



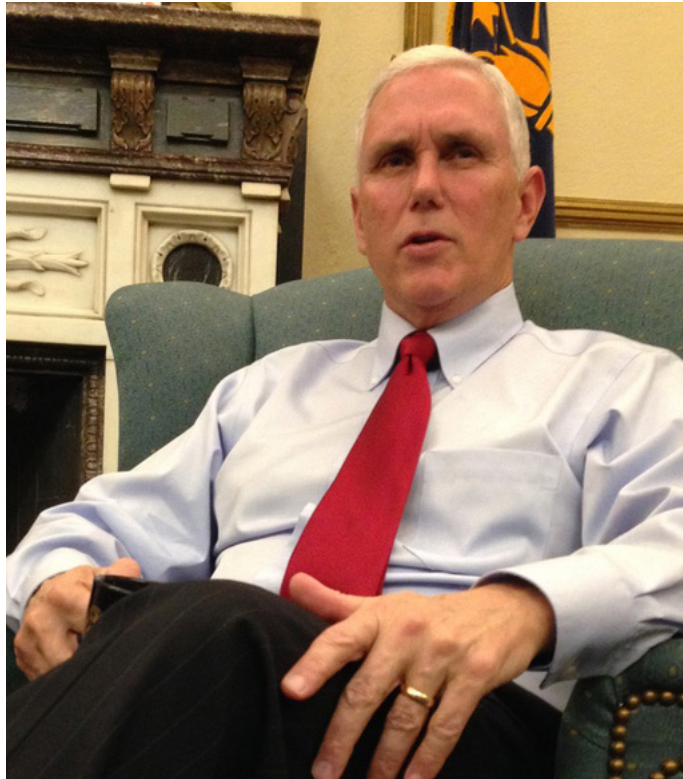
Gov. Pence: A ‘servant leader’ listens

Governor defends refugee stance, still undecided on civil rights, preparing drug abuse strategy

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – As the dark days of 2015 tick away, Gov. Mike Pence is at a policy and political precipice. He’s been embroiled in the controversy over banning Syrian refugees

from resettlement in Indiana until security concerns are addressed, an issue where he claims widespread support. He is still pondering what to do on the civil rights extension and SB100, insisting that “servant leaders listen” before they lead. “I think humility



and thoughtfulness should be the order of the day,” he said.

He presides over a state with a 4.4% jobless rate. In this past week, he announced a new mental health hospital that will be built to address the state’s growing drug addiction problem. He expects the Indiana Economic Development Corporation will notch another record investment year. And he worked with Senate Majority Leader Brandt Hershman on a local road funding component to his recently announced \$2 billion statewide road plan.

Continued on page 4

Fear in American politics

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – Fear. Plots. Threats. Carpet bombs. Terror. Chaos. Suicide bombers.

Those are my takeaways from Tuesday night’s Republican debate. In a classic asymmetrical sense, two terror attacks in Paris and California that cost less than \$50,000 to perpetrate, killing about 150 people, have set up the GOP nomination fight, and perhaps the broader 2016 election, into one of fear and loathing.

The debate came hours after the Los Angeles public school system closed 900 facilities due to a hoax threat. Danville and Plainfield schools in Indiana are closed today for



“I was surprised about the announcement of 3 selections which exceeded by about \$40 million the amount allocated. A phone call probably would have been in order from the administration on that.”

- *Speaker Brian Bosma*



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what will likely be the same reason. It came as Donald Trump has sought to ban all Muslims from entering the United States, and Gov. Mike Pence seeks to keep Syrian and Iraqi refugees out of Indiana. It came a day before the Obama administration reset the national terror alert system. It comes as Pew Research reported that the American middle class has shrunk from 80% of the population in 1971 to just 50% today, with the rich and poor encroaching on both ends of the spectrum.

Fortune Magazine reported earlier this month: In a recent survey among 18- to 29-year-olds by Harvard University's Institute of Politics, 48% responded to the question, "For you personally, is the idea of the American Dream alive or dead?" with a simple "dead." In contrast, 49% picked "alive" when asked the same question. "It is disturbing that about half of the largest generation in America doesn't believe the American dream is there for them personally," John Della Volpe, the institute's polling director, told Bloomberg News. "That frustration, I think, is tied into a government they don't trust and they don't think is working for them."

Anyone looking for aspiration Tuesday night on CNN instead found doom and gloom. Dangers lurk around every corner. Any person who looks Middle Eastern is subliminally suspect. Entire races and creeds are now fueling paranoia. Americans are binge-buying guns and arming. We

are one campus massacre away from a shootout between terrorists, police and victims firing back. The Kinks may have been on to something when they sang "paranoia will destroya."

The distant echoes of President Franklin D. Roosevelt – who faced far more emphatic and dangerous challenges than we experience now – rallied Americans with his March 4, 1933, inaugural speech: "So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself – nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance. In every dark hour of our national life, a leadership of frankness and of vigour has met with that understanding and support of the people themselves which is essential to victory. And I am convinced that you will again give that support to leadership in these critical days."

New Jersey Gov. Chris

Christie cut through the insults, jabs and paranoia Tuesday night, saying at one point, "We have people across this country who are scared to death." There was also an exchange between Jeb Bush and Trump that seemed to crystalize the mood when the former took a broadside at the Muslim ban. "It's not a serious proposal," Bush said. "It will push the Arab world away when we need them to engage. Trump is great at one-liners. But he is a chaos candidate."

Chaos candidate, on a precipice of a year of chaos.

It's not that we haven't been here before. But in past presidential campaigns, the outline of challenges came with vivid aspiration.

On March 16, 1968, U.S. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy kicked off his Democratic campaign in Washington. It came as the U.S. was mired in Vietnam, the Tet Offensive had just prompted President Johnson to forego a reelection bid, and

racially divided American cities had been burning for three years.

"I run because I am convinced that this country is on

a perilous course and because I have such strong feelings about what must be done, and I feel that I'm obliged to do all that I can," Kennedy stated. "I run to seek new policies – policies to end the bloodshed in Vietnam and in our cities, policies to close the gaps that now exist between black and white, between rich and poor, between young and old, in this country and around the rest of the world. I run for the presidency because I want the Democratic Party and the United States of America to stand for hope instead of despair, for reconciliation of men instead of the growing risk of world war."

Worth remembering is that the U.S. and Soviets were engaged in the middle of a 40-year campaign of mutually assured destruction. Today we fret a few ISIS dirty bombs and pinprick mall attacks. ISIS is not even in the same conversation with the Soviets and Nazi Germany.

Then there was Ronald Reagan, igniting his third presidential campaign in New York on Nov. 13, 1979, saying, "Someone once said that the difference between an American and any other kind of person is that an American lives in anticipation of the future because he knows it will be a great place. Other people fear the future as just a repetition of past failures. There's a lot of truth in that. If there is one thing we are sure of it is that history need not be relived; that nothing is impossible, and that man is capable of improving his circumstances beyond what we are told is fact. There are those in our land today, however, who would have us believe that the United States, like other great civilizations of the past, has reached the zenith of its power; that we are weak and fearful, reduced to bickering with each other and no longer possessed of the will to cope with our problems."

Reagan continued, "Much of this talk has come from leaders who claim that our problems are too difficult to handle. We are supposed to meekly accept their failures as the most which humanly can be done. They tell us we must learn to live with less, and teach our children that their lives will be less full and prosperous than ours have been; that the America of the coming years will be a place where – because of our past excesses – it will be impossible to dream and make those dreams come true. I don't believe that. And, I don't believe you do either. That is why

I am seeking the presidency. I cannot and will not stand by and see this great country destroy itself."

At his acceptance speech in Detroit on July 17, 1980, Reagan talked of his Democratic opponents, saying, "They say that the United States has had its day in the sun; that our nation has passed its zenith. They expect you to tell your children that the American people no

longer have the will to cope with their problems; that the future will be one of sacrifice and few opportunities. My fellow citizens, I utterly reject that view. The American people, the most generous on earth, who created the highest standard of living, are not going to accept the notion that we can only make a better world for others by moving

backwards ourselves. Those who believe we can have no business leading the nation."

In his Republican Convention acceptance speech at Miami Beach on Aug. 8, 1968, Republican Richard Nixon outlined fear and solution. "As we look at America, we see cities enveloped in smoke and flame. We hear sirens in the night. We see Americans dying on distant battlefields abroad. We see Americans hating each other; fighting each other; killing each other at home. And as we see and hear these things, millions of Americans cry out in anguish."

Nixon asked, "Did we come all this way for this? Did American boys die in Normandy, and Korea, and in Val-ley Forge for this?"

And Nixon responded to himself: "Listen to the answer to those questions. It is another voice. It is the quiet voice in the tumult and the shouting. It is the voice of the great majority of Americans, the forgotten Americans – the non-shouters; the non-demonstrators. They are not racists or sick; they are not guilty of the crime that plagues the land. They are black and they are white, they're native born and foreign born, they're young and they're old. They work in America's factories. They run America's businesses. They serve in government. They provide most of the soldiers who died to keep us free. They give drive to the spirit of America. They give lift to the American Dream."

