



Going for Barack in river corridor

Can Obama carry Indiana's Ohio & Wabash Democrat strongholds?

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

NASHVILLE, Ind. - During the Clinton-Obama Indiana primary drama, we were struck at the number of Democrats, particularly in Southern Indiana, who said that the junior Illinois senator would not run well there. Perry County's Dean Boerste told us at the Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner that he would be surprised if Obama could get more than 30 percent there. Obama lost to Clinton 65-35 percent.

Traditionally, the 18 Ohio and Wabash river counties are essential to any Democrat winning statewide. Or, as 8th CD Chairman Anthony Long explains, "Southern Indiana has a rich tradition of supporting Democrats."



Barack Obama drew 8,000 people at Roberts Stadium in Evansville on April 22, but he lost all 18 counties in the Ohio and Wabash river valleys to Hillary Clinton, something he will have to change if he wants to carry Indiana in November. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

The undercurrent with Barack Obama is race. Some Southern Indiana towns have a Southern feel with many having family roots from Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia

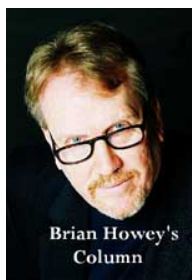
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It's 3 a.m. (and no call)

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - It's 3 a.m. and I'm glancing at my phone. It isn't ringing. No veep text from Barack Obama.

I am joined by Evan and Susan Bayh. They always have a phone nearby, waiting for The Call from the steely and stealthy Obama. So do Eric Holcomb and Cam Savage of Gov. Mitch Daniels' re-election campaign. And Jill Long Thompson. And Dennie. And Abdul. And Tully. And Butch. And Dan and Joe. And the Nashville Post. And ... you get the point.



Brian Howey's Column

It's been one of the most bizarre weeks in the Hoosier political realm. Instead of writing about the Obama-Bayh ticket heading into Denver with a burst of



"We aren't all Georgians now. If we were Georgians and the Russians were invading our country and killing our people, we'd be in a state of war."

- U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh



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optimism and change, we are awaiting a text message from Barack. We are writing about Susan Bayh's hairdo. There are so many media rumors that it is now creating its own weather. This is a political warm front and the air is hot and meaningless.

About the only meaningful thing we know is that while the Obama campaign plays its clever, clever, clever game of veepsmanship, he is starting to tank in the polls. SurveyUSA has John McCain up 50-44 percent in Indiana, while earlier polls showed it to be a 1 point race. New York Times/CBS and NBC/Wall Street Journal have Obama leading 45-42 percent. Reuters-Zogby has McCain leading 46-41 percent. "This is a significant ebb for Obama," said pollster John Zogby. "Conservatives were supposed to be the bigger problem for McCain. Obama still has work to do on his base. At this point McCain seems to be doing a better job with his." In the Aug. 19 Gallup Daily Tracking, Obama was leading McCain 45-44 percent. CNN's Poll of Polls had Obama leading 46-43 percent.

As for the veepstakes, here is what I know, though at this point I can't always tell you why I know it.

1. Even though Obama has "all but made his decision," only about six people - Barack and Michelle Obama, Eric Holder, Caroline Kennedy, David Axelrod and David Plouffe

- really know what's going on. The national press is incensed at not being able to crack this one. They have been reduced to the whirling dervishes Matt Lauer showed us from Turkey a few months ago on the Today Show.

2. What is Obama looking for? Asked by TIME magazine what his selection would tell people, Obama said in Albuquerque earlier this week, "I think people will see that I'm not afraid to have folks around me who complement my strengths and who are independent. I'm not a believer in a government of yes men. I think one of the failures of the early Bush Administration was being surrounded by people who were unwilling to deliver bad news, or who were prone to simply feed the president information that confirmed his own preconceptions."

3. Evan Bayh has not received any phone calls. Nor have Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine and U.S. Sen. Joe Biden, the other two unofficial "front runners," though this has never been confirmed by the Obama Six.

4. Susan Bayh's seven board directorships will have no bearing on whether Evan Bayh gets the nomination.

5. ABC's Jake Tapper broke the story that Susan Bayh had her hair and nails done (the first time I've ever written such a thing about Mrs. Senator) and that she's told her Washington neighbors to "expect a media



pack." Congrats, Jakester.

6. Biden brought reporters bagels and told them, "I'm not the guy" Tuesday evening. Prior to that, he had replaced Bayh, who had replaced, Kaine as chief hot air producer from the talkin' heads.

7. I don't think it's going to be Hillary Clinton, even though the polls show this race to be tight, making a 21st Century version of JFK reaching out to the despised LBJ relevant. But, the Clintons have been very quiet, saying even less than Joe Biden. That's curious.

8. At a speech in Florida on Wednesday, Obama referred to his future vice president as "he," when in the past he's always done a "he or she" thing. Slip of the tongue or mind? Only the Obama Six really know. If it wasn't a slip, then Hillary and Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius are toast.

9. Even with my "Georgia on My Mind" scenario (McCain leading in the American Georgia; the Russians invading the Caucasus Georgia) that might have brought former senator and Nuclear Threat Initiative Chairman Sam Nunn to the forefront, he was asked by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution on Monday if the Obama campaign had vetted him financially. Nunn replied, "The only person who's asking about my assets, my liabilities, the way I'm spending my money, where that money is coming from, primarily, is my wife. And there's nothing I can do about that. All I know is what I read in the newspapers."

10. Obama has Virginia on his mind, campaigning with Gov. Kaine today and Friday. Could that be a clue? And how awkward will those behind the dais conversations be if Barack ain't talkin'?

11. The Nashville Post's report that Obamamites were on flights streaming into Indianapolis for a "major campaign event" on Saturday could not be confirmed by Obama's Indiana spokesman, Jonathan Swain. Swain said that even if there is an Indianapolis event on Saturday, we

should not "read anything into it with regard to Springfield. Obama will be traveling to battleground states."

12. There will be a major Obama campaign event Saturday at the Old Illinois Capitol in Springfield, the same place where Obama kicked off his campaign in February 2007.

13. If you draw a straight line from Springfield to Indianapolis, you'll find Shirkieville, Ind., Bayh's hometown, in the middle.

14. We have unofficial reports that the good folks of Shirkieville are making a lot of iced tea and lemonade in case the thirsty media hordes encroach.

15. We don't know if Susan, the twins and grandpa Birch have made flight plans for Indianapolis late this week.

16. We know that Evan Bayh jogged on Wednesday, probably in an attempt to shake the tension. But Bayh jogs a lot. He also plays basketball a lot and so does Barack Obama. Could that mean something? Tim Kaine looks like a football player and Biden is too old to play one-on-one. O! An Obama-Bayh hoops tandem.

