



A 'revolution' begins ... next week

Daniels, Education and Licensing boards seek to change school dynamic

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Next week, the education "revolution" begins in Indiana.

As HPI sat down with Gov. Mitch Daniels Wednesday afternoon, he was penning a personal note on a

letter he was sending U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan, a man, Daniels said, who would not "qualify" to be a principal in Indiana under current state guidelines.

"We have now got an all new board of education," Daniels explained. "We've got an all new Professional Licensing Board. We are going to redefine what is expected of a teacher in Indiana. It's going to revolutionize the colleges and schools of education much more in terms of content knowledge. Much less in terms of pedagogical training. You can't teach mathematics you don't know, you



Gov. Mitch Daniels is applauded at his inauguration last January as new Supt. Tony Bennett (far right) looks on.



can't teach history you never learned."

He talked a week after Vigo Supt. Dan Tanoos was not reappointed to the Board of Education and former Sen. Teresa Lubbers took over the reins of the Commission on Higher Education. At the time, Tanoos told the Terre Haute Tribune-Star, "It doesn't shock me because I've been vocal about Superintendent Bennett's lack of support for public education. I'm not a Tony Bennett yes-man."

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Health complexities

By **MARK SCHOEFF JR.**

WASHINGTON - One of the themes that has characterized Barack Obama's presidency - and his campaign to get to the White House - is the fierce urgency of now.

Entering office confronted by a recession of historic depth, it is easy to understand why Obama thought it was necessary to do so many things so quickly, the primary example being a \$787 billion stimulus package that he signed in February.



He has prodded Congress to act with similar dispatch in overhauling the U.S. health care sector, which represents one-sixth of the total economy. He wants the House and Senate to pass reform



"If you don't set a deadline in this town, things don't happen. The default position is inertia."

- **PRESIDENT OBAMA**, at his Wednesday presser, asked why he set a quick deadline for health care reform



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legislation before the August congressional recess in order to stay on track to get a final bill on his desk this fall.

Obama and Democratic congressional leaders have cast the push as an effort to expand coverage for the 47 million who lack it and lower health care costs for everyone. In his prime-time press conference on Wednesday, Obama said that if deadlines aren't set in Washington, the town slips into "inertia."

But there's a difference between inertia and a sound legislative process. It's not just the Republicans who assert that consideration of health care reform is hurtling along too quickly. By their actions, many moderate Democrats are making the same point.

In the House, members of the Democratic Blue Dog Coalition are slowing down consideration of the House health care bill in the Energy and Commerce Committee. After the House Education and Labor Committee and the House Ways

and Means Committee approved the bill, days after its formal introduction, in marathon sessions that concluded in the wee hours of Friday morning, July 17, the commerce panel is taking a relatively more measured pace. The committee's markup was postponed twice this week.

Among their worries, Blue Dogs are concerned that the \$1.042 trillion measure would add to the federal deficit, hurt small business and fail to help rural health care providers. Supporters of the bill, especially Democratic House leaders, maintain

that it will cover 97 percent of Americans, end coverage discrimination based on pre-existing conditions and lower health care costs.

But Senate testimony last week by the director of the Congressional Budget Office spooked moderate Democrats. Doug Elmendorf said that the House bill would not do enough to lower health care costs and would increase federal spending on health care. A CBO analysis of the bill late last week said that it would add \$239 billion to deficit.

Rep. Baron Hill, D-9th CD, is one of the Blue Dogs on the Energy and Commerce Committee engaged



U.S. Rep. Baron Hill (second from left) appearing outside the White House with Chairman Waxman on Tuesday.

in negotiations on the bill with the panel's chairman, Rep. Henry Waxman, D-California.

"I'm willing to give the chairman and the president the opportunity to see if (they) can get us and the American people to the comfort level that we have a bill we can vote for," Hill said in an HPI interview on Wednesday.

Hill does not share House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's conviction that there are currently enough votes in the House to pass a health care bill. He also doubts that a vote on a final



bill can occur on the House floor before the August recess.

"I'm not optimistic that can be done," Hill said.

"We've got a ways to go. There's no question about that."

Taking the time required to ensure that the bill meets the Blue Dog criteria for impact on the deficit and small business is going to lead to better legislation, according to Rep. Joe Donnelly, D-2nd CD and a member of the coalition. "We continue to try to find additional savings every day," Donnelly said in an HPI interview on Wednesday. "I'm a lot more focused on trying to get it done properly than trying to get it done quickly."

Republican Rep. Mike Pence, R-6th CD and chairman of the House Republican Conference, said that Democrats are cautious after a painful recent vote on energy legislation that the GOP portrayed as a national energy tax. Republicans are calling the health care bill a government takeover of the sector that will substantially increase the deficit. At his Wednesday press conference, Obama flatly said he would not sign a bill that added to the deficit while reminding Americans that Republicans backed two tax cuts and a prescription drug plan under President George W. Bush that did while handing him a trillion dollar deficit as he entered office.

"The Democrats are in disarray on this issue," Pence said at a Capitol Hill media availability on Monday.

On the other side of the Capitol, the Senate Health Education Labor and Pensions Committee approved a massive health care bill last week without any Republican support. The chairman of the panel said that it considered hundreds of amendments and approved several offered by the GOP (President Obama said some 160 Republican amendments were included in the bill during his press conference). But many of those were technical in nature. In the final vote, no Republicans supported the plan.

The Senate Finance Committee has been trying for weeks to cobble together a bipartisan bill that totals less than \$1 trillion. Achieving an agreement that brings along Republicans and keeps moderate Democrats on board is painstaking and will probably force the Senate to miss the Obama's August deadline.

But a less than breakneck gait does not mean that health care reform will get mired in Capitol Hill inertia. There is a good possibility that the House bill will be changed in ways that would bring Hill and Donnelly on board.

Both of them point to an agreement on an inde-

pendent health care commission that would make recommendations on the way health care providers are compensated as an improvement. It would operate like the base closing commission. Congress could approve or reject its proposals but not endlessly amend them.

Hill said that the commission would help transform the health care system into one in which fees are based on results rather than the number of services performed.

It will be harder to sort out how to pay for the bill. The legislation now calls on a surtax of up to 5.4 percent



on individuals who make more than \$280,000 or families that make more than \$350,000.

Before revenue provisions can be addressed, Hill said that costs need to be wrung out of the bill. "I don't think we ought to be talking about taxes at all at this point," he said.

Working on the bill is better than rejecting it, according to Donnelly. "Simply saying 'no' and taking a walk is not responsible," he said.

