



A Hoosier farmer in Congress?

Stutzman could buck urban, suburban trend from Indiana Members

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

HOWE, Ind. - State Road 120 starts in the city of Elkhart parallel to the St. Joseph River and as it streaks straight east, it is nestled in rich, flat farmland. By the time it reaches Middlebury, the clapboard houses begin to lose their hue in the sprawling Amish country.

The land is sandy, and above-ground irrigation systems stretch for hundreds of yards through the corn and soybeans.

By the time you pass SR 5 to Shipshewana and then on to the little burg of Howe, you find sweeping views and the Indiana Toll Road. There's a John Deere implement dealer just before you get to SR9 and tall grain towers and a convenience store. Howe is tiny, with a town square featuring a Lion's Club pavilion, a basketball court, and ancient buildings that once housed stores and a barber shop, but are mostly empty save for Iannarelli's Italian Restaurant, an art and photography gal-



State Sen. Marlin Stutzman earns most of his income off the 4,000 acre family farm straddling the Indiana, Michigan line. If he wins in November, he will be the first such full-time farmer to serve in Congress from Indiana in years. (Stutzman campaign photo)

lery, and a business called "Puppy Love."

This is land farmed by many families named Miller, Bontrager, Yoder and Stutzman.

This is the area where State Sen. Marlin Stutzman comes from. In a state where most of our Members of

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United GOP to convene

By **BRITTANY BROWNRIGG**

INDIANAPOLIS – Although there are no contested races at the 2010 Indiana Republican Convention, candidates with both familiar and new faces are still working hard to get their names out and their messages heard.

The GOP gathers at 10 a.m. Saturday and will hear an address from Gov. Mitch Daniels at approximately 11. But the story this weekend will be the nomination of a new statewide candidate - Charlie White for secretary of state - how Treasurer Richard Mourdock handles his opposition to the Chrysler/Fiat merger and Senate nominee Dan Coat's contrast with Democrat U.S. Rep. Brad Ellsworth on the health reforms.

Richard Mourdock: Over the past year, Indiana's



“They were willing to let the industry collapse in order to destroy us.”

- Ron Gettelfinger, outgoing UAW chief



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first term treasurer has been dealing with questions concerning his opposition to the Fiat merger with Chrysler.

Mourdock knows that his involvement with the Chrysler case has gotten his name out, which he said is a double-edged sword.

"I probably have ... more name recognition than anyone who has ever served as state treasurer because of my involvement with the Chrysler bankruptcy last year," Mourdock told HPI from his Statehouse office on Wednesday.

Now running for reelection, Mourdock says that his stance on the merger has enabled him to speak to Hoosiers and people across the country about a wide variety of topics helping everyone to see the overall ideas of the current problems Americans are facing.

"It opened up the topics I get to talk about," Mourdock said. "It allows me to talk about the big picture of the economy, not just in Indiana or the United States [but] globally. This case has made sure that my eyes are always wide open."

Mourdock said that when the issue with Chrysler first came up he knew that he had to stand up for what he believed was right, but knew at the same time that he would face immense ridicule for his actions.

"I wanted to do it in the sense that it was the right thing by way of the law," Mourdock said. "I was committed to do it because of the oath of office I took."

Mourdock said that he believes his involvement with the Chrysler case will be a benefit to his campaign.

"I think that is very much

going to play in our favor," Mourdock said. "I think most Hoosiers were opposed to seeing our pensioners getting ripped off, which is exactly what happened. Somebody needed to go to battle for them and I had the opportunity and had the duty, frankly, so I did it."

When addressing the Chrysler bonds that the state purchased which were rated "junk" status, Mourdock said that it was the right decision and that he believes they were helping the company.

"We bought those bonds hoping to be a part of their success," he said. "Yeah, absolutely I would do it again and I would have no choice but to do it again."



Treasurer Richard Mourdock says his role in trying to stop the Chrysler-Fiat merger has given him higher name ID, but said that it's a "double-edged sword." (HPI Photo by Brittany Brownrigg)

If reelected, Mourdock said that he would continue to improve Indiana's 529 College Savings Program, which allows Hoosiers to save tax-free money for college.

"It [Indiana's 529 College Savings Program] was recently rated by Morningstar, an independent rating service, as one of the top five plans in the United States," Mourdock said. "That is a huge accomplishment, but it is not one to rest on. We want to



make it even better.”

Mourdock also created Indiana’s Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP). He said that this has helped keep jobs in the state of Indiana. He believes that employee ownership is good for business, which is what this program helps Hoosiers do.

Investing Indiana’s funds safely was another aspect of his campaign that Mourdock said would be a constant focus for him.

“Safety always is first,” he said.

With the tough times continuing, Mourdock said that how Hoosiers handle their money is very important.

“Whether I get reelected to this position or not, I want to be using the time between now and Election Day to make sure that Hoosiers are putting money away [and] that they are not living beyond means,” he said. “I mean that is our message, we are not out of this yet.”

Going into this weekend Mourdock said that he is excited to see friends from across the state come together while the Republican Party stands together.

“We don’t have any contested races,” Mourdock said, adding, “That tends to cut down on the attendance and the involvement a little bit. That is what it is. It also shows that we are a very unified party right now.”

Dan Coats

Dan Coats is heading into this convention with a big lead in the polls over Brad Ellsworth. A recent Rasmussen Reports poll showed Coats leading 47-34 percent over Ellsworth. “When you talk to Hoosiers they are frustrated,” said Pete Seat, Coats’ press secretary.

Seat said that the polls reflect Hoosiers frustration with government spending and the current political intervention with health care.

“It’s encouraging that Hoosiers are supporting what Dan wants to do, which is taking their voice to the U.S. Senate to turn this mess around,” Seat said.

Charlie White

A relatively new face at this year’s Republican Convention will be Charlie White, the candidate running for Secretary of State.

White, who is from southern Indiana, has been involved in local politics serving as Hamilton County Republican chairman, on the Fishers Town Council as well as assistant director to the Indiana Department of Natural

Resources.

“I’m just an average guy who decided to get involved,” White said. “I just wanted to make a difference.” He said that his experiences with the DNR have helped him learn how to balance business and environmental issues while the town council position has taught him how to deal with hard issues when they arise.

“It’s given me a really good education,” White said.

White said that seeing Ronald Reagan as a leader when he was younger inspired him to be involved the way that he is today.

“I saw a leader that gave us a sense of optimism,” he said. “It changed me.”

White is going into this convention uncontested, which he believes speaks volumes to his campaign and all of the hard work he and his team members have put in.

“It (the convention) marks a milestone in the campaign,” White said. With the election still months away, White said that he continues to work on earning Hoosiers’ votes. “We’re out there carrying our message, raising money and getting volunteers,” he said.

If elected, White said that he would continue to build on what he believes are great advances made by

current Secretary of State Todd Rokita.

“Todd has made so many great changes to this office,” White said, citing the prosecution assistance unit as an example.

Rokita’s focus on making the Secretary of State’s office easily accessible to Hoosiers through the internet is another.

