

Banks: Trump holds in ‘phantom’ blue wave

Despite tariffs, GOP congressman sees Trump fending off Democratic gains

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – Intertwined in the publishing legacy of Howey Politics Indiana is 3rd CD Republicanism. At our founding in 1994 in Fort Wayne, Mark Souder was on the precipice of



upsetting U.S. Rep. Jill Long and is now a content contributor today. This Republican bastion

has been the launching pad of other astute political strategists, most notably former Vice President Dan Quayle and National Intelligence Director Dan Coats.

U.S. Rep. Jim Banks is very



U.S. Rep. Jim Banks doesn't believe a "blue wave" will sweep the GOP from power. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

much out of the same mold. The modern northeastern Indiana Republican congressman brings a cunning type of conservatism to Washington. It is one of practicality, pragmatism and understanding the world around them. In Banks case, he has applied nose-to-grindstone to learn and then champion the state's defense sector as a member of the House Armed Services Committee. It is a sector which has been in atrophy over the past generation.

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INDems avoid the I word

By **MARK SCHOEFF JR.**

WASHINGTON – Last week, President Donald Trump's legal woes reached a new depth when his former personal lawyer pleaded guilty to breaking campaign-finance laws and implicated Trump.

But Democrats running for Congress in Indiana are avoiding the issue of impeachment.

"That's not something I'm hearing about on the campaign trail," Liz Watson, who is running for the 9th CD seat held by Rep. Trey Hollingsworth, said in an HPI interview.

She and other Democrats are supporting Special Counsel Robert Mueller's probe into Russian interference in the 2016 election.



“We weaken our greatness when we confuse our patriotism with tribal rivalries that have sown resentment and hatred and violence in all the corners of the globe. We weaken it when we hide behind walls, rather than tear them down.” - Sen. McCain



Howey Politics Indiana
WHowey Media, LLC 405
Massachusetts Ave., Suite
300 Indianapolis, IN 46204
www.howeypolitics.com

Brian A. Howey, Publisher
Mark Schoeff Jr., Washington
Cameron Carter, Editor
Joel Weyrauch, Editor
Mary Lou Howey, Editor
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Emeritus

Subscriptions

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Ray Volpe, Account Manager
317.602.3620
email: HoweyInfo@gmail.com

Contact HPI

bhowey2@gmail.com
Howey's cell: 317.506.0883
Washington: 202.256.5822
Business Office: 317.602.3620

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Neither the guilty plea by erstwhile Trump lawyer Michael Cohen nor the conviction last week of former Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort on tax and bank fraud were related to whether the Trump campaign colluded with Russia. "It's important that these investigations play out," Watson said.

Republican Senate candidate Mike Braun on Monday tried to coax incumbent Democratic Sen. Joe Donnelly into a debate over Trump's fate by putting out a statement headlined: "Does Donnelly Want to Impeach President Trump?"

Donnelly didn't take the bait.

"I'm first and foremost focused on my job serving Hoosiers in the Senate," Donnelly said in a statement released by his campaign. "I'm closely following the developments in our legal system and, as I've said, Special Counsel Mueller should follow the facts wherever they lead."

There was similar circumspection in the 2nd CD from Democratic candidate Mel Hall, who is running against incumbent Republican Jackie Walorski.

"As Mel continues to travel to all 10 counties of the 2nd District, he hears the same two things from Hoosiers: Washington is broken, and what are you going to do about my health care?" Hall campaign manager Max Harris said in a statement. "From Day 1 of this campaign, Mel has promised to get Washington working again for Hoosier families and that will continue to be his focus."

Republicans also are loath to address Trump's growing legal entanglements.

"Hoosiers sent Jackie Walorski to Congress to fight for them, and that's what she is staying 100 percent focused on," Walorski campaign manager Stephen Simonetti said in a statement. "Whenever Jackie isn't traveling around the 2nd District talking to Hoosiers, she's working toward commonsense solutions like protecting our farmers and manufacturers from the negative impact of tariffs, addressing the opioid crisis and the rising cost of health care and making sure our

veterans get the care they earned."

Even though Watson avoids the topic of impeachment, she said Trump's legal troubles add to recent Republican ethical stumbles. For instance, Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., was indicted on campaign-finance violations last week and Rep. Chris Collins, R-N.Y., was recently charged with securities law violations.

"This is part and parcel of the corruption that's gripping Washington these days," Watson said. "The corruption and greed in Washington is something I do hear about [from voters]."

Last week, Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., introduced sweeping legislation, the Anti-Corruption and Public Integrity Act, that would place strict limits on lobbying, curb corporate influence on legislation and regulations, stop the revolving door through which industry officials transition to government jobs and back and require greater government transparency.

Watson paints Hollingsworth with the corruption brush. She links his fundraising to votes to end the Affordable Care Act and to enact tax cuts that she says hurt voters in the district and help Hollingsworth.

Hollingsworth's largest contributors come from the insurance and securities and investment industries and the commercial banking sector, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. He sits on the House Financial Services Committee.

"He's clearly responsive to whoever writes the biggest campaign check," said Watson, who is on break from teaching in the Indiana University law and public policy schools while running for Congress.

Putting more weight on the views of campaign contributors than the needs of district residents "is the very definition of corruption," Watson said.

A Hollingsworth spokesperson did not respond to a request for comment.

Watson said voters frequently tell her about challenges they face paying medical bills. It's an issue that

she said is being ignored by Hollingsworth and other congressional Republicans.

"People in the 9th District have important problems that we want addressed, and we're tired of a Washington that isn't paying attention," Watson said. District voters "are sick of the circus in Washington."

Trump's visit to Evansville later this week, in the district right next door to hers, doesn't faze Watson.

"I would challenge Trey Hollingsworth to take a stand and to challenge the president to do so to protect Medicare, to protect Social Security, to protect health care – and not take us back to the bad old days when people

with pre-existing conditions couldn't get insurance," she said.

It's health care, not Trump's legal morass, that animates Watson, a former labor policy director on the House Education and Workforce Committee. She said that she supports both Medicare for All and preserving the Affordable Care Act.

"We can have a big vision and we can protect the Medicaid expansion that helped hundreds of thousands of Hoosiers get insurance," she said. ❖

Schoeff is HPI's Washington correspondent.

Rep. Banks, from page 1

To follow Banks is to find him showing up at Muscatatuck, Atterbury, Crane, and air reserve wings at Fort Wayne, Peru and Terre Haute. He's built vivid relationships with National Guard Adjutant Gen. Courtney Carr and knows the execs and the strategic plans for Rolls-Royce, AM General, General Dynamics and other Hoosier defense contractors.

The 3rd is also an American breadbasket, giving farmers an out-sized relevance, and it is a manufacturing center. Look at a map of auto suppliers and the 3rd CD is covered with dots. It is also one of the biggest steel producing districts in the nation.

When we sat down with Rep. Banks for this HPI Interview we were mindful of his political astuteness, one that has been developed statewide beginning with former congressman John Hostettler. In GOP circles, it is easy to find Republican leaders who envision Banks with a higher title preceding his name in the not-so-distant future.

So what's Banks' basic political message? The so-called "blue wave" is a phantom. Despite considerable anxiety on the farm over President Trump's tariffs, the president's popularity in deep, deep red Northeastern Indiana is unflagging. "I believe the blue wave is fictitious," Banks told HPI. "I believe we'll see something different on Election Day."

Part of such optimism may be the Republican-produced maps of 2011 which show little chance for Democratic pickups in the Congress. Most observers we talk to believe that even with an emphatic Democratic wave, Democratic gains in the Indiana House and Senate will be modest. Perhaps the best case scenario is an end to the GOP super majority status in one chamber.



FiveThirtyEight provided grist for the Hoosier congressional assessment. While it gives Democrats a 74% chance to retaking the U.S. House, it will come with none of the nine Indiana CDs in play. Republicans have a 90% chance or better to win six of the seven seats they hold and it gives Rep. Trey Hollingsworth a 76.9% chance of defeating Democrat Liz Watson in the 9th CD and Rep. Jackie Walorski a 92% chance of fending off Mel Hall in what some Democrats thought would be a pickup opportunity in the 2nd CD.

David Wasserman of the Cook Political Report put the Democratic House gain forecast in the 20- to 40-seat range. "The most critical phase of the battle for the House isn't October; it's right now," Wasserman explained. "Republicans' only hope of defying a 'Blue Wave' and saving their 23-seat House majority is to personally disqualify Democratic nominees on a race-by-race basis with quality opposition research. But there's a narrow window of time to do so before the airwaves get clogged, and Republicans will need to be selective."

In an NBC/Wall Street Journal Poll released on Sunday, Democrats had an 8% advantage on the congressional generic question, up from 6% earlier in the month. But when it comes to President Trump, his 46% approval (with 51% disapproving) in the first of two surveys (the other had Trump at 44% approval prior to the Cohen/ Manafort stories)) shows a base holding, even in the wake of key associates such as Michael Cohen, David Pecker and Trump Organization CFO Allen Weisselberg pleading guilty or getting prosecutorial immunity by the Manhattan district attorney (which is a part from the Robert Mueller Russian collusion probe). Trump's approval seems to be expanding well beyond his hard-core base once thought to be in the 35-40% range.

Republican pollster Bill McInturff of Public Opinion

Strategies, who conducted the NBC/WSJ survey, called Trump's approval rating "remarkably stable" despite the Paul Manafort convictions and Cohen, Pecker and Weisselberg developments.

Trump's base, even the evangelical wing, doesn't care that he has had numerous adulterous affairs and has paid off porn stars and playmates. Or that he denigrates women, minorities, and even the late U.S. Sen. John McCain, with Trump initially refusing to issue a tribute statement (beyond a tweet) while the White House flags were at full staff Monday morning. After mounting pressure from Vice President Mike Pence, COS John Kelly and the American Legion, the flag was lowered late Monday afternoon and Trump issued a statement.

