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Parks & Rec Seeks Pickleball Addition

JUNE 2022
 The City of Evansville Department of Parks and Recreation is seeking approval to develop designs for a new Pickleball Facility at Wesselman Park. The Board of Parks Commissioners will consider an agreement for the plans at their Wednesday, June 1 meeting at noon in the Civic Center Complex, Rm. 301.



City of Evansville
 Wesselman - Roberts Park Improvements
 Evansville, Indiana

For the past several months, Deputy Mayor / Interim Park Director Steve Schaefer and the Evansville Pickleball Outdoor Courts (EPOC) committee have been meeting to ensure a future for pickleball in the Evansville community.

The first phase of the project is \$1.5 million, which will be funded through a public-private partnership. Additional phases would create:

- A new entryway and exit for the tennis and pickleball court area, reducing traffic flow inside Wesselman Park; and
- Designs for center tennis

court area with bleachers and an open-air covering for four additional pickleball courts.

"Pickleball is a sport for all ages and skill levels," said EPOC Chairman Michael Watkins. "It combines elements of tennis, badminton and ping-pong. We appreciate the Parks Department's interest and commitment

to our local pickleball community."

In addition to the pickleball facility plans, Parks Board members will also consider:

- A design service agreement for a new gateway entrance at Roberts Park; and
- An updated agreement for the Roberts Park Master Plan.

CenterPoint Extended Utility Moratorium To End

JUNE 2022
 CenterPoint Energy's extended utility moratorium for Indiana residents is set to expire, and disconnections for non-payment will resume on June 13. Customers with past due balances are encouraged to contact CenterPoint Energy to discuss payment options and resources available to avoid service disruption.



providing payment plans and connect with resources to avoid interruption of services. We will continue efforts to proactively reach out to customers with past due balances."

Extended payment arrangements will continue to be offered to customers needing assistance. If a customer has a delinquent balance, they are encouraged to contact customer service at 1-800-227-1376 to speak with a representative about options to avoid disconnection. Throughout the extended moratorium, CenterPoint Energy has been proactively communicating with customers through bill messages, emails, social media and community access to service fairs to make customers aware of payment arrangement options to avoid disconnection.

CenterPoint Energy also reminds customers to be mindful of recently reported scams targeting utility customers. The company would never call and demand payment over the phone via cash, money wire transfers, prepaid debit cards, gift cards, PayPal, Venmo, Square Pay, or Apple Pay within a defined amount of time to prevent immediate disconnection.

In the coming days, customers with a past due balance will receive a phone call and email reminding them the extended grace period has ended. While customers will be subject to disconnection beginning June 13, CenterPoint Energy will be taking a phased approach to disconnections.

"While we will resume disconnections, we understand there are still customers experiencing financial difficulties. We want to encourage customers to contact us to discuss options available to them, so we can assist them in avoiding disconnection," said Ashley Babcock, Vice President, Indiana and Ohio Gas. "Over the last two weeks, we connected with more than 150 customers face-to-face through the City of Evansville Access to Service fairs to assist in

No Easy Solution To Firearms Debate



JUNE 2022
 By Dannie McIntire
 The most recent mass shooting Uvalde, Texas which resulted in the death of 19 children and two adult teachers, should be the last "wake-up call" we need to endure as a nation is finally realizing that some

form of legislative action on gun violence is required.

Before I go any further, let me clarify, that I am not championing gun control, I myself am a gun owner, and I believe that any law-abiding citizen should have the

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Commentary

They Don't Own What They're Taking From Us And Giving Away

JUNE 2022
By ANDREW HORNING
Libertarian Party Candidate
for 8th District Congressional
Seat

Freedom, IN – Laws, in order to actually work to any degree of justice and practicality, must be few enough to know, simple enough to understand, and important enough that they are to be enforced completely, uniformly, without special classes, exceptions, or gotchas. And such laws must be made only by those authorized to write laws. That's not

the case now, as most laws are sprayed out like machinegun bullets by unelected bureaucrats.

So now, of course, our laws are so numerous, obtuse, self-contradicting, unconstitutional, loaded with "terms of art" and haphazardly applied that no one can know the rules by which they must live and trade. And most rules from Washington D.C.'s bureaucracies, legislative, executive, and judicial machines are inherently divisive, destructive, and immoral. Ob-

viously, they're not working for peace, prosperity, justice, and freedom. And now we have USA politicians and puppet masters assembling in Switzerland to take from us and give away to others our rights, money, opportunity, property, choices, and even our bodies, in violation of oaths of office as well as our most fundamental legal and moral laws.

So, for the above and innumerable other reasons, Libertarian candidate IN 08CD Andrew Horning proposes we dramatically streamline the United States Code, and thus the Code of Federal Regulations that depend upon the USC's authority, as well as the incomprehensible and unconstitutional tangle of rules created by bureaucracies in violation of Article I Section I of the Constitution for the USA. We would do this subsequent to Horning's proposed nullification resolution (copied below) and by guidance from that Constitution:

"Whereas the plain wording of

the 10th Amendment to the Constitution for the United States of America is binding law;

Be it resolved that; No federal law, agency, program or international treaty that depends upon authority not specifically granted by the Constitution for the United States of America shall be valid within the United States of America;

Any federal agency, law, program, or international treaty transcending authority specifically granted by the Constitution for the United States of America is null and void;

Unconstitutional laws, agencies, programs, and treaties have created both problems and dependencies that will take time to rectify;

All unconstitutional federal powers, delegations, laws, programs, treaties, and entities that cannot be immediately nullified must be phased out within no more than ten years."



Government Should Not Control Information

JUNE 2022
By Dannie McIntire

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas told lawmakers on April 27, 2022, that a new board at the Department of Homeland Security will focus on countering misinformation and disinformation.

Yikes! Did I hear that correctly? The government agency of Homeland Security has established a new board that will be responsible for telling us if what we are being told is true or untrue. Seriously, are you kidding me, our government wants to be in charge of verifying "information" that we are exposed to?

Now, what could go wrong with that? If that doesn't scare the heck out of you I don't know what will. I'm wondering what reference materials they've used in formulating the new board operating guidelines, Adolf Hitler's "Mein Kampf" or Russian President Vladimir Putin's playbook "How Best To Shut Up Your Critics".

In an August 12, 1984 news conference President Reagan quipped: "The nine most terrifying words in the English language are: I'm from the Government, and I'm here to help."

Throughout the history of our country, the journalistic media has done an overall remarkable job of fretting out misinformation. Many times it has been at the expense of our government, which was endeavoring to hide the truth from us. In my opinion, our government assuming responsibility for deciding what we should know "as the truth", is like putting the fox in the hen house!

I grew up listening to the weeknight broadcast of Walter Cronkite and Huntley-Brinkley. Like millions of Americans, they were welcomed into our homes each evening, and as I recall their validity of the news as they reported was never thought of in any way but "truthful".

Fast forward, a 2021 Gallup Poll found that only 36% in the United States had a "great deal" or "fair amount" of trust in mass media. Why is this? In my opinion, news reporting today seems in many cases to have become overtly political, news stories are often manipulated to favor the writer's political leanings. So, you're left with deciding what do you believe?

I have developed my own "search for the truth system". First, I read the News on the Fox website, on Yahoo News, on MSN News, and finally the BBC news. After reading the news perspectives on all four sites, somewhere in between lies the truth. Another good "truth source" is "Snopes.com" a fact-checking site.

I've not lost complete faith in today's mass media. There are still many competent and truthful journalists, who adhere to "the Journalist's Creed", written

by Walter Williams in 1914. A quick synopsis of the creed follows;

I believe that the public journal is a public trust; that all connected with it are, to the full measure of their responsibility, trustees for the public; that acceptance of a lesser service than the public service is a betrayal of this trust. I believe that a clear thinking and clear statement, accuracy, and fairness are fundamental to good journalism.

I believe that a journalist should write only what he holds in his heart to be true.

I believe that suppression of the news, for any consideration other than the welfare of society, is indefensible.

I believe that advertising, news and editorial columns should alike serve the best interests of readers; that a single standard of helpful truth and cleanness should prevail for all; that the supreme test of good journalism is the measure of its public service.

The days of Walter Cronkite and Huntley-Brinkley are a bygone era; their names if mentioned to more recent generations would most likely bring blank stares. We, the American public, need to have faith that the news we are being told is in fact truthful. However, I believe that a government "misinformation and disinformation" board being in charge of what we're told is the "truth", is a slippery slope none of us want to go down.

FOOTNOTE: The City-County Observer posted this article without bias or editing.



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- Good and safe roads
- Making our community an affordable place to live




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Community

Spaniolo Came Out As Trans At Franklin College

JUNE 2022

From the age of 5, Levi Spaniolo knew he was different. His birth certificate read female, but something about that felt wrong. His mom tried to put him in dresses, and he refused to wear them. He abhorred the color pink. He was afraid of becoming a girl.