17. If Bayh doesn't get the nomination, there are going to be a lot of his Hoosier supporters (and former Hillary backers) very, very disappointed after going through this roller coaster ride. Even with Bayh on the ticket, Indiana will be a close, close race. Perhaps as close as it was on May 6. So the Obama campaign may have played this thing a little too cutely which could have ramifications.

Watch howeypolitics.com over the rest of the week and weekend for updates and coverage ... once we know something. ❖



Howey is publisher of Howey Politics Indiana. His weekly column runs in 25 Indiana newspapers reaching 250,000 readers.

Obama-River, from page 1

and the Carolinas. In 1862, Copperhead Democrats won the legislature and fearing the Indiana General Assembly would vote to secede from the Union, Gov. Oliver P. Morton suspended the body. Outside a handful of city councilmen in some of the bigger cities, there have been no African-American mayors, sheriffs, or members of Congress.

But it would be unfair to paint Southern Indiana as racist. Three statewide candidates - Attorney General Pamela Carter in 1992, Treasurer Cleo Washington in 1998 and Attorney General Karen Freeman-Wilson - all won pluralities in river counties. Carter was able to do it in 1992

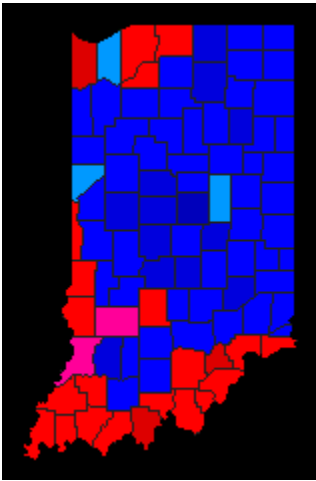
despite the fact that her Republican opponent, Timothy Bookwalter, appeared in numerous small towns and cities carrying with him a full-sized cardboard cutout of Carter. It was widely perceived as overt racism.

In 1998, Washington, a state senator from South Bend running for state treasurer, won Crawford, Perry, Floyd, Gibson, Spencer, Jefferson, Switzerland, Vermillion, Sullivan and Vigo counties. He lost several other counties by a handful of votes.

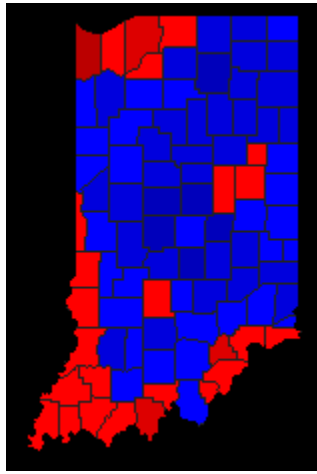
In 2000, Attorney General Freeman-Wilson, who was appointed by Gov. Frank O'Bannon after Jeff Modisett resigned, lost her bid for a full term. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce ran an ad campaign against her that was perceived as race baiting. It noted that she had been a "judge



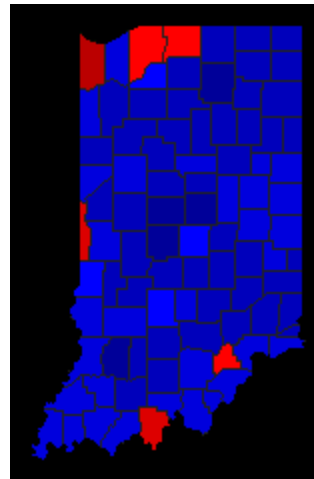
1992



1996



2000



from Gary." But Freeman-Wilson did not lose her race to Republican Steve Carter in the river corridor. She carried Crawford, Perry, Spencer, Harrison, Warrick, Floyd, Jefferson, Knox, Posey, Sullivan, Switzerland, Vanderburgh, Vigo, Vermillion and lost Warrick County by 35 votes.

In presidential races, Bill Clinton carried almost the entire river corridor (Vermillion to Switzerland) with the exception of Dearborn and Ohio counties. In his 1996 re-elect, Clinton carried all but Harrison County (ironically, O'Bannon's home county) out of those he won in 1992.

The Democratic presidential vice grip on the river corridor came to a halt in 2000 when George W. Bush won almost the entire river corridor except Perry County. In 2004, Bush carried the entire river corridor, including Crawford with 57 percent, Floyd with 58 percent, Gibson with 62 percent, Jefferson with 59 percent, Harrison with 63 percent, Knox with 63 percent, Ohio with 60 percent, Perry (49.8 percent to 49.7 percent for John Kerry), Posey (65 percent), Spencer (59 percent), Sullivan (59 percent), Vanderburgh (58 percent), Warrick (65 percent), and Washington at 63 percent.

Two elections make the beginning of a trend. The fact that Obama carried none of the river counties against Hillary Clinton seemed to portend that the trend would continue. The margins were startling: Obama carried only 25 percent of the vote in Dearborn, Ohio and Switzerland counties, 27 percent in Crawford and 28 percent in Harrison. The rest of the corridor wasn't much better: 34 percent in Jefferson, Clark 32 percent, Floyd 34 percent, Perry 35 percent, Spencer 39 percent, Warrick 41 percent, Posey 44 percent, Gibson

33 percent, Knox 34 percent, Sullivan 33 percent, Vigo 41 percent and Vermillion 34 percent. His best showing came in Evansville and Vanderburgh County, where he drew 8,000 at an April 22 Roberts Stadium rally, with 48 percent. The Obamas had other campaign events in Terre Haute and the Clark-Floyd metro area.

Some think the huge Hillary Clinton pluralities can be traced to the fact that she, the former president and Chelsea Clinton campaigned in more than 100 Indiana cities, includ-

ing a dozen in the river corridor. Another huge factor was Sen. Bayh, a Vigo County native whose endorsement was crucial to Clinton. Bayh has carried big pluralities in these counties in his five elections for secretary of state, governor and the U.S. Senate. A smaller percentage could be traced to the racial dynamic.

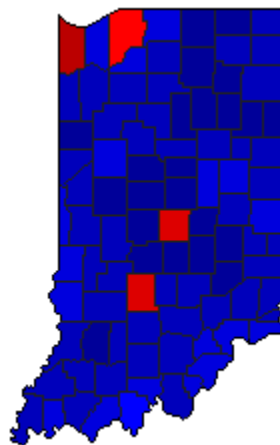
Former Indiana Democratic chairman Robin

Winston acknowledged the "Obama can't win" dynamic in river country. "If people keep saying it, it will be a disadvantage," he said. Winston did a detailed study for Gov. O'Bannon in 1999 on how Carter and another African-American, Treasurer Dwayne Brown, did in the early 1990s. "The governor was relieved when I told him that Carter and Brown did very, very well in many of those counties," Winston said.