The wild card here is Mueller and whether he will drop any indictments on the Russian collusion probe, or issue a broad statement. On this front, Banks has been one of the few Hoosier Republicans to state emphatically that the Mueller investigation must be completed without interference from the White House. In October 2017, Banks reacted to the Manafort indictment by saying, "I and many other Republicans vowed to support Mueller investigation and allow it to work its way through process to get the facts. In light of today's indictments we must continue to support and allow the integrity of the process to work."

Banks reiterated his belief that the Mueller probe be completed, though he said it should happen sooner than later.

Howey Politics Indiana sat down with Banks at a north Indianapolis Starbucks on Aug. 17 to talk about his first reelection bid against Democrat Courtney Tritch and the U.S. Senate race he describes as a pure tossup. He disputes much of the national perception that a Democratic wave election is at hand. And he reports that the Indiana Republican Party is working hand in glove with Republicans up and down the ballot on turnout and finance. Banks also believes that the Kremlin is intent on disrupting the mid-term elections this fall.

His district is ground zero on President Trump's tariff and looming trade war. Banks, R-Columbia City, describes his constituent farmers as "anxious" but willing to stick with the president on some of his long-term trade goals. Ditto for the many manufacturers that dot his northeastern Indiana district. And Banks cited headway in the developing farm bill while lauding President Trump and bipartisanship in Congress for delivering in early fashion the National Defense Authorization legislation that he says treats Indiana's military installations and businesses well.

Here is our conversation with Rep. Banks.

HPI: Where do you think your reelection campaign is?

Banks: We're in a very strong position. All of our internal polling and all evidence is we'll do very well on Election Day in November. The president remains very popular in the district. The Republican agenda has been

well received, the economic news has been tremendous.

HPI: With the economic benchmarks, President Trump should be wildly popular. Maybe in the 60th percentile.

Banks: In the 3rd District, his popularity is not going to hurt my chances on Election Day. Nationally, it doesn't appear it's going to hurt members of the Republican Party in a lot of races that otherwise would have been contested, where it would have been an issue. The 3rd District here in Indiana has the lowest unemployment we've had since the year 2000. Indiana is almost a full percentage point less than what it is around the country. At the end of the day, the voters in the 3rd District like what they see out of Washington and they want more of it. It's the most Republican district in the state and we've worked so hard over the last two years to represent the conservative nature of the district and we are optimistic heading into November.



U.S. Rep. Jim Banks makes a point to President Trump in an Oval Office meeting in 2017.

HPI: How do you see this all playing out nationally?

Banks: If you look at my opponent, and Trey's opponent in the 9th, these are very left-wing opponents. Trey and I both have a record. It's the same record. We've worked hard – supporting the tax cuts, rebuilding the military, reforming the VA to make it more accountable and make it work better for our veterans. There's a strong record coming out of this Congress. Juxtapose that with a Democratic Party that's moved further and further to the left, and even independent voters in the State of Indiana say they're troubled by what they're hearing from the left, the abolish ICE rhetoric. There's a reason why Joe Donnelly is campaigning on building the wall, which is very different from some of the candidates who are playing to the base of the Democratic Party to abolish ICE, repealing the tax cuts. I have never heard Joe Donnelly talk about repealing the tax cuts. Yet Democrats like my opponent want to repeal the tax cuts. The impeach Trump rhetoric ...

HPI: Will just turn out his base ...

Banks: It will turn out his base.

HPI: You would almost want that.

Banks: I don't know if I would put it that way, but there's no doubt about it, that rhetoric turns off voters in the middle and fires up voters in the Republican base. That's what I hear from the supporters of my opponent on a daily basis and that's why I believe the blue wave is fictitious and I believe we'll see something different on Election Day.

HPI: How do you perceive the U.S. Senate race here?

Banks: We're the most Republican district in the state and Republicans are organized in my district. Kyle Hupfer is running the best state party I've seen. No disrespect to other state chairmen, but as a member of Congress working with the state party, it's been a tremendous experience. They are organized, running a program and every Republican incumbent is investing in that program like they've never invested before. We have door-to-door and daily activities in my district coordinated with the state party which is going to turn out Republicans in a way I haven't seen in my recent experience working with state parties in recent years. That's going to help Mike Braun, it's going to turn out Republican voters for me and all up and down the ballot. I cannot say enough about our state ticket with Tera Klutz, Kelly Mitchell and Connie Lawson. We have a tremendous statewide ticket of three women who are going to turn out Republican women. That's going to benefit Mike Braun on Election Day. That said, Joe's running hard and he has the apparatus of the national Democratic Party behind him and it's a true tossup race that's going to go down to the wire.

HPI: A two-prong question on President Trump's tariffs: It seems like farmers and manufacturers are hanging in there on this. They're nervous but they think the president has, as Mike Braun explained to me earlier this month, a long game. How nervous are they about the short game? And what are you seeing from the president on the long game? Do you believe he has a way to use the tariffs to leverage China? The New York Times reported earlier this week that the Chinese are beginning to get nervous about the impacts of a trade war.

Banks: I have vocally disagreed with the president's approach from the beginning. As a free trader, there's a lot of reasons that farmers and manufacturers in my district are anxious about where we're heading. That being said, what we find when we talk to farmers and manufacturing leaders in my district, they understand

what the president is trying to address, especially vis-a-vis China. I serve on the Armed Services Committee and I see a lot of this from a national security perspective as well as a free trade perspective, and ratcheting up pressure on China is the right thing to do. There's a lot of anxiety about the tariffs, but all of us want the president to succeed in these efforts.

HPI: Do you see a coherent strategy from President Trump?

Banks: I have no doubt the president is playing a larger – the cliché of three-dimensional chess might be unfair – but I have no doubt that is in play. I see him surrounding himself with people who are advising him on a daily basis from a trade and national security perspective, but I'm not privy to what that strategy entails or what it might lead to in the future. I share my concern that the farmers in my district have that the hurt will be applied

sooner rather than later and the longer term repercussions of this ... there's a lot of good reasons for farmers, and my district has, per capita, more manufacturing jobs than any in the country, and plus we're one of the top five or six steel producing districts in the country, so there are interests at play here. All of us would like to see some type of truce like we've seen with the European Union occur on a broader scale sooner rather than later.

HPI: Two areas near and dear to your heart are the farm bill that is taking shape

as well as the Defense Authorization Act. About a year ago, we were down at Muscatatuck together...

Banks: On the farm bill, the House passed our version, the Senate passed their version and it includes my full WOTUS repeal (Waters of the U.S. Act). That's included in the House version but not the Senate version. I'm pushing the conference committee to repeal WOTUS. The bigger debate is over work requirements for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). These are very modest work requirements but important policy a lot of us in the House are hoping for, and why every Democrat voted against the farm bill because of the work requirements. The conservatives in the House are pushing for the final conference committee farm bill to include the work requirements. At the end of the day, both the House and Senate have passed the farm bill. We've done our job. I don't see any reason why we'll have to extend the farm bill. The farmers are happy about that.

HPI: And the defense bill?

Banks: The NDA is something I've spent so much



Rep. Banks meets with Northeastern Indiana farmers last week.

more of my time on a daily basis.

HPI: Did Indiana fare well on that?

Banks: President Trump signed the NDA at Fort Drum in New York. This is the earliest the NDA has been signed in decades. There was broad, bipartisan support for the NDA. It's \$717 billion for Fiscal Year 2019 and this catches us up even more than last year did. It replaces the cuts we saw over the last 10 years and Indiana makes out well from sonabuys (made by Erapsco) in Columbia City, the F-35 engines at Rolls-Royce, continued funding for military assets we have in this state. It doesn't just restore the military to keep us safe, it gives our troops the largest pay increase in a decade. It also invests in a lot of Indiana-related defense businesses that have taken a hit over the past several years.

HPI: A year ago you and General Carr were concentrating on that triangle between Atterbury, Crane and Muscatatuck. How did they make out?

Banks: All of them made out very well with continued support for what they do. In this year's NDA, we focus more on the strategic nature of competing against Russia and China who have superseded us in different technologies, like supersonic missiles and other technologies. Crane is on the forefront of so much that most of us don't know about, that some of us only know about in classified documents. There is a lot of important research there and the NDA does a great job of supporting that.

HPI: Do you back the Space Force that Vice President Pence announced earlier this month? Or would you rather have the Air Force handle that?

Banks: I'm not sure what the right solution is. I do support some new collaborative effort. I'm only hesitating because I support last year's NDA and this year's NDA because the vision on the House Armed Services Committee was something akin to the Marines, under the Department of the Navy, under the Department of the Air Force. I think the president is going down the track of setting up an entire new branch of Space Force. At the end of the day, he's on the right track. All of the briefings I've been to since I've been on the committee show a disjointed nature of every branch having overlapping jurisdictions in space. We need to pull it all together so there's one owner, one entity that's accountable for our national security elements on the space front.

HPI: The Russian hacking of the mid-term elections, are you concerned about that?

Banks: Absolutely. Director Coats put it quite well that we can't ignore the reality of what happened in the last election. We have to be aware of the vulnerabilities that occurred of the next election and protect our election system. I'm not naive that Russia won't continue to pursue

ways to interfere in our election process and we need to be aware of it and do everything we can to prevent it.

HPI: At Helsinki, Presidents Trump and Putin met for two hours alone. Director Coats has said on several occasions he doesn't know what they talked about. When I talked to Sen. Donnelly who sits on the Armed Services Committee, he says he and his colleagues don't know what was discussed. Does that concern you?

Banks: Yes. Director Coats was chosen by this president to oversee one of the most important intelligence agencies overseeing the broader intelligence agen-



Rep. Banks listens to Indiana National Guard Adj. Gen. Courtney Carr while flying over the Muscatatuck Urban Warfare Center in August 2017. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

cies on behalf of our national security. It is disappointing he was not in the room and aware of what these discussions were about. None of us know what they talked about in private.