Nearly 15 years later, Spaniolo came out as transgender on the small campus of Franklin College in suburban Indiana. There, as a track and cross-country runner, he entered the locker room alone. Not feeling comfortable in the women's and not yet accepted in the men's, he says the administration put him in a random locker room that was occasionally used by the male faculty at the college.

His male teammates had held a meeting about the spaces he was allowed into. He had not been invited. The reason he couldn't change in their locker room, his teammates had decided: They were worried about his safety.

"Like why is it OK for me to change in front of the male faculty but not my own teammates who basically see me shirtless anyway running," Spaniolo said. "They made it sound like for my physical safety I shouldn't go in there because of the things that were said, which didn't make me feel welcome on my team."

After coming out to his team on April 3, 2017, he still had to race on the women's team for two more seasons until he was able to finally race on the men's team his senior year.

"Having to race on the women's team really bothered me in the sense of like, I'm finally getting to who I am, but it was just really difficult to just have this major hole between who I am and my athletic capability," Spaniolo said.

Transgender inclusion in sports has been heavily politicized across the country in the past few years, with nearly 154 bills targeting transgender people in 2022. Of those, nearly 25 are about banning transgender youth from playing on sports teams that align with their chosen gender identity, according to the American Civil Liberties Union.

Politicizing Identities

This hole between identity and capability became the reality for a small fraction of Indiana kids when Gov. Eric Holcomb's veto of House Bill 1041 was overridden by the Indiana General Assembly on May 24. The bill was originally introduced during the 2022 Indiana legislative session. However, the governor vetoed the bill, saying that it was unclear how fairness was going to be maintained in K-12 sports and that there was not an issue to begin with in accordance with the Indiana High School Athletic Association.

The Indiana bill states that any transgender girl who competes in K-12 sports must only play on male sports teams. It not only ignores the existence of transgender boys but also raises a problem that was never there to begin with, according to many transgender advocates like Meghan Buell, founder of Transgender Recourse, Education and Enrichment Services in South Bend, Indiana.

"It really comes down to, you know, the bill was set up to protect girls' sports, but if they were really

regulating the sports, they would also include protecting boys' sports," Buell said. "So the whole conversation was around fear, unjustified fear."

Indiana was not the only state to pass bills around LGBTQ and in particular trans rights, though. Florida passed the "Don't Say Gay" bill in March. The new law basically says that sexual orientation and gender identity should not be talked about in schools. This would also prevent teachers from teaching lessons about the existence of same sex relationships or gender differences in grades kindergarten through third grade, according to Florida ACLU.

In Alabama, a law passed that would not allow anyone under the age of 18 to receive medical care in transition. However, after two families sued the state, a federal judge recently ruled that transgender youth could use medicine to transition, Alabama NPR reported. U.S. District Judge Liles Burke put a ban on the medication part of the bill but left in place wording that would not allow transgender youth to receive gender-changing surgery. The law also would allow school counselors and teachers to out transgender students to parents without the student's consent.

The relationship between testosterone levels and athletic performance is inconsistent and weak, research done by Katrina Karkazis, expert on testosterone and bioethics at Yale University, shows. Karkazis pokes a hole in the argument used by lawmakers across the country that it is not fair for transgender girls to compete on cisgender sports teams because born as males, they are "biologically stronger."

There are two main issues in the sports bill, Buell and Kit Malone, advocacy strategist for Indiana ACLU, said. Buell and Malone are both transgender women who expressed difficulties with the way Indiana politics has treated transgender people when talking about HB 1041.

Buell said the problem of transgender girls "invading" sports teams was not an issue. The IHSAA had a rule in place for transgender girls that seemed to be running smoothly. The IHSAA said that if a transitioning male-to-female athlete had been on hormone supplements for a year, they could compete on any girls' team.

That is why Buell and many in the transgender community were so upset at the introduction of this bill. She said she believes Indiana lawmakers were just following suit with dozens of other states that have introduced anti-transgender bills in recent years.

"The people who are fighting over this most have nothing invested in trans identities. Whether somebody is trans or not has no relevance to those people's existence, their livelihoods, the betterment of their lives, what they do every day. But they spent all of their time talking about how to control the trans population because it might win

favor with supporters," Buell said.

Buell is tired of politicians fighting over her rights.

"I'm a human being who has feelings and should have equal rights. And I'm tired of being drug back and forth like I'm the center point of a tug-of-war rope, dangling there for one side or the other side, just waiting for them both to drop me in the mud."

Malone also said that this bill only targets trans girls, who have been specifically targeted due to a larger issue that demonizes them in society.

Research done by the Trevor Project shows that 85% of transgender and nonbinary kids know about and have serious mental-health impacts from the political attacks on the transgender community.

"The bill author (Rep. Michelle Davis, R-Whiteland) really liked insisting on referring to trans girls as men and sort of painting this picture of scary mutant ogres coming to invade the spaces that women have," Malone said.

Alienated Within Their Community

Not only are transgender people excluded from society, they also feel marginalized from the LGBTQ community, said Franklin College student Elliot McKinley.

"You feel alienated even within your own community sometimes, and like that takes a toll on you after a while, to be like within your own community and to have people spewing hate at you," McKinley said.

Buell agreed, saying it is harder for transgender people to hide their identity and blend into society, making them an easier target for harassment.

"A trans person is visible wherever they go," Buell said. "If they make changes to their names, their pronouns, their appearance, they've got to live it every day," Buell said.

In the state of Indiana, 75% of LGBTQ students hear negative remarks about their transgender peers, a 2019 GLSEN study showed. The same study also said 55% of transgender youth were prevented from using their chosen name or pronouns in school.

McKinley said they have been in classes where transgender or nonbinary existences weren't even recognized. They also said that just the idea of not being able to use a chosen name or pronoun if desired was extremely invalidating.

"And I can't imagine being in a

school environment where I'm suddenly told I can't be who I am," McKinley said. "And I can't imagine being forced into the closet. I was in the closet by choice, and so I can't imagine having school officials have the right by law to tell me I can't be myself."

Jennifer Miller, a psychiatric nurse practitioner at Beacon Medical Group Behavioral Health in South Bend, also said that participation in sports has an impact on mental health.

"Sports are important for mental health in regards to the physical activity it provides. That is truly the best antidepressant, and also the other perks include teamwork skills and the experience of being part of something bigger than yourself," Miller said.

"Missing out on this experience could further push an already marginalized transgender person into more isolation and feeling of loneliness and despair, huge factors in depression and suicidality."

Finding Hope

Representation plays a huge impact on mental health, Miller said.

The 2020 Tokyo Olympics were the first to see a transgender athlete compete. New Zealand's Laura Hubbard became the first transgender woman to compete in weightlifting, and U.S. skateboarder Alana Smith was the first nonbinary person to compete.

This, along with recent Penn State University swimmer Lia Thomas has encouraged kids to keep playing sports. Although she was celebrated by the LGBTQ community and allies, she also faced severe backlash from many people on the internet citing the same fairness argument as many legislators.

Spaniolo said that should not stop trans youth from playing sports, though.

"If you truly love your sport, don't give up hope. Just keep fighting. Don't give up hope," he said.

"It has to get worse before it gets better, and unfortunately, with these young athletes that are coming up right now and trying to find themselves, it's only going to get harder, but it's going to make them stronger as long as they have the proper support. So just keep fighting."

FOOTNOTE: Taylor Dixon, formerly a reporter for TheStateHouseFile.com, recently graduated from Franklin College's Pulliam School of Journalism. This report on the repercussions of HB 1041 was completed as part of her senior project.

The City-County Observer posted this article without bias or editing.



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Community

Local Lawmakers Voted To Override Governors Veto To 'Protect Girl Sports'

JUNE 2022

Indiana State legislators voted on Tuesday to override the governor's veto of House Enrolled Act 1041, which prohibits biological males from competing in K-12 girls' sports in Indiana. The vote came as part of technical corrections day, where lawmakers can take up any vetoes and fix technical errors in laws passed during the prior session.

"Young women have fought hard for the same opportunities as men, and it's only right to protect the integrity of girls' sports in Indiana," State Representative Bartels (R) said. "Overriding this veto was important so we can prevent unfair competition throughout our state." Indiana will join at least 16 other states that have similar laws on the books protecting female sports. Lindauer said concerned parents reached out after an increasing number of biological males have dominated the national spotlight in girls' athletic



events across the nation. "Female athletes work hard to win titles and earn scholarships, and shouldn't watch from the sidelines because a biological male took their playing time," State Representative Lindauer (R) said. "This is about fairness, and overriding the veto was the right thing to do." There are certain biological differences that give males an unfair advantage over females in sports, like greater muscle mass, bone

density, and cardio capacity. Lindauer said the vote Tuesday was especially important as June marks the 50th anniversary of Title IX, which ensures women have an equal opportunity to play and compete in sports. In Indiana, a gubernatorial veto can be overridden with a constitutional majority vote in both chambers, and the bill becomes a law without the governor's signature. For more information about

House Enrolled Act 1041, effective on July 1, 2022, visit iga.in.gov.

