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Early DST to bug software, kids

By Angela Mapes
The Journal Gazette

Last year, most of Indiana observed daylight-saving time for the first time in 30 years.

But get ready, Indiana, because the second time will come even earlier.

Daylight-saving time begins at 2 a.m. Sunday, three weeks earlier than usual.

For the past 20 years, states that observed daylight-saving time would "spring forward" on the first Sunday in April.

In 2005, Congress voted to move that date to the second Sunday in March, citing increased energy efficiency. Daylight-saving time will end a week later, the first Sunday of November instead of the last Sunday of October.

Hoosiers had to adjust their computers last year when Indiana went on statewide daylight-saving time, because the "Indiana" setting for Eastern time no longer applied.

But the headaches won't end this year because of the four-week increase. Software made before Congress' 2005 vote still recognizes the old start and end dates.

In many cases, a simple update will do the trick. Fort Wayne Community Schools distributed a fix through the district's network – much easier than dispatching a technician to work on individual computers, Chief Operations Officer Doug Coutts said.

Microsoft Outlook was the district's only affected program.

"We've had very little impact," Coutts said.

Children will be more affected by the increase in daylight-saving days than computers, he said.

Many of the district's high school students already get on the bus in the dark. They'll have more of those days now, and some elementary routes may be affected.

The district is making sure all the lights on the buses are in good working order and urging parents to dress children in light-colored clothing, Coutts said.

Some are worried that the early change might catch people off-guard, said Lori Whitman, administrative assistant to Blackhawk Ministries' senior pastor.

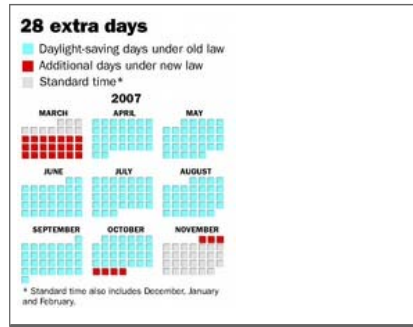
The church has been announcing the change just as often in services and publications as it did last year, in hopes that church members won't show up an hour late for services Sunday.

"We've promoted it pretty heavily," Whitman said.

For those who spend their Sunday mornings elsewhere, Gov. Mitch Daniels has granted bars, restaurants and taverns the option to change their clocks at 3 a.m. Sunday for the second year in a row, said Brad Klopfenstein, executive director of the Indiana Licensed Beverage Association.

Ironically, one business that won't be too affected by the change is Fred Myers Pianos Organs Clocks.

Many of the store's digital clocks are controlled by a radio signal and will automatically adjust to the change to early daylight-saving time, clock repair technician Jared





Schortgen said.

Most of the remaining clocks that don't automatically detect the time probably won't be reset. They usually aren't synchronized anyway, to avoid having dozens of clocks chiming and beeping at the same time in the store's showroom.

"People would probably get a little twitchy," Schortgen said.

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Spring ahead sooner

Daylight-saving time begins at 2 a.m. Sunday

Saturday sunrise: 7:01 a.m.

Saturday sunset: 6:41 p.m.

Sunday sunrise: 7:59 a.m.

Sunday sunset: 7:43 p.m.

Nov. 4 – Daylight time ends at 2 a.m.

Information from U.S. Naval Observatory Astronomical Applications Department

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