

Fall brings joy yet sorrow for Florida

It is a beautiful day in northern Indiana. I love these days ... warm days, cool nights.

It seems as if it takes a bit longer for the leaves to change color than it used to when we were kids. By now we were scuffing our way to school kicking up leaves in the gutters and the streets. A lost scent from my childhood is the smell of burning leaves. I think fall evenings were magical with the small piles of burning leaves. There was something so beautiful about the streams of smoke drifting around neighborhoods.

Of course, that only came after much raking and jumping in piles of leaves. I do hope children still do that. I still rake (on occasion) with an old-fashioned rake as I swirl the leaves back into the garden or at the curb. Isn't it magical to stand outside and let the leaves cascade down dripping gems of color? Autumn really is magical.

My kitchen feels the magic, too, as we head into the middle days of October. The soup pot seems to have taken over now along with cold cider in the fridge waiting for company in which to share. The farm days, so long ago, always come to mind during October. We made everything from cider to sauerkraut to dipping candles using the last of the bees wax and the knitting of mittens from our own wool. Long ago days stay with me, especially this time of year.

Pumpkins and mums adorn this old house as it waits for guests to stop by or for the trick-or-treaters coming later on in the month. It is nice having the earlier dusk as I light candles, close the windows and pull out all the books that have been waiting their turn.

Of course, the night sky is brilliant right now. It isn't too cold outside so wrap up in your favorite old sweater and sit out and watch. Venus and the new moon are dancing away in the night sky. Tonight, you can still view the Draconid meteor showers. These showers peaked last night, but you will still be able to view the meteors tonight with the clear skies. These meteors will grace our sky earlier in the evening and radiate from the constellation Draco. Just take the time to go out and look. The night sky offers such beauty.

And yet ... while I write ... my trip to see Adam in St. Pete has been canceled. After this week, and mid-term grades are submitted, I was heading down to St. Pete to see Adam. We had lots of fun stuff planned, although nothing to do with the beaches as they are all closed thanks to Helene. My flight was not until Thursday evening, but I got the notice when I came out of rehearsal on Sunday night. As of right now, I do not know what he will be doing. Stay or go? That is always everyone's dilemma. I know what that is like from my time on Ocracoke. Making the decision to stay or go is very difficult.

I know firsthand how folks want to stay to be there early on for the clean up and to lend helping hands to neighbors. Leaving is difficult because it takes so long to get back. Adam has talked about leaving if it is a Category 4 and a direct hit, but as I write, that is not known. He has several folks sheltering at his house, so if he goes, he takes the whole lot with him. His biggest concern is his boat as he is a charter boat captain. He doesn't want to leave the boat. He also has no idea as to when he will get back into the Gulf to work. The next few days will tell the story.

The clean up from hurricanes takes weeks, months, years even. I wrote about this last week. I do want to say I have appreciated all your notes about last week and where and how to send donations. It looks like we will need to continue for quite some time. The list of items will change as the seasons begin to grow cold in the night. I will try to update you on that next week.

As for now, all eyes are on Florida, and I will be staying in town for my break. I will fill my calendar with games for Jonah and Graham, and a ukulele show with our group, and maybe some raking!

Godspeed Florida.

LOU ANN HOMAN-SAYLOR lives in Angola at the White Picket Gardens where you can find her gardening or writing late into the night under the light of her frayed scarlet lamp. She is a storyteller, teacher, writer, actress and a collector of front porch stories. She can be contacted at locketof time@aol.com.



LOU ANN HOMAN-SAYLOR



Letters to the Editor

Elect a fresh face as our representative

To the Editor:
We have a wonderful opportunity this coming election to send a fresh face with great personal, Hoosier, and American values to Washington D.C., as our U.S. District 3 Representative. Kiley Adolph is that person. Kiley is a Steuben County native and widely traveled and trained. She is a graduate of Angola High School and Trine University in Steuben County. She continued to obtain advanced degrees in teaching, public and nonprofit leadership, a Global Executive Doctoral Degree from the University of Southern California, and a Women's Leadership Program at Oxford University. The backbone of this breadth of education and experiences in helping people succeed is Kiley's connection to our local values and needs here in northeast Indiana.

