



Bad city omens for Daniels re-elect

Cities that had big economic gains tossed out incumbent mayors

"There's danger on the edge of town..."
- "The End" by The Doors

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - On Election Night, Gov. Mitch Daniels was in Chicago when the stunning news reached him: Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson had lost. It came as a shock despite plenty of warning signs, including **HOWEY POLITICS INDIANA** moving the Ballard-Peterson race into "tossup" on Nov. 1.

Peterson lost when the doors of perception swung against him. He was blamed for the property tax crisis, aggravated by the fiscal need to raise income taxes by 65 percent to keep the city's bond rating from declining, an event that would have cost the city millions of dollars in interest.

Today, Gov. Daniels is back in the **HPI's** "tossup"



Gov. Mitch Daniels with Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson in 2005 as they pushed IACT's elusive Home-town Matters proposals. Daniels is facing a fate similar to Peterson in 2008. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

zone himself. The latest Indianapolis Star/WTHR-TV poll shows him losing to Democrats Jim Schellinger (44-40 percent) and Jill Long Thompson (44-43 percent) along with a "dismal" 40 percent approval rating. His political apparatus had at times fretted over similarly low approval numbers a couple of years ago. Back then, there was the luxury of

See Page 3

Let's see, who do I trust?

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Hmmmmm. Who am I going to trust? Local mayors and councilmen and county commissioners who every year for decades passed balanced budgets, kept tax rates stable and made sure the garbage got picked up, or lawmakers at the Statehouse, who until recently worked up budgets with smoke, mirrors, showboat fly-around and bombast?



Brian Howey's Column

Mayors and county commissioners who have opponents in an overwhelming majority of elections, having to run on the merits or pitfalls of their ideas and records? Or legislators, who create



"I'm not asking him about his love life. I'm asking him if he's qualified to be mayor, and I'm hearing deafening silence."

- **Attorney Ed DeLaney** on questions for Terre Haute mayor-elect Duke Bennett, *Terre Haute Tribune-Star*



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uncompetitive districts for themselves with an overwhelming majority never facing credible opponents?

Granted, Gov. Mitch Daniels has installed new fiscal integrity in his two budgets and, like mayors, will face an intense re-election battle in 2008. Essentially, Daniels and the legislature declared war on cities, towns and counties when, during the 2004 campaign and while in office, Daniels expressed sympathy for the concept of "home rule." Now they are telling folks that in order to keep property taxes permanently low, we have to cap property taxes and put a stranglehold on local governments. We have fiscal analysts like Steve Johnson who have warned us about the "unintended consequences" of such a move.

When Daniels put out his tax plan, the fact sheet noted that since 1998 (about the time Sen. Dan Coats told the Indiana Senate that "new federalism" would shift the cost of government to locals, who are closer to the people), local government spending increased 65.1 percent compared to the rate of inflation of 24.7 percent. As for who is spending tax dollars, 50.5 percent are from schools, 18.9 percent from cities and towns, 23.2 percent from counties and 4.2 percent from libraries. We'd like to see those figures from 1998.

We no longer have the Indiana Fiscal Policy Institute or the Taxpayers Research Association that Dave Bennett used to operate out of Fort Wayne. So there are fewer and fewer independent research sources, virtually no journalists who are trained economists (where are you, Doug Sword?), and a legislature (remember the smoke & mirrors?) hellbent on greasing the slats and fast-tracking this whole thing.

We have allies of the Governor who are calling his 1-2-3 cut n' cap plan a "re-election document" with slowly emerging supporting data.

The most fascinating aspect of the Indianapolis Star/WTHR-TV poll isn't that Daniels is trailing both Jill

Long Thompson and Jim Schellinger. It's that the largest segment of Hoosiers - 28 percent - now blame local governments (not including school corporations) for the most responsibility in the property tax crisis while the legislature gets 24 percent, and 14 percent blame the schools.

In the September WISH-TV poll on who's to blame for the property tax crisis, 22 percent said the Indiana General Assembly, 19 percent said Gov. Daniels, 13 percent the DLGF, 12 percent county assessors, 11 percent townships assessors, 12 percent all of them equally, and 9 percent Mayor Bart Peterson. The change came as Gov. Daniels stumped the state since Oct. 23, using the bully pulpit to spread the notion that local governments must be reined in. On one hand, he's seeking a "healthier" Indiana. Under his caps, will cities be closing parks?

This is deceptive. Cities and counties have been keeping tax rates stable while having to absorb unfunded state and federal mandates.

Schools, libraries, airports, sewer districts, many with unelected members, do the most accelerated spending. And as the ISTA pointed out this week in opposing the 100 percent state takeover of school operating costs, most of the tax rate acceleration comes from capital projects. We have few clues as to how much government we're actually going to be funding. The Kernan-Shepard Commission will only get that ball rolling sometime in the next four or five weeks.

I get extremely nervous when anything gets on the fast track at the Indiana Statehouse, where a single report or poll can get everyone scurrying like ants. That tells me that the governor and legislators - all of whom are sitting in a tax crisis frying pan of their own making - are feeling the heat and will do something ... anything ... this election year to placate angry voters who just tossed out some of the more progressive mayors simply because they were lashing out. ❖



time. Now, less than a year before the 2008 gubernatorial showdown, some of the basic premises surrounding a theoretical successful re-election campaign lay exposed in the wreckage of more than a half dozen mayoral defeats.

Look no further than Greensburg, where Mayor Frank Manus was defeated despite some 4,000 jobs coming with a new Honda plant that was announced in the summer of 2006. Or Anderson, where Mayor Kevin Smith had put together one of the most impressive economic development programs in the state that helped this moribund rustbelt city land the Nestle plant. Or West Lafayette where Mayor Jan Mills lost, despite a new Toyota plant coming nearby. Or Seymour, where Mayor Jim Bullard lost in the primary despite six Japanese companies that employ some 3,000 workers. Or Jeffersonville where Mayor Rob Waiz stood beside Gov. Daniels in announcing the Medventure relocation from Kentucky and a big expansion of Jeff Boat. Waiz lost in the primary to former mayor Jim Galligan. Or Franklin, where Mayor Brenda Jones-Matthews was defeated despite helping bring in Japanese companies like Nishima and KYB. Gov. Daniels joined the mayor in 2005 in announcing an expansion of Japanese-owned NSK Corp.

