



Gregg kicks off at Sandborn roots

Stresses jobs, education from his home base

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

SANDBORN, Ind. - To be a governor requires a candidate to reveal his roots.

While recent Hoosier governors have come from the big cities of Indianapolis (Daniels), South Bend (Kernan), Lafayette (Branigin) and Evansville (Orr), there is that Mellencamp charm of coming from a small town – a Bremen (Bowen, a Vincennes (Welsh), a Seymour (Whitcomb), a Shirkieville (Bayh), and, of course, Corydon, where Frank O'Bannon worked a sentimental connection to the first state Capital and the current one.

Others who attempted came off the prairie from places like Batesville, Argos and Hartford City. In 2003 Mitch Daniels would shuck off the big city wrapper and use Hinkle Fieldhouse, the home of small-town point guard dreams, as his launching pad.

Back in June, Mike Pence wanted to use the stately Breeding Farm between Edinburgh and Columbus to launch his Republican campaign for governor – where he could



John Gregg plays "My Country 'Tis of Thee" from a hymnal at Sandborn Park on Saturday as his pastor held down the pages in the breeze. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howe)

literally point to the "amber waves of grain" verse heard by thousands of dedicated listeners of his radio program. The threat of severe thunderstorms forced the event into a downtown Columbus convention center.

Last Saturday, it was John Gregg's turn and the

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20 years of Nunn-Lugar



Sen. Lugar and DTRA Director Ken Myers at IU.

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

BLOOMINGTON - A letter in the mail. A sugar packet. A brief case. A subway. A salad bar.

Those who grew up during the Cold War were used to weapons of mass destruction as tips of intercontinental ballistic warheads, on Blackjack bombers or Typhoon submarines from rival super powers across the globe.

Today the tools for a terrorist assault could come in the aforementioned innocuous forms.

On the 20th anniversary of the



“He has started to be a little more bold, which is what we’d like to see out of him - a little more consistency and a little more boldness.”

- Chris Chocola on Mitt Romney



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Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Program that was born out of the collapse of the Soviet Union and victory in the Cold War, U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar and Kenneth Myers, director of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) came to Indiana University to relate not only the unprecedented successes of the program, but the disturbing threats that remain.

Nunn-Lugar has deactivated 7,601 strategic nuclear warheads in the former Soviet Union – more than the arsenals of France, Britain and China combined. The program has destroyed 2,366 nuclear-capable missiles and 674 missile launchers, as well as 33 submarines and 155 bombers. Through Nunn-Lugar, approximately 820,000 rounds of chemical munitions have been destroyed and more than 2,247 metric tons of chemical weapons neutralized. Nunn-Lugar destroyed the entire chemical weapons stockpile in Albania.

In the history of nations, it is unprecedented that a rival nation assist in disarming a bitter foe in peaceful conditions, yet that has occurred among the United States, Russia and other spun off Soviet states.

But it is the WMD, including biological weapons, in the possession of terror groups that former Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates acknowledged on CBS's 60 Minutes that "keep me up at night."

Myers not only has worked to implement Nunn-Lugar around the world, he is also a victim. In October 2001, Myers was in the Hart Senate Office Building when letters containing weaponized anthrax were mailed to U.S. Sens. Tom Daschle and Patrick Leahy.

"I was in the building that

day," Myers told IU students at the School for Public and Environmental Affairs. "I was removed by a gentleman in bio-level safety gear, fully masked, pure oxygen. I was taken over, cotton swabbed, I was put on Cipro for five to seven days. Those of us in the Senate were the lucky ones. Five people died in that attack at the Brentwood Post Office. I think we're better prepared today than we were. But let us not forget we've already had a WMD attack in this country."

The 1984 Rajneesh bioterror attack was the food poisoning of more than 750 individuals in The Dalles, Oregon, through the deliberate contamination with salmonella of salad bars at 10 local restaurants. A leading group of followers of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh had hoped to incapacitate the voting population of the city so that their own candidates would win the 1984 Wasco County elections.

And there are those who want history to repeat.

Myers talked about the al-Qaeda magazine Inspire. "I don't know how many of you are familiar with Inspire Magazine," Myers said. "This is an al-Qaeda magazine to communicate with sympathizers and recruits around the world." He then quoted the magazine: "For those broth-

ers with degrees in microbiology and chemistry lies the greatest opportunity to build" weapons of mass destruction.

"Of all the WMD threats, perhaps the most underrated is the threat of biological weapons," Lugar explained. "Deadly viruses exist in nature and are easier to handle than nuclear materials and harder to detect. Al-Qaeda has made no secret of their desire to use biological weapons. Deadly agents can be weaponized



Rosatom Chief Sergei Kiriyenko with Sen. Lugar and Sam Nunn at the Russian atomic energy headquarters in Moscow. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)



through such means as an HVAC system or contamination at a salad bar. Self-infected suicidal bioterrorists could carry their deadly cargo anywhere in the world in just days. Even crude bio-weapons could produce terror and chaos with random outbreaks of deadly diseases."

Myers explained, "I mentioned the loose bugs. In my opinion, this is the hardest. You have a nuclear weapon for a purpose. You have a chemical weapon for a purpose. But a biological weapon happens naturally. This is an ebola. It occurs in Africa. Many nations go there to get them to study. It's difficult to differentiate when one is trying to do good with these materials, and one is attempting to attack people. There are facilities all over the world that have small stocks of ebola. Why? Doing medical research. They need to have something to compare potential outbreaks and symptoms against. The problem that we have and the problem the senator described very, very well is the facilities are in very dangerous places in the world, where al-Qaeda and al-Shabob are thriving, are recruiting, are seeking weapons. If we have relationships with countries, and we are sharing information and we have American scientists standing and working with international partners, we have a better chance of stopping these things before they spread."

Said Lugar, "Achieving this mission requires constant vigilance. I will continue my efforts to bolster Nunn-Lugar activities that eliminate threats to U.S. security before they reach our shores. I believe the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction remains the number one national security threat facing the United States and the international community."

Lugar is facing a Tea Party-inspired Republican primary challenge from Indiana Treasurer Richard Mourdock. A common complaint in GOP circles has been that Lugar spends more time abroad than attending Republican Party Lincoln Day dinners. Howard County Republican Chairman Craig Dunn, who is supporting Mourdock, calls Lugar "a senator from Indiana, not a senator for Indiana."

Myers makes it clear that at this point of Lugar's career, his ability to open doors around the world is one of the most important missions a member of Congress has. Lugar described how Nunn-Lugar prompted the newly independent states of Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Belarus to shed their Soviet-era arsenals.

"I recall, for example, many early conversations with President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan," Lugar ex-

plained. "Through Nunn-Lugar, the United States and Kazakhstan forged a partnership to safely destroy the nuclear weapons it inherited from the Soviets. From that base of cooperation, Kazakhstan emerged as an important player in stopping the spread of weapons of mass destruction."

Kazakhstan will celebrate the 20th anniversary of its founding on December 16, and throughout these two decades it has remained committed to the success of global non-proliferation efforts.

Myers explained, "The lines of communications we have established, this really is about personal diplomacy. To succeed, we need the people in the field who go to work every day, but we need the leaders who go out and establish the relationships."

"Every time we've called Sen. Lugar to help us, to help us break into a new region, to establish the first step, to establish relations with leaders, he's always said yes," Myers continued. "He did that in Africa. He doesn't know that I will be asking him to go to several other places in the near future. He is a leader, a statesman and he's recognized around the world. When you are able to walk through a door trailing Sen. Lugar you have an entry that is second to none. Without this kind of leadership, we will not be able to have this kind of luck. I cannot prove a negative to you. I can't prove to you that without the Nunn-Lugar program, something bad would have happened. It's absolutely impossible. But you know what? I'll tell you one of the reasons this country has not had to deal with a nuclear weapon is because of programs such as this. Going to the source, working with willing partners – this is not unwilling cooperation, we don't go in and impose our will – we work in cooperative ways. Without efforts like this we will not have ways to solve these problems."

In Nairobi, Lugar and DTRA visited a lab where an incinerator was broken, surrounded by bags of blood and human tissue. A tabby cat was feeding on the waste. The security next to the slum was primitive. Thus, Nunn-Lugar has morphed from funding nuclear storage and chemical destruction facilities to what Myers calls "the guns, gates and guards situation" to secure third world bio labs.

Today, the relationships have profound impact on a number of dangerous scenarios. Indiana University Prof. Sumit Ganguly notes that after the U.S. Navy Seals took out Osama bin Laden in Pakistan last spring, the paranoid government there is now moving its 100 nuclear warheads out of fears the U.S. "might come in to secure" the arsenal. "We still do not have a full accounting of the A.Q. Khan network," Ganguly said, noting that Khan had run a "nuclear Wal-Mart" out of Pakistan that resulted in C-130 aircraft sending components and missiles to Pyongyang and



Sen. Lugar is greeted by Albanian Defense Minister Fatmir Mediu in August 2006 in Tiranna. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)



Tehran.

