



# Buyer: War 'beyond 5 years'

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**  
and **MARK SCHOEFF JR.**

For nearly 40 minutes Tuesday morning, U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer - just back from a 12,000 mile journey from battlefield hospitals in Iraq to medical facilities in Germany - talked of the grim realities of the current Iraq war.

The House Veterans Affairs chairman had watched the handoff of active duty servicemen and women with brain trauma and missing limbs. There was talk of the introduction of blood-clotting bandages, and protective helmet inserts for the Army, but not yet available to the Marines even though 250,000 sets of them sit in a warehouse somewhere stateside.

"There was an Iraqi woman who became a suicide bomber, who injured 16 people. Eight of them were our soldiers," Buyer said. "When we arrived at Landstuhl (AFB), we witnessed the



**A soldier recuperating at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, tells U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer about the improvised explosive device that injured his arm and destroyed his HMMWV. in Iraq earlier this month.**

bus that pulled up for the medical air team and made the handoff. One of them was the soldier who had just been injured in Iraq while we were there. We followed the soldier up to an ICU ward and actually watched the medical handoff from one team to the other. It is absolutely extraordinary and we have every reason to be proud of the level of commitment, the investment of people and their desire to care for America's most precious asset. It is absolutely extraordinary, what they do; the unbreakable link in the chain of mercy."

Yes, America's most precious asset, the GIs and

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## Doris Anne Sadler, movie star

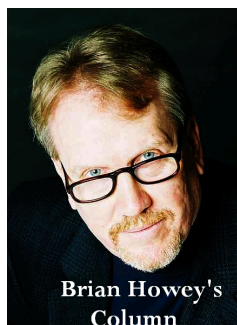
INDIANAPOLIS - I've long maintained that democracy needs maintenance.

And if legislating is the "sausage making" of democracy, then throwing an election is like a big placenta.

Necessary, teeming with life, and messy.

Wednesday night was the Indianapolis premier of the film "**By The People**" which features Marion County Clerk Doris Anne Sadler preparing for the 2004 general election. The New York Times wrote of the film, "Compelling. Explores the brute facts of Election Day."

At first glance while esconced in



Brian Howey's  
Column



"I'll trade you the clerk's office for the prosecutor."

- Marion County Democratic Chairman Ed Treacy to GOP Chairman Mike Murphy after they watched the film "**By The People**" Wednesday night.



# HOWEY *Political Report*

a Keystone Arts Cinema surrounded by the likes of Marion County Party Chairs Mike Murphy and Ed Treacy and many election technicians and political junkies, **"By The People"** came off as raw and grainy. But within this format came gem after gem. Election officials held the hand and paper of a Parkinson's Disease victim attempting to vote. There was the training of 5,000 people, 914 precincts and 50 teams of commissioners.

We learned that the average age of an Marion County election worker was 72. As they fall away to time and gravity, few are stepping up to take their places.

The days immediately before the election begin around 4:30 a.m. and last beyond midnight. "The dead guy," a candidate named David Tess who passed away 16 days before the election, is just one of the curve balls tossed at Sadler and David Woo, the service center supervisor, who emerged as one of the true stars. By the morning of Election Day, there were 584 pages of "dead people," purged by the Indiana Secretary of State, some of them quite alive and calling in, wanting to vote. At one point, an election worker sighs, "I knew something was going on. Too many dead people calling."

When Sadler, Treacy and Murphy signed off on a plan to reinstate the living, an election worker said, "We've never seen this before: Republicans and Democrats working together."

There was also the situation in Washington 103 where a precinct was divided between U.S. Reps. Julia Carson and Dan Burton.

There were 12 teams of attorneys, phones that didn't work, and Woo setting up workers to go through box after box of election materials. "All I got to do is get you three flashlights," Woo tells them in a dank warehouse. Then there were the

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Filmmaker Malindi Fickle with Clerk Doris Ann Sadler at Keystone Arts last night. At right, David Woo (center) responds to an ovation for his real-life performance. (HPR Photos by Brian A. Howey)

26,000 absentee ballots that had to be either secured or moved. The solution was a coroner sticker over the room lock, with "coroner" crossed out and "sheriff" written in.

Sadler has had her share of controversy as clerk, but she comes off as thoroughly calm under constant fire. At one point, she says, "A black cat crossed my path down in Warren Township." Both Treacy and Murphy

thought the film was great. "I saw stuff I didn't even know goes on," Treacy said. Murphy added, "I didn't know what to expect. It flowed pretty quickly."

The film plays at 7:30 tonight at Keystone Arts. PBS will broadcast it in October or you can check it out at [www.ByThePeople-TheMovie.com](http://www.ByThePeople-TheMovie.com). HPR highly recommends this film. ❖



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Marines who toil in 130 degree heat while warding off anarchy that has engulfed the troubled land of Iraq. "I could not help but sense the parallels they're experiencing with the parallels of the framers of our own government," Buyer said. "So the institutions, whether they are sectarian, or cultural, civil or religious, still want to hold their pockets of regional strength rather than compromising and giving any of that up to the Iraqi government themselves. The Iraqi people are a proud people. They want the coalition forces to leave, I really believe that. But they also recognize that they need the security and the stability for the unity government to succeed."

HPR reminded Rep. Buyer of his description of the eight years it takes to develop a competent staff sergeant, and the 12 years to develop a seasoned battlefield commander. How long will American soldiers be in Iraq before the Iraqis can defend themselves?

"Challenges are there," Buyer said. "I hate to do this, but coming off a trip like this and trying to be forward thinking here, earlier I said success was their only option because they know the consequences of failure, because they know the tyranny of a dictatorship. So they are willing to work and sacrifice and make difficult decisions. As they build up their training force, what they are lacking are logistics. As we get into a greater handoff to the Iraqis, our forces will continue to be there in logistics as we downsize in that theatre of operations. The U.S. military presence could easily be there beyond five years."

That would put America's most precious assets in continual harms way well past the mid-point of the next U.S. president's first term.

***Straining our psyche***

Just the day before, President Bush appeared at an extraordinary press conference and acknowledged the war is "straining the psyche of our country" and added, "There's a lot of people - good, decent people - saying 'withdraw now.' They're absolutely wrong. We're not leaving so long as I'm the president. That would be a huge mistake. Leaving before the job is done would be a disaster."

After the statue of Saddam toppled, most American soldiers thought they would just go home.

***There was no plan***

In Thomas E. Ricks' book, "**Fiasco: The American Military Adventure in Iraq**," Col. Alan King, head of civil affairs for the 3rd Infantry Division, related his arrival in Baghdad in April 2003. "I got to Baghdad and was told, 'You've got 24 hours to come up with a Phase IV plan. On the night of April 8, Col. (John) Sterling came to me and said, 'I just got off the phone with the corps chief of staff, and I asked him for the reconstruction plan, and he said there isn't one. So you've got 24 hours to come up with one.'"

King was stunned. He had been asking for months what would happen once the guns of Phase III fell silent. He had been told that in due time, it would be issued.

The 3rd Infantry Division's official after-action review stated: "3rd ID transitioned into Phase IV SASO with no plan from higher headquarters. There was no guidance for restoring order in Baghdad, creating an interim government, hiring government and essential services employees and ensuring that the judicial system was operational."

