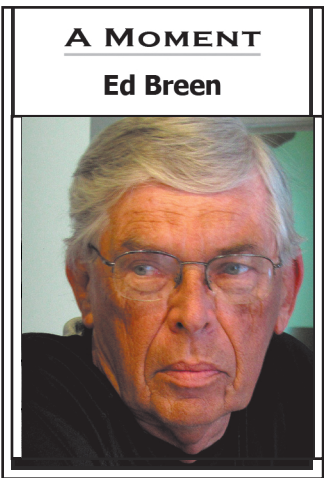


Political candidates beware of the color purple

When Susan Brooks decided she would not seek a fifth term representing the Fifth Congressional District of Indiana – and that includes us here in Grant County – in the U.S. House of Representatives, among the things she looked at was her own vote totals over eight years.

Brooks, a Republican from Carmel in Hamilton County, had emerged from a seven-way field back in 2012 to succeed Dan Burton. Then, over the years, she defeated Democrats Shawn Denney, Angela Demaree and in 2018, Dee Thornton. Hidden in those victories is the simple fact, with each election, her margin of victory shrank. Not dramatically, but steadily.

The message to Brooks and her people: Beware of the color purple. That is, the predictably safe Red Republican district might, just might, be drifting toward Democrat Blue. North suburban Indianapolis, a Republican bastion for a half-century, is changing, becoming younger, wealthier, a tad more progressive. Young people in enormous numbers are moving into the southern third of the district. Look at the population of Fishers, for instance. The numbers are staggering: 2,000 people in 1980, 7,500 in 1990, 76,000 in 1994 and now about 95,000.



A MOMENT
Ed Breen

The Fifth District: 3,266 square miles, 784,000 people, ranging from the density of Fishers to the sparser and more unchanging – if not shrinking - population here in Grant County. We are the northern wilderness of the district here in the Marion area. We are also predictably Republican in county-wide politics. The evidence: There is not a single Democrat elected official in the county courthouse. Not one.

But all of this is only a stage setter for the showdown next month. The only certainty is that a woman will succeed a woman as the Congressperson from the Fifth District of Indiana.

Adam Wren, a graduate of Indiana Wesleyan University and a newly emerging authority on Indiana politics, reporting for Importantville and Politico web sites

and Indianapolis Monthly magazine, sizes it up this way in a lengthy analysis in the magazine: “Few here in the district know either the Democrat or Republican vying to replace Susan Brooks. However, before Labor Day, outside groups and the candidates themselves spent more than \$4 million to further the causes of Republican State Sen. Victoria Spartz, a rifle-toting, Trump-fawning former CPA who grew up in Soviet-era Ukraine, and former state lawmaker Christina Hale, a onetime Kiwanis International executive who would be the first Cuban-American woman to represent Indiana in the U.S. Congress. In August, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee alone reserved \$400,000 in television ads,” he writes.

Bottom line is . . . game on. And if you don’t believe that, flip on the TV for a few minutes. Spartz casts Hale as a woman “who brought Chicago style corruption to the Indiana Statehouse.” And Hale casts Spartz as “a legislator who got caught writing laws to benefit her family.”

While some of this bloodletting is on your TV, even more is in your mailbox, or soon will be. Recall last June, when we had the COVID -delayed primary and recycle paper bins were laden with

campaign fliers, an awful lot of it from Victoria Spartz, who is the poster child for how to get name recognition without walking neighborhoods and kissing babies. Those “Victoria” signs sprouted like ditch weeds along Ind. 37 between Marion and Indianapolis.

All of this has a whole lot more to do with heads counts in Congress than voters in Indiana.

Again, Adam Wren reports: “Political action committees and special-interest groups will be carpet-bombing the Fifth with political attack ads and mailers. If Republicans want to gain control of the U.S. House of Representatives, they have to defend suburban seats. Democrats, though, believe they can expand their 34-

seat majority by flipping Republican seats just like this one. National Journal, an inside-the-Beltway publication, added ballast to their hopes in July when it ranked this district as the ‘eighth most likely to flip in November,’ given the district’s shifting demographics and political leanings in recent years.”

Finally, Wren asks, “But what happens when the Republican base is drawn to far-right candidates like Spartz, while at the same time, suburban moderates are softening their views on everything from racial issues to gay marriage to gun violence?”