At the Elkhart County 4H Parade over the weekend, constituents approached Donnelly about health care reform.

"When they would ask: 'Are you for it or against it?', I would say that I'm working on it right now," Donnelly said.

That toil means the process won't fit neatly into Obama's timeframe. But if he's patient, the Democratic majorities on Capitol Hill will probably deliver something he can support. ❖



Education, from page 1

The governor said that the goal is to attract teachers from all walks of life. "No one is against learning methods or how to teach, but you better know what you're teaching," he said. "You're going to see significantly easier access to the classroom for people coming from non-traditional roots. We've got a lot of wonderful people, very accomplished, who feel called to teach children now in mid-career or even late career. We should welcome them with open arms."

Daniels said that he and the Board of Education will work to "minimize the hurdles" to get professionals from other areas into the classroom.

The public education topic was broached after State Rep. Ed DeLaney, in the final hours of the special session of the Indiana General Assembly on June 30, said on the House floor, "I believe that the other side has a position on public education they have not articulated. I think there is a direct assault on public education and they won't say it."

"What I heard Ed quoted as saying is it's the end of public education as we know it. To which I said, 'I sure hope so,'" said Daniels. "The system as we know it has been failing our kids and therefore failing our state. It's simply got to change. We haven't declared war on anything. We've come to a determination to have a system that works better. This year, some people didn't see this coming. There are very, very positive changes coming."

The governor said that a year or so after his second term ends, he hopes Hoosiers can see "results that matter." By that, he means "positive significant improvement in student achievement. You would see a more rigorous system with students far better prepared in math or science than they have been. (You) would see a system - schools - built around the student, not the adults, meaning far smaller administration costs and personnel, more and higher quality teachers in the classroom. You want to see a revolution, there's one coming and it starts next week."

As Daniels finished his letter to Duncan, he noted that on education issues, his administration and that of President Obama and Duncan are in sync on issues such as length of school day and charter schools. He chided the legislative Black Caucus with many members from India-

napolis and Gary. "I've had some direct conversations with leaders of the Black Caucus. We have President Obama on one side and them on the other," Daniels said. "It may be a little awkward for them."

"They have been fierce defenders of the status quo. I'm trying to persuade them that they are being terribly shortsighted. This is to side with the adults, tenured jobs, administrative jobs, union jobs, but against the interests of the children."

"Our policies are absolutely consistent with the President and Secretary Duncan," Daniels said of federal funding that could have been jeopardized when Indiana House Democrats tried to cap charter schools.

He talked of Wilson scholars who he had lunch with



President Obama and U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan. Gov. Mitch Daniels says they are all on the "same page" when it comes to education.

near the Meadows housing project last week, calling them bright and energetic. "Quality is what matters, not how long you've been alive," Daniels said.

Will size of school corporations - as in one of the Kernan-Shepard recommendations - come back to the front burner? "Sure," Daniels said. "You know one of the real sadnesses is this antique unionist model that we have? It forces some of our very best teachers out of the classroom. I see that all over the place. There are clearly terrific teachers" who have no way to make extra money. And eventually, the only way to make more money is to leave the classroom and be a deputy superintendent for something or other. We want to see the best people possible drawn to teaching, able to get into the classroom and then stay there based on how good they are."



"Arne Duncan could not be superintendent or principal in Indiana," Daniels said of Obama's education chief and former superintendent of Chicago schools. "He doesn't have the right credentials," emphasizing the word "credentials."

Asked about how the Ball State University teachers college will have to adapt, Daniels explained, "When the Professional Licensing Board begins, starting next week, to redefine what is required to get a teaching license in Indiana, the schools of education are going to have to make some major changes of their own. They are not going to need as many people teaching what to me is mumbo jumbo. They just aren't because we're not going to require it. We're going to expect students who want to teach spending much more of their time studying the subject they are going to be teaching in the schools because they're going to have to pass a test on the way in and on the way out."

Daniels was asked if struggling school districts with high dropout rates like Indianapolis and Gary public schools should be taken over or consolidated with neighboring districts.

"Districts like that are being taken over in America," Daniels said. "Indiana law makes that a tedious process." The governor said that if there is a slight uptick in one category in one year the clock starts over on the process of the state seizing a local school district.

"It's a very urgent question because every year

these systems remain as they are, kids are handicapped for life," he said. "We spend incredible amounts of money for special assistants to kids we define as disabled. Meanwhile, we are disabling in the same schools by consigning them to a poor system year after year."

"As long and as bad as those systems have been, we are not yet at the point where legally an intervention of that kind can occur."

Does Daniels have in mind a mix of what charter and traditional public schools should be? The governor explained, "No. I don't pretend to know. What I know is that alternative approaches are extremely popular with parents and families. I do know that the general record of these schools is superior to the old model."

He said he wanted to launch as many "new tech high schools" as possible during the final three and a half years of his term. "The ones we have are well regarded," he said. "We're trying to improve the existing public schools as well as alternatives. Charters are fully public schools. We're going to do all we can right now."

Asked if a high school student should be allowed to drop out at age 16, Daniels said that was "tightened up" with a bill sponsored two sessions ago by then State Rep. Luke Messer. A student cannot drop out without a conference attended by a parent.

"Another interesting question you can ask is why should a kid who could complete high school before 18 and move on to college be forced to stay there?" the governor asked. ❖

Ominous jobs report doesn't phase Daniels

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

COLUMBUS, Ind. - In the mind of Pat Kiely, Indiana isn't facing a "reset" in computer parlance for its battered economy, but a "reboot."

"The computer crashed and now we're operating in the safe mode," said Kiely, who called for the state and the Daniels administration to conduct a thorough reassessment of its economic development strategies.

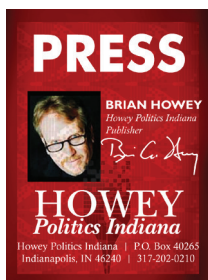
The president of the Indiana Manufacturers Association was commenting on a Global Insight employment forecast for Indiana that paints a somber picture with the state's jobless rate reaching its lowest point - at 8.73 percent - in the fourth quarter of 2013.

The forecast for the Indiana Department of Workforce Development

was presented to leading business and manufacturing leaders this week by the economic forecasting firm. It came as the New York Times reported on Tuesday that more than 2 million manufacturing jobs have disappeared in the United States since December 2007, including 100,000 in Indiana. The U.S. manufacturing sector now stands at 13.9 percent of the economy, the World Bank reports, down 4 percentage points in a decade. The 19-month-old recession has contributed noticeably to this decline. Industrial production has fallen 17.3.