Boerste explained, "I feel that Obama's campaign is reaching out to the Clinton supporters and that it is very organized here in Indiana. I hear comments from Clinton supporters daily on their commitment to Senator Obama. These folks were very passionate about their candidate in the primary but realize that they do not want this country to continue down the same path as the Bush administration has taken this country and have begun to align themselves with the Obama campaign. I see this trend growing daily here in Southern Indiana. The Obama campaign has a very large grass roots organization on the ground here in Southern Indiana and should do well down here."

Former House Speaker John Gregg of Knox County believes Obama will win there. "He carries it because he's got staff in these areas, as well as \$4 a gallon gas, recession and war. The Obama folks have an unbeliev-

2004



Indiana's Democratic strongholds along the Ohio and Wabash rivers have steadily eroded to Republicans. In 2004, President Bush carried all 18 counties.



able work ethic. I've attended meetings all over Southwestern Indiana that they've held. They're here to win, not for show."

Long, who lives in Warrick County, explained, "The energetic level with which the Obama campaign staffers and volunteers (many of whom were Clinton volunteers) are working the campaign will reap dividends for Senator Obama this fall in our area. The ultimate question becomes whether those Democratic voters who are not activists will turn out in traditional numbers remains unanswered at this point. The feedback from the voter on the street is that the Obama campaign publicity and advertisements are succeeding in raising the familiarity of Senator Obama in this area. The biggest concern of most Democratic voters who were 'on the fence' was a general unfamiliarity with him. Time will help this. The abysmal record of the Bush administration and the sorry state of our economy is going to cause many of the formerly 'one issue' voters to rethink their positions on some traditional Republican issues. This, of course helps in our area"

Long acknowledged the racial factor. "I believe that race will probably be a consideration for hopefully only a small number of voters," he said. "These voters we cannot get. We must simply pray for them and move on. Race will play a far smaller



Barack and Michelle Obama bask in the adulation of the crowd in Evansville, yet he failed to carry Vanderburgh County in the Indiana primary. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

role than some believe."

What does Evan Bayh's addition to the ticket do? "The real wild card is the VP selection," Long said. "If Senator Bayh is selected, it is a new ball game in Indiana. Evan is very popular with the voters in this area. His choice would truly be the tide that raises all the blue boats. Indiana would be a blue state this fall."

Gregg agrees. "It's much easier if EB is on the ticket."

And Boerste? "If Senator Bayh is chosen as the VP it will increase the probability of a strong victory here. If the Clintons return to Southern Indiana to campaign for Senator Obama it will also be

of great help in achieving that victory." ❖

HOWEY *Politics Indiana*

When Chris Cillizza of the *Washington Post* posed the question to readers across the nation - Who's the most influential political journalist in your state? - the answer in Indiana was this: Brian A. Howey of *Howey Politics Indiana*. Since 1994, *Howey Politics Indiana* has provided news, analysis and commentary from throughout Indiana and Washington D.C. Howey reaches the most influential insiders with his newsletters and the masses with his weekly newspaper column and www.howeypolitics.com.

Photo: Howey with Richard Lugar and Sam Nunn in Russia.



The Washington Post
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2007

"The Best Indiana Political Reporter: *Howey Politics Indiana* editor Brian Howey."



Daniels, JLT do a half step into health care

By RYAN NEES

INDIANAPOLIS - Healthcare policy took center stage last Tuesday for Jill Long Thompson, who announced at McGinty Conveyors on Indianapolis's Westside a proposal to create a quasi-governmental agency to administer a small business health insurance pool.

The announcement is renewing attention on Indiana's burgeoning health care costs, in a state with more than half a million people uninsured. Yet what's revealed in all of Long Thompson's policy rollouts and white papers is a wholly different approach from national Democratic leaders, who might find more in common with Gov. Mitch Daniels. He's emerged as a veritable progressive on the issue.

At McGinty Conveyors, where the CEO solemnly told Long Thompson that rising costs were forcing him to eliminate his employees' health coverage, the Democratic candidate for governor skipped the preachy talk of moral responsibility and the common good. She breezed by any mention of insurance company profits. The first page of the proposal focused more on how health care costs affect the economy more than than patients. And her proposal is focused more on small business than the uninsured working poor.

Her plan would offer tax incentives to businesses with fewer than 50 employees to participate in the program aimed at curbing rising health costs by creating a wider pool in which to share risk. She said she would also create an online "connector" for participants to comparison shop for insurance, reverse a Daniels administration decision to require children on Hoosier Healthwise to apply monthly for benefits, instead of annually, and revive a loan forgiveness program to encourage health professionals to work in underserved rural areas of the state.

Daniels, for his part, can point to the Healthy Indiana Plan, passed in 2007 with bipartisan support and funded by a 44-cent increase in the cigarette tax. The \$140 million in added revenue allowed the state to enroll 132,000 uninsured Hoosiers earning up to 200 percent

of the federal poverty level (\$20,800 for an individual, \$42,400 for a family of four) in the largest state expansion of health coverage in decades. By contributing between two and five percent of household income, participants can draw from an \$1,100 health savings account to which the state contributes, enroll in traditional health insurance for costs beyond \$1,100, and are entitled to unlimited preventive care at no additional cost. It increased the number of childhood immunizations the state provides and the state's reimbursement rate to physicians treating Medicaid patients as well.

Long Thompson would leave the plan mostly intact. Of the 44-cent increase, three went to finance tax incentives for businesses taking advantage of a section of the IRS tax code allowing employees to buy health insurance pre-tax. Long Thompson would eliminate the "Section 125" incentive and redirect it to her insurance pool plan, giving either a tax credit or deduction to participating employers.

For a variety of reasons, pooling doesn't always work, even for the comparatively smaller group of potential beneficiaries. And in the absence of increased spending -- Long Thompson has indicated that she'll support no new tax increase of any kind, ever -- it's unlikely to make significant progress in reducing the number of uninsured.

For instance, Long Thompson's plan doesn't expand coverage for uninsured children, unless they are the children of parents who work for businesses eligible for the pool. Instead, she's targeting a Daniels policy that requires covered children's parents to apply for benefits monthly, instead of annually, a burden which she suspects discourages participation. That's likely, but relatively insignificant. Daniels' 2007 health care legislation didn't simply fix a bureaucratic glitch; because of the cigarette tax increase, Indiana is poised to add thousands to the State Children's Health Insurance Program rolls by increasing the state's eligibility threshold by 50 percent, from 200 percent of the federal poverty level to 300 percent, and by making cigarettes less economically accessible, reduce the number of smokers by 23,000 and discourage 40,000 more would-be new smokers.