Ricks would go on to report that in an astonishing criticism coming from an Army division, the ID report laid blame at the feet of its chain of command, leading to Gen. Tommy Franks,

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and President Bush: "The president announced that our national goal was 'regime change'. Yet there was no timely plan prepared for the obvious consequences of a regime change."

The American "liberators" as forecast by Assistant Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz became occupiers that did not take measures available for occupiers: imposing curfews, directing civilians to work, controlling local governments. What was created was a power vacuum and the fast growing saplings of a brutal insurgency.

***Two fateful decisions by Bremer***

This was followed by the arrival of U.S. Ambassador L. Paul Bremer, who made two fateful decisions that ran counter to initial plans by Rumsfeld and Bush. He issued orders calling for the removal of upper tiers of the Baath Party (about 85,000 people), and he disbanded the Iraqi Army. These decisions meant unemployment and



A self-described "frustrated" President Bush at Monday's press conference. He said the war is "straining the psyche" of the American people. (White House Photo)





shame of almost half a million men and women into an economy with close to 50 percent unemployment.

The **Army Times** reported on the Buyer presser, saying the congressman was less sanguine about the situation in Iraq, which he said is still so volatile that he found it difficult to envision how an immediate end to attacks using improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, can happen.

"Insurgents are very good," Rep. Buyer said. "Every time we have a countermeasure, they adjust what they do."

HPR asked Buyer: Are we still paying the price for Bremer's decision to do the deep de-Baathitication of the Iraqi government as well as disband the Iraqi army?

Buyer: "Yes, to be very honest with you. The de-Baathification continues. The consequence of what Bremer had done was this immediate ramp up trying to get as many personnel into the Iraq security force. Even President Talabani brought up to me that he thought a real error was made. We were going after numbers as opposed to really qualified people and they're having to pay a price for that going back to a vetting process."

### ***Missed lessons from Nazi Germany***

Buyer said that U.S. officials did not learn from the experiences following the fall of Nazi Germany. "The mistake was really no different than the mistake that was made after World War II when we said that anyone who was a Nazi could not participate in the stability of trying to run Germany, when, in fact, most of the people who were engineers and ran the country were Nazis," Buyer said. "So we ran into problems. General Patton recognized that. So (now) what we're dealing with is a country where under 50 percent of the males can read and write. Only 25 percent of the women can read and write. So they've got some real challenges. Let the unity government work through this process and in this period of reconciliation to vet serious people who are willing to work for the future of their country."

There were other errors in Phase III of the Iraq War. Military police units were cut from the original 20 to three. Those units could barely protect supply lines. Ricks reports that there were fears of destroying Iraq conventional weapons depots that might have contained weapons of mass destruction. But there were no plans to guard the depots and many of the rockets, mortars and AK-47s were subsequently looted, falling into the hands of Islamacists,

terrorists, foreign fighters (who were streaming into the unchecked borders from Syria) and thugs.

Generals Franks, Henry Shelton and Eric Shinsecki retired and Rumsfeld froze, explaining at one presser in the summer of 2003 that "stuff happens." On July 2, 2003, President Bush threw gas on the insurgency. "There are some who feel that the conditions are such that they can attack us here. My answer is: Bring 'em on. We've got the force necessary to deal with the security situation," Bush said.

The problem for the United States is that there never was enough personnel to secure Iraq. There was no plan for the aftermath. The soldier Rep. Buyer saw wounded by a female suicide bomber in Iraq and then arriving in Landstuhl AFB is paying that price.



**U.S. Rep. Buyer with Secretary of Veterans Affairs R. James Nicholson (right) learn about the capabilities of the U.S. Military Hospital Kuwait, located at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. (Photos courtesy of Rep. Buyer).**

### ***Paying the political price***

What the political price will be for vulnerable Republicans like U.S. Reps. Chris Chocola, Mike Sodrel and John Hostettler in Indiana is unclear. With no draft, no rationing and only an occasional military funeral along with \$3 a gallon gas, the average American is not paying the price. President Bush's Survey USA numbers in Indiana for August were 45/52 fav/unfav, a rebound from 36/61 in May. In the Connecticut Senate race, Iraq is the primary focus, as incumbent Joe Lieberman runs as an independent against Ned Lamont, who defeated him in this month's Democratic primary.

But the chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee, Rep. Tom Reynolds (R-NY), asserted that Iraq is the centerpiece of only one House race in the nation--the campaign of GOP Rep. Chris Shays in Connecticut.

In a conference call with Indiana reporters last Friday, Reynolds said that most House contests would revolve around the economy, gas prices and border security. "Most races will be engaged in pocketbook issues," he said.

In a New York Times/CBS News poll released this week, 24 percent of the 1,206 people surveyed said that terrorism is the most important issue for political leaders to address. The other top issues are the war in Iraq (22 percent), the economy (20 percent), the cost of health care (18 percent), and gas prices (8 percent). But 51 percent see no link between Iraq and the war on terror. Neither terrorism nor Iraq seem to be high on the agenda of Hoosier candidates at the moment. GOP Rep. Mike Sodrel (9th CD) spent two days near the Texas-Mexico border in August, a ripe moment for campaigning in the fiercely contested district during the congressional recess.



### ***Immigration the 'hot' issue***

"We thought it was a good use of his time because the debate is so hot," said Cam Savage, Sodrel's chief of staff. "There's no forum he goes to that he's not asked about (immigration)."

Even though a 2005 Census update shows that only four percent of Hoosiers were born outside the United States, Rep. John Hostettler (R-8th CD) will host a congressional field hearing in Evansville on Aug. 29 to explore the effects of the Senate immigration bill on wages and employment. Hostettler is chairman of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security and Claims. But zeroing in on immigration is not the priority for all candidates in southern Indiana--Sodrel, Hostettler, former Democratic Rep. Baron Hill (9th CD) and Democratic Vanderburgh County Sheriff Brad Ellsworth (8th CD). They all support a House bill that focuses on border security and workplace enforcement.



**U.S. Reps. Chris Chocola (center) and Buyer attend an immigration hearing in South Bend on Tuesday. (South Bend Tribune Photo)**

Hill's spokeswoman says immigration is not the top issue for voters. "The media brings that up," said Abby Curran.

In the scheduled Aug. 31 debate in the 9th CD, Hill has been pushing to address gas prices. He wants the event to focus solely on how much Hoosiers are spending at the pump.

"I don't know about you, but when I go to fill up my car and pull \$50 out of my wallet, it certainly makes me think this issue deserves more than four minutes in what could possibly be the only debate among the candidates for Congress in Indiana's 9th District," Hill wrote in a letter to the **New Albany Tribune** and **Jeffersonville Evening News** on Wednesday. In acquiescing to a wide-ranging debate with Sodrel, Hill did not mention Iraq.

### ***Iraq looms large for Bayh***

The politician for whom Iraq looms largest is not on the ballot this year -- Sen. Evan Bayh. Bayh has been circumspect about Lieberman's loss. The Connecticut Democrat is one of Bayh's role models and he supported him in the primary. But he "respects the decision" made by Connecticut voters, according to his staff.