The defeats of these mayors and others like Babara Ewing in Tell City, Al Huntington in Madison and Kevin Burke in Terre Haute - all of whom helped land new plants or job expansions - is an all-too-real reminder that big economic development gains are not enough to power the presiding executive to further terms.

The reasons mayors go down in defeat are many. In Mayor Manus' case he found himself boiling over local water issues and the fact that he once referred to African-Americans as "colored people." But conventional wisdom had been that if a mayor could land an economic gem like Honda, that would more than neutralize a feud with a firefighters union or a water utility dispute.

Ride the king's highway

In Indiana, solid economic gains no longer do so. The perception game becomes prescient over solid facts. Many observers believe the property tax "crisis" that was extensively covered by the Indianapolis media spilled over into cities where there was no crisis (i.e. Greenwood Mayor Charlie Henderson eked out a narrow victory).

The re-election campaign of Gov. Daniels is based on an array of big economic gains like Honda, Toyota, Dreyfus, Nestle, Medventure and dozens of other big economic gains. The new Colts stadium will be unveiled in



Gov. Mitch Daniels at Franklin's NSK Corp. with Mayor Jones-Matthews following up the stairs. At left, Daniels breaks ground on the new Getrag plant at Tipton. (HPI Photos by Brian A. Howey)

September 2008. Major Moves construction will begin in St. Joseph County, Lakeville, Westfield and Kokomo. The Norwest Regional Development Authority is beginning to fund marinas, parks and transportation in Lake and Porter counties. The hope was that with thousands of new jobs - Major Moves was billed as the "jobs bill of a generation" - unemployment would dip below the national average and personal income would increase.

"There have been thousands and thousands of jobs announced all over the state," said Michael Davis, political director for the Indiana Chamber of Commerce. "It's more perception than reality."

The perception problem facing Gov. Daniels is that the property tax crisis - born out of the administration's greatest political miscalculation to date - seems to be overriding just about everything else. He needs to do a masterful orchestration of the issue come March, but started the



process by alienating some of his staunchest supporters.

Weird scenes inside the gold mine

Democratic pollster Fred Yang, working for the Schellinger campaign, noted in a memo after the Star/13 poll, "The results of this survey conducted a little less than a year before the 2008 Indiana Governor's election yield two key conclusions. First, Gov. Daniels is politically weak and extremely vulnerable to defeat. Second, newcomer Jim Schellinger emerges as the more electable of the two Democrats seeking their party's nomination, and in fact, Schellinger accomplishes the rare feat of leading the incumbent."

Yang explained, "The Star poll presents discouraging news for the Daniels campaign on three levels. First, Hoosier voters actually feel worse about the state's direction now than they did when Daniels was elected. Currently, nearly three in five (57%) voters say Indiana is off on the wrong track, compared with 35% who say the state is headed in the right direction.

A May 2005 Star poll, conducted shortly after Daniels's first session as governor, showed 42% right direction and 48% wrong track. The fact that Hoosiers have become noticeably more pessimistic is a stunning indictment of the Daniels administration and indicates that voters are in the mood for dramatic change."

Yang said that the 50 percent who disapprove of the Daniels' job performance is a "dramatic turnaround" from the 55 percent who approved in May 2005. Democratic sources tell **HOWEY POLITICS INDIANA** that some of the party polls in Northern Indiana show Gov. Daniels with an approval rating in the 20th percentile. "We regard the job rating as the most important indicator of an incumbent's political standing," Yang said.

But Yang said that the "most promising result" is the fact that Daniels already is trailing Jim Schellinger in the trial heat. The Star poll shows Jim Schellinger with 44% of the vote, compared with 40% for Governor Daniels. It is extremely rare for a challenger to be leading an incumbent this far from the election; in fact, in virtually all cases (including those in which the challenger eventually defeats the incumbent), the incumbent leads the challenger throughout the election. At this time four years ago, Gov. Joe Kernan had a double digit lead over challenger Daniels.



Gov. Daniels with Terre Haute Mayor Burke during 2006 when mayors of both parties endorsed the Major Moves initiative. Burke is currently involved in a recount after losing to Republican Duke Bennett. (HPI Photos by Brian A. Howey)

It wasn't until spring 2004 that the Kernan lead had eroded into a dead heat.

Chris Sautter of the Jill Long Thompson campaign, explained, "The Star/Channel 13 poll reinforces what we have learned from the WISH-TV Channel 8 poll and the November elections - the property tax crisis is driving the public thirst for change in Indiana. With a year to go and without spending a dime on advertising, Jill leads an incumbent governor. And she leads her primary opponent by 31 percent."

Chris Cillizza, who writes The Fix blog for the Washington Post, noted that the Star/13 numbers were "challenging" for Daniels. Cillizza explained, "Forty-percent

of the sample approved of the way he was handling his job while 50 percent disapproved. Other poll questions offered more of the same. Thirty-seven percent of respondents said they would vote for a 'Democratic candidate' while 32 percent chose a 'Republican candidate.' And, when asked whether they would support a Democratic presidential ticket that included home-state Sen. Evan Bayh (D) as vice president over a generic Republican ticket, 47 percent opted for Bayh

while 33 percent chose the Republican ticket."

Of our elaborate plans ... no safety or surprise

The Daniels campaign assumed that Hoosier voters would separate national issues like Iraq from state issues. But that didn't happen in the mayoral races, where state issues leached into the municipal perceptions.

While improving prospects in Iraq are changing some of the national dynamic, and recent polling shows that five GOP contenders would lead U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton in head-to-head matchups (and her nomination is hardly as sure a thing as the New York Times analyzed earlier this fall), Gov. Daniels clearly has his work cut out for him in the coming weeks and months.

How he handles the property tax reforms between now and March 15, as well as the Kernan-Shepard Commission report could determine whether he will join Joe Kernan as an Indiana governor who couldn't win a re-elect.

Before Daniels arrived on the scene, a number of reformers wished for a governor who would make the hard policy choices without an obsession with re-election. Those notions are closer to reality now than they've ever been. ❖



2008 Indiana Governor

Governor 2008: Republican: Gov. Mitch Daniels, La Ron Keith. Democrat: Jim Schellinger, Jill Long Thompson. **1996 Results:** O'Bannon (D) 1,075,342, Goldsmith (R) 997,505, Dillon (L) 35,261. **2000 Results:** O'Bannon (D) 1,230,345, McIntosh (R) 906,492, Horning (L) 38,686. **2004 Results:** Daniels (R) 1,302,912, Kernan (D) 1,113,900, Gividen (L) 31,644. **2008 Forecast:** As we pondered in the Nov. 15 edition, we are now moving both the Democratic primary and the general election into "Tossup." Previously, it had been "Leans Thompson" and for the general, "Leans Daniels." The Indianapolis Star/WTHR poll that shows Daniels' approval at a troubling 40 percent and trailing Schellinger 44-40 and Thompson 44-43 are statistical data that back up a lot of the anecdotal things we've been hearing this fall.