While most remember FDR's first inaugural contesting the notion of fear, his penultimate thought was this: "We do not distrust the future of essential democracy. The people of the United States have not failed. In their need they have registered a mandate that they want direct, vigorous action. They have asked for discipline and direction under leadership. They have made me the present instrument of their wishes. In the spirit of the gift I take it."

As December 2015 gives way to the epic election cycle of 2016, Americans are not hopeless, but hope is on the ropes. Americans are fearful when there is an array of potential before us. Whether a voice and movement comes to the fore to take such despair and provide a new path to what Reagan called "that shining city on the hill" remains to be seen. ❖

Pence, from page 1

Pence is facing a tough reelection battle in Indiana's bicentennial year, with several polls since April showing him in dead heats with Democrat John Gregg. This comes as there is titanic uncertainty with a potential Donald Trump presidential nomination, a turn of events that could emphatically reshape American politics and his own political career.

Thus, the governor reacted to last week's HPI column, "Exploding Cigar Governor." As we exited his office – the 30-minute scheduled interview now nudging an hour, keeping Very Important People waiting – Pence announced good tidings, saying, "I have a gift for you." Underneath a red bow was a box of Punch cigars. The box was signed, with a good-natured warning, "Brian, be careful when you light these."

Three years into his governorship, Mike Pence has not lost his graciousness and sense of humor.

Over the past two months, we've conducted HPI interviews with House Speaker Brian Bosma, Senate President David Long, Lt. Gov. Sue Ellspermann and Democratic gubernatorial candidate John Gregg. This HPI interview with Gov. Pence is the final component of our 2015 weekly edition publishing schedule.

The year 2015 has set up a dramatic bicentennial year for Hoosiers. U.S. Sen. Dan Coats's retirement set off a political chain of events that resulted in at least three tossup congressional races. The Religious Freedom Restoration Act episode now gives way to SB100 and the looming civil rights extension. In a nation where the Preamble of the U.S. Constitution calls for "domestic tranquility" and the "general welfare" of the citizenry, the nation is tormented by almost weekly massacres in schools, malls and theaters, from jihadists, the insane, and the evil. One such event is unfolding at Danville and Plainfield schools in Indiana this morning. Hoosiers are on a gun-buying binge. A quarter of them appear to be backing the Trump presidential candidacy.

The setup for 2016 looks to be no less epic than other watershed years of 1968, 1980, 1994 and 2008.

Here is our HPI Interview with Gov. Pence:

Syrian refugees and security

HPI: You made very clear why you took the posi-

tion you did on the Syrian refugee ban. How did you get to that position? Walk me through what happened between the Paris terror attacks on Nov. 13 and the announcement of your directive on Nov. 16, along with that of several other governors.

Pence: I think there were a couple who had made that decision.

HPI: Was there coordination among the governors?



Pence: We obviously were following the attacks that took place on Friday; our homeland security team was in contact with federal officials, receiving updates through the course of the weekend. We thought it was important that we be vigilant. The backdrop that I bring to this is the obvious, more than a decade on the Judiciary and Foreign Affairs committees (in Congress) and the fact that I was in Washington, D.C., on Capitol Hill on Sept. 11. All these things inform me that we live in very challenging times. We face an asymmetrical threat and the proper response to Paris was for us, and leadership here in Indiana, to make sure that we were internalizing lessons from that and taking action appropriate to see to the safety and security of the people of this state. I have no higher priority than the safety and security of the people of Indiana. When I learned that one of the perpetrators of this terrorist attack in Paris had come into Europe through the Syrian refugee program, we thought it was important to join a handful of other governors to immediately pause Indiana's participation in the resettlement of Syrian refugees and call on the administration and the Congress to pause the program and evaluate whatever changes might be necessary to make sure that people coming into this country as

Syrian refugees do not pose a risk to our citizens.

HPI: What kind of feedback and coordination have you been getting from the Obama administration? Is there a free flow of information from the White House or the state and federal Homeland Security offices?

Pence: I participated in a conference call a few days after the fact. We received some correspondence and pledges of additional information, none of which has been forthcoming. And most of what the administration has offered is general information after the fact. I continue to believe, as do nearly 300 members of Congress and more than 30 governors, that in these uncertain times, it would be appropriate for the administration to pause this program and engage in the kind of thorough review to ensure that we accept Syrian refugees without compromising our security.

HPI: Your announcement came out on Nov. 16. I spent most of that week gauging the reaction from you and other states, from legal scholars, and the faith-based charities resettling these refugees. The one thing that struck me was that the Syrian families – the one that ended up in Connecticut and the one that is here now – predated ISIS. They were in the resettlement program before ISIS even formed. And then I listened to what Exodus and Catholic Charities had to say and it seemed to me that they have a pretty good system. It isn't government. It is faith-based. What have you learned in that interim? You've met with Bishop Tobin and other organizations. Do you have any confidence in the ability of the faith-based groups to vet these refugees? Or is that simply a government function, or a combination of the two?

Pence: I'm not sure that the charities participating in the resettlement are doing any vetting. What precipitated my decision wasn't just the discovery of paperwork on one of the terrorists in Paris (who carried a fake Syrian passport), it was the testimony of the director of the FBI one month earlier who said that there are "gaps in our ability" to determine the intention of people coming into Europe through the Syrian refugee program. And common sense supports that. Syria has been at war for years. Syria has also been a country of terrorism for many years. Now it is home base to ISIS and other terror organizations. In just the last few days we've learned from federal officials that ISIS has the capability to manufacture false passports. Again, the more information we receive about the limitations we have on vetting Syrian refugees,

the more convinced I am the action we took in pausing the resettlement program and calling on Washington to do likewise is right. To your point, this really is not about the families that have been in the news. It's not even about these charities, and I have the highest regard for men and women who work in these charities. They are the best of us. They are deeply compassionate people. It really is about what the director of the FBI testified are gaps within the system and my hope is in the coming days and weeks we'll see Washington rally around a pause and some common-sense reforms. Just as this administration did in 2009 when two Iraqi refugees, found to have al-Qaeda ties, were apprehended in Bowling Green, Kentucky, and found to be planning a terrorist attack.

HPI: The other question concerns your authority on this matter. It is not statutory. The family has been resettled in Indianapolis and your administration is now saying you will extend benefits. Walk me through how you felt you had the authority to do the ban and the fact that this family is now here.

Pence: My directive was to suspend the state's participation in resettlement of Syrian refugees. It was no more than that, no less than that, regardless of how it was characterized in the media. The directive pertains to the State of Indiana's resettlement. The State of Indiana operates a resettlement office in cooperation with the federal resettlement office. It is a contractual relationship between the state and federal government, and then

between the state and resettlement charities. My directive, in concert with 30 other states, was that out of our concern for what the FBI director testified were gaps in this program, we would suspend the state's resettlement efforts with regard to Syrian refugees unless and until the administration or the Congress took action to pause the program to institute the reforms in a matter in which we could be confident about our security. As governor of the State of Indiana, my directive was to the agency in Indiana and that directive stands and we'll continue to suspend the state's role in the resettlement efforts until the administration and Congress act.

HPI: We live in a very complex world. I don't think anything is guaranteed and ironclad. In the San Bernardino attack, one of the killers was born and grew up in Chicago. Is it possible to have the kind of ironclad security to vet everybody? It seems to me that more of the domestic terror doesn't come from jihadists, but Americans born and raised here, whether they are white,



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black or Muslim.

Pence: My specific concern is our ability to vet individuals out of Syria into the refugee program. It is based on concerns by the director of the FBI. It stands to reason that a country that is compromised by war and terrorism and is home base to ISIS and other terror organizations should be the source of concern and additional vetting. In the wake of the Paris attack, where we found at least one of the attackers came in through the Syrian refugee program, I don't understand how this administration doesn't do today what it did in 2009, and that is pause the refugee program with regard to Syrians and reconsider ways in which we can ensure safety. I point you again to Bowling Green, Kentucky, in 2009. The Obama administration paused the Iraqi refugee program. Their fingerprints were found on IEDs in Iraq. They were identified. The FBI moved on them, arrested them and found that they were planning a terrorist attack in this country. In the aftermath of that, the Obama administration paused the program.

HPI: How long did that last?

Pence: Six months. I remember it. I remember some of the issues that rose out of it. I thought the administration acted properly, putting the safety and security of this country first and reevaluating the vetting process of Iraqi refugees. That would be the right thing to do now. I am going to stand firm in our decision to suspend Indiana's role until we see action out of Washington.

HPI: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, who is also calling for a temporary ban on all Muslims entering the country, has taken a stance against an entire religion. Does that complicate things for you? Does your narrative get intertwined with his? Or are you just ignoring him?

Pence: Hoosiers understand the action we've taken and that is focused on the concerns of the FBI director. We've heard from people all across the state who appreciate the efforts, who appreciate all that we do along with some 30 other governors to call on this administration and the Congress to take action. This is not about the families and the charities. It's about a program that the FBI director said had gaps. Those gaps were proved in Paris.

HPI: Director Comey also said at the same Oct. 8 Congressional hearing that the U.S. has "developed an effective way to touch all our databases." Does that mean

anything to you? It seems like you've isolated his quote about the gaps.