Bayh's staff said he has not been asked to campaign for Lamont. But if that request does come, it will put

Bayh in a precarious position. Does he cast his lot with the Democratic net-roots who propel the Lamont campaign and are agitating for an immediate withdrawal from Iraq? Does that stance square with his "tough but smart" foreign policy philosophy? Does he risk offending Lieberman, who leads in the polls and could end up winning in November?

Bayh's answers to those questions may be the real Iraq debate in Indiana this fall. American military families are also living the debate.

### ***McCain lashes out at Bush***

Republican Sen. John McCain on Tuesday faulted the Bush administration for misleading Americans into believing the conflict would be "some kind of day at the beach."

"I think one of the biggest mistakes we made was underestimating the size of the task and the sacrifices that would be required," McCain said. "Stuff happens, mission accomplished, last throes, a few dead-enders. I'm just more familiar with those statements than anyone else because it grieves me so much that we had not told the American people how tough and difficult this task would be." The Arizona senator said that talk "has contributed enormously to the frustration that Americans feel today because they were led to believe this could be some kind of day at the beach, which many of us fully understood from the beginning would be a very, very difficult undertaking."

### ***Sept. 11 anniversary***

Less than a month before the fifth anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, Karl Rove and Republican strategists are angling to play the terror political card.

According to a CNN Poll, Americans believe Democrats would do a better job of dealing with the situation in Iraq and handling the economy, but Republicans would do a better job against terrorism, according to a poll released Tuesday. On terrorism, Republicans were favored by 48 percent of respondents, versus 38 percent for Democrats. Eleven percent said there would be no difference and 3 percent offered no opinion. But on the war in Iraq, respondents favored Democrats over Republicans by 47 percent to 41 percent.

The two issues met, briefly, at the Monday Bush press conference. Bush mentioned Sept. 11 after a question on Iraq. A reporter pressed, What did Iraq have to do with that? "Nothing," Bush said. "Nobody has ever suggested in this administration that Saddam Hussein ordered the attack."

\* \* \*

**PUBLISHER'S NOTE:** HPR has been citing the Thomas Rick's book recently. We asked Rep. Buyer if he had read "**Fiasco**." Buyer's spokesman said no, but added, "Steve values Ricks' work product and to tell you that he works hard at sourcing." ❖





## Chairman Clark surveys life in front of the wave

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - HPR spoke with Indiana Republican Chairman J. Murray Clark on Monday:

**HPR:** What prompted you to call out Bauer and Orentlicher last week on taking credit for the recent good economic and job news?

**Clark:** A couple weeks ago my wife went out to the mailbox and she said, 'I don't think I should show you this but here it is.' She showed me the Orentlicher newsletter and at first I thought it was a cruel hoax. It got the state chairman's blood pressure up. I thought it was so disingenuous. I asked my staff to find others who had taken this approach.

**HPR:** Did you get the reaction you wanted?

**Clark:** I read in Mike Smith's report that Bauer had called me a "hatchetman." (laughs). I thought that was great. That was the pot calling the kettle black. It is a message I am going to continue to make. The Democrats have continued to blister the governor on everything and turned this discussion into a highly negative and vitriolic public discussion on state issues as I've ever seen. They continue with that approach without any substantive ideas for alternatives. And the fact that they now, in light of the great run the state is on with economic development and to use this in a positive way to support their campaign is ridiculous. It is the height of hypocrisy and arrogance in my opinion. I'm going to keep pointing it out. The reality of this is the Orentlicher seat is a very critical seat. State party is paying attention to it. This kind of approach by Orentlicher in the past has gone unchallenged and I'm going to let people know.

**HPR:** I've got that race a tossup. Agree?

**Clark:** I think it is. The more we get out about David Orentlicher's voting record and his approach to policy matters, the better it is for us. In 2004, he was an author of Daylight savings time. In 2005, he voted against it after he had committed to supporters of it. He just blindly followed Mr. Bauer. He's a good retail politician, but he'll stand in your doorway and say he's a very moderate, pro-business legislator. He and others follow Bauer blindly. They have thrown up obstacles and hurdles at every turn for the governor. Now they are pointing to the governor's successes to support their candidacies and that's ridiculous.

**HPR:** What would it mean to have a Democratic

House in 2007?

**Clark:** If you have a House that blindly follows Pat Bauer, he's made it very clear he doesn't support the governor and he'll fight him at every turn. He and others have made it clear they would like to unwind the governor's initiatives. They made that clear at the Democratic State Convention. If Orentlicher and others follow Bauer at every turn, then having a Democratic majority in the House will bring the governor's progressive agenda to a screeching halt and return Indiana to the status quo of old 2004.

**HPR:** The Democrats have made this all so personal against Gov. Daniels. Why do you think that is?

**Clark:** You see it in the fact that it was such a shock to their collective system to lose the governor's office after 16 years, it was hard for them to come to grips with it. That's been the trend in politics. You don't have a better idea or a reasonable alternative other than abuse and personal attack. When you have a situation where you have a group of folks



who are as blindly committed to someone like Pat Bauer, it exacerbates the problem.

**HPR:** How much money will the state committee put in to retain control of the House?

**Clark:** I don't know exactly yet. Our attention is to invest substantially in House campaigns. We don't know exactly which ones those will be. We want to make each of our investments meaningful and to play a significant role in many of them.

**HPR:** Republicans I've talked to view Reps. Dave Crooks, Vern Tincher, Joe Micon ... as vulnerable.

**Clark:** ... Orentlicher. Those are four that jump out at us. Those are the top four, but there may be others.



But I don't want to define particular races until we get past Labor Day. Then we'll take a hard, intelligent look at them. But those are four that jump out at me.

**HPR:** How is the national environment, which doesn't look promising for the Republicans, going to impact the House races? With the governor's recent accomplishments, House Republicans will have a lot to campaign on, but then you look at the high gas prices and the war and it looks precarious.

**Clark:** It is awful early to tell but I don't think these House races are going to be nationalized. We don't have a presidential election, a gubernatorial election. Our United States senator doesn't have Democratic opposition. You have to commend Democrats for realizing that Sen. Lugar is so well respected across party lines. See, these House races can be very local races, very parochial races. This will be a very value-added year for grassroots politics. You know, door-to-door, get-out-the-vote effort and in that sense, this is a very, very important year for the Indiana Republican Party. These races will all turn very much on local efforts. We always say it is important. It's critical to get-out-the-vote but also to energize our base. I think you see our base getting energized with all these initiatives, like balancing the budget. I don't think our base is unhappy with the President. The gas prices is difficult, but I don't see it being nationalized. I think these races will be won and lost on local issues.

**HPR:** What does Lugar not having an opponent mean for, say, the House races?

**Clark:** It will allow him to work, if he so chooses, to work for other candidates. It also gives him the freedom to promote the issues he thinks are important for Hoosiers. Many of them are, mostly timely and notably, the alternative fuel issue which he has been the leader on for years. That really dovetails very well with a lot of successes with the governor, the ethanol plants and biodiesel. When they took over, we had one ethanol plant. Now we've got 12 ethanol plants and three biodiesel plants underway. There is, argueably, an agriculture revolution going on in this state. The senator will take this opportunity to talk about issues where he has led and that he thinks are really important for Hoosiers.

