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KOKOMO TRIBUNE

Area schools show strong gains on IREAD

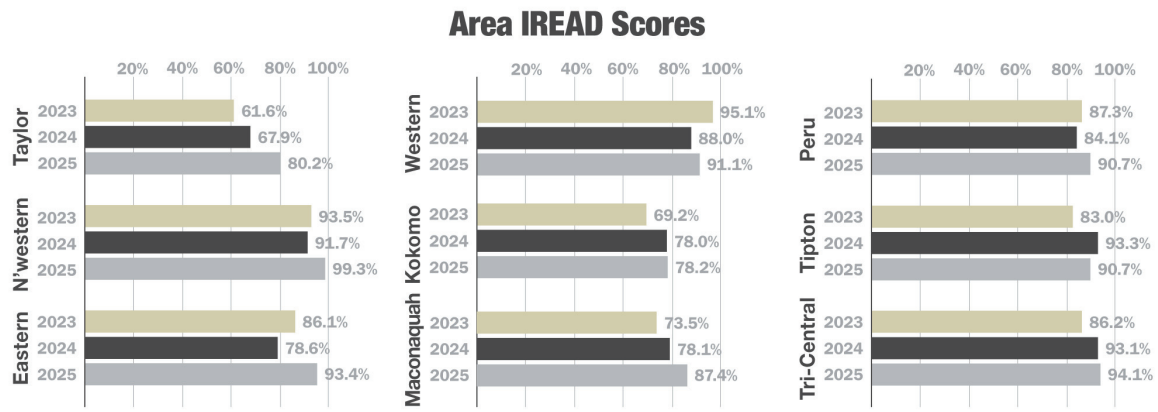
Northwestern has best pass rate; Eastern, Taylor show best improvement

SPENCER DURHAM
KOKOMO TRIBUNE

A statewide focus on elementary literacy and scientifically-backed curriculum appears to be paying off.

Local school districts and schools across the state reported significant increases on IREAD, the standardized reading test administered to second- and third-graders. Three of the five Howard County school districts had passing rates of 90% or more. Northwestern School Corporation led the way at 99.3%. Only one

See **IREAD** on A3



Scores for IREAD, the standardized reading test for second- and third-graders, are shown for area schools dating back to 2023. Most schools showed improvements last school year.

CNHI graphic

Russiaville man arrested in sex crimes against children investigation

Defendant taken into custody without incident

KIM DUNLAP
KOKOMO TRIBUNE

Police say a 36-year-old Russiaville man was arrested this week on a level 5 felony charge of conspiracy to commit sexual misconduct with a minor.

Generally, the Kokomo Tribune no longer publishes the names of people accused of crimes until they plead guilty or have a chance to defend themselves in court.

However, the man's arrest came after a three-day coordinated undercover operation led by the Boone County Child Abuse and Sexual Exploitation Task Force and the Indiana State Police, according to a Boone County Case Task Force media release.

The operation — which brought dozens of other law enforcement agencies together throughout the state — focused on identifying and apprehending individuals who used "digital platforms" to "target minors for criminal activity," the release noted.

The operation was supported by a collaboration of agencies including the Boone County Prosecutor's Office, Indiana State Police, Department of Homeland Security, Boone County Sheriff's Office, Zionsville Police Department, Lebanon Police Department, Whitestown Police Department, Avon Police Department, Plainfield Police Department, Westfield Police Department, Greenfield Police Department, Howard County Sheriff's Office and Terre Haute Police Department. The operation focused on identifying and apprehending individuals who used digital platforms to target minors for criminal activity. Undercover officers engaged with suspects online by adopting various identities.

Officials in the release added the five individuals arrested in the case — including the Russiaville man — all traveled to Boone County to "engage in sexual activity with minors" before being taken into custody without incident.

"This operation is a powerful example of what can be achieved when local, state, and federal agencies work together to protect our

See **ARREST** on A3



Michael Conroy | Associated Press

Gov. Mitch Daniels signed a bill to establish daylight savings time in Indiana in 2005.

Reflections on daylight saving time

Lawmakers passed controversial law 20 years ago

WHITNEY DOWNARD
INDIANA CAPITAL CHRONICLE

Two decades ago, after a prolonged and heavy lift through the 2005 legislative session, former Gov. Mitch Daniels signed a monumental piece of legislation into law: establishing daylight saving time in the Hoosier State.

The vote was so contentious that former House Speaker Brian Bosma left the voting machine open for hours, whipping up the votes needed to advance the priority bill for Daniels.

"We just almost had a majority, and then people would switch," Bosma, a Republican, told the Indiana Capital Chronicle. "We went up to caucus and I had to press on."

In the end, lawmakers advanced the measure through the house by a single vote — a decision that cost the voting lawmaker his seat in the body.

Hoosiers first sprung forward in 2006. Prior to the law, Indiana had a hodgepodge mashup of time zones that varied from county to county. As with today's dynamic, most Hoosier counties aligned themselves with Eastern

Time, but a handful located in the southwestern and northwestern tips opted for Central Time.

Just over a dozen counties clustered near the state's borders — including all of the counties following Central Time and at least five Eastern Time counties — voluntarily followed daylight saving time with the majority of the nation. But roughly 76 counties didn't, which meant they switched from Eastern Time to Central Time and vice versa when other states sprung forward or fell back.

"There are 13 states with more than one, but Indiana had three (time zones)," said Daniels. "... as a practical matter, we were in the Eastern zone during the winter, and in the Central zone during the summer."

Synchronizing all of the time zones to make it easier to do business with national counterparts was critical to Daniels' first-term agenda, which sought to "make Indiana, once again, a competitive state."

"Economically, we were at the bottom of people's lists of places where you might bring jobs and do investment. We did dozens of things:

taxes, regulation, litigation, building, infrastructure. Everything that might make Indiana a more attractive place and more prosperous place," said Daniels. "And daylight savings was a small part of that."

Because of the confusing time zone distinctions — which The West Wing mocked in a famous 2002 episode — deliveries were missed or rescheduled, conference calls were dropped and even airlines avoided locating hubs in Indiana, Daniels said.

"It's an interconnected world, more so today than twenty years ago," Daniels said. "... It used to be you'd have to look at the calendar before you look at your watch."

THROUGH THE CHAMBER

A 2005 story in the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette reported that 43 Republicans and eight Democrats pushed the proposal across the finish line. At noon, the vote stood at 49-48 but, 11 hours later, four Republicans changed their minds.

"I've introduced and closed on this bill so many times I'm running out of things to say," said Rep. Jerry Torr, R-Carmel. Torr authored

See **DAYLIGHT** on A3

WEATHER



Partly sunny and warm.
79 | **65**
Full forecast on A8.

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Vol. 174, No. 244

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