

THURSDAY

February 21, 2013

8 a.m. Noon 6 p.m.

15 23 28

The cold continues. Ice, snow may arrive tonight. DETAILS, PAGE C8



JOURNAL & COURIER

LAFAYETTE—WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA

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Bill directly targets Lafayette clinic

Abortion pill law given Senate panel's OK

By Tom Davies
Associated Press
and Emily Campion
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INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana clinics that provide only abortion drugs would face the same requirements as those where

surgical abortions are performed under a proposal approved Wednesday by a state legislative committee.

Dr. John Stutsman, the medical director of Planned Parenthood of Indiana, said a clinic the group operates in Lafayette is believed to be the only location

that would be affected by the regulation changes.

The bill approved by the Senate's health committee in a 7-5 vote would also require doctors to have ultrasound examinations conducted on women before providing any drugs to cause abortions.

The provisions covering clinics that provide abortion pills would require them to have

NEWS AND OPINION

Editorial: Republican fears. A7
A-F grading gets bad marks. C8

surgery facilities and equipment and resuscitation equipment, such as defibrillators, even if surgical abortions aren't conducted there. The bill exempts physician offices from

any extra regulations even if those doctors sometimes prescribe abortion pills.

Nine abortion clinics are currently licensed around the state, including three run by Planned Parenthood, according to state records.

Supporters of the increased regulations maintain abortion

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Jocelyn Tovar is happy that she pointed to the right letter on a smartboard Tuesday at Glen Acres Elementary. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HEINZ/J&C

Tracking mood via tweets worthy of a patent

By Stephanie Wang
Indianapolis Star

INDIANAPOLIS — Millions of your 140-character tweets — that mindless drivel and those snippets of wisdom — have already predicted the bobbing of the stock market.

Soon, they could divine the onset of the flu or the movement of politics.

Since his 2010 research article set people atwitter, Indiana University researcher Johan Bollen has broadened his formula for gauging society's mood based on Twitter or Facebook posts. This week, he won a patent for what many have dubbed "the Twitter predictor."

What you ate for breakfast? Your favorite sports team's big win? That funny thing your cubicle neighbor just said? Crank it all through a formula and the tweets can hint at society's collective mood of the moment, based on certain words about how you feel.

"Public sentiment is a pretty ghostly concept," said Bollen, an associate professor of informatics. "You're trying to quantify something that maybe people feel isn't inherently qualitative."

Other researchers have examined tweets to determine how happy people are in different cities or states. Marketers have looked at tweets to understand whether people like their products.

What Bollen found is that these moody tweets can be used to peer into the near future, as indicators of what could happen socioeconomically or financially.

The first test tied tweets to the Dow Jones Industrial Average. Bollen's research with doctoral student Huino Mao claimed close to 90-percent accuracy in predicting the stock's short-term changes. When people

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Speaking English, ASAP

1,900 local students, some very young, await state-mandated testing this month

By Jessica Contrera | jcontrera@jconline.com

Kindergartner Enrique Medieta was busy running his fingers along a world map rug in a Glen Acres Elementary classroom as his English teacher, Marge Hemmer, smiled at him. He was sitting on the part of the rug where Indiana is located. She was on South America.

"Enrique, escucho!" Hemmer said, knowing it would be silly to tell him "listen" in English. The boy's family moved from Mexico to Lafayette two weeks ago.

He's one of 1,900 local students being evaluated in English proficiency this month.

The evaluations are through a statewide test called LAS Links. The exam is required for any student whose parent

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Gabby Salazar, an aide at Glen Acres Elementary, tries to ease what can be a difficult transition, especially for younger students.

'Never good losing to IU'

Last-second defeat for Purdue women. Sports, B1

YOUNG TALENT

Students take over galleries at Tippecanoe Arts Federation. Arts, D1



Not home, but ... nice

The SIA Safe Haven Home fills a community need. Local, C1

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Marge Hemmer helps Glen Acres Elementary kindergarten students learn English on Tuesday. BY MICHAEL HEINZ/J&C

ENGLISH

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indicates on a survey that a language other than English is spoken in their home.

Enrique's spot on the map was a coincidence to Hemmer, but his presence in her class is not unusual. The non-English-speaking population has grown and is growing in Greater Lafayette and across the country.

The children of that population are integrated into local classrooms and are expected to learn English rapidly.

