



### Indiana delegation regaining lost clout

Sophomores, freshman chair subcommittees, head class, beginning to see bills pass in House

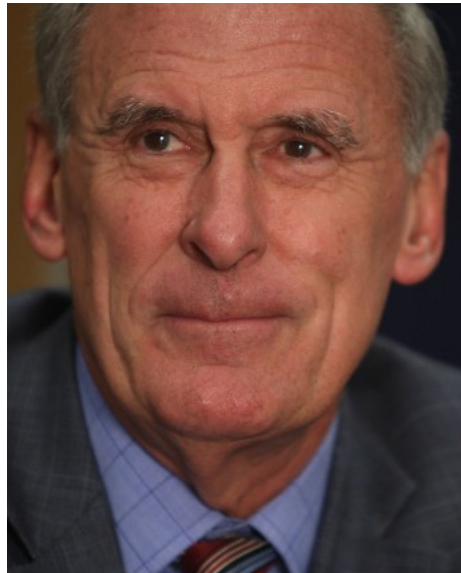
By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – It wasn't too long ago that the talk was of Indiana's diminished congressional delegation after a hemorrhage of seniority.

In just two cycles in 2010 and 2012, with the retirement of U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh and the primary defeat of U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar, 48 years of seniority went by the wayside in the upper chamber.

And with the retirements of U.S. Reps. Steve Buyer (18 years) and Dan Burton (30 years), the defeats of U.S. Reps. Baron Hill (10 years), Brad Ellsworth (six), the scandal-induced resignation of U.S. Rep. Mark Souder (15 years), and Rep. Mike Pence's decision to run for governor after 12 years, there went another 91 years of seniority, or a total of 139 years for the entire delegation in just two election cycles.

But the delegation appears to be making a rapid recovery when it comes to the restoration of clout.



U.S. Sen. Dan Coats (left) and U.S. Rep. Todd Young are waging serious efforts for a budget "grand bargain" and tax reform. U.S. Rep. Susan Brooks chairs a House subcommittee as a freshman and former opponents - Rep. Jackie Walorski and Sen. Joe Donnelly - are working on the military sexual assault issue.

U.S. Sen. Dan Coats has become a pivotal player in the Senate as part of the Republican "Diner's Club" trying to forge a deal with President Obama on the budget. Three members of the Class of '10 – Todd Young, Todd Rokita

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### Why governing is difficult

By **LEE HAMILTON**

BLOOMINGTON - If you want to know why passing congressional legislation has gotten so difficult, here are two numbers to remember: 5 and 532. They illustrate a great deal about Congress today.

When I served in the House decades ago and the "farm bill" came up, stitching a successful piece of legislation together depended on getting five organizations to find common ground. They included groups like the national Farm Bureau and the Farmers Union, and our task was clear: get them to agree on what the



**"Dwayne's professional background, experience in public service, strong character and involvement in the Republican Party make him the best choice to serve as Auditor."**

- Gov. Pence on Dwayne Sawyer



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**Brian A. Howey**, Publisher  
**Mark Schoeff Jr.**, Washington  
**Jack E. Howey**, Editor  
**Mary Lou Howey**, Editor  
**Maureen Hayden**, Statehouse  
**Matthew Butler**, Daily Wire

### Subscriptions

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Ray Volpe, Account Manager

☎ 317.602.3620

email: [HoweyInfo@gmail.com](mailto:HoweyInfo@gmail.com)

### Contact HPI

[www.howeypolitics.com](http://www.howeypolitics.com)

[bhowey2@gmail.com](mailto:bhowey2@gmail.com)

☎ Howey's Cabin: 812.988.6520

☎ Howey's cell: 317.506.0883

☎ Washington: 202-256-5822

☎ Business Office: 317.602.3620

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bill ought to look like, and we had a measure that could pass.

This year, Congress is struggling to get a farm bill through. After the House of Representatives sent the first version down to defeat, no fewer than 532 organizations signed a letter to Speaker John Boehner asking him to bring a bill back to the floor as soon as possible. The array of groups was striking. The Farm Bureau signed on, but so did avocado growers and peach canners, beekeepers and archers, conservationists of all sorts, and huge businesses like Agri-Mark.

**In essence**, the big umbrella groups have broken into different constituent interests, with peanut growers and sheep ranchers and specialty-crop growers all pursuing their particular goals. Sometimes it feels like there's a constituency for every commodity — and on such broader issues as biofuels, rural development and international trade. What used to require bringing together a handful of constituencies now demands horse-trading among hundreds.

Not every major piece of legislation before Congress is so complicated, but the farm bill is a perfect example of how tough it has become to get a major bill through, with so many competing interests and so much money at stake. Everything on Capitol Hill's plate this year — from immigration reform to gun control to the upcoming debt ceiling fight — requires legislative language that a wide array of interest groups can agree to. This would be daunting but attainable if Congress operated the way it once did. But it doesn't.

**For what the farm** bill's travails also illustrate is that Congress is now a legislatively challenged institution. The leaders on the Hill have fewer tools of persuasion than they once did. They abolished "earmarks," so they can no longer promise a bridge or a road to secure a member's vote, and they carry less respect and political clout. The political parties

that once helped enforce discipline can no longer do so, since politicians these days often identify themselves with outside groups like the Tea Party rather than with their political party. With the rise of Super PACs, neither congressional leaders nor political parties have as much influence over fundraising — and hence the "loyalty" it once imposed — as they used to.

To make matters worse, many members — especially in the Republican Party, though it's not limited to the GOP's side of the aisle — do not like to compromise. As I suggested at the beginning, compromise is at the heart of the farm bill. For the last 50 years, it's been put together by joining crop support and nutrition support — food stamps — in order to win the votes of both rural and urban lawmakers. And within the rural sections of the bill, wheeling and dealing on the specifics has been the only way to generate legislation that farm-state legislators could all agree upon. Now that formula is broken, though I do believe an accommodation will be worked out.

**But the problems** go beyond that, and it's not bad that the usual inertia on the farm bill has found difficult going. The country needs to confront basic questions about the \$16 billion annual subsidy and heavy trade protection accorded to agriculture — when fewer than 1% of Americans are farmers and farming has become a hugely corporate industry. Likewise, with one in six Americans now receiving food stamps, we need a real debate about the food stamp program, which makes up 80 percent of the cost of the bill. In other words, we're not getting what we actually need, which is a real policy debate on the role of the government in agriculture. If Congress were working properly, this might have been possible. Increasingly, I fear it's beyond Capitol Hill's reach. ❖

**Lee Hamilton is Director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University.**



## Congress, from page 1

and Marlin Stutzman – are now on influential finance- and money-related committees.

