

The Paper

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County's oldest locally owned independent newspaper

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➔ TODAY'S VERSE

1 John 4:20 If a man say, "I love God," and hateth his brother, he is a liar. For he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

➔ FACES OF MONTGOMERY

People who call our community their own.



Donald Carson gives a smile for one of our roving photographers. Thanks for your smile!

➔ THREE THINGS You Should Know:

1 Purdue Extension Invites you to participate in Diversifying your Garden and Diet. Instead of only growing the usual staple crops, such as tomatoes, cucumbers, and corn, think outside the proverbial gardening box. A diversified garden is loaded with as many varieties as the gardener can manage in order to provide a diversified offering of produce. A diversified garden extends to container gardening and fall gardens as well. They will answer the questions, how do I get started? Which vegetables and fruit should I choose? How big does my garden need to be? If I plant a new food who will eat it? Don't worry we will be demonstrating (and tasting) how to prepare the new and diverse produce from your garden. Join them on the 4th floor of Fusion 54, April 5, 12, and 19 from 5:30 to 7 p.m.. Please call 765-364-6363 to register. Food and seeds are provided!

2 As western Christians observe Good Friday on April 7 this year pro-life activist all over the country will be participating in a "stations of the Cross" event at local abortion facilities and government offices. All pro life supporters in Montgomery county are invited to attend one of these events at the local event at the county courthouse on Friday, April 7 at 5 p.m. The event is being organized by Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church. For more information call 765-307-0515 or email FrAlexmiller@gmail.com.

3 Sagamore News Media is looking for talented sales people. Whether you sell by phone or in person, we want to talk with you. Hourly rates begin at \$15 per hour and only go up from there. If you have good sales skills, this might be the job you have been looking for. There is no cap on earnings and multiple people in the past have earned \$50,000, \$60,000 and beyond - all the way into six figures. Sagamore News Media owns newspapers in Noblesville and Crawfordsville and feature award-winning work every day. Come be part of our team! Apply today by e-mailing resume to jobs@thepaper24-7.com. We can't wait to talk with you!

Saturday Night Festival Entertainment Announced



Photo courtesy of Heartache Tonight

This year's Saturday night Crawfordsville Strawberry Festival headliner will be hard to beat. Together since 2007, Heartache Tonight is without question the finest Eagles tribute band in the country. With five number one singles and six number one albums, the Eagles are one of the most successful American rock bands of all time. With meticulous attention to every detail, Heartache Tonight manages to reproduce "live" all the fabulous hits that the Eagles have made part of our everyday life. "Close your eyes and you'll swear you're hearing the real thing", commented Entertainment Chairman Sean Gerold. Bring your lawn chair or blanket and get there early for a good seat for their FREE 8 p.m., June 10 Strawberry Festival performance.

The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset
RISE: 7:32 a.m.
SET: 8:05 p.m.

High/Low
Temperatures
High: 48 °F
Low: 32 °F

Today is...
• National Hot Tub Day
• Respect Your Cat Day

What Happened On This Day
• 1910 The first seaplane in history takes off
• 1963 Alfred Hitchcock's movie The Birds is released

Births On This Day
• 1483 Raphael Italian painter, architect
• 1955 Reba McEntire American singer-songwriter, producer, actress

Deaths On This Day
• 1941 Virginia Woolf English author, critic
• 1584 Ivan the Terrible Russian Tsar

Readin', Writin', Arithmetic... Butch Has Some Ideas



BUTCH DALE
Columnist

Do you recall the subjects you took in high school? Everyone had to pass the required courses of biology, English, basic math, social studies, etc., but some of us were placed in the "college prep" curriculum...and took subjects such as physics, chemistry, trigonometry, and calculus, just to name a few. These came in handy when I attended Purdue, but I never really used the knowledge later in life. I also took Latin, which was the only language

course offered. It actually was beneficial to understanding the meaning of words of many languages, but unfortunately I never met any Romans to discuss the triumphs and tribulations of Julius Caesar.