The key date in this campaign sequence comes on Jan. 15, when we get the latest fundraising reports. Daniels will have a big money lead. We'd expect Schellinger to be in the \$3 million range. Thompson's numbers will be the wild card. If she can get in the same ballpark as Schellinger, then we have a real race. If she lags significantly behind (say, more than a million and, remember, Schellinger had only a four-month advantage), that will spell trouble for her as some Democrats will push for a unity ticket.

There is a new perception that Gov. Daniels is truly vulnerable. We now agree, even though JLT and Schellinger have yet to put together any kind of comprehensive blueprint as to where they will take the state. Daniels is facing the specter of what did in Peterson: public anger aimed at incumbents with the challengers showing little about where they would take Indiana if elected. The difference here is that Peterson's campaign didn't appear to comprehend that he was truly in trouble until it was too late. Gov. Daniels still has some time to forge a property tax deal by March 15, perhaps incorporating some of the Kernan-Shepard Commission recommendations this session, then work to define his likely Democratic opponent before they can define him. His money advantage will work to his advantage there. The campaign hopes that the perception changes



with a property tax deal, new companies coming on line and hiring, and earth being moved as part of the Major Moves deal.

While we've always believed Daniels to be a master strategist and campaign implementer - his 2004 campaign was worthy of a poli-sci textbook - he faces a number of potential problems beyond his control. What if the economy tanks? What if Sen. Evan Bayh ends up on the national ticket? What if the Iraq War goes totally south? (Though right now it is improving even though there are questions of whether the surge can be sustained beyond spring.) What if Illinois Sen. Barack Obama wins the Democratic nomination and ignites a JFK-style New Frontier campaign that motivates Democrats and independents?

In the wake of the Star/13 poll, we think Schellinger benefits the most. It gives him polling numbers that match up with his primary money advantage. But it comes less than a month after two of his campaign chairs experienced devastating political (Mayor Peterson) and personal (U.S. Rep. Carson) events. Expect this campaign to go through similar swings as 2008 looks extremely

volatile, unpredictable and emotional. And while the Schellinger campaign has gone through a mixed month, we continue to hear rumblings in several party quarters that his team - many holdovers from the Kernan '04 campaign that squandered a double-digit lead, relied way to heavily on the IPALCO issue and ended up on its heels enroute to defeat - needs an overhaul.

Chris Sautter of the Thompson campaign

notes, "Jill has the best record on taxes among the candidates in this race - Democrat or Republican. During her years in Congress, she voted against every tax increase. That fact makes her uniquely positioned to lead the state in fixing its problems with an antiquated and inequitable tax system. Jill is the clear front-runner in this race and we look forward to uniting Democrats, independents, and dissatisfied Republicans to defeat Mitch Daniels in the fall."

Thompson has several Evansville endorsements, including State Rep. Phil Hoy, Evansville City Councilman Keith Jarboe, Councilwoman-elect Missy Mosby, Councilman-elect Dan Adams, Vanderburgh County Recorder Betty Knight Smith, and Evansville City Clerk Alberta Matlock.

Democratic Primary Status: TOSSUP. **General Status:** TOSSUP ❖



Jill Long Thompson and Jim Schellinger at the Howey Politics Indiana Forum on Oct. 23. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)



2008 Indiana Congressional

Congressional District 7: Republican:

Wayne Harmon. Democrat: Indianapolis Councilman Andre Carson, Marion County Treasurer

Michael Rodman. **Geography:**

Indianapolis. Media Market:

Indianapolis. People: Urban 99.7%;

median income \$36,522; pov-

erty 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. **2008**

Forecast: What Howey Politics Indiana had been hearing for several months was confirmed over Thanksgiving week-end: U.S. Rep. Julia Carson is suffering from terminal lung cancer.

HPI had reported on Nov. 14 that a top Democratic official said her life was likely to be measured in "weeks." That report was disputed by WTLC's Amos Brown, the only journalist to have recent contact with Rep. Carson, conducting a Nov. 5 interview where she endorsed Peterson. A **WRTV** report contained a quote from Carson's minister, Rev. Jonathan Baily, who said the congresswoman had been diagnosed with lung cancer a year ago. He said the doctor finally told her that she had just days to live recently. "She asked the doctor, 'How long have I got?'" Baily said. He said, 'It's not our thing to tell you how long, just make you comfortable.'"

The acknowledgement that Carson's political career in truly in its final stages signals a frenetic battle for succession in a Congressional district that has already witnessed the stunning defeat of Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson.

Carson's statement read: "In the late summer of 2007, Congress granted me a leave of absence because of my leg infection. My wonderful doctor cured the leg, and I went into rehabilitation, planning to be back in Washington shortly. Then the second shoe fell - heavily. My doctor discovered lung cancer. It had gone into remission years before, but it was back with a terminal vengeance. Therefore, I take this occasion to express my loving and literally eternal gratitude to my friends, including family, constituents and colleagues, who have given me so much



Rep. Julia Carson will pass from the Indiana political scene as undefeated. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

love, support and trust. God bless our beloved country."

The Carson political apparatus and even some friendly media sources led many to believe that Carson's condition was not serious in an apparent attempt to mask preparation for the possible ascension of Indianapolis Councilman Andre Carson - the congresswoman's grandson - to Congress. Former congressman Andy Jacobs Jr. told **HOWEY POLITICS** in October that the rumors of Carson's ill health were untrue. He then announced last week that if Rep. Carson didn't run in 2008, he would support Councilman Carson, who took office this fall. Sarge Visher, Carson's chief of staff, said Sunday he wasn't sure how far the cancer has developed and wouldn't comment on her future. He added that Carson's family and staff are still processing the news (**Indianapolis Star**). "We are going to keep on keeping on and go into the office and keep taking care of the constituents," Visher said.

Jacobs explained it this way: "She had this problem years ago, and she beat it for a lot of years, so to hear that it came back was a shock. She was getting ready to go back to Washington, and suddenly the cancer came out of remission. She thought she beat it. If she passes, she's confident where she's going, and that's not down. She's definitely at peace."

