a career-high 24 points in the Eagles' 89-63 victory over Bellarmine Thursday evening. She scored her game-high 24 points on a blistering 8-of-9 shooting performance that saw her go 4-of-4 from downtown and 4-of-4 from the charity stripe.

After helping USI stop an eight-game losing streak to Bellarmine, Young came back to scorch Northern Kentucky for a game and career-best 30 points Saturday. Young, who went 9-of-14 from the field and an eye-popping 5-of-7 from behind the arc, scored 21 points in the second half as USI stopped a four-game slide against the Norse with an 85-76 victory.

For the week, Young shot 73.9 percent from the floor and 81.8 percent from three-point range. She also sunk 11-of-12 (.917) from the charity stripe as the Eagles ran their winning streak to eight straight games.

For the season, Young leads the Eagles and is eighth in the GLVC with 15.4

points per game and is shooting 49.1 percent from the floor, 48.8 percent from three-point range.

USI continues its six-game home stand Wednesday when it takes on the University of North Alabama. Tip-off is slated for 7 p.m. at the Physical Activities Center.



Junior guard Ellen Young was named the GLVC Player of the Week after averaging 27.0 points per game against Bellarmine and Northern Kentucky.

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SPORTS

UE Women Rain On Lipscomb's Parade, 74-69

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--On a rainy night in Nashville, Tennessee, the University of Evansville womens basketball team (2-6) put together a 16-7 run midway through the second half to erase an eight-point Lipscomb lead and post a 74-69 win inside Allen Arena on Tuesday night.

"It wasn't pretty, but it was a victory," said UE head coach Misty Murphy. "And at the end of the day, that's the most important thing."

"In the first half, we came out flat and had nine turnovers. But, in the second half, we did a much better job of taking care of the basketball and did a good job of playing with passion, and in the end, that proved to be the difference."

Amy Gallagher scored 11 of her team-high 13 points in the second half to pace the Purple Aces. Stephanie Bamberger put in 10 points while adding six assists and five rebounds. Samantha Heck pulled down a game-high eight boards and eight points while Kaylan Martin tabbed nine points for UE.

Hitting 6-of-10 from three-point range helped the Aces as a team, as Bamberger and Jordan Lewis hit two each and Martin and Amber Boyd had one each. After com-

mitting nine turnovers in the first half, UE was able to keep the mistakes down in the second to have 12 in the game compared to Lipscombs 15. The Lady Bison did win the battle on the boards with 42 while UE had 36.

The Aces opened the game with a 7-5 lead with help from a basket and three pointer from Bamberger. Lipscomb was able to grab its first lead of the game after a shot from beyond the arc lifted them to 11-9 over the Aces. The Lady Bison held the advantage for most of the half until a Martin long three and shot from Gallagher put UE ahead 30-29, but an 11-2 scoring spree from the home team in the closing minutes closed the half at 40-32.

UE came out of the locker room with aggression, as back-to-back Martin and Chelsea Falkenstein baskets closed the gap at 40-36. With Lipscomb striking, the Aces strong rally put UE with a 56-53 favor. The Lady Bison then tied the score twice before an 11-5 run from the visitors closed the game with an Aces victory.

The Purple Aces will take on an undefeated opponent in Wisconsin-Green Bay on Saturday, December 12 at Roberts Stadium at 2:00 p.m.

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COMMUNITY

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You may listen to the show through this site: <http://www.iyi.org/media/kids-count-radio.aspx>.

