

THE TIMES OPINION

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Civility Counts for letters, columns
Letters to the editor and columns should be focused on the issues. No name-calling or other meanness allowed. Remember, #CivilityCounts.

EDITORIAL

Valpo businesses need this high-fiber diet

Our opinion: Digital infrastructure is as much a part of economic and civic development as a strong, well-designed transportation network.

The Valparaiso Redevelopment Commission is investing in a fiber optic loop to expand high-speed Internet access in the city. It's a project that makes sense. City Economic Development Director Patrick Lyp said the project began when a company interested in locating in Valparaiso said the biggest challenge was access to fiber, not available land, utilities, workforce or taxes. In the 21st century, commerce relies heavily on broadband access to the Internet. Entrepreneurship, which must be encouraged, relies heavily on high-speed communications with customers, suppliers and others. Dark fiber — fiber optics in place but not yet spoken for — just isn't available in Valparaiso. So the Redevelopment Commission is paying to bring that infrastructure to the city.

The first phase is to bring the loop down Ind. 49, then to expand it to key business areas in the city. Construction is expected to start in December, if the costs meet expectations. "It is vital to us to have high-speed, high availability, cost-effective fiber," Larry Moore told the Valparaiso City Council at a briefing this week. Moore recently retired from Computer Services Inc. The entire Valparaiso business community will benefit, not just larger firms, Lyp said. This project should be able to pay for itself. Businesses won't get this high-speed Internet access for free. The fees they pay will allow the Redevelopment Commission to recoup its costs. Anyone who says government should leave this solely to the private sector is missing a key point



DOUG ROSS, THE TIMES

Ethernet cable used to connect computers to the Internet.

— that the private sector hasn't met this need. Digital infrastructure is as much a part of economic and civic development as a strong, well-designed transportation network. We shouldn't punish this sort of

progressive thinking by hanging on to outdated notions of what the government's role might be. This is the answer to bridging the tech divide that is separating who will be successful from who will not be.



Your opinion, please
Should government fund Internet infrastructure?
Activate your digital subscription and cast your vote at nwi.com/opinion.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Feds shouldn't ground remote-control models

Doris Boyer wants the government to protect the American people from drones? Drone is a military weapon. Also, it's the name of a male honeybee. I have flown radio-control model airplanes for 60 years. Last week, I flew my new small airplane with a video "eye" that gives me the pure visual experience of flying like a bird, or superhero. It entails the same technology as a common smartphone. The national parks now forbid flying model gliders on the dunes that had this pastime before the parks. The FAA wants to treat and restrict hobbyist model airplanes like real airplanes, with complete disregard to a congressional mandate to not restrict the hobby. There is so much advanced technology available to build on. Boyer is right to be frightened by the actions of jerks and the government. We must advance in spite of them.
—JIM PETRO, GARY

What will students learn from sign controversy?

The letter by Colleen DeVries on the Lake Central sign misses the point. Towns and cities have master plans that spell out development. Lake Central, an educational entity, failed to adhere to the restrictions of the master plan; either intentionally or through ignorance. The blame falls directly at the feet of the Lake Central School Board.

I guess we are seeing the beginnings of the Lake Central administrators to huff and puff, stamp their feet, and begin to pout because they did not get their way. What are the students of Lake Central to take from this debate — if you do not get what you want, even if you know it is contrary to the rules, begin to whine and complain about irrelevant matters, i.e. size of building, tastefulness, etc., in an attempt to change the argument? Maybe Lake Central should teach the students to follow the rules, take appropriate remedial action, and do not order an expensive item until a proper variance is in hand. What would Lake Central do if a student violated its rules and used lame excuses to justify the violation?
— DOUGLAS ZIEMAK, ST. JOHN

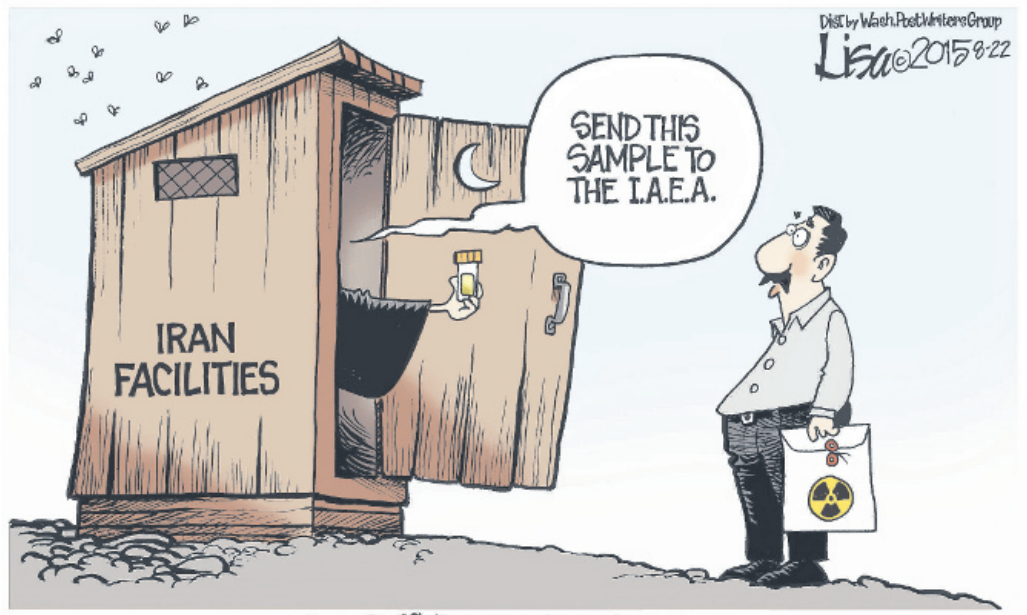
Money for fancy doors, but not for new bridge