Kiely recalled the 1982 special session when Indiana raised taxes to head off a financial disaster. In 1983, Gov. Robert Orr and the legislature with Kiely chairing the House Ways & Means Committee put in place not only the Rainy Day Fund but the economic development infrastructure that carried the state through the next two decades.

Indiana was able to turn around its economy, home to 700,000 manufacturing jobs by 1985. In January 2000 Indiana had 672,000 manufacturing jobs. That had declined to 545,000 at the beginning of this recession in December 2007 and as of June, there were only 429,000 such jobs.





The Global Insight forecast says that Indiana's jobless rate will reach 11.2 percent during the first quarter of 2010 then go to 11.85 percent during the third quarter of 2010 and 10.54 percent in the fourth quarter when mid-term elections take place.

During the 2012 election cycle, the jobless rate is expected to be 8.93 percent during the fourth quarter when President Obama will seek re-election and Indiana will elect a new governor. The forecast was off slightly in the current forecast, predicting a 10.8 percent rate during the present quarter. It currently stands at 10.7 percent.

Gov. Mitch Daniels reacted to the report by saying, "I'm not surprised" but added that with such long term projections, "Nobody really knows."

"We'll rise or fall with the national economy," Daniels told HPI on Wednesday. "We're a manufacturing state and people will need to buy manufactured goods. Let me state a couple of facts: after the deal we signed yesterday, we have signed deals for more new jobs this year than last year in Indiana. It's getting close to 20,000 now. I'll be doing another one tomorrow. We are seeing activity, but obviously we're the best looking girl in school and they called off the prom. We need the music to start again."

Kiely cautioned that tough days lay in the immediate future. "A lot of people think we're coming out of this but we're still on the front half of this," he said of the recession that he says has "no prior perspective, no reference point. We may be close to halftime. It's one real slow runoff. It could be 2015 before we get back to 5 or 6 percent."

The loss of 100,000 manufacturing jobs, with many workers having made \$40,000 to \$50,000 a year, will exact an excruciating toll on personal income. "We're looking at a loss of \$5 billion," he said. That will take its toll on income and sales tax revenues for the state.

"The lesson we learned after the 2001 recession is that jobs dropped, we leveled out and they never came back," Kiely said. "We're the most manufacturing dependent state in income and gross product. The loss of that 100,000 in just the manufacturing sector would wipe out the gains in the entire transportation and logistic sectors."

Kiely said that the other biggest employment sectors in the state - government and health care - will be vulnerable. He said if the manufacturing "tower goes down, so do they. We've got a domino effect going on here."

Kiely said he is anxious about the looming \$3.5 billion deficit in the unemployment insurance fund, despite a so-called solution during the last session of the Indiana General Assembly. He said that once the \$300 million a

year "tax" kicks in on employers, "We may drop another 10,000 jobs just to pay for the new tax."

What should Indiana be doing next?

Kiely called for "a thorough re-examination of who we are, what our brand is, what our structural competitiveness is."

"We need a cold hard look at ourselves at this point," said Kiely. "Locals and states are not going to be competitive with feds working against job creation. Between cap and trade, health care and labor changes you're scaring the hell out of business people. People are looking at getting out of the U.S. All the new regulations and runaway deficits, it's a formula for disaster."

Kiely even suggested "revisiting Major Moves," said

Indiana should explore moving some of that money out of the transportation sector into "job creation and incentives."

Daniels asked, "What does that mean?" and answered, "If he were the head of a manufacturing association in any other state, he'd feel worse than he does."

Gov. Daniels observed that a recent U.S. Census Bureau report noted that Indiana was one of only four states where an out-migration pattern has been replaced by in-migration. "What we can do - and I believe every sign shows this - everyone hates the recession because of the way it's gone, pushed back so much of the progress we've made, but what

we have to do is what a good business does: use a bad stretch, a down market, to improve its competitive position. Weaker competitors fall away. You see what other states are doing: the crumbling of public services, the raising of taxes of all kinds. While we are avoiding all of that, it is simply relatively making Indiana all that more attractive. In my view, we'll get more than our share."

The governor added, "We're always looking for new avenues. We were at the Wind Energy Conference. It was twice as big as it was last year. A lot of people think we should be even more aggressive than we've been in our competitive advantages or branding. A strong competitor tries to improve market share when times are tough."

Reminded that the wagon and bicycle shops of a century ago became Studebaker and Stutz, Daniels was asked if the "green" sector jobs will replace the old line auto manufacturing that Indiana has bled.

"They can't," Daniels said. "That's a fiction."

Why not?

"Count them," the governor said. "I'm an enthusiast for green jobs. But we've got to get real about this. We cannot walk away - and we shouldn't want to - from



Gov. Daniels watches Electric Motors Corp. CEO Wil Cashen at Wakarusa.



the manufacturing. We're the best in America and we're steadily becoming the better place. What we want to do is not replace it, but augment it. We're the home of four international assembly plants right now. I don't want that to go away. We'll want to augment them with Brevini. It can't be either or."

Daniels added that "this is another reason why this cap and trade thing will be a disaster for this state. I need to praise people like Joe Donnelly and Ellsworth and Sen. Bayh hasn't voted yet but he's been a voice of reason on this thing. Congressman Hill cast the most anti-Indiana vote I've seen an Indiana House member cast since I've been on this job. We cannot afford a dramatic increase in the cost of energy. If you're going to do that you better have proof you're going to get something for it. The proponents of that bill failed to do that."

Asked about his skeptical response to the General Motors and Chrysler bailouts and their liquidation could have cost the state tens of thousands of jobs, Daniels responded, "Before this is over the American taxpayer will be out \$100 billion. This is the biggest political pay off in American political history. I certainly want - in the interest of the communities like Kokomo - something to work. But you could have given every GM and Chrysler worker half a million or a million dollars. All I'll say is that it better work. The taxpayer will never make money on this."

Told the Obama administration wants to sell off its stake in Chrysler and GM within three to five years, Daniels explained, "You could buy the stock for the entire company for a tiny fraction of what's been spent. This is the biggest corporate welfare project."

"Nobody offered 10 cents to the RV industry in Indiana and we lost more jobs there," Daniels said. "As long as Americans are only buying 9 million cars and trucks, we've got that problem. You can pour all this money in there and keep people around for awhile."

When Daniels talks about Bright Automotive or Honda's natural gas GX for Electric Motors up in Wakarusa, there is more enthusiasm.