Young is an emerging member of the powerful Ways & Means Committee, where he is playing a key role in revising the U.S. tax code. He also introduced the Regulations from the Executive In Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act, with 121 co-sponsors. The bill passed the House on Aug. 2 by a 232-to-183 vote. Originally introduced by former Rep. Geoff Davis (R-KY), the REINS Act would require any rule or regulation with an economic impact of \$100 million or more – already scored and identified by the White House’s Office of Management and Budget as a ‘major regulation’ – come before Congress for an up-or-down vote before taking effect. It passed the House overwhelmingly in the 112th Congress, but never received a hearing in the Senate.

“Congress has a tendency to pass vague, sweeping legislation that delegates the responsibility of writing the rules of the game to federal agencies,” said Young. “When those agencies end up writing regulations that harm the economy or that our constituents don’t like, too often we point the blame at ‘unelected bureaucrats.’ By requiring a vote from Congress before major regulations could take effect, we ensure that Americans can hold their elected officials accountable for overly burdensome regulations that resulted from legislation we passed in the first place. Additionally, it removes the incentive for Congress to rush through legislation that punts on the tough issues because the tough issues are coming back to us for a vote anyway.”

The Harvard Political Review wrote of the legislation, “In other words, the bill proposes that we follow the Constitution. Libertarians believe that a consistent adherence to the Constitution is both the most moral and the most practical way to govern our society. We recognize that government authority derives from and is limited by the document, and thus that limited government under a higher law is the cornerstone of our

American system. With this in mind, it is imperative that liberty-minded Americans support the newly re-introduced REINS Act.”

“All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States,” reads Article I, Section I, of the U.S. Constitution.

Young and Sen. Donnelly have initiated legislation that would essentially begin the “tweaking” process of the Affordable Care Act, with tandem legislation that would change the threshold of part-time workers and the 50-employee limits for small employers. “I am looking to improve and replace components of the ACA,” Young said, although he does back a repeal.



U.S. Rep. Todd Young with Indiana and Indianapolis Chamber officials John Thompson and Cam Carter on Monday, pushing his tax reform issue. Below, U.S. Reps. Marlin Stutzman has moved the farm bill split issue, and Larry Bucshon heads a House subcommittee on science. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

Donnelly is sponsoring a bill with Sen. Susan Collins, R-Me., that would make 40 hours a week a full-time worker, not 30 hours as stipulated in the ACA. “We need to change the definition of a ‘full-time employee’ in the Affordable Care Act to bring it in line with what most Americans have traditionally recognized as full time,” Donnelly said. He went on, saying moves to cut workers’ hours below 30, per the current ACA rules, leave “too many Indiana families

struggling to make ends meet.” Donnelly also supports the medical device tax repeal, which was another ACA component.

Stutzman is on Financial Services and has played a pivotal role in separating the food stamp program from the farm bill, which passed the House but will be dead on arrival in the Senate. Stutzman galvanized the support of 60 colleagues who had voted against the farm bill, eventually





convincing Speaker John Boehner and Majority Leader Eric Cantor to back the option of the split. Stutzman was also one of the first Republican conference members to back a defunding of Obamacare effort, suggesting at one point a government shutdown could be used as leverage. He has since maintained that the next two or three months provide a window for negotiations. During President Obama's press conference last Friday, Stutzman wasn't mentioned by name, but he drew attention.

"The idea that you'd shut down the government unless you prevent 30 million people from getting health care . . . is a bad idea," the President said.

Rokita sits on the House Committee on Budget, which is charged with responsibilities under the following categories: The budget resolution, reconciliation, budget process reform, and oversight of the Congressional Budget Office.

## **Coats and the White House 'Diner's Club'**

Sen. Coats made news when he and a dozen Republican senators had dinner with President Obama. He described frank discussions surrounding a "grand bargain" on the debt.

Coats serves on the Senate Intelligence and Homeland Security committees and believes that national security will be compromised by not having the nation's fiscal house in order. It was why he ran for the Senate again in 2010 after a 12 year hiatus.



Coats and seven other GOP senators are meeting frequently with White House Chief of Staff Denis McDonough and OMB's Sylvia Burwell to talk about what Coats hopes will be the "grand bargain."

"It's not at the negotiating level," Tara DiJulio, the senator's spokeswoman, told HPI on Wednesday. "It's still at the concept level." The divide is that White House wants more than spending cuts and the Republicans are not budging on tax increases.

But when the choice came down to working to just fix the sequester or seek the big, bold, 30 year plan, Coats emphatically made the case for the grand bargain. "He didn't want to plug the hole in the Titanic with a piece of gum," DiJulio said.

How serious is the White House on this front? In

March, Coats told the president he had to involve himself and believes he needs to engage this year before the 2014 election cycle flares up.

Last week, President Obama spent an hour with the group.

DiJulio said that "optimistic" would be too strong of a term for where the talks stand now, adding, "There's a lot of heavy lifting to be done." But if a deal gets done, Coats will have done some time with the barbells.

## **Subcommittee chairs**

Three members of the Indiana sophomore and freshman classes – Reps. Larry Bucshon, Susan Brooks and Rokita – now chair subcommittees, which has been rare. Trevor Foughty, communications director for Rep. Young, told HPI that the large turnover over the past two election cycles has created a dynamic for newer members to end up with gavels. And early chairing of subcommittees can lead to the chair of full committees down the road.

Rokita chairs the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education, and found traction in the House this summer with the passage of the Student Success Act, a bill he authored to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and reform its current authorization, No Child Left Behind.

"No Washington bureaucrat cares more about a child than a parent does," Rokita said. "And no one in Washington knows what is better for an Indiana school than Indiana families do. That is why the Student Success Act puts an end to the administration's National School Board by putting state and local school districts back in charge of their own schools. Many Hoosiers will also be pleased to know that the Student Success Act prohibits the secretary of education from coercing states into adopting

Common Core, again returning accountability and standards to state and local school districts, where it belongs," said Rokita.

Bucshon chairs the House Subcommittee on Research. The Newburgh heart surgeon explained, "Because of my background in science and medicine, I understand very well the importance of research in improving the life of all Americans and the role it plays in economic development. The Subcommittee on Research is part of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and has legislative jurisdiction and general oversight and investigative authority on all matters relating to science policy and science education."

Bucshon added, "Research and Development affects every Hoosier, whether they work directly with R&D in these related industries or are affected indirectly in their



everyday lives. For example, agriculture R&D includes studies on ways to mitigate the effects natural disasters (especially droughts in Indiana) and pests have on fruit, vegetables, and livestock supplies. When it comes to education, STEM education plays an important role in maintaining the United States' global competitiveness and continuing economic development. This includes all education from K-12 to the postgraduate level. Furthermore, the subcommittee has oversight on the National Science Foundation, which funds about 20 percent of basic research at America's universities and colleges. The 8th District is home to a variety of different schools, including Rose-Hulman, Indiana State University, Ivy Tech, University of Southern Indiana, and University of Evansville, that could benefit from this funding. Finally, the subcommittee has authority over the Office of Science and Technology Policy, which was established to advise the President on science and technology issues. This is critical as we work to ensure federal taxpayer funds are spent efficiently on scientific contributions and that government programs and rules are based on sound science.

