

Looking Back



90 years ago

A strange phenomena that prevailed on East Mitchell Street in Kendallville yesterday afternoon in the block between Riley and Sheridan streets led many residents of that community to think some house was on fire. A sudden haze, like smoke appeared for a brief period and then disappeared almost as quickly as it came.

THE NEWS SUN

25 years ago

The Kendallville Public Library recently made a donation to the Mid-America Windmill Museum. Representatives from the museum, Rick Meyer, Nelson Harrod, Tom Burke, Russ Baker and Pam Younce and Librarian Jenny Draper moved furniture from the original Kendallville Public Library, built in 1913-1914, with a grant from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation. The furniture includes solid oak pieces, like a librarian desk, two sitting benches, two youth chairs, a file card holder and a credenza.

THE STAR

25 years ago

Indiana Republican State Chairman Mike McDaniel announced that Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich (R-Georgia) would deliver the keynote address at the 1998 Indiana Republican Spring State Dinner. The annual GOP fundraiser was held in the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis. Former Indiana First Lady Susan Bayh was the key address speaker at the 4th District Democrat Dinner at the Grand Wayne Center. She is the wife of former Indiana Governor and Senator Evan Bayh.

THE HERALD REPUBLICAN

25 years ago

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife, has been notified that it has received one of its required permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to construct a public access site on the Lake James chain of lakes. The permit was issued for land on Jimmerson Lake, the western most lake in the Lake James chain. Currently the Lake James chain only has ramps that are privately owned and charge a fee for use.

Letters

We welcome letters to the editor.

Mail letters to:

The News Sun
102 N. Main St.
P.O. Box 39
Kendallville, IN 46755
Email: sgarbacz@kpcmedia.com

The Star
118 W. Ninth St.
Auburn, IN 46706
Email: jones@kpcmedia.com

The Herald Republican
107 N. Martha St.
Angola, IN 46703
Email: mmarturello@kpcmedia.com

Our View

Enhanced child tax credit needs to return

As people with children prepare to finalize their income taxes in the coming weeks, they will notice their child tax credit isn't what it once was, or at least not what it was during the pandemic with benefits from the American Rescue Plan.

The enhanced child tax temporarily gave qualifying parents up to \$3,600 per child younger than 6 and \$3,000 for children 6 and older. In 2022, that returned to the previous credit of \$2,000 per child.

In our reporting when qualifying parents were receiving additional money — or stummies, as some liked to say — for their children younger than 18, many people told our reporters that the money was a big boost to their family's bottom line. Once people got past the social media falsities that the money was going to be taxed, for the most part parents embraced the additional funds they received.

Some said they were putting the additional money away for their children's post-high school education. Some used the money for back-to-school expenses. Others said it helped their family keep up with the basic necessities.

Families were receiving monthly checks for their children through the program. It helped many get by, and it reportedly lifted many people out of poverty for the first time ever. As soon as the program ended, poverty in the United States shot back up.

In President Joe Biden's proposed fiscal 2024 budget, the enhanced child tax credit has returned to the picture, though we would be surprised if the measure gets through the Republican-controlled House that in the past was always pro-family but seems to put policies such as Biden's on the back burner.

In addition to the enhanced child tax credit, the Biden budget would expand the earned income tax credit for childless workers. The goal here is to keep low-paid workers out of poverty.

Biden's budget also calls for 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave as well as seven days of paid sick time for all workers. There are also provisions for childcare and free preschool.

It's not only the Biden administration pushing family pocketbook issues, either. Just this past week, Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind., proposed a plan that would help offset the cost of providing childcare to people who work in jobs that are beyond the traditional 9-5.

"The After Hours Child Care Act will help address the needs of parents working nontraditional hours, enabling them to more easily accept employment opportunities that best fit their needs," Young said in a press release issued Tuesday.

The After Hours Child Care Act would support expanding existing child care programs, or establish new facilities in some cases, so parents can remain in the workforce and provide for their families while working outside of the traditional work hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Incentives would be offered and employers would be encouraged to start their own child care programs.

There are many efforts that are pro-family that need to be given consideration. One thing is certain, the enhanced child tax credit worked and should be brought back.

