

Charter law touches nerve

Issue evokes strong feelings at forum for IPS board candidates

Steph Solis
steph.solis@indystar.com

Indianapolis Public Schools students, parents and teachers expressed concerns over the state of some neighborhood schools and the future of the district at a public forum Saturday for School Board candidates.

Amos Brown, radio host and one of the moderators, asked the candidates to weigh in on House Enrolled Act 1321, a new law that allows IPS to hire charter

companies or independent management teams to run low-performing schools.

When it was her time to speak, Samantha Adair-White, an incumbent seeking to keep her District 3 seat, said her eyes teared up two weeks ago when the topic came up at a board meeting. Adair-White said a partnership between a struggling IPS school and a charter company would mean “directly giving IPS away” to contractors interested only in the best students.

“(House Enrolled Act) 1321 is not for

IPS,” she said. “Our kids are not for sale.”

Most who attended, a crowd of about three dozen, broke into applause at the comment.

But a few candidates, including former state Rep. Mary Ann Sullivan, disagreed. Sullivan said the law gives administrators of at-risk schools more flexibility to implement solutions.

“I think there’s a lot of misinformation about what this legislation does,” she said. “I think there’s paranoia.”

The forum grew heated at times as

moderators asked questions submitted by the audience. Candidates also were asked to share their positions on school mergers and strategies for at-risk youths.

Nine of 10 School Board candidates for three open seats attended the forum at Martin University.

Running for District 3, which serves the Butler-Tarkington, Meridian-Kessler, Glendale, Meadows, Fairgrounds and Devon neighborhoods, are Adair-White, former School Board member Kelly Bentley and James Turner, dean of

» See IPS, Page A7

At school, who’s bad?

Expert: Discipline data could bring review

Associated Press

Indiana could be at risk of a federal review of its school discipline policies because data show disproportionate numbers of males, minorities and students with disabilities being punished, an education expert has told state lawmakers.

Russell Skiba, director of the Equity Project at Indiana University, said Indiana is one of five states with male suspension rates higher than the nation for every racial and ethnic group. Blacks accounted for nearly a third of Indiana students who lost classroom time to suspensions and expulsions in 2012-13, he said.

The startling data were reported as Indiana lawmakers study whether

“We are trying to look at what the behavior is and then assign what we think will help educate or change the behavior so it doesn’t repeat itself.”

PAUL NEIDIG,
Evansville
Vanderburgh School Corp.

disparities exist in school disciplinary practices and determine whether they can take steps to stop them.

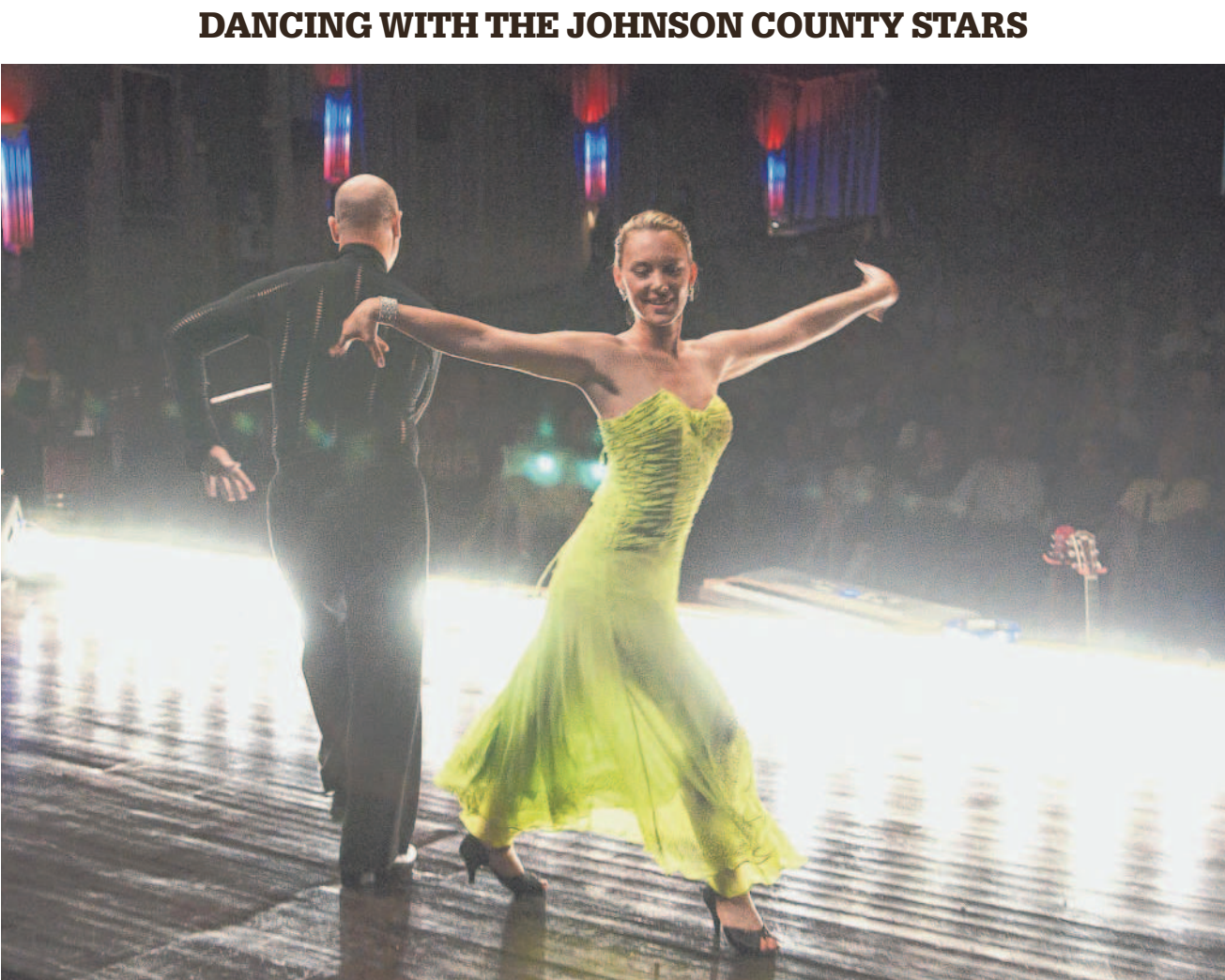
The number of Indiana school-children facing suspension or expulsion has steadily declined over the past several years, the Evansville Courier & Press reported. But students still lost 587,084 days out of the classroom in the 2012-13 school year, Skiba said.