There are reports that Iran is inching closer to having enough highly enriched uranium to build warheads. "If you are Israel," Lugar said, "this is a dire predicament."

IU Prof. Dina Spechler observed that since Russian President Putin rose to power in 2000, and is poised to return next year, U.S. and Russian relations have largely soured in large part due to the Iraq War and varied "colored" revolutions in countries like Ukraine and Georgia. She said the Nunn-Lugar program "is the only area we can expect Russia to trust the United States. In the coming year it is likely to play a unique role in the relations" between the two nations.

Myers mentioned that two DTRA teams left Dulles Airport in Washington that morning (Nov. 11) for verification work in Russia. He pointed to pictures of the old Soviet facility at Stepnogorsk where 10 fermenters could have produced 300 metric tons of weaponized anthrax in a matter of months. Today, weaponized anthrax in a 20ml sugar packet released in the SPEA room "and we would all be dead." A briefcase with similar substances could kill everyone in Assembly Hall.

"We've had great leaders and staff working on this every day," Myers said. "We have at least 2,000 people



Sen. Lugar with Myers conferring in Moscow in August 2007. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

working on this and so far we've been perfect. But we always have to be perfect. We were lucky in 1991 that we had the senator to develop the tools and gave us the flexibility to adjust."

That flexibility has provided border sensors in nations like Moldova and Ukraine, with Lugar adding, "Ten years after September 11, 2001, we know that terrorist cells continue to seek weapons of mass destruction. Just a few weeks ago, I released a report describing attempts to smuggle highly enriched

uranium that likely originated in Russia through Moldova and on to a buyer in a North African country. Similar plots have been stopped in cooperation with the country of Georgia."

According to the Global Security Newswire, the best known catalog of nuclear smuggling incidents is the International Atomic Energy Agency's Illicit Trafficking Database, which documents member-confirmed occurrences. The database recorded a total of 1,773 incidents between January 1993 and December 2009 that involved the illegal movement of nuclear or radioactive materials. Of those, 351 concerned unauthorized possession of materials.

It may be difficult to fathom deep in the Hoosier heartland, but work and relationships in Nairobi could keep Americans on Main Street safer. ❖

Gregg, from page 1

Knox County hamlet of Sandborn was his stage. It was a bright, crisp November morning and the wind was picking up off the prairies, whistling into the tidy little park with basketball courts, ball diamonds and a modest pavilion. With about 200 friends, family and political associates milling around, eating glazed doughnuts and drinking coffee, Gregg finally pulled into the party about 20 minutes after 9. He was wired for a film crew there to document the day and as he made his way down a gravel drive, his friends began calling out. "Hey John. Go get 'em."

Just before he reached the pavilion, the former Democratic House Speaker abruptly came to a halt and turned his back on the smiling throng. "I've got to stop ... I'm going to cry," he admitted, and took about a half minute to regain his composure. Over the course of the



Rep. Mike Pence with his family and supporters at his campaign kickoff last June in his hometown of Columbus. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

next half hour, the tears would return as his sons described growing up in Sandborn. As Gregg stood at the podium, he remembered the old school house which had stood on the site.

A pastor petitioned the Lord "on behalf of John Gregg, You will give guidance and strength and wisdom



in a way that glorifies You." After the pledge, former legislator Dave Crooks began chanting, "We want John, we want John." The Gregg sons recalled their championship baseball team that Gregg coached, how he ordered them to clean the gutters, cut their cable TV time, and taught them the art of shotguns and tree stands during deer hunting season, which had arrived that very day.

"**You wonder if you do this**, if anybody'll show up," Gregg began. "One of my standard lines is in our family we cry when we get new floor mats or we get the carpets cleaned. You'll forgive me for that. It's a day that a year ago I never would have planned on. I really thought I was done with politics and would never have my name on a ballot again. That's going to be different."

He paid homage to his hometown. "Sandborn was a wonderful place to grow up. We had grocery stores, we had a dentist, we had a doctor, we had churches, we had young and old and we had everything in between."

Clearly, Sandborn has seen better days. Its tiny business district, other than a bank, a post office and a few small shops, is mostly dormant. The closest restaurant is about 10 miles away, beyond the Goose Pond Fish & Wildlife area, at the Triple H Gun Club (where they serve a fabulous omelet) on the way toward Linton. There are jobs in the area, evidenced by the heavy dump truck traffic coming from Duke Energy's Edwardsport coal gasification plant, tractor trailers bringing in the harvest, and, under foot, the coal mines for which Gregg once lobbied. Crane Naval Depot and the new I-69 are just to the east.

"It seemed like years ago people always got along and worked together," Gregg continued. "We respected each other. It wasn't about who was a Democrat and who was a Republican. It was about the idea. Seems to me back then we used to look to Washington to lead our nation. It's obvious to me that Washington is broken. I wouldn't fit in there. I have never been in it for the sake of fighting. Besides, I've always been more interested in Washington, Indiana, than Washington, D.C."

Thus, it becomes clear that Gregg will attempt to define Rep. Pence as a Washington beast, with congressional approval hovering about where the national and Indiana jobless rate is. "All that fussin' and fightin', all that childish behavior, I wasn't taught to act that way. We were taught to get along, taught to respect, we were taught to



Gregg regains his composure before the rally in Sandborn with his sons Hunter and John Blackwood, and Gregg's friend Lisa Kelly. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

work together."

Gregg pointed to another potential issue: education. He cited three teachers – Katherine Andes, Dorothy Lawlis, "who would strike fear in the hearts of unprepared math students," and Hosea Lawlis. Gregg again teared up. "A guy who taught me about government, history, politics."

"It was early in life I was taught if you wanted an opportunity, if you wanted to move ahead in life and you wanted to enjoy the American dream, education was key to that," Gregg said. "You had to have a skill

and an education." His trail took him to Vincennes University and IU.

Gregg talked about his career in the General Assembly, summing it up by saying, "We didn't try to solve the problems of the universe. We just tried to get things done. Sometimes things change, but back then there was a big table. Back then everybody had a seat at the table. It seems like today only a few voices are being heard. It comes from Indianapolis on down, it doesn't come from the bottom up. That's not the way things work in government, that's not how things work in Sandborn, and it's not how things will work in a Gregg administration. Hoosiers in their hearts know that Washington and Indianapolis are not where good ideas begin. They begin at the coffee table, the picnic table, they begin at the diners, with a million coffee cups, and it starts with common sense."

Gregg said he is proud of his 16 years in the legislature, said Democrats refuted the notion that they were the party of "tax and spend" and added, "We showed we could live within our means."

It is on this point that the coming showdown – presumably with Rep. Pence, who faces Jim Wallace in the GOP primary – will be fought. Republicans will point to a "structural deficit" of around \$700 million when Daniels took office in 2005, three years after Gregg retired. The Pence campaign will try to tag that on Gregg. Democrats will be quick to point out that no budget, no tax policy, came without the stamp of the Republican-dominated Indiana Senate and powerful Finance Chairman Larry Borst. "We had a balanced budget every year, regardless of what you've heard," Gregg said. "That's what you'll hear in the next 12 months."

Gregg cited the reduced excise tax, the eliminated inventory tax "and during that whole 16 years we never raised the income or sales tax."

"And just as important, during that time we increased funding for public education and we worked to keep higher education affordable for the middle class," the



former interim president of Vincennes University said.

Gregg added that he was "more proud of why I left," recalling his retirement in 2002. "I left because of these two guys," he said, pointing to sons John Blackwood and Hunter. "I wanted to be involved in their education, their school programs, their after school programs, their sports activities. I sat through a lot of soccer games. I saw one sight that I would not have traded a million dollars for: when I saw both my boys on the basketball floor of the varsity team. I got to see my oldest one start. As a Hoosier and an IU alumnus, that's a pretty good thing." Gregg once again had to hold off the tears.

"And now 10 years later, I'm returning to public service," Gregg said. "I'm not coming to this race as a political insider caught up in all the melodrama we've had to stomach over the past year. I'm not a career politician. I don't have Washington, D.C., experience, thank God. My experience is here in Indiana. My leadership skills were honed in Indiana. I don't want to run for president. For me, this isn't a placeholder or a fallback job. I'm about ideas. I know how the state, the capitol, the budget, I know how it all works. And when I get there, we're there to get things done. So today, from the only place I've ever called home, I'm announcing for governor."