One class that was practical was typing, although I never learned to "touch-type." Yes, sorry, Mr. Inskip, I admit it...I cheated and looked at the keys, but could still type around 45-50 words a minute. A few boys took shop class (i.e. Industrial Arts), and I would have taken this if my schedule had allowed it.

The basic subjects that are taught today haven't changed much in the last fifty years. But the WAY things are taught has changed in SOME schools. Many parents are more worried about what they may have to "unteach" their kids when they come home...a multicultural curriculum which is "inclusivity-insistent," diversity-sensitive, and dripping with

➔ See BUTCH Page A5



Photo courtesy of Crossroads of America Council

Barton Welcomes Scouts

On Thursday, March 16, 2023, Mayor Todd Barton welcomed scouts, scouters, community leaders and others to the 2nd Annual Crawfordsville Mayor's Breakfast for Scouting, at Fusion 54.

Guests heard details about various events and exciting

activities held and planned for scouting units in and around the Crawfordsville area.

The \$3,010.00 raised at the event will be used for annual registration assistance and summer camp scholarships for area scouts. Thank you to all who attended and gave generously.

➔ HONEST HOOSIER

We're just about a month away from the NFL draft. I can hear Duke singing, Lord Help Our Colts!



➔ INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION

Obituaries.....A2
Service Directory...A3
Slim Randles.....A4
Brian Howey.....A4

➔ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Are you having trouble remembering things? Perhaps you're not getting enough sleep.

Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Be sure to catch his column each week in The Paper and online at www.thepaper24-7.com.



➔ OBITUARIES

Marjorie Kay Bowman

The Paper appreciates all our customers. Today, we'd like to personally thank Nancy Hartley for subscribing!



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➔ THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE

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➔ TODAY'S QUOTE

"March winds and April showers bring forth May flowers."
English proverb

➔ TODAY'S JOKE

Anyone know Forrest Gump's password?
1Forrest1!



OBITUARIES

Marjorie Kay Bowman

Dec. 12, 1942 - March 25, 2023

Marjorie Kay Bowman passed away on Saturday, March 25, 2023 at Franciscan Health in Crawfordsville. She was born on Dec. 12, 1942 in Crawfordsville, IN to Stanley and Susie (Johnson) Austin. Marge and Michael Bowman were married on April 21, 1961 in Mellott.



She was a graduate of Richland Township High School, Class of 1960. Marge was a secretary at Purdue University for about 2 years, a proofreader for RR Donnelly for 2 years, and a teller and banker for Elston Bank for 18 years, retiring in 1995. After retirement, Marge and Michael owned and operated The Outpost outside of Crawfordsville for about 10 years. She loved reading, traveling to the beach and going on rides in her Miata convertible. Marge's greatest joy was spending time with her grandchildren.

Marge is survived by her husband of 61 years, Michael; 2 children, Brian Bowman (Denise) and Lori Hedrick; 4 grandchildren, Nick Hedrick, Nathan Hedrick (Charley), Kelsey Whorton (Dana), Cody Bowman; 2 brothers, Marvin "Bub" Austin (Marianne), Jerry Austin (Julie); and a sister-in-law, Vickie Austin.

She was predeceased by her parents, grandson, Kyle Bowman and brother, Gary Austin.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, March 30, 2023 at Sanders Priebe Funeral Care, 315 S Washington Street in Crawfordsville from 12 noon until the time of the service at 2 p.m. Burial will follow at Oak Hill South Cemetery.

Memorial donations to the National Kidney Foundation, 911 E 86th Street, #100, Indianapolis, IN 46240. Share memories and condolences at www.SandersFuneralCare.com.

ACLU Rips Lawmakers Over Transgender Bill

The Indiana Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union took issue with Indiana lawmakers this week.