HPI: I find that astounding and troubling. I believe President Trump left himself open for speculation and conjecture when he could have had John Bolton or Mike Pompeo in the room that could have ...

Banks: At the same time, we have to separate the rhetoric of the administration and the misguided, or the unfortunate fact of the reality, of what this administration has done. I do give this administration credit for what President Obama didn't do which is to give lethal aid to Ukraine. I was in Ukraine a year ago on the eastern front and this president has provided lethal weapons to Ukraine. The NDA he signed on Monday includes substantial funding for ongoing military exercises in Eastern Europe. There are the toughest sanctions we've had in this generation, and while some of that is congressionally motivated the administration deserves some credit for being as tough on Russia as any president since Reagan. ❖

Braun to join Trump in 'zero tolerance' era

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

NASHVILLE, Ind. – When Attorney General Curtis Hill left the Indiana Republican Convention in Evansville last June, social conservatives were whispering in his ear about a potential 2020 primary challenge to Gov. Eric Holcomb after he helped defeat a marriage platform plank change. Next week, when President Trump comes to



Evansville to campaign for Republican Senate nominee Mike Braun, Hill won't be there.

On July 2, we learned that a female state legislator and three General Assembly staffers had made sexual harassment allegations

against Hill, which are now being investigated by the state's inspector general and a special prosecutor. Three days later, Gov. Holcomb, Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, Republican legislative leaders and Braun began cascading and coordinated calls for Hill to resign, citing "zero tolerance" for sexual harassment. Holcomb explained the allegations "are disturbing and, at a minimum, show a violation of the state's zero tolerance sexual harassment policy." Crouch explained, "The governor believes the women who came forward. Those actions violate the state's zero tolerance policy."

So, at 7 p.m. CDT Thursday at the Ford Center, a fascinating juxtaposition will be there for all to see. Braun will rally with President Trump, who has been accused by upward of 20 women of sexual harassment or assault. Some of these women – models, porn stars, journalists, an "Apprentice" contestant and even a Miss Utah – have gone on the record, speaking to the Palm Beach Post, NBC's "Today with Megyn Kelly," the Washington Post, USA Today, BuzzFeed, Huffpo and the New York Times.

Beyond these women, the story of Trump payoffs to porn star Stormy Daniels and Playmate Karen McDougal blew up in his face this past week as his attorney/fixer Michael Cohen pleaded guilty to making illegal payoffs to buy their silence just before the November 2016 election. Essentially, Cohen implicated Trump in a federal campaign finance crime. Trump had denied the payoffs, but told Fox

News on Wednesday, that his first question "when I heard about" the payments was whether they had "come out of the campaign, because that could be a little dicey." The New York Times reported on Thursday that according to a 22-page court filing, two senior executives in the Trump organization made other payoffs on his behalf in order to silence women on extramarital affairs. So, stay tuned, folks.

Braun's dilemma is this: He needs President Trump's sprawling Hoosier base to turn out for him in his challenge to U.S. Sen. Joe Donnelly. But as race after race after race proves, Braun can't win with just Republicans. Even in Indiana there aren't enough of them. He also needs independent voters. He needs moderate, suburban, educated women who live in the doughnut counties around Indianapolis, in the Louisville suburbs, and in places like Crown Point and Valparaiso.

On this front, Trump could be a millstone for Braun. In a recent NBC/Wall Street Journal national poll, 64% of college-educated white women said they disapproved of Trump's performance in office and 60% said they preferred Democrats for Congress, while just 30% wanted Republicans. In a Monmouth University poll, Democrats led among college-educated white women by 57-38%.

"Not the kind of numbers that gets you a date to the prom, or helps your party as the midterm elections ap-



Attorney General Curtis Hill speaking at President Trump's rally for Senate nominee Mike Braun in Elkhart on May 8. Braun called for Hill to resign in July due to sexual harassment allegations, but will appear with Trump on Thursday in Evansville.



proach," said Quinnipiac pollster Tim Malloy. "Only one in three Americans 'likes' President Donald Trump. For President Trump, another Groundhog Day. His job approval gets another cool reception in midst of the sweltering summer. What does it mean? Simple: The base is hanging in and the rest aren't buying in."

In an interview HPI conducted with Braun earlier this month, I asked him if appearing with Trump in these days of "zero tolerance" was going to be a problem. "Yeah," Braun responded, but added, "I think in his case, most of that is tabloid kind of anecdotal stuff. Everybody should have the process to push it legally. In this day and

age if that happens, clearly you need to be accountable. What happened with Curtis as opposed to what happened there is different for the reason I just mentioned. If there's anything there and anybody wants to go forward, there's a process to go through."

I asked Donnelly about it, and he was circumspect. "I'll let them speak for themselves on that," he responded. "Everybody knows the facts and can judge for themselves. Sometimes you look at situations and say, 'How does that add up?'"

In the hours before the Trump-to-Evansville announcement, the Braun campaign lobbed a salvo across Donnelly's bow, noting that he chaired Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign here in Indiana and appeared with her at a rally in Indianapolis just before the primary. "When the choice was between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton, career politician Joe Donnelly chose Hillary," said Braun campaign manager Joshua Kelley.

Donnelly has also had no qualms about appearing on stage with former President Bill Clinton, the partisan horndog bookend to Donald J. Trump who was impeached but not convicted for lying in the Monica Lewinsky affair.

So, Mike Braun and Donald Trump are in for some interesting optics as a series of scandals involving porn stars, Playmates and Vladimir Putin mushroom in the Washington swamp. **Horse Race Status:** Tossup.

Braun praises bilateral Mexico trade deal

Braun praised President Trump for forging a bilateral trade deal with Mexico on Monday. "For too long, Hoosiers have felt the pain from career politicians like Joe Donnelly's failure to put America first and renegotiate bad deals like NAFTA," Braun said. "Unlike Senator Donnelly, who said President Trump's trade negotiation 'needs to end now,' I applaud the President's strong leadership on negotiating this deal," said Mike Braun. "Joe Donnelly tells Hoosiers what he thinks they want to hear on trade, but in his 12 years in Washington the only thing he's accomplished is cashing in on outsourcing American jobs."

Trump demonstrations for Evansville

At least two major anti-Trump demonstrations — one expected to draw thousands of activists in caravans from three states — are planned in response to President Donald Trump's rally here Thursday night (Langhorne, Evansville Courier & Press). Simultaneously, the Trump event, set to begin at 7 p.m. at the Ford Center, may spill into areas outside the arena. Ford Center manager VenuWorks will squeeze the maximum possible 11,000 seats into the facility for the president's rally, but VenuWorks and local law enforcement

are well aware that Trump drew 12,000 people to the Old National Events Plaza as a presidential candidate in 2016. City Councilwoman Missy Mosby, the council's liaison to police, said she is "very concerned" about the potential for confrontations. "Law enforcement officers are all going to be on deck that day, on call, in the middle of all of this, and I just hope that anyone who is coming to this event respects our police officers and our city and our people that live here," Mosby said. Roughly 50 officers from the Evansville Police Department, Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office, Indiana State Police, U.S. Secret Service and local fire, medical response and airport staff met Friday in Sheriff Dave Wedding's office to begin to craft a security plan. "We want Trump to know that we know he's nothing more than a common criminal and he needs to be locked up," declared a post on the Vanderburgh County Democratic Party's Facebook page about the demonstration.

Braun presses Donnelly on impeachment

Braun is pressing Sen. Donnelly on the question of whether Democrats will seek to impeach President Trump should they take control of the U.S. House and Senate in November. It came after Roll Call reported that Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer slapped a searing label on the Republican party Thursday, saying that if his colleagues across the aisle remain silent on the 'culture of corruption' surrounding President Donald Trump, the GOP as a whole would be a 'co-conspirator' with the president." Braun spokesman Joshua Kelley said on Monday, "With Senate Democrat Leader Chuck Schumer urging senators to speak up against our president, Hoosiers deserve to know if Joe Donnelly wants to impeach President Trump or not. While Mike Braun stands with President Trump, Joe Donnelly ran Hillary Clinton's proxy campaign and has yet to answer the simple question of if he wants to impeach the president of the United States."

Politifact backs Donnelly on PECs

Non-partisan fact checker PolitiFact found that Sen. Donnelly's claim that his opponent has supported three different proposals to eliminate protections for Hoosiers with pre-existing conditions to be "mostly true," disproving the Braun campaign's claim that its candidate



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supports those protections. In a video last week, Donnelly demanded that Braun explain how he could claim that he wanted to protect Hoosiers with health issues like cancer, asthma, or diabetes from being discriminated against by insurance companies, despite not supporting a single concrete proposal that would retain them and every major GOP proposal to destroy them. As PolitiFact found out after looking into it, he can't: "Braun's campaign did not respond to multiple requests for comment on how he could square opposing Obamacare yet supporting one of its central tenets." From PolitiFact: Did Mike Braun endorse three initiatives to end coverage for pre-existing conditions? Democratic Sen. Joe Donnelly of Indiana is accusing his Republican challenger of flip-flopping on health care. "Mike Braun now says he's for pre-existing conditions," Donnelly said in a video he posted to Twitter on Aug. 13. "There's only one problem. Mike has said time, after time, after time, he's against it." Donnelly said Braun has supported a House and Senate bill, as well as a lawsuit that "would have ended coverage for pre-existing conditions." Is that true? Braun indeed supported these actions, but Braun also maintains he supports coverage for pre-existing conditions. But health care experts told us that's nearly impossible. "It is hard to make private competitive health insurance work for people with pre-existing conditions absent government intervention," said Karen Pollitz, a senior fellow at the Kaiser Family Foundation. "That's just the na-

ture of risk spreading – it doesn't work without subsidies or a mandatory market."