Victoria Spartz, Christina Hale and the rest of us are about to find out.

New payday lending alternative coming soon

Afena and Community Foundation team up to offer a new alternative to payday lending

Launching soon, a new alternative to payday lending in Grant County will provide financially vulnerable families with convenient, small-dollar, low-interest, flexible-term loans. This innovative hybrid loan program will provide families with immediate access to the cash they need to provide some much-needed financial stability—especially due to COVID-related financial strains—while also helping them build a savings account for future financial security. The alternative payday lending program is made possible through a unique partnership between Afena Federal Credit Union and the Community Foundation of Grant County.

The alternative payday lending program was designed to help financially under-resourced families in three ways: 1) By providing affordable financing to assist families in getting back on their feet once they return to work following the COVID-19 pandemic, 2) By helping financially under-resourced families build an emergency savings account, and 3) By helping income-vulnerable families improve their credit scores.

Using an impact investment strategy, the Community Foundation has agreed to invest \$1,000,000 in the

alternative payday lending program for the next five-years. The Foundation’s commitment will be used as collateral for the loans, allowing Afena to provide payday alternative loans for as many individuals as possible until the five-year program timeline is completed in September 2025.

Dawn Brown, President/CEO of the Community Foundation stated, ”Participating in an impact investment like the alterna-

tive payday lending program has been on our radar for quite some time and in our strategic plan for nearly two years now. So, it’s both exciting and timely that we are able to partner with Afena Federal Credit Union, our local Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), to help our most marginalized families recover from COVID-related financial pressures and plan for a more stable and thriving future. Impact

investing is a strategy wherein foundations utilize a portion of their endowed investment portfolio with the intention to generate a measurable, beneficial social return alongside a financial return. Impact investments were created to provide capital to address social and/or environmental issues. In the case of Grant County, poverty is a systemic social issue that the

See Payday, Page 9

Answers to puzzles on Page 9

SUDOKU

		6						
8				3		9		
1	4				7			
			6		3			
	2	9	1					
4	8			7	5			
			7	6			5	
	9			4				3
		5		2				8

Level: Intermediate

Here’s How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you’ll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14				15						16				
17				18						19				
20				21				22						
23						24	25						26	27
		28				29				30				
31	32					33		34	35	36			37	
38				39	40							41		
42				43						44	45			
46		47	48				49			50				
51					52	53	54			55			56	57
		58							59					
60	61							62	63				64	
65						66							67	
68						69							70	

CLUES ACROSS

- Part of (abbr.)
- Persons
- Moved with a curvy trajectory
- Bitterly regret
- Cause to feel embarrassed
- Type of toast
- Bobby __, NHL champ
- Analogies
- Mixes
- Beloved flowers
- Clinton special prosecutor
- Avoids
- Innermost brain membrane: __ mater
- Atomic #18
- Remain as is
- One who’s been canonized
- Indian king or prince
- The Bay State
- Forms adjectives

- Give off
- Partner to flow
- Biblical Sumerian city
- Popular clothing material
- Organism parts
- Central US Native American people
- Blood type
- Wrath
- Perennial tropical grass
- Vetches
- Buffaloes
- Envelope type
- Tuberculosis
- Israeli city __ Aviv
- Pops
- Indo-European languages
- Fiddler crabs
- Large bank
- Not fresh
- Scientist’s device (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

- High schoolers’ dances
- Style of rock music
- Maryland athlete
- Softened by soaking
- Native Aussies
- Some are on it
- Clairvoyance
- Broken piece
- Wrong
- Starts over
- Where to hang clothes
- One point north of due east
- Gov’t lawyers
- Mass of eggs in a shellfish
- Smile
- Wrap
- A citizen of Iran
- Island off the coast of Tanzania
- Attempts
- Beloved “Doctor”
- Type of turtle
- Leg (French)
- Indicates position
- Self-doubt
- Of I
- Retired but allowed to retain title
- Algerian port
- African country
- “Wayward Son” rockers
- Bring out of sleep
- Auburn legend Newton
- Heavy wooden shield in ancient Greece
- Choose to represent
- Peace
- Work hard
- Reciprocal of a sine
- Express delight
- Explosive
- Journalist Tarbell