She has lived the life of serving others. Her father Craig was a 17-year Indiana State Policeman. Kiley knows the second amendment and knows law and order. Her father was the major force in fundraising for the Steuben County YMCA and then its first director for 10 years. Kiley knows and has been at the front of nonprofit work and seeing our local residents benefit by maintaining healthy minds and bodies.

Now it is time to bring all of that together and help not only our region of Indiana, but our entire country as a U.S. Representative. It is time for new energy. It is the time for new ideas while holding on to old time values and hard work. It is time for someone who knows and has worked with Democrats and Republicans alike.

Her opponent held the job a decade ago. He left it and was rejected by Republicans when running for Senate against our current Senator Todd Young. So now he is back for his old job. He seems not liked even by some Republicans, given all the postcards that showed up in my mailbox during the primaries. A Republican friend of mine referred to Marlin Stutzman as an old re-tread. Ouch.

Clearly it is time to move forward with a new person with experience in getting things accomplished not a history of wasting time and playing partisan politics. Hoosiers and all Americans want the sound business of governing, not the wasted bickering of politics. A vote for Kiley is a vote to move forward, not backwards. Thank you.

**Fred Wooley
Fremont**

Review of Trump/Harris debate

To the Editor:
I would like to comment upon the recent Trump/Harris debate.

The ABC moderators were conspicuously biased and partnered with Harris to debate Trump.

Harris did not answer some of their questions, and they did not challenge her evasiveness.

Moderators allowed Harris to repeat Democrat/media lies about Trump related to the Charlottesville incident, plans to perpetuate a bloodbath if he loses the election, and plans to become a dictator from the first day of his administration.

The leftist media uses selective video clips to construct lies like these. I recommend watching entire videos and not selective clips to expose media lies.

I will be blunt. If you are a low-technology American relying primarily upon mainstream media to construct your worldview, you are susceptible to lying propaganda like this.

Harris claimed Trump will enact a national abortion ban. Trump denied this. He knows the Supreme Court ruled in Dobbs that abortion is a state issue.

Ironically, Harris plans to nationalize taxpayer-funded abortion rights in spite of the Supreme Court.

Harris addressed widespread concern for increased housing costs without acknowledging the Biden/Harris role in fueling demand through mass immigration.

Harris claimed she would not ban natural gas production through fracking. I suspect

she will hinder fracking operations without imposing a full ban.

Harris said she would not confiscate anyone's firearms. Afterwards, to another audience, she reaffirmed her intention to ban sporting rifles.

The moderators fact-checked Trump concerning increasing crime rates, claiming crime is decreasing. Trump responded correctly that crime data is not complete, as several thousand agencies including large cities have not submitted data.

Harris said Trump is disliked by military leaders, who found him to be difficult to work for. Pot, kettle, black. Her staff said the same about her, with a staff turnover rate exceeding 90%.

You can expect the following from a Harris/Walz administration:

- continued identity politics, race baiting, and anti-Americanism
- increased inflation from restricted domestic petroleum output, wasteful public spending, and excessive government regulations
- massive immigration leading to decreased wages, increased inflation, increased crime, and deterioration of the social welfare safety net
- increased crime from diminished policing and reduced justice for victims due to leftist prosecutors and judges
- continued weaponization of government agencies against critics like agency whistleblowers, pro-life Christians, and citizens who resist their indoctrination
- confiscation of firearms from law-abiding citizens
- censorship of criticism of the administration, labeling it as misinformation, disinformation, and hate speech
- continued indoctrination of K-12 public school students into wokeness and gender ideology to create future Democrats and leftist activists
- continued taxpayer funded gender transition treatments and procedures including recent immigrants, incarcerated individuals and military members
- continued degradation of parental rights and removal of custody from parents who resist gender transition of their confused children
- continued financial support of Islamic terrorists through UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency) and Palestinian Authority Martyrs Fund
- continued interference in Israel's prosecution of Iran and its proxies related to the October 7 massacre despite military aid approved by Congress
- continued attempts to undermine the authority of the Supreme Court through ethics violation claims and court packing

I will criticize Trump on one point.

