

# OPINION

DAILY JOURNAL

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"The Daily Journal is dedicated to community service, to defense of individual rights and to providing those checks upon government which no constitution can ensure."

SCOTT ALEXANDER  
founding editor, 1963

## Hearts and more hearts

The Daily Journal

**EDITOR'S NOTE** — *Hearts and Darts* is published as space is available and each Monday in the Daily Journal. To submit an item, please e-mail Editorial Assistant Kelly Boggs at [kboggs@thejournalnet.com](mailto:kboggs@thejournalnet.com). Items can also be submitted by fax to 736-2766, by phone to 736-2712 or by mail to *Hearts and Darts*, P.O. Box 699, Franklin, IN 46131.

Items should include the writer's full name, street address and telephone number and the full names of all people mentioned in the item. Readers are asked to name no more than 10 individuals and/or five businesses in hearts and to not name specific individuals in darts.

### Hearts

• Hearts to the members of the former Greater Whiteland Community Business Group. Although the group recently disbanded, it will continue to serve the community through a fund at the Johnson County Community Foundation.

We thank you for your support and the meaning of your gift.

**Sandy Daniels**, president and CEO  
Johnson County Community Foundation

• A gigantic heart to the Johnson County Animal Shelter. My mother passed away unexpectedly from a complication of non-terminal cancer. I searched for two weeks trying to find homes for the dear cats my mother gave a wonderful home to after they were dropped off in the country near her. It was a heartbreaking task trying to care for them while being allergic to them.

The workers at Johnson County Animal Shelter were so kind to me and loving toward Mom's cats. Such a burden was lifted knowing one was being adopted as I was leaving. Also a big, special heart to the family that gave Patches a good home.

**Amber Nixon McIninch**  
Greenwood

• A big thank you to my second-graders in Room 101 at Creekside Elementary School for reaching out and helping others during the holiday season. Instead of exchanging gifts with one another, they decided to give gifts to others at Christmas time.

Our "Giving Tree" was surrounded by six full baskets (266 cans) for the Johnson County Good Cheer Food Drive and 12 new toys for the Christmas Angels.

These children may be small, but they have very big hearts. I'm very proud of their giving spirit and wish each of them a wonderful new year.

**Joni Heuchan**  
Creekside Elementary School

• Thank you to all who made Dalton's Deel 2006 a big success.

I collected more than \$400 worth of new books, coloring books, crayons and puzzles, which I donated to the children's visiting areas at the Johnson County Jail and Wabash Valley Correctional Facility.

Special thanks to my principal, Delbert Cragen, music teacher Debbie Wilson, staff and students at Needham Elementary School, Bob White of White's Home Improvement, employees Jim Richardson, Bobby Hager and Gramma Gayle, Split Endz owner Erin Hampton, friends, family and clients, my brother Tomey Deel and his brother Gary Williams, Jennifer Lewis of the Daily Journal and especially Wabash Valley Correctional Facility and Johnson County Sheriff's Office for accepting my donations.

**Dalton Deel**, age 8  
Franklin

• The biggest heart to my son, Dalton Deel, who, although suffering his own pain and loss, continues to reach out in service to others.

You are my motivation, my inspiration and a true hero. I am proud to be your momma and love you to the moon and back.

**Jayne M. Gangl**  
Franklin

• We are sending hearts and a big thank you to the Whiteland police and fire departments for their working so hard to try to revive our daughter-in-law, Patricia Setser. They responded very quickly to our 911 call.

Also a thank you to the Rev. Roger Gifford for coming to the house to give us comfort and prayer and to Dr. Anthony Gannon for his years of treating Pat.

**The Cale and Larry Setser family**  
Franklin

• Hearts to everyone who has been so kind to me and my family the past few weeks: to the Franklin EMTs; police department; fire department; Rural/Metro; the doctors, nurses and counselors at Community Hospital South emergency room; Edinburgh American Legion Post 233; Steve Brown; Joe Brown; the Rev. Lewis Burton; and to all our very best neighbors. Thanks to all.

**Rosemarie Graham**  
Franklin

• Hearts to the Johnson Memorial Hospital nursing staff who worked third floor north during the recent stays of my mother, Maysel Barker, and my daughter, Codi Morrison.

Your kindness was greatly appreciated.

**Rebecca Morrison**  
Franklin

• Dave's Guns in Whiteland closed its doors for the final time Dec. 30.

I want to let my husband know how proud I am of him for being such a good friend to the community. David not only operated a retail business but always went above and beyond to support all community endeavors. He always took pride in his involvement with Gateway Services.