**HPR:** I've got the three Congressional seats - 2, 8 and 9 as tossups. Do you see them that way?

**Clark:** Those three are all different. The 8th is always a close one. I don't think I handicap it much differently than what I do every year. The Democrats throw everything they can at John Hostettler. But that's just a close district on paper. Grassroots politics are of paramount importance and that works to John's benefit. In the 9th, it's two out of three. Baron beat him the first time, Sodrel the second. The interesting thing on that race is that Mike

Sodrel will run the same way we did in '02 and '04, almost as a challenger. He will point out Baron Hill's voting record which doesn't fit that district. Sodrel now has a voting record and he has voted like he said he would. Some think that voting record is an anchor, but Sodrel will be able to this time distinguish his philosophy with his voting record. The 2nd is an interesting run. The Democrats have run a retreat in Donnelly. I think that race is more about us than about the Democratic candidate. Chocola has really been a terrific congressman. He came from the business sector and he's had Moveon.org through hundreds of thousands of dollars. He's withstood those attacks. As that campaign evolves, I think Chris will get stronger and stronger. He was embroiled early on with the toll road anxieties.

**HPR:** Do you see the toll road anxiety becoming a non-factor in this election?

**Clark:** I don't think it's a non-factor. You have really strong leaders in the House up there, and we are watching them closely. But as time goes by, it will be less of a factor. That is clearly an area we are watching closely. You have the Budak seat that is about to change, and Jackie Walorski, who is a strong leader. She seems to be doing very well. What people think is the situation the day after sine die isn't the situation in October. So because Pat Bauer thought he could take a seat in April doesn't mean that's the way it's going to be in October. That's what we're finding out throughout the state. That's the changing landscape now and it could change again. I think it will be less of a factor. We have great incumbents and great candidates up there.

**HPR:** When I saw you on the convention floor you talked about your impeccable timing in leaving the Senate. What can we expect in life after Bob Garton and how do you see the Pro Tem race developing?

**Clark:** First of all, I love what I do. I've really enjoyed being a part of state party. We have great staff. It is a group and party that has a tremendous amount of energy. I see that when I go to raise money, when I go to talk to investors. They are happy that this governor is changing the face of this state. That's what he promised. I enjoy that. As for the Pro Tem race, I've been accused of being for three or four different candidates.

**HPR:** I know better than to ask who you might support.

**Clark:** I want to make it clear, I'm not about to weigh in at this point. I'll just make two comments. I think there are eight or nine people who could be Pro Tem. Not all of them are going to seek it. The other thing I'll say is the only criteria, and I think it's pretty basic, is that they support the governor, that they work with the state party and they work with the House Republicans. Aside from that, those are pretty moderate requirements, I'm going to let that whole process take care of itself. ❖







### Bayh among Democrats who fault Wal-Mart's anti-labor policies

By MARK CURRY

Indiana's Evan Bayh stirred up controversy last week in Iowa when he jumped on the Democratic Party's anti-Wal-Mart bandwagon, proclaiming at a press conference that the big-box store "has become emblematic of the anxiety around the country, and the middle-class squeeze."

"We're not here today because we want to shut Wal-Mart down," Bayh said. "We're here today because we want them to treat their employees with dignity and respect. We are not anti-business, we are pro-Middle Class."

He appeared at the Aug. 15 media event in Cedar Rapids on behalf of a "Change Wal-Mart, Change America Tour." Organizers for sponsor Wakeup Wal-Mart said the event was part of "an exciting and unprecedented national bus tour going to 19 states, 35 cities in 35 days."

**Several other Democrats** considered among likely 2008 presidential candidates made news last week by criticizing the retail giant that is America's single largest private employer: Joe Biden, John Kerry, Hillary Clinton, Bill Richardson, Tom Vilsack and John Edwards.

"We just came from a great press conference in Cedar Rapids with Senator Evan Bayh, who spoke eloquently about standing up for working and middle class Americans," according to a blog entry on the Wakeup Wal-Mart website. "He talked about how Wal-Mart can be 'both successful and respected' if they do the right thing."

The "About Us" page on the group's website notes "We are 256,558 Americans and growing. We are grass-roots leaders, community groups and activists who have woken up to the high costs of Wal-Mart and recognize Wal-Mart's negative impact on our jobs, our wages, our health care and our communities."

The blog at Bayh's All America PAC website summed up the chief complaints: "Wal-Mart as you may know, is notorious for not only paying low wages to its

employees but is also well-known for its anti-union tactics, as well as encouraging employees to sign up for public assistance programs such as Medicaid and food stamps rather than providing better benefits. In fact, in Alabama and other states, Wal-Mart employees are the #1 recipient of state health insurance."

**The attacks were featured** prominently by media outlets across the country including CNN, Associated Press, Los Angeles Times, BBC, Indianapolis Star and more.

"The focus on Wal-Mart is part of a broader strategy of addressing what Democrats say is general economic anxiety and a growing sense that economic gains of recent years have not benefited the middle class or the working poor," read a report in the Aug. 17 **New York Times**.

Wal-Mart and its defenders struck back with a public relations barrage that blamed politics and unions for the attacks.

"The paid critics and the politicians who join them at these publicity stops are attacking the wrong company and should stop telling working families where to shop and work," Wal-Mart vice president of corporate communications, Bob McAdam, stated in a news release dated Aug. 15. "We're disappointed that these politicians are speaking out without paying attention to the facts and will be sure to inform our associates across Iowa and in other key states that these candidates are not telling the truth about Wal-Mart."

**The press release noted** the company mailed a letter to its 18,000 employees in Iowa to make them "aware of the misguided attacks aimed at scoring special-interest political points by playing politics with our company." A few days later the company announced it was sending similar letters to 27,000 employees in South Carolina, which, like Iowa, is considered a key state in the Democratic presidential candidate vetting process. According to an article in **The State**, Wal-Mart said the campaign is a union-funded attack that seeks to distort the good the company does.

"It's really about politics," said Dan Fogleman, a senior public relations manager for Wal-Mart told the newspaper. "They are attacking the wrong company." In a letter addressed to Bayh that was made available to the press, the company wrote that it saves the average American household more than \$2,300 per year. "We believe strongly that our company is a positive force for the working men and women of this country," the letter read.

**Ann McFeatters, the Scripps Howard** columnist who has covered the White House and national politics since 1986, weighed in. "Biden, Bayh, Richardson and Vilsack need to get off the bus and do the math," she wrote. "If 127 million people each week feel Wal-Mart makes their life better, how many of them will run to the polls to support a candidate who shakes his fist at their beloved Supercenter?" ❖



Sen. Evan Bayh, appearing at an anti-Wal-Mart news conference in Iowa last week, joined leading Democrats in calling for the retail giant to change policies concerning labor and employee benefits.