He echoed claims by Springfield, Ohio residents concerning Haitians eating dogs and cats.

He should have focused upon indisputable matters of public concern like increases in auto accidents and deaths caused by uninsured and unlicensed immigrants, increases in housing costs due to competition with immigrants, lavish federal assistance provided to immigrants at taxpayer expense, and cultural conflict inevitably engendered by uncontrolled immigration.

I suspect Harris was coached to goad him into an outburst like this. Trump has a poor verbal filter leading him to unwise but amusing comments. Harris is talented at capitalizing upon intemperate men for political advantage.

Ask Willie Brown.

**Robert Sparkman
Rome City**

GHS banned book is reinstated but serious questions remain

To the Editor:
I am a 1993 Garrett graduate. I hold a juris doctor (a doctor of law), and I am a licensed attorney. I have spent much of my career advocating in areas which directly affect children. I am also the parent of a GHS senior.

I recently finished reading the Diary of Anne Frank, another often banned book. My grandfather's cousin Victor Kugler hid

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Anne and her family in the annex of his spice factory in Holland. My family has a history of standing up and doing what is right in the face of injustice.

I have read The Handmaid's Tale, the book in question. Ironically, the plot of this book is that an authoritarian religious regime comes into power and when it does, the masses start losing rights and freedoms. That is exactly what we had here.

The book talks about things which are uncomfortable. That is the point, it is dystopian. The whole point is this is not a place you would like to live and we should not let these things happen.

When I was in high school at the same school, we read The Canterbury Tales. The Handmaid's Tale has nothing on the wife of Bath from the Canterbury Tales. We also read Lord of the Flies. When the lost children in that novel stabbed a pig with a spear, there was a vivid allusion to a rape scene as a means to show that the children were losing their innocence.

Banning books is always the wrong side of history.

I understand the book was chosen by the students and that they were stopped six weeks into it, before it was reinstated just prior to Monday night's school board meeting which had to be relocated to the Performing Arts Center. The students were seniors in a college dual credit course. They are not too young for the material. It was also part of Ivy Tech approved dual credit class.

I understand this class was taught by a teacher with more than 20 years of experience. Why doesn't the school board trust the experienced teacher to teach the class professionally and use some tact to discuss the difficult material?

There are established and procedures in place to review materials. Readers will find them located here:

GKB school board Po9130 Public Complaints and Concerns
<https://go.boarddocs.com/in/gkb/Board.nsf/Public?open&id=policies#>

The relevant policies are located on that page under Matters Regarding Instructional Materials

and Matters Regarding Library Materials. The policies (adopted in 2016 and revised in May of this year) are plainly visible for all to see. I found them in minutes.

A further policy, GKB po2240 Controversial Issues

<https://go.boarddocs.com/in/gkb/Board.nsf/Public?open&id=policies#> states as follows, and I'm quoting here:

"The school board believes that the consideration of controversial issues has a legitimate place in the instructional program of the School District.

Properly introduced and conducted, the consideration of such issues can help students learn to identify important issues, explore fully and fairly all sides of an issue, weigh carefully the values and factors involved, and develop techniques for formulating and evaluating positions."

I have read the board policy and the timeframe is such that the policy could not have been followed. It also lacked transparency. I find that troubling. It seems the superintendent granted himself administrative authority.

As an attorney, I feel you did not consult your legal counsel in this matter.

This leadership response was very reactive to the complaint of one parent rather than the thoughtful, considered and proactive approach striving for what is best for all students.

The board did not follow established procedure and abrogated the primary duty, which is education, in a kneejerk reaction to a single complaint.

This is not about, "I want the book" or, "I don't want the book. Established procedures were not followed. This was about a lack of transparency and an abuse of power. Clearly, legal counsel had not been consulted. Concerned parents and citizens need to demand accountability.

**David Brown
Auburn**