A huge thank you for everyone who was there for David during his long illness and recovery.

**Linda Church**  
Whiteland

## Democrats and Republicans seek common ground



YOUR

## VIEWS & COMMENTARY

### Economic impact of time change will be long term

To the editor:

I agree with your Jan. 3 editorial urging an end to the debate over daylight-saving time. It is foolish for (mostly) Democrats to continue spending valuable time and taxpayer dollars prolonging this matter any further.

There are more pressing and urgent matters for our paid politicians to consider.

It is interesting to note that most of the politicians publicly expressing a desire to continue the debate seem to live near Chicago in a section of the state that already is in the Central time zone.

It would appear their true intent is to force the rest of us, including Indianapolis, onto their time.

Indianapolis is not only the largest and most populated metropolitan area in Indiana, it is also by far the biggest economic, job-creating engine the state has going for it.

One prominent business publication has described Indianapolis as a shiny, new locomotive pulling a bunch of rusted out boxcars (the rest of Indiana).

Indianapolis area residents overwhelmingly support daylight-saving time and staying in the Eastern time zone.

One of the myths being applied in this debate, and unfortunately reinforced in the Daily Journal editorial, is the switch to daylight-saving time has not produced the economic benefits promised by its supporters and by Gov. Mitch Daniels. There are many reasons why this is flawed thinking.

First, you don't just flip a switch and see economic benefits any more than a person flips a switch and becomes a great athlete, loses weight or attains a medical degree. It takes time.

While positive results are happening right away, the visible results won't be seen until later. Eight months is hardly enough time to make a conclusion about the economic impact of daylight-saving time.

Another flaw is in the way economic growth is measured. Most measurements use a net

growth rate, meaning there was growth and there was decline and when offset those two forces produce a net result.

It is wrong to look at net growth when assessing the economic benefit of daylight-saving time.

A plant closing is a loss that is not going to be spared because clocks got moved one way or the other.

While plant closings and layoffs are definitely negative economic events and diminish positive economic news and growth on a net basis, there is no way such events can be attributed to what time it is.

A better way to measure economic progress toward growth is through the sustainable businesses that were not facing imminent closure or cutbacks and whether they have benefited from daylight-saving time.

On the same day as the Daily Journal editorial, the Indiana Chamber of Commerce released the results of a survey of its member companies indicating a significant majority believe daylight-saving time has benefited their businesses in the first year of observance.

Sixty-two percent responded that daylight-saving time has positively impacted their organization.

Twenty-four percent said it was too early to tell.

Thirteen percent indicated negative impact.

Among the benefits listed were easier logistics with suppliers, vendors and customers (63 percent), less complicated business travel (59 percent) and fewer missed meetings and conference calls (51 percent).

Many of the survey comments indicated that it is time to put the

WRITE A

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Daily Journal invites readers to submit letters, opinion columns and e-mail comments for the opinion page.

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daylight-saving time issue behind us.

I could not agree more. It is time for politicians to stop trying to make this issue a political pogo stick and move on to more important matters facing Indiana's citizens.

**Michael S. Winslow**  
Greenwood

**Large pay hike for sheriff could hurt staff morale**

To the editor:

So, our sheriff, who is making more than \$97,000 a year, just got a \$13,000 raise? Amazing!

I had no idea law enforcement was such a lucrative occupation. At the high salary he's already making I would have thought that the county fathers would have simply scoffed at the sheriff wanting more.

But apparently, they actually bought into the sheriff's nonsense.

And isn't this at a time when the sheriff's own deputies are only getting a 3 percent cost of living raise?

I feel sorry for the deputies. I could never work for a man like that.

Isn't a law enforcement agency, like the military, largely driven by the morale of the troops?

I can only imagine what it would do to the morale of our soldiers if the they could barely feed their families and Congress gave the top general a 13 percent pay jump on top of his already gigantic salary.

Pity the deputies and what it's done to their morale.

I thought the shenanigans in the White River Township trustee's office were the political scandal of the decade.

But this beats all.  
Shame on Sheriff McLaughlin.  
**Karl Westerman**  
Franklin

### State budget decisions show misplaced priorities

To the editor:

Recently, our state was given the opportunity to demonstrate a commitment to protecting and providing safe places for children. Instead, our state deemed Statehouse laws to be of higher priority.

The state budget committee recently authorized an \$800,000 upgrade to the laws around the Statehouse, which is an increase of \$226,000 from the previous year. Two days later, the committee rejected an increase in funding to the state's Division of Children's Services.

