

Looking Back



90 years ago

• A monster puff ball weighing four pounds and as large in size as a pumpkin, was a gift to The News-Sun today, with the compliments of the Rev. M.F. Kretzmann, it being one of a large number he found in the Whitford woods. Puff balls, regarded as a real table delicacy by many, are reported to be unusually plentiful this year. However, the champion puff ball, as far as size is concerned, has been found on the J.A. Blackman farm, southwest of Kendallville. Mrs. Blackman reported they found a puff ball on their farm that tipped the scales at exactly 18 pounds.

THE NEWS SUN

25 years ago

• Aaron Wade and his father, Gary Wade, of Kendallville, recently participated in the 135th reenactment of the Battle of Antietam near Hagerstown, Maryland. More than 15,000 participants reenacted the battle in front of more than 40,000 spectators.

THE STAR

25 years ago

• The United Way of DeKalb County opened its annual campaign kick-off with a miniature golf tournament at The Roc in Auburn in 1997. The following week, the official kick-off event included a golf outing at Greenhurst Golf Course in Auburn.

Letters

We welcome letters to the editor.

All letters must be submitted with the author's signature, address and daytime telephone number.

We reserve the right to reject or edit letters on the basis of libel, poor taste or repetition.

Currently, our offices are open Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Mail letters to:

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THE NEWS SUN

Established 1859,
daily since 1911

The Star

Established 1871,
daily since 1913

THE HERALD REPUBLICAN

Established 1857,
daily since 2001

Our View

Trine's growth benefits northeast Indiana

It is said that the four counties of northeast Indiana are very similar and at the same time, very unique.

Undoubtedly what makes Steuben County different from the rest, beyond its tourism, is Trine University.

Since 1884 and its founding as Tri-State Normal College, the local institution of higher learning has had a tremendous impact in Steuben County and beyond.

After a few decades of arguably difficult times — when many colleges and universities were struggling — Trine has endured and even shown tremendous growth when other colleges were flat. This has been particularly so in the past few years when the COVID-19 pandemic dealt a blow to post-secondary learning.

Not at Trine.

We have seen much growth, culminating this year with record enrollment not only in Angola, but at all of Trine's facilities in Indiana and beyond.

This fall, the 2022 headcount hit 8,446 students, a 57% increase from the 5,392 reported the year prior.

The university enrolled a record 2,287 students at its Angola campus this fall, including a record class of more than 730 new students for Fall 2022.

"Trine University prides itself on its innovative, flexible approach in providing an education that meets the needs of our students and the demands of industry, an approach that is validated in these unprecedented enrollment numbers," said Earl D. Brooks II, Trine University president, in a Sept. 21 news release announcing the growth.

The numbers in Angola provide what could, perhaps, be a solid look at the more traditional college student embarking on receiving a four-year, undergraduate degree.

A real driver in Trine's growth is its newer programs aimed at graduate and health care professions in settings beyond Angola.

For example, Trine has more than 3,000 students enrolled in hybrid graduate programs at its education center in Detroit. The university also enrolled nearly 500 students in similar programs at its Phoenix education center, and plans to soon expand to Virginia.

While graduate programs provided the lion's share of the boost, the university saw year-over-year growth at all locations and on all platforms, including dual enrollment, the College of Health Professions and TrineOnline.

We expect these enrollment numbers to only grow as Trine continues its improvements and expansion of facilities in Angola and beyond.

As anyone who drives on West Maumee Street can see, what until recent decades was the most modern building on campus, Best Hall of Science, built in the 1960s, is now getting a \$16 million expansion.

The university opened its Steel Dynamics Inc. Center for Engineering and Computing this fall in Angola. The \$12.5 million, 40,000-square-foot addition to Trine's engineering facilities features state-of-the-art technology including augmented and virtual reality and artificial intelligence laboratories.

These improvements follow impressive growth in athletic facilities, like the Thunder Ice Arena and the impressive MTI Center, which is arguably one of the finest arenas in NCAA Division III sports.