### A frosh chair

Perhaps most impressive is Brooks' assumption of the gavel on the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response and Communications as a freshman. Upon her election in 2012, Brooks was widely seen as a potential rising star. She became U.S. district attorney for Indiana's Southern District hours after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, and spent much of her time in that office coordinating various federal, state and local government agencies to such threats.

Brooks hosted a field hearing in Carmel earlier this month, with Sen. Donnelly and Reps. Jackie Walorski and Young participating. "The tragic Boston Marathon bombings are sad proof this nation faces real threats that we must prepare for," Brooks said. "Central Indiana is a vital economic hub for the entire nation and it's extremely important that we support and expand preparation and response efforts to natural and man-made disasters. This hearing will explore ongoing efforts at the local, state, federal, non-profit and private enterprise level to secure our most vital assets from a wide range of threats, including biological,

nuclear and chemical attacks."

With Sen. Lugar out of Congress, Brooks perhaps is best positioned to pick up his cooperative threat reduction mantle with the Nunn-Lugar Act. So extraordinary was Nunn-Lugar that the former senator has been knighted by the British and Polish governments and will receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in America. With Al Qaeda positioning itself to fill a power vacuum and create a terror state in Syria, which has a large chemical weapon stockpile, Lugar's warning of two decades ago that we may witness the "destruction of an American city in our lifetime" has taken on new meaning. Brooks has the credibility, serves in a safe Republican district, and has the imprimatur of leadership to perhaps fill the Lugar void. In an interview with Howey Politics in May 2012, Brooks expressed interest in the Lugar WMD portfolio.

Brooks seems more interested in moving beyond the "statement" mode – writing and passing legislation that has no chance of clearing the Senate and getting a presidential signature – and into a results dynamic. Fresh off her come-from-behind primary win, Brooks told HPI, "I did talk about how ineffective Congress is. I talked about how polarized and partisan it has become. I talked about that at 80 town meetings and that's not what people want. I'm into governing. I think most of Congress has gotten away



**U.S. Rep. Susan Brooks (second from right) with U.S. Reps. Todd Young, Jackie Walorski and U.S. Sen. Joe Donnelly at her Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response and Communications in Carmel earlier this month.**

from governing."

She said she will reach out to various Republican groups in Washington, as well as Democrats. "I heard people voice concerns about the Republican Party and its inability to get things done," Brooks said.

Then there's Rep. Walorski, who has been active on the military sexual assault issue, as had Sen. Donnelly. In June, the House passed the National Defense Authorization Act that included a bipartisan provision she authored to combat military sexual assault in the armed forces. "It is supported by over 100 Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle," Walorski said while delivering the GOP Saturday radio address on June 22. "There is even a companion bill in the U.S. Senate that mirrors this effort."



## **GOP radio addresses**

To that communications point, the House and Senate trade the Saturday radio address. Of the 14 House members who have given the address, four of them – Walorski, Brooks, Young and Rep. Luke Messer – have been delivered by Hoosiers. “Obviously, House leadership holds our Indiana delegation in high regard,” Foughty observed. “That’s far more than any other state.”

Messer brought one more influential credential to the delegation when he was elected president of the freshman class earlier this year. He was able to bring 35 of the 37 freshman members to support a House bill that would repeal the medical device tax, an issue that resonates with Indiana’s orthopedic and medical industrial clusters in Warsaw, Indianapolis and Bloomington. There was some concern that the medical device repeal bill would provide a vehicle for Senate Democrats to use for their own priorities. Messer told the National Journal, “We should not have a fear of governing.”

To that point, the younger range of the Indiana delegation has synchronized to some extent their relationships and priorities. The Republican delegation sorted out internally who would seek the various financial services committee assignments, to the point where leadership had only one competition to deal with as Rokita and Young both sought a Ways & Means slot.

Young told HPI, “Certainly some of the legislative successes we have collectively shared and some of the imprint we’ve been able to make on specific policies and the impression we’ve made on leadership and beyond, I think, speaks very well to the quality of delegation we have, to the energy they’ve brought to the offices they hold, and to our mutual support, our cooperation and collaboration to work together and ensure that Indiana is as influential as we can be with respect to Indiana-specific issues.”

Sen. Coats has been holding regular meetings with the entire delegation in his office. They have been happening at least on a quarterly basis, said spokeswoman Tara DiJulio.

The Members are supporting each other. Brooks’ field hearing in Carmel drew Young, Walorski and Donnelly, the latter two having run against each other in 2010. Young’s push for tax reform will find Bucshon joining him in Evansville and Stutzman in Warsaw. “We like one another. We support one another whenever possible,” Young said. “I knew we had very capable people coming in with the 113th

Congress. I’m not sure anyone could have expected we’d be punching above our weight this early.”

## **Bills to the President**

In this era of gridlock in Washington, these early successes can be calibrated as finding success in the House, which is a much lower hoop to jump through than actually getting a bill through the Senate and on to the president’s desk.

Stutzman has championed splitting the food stamps out of the farm bill, but it has no chance in the Senate. His Obamacare repeal mission – while supported by Rokita, Young, Bucshon and Walorski – has virtually no chance for success.

Walorski and Young are working on legislation that deals with the military sexual assault and the tax reform legislation.

Max Baucus, D-Mont., chairman of the Senate Joint Committee on Taxation and

Ways & Means Chairman Dave Camp, R-Mich., are making joint appearances and have initiated a website pushing that issue.

Young recognizes the need to accomplish actual laws and reform. He said he believes that the debt limit and continuing resolution votes this autumn – seen by some as being the gateway to a government shutdown – could actually augment a reform movement.

“One idea we put forward was funding the government for a certain period of time, say several months, and that period of time will coincide with a deadline the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means must produce a tax reform package,” Young explained. “Then you could fund government for another period of time by which the conference committee must produce a conference report. And then you establish these various milestones, leading, ultimately, to the president of the United States signing a tax reform package into law.”

Young concluded: “That would be one conceivable path forward and a creative way to leverage one of these upcoming votes to actually get something done in Washington. That’s what people are asking us to do.”

Ultimately, that type of legislating – getting something done, as opposed to making statements – will ultimately determine the fate and prowess of these young lawmakers. ❖





## Pence names Sawyer as state auditor

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS — As the Republican National Committee gathered in Boston today to regroup after losing two consecutive presidential elections, partially due to a lack of support from blacks and Hispanics, Gov. Mike Pence attempted to diversify the GOP ticket here by naming Dwayne Sawyer as state auditor.

Sawyer has served on the Brownsburg Council since 2009. The Purdue University graduate had made a career for himself in delivering what his LinkedIn page describes as "cutting edge technical solutions."

He becomes the first African-American Republican to hold any of the statewide offices in the Statehouse.

It describes Sawyer as an award winning leader who has successfully delivered critical business data collection



technology to companies meeting customer needs 100% of the time. He has experience in pharmaceutical, biotechnology, manufacturing, finance and agricultural industries.

