



# Mourdock's trident drawn at Lugar

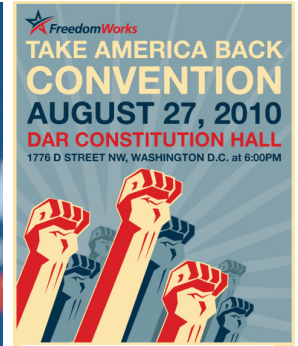
### NRA, Club for Growth, FreedomWorks join cloaked alliance against incumbent

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - The trident aimed at U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar is now drawn.

The National Rifle Association en-joined the Republican Senate race on behalf of Indiana Treasurer Richard Mourdock, joining a triumvirate alliance that includes Dick Armey's FreedomWorks and Chris Chocola's Club for Growth. Sources tell HPI that taking advantage of the Super PACs brought about the the Citizens United Supreme Court decision, FreedomWorks has been organizing grassroots operations, Club for Growth will bundle perhaps as much as \$2 million, and the NRA will communicate "every way possible" Lugar's record on guns. All of this outside money pouring into the state will be cloaked in anonymity.

"Unlike his opponent, Senator Lugar, who has a clear record of hostility toward our right to keep and bear arms, all gun owners and sportsmen in Indiana can trust that Richard Mourdock will defend their Second Amendment rights," said Chris W. Cox, Chairman of NRA-PVF "We urge all NRA members and gun owners in Indiana to vote Richard Mourdock for U.S.



in the May 8 Republican primary. This is certainly the only Republican race where we're endorsing against the incumbent.

**Continued on page 3**

# The Manning era passes

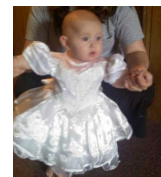
By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - "Thank you very much from the bottom of my heart," a tearful Peyton Manning said Wednesday. "I've truly enjoyed being your quarterback." Whew.



Give me a minute ...  
OK ...

When Peyton Manning came to Indiana, it was a basketball state. The Pacers were about to lose one of the greatest seven-game playoff series ever to Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls with Larry Bird at the helm in the pre-brawl era. Bob Knight was still coaching



**"Angel has been reunited with her parents. We want to thank God for all of you and for your thoughts and prayers. All should look to God."**

**- Jack Brough, grandfather of tornado victim Angel Babcock**



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**Brian A. Howey**, Publisher  
**Mark Schoeff Jr.**, Washington  
**Jack E. Howey**, editor  
**Beverly K. Phillips**, associate editor

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### Contact HPI

Howey Politics Indiana  
6255 Evanston Ave.  
Indianapolis, IN 46220  
**www.howeypolitics.com**  
bhowey2@gmail.com  
☎ Howey's cell: 317.506.0883  
☎ Washington: 703.248.0909  
☎ Business Office: 317.627.6746

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the Indiana Hoosiers. Gene Keady was prowling Mackey Arena. Reggie Miller was in his prime. We had only just begun crowning four high school champions with the new class basketball.

Over the next 14 years, the culture of this state has changed. "There are more Division One football players in Indiana," said former NFL receiver Cris Carter on ESPN. "He changed the culture."

Carter and ESPN analyst Trent Dilfer remembered Indianapolis as the "Nap Town" of the NFL with a lackadaisical fan base, less than full houses on Sunday, and a tepid tailgating scene. That quickly changed as Manning's 3-13 Colts in 1998 turned into a 13-3 powerhouse in 1999. Dilfer said that once Manning became a Colt and became acclimated, when the team played on the road it was like "the circus coming to town."

**The change in** culture included the mounting wins and fewer losses, the NFL record string of winning seasons and playoff appearances, the four NFL MVPs, the Super Bowl championship after the 1996 season, the first professional title for the state in a generation. It included laying Astroturf on prep football fields and the addition of Jumbotrons. It meant the construction of Lucas Oil Stadium, the House That Peyton Built. It meant that the team would stay in Indianapolis, and not become the Los Angeles Colts. It meant the Colts throwing open the door of Lucas Oil Stadium to the IHSAA. It brought the Super Bowl to town last month, perhaps the biggest party and celebration of the city's sports culture in modern times. Folks in Indy began to reason, if we can do Pan Am Games, the 500 and now the Super Bowl, why not the Olympics?



"I guess in life and sports we all know nothing lasts forever," Manning said.

We know the history. Unitas ended up as a Charger. Montana a Chief. Even Babe Ruth ended up with the Boston Braves and Hank Aaron with the Brewers.

Why did this happen?

**The only blame** was aimed at "circumstances," none of which anyone could have predicted just months ago. It was only last July that Manning signed a five-year, \$90 million contract.

"I can't tell you what an honor it is to go start-to-finish with the same organization here in Indianapolis," Manning said then, drawing parallels with premier athletes like Larry Bird, Ernie Banks, John Elway, Dan Marino and Derek Jeter who played for only one team. "That is something I always wanted to do as

a rookie coming out. Of course, you never know if that is possible, but after yesterday it is official that I will be an Indianapolis Colt for my entire career. I will not play for another team. My last down of football will be with the Colts, which means a great deal to me."