Pence: No. It's beyond one sentence. I know Jim Comey well. We worked on legislation together when he was U.S. attorney.

HPI: Have you been on the phone with him?

Pence: No, I haven't talked to the director about this. I've reviewed his testimony and his public comments. I think he has tremendous integrity. He's been very forth-

right with the American people about the limitations. It may well be that there are certain individuals, given the nature of the environment in Syria, that we can't know enough about. But that argues for us to pause and be cautious. We live in very challenging times. After 9/11, when terrorism came to our shores, the fence lines that seemed to surround America went away. After San Bernardino, while not related directly to Syria, the more we find out about that, the more people are rightly troubled about the security of this country. As governor of Indiana, I am determined to use the authority I have to call for action in Washington.

HPI: Do you think that Director Comey has the President's ear on this issue? This administration hasn't made any changes.

Pence: I would not speculate. It's been unfortunate that this has got caught up in the political debate. National security is not a partisan issue. There is no one, left or right, Republican or Democrat, who is not deeply committed to the safety and security of the people of this country. I believe that in all my heart. That's why you saw the bipartisan vote in Congress to pause the Syrian refugee program. It's still my hope you'll see action before Congress adjourns for Christmas. I would just say again, every day in this job, the safety and security of the people of Indiana is my first thought and priority.

Listening on civil rights

HPI: On SB100, you're running your traps. You're reaching out to transgenders and LGBT, your base, the business community. Where are you now and what kind of time frame do you have to stake a position? In about a month legislators are going to be taking votes on this matter.

Pence: I think you summarized it very well. We've



'I point you again to Bowling Green, Kentucky, in 2009. The Obama administration paused the Iraqi refugee program. Their fingerprints were found on IEDs. They were identified. The FBI moved on them, arrested them and found they were planning a terrorist attack . . .'

been listening respectfully to people on all sides of the issue. We've been studying it very carefully and trying to discern what we think will be the best course of action for the people of Indiana. I've come to no conclusion. But I would expect early in this legislative session we'll make sure that people of Indiana know precisely where we stand. I would say I have drawn a couple of conclusions. First, I am convinced that Hoosiers don't tolerate discrimination. Hoosiers are compassionate, kind people who are respectful of everyone. The other conclusion is, Hoosiers cherish their faith and the freedoms enshrined in our Constitution. The challenges for those who are advocating legislation in this area: Is it possible to reconcile those two great truths about the people of Indiana in a way that respects both? The dignity of individuals and the constitutional freedoms of every Hoosier? We're still sorting that out. We'll continue to sort it out over the coming weeks. We'll make sure people know where we stand.

HPI: Are you concerned about dividing and alienating the business and social conservative wings of the Republican Party? I'm hearing the NCAA is communicating to legislators that they may leave Indianapolis over this issue. Walk me through what you're looking at politically here.

Pence: I'm really not looking at it politically. I'm just trying to figure out what's the right thing to do. And what I've sought to do is take the approach of a servant leader. A leader listens before they lead on issues that bear on the dignity of individuals and the constitutional rights of every Hoosier. I think humility and thoughtfulness should be the order of the day.

Comprehensive meth and heroin strategy

HPI: We're seeing legislation that would make the key methamphetamine ingredient, pseudoephedrine, a prescription drug. Sens. Randy Head and Jim Merritt are authoring an alternative that would make pharmacists the gatekeepers. We've led the nation for three years in meth labs and production, 360 kids involved, contaminated houses coming off the tax rolls. Do you see your administration moving forcefully on this issue?

Pence: We established a task force several months ago that for the first time takes a comprehensive approach to the rise of drug abuse and addiction in this state. The task force is focused on enforcement, treatment and prevention. The policies we've implemented and

initiated with agencies so far have represented a vigorous start. We are implementing recommendations from experts across the state. Meth is part of the equation. But, frankly, heroin is the scourge that is tearing at the fabric of communities and families across the state. We have to confront it in new ways. I think in this session what you're going to see is our administration supporting efforts to make sure that we are incredibly tough on drug dealers and those who profit from sale of these poisons to our kids. We're going to lead into efforts to expand treatment programs and access.

HPI: If you're middle class, a family can't afford treatment.

Pence: One of the great side benefits of HIP 2.0, now we've enrolled more than 355,000 people since it was launched (70% are making contributions), is that it covers counter addiction medications. I met last week in Spencer with five mothers – Sharon Blair, who lost her daughter to a drug overdose, and four other mothers, including one who had lost a son. We spent an hour in Sharon Blair's kitchen and I heard their stories. There were tears and there was prayer. I am absolutely committed to seeing Indiana at every level go after the people who are selling these poisons, in new and more vigorous ways, and at the same time open doors for treatment, so that we can help young people out of the stranglehold of addiction.

HPI: Is this a budget year proposition for 2017?

Pence: Wednesday we're going to announce the construction of a new mental hospital in Central Indiana. The challenge is capacity. Lake County Prosecutor (Bernard Carter) who is on the task force, said to me, when somebody comes in front of me who is a drug addict and a second time offense, I don't have anywhere to send them but jail.

HPI: I am hearing the same thing. County jails have become treatment centers.

Pence: It's unacceptable. We need to be working on capacity and options to get people into programs. I'm not discounting the legislation that you mentioned. But we're going to have a range of options. People ask me, "What keeps you up at night?" I tell them, it's not usually what you read about in the paper. What's happening with our kids, what's happening with our families, the scourge of drug abuse and addiction in the State of Indiana is keeping me up at night. It is touching families everywhere.



I'm really not looking at it politically. I'm just trying to figure out what's the right thing to do. And what I've sought to do is take the approach of a servant leader. A leader listens before they can lead on an issue . . . ?

There's no community that hasn't been touched by this. There is treatment available. Indiana, in the last session, made new resources available. First responders are able to administer medications in event of an overdose. We'll look at measures to make that more widely available. But the other piece is about law enforcement, it's about treatment and intervention, and we're also going to look successful prevention programs that work as early as grade school and middle school. In Evansville, Carmel and Fort Wayne, court supervised programs are getting mentors from people in faith-based communities, social workers, into schools, to steer at-risk kids on to paths to avoid these problems. We've just got to flood the field.

It's not unique to Indiana. It's a nationwide problem. From the strong reaction we've gotten, from the law enforcement community, from our health care community, from organizations charitable and faith-based in communities around the state, I think Indiana is poised to move the ball. It's gotta be the all-the-above approach. Recently we were able to tackle the HIV crisis in Scott County effectively because we came in with law enforcement, very quiet, as well as treatment and health care, very loud. We made arrests, we pulled suppliers off the streets, but we also got people into treatment programs not only for their HIV, but for their addictions. One hundred percent of the HIV transmission was intravenous drug use. I had a mother in Spencer break down in tears and say, "I could never have afforded it." I said, "Call 1-877-GETHIP9." We've already got people at FSSA getting with the family, with their son. They're enrolling him and getting him into primary care. You hear these families talk about the downward spiral of losing their kids. It is a nightmare. We can confront it. You can't arrest your way out of this problem.

HPI: It's tough to be governor when you have to deal with these kinds of problems, needle exchange programs and school massacres.

Pence: I just spoke before 2,000 people at the governor's luncheon for Scouting. It's a great annual event. I said to them, "It's real tough to grow up these days." Our heart goes out to all the families. I'm governor of Indiana, but I'm also just a dad. I am convinced that we are making progress. Connersville is a great example of what I'm talking about. A little more than a year ago, Connersville had a heroin ring tearing at the fabric of that community. We bivouacked Indiana State Police into

the community, working with law enforcement. We also worked with the health provider community. People in Connersville will tell you we changed the direction of that city. I'm proud of our effort. We can do this all over the state. We are doing it. The drug busts that took place in Indianapolis several weeks ago, with 40 people picked up at 3:30 in the morning, was an IMPD-State Police effort months in the making. It's not just about law enforcement and treatment. The announcement this week, which we've been working on for months, will be a major step forward to expanding our capacity for mental health and drug addiction.

Investment, jobs and roads

HPI: Anything you want to add?

Pence: For us, the coming session is everything.

We've got another ribbon-cutting this coming week. We had thousands of people waiting to cross that Abraham Lincoln Bridge. We'll have our bridge done in about a year (at Louisville). We worked very closely with Sen. Hershey and his local government proposal. I'm just very encouraged where things are right now. The economy of Indiana, 4.4% unemployment, the last three years 26,000 net new jobs. We've moved 23,000 people off unemployment insurance. I really do think we've got real momentum in our economy; making the right investments in infrastructure and education are part of that. I was pleased we had the ability to do the early paydown on the unemployment insurance loan, which saved Indiana businesses a windfall of \$300 million in taxes and penalties. Next year they can put that into payroll and into hiring or compensation for employees. And we will announce this week the final round of deals for the year

with Indiana Economic Development Corporation. I believe we will announce another record year for total investment.

HPI: If the politics was based on the economy, you should be rolling.