"I don't know about faith, but I'm very excited," Daniels said. "A free economy progresses not by taxing people to prop up old business. It progresses by new companies jumping up and providing something the market hasn't seen before and the market likes. I wish good things for GM and Chrysler but I'm thrilled we're becoming home to these upstarts. They won't all make it, but a couple of them might and what a great thing that would be. The auto industry in this country didn't get going because the federal government taxed the daylights out of the people."

"You've got to keep a clear head about this, Daniels insisted. "There are great possibilities in the new field. But you cannot walk away from the base that made this state strong and replace it one for one what you would lose. I'm

excited about Indiana becoming a bigger manufacturing powerhouse than we have been. We're the state where we're keeping taxes down, we're the state where regulations are reasonable, we're the state where utility costs are affordable, we're the state that has great infrastructure and a good litigation climate and property taxes have been cut. I got a call this morning from a major company in this world of the manufacturing character and they want to do something in the States. They are only looking at three states and we're one. That's where it is." ❖

'We have to adapt' says Kokomo mayor

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Kokomo Mayor Greg Goodnight still believes the United States - and his city - can maintain their status as manufacturing centers.

"We have to adapt," Goodnight said a few days after meeting with Fiat officials, who will now call the shots on Kokomo's four-plant Chrysler cluster. "We might be going to a more highly skilled manufacturing. That's the



Kokomo Mayor Greg Goodnight with a Fiat official. (City of Kokomo photo)

future of it. There may be a decline in the low skilled manufacturing. I think we still have a future of manufacturing in the country."

Goodnight's meeting with Fiat officials in Milan was more of a getting-to-know-you session. "They laid out their business plan. They did the same thing we did, talked about most recent

past, most recent products and plans for future. We talked about Chrysler and Kokomo. They were very clear that everything is dependent on the national economy, global economy and auto sales. They laid out a sustainable plan."

The mayor did the same thing, noting how Kokomo had transformed itself into an auto center in the past and how it remains a strategic component of auto making. He talked of good access to interstates, nearby markets and universities.

Did Fiat make a commitment to the three transmission plants and the foundry? "At this time, they have. They are going to keep them. I thought it was a very open meeting. They were very clear, but everything is subject to



change. They have a world class manufacturing strategy."

As for luring green industries and advanced manufacturing, Goodnight and city economic development director Jeb Conrad and sustainability director David Galvin met with companies manufacturing "energy devices, companies interested in sustainable energy."

"That's our key," he said. "That's an emerging market. There are huge strides to be made. If we can secure ourselves in that - solar, wind - there are other sources out there. If we can just harness that, our engineers can adapt to those types of products to use for manufacturing. That's what we hope."

The mayor said it depends on how the green sector emerges. New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman recently wrote that of the top 10 green energy projects in the world, eight are outside the U.S. and Americans risk losing the initiative.

"We met with a company which produces aluminum for high speed rail cars," Goodnight said. "It could exist if you include those types of things: High speed rail cars, tracks themselves. I don't know what the limit is."

As for Kokomo leading the state with a 19 percent jobless rate, Goodnight said that no one is "hitting the panic button." He is relieved that Chrysler plants are now up and running. "We've made it through this part. A lot of workers are back. Chrysler is not out of the woods yet.

We're struggling along. We'll have to continue to adapt."

He faces a grueling city budget scenario in the next two months, only to get tougher in 2010 and 2011 when the property tax caps fully kick in. "We may have to make some additional cuts and adjustments, some through attrition. The goal is to not diminish city services. We're looking at changing a lot of ways the city is run, what city workers provide, alternative work schedules, cross training."

And Goodnight would like to see government reform come back to the front burner in 2010. For instance, he suggested that Indiana's 1,008 township trustees be reduced to one for each of the 290 school corporations. "You'd reduce the numbers of trustees to a third. Everyone would know that a trustee services a school corporation. That would improve efficiencies, bring standardization and accountability."

What about the number of school corporations themselves? Gov. Daniels and the Kernan-Shepard Commission advocated consolidating corporations with under 1,000 or 2,000 students. "Howard County should be the poster child for combining school corporations. We could have one or two and there would be huge savings in transportation costs. If I showed you a map of where the five school corporations are located and how students are transported to schools, you'd laugh. I think there is a huge amount of spending that could be saved." ❖

What the Schneider Senate victory does

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS -There are a number of ways to read the election of former Indianapolis councilman Scott Schneider to the Indiana Senate, succeeding Teresa Lubbers:



1. The influential seat goes from a moderate to a conservative Republican.

Schneider comes from the same cloth as his councilman father Bill, who opposed government consolidation efforts with Unigov and social issues

such as the Equal Rights Amendment.

2. It was another example of a repudiation of the Republican "establishment" by rank and file precinct people. As the conservative blog Indiana Access noted, "Time and again, 'wiser' insiders in Indianapolis have tried to pick winners in these contests. Time and again, they have been defeated. Delph beat Randolph, Walker

beat Garton, Bailey beat Kellems, Leising beat Sponsel, Zoeller beat Costas, and now Schneider beat Vaughn."

3. It was a political black eye for Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard, who openly supported and worked for Councilman Ryan Vaughn, who ended up losing to Schneider on the second ballot 61-38. Ballard sent a letter to precinct officials endorsing Vaughn last week. The Advance Indiana blog reported: Schneider won in Hamilton County, the northeast region and even the southern region of the district home to Vaughn's council district. Schneider collected 14 votes from Hamilton County, while Vaughn and John Ruckelshaus got five votes each on the first ballot. Schneider collected 18 votes in his home area compared to 7 votes for Vaughn and 5 votes for Ruckelshaus. In Vaughn's home area, Schneider collected 25 votes to Vaughn's 17 and Ruckelshaus' 2.

4. It was a repudiation of lobbyists. In his speech at the Northside Knights of Columbus before the vote, Schneider said, "I will represent you. You should not have to worry about whose interests your next state senator would represent." He noted that Vaughn and Ruckelshaus are both lobbyists.

While Schneider vowed to support Gov. Mitch Daniels call for a constitutional amendment on property tax caps, Schneider is also expected to line up against govern-



ment reforms, likely to join State Sens. Mike Young and Jim Buck in blocking consolidation in the Senate.

Can Messer keep momentum?

With the 5th CD primary challenger field out-raising U.S. Rep. Dan Burton, the word is out in Washington that the incumbent could be vulnerable ... if the field is winnowed.