Yet for Daniels, healthcare seems to have been put on the backburner. All of the successes of the Healthy Indiana Plan are buried in his campaign literature, in TV



Jill Long Thompson talks about her health care proposals at McGinty Conveyors in Indianapolis last week. (HPI Photo by Ryan Nees)



ads, and online. Like Long Thompson, Daniels knows that health coverage for the poor isn't a political winner: it should be couched instead in terms of jobs or prescription drugs for elderly voters.

He's bizarrely spent more time disingenuously claiming credit for the RX for Indiana program, a private national initiative run by the Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPA) and funded largely by pharmaceutical companies. Though the PPA administers such a program in every state in the country, a Daniels television ad suggests that it was the governor's initiative, not the PPA's.

"**Mitch Daniels got** pharmaceutical companies to pay for prescriptions for Hoosiers in need through RX for Indiana," text in the ad reads. A woman featured in the spot is more colorful. "Governor Daniels, he went to PhRMA, got his foot in the door," she says. "He would not stop until this program helped each and every person." There were, in any case, at least 49 other feet in the wide-open door too.



Gov. Mitch Daniels received a flu shot to promote public health earlier in his term.

Daniels' legislation established a tax credit for small businesses creating wellness programs for employees, a tax credit for businesses purchasing health insurance on a pre-tax basis, and gave the Family and Social Services Administration authority to administer a small business health insurance pool: a mere footnote in the Daniels plan, the centerpiece of Long Thompson's.

There are successes to be celebrated, and successes worth replicating. Neither candidate seems to want to do either. ❖

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Indy parks circle drain because city isn't seeking out neighbors

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - When Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard called parks a "drain" on the city's budget, it prompted outrage from friends of green spaces, and made even some of his most ardent supporters wince.

The rollout of this idea, coming in an off-handed remark at an Indianapolis Star editorial board meeting, was amateurish in its execution. It left way, waaaaay too many questions unanswered. It supplied fodder for columnists and editorial writers to question the mayors view of quality to life issues. It simply played into what the bloggers are calling the "accidental mayor" who is in over his head as the new fiscal realities of HB1001 gradually sink in.

HB1001 is prompting some cities to talk about nuts and bolts and public safety issues, as have occurred in places like Kokomo, South Bend and Muncie. But there are philosophical issues coming into play. Elkhart Mayor Dick Moore has taken his cleaver to the arts. Elkhart Civic Theater youths attending its summer camp will have to pay \$200 instead of \$100. The Elkhart County Symphony Orchestra could stop visiting elementary and middle schools. It begs the question: should taxpayers be paying for such things? Or, as Moore's assistant Arvis Dawson told the Elkhart Truth, "If the programs are important to the community, people will step up and support them."

As a taxpayer, I would rather write a \$250 or \$500 tax deductible check to my local arts council than have it come out of my property bill (and mortgage payment).

Ballard could have said that it might sell some tiny parks, and use the proceeds to add and maintain bigger neighborhood parks nearby. There was no such nuance. No organized media rollout. People were left to react to his remarks with virtually no context.

Selling off the parks, even the little acre or less "pocket parks," might make some sense ... if the city had used its greatest resource to the maximum. That resource is the people in the surrounding neighborhoods.

From my experience as a resident living across the street from Broad Ripple Park, there is virtually no outreach to the surrounding neighborhoods by the city. Broad Ripple Park doesn't have a sidewalk system that connects much of it to its neighbors. There are no brochures delivered to area homes to advise of programs and events.

After I moved to Evanston Avenue across the street from the park, I inquired from the Peterson administration as to whether there was a Friends of Broad Ripple Park or-

ganization, similar to the group at Holiday Park that actually raised money and built the nature center there. The city expressed little interest in such a "friends" concept. There is a Broad Ripple Park Advisory Council, but its activities are obscure.

When storms in June and July knocked down limbs and uprooted trees, the carnage sat untouched for weeks. The fence along Evanston Avenue is still down and the sycamore tree that destroyed it still sits by the roadside.

We know that the Ballard administration wants to cut park maintenance by some \$2 million as it deals with its budget deficits. Little wonder that the Ballard people want to sell off some smaller parks in order to cut the drain.

What they ought to be looking at is empowering the neighbors at every city park. There could be quarterly volunteer park cleanups on Saturdays where people could pick up litter, paint equipment and trim or cut down dead trees. It

would create a greater sense of community for the cost of fliers, liability forms, paint and garbage bags. Neighbors could be invited to donate plants and trees.



Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard's "parks are a drain" comments could come back to haunt him. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

None of this happens. The parks people I talked to at Broad Ripple essentially threw up their hands, telling me the forestry division is overwhelmed, as opposed to organizing a community chainsaw brigade.

The suspicion in many quarters is that Ballard simply issued a feint: that the real estate vultures enlisted for this foolish venture will look to sell off greenspace when a vibrant, eco-friendly city would seek ways to expand them and enlist support of neighbors to share the maintenance burdens.

The "drain" and "sell" ideas expressed by Ballard are extremely poor public policy. It is potentially disastrous politics. It will take Ballard months to ditch those tags unless he intends to vigorously pursue his fool's errand. If that's the case, the city will probably end up spending even more on the legal challenges that citizens almost certainly will mount. ❖