Braun under scrutiny over product line

Layoffs came in waves at Westin Automotive's Minnesota plant as production shifted to low-wage factories in Asia, ultimately pushing more than 200 U.S. workers, many over age 50, out of once-reliable jobs (Slodysko, Associated Press). Despite the move a decade ago, Westin remains a chief supplier of auto parts sold under a brand trademarked by Indiana Senate candidate Mike Braun. Those ties put the Republican in a delicate spot as President Donald Trump vilifies China and other foreign competitors, riling up the GOP base. Trump's election in 2016 shifted the political dynamic for Republican business people like Braun seeking public office. Many used to actively downplay the effects of outsourcing or even embrace it, even as socially conservative blue-collar workers in Indiana and other manufacturing-heavy states flocked to the party. Until recently, the multimillionaire ignored outsourcing questions related to his Promaxx parts brand. Instead he ran ads stating his business empire was "made in America" while attacking his Democratic rival, Sen. Joe Donnelly, for once owning stock in a family business, run by Donnelly's brother, that operates a factory in Mexico and sources some goods from China. While Braun's campaign won't say how much of his parts line is made abroad, spokes-

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man Josh Kelley acknowledged in an interview Thursday that Braun uses foreign-made products to stay competitive. "He's seen suppliers that used to make 100% of their products here in the U.S. and, thanks to unfair trade deals coming down from politicians in D.C., we've seen these jobs and products being forced overseas," Kelley said.

Dems file complaint v. Braun

The Indiana Democratic Party has filed a complaint with the Federal Election Commission that accuses Braun of violating campaign finance laws (Erdody, IBJ). According to the complaint filed Wednesday, Braun loaned his campaign \$250,000 on April 23, but failed to file a 48-hour notice with the FEC. Federal candidates are required to report any contribution of \$1,000 or more when it is received less than 20 days but more than 48 hours before the election. That requirement applies to contributions from the candidate, joint fundraisers the candidate is involved in and loans from the candidate, non-bank sources or banks. The primary election was May 8. "By apparently failing to file timely disclosure of this last-minute infusion of Mr. Braun's personal resources to his Senate campaign, Respondents have undermined the Act's transparency requirements and concealed important information from Indiana voters ahead of the Senate primary," the complaint states. Braun spokesman Josh Kelley said the rules were followed properly and the campaign has paperwork to prove it. "This loan was granted on April 23 and time-stamped paperwork proves notification was provided on April 25 to the FEC and to the Secretary of Senate," he said in an email to IBJ. "Donnelly and his Democrat party bosses are just trying to distract Hoosiers from the ethical mistake of using his taxpayer funded staff to provide video to create political commercials surrounding the nomination of Brett Kavanaugh—who Donnelly will ultimately support once he receives approval from the liberal-wing of his party."

GOP files complaint v. Donnelly

The Indiana Republican Party today filed a formal ethics complaint against Sen. Donnelly on the Senate Select Committee on Ethics "for his use of official taxpayer-funded resources for campaign purposes." The Donnelly campaign called it a "nakedly political stunt." The GOP filing comes just two months after Politico in a story titled "Democrats dodge campaign finance law," reported the Donnelly campaign was engaging in potentially illegal coordination with Democrat-aligned Super PACs. Indiana Republican Party Chairman Kyle Hupfer explained, "Donnelly, in an ethically challenged act of desperation, directed his official taxpayer-funded staff to film his meeting with Judge Brett Kavanaugh and then to post video, with no audio, on their official YouTube page so his campaign and outside entities could use the footage. Not only has he played political games by dragging his feet and taking an entire month to meet with Judge Kavanaugh, but now Joe

Donnelly is playing political games with the meeting itself by using official resources for campaign purposes, a clear ethical breach." Donnelly spokesman Will Baskin-Gerwitz reacted, saying, "This nakedly political stunt is just the latest bald-faced lie from Rep. Braun's campaign. The fact of the matter is that Donnelly for Indiana has no intention of using that footage in an ad – but more importantly, even if the campaign or any outside group wanted to use this footage, it would be illegal. Rep. Braun and his campaign are doing a disservice to Hoosiers by selfishly politicizing the confirmation of a Supreme Court justice because they can't stand that Joe is dutifully doing his job while Rep. Braun complains from the sidelines."

Moderators named for debates

The Indiana Debate Commission has named moderators for the two Indiana Senate debates this fall. Moderator for the Indianapolis debate is Amna Nawaz via PBS. Moderator for the Oct. 8 debate for U.S. Senate candidates in Northwest Indiana is Anne Ryder, a former anchor for WTHR-TV.

Congress

Hall says Walorski is 'stalling' on debate

More than a month after she publicly agreed to three televised debates with Democratic challenger Mel Hall, incumbent U.S. Congresswoman Jackie Walorski's (R-IN) staff has yet to begin talks with his campaign on scheduling the debates (Parrott, [South Bend Tribune](#)). On Friday, Walorski's campaign told Hall's staff that she won't be able to start the negotiations until at least after the Sept. 30 deadline that Congress gave itself in March to approve federal government funding beyond that date, said Andrew Galo, a Hall campaign spokesman. However, the Hall campaign argues this would leave insufficient time to fully plan and conduct the three debates, as it would leave just five weeks before the Nov. 6 elections. As a result, Hall campaign manager Max Harris issued a written statement accusing Walorski of purposefully stalling debate negotiations. Harris says the campaign is waiting and "ready and at the table to start these negotiations." **Horse Race Status:** Likely Walorski.

General Assembly

Tallian files complaint v. opponent

The Indiana Election Commission will hear a challenge Friday against Republican Cole Stultz, who is running against Democratic incumbent state Sen. Karen Tallian in the 4th District (Ross, NWI Times). Tallian and her supporters filed affidavits Wednesday claiming Stultz doesn't live within the district and is thus ineligible to run for that office. Stultz could not be reached for comment. "I didn't think too much about it at first, when he first ran," said Tallian, of Ogden Dunes. But when her opponent started

showing up in Google alerts as running a new technology business in Brazil, Indiana, it raised eyebrows. Stultz's candidacy paperwork listed a home address in the 100 block of Roberta Street in Michigan City. That's a long commute. "He's a young kid. I was going to call him and say, 'Look, if you've moved, you've got to withdraw,'" Tallian said. "He has a website, and we called the number on the website," but that number no longer worked, Tallian said.

State

BSU teaches election security to officials

MUNCIE – Ball State University is working with the Secretary of State's office to train Hoosier election officials in election security procedures (WFYI). The program's directors say the new certificate program is tailored exclusively for Indiana election needs. The program will soon train its first 21 students from 14 Indiana counties. According to program guidelines, all must be county clerks, election officials, or those who want to do those jobs in the future. Sixteen of the 21 participants are receiving a scholarship from the Secretary of State's office for the \$2,550 certificate. The program will take in a new crop of students every six months.

Nation

Pence raises \$1.4 million for House GOP

Vice President Mike Pence raised \$1.4 million with Majority Whip Steve Scalise in New Orleans last week (Politico Playbook). The funds are for Pence's Great America Committee and Scalise's victory committee. "I don't know if the rest of you remember the last time Nancy Pelosi was speaker of the House, but I do, I was there, all right? And you don't want to go there again," Pence said to tepid applause here ... PENCE: "You can applaud that if you want." Loud applause. PENCE ON 2018: "Conventional wisdom out there says that the first midterm election for the party that's in the White House will be challenging. Right? And the truth is, history bears that out – it does, OK? ... But I think we all know what President Donald Trump thinks of conventional wisdom." Pence has done two or three money events each week for the last few months – and he plans to keep up the schedule in the weeks ahead. That is helpful, because he can go far more places than Trump.

Buttigieg gives Illinois keynote

Illinois Democrats eager to see former Vice President Joe Biden deliver the keynote address at their largest annual event bought a record number of tickets (South Bend Tribune). Organizers even reserved an overflow video room on another floor of the Crowne Plaza hotel in Springfield. Then, two days before the Illinois Democratic County Chairs Association's annual Democrat Day Brunch on Aug. 16, U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin received bad news: Biden had laryngitis and wouldn't make the trip. Durbin had more

than 3,000 people coming, compared to around 1,800 most years. Durbin started calling people in search of a last-minute replacement. When he reached Cheri Bustos, the Democratic congresswoman from Springfield, she said there was a mayor in South Bend who "had made quite an impression on a lot of people," Durbin recalled. Two days later, Pete Buttigieg had cleared his mayoral calendar and made the four-hour drive southwest, arriving in khakis, a navy sportcoat and white dress shirt with no tie. He began by introducing himself and reciting some of his achievements as mayor, pivoted quickly to criticisms of President Donald Trump, Vice President Mike Pence and Illinois GOP Gov. Bruce Rauner, and then focused on things Democrats must do to win more races this fall. He spoke of the party's missteps in past elections, but he said he was optimistic about Democrats' chances in the fall. "We've got to talk about freedom," he said. "Don't let anybody tell you different, we are the party of freedom, and we are the party of family values. We've got to talk about our values, Democratic values, which are American values." Since running unsuccessfully for Democratic National Committee chair last year, Buttigieg has developed a growing national profile as a keynote speaker at party events in, among other locations, Kansas, Utah, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

Local

Hobart Mayor Snedecor to seek 4th term

It looks like three terms isn't enough for Mayor Brian Snedecor (NWI Times). The Democrat announced he will be pursuing a fourth term in office next year. "I don't think I've ever been this exited to run for reelection," Snedecor said. He said he struggled at times when deciding if he would seek another term. Snedecor said people shouldn't run for personal reasons. He said there have been many accomplishments during his tenure as mayor, and there is more he wants to do for the city. "We're going to make this community shine," Snedecor said. ❖

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Indiana and the stormy 1968 DNC in Chicago

By JACK COLWELL

CHICAGO – “You killed the party,” the McCarthy kids chanted as Humphrey delegates entered the embattled Conrad Hilton Hotel during the early morning hours.

And back in the 20th floor suite at the Executive House, some key Indiana Democrats were wondering if the kids were right. There was gloom at both sites.