White also praised the work that Rokita has done with photo identification used in polling and said that this helps protect the integrity of the voting system.

“We can’t afford to turn back these changes,” White said of Rokita’s work.

If elected, White said that he would continue to promote simple district lines throughout the state heading into the 2011 reapportionment, which he believes will promote voter participation in elections.

Like Vop Osili, one of the Democratic candidates for Secretary of State, White has traveled to all 92 of Indiana’s counties. White visited the last county on his list in April.

With the elections coming up this November, White said he is hopeful not only for his own campaign but for the Republican Party as a whole.

“I think that if we work hard, we have an excellent chance of winning,” White said. ❖



Fishers Councilman Charlie White is the GOP’s new face at Saturday’s convention.



Stutzman, from page 1

Congress are from urban areas like Indianapolis, Merrillville and Evansville, suburban areas like Granger, and smaller towns like Seymour, Monticello and Columbus, Stutzman is unique. He is a true farmer, from what has been both a traditional farming and manufacturing state.

Should Stutzman defeat Democrat Tom Hayhurst in November, he will be the first true day-to-day farmer in the Indiana delegation in decades. U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar owns an Indianapolis tree farm, but does not work it daily. Former Members Jill Long Thompson and the late Floyd Fithian owned or live on farms, as did the late U.S. Sen. Homer Capehart, who hosted the famed "Cornfield Conference" in Pike County back in 1938 that was credited for the modern revival of the American Republican Party. Former U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola came from the agricultural manufacturing sector.

Stutzman and his family farm 4,000 acres between Howe and Constantine, Mich. He operates tractors and combines. "My dad is primary owner and I'm a secondary owner," Stutzman said on Tuesday, three days after winning the 3rd CD Republican caucus in Columbia City on the second ballot. "Right out of high school I was given the opportunity to buy into the farm. Around the age of 16."

He doesn't just rent or own the farmland. As his wife, Kristi, pointed out at the caucus, Stutzman has voted on an Indiana biennial budget on April 29 and literally planted crops on April 30. Or as Stutzman put it, "I'd be out on the tractor." The Stutzman farm grows feed corn, sweet corn, soy and green beans and hay, and contracts with a South Dakota operation that rotates potatoes. At least 80 percent of the Stutzman farm is irrigated.

Bob Kraft of the Indiana Farm Bureau notes, "Marlin is the first real farmer whose primary income comes from a farm who has a chance to serve in Congress. It's good politics to put on your overalls and roll up your sleeves or get on a tractor. Marlin knows how to work the farm programs. He was a Farm Bureau member before he was a politician."

Because it is a family farm, it has given Stutzman latitude to enter politics beginning in 2002, when he upset State Rep. Dale Sturtz to win an Indiana House seat. When he decided to challenge U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh, his brother moved back to Howe from Indianapolis to help with

the physical work along with several employees and part-time help. "They've taken over those responsibilities but I and my mother do the financial operations," he said. On the farm "we do a lot of things on a handshake and a man's word," Stutzman said. "You can trust it."

That seemed like miles away from the middle school gymnasium on Saturday when Stutzman and 14 other candidates went through the long and harrowing process of lining up votes from precinct workers who would look you in the eye, confirm their vote, and then do just the opposite. "Agriculture has changed a lot with new technology and legal contracts, but you can still trust people," Stutzman said. "I like that. I'm a straight shooter. Farming keeps me grounded." He recalled then House Speaker Brian Bosma telling him and other freshmen that the only thing you have in the legislature "is your word."

"We've learned that in the last several years, people who support you one cycle will support someone else the next," said Stutzman. He counted on former Sen. Dan Coats as an early Senate campaign adviser who then became an opponent. "I have no problem with that. Just tell me that. That way we don't have to play the guessing games. I think we need people - whether you're on the same team or not - to just be honest."

The 33-year-old Stutzman has been through one of the most twisting political episodes in modern Hoosier history. He kicked off his challenge to Bayh just after the 2009 biennial budget session of the Indiana General Assembly. The Tea Party movement sprouted late that summer and it was about then that

Stutzman realized a powerful dynamic change. "By the end of last summer we could sense it," Stutzman said. "People were saying that Bayh is a good guy, but there were articles about him and his wife, there were the health care reforms and a lot of people thought there was more to it. After the first of the year, that really started to heat up. We could sense that people were becoming more frustrated, not just with Bayh, but with Washington altogether."

He had talked with Coats last August and was told Coats would not try to reclaim his seat. That changed in January when the Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee was unimpressed with Stutzman's fundraising and tried to recruit U.S. Rep. Mike Pence and then Coats.

Stutzman had to compete with four other Senate candidates, plus crowded GOP primary races in the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 8th and 9th CDs that drew close to \$2 million from Republican donors. Plus, Bayh was sitting on a \$13 million war chest. "People saw the amount of money Evan



State Sen. Marlin Stutzman glances at his watch while awaiting a first ballot tally in the 3rd CD caucus on Saturday at Columbia City. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)



Bayh had," Stutzman said. "I got a lot of slaps on the back, but there were people who contributed. We were able to stay in the race. If we could have doubled our money, we might have been able to run TV in Chicago and down in Southern Indiana. Maybe things would have changed. But here we are today and we still have the same opportunity."

Many credited that Senate race and a second-place finish to Coats with 29 percent as providing enough momentum for Stutzman when U.S. Rep. Mark Souder resigned following revelations of an extra-marital affair in May. "We were starting to relax and to get back into the farm when that happened," Stutzman said. "Next thing, we were right back into the same issues. We wanted to make sure it was right for us. We believe it was right and jumped right back into the race and were successful."

Stutzman not only had the higher name ID from the Senate race, but many volunteers, including a solid core in Fort Wayne. He had represented five out of the eight 3rd CD counties in the General Assembly. He was able to get about 60 votes out of the Allen County delegation on the first ballot. "We felt real good about Allen County," Stutzman said. "I talked to a lot of people and we had great turnout at every event we had there."

As for the fall race with Dr. Hayhurst, Stutzman enters as the early favorite due to the Republican nature of the district and finally has a chance to campaign against Democrats and not other Republicans. Souder held the seat for 16 years and it promises to be a Republican year. Issues such as the health reforms and the bailouts, including one for General Motors, will be the defining issues.

In a candidate event in Goshen two days before the GOP caucus, Stutzman said he would have opposed the GM bailout. That stance will almost certainly come up, since GM has a 3,000-worker plant in Fort Wayne which just added 700 jobs, and Northeastern Indiana is home to dozens of auto supplier companies that were also on the brink.

"It really comes down to principle," Stutzman said. "When there's a struggling sector like the recreational vehicles, sometimes support is needed. If there's no one in the private sector who can come in, government can support it temporarily with things like price supports or loan guarantees. The market can only sustain so much. We had a lack of an energy policy and banking policies that crippled the RV industry, but Jayco didn't get a bailout. Now they are stronger than ever. Ford is stronger. We'd like to have it both ways. We have a lot of companies that didn't make it.

GM could get through this and move operations to Canada or another state. I just stuck to my principles."