His profile notes that Sawyer consolidated Covance's Switzerland kit manufacturing facility to Indianapolis and decreased kit delivery turn around time by 25%. He championed and secured a \$70,000 performance bonus by early delivery of a Roche global data system. Sawyer designed, coded and implemented Eli Lilly's first "pen based" data collection system. And he delivered key analytical tool giving a 50% faster response to market positioning "what ifs".

"Dwayne's professional background, experience in public service, strong character, and involvement with the Republican Party make him the best choice to serve as Auditor for the people of Indiana," said Gov. Pence. "I am honored to appoint him, and I know Dwayne Sawyer will serve all the people of Indiana with professionalism and integrity as our new Auditor."

Sawyer will replace Auditor Tim Berry, who officially resigned on Tuesday to become Indiana Republican Party chairman.

Former Auditor Tim Berry resigned Wednesday to begin working full time as the new state Republican Party chairman. He had been state auditor since 2007. ❖

## Not business as usual for Indiana Republicans

By **CRAIG DUNN**

KOKOMO - Gov. Mike Pence's selection of Brownsburg Town Council President Dwayne Sawyer as the next State Auditor has served notice to the people of Indiana that it is not business as usual in Indiana state government and the Indiana Republican Party.

Pence had the great fortune of having an incredibly deep pool of talent from which to make his selection. Wisely, Pence took his time and got it right. Dwayne Sawyer will be the first black Republican to serve in a statewide office when he takes his oath as State Auditor.

For years, the Democrat Party and many of its activist co-conspirators in the mainstream media have beaten the old drumbeat that the Republican Party is the party of old, rich white

guys. They tell us that the Republican Party wages war on women and wants to keep blacks and Hispanics in their place. Those of us in the Republican Party know that this is simply not the truth. The Republican Party has always been the party of opportunity for people of all races, religions and walks of life. The selection of Dwayne Sawyer to replace Tim Berry has sent a collective chill down the backs of Democrat bloggers who already had their attack pieces written about Governor Pence selecting another middle aged white guy to represent the Republicans.

Sorry folks, Mike Pence has pulled a rabbit out of the hat and surprised you all!

You can almost hear the folks at the Democrat propaganda machine feverishly working on the new mantra that Mike Pence and the Republican Party still dislikes minorities and that Sawyer was only selected because of his race. They are wrong, but aren't they always wrong? Dwayne Sawyer is an eminently qualified man who has demonstrated academic and occupational credentials. He has been a successful businessman and has been active in Republican Party politics in his role as Brownsburg Town Council President. I first met Dwayne Sawyer earlier this year when he was overwhelmingly elected as 4th CD Secretary of the Indiana Republican Party. Dwayne wowed the caucus participants with his charisma, insight and speaking





skills. I knew from our first meeting that this young man was going somewhere.

The great challenge of the Republican Party as we go forward is that we must expand participation in the party and become more reflective of the demographics of our greater society.

The challenge comes from expanding participation without compromising our core principles and values. Governor Pence knows this quite well and did an extraordinary job of searching for the right person for the job of State

Auditor. The best person for the job had to have the ability to continue the effective performance of the office and still be able to be an eloquent spokesperson for the Republican Party. There were many candidates who measured up to the task who I am sure will find their role in the leadership of our government or Republican Party in due time. Dwayne Sawyer was the best person that Governor Pence could have selected.

### **Dunn is chairman of Howard County Republicans.**

## Politics could kill Common Core

**By MAUREEN HAYDEN**

INDIANAPOLIS – If you haven't heard the word "Obamacore" yet, you soon will. It's the derogatory term given to the Common Core State Standards by some Tea Party-affiliated groups that oppose the uniform set of learning benchmarks adopted by 45 states, including Indiana.



Here in Indiana, we're in the "pause" mode on Common Core, with full implementation on hold while legislators revisit the issue. Pushed hard by the anti-Obamacorers, the General Assembly passed a law earlier this year ordering a review of the standards and the costs to implement

them.

I sat through the first of the three scheduled legislative hearings on Common Core last week. It lasted nine hours, due mostly to the unending redundancy of the speakers.

Opponents mostly argued that Common Core represents an ill-motivated federal takeover of education – even though the effort to develop the guidelines was led by state officials and supported by governors of both parties before Obama took office. Proponents, meanwhile, argued that the guidelines are desperately needed to raise education standards in Indiana and ensure that what Hoosier children are taught is consistent with students across the U.S.

**In an ideal** world, Common Core would get students more college-ready before they leave high school. In the real world, Common Core is just so mired in politics that it may come undone.

But as that fight goes on, there are students who aren't waiting for the legislature to act and who are work-

ing hard to get themselves college-ready, taking help wherever they can get it. I met one of those students recently on the campus of IUPUI, which is just a short walk from the Indiana Statehouse.

Zenobia Wynn is an incoming freshman at IUPUI. On paper, the odds looked stacked against her. She's African-American, on a needs-based scholarship, and far from home. According to national and state studies, black college students, especially those with limited financial resources, are the least college-ready and the least likely to succeed once in. Only 16 percent of African-American students in Indiana universities complete college on time.

**But Zenobia was an honors** student at Portage High School, where, with the encouragement of her teachers, her counselor and her mother, she took advanced placement classes and earned some college credits that are giving her a jump on her peers.

Zenobia was so concerned about being college-ready that over the summer she sat in on a remedial math class offered at her high school. She wasn't required to do that, but she's convinced it helped her pass the math placement test at IUPUI, meaning she won't have to pay for a non-credit-earning remedial math class in college.

There are more than 2,600 kids at Portage High, but principal Caren Swickard knows Zenobia and remembers her as "an awesome young lady" who exuded both a quiet confidence and a willingness to ask for help when needed.

Zenobia came to IUPUI early, enrolling in the intensive, two-week Summer Bridge program. That should help raise the odds, too. Students who go through Summer Bridge do better academically, earning higher grade point averages, than their counterparts.

When I met Zenobia, the only question she didn't have answered was where she could find a church close to campus like her home church where the congregation offered her love and support.

Common Core as a tool for college-readiness is worthy of debate. But it's an empty one if it doesn't include the voices of students like Zenobia. ❖





## Horse Race Watch List: General Assembly races begin to take shape

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – The noon Feb. 7, 2014, filing deadline for the primary elections is earlier than normal and is a long way off, but there is already more activity than normal in Indiana General Assembly races.



There is heavy speculation that a number of legislators will face primary challengers. Already, State Reps. Bob Morris, Jerry Torr and Phyllis Pond have opponents lining up.

That could increase, as controversies surrounding former Supt. Tony Bennett and current Supt. Glenda Ritz, and the education reform movement, could spur a number of Republican primary challenges from teachers, as well as opponents of Common Core.