To date, Councilman Carson and Marion County Treasurer Michael Rodman are the only Democrats who seem poised to make the race, with State Reps. Greg Porter, Carolene Mays, former state health director Woodrow Myers and former Indiana Democratic chairs Robin Winston and Ann DeLaney

mulling options. As to whether this seat will be in play, with State Rep. Jon Elrod already in the mix, our answer is yes. With Marion County Democrats in disarray following Peterson's defeat, there could be a scenario similar to 1989 when Jill Long won Dan Coats' 4th CD seat, one of the most Republican in the nation. **Status:** TOSSUP

2008 Indiana Legislative

House District 89: Republican: Holly

Davis. Democrat: John F. Barnes. **2004 Results:** Buell 15,391. **2006 Results:** Buell 7,809, Barnes 7,297. **2008 Forecast:** State Rep. Larry Buell announced his retirement. Holly Davis, executive director of the Indiana Leadership Forum, a 501 C3 non-profit education program, is pondering a bid and has formed a kitchen cabinet. This is a district that is trending Democratic and would have been tough for Buell to hold on to. **Status:** TOSSUP. ❖



Oh O! Obama and Oprah reach for stars

By **MARK CURRY**

WASHINGTON - Two months ago, Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign was a rocket to the moon when Indiana's foremost Democrat beamed aboard. The Washington firmament fairly twinkled with U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh's endorsement, and pundit and politico alike labeled the New York senator's nomination almost certain. In mid-October, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich told the New York Times editorial board that the general election would be Senator Clinton's to lose.

Despite the fact that Hillary is seen as a polarizing figure by many Hoosiers, state Democratic celebrities fell in line, with the likes of Joe Hogsett, Kathy Davis, Dan Parker and Vi Simpson committed to Team Hillary. They were joined by Mel and Bren Simon, Judy O'Bannon, John Gregg, Frank Anderson and dozens of others. It was a flight on gossamer wings, a crazy fling, one of those bells that now and then rings. It was one of those things.

But there came a sputter after Hillary lost her poise during the debate in Philadelphia about a month ago. Then came "The Politics of Pile On," and the polls began to frown. Suddenly, America's former first lady was not laughing. She called on the most potent weapon in her campaign arsenal - her husband - and struggled to regain momentum.

Now, it's five weeks until the Iowa caucuses, and less than six until the New Hampshire primary. Michigan voters go to the polls one week later, followed by South Carolina, Nevada, Florida and, the date that may, for all practical purposes, end it all: Super Tuesday, Feb. 5.

Recent polling out of Iowa indicates Team Hillary may be in trouble. Strategic Vision has Bill Clinton's better half in a dead heat with Illinois Sen. Barack Obama, while an ABC/Washington Post survey favors the newcomer. It appears "The Politics of Hope" may be winning the Hawk-eye State. For Obama, it's time to bring out the big guns and seal the deal.

Enter Oprah

"With polls indicating some 62 percent of the likely Democratic caucus-goers in Iowa will be women, the party's

presidential candidates and their supporters are putting renewed emphasis on winning votes from them," David Yepsen of the Des Moines Register wrote on Tuesday.

Who better to win female hearts and minds than the television talk show host Time described as "arguably the world's most powerful woman," Earth's first and only female black billionaire, Oprah Winfrey, a former Indiana resident.



Sen. Obama and wife at the campaign kickoff last Febuary. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

According to the Chicago Tribune, as Oprah and Obama travel to Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina, "the two are hoping the one-woman media conglomerate's star power is so strong that she can do what other big-name endorsers rarely have, namely to actually win him votes."

The announcement set the punditocracy at fever pitch. Newt Gingrich confirmed his faith in Oprah power on ABC News' "Good Morning America." "I think Oprah Winfrey is a remarkable figure," Gingrich said. "I think she brings not just a celebrity status, but there are millions of people who trust her judgment." As ABC reported, when pressed on whether she would tip the nomination toward the Illinois senator, Gingrich replied, "I think it's a significant asset to (Obama) and he's not married to her. My guess is Senator Obama's going to win Iowa and that he's going to win it by a surprising margin."

But others doubt Obama will benefit from the Oprah effect. "She can sell soap. She can create best sellers," wrote Susan Estrich for Newsmax. "But can she sell candidates?"

Probably not, wrote Pat Sajack in an article published by Human Events. "...the idea of choosing the Leader of the Free World based on the advice of someone who lives in the cloistered world of stardom seems a bit loony to me."

And, critics ask, can a woman who performs well on a studio couch survive the risks of the presidential campaign trail. "It's an arena that is getting uglier, nastier and more personal by the day," MSNBC's media analyst Steve Aduato wrote. "What happens when Oprah is campaigning side-by-side with Obama, with dozens of media crews in tow, and she gets asked a few pointed and tricky ques-

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tions.”

Liz Smith of the Baltimore Sun is one woman who shares the faith. “Many believe she won’t affect the vote, but is merely providing a PR bonanza,” she wrote. “I say Oprah really wants Obama to win, and she’s putting her iconic charisma on the line for that goal. This woman will be fine. She knows how to handle herself.”

Polls tell a story

Back in September, the Pew Research Center conducted a survey to gauge the potential impact of a Winfrey endorsement. The short answer was “not much.” Nearly a quarter (23 percent) of Democrats said they would be more likely to vote for the TV and film star’s chosen candidate, but 13 percent said they would be less likely. About two-thirds (64 percent) said her support would have no impact on their vote. Significantly, Oprah scored best among a demographic that will make or break any candidate’s hopes in Iowa: Women.

As the Register’s Yepsen said, “Like all celebrities, Winfrey will help her candidate attract a crowd. Those crowds should net Obama some additional names of supporters. Winfrey’s television audience is large, and if she can sell a candidate as effectively as she sells books, the result will be a big plus for Obama.”

A new poll released Tuesday also shed light on how



Oprah might impact the presidential race. A survey of 750 African Americans conducted Oct. 5 - Nov. 2 found that respondents most often favored Hillary over Obama. The study, which was sponsored by the AARP and conducted by The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, found that 80 percent of African-Americans are “closely following news coverage of their party’s candidates, while 87 percent said they planned to participate in the nominating process of the Democratic Party.”