Indiana Gov. Mike Pence wants to spend over \$800,000 for new statehouse doors, through which most of us will never go through. But the state would not spend \$30 million to replace a bridge (Cline Avenue) which a lot of people use. Instead, he opted for a toll bridge which we all have to pay to use. Where is the sense in this?
— EUGENE HANYZEWSKI SR.

When will legislators listen to teachers?

Everyone needs to read the Aug. 9 article, "Teachers: testing

EDITORIAL CARTOONS



taxes system." The teachers are all expressing the same concerns: the overemphasis on testing, invalid test questions, delayed test results, the lack of accountability on the part of some parents and students when it comes to their role in education, and the expecting, or need, for the schools to do more than just provide an education. So, it begs the question. When are the legislators, or those making education decisions, going to listen to the real experts, the teachers? No wonder the percentage of people going into education in Indiana has significantly decreased.
— JIM MARTZ, VALPARAISO

Shouldn't all lives matter to TV news, activists?

So far this month, as of this writing, there has been a killing each day in Baltimore. Why is there so much outrage when a black person is killed by a white policeman or by a white person — you see the likes of Al Sharpton, Jesse Jackson, CNN and MSNBC run with the story 24/7 — but if a black person is killed by another black, as it seems to happen quite often these days, I guess that's not news to them so why bother reporting it. Shouldn't all lives matter? Think about it!
— VICTOR CAPLINGER, PORTAGE

Write to the editor

Letters must be 150 words or less, signed and include a phone number. **EMAIL:** letters@nwi.com. **FAX:** (219) 933-3249 or (219) 465-7298. **MAIL:** The Times, 601 W. 45th Ave., Munster, IN 46321

GUEST COLUMN

BY CAROLINE LITTLE

Caroline Little is Newspaper Association of America president and CEO. The opinions are the writer's.

Witnessing evolution of newspaper industry

Four years ago, most of us wouldn't have predicted award-winning TV series would debut via online streaming on websites such as Netflix and Hulu and would never be aired on cable or network television. Likewise, just four years ago most of us wouldn't believe we would get news updates on our watches. During my four years as the CEO of the Newspaper Association of America, I have watched nearly every media industry shift dramatically in response to the ever-changing technology and consumption habits of our audiences. The same holds true for newspapers. This industry has been around far longer than radio, television or telecommunications, and some critics have questioned how we will continue to remain relevant in today's digital world.

But today's numbers speak for themselves: In the United States, the newspaper digital audience is skyrocketing, reaching 176 million unique visitors across all platforms in March (comScore, 2015). Circulation revenue is also rising, both in the United States and around the world. According to the 2015 World Press Trends Survey, global newspaper circulation revenue exceeded advertising revenue for the first time ever. The reason? Newspapers are leveraging technology and audience data more than ever to create new content, products and services that attract audiences and advertisers. Let's look at a few of the ways the news industry has evolved: **SOCIAL MEDIA:** Newspapers are successfully tapping into our desire to remain "plugged in" and up-to-date on the latest happenings. USA

Today, for example, uses Snapchat to cover live sporting events through instantly-delivered photos and captions. Periscope, Twitter's live-streaming service that debuted in the spring, is being leveraged by reporters and media outlets as a way to give viewers the inside look at breaking news, sports events, and even political press conferences. **APPS:** Newspapers have developed niche apps with customized content, such as the New York Times Cooking App and the Denver Post's Colorado Ski Guide, to build on popular features and further engage specific audiences looking to more deeply explore their areas of interest. **PRINT SPECIAL FEATURES:** In response to readers' desires for quality leisure-reading, newspapers have begun offering expanded Sunday sections, such as the Philadelphia Inquirer's new lifestyle section,

"Live, Life, Love." Similarly, the Chicago Tribune has doubled its opinion pages, following the growing reader interest in local commentary. **NEW REVENUE STREAMS:** Advertisers are still taking notice of the growing audience and continued demand for newsworthy, useful content. This has inspired the recent interest in native advertising, or sponsored content, as a way to provide advertisements that don't disrupt the reader experience and still provide valuable information. Much has changed in four years, and I can say with confidence that the newspaper industry is poised to continue evolving with new technologies and engaging content in the years to come. It's been an honor to serve as CEO of NAA during the last four years and I look forward to cheering the industry's continued success.



ABRAHAM LINCOLN SAID
"You don't know what you are talking about, my friend. I am quite willing to answer any gentleman in the crowd who asks an intelligent question." — JULY 10, 1858

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TODAY IN HISTORY: Aug. 27, 1915
Griffith Bank Is Closed: The Griffith State Bank, capital stock \$25,000, was closed at one o'clock this afternoon "until further notice, subject to the order of the state auditor."