Area Lawmakers who voted to override the governor's veto to protect the integrity of girl sports in Indiana were TIM O'BRIEN (R), WENDY MCNAMARA (R), MATT HOSTELLER (R), AND CINDY LEDBETTER (R). The lone area Democrat who voted not to overturn the Governor's veto was RYAN HATFIELD (D).

FOOTNOTE: At press time we had a problem verifying how Indiana State Senators Becker (R) and Toomes (R) voted on this issue but shall provide our readers an update once we find the results.

We also find it interesting that our local lawmakers didn't make any comments concerning their vote on this issue. We feel that it's very important for the voters of this community to find out the rationale why our local representatives voted on this issue the way they did.

ISP Begins Click It Or Ticket Campaign

JUNE 2022

Indiana State Police and many other police agencies across Indiana will be increasing patrols as part of the national "Click It or Ticket" enforcement campaign ahead of Memorial Day weekend. For the next three weeks, officers will be out in full force making sure drivers and passengers are buckled up.

The goal over the next three weeks is to reduce the number of traffic injuries and fatalities from lack of seat belt use, a continuing concern. Data from the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) shows that unbuckled motorists make up almost 40% of all passenger vehicle deaths in the state.

The overtime patrols are funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) with grants administered by ICJI.

"Our focus is not about writing tickets but to encourage people to buckle up in order to save lives," said Lieutenant Brian Bailey, Com-

mander of the Evansville District. "Seat belts are your best form of protection in a crash and against dangerous drivers. At the end of the day, we want everyone to reach their destination safely."

Since the "Click It or Ticket" initiative began more than 20 years ago, seat belt use has gone up 30% in Indiana to 92.9%, which is slightly higher than the national average of 90.3%.

Despite making progress and advances in vehicle safety, in 2020, 226 unbuckled vehicle occupants lost their lives on Indiana roads – the second highest in the past decade. Young drivers, especially males, were the least likely to be buckled during a crash.

"We cannot tolerate another deadly year like the one we just had on our roads," said Devon

McDonald, ICJI Executive Director. "Many of the people we lost would still be alive today had they made the decision to buckle up. Seat belts make a difference. They save lives."



Research has repeatedly demonstrated the safety benefits of seat belts and the dangerous consequences when people choose not to use them. Buckling up can reduce the risk of injury or death in a crash by 50%. Without a seat belt fastened, people can be ejected from a vehicle and killed, and that risk increases if the driver is speeding or impaired.

Tragically, vehicle collisions continue to be a leading cause of death for children ages 1 to 13, and NHTSA data shows that approximately 46% of all car seats are being used incorrectly. Parents and

caregivers who do not buckle up are more likely to have kids who are improperly restrained.

Indiana law requires the driver and all passengers to buckle up. Children under age eight must be properly restrained in a federally approved child car seat or booster seat.

Throughout the campaign, officers will be watching for seat belt and car seat violations while conducting high-visibility patrols during the day and night, when unrestrained driving is at its peak. Drivers can be cited for lack of seat belt use, but also for each unbuckled passenger under the age of 16.


Parents and caregivers are encouraged to make sure children are in the right car seat and that it's used correctly and properly installed. Resources can be found at www.nhtsa.gov/TheRightSeat. To schedule an appointment with a certified car seat safety technician at one of Indiana's 100 fitting stations, visit on.in.gov/SafeKi

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Community

Recent Vanderburgh Co. Marriage Licenses

Issued Date	License #	Applicants
04/28/2022	2022-0000322	ELIZABETH ANNE FROMM (Age 24) DANIEL ALLEN GOTT (Age 27)
04/28/2022	2022-0000326	HAZEL JAYNE RODIMEL (Age 27) SAMANTHA SUE SMITH (Age 28)
04/28/2022	2022-0000321	ANDREA MICHELE BROWN (Age 38) JOSEPH NICHOLAS LAMKIN (Age 31)
04/28/2022	2022-0000323	DARREL JOE STRAUB (Age 60) JACQUELINE C GILLIAM (Age 58)
04/28/2022	2022-0000325	NATHAN WILLIAM SHEPHERD (Age 38) REBECCA LYNNETTE MOORE (Age 38)
04/28/2022	2022-0000327	CORNELIO PEREZ VELAZQUEZ (Age 22) VICTORIA MORALES MORALES (Age 24)
04/29/2022	2022-0000329	ASHLEY NICOLE MABREY (Age 31) JERROD W KOONTZ (Age 37)
04/29/2022	2022-0000328	CONNER SHERMAN (Age 24) BROOKLYN SMYTH (Age 22)
04/29/2022	2022-0000337	NICOLAS D GREENWELL (Age 25) HANNAH E HOLT (Age 26)
04/29/2022	2022-0000330	TIMOTHY LEE ALVEY (Age 64) CAROL CELIA ASHMORE (Age 68)
04/29/2022	2022-0000331	TAZIAH ELSHUN CAPRI HOPSON (Age 24) BRITTNEY ARLENE RHODES (Age 29)
04/29/2022	2022-0000332	BLADE MICHAEL KEACH (Age 24) ALYSSA NICOLE JOEST (Age 25)
04/29/2022	2022-0000335	STEPHEN EUGENE WILSON (Age 61) SUSAN RENEE LUBBEN (Age 62)
05/05/2022	2022-0000359	KEGAN WAYNE HAYHURST (Age 22) ALYSON M MCSTOTTS (Age 23)
05/06/2022	2022-0000363	KELLY ANN BALDWIN (Age 29) CHRISTOPHER LEE ODOM (Age 27)
05/06/2022	2022-0000365	CELIA MARIE LANGFORD (Age 28) BLAKE SPENCER NORTON (Age 28)
05/06/2022	2022-0000367	HAILEY RAE MILLER (Age 27) WILLIAM NATHANIEL MANNING (Age 28)
05/06/2022	2022-0000360	MEGAN F MURPHY (Age 27) MICHAEL T RINGER (Age 27)
05/06/2022	2022-0000362	JAYDEN A BESHEARS (Age 25) HANNAH L RIESS (Age 25)
05/06/2022	2022-0000364	KYLE E LEBARRON (Age 24) COURTNEY R CANTRELL (Age 27)
05/06/2022	2022-0000366	SHAMIKA WHITE (Age 46) APRIL GARVIE (Age 44)
05/06/2022	2022-0000368	JOSHUA JAMES BREIVOGEL (Age 30) VICTORIA GRACE RICKETTS (Age 24)
05/06/2022	2022-0000361	ADAM MICHAEL TEPOOL (Age 37) WHITNEY MARIE LUX (Age 33)
05/09/2022	2022-0000375	JESSICA NICOLE LEE (Age 26) CHASE CHRISTOPHER PARTAIN (Age 26)
05/09/2022	2022-0000370	KATIE NICOLE TUCKER (Age 25) LEVI BENNETT SHANNON (Age 25)
05/09/2022	2022-0000371	JAICYONA XYNA SANDAGE-SHOFNER (Age 22) KRYSCHAN CHASE AUSTIN (Age 23)

Issued Date	License #	Applicants
05/10/2022	2022-0000379	NOAH BROOKS (Age 19) SOPHIA DRAKE (Age 19)
05/10/2022	2022-0000380	GREGORY A BARNETT (Age 68) TAMMY ROSE PICKERING (Age 56)
05/10/2022	2022-0000382	GLENERIA L ARMSTEAD (Age 26) BRYANT H HAWES (Age 29)
05/10/2022	2022-0000383	JASON DELBERT SUMMERS (Age 22) MADISON NICOLE SCHOETTLIN (Age 22)
05/10/2022	2022-0000384	MAURICE CORTEZ LEWIS (Age 58) TINA LOUISE HOWARD (Age 58)
05/10/2022	2022-0000381	ERIK MCKENNA JEWELL (Age 45) KALLY ANN KENNEDY (Age 34)
05/10/2022	2022-0000378	HANNAH STEWART (Age 23) CORY THACKER (Age 35)
05/11/2022	2022-0000388	JONATHAN DAVID REID (Age 23) REBEKAH SCOUT RAWLEY (Age 24)
05/11/2022	2022-0000386	LAWRENCE GREGORY MAY II (Age 57) TONYA SUE BURKES (Age 57)
05/11/2022	2022-0000385	RAHMAN LUIS FANN (Age 24) JUANA KATHERYNN GONZALEZ PARADA (Age 25)
05/11/2022	2022-0000387	JERMAL LEVI PHILLIPS (Age 45) GERRICA LASONDIA KELLY (Age 40)
05/24/2022	2022-0000447	JESSE CRAIG BOUCHIE (Age 27) ANNAJO DAWN GOETZ (Age 22)
05/24/2022	2022-0000443	ELIZABETH ANN VANHEEREN (Age 26) DEKARIYAN ORLANDO CROWDER (Age 26)
05/24/2022	2022-0000445	DIANA G BECERRA GURROLA (Age 26) GERBER N BARRERA MIRANDA (Age 33)
05/24/2022	2022-0000446	STEPHEN ANTHONY CLARK (Age 50) LAKEYSHA LEQUETTE PRESLEY (Age 47)
05/24/2022	2022-0000444	MATTHEW N SIMS (Age 28) KIERA M STOVALL (Age 31)