Daniels, McCain have poll leads

Trendlines: Gov. Mitch Daniels and Sen. John McCain have leads outside the margin of error in the latest SurveyUSA polls in Indiana. Daniels leads Democrat Jill Long Thompson 52-38 percent. In the presidential race, John McCain had a 50-44 percent lead over Barack Obama in Indiana. Compared to eight weeks ago, Obama lost 3 percent and McCain picked up 3 percent. The Aug. 16-18 poll was taken of 900 Indiana adults, 779 were registered to vote. Of the registered voters, 645 were determined by SurveyUSA to be likely voters in the election. McCain had leads of 48-44 percent in Southern Indiana, 61-33 percent in Central Indiana and 51-44 percent in the Indianapolis metro. Obama had a 49-44 percent lead in Northern Indiana. In the governor's race, Daniels is getting 52 percent of those planning to vote for Barack Obama. Both share a message of being change agents. Daniels leads 48-42 among females, 56-33 percent among males and leads 59-27 percent in Central Indiana, 69-22 percent in the Indianapolis metro, and 51-40 percent in Dennie Oxley's Southern Indiana base. Thompson leads 51-39 percent in Northern Indiana. Nationally, Reuters-Zogby has McCain lead 46-41 percent. "This is a significant ebb for Obama," said pollster John Zogby. "Conservatives were supposed to be the bigger problem for McCain. Obama still has work to do on his base. At this point McCain seems to be doing a better job with his." Both polls could have implications into Obama's vice presidential search. Daniels' big lead portends to a victory in November. If Sen. Evan Bayh were to be nominated and win the vice presidency, Daniels will likely pick a Republican successor. It also shows that Obama has much work to do in Indiana despite three rounds of ads and 19 offices open around the state. Bayh could be in a position to help deliver the state's 11 Electoral College votes which could be critical on Nov. 4. In the Aug. 19 Gallup Daily Tracking, Obama was leading McCain 45-44 percent. CNN's Poll of Polls had Obama leading 46-43 percent. The next Howey-Gauge Poll will be released at the Indiana State Museum on Thursday, Sept. 4 as part of the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce's annual Hobnob. The Howey-Gauge Survey will be taken after Obama's DNC speech and McCain's selection of a runningmate expected to be announced on Aug. 29 in Dayton.



.Democrat: 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:** During the Major Moves debate in 2006, Gov. Mitch Daniels described it as the "jobs bill of a generation." Upon passage, then House Speaker Brian Bosma predicted it would put 130,000 Hoosiers to work. This past year, with a recession looming, Daniels talked of how Major Moves might have made Indiana "recession proof."



Fast forward to Friday, always a great day to drop bad news. And last Friday there was bad, bad news. Indiana's jobless rate jumped from 5.9 percent to 6.3 percent in July. This reflects the hemorrhaging of jobs in the auto/RV sector and the bleeding there is just beginning. The 1,400 Monaco jobs at three Elkhart County plants haven't even hit the rolls yet. Those plants close in September. Kokomo is bracing for the loss of 600 white collar jobs at Delphi Corp. The Kokomo Tribune reported Monday: Town hall meetings between Delphi Corp. executive Jeff Owens and salaried employees today will reveal the fate of hundreds of white collar jobs throughout the company's electronics and safety division. Long a mainstay of the Kokomo economy, the salaried engineering positions at the division's Kokomo headquarters are expected to be significantly reduced.

As has happened in previous campaigns, the dynamic is sharply in place here. There are dual takes on the jobs scenario. Each week, the Daniels administration trots out new, pending jobs, as he did last week at the new Nestle plant in Anderson. And with each plant closing in places like Nappanee and Peru, the Thompson campaign points out the need for a "new direction."

Friday's jobless rate was a golden opportunity for the challenger. "This is more devastating news for Indiana's working families and it further illustrates the need for a new direction and new leadership in this state," Thompson said in a statement. "Month after month Indiana continues to lose good-paying jobs while this administration does little, if anything, to stop it. I firmly believe that with the right leadership and right priorities we can turn this economy around. I am running for governor because I want to work to rebuild this economy and make Indiana more competi-

2008 Indiana Governor

Governor 2008: Republican: Gov. Mitch Daniels,



tive by overhauling our tax structure, reforming our health care and education systems and working to bring economic opportunity and good-paying jobs back to every Indiana community.”

The Thompson campaign points out the jobless jump in July was the second largest increase in the nation, trailing only Alaska. Compared to July of 2007, when the state unemployment rate was just 4.4 percent, today’s news is even more startling.

It appears that Daniels’ “island” in the Midwest is getting smaller and smaller as the new tide of lost jobs rises due to fuel prices. “We’ve still got the lowest jobless rate in the Midwest,” said Daniels campaign spokesman Cam Savage. He said the June flooding and the American Axle strike that has idled other auto workers have played a role into the spike. He said that over the long term, more and more of the jobs announced over the past year will be coming on line. He pointed to the I-74 interchange at Greensburg outside the new Honda plant as an example of how Major Moves helped create jobs outside the construction and building trades. Savage said he did not know how many Major Moves jobs are going at this point. The governor announced nearly 500 new jobs in Ligonier, Indianapolis and Noblesville in the last 24 hours,

The irony here is that Daniels’ former employers - the Bush-Cheney Oil Presidency - and their lack of any cohesive energy policy could come back to haunt this administration. Without such a policy, the state’s recreational industry, RVs and boating, are in perilous condition. Sailing from Chicago to Michigan City last Sunday I found a peculiar scene on a magnificently sunny day with highs in the low 80s. There were virtually no gas-powered watercraft out in the big lake. Most of the high powered boats in Michigan City’s harbor have essentially become stationary summer homes and party scenes. It costs too much to run them.

Driving south from Michigan City through the little hamlets of Westville, LaCrosse, San Pierre, Medaryville, Reynolds (the bio-fuels town) and Monon brought another sight: dozens of SUVs, muscle cars and big pickups sitting in the yards of homes and businesses with “for sale” signs in their windows. It’s the reason why Toyota will no longer make the Tundra pickup in Princeton. It’s why Monaco, Keystone, Newmar and dozens of other small RV and auto parts manufacturers are closing.

The governor will meet with leaders of the recreational vehicle industry in northern Indiana to discuss the status of the industry this afternoon. Daniels will obviously point in the coming weeks to the thousands of jobs and billions of dollars of investment that will employ Hoosiers in the coming years. He will need some variation of the messages another former boss, Ronald Reagan, employed in 1982 (“Stay the course”) and 1984 (“It’s morning in America”) to convince Hoosiers the state is on the right track, even if there is pain now.

The governor can point to places like Reynolds and the dozen or so ethanol plants, southwestern Indiana’s largest coal gasification plant in the, and the billion-dollar investment in Whiting’s BP refinery as evidence that the state is not standing still.

As for the impact of Major Moves, Daniels explained in March 2006, “Change is difficult. Sometimes you can tell in advance when change is going to be contentious, when they disturb a very deeply invested special interest. Others can surprise you. I don’t think of roads and jobs and hope for our economic future is partisan at all.”

In a letter to legislators in 2006, Daniels wrote, “Your vote for the Major Moves roads and jobs plan was, undeniably, one of those rare events. In his “Profiles in Courage,” recounting moments of legislative heroism when people summoned the bravery to do what they knew to be

right, at risk of criticism or even defeat, John Kennedy wrote: The true democracy, living and growing and inspiring, puts its faith in the people - faith that the people will not condemn those whose devotion to principle leads them to unpopular courses, but will reward courage, respect honor and ultimately recognize right. Years later his brother Robert said progress requires change, and ‘change has its enemies.’”