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11	North High School DECA Club	\$750.00	\$500.00	International DECA Career Development Conference
1	Southern Indiana Career & Technical Center (Machine Trades)	\$300.00	\$300.00	Indiana Skills USA/VICA Contest
2	Southern Indiana Career & Technical Center (Technical Design)	\$300.00	\$300.00	Indiana Skills USA/VICA Contest
3	Southern Indiana Career & Technical Center (Auto Service)	\$300.00	\$300.00	Indiana Skills USA/VICA Contest
4	F.J. Reitz High School Business Professionals of America	\$500.00	\$500.00	National BPA Leadership Conference
5	Starpower/Leo Club	New	\$152.00	Pet food and supplies drive for Vanderburgh Humane Society
6	Southern Indiana Career & Technical Center (Collision Repair)	\$300.00	\$300.00	Indiana Skills USA/VICA Contest
7	The Dream Center	\$250.00	\$350.00	Outreach program and participation in Community Projects
8	People to People Ambassador Program	New	\$0.00	Great Britain Trip
9	North High School Business Professionals of America	\$500.00	\$500.00	BPA State Conference
13	Bosse High School Business Professionals of America	New	\$300.00	BPA State Contest
14	Evans Middle School Student Council	\$200.00	\$200.00	Neighborhood Canvassing and collecting trash and giving treats
15	Reitz Memorial High School	\$500.00	\$500.00	Senior Weekend Retreat at Camp Carson
16	Imprint Center	\$500.00	\$250.00	Host youth summit
17	Junior Achievement of SW Indiana	\$1,000.00	\$1,198.00	Purchase materials for JA Programs for the students at Hebron School
18	Harrison High School Business Professionals of America	New	\$500.00	BPA District, State, and National Leadership Conference
19	Eagle Slough Clean up	New	\$0.00	Clean up of Eagle Slough
20	Joshua Academy (JODI Club)	New	\$350.00	After school program
21	Central High School Business Professionals of America	\$250.00	\$250.00	BPA State Leadership Conference
22	Youth Resources Teen Advisory Council	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00	To host a retreat at Camp Reveal
23	Youth Resources Teen Power	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	Teen Power Camp
24	Evansville Civic Theatre	New	\$250.00	Mentoring for High School Student Directors
25	SICTC HOSA	\$500.00	\$500.00	National Leadership Conference in Nashville, TN.
		\$8,650.00	\$10,000.00	

2009 Youth Sports Grant Applications

	Organization	2009 Request	2009 Award	Purchase
1	Boys & Girls Club (Main Unit)	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00	Health and PE Equipment, uniforms, supplies
2	Boys & Girls Club (Fulton Unit)	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	Health and PE Equipment, uniforms, supplies
3	Evansville Extreme Baseball	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00	Uniforms, helmets, balls, bags, dirt, etc.
4	West Side Athletic League, Inc.	\$1,600.00	\$1,500.00	Portable sign, field equipment, team equipment, new grill
5	Evansville Junior Football	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	Upgrade Senior Field to Bermuda Grass
6	Evansville Boxing Club	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	Boxing supplies and equipment
7	Harwood Booster Club	\$5,000.00	\$1,000.00	T-balls, base bags, softballs, equipment, uniforms, dirt, dugout repair
8	West Side Christian Sports	\$1,027.12	\$1,000.00	2 toilets, 2 urinals, 2 sinks
9	Harwood Hockey	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	Ice time, jerseys, socks, helmets
10	North Youth Baseball, Inc.	\$4,000.00	\$2,000.00	Uniforms, pitching machine, set of bleachers
11	Spring Garden Recreation	\$2,588.00	\$2,500.00	Uniforms, t-shirts, baseball and basketball equipment, ping pong equip.
12	Scott Civic Club	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	Lawn Tractor
13	Dream Center	\$750.00	\$750.00	Wii Fitness game system
14	Lakeview Optimist	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00	Baseball - Pitching Machine (1,500) Football - 25 Helmets (1,500)
15	Easter Seals Rehabilitation	\$920.00	\$920.00	40 bicycle helmets and 60 t-shirts
16	Stringtown Community Club	\$3,000.00	\$1,830.00	Storage building for concession at T-ball field, gravel for parking lot
17	Evansville Youth Football League	\$5,000.00	\$2,500.00	New equipment, concession stand equipment, building upkeep
18	S.O.U.L. Empowerment	\$1,180.00	\$1,000.00	Balance Rails, Plug N Play System, 27" TV
19	Memorial Baptist Church	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	Basketballs, uniforms, shooting shirts
20	Kickers SAY Soccer, Inc.	\$1,470.00	\$0.00	1 set of soccer goals
21	Carver Community Organization	\$3,166.68	\$3,000.00	Tennis equipment, folding mats, etc.
22	Holy Rosary Booster Club	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00	Covered shelters for score keepers and scoreboard operators
23	Evansville Speedsters Track Club	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	Instructional tapes, spike kit, long jump rake, measuring tape, plyo boxes
24	Plaza Booster Club	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00	Uniforms, catchers equipment, baseballs, scorers tables
25	Golfmoor Baseball Association	\$3,330.00	\$2,500.00	T-ball pitching machine baseballs, Minor/Major/Pony League Baseballs
26	Imprint Center, Inc.	\$1,366.25	\$1,300.00	T-shirts and equipment
27	YMCA of Southwestern Indiana	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	4 new golf sets
28	YMCA of Southwestern Indiana	\$1,263.00	\$1,200.00	T-shirts for Compute and Shoot and Midnight Basketball
29	Spikes Baseball	\$3,000.00	\$2,500.00	Baseballs, catcher's gear, helmets, uniforms, bats, field drag
30	West Side Independent League	\$1,734.00	\$500.00	Equipment for catchers, batters helmets, field equipment, uniforms, etc.
31	East Little League Baseball	\$1,651.00	\$1,500.00	Major league field renovations and updates
32	East Youth Baseball PONY	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	Materials for warming track, repair batting cages, battery for mower, etc.
33	Highland Baseball Club	\$3,500.00	\$2,000.00	Safety equipment, fence repair, restroom repairs, and field repairs
	Total Requests	\$72,546.05	\$50,000.00	