**Then came the parade** of neck surgeries and the deeply flawed play of Curtis Painter, Kerry Collins and Dan Orlovsky, along with 13 straight losses. Colts fans waited patiently for nerves to regenerate while the team fell apart. It emerged the winner of the "Suck for Luck" derby and at season's end, with Manning pining to get on the field, the Colts ended up with the No. 1 draft choice, almost certainly to be Stanford's Andrew Luck.

The team fired Bill Polian, most of the coaches. Aging players will be cut. A rebuilding effort ensues. "Circumstances" for Jim Irsay



and Manning meant surrounding the legend with young, unproven talent. It meant the closing window for a second Super Bowl title for No. 18.

So Hoosiers must now come to grips with watching Manning throw and win for teams with either fish or feathers on helmets (and hopefully, not Jags, Texans or Titans). Irsay cited the salary cap, rebuilding and "circumstances too difficult to overcome," and said, "We're a few years away. Money was never a factor."

**For Manning, there** was professed love for the city and state that he changed. "This town has meant so much to me," Manning said. "I do love it here. I'm not leaving Indianapolis. It's still a huge part of my life."

Gov. Daniels observed, "Peyton is as great a citizen as he is a quarterback. He's contributed in ways people can see, like his children's hospital, but he has also done so

many things that he insists no one know about. There have been countless times that he has called me when we've had some kind of need and said, 'Governor, I want to help,' and he'll do everything but associate his name with it. We are going to miss seeing number 18 under center for the Colts, but I am happy to hear he will continue to call Indianapolis his home. It's not a happy day."

Irsay acknowledged the "unparalleled" situation for Colts fans. The hero is gone, with no compensation, and only a much heralded rookie yet to demonstrate his staying power and health despite his obvious talents. "The 18 jersey will never be worn again by a Colts on the field," Irsay said. "It's tearing at our hearts."

Indeed.

The laser rocket arm is gone. And now we await the Architect. ❖

## **Mourdock's Trident,** from page 1

bent in the primary," he said. "It's rare and not often where we are forced to be in a position of opposing an incumbent Republican."

Lugar's lifetime "D+" NRA rating was recently lowered to an "F." Mourdock has previously received an "A" rating from the NRA for his support of the rights of gun owners. "Senator Lugar has never been held accountable for his 36 year record of support for gun control," Mourdock said in a conference call Wednesday. "At every turn when Hoosier gun owners' rights were at stake, Dick Lugar voted with the liberal Democrats to restrict their Constitutional rights to firearm ownership."

Specifically, the NRA says that Lugar has supported the following major anti-gun legislation: Voted against reciprocity to carry concealed weapons across state lines (2009); Voted for background checks on all firearms transactions (2004); Voted in favor of extending the Assault Weapons Ban for 10 years (2004); Voted for the Brady Handgun bill (1993); Voted for the Assault Weapons Ban (1993). It also pointed to Lugar's "enthusiastic support for liberal, anti-gun rights Supreme Court nominees like Sonia Sotomayor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg."

The Lugar campaign countered with a statement, saying, "Senator Lugar strongly supports the Second Amendment right to bear arms. He opposes federal gun proposals that violate the 2nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and supports the conservative principle behind the 10th Amendment that powers not delegated to the federal government by the U.S. Constitution are reserved to the states. Dick Lugar supports the rights of law-abiding citizens to purchase, carry and hunt with guns. As a former mayor who worked closely with local police and deputies, Senator Dick Lugar in the 1990s supported law enforce-

ment's position on a temporary assault weapons ban, so that officers and deputies were not out-gunned by gang members and drug dealers. Senator Lugar continues to focus on issues that matter most to Hoosiers – private-sector jobs, federal spending and debt, national security and energy costs."

The NRA move becomes part of a right wing movement against Congressional centrists at a time when the national GOP is losing support in the center and from the fastest growing minorities. A Fox News Poll revealed that President Obama is supported by 73% of Latinos, in part due to immigration laws in states like Arizona, Alabama and Indiana. In 2004, President George W. Bush won 44% of the Latino vote in his narrow victory over John Kerry. An NBC News/Wall Street Journal Poll shows that after the "contraception" wars, female approval for President Obama from women rose to 54 percent versus 40 percent disapproval. In December, both his overall approval and disapproval among women were 47 percent. NBC/WSJ also saw much criticism from Republicans over the rightward social issue bent of the presidential race, which it described as "corrosive."

Chocolate himself was a victim of a cultural backlash. In 2006, he and U.S. Rep. Mike Sodrel joined U.S. Rep. John Hostettler on a multi-city tour calling for drastic changes in immigration law. All three lost that November.

With Mitt Romney unable to land a knockout punch against Rick Santorum on Super Tuesday, it is a harbinger for the presidential race to come to Indiana on May 8. That could be good news for Lugar, with more independents and Democrats drawn into the Republican primary. The Lugar campaign always believed that expanding the voting pool would be necessary. The good news for Mourdock is that Santorum will stoke the challenger's base.