Stutzman will advocate repeal of the health reforms. He called Dr. Hayhurst "a nice man" but added, "his policies are just bad for this part of the state and the country."

And climate change?

Stutzman notices the differences in the climate from year to year but doubts that it's man-made. "There are cycles, but I don't believe in manmade global warming. I do believe we have a responsibility to the land to leave it in better shape than we found it. As a conservative, I'm aware of chemicals and herbicides. There's always balance. I think there are definitely changes that we see in our soil. There are years when certain ground is too wet and now we can farm it. There is land we've farmed for years that is now too wet. The cycles are natural."

The agricultural cycles may be natural. The political cycle for Stutzman has been a completely different story.

There are other potential pitfalls awaiting Stutzman. In his Facebook email just before the caucus, former congressman Mark Souder alluded to potential FEC problems with in-kind air travel he did not report during the last two quarters. Stutzman told HPI he will declare that in his June 30 filing. Democrats are circling around that potential miscue.

And there is Souder himself. Several precinct officials told HPI last Saturday that Souder was actively opining on Facebook throughout the week. It was as if Souder, an adroit political analyst in his own right, couldn't contain himself. While he predicted Stutzman would

win the caucus, Souder also noted his "aggressive" nature, suggesting that it was Stutzman who set the resignation in motion with the affair story, something Stutzman denies. But it begs the question as to whether Souder will resurface this summer or fall when Stutzman isn't just wooing party officials, but independents and even Democrats in a race that could be competitive.

There's another aspect of Stutzman's political station worth noting. He will actually be running against Hayhurst twice in November. One of them will be to fill out the final seven weeks of Souder's term. With incumbents - particularly Democrats - expected to face an angry electorate, a Stutzman win means he jumps into Congress well ahead of what could be a big class of freshmen. From a seniority standpoint, that will be good for Stutzman and the 3rd CD ... if he wins and the GOP has a majority. ❖



Sen. Stutzman with son Preston following his second ballot victory. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)



How Stutzman won his second caucus

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

COLUMBIA CITY - The first ballot tally confirmed what people thought they knew: Marlin Stutzman was using his unsuccessful statewide U.S. Senate bid that ended in May to catapult himself into the 3rd CD Republican nomination.

But it was now four hours since the caucus at Indiana Springs Middle School had started. Some of the precinct committeemen and women were heading for the doors as more soaking thunderstorms approached on the horizon.



State Rep. Randy Borrer patiently awaited the first ballot count. "This does not help me," he said of the first ballot process that was taking close to an hour. A test last week had the paper ballot scanning going much

quicker at 25 ballots per minute. It was like a computer which knows you're under deadline and it slows down for no reason.

Minutes later, Stutzman had a 180 to 67 lead over Borrer on the first ballot and the expectation was that the remaining five contenders - the two legislators, Fort Wayne Councilwoman Liz Brown (39 votes), WPTA-TV anchorman Ryan Elijah (46 votes) and primary runner-up Bob Thomas (25) - would be fanning out across the gymnasium looking for more support, twisting arms and making deals. That's what happened in between ballots at the 2002 Republican convention when the action between ballots produced Todd Rokita for that coveted secretary of state nomination.

But in this case, the remaining candidates simply milled around near the stage. "I'm not sure who my supporters are," Thomas told HPI. The second ballot process began minutes after the first results were announced.

Stutzman appeared to be in a league of his own, which he was. His team had a contingency. "We talked to a lot of people about second-ballot support," he said. "We had a lot of discussions, you know, if this happens, will you come over?"

And they did.

Rumors quickly spread that Stutzman had pulled between 50 and 60 votes out of the Allen County delegation, which was supposed to make up about half of the 526 precinct officials but actually was said to number 188 or less than half the caucus. Only 406 of them showed up at Columbia City, a crushing blow to Borrer. Since U.S. Rep. Mark Souder had resigned in disgrace, Borrer tried to line up support in the Alice in Wonderland world of caucus voting, where a candidate is not really sure what is up or down, big or little.

Borrer thought he had a decent first ballot count. "I'd call and talk to them. Then I'd have two people call

to see if they were feeding me a line of shit," Borrer said. Obviously many were. Borrer had made thousands of phone calls, put more than 2,000 miles on his car as he drove parts of four counties outside of Fort Wayne and Allen County lining up support. The problem was that he was bleeding support at his base despite



State Rep. Randy Borrer (right) talks to a precinct official wearing a "Go Marlin" sticker at the 3rd CD Caucus last Saturday. Above, the county process took longer on the first ballot than the second. (HPI Photos by Brian A. Howey)



the the help he had from retiring State Rep. Matt Bell. It was the kind of exploding cigar that crippled Allen County Commissioner Nelson Peters in 2007 when he was out-manuevered by Matt Kelty in the Fort Wayne mayoral race.

The candidacies of Brown and Elijah siphoned off close to 80 votes from Borrer, most presumably from Allen County. Add up the support of Stutzman, Brown and Elijah and Borrer essentially lost somewhere in the neighborhood of 120 votes from his home county. And, Fort Wayne Republicans ceded a Congressional seat they had held for 24 of the last 30 years.

Stutzman knew he had a good working base there from his Senate campaign. His events in the county drew robust crowds as the caucus process began. Still he was surprised at the level of support on the first ballot. "It did," he said after securing the win on the second ballot with 229 votes, out-distancing Borrer with 69, picking up only two more votes. "I knew that 500 probably wouldn't be here so I was hoping for 175. When we were at 400, I was dropping that number and I calculated in my mind what that might be. So I was kind of surprised."

Stutzman said he was "very encouraged" after the first ballot "because we had a lot of support right off the bat." For the other candidates, there was virtual resignation. Brown was asked how she would proceed after the first ballot and she responded, "I don't know."

State Sen. Mike Delph, who lost the 2002 convention floor fight on three ballots, then won his Senate seat a few years later in a similar caucus, said that Stutzman's Senate campaign was the decisive factor. "It's a huge advantage when you have a campaign in place," he said.

In the 11-member Indiana congressional delegation, three of the 22 party nominees were secured through extra-primary exercises. U.S. Rep. Andre Carson won a Jan. 12, 2008, 7th CD caucus on a first ballot against a crowded field with just over 50 percent of the vote. U.S. Rep. Brad Ellsworth won this year's Senate nomination by a unanimous vote of the Indiana Democratic Central Committee.

While all these stories are different, there is one common denominator that extends into the primaries themselves: the winner either has a towering patron or matron (Evan Bayh in the case of Ellsworth, the late Julia Carson and her machine in the case of Rep. Carson) or an advanced political apparatus, as Stutzman proved.

It helps if you know how to count. HPI asked Fort Wayne Councilman Mitch Harper why he didn't seek the

nomination which he had pondered in 1994. "I know how to count," he responded with a smile.