"It's jobs at the beginning of the campaign and it's jobs at the end of the campaign. It's all about the economy. I'm running for governor because of my sons. I'm not running because I need to be governor. I'm running because I want to be governor." That was another gentle dig at Pence, who toyed with a presidential run this year and many believe he has his eyes on the 2016 race.

Gregg said that he would "never vote to kill the Indiana auto industry." Gregg added, "Unfair trade deals have cost Indiana jobs, and education cuts have cost our children their future. As governor, I'll put Indiana businesses first and invest in education so that our children are prepared for the jobs of tomorrow."

Gregg said he would work with neighboring states to "form an alliance to compete with China and India. Remember, we're no longer competing between Bedford against Bloomington. Or Sandborn against Shelburn. Or Gary against Evansville. We've got to work with our delegation in Congress because there's a real mess of things. We're talking about unfair trade deals that have cost our automotive and steel communities jobs. We will no longer surrender any jobs in Indiana to a foreign country. And I will never vote to kill the Indiana auto industry."



Gregg with HS teacher Hosea Lawlis (left) and Vincennes Mayor-elect Joe Yochum. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

Gregg promised a different campaign. "We're going to do something that doesn't normally happen in a campaign," he said. "We're going to have some fun along the way. We're going to laugh and smile and we're going to tell some stories that will probably get me in trouble. I think we've had enough of politicians that talk doom and gloom, wear their pants a little too tight and their shirts a little too stiff. And we need to get back to state government that runs on people, not demonizing people."

State Sen. Lindel Hume called the event "a reflection of who John Gregg is and how he operates."

Other Democrats ranging from Indiana Democratic Chairman Dan Parker to former legislator John Frenz, were preparing to paint Pence as "an extremist," as Parker put it. Said Frenz, "In Indiana, moderates win for governor. Congressman Pence is about as right as one can get and then take another step to the right."

Gregg launched his campaign with a multi-city tour, though several events in Fort Wayne, Gary, Lafayette and Evansville were lightly attended, according to media reports. The Hoosier Access blog reported that no one showed up at the Coney Island Hotdog Stand in Fort Wayne. He was greeted by about 200 people in Indianapolis, though beyond AFL-CIO Chief Nancy Guyott there was not a big labor contingent. Kokomo Mayor Greg Goodnight hosted a meet-and-greet for Gregg on Sunday. "He has a good perspective," said Goodnight, himself coming off a 70-percent reelection win last week. "I thought he did a good job articulating the message. I think he's right on target."

In Evansville on Tuesday, Gregg hammered away at the jobs and education themes, "over and over again," according to the Evansville Courier & Press. Gregg was introduced by Mark Owen, chairman of the Vanderburgh County Democratic Party. Owen told the Courier & Press that local Democrats are especially energized by the fact that Gregg is a native of this part of the state. "John knows Southern Indiana – he has lived and worked in Southern Indiana his entire life," Owen said.

Gregg knows that with party losses in places like Evansville, Jeffersonville and Indianapolis, his political endeavor becomes harder. "I'm disappointed we lost," Gregg told WISH-TV. "We lost a lot of seats, we lost a lot of friends." Gregg donated \$30,000 to Melina Kennedy's campaign because he knows how helpful a mayor can be, especially in major cities. "It's always great to have a mayor that's of the same party that you can go and call on," he said, "and can introduce you to people, not just the party faithful."



As for the 2011 elections, Pence is gathering energy there. He headlined 18 fundraisers for GOP mayoral candidates, raising \$400,000 and endorsed 33. He traveled to 55 counties and keynoted 35 Lincoln Day Dinners. "Hoosiers said 'yes' to common-sense Republican leadership in city halls across Indiana," Pence said in a post on his campaign website. "Everywhere I've gone in Indiana over the past six months, the message is the same: Hoosiers appreciate the progress we've made. But almost to a person they say, 'We gotta keep it goin'. And they're right."

In the coming weeks, there will be important tell-tales about the 2012 cycle.

One will be how the looming showdown over Right to Work in the Indiana General Assembly will color the governor's race. Will it energize the base? There was speculation that it might during the Terre Haute mayoral race, but Republican Mayor Duke Bennett thoroughly trounced Democrat Fred Nation in the Land of Debs. Gregg and Senate Minority Leader Vi Simpson see it as an "over-reach," pointing to the rejection of an anti-union referen-

dum in Ohio last week and the recall of Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker that began this week. A House Democratic walkout or slowdown could impact the gubernatorial race.

Another will be education reforms that Gov. Daniels and Supt. Tony Bennett are vowing to push. Bennett told educators at a statewide conference this week, "Anyone who believes education reform is finished and that there won't be more difficult discussions ahead is sadly mistaken" (Hayden, CHNI). But he said Indiana's cash-strapped K-12 schools will have to shift their spending priorities to meet new standards for student achievement, teacher merit pay, and a growing demand to better prepare students for college and the workforce. Bennett said anyone expecting more state dollars any time soon for education spending are "fooling" themselves.

And there is Indiana's 8.9% jobless rate for September, almost matching the national rate of 9%. How Gregg and Pence handle that one, with the presidential race as a parallel dynamic, will be key to who wins next November. ❖

Thomas eyes Senate race

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Fort Wayne and Indianapolis auto dealer Bob Thomas, who ran a spirited and mostly self-financed primary race against U.S. Rep. Mark Souder in 2010, is pondering entry into the Republican U.S. Senate race.

Multiple informed and reliable sources tell Howey Politics Indiana that Thomas is making calls and "testing the water" and will make a decision after the Thanksgiving holiday. Thomas reportedly is testing the race with a poll.

Thomas is eyeing entry after Indiana Treasurer Richard Mourdock, who announced his challenge to U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar last February, has under performed in his candidacy, raising only \$904,084 (including a \$105,000 loan from himself) and reported only \$291,640 cash on hand at the Sept. 30 FEC reporting deadline. In contrast, the FEC filings show that Lugar has raised \$2.72 million this cycle and has \$3.8 million cash on hand.

While Mourdock picked up the endorsements of the Hoosiers for a Conservative Senate, a coalition of some of the Indiana Tea Party groups, along with the Tea Party Express, FreedomWorks, 2010 Nevada Senate nominee Sharon Angle, and presidential candidate Herman Cain, his campaign has been rife with poor decisions, campaign trail shoving matches, and scheduling conflicts with the Mike



Pence gubernatorial campaign and the Indiana Republican Party. Even ardent supporters tell HPI they are not impressed with Mourdock's campaign personnel and how he has waged the challenge.

Mourdock lost three congressional races in the 8th CD, one in the primary and two general elections, between 1988 and 1992. Since 1988, he has run for office 11 times, most recently winning reelection as treasurer in 2010. A little more than a month after taking his second oath of office, he announced his challenge to Lugar.

Thomas challenged Souder in the 2010 Republican primary, finishing second in a four-way race with 27,068 votes, compared to 38,441 for the incumbent while spending about \$609,000. FEC reports indicate that Thomas either contributed or lent his campaign close to \$590,000.

Thomas owns auto dealerships in Fort Wayne and Indianapolis and sources say he has the ability to self-fund, though one source told HPI that if Thomas runs "there will be a commitment to raise more money" as a function of getting more people committed to the candidacy.

Thomas is the latest Republican to ponder entry. Conventional wisdom is that a three-way race would favor Sen. Lugar, since two challenger campaigns would likely split the vote of Republicans unhappy with the status quo. Thus, a Republican with the ability to self-fund could alter the dynamics of the race. ❖



Stutzman, Young won't rule out super support

By **MARK SCHOEFF JR.**

WASHINGTON - Two freshman Republicans in the Indiana congressional delegation are not ruling out supporting a package from the congressional deficit super committee if it includes provisions to increase revenues.

But if the panel is able to agree to a proposal before its Nov. 23 deadline, there will be some soul searching on Capitol Hill – especially among House freshmen – about the definition of a tax increase.



The group of newcomers who helped the GOP take over the House in January once again finds itself in a pivotal position in the debate over how to reduce the federal budget.

One of the ideas on the table during the Super Committee's deliberations – offered by Sen. Patrick Toomey, R-Pa. – would include about \$300 billion

in revenues to go along with about \$800 billion in spending cuts. It also would reduce some deductions and loopholes while making the Bush administration tax cuts permanent, a provision that draws Democratic opposition.

The proposal has attracted attention because Toomey is a former president of the Club for Growth, a conservative organization that has led the charge against Republicans it deems insufficiently conservative.

Rep. Todd Young, R-9th CD, said that he would entertain boosting revenue as long as a plan also addressed the restructuring of entitlement spending.