“If Obama was really going to challenge Hillary, I have always thought he was really going to have to challenge her among women, not just black women but even white women,” David Bositis, senior research associate at The Joint Center, told Politico. “There are some real questions about [Obama’s] electability, but if he does well in Iowa there is the potential for a fairly wholesale reevaluation.”

Hoosier support

Dozens of Hoosier Democrats have signed on to the Clinton campaign, but not so many are aligned with Obama. That’s a bit of a surprise considering Obama hails from our neighbor to the west. The latter list includes Kip Tew, Charlie Brown, Melina Kennedy, Mae Dickinson, Bill Crawford and others. It will be interesting to watch the fortunes of individuals in these two groups if Obama does indeed do well in Iowa, New Hampshire and the rest. ❖

2008 State Presidential Polls

Iowa (R)	Date	Romney	Giuliani	Thompson	McCain	Huckabee
Rasumussen	Nov. 26-27	25	12	11	4	28
Strategic Vision	Nov. 23-25	26	12	10	7	24
New Hampshire (R)						
Suffolk/WHDH	Nov. 25-27	34	20	2	13	7
CNN/WMUR	Nov. 23-25	33	16	4	18	5
Michigan (R)						
Detroit News	Nov. 7-11	25	28	13	12	9
Iowa (D)	Date	Clinton	Edwards	Obama	Richardson	Biden
Strategic Vision	Nov. 23-25	29	22	29	6	4
ABC/WashPost	Nov. 14-18	26	22	30	11	4
N. Hampshire (D)						
Suffolk/WHDH	Nov. 25-27	34	15	22	9	
CNN/WMUR	Nov. 14-18	36	13	22	6	



Politics, internet, bloggers and the 'next big thing'

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

BLOOMINGTON – At the Howey Politics Forum last month, **Washington Post** blogger Chris Cillizza was asked about the "next big thing" when it comes to politics and communication.

Since 1960, we've had a lot of "next big things." That year, it was the Nixon-Kennedy debates. By 1968, they were marketing Nixon like mighty fine cereal flakes. In 2004, it was Howard Dean's fundraising via the Internet. In 2006, YouTube brought us U.S. Sen. George Allen and his "macaca" remark that led to his defeat and tipped the Senate. Now the speculation centers on the impact blogging has on mainstream news organizations as well as U.S. Sen. Barack Obama (now leading Sen. Hillary Clinton in the latest Iowa polls) who counts more than 350,000 campaign donors, supersizing the mean Dean money machine.

Cillizza isn't sure what the next big thing will be. He is fascinated that someone with a video cam (as I challenged my readers to help us cover the 2008 governors race last week) can take a video clip, find a Wi-Fi coffee shop, post the clip on YouTube and e-mail 1,000 friends with the link, who in turn then e-mail it to 100 of their friends. "Before you had to get the Beta copy, you try to convince news stations this is important," Cillizza said.

Thomas Cook, who publishes the **Blue Indiana** blog from Bloomington, marveled at the Fort Wayne mayoral race when Republican Matt Kelty found himself mired in a 9-count indictment before losing to Democrat Tom Henry. "Here we have a race that was very much about perceptions," Cook said. "It was about how to perceive the Republican nominee as he dealt with these unfolding legal troubles. These local blogs took the story and ran with it." While newspaper and TV political reporters couldn't write only about the mayor's race – they had other stories to cover – the bloggers could. "What you saw was this narrative that grew out of these blogs make the jump to the mainstream media," Cook said.

An example of this was the Indianapolis Business Journal story last weekend about Scott Jones' two 21st Century Fund draws of \$4 million sandwiched between his \$1 million fundraiser for Gov. Daniels after Jennifer Wagner's **Taking Down Words** blog carried the story.

Cook believes a similar narrative will develop with the 2008 governor and congressional races.

Mark Curry, Washington correspondent for **HOWEY POLITICS INDIANA**, predicts a wave of "interactivity." He

explained, "You become more and more a part of what is happening. When you ride a train to work in Washington, you see dozens and dozens of people reading their telephone or watching a YouTube video on a PDA. One thing that blogs do very well is to easily organize people at the grassroots level."

Gary Welsh writes the **Advance Indiana** blog from Indianapolis and says the blog universe is the "common people's answer to the big money machine that drives our political system today. A lot of people in the masses feel so disconnected from their government today. The blogs are a way to come in with no investment at all. I can just invest my time and I can sit down and write about things I've thought about for a long time and felt needed to be reported."

Welsh said that WISH-TV political reporter Jim Shella complained "people used to come to us with these tips and now they're just going to the blogs and getting them taken care of that way."

"The people who bring us these tips complain that for years they used to go to mainstream media people to try to get them to report a different angle in the newspaper and they didn't seem to be able to get through to them," Welsh explained. The blogosphere brings them to life.

Welsh refers to the 2006 race between U.S. Rep. Julia Carson and car dealer Eric Dickerson, as well as the recent upset of Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson by outsider Republican Greg Ballard. "It's really intensified locally," Welsh said. "Eric had

\$50,000 to run against her and some of us in the blogosphere knew he was the candidate, but he wasn't getting the attention he deserved." Despite the small amount of money he had, Dickerson lost to Carson by just 7 percent, a far more competitive showing than recent well-heeled challengers.

This year, Welsh said, "The blogs exposed the fact that the Republican Party is in bed with Mayor Peterson. The masses are infuriated because they see this blurring of the lines between the political parties."

Blogs can salve the disconnect he explains, "When I was 17 years old and a big Ronald Reagan fan, I remember being able to write out a check for \$25 to go to some friends of my parents, meeting Ronald Reagan in person, shaking his hand and being able to talk to him for a few minutes. Today, if you can't max out a contribution, you can't even get in the same room with them." Thus, the blogs become a release valve and a dangerous one for a politician who plays conventional wisdom that many, many times, misses the "next big thing." ❖



Blue Indiana's Thomas Cook (from left) HPI's Mark Curry and Advance Indiana's Gary Welsh at the Howey Politics Forum on Oct. 23.



Help us compile 2008 50 Most Influential List

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

There's no question about it, we went out on some limbs when the **2007 HOWEY POLITICS INDIANA 50 MOST INFLUENTIAL LIST**.

Some of them, like our "premature adulation" for Allen County Commissioner Nelson Peters, who lost in the Fort Wayne mayoral primary, were busts. It happens every year. But others like Long Beach native Chief Justice John Roberts, who has ushered profound changes to the U.S. Supreme Court, and UAW Presidents Ron Gettelfinger and Mo Davidson, who helped rework auto contracts and land the Getrag plant deal at Tipton, were right on the money.