Studies have shown that overusing out-of-school suspension and expulsion to discipline students places them at risk for academic disengagement and other negative consequences, Skiba said. He recommends the state instead give principals alternative programs to reduce suspensions and expulsions.

Some school districts already have adopted such practices. The Evansville Vanderburgh School Corp. is in its third year of a program called PBIS, which stands for Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports.

The district has seen a decrease in office referrals during the first year of a school adopting PBIS, and its leaders expect the program will help further reduce suspensions and expulsions, said Paul Neidig, the district’s chief administrative officer.

“We are trying to look at what the behavior is and then assign what we think will help educate or change the behavior so it doesn’t repeat itself,” Neidig said.



Arthur Murray Studio dancers Tony Crosby and Leah Drobot open the Dancing with the Johnson County Stars fundraiser Friday.

Dancing stars raise \$180,000



Johnson County’s stars lit up the stage at Franklin’s Artcraft Theatre and raised \$180,000 for charity Friday and Saturday nights.

The first Dancing with the Johnson County Stars was a huge hit, organizers said.

Rosalie Hyde, a community volunteer, took home the mirrored ball trophy by raising the most money, about \$59,000, for her charity: Johnson County Senior Services.

Rafael Sanchez, a reporter for WRTV-6, won the award for best dancer.

The other dancing stars were PNC Bank’s Stephanie Wagner; Ariba Integration Manager Joanne Cheek; Greenwood City Council member Brent Corey; Johnson Memorial Hospital’s emergency department manager Carla Taylor; Emmanuel Baptist Church children’s director Aaron Beasley; and Johnson Circuit Court Judge Mark Loyd.

— Vic Ryckert

LEFT: Arthur Murray Studio dancer Lindsay Koenings and Rafael Sanchez, a WRTV-6 reporter, compete.

BELOW: Bryan Epperson, Janette Koon, Jill Rusk and Mike Schulman give a perfect score to Koenings and Sanchez.



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Lester Hanson (right) samples Samuel Adams beer with his son Scott at the Noblesville Brewfest at Forest Park on Saturday. Hundreds of beers were available at this year's brewfest, which also featured food trucks and live music.

ALEX FARRIS PHOTOS/FOR THE STAR



Melissa Kimbler, sporting a pretzel necklace, sampled beer at the brewfest, which featured a biergarten.

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OF ALL

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Noblesville Brewfest offers a beer menu to suit every taste



+ **IndyStar.com:** View a photo gallery from the brewfest.

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★PHOTOS OF THE WEEK

[CANVITATIONAL]



Chip Mulala (above), "Minister of Craft Beer," hands out samples of Canzilla from SanTan Brewing Co. of Chandler, Ariz., during the Sun King Brewing CANvitational. At right, Lisa Marie Smith gets a beer tasting from Geoff Maddock of West 6th Brewing Co., Lexington, Ky.,

ALEX FARRIS / FOR THE STAR



ALEX FARRIS / FOR THE STAR

Marnee Durand, originally from Chicago, and Ryan Miller, originally from Brookfield, Wisc., wait in line to taste beer during the Sun King Brewing CANvitational. More than 40 breweries were on hand Sept. 20 for the event on Georgia Street.