There is no question that Lugar will be facing a



wave-by-wave assault unprecedented in modern times against an incumbent Indiana senator. It rekindles a decades long dormant dynamic of isolationist Republicans against the internationalists, in this case, Lugar. While Mourdock was unable to earn monetary support in traditional methods and his campaign has stumbled on many fronts, he has worked up a national confederation of outsiders who are prepared to castigate the Lugar record that once had him held in high esteem as a "statesman."

Indiana Democrats, relying on their internal polling from 2011, believe Lugar is extremely vulnerable. Sensing an opening to position Joe Donnelly against the weaker Mourdock, the Democrats worked up an unholy alliance with Mourdock to press Lugar on the residency issue last month.

Lugar released an internal poll earlier this month showing the incumbent with a 55-30% lead over Mourdock, though the campaign released few details about the makeup of the poll. There have been no independent media polls in the race to date. The Howey/DePauw Indiana Battleground Poll will be published in April.

For centrists, the assault on Lugar and the retirement on U.S. Sen. Olympia Snowe of Maine pose a dilemma for the GOP, which lost a chance at retaining the Senate majority in 2010 after Tea Party nominees in Delaware and Nevada knocked off moderate Republicans, then lost in the general election. Snowe, who is seen as a moderate Republican, cites frustration over the current "atmosphere of polarization and 'my way or the highway' ideologies" as her reason for not seeking a fourth term. "I am a fighter at heart, and I am well prepared for the electoral battle," she said. "Unfortunately, I do not realistically expect the partisanship of recent years in the Senate to change over the short term. So at this stage of my tenure in public service, I have concluded that I am not prepared to commit myself to an additional six years in the Senate."

The Washington Post has described Snowe's retirement as a "major setback" to the GOP's efforts to retain a majority in the Senate. "As a moderate Republican, she



**Senate moderate Republicans Olympia Snowe, who announced her retirement this week, and Lugar (with Daniels) are an endangered species. Lugar's homestretch trump will likely be Daniels' emphatic endorsement of the senator in Carmel last month, filmed by the campaign.**

may be the party's only hope to hold a seat in the strongly blue state," the Post reported. The Wall Street Journal noted that Snowe's announcement makes the Senate seat a likely pick up target for Democrats in their bid to retain their narrow 53-47 advantage in the Senate.

The centrist assault prompted former First Lady Barbara Bush to call the 2012 presidential race "the worst campaign I've ever seen in my life. I hate that people think compromise is a dirty word. It's not a dirty word."

Murdock, who will campaign with Dick Armev this weekend, has become an enemy of the concept, saying last week, "Bipartisanship has taken us to the brink of bankruptcy."

The Lugar forces are girding for a race that just about everybody believes will tighten during the final two months. For the first time since 1982, the Lugar campaign is running negative TV ads citing Mourdock's lack of attendance at his official state functions. "Richard Mourdock just doesn't go to his taxpayer funded job," says the announcer in a TV ad. A second voice over mocks the state treasurer, saying: "Mr. Mourdock? Has anybody seen Mr. Mourdock?" An Associated Press analysis called the ad "harsh."

"You don't see a politician's true character until their re-election is threatened," said

Murdock campaign manager Jim Holden (Associated Press). The Lugar campaign sees it as a matter of necessity. "Dick Lugar's a gentleman, he always is," said campaign spokesman David Willkie, "but he's a fighter, too."

Murdock responded with a new TV airing on network TV this week insisting that either he or his staff are attending "99%" of his meetings. And when HPI sent questions to Mourdock's Statehouse staff asking for information on his administration of the Wireless 911 Fund, Holden wrote editors of newspapers carrying Brian Howey's column, saying, "As you can see from the email below, Brian Howey approached an inquiry to Richard Mourdock's office with an accusation, and it is clear from his use of the term 'slush fund' that he already has his story written before he gathers the facts."

No such story has been written, and Mourdock's campaign and office continue to deny interview requests on basic questions about his official duties. **Primary Horse Race Status:** Leans Lugar ❖



## GOP establishment is in panic mode

By **MARK SOUDER**

FORT WAYNE - The noise you hear is the knocking knees of the Republican establishment across America. The first thing people say about Mitt Romney is that he looks like a President should look.

His resume could not be better: father was a prominent businessman and governor of a big state, mother was senator of Michigan as well, son goes on to win a gubernatorial race as a Republican in the liberal state of Massachusetts, Mitt also plays a key role in "saving" the Salt Lake City Olympics, and to those who understand what capitalism is, does an excellent job leading Bain Capital to demonstrate how failing companies can often be saved.



Unfortunately for the establishment, the election doesn't pit resumes against each other; real live people compete.

So what is Mitt Romney's people problem? He seems like a genuinely nice man. He had to be forced into being negative in debates because "good manners" dictate politeness. In private, for example at Bain, he was known to be fairly ruthless. This is George H. W. Bush (41) all over again. Almost a carbon copy (that is a reference for older people reading this).