In 2008, time could be a greater enemy than his opponent.

The lease of the Indiana Toll Road along with private contracts to run components of state social services

could get a second look if Jill Long Thompson is elected governor (Ronco, South Bend Tribune). The former Democratic congresswoman from Argos, who is vying for the state’s top job against first-term Gov. Mitch Daniels, said Wednesday that if elected, she’ll form a bipartisan committee to re-examine deals with private businesses that



Hard hats at a Statehouse Major Moves rally in 2006 represented thousands of new construction jobs. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)



perform services for the state. "Every contract will be evaluated," Long Thompson said. Long Thompson's review committee would be made up of representatives from business, education, social service and governmental sectors, she said. It would be implemented immediately and she said she hopes to have recommendations before the General Assembly during 2009 session. Long Thompson used as an example the \$3.8 billion, 75-year lease of the Indiana Toll Road to a private Spanish and Australian consortium — something she said is bad for Indiana, she said. "I think the better approach would have been for the state to take control of it and manage it well," she said. And she said the state has had its share of problems, such as a riot at a New Castle Correctional Facility after it came under private management.

Gathering at Ivy Tech in

Elkhart Wednesday afternoon, state officials said companies are growing and jobs are available in Indiana but the local workforce downsized from the recreational vehicle industry will need to learn new skills to find employment in the booming industries (Elkhart Truth). The number of workers losing their jobs and Elkhart County's climbing unemployment rate brought Gov. Mitch Daniels to Northern Indiana to first meet with leaders of the RV and manufactured housing industries and then to announce the state's actions to help the thousands of laid-off workers. "We've got a mismatch of skills in some cases and we have geographical challenges in others," Daniels said. "We're prepared to do all possible to help people connect with jobs that are waiting for them." Along with to extending the hours of the local WorkOne offices and hiring additional staff, the state is making \$3 million in training grants available to workers displaced from either the RV manufacturers or supplier companies. With the grant, qualified workers can receive up to \$6,000 to pursue an associate's degree or certification in a program, like CNC machining, welding or medical training, that serves a high-need occupation. Daniels will be attending the Republican National Convention for the

Indiana House Horse Race

Democrats

51

HD26 (Open) Polles vs. Truitt
 HD63 (Open) Messmer vs. Burger

HD5 Fry vs. Miller
 HD17 Demobowski vs. MacKillop
 HD 46 Tincher vs. Heaton
 HD62 Blanton vs. Tarr

HD36 Austin vs. Burrows
 HD68 Bischoff vs. McMillin
 HD69 Cheatham vs. Coates
 HD37 Reske vs. Gaskill
 HD70 Robertson vs. Hunt

Republicans

49

Tossups

HD15 Lehe vs. Sutton
 HD31 Harris vs. Pearson
 HD52 (Open)Yarde vs. Papai
 HD89 (Open) Swatts vs. Barnes
 HD97 Elrod vs. Sullivan

Leans

HD20 Dermody vs. Cooley
 HD48 Neese vs. Hardy
 HD35 Lutz vs. Mengelt
 HD44 Thomas vs. Michael
 HD4 Soliday vs. Chubb

Likely

HD38 Clements vs. Snow
 HD92 Hinkle vs. DeKemper

Safe

Democrats: Lawson, Harris, C. Brown, Bauer, Niezgodski, Dvorak, Pelath, Stevenson, Reardon, Dobis, V. Smith, VanDenburgh, Bardon, Klinker, Herrell, Tyler, Grubb, Kersey, Pflum, Pierce, Welch, Battles, Goodin, Stemler, Cochran, Oxley, Stilwell, Avery, Van Haaften, Riecken (Open), GiaQuinta, Moses, DeLaney (Open), Pryor (Open), Bartlett, Porter, Crawford, Summers, Day.

Republicans: Borrer, Wolkins, Walorski, Ruppel, Friend, McClain, J. Thompson, Richardson, Turner, Davis, Torr, Steuerwald, T. Brown, Borders, Foley, Culver (Open), Leonard, Dodge, Cherry, Saunders, Knollman, Eberhart, Burton, M.Smith, Koch, Duncan, Crouch, Lehman (Open), Espich, Bell, Pond, Noe, Bosma, Murphy, Behning, Frizzell. ❖

first day and a half in September. He is currently meeting with newspaper editorial boards across the state.

The Thompson campaign is still seeking field help at this late date. The campaign has an advertising on the Grassroots Solution website seeking "several" field organizers. The campaign is also working on a text message campaign, something the Obama campaign has mastered and the Daniels campaign expects to use extensively. The Thompson campaign has scheduled a press conference for this afternoon to discuss "privatization" and mismanagement of state government. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Daniels

❖



The Edwards tragedy is one for America

By **DAVE KITCHELL**

LOGANSPORT - By this point in the long history of our country, I think most adult Americans have become so numb to stories about politicians and trysts, we've grown weary of the shock value.

Even at that, last week when word spread that former presidential candidate John Edwards had admitted to an affair during his campaign, his supporters had to be shaking their heads, wondering why.



Granted, Edwards is never going to be president and likely was not a serious candidate for vice president again. Revealing an affair could do little political damage to him at this point. But he admitted to an affair he had - just before he launched a presidential campaign that would have made his wife the First Lady of the nation and one of the most powerful women in the world, if not the most respected.

Of course, the question becomes "What were they thinking?" John was going to leave his wife after he was elected president to marry his campaign aide? John was going to continue the affair in the White House, just as Bill Clinton had done? Chances are no one in the media/political throng around them would find out?

Clearly, neither one of them was really thinking ahead, or at least not thinking clearly --and I'm sorry if this sounds preachy, but they weren't thinking morally.

Marital bliss, keeping vows and breaking one of the Ten Commandments are not Democrat or Republican issues. Remember that former House Speaker Newt Gingrich had a similar story before his fall from leadership grace. Think of the Edwards story in a different light. If Americans could pick their First Ladies a la carte, they couldn't choose a much more respected woman than Elizabeth Edwards. She is the decent, courageous kind of woman they might choose in any election.

What can't you like about a woman who campaigns across the country in a motorhome with her husband? What can't you like about a career woman who has raised her family, beaten cancer once and accepted a fatal prognosis only to say, "Let's give it another shot and run again. If we're going out as a couple, let's go out this way." What can't you like about a woman that has stood by her husband from his days as a windmill-swinging attorney who

took on corporate giants because the system is designed to protect American values?

I can think of plenty of First Ladies who may not have deserved the respect due Elizabeth Edwards. Yet she is destined to a limited life-span that will test her personal faith and reputation and she has nothing to show for it except a high-profile husband who could not be faithful to her.

