

Looking Back



90 years ago
• Grim tragedy struck for the first time this year in Noble County in a crossing crash which snuffed out the lives of two well-known LaGrange County men. Cecil H. Bixler, age 42, of LaGrange, and James A Beecher, 46, of Shipshewana, were the victims of the crash when the automobile, owned and driven by Beecher and in which they were riding, was struck by south bound G.R. & I. passenger train No. 506, at the Kneipp sanitarium crossing, one mile north of Rome City. Indications were that the two men were enroute south on State Road No. 9, and were traveling west over the short jog in the road, near the sanitarium, when Beecher drove his car on the tracks directly in the path of the south bound passenger train. The crossing where the tragedy occurred is protected by a bell and a swinging overhead red light.

THE NEWS SUN

25 years ago
• East Noble's Kelly Troyer was named Miss Campus Life 1997. She and her campaign manager, Chris Conrad, garnered a record 719,100 votes at a penny-per-vote to win top honors in the 1997 area-wide Miss Campus Life contest, sponsored by Youth for Christ/Northeast Indiana. Teresa Schuman and campaign manager Jayme Kiester helped West Noble top its previous best total with 475,050 votes to gain second runner-up position.

THE STAR

25 years ago
• DeKalb County Sheriff Jay Oberholtzer announced the 18th annual Indiana Sheriff's Association Career Camp during two sessions at the FFA Camp Trafalgar. The camp is sponsored by the Indiana Sheriff's Association for boys and girls currently in the eighth grade and interested in learning more about a possible career in law enforcement.

THE HERALD REPUBLICAN

25 years ago
• It will literally take an army of volunteers to make sure the 8,000 some odd visitors to Angola for the NAIA Women's National Basketball Championships are made to feel welcome as they come to watch the 31 games being played at Hershey Hall at Tri-State University. There will be a core group of 225 volunteers and a total of more than 400 helping out in this second year that Tri-State has hosted the tournament, which will be televised this year.

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.

Our View

Investment spurs new investment

You've got to spend money to make money, the saying goes. This past week, Kendallville's redevelopment commission, in the span of about an hour, developed and authorized a plan to offer up \$300,000 to downtown building owners for facade work as an add-on to the city's \$2 million PresERVING Main Street grant.

The \$2 million state grant will already help about a dozen building owners fix up their downtown buildings, but that's only about half of the 25 buildings that were submitted for the project.

Instead of waiting for the next grant opportunity or shrugging their shoulders and saying "Oh well," city leaders instead raised the stakes, pushing more of their own chips into the pot.

It's now looking likely that around 20 buildings, plus or minus a few depending on how construction costs shake out, will get a facelift.

Pause for a moment and think about that. In the span of two years, around 20 buildings in downtown Kendallville could get makeovers they've gone decades without.

That's a transformation, about as close to overnight as you can get when it comes to government money and construction.

What's happening in Kendallville is also a good case for why these types of community grants are effective, because the investment made via grant spurs further investment in the community.

Within the \$2 million grant, the city had to provide a \$200,000 match, while building owners will have to put in 15% of their construction costs, another \$300,000.

Then, Kendallville wasn't satisfied with leaving motivated building owners out in the cold, so it opened up its wallet to offer another \$300,000. That grant program will require a 25% match from building owners, drawing out another \$75,000 in private investment.

And, a year-plus from now when those facade projects are done, expect to see additional investment begin to roll. When half of the downtown looks sharp and new, that exerts pressure on the owners of the remaining worn out/dumpy/neglected buildings to either step up or sell out to someone who will.

And if you think the bucks stop there, you'd be naive. Kendallville is also seeking regional READI funds to help spur upstairs residential development in downtown and there's little doubt that the city will actively pursue other improvement projects to improve its core and corridors into downtown.

When left to its own devices prior to these programs, rot seemed like the more inevitable outcome for the downtown. Now, the opposite.

Some residents complain about the money being poured in, bemoaning why invest when there's "nothing downtown."

But like growing a garden, you can't just look at a plot filled with weeds and stones and covered in garbage and expect crops to grow. You've got to clean up the site first and make it conducive to growth before you start sprouting vegetables and flowers.

The investments being made by the state and the city over the last three years have drawn out more private investment in downtown than has been seen in decades.

Kendallville is to be applauded for putting its money where its mouth is. Other communities should take note.

Time has shown that these types of changes aren't just going to happen on their own.

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



Letters

Reader grateful for educated and truthful editorial

To the editor:
Steve Garbacz: Thank you a thousand times for your educated and truthful editorial. With all the noise of the ravings and posturings that keep passing for the truth, your words were like a spring breeze of sanity. My family is sick of the *hatred* that is being pushed on us from so many directions. It was wonderful to read your words. Thank you.

Joyce E. Goggin
Garrett

THIS LETTER refers to a column that appeared on Tuesday's Opinion page titled "Porn in schools is a stunt masking a real debate."

Well-regulated licensing leads to better public safety

To the editor:
With the passage of HB1296, allowing permitless carry of firearms, Representative Denny Zent has made another disappointing vote. Rather than

listen to professionals who know, his vote has led to the passage of a bad bill, one that Governor Holcomb should not sign into law.

This is not a partisan issue. The highest ranking police officer in Indiana — Superintendent Carter, appointed by a Republican — has roundly denounced this measure. How could Mr. Zent vote against the police's wishes? Is it because a majority of Hoosiers want Indiana to be like the Wild West?