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Community

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ALEXANDER FUNERAL HOME

East

Marion Frances Gilland	Sep. 02, 1928 - May 04, 2022
Herbert 'Herb' Harper, Jr.	May 30, 1926 - May 08, 2022
Thelma D. Levels	Jul. 20, 1927 - May 08, 2022
Joseph Alan Hidgions	Dec. 28, 1951 - May 09, 2022
Rex A Jewell	May 05, 1947 - May 14, 2022
Bernice M. Emge	Apr. 18, 1931 - May 17, 2022
Dorothy Lee Conder	May 04, 1925 - May 16, 2022
Randel Baxter	Feb. 26, 1945 - May 23, 2022
Jerry L. Thompson	Jun. 22, 1953 - May 23, 2022
Stephen "Stevie" C. Dick	May 25, 1958 - May 25, 2022
Sondra F. Howell	Jun. 26, 1940 - May 27, 2022
Mary Ann Miller	Oct. 03, 1926 - May 29, 2022

West

James "Jim" Everett Waller	Feb. 02, 1937 - May 03, 2022
John Henry Marshall	Nov. 10, 1937 - May 04, 2022
Jean Bernhardt	Jul. 02, 1944 - May 06, 2022
Donna Faye Blackford	Sep. 14, 1946 - May 06, 2022
Kathy Sue Wellmeier	Oct. 10, 1950 - May 07, 2022
Marilyn J. Smith	Feb. 07, 1932 - May 08, 2022
James "Jim" Russell Wolf Jr.	Jun. 12, 1953 - May 15, 2022
Jennifer Mae Hunsaker	Sep. 17, 1962 - May 15, 2022
Mary Ann Sherman	Dec. 19, 1950 - May 16, 2022
Joel Wayne Beliles Sr.	Sep. 03, 1938 - May 19, 2022
Lois Maxine Collins	Feb. 02, 1934 - May 26, 2022
Jerry Lee McClarney	July 02, 1935 - May 26, 2022
Eldon "Ray" Hanes	May 11, 1939 - May 28, 2022
Fannie S. Tennison	Jan. 07, 1940 - May 30, 2022

North

Kenneth R Walker	Jun. 06, 1944 - May 01, 2022
Barbara J Butrum	Mar. 22, 1938 - May 01, 2022
Timothy Sullivan	Apr. 10, 1981 - May 01, 2022
Dr. Charles E. Kendall Jr.	Jun. 23, 1955 - May 01, 2022
Mary K Boyle	Jul. 19, 1928 - May 06, 2022
Clyde A Broderhausen	Jun. 07, 1950 - May 08, 2022
William B McRoy	Jul. 17, 1933 - May 10, 2022
Dustin Jacob Christian Moore	Oct. 13, 1971 - May 13, 2022
Neil V. Jones	Oct. 11, 1959 - May 13, 2022
Jeannine Smith	Jan. 29, 1931 - May 20, 2022
Michael B Hoover	Aug. 08, 1948 - May 21, 2022
Dennis Herrenbruck	Oct. 10, 1950 - May 28, 2022

BOONE FUNERAL HOME

John Hysell	Nov. 03, 1948 - May 01, 2022
Mary Catherine "Kay" Hammond	Nov. 03, 1930 - May 04, 2022
Dennis Reusch	Jul. 02, 1955 - May 06, 2022
Betty Fay	May 02, 1933 - May 06, 2022
William "Mike" Wallace	Sep. 15, 1971 - May 07, 2022
Roger Murphy	Jul. 22, 1936 - May 11, 2022
Harold "Dean" Spilmon	Oct. 30, 1945 - May 13, 2022
Jo Ann Eisele	Oct. 11, 1936 - May 14, 2022
Jonell Snodgrass	Dec. 02, 1933 - May 15, 2022

Joyce Fark
Phyllis Claycamp
Barbara Brown
Kimberly Patterson
Donald Sunderman

Oct. 06, 1940 - May 16, 2022
May 10, 1928 - May 20, 2022
Apr. 25, 1938 - May 21, 2022
Jan. 24, 1962 - May 23, 2022
Mar. 01, 1937 - May 24, 2022

MASON BROTHERS FUNERAL SERVICES

Nadine Collins	Aug. 26, 1934 - May 02, 2022
Mrs. Hattie Mae Flemming	May 14, 1932 - May 05, 2022
Cora Lee Qualls	Nov. 09, 1948 - May 05, 2022
Adolphus "Doc" Chester Smith	Apr. 12, 1949 - May 08, 2022
Annette Grinstead	Nov. 07, 1941 - May 10, 2022
Mr. William Robert Coleman	Sep. 25, 1944 - May 13, 2022
Frances Lenora Thompson	Mar. 09, 1946 - May 16, 2022
Michael Kuntay Lovan	Nov. 06, 1977 - May 20, 2022

PIERRE FUNERAL HOME

Beatrice Louise Hendricks	Nov. 03, 1932 - May 01, 2022
Rita "Deetz" Goebel	May 22, 1949 - May 02, 2022
Larry Franklin	Jan. 25, 1950 - May 03, 2022
Brian K. Schweizer	Mar. 09, 1957 - May 03, 2022
Billy Joe Shelton	Oct 28, 1952 - May 03, 2022
Mark D. Healy	Feb. 24, 1968 - May 07, 2022
Frank M. Smith	Dec 18, 1932 - May 08, 2022
Wilma L Draper Pace Beal	Aug. 26, 1956 - May 09, 2022
George D. Whitfield	Apr. 27, 1944 - May 10, 2022
John Michael Moers	Jan. 08, 1954 - May 11, 2022
James A Schenk Sr.	Jan 05, 1935 - May 11, 2022
Alice Ann Goebel	Aug. 02, 1953 - May 17, 2022
Thomas J. Kissinger	Aug. 18, 1954 - May 18, 2022
Barbara Jane Bone	Nov. 25, 1933 - May 19, 2022
Sandra J. Elbrink	Mar. 04, 1949 - May 19, 2022
Edna Mae Straub	Jan. 29, 1939 - May 20, 2022
Esther G. Petrig	Oct. 26, 1939 - May 20, 2022
Dennis Garness	Nov. 26, 1946 - May 21, 2022
Thelma H. Boarman Welte	Dec. 16, 1940 - May 23, 2022
David Lee Weightman	Mar. 20, 1993 - May 23, 2022
Sharon G. Lang	Jun. 16, 1963 - May 25, 2022
Mr Edward J. Saalweachter Jr.	Oct. 02, 1955 - May 26, 2022
Sylvia Rae Bullock	Mar. 19, 1940 - May 27, 2022
Carol L. Pigman	Jan. 07, 1968 - May 28, 2022

ZIEMER FUNERAL HOME

Mary "Loine" (Miller) White	Dec. 28, 1916 - May 03, 2022
Jessica M. Robinson	Jun. 13, 1986 - May 03, 2022
Jeffrey S. Brock	Dec. 01, 1961 - May 06, 2022
Eleanor Rose (Broarman) Neth	Nov. 14, 1932 - May 07, 2022
James "Richard" Reece	Sep. 05, 1948 - May 08, 2022
Lorine M. Rexing	Apr. 29, 1930 - May 08, 2022
Grant Dennison	Jan. 27, 2006 - May 09, 2022
Mary Frances Zimmer	Sep. 24, 1922 - May 10, 2022
Charles Allen Toon	Jan. 09, 1942 - May 10, 2022
Anton "Tony" Charles Ungetheim	Feb. 07, 1945 - May 10, 2022
Robert E. Ewerts	Aug. 31, 1932 - May 13, 2022
John W. "Jack" Ruston	Feb. 16, 1927 - May 17, 2022
Paul Allyn Rhoades	Nov. 02, 1946 - May 19, 2022
Patricia "Pat" E. (Middleton) Hewitt	Jul. 10, 1939 - May 20, 2022
Ralph Schmitt	Sep. 22, 1955 - May 27, 2022
Joan Marie (Kunkel) Kremer	Oct. 11, 1929 - May 29, 2022
Theresa F. (Sauer) Pate	May 02, 1927 - May 29, 2022

Recent Vanderburgh County Birthdays

Darren Stratman	Linda Luecke
Debi Duvell Ziemer	Andy Porath
Brian Ferguson	Steve Bryant
Ed Goebel	Camilla Buese
Jayne Stuckey Beitler	Judy Mossberger
Tracy Hobgood McGuire	Shannon Libbert Miller
Sherri Eslinger	Gina Eaton
Scott E. Klueh	Tyler Steckler
Andy Hope	Jane Engberss Doughty
Tony Rine	Jon Fuchs
Billy Weir	Charlie Henry Farber
Donna Salmon	Billie Goodman
Ange Humphrey	Arron Biggerstaff
Wally Paynter	Libby Treado Selzer
Wayne Ellis	Kelly Evans Wollenman
Rebecca Becki Fulkerson	Katherine Pruitt
Gina Moore	Brad Anderson
Steve Seitz	Roy Foertsch
Kate Mercer Miller	Shelia Murphy
Chris Paddock	Codi Alan Meyer
Nancy Ritter	Grey, Meyer
Chris Harp	Garey w. Patmore
Romona Smith	Kalah Georgette-Vowels
fatti Cosby	Jay Timber



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Community

No Easy Solution To Firearms Debate

Continued From Page 1

right to own a firearm(s) within the laws of the jurisdictions in which they live.