The organization said that Senate Bill 480 ignores the warnings of parents, medical providers and transgender youth themselves and that the bill would ban gender-affirming health care for anyone under 18. The bill, passed by the Legislature, is now headed to the desk of Gov. Eric Holcomb.

"Indiana lawmakers seem hellbent on joining the growing roster of states determined to jeopardize the health and lives of transgender youth, in direct opposition to the overwhelming body of scientific and medical evidence supporting this care as appropriate and necessary," said Katie Blair, advocacy and public policy director of the ACLU of Indiana. "The idea that these youth are being pushed into harmful medical care is an insult to their

parents who are working very hard to get the best care for their children. Politicians harm us all when they ignore medical judgment and block access to standard care in favor of discriminatory fear-mongering. Transgender youth in Indiana deserve the support and care necessary to give them the same chance to thrive as their peers. We urge Governor Holcomb to veto this harmful piece of legislation. If this bill is signed into law, the ACLU of Indiana will defend the rights of transgender youth in court."

The ACLU said that similar measures have been roundly condemned by leading pediatric and public health experts, including the American Medical Association, the American Psychological Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics. Similar laws passed in Arkansas and Alabama are currently enjoined by federal courts.

Wabash College's Jake Oostman '25 Earns "Realizing the Dream" Scholarship



Jake Oostman

Jake Oostman '25 was recognized by the Independent Colleges of Indiana with a "Realizing the Dream" scholarship, one of 29 first-generation college students statewide to be honored.

ICI spotlights students from Indiana's private, non-profit colleges and universities who are the first in their families to attend college and are successfully advancing toward degree completion.

"This means a lot to me," said Oostman, a native of Crown Point, Indiana. "It shows the work I am putting in is not going unnoticed. That encourages me to keep going on this path and to continue working to better myself. The scholarship was a big help with financial aid. It removed a little weight off of my



Photo courtesy of Wabash College

Oostman received a \$4,000 scholarship from ICI, which was made possible by a grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc.

chest and allowed me to focus more on academics and extra-curricular activities."

A financial economics major with minors in religion and psychology, Oostman received a \$4,000 scholarship from ICI, which was made possible by a grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc.

As part of the award, each honoree selected an inspirational teacher or mentor who also received a \$1,000 professional development grant. Oostman chose Vincent Lewis, a social studies teacher at Crown Point High School.

Oostman is a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity and a member of the Little Giant track and field team, where he has earned all-North Coast Conference honors in the multi-events. Additionally, he is active within the Center for Innovation, Business, and Entrepreneurship (CIBE), and is a member of the Sphinx Club, La Alianza, Wabash Christian Men, and Wabash Fishing Club.

"When you think about the work ethic that it takes to be an accomplished decathlete in track and field, you begin to understand why Jake was selected as this year's

"Realizing the Dream" scholarship winner," said Greg Redding, Dean of Students and Associate Professor of German. "Jake is a true scholar-athlete: a high achiever in the classroom and an all-conference performer on the track. Yet, he still finds time to be active with a host of other student organizations. He is clearly taking full advantage of his opportunities as a first-generation college student."

ICI has honored Indiana's first-generation college students with the "Realizing the Dream" scholarship for more than 30 years.

State Steps On Bugs For VW Work



Attorney General Todd Rokita

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita announced a lawsuit this week against defendants accused of failing to perform work after taking payments from customers seeking restoration of vintage Volkswagen vehicles. Operating under the

name JB Bugs, the company not only failed to do the work it promised but also gave false updates to consumers about work that was supposedly in progress, the lawsuit states.

"As a Volkswagen Thing and Bug enthusiast myself, I understand the love poured into these vehicles by their owners," Rokita said. "Unfortunately, scammers play on these kinds of passions to defraud people of money, but we will keep working to protect Hoosiers and hold businesses accountable."

Defendants named in the lawsuit are JB Bugs Trick & Truck Shop LLC and Palm

Principals LLC — both operating under the name JB Bugs — and owners John Bragg and Melanie Goode.