The truth is that multiple polls have shown that up to 90% of Hoosiers do not want no-permit carry laws. Why is that? It's because most Hoosiers are decent, caring people who know that gun violence is an epidemic in this state.

State Senator Sue Glick, a fellow Republican, voted against this bill, by the way.

A responsible gun-owner would agree that having a system of well-regulated licensing leads to better public safety, not the other way around. Mr. Zent seems to disagree.

Mike Travis
Angola
Candidate for State Representative,
District 51

THE NEWS SUN

Established 1859,
daily since 1911

The Star

Established 1871,
daily since 1913

THE HERALD REPUBLICAN

Established 1857,
daily since 2001

Nuclear brink? Putin has dismantled checks, balances

About every 80 years since the American Revolution began in 1776, there have been decisive pivot points or cataclysms in history.

Our founding was followed by the Civil War eight decades later.

There were a cluster of pivot points in the first half of the 20th century, including the Great Depression (1929), President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal (1933), the commencement of World War II (1939), culminating with the arrival of the nuclear age in 1945 that established two Cold War super powers.

Are we about to enter the fourth cataclysm of the American experience eight decades after World War II?

Over the past five years, Americans have witnessed the greatest upset in American presidential politics with Donald Trump's defeat of Hillary Clinton, a pandemic that killed 1 million Americans and 22,000 Hoosiers after causing a series of societal lockdowns, the Jan. 6 U.S. Capitol insurrection that occurred with the collapse of the Trump presidency, and now despot Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine. That has the potential to spark the first nuclear war of the 21st century, or, perhaps, the collapse of the Putin dictatorship.

Two quotes seem appropriate. American Weather Underground leader Bill Ayers said, "Every revolution seems impossible at the beginning, and after it happens, it was inevitable." And Soviet Union founder Vladimir Ilyich Lenin observed, "There are decades when nothing happens; and there are weeks when decades happen."

Lenin's observation had an echo of truth these past two weeks with Vladimir Putin's disastrous invasion of Ukraine, and the corresponding

coalescing of the Western/NATO alliance into the most severe sanctions ever wrought on one pariah state.

But for 2022 to join the annals of historical pivot points, it will have to go beyond Ukraine President Zelensky's Churchillian empowerment of his people through oratory (and social media), President Biden's revival of what had been a moribund NATO, and the heroic defense of their homeland by millions of patriotic and free Ukrainians. For this year to join 1776, 1865 and 1945, it will likely take millions of Russian people to rise up and force Putin from power.

What are the chances that dramatic event will occur? Andrew Nagorski, a 1980s-era Newsweek correspondent based in Moscow, writes for the Daily Beast: "If history is any indication, Putin already has one foot in his political grave. His war on Ukraine is the beginning of the end for him, no matter how long that beginning takes."

Prof. Olga Chyzh, who teaches political science at the University of Toronto, said in a Twitter thread that Western sanctions will likely not be enough to force Russian military leaders to remove Putin. "Oligarchs have even more to lose if Putin is no longer there to protect them," Chyzh said that the other power zone is Russian "strongmen," who, "view the looming Russian isolation and the forced return of the oligarchs to Russia as a benefit."

There are two other key power points that could bring regime

change, the military and the masses.

Soviet revolutionary Leon Trotsky wrote in "History of the Russian Revolution" published in 1930, "There is no doubt that the fate of every revolution at a certain point is decided by a break in the disposition of the army."

Nazi Germany's Adolph Hitler, his Italian ally Benito Mussolini, Cuba's Fulgencio Batista, Idi Amin of Uganda, Muammar Gaddafi of Libya, Cambodia's Pol Pot, and Iraq's Saddam Hussein were overthrown by domestic or foreign militaries or by rebel forces.

But the masses have risen up to force tyrants from power, via debilitating demonstrations that sway the military, or populist outbursts that have turned elections or forced rulers into exile.

The people of Romania rose up just weeks after the Berlin Wall fell in 1989 to lethally terminate the 24-year rule of despot Nicolae Ceausescu, as did the Serbian people who routed Slobodan Milosevic in 2000. Haiti's Jean-Claude Duvalier and Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines were both ousted by the masses in 1986. Egypt's Hosni Mubarak was forced from office during the Arab Spring in 2011. The Shah of Iran was exiled by millions of secular and religious demonstrators who took to the streets in 1979.

Leon Aron, director of Russian Studies at the American Enterprise Institute, writes of his native Moscow in the Washington Post, "The Russian national tradition is unforgiving of military setbacks. Virtually every major defeat has resulted in radical change."

The danger for the human race is that unlike other Russian leaders, Putin has dismantled whatever

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checks and balances had existed. During the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962 and the Yom Kippur War in 1973, Soviet leaders Nikita Khrushchev and Leonid Brezhnev had Politburos and weren't losing wars of epic miscalculation.

U.S. intel chiefs are concerned. "We assess Putin feels aggrieved," Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines told Congress on Tuesday. CIA Director William Burns expects Putin to "double down" in Ukraine, targeting civilians.

Writing in Foreign Affairs, analysts Emma Ashford and Joshua Shiffrin see the West and Russia "may now be entering into the terminal stages of an insecurity spiral" that could go nuclear. "One might hope policymakers find off-ramps at that stage, but there are no guarantees," adding "spirals are defined by their tragic nature."

U.S. Sen. Angus King said on Tuesday, "Putin may be the most dangerous man in history."

The human race has entered an unprecedented and harrowing sequence.

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



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