Now immediately some of the "2nd Amendment" folks are going to grab their "pitchforks and torches" to come after me for even saying "within the laws of their jurisdictions". But first, what does the 2nd amendment of our constitution actually say?

The 2nd amendment was ratified on December 17, 1791, in conjunction with the other nine amendments which make of our Bill Of Rights.

Specifically the 2nd amendment states;

"A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a Free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

The exact meaning of the above wording has been in question since and is still being debated today.

Does it expressly protect the right of the individual as a private citizen to "keep and bear arms", or is it more specifically the right of a citizen to keep and bear arms within the bounds of a "well-regulated Militia"?

In 2008 the Supreme Court put forth an answer to the above question when it ruled in the case of the District of Columbia vs. Heller, stating that there is an individual right to bear arms. Additionally, in the case, McDonald v. Chicago, the Supreme Court in 2010 reaffirmed that the individual right to keep and bear arms is protected by the Constitution.

So, for now, the above 2008 and 2010 rulings are the "law of the land". Any overly restrictive gun control legislation at the federal or state level is most likely going to run afoul of the previously mentioned Supreme Court rulings.

Our constitutional would allow for the 2nd amendment to be amended or even appealed, but it is a laborious process that would most likely fail. Basically, if congress were to pass a change to the 2nd amendment, it is then sent to the governors of all states for ratification in either of two methods;

The governor submits the amendment to the state legislature for approval;

The governor convenes a state convention to approve the amendment

The newly proposed amendment has to be ratified by three-fourths of the states to become part of our constitution. The track record for that



happening is not very favorable; over time our congress has passed six amendments to our constitution that filed to achieve ratification at the state level.

So what can we do in the face of continuing mass shootings? First, the pro-gun and anti-gun supporters need to come together and agree on a workable compromise solution. Now I didn't say a compromise that satisfies both sides, that in my opinion is not possible, but one that both sides could "swallow hard" and live with.

The Gun Control Act of 1968 sets federal age restrictions on who can buy a gun. Under this law, shotguns, and rifles, commonly referenced as long guns, can be sold to individuals 18 years and older. Any firearm referenced as a "handgun", including handgun ammunition, can be sold only to individuals who are 21 years and older.

Under the above law background checks are required for any person attempting to purchase a firearm from a licensed gun dealer.

While the above sounds reasonable, anti-gun proponents wanting stricter age control on firearm ownership would think the Federal Gun Control Act Of 1968 could simply be amended through congressional action.

But, not so fast, there is a matter of "State Rights". In some instances, the various state firearm laws are less restrictive than the existing federal law.

In some states, the individual only needs to be 18 years old to purchase a handgun, whereas the federal law stipulates 21 years and older. One state allows an individual 16 years and older, while another allows an individual 17 years or older, to be in possession of a handgun. Six states currently have no age restriction concerning who can be in possession of a "long

gun" or "handgun".

While these various state laws do not prevent violations of federal law from being addressed in federal courts, state and local police are not legally required to enforce federal gun laws, per a Supreme Court ruling, "Printz vs. Unites States."

I'd like to put forth this argument concerning the remote possibility that assault-type weapons, high-capacity magazines, and ammunition, could eventually be banned through a legislative process.

How has stopping the flow of illicit drugs into our country worked out? If an element of the American public wants something that is forbidden to them, it will find its way into our country.

If you think banning assault weapons will solve the problem of the seemingly spiraling "your life doesn't matter" mentality gripping our nation, I fear the only result will be these type of weapons will flow totally unregulated into our country through the "black market". Do you think the ordinary law-abiding citizen will be purchasing these or those with criminal intent? I think the reader knows the answer.

I do not believe that strict gun control laws by themselves would achieve the intended goal of reducing gun violence. The number of shootings our country experiences daily needs to be examined as to the root causes and addressed as a national emergency. We need to take action to stop the loss of our youth to these senseless shootings.

The old saying, "Guns don't kill people, people kill people", is quite true. Countries that have strict firearm ownership laws, though rare, they still incur mass killings with other non-firearm weapons.

In lieu of attempting to ban guns

classified as assault weapons, which in reality will not happen easily or anytime soon, I'll partially borrow a phrase from "Forest Gump". "I may not be a smart man", but I have an idea that I think both sides of the "gun ideologies" might possibly be willing to consider.

The "Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA)", which was signed into law in 2005, protects firearms manufacturers and dealers from being held liable when crimes have been committed with their products.

Would our congressional leaders have the collective will to simply amend the above current law to specifically exclude assault classified weapons manufactured by a specific date? The definition of an assault-type weapon would have to be well defined in the revision. Perhaps, even include removing liability protection for replacement parts made for an assault weapon.

Without this protection, I'm fairly confident that the manufacturers of "assault classified weapons", once open to financial liability, would quickly decide for the company, its officers, and stockholders, that it was no longer financially feasible to continue manufacturing the weapon.

The above scenario, I believe would stand a better chance of surviving court challenges, which will assuredly happen, but the weapon isn't being banned. The manufacturer would still have the right to manufacture and sell their product, and the citizen's right to bear arms is not being infringed upon as they would still have the right to purchase the product. But I'm betting if it were still available, it would be at a price few could afford.

FOOTNOTE: Posted by the City-County Observer without bias or editing.

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2022 Professional Disc Golf Association Amateur World Championship

Evansville, Indiana & Gibson County
June 18-25, 2022

Visit Evansville has partnered with Gibson County Visitors & Tourism Bureau and our local PDGA organization to host the 2022 Professional Disc Golf Association Amateur Disc Golf World Championship. Dads Fore Disc Golf and the Ace Eagle Disc Golf Club are collaborating to host the event. The tournament will take place at several area locations, including Princeton Country Club, Haubstadt Community Park, Mesker Park, Mesker Woods, Woodmere and Prides Creek. The Evansville and Gibson County areas expect to see an economic impact of over \$550,000 from this world championship tournament.

71st National Square Dance Convention*

Old National Events Plaza | June 22-25, 2022

The 2022 Convention Committee is made up of a talented group of volunteers, dedicated to preserving and promoting the great art and sport of square dancing. This convention will draw approximately 3,000 people, occupying 16 hotel properties throughout the city.



Come dance with us!

The public is encouraged to attend the event on Saturday, June 25, 2022, from to 2 - 4 PM, at the Old National Events Plaza to watch live square dancing. Additionally, from 3 - 4 PM on that day, members of the non-dancing public will be invited to the dance floor to learn some square dancing.

EVANSVILLE SPORTS COMPLEX

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- June 3-5

USSA Baseball Tri-state Championship

- June 11-12

USSA Fastpitch Super 6 NIT

- June 17-19

USA Elite Select Vette City Summer Showcase & Camp

- June 23-26

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Education

DOE Provides Funding For STEM Certification

JUNE 2022

INDIANAPOLIS—As education evolves, educators adopt new terminology and ideas to further the individual success of students. In terms of educational buzzwords, one particular concept—STEM—dominates many conversations.

STEM, which stands for science, technology, engineering and mathematics, focuses on the integration of these four subjects and how they can be engaged in critical thinking and real-world application. Obtaining certification for STEM has been an ongoing process for more and more schools in the United States.

As of 2022, more than 100 Indiana schools k-12 and beyond are now STEM certified, meaning their curriculums will now put a heavier emphasis on science, technology, engineering and mathematics—something that many current industries thrive on. By emphasizing these topics and their interconnection, students will be provided with problem-solving skills through both hands-on and real-world applications of subjects.

Beginning this education earlier has its benefits, according to iD Tech, which describes early childhood STEM education as a key to better school and career preparedness.

Holly Lawson, the deputy director of communications for the Indiana Department of Education, says that the process for STEM certification is a rigorous one, but the certification is by far the most popular program within IDOE.