After customers paid JB Bugs significant sums of money for the restorations — and received assurances the work was in progress — they eventually learned the company's building was vacated and their vintage vehicles missing.

In total, the complaint alleges that 19 consumers paid JB Bugs \$227,000 without JB Bugs restoring the consumers' vehicles or providing any refunds. The complaint alleges the defendants violated the Indiana Deceptive

Consumer Sales Act's prohibition on deceptive and unfair business practices.

Rokita is seeking restitution for the affected consumers and civil penalties against the defendants.

Defendant John Bragg is also facing criminal charges in Indiana for his actions at JB Bugs. He was recently located and arrested in North Carolina.

Anyone who believes they have encountered wrongful business practices in Indiana is encouraged to file complaints with Attorney General Rokita's office at www.in.gov/attorney-general.

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Indiana Budget Should Increase Funding For Public Schools — Not Vouchers

By Casey Smith

Democratic state lawmakers continue to decry education funding “inequities” in the state’s draft budget and are now mounting pressure on their Republican counterparts to “fully fund” Indiana’s traditional K-12 public schools in the next spending plan.

House Republicans tout that nearly half of their budget proposal, 48%, goes to K-12 education, which will get a “historic” boost of nearly \$2 billion over its current appropriation.

But members of the minority caucus argue that one-third of that new funding will go to the Choice Scholarship program — which allows families to receive vouchers to attend private schools. And another chunk would come off the top to cover textbooks.

“We are not currently funding Hoosier students adequately,” Sen. Andrea Hunley, D-Indianapolis, said last week during a news conference. “The proposed voucher expansion is another erosion of critical funding for public schools and our public school students who perpetually draw the short straw in educational funding.”

Echoing school district officials and advocates for traditional public education, Democrats maintain that 90% of Hoosier kids attend public schools. As such, they’re calling for even greater increases to tuition support to cover rising costs due to inflation, and to compensate

for the unfunded mandate in the current budget proposal that would require schools to dip into base funding to cover textbook costs.

Although Indiana schools could see increases to foundation grants — the basic grant for every student — of 4% in fiscal year 2024 under the draft budget, those grant amounts would go up just 0.7% in the following year. School business officials said that means about three out of every four Indiana school districts would get less than a 2% increase — or less funding overall — in 2025.

“In its current form, the budget would funnel about a third of new dollars to school types that educate less than 10% of our students,” Hunley, a former principal and school teacher, continued. “That leaves just 70% of new money to cover more than 90% of our students in public schools, which already have to fight year after year to secure every dollar possible to keep the lights on to pay our teachers, and to provide a high quality education for our students.”

The next two-year state budget is now under consideration in the Senate. GOP legislators in that chamber likely won’t unveil their version of the budget until early next month. A final version of the plan is expected by the end of April.

Senate Democrats push for “fair funding deal”

Senate Minority Leader Greg Taylor said his caucus was happy to see the budget expand supports

for adult learners, including new and increased grants to help with high school completion and trade credentialing.

Taylor, of Indianapolis, said he also appreciated a “nominal increase” in school funding for English language learners and special education students, as well as new dollars aimed at work-based learning experiences for high schoolers.

“All of these provisions are aimed to support the educational needs of students who need it most,” he said. “But you can’t have a situation where you keep touting the increased funding for public schools, and then divert some of the funds for programs that you like, while the rest of the community — the other 90% — see a decrease.”

Sen. Fady Qaddoura, D-Indianapolis, said Democrats are increasingly concerned about the Republican-led push to send more taxpayer dollars to private schools via the state’s voucher program.

Expanded eligibility for the vouchers, as proposed, would raise the income ceiling to 400% of the amount required for a student to qualify for the federal free or reduced price lunch program, equal to about \$220,000.

Currently, vouchers are limited to families that make less than 300% of the federal poverty level, meaning a family of four can make up to \$154,000 annually.