That’s what I wrote on Aug. 29, 1968, in covering the chaotic Democratic National Convention in Chicago. What happened in the streets, especially along South Michigan Avenue in front of the Hilton and in Grant Park across the way, was as significant as Vice President Hubert

Humphrey winning the presidential nomination at the International Amphitheater on the southwest side. Maybe more significant.

Humphrey had far more than enough delegates to defeat Sen. Eugene McCarthy, who carried the hopes of opponents of the war in Vietnam. No surprise then that Humphrey won big on the first ballot. Startling, however, was the bloody battling in the streets as well as the rancor and disorder in the convention hall, all televised to the nation.

The McCarthy kids, the young “Clean for Gene” students, viewed McCarthy as the last hope. Bobby Kennedy was assassinated in June, just as he seemed to be headed for the nomination and a chance to bring Democratic unity. Those clustered on the red-carpeted steps leading to the Hilton mezzanine were bitter, disillusioned, not just over defeat of McCarthy and a Vietnam “peace” plank, but also over how it was inflicted with harsh repression.

“You elected Nixon” they chanted at delegates returning to the Hilton. The hotel was Humphrey’s convention headquarters. He stayed there.

At the Executive House, where the Indiana delegation stayed, there also was gloom over the party-splitting rancor. The delegation backed Humphrey with 49 of its 63 votes.

It would have been different if Bobby Kennedy had lived. He won the Indiana presidential primary in May,

drawing some of the largest and most enthusiastic crowds ever seen in the state for a political figure, before or since. He defeated both McCarthy and Indiana Gov. Roger Branigin, who was a stand-in for Humphrey. Many of the Hoosier delegates who voted for Humphrey were not enthused with that choice. They would have supported Kennedy.

Some in the Indiana delegation told of being victimized by or witnessing harsh police tactics. Too often the police didn’t differentiate on the streets between real troublemakers who were indeed there, the so-called Yippies and others taunting police, seeking disruption and even threatening to poison the Chicago water supply – and people on the streets who were breaking no laws, including delegates headed to or from convention events, McCarthy kids working within the system rather than trying to destroy it and local residents.

The worst mistake by police came on the eve of the convention, Sunday, Aug. 25. That night, police drove crowds of Yuppies, hippies and other assorted groups of protesters from Lincoln Park, their intended site of encampment, citing an often-ignored park curfew. Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley, so concerned about the image of his city, wanted no stories about hippies sleeping after curfew in one of his parks. He directed police to take the harsh action that set in motion the escalating conflict that was to follow.

Protesters, including those most radical and intent on disruption, were forced from the park and went streaming to the Loop, causing damage and mingling with delegates, the young McCarthy supporters and others who were breaking no laws. This led to what was described lat-



The Humphrey-Muskie ticket at the 1968 Democratic National Convention as the Windy City seethed in rebellion and a police riot outside.



er in the Walker Report as “a police riot.” This report found that police didn’t differentiate between those who violated the law and those “who had broken no law, disobeyed no order, made no threat.”

If police were to use clubs, it would have been smarter to wield them to keep troublemakers in Lincoln Park, not to drive them out. It would have been easy for police to keep check on a crowd gathered in an open ex-

pause of the park. Driving disorder to the Loop was the start of the terrible damage that week to the image of the mayor, the police, the city and the Democratic Party.

Daley, defending his orders to police, famously said: "The policeman isn't there to create disorder. The policeman is there to preserve disorder."

The legendary mayor did have an unusual way with words. Yet, there is some accuracy in his reference to police preserving disorder. I saw that at the embattled Hilton. However, it is unfair to generalize about all Chicago cops. I saw many police officers who were professional, seeking to defuse rather than escalate tense situations and escorting convention participants away from trouble rather than just clubbing indiscriminately on the streets. They did so despite long shifts and being the targets of taunts and in some cases of cast stones and thrown bottles.

Cops of the other type were handling security at the front entrance to the Hilton as delegates returned after the presidential nomination balloting for Humphrey. Bloody conflicts with police had occurred in Grant Park right across from the hotel. A seething crowd, including those with injuries from clubbing, remained in the park. Michigan Avenue looked like a war zone. Illinois National Guard troops, bayonets fixed and machine guns mounted on jeeps, formed a line along the blockaded avenue.

Returning delegates were ushered in the front entrance. As the tenseness eased, some members of the crowd in Grant Park were allowed to wander without



Demonstrators gird for a showdown with Chicago Police while Mayor Daley reacts to Sen. Abraham Ribicoff who decried "gestapo tactics."

police objection along the sidewalk in front of the hotel. A group of young toughs, matching the worst stereotype of a motorcycle gang, were clustered near the hotel entrance. They were shouting "Wallace" taunts at the crowd in Grant Park.

They also had a function, with police blessing. As unsuspecting youths with long

hair and presumed to be from the protest ranks meandered past the Hilton entrance, members of the gang of toughs would beat them up. Police standing by at the entrance watched, declining in this case to enforce law and order.

At one point, some gang members raced after a small group of presumed protesters who had shown no sign of provocation. The toughs soon were back, grinning and boasting about how, "I got me a hippie."

One youth, beaten, knocked down and kicked, went away in agony, almost certainly with a broken nose. An enjoyable sport, it seemed, for the gang and the amused police. A television cameraman made the mistake of walking along Michigan Avenue near the Hilton entrance. A tough ran toward him, left his feet in some kind of commando-style assault seen in movies, kicked the cameraman in the back and knocked him and the camera to the pavement. One Chicago policeman stepped between the sprawled cameraman and his assailant, preventing further violence. The assailant, cheered by his companions, was permitted to swagger back, their hero. A second

policeman raced directly to the cameraman, shoved him as he struggled to his feet and ordered: "Get the hell out of here!"

Two personal stories always come to mind in the many times I have driven or walked by the Hilton in the years since 1968.

One involves those young McCarthy supporters, crying or chanting or both, on the steps leading to the



The Indiana delegation had a front row seat to Julian Bond's historic speech in which he called for calm.

mezzanine. A high school kid from Chicago, allowed by his parents to participate in what they mistakenly thought would be an experience in democracy, was one of those in tears. He was terrified when he came up to me and Bob Flynn, an Evansville political writer, pleading for help. He was convinced that he was trapped in the hotel by Chicago police, who would come to injure and arrest him as soon as the lobby was clear of the few remaining news reporters and delegates. He had tried to leave, and police ordered him back in the lobby. We calmed him with assurances that, really, he was free to go. Only the front entrance was blocked. He could leave by the 8th Street side doors. Thus, he escaped from a trap that had existed only because he believed that it did.

Others were "trapped" as well in what they perceived to be real. Protesters in Grant Park believed rumors that police had slaughtered dozens of peaceful demonstrators and it all was being covered up by the "establishment" news media. There were police reacting to widespread rumors that dozens of fellow officers had been blinded, crippled or shot by snipers. No demonstrators were killed. No police officers were blinded, crippled or shot. But what was shown later to be the truth didn't lessen the reaction of each side to the belief at the time that the worst had happened.

A second personal observation involves one of the most persuasive speeches I have ever heard. It was one where I didn't dare to take notes. Yet, I remember it well a half-century later.

I went around the National Guard line and into Grant Park after the conflict had subsided. Kind of scary. News reporters were in favor with neither side. Protesters thought reporters were covering up police atrocities and snitching on protest actions. Police thought reporters were intent on finding cases of improper police conduct and hurting Chicago's image. Kind of dumb, maybe, to go into the park. But covering that convention had to include what was happening outside the convention hall. While I wasn't dumb enough to wear a tie or take out a notebook, I knew

I stuck out as not one of the protesters.

The persuasive speech was by Julian Bond, a young black civil rights leader whose name was placed in nomination for vice president at the convention, even though he was too young then to qualify under the Constitution. Bond was somebody that the angry, milling protesters would listen to, even if they would have preferred a call for revenge rather than his call for calm.

"Don't lash out blindly at blue uniforms or brown uniforms," Bond urged. "You don't know the people in those uniforms," he said. "You may lash out at somebody in a uniform who dislikes the war just as much as you do."

He pointed out that not everybody in the blue uniforms had swung clubs at protesters' heads. He warned that renewed conflict would only lead to more injuries. No applause. No shouts of disagreement. Also, however, those in that area who had seemed ready to renew conflict by throwing objects at the police and National Guard troops did not throw anything.

As far as I know, no other reporter heard Bond's impromptu remarks. Nobody else ever wrote about it. I couldn't talk to him then and never did later.

I'm glad that I wrote a column in 2015 in which I recalled Bond's speech. He died later that year. But he did see the column and sent a nice "thank you" email. In his kind remarks, he asked: "How did you manage to reconstruct it after all these years?"

Recalling it was easy. It's something you can't forget. Nor can anyone who as there forget that 1968 Democratic National Convention.

"You elected Nixon," the young McCarthy supporters chanted at the returning delegates. Well, the nation elected Nixon. Humphrey came close but never close enough to win after that chaos in Chicago a half-century ago. ❖

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

Book describes Pence as 'shadow president'

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

NASHVILLE, Ind. – Mike Pence, we hardly knew ye.

This is the essence of Michael D'Antonio and Peter Eisner's book, "The Shadow President: The Truth About Mike Pence." With release next Tuesday, it comes with the backdrop of an emerging scandal involving President Donald Trump that could propel Pence as the 46th occupant of the White House, with Rudy Giuliani intoning last Sunday that "the truth isn't the truth."

D'Antonio and Eisner combine the hundreds of snippets of Pence's Indiana experience as a young boy vowing to be president, to a fraternity president, a twice-defeated congressional candidate, a radio and TV talk show host, and finally 12 years in Congress and three-and-a-half years in the Indiana governor's office to create a portrait of a shadowy character, despite his sunny demeanor intent on seizing the ultimate power.

Their Mike Pence is a religious "zealot," a calculating politician who would court David and Charles Koch and work to cut environmental regulations, only to then turn his back on them when President Trump turned the concept of free trade on its ear with the tariffs of today. We find a Mike Pence who has populated the Trump administration with Hoosiers and true believers, aiding and abetting his insatiable desire for the ultimate fame and power. Pence world is already pushing back, with former spokesman Marc Lotter telling the Christian Broadcasting Network that the vice president is on the receiving end of a "never-ending attack on Christianity."