Indiana's Division of Children's Services proposed a \$375,000 per year increase in the funds that support the state's youth service bureaus and Project Safe Place.

The state budget committee rejected this increase, despite the fact that support for Safe Place has not risen for the past eight years and despite the significant increase in the number of reported and substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect and the number of juvenile children-in-need-of-services case filings increasing in the state of Indiana.

Where are our priorities?

**Kevin Roach**  
executive director  
Youth Connections Franklin

### Raise public salaries by increase in cost of living

To the editor:

I don't know what all the hoopla is about on how much of an increase in one's salary should be. In the case of our local governments, as well as the highest held positions, they have board meetings and council meetings and waste time in Congress.

All they have to do is call up the guy who gives the increase in Social Security benefits (cost of living adjustment), and that's what government employees should get. This year's increase will be 3.3 percent.

That's all anybody needs, right?

Or is everybody underpaid?  
**Ron White**  
Franklin

## Chinese culture shapes new rules about adoption

In the spring and summer, my golf partners and I are the first group to tee off at the local country club. When the weather is too cold, we move our venue to Don & Dona's restaurant, where we have breakfast and enjoy each other's company.

We like to discuss things like global warming, the war in Iraq and local events. As you might imagine, the general atmosphere at these gatherings is relaxed and casual.

Recently, one friend asked me about the new foreign adoption regulations that China will soon be implementing. The revisions have drawn criticism from many who feel that the restrictions are discriminatory and excessive.

Law reflects the culture of a society, and due to the differences of cultural values, some societies likewise have different laws and regulations. An examination of the new adoption policy in China presents an opportunity for me to illustrate some of cultural differences between the United States and China.

The only people allowed to adopt in China are heterosexual married couples who are younger than 50. Obviously, several groups are left out: homosexuals, unwed couples living together and singles.

Those who take any form of psychiatric medicine, such as



Yu-long  
Ling

antidepressants, or who have any form of physical deformity are also excluded. There is even a requirement that potential adopters have a body mass index within a healthy range. Given the moral climate in America among the general populace and the fact that 60 percent of adults are obese, it is no surprise that the above restrictions are hotly criticized in this country.

Our sense of individualism and our right to equal protection under the law causes us to view the adoptive restrictions in China as unjust.

We must remember, however, that China is a sovereign state just like the United States, with the authority to determine what laws they wish to enact. No other nation can interfere with that right. You may not like it, but you must respect it.

Many do not understand the differences between rights and privileges. Adoption is a privilege, similar to a driver's license being granted by the state. In order to attain a

privilege, an individual must meet certain criteria. Rights such as freedom of speech and religion are fundamentally protected by the Constitution and require no set criteria.

I noted earlier how laws reflect a culture's values, so let's look at the Chinese perspective for these new adoptive regulations. In the United States, 50 is not considered old, but we must remember the adoption of a child is significantly different from that of a pet. Once you adopt a child, it is a full-time job, because you have to provide for him or her all of life's necessities, as well as a good education and a positive environment. The Chinese also feel that it is unfair to place such heavy responsibility on seniors.

Although controversial, in American society, single parenthood is common, and homosexual couples are becoming more accepted.

We must remember, however, that these are Chinese children, and we must consider their cultural standards. The Chinese are family oriented in the traditional sense of having both a mother and a father, and they feel that this is the best environment for a child.

Concerning the restriction on individuals who take any kind of psychiatric medication or who have physical deformities, the Chinese have raised the standards in order to avoid the

possible risk of placing a child in an unstable situation. As Americans, we lean toward being open minded in these situations; however Chinese precautions are certainly not illogical.

Finally, the issue of a healthy body mass index has merit. Americans do not see obesity as a major problem, but the Chinese consider it to be serious. Obese individuals often have frequent medical problems, and some live lethargically. The Chinese rationale is to avoid placing children in homes where obesity is promoted and laziness is accepted.

These regulations have already been adopted, and there's not much that can be done about it. Hopefully, this explanation of Chinese reasoning will help people understand that that the purpose of the new regulations is not to discriminate but to look out for the best interests of Chinese children.

My suggestion is that if you do not agree with these restrictions, you do not have to deal with them. You can just as easily adopt a child from Vietnam or Malawi. Just talk to Madonna. Good luck.

Professor Yu-long Ling holds the Williams Chair in Law and Public Service at Franklin College and is an internationally respected expert in foreign policy. He writes this weekly opinion column for the Daily Journal. Send comments to [letters@thejournalnet.com](mailto:letters@thejournalnet.com).