After the expansion, the program would cost the state an estimated \$500 million in fiscal year

2024, and another \$600 million in the following fiscal year. The current state budget appropriates \$240 million annually for the Choice Scholarships.

“If we take \$500 million out for voucher schools, the amount of money that is left is not sufficient to fully fund our public schools and teacher salary increases across the state,” Qaddoura said.

He added, too, that the House budget fails to adequately fund K-12 schools “in the aftermath of COVID-19 and with inflation.”

If new money directed at K-12 schools was distributed “proportionately,” Hoosier public schools would be getting around \$342 million more than they currently are, Hunley noted.

She also called for “an overhaul” to the formula that determines how much supplemental “complexity” funding schools receive for low-income and at-risk students.

That funding is set to increase under the House Republican plan — up 4.4% in fiscal year 2024 and 1% in fiscal year 2025 — but Democrats said it’s still not enough.

“At the same time that we’re funneling money away from traditional public schools to cover the cost of private schools for well-off Hoosier families, we’re not spending one real dollar on the poorest students in our state,” Hunley said. “Hundreds of millions of dollars of inequity — that’s what we have in our funding agreement. And this cannot be how we approach school

funding. This cannot be how we approach our children’s education.”

House Democrats crunch costs for “textbook funding gimmick”

House Democrats, meanwhile, are increasingly picking apart the “textbook funding gimmick” carved into the draft budget.

Members from the caucus said an “accounting ploy” by House Republicans unfairly forces traditional K-12 schools across the state — including in GOP districts — to be on the hook financially for students’ textbook costs and saddles districts “with an effective budget cut.”

On the surface, most public school districts would see increases in base student funding from 2023 to 2024. Because of the textbook provision, however, that increase is either slashed or turns negative once textbook costs are factored in. With inflation at 6.0%, most school districts are receiving “a practical funding cut,” House Democrats said.

A budget analysis released by the House Democrats indicates that schools in Republican districts are among those that could lose millions under the plan passed unanimously by their GOP representatives.

“I don’t like to make a habit out of commenting on other districts’ affairs, but it’s imperative that Hoosiers across the state understand just how harmful this proposal will be and what’s at stake,” House Democratic Leader Phil GiaQuinta, D-Fort Wayne, said in a statement.

“House Republicans frequently gloat about Indiana’s lucrative surplus, but what good is a surplus if we don’t use it to help enhance the lives of our constituents and bolster programs such as public

education?” he continued. “This scheme to deduct the cost of textbooks from a school’s annual budget is not only dishonest, it takes away from the resources schools have to give our children the best possible education.”

As part of his 2023 legislative agenda, GOP Gov. Eric Holcomb promised free textbooks for K-12 families.

His proposed budget included a line item — separate from the school funding formula — directing additional funds to the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE). The state agency would then be responsible for dishing out textbook dollars to schools.

But while the House GOP budget prohibits individual school districts and charter schools from charging fees for textbooks and instructional materials, budget writers did not specifically appropriate state dollars to cover the cost.

Instead, the current budget plan requires schools to dip into their foundational funding to fully pay students’ textbook costs.

“I want to, ultimately — I want it done, so taxpayers and parents don’t pay twice,” Holcomb said earlier this month about eliminating textbook fees. “We’re working on this. But whatever final form it takes, it needs to be one that is not able to pass (fees) on to parents again. I want it eliminated for parents.”

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Remembering Our Last Democratic Governor, Joe Kernan



BRIAN HOWEY
Howey Political Report

South Bend. He served almost seven years as lieutenant governor, and upon O'Bannon's death in 2003, became governor.

But more importantly, as a Navy navigator based on the USS Kitty Hawk, he was shot down over North Vietnam in 1972, spending the next 11 months as a prisoner of war.

When he died, then-Purdue President Mitch Daniels, who defeated Kernan in the 2004 gubernatorial race, observed that his predecessor "was at different times my ally, opponent, and advisor, but always a friend to me, and as far as I could tell, to everyone he met. In wartime and in peace, he embodied patriotism and the goodwill toward all we associate with the term 'Hoosier.' He was a true leader, and we have lost him far too soon."