Pence: Indiana is rolling. I'm so proud of the people of this state, businesses large and small. Tomorrow's announcement of Regional Cities will continue the smart investments. We had seven regions apply for it. It was the first time ever some regions of the state had worked on a multi-county basis on how to improve the quality of life and place in that part of Indiana. It's an idea which time has come. ❖



'It's gotta be the all-the-above approach. Recently we were able to tackle the HIV crisis in Scott County effectively because we came in with law enforcement, very quiet, as well as treatment and health care, very loud. You can't arrest your way out of the problem . . . '

The Lababidi family escapes sarin and civil war for Indiana

By MAUREEN HAYDEN
CNHI Statehouse Bureau

INDIANAPOLIS — Fadi Lababidi arrived here exhausted but hopeful, with his wife and young children 14 months ago.

Not long after they started the journey to a place they call “the land of the free,” rockets containing lethal sarin gas hit their longtime home.

Reading reports of the attack — and the hundreds of people killed by it — underscored their decision to leave. “I came for a better life for my children,” said Lababidi, speaking through an interpreter. “I came so they wouldn’t be dead.”

For the family, Indiana’s first Syrian war refugees, the horror of a civil war, which has driven more than 4 million from their homes, and claimed the lives of more than 200,000 people, is something they’d like to put in the past.

But since Gov. Mike Pence moved to block the resettlement of Syrian refugees a month ago, the Lababidis find themselves recounting the terrible details, hoping to convince their Indiana hosts they don’t pose a threat.

“What you fear most is what we’re running from,” said Lababidi.

In November, Pence ordered the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration to stop assisting with the settlement of Syrian refugees. The decision came after reports that a perpetrator of the Nov. 13 Paris terrorist attacks may have gained entry to France by posing as a refugee from Syria.

Last week, the state chapter of the Syrian American Council asked Pence to meet with some of the Syrian families who now call Indiana home. He declined but hinted that he may still be open to the invitation.

The United States has admitted 2,200 Syrian refugees since late 2010, according to the State Department, and the Obama administration has announced plans to accept 10,000 more.

Seven families have settled in Indiana since the bloody civil war erupted in 2011. The latest to arrive came in early December: A husband, wife and their daughters, ages 2 and 4, who waited two years to get here.

They were brought by Catholic Charities over the objection of Pence, who questions whether the refugees are being adequately vetted by the federal government.

Lababidi, his wife, Waed, and their four children, Abraham, Shimaa, Mohammed, and Hamza, ranging in age from 6 to 14, were the first refugees to arrive in Indiana from Syria, landing at the Indianapolis airport in October 2014.

Walking out of the terminal, they saw a “Welcome” sign, written in English and Arabic. It was held by college student Sara Hindi, a volunteer translator with Exodus Refugee Immigration. The nonprofit group has relocated hundreds of war refugees to Indiana from around the world.

The family, like other Syrian refugees who’ve since arrived, say they have mostly felt welcome despite a language barrier.

Churches in the area have extended invitations to meet with their members, including one that came from Epworth United Methodist, the home congregation of the parents of Peter Kassig, an American aid worker killed by ISIS in Syria.

At an event last Friday, Kassig’s mother, Paula, asked fellow Christians to embrace the refugees without fear. “Keep your hearts open to those who could use a leg up,” she said. “You will strengthen America as you welcome the newcomers.”

Still, the refugees have felt increased unease since Pence’s decision. That’s been heightened in recent days,



The Lababidi family escaped civil war for Indiana.

since leading Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump called for a ban on Muslims entering the United States.

“There will be a couple of tough months ahead for them,” said Cole Vargus, Exodus Refugee’s Indiana operations director. “But it will eventually calm down, once people recognize who these refugees really are.”

That’s what the Lababidi family would tell the governor if given the opportunity, they intimated during an interview in their small, modestly furnished apartment.

"I want to send him this message: We are grateful," Lababidi said.

For almost three years before arriving in the United States, the family prayed for a safe refuge.

After fleeing Syria, they crossed into Jordan in early 2013 with little more than the clothes on their backs. From there, they underwent an extensive screening process. It included retina scans and fingerprinting, with results compared to federal and international terrorist databases.

Multiple security agencies interviewed them, and they had to give proof that they couldn't return to their apartment in Syria, which was destroyed by bombs.

But leaving came with a price. Fadi and Waed left behind family members, whom they fear they may never see again. "The situation over there is just getting worse," said Fadi.

Since arriving in Indiana, the family has benefited from private and public programs that aim to ease refugees' transition into a strange, new land.

Pence's decision in November to suspend the



Shimaa Lababidi, age 11, loves America. She is getting straight As in school. (HPI Photo by Maureen Hayden)

state's resettlement program hasn't stopped support for refugee families. Both Catholic Charities and Exodus Refugee plan to continue bringing in Syrian families who have been vetted for entry into the United States.

And federal law prohibits states from denying federally funded benefits, such as Medicaid or cash welfare assistance, to eligible refugees. Pence has said he won't block that assistance.

With help, the Lababidi family found a place to live, enrolled their children in school, began learning English and made friends.

Speaking little English, their job possibilities are limited. But Lababidi, who owned a water-filtration business in Syria, got help landing a job as a mail sorter in a private business. His wife hopes to work at a local hotel.

They see a future they didn't see before.

"This is the land of opportunity," said Waed.

While encouraged by Pence's decisions not to block federal assistance, the family says they'd like the governor to know that they understand fear.

"There are bad people in Syria," Lababidi said.

"But that doesn't mean all people from Syria are bad." ❖

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Rural HIV epidemic cost state \$58 million

By MAUREEN HAYDEN
CNHI Statehouse Bureau

INDIANAPOLIS – The cost of the HIV epidemic in rural Indiana may reach \$58 million or more, and experts worry that the outbreak of the AIDS-causing virus may not be over.

The cost to the state of the epidemic, found among drug users and sex workers centered in Scott County, includes long-term healthcare costs picked up by Indiana's Medicaid program.

Experts say the cost could grow, in part, because so many people who had dangerous contact with HIV-infected individuals have refused to be tested. "We don't know yet what we don't know," said Beth Meyerson, co-director of the Rural Center for AIDS/STD Prevention at Indiana University.

Meyerson has been working with state and federal health officials to track what the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention calls the largest HIV outbreak in rural America. The number of cases, traced back to dirty needles shared among drug users injecting prescription painkillers, has grown to 183 since the virus was detected in rural Scott County a year ago.

Most of the identified cases are enrolled in the state's Medicaid program, state public health officials said. In addition to treatment for drug addictions, they're receiving HIV treatment at \$250,000 to \$300,000 for lifetime care. About 90 percent are also infected with Hepatitis C – a potentially lethal and highly infectious disease that's also costly to treat, at about \$85,000 for a 12-week regimen.

But questions remain about the number of cases still out there. In early December, state health officials revealed that they tracked others at "high risk" of being infected with HIV from sharing dirty needles or having unprotected sex with someone known to be infected.

Of nearly 500 people at risk, 120 re-

fused to be tested for HIV. More than 200 were not tested because they couldn't be found, didn't respond to a testing request, were no longer in Indiana, or were incarcerated in jail or prison and had not been screened for HIV.

Of 181 who agreed to be tested, three were HIV-positive. "How do you know if we're at the end of this? We don't know," said Meyerson, who joined a panel of health and state officials at a legislative preview conference Wednesday in Indianapolis. The General Assembly convenes in January for its 2016 session.

Also on the panel was state Attorney General Greg Zoeller, who echoed Meyerson's concerns that Indiana has yet to understand the full impact of the outbreak. Zoeller launched a drug abuse task force four years ago, having seen a rise in arrests and deaths of addicts injecting themselves with prescription narcotics and heroin.

Zoeller said Indiana has yet to see the full force of what he called the opioid-addiction crisis. "The wave has not crested yet," he said.

Both Zoeller and Meyerson also questioned the adequacy of the state's current needle-exchange law, passed earlier this year. The law allows communities, with state permission, to start programs that make clean needles available to IV drug users, along with counseling. But that comes with multiple conditions. Communities cannot act until they prove they have a drug crisis. And the law forbids state money from being spent on a needle exchange.

Twenty-two counties have moved toward adopting needle exchange programs, but only three have been approved by the state. ❖



Statehouse leaders, prosecutors moving on meth, dealer sentences

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

INDIANAPOLIS – The Pandora Box twins terrorizing both urban and rural Indiana – methamphetamine and heroin – are prompting Gov. Mike Pence, legislative leaders and Indiana prosecutors into what looks to be robust action in the coming General Assembly session.



Gov. Pence announced the creation of a new Central Indiana mental health hospital, telling Howey Politics Indiana that the state cannot “arrest its way”

out of the crisis. Senate President David Long told HPI last month that more mental health funding is essential. And Prosecutors Terry Curry of Indianapolis, Aaron Negangard of Dearborn and Ohio counties, and Dustin Houchin of Washington County are calling for a new crime designation: Aggravated drug dealing.

“People ask me, “What keeps you up at night?” I tell them, it’s not usually what you read about in the paper,” Pence said on Monday. “What’s happening with our kids, what’s happening with our families, the scourge of drug abuse and addiction in the state of Indiana is keeping me up at night. We’ve just got to flood the field. It’s not unique to Indiana. It’s a nationwide problem. The strong reaction we’ve gotten, from the law enforcement community, from our health care community, from organizations charitable and faith-based in communities around the state, I think Indiana is poised to move the ball. It’s gotta be the all-the-above approach.”