"If there is a strong first step toward refocusing and making sustainable Medicare, Social Security and Medicaid and, secondarily, any new revenue projected to come into the federal coffers is a product of simplifying our tax codes or increasing the rate of economic growth in our country, I would (consider) such a proposal," Young said.

But, he added, "The real focus should be on spending cuts."

Rep. Marlin Stutzman, R-3rd CD, said that he could live with a plan that included higher tax revenues but would oppose one that boosts rates.

"This is about tax rates, not about revenue increasing," Stutzman said. "I need to see what the final product is. I think Toomey is trying to get something out of nothing. If that's what the Super Committee presents, we'd take a serious look at it."

The two other Hoosier House Republican freshmen – Reps. Todd Rokita and Larry Buschon – did not respond to interview requests.

Exactly what the Super Committee is doing remains a secret. Despite pledges of transparency when it was formed in August, its negotiations have occurred behind closed doors.

The bipartisan, bicameral panel consisting of six Republicans and six Democrats was created by a provision of legislation approved over the summer that lifted the U.S. debt ceiling. The group must come up with \$1.2 trillion in deficit reduction over 10 years by Nov. 23, and Congress must vote on the proposal by Dec. 23. Failure would result in automatic budget cuts totaling \$1.2 trillion.

No one – probably not even the members of the Super Committee – knows how or whether they'll reach their target by Thanksgiving eve. In the meantime, the rumor mill is churning on Capitol Hill.

"It seems like hourly I hear new rumblings of something that's been put on the table," Young said.

Young opposes the alternative to a Super Committee deal – the \$1.2 trillion sequestration, which would take an equal amount out of defense and non-defense spending. "The extent of cuts falling on defense does concern me," Young said.

If something emerges from the Super Committee, it is likely only to meet the minimum deficit-cutting goal, Stutzman predicts.

"It looks like the path we're on is something modest overall," Stutzman said. "I'm disappointed. There is no sense of urgency in Washington to do big things and to make major reforms needed to change the way Washington currently operates."

Of course, in order to transform entitlement spending, Democrats will want Republicans to acquiesce on raising taxes on high-income individuals. Republicans are resisting that idea.

Stutzman favors reforming tax deductions and loopholes in exchange for lower rates across the board.

"I disagree with the premise that raising tax rates increases revenue," Stutzman said. "A broad tax base will increase our revenue."

Of course, launching a debate over tax reform will require that the Super Committee come up with some kind of proposal. No one in Washington can handicap that prospect.

"I am hopeful," Young said. "I'm not optimistic. That would overstate my current feelings."

Young said his constituents want to see the Super Committee succeed.

"They want solutions," Young said. "They want us to search for common ground. That's what I hope we deliver." ❖

Schoeff is HPI's Washington correspondent.



Mourdock's board attendance at 34%

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - An analysis of Indiana Treasurer Richard Mourdock's official functions in office reveal that since January 2010 when he was sworn in for a second term, he has attended only 34% of the meetings of boards he either presides over or is a member.

The balance of funds involved with these boards is documented to be \$1.537 billion.

This compares with 53% attendance of various boards from February 2007 when he took his initial oath of office to Dec. 31, 2009.

Mourdock was reelected to a second term in November 2010, was sworn in for a second term in January 2011, and then announced his challenge to U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar on Feb. 22, 2011. He has spent much of 2010 and 2011 campaigning for reelection, running for the U.S. Senate, or training for the Chicago Marathon.

Lugar missed only three of 207 votes in the Senate this year and has a 98% lifetime voting record. When Lugar ran for president in 1995 he missed 26 votes, or 4.24%, and had a 96% attendance record. In 1996, he missed four votes (1.3%) and had a 98% attendance record while actively campaigning in Iowa, New Hampshire and a number of early primary states.

U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly, the presumed Democratic nominee for the Senate seat, did not miss a vote out of 814 taken from Jan. 5 through Oct. 27 during the current session of the U.S. House, according to spokeswoman Elizabeth Shappell.

Of the 122 board meetings that have occurred, Mourdock has attended just 42, according to a study of meeting minutes, for just 34% attendance. Of the 24 meetings of the Indiana State Police Pension and Benefit Fund Advisory Board, Mourdock has attended none as the sole trustee since January 2010. Between 2007 and 2009 Mourdock attended four of 53 meetings and just two of 19 meetings in 2009, when he made international headlines after filing a challenge to the Chrysler bankruptcy and proposed merger with Fiat in the summer of that year. Mourdock filed the motion in the New York federal bankruptcy court. A final decision was entered by the Supreme Court on June 9, 2009. Mourdock attended two board meetings during the Chrysler case deliberations, but the minutes of the board make no mention of the case.

On May 19, 2009, without Mourdock's presence, the State Police Pension Board heard information on the treasurer's new policy prohibiting state investments in companies receiving stimulus funds.

At a special meeting on Feb. 17, 2009, the minutes indicate that it was suggested the board look into investment strategies during the third quarter of 2009 due to the long-term impact of the 2008 market dive. A board member expressed concern that this was the first time the idea of reassessing investment strategy had been broached and wanted to know if the third quarter would be too late. On May 19, the board determined that the treasurer, Capital Cities, Lt. Col. Phillip A. Parker (proxy for ISP Supt. Paul Whitesell) and Major Bradley S. Scully would monitor the fund balance on a monthly basis, which indicates this was not the strategy in place during the volatile market year of 2008.

Mourdock spokesman Ian Slatter, told HPI, "In the case of the Indiana State Police Pension and Benefit Fund Advisory Board, Treasurer Mourdock is a non-voting member of this board. Much of this board's meeting time is devoted to benefit decisions regarding individual troopers over which the Treasurer does not have a vote. A senior member of the Treasurer's portfolio staff generally attends these meetings for advisory purposes."

Mourdock has also missed all seven meetings of the Indiana Arts Commission Cultural Trust Fund Administrative Board, all four meetings of the Indiana Grain Indemnity Corporation, and all three meetings of the Financial Assurance Board (aka The Underground Storage Tank Financial Assurance Board). According to board member Bill Davis, the board frequently has not met due to lacking a quorum.

Mourdock has attended only one of 18 meetings of the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority, where he was selected by Gov. Daniels to be the vice chair. From 2007 to 2009, Mourdock attended 13 of 35 meetings or 37% of the time.

On the Hoosier START board (aka the Deferred Compensation Committee), Mourdock attended one of six meetings since 2010, compared to 11 of 13 from 2007 to 2009.

As HPI has reported, Mourdock has attended just seven of 18 State Board of Finance meetings for a 39% rate since 2010, compared to 18 of 21 meetings he attended from 2007 to 2009. This board manages the Common School Fund. He has attended 9 of 17 Indiana Finance Authority meetings since 2010, compared to 19 of 30 meetings from 2007 to 2009.

When Mourdock is chairman or secretary/investment manager, his attendance improves. As chairman, he attended five of six Indiana Education Savings Authority Board meetings since January 2010, and all 14 of those





meetings between 2007 and 2009. He has attended all eight meetings as chairman of the Wireless Enhanced 911 Advisory Board; all 12 of the Indiana Board for Depositories, and all 35 Indiana Bond Bank boards, where he is chairman.

When Mourdock is not chairman or secretary of a board, he has a 19% attendance record since 2010.

Slatter, told HPI, "Treasurer Mourdock, or his designee, sit on 13 boards and commissions. By statute, Treasurer Mourdock appoints designees to ensure that the Treasurer's Office is always represented on each board or commission by a person with full voting authority. Many statewide officials, including the Governor, assign designees and consequently fulfill their duties as elected officials. Sometimes the meeting times for boards or commissions overlap, but since February 2007, despite scheduling conflicts, virtually all such meetings have been attended by the Treasurer or a senior member of his staff with full voting powers."

The largest pension portfolios in Indiana – the Public Employee Retirement Fund (PERF) and the Teacher Employee Retirement Fund – do not require Mourdock's attendance. When the boards were combined in February 2011 for the Indiana Public Retirement System, the treasurer or his appointee became part of the board on July 15, 2011. Mourdock's appointee on PERF/TRF is Jodi Golden, executive director of the Indiana Education Savings Authority and a member of the Marion County Alcoholic Beverage Board.

Of the three boards where Mourdock is either chairman or secretary, he attended 13 of 29 meetings, compared to his predecessor, Tim Berry, who attended 21 of 29 meetings. Berry remains on the board of the Indiana Public Retirement System.

Slatter addressed the other boards:

- Treasurer Mourdock's designee to the Arts Commission is a member of his senior staff who manages the Commission's funds.

- Treasurer Mourdock is a non-voting member of the Indiana Grain Indemnity Corporation. He has chosen to designate his chief accountant to attend meetings of this board since her job responsibilities include keeping the Corporation's books.