The Hill newspaper noted that crowded primaries have saved several incumbents in recent years. Last year, Rep. Carolyn Kilpatrick (D-Mich.) won renomination with just 39 percent of the vote against two challengers, and Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-Colo.) won his primary with 44 percent against two opponents. Rep. Wayne Gilchrest (R-Md.) wasn't as fortunate, finishing second in a three-candidate primary field with 33 percent of the vote.



Luke Messer comes out of the 2nd quarter FEC reporting period with \$203,000 raised, compared to \$103,000 for both State Rep. Mike Murphy and Brose McVey. Dr. John McGoff raised \$39,000.

The obvious challenge will be for one of the challengers to keep a significant lead in the money wars over the last two reporting periods of this year. If one of them stands head and shoulders over the rest of the challenger fields at the Jan. 15, 2009, reporting deadline, there will be pressure between then and the February filing deadline a month later to drop out.

McVey called for such a winnowing process, though his campaign was quick to note that raising the "most" money wasn't as important having "enough" money.

If Messer can keep doubling his closest challenger in the next two quarters, he could emerge as a consensus challenger. Just don't expect any of the candidates to even encourage such talk at this point while they are trying to gain traction. The Hill quoted a Republican operative saying, "Luke is definitely the challenger to watch to see if he can keep his numbers up. The next quarter will be really important for McGoff in particular."

Another Republican supporting Messer suggested to the Hill that the next quarter could crystallize things even further, as the candidates have to venture beyond their close associates. "The first \$100,000 is the easy \$100,000; it's what you do in the second or third quarter," the Republican said. "Who's the guy who can continue the fundraising pace? I certainly don't think these guys are going to have better quarters than they just had."

McGoff, who soundly rejected efforts by funder P.E. MacAllister to formally winnow the field early next year, is

probably under the most pressure during the third quarter. The Hill noted that McGoff "raised a relatively meager \$470,000 when he fell to Burton 52-45 in 2008."

It will be an important quarter for Murphy, whose money raising efforts were impeded by the regular and special sessions of the Indiana General Assembly. If he pulls close to Messer or surpasses him by the end of September, it would be a significant dent in Messer's ability to claim consensus.

9th CD

Republican Todd Young was able to raise \$89,000 in his challenge to U.S. Rep. Baron Hill. But several 9th CD Republicans speaking on background say they are searching for an alternative to Young, with one influential Republican referring to Young as "Carmel boy" and a "carpetbagger," adding that he "can never win the general." Columbus real estate agent Travis Hankins is also running, but raised only \$35,000 and has only \$9,000 cash on hand.

Other candidates could still run, said Erin Houchin, 9th District Republican chairwoman. "It's very early," she said. "But those two candidates are ahead of the game with their fundraising and grass-roots organizing. They're the first out of the starting gate."

Harrison County Republican Chairman Scott Fluhr told the Louisville Courier-Journal that the Republicans enter the race at a distinct disadvantage since four-time nominee Mike Sodrel had name ID on par with Rep. Hill. "One of the things about Sodrel is that he had equivalent name ID the last three times to Baron Hill," said Fluhr, who writes at www.hoosierpundit.com. "That kind of name ID will cost you a lot of money to get — probably more than any of the challengers to Baron Hill will have." And Fluhr worries that Hill's big win last year means national Republican groups — who have spent heavily in the district in the past — now will think it unwinnable. The Cook Political Report rates the district "likely" Democratic. "You have candidates who are running out there, who don't have the name ID, who don't have the fundraising pull Sodrel had and potentially won't have the national help," Fluhr said. "It looks very different now than in the past."

U.S. Senate

Richmond banker Don Bates Jr. will kick off his campaign Saturday at the Wayne County Fair with the Gatlin Brothers band providing the entertainment.

Currently U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh has only one candidate formally exploring the race. State Sen. Marlin Stutzman raised \$16,000, compared to the \$12 million Bayh has on hand. ❖



The Hoosier South could rise again

By **DAVE KITCHELL**

LOGANSPORT - It's potentially looking a bit crowded in the race for Indiana governor in 2012.

For some observers, it may be too soon to even think about it.



For the participants, the time to start thinking and acting is now.

Indiana's term limit law prohibits incumbent Mitch Daniels from seeking a third term. His lieutenant governor, Becky Skillman, could be in line to succeed him, but many expect a crowded group of GOP hopefuls to test the waters in the primary.

The question for Republicans almost becomes "Who wouldn't want to be a candidate in 2012?" GOP Chair Murray Clark, State Sen. Luke Kenley, Tim Berry and Marion County Prosecutor Carl Brizzi are all potential names.

On the Democratic side, it's a bit more mysterious. If Evansville Mayor Jon Weinzapel does throw his hat in the ring, he'll need some connection to state government, just as Daniels needed Skillman, a former state senator. If that's the case, look for State Sen. Vi Simpson to be on the ticket. For that matter, the same combination turned upside down also works for Democrats.

The only certainty for Democrats is uncertainty. Former Gov. Joe Kernan likely will not run again. His lieutenant governor, Kathy Davis, is likely out. Don't expect Jill Long Thompson, the 2008 candidate, to be in it again. And Jim Schellinger's showing in a primary loss to her didn't bode well for him either.

The key for Democrats, who could be riding the wave of an incumbent president carrying their state in back-to-back elections is in swing areas. One of those is in southern Indiana, where Republican Mike Sodrel waged some monumental wars with Baron Hill in what once was solidly Democratic territory for Lee Hamilton. If a southern Indiana ticket that includes an Evansville mayor and a Bloomington area legislator is on the ballot, it could be enough to pick up the areas in between those two cities that have been increasingly Republican in the past 10 years.

That said, Weinzapel and/or Simpson have their work cut out for them. Evansville is about as far away from the rest of the state as it gets, but as the late Bob Orr proved, it's possible to win the governor's office if

you're from Vanderburgh County.

Simpson, who has been in the legislature for more than two decades, probably possesses more state government acumen than Daniels has now. Her work on conference committees sweetens her chances and her candidacy. Given the fact she likely will never serve in a majority in the Senate, her time is at hand.

So much can change for both parties in the next three years. In 2001, who would have thought Mitch Daniels would be serving his second term as governor in 2009?

The only real certainty is that regardless of the candidates, a race for an open governor's seat will likely be a spendathon much like the 1996 race between Steve Goldsmith and the late Frank O'Bannon. Lincoln Day dinners and Jefferson-Jackson Day dinners will attract renewed interest in the coming off-year elections.

And if my hunch is right, watch for license plates from Vanderburgh and Monroe counties at Democratic events near you.