In the closing pages, they write: "In campaigns on the radio, in Congress and in the White House, Pence carried the two emblems of his beliefs while walking a political tightrope. The traits that permitted him to do this had been noticed long ago by Club for Growth and other big-money backers. Chief among them was Pence's ability to present himself as a pleasant, even harmless person worthy of public trust. As a legislator, he had done so little that the public could see that this image was rarely disturbed. As governor, he revealed more of his true self, but since he was isolated in a midwestern state that rarely received much notice from the national press, few outside of Indiana were aware of his missteps and failures. Returning to Washington as Donald Trump's second, he was once again able to act behind the scenes, barely revealing himself even though he had created a shadow administra-

tion as loyal to him as it was to the president."

D'Antonio won a Pulitzer Prize as a Newsday reporter, and was one of Trump's five biographers who was routinely polled by Politico during the 2016 presidential upset, as Americans watched transfixed in either unquestioning admiration for Trump or growing apprehension and outrage. Eisner authored "MacArthur's Spies" after writing for the Washington Post, Newsday and the Associated Press. Their book is the first of three in the works, joining IndyStar's Andrea Neal's chronological retracing of Pence's career, and a coming work by former AP, IndyStar and CNN reporter Tom LoBianco.

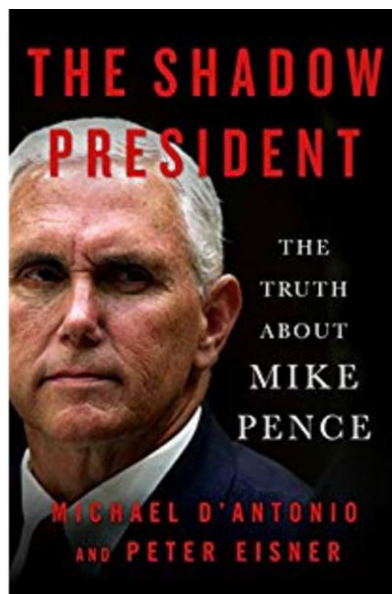
Much of D'Antonio and Eisner's work will ring familiar with those of us engaged in the Indiana political and policy front. They recount the Mike Pence who campaigned on a bicycle in 1988 in his first quest for Congress, his heading the Indiana Policy Review Foundation, his six-year radio career, 12 years in Congress where he failed to get a single bill signed into law, and then his mediocre reign as governor, which in the minds of Mike and Karen Pence and their allies, was simply a resume notch required for the ultimate prize.

Pence faced a fork in the road as 2010 turned to 2011: Run for president or governor? "Pence's advisors were split about whether he should pursue the presidency or needed to bolster his resume with a term in the Indiana governor's residence. He ended the speculation at a private meeting with Karen and his closest advisors. The setting was rural Brown County. It was in the spirit of, "Look, I'm making the decision to go for governor. Now, what does that mean?" recalled Van Smith, a close Pence confidante.

A clear theme emerges in the book: That Mike Pence is God's chosen leader. The authors write: "As close friends and political

allies came to see, the Pences were committed first to the idea that God had decided that Mike Pence was destined for greatness... The Lord's calling had been personal, not political, which meant Pence was a man of faith, not party. How far did God want him to go? To place a limit on it would be to thwart His will, which explains why the governor sometimes prefaced a decision with a question: What would help me most to become president?"

They walk through Pence's gubernatorial missteps, ranging from his inconsequential, first-year income tax cut (other than a presidential campaign check box), the lack of a pardon for the wrongly convicted Keith Cooper, the ignored East Chicago lead crisis, the I-69 P-3 fiasco between Bloomington and Martinsville, the State Bicentennial cell tower deal (most of which were scrapped or redone by Gov. Eric Holcomb), and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) that self-sabotaged what many believed would be a first Pence White House bid in 2016.



There were warnings, from 2012 Democratic opponent John Gregg, who portrayed Pence as an extremist. The authors observe: "In retrospect, Pence's supporters had been wise to downplay his social conservatism and evangelical fervor in what had been a mostly civilized campaign with only a few sparks generated in debates. Pence would go to the Indiana Statehouse facing suspicion from not only the Democratic minority but from many Republican legislators who also thought that Pence was more unyielding and right-wing than the GOP mainstream. They were wrong, however. The Republican Party was making a historic shift itself, to the extreme right." As Gregg would put it, "He can't separate himself from the Tea Party because he is the Tea Party."

With Pence facing an uphill reelection rematch with Gregg that could have ended his political career, Pence became one of the few Republicans to resist the contra flow, heading into a Category 5 Hurricane Donald while scores of others from Congress to the states brandished 10-foot poles. We learn that Al Hubbard and Ryan Streeter "decried Trump's lack of principles and mean-spirited style and advised against joining the ticket. Pence, sensing his big chance was at hand, rejected their counsel." But few people from Pence world are quoted in this book.

While the Mike Pence Show radio clips have apparently disappeared from the Emmis archives, Pence left behind enough soundbites and print quotes to create the political contortions needed to jump into Donald Trump's viper bed. Speaking to a Family Research Council Convention in 2010, the authors write, "The big star of the event was Mike Pence, who mustered more energy than he showed in most of his speeches and hit everything on the Christian Right agenda. None of the ideas he presented was new. He called for less government spending, and policies to enforce his version of sexual morality."

Mike Pence: "To those who say that marriage is not relevant to our budget crisis, I say you would not be able to print enough money in a thousand years to pay for government you would need if the traditional family continues to collapse. We must not remain silent when great moral battles are being waged. Those who would have us ignore the battle being fought over life, marriage, and religious liberty have forgotten the lessons of history. As in the days of a house divided, America's darkest moments have come when economic arguments trumped moral principles."

There was a soundbite from his Network Indiana radio show that survived: "A news item about a female officer breaking a military rule against adultery led him to a discussion of the Ten Commandments and 'the normaliza-



tion' of adultery.

"I for one," said Pence, "believe the Seventh Commandment contained in the Ten Commandments is a big deal." Until the summer of 2016 when he joined the Trump ticket – Stormy Daniels, Karen MacDougal and a dozen sexually harassed accusers be damned.

One of the huge parlor games in Indiana is this: What does Karen Pence really think? The authors note her "revulsion" at the "Access Hollywood" tape where Trump is heard bragging he can "grab 'em by the pussy," with staffers denying the Pences pondered a GOP coup d'état. Just hours later, they sat in the Indiana Governor's Residence and watched the Trump/Hillary Clinton debate, with Melania Trump wearing a fuchsia Gucci pussy bow to greet former President Bill Clinton, as Paula Jones and other Clintonian accusers looked on.

The authors provide clues and answers. They reach back to Pence's first political opponent, former U.S. Rep. Phil Sharp. He explained that the Christianity he observed in Pence wasn't the humble, turn-the-other-cheek sort. Instead, said Sharp, "Pence believes that God is on his side." The most troubling aspect of this belief, he added, was that Pence "can tolerate any amount of darkness to get his way."

The authors observe: "Pence's religious beliefs impelled his effort to outlaw abortion and to limit equality for gay Americans. It allowed him to smile while embracing political allies whom others found morally repugnant. According to his faith, everything on earth is predestined by God's will. If God chose to make Trump president, then it was fine for Pence to say and do just about anything to support him."

Some of the most fascinating new material D'Antonio and Eisner put forth align with today's headlines. It was New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie who helped arrange Trump's April 20, 2016, get-to-know-you rendezvous with Pence at the Governor's Residence during the Indiana primary where they successfully schemed to induce Pence into a milquetoast endorsement of Sen. Ted Cruz. In early July, it would be Christie waiting helplessly on the sidelines while the now-convicted Paul Manafort and the centrally scrutinized Jared Kushner conspired to keep Trump in Indiana – and Pence's presence – raising money at the Columbia Club, with Pence auditioning in Westfield, sharing a late-night dinner at the Capitol Grille and a dual-family breakfast at the Governor's Residence.

The resulting Trump/Pence ticket not only sent Christie to the political sidelines, but with the epic upset that November, we find Trump canning Christie as the helmsman of what would be his tormented transition team. Pence would pick up the baton for a transition that would prove nothing but trouble in the months ahead.

"Pence's attitude had been consistent from the moment Trump had chosen him as his running mate:

'He was all in,'" D'Antonio and Eisner write. "This attitude shone during the transition and in the early days of the Trump administration as Trump veered from lie to lie and crisis to crisis and Pence remained loyal. Pence seemed willing to do anything to maintain his position and stay in the good graces of this new president.

"The new transition team erased almost everything Christie had done. They disposed of his files on potential job candidates and, in a foreshadowing of White House chaos to come, summarily fired Christie's top transition aides. Their departure meant that no one could pass along certain concerns about (Trump National Security Advisor Michael) Flynn. If Christie had warned Pence about Flynn during the campaign or on his way out the door at the transition office, Pence gave no sign that he was concerned. At this stage in their relationship he was not going to challenge Trump."

The authors quote Hoosiers such as Democrat Ann DeLaney on how Gov. Pence kept "bankers' hours." This narrative flowed to Pence's chairing of the transition team, and, later, the Presidential Commission on Election Fraud that was later disbanded after Pence attended one meeting. "The transition was blowing up with Flynn controversies. Pence showed no concern or anxiety about such matters. As Christmas approached, he prepared for a two-week vacation back home in Indiana. From the outside, the break appeared to be ill-timed. By all accounts, the transition, which essentially started over after Christie left, was far behind schedule in naming of hundreds of men and women who would be needed. The inauguration was less than a month away. Concern about Russian interference was growing. Yet Mike Pence opted to leave town, he and Karen went home with their family to Indiana" for what the vice president-elect described as a "tender Indiana Christmas."