Gabby Salazar, an aide at Glen Acres, said no matter how much in-school instruction is offered, it's a difficult transition for students to make when their families typically don't speak English in the home.

"Especially for the younger ones. They hear their classes in English and have to translate in their heads," Salazar said. "The teachers think 'Oh, there's something wrong with this kid,' but he just takes longer because he's processing."

Evaluating students

The LAS Links test assesses K-12 students on listening, speaking, reading and writing. Grade levels determine how the five versions of the test are administered.

Every year, the test results determine students' level of English proficiency on a scale of 1 to 5. A score of 5, or "fluent," has to be achieved for two consecutive years in order to test out of

English-language programming.

A common objection to the test is how early it is administered. Other state-mandated standardized tests, such as ISTEP, don't begin until the third grade.

"Most kindergartners are learning the language and attending a formal school setting for the first time, but the test asks them to read and write on their own," said Brenda Ward, Lafayette School Corp.'s English-language learner coach. "Most English-speaking students that young can't even do that."

But testing does indicate strengths and weaknesses, which is useful to teachers.

"If you see that they are strong in speaking but not reading, the teacher knows that they need to work on the student's reading skills through speaking," Ward said.

Students in need

With a 12.1 percent Hispanic or Latino population, the dominant alternative language in Greater Lafayette is Spanish.

In Lafayette School Corp., Ward said only five or six other languages are spoken. In West Lafayette and Tippecanoe County schools, there is more variety.

John Maylath, Tippecanoe School Corp.'s English learning coordinator, credits Purdue for the diversity. More than 50 countries are represented in the district.

"When international students come for graduate programs, they often

bring their families," Maylath said. "Their children are enrolled in our schools for the period of time they're here."

Although diversity is an asset in many ways, it can limit the effectiveness of English programs. Brenda Sadeghi, an English-language teacher in West Lafayette schools, teaches students from Korea, China, Japan and Puerto Rico all in one class.

"It's challenging to meet the individual needs of every student because they vary so much in language background and English level," Sadeghi said. "You have to vary the types of lessons you offer so you can meet the students at their level."

Providing help

Due to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, all school corporations receive money from the Indiana Department of Education to provide English-language instruction. They hire English teachers, aides and tutors to provide language help.

This year Lafayette schools hired one additional English aide for every school.

At the elementary level, most programs are considered "pull-out." Students are removed from the classroom during English and extracurricular periods to work on reading, writing, listening and speaking skills in small groups.

As the students age, programs are more "push-in" focused — aides filter into regular classrooms to help lan-

guage-learners as needed. At the high school level, students typically take an "English as a native language" class.

As with any program, the schools wish they had more funding to update curriculum and add staff.

Last year, every Indiana school was allotted \$127.29 per limited-English student.

House Republicans proposed a two-year state budget that would increase funding for English learners by \$5 million, raising the per-student allotment to \$200.

The House Democratic counterproposal, which will be introduced at the Statehouse today, seeks a \$10 million increase. It would guarantee \$300 per English learner to every Indiana school over the biennium.

"It has been proven that if you work with our Hispanic students that may not speak English at home, but immerse them in English in the schools, they do very well on the ISTEP and other tests," state Rep. Sheila Klinker, D-Lafayette, said.

Ward, the Lafayette schools English coach, said more money would mean more personnel, and therefore more improvement.

"If we had the ability to give students background and language instruction on what they should expect before they go into regular lessons, that would make the most difference," Ward said.

"It's a lot of work, but a lot of bang for your buck."

TWEETS

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seemed calm, the Dow went up. When they became anxious, it sank.

The recent patent brings his startup, Guidewave Consulting, closer to selling the invention for wider use. IU's Research and Technology Corp., a Guidewave shareholder, can collect royalties from sales.

But not everyone buys into it.

"I'm still somewhat skeptical," said Mark Foster, chief investment officer for Kirr Marbach & Co. in Columbus, Ind. "The short term is sort of a random event."

"It could be a coinci-

dence," said Bill Welding, chief investment officer for Indianapolis-based Bedel Financial Consulting. "In real live testing with actual money, it'll take a couple of years to find out whether it's a valid option or not."

Bollen said two hedge funds have tested the Twitter predictor. He acknowledges a risk but uses this analogy: "If you're a farmer, we're not telling you how to grow corn. We're telling you what the weather will be like."