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Volunteer Matt Robinson stands ready to serve beer from Surly Brewing of Minneapolis. Above, a guest gets a glass of PsychOPathy beer from Madtree Brewing Co. in Cincinnati.



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GETTY IMAGES
Anderson resident June Allen's trip to the Queen Mary, which is docked in Long Beach, Calif., will be featured on CBS' "Sunday Morning."

War bride's return trip to Queen Mary a thrill

Kelly Dickey
Associated Press

ANDERSON — Shortly after her second husband died two years ago, Anderson resident June Allen discovered a box she didn't realize she had. Tucked away were all sorts of memorabilia from her arrival to the United States on the RMS Queen Mary as a war bride following World War II. Little did she know that little box would help catapult her into the national spotlight and make one of her dreams come true.

Last month, Allen flew to California to visit the Queen Mary and was interviewed about her experiences by CBS journalist Tracy Smith. Allen's piece is scheduled to be on CBS' "Sunday Morning" this weekend.

"Afterward, she gave me a high-five and said, 'June, you did a great job.' And I said, 'I sure hope so,'" Allen told The Herald Bulletin.

Allen said that when she was flown out to California for the "Sunday Morning" taping, she was also interviewed by a reporter from the Los Angeles Times. That story, she said, is scheduled to run Sunday, too.

It was something she never expected to happen, especially not at the age of 87, yet she found herself returning to the grand ship the same week as her birthday.

"It was an unbelievable thrill," she said.

Allen's first time on the Queen Mary was when she boarded the ship in 1946 in England. A young war bride, she made the voyage to New York at 18.

For more than six decades, she wanted to return to the ship, which has since been retired and permanently moored in Long Beach.

But it was that box of items she had long forgotten she saved that has turned her into quite the traveler.

In the summer of 2013, she made arrangements to visit the ship. Workers told her dozens of soldiers and war brides used to travel to the Queen Mary, but none had in a long time.

"I said, 'I'm not too old to travel, I'm not in a nursing home, I'm not dead, and I'm coming,'" Allen said.

Her travels didn't end with that first trip. She has already been there several times in the last year, and before she got the call to be interviewed on "Sunday Morning," Allen made reservations to return to the Queen Mary in November.

Allen said that brings her travels to five trips in 13 months — four to Queen Mary and one to Ellis Island in New York.

"It's unbelievable. It's like a fairy tale," she said. "I just wanted to go back as a part of my bucket list."



ALEX FARRIS PHOTOS/FOR THE STAR
Cool Rowings leads the first heat of the IUPUI Regatta on the Downtown Canal on Saturday. In the regatta, teams race from the canal's head at Fairbanks Hall to the Walnut Street basin and back.

WET & WILD

Canoes race along Downtown Canal during IUPUI Regatta

Engineering and Technology Alumni team members Akram Khatib and Jerry Hohn capsized during the IUPUI Regatta.



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Stay for supper at Georgia Reese’s

FORMER COLT
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By Liz Biro
elizabeth.biro@indystar.com

Former Colts line-backer Gary Brackett was thinking supper club when he conceptualized Georgia Reese’s Southern Table & Bar on the Northwestside. Supper club means different things to different people. For some, it’s comfort food and family dining. Others think dinner, drinks, good music and socializing.

One night during Georgia Reese’s grand-opening run, the dinner crowd of singles, couples and families confirmed the various supper club perceptions.

As a fussy toddler whined at a table laden with homestyle fare, a trio of stylish ladies tended their martinis and fried chicken at the bar. One of them lamented that her companions were acting “too old.” “Can you believe it? They want to go home already,” she told a lone woman sitting nearby at around 8:30 p.m.

The recipient of her complaint sympathized. “I have the same problem with my friends. Next time, call me. We’ll stay out ’til 3 a.m.” High fives ensued between the pair of fast friends. More martinis were ordered, and everyone at the U-shaped bar leaned, smiling, toward the mild ruckus set to a rhythm and blues soundtrack.

So goes the true definition of supper club, as displayed by Georgia Reese’s: A place that doubles as a dining spot and social occasion.

Style: High class and homespun. Low ceilings evoke Grandma’s house as much as a blues joint



Steaks grill in the kitchen before a private event at Georgia Reese’s Southern Table & Bar, near 86th Street and Michigan Road. The restaurant, serving soul-food staples in a Prohibition-era supper club atmosphere, opened to the public Sept. 2.

that serves food. Vanilla walls and black-and-white photos of Brackett’s family, as well as staffers’ moms and grandmas, wrap the place in a certain sweetness. Taupe booths and black accents lend sophistication. Mismatched chandeliers softly light the bar, backed by two televisions broadcasting sports, and lighted shelves loaded with bourbon. Large letters spell “EAT” over an elevated area that serves as a stage when tables are cleared away for musicians to perform.