Daniels drew on Kernan's experience as a mayor and asked him and then-Chief Justice Randal Shepard to head a commission weighing local government reform.

Holcomb, a U.S. Navy veteran, keeps portraits of two of his predecessors - Kernan and Republican Gov. Edgar Whitcomb - in his Statehouse office. Both had been POWs. Whitcomb, a B-17 navigator, was captured by the Japanese during World War II, winning the governorship in 1968 after writing the book "Escape from Corregidor," which detailed his eight-hour swim to the Philippine mainland.

"This official portrait of (Kernan), kind of larger than life, to this day, still looks down at me over my shoulder, almost as if he's grading my work," Holcomb said. "Joe could connect with

anyone, anywhere. His character was impeccable, his courage unwavering - his unrelenting commitment to duty is again, legendary."

The gubernatorial legacy of Gov. Kernan was a mere flash in time. Upon the death of Gov. O'Bannon on Sept. 13, 2003, Kernan became the 48th Indiana chief executive. He was defeated for a full term 15 months later and left office the following January.

Kernan gave only one State of the State address (in 2004 described by Howey Politics as "exceptional") and didn't preside over a single biennial budget process.

Kipper V. Tew, who was a close political ally and served as Indiana Democratic chairman under Kernan, observed of the late governor's legacy, "No. 1, he picked the first female lieutenant governor in Indiana history" as well as the first female chief of staff with Mary Downes.

What would a full-term by a Gov. Kernan be like?

Tew explained, "He proposed a big increase in the number of community college campuses. I would argue he was at least a decade ahead of where folks are . . . now. He asked for tuition and fee increases to basically freeze at the rate of inflation (somebody followed his advice at Purdue years later)."

On health care, Tew said, Kernan advocated lower prescription prices for seniors. He signed legislation creating the state prescription drug purchasing pool. He would have sought to provide protections for the uninsured.

"There are many more things he did in his way too short time in office,"

Tew said. "I firmly believe had the election gone our way, he would have been one of the most consequential governors in state history. He had all of the tools, drive and desire to make a difference."

Tina Noel, Kernan's press secretary as both LG and governor, added, "Joe's priorities would have stemmed from the kind of person he was - someone who was compassionate, competitive and ridiculously smart; someone who famously encouraged everyone on his team to 'do the right thing, always.'"

"I think his work on government efficiency and improving Hoosiers' interactions with state agencies would have continued," Noel continued. "Joe would have done all that he could to ensure that our state's veterans received the care they deserved."

What is the lesson here? During the O'Bannon and Kernan era, Indiana was a true two-party state. Republicans and Democrats would fight with piss and vinegar over biennial budgets and policy. But back in those days, no one's patriotism was questioned.

"Those among us so ready to bear malice against those with whom they differ, and either so ignorant or so ungrateful that they disdain those whose sacrifices gave them the freedom to express their views, should pause and consider the life and character of Joe Kernan," Daniels said.

The columnist is managing editor of Howey Politics Indiana/State Affairs at StateAffairs.com/pro/Indiana. Find Howey on Facebook and Twitter @hwypol.

Hard-a-hearin'

Windy Wilson dropped anchor at the philosophy counter just about the time we'd finished the hash browns with chile on the side. Red this time. Windy looked terrible.

"What's wrong, Windy?"

"These here folks today ..." he said. And we gulped a bit when we hear a sentence begun that way. "Folks today..." he sounded resigned, "they don't ever try to understand folks who ain't perzackly like them. And people who have a leetle handi-clap? Fergit it!"

Yep. Windy talks like that.

"What happened, Windy?"

"Wellsir, Doc, you know I been gittin' a leetle hard-a-hearin' recently. Sometimes gotta ask somebody to say somethin' twice ... you know?"

We all knew.