Senate President David Long told HPI in November, “Dealing with the heroin outbreak and the opioids makes this a huge priority. It’s expensive and we’ll have a bumpy road getting it set up. It has to happen; you cannot treat addiction effectively if you don’t have low-cost access, and there’s just no two ways around it. As it is today, almost all Hoosiers are priced out of a treatment program. It’s just very expensive. The expansion of the problem has created the need for a low-cost answer. We’re going to have to find one.”

“We have a serious drug problem ruining lives across the state and threatening the safety of our citizens,” Negangard said. “These dealers are dangerous people

and we need a law on the books that ensures they will be spending time in prison and not wreaking havoc in our communities.”

Howey Politics Indiana sat down with Houchin earlier this month and the underpinnings for this policy change are sobering.

Since 2010, Indiana has seen a 32.2% increase in homicides. There has been a 26% increase in Department of Child Services abuse-and-neglect reporting since 2014. Almost 90% of Children In Need of Services are related to substance abuse. Misdemeanor theft filings are up 90% in the first six months of 2015 over a similar period in 2014. And Indiana is ranked first in the nation meth lab busts and pharmacy robberies. Since 2013, there have been 4,477 meth lab busts involving 1,104 children and arrest of 3,766 people.

Through Oct. 31 of this year, there were 1,302 meth lab incidents reported involving 278 children. According to the Association of Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys, “The domestic manufacturing of meth poses an intolerable threat to public safety, the environment and already strained community resources. Scheduling pseudoephedrine will stop the domestic manufacturing of meth that is occurring today in garages, apartments, trucks of vehicles and bathrooms of local grocery stores.”

The prosecutors note that after 2005, when the NPLEX system was put in place to track PSE sales, there has been an estimated 70% increase in meth lab incidents through October of 2015. The two states that scheduled PSE sales – Oregon in 2006 and Mississippi in 2010 – saw declines in meth labs of 96% and 83% respectively.

Houchin serves the third largest geographical county in the state, one that is served by just a dozen sheriff officers. Several years back, he was fighting meth labs and made headway when the Indiana State Police’s Meth Suppression Unit set up shop. That resulted in 30 to 40 meth lab busts, with more than a third involving children on the premises. The collateral damage goes much wider, with meth-contaminated homes falling into dilapidation and falling off the property tax rolls. “We ultimately

end up paying for all of that stuff,” said Houchin, who at 38 years old is in his third term.

“We want to solve the meth manufacturing problem and that means targeting the dealers,” Houchin said. “The penalties are too low.”



Washington County Prosecutor Dustin Houchin is seeking new “aggravated drug dealing” sentencing. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

With Gov. Pence's probable support, the prosecutors are pushing for aggravated drug dealing into a Level 2 category, which would result in prison terms of 10 to 30 years with an average 17.5 year sentences. The circumstances creating a Level 2 crime would include deals with 10 grams or more; prior felony convictions; committing the offense with a firearm; in the presence of a child under age 18; taking place on a school bus or within 500 feet of a school, public park, family housing complex or youth program center; and resulting in the death of another person.

Curry explained, "What we aim to target with this legislation are criminal organizations which distribute

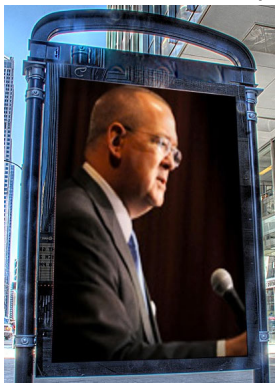
drugs in our communities, often employing violence as a means to further their criminal business interests. Creating a new level of crime for aggravated drug dealing would allow courts to levy more serious penalties, giving prosecutors and law enforcement an additional tool to use in dismantling these criminal operations."

Gov. Pence told HPI on Monday, "I think in this session what you're going to see is our administration supporting efforts to make sure that we are incredibly tough on drug dealers and people who sell these poisons to our kids." ❖

The larger context for Regional Cities

By **MICHAEL HICKS**

MUNCIE – This week, the state announced the three communities who will receive funding in the first round of the Regional Cities Initiative. I have already discussed the individual plans, but now would like to lay out the larger context of the Regional Cities Initiative, what it is and is not, and why it is important to Indiana.



First, I want to dispel the notion that the regional economic development plans use traditional central planning. If that were true, I would wish to be the first to speak against them. Regional economic development plans of the type proposed in the Regional Cities Initiative are primarily priority lists drawn from the expressed interests of voters. What is striking in these plans is that most of the things listed are simply what successful Hoosier cities did a century ago to attract people into their communities.

Second, the regional nature of the effort is important. Working within regions is critical because we live in a world of scarce resources and household location decisions are heavily influenced by regional variety. It is not important that every small community have every asset, for they surely cannot. What does matter is that every region have a variety of different amenities.

Moreover, not every place has the same strengths and weaknesses. So getting together to talk through them should help city leaders discern priorities that would help them and their neighbors. The truth of this observation is best proven by the opposition to these efforts. From what

I can tell, most resistance to regional participation was motivated by the desire to avoid being associated with poorer, less successful cities nearby. And that leads me to my third point.

The Regional Cities Initiative is a significant departure from traditional local economic development policies of marketing and business attraction. This should be welcomed because those policies have woefully and almost universally failed Indiana communities and families. Since at least the 1980s, Indiana has fruitlessly chased success by attempting to lure the next factory by commoditizing its communities and workers.

So called 'investments' in speculative shell buildings and heavily incentivized businesses have been the siren song of many, though not all, local economic developers for far too long. It isn't just that policies failed to deliver prosperity. Rather in many places they made the economy worse by diverting scarce resources away from more critical needs; like schools, parks and downtowns.

Places that have focused on attracting people have fared well; think Columbus, Fishers, Kokomo, Batesville and Ft. Wayne. The prospects for all these places are good and improving. The Regional Cities Initiative will help tell the story of Hoosier cities that are not only good places to do business but also good places to make a life.

My only worry is that cities will look to this first round of funding as critical to their long-term success. In reality, the only cities that lose are those that don't continue at the hard business of making themselves places people want to move to and grow old in. ❖

Michael J. Hicks, PhD, is the director of the Center for Business and Economic Research and the George and Frances Ball distinguished professor of economics in the Miller College of Business at Ball State University.

Kenley schedules big fundraiser Jan. 4

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – Senate Appropriations Chairman Luke Kenley is taking nothing for granted in his primary race against Westfield businessman Scott Willis.

Just hours before the Indiana General Assembly cues up on Jan. 5, Kenley is having a mega-fundraiser at the Columbia Club. The hosts are big guns, including Indiana Republican Chairman Jeff Cardwell, former Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman, former GOP chairs Murray Clark, Rex Early and Mike McDaniel, and mayors John Ditslear of Noblesville and Andy Cook of Westfield.

Sponsorships run from \$1,500 to \$200.

Sources tell HPI that while Kenley is not running scared, he knows that over the past 12 years, the Republican primary can be the killing field of Senate powerhouses. In three successive election cycles between 2002 and 2006, Senate Finance Chairman Larry Borst, Senate President Pro Tem Robert Garton, and Sen. Steve Johnson were all upset in primaries.

With a fundraising prohibition for legislators during the Indiana General Assembly session running from Jan. 5 through March 15, Kenley is seizing perhaps the only viable date between the holidays and the session kickoff to raise money. In his 2014 year end financial report, Kenley raised

\$104,000 and had \$250,190 cash on hand, receiving contributions from Republican National Committeeman John Hammond III, Barnes & Thornburg lobbyist Joe Loftus, and Indiana Chamber, Indiana Manufacturing and Indiana Farm Bureau PACs.

Willis has a high profile supporter in Fred Klipsch and education reformers. When Willis announced his campaign last month, he pointed to education funding as his key issue. "Hamilton County has seen tremendous growth in the last two decades in large part due to our great schools," Willis said. "Our schools have consistently been asked to do more with less as our tax dollars are redis-

tributed throughout the state. The current school funding formula has made it extremely difficult for our schools and puts education in Hamilton County at risk."

Kenley quickly engaged, pointing out that he was the "architect of the new school funding formula which ensures growing schools receive the funding they need by having the dollars follow the student." His campaign announcement noted that he authored legislation providing record increases in education funding including \$470 million for K-12 and \$70 million in performance funding.

SB100: Wide support for rights extension

On behalf of the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce, Bellwether Research surveyed 1,295 registered voters in Indiana between Dec. 2-9. The interviews were conducted online using the same methodology employed by the NBC News/SurveyMonkey online surveys. Data were weighted by age, sex, race, education, and region to reflect registered voters in the state. Bellwether Research has conducted hundreds of telephone surveys in Indiana and brings the same careful methodological approach to online interviewing. Summary:

- 73% of those surveyed believe that Indiana state law already makes it illegal to discriminate against an LGBT person in the area of employment, housing and public accommodations.

- 62% of those surveyed support making it illegal in Indiana to discriminate against LGBT people.

- 47% of those surveyed said they would be less likely to vote for a legislator if he/she voted against protecting LGBT people from discrimination.