Confederate flags are truly a thing of the past, but if Indiana's south ever rises to a renewed level of importance, this could be the election cycle that does it. ❖

The Washington Post
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2007

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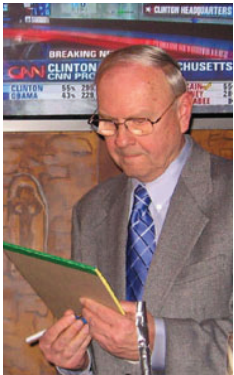
HOWEY
Politics Indiana



Stop bashing Bush (41) that is

By JACK COLWELL

SOUTH BEND - Stop that bashing of Bush. Now that he's out of office a little longer, we can look back with better perspective and realize that he wasn't as bad of a president as critics claimed when he left office.



It's clear now that the economy really wasn't declining as precipitously as we thought when Bush left office. It's clear now that Bush made the right decisions on Iraq, using adequate force to win decisively. It's clear now that Bush was skilled at diplomacy, especially in dealing with the Russians. It's clear now that Bush was no stubborn ideologue but a president willing to compromise, change course when needed.

I'm speaking of course of President George Herbert Walker Bush, 41st president of the United States.

George W., the 43rd president? That's a different story.

Through many accounts, we know that the son wanted to do things differently than his father, seeking to avoid mistakes that he blamed for the father's failure to win a second term. According to one biographer, George W. once told a media strategist: "You can learn from a failed presidency." From his father's "failed" presidency.

Bush 41, though not winning a second term, won't go down in history as our worst president. Not when Bush 43 is on the list.

Bush 41 won't be ranked as a great president, but he won't end up in the bottom tier either. Not with James Buchanan, Andrew Johnson, Millard Fillmore, James Polk and Franklin Pierce. George W., though winning re-election over a hapless opposition, could end up in a close contest with . . . well, maybe Millard. Possibly in a tie with Andrew Johnson in terms of impact on the nation.

Indeed, it's clear that the economy really wasn't declining the way Bill Clinton claimed in the campaign against the first President Bush. The economy was bouncing back. And Clinton was there to take advantage when he reached the White House. In contrast, the second President Bush left the economy teetering on the brink of a second Great Depression, a disadvantage plaguing President Obama and hurting the nation.

Indeed, it's clear that the first President Bush made the right decisions on Iraq, using massive force after careful coalition planning in quickly defeating Saddam Hussein, forcing him out of Kuwait and leaving him boxed in with no weapons of mass destruction. In contrast, the second President Bush, listening to Donald Rumsfeld rather than Colin Powell, went in with too few troops, no real coalition and inadequate planning. He got Saddam but left Iraq shattered and Iran strengthened.

Indeed, it's clear that the first President Bush was skilled at diplomacy, especially in dealing with the Russians. He was superb as the Berlin Wall came down, resisting temptation to fly there and pose at the crumbling wall, celebrating in front of a banner. He knew that too much grandstanding might bring down Gorbachev and bring in Russian tanks. He didn't taunt the Russians: "Bring 'em on!" The second President Bush looked into Putin's eyes and got "a sense of his soul." Putin looked into W.'s eyes and got nonsense.

Indeed, it's clear that the first President Bush was no stubborn ideologue, staying a course no matter the cost. He was concerned about cost, negotiating successfully before Desert Storm for international help in the effort and share the cost. He reached budget agreements with congressional Democrats. Despite his campaign rhetoric, he even agreed to raise taxes to hold down the deficit, doing as Ronald Reagan had done when a change of course was prudent. The Second President Bush stubbornly did nothing to hold down the cost of war, in money or lives, following instead the course of Defense Department incompetents.

Like father, like son? Hardly.

In military service, one was a hero. In executive style, one made prudent decisions after seeking and listening to expert advice. In history, one really will look better and be appreciated more.

One selected a vice president who was underrated but loyal to him. The other selected a vice president who was overrated and to whom he was loyal.

The second President Bush said he didn't want to be like the first.

Mission accomplished. ❖

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



Women use time differently than men

By **MORTON J. MARCUS**

INDIANAPOLIS - It's hard at times choosing a topic for this column from the multitude of thoughts floating without anchor in my mind. Fortunately, I have friends who help.

This week, Faye of the Forest emerged from the dense woods behind our house and settled on the deck-rail.



Morton Marcus
Column

In her small hands she held pieces of paper. "Have you seen these?" she asked without any customary salutation.

"I'm glad to see you too," I said "What should I have seen?"

"This," she waved the papers in the air. "This report, prepared by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, on how Americans use their time. It confirms how the lives of men and women are still very different."

"Did you expect something else?" I asked.

"Look," Faye said pushing the papers under my nose. "On an average day, nearly 83 percent of women, but only 64 percent of men, spend time engaged in household activities. Plus, when women engage in household activities they average 2:35 hours per day while men average 2:01 hours."

"What's surprising about that?" I said.

"Just look at what's included in household activities," Faye answered.

I looked. "So?" I said. "Household activities include food preparation and cleanup in which, on an average day, 65 percent of women but only 38 percent of men participate. When they perform these chores, women average 1:07 hours per day compared to 0:47 for men. Should it be otherwise?"

"That's no more surprising," I said, "than finding that men are more likely than women to be involved in lawn and garden care and that men average 2:21 hours while women average only 1:34 hours when they do this kind of work. We guys are out there in the hot sun mowing that lawn while you're in the air-conditioned kitchen slaving over a hot microwave."

"Oh, funny," Faye mocked. "Maybe your involvement, when

it takes place, shows gross ineptitude. See here," she said pointing to the report, "women are more likely to care for animals and pets, but men spend more time on that activity. Is that because men have alligators to care for?"

"Snide doesn't win the day," I suggested.

"How about vehicle maintenance?" she continued. "Men are four times as likely as women to engage in this activity and spend more than twice as much time doing it. Is this because it's some macho hobby, or because men haven't the good sense to take their cars in for professional service?"

"What about 'grooming'?" I said. "The report shows that on an average day 82 percent of women engage in fixing themselves up and average 57 minutes doing it."

Faye's laugh bordered on the raucous. "Right," she said, "and on that average day, nearly 77 percent of men report grooming themselves for an average of 44 minutes. Doesn't seem to me they get much in the way of results."

"Are you trying to start something here?" I asked.

"Absolutely," she answered, "There are substantial difference in the lives of men and women despite the malarkey about equality. For example, for a variety of reasons, on an average day, you'll find 51 percent of men but only 39 percent of women working. On days when they work, men average 7:57 hours while working women average 7:04 hours."

"Fifty-three minutes?" That's making something of nothing," I said.