"Looking ahead, we're committed to continuing to improve this program and the resources and support we provide to schools to help them reach STEM certification," Lawson

said.

To ensure this, IDOE has provided a grant so that more schools have funding for this process. In March 2022, this grant provided \$2.6 million to 48 school districts and charter schools in the state of Indiana.

Nancy Campbell, the principal of Prosser Career Education Center in New Albany, has recently supervised the school's decision to re-verify their STEM certification. Because it's a career center and not a traditional k-12 school, Campbell believed the certification was another "gold star" to showcase the expertise and educational opportunities at Prosser.

"[The process] is quite extensive," Campbell said. "We had to basically create a site online that would demonstrate where we stood as far as each of the standards of STEM and the [provided] rubric. We'd have to combine artifacts that would support our rationale as to why we felt like we were efficient and all those areas. This included everything from advisory committee meetings to lesson plans to pictures of events that we would have, newsletters—anything that we could find that could support our stance as far as being a STEM school through and through at Prosser."

"... We create opportunities, which give options for our students. We are maintaining that status quo, we're going above and beyond to give you every opportunity to create all the options possible for you and your next steps."

FOOTNOTE: Ariana Lovitt is a reporter for TheStatehouseFile.com, a news website powered by Franklin College journalism students.

Full-Time IU Employees Can Get Loan Forgiveness

JUNE 2022

Indiana University is now a qualifying organization for the federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program, which forgives a specific type of student loan for people who meet certain conditions.

"For those IU employees who face the challenge of student loan repayment, an added benefit to working here is the opportunity to take advantage of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program," said Phil Schuman, IU's executive director of financial wellness and education. "Being a part of the program can help reduce your loan obligation on both a monthly and long-term basis and allow the opportunity to lower your financial stress and strengthen your financial security moving forward."

The Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program is run by Federal Student Aid, an office of the U.S. Department of Education. To qualify for the program, you must:

Be employed full-time by a qualifying organization; IU is one.

Have Federal Direct Loans, although some other federal loans may also qualify.

Repay your loans under an income-driven repayment plan.

Make 120 qualifying payments. Last year, the U.S. Department

of Education also announced a temporary period during which borrowers may receive credit for payments that previously did not qualify for the loan forgiveness program. The waiver began on Oct. 6, 2021, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

If you believe you qualify for the program, contact studentaid.gov or your loan service for additional information or questions.

You can create a Public Service Loan Forgiveness certification form using the PSLF Help Tool. The tool will help you understand the program, the current waiver and what you need to do to participate.

Current employees can send their forms via Slashtmp to iuvoe@iu.edu. Do not send the form directly to the office via email, as it will contain personal data.

Former employees can request a Slashtmp upload invitation by emailing iuvoe@iu.edu.

Alternatively, forms can be mailed to UCO Customer Service, Employment Verifications, 1024 E. Third St., Room 101, Bloomington, IN 47405.

FOOTNOTE: Bethany Nolan is a senior communications consultant in the Office of the Vice President for Communications and Marketing.



EVPL Partnering With The Teacher Locker For Seasons Of Sharing

JUNE 2022

Evansville, IN – The Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library is partnering with the Teacher Locker in our next Seasons of Sharing.

The Seasons of Sharing initiative was launched in December 2021 to provide opportunities for our community to give back through donation drives. This season, the library is highlighting the mission of the Teacher Locker "to provide free classroom

supplies in order to support teaching, promote student achievement, and drive school success."

"EVPL is committed to supporting the teachers of our community," EVPL CEO-Director Scott Kinney said. "We hope that through this summer's Seasons of Sharing drive, we help The Teacher Locker take one step closer to making sure all local teachers never have to worry about purchasing classroom

materials and supplies."

Beginning Wednesday, June 1, and continuing through Monday, July 18, Seasons of Sharing will be accepting donations for The Teacher Locker at all eight EVPL locations.

Teacher Locker Wish List – Items include:

- Decorations
- Calculators
- Staplers
- Binders
- Scissors
- Markers
- Paint
- Art supplies
- Notebooks
- Pencils
- Paper



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Education

Hoosier Educators Fear Restrictive Bills Could Turn Up Again In 2023 Session

JUNE 2022

During the COVID-19 pandemic, teachers among many others were hailed as “heroes” and “essential workers” due to their efforts spent learning new methods of communicating with students and offering help beyond the usual classroom experience.

Now many teachers say it’s almost like the script has been flipped, and what was once heroic and noble is now seen as insidious or an attempt to harm students. In the last two years, 42 of the 50 U.S. states authored bills that would limit how educators can discuss issues such as racism and sexism with students K-12.

In Indiana, Senate Bill 17 was proposed during the 2022 legislation. This bill’s goal was to prohibit the teaching and sharing of “harmful materials” in schools and libraries catering to students K-12. Sen. Jeff Raatz, R-Centerville, co-authored the bill during the 2022 session.

“I think for obvious reasons, when you look at the concept of the bill, children ... should be protected from certain things, and potentially pornography ought to be one of them,” Raatz said.

The bill was not without push-back, however. Many argued that the bill aims to silence diverse voices or whitewash American history. The subjective nature and lack of specificity in the bill’s language has been a major concern for educators and opposition. With no citations of certain literature, media or teaching materials, there was no way to clearly state what was or wasn’t the issue in certain classrooms or libraries.

Keith Gambill, president of the Indiana State Teachers Association, said that educators must present history in a way that is honest yet curated and suitable for specific grade levels. What may work for an advanced-placement U.S. history class in high school may not be suitable for a similar class in elementary school, Gambill acknowledged, but educators should have a commitment to honesty.

“We can’t whitewash it and gloss over it in some grand sweep to make it appear different than what it was,” Gambill said. “And so we have to have those conversations and examine: Why might our ancestors have done certain things that today we just look at as being wrong? And what can we learn from that? What are our takeaways? And how can we grow as a society



and as a country? Those are important conversations.”

Minority Caucus Chair J.D. Ford, D-Indianapolis, strongly disagreed with the proposed bills from the start, expressing concerns about the subjectivity of what is or is not deemed “harmful”.

“I specifically asked a parent in committee: Do you think LGBTQ topics are material that’s harmful to children? And that particular parent said yes,” Ford said. “[In the next session] I’m just hoping that we do less of the cultural war, less of the divisive stuff, and more about tackling the real issues that’s going on in our state.”

A local librarian who asked to remain anonymous due to not having permission from their employer to speak, expressed concern for the proposal of Senate Bill 17 and what it meant for the library and their department. Because teen clients often ask them for material on gender identities and racial discrimination, they worry about the comfort and mental health of those who seek solace in that material.

“My initial reaction was one of fear,” they said. “Those two sides of it—we can’t talk about racial discrimination, we can’t talk about queerness as an identity—kind of shows to me what the true agenda is. And it’s worrying, to put it simply.”

Senate Bill 17 did not get written into law, but many protestors expressed concern that its language and goals may return to the 2023 legislative session in a modified form.

Additionally, House Bill 1134 was proposed around the same time to ensure procedures were in place to

hold educators accountable for teaching beyond an approved, pre-set curriculum. This banned discussion of certain concepts deemed “divisive,” such as critical race theory and social-emotional learning (SEL), another colloquialism often tossed around in discussions of modern education. This refers to mental or psychological health care in schools K-12, as well as some investigations into the wellbeing of a child’s living conditions or safety.

This bill also failed to be written into law in Indiana, but its effect and threat were felt throughout the world of education.

Jennifer Brinker, assistant principal at Greenwood Middle School in Indiana, does not believe that writing an entire curriculum a year in advance would be a beneficial method of teaching.

“It’s kind of like [lawmakers] wanted a very 1980s version of schools, where the teacher just pulls open their file cabinet and has their stack worth of worksheets that they’re going to do and already has that prescribed for the whole year, regardless of who walks through the door,” Brinker said. “And that’s not how we do things now. Now we are constantly collecting data and reevaluating and analyzing what we’re doing.”

“It would be like having a coach turn in their playbook for the entire season without having met their team yet.”

Andrea Tiley, a developmental kindergarten teacher from Waverly Elementary School in Indiana, agreed with this sentiment.

“Trying to come up with lesson plans in advance would be impossible because you’re supposed to

meet the children’s needs—so they’re not understanding something, you have to reteach it. So if you were making lesson plans a year in advance, you wouldn’t meet individual needs, you would just be teaching things. You just have to keep going.”

Another component of HB 1134 was the written consent of parents if their children were to undergo further SEL.

“That’s insane to me,” Brinker said. “First of all, a parent who’s not providing a stable or loving environment for their kid is not going to sign off consent to us to dig into that. They like it when we don’t talk to their kids at all. That would tie our hands completely in helping these kids improve.”

Scott Wilkerson, a special education teacher at Indian Creek High School in Trafalgar, Indiana, has been an educator for 20 years and did not support either bill due to the limitations they set on students.