- 69% of those surveyed indicated they had a family member or close friend (or both) who is gay or lesbian.

A new IndyStar poll, conducted with Ball State University by Princeton Survey Research, shows Hoosiers support expanding the state civil rights law to include sexual orientation and gender identity, with 50.2 percent in favor and 35.1 percent opposed.

Presidential

Trump leads Indiana Bellwether Poll

As he does in almost every state and national poll, Donald Trump has a big lead in Indiana's Republican presidential race. A Bellwether Research Dec. 2-9 shows that Trump leads with 26% of the vote, while U.S. Sens. Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz are tied at 17%. It is the first publicly released survey in Indiana for the presidential race (Howey Politics Indiana). Dr. Ben Carson, who campaigned and raised money in Fort Wayne on Thursday, was in third with 16%, followed by Jeb Bush at 6%, U.S. Sen. Rand Paul at 5%, while Carly Fiorina and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie followed at 3%, Ohio Gov. John Kasich, Rick Santorum and Mike Huckabee all had 1%. Pollster Christine Matthew of Bellwether, noted: Trump leads among both GOP men



(26%) and GOP women (25%). As we have seen nationally, Trump fares better with non-college-educated Republicans (30%) than with those who have at least a college degree (20%). Among the roughly one in five who call themselves "very conservative," Ted Cruz has a substantial lead at 37%, followed by Trump at 27%. Trump leads among less intensely conservative and moderate Republicans.

U.S. Senate

Stutzman campaign reset

Josh Kelly is now in place managing the Senate campaign of U.S. Rep. Marlin Stutzman. Kelly is also employed by Mark It Red. FPI has been replaced by The Strategy Group as the general consultant and Harris Media is in place for digital strategy. Kelly said that with the new team in place, the campaign is gearing up its grassroots efforts. "We've got 70 county captains out of the 92 counties," Kelly said. "There is a lot of energy at the grassroots level. People are getting involved."

There has been no polling in the Senate race, but sources on the Stutzman campaign and that of U.S. Rep. Todd Young believe that both have significant support in their respective "neck of the woods," with the rest of the state in play. Young campaign manager Trevor Foughty points out that Young's reelection campaigns have run ads in the dominant Indianapolis market for several cycles now. Young also expects to have a significant cash advantage and expects a robust fourth-quarter FEC filing. Young has six field staffers in place.

All of the campaigns are watching the presidential race. All see the Super Tuesday March 8 date as key when it comes to whether they will be competing for TV time and "oxygen" with the presidential campaign. "In 2008 the Clinton and Obama campaigns sucked all of the oxygen out of other primaries," Kelly observed. "That could change our strategy. The good thing for Marlin is that he has strength within the grassroots statewide."

Foughty believes the Young campaign will be less impacted by whether the presidential circus comes to the state, citing the campaign's financial strength as a key reason.

U.S. Senate: Hill presses Muslim ban

Democratic candidate Baron Hill took a stand against Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump calling for a ban of Muslims entering the United States. "It is time we stood up to Donald Trump's paranoid rants. They violate the American principles of community, patriotism, and freedom of religion," Hill said. "Donald Trump is making us less safe. His hateful, paranoid, and discriminatory comments are the best recruitment tool ISIS could have ever dreamed for. And they are a distraction from the battle against the Islamic State. Republicans, Democrats, and Independents must come together to stand up

to his hateful and harmful rhetoric. The Republican candidates for U.S. Senate in Indiana remain shamefully silent."

Young did comment on the Trump proposal, telling the Bloomington Herald-Times, "When I served in the Marines, I learned you need your allies to defeat your enemies, especially in places like the Middle East. To win this war against radical jihadists we need the help of our Muslim allies in the region like Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey. As such, Donald Trump's comments are not only contrary to our values, but dangerous to our national security."

Eric Holcomb reacted to the Hill statement, telling HPI on Wednesday, "While serving in the US Navy I was stationed at a European NATO Headquarters for three years where we worked on mock wartime scenarios. Today, we are no longer just talking about 'mock' scenarios, we're in a real one. ISIS has attacked two NATO members, including the United States, and Russia has ignored another NATO member's air space. Baron Hill may wish to distract Hoosiers by talking about the Republican Party's presidential campaign but he ought to request his Party's sitting president to seek a formal declaration of war and lead the charge to invoke NATO's Article V."

Stutzman did write an op-ed article about the San Bernardino attack, saying, "Following the tragedy in San Bernardino, instead of working to find concrete solutions to identify and track terrorists around the globe, Democrats in Washington have chosen to push legislation allowing the attorney general to deny gun purchases using her discretion and the federal government's Terrorist Screening Database (TSDB). We can all agree that guns should be kept out of the hands of actual terrorists. However, this Democrat bill is a solution in search of a problem. First, the bill does nothing to address the fact pattern in San Bernardino. Neither Tashfeen Malik nor Syed Farooq was reported to be found in the Terrorist Screening Database. Secondly, when a national background check is run to purchase a firearm, it is already cross-referenced with the Terrorist Screening Database. If a positive match is found, an investigation is opened by the FBI in coordination with other intelligence agencies and the sale of the firearm is delayed. This is all currently being done. Lawmakers proposing this irresponsible gun control legislation should also stop to consider the implications of exposing existing surveillance and investigations. By using the Terrorist Screening Database as the key factor in preventing gun sales, we run the risk of alerting potential terrorists that they are on the list when their gun sale is delayed or not processed. Micromanaging this important process from Congress would be dangerous and terrible mistake."

Congress

2nd CD: Coleman announces

Democrat Lynn Coleman, a retired South Bend police officer and former assistant to Mayor Stephen Luecke, will challenge Republican incumbent Jackie Wal-

orski for the 2nd District congressional seat, party leaders confirmed Tuesday (Parrott, South Bend Tribune). St. Joseph County Democratic Party Chair Jason Critchlow said he's confident that Coleman can fare better across the geographically sprawling district than Joe Bock, the Democrat whom Walorski handily defeated in 2014. "He's an average guy," Critchlow said. "He has worked his entire life as a police officer and raised a family in this community. As far as working class residents go, nobody knows it better." Critchlow said Walorski, seeking her third term, is "completely out of touch with working class Hoosiers. She's never raised a family, she doesn't know what it's like. Lynn does. He's walked it." Coleman was unavailable for comment Tuesday. Democratic party leaders, including U.S. Sen. Joe Donnelly, Mayor Pete Buttigieg and state party chair John Zody had planned to attend a campaign announcement press conference on Friday at the Charles Martin Center, but later Tuesday cancelled it because the U.S. Senate will be in session, Critchlow said. Critchlow said he approached Coleman about running earlier this year, and Coleman has traveled to Washington to meet with representatives of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. He said the meeting went well, but the DCCC hasn't yet committed any funds to Coleman's campaign. Coleman has hired political fundraiser Timothy Wagner, an Elkhart native and young party operative. Wagner, when contacted for comment Tuesday, said he couldn't talk because he was "about to jump on a call," and he said he wasn't sure if Coleman would comment later Tuesday.



9th CD: Waltz comments on terror

State Sen. Brent Waltz who is seeking the 9th CD Republican nomination, reacted to President Obama's recent national address, saying, "Given the recent terrorist attacks in Paris and San Bernardino it was completely appropriate. Sadly the President missed a tremendous opportunity to reassure us that the United States was effectively dealing with the terrorist threat. Instead he chose to advance his anti-gun agenda while ignoring the growing Syrian refugee crisis. The President decided instead to focus on limiting our 2nd Amendment rights by calling upon Congress to confiscate guns belonging to citizens on the government 'no fly' list. Most Americans are thankfully not on this list at the moment, so Obama connects this list to the recent shooting in California."

Waltz continued, "First, let's all agree that no one wants terrorists to have guns. The same way nobody wants potential murderers, rapists, and armed robbers to have weapons of any kind. Using this same logic, President

Obama would want to imprison these same 'no fly' list people or perhaps take other Constitutional freedoms from them without due process of law (there are about 50,000 citizens on this list. Most have never been convicted of any crime). Furthermore, even if this gun control policy was in place before the San Bernardino attack, the terrorists would not have been stopped. Remember that Syed Farooq and Tashfeen Malik recently visited Saudi Arabia on commercial airliners shortly before they launched their deadly mission. There is absolutely nothing that would prevent Obama or his bureaucrats to add to this list using any criteria they wish; maybe any member of the National Rifle Association will be included next. Even worse, perhaps the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) should look more closely at themselves. According to Democrat Congressman Stephen Lynch. 72 DHS employees are on the United States Terrorist Watch List as of August 2015. This is absolutely insane."