Obviously there were profound changes in the November elections and people like Jim Schellinger, Jill Long Thompson, Greg Ballard and Tom Henry will emerge on the 2008 list. And that's where you come in. Send us your list, whether it be someone you think is deserving, a top 10 or an entire list to: brianhowey@howeypolitics.com. Keep in mind, our list is based on who will impact the events for the coming year. We'll publish the list on Jan. 17, 2008.

2007 HPI 50 Most Influential List

1. U.S. Supreme Court Justice John G. Roberts
2. Gov. Mitch Daniels
3. Speaker B. Patrick Bauer
4. Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson
5. U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar
6. Koichi Kondo
7. Senate President Pro Tempore David Long
8. UAW Presidents Ron Gettelfinger and Mo Davidson
9. Ways & Means Chairman Bill Crawford
10. U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh
11. U.S. Rep. Baron Hill
12. Carmel Mayor James Brainard
13. Evansville Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel
14. Allen County Commissioner Nelson Peters
15. Marion County Prosecutor Carl Brizzi
16. Gary Mayor Rudy Clay
17. US. Rep. Pete Visclosky
18. Lee Hamilton
19. IEDC Director Nathan Feltman
20. State Sen. Bob Meeks



21. State Sen. Luke Kenley
22. U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky
23. U.S. Rep. Brad Ellsworth
24. U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly
25. U.S. Rep. Mike Pence
26. Indiana Democratic Chairman Dan Parker
27. Indiana Republican Chairman Murray Clark
28. U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer
29. U.S. Rep. Mark Souder
30. House Minority Leader Brian Bosma
31. Farm Bureau President Don Villwock
32. Tim Roemer
33. Marion County Democratic Chairman Michael O'Connor
34. Terre Haute Mayor Kevin Burke
35. U.S. Rep. Julia Carson
36. Republican Executive Director Jennifer Hallowell
37. Chamber President Kevin Brinegar
38. IMA President Pat Kiely
39. Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman
40. South Bend Mayor Dennis Luecke
41. U.S. Rep. Dan Burton
42. State Reps. Sheila Klinker and Peggy Welch
43. St. Joseph Democratic Chairman Butch Morgan
44. FSSA Commissioner Mitch Roob
45. IACT President Matt Greller
46. Lugar Chief of Staff Marty Morris
47. State Sen. Vi Simpson
48. Fort Wayne Mayor Graham Richard
48. Senate Minority Leader Richard Young
49. State Reps. Kreg Battles and Jon Elrod
50. John Gregg



Honorable Mention (alphabetical)

Marion County Sheriff Frank Anderson; 7th CD Chair Sherlonda Anderson; Warren Township Trustee Jeff Bennett; Betsy Burdick; Deputy Mayor Steve Campbell; Attorney General Steve Carter; Dan Coats; United Methodist Bishop Michael Coyner; Kathy Davis; Michael Davis; Shaw Friedman; State Rep. Craig Fry; Time Goeglein; Earl Goode; Bob Grand; Bill Haan; John Hammond III; Al Hubbard; Madison Mayor Al Huntington; Lacy Johnson; Joe Kernan; Joe Loftus; Hammond Mayor Tom McDermott; Kokomo Mayor Matt McKillip; LaPorte Mayor Leigh Morris; John Okeson; State Rep. Greg Porter; Jim Purucker; Indianapolis Councilman Isaac Randolph; Mishawaka Mayor Jeff Rea; Supt. Suellen Reed; Charles Schalliol; Dan Seitz; Tom Sugar; Hamilton County Republican Chairman Charlie White; Abdul Hakim-Shabazz; Mike Sodrel; Sen. Thomas Weatherwax; Gary Welsh; Robin Winston; Senate Minority Leader Richard Young. ❖



New environmental director to focus on clean energy

By **BEVERLY PHILLIPS**

Jesse Kharbanda joins the Hoosier Environmental Council (HEC) as its new executive director on December 10. HEC is a statewide, nonprofit membership organization, dedicated to protecting Indiana's environment. Kharbanda has a graduate degree in economics from Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar, and has undergraduate degrees in economics and environmental studies from the University of Chicago.

HPI: Tell us about your most recent position.

Kharbanda: I was at the Environmental Law and Policy Center (ELPC), a Chicago-based organization focused on opportunities to advance environmental quality and economic development. At ELPC, I was involved in building support among agricultural, clean energy and economic development organizations throughout the Midwest in support of provisions in the Federal Energy and Federal Farm Bills. I also helped to craft rural-focused clean energy legislation and to write briefs on issues ranging from agricultural trade to clean coal technology. What I especially appreciated about my experiences at ELPC was the opportunity to build great non-traditional partnerships with people in business and agriculture around environmental protection issues.

HPI: How did you become interested in environmental issues?

Kharbanda: I was fortunate that the home that I grew up in suburban St. Louis was situated next to a large parcel of undeveloped land. That, coupled with family vacations to some of our country's great national parks, enabled me to experience the joys of open space, pristine air and water. Intellectually, I am drawn to environmental issues because of my travels in the developing world – observing how peoples' health and wealth are severely harmed by a degraded natural environment. In recent years, I have been deeply concerned about our nation not embracing the opportunity to provide bold leadership on global warming policy, particularly when Americans have historically been looked up to for our economic dynamism and our courage to lead on great ethical challenges.



Jesse Kharbanda has joined the Hoosier Environmental Council as executive director.

HPI: What are your immediate goals for HEC?

Kharbanda: I believe HEC's commitment to improve public health and to protect our precious natural resources are goals shared by the vast majority of Hoosiers regardless of where they fall on the political spectrum. Environmentally friendly, economic development is also a non-partisan issue. Accordingly, my goal for HEC is to reach a wider audience. I will work to hone HEC's legislative agenda so that we can translate our principles into on-the-ground change. This is critically important in Indiana's case where it recently ranked 49th out of 50 in a national survey on state environmental quality. Indiana can and must do better.

HPI: What is the single most important issue for HEC at the upcoming legislative session?

Kharbanda: We want to see Indiana take a proud place in the nation as a major center of investment in wind, biomass and solar energy. We'd like to see Indiana emulate neighboring states like Illinois by passing a strong, meaningful Renewable Electricity Standard (RES). This calls on electric utilities to buy an increasing share of their power from clean, renewable resources; were a RES to become law, it would attract billions in new investments across many regions of the state. In the last legislative session, it passed in the Indiana House with great bipartisan support. We believe that the momentum is on our side.