Trine's physical footprint is growing, also. The university has made a bigger impact in Fort Wayne, and is now developing its own brick-and-mortar facility in the Summit City. Trine's College of Health Professions will soon have a 120,000 square foot building in northern Allen County, developed in close partnership with Parkview Health.

People in Angola and Steuben County have long known the impact the university brings to the community. When late August hits, it's as if someone has flipped a switch with all of the students arriving in town.

And it is nothing to sneeze at. The Independent Colleges of Indiana estimates Trine's regional impact at approximately \$150 million. A scan of our files shows the data in the \$8 million range some 20 years ago.

You've come a long way, Trine, and it is much appreciated.

OUR VIEW is written on a rotating basis by Andy Barrand, Michael Marturello and Steve Garbacz. We welcome readers' comments.

Mark Souder's conservative legacy

INDIANAPOLIS — I ran into Mark Souder at the Fort Wayne City-County Building just days before the 1994 Republican 4th District primary. I didn't know him very well. I asked him about his prospects. What followed was about a seven-minute instant analysis, going down to a granular, precinct level. On Election Night, he won a crowded primary, and as I monitored returns, it became quite evident that Mark Souder really did know what he was talking about.

Souder died on Monday at age 72 after a nine-month battle with pancreatic cancer. It ended nearly half a century of conservative activism that included his staff work for congressman and Sen. Dan Coats, 15 years as a congressman, and, after he abruptly resigned for an extramarital affair, his frequent columns for Howey Politics Indiana.

He would join the "Gingrich Revolution" class of 1994, that ended a 40-year Democratic majority.

According to John Gizzi of Newsmax, "Rep. Souder compiled a lifetime rating of 89.83% with the American Conservative Union. He freely spoke of his Christian faith and study of the Bible as lodestars of his philosophy, saying 'on abortion, there's really not much room to compromise.'"

He traced his conservatism back to President Calvin Coolidge, was emboldened by the 1964 conservative presidential nominee Barry Goldwater and turned that energy to help form conservative student groups at IPFW, IU and Notre Dame. He was energized by the Reagan Revolution in 1980.

Longtime Republican operative Jim Pfaff called Souder "the most skilled political strategist Indiana ever had."

This man — schooled in the tradition of another great Hoosier, [onetime Indianapolis News editor and conservative icon] M. Stanton Evans — understood politics and policy better than just about anyone."

Once in Congress, he ardently supported Speaker Gingrich's "Contract With America." He said in December 1994, "You have a bunch of freshman that are coming in focused on the contract, and a group of House

leadership who are very focused on the contract but have this tendency to wander off." A few years later, he helped overthrow the speaker.

As he resigned, Souder said, "We are a committed family. But the error is mine, and I should bear the responsibility." He pledged to earn back the trust of his family and community "and renewing my walk with the Lord."

A few years later, I contacted Souder, urging him to begin writing a column. "Redemption," I explained, "is a powerful thing."

His final column came in August following the stunning Kansas constitutional referendum on abortion, titled, "The Road to Kansas."

Here, Souder grappled with his own ideological preferences and the political realities: "It isn't about

Reasons to not vote Democrat

To the Editor:

These are some reasons I won't vote for Democrat candidates in November.

- Democrat leadership supports unlimited, taxpayer-funded abortion. Deceptive woke phrases like reproductive justice can't justify the demonic American Holocaust against the unborn.

- Democrat leadership supports indoctrination of schoolchildren into wokeness and gender ideology. Woke teacher unions like National Education Association (NEA) are spearheading K-12 indoctrination. Wokeness involves manipulating Americans with corporate (collective) white guilt for historic injustices against minorities. The woke claim white, heterosexual, cisgender, Christian males are the ultimate oppressors in American society. Gender ideology sexualizes schoolchildren and promotes demonic views of human sexuality. Sadly, children are exposed to potential groomers and predators leading them towards therapies and procedures causing permanent health issues, including puberty-blocking hormone therapy, sterilization and genital mutilation.