"Pence must have noticed the controversies," the author's write. "This attitude aligned with Pence's behavior throughout the campaign, when he serenely looked past one controversy after another. If Trump issued an offensive tweet or off-the-cuff slur, Pence responded with a shrug, said his boss was joking or insisted Trump had not made the statement in the first place. Pence was either playing to an audience of one or had drunk the same Kool-Aid that gave him the temerity to deny the very Trump statements that had been broadcast around the world and were easily available on the internet."

As the Flynn fiasco blew and he was fired for lying to Pence, the incoming vice president was put on the spot in what are now rare TV and press interviews. On Jan. 15,

2016, Pence was asked by "Face the Nation" host John Dickerson, "Did any advisor or anyone in the Trump campaign have any contact with Russians, who were trying to meddle in the election?" Pence: "No, of course not, and I think to suggest that is to give credence to some of these bizarre rumors trafficked in a memo produced as opposition research." Pressed by Chris Wallace of Fox News on the same topic, Pence responded, "Of course not. Why would there be any contacts between the campaign and Russia?"

Like the authors, Special Counsel Robert Mueller is likely to provide such an answer. In doing so, it could elevate Pence to the Oval Office.

Thus, the authors present a calculating Pence



Gov. Mike Pence greets Donald Trump at the Governor's Residence in a meeting set up by New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie.

who has dedicated a career to preparing to be No. 46. But there would be a price: Conservative columnist George Will called Pence "the most repulsive public figure" in America with Pence "oozing unctuousness from every pore." The authors pick up that strand in the book's earliest chapters: "As noted by Will, Pence represents the epitome of religion joined with politics in service to an extreme partisan faction. The combination was the basis for his self-confidence and righteousness, and it

served his ambition. By 2017, he was one of the most effective politicians of the 21st Century, and a contender to one day be president himself. Mike Pence was all these things, and thus a more complex and consequential figure than either his supporters or detractors knew."

Sometimes Pence's own staffers recognized the peril of going all in for President Trump. One described the on-going debacle of immigrant child separations as a "litmus test for Pence as a moral leader."

The authors conclude: "Although Donald Trump was regarded as a political neophyte when he ran for president, thanks to his TV shows and a lifelong quest for media attention, he was vastly better known than Mike Pence. More important, little separated the real Donald Trump from the bragging, boorish and divisive figure seen at rallies and debates. Trump was who he said he was. This was not the case with Pence, whose pious and cautious exterior hid a desire for power equal to Trump's. The main difference was that Pence was truly committed to the authoritarian style of religion Trump had seemed to profess for the purpose of gaining election. With it, he intended to do far more to change the nation and world than Trump could imagine." ❖

The Cuomos and the Dunns in a great nation

By CRAIG DUNN

KOKOMO – Recently, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo let slip his feelings on the United States of America. While bashing President Trump at a bill signing ceremony in New York City, Cuomo said, “We’re not going to make America great again. It was never that great.”

I’m sure that Cuomo and his band of like-minded spiritual advisors will attempt to walk this back by saying it was taken out of context, it was a statement that needed greater elaboration or that Trump’s vision of America was what he was talking about. Given enough time and the support of fellow leftists in the media, Cuomo may just be able to get most people to forget he ever said, “We’re not going to make America great again. It was never that great.”



Unfortunately for Gov. Cuomo, this graphically offensive statement sounds to the vast majority of patriotic, loyal and proud Americans as nothing other than a direct attack on all that we hold dear.

As the grandson of both Italian and Sicilian immigrants, you might have expected Cuomo to be the biggest flag-waving proponent of the United States. After all, granny and grandpa could have immigrated to Spain, France, Austria, Greece or North Africa if life in Italy wasn’t giving them a fair shake. But no, they chose the United States as their dream because it was and still is the beacon for freedom and opportunity the entire world over. Maybe Cuomo has just had it too good to remember why his grandparents came to this country.

Perhaps it is because I am a student of history that I tend to well up when I think back at the many great things that the United States has done for its people and the people throughout the world over the course of its existence. We have been and are to this very day what President Ronald Reagan referred to as “a shining city on a hill.”

The liberties enshrined in our Constitution have enabled the citizens of the United States to achieve untold marvels. In every category of achievement, be it business, literature, music, science, the arts, technology or engineering, the United States has been a world leader. In the process, our nation has amassed great material wealth. Other nations are understandably envious and some in our own country harbor guilt at the inequality of the world. We have nothing to apologize about. We chose our system of laws and governance and we have fought to protect them over the years.

Even though I hold Gov. Cuomo and most of the leadership of the Democratic Party in contempt for their historical ignorance and utter lack of appreciation for the greatest country on earth, I do understand where they may be coming from in their misguided contempt.

The growth of the United States from sea to shining sea was an unstoppable force that ran over everything in its path. The American Indian and Mexico both were crushed by Manifest Destiny. Much of the agricultural progress and strength of the southern states was fueled with slave labor. These are stains on our country’s history; we cannot deny them nor explain them away; they happened and they can’t be undone. We cannot undo the sins committed against people 150 years ago by lavishing government benefits on their great-great-grandchildren today. We only prolong the enslavement.

Freedom, liberty and equality are funny things. People view them differently. Take equality for example. Most Americans believe in equal opportunity for all people. Gov. Cuomo and the Democratic Party have tried in vain to substitute equal outcomes for equal opportunity. They have failed to realize that equal outcomes cannot be achieved without the surrendering of freedoms and liberty in the process.

We all know about the Cuomo family, immigrants from Italy. Mario Cuomo, Andrew’s father, elected twice as governor of New York. Andrew, the grandson of immigrants, elected as New York attorney general and as governor of New York, twice. Chris Cuomo, grandson of immigrants, broadcast personality on CNN. Sounds to me like the American Dream worked pretty well for this family.

But how about the Dunn Family? Grandfather Dunn was a poor sharecropper who lived on someone else’s farm and received 50% of what he produced each year. His son, Leander, walked down the railroad tracks from Oakford to Kokomo each day to go to school – no school bus back then. Leander graduated from Kokomo High School in 1928 and went to work cleaning up new cars for the local Ford dealership. He learned how to be an auto-body repairman.

After World War II, dad scraped every cent of savings he had together and started his own auto-body repair shop. Without government help, dad grew his business to a shop with five repairmen. (I remember when dad had a car slip off a jack and it broke his leg. No disability payments. Dad wrapped a drycleaner’s plastic bag around his full-length leg cast and went back to work.)

Along the way, mom and dad had seven children. Mom fully understood the benefits of an education. She relentlessly pushed all seven children to keep their noses clean, be careful who you associate with and get the best education that you can. I don’t know how they did it, but mom and dad put six of us through college. All of us went on to prosperous careers and produced great grandchildren who are now captains of commerce and industry. All of this spawned by a poor Oakford sharecropper.

Do I believe in the greatness of America? You

bet I do! My family has lived the American Dream. Was it easy? No! Was it always fair? No! Are there ways to make the American Experience fairer, but not rob anyone of their freedom or fortune in order to accomplish it? Yes.

Most people completely miss the source of the Trump phenomenon. Most people I speak with don't condone his personal behavior or mannerisms. They reject his brash boorishness. They hate his tweets. They don't particularly like the circus sideshow carnies that he brought with him to Washington. What they do absolutely love is that Donald Trump believes in America. He intuitively knew that Americans longed for the days of yore. No, not the days of discrimination, bigotry and unequal opportunity, but the days when the United States was the most respected and most proud country in the world.

In his own bull-in-a-china-shop manner, Donald Trump tapped the innate love of country that rested in the hearts of Americans.

The Democratic Party has struggled in recent

times to find a foothold in relevancy. Its candidates have largely focused their efforts on telling the American people what is wrong with their country. I suggest that the key to the revival of the Democratic Party is in speaking to the American Dream and how the greatness of our country can make it happen for all people. The future of the Democratic Party rests with the people in our nation who believe in the shining city on the hill and not with the disaffected who sap the lifeblood of our society.

Andrew Cuomo, the denigration of your country may play well in New York, but your words will haunt you in Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin and Virginia. Get used to being a governor. ❖

Dunn is the former chairman of the Howard County and 4th CD Republican Parites.

Pence should make a call on Indiana Dunes

By **RICH JAMES**

MERRILLVILLE – Vice President Mike Pence appears to be one who has considerable clout in Washington. After all, he often is seen hanging onto the coattails of President Donald Trump.

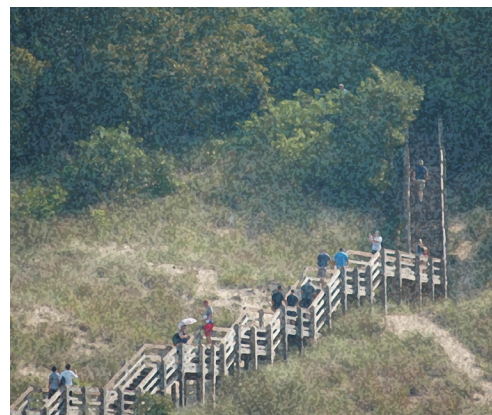
With white hair atop a blue suit and red tie, Pence looks quite presidential. But when you come right down to it, Pence, the former Indiana governor and congressman, is pretty much an empty suit.



When the acting director of the National Park Service told a Senate subcommittee last week that the Department of the Interior does not support turning the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore into a national park, it begs the question, "Where was Pence?"

Doesn't the vice president have enough clout to see that the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore is converted to the nation's 61st national park? One would think so, especially given that the proposal was written by U.S. Rep. Peter Visclosky and is backed by all Hoosier congressmen and Sens. Joe Donnelly, a Democrat, and Todd Young, a Republican

Visclosky said he remains confident that House Bill 1488, which he sponsored and was approved by the House last year, eventually will be approved by the Senate. Visclosky and local economic development officials say the national park status would provide a lift for the



Northwest Indiana economy.