Here is a quick look at the races already taking shape:

### **SD39: Sen. John Waterman**

Washington City Councilman Eric Bassler will challenge Republican State Sen. John Waterman. Waterman lost part of Vigo County and Knox County and picked up Martin County and the southern half of Daviess County, where Bassler resides. Bassler says he offers “fresh ideas and a new vision” for District 39. “Hoosiers want leaders who understand business, budgeting and finances,” Bassler, an Edward Jones financial advisor, said. “I will bring innovative solutions to the table for Indiana’s most difficult problems.” Waterman quickly announced his re-election bid after Bassler jumped into the race. Waterman is no stranger to primary opposition. “Seems like some of these senators run unopposed every time,” Waterman told the Terre Haute Tribune-Star. “I always have a host of candidates come out.” “Keeps you on your toes,” Waterman said of the frequent challenges. Ron Borger, a Vincennes Republican, ran against Waterman in the GOP primary in 2010, a race Waterman won handily.

### **HD39: Rep. Jerry Torr**

State Rep. Jerry Torr could have a couple of challengers. A former Air Force pilot is mulling a race, though there is no formal campaign. Another potential opponent is Clay Township Board member Matt Snyder. Some believe

Torr may be vulnerable because of his support for mass transit. Some “old guard” Republicans would like to replace him. Torr has already been active on the fundraising front and will have a large war chest to defend himself. He has represented the district since 1996 and has fended off a primary challenge from Nancy Irsay, the widow of former Indianapolis Colts owner Bob Irsay.

### **HD84: Rep. Bob Morris**

Two Fort Wayne Republicans are lining up to challenge State Rep. Bob Morris (pictured below). Businessman Mark Hagar, 47, has filed an exploratory committee for the seat and is meeting with people and fundraising for a likely bid, the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette reported. Earlier this summer, attorney Michael Barranda announced a challenge. “State issues are the ones that interest me,” Hagar said. “We are going to have to have some pushback. The federal government is infringing on states’ rights and state government has to have a role in that.” Morris thrust himself into the headlines in 2011 when he denounced the Girl Scouts, earning him derision in national media. House Speaker Brian Bosma appeared at the Gridiron Dinner that year wearing a Girl Scout merit badge sash.



### **HD85: Rep. Phyllis Pond**

Fort Wayne attorney Casey Cox has filed campaign paperwork for a possible challenge to State Rep. Phyllis Pond, who has represented the district since 1978. Pond, the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette reported, has been having increasing health problems in recent years. “I have a lot of respect for her,” Cox said. “I’ve had a long interest in public policy and been involved in other public service opportunities.” Cox said he has talked with numerous people encouraging him to take the next step and run for office. He is interested in economic development and higher education issues, noting he served as the student trustee at Indiana University several years ago. IPFW would be in his district if elected. There has been speculation that Pond may not seek reelection, and may resign later this year so that a caucus could choose an interim replacement.

### **Horse Race Watch List**

Here are other House and Senate districts to keep an eye on for 2014. These seats could be in play because of the closeness of the 2012 races, potential primary or general election vulnerability of the incumbent, or a potential open seat.

**SD47:** Harris Lloyd “Tad” Whitis, a resident of



Harrison County, Indiana, announced he is seeking the Republican nomination for SD 47, held by State Sen. Richard Young, D-Milltown. Whitis served as Judge of the Harrison Circuit Court from 1999 through 2010, where he computerized the Court and its offices, initiated the Truancy Program, Alternative School, and Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program. "My experience as a retired Circuit Court Judge and former Prosecuting Attorney has taught me the importance of gathering all the information, weighing all the facts, listening to all sides of an issue and making fair and informed decisions," Whitis said. Whitis served as the Prosecuting Attorney for the Harrison-Crawford joint circuit from 1975 through 1982 and was a director of the Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council.

**HD8:** State Rep. Ryan Dvorak defeated Republican Richard Pfeil 14,550 to 12,015 as St. Joseph County showed signs of becoming more Republican. In an Obama second mid-term election, a Republican might fare a little better. All eyes will be on Dvorak to see if he challenges U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski, who barely fended off Democrat Brendan Mullen in 2012 in one of the surprises of the cycle. Walorski figured to have such a Republican oriented district that then U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly opted for the U.S. Senate race. Mullen has announced he will pass on a rematch and the DCCC is trying to recruit Dvorak.

**HD12:** State Rep. Mara Candelaria Reardon defeated Republican William Fine 14,584 to 12,502 last year, which is close enough to HPI's 2,000 plurality to suggest some vulnerability. HRCC will almost certainly take a look and potentially recruit a challenger.

**HD15:** State Rep. Hal Slager just nipped Democrat Thomas O'Donnell 13,934 to 13,380 in one of the surprises of 2012. It wouldn't be hard to see O'Donnell take a stab at a rematch.

**HD27:** Longtime Democrat State Rep. Sheila Klinker defeated Republican Charles Hockema 10,742 to 8,970. With education likely to be a key issue in 2014, HRCC will certainly be sniffing around on this seat.

**HD33:** State Rep. Bill Davis angered many who would like to change Indiana alcohol laws as chair of the House Public Policy Committee. He defeated Democrat Charles Schemenauer 14,669 to 10,726, which is a pretty comfortable margin. We include this race because special interests might be looking for a challenger, who could possibly be well-financed.

**HD35:** Longtime State Rep. Jack Lutz barely defeated Democrat Melanie Wright 14,676 to 14,229, and HRCC did not seem particularly motivated to bring in a lot of resources on Lutz's behalf. This could be the scene of a primary battle if HRCC decides Lutz would be vulnerable in a general election. Indiana Democrats obviously smell blood in the water, though Obama's second mid-term election would give that effort a headwind.

**HD42:** Freshman State Rep. Alan Morrison nipped Democrat Mark Spelbring 12,788 to 12,682, which means Indiana Democrats will either prod a rematch or seek to contest the seat.

**HD45:** State Rep. Kreg Battles defeated State Rep. Bruce Borders 12,540 to 12,465 to keep this seat in the Democratic column despite the 2012 blood bath. Borders has told HPI he has moved on to other things and will not seek a rematch. HRCC will certainly recruit another candidate to try and pick up this seat.

**HD48:** Republican State Rep. Tim Neese has formed an exploratory committee for a potential Elkhart mayoral run in 2015, which makes this a likely open seat.

**HD56:** Freshman State Rep. Dick Hamm finally won a seat in the House after his umpteenth try, defeating Democrat State Rep. Phil Pflum 11,561 to 10,470. A rematch is possible and a Democrat challenge is almost certain.

**HD62:** Sophomore State Rep. Matt Ubelhoer fended off Democrat Jeff Sparks 13,993 to 12,477, which is close enough to prompt House Democrats to take a closer look.

**HD63:** Jasper businessman Mike Braun has declared for the seat being vacated by Republican State Rep. Mark Messner, who has announced for SD48, the Senate seat being vacated by State Sen. Lindel Hume. The Princeton Democrat is retiring. Braun is the owner and president of Meyer Distributing in Jasper and is the brother of State Rep. Steve Braun, R-Zionsville. Braun does not expect to have a primary opponent.