"It's that ding-danged tea kettle," Windy said. "You know ... got a whistler on it for when the water boils up? Cain't hear it. I gotta be right in the ding-danged kitchen to hear it."

"So you got some hearing aids?" Steve asked.

"Naw, cost too much. What I figgered to do was jest make that tea kettle louder. I saw one a them coach whistles in the store and I got that fer only \$3.59. Then I got me a little piece of tube thing and I glued 'er all together. Hey, looks good, too. I figgered, that there steam would come out and actuarialize that coach whistle, and I know I could hear that."



SLIM RANDES
Columnist

"Did it work, Windy?" "Work? Well, I should smile it worked," he said, proudly. "I was admirin' that sound. I could hear it even out in the back yard. Yessir. 'course my dog, Ramses, he wouldn't come back in, but it's a nice day. It's them other folks."

He took a sip of coffee. "Wellsir, first thing happens is Old Man Johnson next door, he calls the fire departmentals and tells 'em my smoke alarm is goin' off. Then Mrs. Garcia over the way, she calls the cops and says my burglar alarm is goin' off. That ol' brown dog of the Simpsons started barkin' and runnin' off toward Lewis Crick. Them kids at the playground thought recess was over and went back in to class."

Windy shook his head. "First thing ya know, sirens and flashing lights up and down the street. Oh well ... two good things come of it, though."

"Two things?"

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Bill Eliminating Parents' Authority Over Medical Decisions Heads To Governor

By Whitney Downard

A bill restricting the authority of parents over medical decisions for their transgender children advanced to the governor's desk Monday after passing the House in a 65-30 vote.

In addition to the mental health impacts upon transgender youth, Democrats like Rep. Carey Hamilton decried the bill as one in a series of culture war issues and government overreach that will drive away workers and medical professionals interested in working in Indiana.

"Telling our young families that they will not have autonomy over children's healthcare will drive families to other states. States where the beliefs of some are not foisted upon all," Hamilton, D-Indianapolis, said.

Because the House didn't alter the Senate version of the bill - barring amendments in committee and defeating Democratic attempts on the floor - the measure heads straight to Gov. Eric Holcomb's desk.

Holcomb, through his press secretary, didn't immediately indicate whether he'd sign the bill into law. Last year, Holcomb vetoed a bill that would have barred female transgender student athletes from playing with their peers but the legislature easily overturned his veto.

Under the proposal,

parents could no longer authorize gender-affirming care for their children, including puberty blocker, hormone replacement therapy or surgical interventions - though repeated testimony affirmed that no surgeries occur on minors in Indiana.

The move so infuriated a member of the public who watched from the gallery that they called the members "disgusted, bigoted pieces of (excrement)" before being escorted out of the building by security.

Bill introduction Rep. Joanna King, R-Middlebury, called the treatments "irreversible, harmful and life-altering," though the general medical consensus is that both puberty blockers and hormone treatment are mostly reversible. The bill itself acknowledges this and allows cisgender children to pursue those treatments for other diagnoses.

Lawmakers in both chambers heard directly from parents urging them to reconsider the ban, saying gender-affirming health care saved their children's lives. Many said they were looking to leave the state in testimony.

Bill author Sen. Tyler Johnson, R-Leo, said underlying "comorbidities" were responsible for high suicide rates. However, recent research from the Washington Post and Kaiser Family Foundation reported that most

transgender adults are "more satisfied" with their lives after transitioning and another estimates that 0.4% of adults who transitioned as teens regretted their decision.

An additional study suggests that suicide attempts among LGBTQ youth decrease by 40% when children have just one affirming adult in their lives.

A miniscule number of Hoosier children will be impacted by this bill, as fewer than 1,000 youth seek treatment at the state's only pediatric hospital, Riley Children's Hospital, and many only receive counseling or social transitioning assistance from their Gender Health Program.

Parents can still enroll their children in counseling or other mental health services under the proposed ban.