FOUNDING FATHERS: A STUDY

A Look at Thomas Jefferson

By Brooke Bergwitz, Correspondent

Who is Thomas Jefferson? This is a question asked by many people. Most people would respond that he was a president, founding father, constitutional writer and a man whose image is on our currency. These are all common knowledge things. They are what this astounding man who shaped American politics is remembered for. Let us examine some of the more notable details of these things he did and said.

"A wise and frugal government, which shall leave men free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement, and shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned - this is the sum of good government."

-Thomas Jefferson

Jefferson was against a socialist/communist government rule. He thought a Democratic Government, as shown in the Constitution, was the best type of government. He protected the rights of all men, not just himself as a politician. This is something politicians today should relish and model. Politics today are more about what is good for the politician, rather than what is good for the rights of citizens.

"The constitutional freedom of religion [is] the most inalienable and sacred of all human rights," said Thomas Jefferson.

Jefferson believed that people should be whatever religion they wanted. He himself was raised as a Protestant, and was

an avid reader of the Bible. He told people not to worry about what religion he was, it was between him and his God. This is something we should do today, not worry about what religion a politician is, but whether or not they can do the job. He thought there should be separation between church and state. One thing that stands out is that the word God is not in the Constitution. The framers intended for the United States to be ruled by an independent being.

President Barack Obama said, "Our Founding Fathers, faced with perils that we can scarcely imagine, drafted a charter to assure the rule of law and the rights of man -- a charter expanded by the blood of generations. Those ideals still light the world, and we will not give them up for expedience sake."

Now, some people who read the above statement will laugh. Most of the time, people will hope for the best. I know I do. I hope that President Obama will preserve, as presidents have done before him, the government that Thomas Jefferson helped create, and not destroy it instead.

Brooke is a sophomore at Mater Dei High School. He is a member of the Speech and Debate Team. She regularly attends meetings and activities of the United Freedom Makers and plans to attend college and major in Political Science.



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Bristol-Myers Squibb and Mead Johnson Announce Amendment and Extension of Exchange Offer

(BUSINESS WIRE)--Bristol-Myers Squibb Company (NYSE: BMY - News) and Mead Johnson Nutrition Company (NYSE: MJN - News) today announced that Bristol-Myers Squibb Company ("BMS") has amended and extended its offer to exchange up to 170.0 million shares of common stock of Mead Johnson Nutrition Company ("MJN") for outstanding shares of BMS common stock that are validly tendered and not validly withdrawn at an exchange ratio determined by a formula described in a registration statement filed by MJN on Form S-4 (Reg No. 333-163126).