Stutzman appealed to his opponents after the victory, saying, "We sharpened each other. We will need your help to defeat Nancy Pelosi." Actually, Stutzman will face Democrat Tom Hayhurst, who he described as a free-spending liberal. Stutzman's wife, Kristi, described him as a hard worker who spent "long days in Indianapolis" as a legislator only to return to his farm "and hop on a tractor." In his speech to precinct committeemen and women, Stutzman noted he had defeated an incumbent to reach



the Indiana General Assembly and said in the wake of Souder's resignation, "We must regroup. It will take ideas and solutions. Hoosier ingenuity works. We can solve our own problems."

HPI Horse Race: Leans Stutzman

An aging caucus

One aspect HPI noticed about the 3rd CD Republican Party was the age of the 406 precinct officials who showed up. An estimated two-thirds looked to be age 60 or older. It was something that caught the attention of Fort Wayne Councilman Harper.

So there is little doubt why Republican congressional candidates run so far to the right in primary and caucus setting: the participants tend to be older and more conservative.

The Indiana 3rd and 4th CDs both rate a +14 in



the Cook Partisan Index, trailing only the 5th CD (+17) for Republicans and the 7th CD which rates a +14 for Democrats. In covering the 7th CD in 2008, there was a much more youthful look to the Democrats when they gathered at Shortridge Middle School to elect Andre Carson.

Both caucus, however, elected 33-year-old Carson and Stutzman as Congressional nominees, potentially giving the Indiana delegation a youthful charge.

Primary lessons

In the primaries, the lessons seem simple but need to be stated. To slay a king, you have to have a condensed field and it helps if you've paid your dues in the party. U.S. Rep. Dan Burton won his primary because former legislator Luke Messer was unable to winnow the 5th CD Republican primary field. Todd Young was able to just barely prevail in the 9th because it was essentially a three-man race and Young had put together an impressive list of endorsers (Lt. Gov. Skillman, Treasurer Richard Mourdock, Attorney General Greg Zoeller) and was able to raise a copious amount of money.

In the 4th CD, Secretary of State Todd Rokita easily prevailed over another crowded field in a condensed time span with overwhelming name ID.

What we've seen since 2008 is that unless you've run statewide, being a legislator just gives you some bare credibility and little functionality in either a caucus or primary unless you've overwhelmingly consolidated your support, as State Reps. David Orentlicher, Wes Culver, Mike Murphy and Borror have discovered, as well as State Sen. Brandt Hershman. All were manhandled in caucuses or primaries by those who either inherited a political machine (Carson) or had come off a statewide race (Stutzman, Rokita, Delph).

State Rep. Jackie Walorski in the 2nd easily prevailed because she narrowed the field and gained an overwhelming imprimatur from the GOP organization. Mourdock was able to move his unsuccessful 2002 convention floor fight into credibility with party regulars.

For the dozens of other candidates who ponied up time and money only to be resoundingly rejected, the lesson is that making an effort is folly unless you have the base organization, the powerful patron or advanced name ID. If you lack those, you're simply racing toward a loss.

A boost for Vop

Lake County's Democratic delegates will have a united front when they head down to the Indiana Democratic Party's state convention June 26 in Indianapolis (Post-Tribune). Secretary of state candidate Vop Osili garnered the required two-thirds of the 105 delegates who voted Saturday at the Hammond Civic Center during the

party's first-ever pre-delegate convention. Osili, of Indianapolis, beat opponent Thomas McKenna of South Bend. Since the secretary of state race was the only contested race within the party, it was important for Lake County to reach a consensus prior to the convention, said Hammond Mayor Tom McDermott Jr., chairman of the Lake County Democratic Party "We're the second-largest voting bloc in the state, so it's important that we're unified," McDermott said. The way this is shaping up, Osili is heading into the June 26 convention with considerable support in the two biggest delegations: Marion and Lake. McKenna sent two mailers one with a map touting his experience, the other with photos of Govs. Bayh, O'Bannon and Kernan under who McKenna served. St. Joseph County Chairman Butch Morgan is backing McKenna but called the race "fluid" and said both campaigns have been impressive. Morgan sent an email to the St. Joseph County delegation noting he is "personally" supporting for McKenna but vowed organizational support for whoever wins. **HPI Horse Race:** Tossup

SD31: Anderson vs. Merritt

The most curious race in the Indiana Senate took shape last Friday when Marion County Sheriff Frank Anderson filed to challenge State Sen. Jim Merritt, who's held the seat since 1990. The 71-year-old Anderson is moving from an executive position to potentially being a legislator in the

Indiana General Assembly's smallest, least-influential caucus. For Marion County Democrats, the Anderson candidacy could be designed to stoke up the turnout for the party ticket, most notably prosecutor candidate Terry Curry and freshman State Rep. John Barnes. Even though Anderson won't appear on the ballot in much of the county, the candidacy will be touted throughout as the party encourages voters to simply check off the Rooster. The race could also be fascinating from a government reform viewpoint. Merritt has tried to push township reform



Sheriff Frank Anderson's entry into SD31 has created a tossup race for State Sen. Jim Merritt.

in recent years (particularly after Mayor Bart Peterson left office). Anderson backed off a potential epic showdown with Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard and oversaw the sheriff merger with Indianapolis Police, creating IMPD. This is by no means a lost cause for Merritt, but he is going to have his hands full. **HPI Horse Race:** Tossup ❖



Daniels says companies that don't produce jobs won't get tax breaks

By **BRITTANY BROWNRIGG**

INDIANAPOLIS - Gov. Mitch Daniels told HPI this morning that any tax breaks a company receives will be tied to actual jobs created. The remarks came as he announced 160 new jobs by 2014 at AIT Laboratories, a company that ironically specializes in compliance monitoring and forensics.

AIT could receive up to \$1.8 million in performance-based tax credits, the Indiana Economic Development Corporation said in a release issued at the press conference.

"First of all, a company doesn't hire, we don't pay," Daniels said. "We never pay for a job that doesn't show up and we audit that very, very carefully. In a recession it is not just predictable it is certain that many companies will not get to the goal that they set or it will take them longer to get there."

WTHR-TV Investigative Reporter Bob Segall reported on May 26 that as many as 40 percent of jobs businesses that were to receive IEDC tax credits did not materialize.

Since that report, Daniels and Commerce Secretary Mitch Roob have said that between 8 and 13 percent of promised jobs did not materialize.

The report and statements from the governor and Roob prompted House Speaker B. Patrick Bauer to file an information request on the actual number of jobs created.

Bauer cited media reports in March that quoted Roob as saying 87 percent of the promised jobs were created. "This, by your own admission, means 13 percent of the jobs that were promised were not realized," Bauer said in a letter to Roob. "I am aware that your agency has refused to release various records relating to job creation incentives

in the past. I am also aware that the IEDC has broad discretion" to keep "records relating to incentive negotiations confidential."

Daniels reassured Hoosiers saying that the IEDC checks up on companies and will even request money back if a company begins to lose ground.

"We check this on a regular basis," he said. "The last time we did we had about 90 percent of the jobs that we had hoped for, but once again we never pay for a job that does not show up. In fact, we've gone back and clawed back some money. This would be where a job did show up but then later the company had trouble. In those cases we would go back and reclaim whatever money might have been associated."