**Gary Gerard, Warsaw Times-Union** - I consider myself conservative. No shock there. But this week, in the interest of fairness, tolerance and unity, I am offering free political advice to Democrats. First, let me pose a simple question to the Democratic leadership. Are you nuts? A couple developments make me ask that question. First, the whole Joe Lieberman thing. The Democrats abandon the long-serving and well-respected Senator from Connecticut because he isn't anti-war enough for them. They rush to support the ardently anti-war Ned Lamont. I understand that being against the war in Iraq is a pretty infectious political sentiment around the U.S. these days. But I am fairly certain throwing the reins of your political party to the far-left, anti-war crowd is not the way to go. It's not like Lieberman is some hawkish conservative or anything. His liberal/conservative vote ratio runs in the 90s of percents. And it's not like his Iraq war position is all that rabid anyway. All Lieberman said was that we probably shouldn't announce a date when we will withdraw all the U.S. troops from Iraq. That, he said, would allow the terrorists to sit back and wait and then start back up in earnest once we left. Anti-war or not, I think most Americans in the center of the political spectrum probably agree with that position. Also, I think most people in the center of the political spectrum probably perceive a quick exit from Iraq as a sort of defeat. And Americans hate to lose. ❖

**Jack Colwell, South Bend Tribune** - Maybe it's not exactly Our Man Pat vs. Their Man Mitch. But it now seems that way, or the reverse, in a tale of two areas. As state Rep. B. Patrick Bauer left a downtown South Bend restaurant after lunch one day last week, a woman hurried over because "I just wanted to thank you." The woman, involved with administration in the nearby Penn-Harris-Madison school district, denounced Gov. Mitch Daniels for what she described as harmful cuts in the district, in personnel and in summer programs in particular, and for worse problems ahead. She praised Bauer for fighting for more adequate school funding in a losing battle with Daniels over budget priorities. Although Bauer is a long-time legislative leader, the South Bend Democrat hasn't always been hailed widely in his own home area. Now, he is, basking in praise for keeping House Democrats solidly in opposition to what opponents of the Toll Road deal -- and Bauer -- call "selling" of the road to private interests and for opposing a Daniels time bill that many in the area regard as causing rather than alleviating confusion. Bauer says he is especially gratified by the number of people who come up to him with thanks and praise and note that they are Republicans who voted for Daniels and even contributed to the Republican governor's campaign. This reaction is new. Bauer in



the past was usually viewed by Republicans in the area as a partisan Democrat, the opposition. He insists that his legislative record, on the budget writing House Ways and Means Committee and as a former House speaker, always reflected bipartisan cooperation with key Senate Republicans and with the last prior Republican governor, Bob Orr. Bauer went from speaker to House minority leader after Daniels won big in the 2004 governor race and helped to pull Republicans into control of both houses of the legislature. Now, Bauer hopes to be back as speaker if Democrats regain control of the House in the election this fall. The governor's worst nightmare? Well, Bauer says that with control of one legislative chamber -- the Senate is sure to stay Republican -- he would seek to block what he considers widespread "outsourcing of jobs" to non-Indiana firms and further privatization deals of the Toll Road type and to reverse what he denounces as policies by Daniels that put more pressure on the property tax and shortchange public schools. He might also support putting clocks back in license branches so customers can time results of Daniels' more "businesslike" operation. But Bauer sees no stalemate. "It won't be our way or no highway," Bauer says, referring to Daniels' stance that failure to pass his "Major Moves" deal for money from the Toll Road would kill highway improvements, such as work on U.S. 31. "We are going to compromise when we have to. We always have. And the state will be better off with balanced government," Bauer says. ❖

**Mark Kiesling, Times of Northwest Indiana** - A few years back there was a movie released called "Enemy At The Gates," a tale of two elite snipers set in 1943 Stalingrad. It didn't fare so well at the box office, because maybe no one could get emotionally involved in whether Hitler's Nazi picked off Stalin's Commie or vice versa. But it did show the elusive, silent and detached way in which a sniper goes after unsuspecting prey. The idea of a sniper does not seem fair, even if all is fair in love and war and even if we believe Gen. But even if we acknowledge the idea of a camouflaged sniper covered in foliage is a necessary evil of war, it's still rather unseemly in peacetime that a sniper has caused people in this area to give second and third thoughts as to how they travel. I headed out with the family last weekend to the Gary airport, hoping to catch a glimpse of aircraft leaving and returning to their staging area there from the Chicago Air and Water Show. The most direct route would have taken me from Interstate 80/94 north on Cline Avenue, which is where the majority of the sniper attacks have happened since July 25. I changed plans to avoid Sniper's Alley. ❖



## Bush at 45/52 percent in Indiana

**TRENDLINE No. 1:** A CBS News/New York Times poll of 1206 adults (+/- 3%), conducted over August 17-21, shows: 36% "approve of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as President"; 57% disapprove; 7% don't know. 34% "approve of the way George W. Bush is handling foreign policy"; 57% disapprove; 9% don't know. 35% "approve of the way George W. Bush is handling the economy"; 58% disapprove; 7% don't know. 30% "approve of the way George W. Bush is handling the campaign against Iraq"; 65% disapprove; 5% don't know. 55% "approve of the way George W. Bush is handling the campaign against terrorism"; 38% disapprove; 7% don't know. 29% "feel things in this country are generally going in the right direction"; 67% "feel things have pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track"; 4% don't know. 29% "approve of the way Congress is handling its job"; 60% disapprove; 11% don't know.



**TRENDLINE No. 2:** Survey USA has President Bush's fav/unfav in Indiana at 45/52 percent, better than his low point in May of 36/61 percent.

**TRENDLINE No. 3:** Republicans trying to hold onto the House raised \$12.5 million in July, outpacing Democrats by a 3-to-1 margin but leaving the GOP just \$1 million ahead in cash on hand. The influx of money \_ largely from political action committees \_ gives Republicans a slight advantage more than two months before the November elections. Democrats hope to gain 15 seats to seize control of the House. The NRCC has raised \$70 million so far and has \$34.1 million in the bank. The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee raised \$4.2 million in July, taking the group's total to \$81 million this cycle and \$33 million cash on hand. "Our phenomenal fundraising in July is the product of our members' hard work and the support of Americans who want leaders with a record of accomplishment and a positive vision moving forward," Rep. Tom Reynolds, R-N.Y., chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee, said in a statement. "It stands in sharp contrast to the Democrats, who spent the month of July raising dollars by exploiting the deaths of U.S. soldiers."

**TRENDLINE No. 4:** Gov. Mitch Daniels' Survey USA numbers have tumbled. His fav/unfav in the Aug. 11-13 poll dipped to 39/54 percent, down from 48/47 percent in July, but and still above his April low mark at 35/61 percent. Daniels fav/unfavs in Northern Indiana were 28/68 percent.