“My personal opinion is we should give kids every bit of information they can take and then let them sort it out,” Wilkerson said. “I think senators and politicians don’t know what they’re talking about ... I think most of the curriculum should be set by local levels, not state levels. Being an educator, I think we can help [students] decipher good from bad.”

FOOTNOTE: Ari Lovitt, formerly a reporter for TheStatehouse-File.com, recently graduated from Franklin College’s Pulliam School of Journalism. This report on Indiana’s recent spate of controversial education bills was completed as part of her senior project.

Ivy Tech To Offer Free STEM Camps

JUNE 2022

Ivy Tech is planning two, free summer STEM Camps – June 20-24; and July 11-15 – from noon-4:30 p.m. Children in 4th grade and up are invited to sign up.

Activities at the camp will include such things as learning about animation, robot commands, 3D print pens, scratch programming, stomp rockets, 3D printing, circuit decorating, Drawbots, and VEX robotics. Snacks and structured games will be

provided.

Campers will select one project to work on during the week that they will enter into the STEM Fair on Friday of each camp week. At the STEM Fair, judges will inspect each camper’s project as the campers explain it. Parents and guardians are welcome to attend at 2:45 p.m., along with community partners who will have displays.

To Sign Up, go to: link.ivytech.edu/STEMcamp

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Sports

Evansville's Ragland Is New Aces Coach

JUNE 2022

EVANSVILLE, IN. – David Ragland has been named the 16th head men's basketball coach in University of Evansville history. The announcement of the 8th Division I head coach in Purple Ace's history was made by Director of Athletics Dr. Kenneth "Ziggy" Siegfried.

Media met with Coach Ragland and Ziggy Siegfried inside Meeks Family Fieldhouse on Wednesday, May 25. Each station/publication received a 10-minute 1-on-1 opportunity with Ragland and Siegfried. "As we moved through the search process for our new head men's basketball coach, David Ragland separated himself from the other candidates and established himself as the clear choice to lead our program," Siegfried said. "David brings a pedigree that will help our program in every way while his familiarity with the Evansville community will help to reengage our supporters."

In a coaching career that has spanned nearly two decades, Ragland's experience has seen him contribute to an impressive group of programs that includes Butler, Utah State, Valparaiso, Vincennes, Northern Kentucky, Bowling Green, Indiana State, and Frank Phillips College. He joins the Evansville program following a 1-year stint as an assistant coach at Butler University.

Prior to his tenure with the Bulldogs, Ragland enjoyed a successful tenure at Utah State where his squads achieved at least 20 wins in each of his three seasons while finishing with an overall mark of 74-24. The Aggies made two N C A A Tournament appearances during his tenure while the 2019-20 squad posted a 26-8 mark before the postseason was canceled due to COVID-19.

"I want to thank Dr. Siegfried and President Pietruszkiewicz for putting their trust in me to lead this program. It is a dream come true to return home. Evansville is such a special place for my family and myself and the opportunity to come back to where it all started means the world," Ragland exclaimed. "Growing up in the city, I understand what the Purple Aces program means to the community. From day one, I

will work to establish a program that the entire University of Evansville campus community and the city of Evansville will be proud of. My family and I are excited to be home."



Ragland has worked at two current Missouri Valley Conference institutions, including a 2-year stint at Valparaiso. His first season with the program saw them accumulate 24 victories in

2016-17 while finishing with a Horizon League regular season championship and a spot in the postseason NIT. Highlighting the roster for VU was Horizon League Player of the Year Alec Peters, who was the 54th pick in the 2017 NBA Draft.

From 2010 through 2014, Ragland was an assistant coach at Indiana State where the Sycamores put forth one of the top stretches by a mid-major program in recent memory. ISU recorded 80 victories

along with four postseason appearances, including a spot in the NCAA Tournament in 2010-11. Ragland was an assistant at Northern Kentucky (2015-16) and Bowling Green (2014-15) following his stint with the Sycamores. He contributed to a 24-11 mark at NKU, which included an NCAA Tournament berth.

His first head coaching opportunity came at Vincennes University where he led the Trailblazers to a 44-19 record in two years at the helm. The 2009-10 campaign saw them post a 22-10 mark and a run that took the program to the NJCAA District Tournament Finals. Ragland opened his coaching career at Frank Phillips College where he was part of a squad that went 25-5 in 2004-05.

Graduating from Harrison High School, Ragland was named an All-State Honorable Mention basketball player. He began his collegiate career at Missouri Southern State College in Joplin, where his team went on to the NCAA Division II Final Four during his freshman year. Following his sophomore year, he transferred to the University of Southern Indiana where he played two seasons, propelling the Screaming Eagles to a total of 47 victories and leading the team in assists both years.

Ragland and his wife, Annie, have two children: Ava and Joshua.

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Sports

Former Ace Snow Returns As Assistant Coach

JUNE 2022

EVANSVILLE, Ind. – When University of Evansville head men's basketball coach David Ragland was introduced to Purple Aces fans on Wednesday, he established a goal of reconnecting supporters with the program. Today, he showed UE supporters that he is committed to that goal as he announced the hiring of program legend Craig Snow as his first assistant coach.

One of the most storied careers in program history saw Snow accumulate 1,530 points in his career, a total that remains 10th in the record books to this day. Snow was a member of the 1998-1999 squad who advanced to the NCAA Tournament. In the Missouri Valley Conference Tournament, Snow led the Aces to the championship game while earning a spot on the All-Tournament Team. A member of the conference Most Improved Team in 1999, Snow helped the team earn the regular season MVC championship.

"I am elated to have Craig and his family join our men's basketball staff. Craig is an obvious choice for the position for numerous reasons that extend far beyond his days as a standout player for our program," Ragland said. "The fact that Craig has sat in every seat within a program is invaluable. His understanding for what it takes to run a successful program from the ground up was what attracted me to having him on staff. He

has a wealth of knowledge in all aspects of the job. Craig is extremely passionate about restoring the success of our storied program and I look forward to working with him as we strive to achieve those goals."

As a junior in the 1999-2000 season, Snow was named an All-MVC First Team player before earning a nod on the second team in 2001. In his final two seasons as a player, he paced the team with 16.3 and 14.6 points per game, respectively. Snow was also the leading rebounder for UE during those two years.

Following his playing days, Snow enjoyed success as a coach at multiple levels. Most recently, he worked at the University of New Mexico where he was a special assistant to the head coach. He assumed the position in July of 2019. Prior to that, he spent five seasons as the head men's basketball coach at New Mexico Highlands University while spending part of that time as the interim and full-time athletic director.

"I am extremely grateful to be returning to the University of Evansville to work for Coach Ragland, as he shapes the next chapter in our great and storied history. He is someone I have known and respected for years, both personally and professionally. There are very few, if any, opportunities that would have attracted me this strongly," Snow exclaimed. "It was the fulfillment of a dream to play for the Purple Aces and win a championship

there after having followed them as a kid. To return to the program as a coach is something that resonates with me very deeply. I'm looking forward to getting to campus and starting this journey to the top of the Missouri Valley Conference!"

During his tenure at NMHU, Snow coached six All-RMAC and three all-region players. In his final season with the program, he guided his squad to a program-record 22 wins, the Cowboys' first Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (RMAC) Tournament title and second NCAA Tournament appearance. He coached the Cowboys to 14 RMAC wins twice, tied for second-most wins in single-season program history.

Prior to his time at NMHU, Snow spent three seasons on the UNM men's basketball staff. In 2013-14 as an assistant coach, Snow helped guide the Lobos to a 27-7 record, a Mountain West Tournament Championship and a No. 7 seed in the NCAA Tournament. New Mexico was ranked as high as 17th nationally in the 2013-14 season.

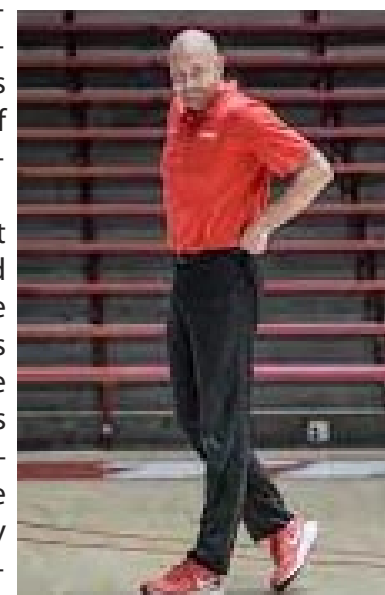
UNM went a combined 84-20 with three Mountain West Tournament titles

and three appearances in the NCAA Tournament during his first stint with the program. Snow spent his final season

with UNM as an assistant coach after serving as the director of basketball operations in 2012-13 and the video administrator in 2011-12.