**Bush 41 started** as fairly conservative on economic issues, solid on foreign policy but less so on social issues. (As congressman, because of Bush 41's support of birth control, his nickname was "Rubbers.") Bush was a tough fighter pilot. He headed the CIA. Yet somehow Reagan (who was a movie actor during the war) came across as strong and Bush as a wimp. While Reagan was also a

gentleman, somehow the manners of Bush undermined his toughness in public. And when he tried to act "tough" it just seemed fake, sometimes silly.

Gerald Ford was not from a genteel background, but also was a genuinely nice guy. He was a football star in college, yet managed to come across as an unathletic bumbler. And, like Bush and Romney, was a moderate conservative on economic issues, solid (when not confused) on foreign affairs, but moderate on social/cultural issues.

**Ford in 1976 tried to move right**, which helped him win the nomination, barely, but somehow he managed to lose to populist Jimmy Carter. Bush 41 tried to move right against Reagan, and failed. Then after serving as Reagan's effective vice president, won in 1988, riding on the conservative wave and promising to never raise taxes. Not just "read my lips, no new taxes" but "and they will push, and I'll say no, and they will push again, and I'll say no - read my lips, no new taxes!" Of course, Bush 41 went back to his norm once President, raised taxes, and was somehow defeated by populist Bill Clinton.

So now it is Mitt Romney's turn to be the establishment "moderate" (as it is defined inside the Republican Party) who attempts to transform himself into a conservative. You can just visualize him saying, almost every night: "What do these people want? I'm trying to tell them what they want to hear."

His friends in the establishment are even more confused. First, there are his capitalist friends. I am a bit unusual and have this in common with my good friend Mike Pence. I am first defined by my social conservatism based upon my Christian faith, personal sins notwithstanding. My actions were wrong, not my beliefs.

But as a business guy, both with undergraduate and graduate business degrees, and as a small business owner in the dog-eat-dog capitalist category of retailing, I am an arch-capitalist. I can understand both sides pretty well because my temperament is a combination of a Sunday school teacher and a venture capitalist, which can be contradictory at times.

## 2012 Republican Presidential Nomination

2008 GOP Race on March 7, 2008 | 2008 GOP Final RCP Average

Polling Data								
Poll	Date	Sample	MoE	Romney	Santorum	Gingrich	Paul	Spread
<b>RCP Average</b>	<b>2/29 - 3/6</b>	--	--	<b>38.3</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>Romney +12.0</b>
Gallup Tracking	3/2 - 3/6	1200 RV	4.0	37	23	14	11	Romney +14
NBC News/Wall St. Jml	2/29 - 3/3	400 RV	4.9	38	32	13	13	Romney +6
Rasmussen Reports	2/29 - 2/29	1000 LV	3.0	40	24	16	12	Romney +16

[See All 2012 Republican Presidential Nomination Polling Data](#)



The Romney capitalist friends (like Ron Paul people) see the world in financial, transactional terms. They are the stereotypes of males. Let's fix the problem, not discuss "feelings." How much money will it take to do this? Who do we need to hire? What's their price? Can't we just offer Santorum something?

When you talk "heart" to them, they think "blood pressure as in heart attacks."

**The Romney political** establishment thinks that the years of hard work means that they deserve respect. They believe that people should realize that their years of experience should be heeded. When they say that Santorum can't win the general election, they should bow down and acknowledge that they are smarter.

I have been on both sides of this. Whoever wins, even if you are anti-establishment when elected, you "become" the establishment. Presumably, if you listen and learn, experience does add knowledge. But people do not like being told what to do.

Ask Senator Tom Coburn of Oklahoma, who was the epitome of anti-establishment but who endorsed Romney (along with legendary Oklahoma political powerhouses former Governor Keating and former Senator Nickles) and lost. In Tennessee, legendary political powerhouse governor and current Senator Lamar Alexander (along with the sitting governor and most congressmen) backed Romney. Santorum absolutely walloped the entire Tennessee establishment. In North Dakota former overnor and now Senator Hoeven is supposed to be king. Not after the primary.

**Ohio was even worse** for the establishment. Outspending Santorum 12 to 1 (best estimate), with the endorsements of almost all leaders except Attorney General Mike DeWine, it was a dead heat. Ohio is not the deep evangelical south. Santorum won Toledo (Lucas), and was close in Columbus and Dayton. Only my good friend Senator Rob Portman came out strong by delivering Cincinnati by a huge margin, saving the victory for Romney.

No wonder every single establishment voice wants Santorum out.

Look at the March schedule. Without an upset or two, Romney will likely lose ground in March. April should be a decent month for him, but remember this: the WWF lady won the Connecticut Senate primary over establishment favored Rob Simmons, the "I'm not a witch lady" defeated Delaware institution Mike Castle, and in New York, Paladino was the Tea Party guy who won the gubernatorial nomination.