## Congressional Races

**Congressional District 2: Republican:** U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola. **Democrat:** Joe Donnelly. **Geography:** South Bend, Michigan City, Mishawaka, Elkhart, Kokomo, Plymouth, Logansport; LaPorte, St. Joseph, Starke, Marshall, Pulaski, Fulton, Cass, Carroll and parts of Howard, Porter, Elkhart and White counties. **Media Market:** South Bend-Elkhart, Indianapolis, Lafayette, Chicago. **People:** Urban/rural 73/27%; median income \$40,381; Poverty 9.5%; Race 84% white, 8% black; 5 Hispanic; Blue/white collar: 34/50%. **2000 Presidential:** Bush 53%, Gore 44%; Cook Partisan Voting Index: R+5; **2002 Result:** Chocola 95,081 (50%), Long Thompson 86,253 (46%); **2004 Result:** Chocola 140,496 (54%) Donnelly (D) 115,513 (45%) **2006 Forecast:** The head of the campaign arm of the House Republicans attacked 2nd CD Democratic challenger Joe Donnelly over failing to pay taxes--following a tack taken by incumbent GOP Rep. Chris Chocola even though Donnelly accuses Chocola of being a tax scofflaw, too. Rep. Tom Reynolds (R-NY), chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee, assailed Donnelly for more than a dozen personal and business tax delinquencies. Reynolds believes this can be a winning issue even though the Donnelly campaign has asserted that CTB Inc., a Milford-based agricultural company, was late on paying about \$9000 in taxes in the spring of 2000 when Chocola was chairman of the CTB board. Reynolds said that the public will forgive Chocola for a one-time lapse on a business tax but will have a different attitude toward Donnelly. "They are less sympathetic to an individual who routinely fails to pay his own taxes while advocating tax hikes on everyone else," Reynolds said in a conference call on Friday with Indiana reporters. Donnelly's spokeswoman turned the attack back on Chocola. "Joe has paid every penny of taxes he's owed," said Katie Nee, Donnelly's campaign manager. "He's completely up to date. In fact, he's overpaid in one county. It's hypocritical for (Chocola) to challenge Joe Donnelly on something he's had a problem with. This is Chocola's effort to distract voters from a failed record in Congress." Reynolds praised Chocola as a hard-working campaigner, gifted fundraiser and someone who's business background adds heft to his tax-cutting votes. He also said that Donnelly's opposition to a 2005 energy bill would hurt him because it would benefit Indiana by boosting corn-based fuels. "That's going to develop into an issue," said Reynolds. Nee criticized the legislation for putting "special interests ahead of ordinary Americans" and defended Donnelly's stance on alternative fuels. "Joe has been consistent all along with being a proponent of ethanol and biodiesel sources of energy," she said. "He's really not interested in a lecture from a congressman who took thousands in campaign contributions



from bio oil companies and voted against cracking down on price gouging three times." A U.S. House GOP immigration forum held here Tuesday afternoon drew a mixed reaction from the public and seemed to hold at least one surprise for the three congressmen presiding over it (Ros, **South Bend Tribune**). The forum, organized by 2nd District Rep. Chris Chocola as a follow-up to a Ways and Means Committee immigration hearing held last month in Washington, included Rep. Steve Buyer of Indiana's 4th District and Rep. Jim McCrery, R-La. House Republican committees are holding at least two dozen immigration forums this summer in various parts of the country. "Each of you has the experience of immigrants in your daily lives," Chocola told an audience of about 70 at the County-City Building. The forum, he continued, was designed to "get the experience of people here in our community in conjunction with the hearings in Washington and around the country." The so-called "doughnut hole" built into the Medicare Part D prescription drug legislation passed in late 2003 may soon become a yawning chasm for many seniors (Wensits, **South Bend Tribune**). Under the legislation, Medicare recipients pay a \$250 deductible and then pay 25 percent of drug costs up to \$2,250, the edge of the gap. At that point, coverage stops and the recipient pays 100 percent of prescription costs until his or her out-of-pocket costs for drugs total \$3,600 within the same calendar year. Then, Medicare kicks in again, picking up virtually all of the costs above \$5,100. The gap in coverage is sometimes called the "doughnut hole," and it can create a financial problem for some seniors. Nationally, the "average" senior is expected to reach the coverage gap by Sept. 22, but many are already there. The Tribune asked U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola, R-2nd, and his challenger in November, Democrat Joe Donnelly, to give their views on the program in the first of an ongoing series of issue-oriented reports scheduled to run between now and Election Day, Nov. 7. **Status:** TOSSUP ❖

### **Congressional District 7:**

Republican: Eric Dickerson. Democrat: U.S. Rep. Julia Carson. **Geography:**

## **Battle for the House**

### **R30 D36**

#### **Likely Takeover (1-R)**

Woodruff (Battles)

#### **Tossups (7-R; 1-D)**

Buell (Barnes)  
 Borders (Bledsoe)  
 Heim (Dembowski)  
 Open (Budak: Dermody vs. Renner)  
 J. Smith (Herrell)  
 Saunders (Sadler (D), and Bell (L))  
**Open (Messer: Eberhart vs. Lux)**

Orentlicher (Densborn)



#### **Leans (13-R; 9-D)**

Bosma (Fuldauer)	Hoy (A. Smith)
Lehe (Sutton)	Fry (Hiler)
Harris (Hile)	Micon (Basham)
Davis (Liggett)	Austin (Metzger)
Lutz (Mengelt)	Tincher (Dallas)
Dodge (Rauen)	Denbo (Patton)
Stutzman (Rorick)	Crooks (Arnold)
Open (Hoffman: Knollman vs. Lanning)	Open (Stemler v Theobald)
Walorski (Kovach)	Bischoff (Ullrich)
Hinkle (Olds)	
Bright (Cheatham)	
Open (Thomas: Thomas v. Thompson (D))	
Open (Ayres: Soliday v. Graham (D))	

#### **Likely (1-R; 2-D)**

Ulmer (Puro) Klinker (Rhoda)  
 Pflum (Bell)

#### **Safe (30-R; 36-D)**

**(30 Republican)** Gutwein, Wolkins, Ruppel, Friend, McClain, Thompson, Richardson, Turner, Buck, Torr, Whetstone, T. Brown, Foley, Frizzell, Behning, Murphy, Noe, Pond, Borrer, Bell, Espich, Ripley, Crouch, Duncan, Koch, Open (Yount: M. Smith), Burton, Cherry, Leonard, Neese

**(36-Democrats)** Avery, Lawson, Harris, C. Brown, Bauer, Niezgodski, Dvorak, Pelath, Cheney, Grubb, Stevenson, Open (Aguilera: Reardon), Dobis, V. Smith, Kuzman, Bardon, Tyler, Reske, Kersey, Welch, Pierce, Goodin, Robertson, Cochran, Oxley, Stilwell, Open (B. GiaQuinta, P. GiaQuinta), Moses, Dickinson, Avery, VanHaaften, Day, Summers, Mays, Crawford, Mahern, Porter.