How Republicans voted

Just one Republican other than King justified her vote - Rep. Julie McGuire of Indianapolis, who voted to pass the ban.

Two Republicans joined 28 Democrats to vote against the bill - Rep. Ed Clere, of New Albany, and Rep. Jerry Torr, of Carmel. Two Republicans weren't present - Rep. Sharon Negele, of Attica, and Rep. Ann Vermillion, Marion. Vermillion voted against the bill in committee.

The American Civ-

il Liberties Union of Indiana said if Holcomb signs the bill into law, the organization would "defend the rights of transgender youth in court." The ACLU similarly pursued legal action when the ban on female transgender student athletes became law.

"Indiana lawmakers seem hellbent on joining the growing roster of states determined to jeopardize the health and lives of transgender youth, in direct opposition to the overwhelming body of scientific and medical evidence supporting this care as appropriate and necessary," said Katie Blair, the advocacy and public policy director of the organization.

"The idea that these youth are being pushed into harmful medical care is an insult to their parents who are working very hard to get the best care for their children. Politicians harm us all when they ignore medical judgment and block access to standard care in favor of discriminatory fear-mongering."

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progressive-liberal-thinking. Many students can list every injustice and every perceived fault of American society, but have never read the Declaration of Independence or the Constitution. According to a recent poll, almost one-half of all young adults believe socialism is a good thing! Their motto... "Everyone is equal in the world. Rich people should give their money to the poor. The government can correct all of our society's ills and the world's problems for your benefit by using YOUR money. Then everyone will be happy and contented and nice to each other." OK... sure thing... Sorry, kids, not going to happen.

When I taught 5th, 6th, and 7th grade social studies, all of my students were required to memorize the Equality clause of the Declaration of Independence, the Preamble to the Constitution, the Pledge of Allegiance, the National Anthem, all 50 states and capitals, all of the Presidents (in chronological order), the Gettysburg Address, and also label on a map the countries of Europe and Asia. Yes, it was difficult for some students, but they kept at it until they could do it... and they were so proud when finished! These are important things to know, not to mention the fact that memorization skills are vital to brain development.

While math and English are still considered the two most important subjects to master, perhaps schools could make a few other classes mandatory, such as:

1. Personal finance... basic day-to-day topics such as banking, loans, credit cards, insurance, investments, protection against fraud, etc. Most kids today have no idea how to handle money responsibly. Perhaps they should be taught that saving is a good thing!

2. Shop class... Yes, both boys and girls should learn how to use their brains and their hands to make/repair things. Woodworking, metal-

work, construction, electricity, auto maintenance, and using various tools. They should also learn how to change a tire and do simple home repairs.

3. Home economics... Here again... for both boys and girls at least two semesters. Learn about nutrition and healthy foods, cooking, baking, sewing and textiles, child development, taking care of younger kids, budgeting, etc.

Other mandatory topics might include first aid, self-defense, and local laws. I also believe driver education should be mandatory and be paid for by the schools. Many schools still have drug and alcohol education, but the results vary. Evidently they are not doing much good. In the most extensive study ever done, 5th grade students who had taken D.A.R.E. had higher drug-use rates when they reached the 12th grade than those who did not take the course.

With the way our society is nowadays, I would also suggest students take courses in how to manage their time, how to accept failure and learn from it, and how to survive WITHOUT technology. A debate class, stressing facts, and not just personal opinion, would also be good.

It's a much more complicated world in which kids grow up today, compared to how I grew up in the 1950s and 60s. Many times students have not been taught to appreciate our history, American values, and the freedoms we all have. With regards to practical skills, I learned a lot of useful and common sense things from growing up on a farm. However, sad... but true... I never learned how to wash and dry a load of clothes until four years ago (at the age of 70)... and then I forgot to put in the laundry soap!... OOPS!

John "Butch" Dale is a retired teacher and County Sheriff. He has also been the librarian at Darlington the past 32 years, and is a well-known artist and author of local history.

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