After receiving his Bachelor of Science degree in physical education from Evansville in 2001, he went on to play professionally overseas in both Luxembourg and Austria. While in Luxembourg in 2001-02, he averaged more than 30 points per game and was voted to the all-star team. Following his stint overseas, Snow made his way to New Mexico for the first time to be the head boys' basketball coach at Bosque in Albuquerque from 2004-11, also serving as athletic director from 2005-11. At Bosque, Snow led the Bobcats to a 125-69 record, five state tournament appearances, three district championships and a state semifinal appearance.

Snow is married to Dr. Jessica Snow, who received her Ph.D. from The University of New Mexico in 2009, and they have two children: Adelynn and Beckett.



Swanson Joins Ragland's UE Basketball Staff



JUNE 2022

EVANSVILLE, Ind. – For the third time in six days, University of Evansville head men's basketball coach David Ragland has made an addition to his coaching staff. On Thursday, Ragland announced the appointment of George Swanson as an assistant on his first Purple Aces staff.

"I have known George for over 15 years. With my staff, I wanted to surround myself with guys that I know and trust who are high in character and work hard. 'G' is a tireless recruiter and proven winner," Ragland said. "He has been a part of numerous championship teams and helped move along countless players to the 4-year level. George has been committed to graduating his student-athletes and will be instrumental in molding our players academically, socially, and athletically. I'm excited to welcome 'G' and his family to Evansville."

Swanson joins the Evansville program from North Idaho College where he was set to begin his first season as the head women's basketball coach. He spent the previous eight seasons as an assistant coach with the NIC men's program and

enjoyed great success, including a perfect 30-0 regular-season record in 2016. That team advanced to the NJCAA Sweet 16. His squads won back-to-back Northwest Athletic Conference Championships in 2017-18 and 2018-19, going a combined 56-10.

"I am extremely excited about the opportunity to come to the University of Evansville and work with this staff and players, who are so focused on winning at the highest level," Swanson exclaimed. "I look forward to being part of a team in one of the best men's basketball conferences."

During his tenure at NIC, Swanson directed multiple student-athletes to the Division I level following their JUCO careers. He oversaw all planning and execution of the annual recruiting process for the program while designing development plans and strategies for the guards and wings. He placed a large emphasis on recruiting quality student-athletes and was actively involved in their success both on and off the court.

He joined the NIC program following two seasons as a head coach at Reardan

(WA) High School and Emerald City Basketball Academy. Prior to his time in Washington, he worked as an assistant at Hardin Simmons University in Abilene, Texas. Other stints included time as a head coach at Grays Harbor College and Pierce College. At Grays Harbor, he led the quad to the NWAACC Tournament and a #1 ranking in the NWAACC poll.

His playing days saw him play at Grays

Harbor where his efforts resulted in an NWAACC 6th place finish. Swanson also played for Northwest University, leading the school to its only national championship in 1993. He was later a Hall of Fame inductee at Northwest (2014) and Pierce College (2015). He earned his bachelor's degree in health science from Eastern Washington University in 2006. Swanson has two boys, Jayce and Myles, and a daughter, Jaide.



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Entertainment

Gladys Knight Graces The Plaza July 31

JUNE 2022
 Evansville, IN - JUNE, 2022 – Gladys Knight, known as the ‘Empress of Soul,’ is scheduled to take the Aiken Theatre stage this summer for an amazing show on July 31. The seven-time Grammy Award-winner is known for hits she recorded during the ‘60s, ‘70s, and ‘80s with her group The Pips, a group that included her brother Merald “Bubba” Knight and cousins William Guest and Edward Patten.

Knight has recorded two number-one Billboard Hot 100 singles, ‘Midnight Train to Georgia,’ and ‘That’s What Friends Are For,’ eleven number-one R&B singles, and six number-one R&B albums. She has won four Grammy Awards as a solo artist and three Grammys with The Pips. Two of her songs, ‘I Heard It Through the

Grapevine,’ and ‘Midnight Train to Georgia,’ were inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame for ‘historical, artistic and significant value. She also recorded the theme song for the 1989 James Bond film License to Kill. Rolling Stone magazine ranked Knight among the 100 Greatest Singers of All Time.

In 1995, Knight earned her star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and the

next year, Gladys Knight & The Pips were inducted into the Rock ‘N’ Roll Hall of Fame. Knight published an autobiography, ‘Between Each Line of Pain and Glory (a line taken from her million-selling recording ‘Best Thing That Ever Happened to Me’), and the next year, she and The Pips were presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Rhythm & Blues Hall of Fame. In 2004, Knight received a Lifetime Achieve-

ment Award at the annual BET Awards ceremony. All told, Knight has recorded more than 38 albums over the years, including four solo albums during the past decade, Good Woman, Just for You, Many Different Roads, and At Last, showing the world she still has what it takes to record a hit album. Today, Knight and her husband William, oversee her busy career from the Las Vegas headquarters of Shakeji, Inc., her personal entertainment corporation. Tickets start at \$46.50 plus applicable fees and tax. For more information about Gladys Knight, visit: www.GladysKnight.com Tickets are available at Ticketmaster.com or the Old National Events Plaza Box Office.



Daughtry To Rock ONEP September 13

JUNE 2022
 Evansville, IN – For the first time since 2013, rock band Daughtry will play at the Old National Events Plaza on September 13. The band noted as one of the most visible and consistent Rock & Roll torchbearers of the 21st Century, has sold over 9 million albums and 16 million singles worldwide, selling out concerts



across the globe. The band’s self-titled debut album, Daughtry, was the top-selling album of 2007, producing 4 Top 20 Platinum-selling singles on the Billboard Hot 100 list, becoming the fastest-selling rock debut album in Soundscan history. Daughtry earned 4 Grammy Award nominations and won 4 American Music Awards and 7 Billboard Music Awards in-

cluding Album of the Year. The band’s subsequent albums, Leave This Town (2009), Break The Spell (2011), Baptized (2013) and Cage To Rattle (2018) was all certified Gold and placed in the top 10 on the Billboard Top 200 Albums Chart. In 2020, Daughtry released their newest single, World On Fire, marking a return to the top of the US Rock Charts. Special guest Pop Evil has been a staple rock band at major festivals, theaters, and clubs for nearly two decades. The band has celebrated several No. 1 Billboard Rock singles like: ‘Trenches,’ ‘Deal with the Devil,’ ‘Torn to Pieces,’ ‘Foot-

steps,’ and ‘Waking Lions.’ Collectively, Pop Evil’s previous five albums account for over a million copies in worldwide sales and over 600 million streams. The band’s album Up debuted at No. 25 on the Billboard 200 and produced three Top 5 Mainstream Rock singles: ‘Ways to Get High,’ ‘Take it All,’ and ‘Footsteps,’ which went to No. 1. This was on the heels of the three No. 1 Rock singles from Onyx. Pop Evil debuted at No. 5 on the US Top Rock Albums chart and the single ‘Be Legendary’ was one of the Top 10 most played songs of 2019.

Gary Allen Returns Aug. 27

JUNE 2022
 Evansville, IN – American country music artist Gary Allan returns to the Old National Events Plaza on August 27 with The Ruthless Tour: 25 Years the Hard Way. Fans can expect to hear new music from Allan’s new album ‘Ruthless,’ one he calls his most commanding work ever. “This is a montage of everything I have done since my last album. It’s what I love. I remain influenced by the ‘90s - as well as by the ‘80s. Twenty-six tracks were cut for this album. Then I went back to the studio and recorded three or four more tracks. Then I returned for two more. From each of these many sessions, I pulled out the cool stuff that I wanted on the record,” Allan says of Ruthless. Allan made his country music debut with the release of his single ‘Her Man,’ leading to his gold-certified 1996 debut album ‘Used Heart for

Sale.’ His second album, ‘It Would Be You,’ followed in 1998 and a third, ‘Smoke Rings in the Dark,’ was his first platinum album. He continued producing chart toppers like ‘Alright Guy,’ and ‘See If I Care,’ which were both certified platinum, while ‘Tough All Over,’ ‘Greatest Hits,’ and ‘Living Hard,’ all certified gold. His next two albums ‘Get Off on the Pain,’ and ‘Set You Free,’ both reached the Top 10 on the U.S. Billboard Top Country Albums charts. Gary Allans’ greatest hits albums have produced 26 singles on the U.S. Billboard Hot Country Songs and Country Airplay charts, including the number one hits ‘Man to Man,’ ‘Tough Little Boys,’ ‘Nothing On but the Radio,’ and ‘Every Storm (Runs Out of Rain).’ Allen has been nominated for this work by the American Country Awards, Academy of Country Music, and CMT Flameworthy Video Music Awards.

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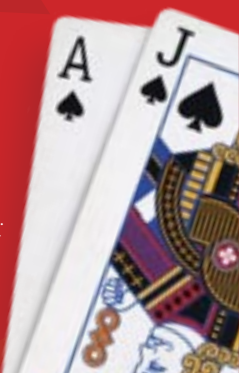
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