Gov. Mitch Daniels appears at AIT Laboratories to announce 160 new jobs by 2014 this morning. Daniels told HPI that companies which don't create jobs will not get tax breaks through the Indiana Economic Development Corp. (HPI Photo by Brittany Brownrigg)

AIT Laboratories "is a great success story," said David Johnson, president of BioCrossroads. "AIT's impressive growth continues to accelerate and this company is now a genuine player in Indiana's life sciences community."

"What is less visible though is a company like AIT," Daniels said. "There is a lot of over performance that people don't notice. This is one of those quiet over-achievement stories and there are a fair number of those, although, this is one of the better ones."

"We are really proud of these guys," the governor said. ❖

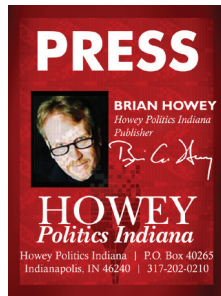


Daniels stumbles into a jobs swamp

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Just as I let my subscription to Site Selection Magazine lapse here we are with a jobs controversy.

It comes with another spike in the "Mitch for Prez" speculation with laudatory articles in the Weekly Standard, op-eds in the Wall Street Journal and health reforms are "my worst nightmare" at the American Enterprise Institute.



Make no mistake, however, about one four letter word that will have a huge impact in this election, and the next and the next: jobs.

And here we find the finely calculating Daniels administration hitting what the governor might call "a rough patch."

This occurred in late May when WTHR-TV began running promos showing empty factories, breezy farm fields where new plants were supposed to be built, and the governor rapidly walking away from TV cameras at a recent Indiana Economic Development Corporation meeting. Investigative reporter Bob Segall was telling us that "at least 40 percent" of the jobs the IEDC said were coming ... aren't.

Our two Mitches - Daniels and Commerce Secretary Mitch Roob - are off their "A" game on this one.

The testy governor told WTHR, "You seem to have a blindingly clear view of what is perfectly obvious. In a recession, a lot of businesses have to change their plans."

OK. Got it. That makes sense. I suppose just about everyone reading this has had to make some adjustment due to the Great Recession of 2009-10.

But when it comes to jobs, this is not an area where you want to fudge. It's hitting too many families up close and personal. Particularly with former auto workers who are now selling paint at Lowe's, greeting folks at WalMart or working \$8.75 an hour jobs at one of Indiana's new call centers or warehouses.

The Roob part of this has been a PR disaster. I wasn't the only one shaking my head as his hubris on the WTHR report. "We don't share it with the public. We don't release it to the news media. That's confidential information," Roob said of metrics surrounding tax breaks and the resulting jobs. "People in Indiana -- the businesses of Indiana -- feel very strongly that their relationship with state government is between state government and that

company." (Wince.)

Remember, this comes with the state's jobless rate blinking at or near 10 percent for more than a year now. With the governor's job approval hovering around 60 percent, it's pretty obvious many Hoosiers are willing to cut him some slack. They see the bigger picture.

And there was this part of the WTHR report: When 13 Investigates did receive the records it requested, wage, tax credit, employment, and job realization information had been crossed out. "That's not a mistake," Roob said. "That is a competitive weapon that companies believe can be used against them by their competitors." (Wince).

For an administration that displays itself as a defender of the taxpayer, they now appear to be telling us that when it comes to our tax dollars and their jobs deals, it's none of our dang business.

This has simply handed Speaker B. Patrick Bauer "Exhibit A" in why the House should stay Democratic; why divided government provides a check and balance.

I awaited the reaction to the Segall report and for more than two weeks, there was hardly any, until the Indianapolis Business Journal reported last weekend that Bauer had filed an information request to see the data. And we're hearing from the two Mitches that somewhere between 8 and 13 percent of the jobs didn't materialize.

And this is a story that has the potential of getting away from the normally media savvy governor. Just yesterday it was front page fodder for the Indianapolis Star, the Evansville Courier & Press, Times of Northwest Indiana and the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette. The wires will spread it even further. So at this writing, the administration is setting itself up for a big hit.

It's also worth noting that this is not the first time Roob has been enmeshed in controversy. His tenure at FSSA ended with the administration's biggest black eye to date over how it automated the state's social safety net. The state and IBM are now trading billion dollar lawsuits. The solution was to move Roob over to Commerce.

This is not the only jobs trouble Daniels and the Republicans could face this fall if Bauer and the Democrats play their cards right. On the week that Chrysler/Fiat announced a \$300 million investment in Kokomo, Daniels, Treasurer Richard Mourdock and even State Sen. Marlin Stutzman are telling us why those are bad deals and comparing it to the bankruptcy of the NHL's Phoenix Coyotes. That may sell well on Wall Street (which received its own \$780 billion bailout), but how about Main Street in Kendallville?

Maybe they are seeing internal polling that says that stance on the issue is playing their way. My gut tells me it's a recipe for snatching defeat from the jaws of victory. ❖



Does Ellsworth have a chance? Who?

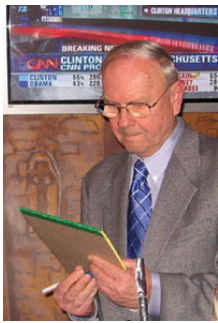
By JACK COLWELL

SOUTH BEND - Does Brad Ellsworth have a chance?

Who?

The answer to the second question will determine the answer to the first.

Ellsworth is the Democratic congressman from Evansville who represents Indiana's 8th District. He's a former sheriff and now a congressional "Blue Dog" moderate who won re-election to a second term by a landslide two years ago. He was regarded as certain to win big again for Congress this fall.



But Ellsworth isn't running for re-election in the district where he is so popular. Instead, he's running statewide for the U.S. Senate seat being abandoned by Evan Bayh. In most of the state, Ellsworth isn't known much at all. He didn't even run in the May primary election and thus gained no name recognition then. Because of Bayh's last-minute decision not to run, Democrats had no nominee for the Senate on the primary ballot. Ellsworth later was picked by the Democratic State Committee to fill the nomination vacancy. Since there was no doubt about his selection, he gained little name recognition from the committee decision.

Who?

Ellsworth must answer that question. If he is to win, he must let voters know who he is and define himself in a way that convinces a majority that he rather than Dan Coats, the Republican nominee, should be elected to the Senate.

Some political analysts think Ellsworth hasn't yet done enough to answer the "who?" question. He didn't run TV spots to introduce himself to voters in a positive way during primary election time, when there was at least briefly a focus on politics. Nor has he been capturing a lot of news media attention.

This is dangerous politically for someone yet undefined in so much of the state.

If Republicans strike effectively first to define Ellsworth in a way he won't like _ linking him with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and everything bad they can find in

the health care reform bill for which Ellsworth voted _ he will have little chance to win in what looks like a Republican year.

Coats is better known, having served in the Senate in the past and getting extensive news coverage of his victory in a contested Republican primary.

Though Coats is better known statewide, he has a problem with being defined as a Washington lobbyist who moved back to Indiana just in time for the Senate race.