Lorelei Weimer, executive director of Indiana Dunes Tourism in Porter County, said the dunes "has over 15,000 acres of woodlands, prairies, savan-

nas, bogs, wetlands, beaches and shoreline and is the birthplace of ecology."

Yet, P. Daniel Smith, acting director of the National Park Service, said his agency prefers national parks to be larger than the dunes. Go figure. The Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore is 15,000 acres while St. Louis' Gateway Arch, which is 193 acres, was designated a national park in February.

One call from Pence to the Secretary of the Interior would guarantee that the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore would become Indiana's first national park.

So, where is Pence while a key proposal in his state is in disarray? I guess he is too busy trying to look presidential while he follows Trump around like a puppy dog. ❖

Rich James has been writing about politics and government for almost 40 years. He is retired from the Post-Tribune, a newspaper born in Gary

Dave Bangert, Lafayette Journal & Courier:

There's a jarring moment in Sen. Joe Donnelly's latest ad, a six-figure buy his campaign has been playing on TV stations statewide, when the Democrat, behind the wheel of his signature RV, hits a well-timed bump. The ad, dubbed "Borders" by his team, covers ground on Donnelly's stance on immigration and border security during his first term in the Senate. The 30-second spot – clearly attempting to counter a campaign currently running and paid for by the Republican-backing group One Nation, accusing Donnelly of waffling on border security – has the senator dropping President Donald Trump's name as an ally. "And Trump's border wall?" a narrator asks. "Joe voted to fund it three times." Enter Donnelly amid the road hum ... "I voted for and supported Trump's immigration bill, including ... (bump) ... the funding for the border wall." All true, even as the annotated notes accompanying the ad, courtesy of his campaign, tell about how Donnelly broke ranks with fellow Democrats on the border wall funding – a Trump promise repeated in "Build that wall" chants at rallies two years after his election – as a measure of compromise to get other immigration-related concessions, including protections for an estimated 10,000 DACA recipients. Donnelly faces a difficult re-election in a state that gave Trump a 19-point victory over Hillary Clinton in 2016. Mike Braun, a Jasper businessman, won the Republican primary in a three-way race where he and U.S. Reps. Todd Rokita and Luke Messer fought over who was the most Trump-like one of the bunch. All three made support for the wall prominent parts of their messages in ads and in debates. Donnelly has used every opportunity, in interviews over the past year as he drives that RV across the state, to tell how Trump voters in 2016 were Donnelly voters in 2012.



David Leonhardt, New York Times: What would a Republican Party more in the mold of John McCain look like? It would, for starters, stop cowing to Trump and stand up for American national security. It would investigate Russian cyberattacks and the possibility, as McCain put it, "that the president of the United States might be vulnerable to Russian extortion." Many of McCain's colleagues remembering him as a brave patriot are proving themselves to be neither. Second, a more McCain-like Republican Party would understand that racism is both immoral and, in the long term, politically ruinous. McCain had a multiracial family — the kind that is increasingly America's future. Rather than scapegoat immigrants, he took risks to pass immigration reform. After Charlottesville, he declared, "White supremacists aren't patriots, they're traitors." Third, McCain believed in democracy and its vital, fragile institutions. He accepted his two haunting presidential defeats honorably. He has reportedly chosen the victors in those campaigns — Obama and George W. Bush — to deliver eulogies at his funeral. Most significant-



ly, McCain fought for campaign-finance laws to reduce the influence of plutocrats. Fourth, McCain understood that democracy sometimes means moving on. He voted against Obamacare — a reflection of his small-government conservatism. But he also voted, crucially, against its repeal — a reflection of his small-c conservatism. In doing so, he acted as a modern-day Eisenhower, a Republican willing to accept an expansion of the safety net for the good of the country. Finally, McCain recognized that the military wasn't the only way that Washington could use its awesome power for good. When I interviewed him during the 2008 presidential campaign, he described his economic hero as Theodore Roosevelt — a "free-enterprise, capitalist, full-bore guy" who realized that prosperity depended on government agencies "that need to do their job as well." Above all, McCain believed in American greatness — as a reality, not a slogan. He knew that the United States could play a unique role in the world, as a defender of freedom and human dignity. He also knew that the role was anything but assured. It required hard work, good choices, compromise and sacrifice. McCain's final message for his country was a warning: Our greatness is in peril. ❖

Jon Webb, Evansville Courier & Press: What to expect when President Trump rallies in Evansville on Thursday: **1.** He'll push Joe Donnelly to confirm Brett Kavanaugh. President Trump loves to trash local Senators and congressmen on his never-ending campaign tour. He'll call Joe Donnelly "a nice guy" and then compare him to Elizabeth Warren or something. Donnelly is barely to the left of Dwight D. Eisenhower, but that doesn't matter. Trump will then ask the crowd if they think Donnelly should vote to confirm Kavanaugh. The crowd will cheer. **2.** Lloyd Winnecke will be uncomfortable. The Evansville mayor supported John Kasich for the Republican nomination in 2016. And Winnecke has about as much in common with Trump as an English tea house does with a biker bar. Even so: he's a Republican mayor and a Republican president will be in town. I hope there's time for an uncomfortable photo-op. **3.** There will be a clash between Trump supporters and counter-protesters. The area's left-leaning groups are getting pretty good at organizing, and if you went to Trump's last Evansville rally in 2016, you know he whips his supporters into a froth. All that energy will clash on the sidewalks outside the Ford Center (or wherever the rally ends up being). The key is that the overworked / on-edge local authorities manage to keep the peace – and do so without unnecessarily arresting anyone exercising their First Amendment right. **4.** The national media will screw up some obvious detail about Evansville. "The small Indiana city just outside Chicago ..." **5.** Speaking of the media ... Man, those rallygoers are gonna boo the hell out of us. They sure did last time Trump was in town, and the rage building around the press has only grown since then. ❖

Pence coaxed Trump on McCain

WASHINGTON — In the Senate chamber on Monday, John McCain's desk was draped in black and topped with a vase of white roses. The majority leader, Senator Mitch McConnell, rose to praise Mr. McCain as a colleague and hero who "spotlighted many of our highest values." Outside, an impromptu memorial took shape as the flags over Capitol Hill flew at half-staff. In only one building in Washington were Mr. McCain's legacy and achievements greeted with anything like ambivalence: the White House. President Trump, under enormous public and private pressure, finally issued a proclamation of praise for Mr. McCain on Monday afternoon, two days after the senator's death, and ordered the flag to be flown at half-staff seemingly in the only place it wasn't already, the presidential complex. The day had begun with the remarkable sight of the flag flying atop the White House's flagpole, while just beyond the building, at the Washington Monument, others fluttered midway down the poles that circle the obelisk. The president stubbornly refused repeated requests from officials as senior as Vice President Mike Pence and John F. Kelly, the White House chief of staff, to acknowledge Mr. McCain's death with a formal and unifying statement, according to four administration officials who spoke on condition of anonymity to describe private conversations. At midday, the drama was punctuated by the words of Mr. McCain himself, whose final statement to the nation was delivered posthumously through a top aide. "We weaken our greatness when we confuse our patriotism with tribal rivalries that have sown resentment and hatred and violence in all the corners of the globe," Mr. McCain wrote in a statement delivered by Rick Davis, his family spokesman and former campaign manager. "We weaken it when we hide behind walls, rather than tear them down, when we doubt the power of our ideals, rather than trust them to be the great force for change they have always been."



Purdue predicts \$12B for broadband

WEST LAFAYETTE — A study from Purdue University's Center for Regional Development suggests Indiana could generate a \$12B economic impact over 20 years with a meaningful investment in bringing broadband access to rural areas (Ober, [Inside Indiana Business](#)). The report, commissioned by Indiana Electric Cooperatives and Tipmont REMC, estimates every dollar invested in broadband returns nearly \$4 to the economy. Researchers looked at potential costs and benefits from installing broadband within the service territory of seven electric cooperatives, then extrapolated the data to the entire state. "It's unusual to see returns that significant," said Purdue agricultural economics professor Wally Tyner in a news release. "The finding of a 4:1 return validates the opportunity that could be created by full broadband deployment in Indiana." Economics professor Larry DeBoer says a broadband investment would also have a positive impact on the state and federal governments' bottom lines. He estimates more than \$3B of the \$12B benefit would go to state and federal government through increased tax revenue and healthcare savings.

Greenwood councilman resigns

GREENWOOD — A Greenwood City Council member who has been the subject of a police investigation resigned from his elected position Sunday, coming just days after police searched his business property (Holtkamp, Greenwood Daily Journal). Brent Corey informed the Johnson County Republican Party in a letter that he was resigning from the city council, where he has served for 10 years. He told the party his resignation was necessary because he no longer lives in the city. The Indiana

State Police began an investigation into Corey in early July, but the details of the investigation and any allegations have not been released. Last week, police searched his business property, but Corey's attorney, Mike Kyle, said he had not learned the details of the search.

Carson eyes impeachment

WASHINGTON — With legal pressure mounting on key members of the President Trump's inner circle, some Democrats, including Rep. Andre Carson (D-IN), say it's time to start considering the possibility of impeachment proceedings ([FOX59](#)). "Having a sitting U.S. president listed as an un-indicted co-conspirator, to me, meets the test, meets the standard," said Carson in a TV interview Saturday. "I think he's unfit to serve as President... when you have a President who has mud on his hands from his closest cronies, I think it's time to get honest about how we want our democracy to be."

Trump claims Mexico trade deal

WASHINGTON — President Trump said on Monday that the United States and Mexico had reached an accord to revise key portions of the North American Free Trade Agreement and would finalize it within days, suggesting he was ready to jettison Canada from the trilateral trade pact if the country did not get on board quickly ([Washington Post](#)). Mr. Trump promoted the preliminary agreement with Mexico as a deal that could replace NAFTA and threatened to hit Canada with auto tariffs if it did not "negotiate fairly." "They used to call it Nafta," Mr. Trump said. "We're going to call it the United States-Mexico Trade Agreement."