If I were part of the establishment, I'd be panicked too. ❖

**Souder is a former Republican member of Congress.**

## How big will the Dem crossover be in primary?

By **JACK COLWELL**

**SOUTH BEND** - The Indiana presidential primary could again have real significance. If it does, again drawing national attention as it did in 2008, the focus this time will be on selection of the Republican nominee.

Democrats, however, could have a voice in the GOP selection.

In fact, with no races in the Indiana Democratic primary for president, governor or senator, Democrats could be tempted to vote in the Republican primary for a GOP presidential nominee and to help or hurt Sen. Dick Lugar.



Democratic influence in the Republican primary would be the reverse of what Rush Limbaugh sought in 2008, when the radio commentator urged Hoosier Republicans, with their presidential nomination no longer in doubt, to vote in the Democratic primary for Hillary Clinton.

Why?

It was part of Limbaugh's "Operation Chaos," an effort to prolong a potentially divisive contest between

Clinton and Barack Obama and thus weaken the eventual Democratic nominee.

Just before the Michigan primary last Tuesday, Rick Santorum sought with a "robocall" blitz to convince Democrats to vote in the Republican primary for him. The automated calls, aimed especially at auto workers and others with jobs saved by the federal auto rescue, included this message: "Romney supported the bailouts for his Wall Street billionaire buddies, but opposed the auto bailouts. That is a slap in the face of every Michigan worker." (Santorum also opposed the auto bailout. That of course wasn't mentioned in the calls.)

Mitt Romney called it "a dirty trick." Said Romney: "It's outrageous to see Rick Santorum team up with the Obama people and go out after the union labor in Detroit to try to get them to vote against me. Look, we don't want Democrats deciding who our nominee's going to be."

Crossover efforts aren't new and aren't restricted to one party or the other. Romney, explaining his own past voting in Democratic primaries, has said he did so, when there were no Republican contests, in order to support the weakest Democratic candidate. (He didn't bring that up in Michigan.)

But what really is the effect of these efforts?



Well, Romney won in Michigan, narrowly, but blunting Santorum's momentum and preventing a disastrous loss of his native state. Probably some Democrats did vote for Santorum. Probably some voted for Romney.

In the 2008 Democratic primary in Indiana, Clinton won narrowly. Limbaugh claimed his radio appeals were decisive. But there is no proof of a "Limbaugh effect." Exit polls didn't show much and aren't very accurate anyway.

**No doubt there** were some Republicans who crossed to the Democratic primary to vote for Clinton. Probably some crossed to vote for Obama.

Why?

To pick the weakest candidate? I'm not sure much of that occurs. Most people are pretty serious about their votes for president. Most wouldn't want to help nominate somebody weak who might well go on to be president of the United States.

Voters crossing over are more likely to do so for somebody they like, especially if their own party wasn't offering a choice they admired.

Santorum, who finally made it on the Indiana May 8 primary ballot, will try to appeal to Hoosier Democrats. He could get some. So could Romney. Those who switch over are more likely to do so to vote for a candidate they like than to sabotage the other side.

There could be Democrats switching to the GOP primary for the Senate race as well as for the presidential nomination contest.

In St. Joseph County, where there are very few Democratic contests, some Democrats could vote in the Republican primary to support Sen. Lugar. The Republican senator has in past elections carried the traditionally Democratic county by wide margins, getting substantial Democratic as well as Republican vote support in the fall.

Those Democrats who regard Lugar as a statesman - a conservative they don't always agree with, but still a statesman - could decide to help him stave off the challenge from Richard Mourdock, the Tea Party favorite.

**Other Democrats**, if playing the sabotage game, could vote for Mourdock, regarded as a weaker fall opponent for Congressman Joe Donnelly, who will be the Democratic senatorial nominee.

Democrats will have some voice in the GOP, but we don't know how loud or what they will say. ❖

**Colwell has been covering Indiana politics over five decades for the South Bend Tribune.**

## On the policy front, Pence and Gregg are off to slow start

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - It was May 2011 - going on 10 months ago - that Republican Mike Pence announced he would run for governor and Democrat John Gregg formed an exploratory committee.

But unlike the campaign of Doc Bowen in 1972, which from the get-go had a defining issue - promised tax reform - the policy side of this race for governor has taken a back seat to the \$6.7 million the two candidates raised last year. In 2003, Mitch Daniels had his "Indiana Comeback Roadmap" and had begun to roll out some policy as he toured the state. Later that year he was gleaning information from the array of local officials he was talking with during his RV1 tours.

But thus far with Pence and Gregg, there have been no major policy white paper which had been a staple in John Mutz's 1988 campaign. There have been no major policy speeches. There have been no press conferences offering policy details.



Mike Pence outside the Statehouse after filing his ballot petitions in February.



The Indiana University Public Policy Institute, in its "Policy Choices for Indiana's Future," told a conference headed by Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard on Feb. 17 that the state faces daunting challenges. The state ranks 41st in the nation in per capita income, last in the Midwest; a 16 percent poverty rate, in the bottom third nationally; about 30 percent of Indiana's population aged 25 and older has earned an associate's degree or higher; and the state is "at or near the bottom among Midwest states for educational attainment."