After reading the details of the Edwards affair, there are no winners here, including a child who Edwards denies was born of the relationship. But this is nothing new. Recently my wife and I checked out the movie "The Other Bolyen". For those of you who didn't take British history, it's the story of two sisters, both impregnated by the King of England. One committed adultery to serve the king and the other created the separation of England from the Catholic church. Ann lost her head, figuratively and literally. The king lived happily ever after. From that point centuries ago, women and family have taken the brunt of our processes that sacrifice family for the sake of our leadership.

There is no happily ever after for the Edwards family, and that's an American tragedy for all of us. ❖

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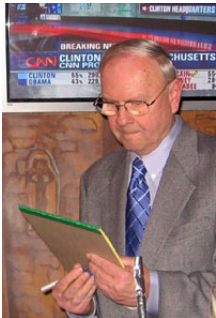
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Praying for rain (& riots) at the DNC in Denver

By JACK COLWELL

SOUTH BEND - Rush Limbaugh was dreaming of riots in Denver at the upcoming Democratic National Convention. Something like the riots at the party's 1968 convention in Chicago.



Then came the call on the Focus on the Family Web site to pray for torrential rain in Denver on the night Barack Obama is to give his nomination acceptance speech outdoors at Invesco Field. Something of "biblical proportions" to swamp intersections and ruin the night for Obama and the Democrats.

Back when there still was a battle for delegates between Obama and Hillary Clinton, Limbaugh sang on his radio show: "I'm dreaming of riots in Denver." It was to the tune "White Christmas." While Limbaugh insisted he really wasn't trying to incite riots, he said they would be "the best damn thing" to prevent election of Democrats.

Focus on the Family, a Christian conservative organization, pulled the pray-for-torrential-rain piece last week after complaints that Christians shouldn't ask God for a deluge on Denver. The narrator for the piece defended it as "mildly humorous" rather than a serious call for the wrath of God.

Limbaugh also was trying to be funny in the unique style that inspires his devoted listeners, upsets his critics and keeps his radio ratings high.

But many folks in Denver didn't find dreams of and prayers for a riot or a deluge very funny.

What happened in Chicago in 1968 certainly wasn't humorous for the city, its police, delegates and visitors at the convention or the American political process.

Yet, the trouble began after the radical, youth-oriented Yippies tried to be funny. They were in Chicago to demonstrate against the establishment in general and the Vietnam War in particular, and to do so with their theater-of-the-absurd techniques of ridicule. Their presidential candidate was a pig named Pigasus. Their put-ons included a threat to slip LSD in the Chicago water supply.

That threat and rumors of other planned disruptions and violence were taken seriously by Chicago police.

Of course they were. The convention came only months after the assassinations of Martin Luther King and Bobby Kennedy. Could Chicago be kept safe? Would someone try to kill delegates or the presidential nominee to be

picked at the convention.

The worst mistake by Chicago authorities was to force the Yippies, hippies and other assorted groups out of Lincoln Park at the oft-ignored park curfew time. The police should have kept potential troublemakers in the park, far from delegate hotels and even farther from the International Amphitheater convention site. Instead they were driven out and streamed to the Loop.

There the radicals, who were intent on disrupting the political system, were to mingle with idealistic young supporters of Gene McCarthy, who were seeking to work within the system.

Police, hearing taunts and rumors of fellow officers being shot or blinded, reacted to the crowds in what was to be labeled a "police riot," failing to differentiate between those who were violent and those who weren't. Their clubs also struck members of the news media, especially anybody with a TV camera, in an illogical attack on those who would tell the story to the nation.

Demonstrators who gathered in Grant Park after a violent confrontation at Chicago's Conrad Hilton Hotel also lashed out at the "establishment" news media for covering up a police massacre of peaceful demonstrators.

There was clubbing. But there was no massacre.

There police injuries. But no policeman was shot or blinded.

People on both sides reacted, however, to what the believed to be true.

National Guard troops were summoned. They blockaded Michigan Avenue near the Hilton, with bayonets fixed and machine guns mounted on jeeps.

This was not a scene to bolster confidence in the American political system. The scene was seen, however, around the world.

Anger and divisiveness also were exhibited in the convention hall. That too was carried around the nation and to the world.

The Democratic Party was torn apart. Limbaugh is right that a Denver riot like the one of '68 could hinder chances of Democrats winning. Hubert Humphrey, the Democratic nominee that year, recovered some but not enough to defeat Richard Nixon, the victorious Republican nominee.

The Chicago turmoil was more than just a funny thing that happened to a political party. The nation was being torn apart as well. President Nixon was forced to deal with a divided nation as he sought a solution to Vietnam and to other problems.

Pray for or against Denver rain? God is unlikely to play politics, either causing it to pour on Obama or causing every cloud to vanish. There could instead be bipartisan, positive prayer for lack of violence both in Denver at the Republican National Convention in Minneapolis-St. Paul. ❖



Rich James, Post-Tribune: There is someone lurking in the halls at the Lake County Government Center in Crown Point. Actually, there is a lot of lurking going on. But this person is sharper than most of the knives in the drawer. No one knows who he is. If they do, they aren't saying. His name is Filius Publicola, which allegedly is Latin for Friend of the People. That's what he says his name is, anyway. I suspect he has a more common name -- but for now all we have to go on is Filius Publicola. Anyway, Publicola has issued A Proposal for Downsizing Lake County Government and 2009 Departmental Budgets. Publicola has put some time into this project. It is well-reasoned and well-presented. There also is an addendum that makes two key points: U.S. Attorney General Robert Kennedy in 1962 called Lake County one of the most corrupt counties in the nation. Lake County over the last 50 years has experienced more convictions of elected officials and other public figures than any county in the country. And as a little icing on the cake, Publicola includes a list of 53 Lake County elected officials and other employees who have gone to prison on public corruption charges. Here are some of the questions that Publicola asks: Why is Christine Cid on the County Council and also an employee of the county clerk? Why is Merrillville town Judge George Paras also probate commissioner in Circuit Court? Why do so many Lake County employees live outside the county? Why are so many multiple family members on the county payroll? Why are so many county employees applying for retirement, going off the county payroll and then reappearing in their former positions? ❖