Scene: This is a boisterous place where you feel at home as soon as you walk in the door. Someone often waves to an acquaintance across the room. Sit alone at the bar and within a few minutes, a person next to



Former Indianapolis Colts linebacker Gary Brackett named his new restaurant for his daughter.

you will ask how you’re doing or suggest you order the mac and cheese. The music — blues, gospel, rhythm and blues — is just loud enough to sway shoulders but still allow conversation.

Cuisine: Georgia Reese’s kitchen strutted fine Southern-leaning, farm-table fare during pre-opening events. Mondo fried chicken wings were crisp and juicy. Plenty of creamy sauce coated elbow macaroni and cheese. Pork belly-loaded stewed collard-shad not a hint of bitterness.

Since then, the kitchen has hit some bumps. During one meal, the hot sauce-marinated top

sirloin arrived tender but with a noticeably piquant vinegar tang. Cream cheese globs marred shrimp and grits. Collards were salty at lunch, undercooked at dinner. Ever-so-polite servers and managers soften the blows by nixing flubbed items from checks and offering substitutes on the house, leaving diners understanding rather than disgruntled. As one customer said, “My fish was undercooked, but I’ll be back. I like it here. They’ll get it right.”

Drinks: Georgia Reese’s 70-plus bourbons and whiskeys land in cocktails categorized as The Dark Side. One is the Grilled Peach Old Fashioned (bourbon, honey,

peach bitters, grilled peaches and fresh thyme). Bourbon replaces vodka in the Bacon Lovers Bloody Mary with bacon and blue cheese-stuffed olives. White liquors such as moonshine and vodka populate The Light Side, drinks more suited to Sunday brunch. The list includes a watermelon martini (vodka, watermelon schnapps, triple sec and a splash of lemonade). Mimosas are made to order with various juices and flavorings.

Good to know: Buffet-style, all-you-can-eat brunch is served from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays for \$24.95 per person, chichory coffee and sweet tea

included. Look for regular fish specials and live entertainment. Expect an increasing mix of regular jazz and rhythm and blues entertainers, some of them local up-and-comers and maybe a few famous names agreeing to a quick set between bites.

Hours: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday; 10:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday; and 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday.

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Spend a day in Village at Winona

By Ashley Petry
Star correspondent

Since the late 1800s, the Winona Lake area — north of Indianapolis near Warsaw — has been viewed as a paradise.

In 1887, local farmers developed a resort in the area, called Spring Fountain Park. In the following century, the community served as a religious retreat center and intellectual hub, attracting as many as 250,000 tourists each summer.

By the late 1980s, however, the religious organizations had moved elsewhere. Fortunately for tourists, a group of local entrepreneurs purchased a swath of shoreline property, creating the Village at Winona tourist destination — and fueling economic resurgence for the larger Winona Lake community. “It’s taken 15 years to make it what it is today,” said managing director Jeremy Marsh. “They did a lot of demolition of old, vacant homes to clean this up, and shops were brought in to help with revenue for the town and make it its own little magical place.”

Now, the Village at Winona is a perfect day trip from Indianapolis. The quaint district offers a selection of art galleries and artisan shops, as well as several restaurants — including the original Cerulean.

Many visitors have lunch at the BoatHouse



The Winona Lake Village area got its start as a resort in the late 1880s. Now, it’s a fun day trip from Indianapolis.

Restaurant, which has views of Lake Winona. Modeled on the original boathouse built in 1895, it serves traditional options like salads, sandwiches, steak and seafood.

After lunch, it’s time to browse the shops.

“It’s not like a typical mall,” Marsh said. “It’s all unique, no franchises or anything. It’s all locally done.”

The Eagle Creek Farms Market stocks local meats and cheeses, and the Carousel Winery offers tastings.

At Sacs & Co., shoppers can browse handcrafted soaps, shampoos, lotions and candles. At Pottery Bayou, visitors can paint their own pottery.

Another favorite is

BeLOVE, created when a local potter and an artisan jeweler married and merged their businesses.

“They’re really known for their bracelets, little clay pieces that go onto an elastic band,” Marsh said. “Most people start out with a special word or a Bible verse.”

Active travelers can head to the Trailhouse Village Outdoor Store, which rents bicycles. Nearby, the Lake House rents paddle boards and kayaks in the summer and snow shoes and cross-country skis in the winter.

Although the beach is outside the Village of Winona, at Winona Lake Park, visitors can access the lake from the village’s canal.



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