**HD66:** State Rep. Terry Goodin held on to defeat Republican challenger Justin Stevens 13,168 to 12,021. Stevens is a political ally of U.S. Rep. Todd Young and a rematch is probable in a second Obama mid-term election, which could make Democrats like Goodin vulnerable.

**HD72:** State Rep. Ed Clere comfortably defeated Democrat Sharon Grabowski 16,177 to 13,577. But as chairman of the House Public Health Committee, Clere ruffled some feathers of those ardently opposed to Obamacare when he moved to at least consider Medicaid expansion issues. So there could be a primary battle brewing here. Clere, however, would be hard to take out in a primary.

**HD87:** Democrat State Rep. Christina Hale upset State Rep. Cindy Noe 16,280 to 16,229, so this is rematch territory, particularly in a second Obama mid-term. But Noe could have competition in a GOP primary if she decides to try a rebound. Some Republicans in her district believed she was too conservative.

**HD91:** House Education Committee Chairman Robert Behning could find himself with a primary opponent as he supports Common Core in Indiana. So this could be an education battleground. ❖



## The uncommon absense of common sense

By **LARRY GRAU**

INDIANAPOLIS - In the 20 plus years I have been involved in education policy—and in the wake of the recent controversy over former Indiana and Florida State Superintendent Tony Bennett—I find myself repeatedly asking: why is common sense so absent from the discussion of how to improve education?



Rather than focusing on the best methods for establishing a system that provides all students with the quality education they need to succeed in life, the focal point almost always becomes about the who and

not the what in policy decisions. But is it fair to use this controversy solely to question whether school performance should be measured in any meaningful way, as it was here, here, and here? Then there is this outrageous post suggesting that we not only scrap school grades, but the entire reform movement.

There is no denying the latest school grade flap involving Dr. Bennett and his staff at the Indiana Department of Education raises plenty of questions. There's a good case to be made that in this case the changing of a school's grade may have been politically motivated. The case of the change made to Christel House Academy, however, is the exception that proves the rule.

It is interesting some people critical of Dr. Bennett immediately pointed to student outcome data in arguing that the grade was unfounded, which means they are saying the school's performance data should speak for itself and school ratings should not be reverse engineered. Thus, I would ask the people pursuing such logic in challenging Dr. Bennett to apply it fairly and consistently to everyone else. To imply the entire idea of grading schools should be weakened or dismantled as some are doing, is more politically opportunistic, with much farther reaching consequences, than the case involving Christel House.

**It seems ironic that** some of the most vocal critics of Dr. Bennett and the idea of school grading systems couch the discussion in a debate about the merits of issuing grades to schools in the first place. Why is it so wrong to assess how well a school is advancing student learning by applying a grade to that achievement (or lack of it)? In a system where grading kids has been the norm dating back to the horse and buggy, it seems unconscionable that the adults behind this current, and at times vitriolic, debate

refuse to extend the same practice to schools and school districts.

Equally confounding is the uproar surrounding the adoption of measures to gauge how well teachers are educating their students. In Indiana and almost every other state where teacher evaluations have been introduced, the action has been met with protests and fierce opposition. In a system funded with taxpayer money, it is mystifying to think this should seem unreasonable. It also defies common sense to think that those who do their jobs the best should not be paid more than those who fail to perform up to par.

**Policies are proposed to:** **1.)** Fund schools based on the needs of students and what that actually costs; **2.)** Give parents and students choices for where they receive an education, even when some kids are clearly being required to attend a lousy school; **3.)** Set standards - for learning that will prepare students to be successful in life beyond high school; and, **4.)** Use tests and other measures of achievement to determine if students are meeting the expectations we set or are even learning become the subject of intense debate, news reports, articles, and various social media posts. Those policy proposals are all grounded in taking logical or common sense approaches to improving education. Debating if those policies should be enacted and not how they can be carried out only further detaches education from what makes sense.

Rather than having an honest discussion on how to do any of these things, or how to do them best in education, we instead find ourselves debating if these actions should be taken at all.

**Don't get me wrong,** I am not saying there are not people involved in education policy, and engaged in reform—on both sides of the issues—who pursue ideas with questionable motives. Nor are my comments intended to defend or for that matter cast any sort of judgment on Tony Bennett or anyone else.

What I am saying is, it is well past time to do what makes sense in improving our education systems in this country, and certainly in Indiana to serve the best interests of all students.

In the meantime, as the latest controversy swirls and the adult rhetoric grows louder and louder, another 96 kids dropped out of school today in Indiana. As the new school year gets underway, we can unfortunately predict thousands of Hoosier students will still fall further behind, with many of those young people heading for an uncertain and often bleak future. Sadly, as data verifies, those same children will eventually end up unemployed, potentially on public assistance, and for far too many incarcerated. So, as we keep questioning the motives of policy makers and incessantly wage a rhetorical war of words in ed reform debates, where does this leave the kids? If we continue to



lust for the next conspiracy theory, reformer run afoul or corporate school raider, nothing will change.

The spotlight will continue to be diverted from those who deserve it the most - the children we profess to care about, and what we should do to help them. But alas common sense is yet another casualty in the endless battle

to do better by our kids. And for that, we all deserve an F. ❖

**Grau heads Indiana's Democrats for Education Reform and is a former aide to Gov. Frank O'Bannon.**

## Bennett left his heart . . . .

By JACK COLWELL

SOUTH BEND - Tony Bennett sings new lyrics for that song about San Francisco. Well, at least one Tony Bennett sings it this way:



"Resigning down in Flor-da means sadly no more pay; The glory that was mine is of another day; I've been terribly alone and forsaken in Miami; I'm going home to my state where I made hay.

"I left my heart in Indiana; From C to A, I changed the grade; To help a charter school of ours climb halfway to the stars; The email log is so unfair, I don't care.

"My Mitch waits there in Indiana; He knows what old emails can do; When I come home to you, Indiana; I'll seek a job at old Purdue . . . ."

The Tony Bennett singing this tune is the one who was Indiana's state school superintendent. He was defeated in seeking re-election in 2012 and bounced back with a higher paying job as Florida's education czar.

But for all his education expertise, Bennett never learned one simple lesson: Never send anything in an email that you wouldn't want to see tacked on the bulletin board. There is no assurance that email content will remain private. In fact, in Indiana, emails of officials when dealing with policy are matters of public record.

And the Associated Press obtained emails in which Bennett and his staff discussed ways to improve the grade in state school rankings - from C to A - for an Indianapolis charter school founded by a major Republican donor. The AP reports that the donor has given over \$2.8 million to Republicans since 1998, including \$130,000 to Bennett.

"This is a HUGE problem for us," Bennett said in an email to his chief of staff last Sept. 12, in the midst of his re-election campaign. He also wrote: "They need to understand that anything less than an A for Christel House compromises all of our accountability work."