There is also the persistent 9% jobless rate and an out-of-wedlock birth rate over 40%. The state faces an array of infrastructure needs despite Daniels' much heralded Major Moves program and billions of dollars of Obama stimulus money.

IU's Public Policy Institute reported where the state "should be": By 2018, 55 percent of Indiana's jobs will require some postsecondary education. Lumina Foundation says we should aim for 60 percent by 2025. And many of the jobs can be filled by individuals with less than a four-year college degree, but more than a high school diploma.

Neither the Pence or Gregg websites have "policy" sections. Gregg has a button marked "issues," but once clicked, it becomes a request for information. "John has been traveling around the great state of Indiana listening to Hoosiers discuss the issues that effect them the most," it reads. "If you would like to share an issue that concerns you, please fill out and send the form below. It's contributions from Hoosiers like you that will help build a better Indiana. Let's get to work."

**Gregg has retained former** Indianapolis Deputy Mayor Steve Campbell to head up his policy work. Campbell, who served under Mayor Bart Peterson, was deputy mayor for neighborhoods. He was communications director for Gov. Frank O'Bannon and served as deputy press secretary to Gov. Evan Bayh.

Pence's key policy guy is Chris Atkins, a former general counsel and policy director in the State of Indiana's Office of Management and Budget in the Daniels' administration. Before that, Atkins was senior tax counsel and director of state fiscal projects at the Tax Foundation, where he specialized in analyzing federal, state and international tax policy from a legal and economic perspective. He was director of tax and fiscal policy at the American Legislative

Exchange Council (ALEC), where he worked with state legislators nationwide to develop and implement fiscal policies consistent with the Jeffersonian principles of free markets and limited government.

Both Atkins and Campbell are Wabash College graduates.

**The Pence campaign told** HPI that it has more than 300 policy volunteers assigned to 14 working groups that Pence calls the "idea factory." The groups are coordinating with Atkins. The 14 groups include Economic

Growth and Jobs, Fiscal Policy and Government Reform, Education, Workforce, Health Care and Social Services, Transportation and Infrastructure, Regulatory, Public Safety, Veterans, Gaming, Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Judiciary and Legal Affairs, Federalism, and Energy and Environment. Pence has also worked in numerous policy discussions with business roundtables around the state.

Pence does not have a website policy section either, but the campaign pointed to several news stories going back to last summer in which he talks without much detail on the issues.

So, what do we know about the skeletal framework of

emerging Gregg and Pence policy?

Gregg in his campaign kickoff speech talked about "basic challenges and the practical responses required."

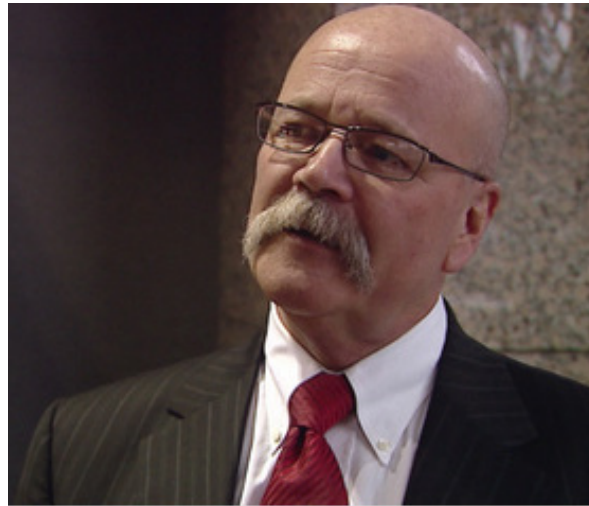
Gregg has said that "our competitors have changed" and that we "spend too much time looking over our shoulder at Illinois, when we should be looking out for India." Gregg believes that "our kids aren't learning the skills they need" and says that "too many workers are stuck on jobs and technology that have moved on without them."

The former Democratic speaker said that he will spend "every waking moment reversing these trends."

But how?

**There are a lot of broad** themes, but not much on specifics. Gregg says that we must "ensure that our business climate is modern, competitive and affordable" and that economic development takes place from a "regional perspective." That is somewhat of a breakthrough from Gregg as speaker, who once said the three things Hoosiers tend to be against are "communism, regional government and Daylight Saving Time."

Gregg explained, "We need growth plans for each region of our state focused on their unique competitive



**Democratic John Gregg has brought on former Indianapolis Deputy Mayor Steve Campbell to develop policy.**





strengths. And we must end destructive beggar-thy-neighbor policies and remember that we will not move ahead by leaving other Indiana communities behind. We must double down on the sectors in which we already excel, like life sciences, logistics, advanced manufacturing and agribusiness. I applaud Governor Daniels for his efforts to improve our business climate and attract new sectors to Indiana. But we must do more to attract the industries of tomorrow, like alternative energy, which could end up being the silicon chip of the 21st century, clean coal and other new technologies."