- Treasurer Mourdock is a member of the Financial Assurance Board, which meets infrequently and addresses issues related to underground storage tanks. The Treasurer has chosen a senior member of his staff to attend these meetings who also served as the designee and attended meetings for former Treasurer Berry. If any meetings of this board were canceled for lack of a quorum, it was not due to the absence of anyone from the Treasurer's Office.

- Treasurer Mourdock, by statute may appoint

someone to the Deferred Compensation Committee. He has typically appointed a senior member of his staff with experience in pension law or investments to attend in his absence.

- Finally, Treasurer Mourdock is a member of the Indiana Finance Authority. "As you have pointed out, he attends the majority of these meetings personally," Slatter explained. "However, he has designated a senior member of his staff to attend these meetings when he is unavailable.

"Treasurer Mourdock has chosen to designate a member of his staff who is either a subject matter expert or who manages the day to day affairs of that particular board's funds as his designee," Slatter concluded. "As the 2011 Annual Report shows, despite difficult economic circumstances, the \$6.7 billion in state funds overseen by the Treasurer's Office returned 3.42% and the State Police Pension Trust Fund, which Treasurer Mourdock is the trustee, returned 19.48%."

U.S. Senate: Mourdock seeks \$7.6T in cuts

Mourdock is calling for the elimination of four federal agencies and cuts in entitlement spending to slash \$7.6 trillion in spending over 10 years (Schneider, Indianapolis Star). Mourdock, who is challenging Sen. Richard Lugar in the Republican primary in May, said he would support eliminating the departments of Housing and Urban Development; Education; Energy; and Commerce. And, he said, he would call for raising the retirement age to obtain Social Security benefits to 69. A congressional supercommittee of House and Senate members has been struggling to reach agreement on a plan to trim the deficit by at least \$1.2 trillion by their deadline of Nov. 23. Democrats recently laid out a proposal of \$1 trillion in cuts, \$1 trillion in new revenue and \$300 billion from interest savings. Republicans countered by proposing \$300 billion in new revenue in addition to cuts, for a total of about \$1.5 trillion. Failure to reach agreement would trigger across-the-board cuts, including to defense and entitlements. Mourdock called the numbers being debated by Congress "a joke." Congress, he said, should be aiming much higher than the \$1.2 trillion in spending cuts that Standard & Poor's has said are necessary to avoid another downgrade of the nation's credit rating. Mourdock concedes his plan isn't painless. Eliminating four agencies would save \$1.8 trillion - with some jobs, such as the US Census, now handled by Commerce, and nuclear regulation, overseen by the Energy Department, still needing to be done. To reach his \$7.6 trillion in cuts - about 18.9 percent of total federal spending - Mourdock would revamp Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. While those who are 55 and older would see no changes - Mourdock is 60 - "for those younger than 55, we need to begin defining a new set of expectations," he



said. That includes raising the retirement age to 69, he said. Mourdock said he would cut the 2013 budgets for Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and defense to 2010 levels, with modest increases after that. Defense, he said, would get a 1 percent increase every other year. Mourdock criticized Lugar, saying he had voted twice in the past 30 days against cuts to two programs, the Rural Development Agency and the Community Air Service Development Program. Andy Fisher, a spokesman for Lugar, said Lugar's record is one of reining in government spending. "Richard Mourdock is late to the deficit-reduction game. Last spring, Senator Lugar voted for the (Rep. Paul) Ryan budget plan, which would cut \$6 trillion," including through entitlement reforms, Fisher said. And, he said, Lugar supports amending the U.S. Constitution to require a balanced budget and "comprehensive tax reform that would generate dynamic economic growth, job creation and new revenue without raising taxes. All of that would get you well beyond (Mourdock's) proposal and is something that has been already voted on by the senator," Fisher said.

Meanwhile, House Speaker John Boehner publicly blessed a Republican deficit-reduction plan Tuesday that would raise \$300 billion in additional tax revenue while overhauling the IRS code, bucking opposition by some GOP presidential hopefuls and colleagues wary of violating a longstanding point of party orthodoxy (Associated Press). Boehner, the top Republican in Congress, spoke as time grew perilously short for agreement by the deficit-fighting "supercommittee." The panel has until a week from Wednesday to vote on any compromise, but several officials said that in reality, perhaps as little as 48 or 72 hours are available to the six Republicans and six Democrats. Adding tax reform would generate economic growth, he said, speaking as the supercommittee groped uncertainly for a compromise to reduce red ink by \$1.2 trillion or more over a decade.

Indiana House

FINE TO SEEK HD12: William Fine, a Munster attorney who ran unsuccessfully for Lake Circuit Court judge last year, said he is eager to serve the community and represent its interests at the Statehouse. State Rep. Mara Candelaria Reardon, D-Munster, who currently represents the district, is expected to seek reelection. She may face a primary challenge from state Rep. Dan Stevenson, D-Highland, whose home was drawn into the 12th District by the Republican-controlled House earlier this year.

BRAUN TO RUN FOR OPEN HD24: Steve Braun, a business owner from Zionsville announced his candidacy for the Indiana House of Representatives. A Harvard graduate and business owner he has spent his life working in the private

sector. "As a newcomer to the political world I hope to draw on my business experience to address the challenges we are facing in the economy" (Howey Politics Indiana). After receiving a business degree from Harvard Braun immediately went to work for Price Waterhouse. After a few short years he started his own technology consulting business that grew to more than 700 employees and 13 offices nationwide before taking the company public in 1999. "I am running because I believe that Indiana needs a fresh perspective from leaders who have been working in the real world," Braun said. "Indiana needs leadership that will focus on pro growth policies so our economy can grow again and our friends and neighbors can get back to work."

HAMM TO RUN AGAINST REP. PFLUM AGAIN: Dick Hamm is again running for the Indiana House of Representatives, but this time he's running for a "new" district (Richmond Palladium-Item). Hamm, 73, announced he will seek the Republican nomination in May 2012 to run in November 2012 for the District 56 seat in the Indiana House. That district was recently redrawn by the Republican-controlled House and approved by Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels in May. "It's a new district. No one's ever run in this district before," Hamm said Monday in announcing his candidacy. "I think I have a lot of things to offer, and I really want to help." It will be Hamm's sixth try for the Indiana House. He lost to Democratic Rep. Phil Pflum in 2002 and 2004. The new district is mainly Wayne County minus Hagerstown and Greens Fork and replaces one that snaked from Richmond through Wayne County to and including New Castle. The former district included a slight majority of Democratic voters. The new district is mainly Republican. Pflum responded to Hamm's announcement Monday by saying, unofficially, he will seek his party's nomination to run for a sixth two-year term in the Indiana House. "It will be challenging and more difficult than ever before, but I'm already working to gain the voters' trust," said Pflum, 67. He said he officially will announce his candidacy next week.

HOUSE DEMS PAY OFF FINES: Democratic lawmakers who left the Statehouse during this year's legislative session have finished repaying the fines levied for their absences (Indiana Public Media). State Rep. Peggy Welch says she elected to have the fines taken out of the per diem checks she's been receiving since the session ended. "It's my understanding this was the first time the fines have actually been collected," she says. The 39 members of the 40 that left, we made some big financial sacrifices because we believed in what we were doing. We took a principle stand, and we paid for it." Welch says, in total, she paid more than \$8,000, adding each lawmaker was docked a different amount based on the number of days absent. ❖



Rep. Fry was hit by a freight train

By JACK COLWELL

MISHAWAKA - Negative political advertising is effective. Mishawaka mayoral nominee Craig Fry's negative mailings effectively turned a potentially close race into a landslide for Mayor Dave Wood.

Before the mid-October mailing of Fry's now infamous "child molester" fliers, it would have been ridiculous to suggest that Wood would win with a higher percentage of the vote in Mishawaka than Pete Buttigieg, the "sure winner" Democratic nominee in South Bend, would amass there.

But that's what happened.

Buttigieg, the 29-year-old Democrat who was virtually mayor-elect since his impressive, decisive win in a highly contested Democratic primary in May, won with 74 percent.

Wood, new Republican mayor, only a little over a year in office and untested running citywide in a Democratic-tending city that does however like Republican mayors, won with 76 percent.

Both Buttigieg and Wood truly were landslide winners.

Buttigieg carried every one of the 91 precincts in which votes were cast in South Bend. Every one, even in strongly Republican precincts in South Bend's 5th District.

Example: In one 5th District precinct, the district's reelected Republican council member, Dave Varner, trounced his Democratic opponent 286 to 98. But Buttigieg carried that precinct 236 to 140 over Republican mayoral nominee Wayne Curry.