Amidst the scrambling to improve the grade for the school in Bennett's signature "A-F" school evaluation

system, he demanded that his staff find solutions "for me to wiggle myself out of the repeated lies I have told over the past six months."

The grade became an A.

**Bennett insists there was** nothing improper in the re-evaluation. But the emails sound terrible. So terrible that Bennett resigned as Florida commissioner of schools. Bennett had to resign. The alternative was more ridicule while waiting to be forced out.

As he said in resigning, he didn't know what other emails might also trickle out. There could be other things not intended for the bulletin board.

If Bennett had called in his staff and hollered in his office about the grade and what could be done about it, there would have been no email trail. That wouldn't have made changing the grade any more proper or improper, but there would have been no record of the demand to solve "a HUGE problem" and find a way to "wiggle myself out of the repeated lies."

Former Gov. Mitch Daniels, now Purdue University president, also was displeased when some of his emails denouncing a controversial history book and the professor who wrote it were released as public records. Daniels wouldn't have changed his opinion but he no doubt would have worded his comments more carefully if he knew they would become public and a source of controversy with the Purdue faculty.

**The Indiana teachers** who thought Bennett's policies were hurting the public schools - the ones who worked for his election defeat last fall - regard the emails as proof that his reforms were political and unfair. His supporters, disappointed by his downfall, say his efforts did improve high school graduation rates and that state threats to take over some troubled schools really did force higher standards.

Bennett said the email disclosures were about politics. Friends and foes alike should agree on that. His foes say the emails showed that he was all about politics, changing grades for campaign politics and to help a big donor. His friends say that leaking the emails was all about politics, disclosing damaging but misleading comments intended to be private.

They certainly were never intended to go up on the bulletin board. ❖



## The good, the bad and the educated in The Region

By **RICH JAMES**

MERRILLVILLE – There are a myriad of education stories, good and bad, in Northwest Indiana as school is about to resume.



Many educators in this part of the state continue to say "I told you so," as the Tony Bennett scandal continues to unfold. For those short on memory, Bennett is the former Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction who lost his re-election bid in 2012, largely because of his condescending approach to the state's public school teachers. Then, after being hired into the same position in Florida, the Associated Press in Indianapolis reported that Bennett ordered the grade for a charter school changed

from a C to an A. Turns out the operator of the school was a heavy Republican contributor.

It is not the best of stories for Purdue University Calumet, Northwest Indiana's largest institution of higher education. The university announced that it would lay off staff and faculty in the face of a declining enrollment. In the wake of that announcement, 12 faculty members accepted retirement packages and seven others were laid off. The declining enrollment last year led the university to close its satellite Academic Learning Center in Merrillville. Purdue now says that facility is for sale.

But there is a very bright note when it comes to education in this corner of the state. And it is an encouraging story in the wake of the Bennett charter-school scandal. The Charter School of the Dunes in Gary celebrated its 10th anniversary last week with the grand opening of a new building – a \$13 million structure.

But it almost didn't happen.

**Ball State University** had announced that it was ending its sponsorship of the school because of a virtual lack of improvement in academic standards. Just when Charter School of the Dunes seemed doomed to go out of business, Calumet College of St. Joseph in Hammond announced it would take over sponsorship. At the dedication of the new building, Calumet College President Dan Lowery said, "We're impressed with the Charter School of the Dunes mission and we'll do everything we can to help."

It is the first union of a local college and a charter school. Perhaps the most surprising comments about the

change in alignment came from state Sen. Earline Rogers, D-Gary, who is a retired Gary public schools teacher and a staunch supporter of the public school structure. Rogers said she has high expectations for the new relationship.

**Interesting, Lowery** took over last year for the retiring Dennis Rittenmeyer, who now has the task of uniting Northwest Indiana as the executive director of the One Region project that resulted from the merger of The Times of NWI's One Region, One Vision project and the Quality of Life Counsel.

Incidentally, former Chicago Mayor Richard Daley will be the keynote speaker at the One Region's annual luncheon next month.❖

**Rich James has been writing about state and local government and politics for more than 30 years. He is a columnist for The Times of Northwest Indiana.**

## Sen. Long won't give up on A to F system

FORT WAYNE - Senate President Pro Tem David Long, R-Fort Wayne, isn't budging in his support for school letter grades, calling the Fort Wayne board's move "premature" (Fort Wayne Journal Gazette).

"We obviously have to get to the bottom of this and the changing of the grades," Long said in a phone interview today, referring to email disclosures that revealed former state Superintendent Tony Bennett manipulated the formula to boost the grade of a campaign donor's charter school. "For anyone to denounce the system because of the grade change ... it's got a lot more to do with it than that." Long called the grade-formula changes "unforeseen and unfortunate," but noted that legislators already were in the process of changing the A-F program. Along with House Speaker Brian Bosma, he has charged John Grew and Bill Sheldrake -- both well-respected numbers experts -- to examine how school grades were affected by the changes Bennett's staff made. A report is expected early next month.

Asked about Bennett emails questioning his and Speaker Bosma's commitment to reforms, Long attributed the comments to Bennett's distress over losing the election and over displeasure with the General Assembly's plans to make changes in his flawed A-F system. "I will say that I think he was in a bad place emotionally," Long said. "I will give him a pass ... he was stunned that he lost the election. It also reflects the fact that we were pushing back -- we were hearing from our superintendents: 'we don't think this is a fair evaluation of our schools.'" ❖



**Joseph E. Stiglitz, New York Times:** When I was growing up in Gary, Ind., nearly a quarter of American workers were employed in the manufacturing sector. There were plenty of jobs at the time that paid well enough for a single breadwinner, working one job, to fulfill the American dream for his family of four. He could earn a living on the sweat of his brow, afford to send his children to college and even see them rise to the professional class. Cities like Detroit and Gary thrived on that industry, not just in terms of the wealth that it produced but also in terms of strong communities, healthy tax bases and good infrastructure. From the stable foundation of Gary's excellent public schools, influenced by the ideas of the progressive reformer John Dewey, I went on to Amherst College and then to M.I.T. for graduate school. Today, fewer than 8 percent of American workers are employed in manufacturing, and many Rust Belt cities are skeletons. The distressing facts about Detroit are by now almost a cliché: 40 percent of streetlights were not working this spring, tens of thousands of buildings are abandoned, schools have closed and the population declined 25 percent in the last decade alone. The violent crime rate last year was the highest of any big city. In 1950, when Detroit's population was 1.85 million, there were 296,000 manufacturing jobs in the city; as of 2011, with a population of just over 700,000, there were fewer than 27,000. So much is packed into the dramatic event of Detroit's fall — the largest municipal bankruptcy in American history — that it's worth taking a pause to see what it says about our changing economy and society, and what it portends for our future.