Mark Bennett, Terre Haute Tribune-Star: Either they haven't tried hard enough, or they were promising a result they couldn't deliver. Perhaps the power of the executive branch of our government and the stubbornness of its occupant, President Bush, has made it impossible for our legislative branch to do what American voters demanded of them two years ago. As the 2008 presidential convention season approaches, let's look back at the prevailing theme of the last election, the congressional races of 2006. Dozens of legislators from Bush's party got ousted in that midterm voting. The power in Congress shifted, for the first time in 12 years, from the Republicans to the Democrats. Why? "Nowhere did the American people make it more clear that we need a new direction than in the war in Iraq," said Nancy Pelosi, who would become Speaker of the House, as those election results stacked up on Nov. 7, 2006. Twenty months later, well, you know. The number of U.S. casualties reached 4,141 on Wednesday. The number of Iraqi war deaths has become a point of contention, with tolls ranging from 90,000 to 1.2 million. Fiscally, the

cost of the war will top \$3 trillion by the time it ends, according to a book by Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz. That's an extravagant venture for a nation struggling to fund its schools and colleges, repair its interstates and bridges, build its infrastructure to keep its industries, develop renewable energy, and adequately compensate its courageous service men and women, among other things. And yet, the war goes on, more lives are lost, our economy languishes, and that clear message from Americans back in 2006 gets a condescending pat on the head from our leadership — Democrats and Republicans — as they focus instead on signals sent, stabilizing Iraq, and the successes of Iraqi military training. Howard Dean, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, visited Indiana on Wednesday to rally support for Barack Obama, the party's presidential candidate. With some updates along the way, Obama has steadily campaigned on a plan to withdraw U.S. forces gradually over a 16-month period after he would take office. In a telephone interview with the Tribune-Star, Dean was asked if Congress done its part since the 2006 elections to bring a conclusion to the war. "I think it's pretty clear you have to have a president to want the war to end in order for the war to end," Dean said Wednesday. "And so, if you really want to get out of Iraq, you have to have a Democratic president, because John McCain has basically adopted George Bush's policies on both Iraq and the economy." ❖

Leslie Stedman Weidenbener, Louisville Courier-Journal: Finally, we're getting to the point in the governor's race when the campaigns will start focusing on the future. Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels has spent millions of dollars this year telling Hoosiers about what he believes are the highlights of his first term. Democratic challenger Jill Long Thompson has used her commercials (and she's had considerably fewer of them) talking about what Daniels has done wrong. But last week, in the first of what the campaign promises will be a series of announcements, Thompson started talking more about what she'd do as governor. That's not to say her campaign has been without any policy discussion whatsoever. In fact, because Thompson had a primary opponent in Indianapolis architect Jim Schellinger, she's unveiled a number of ideas. It's just been a little while. And of course, anyone paying a lick of attention has heard Thompson's repeated call for a suspension or at least a scale-back of the state's sales tax on gas. The summer, however, is typically devoid of true public policy debate, even in an election year. And this summer has proved no different. Now, though, the campaigns are going to be getting a bit beefier. ❖





170 jobs coming to Ligonier

LIGONIER - A Noble County auto parts manufacturer plans to rev up its operation by adding a production line and hiring more than 170 workers within three years (Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). Millennium Industries Corp. announced Wednesday it will invest more than \$9.2 million to upgrade equipment and expand its Ligonier plant. Gov. Mitch Daniels, who visited the plant for the announcement, praised Millennium Industries' move to produce direct injection fuel systems that improve fuel economy. The company's new production line will manufacture these fuel systems. "The 170 new jobs Millennium plans to add in the coming years is great news, but it's the technology these new associates will manufacture that has the most far-reaching impact," he said in a statement. The jobs will be created by 2011, plant manager Jason Eytcheson said.



227 more jobs coming to Indy, Noblesville

NOBLESVILLE - High-tech battery researcher EnerDel plans to hire 277 more workers by 2012 for two car battery production lines it will open in Indianapolis and Noblesville. The 100-employee company, founded in Indianapolis in 2004, recently landed a \$70 million contract to supply lithium-ion batteries for Think, a Norwegian electric car sold in Europe. A written summary of EnerDel's plans obtained by The Indianapolis Star calls for expanding to Noblesville in a 60-employee plant and also adding about 217 production jobs over four

years at the company's research facility on Indianapolis' Northeastside. Gov. Mitch Daniels, Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard and Noblesville Mayor John Ditslear are to appear at the event scheduled in the Northeastside plant. "I think it's a big deal for Noblesville," Ditslear said. "First of all, it will bring 60 new jobs, and pretty good quality jobs.

Feds praise FSSA response time

INDIANAPOLIS - The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, along with private contractors handling the eligibility process, have improved the time it takes to process food stamp applications, according to a new letter from the federal government released Wednesday (Kelly, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). But that improvement didn't sway Democratic gubernatorial hopeful Jill Long Thompson from promising to review this privatization and contracts that have outsourced other state functions. A letter sent by the U.S. Food and Nutrition Service clarified that an earlier memo sent on timeliness problems used outdated data from the period of March 2007 through August 2007. It showed that 83 percent of the time the state met the timeliness goal of turning applications around in 30 days. But that was before the state privatized a large portion of the eligibility process. "We're doing better, but we are not where we want to be yet," said Mitch Roob, secretary of the agency.

Hoosier to speak at Dem convention

BEECH GROVE - Mike Fisher doesn't plan to talk about what he calls "the political stuff" when he takes the stage at the Democratic National Convention on Monday evening (Indianapolis Star). But the story the 53-year-old Beech Grove father and

railroad worker tells during his three minutes in the spotlight could put a personal face on the political issues that will decide who is the next president. It's a story that Fisher -- one of at least 20 everyday people invited by the campaign of Sen. Barack Obama to speak at the convention -- first told Obama on April 30. That's when the senator and his wife, Michelle, drove their giant campaign bus down Fisher's quiet Beech Grove cul-de-sac to join him for a lunch of Subway sandwiches and potato chips.

Harris says he's broke; hires new lawyers

GARY - Former political powerbroker Jewell Harris Sr. says he's out of money, but that's not stopping the government from trying to seize whatever assets he may still have (Times of Northwest Indiana). Meanwhile, Harris is appealing his January federal jury conviction on six counts of fraud and money laundering, claiming defense attorney Kevin Milner failed to present any of the photos or documents that could have exonerated him in the jury's eyes. "I am very, very puzzled as to why all of the documents ... were not presented to the jury, nor the court, by the defense," Harris said Wednesday in an interview with The Times.

Prosecutor says he's blacklisted

MUNCIE - Delaware County Prosecutor Mark McKinney said Wednesday he was the target of "revenge and retaliation" for attempting to "clean up" the local justice system (Muncie Star Press). The prosecutor's comments came two days after Delaware Circuit Court 2 Judge Richard Dailey issued findings that McKinney's actions in handling drug forfeiture cases had been "purposeful" and "deceitful" and "willfully violated a court order."



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