So, Buttigieg now will be the second youngest mayor in South Bend history. Schuyler Colfax became mayor at 28. That's not the Colfax who was vice president and for whom Colfax Avenue is named. The young mayor was his son, Schuyler Colfax III, a Republican elected in 1898.

That Buttigieg pitched a shutout, winning every precinct everywhere, is very impressive, but not totally unexpected after the way he attracted so much support, including so many Republican crossover votes, in the Democratic primary.

Unexpected, however, back when the Mishawaka race began, was the way Wood also pitched a shutout, winning all 45 precincts in which votes were cast in that city, even in heavily Democratic precincts.

Example: In one precinct in Mishawaka's 1st District, Democratic Council Member Dale "Woody" Emmons, who was reelected, trounced his Republican opponent 174 to 67. But Wood carried that precinct 214 to 36 over Fry.

Why was Fry repudiated like that in a solidly Democratic precinct?

Fry, now in his 12th term as a state legislator, had burned bridges at times in past disputes and never was regarded as a front-runner in the race. But he also had fought battles for Mishawaka in the legislature, from school funding to Capitol Avenue extension. The question was: If Wood could be forced into mistakes, would Fry have a chance?

Just before the mid-October "child molester" mailings that sealed his fate, Fry had done very well in the third Mishawaka mayoral debate. Also, he had offered positive proposals for education and economic development and had mailed out a dozen-page plan to move Mishawaka "from good to great."

All of that was obscured by his mid-October negative mail blitz, the talk of the town.

While negative fliers and 30-second TV ads can help to define an opponent in an unflattering way and diminish support for that opponent, attacks also can backfire. That can happen if voters view the attacks as unfair or inaccurate or hitting too hard at a candidate who seems likeable and undeserving of eye-gouging.

All of those factors were in play in those fliers in which Fry claimed that Wood "hired a child molester" and "refused to immediately fire him."

The person cited actually had been hired by the city years before by former Mayor Jeff Rea. And Wood, when notified by police about the charges of sexual misconduct with two 15-year-old girls, immediately suspended the accused without pay and then fired him, after making sure of the proper dismissal procedures, just 11 days later. (Note: The employee, Andrew West, 26, pled guilty and was sentenced to 10 years on Wednesday).

The mailings clearly backfired. Outrage, obscuring all else in the campaign, engulfed Fry. Other Democratic candidates pulled away from him. Former Democratic mayoral nominees supported Wood.

Fry, known for never backing down, should have done so on this.

Instead, he sent out another mailing defending the "child molester" fliers and closed the campaign with a radio script on the subject.

If you are trying to beat a train to a crossing, and it becomes clear that the result would be negative, it would be best to stop and change your route. Fry wouldn't. He was hit by a train. ❖

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





Newt's rise came with Indiana's bloody 8th

By **CHRIS SAUTTER**

WASHINGTON - If Rick Perry and Herman Cain weren't entertaining enough, the spotlight is moving back to Newt Gingrich. With Gingrich now taking his turn as the conservative alternative to Mitt Romney for the Republican presidential nomination, commentators are revisiting the many controversies and scandals that have marked his career. The media is having a field day hauling out everything from Gingrich's affair with a staffer while leading the House impeachment drive against President Bill Clinton to the



most recent revelation that he was paid \$1.6 million to "advise" Freddie Mac.

One controversy in which Gingrich played a key part that is often overlooked is his role in fanning the flames of partisanship in Indiana's controversial 8th District recount. In fact, Gingrich's rise within the ranks of the Republican Party from House backbencher to Speaker began with the disputed 1984 election between

incumbent Democrat Frank McCloskey and his Republican challenger Rick McIntyre.

Gingrich played a role in which he has shown himself to be still adept - that of demagogue. Night after night beginning November, 1984 to the following May, Gingrich took to the House floor to address an empty chamber - except for TV cameras - alleging that "a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives is being stolen, not by a rump group, but by members of the Democratic Party."

The actual facts from almost 30 years ago have been superseded by political lore. Gingrich's inaccurate claims that Democrats stole the 8th District seat are now accepted by many as true. Gingrich's success in using the media to define what is usually a routine administrative function of recounting votes, into a political struggle against an abuse of power, served as an important lesson for him when two years later he decided to take on House Speaker Jim Wright.

What really happened is this: With President Ronald Reagan carrying the Southwest Indiana 8th congressional district by almost 50,000 votes, the race between Democrat McCloskey and Republican McIntyre ended up in a dead heat - a virtual tie. When the canvass for each of the 12 counties was completed, McCloskey hung on to a district-wide lead of just 72 votes out of over 250,000 cast. McIntyre filed for a recount. As the first county - Gibson

County - was being recounted, it was discovered that one precinct had been double counted to McCloskey's advantage. After the recount in Gibson County was completed, the lead shifted to McIntyre by 34 votes.

It was at this point that partisanship by an election official first reared its ugly head. Instead of waiting for the recount of all 14 counties to be completed, Republican Secretary of State Ed Simcox certified McIntyre as the winner on the basis of just one recounted county. Simcox's rationale was that this was a mistake that if corrected on election night would have caused him to certify McIntyre before the recount began. But, of course, the purpose of a recount is to correct all the mistakes made in all the counties on election night - and there are usually dozens of mistakes that are found and corrected during the course of a recount.

Simcox's premature action set the tone for the rest of the locally supervised recounts. Different counties adopted different counting rules. The Republican controlled Election Board in Davies County, for example, actually changed how it would count paper ballots part of the way through the recount when they discovered that their first method was disadvantaging McIntyre. Yet, they refused to go back and recount the already counted ballots under the first set of rules that had disadvantaged McCloskey. In other words, the vote counting appeared to be manipulated in predominantly Republican rural counties.

In addition, some 5,000 ballots cast in Evansville's 4th Ward whose voters are mostly African-American were disallowed on the basis of a technicality. Election officials had neglected to initial punch card ballots rendering them invalid under rules adopted by the Vanderburgh County Election Board.

The state recount was not yet complete when the new Congress convened on January 3, 1985, though McIntyre showed up with the certificate of election Secretary of State Simcox had issued after the recounting of the Gibson County ballots. The Democratic controlled House declined to seat McIntyre and ordered an investigation into the matter. Highly respected 9th District Congressman Lee Hamilton was one of the leaders arguing against seating McIntyre. "It is like calling a football game on the basis of the score at half time," he said at the time.

A special committee of the House Administration Committee led by Leon Panetta - then a Congressman from California - employed GAO auditors to conduct a hand recount of all ballots. After all the ballots were counted, McCloskey had won by a mere four votes. Gingrich and Republicans were enraged. When McCloskey was seated on May 1, 1985, Republicans led by Gingrich staged a walkout. But after the Republican demonstration, Minority Leader Bob Michel returned to the House floor and shook McCloskey's hand. Gingrich refused.



Gingrich's motivation for his daily attacks on the House ordered recount had almost nothing to do with the 8th district. Rather, the controversy was a battle cry in a larger and calculated bid for power against the "arrogant Democratic majority." Gingrich's goal had always been to become Speaker of the House. He used any means necessary to obtain that goal. Soon his target was Speaker Jim Wright, who succeeded Speaker Tip O'Neal in January 1987. In a little over two years, Gingrich brought Wright down through the use of relentless attacks in the media. By January, 1995, Gingrich became Speaker.

All of this is relevant now, almost 30 years later,

because it demonstrates a pattern and long-term thirst for power and a willingness to do whatever is necessary to achieve that power. After the disastrous launching of his presidential campaign earlier this year, Gingrich has quietly recast himself as the "mature" candidate in the field - much as Richard Nixon sold himself as the "new Nixon" in his successful campaign for the presidency in 1968. But as America learned the hard way, it had elected not a "new Nixon" but the same old "Tricky Dick." Fortunately, Newt Gingrich's most recent makeover isn't likely to work as successfully as Nixon's did. ❖

Idiots run for president?

By **MORTON J. MARCUS**

INDIANAPOLIS - I don't care if Michelle Bachman has migraine headaches. I don't care if Herman Cain had trouble controlling his hands in years past. It does not bother me that Mitt Romney has changed his mind on key issues for political advantage. Newt Gingrich's marital and extra-marital affairs are no affair of mine.

I do care that Rick Perry has shown a remarkable ignorance of business in this country. His call for the elimination of the U.S. Department of Commerce is neither a gaffe nor a slip of the tongue. No. His position demonstrates the most incredible error of judgment yet shown in this campaign of incomprehensible irresponsibility.



The Commerce Department is central to two vital functions of government: Following the dictates of Congress, Commerce is responsible for information required by a modern society, and Commerce

fulfills necessary regulatory roles essential to a robust business environment.