There is great public concern about high-energy costs and growing concern about the very negative economic implications of promoting energy resources that emit large amounts of global warming pollutants.

HPI: What has your experience been working with Indiana legislators on environmental issues?

Kharbanda: I sit on the executive committee of the Indiana Coalition for Renewable Energy and Economic Development (ICREED). This group was founded in 2005 and its membership includes businesses, advocacy groups, public health experts and local elected officials. We have testified before Indiana legislative study committees and legislative standing committees. We have also individually briefed dozens of legislators on renewable energy issues. I've felt fortunate to engage with legislators from all parts of the state, representing a diverse array of economic interests. This experience will allow me to hit the ground running when the session starts in January. ❖



opponent, or someone else from the religious right. Daniels may use his judicial appointments to appease the religious right. Appointing Steele to the Court of Appeals may be one way of satisfying the religious right."

Decisions of the Court of Appeals (about 2,500 each year) are final unless reviewed by the Indiana Supreme Court (that issues about 200 opinions each year).

Judge Brent Steele?

By BEVERLY PHILLIPS

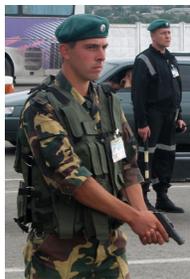
Making the short list for Gov. Daniels' next Indiana Court of Appeals appointment is Sen. Brent Steele (R-Bedford), along with six other finalists, including Stephen Johnson, executive director with the Indiana Prosecuting Attorney's Council. The Indiana Judicial Nominating Commission on Dec. 12 will publicly interview the seven candidates. Three names are then forwarded to the Governor who will make an appointment within 60 days.

The judicial appointment is nonpartisan, however Gary Welsh of Advance Indiana predicts Steele's appointment may be imminent. He says, "As Daniels prepares his re-election bid next year, the last thing he wants is a primary opponent. Although the religious right blasted Daniels earlier in his administration for supporting an EEO policy of non-discrimination, which included protections based on a person's sexual orientation or gender identity, and for writing a letter of support for an Indianapolis gay pride event, Daniels has subsequently retreated and toed the line on many of the demands of the religious right. Already struggling with low public approval ratings, Daniels wants to avoid a potentially costly and divisive primary battle against Eric Miller, his 2004 primary

Parties plan to party

Both state Democrats and Republicans have holiday party plans in place with impressive VIP guest lists. The Indiana Democratic Party celebrates at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Indianapolis on Friday, Dec. 7, beginning with a 5:30 p.m. cocktail reception where you can rub elbows with Sen. Evan Bayh, U.S. Reps. Brad Ellsworth and Baron Hill, Speaker Pat Bauer and others. Rep. Julia Carson is included on the list of attendees. Contact Kelly Norton at (317) 231-7106 for party details.

The Indiana Republican Party celebration features Fox News Political Commentator John Kasich. Gov. Mitch Daniels, Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman and Indianapolis Mayor-Elect Greg Ballard are expected to attend. That party starts at 6:30 p.m., Dec. 3 at the Westin in downtown Indianapolis. Contact Mindy Westrick at (317) 964-5013.



HPI Publisher Brian A. Howey's account of Sen. Richard Lugar's oversight mission to Russia, Ukraine and Albania - "A Farewell to Arms" - is in the December edition of Indianapolis Monthly, currently on newstands.

Send Holiday Greetings to Iraq

Help Tre Cox, 10, of Marion send 3,864 holiday cards to troops stationed overseas. (Each card represents a soldier who has died in the Iraq War.) His mom says he wanted to do something for American soldiers after seeing war veterans in wheelchairs at a local Veteran's Day Parade. Mail boxes of cards to: Operation Christmas Card, Southeast Elementary School, 3340 South Lincoln Blvd, Marion, IN, 46953 or contact the school for drop off locations by calling (765) 664-3931. Deadline is Dec. 5.



Chris Cillizza, Washington Post - It's

easy to forget amid the granular coverage of the primary horserace that once the nominees are chosen -- some time in late January or early February-- we will be faced with the longest general election in modern political history. Conventional wisdom dictates that the nine-month slog will focus primarily on 10-12 battleground states -- Ohio, Florida, Iowa, New Mexico, Minnesota to name a few -- that have been at the epicenter of the last two presidential elections. (Michael Barone detailed the even-even split of the American electorate first and best in his essay "The 49 Percent Nation.") But what if that conventional wisdom is wrong? What if continued discontent with President Bush and the war in Iraq is in the process of fundamentally altering the playing field -- broadening the number of states that are potentially in play for the Democratic nominee? A new poll out of Indiana should give hope to Democrats who believe Bush's eight-year tenure and the continued unpopularity of the war in Iraq has fundamentally altered the partisan composition of the country. The survey, which was conducted by highly regarded Iowa-based pollster J. Ann Selzer, showed broad dissatisfaction with the direction of the country and the state as well as with the current President and Indiana's Republican governor. Just 20 percent of the sample said the nation was headed in the right direction while 74 percent said it was off on the wrong track; the numbers were only slightly more optimistic when it came to Indiana with 35 percent saying the state was moving in the right direction and 57 percent believing it was off on the wrong track. Asked whether they approved of the job Bush was doing, a meager 28 percent said they did while 66 percent voiced disapproval. Those broad numbers were reflected on nearly every major issue; just 28 percent approved of Bush's handling of Iraq, 25 percent approved of Bush's work on the economy and just 17 percent approved of his handling of immigration policy. The lone issue on which more Indianans approved than disapproved of how President Bush handled a matter was on the "fight against terrorism." Forty-eight percent backed Bush and 46 percent did not. Those poll results are all the more striking when put in the context of Indiana's past political proclivities. The last time Indiana voted for a Democrat for president was 1964 when Lyndon Johnson drubbed Barry Goldwater, 56 percent to 44 percent. Since that time, the best any Democrat has done in the Hoosier State is 46 percent by Jimmy Carter in the 1976 presidential race. George W. Bush carried the state with 57 percent in 2000 and 60 percent in 2004. Despite those daunting numbers, Indiana was at the heart of Democratic gains in 2006 as three Republican incumbents -- Reps. Chris Chocola, John Hostettler and Mike Sodrel -- were all defeated for re-election.