"Not so," she said. "Women are paid less than men and they miss out on nearly an hour's worth of work. That deficit shows up in the checking account quickly."

"But," I objected, "women spend 11 fewer minutes commuting to work than do men. That's all to the good."

"Maybe," she said, "but I have to get back to the tree house. Women's work you know See ya."

Then she grabbed a vine and swung back into the forest. At least I had a column. ❖

Mr. Marcus is an independent economist, speaker, and writer formerly with IU's Kelley School of Business.

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Doug Ross, Times of Northwest Indiana: When Matt Murphy joined the Porter County Council, Councilman Bob Poparad pointed to the large Pinkerton Oil calendar on the wall. "See that calendar?" Poparad asked Murphy. "It's there to hide the bloodstain on the wall." Poparad told me this story Wednesday as we joked about the council members' self-inflicted injuries from banging their heads against the wall over the late property tax collections. The tax bills that should have been due last year were late -- way late. In fact, according to the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance, they were 338 days late, with the first payment not due until April 13, 2009. It should have been due in May 2008. The council really has nothing to do with that process, although it's trying to take the lead to make sure progress is made toward getting the tax bills out. That involvement makes sense. How can the council spend money if the assessor, auditor and treasurer don't collect it? And don't forget that if property tax bills don't go out on time, almost every unit of local government in the county has to borrow money to keep the doors open until the expected revenue finally rolls in. That borrowing hits you, the taxpayer, right between the eyes. So does the inability to claim a federal income tax break because your property taxes aren't billed the same year they should have been due. And then when your bill does get sent out, you have little time to pay it. So what's the solution? Don't ask the council members; some of them are asking me for advice. "County government's broken," Councilwoman Karen Conover said. "It's got to be fixed." Porter County Auditor James Kopp asked the council last week for thousands of dollars in overtime pay for his employees. The council had no choice but to agree. If it said no, Kopp could have complained that the council wouldn't give him the resources he needs to get the job done. But even with the right resources, the job still isn't getting done. Last month, Kopp even brought in a ringer, a former employee with vast experience in county government, to try to sort things out in his department. That person lasted less than a week. The council has spent hundreds of thousands of extra dollars to get the taxes out, including consultants, new tax software -- and replacement software when the original purchase didn't meet state standards -- and overtime. The employees in the auditor's office, assessor's office and treasurer's office complain about each other not cooperating. What's the solution? Blow up the system. "We're the poster child for Kernan-Shepard," Poparad said. County government's main problem is that no one can easily be held accountable for a colossal failure like Porter County's property tax debacle. Run the county more like a municipality, and the assessor, auditor and treasurer would be employees instead of elected officials. ❖



Rich James, Post-Tribune: When I hang up the typewriter, there will be a few experiences I will embrace forever. One of them will be the days I spent with U.S. District Judge Allen Sharp. The diminutive man with a booming voice passed away a week ago. He was 77. I hadn't seen him since I gave up the reporting gig some six years ago. But I kept track of him through news stories and the lawyers who appeared in his court. While I spent a lot of boring days in courtrooms, not so with Judge Sharp. He once told me, "Trial is great theater. If there is anything I really believe in deeply, it is the jury system. At moments it is great drama. I enjoy being at center stage in that drama." While he appreciated fine legal work and complimented lawyers who delivered it, there was room for only one star in his courtroom. I remember him scolding an outspoken lawyer one day, saying, "I do the one-liners in this court." ❖

Lanny Davis, The Hill: In this, my first column for The Hill, I thought it would be worth explaining why I chose the title, "Politics and counsel." Before I explain the title, a few disclosures are necessary: First, I am a liberal Democrat, and a pretty partisan one at that. I have only voted for a Republican once in my life -- and that was for a Republican U.S. Senate candidate who was pro-choice running against a pro-life Democrat. I also have Republican friends or those I admire in public life who are conservative Republicans; sometimes they even have good ideas. Shocking! These include Utah Sen. Orrin Hatch, South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, Sen. John McCain (Ariz.), Florida Rep. Connie Mack, New York Rep. Pete King, and New Jersey Rep. Chris Smith. (Sorry to all -- I know my complimentary words might hurt you back home with your Republican base!) I have even come to be friends with Rep. Dan Burton (R-Ind.), who, during the days I served as special counsel to President Clinton, ran the House Oversight Committee that looked into the Clinton campaign fundraising issues and drove me to distraction conducting his investigations and hearings. Yes, there were times we crossed wires on TV and outside the hallways of his hearings, and I still believe he was very often unfair and imbalanced in his criticisms of and investigations about President Clinton. But time has passed, and since then, Rep. Burton and I have talked, as well as worked together on various issues, and I believe we have come to respect one another. The other day, when I was testifying at a hearing and I was introduced, Dan Burton actually applauded. I thought to myself: If ever there were an example where it is possible to differ on politics but still remain friends, Rep. Burton applauding me was a great example. ❖



Kenley ‘offended’ by tuition hikes

INDIANAPOLIS - An Indiana committee that oversees government spending will seek detailed explanations next week from public colleges and universities on why they have raised or proposed to raise tuition (Associated Press). Republican state Sen. Luke Kenley of Noblesville, chairman of the State Budget Committee, said Wednesday that the panel wants the colleges to justify their tuition increases at a time when spending for most state agencies is being cut. Kenley says a growing number of lawmakers are offended by what seems to be an unwillingness or inability for higher education institutions to cut and contain costs during a recession.



Lugar, Bayh buck parties on gun vote

WASHINGTON - Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., was one of two Republicans on Wednesday who helped the Senate reject a provision that would have allowed gun owners with valid permits from one state to carry concealed weapons in all other states except Wisconsin and Illinois (Smith, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). Sen. Evan Bayh, D-Ind., was on the opposite side of the question, voting with lawmakers to allow gun owners with concealed-weapon permits to take their guns across state lines. The measure needed 60 votes to pass but got only 58. Lugar “supports the position held by law enforcement organizations that state and local officials should be afforded the ability to determine proper concealed-carry gun laws and regulations that protect the safety of their communities. This is consistent

with his views since he was mayor of Indianapolis,” spokesman Andy Fisher said. Many mayors of large cities strongly opposed the proposal, and nine Hoosier mayors – including Republicans – signed a letter to Congress last week urging defeat of the proposal. Lugar’s experience as mayor of Indianapolis likely framed his vote, said Paul Helmke, former Fort Wayne mayor and now president of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, which lobbied against the measure. Bayh spokesman Brian Weiss said the measure “required the rest of the country to approach the issue in the same way that Indiana already does, to recognize permits issued in other states. Sen. Bayh thinks that the Indiana approach works well.”