**Movement:** Eberhart vs. Lux moves into Tossup.❖





Indianapolis. Media Market: Indianapolis. People: Urban 99.7%; median income \$36,522; poverty 13.5%; race white 63, black 29.4%, Hispanic 4.4%, Asian 1.3%; blue/white collar 26/58%; **2000 Presidential:** Gore 55%, Bush 43%; Cook Partisan Voting Index: D+6. **2002 Results:** Carson 77,478 (53%), McVey 64,379 (44%). **2004 Results:** Carson 121,303, Horning (R) 97,491, Campbell (L) 4,381. **2006 Forecast:** Dickerson says he has paid off the loans that spurred an Ohio bank to sue him and the lawsuit will be dropped (**Indianapolis Star**). "Case closed," Dickerson said in a written statement. Fifth Third Bank brought suit in Marion Superior Court, saying Dickerson owed the bank more than \$2 million after his Northside Buick dealership defaulted on loans. Dickerson, a Republican running against Julia Carson for the 7th Congressional District seat, said he signed a personal guarantee to buy new and used vehicle inventory. Small businesses are routinely required to sign such guarantees to secure loans, he said. An attorney representing the bank confirmed there is a settlement agreement. "We're working on some final cleanup issues," Alan Statman said. "We're close to having it resolved." "Congresswoman Carson, through a spokesman, had no comment, but the state Democratic Party's Dan Parker did. "I think it will be an issue when people evaluate Eric Dickerson's candidacy because he is touting his business experience. Julia Carson doesn't need to mention Eric Dickerson in the campaign. She's going to talk about what she's done." Brian Howey, publisher of **Howey Political Report** report says Dickerson is already on shaky political ground (**WTHR-TV**). "Unseating an incumbent, especially in a year that's shaping up to be fairly democratic, this doesn't help him at all," according to Howey. Howey says Carson's silence shows she's comfortably ahead. "If Eric Dickerson was pretty close you can rest assured the Carson people would be jumping on this because it's how you conduct your affairs, your business." **Status:** LIKELY CARSON

**Congressional District 8:** Republican: U.S. Rep. John Hostettler. Democrat: Vanderburgh County Sheriff Brad Ellsworth. **Geography:** Evansville, Terre Haute, Greencastle; Posey, Vanderburgh, Warrick, Gibson, Pike, Martin, Daviess, Knox, Sullivan, Greene, Owen, Clay, Vigo, Vermillion, Parke, Putnam, Warren and part of Fountain counties. **Media Market:** Evansville, Terre Haute, Indianapolis. Lafayette. **People:** Urban/rural 58/42%; median income \$36,732; poverty 10.7%; race white 93.7%, black 3.7%, Hispanic .9%; blue/white collar: 32/52%. **2000 Presidential:** Bush 56%, Gore 42%; **Cook Partisan Voting Index:** R+8. **2002 Results:** Hostettler 98,952 (51%), Hartke 88,763 (46%), **2004 Results:** Hostettler 145,576, Jennings (D) 121,522,

Garvin (Green) 5,680. **2006 Forecast:** One difference between Brad Ellsworth and John Hostettler doesn't show up in their speeches and commercials as the two battle to represent Indiana's 8th Congressional district: It is the way Hostettler and Ellsworth organize their own campaigns (Langhorne, **Evansville Courier & Press**). Ellsworth recently hired a veteran Democratic spokesman to serve as his press secretary, adding to the professional firepower the challenger has amassed against Republican Congressman Hostettler. Matt Weisman, who served as a regional press secretary in Sen. John Kerry's, D-Mass., 2004 presidential campaign and an assistant press secretary to former Sen. Carol Moseley Braun, D-Ill., in Washington, D.C., began working in Ellsworth's Fourth Street headquarters about two weeks ago. Weisman joins campaign manager Jay Howser, who was a researcher for Al Gore's 2000 presidential campaign and a Democratic adviser during the 2002 Senate race in Minnesota. Other full-time staffers in Ellsworth's headquarters include a finance director, deputy finance director and a scheduler. Hostettler, a six-term incumbent, serves as his own campaign manager and press secretary. Hostettler's sister and campaign office manager, Karen Hammonds, works out of a cubicle in a room she shares with an unpaid summer intern. A second small room in the Hostettler campaign's Main Street office is a storage area. Each campaign claims about 1,000 volunteers. **Status:** TOSSUP

**Congressional District 9:** Republican: U.S. Rep. Mike Sodrel. Democrat: Baron Hill. **Media Market:** Evansville (11%), Indianapolis (23%), Louisville (55%), Dayton, Cincinnati (10 percent). **People:** urban/rural 52/48%, median income \$39,011; race white 94%, 2.3% black, 1.5% Hispanic; blue/white collar: 34/50%; **2000 Presidential:** Bush 56%, Gore 42%; Cook Partisan Voting Index: R+8. **2004 Presidential:** Bush 59%, Kerry 40%. 2002 Results: Hill 96,654 (51%), Sodrel 87,169 (46%). **2002 Money:** Hill \$1.144m, Sodrel \$1.62m. 2004 Results: Sodrel 142,197, Hill 140,772, Cox (L) 4,541. **2006 Forecast:** Hill has agreed to debate Sodrel on a multi-issue format on Aug. 31 at WTU in Bloomington. "I am disappointed that Mike Sodrel is apparently so callous towards the concerns of the voters of Southern Indiana that he will not explain why he thinks tax breaks for Big Oil companies are good policy," Hill said. "Clearly, one of the perks of being the incumbent congressman is that you can bully your way around debate conditions." **Status:** TOSSUP.

## Statewide Races

**Secretary of State:** Republican: Secretary of State Todd Rokita. Democrat: Joe Pearson. **2002 Results:** Rokita (R) 789,261, Fernandez (D) 627,416, Sink-Burriss (L) 60,937. **2006 Forecast:** House Democratic Leader B.



Patrick Bauer today called for the operation of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to be placed under the direction of the Secretary of State instead of under the Governor's Office. Bauer explained his rationale during a Monday afternoon press conference at the Virginia Avenue BMV branch in Indianapolis. "Our neighboring states of Illinois and Michigan already have placed operation of the BMV under the constitutional office of the Secretary of State, and I propose Indiana follow suit," Bauer said. "Over the last 18 months – especially in the last eight weeks – BMV Commissioner Joel Silverman has proven his inability to properly manage the BMV, yet Gov. Daniels continues to refuse to replace him. I'm hearing from a lot of frustrated Hoosiers who believe it's time for a change." According to the National Association of Secretaries of State, three states – Illinois, Maine and Michigan – currently incorporate motor vehicle-related services, including driver's licenses and registrations, within the Secretary of State's office. Across the country, Secretaries of State frequently oversee various licensing programs. "While I appreciate Minority Leader Bauer's recognition of the job that we are doing as Indiana's Secretary of State, I see this proposal as part of election year antics and not part of serious policy discussion." **Status:** LIKELY ROKITA

## Legislative Races

**Senate District 4:** Republican: Porter County Clerk Dale Brewer. Democrat: State Sen. Karen Talian. **2002 Results:** Antich (D) 16,011, Shane (R) 12,583. **2006 Primary:** Talian 5,743, Chubb 2,796; Childress 2,247, Vojstlavak 2,078. **2006 Forecast:** Tallian's Ogden Dunes home was listed in a preliminary tax sale report prepared by the Porter County treasurer's office (Stinson, **Post-Tribune**). The reason? Tallian had missed all or part of her property tax payments going back to early 2005. Porter County records show Tallian owed \$3,305.53 in delinquent payments by the July 7 deadline. Her total bill was listed on the Porter County Web site as \$4,626.37. On Monday, Tallian said she did not know about the preliminary tax sale listing and said there have may have been some confusion about whether the very first tax payment was to be made by a third party. She said that confusion left her one payment behind since 2003. Tallian paid her bill, plus \$1,182 in penalties, on Monday. She said she would look into what caused the perennial problem. "It's hard to say," said Tallian, a Portage-based attorney. "I think we had some confusion." Tallian said she was in arrears since purchasing the house in 2003. She said she wasn't sure if she was supposed to pay the first property tax payment in 2003. Tallian will be removed from the tax sale list, Porter County Treasurer Jim Murphy said. The July 7 deadline passed without any kind of payment from Tallian, according to Murphy. That kicked the tax sale listing into effect. Murphy said there are 1,200 preliminary tax sale list-

ings in Porter County, mostly because a Porter County tax sale last year was declined by Porter County Auditor Sandra Vuko. But the listing is compiled annually. "That's the standard procedure that happens each year on July 1," Murphy said. Murphy said the list includes Porter County property owners who are three deadlines behind. **Status:** LEANS TALIAN.