The question raised by those gains as well as the poll num-

bers cited above is whether Indiana is following the path of Virginia from a red to a purple state in federal elections. And, if Indiana is emerging as a competitive state at the presidential level, are there other states that have long been considered Republican strongholds that are moving in that direction as well? ❖



Gary Gerard, Warsaw Times-

Union - The property tax situation in Indiana has the potential to have a significant impact on Kosciusko County. And when I say significant, I don't mean it in a positive sense. Frankly, if I was a county commissioner or a county councilman, I'd be shaking in my boots. Essentially, what I see happening is the state legislature giving everybody in Indiana a property tax break and telling the counties to make up the difference. This whole mess started when courts ruled unconstitutional the way property in Indiana was taxed. So the legislature came up with the new "true market value" system of taxation. At the same time, the inventory tax for business was removed. The purpose was to make Indiana a more attractive destination for businesses. And at the same time, ag land was assessed at \$880 per acre. This drove property taxes of homeowners way up, and there was a hue and cry across the state for reform. So now we have Eric Miller running around the state holding town hall-type meetings calling for a statewide referendum on a constitutional amendment to repeal property taxes. I don't think that really has a chance of happening because there aren't enough legislators willing to vote in favor of a referendum. But if by some strange twist of fate it was put to a referendum, I'm pretty confident it would pass. Who would vote against eliminating property taxes? ❖

Sylvia Smith, Fort Wayne Journal

Gazette - Before the Senate left Washington for its Thanksgiving break, the lawmakers spent hours and hours arguing about the farm bill. Oops. Please allow me a slight correction. It spent hours and hours arguing whether to discuss the content of the farm bill and whether to consider any amendments to the proposal written by the Agriculture Committee. The argument boiled down to whether the Democrats would allow Republicans to propose amendments that have nothing to do with agriculture. (Some Republicans wanted to offer amendments on tax and immigration policy.) The upshot was that the Senate never voted on Sen. Richard Lugar's Stop Being Stupid About Ag Welfare amendment. He calls it something cuter -- the FRESH bill -- but my version is more descriptive about what Lugar wants to do: end subsidies that go to just a few kinds of crops and far too often to wealthy landholders. ❖



Yelton doesn't see Chicago casino coming soon

INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana's top gambling regulator isn't betting on a Chicago casino anytime soon. Ernest Yelton, executive director of the Indiana Gaming Commission, expressed little confidence Wednesday in a speedy resolu-

tion to the Springfield gridlock that has stalled efforts to authorize new casinos for Chicago and the suburbs (**Times of Northwest Indiana**).

"Although I understand that the same political party has control of the House, the Senate, the governor and the mayor (of Chicago), all four of them disagree about what to do," Yelton said. "I just see no agreement from those people." Even if Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich reaches a gambling expansion accord with legislative leaders, Yelton said, past practice suggests the state will botch the deal to the benefit of Indiana's five Lake Michigan casinos.



Fort Wayne opens Public Safety Academy

FORT WAYNE - Mayor Graham Richard hopes one of his milestone achievements not only improves public safety by drawing new people into the field but also encourages development on the city's south side. Speaking before hundreds of local, state and national dignitaries, Richard on Wednesday officially opened the \$27 million, 132,000-square-foot Public Safety Academy of Northeast Indiana. The two-story building will host the city's police and fire academies, public safety courses from local schools and various training facilities, from gymnasium to indoor shooting range. It intentionally has numerous open spaces to assist interactions be-

tween different safety groups. Richard said it will help local first-responders deal with a disaster by getting them to interact during training.

Carters can't force councilman out of office

INDIANAPOLIS - The Indiana attorney general and Lake County prosecutor said Wednesday they have no legal authority to remove from office a county councilman found guilty of tax fraud (**Times of Northwest Indiana**). At least not yet. Attorney General Steve Carter and Lake County Prosecutor Bernard Carter said a flaw in a 2005 state law intended to force public officials out of office upon criminal convictions keeps them from removing Councilman Will Smith Jr. But both prosecutors urged Smith, who was found guilty in federal court in September of filing a false tax return, to resign immediately. They also asked Smith's fellow public officials to censure him. "Does the (county) council really feel it is necessary for them to continue to allow this individual to serve and continue to use taxpayer funds to support that service? It certainly is legally questionable," Steve Carter said. Bernard Carter concurred. Steve Carter said he won't question the validity of any of the council acts since Smith's conviction -- particularly his crucial vote Monday to enact a county income tax -- but said others should. "It is certainly a question the council should be thinking about," Steve Carter said. Smith couldn't be reached Wednesday afternoon for comment. He is scheduled to be sentenced Jan. 9.

Hobart mayor-elect to keep 2 department heads

INDIANAPOLIS - At least two appointees of outgoing Mayor Linda Buzinec will keep their jobs after the city's new mayor is sworn in (**Post-Tribune**). Hobart mayor-elect Brian Snedecor on Wednesday said Fire

Chief William McCorkle and John Clemmons, superintendent of the city's sewage lift stations, will be retained when he takes office Jan. 1.

Indiana RTL, Pence mourns Rep. Henry Hyde

EVANSVILLE - Indiana Right to Life executive director Mike Fichter issued this statement today on the death of former Illinois congressman Henry Hyde: "Henry Hyde's rich legacy of defending the sanctity of life will long be remembered by all who reflect upon his years of unwavering commitment to the rights of unborn children. We have lost a true champion for the right to life of all persons, born and unborn. The most enduring tribute to his life will be for today's pro-life champions in Congress to carry on his work until the life of every unborn child is protected by law." U.S. Rep. Mike Pence said, "Henry Hyde was the essence of dignity, civility, commitment to principle, and he has been a lion of the right to life. Life has lost its lion and this world will miss his roar. Throughout his years in public service, he was a champion for great causes -- life, liberty and the rule of law. He was a voice for the voiceless -- for the victims of human rights abuses around the world and for the unborn child here at home. He was my friend and mentor and I will miss him greatly. In my heart I know that this day Henry Hyde heard the words, 'well done, good and faithful servant' and was greeted by 'a chorus of voices never heard in this world.'"

Pipeline fire could crimp oil supplies in NW Indiana

GRIFFITH - A major oil pipeline fire that killed two workers in Minnesota could impact supplies to northwest Indiana (**Inside Edge**). The company's pipeline runs through northwest Indiana and includes an office in Griffith. Enbridge, Inc. Spokesman Bill Stephens tells Inside Indiana Business that it is too early to tell how supplies will be affected. ❖