**Gregg has also called** for an "unprecedented focus on Hoosier small businesses. We will continue to pursue large job-creating projects, but cutting the ribbon on a 10-person shop will be just as important to me." And he says "We must ensure that Indiana companies are afforded every advantage in overseas trade agreements. Free trade does not mean unfair trade, and the days of selling out American companies in the name of free trade must end."

Pence's policy stances have gradually come out since last summer. The campaign bristled when a Statehouse reporter predicted early last summer that the congressman wouldn't announce policy until after the primary.

Last August, the Associated Press reported that Pence would like to cut Indiana income taxes, reduce the state's individual and corporate tax rates to 3 percent. The state's individual tax rate is now 3.4 percent and the corporate rate is 8.5 percent. And he backs the repeal of the inheritance tax, which is poised to pass the General Assembly this week. He told WANE-TV in Fort Wayne that he would like to reduce Indiana's second-highest in the nation sales tax. Pence has yet to say how the state might recoup money from those tax cuts.

Pence has talked about education reforms. He told the Warsaw Times-Union in December that he would like to cut regulation and expand educational choice. "Right now Hoosiers are faced with an avalanche of regulations and taxes that threaten our freedom," Pence said. He said he will fight for every Hoosier to work, live and run schools without unnecessary "government intrusion." He said the best stimulus plan is less taxes and red tape and more fiscal responsibility. Pence said, if elected, he will cut taxes for working families, small businesses and family farms and encourage investment and growth.

**"I will look for ways to fund** excellence in education and promote ways for every Hoosier child through more school choices and charter schools," Pence said. He told the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette last August, "I think competition between schools – between traditional public schools and public charter schools and between public schools and private schools – will just make all our schools better." But thus far, there is little detail on how he would seek to achieve those goals.

Last August, Pence told the Evansville Courier & Press that he will complete the I-69 project between Evansville and Indianapolis. The newspaper reported: By the time Gov. Mitch Daniels leaves office in January 2013, Indiana will have spent nearly \$1 billion on construction of the approximately 90-mile stretch of Interstate 69 between Evansville and the Crane Naval Surface Warfare Center in Martin County. By that time, too, another section of the road will be under construction, and that piece will establish a highway connection from Evansville to Bloomington. That will mean four of the six sections into which the 142-mile project is divided will be moving toward to completion.

But the newspaper reported: A spokesman said Pence will unveil more detailed plans for how he would handle the remaining stretch of the I-69 extension closer to the 2012 elections.

While the gubernatorial campaigns have lagged in specifics, there are developments in other quarters. The Indiana Chamber of Commerce just released its "Indiana Vision 2025: A Plan for Hoosier Prosperity." It lists four "drivers" that include developing "outstanding talent," an "attractive business climate," along with "superior infrastructure" and a "dynamic and creative culture."

#### **Developed by Chamber Vice President J.**

Cameron Carter, it cites an array of goals from a 90% high school graduation rate, a 60% college graduation rate to reform of state pension systems, a streamlining of the state tax code, and the reduction by 15% of population smoking levels and a 20% reduction in obesity. It also calls for more aggressively promoted business start-ups and an increase in exports to "Top 5" ranking nationally per capita.

IU's Public Policy Institute had an afternoon policy session in February that drew about 100 movers and shakers from around the state where they discussed energy and the environment, state and local tax policy, and education and workforce development. The goal of Policy Choices is to start the discussion among government, nonprofit, and private sector leaders about these topics now - to provide policy options for action. Recognizing that these are long-range issues, PPI will continue to analyze these questions and engage leaders, policy makers, and other partners in continuing the discussions. The conclusions will be presented to the gubernatorial contenders.

So policy evolution in this race is taking hold later than recent races. With the General Assembly's sine die on Friday, no primary opposition, and the state conventions still more than three months away, the policy zone will almost certainly come to life in the coming weeks. If it doesn't, that would be an ominous development for a state with a wide range of needs. ❖



## HPI Forecast: Siegle to Supremes, Massa to SoS

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Awaiting a judicial decision from the Indiana Supreme Court on who the next secretary of state will be, Gov. Mitch Daniels suggested last week that if the decision is his, he has a nominee.

"I've got a good idea who I think would be best, yes," Daniels said Friday when asked whether he'd decided who he would appoint to replace the felonious and deposed Charlie White. "Obviously I've thought about it, but let's find out whether there's a duty to make that appointment."



The decision may come in tandem with the selection of the next Supreme Court justice to replace Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard.

The finalists there are former Daniels counsel Mark Massa, Appellate Court Judge Cale Bradford, and attorney Jane Siegle.

Daniels suggested that "gender" might be the tie-breaker.

**HPI Forecast:** We project Siegle will be named the Indiana Supreme Court and Massa will be named the next secretary of state if Daniels gets that choice.