Merrillville seeks distressed status

MERRILLVILLE - Town officials have given up hope of raising revenue with hotel/motel or food and beverage taxes and are now seeking distressed municipality status in 2010 in an effort to relieve its financial crisis (Post-Tribune). “We empowered Town Attorney Steve Bower to go to Indianapolis to meet with whoever he has to meet with to get the ball rolling,” Councilman Richard Hardaway, D-2nd, said. Bower said Wednesday he will be starting dialogue with attorneys of the state Department of Local Government Finance, whose Distressed Unit Appeals Board determines if a municipality has become distressed as a result of the circuit breaker cap on property tax bills. If a municipality had at least a 5 percent reduction in tax collections, it can be granted relief from the tax freeze, allowing it to increase its budget with additional tax money. [private]

Toll road operation denies fiscal distress

SOUTH BEND - The Indiana

Toll Road’s operators say they can handle the current economic conditions and deny that they’re in financial trouble (WTHR-TV). Macquarie Infrastructure Group, which paid the state more than \$3 billion to lease the toll road for 75 years, is selling off assets to stay afloat. But ITR Concession Company, which operates the day-to-day functions of the toll road, responded to criticism this week that it’s close to bankruptcy, saying that it’s in good financial health. The details are outlined in a 112-page lease agreement, which says if the company defaults, sells or goes bankrupt, INDOT would take back control of the daily operation of the toll road. Many Indiana Democrats opposed the deal at first. “Now, with hindsight, the amount of the sale looks pretty good, given the way the economy has gone,” said David Orentlicher, IU School of Law.

Swiss company brings 480 jobs to Indy

INDIANAPOLIS - A Swiss aviation company’s is expanding an Indianapolis hub where the interiors of corporate aircraft are completed or refurbished, adding 480 jobs over the next five years (Indianapolis Star). Comlux Completion USA may not be a household name in the city, but they employ 90 at their site on the grounds of Indianapolis International Airport. The executive cabin specialist announced plans today to make the hires as part of a \$46.3 million expansion of its hangars to accommodate wide-body aircraft. The 170,000-square-foot expansion will allow the company to work on up to 12 aircraft at the same time.

Visclosky seeks funds for staff in probe

WASHINGTON - U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky is seeking federal permission to use his campaign war chest



to fund his staff's legal fees in a probe into his former top source of campaign funds (Kraly, Times of Northwest Indiana). The request follows disclosures from Visclosky that his office has received subpoenas related to a federal investigation into the PMA Group, once his top campaign contributor. In a request to the Federal Election Commission this month, Visclosky's re-election committee seeks an advisory opinion on whether "it is permissible for the committee to pay legal fees and expenses incurred by Congressman Visclosky's current and/or former staff members in connection with a federal investigation." The request parallels a similar one Visclosky was granted last month to cover his own legal costs related to the probe. Since the original April request, "one of Congressman Visclosky's former staff members has received a federal grand jury subpoena to produce documents related to this matter," wrote Michael Malczewski, treasurer of Visclosky's committee, in the most recent request to the FEC. Officials from Visclosky's campaign did not respond to Times inquiries Wednesday regarding reports former Visclosky Chief of Staff Charles Brimmer has been subpoenaed. Visclosky's office reported in early June that top aide Brimmer had "retired."

Soliday upset by NICTD report change

VALPARAISO - One of the authors of legislation paving the way for a four-county regional transportation district is blasting the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District's move to put the brakes on a feasibility study of the South Shore extension (Times of Northwest Indiana). "Three months before the referendum, all of a sudden, the study is pulled, the numbers have changed -- and there is no discussion with Republicans or Democrats or the congressman," Rep. Ed Soliday, R-Valparaiso, said when contacted this week. Soliday said there

have been intense discussions this week between NICTD managers and legislators, all seeking to clarify what changed since an upbeat report on extending the Lowell line was delivered to legislators in the fall. "How did we get from slam-dunk to iffy on this?" Soliday said.

Escapee search moves to Orange County

PAOLI - State police are searching in Orange County for a convicted murderer who escaped from the Indiana State Prison in Michigan City more than a week ago (Associated Press). They believe 46-year-old Mark Booher may be in the Wildwood Lake area, 7.5 miles south of Paoli.

Fed spending up 17% in NE Indiana

FORT WAYNE - Federal spending in northeast Indiana jumped 17 percent during the past fiscal year, a new federal report shows, nearly double the national spending increase of 9.3 percent (Smith, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). For fiscal year 2008, which ended Sept. 30, federal spending in the region's 11 counties increased \$733 million, to \$5.1 billion. Nationally, federal spending in the last fiscal year entirely overseen by President George W. Bush's administration increased to \$2.79 trillion - about \$9,184 for every person living in the United States. In northeast Indiana, the largest federal expenses were retirement and the purchase of goods and services: 37 percent of the \$5.1 billion spent went to retirement and disability payments, and almost 28 percent went to procurement contracts, most of it for national defense.

Ockomon ally turns into harasser

ANDERSON - An ally-turned-critic of Mayor Kris Ockomon has taken the extraordinary step of demanding a jury trial for a speeding ticket (Anderson

Herald-Bulletin). Mikeal Vaughn said that the mayor is behind his traffic stop by police and calls it a case of intimidation. Ockomon said Vaughn is the one who's been intimidating him and his family — driving by his home shouting profanities at least six or seven times. About the only thing Ockomon and Vaughn agree on is that the mayor called police to report harassment, and that Ockomon later arrived on the scene when Vaughn was stopped.

Brainard promises to veto

CARMEL - Carmel Mayor Jim Brainard says he will veto any City Council action to declare a previous city decision related to Keystone Parkway "null and void." As the council tries to gain more control of the reconstruction project, its members and the mayor are coming to different interpretations of a State Board of Accounts letter to the city (Indianapolis Star). The council created a fund to hold \$90 million the state is giving Carmel to take over Keystone from 96th to 146th streets. The money is helping turn six intersections into roundabouts.

Tippecanoe tax bills delayed again

LAYAETTE - Tippecanoe County tax bills won't have a July postmark this year (Lafayette Journal & Courier). County officials had hoped to get the first installment of property tax bills mailed to residents by the end of the month, but the process continues to be delayed. Auditor Jennifer Weston and Treasurer Bob Plantenga on Wednesday could not provide a new estimated mailing date for the bills. But Weston said it would take at least a few more weeks to complete all remaining steps in the process.