**House District 52:** Republican: State Rep. Marlin Stutzman. Democrat: LaGrange County Democratic Chairman Dennis Rorick. **2002 Results:** Stutzman (R) 6,950, Sturtz (D) 6,701. **2004 Results:** Stutzman (R) 12,872, DeLucenay (D) 6,496. **2006 Forecast:** Some Indiana legislators want to honor Hoosiers who have received the Purple Heart by renaming an Indiana highway (**Fort Wayne Journal Gazette**). Using the Vietnam Moving Wall as a backdrop, state representatives, veterans and their families gathered Monday at Kelly Park in Rome City to announce their proposal to rename Indiana 1 the "Purple Heart Highway." "It's truly an honor for us to be here to announce this special resolution that we will offer at the next legislative session," Rep. Marlin Stutzman, R-Howe, said. The idea to rename Indiana 1 was proposed by Joe Clock of Hagerstown, the aide-de-camp of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. **Status:** LEANS STUTZMAN.

**House District 57:** Republican: Shelby County Councilman Sean Eberhart. Democrat: J.D. Lux. **2002 Results:** Stine (R) 8,384, Wheeler (D) 5,429, Jester (L) 508. **2004 Results:** Messer (R) 16,004. **2006 Forecast:** Lux got 49 percent of the vote against a two-time sheriff (Mike Herndon) in the presidential year 2000. He's raised \$40,000 and has \$28,000 cash-on-hand, compared to \$10,000 cash-on-hand for Eberhart. And the district shaved off areas that Lux didn't do well in last time out. He has also landed the Farm Bureau endorsement, which Lux says, "Will play significantly in rural areas." Add to the mix that Eberhart, as president of the Shelby County Council has seen a rise in property taxes, and throw in the potential for a moderate to big Democratic year and we believe this race to be a ... **Status:** TOSSUP

**House District 92:** Republican: State Rep. Phil Hinkle. Democrat: Robin Olds. **2002 Results:** Hinkle (R) 10,935, Kirkpatrick (L) 888. **2004 Results:** Hinkle (R) 16,158, Swinford (D) 9,488. **2006 Forecast:** Rep. Hinkle suffered a mild heart attack last week. He underwent a medical procedure last Thursday and was released from the hospital on Friday. While doctors have told him to rest, Tony Samuel of the House Republican caucus said that Hinkle is doing about one campaign event a day. "He's fine," Samuel said. **Status:** LEANS HINKLE





## Lugar, Biden seek release of Fox journalists

WASHINGTON - U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Dick Lugar and Committee Ranking Member Joseph R. Biden, Jr., sent a letter this week to President of the Palestinian Authority Mahmoud Abbas calling for him to re-double his efforts to bring two kidnapped journalists to safety (HPR). Steve Centanni and Olaf Wiig were kidnapped not far from the Palestinian security services headquarters in Gaza City over a week ago. "The role of the foreign press in Gaza is instrumental in providing information independent from governments both on the situation in Gaza and on fast-breaking developments there. In order to allow reporters and staff to take serious risks in troubled areas of the world, foreign news establishments must be assured that governments will do everything necessary to ensure that they can operate freely, without harassment or threat of violence. We urge you to redouble your efforts to peacefully resolve this situation, securing the release of the two hostages unharmed, and bringing to justice those responsible for this unprovoked act," Senators Biden and Lugar wrote.



## Lameduck Lutz sends out newsletter

EVANSVILLE - To notify his constituents about the Indiana Senate Democrats' plan to create statewide universal health care, state Sen. Larry Lutz sent an official legislative newsletter to more than 47,800 households in his district (**Evansville Courier & Press**). The headline reads in bold letters: "Lutz seeks statewide health care plan by 2008." But Lutz will not be in the state Senate when the health-care

proposal is introduced next spring. He's not running again this year and his term expires Nov. 7. Ivy Tech Community College Reports Record Enrollment Federal immigration hearing set in Evansville They're a gas: Fuel-saving hybrids going as fast as they are made That has one of the candidates running to succeed Lutz questioning why he would authorize a state mailing that cost \$10,000 in taxpayer funds. "I just don't understand sending it out," said Republican George Postlethweight, one of two candidates running for the open seat created when Lutz announced he wouldn't run again.

## Mauer trumpets job creation

INDIANAPOLIS - State economic development officials trumpeted a record year Wednesday, releasing data that show they surpassed 2005 records with four months left in the calendar year (**Fort Wayne Journal Gazette**). "The numbers say it all," Indiana Secretary of Commerce Michael S. Maurer said. "We are closing a competitive deal every other day. We can operate very close to a for-profit business model. We can move fast." Maurer runs the Indiana Economic Development Corp., a quasi-governmental agency charged with spearheading the state's economic development efforts. He bragged in a news conference overflowing with non-media members that they have received commitments for 15,722 new jobs, compared to 15,407 for all of 2005. Of the new jobs, 2,067 are the result of a new Honda assembly plant in Greensburg.

## Parker disputes job figures

INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana Democrats today refuted the numbers presented this week by the Indiana Economic Development Corp. with respect to the administration's record on job creation and personal income

growth (HPR). The IEDC held a press conference yesterday to tout their successes, but Indiana Democratic Party Chair Dan Parker said the facts clearly don't match up with the agency's rhetoric. "They're more interested in putting on their rose-colored glasses and slapping each other on the back than they are in developing a strategy for growth that will lead Indiana to the front of the pack," Parker said. "While they blather on about how great they are, job growth has dramatically slowed and average working Hoosiers are being laid off and forced to do more with less."

## McDermott declares for re-election

HAMMOND - Promising four more years of progress and improvement for the city, Mayor Thomas McDermott Jr. officially launched his re-election campaign Wednesday night. McDermott, 37, revisited his 10-point campaign platform, offering updates on his administration's successes (**Times of Northwest Indiana**).

## Put students on city councils says legislators

KENDALLVILLE - Students could be appointed as nonvoting members on city councils under legislation two area lawmakers plan to draft (**Associated Press**). The proposed bill being written by Republican Reps. Matthew Bell of Avilla and Marlin Stutzman of Howe stems from a heated Kendallville City Council session last week where member Jim Liechty questioned Mayor Suzanne Handshoe's appointment of East Noble High School senior Cory Allen to the council. Liechty said he supported the concept but questioned whether proper procedures were followed. Allen, sworn in during the council's Aug. 1 meeting, is one of 15 students involved in the mayor's Youth Advisory Council. The group was created in May to advise city officials on teen issues. ❖