BMS is amending the offer by:

- Increasing the upper limit on the exchange ratio to 0.6313 shares of MJN common stock per share of BMS common stock from 0.6027 shares of MJN common stock per share of BMS common stock; however, the final exchange ratio may be less than the upper limit;
- Extending the exchange offer's expiration to 12:00 midnight, New York City time, on December 17, 2009, unless extended or terminated, from December 14, 2009; and
- Amending the current expected three-day period over which the final exchange ratio will be determined to December 11, 14 and 15, 2009 (which previously was expected to be December 8, 9 and 10, 2009).

The final exchange ratio will be announced by press release by 9:00 a.m., New York City time, on the trading day immediately preceding the expiration date. BMS and MJN currently expect to issue that press release by December 16, 2009, unless the exchange offer is extended or terminated.

As of December 3, 2009, approximately 1,055,000 shares of BMS common stock have been tendered.

About Bristol-Myers Squibb

Bristol-Myers Squibb is a global biopharmaceutical company committed to discovering, developing and delivering innovative medicines that help patients prevail over serious diseases. For more information, please visit www.bms.com.

About Mead Johnson Nutrition Company

Mead Johnson Nutrition Company, a global leader in pediatric nutrition, develops, manufactures, markets and distributes more than 70 products in 50 markets worldwide. The company's mission is to create nutritional brands and products trusted to give infants and children the best start in life. The Mead Johnson name has been associated with science-based pediatric nutrition products for over 100 years. The company's "Enfa" family of brands, including Enfamil® infant formula, is the world's leading brand franchise in pediatric nutrition. For more information, go to meadjohnson.com.

Additional Information

Mead Johnson has filed a registration statement on Form S-4 (Reg No. 333-163126) that includes an exchange offer prospectus with the SEC registering the shares of MJN common stock to be issued to BMS stockholders in connection with the exchange offer. In addition, BMS and MJN have filed a tender offer statement on Schedule TO with the SEC. You are urged to read carefully and in its entirety the prospectus, and any other relevant documents filed with the SEC, before making

any investment decision. None of BMS, MJN or any of their respective directors or officers or any dealer managers with respect to the exchange offer makes any recommendation as to whether you should participate in the exchange offer. You will be able to obtain a free copy of the prospectus and other related documents filed with the SEC by BMS and MJN at the SEC's web site at www.sec.gov, and those documents may also be obtained for free, as applicable, from BMS at www.bms.com or MJN at www.meadjohnson.com.

This announcement is for informational purposes only and is neither an offer to sell nor an offer to buy any securities or a recommendation as to whether you should participate in the exchange offer. The offer is made solely by the prospectus.

Forward-Looking Statements

Certain statements contained in this press release may constitute "forward-looking statements". All statements in this press release, other than those relating to historical information or current condition, are forward-looking statements. Such forward-looking statements are based on current expectations and involve inherent risks and uncertainties, including factors that could delay, divert or change any of them, and could cause actual outcomes and results to differ materially from current expectations. No forward-looking statement can be guaranteed. Among other risks, there can be no guarantee that the exchange offer will be completed, or if it is completed, that it will close within the anticipated time period. BMS and MJN undertake no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise.

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Blue Angels to return in 2011

Evansville, IN - The Blue Angels will return to Evansville in 2011, the Growth Alliance for Greater Evansville (GAGE) confirmed today.

Erika Taylor, GAGE's acting executive director, said she received notification on Monday that an application for an appearance by the U.S. Navy's Flight Demonstration Squadron has been granted, and the Blue Angels official 2011 schedule includes a commitment in the city on June 11 & 12. The request was submitted last summer.

