

'Unknowns' abound in teacher evaluations

Most districts, including Vigo, to use Department of Ed rating tool called RISE

By SUE LOUGHLIN
TRIBUNE-STAR

Indiana teachers have many questions and concerns about a new evaluation system that places them in one of four categories – from highly effective to ineffective – and also determines whether they receive a pay raise.

The new law, which passed in 2011, requires that:

- All teachers will be evaluated annually.

Teachers must be placed in one of four ratings categories: highly effective, effective, improvement necessary or ineffective. (Those in the lower two categories cannot receive a pay increase).

■ The evaluation must include objective measures for student achievement and growth, such as growth on ISTEP as well as measures for non-ISTEP subjects.

SUNDAY SPECIAL

“There is a lot of uncertainty and there are a lot of unknowns,” said Jim Mann, a Vigo County social studies teacher who also is running for House District 46. In the past, a student’s test scores were never part of a teacher evaluation, he said.

More Inside

■ **It's in the books:** Based on Public Law 90, and for the first time this year in Indiana, a teacher’s evaluation score will be based on both professional practice and measures of student learning, said Karen Goeller, Vigo County School Corp. deputy superintendent.

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AP/NASA

Above and beyond: This July 20, 1969 photo provided by NASA shows Neil Armstrong. The family of Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon, says he has died at age 82.

'One giant leap for mankind'

Neil Armstrong, 1st man on the moon, dies at 82

ASSOCIATED PRESS • Cincinnati

Neil Armstrong was a soft-spoken engineer who became a global hero when as a steely-nerved pilot he made “one giant leap for mankind” with a small step onto the moon. The modest man, who had people on Earth entranced and awed from almost a quarter-million miles away, but credited others for the feat, died Saturday. He was 82.

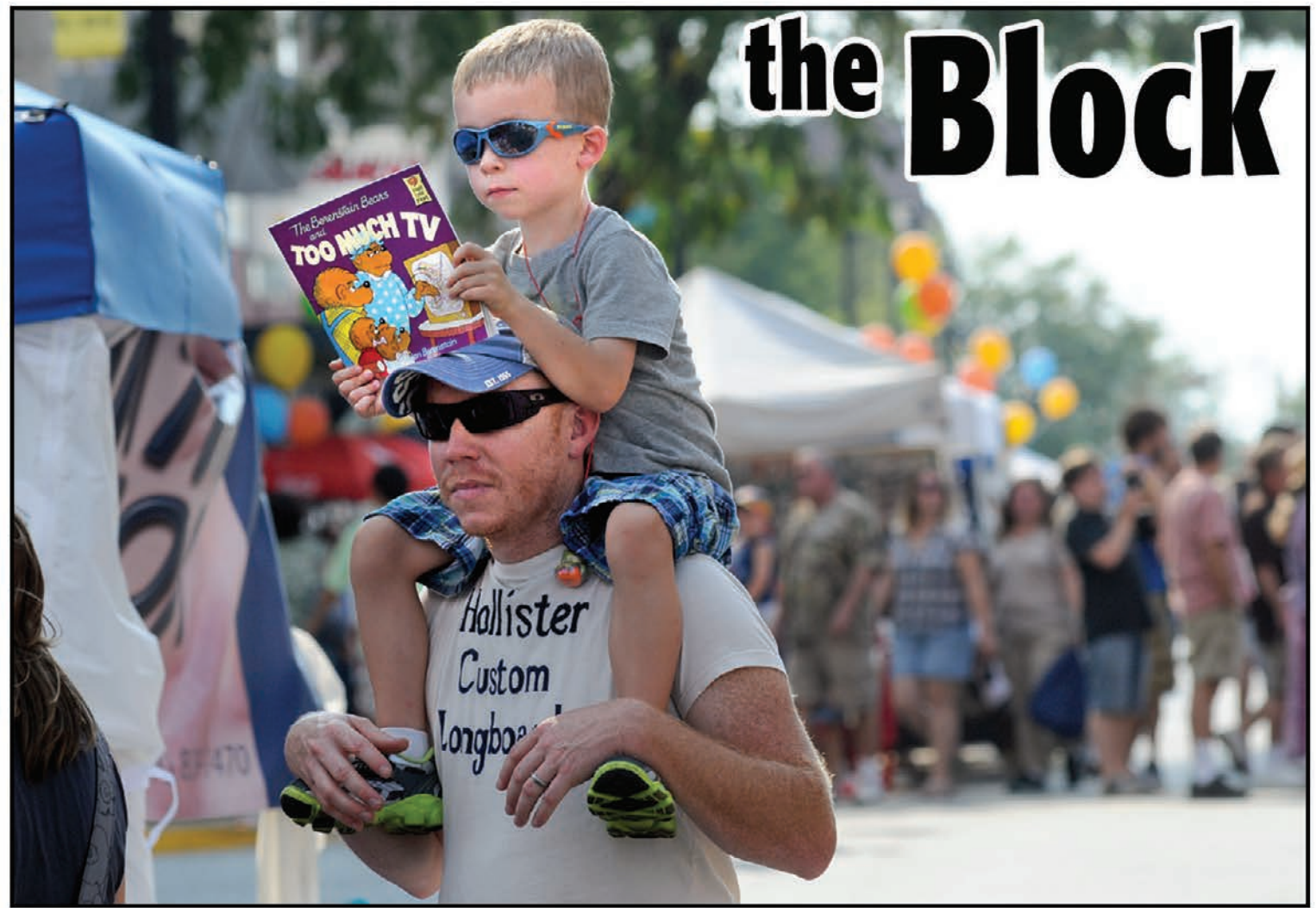
Armstrong died following complications resulting from cardiovascular procedures, his family said in a statement. It didn’t say where he died; he had lived in suburban Cincinnati.

Armstrong commanded the Apollo 11 spacecraft that landed on the moon July 20, 1969, capping the most daring of the 20th century’s scientific expeditions. His first words after becoming the first person to set foot on the surface are etched in history books and the memories of those who heard them in a live broadcast.

► Turn to **ARMSTRONG, A7**

Thousands jam downtown for the annual Block Party

Rockin' the Block



Tribune-Star/Bob Poynter

Too much: Five-year-old Hayden James sits on his father’s shoulders and reads as they walk along Wabash Avenue on Saturday afternoon during the Block Party.



Tribune-Star/Bob Poynter

Picture: Peggy Deckard photographs 8-year-old Jaylee Shelby and 3-year-old Hayley Richard as they sit in the shade along Wabash Avenue during the Block Party.

BY BRIAN M. BOYCE □ TRIBUNE-STAR

Easy footsteps shuffled about downtown to swirling music, as thousands rocked around the block.

The Second Annual Downtown Block Party seemed to start earlier than the 1 p.m. kick off Saturday, as hundreds of volunteers filled Wabash Avenue throughout the morning. Visitors to the morning Downtown Farmers Market filled the lots near Ninth Street, spreading west throughout the day.

Visitors continued to pour into the free event through midnight.

Ariane Marie King, operations coordinator for Downtown Terre Haute, Inc., had her yellow Downtown Block Party T-shirt blazing in the 90 degrees of sunshine that afternoon. Five stages worth of live music had listeners bobbing along from Fourth to Ninth street, and food seemed to fill every table from one end of the party to the other.

Check it out

■ **On the Net:** Watch as T-S photographer Jim Avelis delves into the Block Party fun and lets the public sound off. See the video linked with this story at www.tribstar.com

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Partly cloudy

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