Coats sought in an extensive interview with the Indianapolis Star and in presenting a detailed defense of his lobbying to define himself in a much better light. Democrats don't think he was successful and served notice that they will continue to hammer him as a Washington lobbyist with clients that are unsavory or at least troublesome.

But right now, national analysts and pollsters all find Coats ahead.

A Rasmussen poll this month showed these percentages: Coats, 47; Ellsworth, 33. Ellsworth has a lot of ground to pick up. Coats already is close to a majority.

Still, Rasmussen found support for Coats to be at the lowest level since February. And with a fifth of the voters "not sure" or wanting some other candidate, Ellsworth has a chance to gain a lot more support with successful definition of himself _ as a popular former sheriff in touch with local needs and values and as a moderate in Congress in tune with the fiscally conservative approach Hoosiers have liked in Bayh.

His initial theme is that the Senate needs a sheriff.

A national pollster with no current Indiana poll, but who is well versed on Hoosier politics and the Senate contest, says it's Coats' race to lose. In other words, Ellsworth can win only if Coats falters and Ellsworth does a superb job of answering the "who?" question in a positive way.

If Bayh had run, would he now be ahead?

"You wouldn't even be talking to me (about the Senate race) now if Bayh was running," the pollster said. He meant there

wouldn't be much of a story about a race in which Bayh, though facing more than just past token challenges, would be seen as sure of re-election.

Bayh isn't running. Ellsworth is.

Who?

When "who?" is defined, we'll know if Ellsworth has a chance. ❖





‘Bigger 10’ defying logic that more is less

By **DAVE KITCHELL**

LOGANSPORT - Let's pause from the humdrum world of politics involving elected offices to check out the politics in athletics.

Nebraska has joined the Big Ten.

That statement alone is dramatic considering the steeped tradition of one of the nation's most prestigious athletic conferences.

But as the landscape of college athletics is about to change yet again, it's timely to point out some ironies that have evolved in a state where the NCAA, the bastion of college athletics integrity, is located:



1. Just over 25 years ago, the NCAA was challenged by schools from what was then the Big 8 and some southern universities. That organizations, the CFA, altered the process of determining television revenue. It also opened the floodgates for change that has eventually cannibalized the old Big 8 of two of its shining jewels, Nebraska and Colorado. Colorado officials announced earlier this week they are joining the Pac-10.

2. In Kansas, the former home of the NCAA, the looming possibility is that Kansas and Kansas State, both Big 12 members, will be without a conference soon if Texas, Texas Tech, Texas A&M, Oklahoma and Oklahoma State bolt for the Pac-10 or Southeast Conference.

3. The Big Ten, which already has 11 member universities, is about to become the Bigger Ten, which would be more appropriate.

4. The Big Ten will have 12 members, while the Big 12 will have 10 if the remainder of the conference remains. Don't expect the two conferences to switch names.

5. If the same rules for Big Ten expansion used today (television markets added to the Big Ten audience), Michigan State would probably never have joined the Big

Ten.

6. If academic integrity, relative location and natural fits had anything to do with expansion, Iowa State would probably be added tomorrow. As it is, Ames is not the aim of Big Ten expansionist theory.

7. Notre Dame, which secured a lucrative contract with NBC, could be receiving more money from joining the Big Ten because of the Big Ten's network agreement. Notre Dame would add significant national appeal, adding the BTN to more cable tiers. Sorry, NBC.

8. Rutgers, which appeared to be a natural fit for Big Ten expansion because it would give the Big Ten an entre into the New York market, the largest in the nation, had the highest academic performance of any football program in the country. Yet the program that won the first college football program ever may be a bit scarlet-faced over the Big Ten's plans to add a western member, and not an eastern one.

9. Who would have thought 10 years ago that Texas, Texas A&M, Baylor and Texas Tech would last longer in the old Big 8 than Colorado and Nebraska?

10. Who would have thought even five years ago that the Ohio State-Michigan game would not have much significance in the Big Ten championship standings because of a conference championship game?

11. As recently as the 1980s, the Penn State-Nebraska game represented an intersectional rivalry. Now, it could be a Big Ten championship game match-up.

12. Just a couple of years ago, Northwestern surrendered more than 60 points to Nebraska in a bowl game, and the Wildcats had to be relieved to be heading home to Evanston. Now, they may play Nebraska every year if they are in the same Big Ten division. NU fans can't be too wild about that.

13. And then there are the other procedural issues such as scheduling. The Big Ten has several "protected" games or rivalries that require teams to play every year in football. Purdue-Indiana is one of those games as are Michigan-Michigan State and Michigan-Ohio State. Although an east-west conference alignment has been talked about that would put Purdue and Indiana in a conference separate from its closest rivals, Illinois and Northwestern, a north-south split could keep Purdue and Indiana in the same division with both universities along with Ohio State and Penn State. That would put Michigan and Michigan State in the same division with natural rivals Wisconsin and Minnesota, along with Iowa and Nebraska.

And for all those who thought this was just a wild political year in Washington, hold on to your hats, and in the words of Keith Jackson, "Whoa, Nelly." We may not have seen the last of college football conference expansion yet. ❖



Suburbanization, but no rural revival

By **MORTON J. MARCUS**

INDIANAPOLIS - The now famous housing bubble has been blamed for many of our nation's problems. In truth, it is the opposite. The massive private debt, including mortgage debt, was made possible by lax lending practices. This facilitated the housing boom.



Morton Marcus
Column

It was not the desires of individuals to own new homes that caused Congress to relax regulation of financial markets and to encourage more lending for housing. It was the financial and housing lobbies that pressed for policies that enriched their industries.

One consequence of all the housing construction between 2000 and 2008 was a continuation, perhaps intensification, of a dual trend: people

are moving to metropolitan areas faster than to other areas of Indiana while within metro areas they are moving away from the established central cities.

Indiana has fourteen metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs), excluding the Indiana portions of the Cincinnati and Louisville areas. These fourteen areas grew by 6.4 percent in population between 2000 and 2008. At the same time, the whole state grew by 4.9 percent. The 25 Indiana micropolitan areas (single counties outside metro areas with populations ranging from Kosciusko's 76,000 to Scott's 23,000) showed no growth. The rural counties that were neither in metro- or micropolitan areas grew by only 1.3 percent. This is hardly the much heralded "rural renaissance" advanced by some analysts.

Now let's look at the central cities of these areas. Some MSAs have two or more central cities (such as South Bend-Mishawaka), but most have only one. In the aggregate these 14 metro areas grew by 6.4 percent with their central cities growing by only 0.4 percent. The balance of those metro areas (smaller cities and towns plus suburban regions) grew by 12 percent.

Indianapolis-Carmel and Elkhart-Goshen each grew by 3.6 percent while their outlying areas advanced by 24 and 14 percent respectively. Only four metro areas lost population; the Terre Haute

MSA was one of these, but, against the general trend, its population loss was entirely outside its central city.

Together the 25 micropolitan areas had no growth in population and their central cities declined by 1.5 percent while the balance of those counties grew by 0.7 percent. Within this group, however, there were considerable differences. Jasper and Plymouth each grew faster than the balance of their growing counties. Richmond, Wabash and Connersville each declined faster than rest of their respective declining counties.