- Democrat leadership supports use of cynical revisionist history influenced by political activists like Nikole Hannah-Jones (1619 Project) and Howard Zinn (Peoples History of the United States) to indoctrinate schoolchildren. These materials are Neo-Marxist propaganda. America's founders are simplistically caricatured as unprincipled, white supremacist, genocidal colonizers and slaveholders with no virtues whatsoever. Read Land of Hope by Wilfred McClay to immunize yourself against woke pseudo-history.

- Democrat leadership is against school choice. Why? These political hacks enjoy substantial teacher union donations and votes. Teacher unions enjoy virtual monopolies on tax dollars and young minds.

- Democrat leadership implements unsustainable, exploitative immigration policies endangering national security. Cartels charge immigrants \$8,000-\$15,000 to cross. Many women and children are sexually assaulted. Hundreds are left on trails to die. Some are held for ransom after crossing. Many are enslaved into prostitution. Noncompliance results in murders of immigrants or relatives back home.

- Democrat leadership accused police officers of widespread racism in 2020 and incited violence against them, leading to dozens of deaths, thousands of injuries, staffing shortages and demoralization.

Letter

- Democrat leadership facilitates massive increases in urban crime. Bail reform allows release of violent criminals with little or no bail. Woke judges and prosecutors display more compassion for criminals than victims. Many serious crimes aren't enforced. Flash mob robberies are forcing businesses to leave Democrat-run cities.

- Democrat leadership continues to assault constitutional rights such as free speech and gun ownership rights.

- Democrat leadership adopts energy policies and regulations constricting domestic oil production, causing inflation, economic instability, competitive disadvantages, potential power outages, and increased dependence on China.

- Democrat leadership promotes wasteful, woke pork barrel legislation leading to high inflation, soaring national debt, and increasing taxes.

- Democrat leadership claims reasonable state election controls like voter identification constitute racist voter suppression. Democrat leadership wants weak federal election controls they can exploit.

- Democrat leadership, including Joe Biden and Hillary Clinton, claims conservatives are white supremacists, Nazis, fascists, racists and deplorable. The result? Vilification and violence toward conservatives. Recently, unhinged leftist Shannon Brandt chased teenager Cayler Ellingson down and murdered him because he thought Ellingson was conservative. Brandt was released on a mere \$50,000 bond. Legacy media response was silence. Why? Murders of conservatives by leftists don't help their current narrative of violent, extremist conservatives.

- Democrat leadership claims conservatives are extremists threatening democracy. Really? Conservatives promote preservation of American institutions. Democrat leadership empowers woke revolutionaries infiltrating, disrupting, and dismantling American institutions. Who are the extremists?

- Democrat leadership uses the patriotic acronym MAGA (Make America Great Again) as a hate-filled slur. They continue the race-baiting anti-Americanism of Obama.

Conservatives, vote November 8 for candidates reflecting conservative values. Unfortunately, school board elections are non-partisan. This makes it difficult. Ask county Republican chairs beforehand for recommendations. Some candidates appear woke based on social media.

Find your county Republican chair. <https://indiana.gov/counties>

Robert Sparkman
Rome City

hold your nose too long you might die of asphyxiation. He is endangering far more than just the presidential campaign."

And, on Jan. 7, 2021, the day after the U.S. Capitol insurrection, Souder wrote: "Today I grieve for our nation. I am saddened that this great nation has been humiliated in front of the world, in this case by Trump advocates who call themselves 'conservative Republicans.' It was so awfully ironic that their hats, shirts and slogans said 'Make America Great Again' as they trashed it verbally and then violently. This foundation was built upon an assumption that people will resolve differences peacefully. As John Adams said, it requires a people with moral grounding. That was the foundation. Otherwise, what you get is what happened this week: Mobs that seek to impose their authoritarian will upon everyone else.

"The failure of many Republican leaders to speak out against President Trump showed they did not understand the risk of how far this man would go or the dangers of someone unhinged from fundamental respect for anything except raw power for personal benefit.

"Conservatism, real conservatism, will survive," Souder continued. "The Republican Party, if it purges itself, might survive too, but it will have a more difficult struggle. It certainly can never win again as Trump's personal playground."

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