The Commerce Department is divided into 12 agencies or bureaus. My favorite is the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). Our measure of the value of all goods and services produced in each state and the nation as a whole (Gross Domestic Product - GDP) comes from BEA. Would Gov. Perry prefer we did not keep track of the performance of the economy nationwide, in each state and each county?

The Bureau of Industry and Security keeps dangerous weapons of all types from being exported to other countries. These weapons may take the form of guns, missiles, chemicals, computer software, and dozens of other items. Would Rick Perry prefer that such weapons

get into the hands of terrorists and rogue nations?

The Census Bureau tabulates who we are and what we do. Doesn't the governor of Texas want to know how many people live in and how businesses perform in the many counties of his state? From Census we learn about construction activities, income distribution, and the composition of business activity. These are but a few of the critical pieces of information flowing from the Census Bureau.

The Economics and Statistics Administration of Commerce follows such important issues as the flows of goods and services between the U.S. and other nations. They also track the availability of Internet services in the United States.

NOAA, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, produces our weather reports and keeps tab on climate change. Clearly, Rick Perry must have his own sources of such information based on reliable, confidential unions and plantar warts.

NIST, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, measures and tests products and procedures in manufacturing, communications, biology and dozens of other fields. Such calibrations and data bases reduce the costs of doing business and increase the confidence we can have in an open marketplace.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office protects the intellectual property of inventors and innovators. Could the Texas governor be against such fundamental commercial rights?

Today we provided thumbnail descriptions of seven of Commerce's 12 sections. How could any informed candidate for the presidency advocate destroying such capabilities? Perhaps Rick Perry thinks that if he shuffled these agencies around they would do a better job.

However, I don't think Rick Perry has any idea of what Commerce does. In short, I don't believe that he thinks.

Mitch Daniels, won't you reconsider running for president? We need someone on the GOP side whose I.Q. exceeds his temperature. ❖



Wild cards in the 2012 election deck

By **DAVE KITCHELL**

LOGANSPOUT - Over the weekend, John Gregg made it official.

The mustachioed former Indiana House speaker launched his campaign and another piece to the 2012 ballot puzzle fell into place for state Democratic Chairman Dan Parker. Strategically, it was a sign that Gregg is wasting no time in putting his name out there. He chose the first possible weekend after the November municipal elections statewide.



While Gregg's race for governor and his likely matchup with Republican Rep. Mike Pence in the offing is the likely marquee race on the Indiana ballot, the party ballots may turn out to be the story of 2012.

Here's why:

1. Obama at the top.

Will Indiana be a blue state again in the presidential election? Maybe it will be and maybe it won't. But with Republicans struggling for a nominee and the

purported frontrunners garnering just over 20 percent a year out, Obama would appear to be a favorite in Indiana, even though Democrats hadn't previously won the state in 44 years before 2008.

2. The governor's race. It's an open seat with no incumbent lieutenant governor or governor on the ballot for the first time since 1972. Pence and Gregg have name recognition, but not as much statewide as either Joe Kernan or Mitch Daniels had in 2004. That means both sides will have to spend to get their man elected, but open seats tend to breed closer elections, and the closer the election is, the better Gregg's chances become, especially with a Democratic incumbent above him.

3. U.S. House races. With popularity ratings for Congress in single digits – yes single digits – it's not a good time to be an incumbent. Democrats have only two members of the delegation facing reelection, and both are in solid districts, even with redistricting. Incumbency is still a huge advantage for Indiana Republicans in Congress, but unless the approval ratings move up, incumbency tends to favor challengers – even Republican challengers to Dan Burton – more than incumbents.

4. State school superintendent. Tony Bennett

has been controversial at best, including his wife's former position with a charter school firm. With unprecedented rallies in the Indiana Statehouse targeting education reform proposals linked to him, he won't be a strength for the party this time around.

5. Ohio and Wisconsin. Repealing anti-labor legislation in Ohio and recalls in Wisconsin may do more for voter turnout than any voter registration initiatives. It hasn't taken long for Scott Walker in Wisconsin or John Kasich in Ohio to face tough sledding as first-term GOP governors. At this rate, both may be one-term governors.

Of course, there are some wild cards in the deck. One is the Indiana House. Redistricting and retirements should give Republicans a super, super majority there, but redistricting cuts both ways and means voters have to acquaint themselves with incumbents and vice versa. Other statewide offices are anchored by Republicans, but with questionable choices such as Secretary of State Charlie White experiencing scrapes along the way, voters may take a closer look at some of the names that have been rubber stamped Republican in most races in the past 20 years. And then there's the Lugar factor. How a potentially divisive primary pitting Richard Mourdock against the most elected U.S. senator in Indiana history plays out is anybody's guess. Indiana Republicans once used "The Lugar Team" as a team for statewide officeholders, but if they don't elect Lugar in the primary, the Indiana GOP will be without its most recognizable name in the party. In either case, there will be pressure on Indiana Republicans from the Republican National Committee to keep the Indiana Senate seat in the "R" column.

But at the end of the day, the real challenge for Indiana Republicans is going to be proving 2008 was a presidential aberration. It's a mandate on a decision by former Democratic National Committee Chair Howard Dean's concept of a 50-state campaign that doesn't take states like Indiana for granted anymore. Democrats know they can win this state again, and that's bound to bring out more voters for Democratic candidates in 2012.

That should put the handlebar in Gregg's mustache to steer his 2012 campaign. ❖

Kitchell is an award-winning columnist based in Logansport.



Mark Kiesling, NWI Times: The media have been making a lot of the victory of Karen Freeman-Wilson as the first black female mayor in Indiana. It is a historic victory, and it says something to a nation that thinks Indiana still is run by the Ku Klux Klan as it was in the 1920s, long before most of you could vote. And there is no doubt Freeman-Wilson's decisive victory is historic -- and it was decisive with a 10,470-vote margin over her closest rival, Republican Charles Smith. But more quietly, history was also made next door in East Chicago, where the city elected its first black mayor, Anthony Copeland. Copeland, a former city councilman, was named earlier this year to fill the unexpired term of indicted (and later convicted) former Mayor George Pabey on public corruption charges. But even though he was mayor, he had not won it in his own right until Tuesday. He had been selected by Democratic precinct committeemen from East Chicago, a small fraction of the city's population. Now no one can say Copeland is a caretaker mayor or a fluke. "Last year, some said the precinct committeemen were just out for themselves," Copeland told supporters Tuesday. "In (the May primary) some said it was just a fluke. What are they going to call it tonight?" Up until the controversial defeat of longtime Mayor Bob Pastrick, which ended up in the courts with Pabey being given the chance at another election, all the mayors of East Chicago had been white, or European-American if you prefer. Pastrick kept his job as the city's demographics shifted by keeping the city's black and Latino groups either satisfied with key departmental appointments or hopelessly fractured ones. ❖



Mizell Stewart III, Evansville Courier & Press: Upon reviewing the results of Tuesday's city elections, Stan Miguel of Evansville was irritated — and he took a few moments the next morning to dash off a note: "I suggest the editor do an article or series on the pathetic voter turnout for city elections," he wrote. "What (are) the reasons so many walked away from their civic duty to vote? How can the candidates claim victory when so few voted? Within 10 minutes, my phone rang. Connie Whitman, also of Evansville, was on the other end of the line. I asked her whether she voted Tuesday. Whitman said that she did — but she decided not to cast a ballot in the mayor's race between Democrat Rick Davis and the eventual winner, Republican Lloyd Winnecke. Taking a cue from Miguel, I asked why. "I didn't like either of the choices, so I decided not to make a choice," Whitman said. That's just one reason. I've suggested others on these pages, including a lack of information, anger at negative advertising, distrust of institutions of every stripe (including your favorite local newspaper) and the age-old question of whether one's vote actually makes a difference. The result in Evansville has

been a steady decline in turnout in city elections; 38 percent turned out in 1999 when Republican Russell Lloyd Jr. narrowly defeated Democrat Rick Borries. That percentage dropped to 36 percent in 2003, when Democrat Jonathan Weinzapfel ousted Lloyd. Weinzapfel's 2007 re-election bid against Republican David Nixon attracted just 19 percent of city voters. Tuesday's election brought 20 percent to the polls. My argument, of course, is that the only true way to change the course of government is for citizens to participate in it at every level. That includes everything from attending public meetings to exercising the First Amendment right to petition the government for redress of grievances. ❖