Failures of national and local policy are by now well known: underinvestment in infrastructure and public services, geographic isolation that has marginalized poor and African-American communities in the Rust Belt, intergenerational poverty that has stymied equality of opportunity and the privileging of moneyed interests (like those of corporate executives and financial services companies) over those of workers. At one level, one might shrug: companies die every day; new ones are born. That is part of the dynamics of capitalism. So, too, for cities. Maybe Detroit and cities like it are just in the wrong location for the goods and services that 21st-century America demands. But such a diagnosis would be wrong, and it's extremely important to recognize that Detroit's demise is not simply an inevitable outcome of the market.

For one, the description is incomplete: Detroit's most serious problems are confined to the city limits. Elsewhere in the metropolitan area, there is ample economic activity. Detroit's travails arise in part from a distinctive aspect of America's divided economy and society. As the sociologists Sean F. Reardon and Kendra Bischoff have

pointed out, our country is becoming vastly more economically segregated, which can be even more pernicious than being racially segregated. There is a rationale for batten- ing down the hatches: the rich thus ensure that they don't have to pay any share of the local public goods and ser- vices of their less well-off neighbors, and that their chil- dren don't have to mix with those of lower socioeconomic status. Detroit's bankruptcy is a reminder of how divided our society has become and how much has to be done to heal the wounds. And it provides an important warning to those living in today's boomtowns: it could happen to you.

**George Will, Washington Post:** President Obama's increasingly grandiose claims for presidential power are inversely proportional to his shriveling presidency. Despera- tion fuels arrogance as, barely 200 days into the 1,462 days of his second term, his pantry of excuses for failure is bare, his domestic agenda is nonexistent and his foreign policy of empty rhetorical deadlines and red lines is floundering. And at last week's news conference he offered inconvenience as a justification for illegality. Explaining his decision to unilaterally rewrite the Affordable Care Act (ACA), he said: "I didn't simply choose to" ignore the statutory requirement for beginning in 2014 the employer mandate to provide employees with health care. No, "this was in consultation with businesses." He continued: "In a normal political environment, it would have been easier for me to simply call up the speaker and say, you know what, this is a tweak that doesn't go to the essence of the law. ... It looks like there may be some better ways to do this, let's make a technical change to the law. That would be the normal thing that I would prefer to do. But we're not in a normal atmosphere around here when it comes to Obamacare. We did have the executive authority to do so, and we did so." Serving as props in the scripted charade of White House news conferences, journalists did not ask the pertinent question: "Where does the Constitution confer upon presidents the 'executive authority' to ignore the separation of powers by revising laws?". ❖

**Ron Mott, Terre Haute Tribune-Star:** The other day, after the paper carried my column about having lunch with Congressman Larry Bucshon, I got a rather surprise response ... my brother called me and asked if I had turned Republican. I guess he thought I was a little too soft on Dr. Bucshon and his record as congressman. Then, as sure as lightning in a thunderstorm, someone wrote to the paper and accused me of not being fair. I had made reference to the "No" caucus, which is a group of right-wing, Tea Party Republicans who take special pride in saying no to their GOP leadership. ❖





## Justice Massa won't recuse on Rockport

INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana Supreme Court Justice Mark Massa today denied a request that he step aside in a high-profile case involving a controversial coal gasification project in Rockport (Indianapolis Star). Four environmental groups had filed a motion Tuesday asking the judge to recuse himself from the case. The groups argued that Massa's longtime friendship with the project's director, Mark Lubbers, and the judge's earlier job as chief counsel for Gov. Mitch Daniels, a strong supporter of the \$2.8 billion plant, should disqualify him from ruling in the case.

The motion was filed by the Sierra Club, Citizens Action Coalition, Spencer County Citizens for Quality of Life and Valley Watch. In an order today, Massa defended his decision to stay on the case, saying it would be "disabling to this Court if we were required to recuse every time a 'friend' came before us as a lawyer or worked as an employee of, or consultant to, a party." He acknowledged his friendship with Lubbers, but said the two don't socialize often. He also conceded that he would have reviewed legislation related to the project as Daniel's chief counsel, "but I have no independent recollection of having done so, as Governor Daniels signed 757 separate pieces of legislation during my tenure."



## Pence appoints 4 to motor sports

INDIANAPOLIS - Gov. Mike Pence has appointed two motorsports veterans to serve on a state panel tasked with helping to create a

sound, commercially viable investment for motorsports in Indiana. Pence's appointees Wednesday include Fort Wayne car dealer Tom Kelley and Tim Clauson of Noblesville. Clauson co-owns and manages a race team that competes in the USAC National Series. Pence also named two men who were aides to former Gov. Mitch Daniels. Earl Goode was Daniels' chief of staff from 2006 to 2013 and Ryan Kitchell was Daniels' budget chief. Kitchell is currently executive vice president and chief financial officer of Indiana University Health.

## Immigration law gets reprieve

INDIANAPOLIS - Two parts of Indiana's immigration law will remain in effect after a federal judge dismissed a lawsuit by a northwestern Indiana Hispanic advocacy group challenging them, the Indiana attorney general's office said Wednesday (Indianapolis Business Journal). U.S. District Judge Jon DeGiulio dismissed the lawsuit filed by East Chicago-based Union Benefica Mexicana for technical flaws Tuesday because it improperly named the state of Indiana, the governor, the attorney general and three northwestern Indiana county prosecutors as defendants. Those parties have sovereign immunity from lawsuits under the 11th Amendment, the attorney general's office said in a news release. The lawsuit also named three northwestern Indiana county sheriffs as defendants, but DeGiulio said Union Benefica Mexicana had not shown that it had legal standing to sue them. The lawsuit challenged a portion of a sweeping immigrant law passed by the General Assembly in 2011 that allow the state to sue employers to recoup unemployment benefits from employers who knowingly employ unauthorized or illegal workers.

## Daniels concerned about federal debt

WEST LAFAYETTE - University presidents and chancellors from 165 institutions joined together in late July to call on President Barack Obama and Congress to close what they called the nation's widening "innovation deficit." The letter — signed by presidents of Yale, MIT, most Big Ten universities and all of Purdue's self-designated peer universities — says declining federal investments in research and cuts as a result of sequestration could lead to fewer U.S.-based innovation and scientific breakthroughs in the future. However, Purdue University President Mitch Daniels isn't among the letter's backers, a fact that hasn't gone unnoticed among Purdue faculty. "I have been and will continue to be an advocate of major federal investments in research, particularly basic research," Daniels told the Journal & Courier in a statement. "I will say nothing negative about this letter, but, like many other presidents, I abstained from signing it, in my case, because of its complete omission of any recognition of the severe fiscal condition in which the nation finds itself."

## Buttigieg calls for 'smart streets'

SOUTH BEND -- Appearing before the Personnel and Finance Committee on Wednesday, Mayor Pete Buttigieg presented a 2014 city budget that combines the Code Enforcement and Building departments, doubles spending on vacant and abandoned houses and invests more than \$10 million in "smart streets" (South Bend Tribune). The \$343.3 million spending plan cuts expenditures by 3.4 percent overall in order to balance the general fund budget, and maintain acceptable cash reserves.