While one estimate put the cost of the program at \$429 billion over 10 years, Columbia University's Center on Poverty and Social Policy said for every \$1 spent on the child tax credit, it would result in \$10 in benefits to society.

The enhanced child tax credit needs to be restarted. And Biden's pro-family agenda needs serious consideration also.

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



Letter

Lifelong complications and pain can result from transitioning

To the Editor:

Chloe Cole is a charming young lady worthy of our respect.

She speaks publicly about factors leading her to transition and detransition.

Factors related to her transition included a degree of autism, early onset of puberty, and a traumatic sexual encounter.

As a result, she felt alienated from her body. Ultimately, medical professionals recommended hormone treatment and eventually a double mastectomy.

Online influences from the transgender community played a strong role in her transition. She was initially influenced by the acceptance of this community. Later, though, they showed their duplicitous nature when she detransitioned.

Why didn't health care professionals recognize the aforementioned factors and dissuade her from hormone treatments and surgery?

She lives in woke California. The worldview affects the judgment of some medical professionals.

Economic and political pressures are part of the issue. Some within the medical community are unscrupulous. Each transgender patient is worth hundreds of thousands in pharmaceutical and medical revenue.

Chloe is a Christian now. She understands her identity is found in Christ and the church community not the LGBTQ+ community.

She laments loss of the bonding experience with her future children through breast-feeding. And, it is unclear if she will be able to reproduce.

Did Chloe need to transition? No. Feelings of alienation are resolved with the passage of puberty in the majority of cases.

Woke activists, including some school administrators, teachers and counselors, frequently claim transgender youth will invariably commit suicide if deprived of these treatments.

School systems are increasingly leaving parents out of the picture. They often think nonconsenting parents are unenlightened oppressors whose guardianship should be stripped. Parents aren't even informed by school authorities that their child is experiencing these issues.

The woke think the State knows what's best. Some teachers claim they are the child's new,

loving parent.

How loving is it to encourage delusions leading to actions resulting in lifelong complications and pain, based on transient feelings during puberty?

My position on this topic:

The mind needs to come into conformity with the real world of God's creation. The body's design reflects the real world. A change of mind, not body, is needed to bring the person into conformity with God's world. Until then, chaos and disorder will ensue. Transitioning won't resolve it.

Mankind is alienated from God, fellow man, nature and his own body due to the Fall. The ultimate change of mind comes through a spiritual rebirth which involves reordering the person's entire worldview. This spiritual rebirth is necessary for every person, not transgenders alone.

I suggest watching interviews with Chloe on Youtube for real-life insight into the pain this movement has caused.

Additionally, Abigail Shrier will be speaking April 20, from 6-7:30 p.m., at the Merchant Building on the Noble County Fairgrounds. She is the author of "Irreversible Damage: The Transgender Craze Seducing Our Daughters".

Her focus is the medical realities. More information is available from Noble Events at 260-242-0351.

Use of words like "transgender", "transition" and "detransition" without scare quotes should not be construed as me believing a real transition occurs. I am condescending to woke vocabulary for purposes of communication.

Remember this: the Biden administration, Democrat legislators, teacher unions, federal/state departments of education, and other federal agencies are aligned with activists to force wokeness and gender ideology upon the American public.

House Republicans authored and passed HR5 Parent Bill of Rights Act requiring transparency from schools. Sadly, all Democrats voted against it.

Why? They enjoy a symbiotic relationship with woke activists that they will not abandon. They think woke indoctrination of children ensures their political future.

Email me at christiannewsjunkie@mediacombb.net for clarification on any remarks.

Robert Sparkman
Rome City

Cracking the mayoral glass ceiling in Indiana

INDIANAPOLIS — The toughest job in the world is being president of the United States. And the second? Being the mayor of just about any city.

Mayors are held accountable by voters for everything from public safety, economic development, to making sure sewers work and the garbage is picked up. They rally their cities during blizzards and recessions, and after tornadoes.

Greg Goodnight was the three-term mayor of Kokomo and now does municipal consulting. He was advising a mayor from northern Indiana, and she begged off a conversation to deal with, as she put it, "A cat in a tree."

This was not a euphemism for another dilemma. "There was, literally, a cat in a tree," Goodnight said.