What are these data telling us? Hoosiers want to live in metropolitan areas, but they don't want to be in the central cities of those areas. They want the smaller cities and towns of those metro areas many of which offer only the disconnected lifestyle of suburbia with the liabilities of large lawns and total dependence on the automobile. Hoosiers seem to reject as well the older, smaller towns that form the cores of micropolitan areas.

The housing boom, focused on owner-occupied housing, encouraged already on-going urban sprawl. The question for this generation is: "Will we restructure our thinking about the location of housing in light of the economic, environmental, and energy problems we now face?" The solutions are in the hands of those who control land use, but they will not come forth until citizens rethink how we live. ❖

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

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.

The Washington Post
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2007

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

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



Rich James, Post-Tribune: Highland Clerk-Treasurer Michael Griffin leaned back in his chair, gazed into the distance and pondered, "Whatever happened to Adam Benjamin?" Griffin was reacting to a query as to whether Northwest Indiana had a leader - someone to coalesce various political factions for the common good. Benjamin, a Gary native, represented Indiana's 1st District in Congress. He died in his Washington, D.C., apartment 28 years ago. There are some who consider Benjamin to be the area's last true leader. Benjamin had an infectious smile and the ability to bring together Republicans and Democrats alike. When asked a question, he was trusted to give an honest - not political - answer. Two years after his death, Peter Visclosky replaced the man for whom he had worked. Things are different today in Northwest Indiana than they were when Benjamin was in Congress. Things are more fractured, as politicians and political groups have created fiefdoms and fought for preservation of their own turf. If there is a leader today, it's Visclosky, but it's difficult bringing people together when you are in Washington. "I do represent everybody and try to bring people to the table," Visclosky said. "I do think people are looking ahead and know changes have to be made here. Some of the pieces are coming together." While area officials have the utmost respect for Visclosky, they are looking for a leader who spends his or her time in Northwest Indiana. Some point to Griffin as the man. He is an expert on government finance and has a vision and an impeccable record. Yet, Griffin has shied away from assuming that role. "Mike Griffin is always on the committee," said Robert Wichlinski, a Porter County political visionary. "They point to him as a sage, but they don't follow his advice."

Doug Ross, Times of Northwest Indiana: Wednesday's signing of the historic Illiana Expressway agreement was significant for more reasons than the construction of a new superhighway. It shows what can happen when people work together toward a common goal. It also shows that some projects are just too big for traditional approaches. Working together, Indiana and Illinois will build this vital part of the Chicago area's transportation infrastructure. Thinking big can deliver big results. That's the message of not just the Illiana project, but also a new policy brief on energy by the Brookings Institution. The think tank issued a report this month that urges the federal government to invest heavily in the Great Lakes region to provide the energy innovation needed to make sure the nation's energy and environmental needs are addressed for the 21st century. "Federal energy efforts -- let alone state and local ones -- remain too small and too poorly organized to deliver the needed breakthroughs. A new approach is

essential," wrote Brookings experts James Duderstadt, Mark Muro and Sarah Rahman. The federal government, they suggest, should create "a distributed network of federally funded, commercialization-oriented, sustainable energy research and innovation centers." The Great Lakes region is an appropriate place for this research, because this region has an incredible brain trust already in place. Purdue University, for example, is known for producing a sizeable share of the nation's technical wizards.

Maureen Dowd, New York Times: It's funny how things work out sometimes. The two men running the White House have very different relationships with the press; one is warm and one is frosty. One's relationship is more JFK, and one's has self-pitying echoes of Nixon. By all rights, you'd think it would be Joe Biden who would resent journalists for kicking him around for years. It was the press, me included, who reported on the problems that led him to drop out of the 1988 presidential race. It was the press that delighted in Biden's foot-in-mouth syndrome in 2008 and played up the exacting Barack Obama's occasional chagrin at the uber-exuberant Joe as they began their odd-couple partnership. Yet the vice president is so lacking in any vengeful feelings for past reporting that left him for dead, I sometimes wonder if he's really Irish. Biden gave a press party at his house recently with a beach theme - complete with Uzi-size squirt guns and water slides. Journalists came with their families, schmoozed with top White House officials like David Axelrod and Rahm Emanuel, and watched a dripping wet vice president walk around with his little grandson. One Obama aide remarked that Biden is the most beloved person in the White House. Jon Stewart and bloggers mocked the journalists, suggesting they were too chummy with power. But the picnic was on the record, and good reporters can't be co-opted by some cold French fries. We learned there that Joe Biden has been assigned the press portfolio. This is remarkable, given that it was Obama who was hailed as the charming new JFK, the mesmerizing leader who beguiled an infatuated press, as the "Saturday Night Live" skit went, to plump his pillows. But that skit was more of a caricature of some ideological cable guys and besotted columnists ó including some conservatives - than a realistic portrayal of his relationship with the "working" press. The press traveling with Obama on the campaign never had a lovey-dovey relationship with him. He treated us with aloof correctness, and occasional spurts of irritation. Like many Democrats, he thinks the press is supposed to be on his side. Now that Obama has been hit with negative press, he's even more contemptuous. How ironic. Instead of The One, they're sending out The Two. ❖





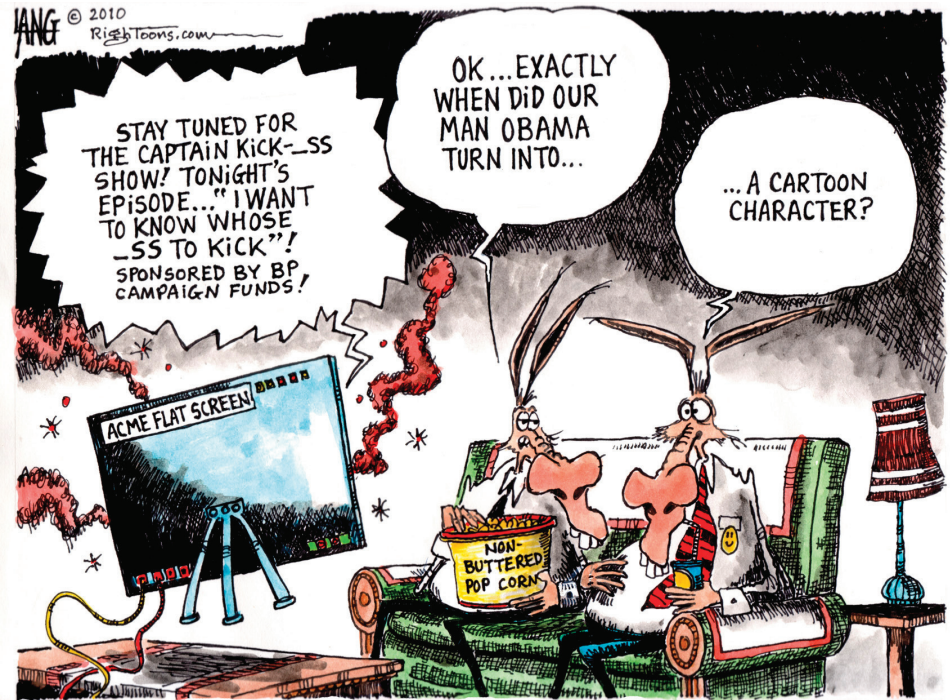
Bayh family finances triple

WASHINGTON- Sen. Evan Bayh will be leaving the Senate with much stronger family finances than when he was elected in 1998, according to financial disclosure reports released Wednesday. The Indiana Democrat, who is not seeking a third term, reported assets at the end of last year worth at least \$6.8 million and possibly more than \$8 million. Bayh's reportable assets in 1998 were a maximum of \$2.2 million. The Bayhs' finances during the past 11 years were boosted by Susan Bayh's service on multiple corporate boards. The senator's wife was still serving on six boards last year, including those of Indiana-based WellPoint and Emmis Broadcasting. The Bayhs' largest assets include more than \$1 million in WellPoint stock.