Jim Shella, Indianapolis Business Journal: I ran into Richard Mourdock in a Statehouse hallway the other day and I gave him a bad time. "I'm surprised to see you here," I said. "The Lugar folks say you never come to work anymore." The man who is challenging U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar in the 2012 GOP primary hung his head and quietly talked about what a "slog" a statewide campaign is. He said that he had just experienced an "introspective weekend." Might he leave the race? Not a chance. There's too much invested now, including \$100,000 of his own money. But is he on a fool's errand? One of our producers wondered that the other day when I volunteered to work a Friday night (not my usual practice) to do a story on the Senate race. Aware of the fact that Lugar has \$3.8 million in the bank and Mourdock has \$300,000, the producer asked, "Can Mourdock win this thing?" "The short answer is, yes," was my response. Mourdock doesn't have the gravitas, the experience, or the fundraising ability Lugar has, but this race isn't about him. It's about the Tea Party movement and how Lugar is the biggest target on the horizon for national organizations looking to put another pelt on the wall to demonstrate their clout in Washington. That's why when the Tea Party Express sent representatives from Georgia and California to endorse Mourdock, they couldn't answer a simple question about why they support the challenger. All the discussion was about their belief that Lugar must go. After I asked repeatedly for a reason they support Mourdock, the candidate finally stepped in and listed the issues they had talked about. It was the same when FreedomWorks, the political action committee led by former Texas congressman Dick Armey, sent a representative from Virginia to grant Mourdock an endorsement. He brought along signs for the crowd (made up of local Tea Party members) that read "Retire Lugar." He passed out a seven-page list of grievances against Lugar that includes the same vote for a successful New York City bailout that was the subject of Club for Growth TV ads earlier this year. ❖



Donnelly will back balanced budget

WASHINGTON - U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly will give the following speech in support of H.J.Res.2, a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution, on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. "Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.J.Res.2, a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution. The fact is, for too long, Washington has not made the necessary - and tough - decisions that need to be made to get our budget under control. Working families in Indiana know all too well the importance of balancing their budgets even when times are tight. Just as Hoosier families must make tough decisions about how to manage their budget, so, too, must Congress make tough choices about where to invest and what to cut. I have always supported a balanced budget amendment because it is another important tool that can be used to help get our fiscal house in order. Having a balanced budget amendment in place is crucial to this country going beyond speaking about tough decisions and actually making them. We are facing significant fiscal challenges and the American people are desperate for us to come together on a bipartisan basis and do something that will more effectively deal with them."



Indiana University students briefly interrupted Sen. Dick Lugar and DTRA Director Ken Myers at a seminar at SPEA last Friday. The protesters accused Lugar of supporting big corporations and TARP. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

Middle class dwindles

WASHINGTON - The number of middle-income neighborhoods in the United States has dwindled significantly over the past 40 years, as the rich-poor divide deepens across the

country, a study released Wednesday showed. In 2007, nearly a third of American families -- 31 percent -- lived in either an affluent neighborhood or a mainly low-income one, up from just 15 percent in 1970, according to the study conducted by Stanford University, and released in partnership with the Russell Sage Foundation and Brown University. Meanwhile, 44 percent of American families lived in middle-class neighborhoods in 2007, down from 65 percent in 1970. "Mixed income neighborhoods have grown rarer, while affluent and poor neighborhoods have grown much more common," the study said.

House OKs guns across statelines

FORT WAYNE - "Have Gun - Will Travel" was the title of a 1960s TV series - and is now a congressional blessing (Francisco, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). The House approved legislation Wednesday to let people carry concealed firearms across state lines. The bill would allow travelers to

evade concealed-carry requirements that are stricter than those in their home states. The Republican-controlled House voted 272-154 in favor of the bill. All but seven of the dissenting votes came from Democrats. Reps. Marlin Stutzman, R-3rd; Dan Burton, R-5th; and Mike Pence, R-6th, voted in favor of House Resolution 822. They were among 245 co-sponsors of the legislation. "This bill ensures that permit holders in Indiana, like myself, can exercise our right to self-defense when our families travel across our great country," Stutzman said.

Henry reelect centered on 2 wards

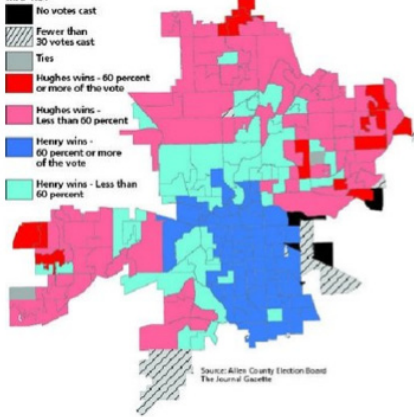
FORT WAYNE - Fortunately for Mayor Tom Henry, city elections aren't conducted in an electoral-college style basis (Lanka, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). Henry's re-election bid fell short across most of the city - losing in four of six council districts - but in the areas where he was successful, he won big. The Democratic mayor used overwhelming support in central and



Precinct results

Preliminary precinct data from the Allen County Election Board shows Mayor Tom Henry won strong support from traditional Democratic regions and limiting the victory margins for GOP nominee Paula Hughes in more Republican areas. Henry used huge margins in his support areas to overcome losing in four of six council districts to win his second term last week.

MAP KEY



southeast Fort Wayne to edge Republican nominee Paula Hughes last week, according to preliminary precinct data released by the Allen County Election Board. Justin Schall, Henry's campaign manager, said focusing on getting out the mayor's core supporters wasn't simply the strategy they selected to win – "it was probably the only strategy," he said. A map of the results by precinct shows heavy support for Henry in the central city that appears to dissipate toward the more suburban edges of Fort Wayne. In a city that leans Republican and in a time when incumbents are viewed unfavorably, Schall said it was vital to persuade hard-core Democrats to vote. He said the campaign had a large field program of canvassers and volunteers to knock on doors of likely supporters. "In the last week we lived in (District) 5 and (District) 6," he said.

Evansville denies Occupy movement

EVANSVILLE - Occupy Evansville was denied a request Wednesday to use the strip of land near the Four Freedoms Monument, but the protesters have new plans from their understanding of the city's objections.

IG calls for subsidy cut for horse racing

INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana should consider a big cut in the subsidy it gives its horse racing industry each year, the state's inspector general recommended, saying that what started off as an effort to jumpstart the industry might need to be re-evaluated. Inspector General David Thomas, in a report released last week summarizing the findings of an investigation into alleged wrongdoing by the Indiana Horse Racing Commission, suggested that the state should consider scaling back its subsidy, which was \$58 million in 2010, to pre-2009 levels. That year, the subsidy was expanded to include a percentage of slot machine revenues from the state's two pari-mutuel horse racing tracks, Indiana Downs near Shelbyville and Hoosier Park in Anderson. Those revenues also subsidize purses for their horse races. The state subsidy before the tracks opened was \$28 million, or less than half what it was last year. "Assuming that a continued subsidy to the horse racing community is deemed proper by the Indiana Legislature, we respectfully recommend that the Legislature consider evaluating the amount of the subsidy and consider a monetary cap at pre-racino figures," Thomas wrote, the Indianapolis Business Journal reported Wednesday. The Legislature created the subsidy in 1993, funding it from taxes on riverboat gambling, in an effort to grow the industry. Since then, the industry has received \$427 million in subsidies, and the funds appear to have made an impact: The sport's direct economic impact has grown from \$181 million in 2005 to \$733 million in 2010, a Purdue University study found. Herb Likens, chairman of the Indiana Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association, said cutting the subsidy would devastate the industry.

Coats wealthiest Hoosier Member

WASHINGTON - Indiana Sen. Dan Coats, who has at least \$2.8 million in net assets, may be wealthy by most standards. But his wealth is not enough to put him among the top 1 percent (Indianapolis Star). About 58 members of Congress -- none from Indiana -- have estimated net worths of more than \$9 million, according to an analysis of their disclosure reports by the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics. That puts them in the top 1 percent of wealth. "We are the 99 percent" is the rallying cry for Occupy Wall Street and similar demonstrations protesting the concentration of wealth by the top 1 percent. Congress also has 250 millionaires, the data show. In addition to Coats, three Hoosier members are among them: Reps. Dan Burton of Indianapolis, Larry Bucshon of Newburgh and Pete Visclosky of Merrillville. "The vast majority of members of Congress are doing very well," says the center's Sheila Krumholz. "They've got the resources to tide them over through an extended sour economy." 303rd: Sen. Richard Lugar ranked 303rd with \$670,508; 348th: Rep. Todd Rokita, R-Indianapolis, \$478,515. Two of Indiana's lawmakers -- Rep. Marlin Stutzman, R-Howe, and Rep. Andre Carson, D-Indianapolis -- have negative net worths, ranking them among the 26 poorest members of Congress.

State tells Occupy to fold up camp

INDIANAPOLIS - State officials gave Occupy Indy protesters 24 hours to clear their tents, sleeping bags and other camping accessories from the Statehouse lawn and warned there could be arrests Thursday.