GAGE started planning for the 2010 and 2011 signature summertime events just after the riverfront festival last summer. Taylor said that while the commitment from the Blue Angels is exciting, other details of the 2011 Freedom Festival have yet to be determined. Committees are being formed to explore possible components of the 2010 and 2011 festivals, and the public is encouraged to contact GAGE with ideas and offers to participate in the process.

"Advanced planning is the key to the success of any event, and we are looking at both 2010 and 2011 with the commitment that we work far enough ahead to ensure premier festivals both summers," Taylor said.

The 2010 Freedom Festival will be a patriotic celebration on July 4 serving as a prelude to the evening's riverfront fireworks spectacular. A parade and a live performance of patriotic music on the riverfront will be included in next summer's celebration. Taylor said other features are expected to be determined soon.

Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel said the announcement of the Blue Angels' return means the city can again look forward to hosting a huge crowd of excited spectators on the riverfront. "When everyone looks back at Freedom Festivals in the past, most still remember when the Blue Angels were here. They set the bar pretty high, and it's great news that Evansville will be presenting another memorable summer event," Weinzapfel said.

A not-for-profit public-private partnership, The Growth Alliance for Greater Evansville has four divisions: Entrepreneurial, which operates Innovation Pointe; Downtown Development; EnGAGE, the program of business outreach and assistance; and Technology Transfer, which executes the partnership with Crane, Naval Warfare Center.

WHAT IS GOING ON AT MT. ZION?

Mt. Zion General Baptist Church presents "All I want for CHRISTmas is.....JESUS!" Come and experience the true meaning of CHRISTmas on Sunday, December 13th at 6 pm. We will be featuring local talent from the youth and adult of our church.

Afterwards, we will be having a birthday celebration with cake, punch and finger foods. The public is invited. Please join us at 1425 N Oliver Rd.

For information, please contact Kevin or Annette Slygh at (812) 457-1488.



State Extended Benefits End in Indiana

INDIANAPOLIS (December 7, 2009) - The Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) has officially notified the U.S. Department of Labor that Indiana has automatically “triggered off” State Extended Benefits.

This program, which provided up to 20 weeks of benefits to Hoosiers, automatically activates and deactivates based on certain economic indicators. House Enrolled Act 1379 temporarily changed Indiana’s indicator to a three-month average Total Unemployment Rate of six percent or higher, while the federal government paid 100% of the costs of extended benefits.

Typically, Indiana’s Extended Benefits program is triggered when the 13-week average Insured Unemployment Rate exceeds five percent. The Insured Unemployment Rate measures the percent of Hoosiers receiving state unemployment from the entire pool of workers covered by the unemployment insurance system.

Since 100% federal funding of state extended benefits has lapsed, Indiana has reverted back to its traditional trigger and is now triggered off. Indiana’s current 13-week average Insured Unemployment Rate is 3.28 percent. Absent HEA 1379 changing Indiana’s trigger indicator, State

Extended Benefits would have automatically deactivated on July 26, 2009.

Indiana does not have any Hoosiers collecting state extended benefits. All Extended Benefit recipients were moved in November to the newly enacted federal unemployment extensions.

Claimants who had benefits remaining on Extended Benefits will not be able to collect them. All Extended Benefit payments immediately end when the program terminates.

First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

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

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Office	636	780	Retail	636	780	Warehouse	2,700	1,125
Office	848	1,040	Retail	848	1,040	Warehouse	3,000	1,250
Office	1,500	1,250	Retail	1,500	938	Warehouse	4,200	1,750
Office	3,000	2,500	Retail	3,000	1,876	Warehouse	5,700	2,375
Office	7,200	6,000	Retail	12,000	3,500	Warehouse	12,000	3,000

Office: \$10/sfNNN

Retail: \$7.50/sfNNN

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NNN: \$.65/sf

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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

The information contained herein is subject to change, there is no warrantee for errors, omissions, prior lease/sale/option/withdrawal or change in price/condition/terms, you must write to confirm all information in writing.

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— THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER —

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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.

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