Hoosier voters in cities will go to the polls in the May primary, and, again, in November. I always look for trends, and in February I reported that there are at least 35 cities where only Republican candidates have filed, including Jeffersonville, Noblesville, Bedford and Columbus. There are 10 cities where only Democrats have filed for mayor, including Hammond, Elkhart, Lafayette, West Lafayette.

The other notable trend is cities where the glass ceiling will, or could, be broken. In Evansville, Democrat Stephanie Terry will face one of two Republicans, Vanderburgh County Commissioner Cheryl Musgrave or Natalie Rascher, guaranteeing the city will have its first female mayor in history.

Goshen is another city that may be poised to crash the glass ceiling, after Democrat Mayor Jeremy Stutsman abruptly resigned last week to lead a LaCasa not-for-profit. He endorsed Gina Leichy to finish



BRIAN HOWEY

his term and run in November. Republicans William L. Gard Jr. and William "Bill" Malone are also seeking the nomination.

"Over the last few years, Gina Leichy and I have worked closely on various projects, and I've encouraged her to consider running for office. She has strong community connections, spent years bringing people together, demonstrates strong organization and leadership skills, and will keep the city management team together," Stutsman said. "Like me, Gina is less interested in politics than in working together to get the job done."

Evansville is just one of several big Indiana cities which have never elected a female mayor. This includes Indianapolis, South Bend, Anderson, Fort Wayne, East Chicago, Hammond, and Jeffersonville. Cosette Simon served as mayor of Fort Wayne for 11 days after then-Mayor Win Moses was forced from office after pleading guilty to a campaign finance charge. He was returned to office by caucus. Indiana's second largest city has never elected a female mayor.

According to the Represent Women organization, women make up 50% of the U.S. population, yet represent only 27% of the U.S. House seats and 24% of the U.S. Senate. Women make up 31% of all state legislators, and 23% of mayors of cities with populations of more than 30,000 people. According to Women For Change in Indiana, while Indiana women from both parties gained seats in the newest General Assembly, Indiana still ranks 30th nationally for gender parity in politics.

Indianapolis has had two female candidates — Republican Virginia Blankenbaker and Democrat Melina Kennedy — but both lost. This means if State Rep. Robin Shackleford can upset Mayor Joe Hosgett next month, she could become the first female mayor out of 50 in history. "As I weighed my decision to run, fueled by close friends and family, some asked me why I was even considering it," Shackleford said during her campaign kick-off. "I have a fulfilling, successful tenure of service in the Indiana General Assembly. It came down to one phrase that kept running through my head: 'We can do better.'"

Of the top five most populated cities in the U.S., three — Karen Bass in Los Angeles, Lori Lightfoot in Chicago and Kate Gallego in Phoenix — are headed by females, though Mayor Lightfoot lost her reelection bid in the Democratic primary last February after one term.

According to the Monroe County NOW website, the first female Hoosier mayor was Mary Jancosek

Bercik of Whiting, who in 1957 completed the term of her husband, who died of a heart attack. She then won a full-term.

Indiana cities which have elected female mayors since then include Bloomington, Carmel, Columbus, Gary, Greencastle, Richmond, Elkhart, Charlestown, Portage, Frankfort, Martinsville, Kendallville, New Albany, West Lafayette, Muncie, Mishawaka, LaPorte, Michigan City, and Zionsville.

But it's notable that female mayors of Elkhart, Muncie, Columbus and now Zionsville lasted just one term.

One of the first elected was Mishawaka Republican Mayor Maggie Prickett, who ran and won in 1963 before serving for 16 years. Mary K. Kase, who was Prickett's neighbor for 30 years and her first mayoral secretary, said few people gave her a chance to win. "She didn't sneak in. She roared in. She carried the entire Republican ticket with her," Kase told the South Bend Tribune. "After years of Democratic control at City Hall, she swept in."

Mayor Prickett said in a 1969 article, "Women have to earn their way. Let's face it, men are a little reluctant to put them in higher office. They're afraid they'll have a problem child on their hands. They can't be boastful, no matter what they've done."

BRIAN HOWEY is publisher of *Howey Politics Indiana* at howeypolitics.com. Find him on Facebook and Twitter @hwypol.