General Assembly

Jaworowski seeks SD30

Suzanne "Suzie" Jaworowski, a Fishers resident and mother of four, has signaled her interest in seeking the legislative seat currently held by Republican State Sen. Scott Schneider. Jaworowski filed an exploratory committee for Indiana Senate District 30 which encompasses portions



of Washington Township and Lawrence Township in Marion County, as well as a portion stretching from Carmel to Fishers in Hamilton County. Jaworowski is the communications director for Sunrise Coal, LLC. Citing her background in market research and communications, she explained, "I believe I can be a very representative voice for this district. Much

of my career has involved listening to people and making decisions based on their input. Being a good listener is an important asset for a public servant and I look forward to the opportunity to represent my neighbors in Marion and Hamilton counties." Jaworowski vows to focus on the economy, education, and community issues while also promoting personal freedom. "When it comes to government, I believe less is more. There are situations where we need leaders to focus and I am particularly interested in helping promote solutions to attack drug abuse and mental health issues, both of which are taking a toll on our communities," said Jaworowski. She has volunteered for many candidates across the state, and serves as the Indiana co-chair for Carly Fiorina, along with Lt. Gov. Sue Ellsperman. Jaworowski is also a member of 2015 class of the Richard G. Lugar Excellence in Public Service Series. ❖

Banks looks to be early 3rd CD favorite

By MARK SOUDER

FORT WAYNE – Northeastern Indiana, viewed from the air, is defined by the Ohio line on the east, Michigan on the north, and the Indianapolis television market to the south. Politically it would look like a big “C” – standing for very conservative – surrounding Allen County in the center which is less so. In the 2010 census Allen County was counted as having 356,000 people in a congressional district of 722,000. There are four potentially strong Republican candidates in the primary.



State Sen. Liz Brown is considered the early leader because she has the most name identification from her successful and unsuccessful campaigns, and service on the Fort Wayne City Council.

State Sen. Jim Banks has served as county chairman and councilman in Whitley County, and currently represents 3rd

District counties Whitley and Huntington in the State Senate.

Kip Tom is a very wealthy farmer who lives in Kosciusko County, at the northwest edge of the district. Tom Farms has over 17,000 acres in production. WOWO’s Little Red Barn show used to call itself “the 50,000 watt voice of the big business of farming.” That would be Kip Tom today. He is personally completely unknown, but if he does put in \$800,000 of his money, Tom could become a political force. He is running as the most moderate candidate, especially on social issues. He had limited prior involvement in Republican political activities.

Dr. Pam Galloway also lives Kosciusko County. She was elected as a state senator in Wisconsin in 2010 as part of the conservative vanguard that provided the votes to support Gov. Scott Walker. Opponents desiring to oust her for supporting Walker gathered enough signatures to force her into a recall election in 2011. She then resigned, and moved to Indiana to address health care issues in her family. A Republican state representative defeated the Democrat, holding the seat for Republicans.

In Indiana, Dr. Galloway was the media contact for the victorious campaign of Curt Nisly (his seat is mostly outside the 3rd District). Nisly defeated incumbent State Rep. Rebecca Kubacki in a heated campaign. Rebecca, no wallflower and very independent, is married to Michael Kubacki, the long-time leader of Lake City Bank.

Every congressional campaign has multiple critical aspects including: 1.) market positioning, 2.) money, 3.) campaign organization, and 4.) execution of a winning

strategy under changing conditions.

The relative political market positioning is pretty clear: 1) Kip Tom is the candidate of the most liberal faction, which his donor list clearly shows; 2.) Liz Brown has strong name ID, opponents from both her winning and losing races, is very intelligent, pro-life, and slightly less conservative than Banks; 3.) Jim Banks is the most conservative across the board, isn’t as well-known as Brown but has much greater name ID than Tom or Galloway, and has broadened his base; and 4.) Pam Galloway, who may be more conservative than Banks, is working to rally Tea Party activists, is utilizing social media creatively, has little clear support inside the district, and invisible name ID so no public political identity.

In the important area of funding, there are two aspects: Contributors and personal wealth. Kip Tom has the most personal wealth, but attorney Liz Brown is married to a doctor, and Dr. Galloway is married to another Dr. Galloway. Banks does not have the same personal resources as the other three candidates. Banks, however, is far ahead in fund-raising from donors other than himself, and has national conservative financial support. Kip Tom has impressively raised funds from business contacts and more liberal Republicans and Democrats, thus far not dipping into his own money. Brown has a somewhat narrow base of contributors (a problem that plagued her in other races) and, like Galloway, has been self-funding. Self-funding provides essential cash but does not build a network of people invested in you winning.

The Banks campaign organization is running circles around the other candidates. He has re-assembled most of the key workers of my congressional campaigns, especially nearly all the younger leaders. Banks has the most district-based volunteers. He has the nearly unanimous support of major conservative groups exemplified by Club for Growth, Tea Party Express, Family Research Council PAC, and Combat Veterans for Congress PAC. Dan Coats’ regional director Paul Lagemann supports him as does long-time Marlin Stutzman district director and State Sen. Carlin Yoder. Banks has county coordinators in every county. His support in Allen County is astounding, including Senate President David Long, State Reps. Casey Cox of the important north east Allen area and Chris Judy of the also critical Aboite area (where newly elected Aboite region city councilman Jason Arp also supports Banks).

Paula Hughes, who defeated Brown in the Fort Wayne mayoral primary and Linda Buskirk, another Fort Wayne Republican mayoral nominee, have both endorsed Banks. So has former Sheriff Ken Fries, county commissioner Therese Brown, New Haven Mayor Terry McDonald, three county councilmen, and Fort Wayne councilmen Tom Didier, Russ Jehl and Tom Smith. The major Allen County Republican donors and conservative donors also back Banks. Banks has an outside Allen County political base, and yet is dominating early in Allen County. The other candidates have not announced elected officials willing to put their reputation at risk through public endorsement,

though some such as State Rep. Bob Morris, clearly support Brown.

In execution, the Banks campaign has led in every visible area: Parades, Republican events, earned media, and phone banking. This race is far from over because all four candidates are qualified to represent northeast Indiana in Congress. But it does appear that the primary question will be whether Banks can raise enough money, which combined with his organization, can offset heavily

self-funded campaigns likely to focus negative ads against him. It isn't like the old days of politics where the best organized candidate automatically wins but the power of grassroots organization in a primary should never be underestimated. While all candidates still could win, the likely Republican nominee and next Congressman at this point would seem to be Jim Banks. ❖

Souder is a former Republican congressman.

Shooting at the 2nd Amendment

By JACK COLWELL

SOUTH BEND – There they go again. Rat-a-tat-tat.

They shoot at our 2nd Amendment constitutional right to buy, possess and fire the guns of our choice. They shoot at what the Founding Fathers intended. They shoot off their mouths again in calls for gun control. Why? Just because some people were killed in San Bernardino, Calif., in what the mainstream media sensationalize as "a mass shooting" and "gun violence."



Even in South Bend and Mishawaka, we hear and see the local lamescheme media play up shootings. Well, shootings happen in communities with so many people of

foreign descent, like the Potawatomie Indians. And there are all those blacks. All those descendents of immigrants from Poland, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Belgium and England. So don't blame guns. Guns didn't kill those people in San Bernardino. Terrorists did.

Also, a so-called "mass shooting," defined as leaving four or more people dead or wounded, isn't that unusual, doesn't deserve all that attention. In America, there's an average of more than one mass shooting a day. Through the day of the little California incident, 462 people had died and 1,314 had been injured in 2015 mass shootings. So why the big deal about just 14 dead and 21 only wounded in San Bernardino? It's reported even in the mainstream media that national statistics project that an average of 88 other people likely died in "gun violence" elsewhere in the United States on that day. So why sensationalize the 14?

Still, even some conservative commentators shamefully join in saying restrictions are needed, restrictions on our amazing assault rifles and on the folks who

can purchase them. There they go again. Rat-a-tat-tat.

They say we should keep people on no-fly terrorist lists from buying guns. No! Beware the slippery slope, sliding toward confiscation of all our guns. Keep terrorists from getting guns and next the opponents of 2nd Amendment rights will want to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and then away from those with severe mental problems. One step leads to another. Then the government, starting with a no-fly list, moves to take away all of our guns. If the Founding Fathers wanted to keep people on no-fly terrorist lists from buying guns, they would have put that in the 2nd Amendment. If they wanted to ban assault rifles, they would have said so instead of writing an amendment only about militias.

Another reason not to be upset about the people shot in California is that they weren't true Americans. It's reported that not one had a gun. A true American like Jerry Falwell Jr., president of Liberty University, told students he packs heat and they should, too. Said Falwell, "I've always thought if more good people had concealed carry permits then we could end those Muslims before they walked in killing . . ."

He's right. I'm going to encourage all of my Notre Dame journalism students to carry guns to class. There are Muslim students at Notre Dame. What if one walked into our classroom? Notre Dame also has black students and foreign students even from the Middle East and New Jersey. Where will this dangerous diversity end?

We must encourage more gun purchases. San Bernardino helped a lot. Especially with President Obama responding with such sympathy for the insignificant 14 and begging once more for gun controls. This was a blessing for the gun industry and the National Rifle Association. Gun sales now boom. Market value of gun industry stocks skyrockets. National Rifle Association support expands, providing more money for the NRA to buy Congress.

With each of the mass shootings that will come now as fast as bullets fly from an assault rifle, we will hear the same sounds – familiar gunfire and familiar calls from those who seek to take away our 2nd Amendment rights.

There they go again. Rat-a-tat-tat. ❖

Colwell has covered Indiana politics over five decades for the South Bend Tribune.