ISTEP scores up 4 percent

INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Bennett announced the largest-ever one-year increase in ISTEP+ results Wednesday, an occurrence area educators attribute primarily to student familiarity with the test and teacher dedication (Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). Statewide, 74 percent of students passed the English/language arts test, an increase of 4 percentage points from 2009, and 76 percent passed the math test, an increase of 4 percentage points from the previous year. Bennett's goal is that 90 percent of Hoosier students will pass ISTEP+ by the end of his four-year term in 2012, meaning English and



math scores will need to climb 16 and 14 percentage points, respectively, in just two years. "These are significant improvements," Bennett said of this year's results. "They indicate incredible work by Indiana teachers, by Indiana students, by Indiana families and by Indiana school corporations."

Lugar presses Obama on energy

WASHINGTON - Sen. Richard Lugar is challenging President Barack Obama to abandon attempts at wide-ranging climate change legislation this year and endorse his less ambitious energy reduction measure instead (Straub, Evansville Courier & Press). Lugar said the president should hop on board his "Practical Energy and Climate Plan," insisting it will reduce the nation's reliance on foreign oil, save consumers money and reduce perilous greenhouse gases that lead to global warming. "The savings I offer are real, and the policies I propose are achievable this year," Lugar said. "I

encourage President Obama to make bipartisanship the starting point of our energy debate, not divisive carbon pricing schemes." The Lugar bill seeks to reduce dependence on foreign oil by improving vehicle-efficiency standards and producing vehicles that use biofuels. Lugar and others maintain the Obama proposal is "a non-starter in this Congress." Any national energy policy, Lugar said, "must reflect the economic realities facing Americans today."

Coats, Ellsworth will do 3 debates

INDIANAPOLIS - The Indiana Debate Commission says the three candidates in this fall's U.S. Senate election have agreed in principle to take part in three televised debates (Times of Northwest Indiana). The nonpartisan commission announced Thursday that it was seeking sites for the debates between Republican Dan Coats, Democrat Brad Ellsworth and Libertarian Rebecca Sink-Burris. Venues have until July 16 to submit ap-



plications to hold one of the debates, after which the commission will select sites and dates. The commission put on three debates for the 2008 governor's race and a debate in April among the candidates in the Republican U.S. Senate primary.

Henry says to 'bombard' Navistar

FORT WAYNE - Mayor Tom Henry is urging local residents to bombard Navistar International Corp. with pleas to stay (Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). "Let's tell Navistar over and over again - let's tell the world - that Fort Wayne is the place where Navistar can build its future," he told a crowd of about 300 gathered Wednesday morning at the south entrance to Parkview Field. "If this doesn't send a message to Navistar, I don't know what will," he said. The mayor's office on Monday invited the community to show its support for keeping more than 1,000 high-paying Navistar jobs by attending a downtown rally. But skeptics, including an Indianapolis finance professor, seriously doubt the effort will influence the Warrenville, Ill.-based company. "There's not really an emotional side to the decision-making for a public company," said Rachel Smith, an assistant professor of finance at the University of Indianapolis.

Rove to speak at BSU Sept. 13

MUNCIE - Ball State University is hosting former President George W. Bush adviser Karl Rove for an address in September. The conservative political strategist is scheduled to speak at the Muncie campus on Sept. 13, 2010. Advertisement The Star Press says his topic is "Why the midterm elections matter." The talk is set for Emens Au-

ditorium and is open to the public.

Spigelman to challenge Brainard

CARMEL - Marnin Spigelman, a longtime critic of Carmel Mayor Jim Brainard's, announced Wednesday he will seek the Republican nod for the city's top political job in the May 2011 primary (Indianapolis Star). Brainard, also a Republican, has said he will seek a fifth four-year term next year. Advertisement Spigelman's decision could create a primary contest that echoes the November 2007 election, which Brainard won with 66 percent of the vote. Spigelman ran as an independent that year, garnering about 19 percent of the vote. Democrat Henry Winckler had about 15 percent.

Rift sends assessor rival packing

LAFAYETTE - Although some of the reasons are still fuzzy, one thing was clear Wednesday: Deputy assessor Georgia Jones no longer works for Tippecanoe County (Lafayette Journal & Courier). Jones, a potential challenger in the county assessor race this fall, turned in her resignation just 30 minutes before being fired by Tippecanoe County Assessor Samantha Steele-Coles. Shirley Mennen, human resources director, said because of the timing of the paperwork, Jones is considered resigned and not fired. Jones said she's not yet made up her mind about running for county assessor, but said Steele-Coles is convinced she is running and, thus, tensions were mounting. "I don't want that kind of activity in the office," Jones said. "The assessor's office really does need to be outside of this political, conniving (environment)." Steele-Coles, a Democrat, said her decision to let Jones go was

based on performance issues, but said she could not elaborate due to personnel privacy concerns. She denied that there was any connection to Jones' interest in Steele-Coles' job. Steele-Coles issued the following statement Wednesday: "It had become clear that the Jones' political conflict with the Republican Party chair was affecting Georgia's performance. I have tried very hard to keep politics out of the assessment process, and after much debate have been forced to terminate her position in the assessor's office."

Pabey loses trial delay bid

EAST CHICAGO - Less than two weeks from trial, lawyers for East Chicago Mayor George Pabey and city worker Jose Camacho have lost the latest round of trying to delay or separate the proceedings. In what recently has become a routine exchange of court filings, federal Judge James Moody on Wednesday denied the second attempt by Camacho's lawyers to delay the trial and Pabey's lawyers to separate the defendants if there's a postponement.

Brownstown clerk stole \$369k

BROWNSTOWN - The clerk-treasurer of Brownstown in Jackson County has agreed to plead guilty to stealing \$369,000 from the town over a nearly four-year period beginning in 2006 by inflating her paychecks. Rebecka A. Fee, 56, who now lives in New Albany with her parents, earned about \$40,000 a year in her job as clerk-treasurer, said her attorney, Perry McCall. But she boosted her pay 121 times between January 2006 and October 2009, according to U.S. Attorney Timothy Morrison. A charge of bank fraud filed Wednesday in U.S. District Court in New Albany calls for a prison sentence of up to 30 years.