The next step is to steer the data analysis to examine what drives certain feelings. It's easy to see when people aren't happy, Bollen said, "but the big challenge is to explain why."

CLINIC

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pills sometimes lead to health problems for which the prescribing clinic must be prepared and have the proper facilities.

"They don't need to have all that to hand pills over," Indiana Right to Life legislative director Sue Swayze said. But she said complications are more common with drug-induced abortions and "that's when they're going to need to follow through with their care" of a patient.

Sen. Patricia Miller heads the Health and Provider Services Committee.

Republican Sen. Vaneta Becker of Evansville joined committee Democrats in questioning how the additional clinic restrictions would benefit health care for women.

"We have a billion-dollar surplus and we're not doing anything to increase funding for mental health, we aren't doing anything to increase funding for more care for low-income women," Becker said. "This bill definitely limits access to safe and affordable health care for low-income women."

Sen. Jean Breaux, D-Indianapolis, noted the financial strain Planned Parenthood would have to incur if the bill is passed.

"I think that facility will probably need to make significant investments that they probably can't afford," said Breaux, claiming these kinds of bills to be "a war on the poor" since Lafayette Health Center caters mostly to the low-income population in need of health care.

Becker, R-Evansville, joined the committee's four Democrats in opposing the bill, citing that 95 percent of Lafayette Health Center's services go toward low-income health care and cervical cancer screenings. She said the bill was "definitely" aimed at the Lafayette clinic.

And, she said, under it the state would "absolutely" be requiring a vaginal ultrasound.

Sen. Ron Alting, R-Lafayette, said he wasn't familiar with all aspects of the bill.

"It's a very controversial subject," Alting said. "When I look at this, re-

gardless if I'm pro-life or pro-choice, I think that what's most important is consistency and safety. The safety of the patient itself should be standard across the board."

The proposal now goes to the full Senate for consideration and would also need to pass the House, both of which are controlled by Republicans. Conservative legislators in 2011 pushed through a law that cut off some state funding to Planned Parenthood, but federal courts have blocked it from taking effect.

Most states already have the same clinic regulations for those providing medical or surgical abortions, with Indiana among six states with current regulations only on surgical abortion sites, according to the New York-based Guttmacher Institute, a non-profit group that does research on reproductive health.

Indiana Right to Life questioned last year whether the Lafayette clinic was meeting the state abortion clinic standards and began pushing for the broader definition.

Sen. Travis Holdman, the bill's sponsor, said all clinics providing regular abortion services should be held to the same health and safety standards. He said he was comfortable exempting physician offices from the requirements because most of those doctors will be dealing with their regular patients.

"They are going to know what the history of that patient is," said Holdman, R-Markle. "I think there's just natural follow-up that's going to occur if it's the primary physician, so I'm not sure that we need to put the same burden on them."

Stutsman, the Planned Parenthood official, said the group didn't know yet what changes it would have to make to the Lafayette clinic if the proposal became law.

He said the requirement to perform ultrasounds was an intrusion into how doctors deal with their patients and would lead to unnecessary procedures.

"It is the physician who needs to look at all the clinical findings to determine the care of the patient so we can guarantee her utmost safety," he said.

Rural teens at high risk for pregnancy, analysis finds

By Michelle Healy
USA Today

Nationally, the birth rate for U.S. teens has plunged to record low levels, but a new analysis shows that a disproportionate share of teen births are in rural communities.

In 2010, the birth rate for girls ages 15 to 19 in rural counties was 43 per 1,000, nearly one-third higher than the rate for

metropolitan counties (33 per 1,000), says a report released today by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. And this higher rate was the case regardless of age, race or ethnicity.

The national rate in 2010 was 34 births per 1,000; preliminary 2011 data show an 8 percent drop to a historically low 31 births per 1,000.

The new report uses

the National Center for Health Statistics urban-rural classification system, which identifies rural counties (also called non-metro counties) as those with populations of less than 50,000. Metropolitan counties have populations of 50,000 or more.

"The prevailing stereotype is that teen parenthood is primarily an urban and suburban phenomenon," says Bill

Albert, chief program officer for the Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit. In fact, "the landscape of teen childbearing is more open spaces and fresh air than gridlock and high-rises," he says.

Ultimately, Albert says it's "a combination of factors that range from availability of clinical services to poverty and educational opportunities."