Russ Pulliam, IndyStar: Testing, testing, testing. Top political and educational leaders agree there's too much of it in Indiana schools. But they don't have a consensus on a remedy. One proposal: Get rid of ISTEP, which has outlived its usefulness. It doesn't measure student improvement. The new version has growing pains and is getting bad grades from school leaders in response to declining scores. An influential state senator, Luke Kenley of Noblesville, wants to abolish the test and let school districts shop for the best national exam, such as Iowa, Stanford or NWEA. Kenley, head of the Senate Appropriations Committee, saw his proposal adopted by the Senate but not the House earlier this year. Senate Education Committee Chairman Dennis Kruse is a long-time opponent of the ISTEP test too. "I don't think Indiana needs to have our own tests," he said. "We can use a national test to determine where kids are." Abolishing ISTEP, he adds, will save several million dollars, and could be reassigned to teacher salaries. Another proposal from the other side of the political aisle: President Barack Obama wants to limit testing time to 2 percent of school hours. Legislators keep hearing about the overtesting. In some states frustrated parents have organized boycotts, or opt-outs, to protest the time spend on tests. Daleville Elementary School Principal Kimberly Beard, a 28-year veteran in schools, asked a legislative study committee for relief earlier this year. "Our instructional time is spent on preparing for tests, taking tests, retaking tests," she complained. "The accountability is important, but we are sacrificing our children's well-being and mental health for a school grade and teacher evaluation. I see kids melt down and cry in the middle of a long test." ISTEP likely won't be abandoned in the short legislative session starting next month. The General Assembly will try to adjust for declining scores on a harder test. The new version of the exam already is in the two-year state budget. By the 2017 session, watch for a major move in the General Assembly to get rid of ISTEP and simplify the assessment process. Each test seems to have some value, but plenty of educators and parents want to get back to education. ❖



Charles Krauthammer, Washington Post: So how exactly does this work, Donald Trump's plan to keep America safe from Islamic terrorism by barring entry to all Muslims? He explained it Tuesday on TV. The immigration official will ask the foreigner if he's a Muslim. "And if they said, 'yes,' they would not be allowed in the country?" Trump: "That's correct." Brilliant. And very economical. That is, if you think that bloodthirsty terrorists — "people that believe only in Jihad, and have no sense of reason or respect for human life," as Trump describes them — will feel honor-bound to tell the truth to an infidel immigration officer. They kill wantonly but, like George Washington, cannot tell a lie. On this logic hinges the great Maginot

Line with which Trump will protect America from jihad. I decline to join the chorus denouncing the Trump proposal as offensive and un-American. That's too obvious. What I can't get over is its sheer absurdity. Here's a suggestion (borrowed from my Fox News colleague Chris Stirewalt) to shore it up. At every immigration station at every airport in America, we will demand that every potential entrant — immigrant, refugee, student or tourist — eat a bacon sandwich. You refuse? Back home you go! ❖

Aaron M. Renn, City Journal: Like a character in a Greek tragedy, Chicago mayor Rahm Emanuel's hubris has done him in. Already reeling from a host of intractable big-city problems—ranging from a financial inferno to chaos at the Chicago Public Schools (CPS)—a new scandal involving the suppression of a video showing the Chicago police shoot and kill 17 year-old Laquan McDonald has his administration on the brink of collapse. It didn't have to be this way. Emanuel was elected mayor in 2011 as the handpicked successor to the flagging Richard M. Daley. He entered office like a whirlwind, giving the city a badly needed jolt of energy. Immediately putting his Rolodex to work, Emanuel jawboned major corporate CEOs into committing to add thousands of jobs in Chicago. He announced an innovative financing program called the Chicago Infrastructure Trust with former president Bill Clinton. He made a push for a longer school day in the mayorally controlled CPS. He unveiled a major legacy project in the form of a lavish \$100 million Riverwalk. Fear of chaos bred into the civic psyche a longing for a City Hall Caesar. Emanuel fit the bill perfectly and was wholly embraced by the establishment. Even when he crossed the line, Emanuel commanded respect for his fighting spirit and willingness to go to the mat for his city. When CNN produced a reality show called Chicagoland, e-mails revealed that Emanuel and the producers had coordinated to portray both him and the city in a positive light. How many other mayors in America would have the audacity to attempt such a thing? Emanuel's leadership style came with fatal flaws. A political street-fighter by inclination, he lacks an operational orientation. He didn't appear to grasp the scope of the city's financial problems until four years after he was first elected, when Chicago's bond rating was cut to junk. His infrastructure trust fizzled. The schools went from bad to worse, with his first CPS leader forced out and his second pleading guilty to corruption. He didn't get it that Chicago's police department hadn't been fundamentally reformed the way New York's and Los Angeles's had been. Emanuel's governing style has been all tactics, no strategy. ❖

House GOP eyes gas, cig tax hike

INDIANAPOLIS — House Republicans will propose increasing taxes on cigarettes and gasoline to pay for construction and maintenance of state and local roads throughout Indiana (Carden, NWI Times). House Speaker Brian Bosma declared Wednesday the state needs “responsible, comprehensive, sustainable solutions” to its road funding quandary, and short-term, partial fixes that put off tough decisions until after the 2016 elections aren’t good enough. “It’s time for a strong adult conversation about maintaining our reputation and slogan as ‘The Crossroads of America,’” Bosma said at the annual Bingham Greenebaum Doll Legislative Conference. The law firm sponsors the conference every December before the January start of the legislative session. He explained House Bill 1001, co-sponsored by state Rep. Ed Soliday, R-Valparaiso, will propose adding \$1 to the state’s \$0.995 existing cigarette tax to shift Medicaid health care costs attributable to smoking onto tobacco users. That will free up approximately \$300 million from the state’s general fund for roads, and put Indiana on course to dedicating all the revenue collected through the 7 percent sales tax on gasoline purchases to highway construction and maintenance. “Hoosiers, when they buy a gallon of gas, presume that every penny they pay either buys the gas or pays a tax that funds roads, and they deserve to have that presumption fulfilled,” Bosma said. Bosma said the legislation also will add 5 or 6 cents to the 18 cents per gallon state gasoline tax and index the gas tax to inflation. “Some will say that’s a tax increase. Well, it’s a revenue enhancement,” Bosma said. “Most Hoosiers realize that we’ve got to fund an infrastructure that’s got a lot of wear and tear on it and they’re willing to do it, according to those I’ve



Bosma surprised by 3 RC winners

INDIANAPOLIS – Details about the upcoming legislative session began to take shape Wednesday at an annual legislative conference, including possible tax increases for roads and cigarettes, as well as debate over more money for the Regional Cities Initiative (Kelly, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). House Speaker Brian Bosma said the governor deserves credit for pushing the Regional Cities Initiative – a program aimed at getting areas of the state to collaborate together and plan for quality of place improvements to attract workers and families. The legislature was skeptical but eventually allocated \$84 million in funding from a tax amnesty program. But Gov. Mike Pence announced Tuesday that three communities – including northeast Indiana – would receive \$42 million each. “I was surprised about the announcement of three selections which exceeded by about \$40 million the amount allocated,” Bosma, a Republican, said at a Bingham Greenebaum Doll event. “A phone call probably would have been in order from the administration on that.” Pence is pushing a bill this session to keep the promise of the awards. “The governor and the administration have set it up so there will be disappointment if we don’t do it, so we’ll have to have the conversation,” Bosma said. “I think legislators feel pretty good about the whole initiative, generally speaking, so I think it’s a go,” Sen. Joe Zakas, a Republican from Granger, said Wednesday (Elkhart Truth).

Med device makers hopeful of tax cut

FORT WAYNE - The 2.3 percent tax on medical device sales would be suspended for two years in a package of tax breaks Congress is

expected to vote on today and Friday (Francisco, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). The provision was endorsed Wednesday by trade groups representing device makers that pay the excise tax. The industry employs 20,000 people in Indiana, many of whom work for orthopedic device manufacturers in and around Warsaw. Asked whether legislation to extend expiring tax credits is the best place for the latest effort to eliminate the device tax, Kathy Heuer, executive director of the Indiana Medical Device Manufacturers Council, said, “Right now, it appears to be the only place for it.” Heuer said the package “is the furthest we’ve been able to get with it.” The Republican-led House voted 280-140 in June to repeal the tax, but the GOP-run Senate has not considered the measure. The tax, which took effect in 2013, helps fund the Affordable Care Act. Heuer called the tax-breaks package “a double-edged sword” for trying to suspend the device tax. A Jan. 1 deadline to renew various expiring tax credits is forcing congressional action, she said, but the inclusion of so many provisions in one piece of legislation could draw opposition from lawmakers otherwise inclined to suspend the device tax.

Morrison files fantasy sports bill

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana lawmakers may consider regulations on daily fantasy sports sites during the 2016 session, potentially creating an additional stream of revenue for the state (Osowski, Evansville Courier & Press). Rep. Alan Morrison, R-Terre Haute, said Wednesday he will author a bill introducing regulations for online fantasy companies such as DraftKings and FanDuel. The use of those sites, which offer cash payouts to winners, has exploded over the last few years, and various states are starting to enact legislation to deal with the industry..