### U.S. Senate: Tea Party files suit v. Lugar

Indiana tea partiers filed suit in court Wednesday in an attempt to remove U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar from the May primary ballot (Indianapolis Star). Eric Bohnet argues in a lawsuit filed in Marion Circuit Court in Indianapolis that Lugar is not qualified to run for re-election because he lives in Virginia. "By virtue of having maintained a home in Virginia as his sole residence for nearly 35 years, Lugar has become an inhabitant of Virginia rather than Indiana," Bohnet writes in the complaint. A pair of Indiana attorneys has upheld that Lugar can still call himself a resident of Indiana while living in Virginia because he is away on official state business: representing the state in Congress. The Indiana Election Commission agreed with that interpretation two weeks ago and voted unanimously to keep Lugar on the ballot. The suit names the four members of the election commission as defendants. Commission Chairman Dan Dumezich did not immediately return a request for comment Wednesday but has previously said he respects voters' right to appeal commission decisions in court. Lugar spokesman David Willkie says he is "not surprised" by the challenge and called the suit a "waste of taxpayer money."

**DO OR DIE WEEK FOR HATCH:** Sen. Orrin Hatch's (R-Utah) political career will be on the line in the next week (The Hill). Utah's primary is still months away, but Hatch's future is likely to be determined at the March 15 Utah Republican caucuses, making this a do-or-die week for the six-term senator. The state has a convoluted nomination process: Its caucuses select delegates to the state convention, where the party determines whether to hold a primary. Tea Party activists packed the convention and defeated Sen. Bob Bennett (R-Utah) there two years ago, and hope to do so this year to beat Hatch. But unlike Bennett, Hatch is ready for the fight. "We've been at this campaign for a year and our focus has been on the caucuses," said Hatch campaign manager Dave Hansen. "We take them very seriously. Are we focused on them? Absolutely."

### 5th CD: Burton endorses Seybold

U.S. Rep. Dan Burton is endorsing Marion Mayor Wayne Seybold to succeed him in Congress saying "because he has been an outstanding mayor; he has worked tirelessly to bring thousands of jobs to both Marion and the state of Indiana. Wayne is an honorable man and a strong conservative, which is consistent with the people of the 5th District. I think Wayne will do a great job and I fully support him."

5th District County Chairmen Craig Dunn, Andy Dudelston, and Jerry Shull, have thrown their support behind Seybold to replace Burton as Indiana's 5th District Representative in the U.S. Congress.

"Wayne Seybold is a talented conservative mayor and a dynamic leader. He is truly one of the rising stars in the Republican Party and Wayne will make a great Congressman," said Dunn, Howard County GOP Chairman. Grant County GOP Chairman Jerry Shull added, "Wayne has been a great leader both in Marion and in all of Grant County. His tireless efforts have turned Marion into one of Indiana's great success stories. Wayne's 'can do' spirit and tireless work ethic is just what Washington needs."

The Contract from America Foundation announced today that David McIntosh (R-IN) has joined more 70 national officeholders and 230 candidates



U.S. Rep. Dan Burton (right) endorsed Marion Mayor Wayne Seybold to succeed him in the 5th CD.



nationwide in signing the "Contract from America," a freedom-based legislative blueprint for 2012 and beyond created with the input of over 450,000 conservative activists (Howey Politics



Indiana). "In signing the Contract from America, David McIntosh has shown his commitment to championing Main Street and Tea Party values," said Ryan Hecker, creator of the crowd-sourced Contract from America. "McIntosh has pledged to listen to his constituents and be a true grassroots conservative leader in Congress." "I'm proud to be the 5th District's sole signer of the Contract from America," McIntosh said. "If I'm fortunate enough to be elected to represent my fellow Hoosiers in Washington, I pledge to do all I can to advance the objectives of the Contract: restore individual liberty and economic freedom by ending Washington's destructive patterns of out-of-control spending and over-regulation. The Contract from America is a powerful tool for ensuring that those of us who seek the public's trust keep it."

Susan Brooks unveiled her first television commercial aimed at Republican voters in the 5th CD (Howey Politics Indiana). "Restoring the promise of America for future generations begins with reining in our spending and debt," said Brooks. In the commercial, Brooks calls her real opponents the "big spenders in Washington." The spot begins airing today and reaches voters in all eight counties in CD5. View the commercial at [www.YouTube.com/SusanBrooks2012](http://www.YouTube.com/SusanBrooks2012). **Primary Horse Race Status:** Leans McIntosh

## **6th CD: Chamber endorses Messer**

The Indiana Chamber of Commerce, the state's leading business organization, announced today its endorsement of Luke Messer for the Sixth District seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. The endorsement was made by the Indiana Chamber Congressional Action Committee, the federal political action committee of the Indiana Chamber. "After meeting the candidates and looking at their records, we are confident that Luke Messer will make an outstanding congressman and is the best candidate in this primary election race," said Kevin Brinegar, president of the Indiana Chamber of Commerce. "Luke Messer has a real record of support for pro-growth, pro-jobs policies and getting things done." As a member of the Indiana General Assembly, Messer achieved a very strong voting score of 96% on economic, jobs and business issues, according to the Indiana Chamber's comprehensive Legislative Vote

Analysis report released annually. "The Indiana Chamber is our state's biggest and best champion of free enterprise and job growth. I am honored by their support and look forward to working with them on policies that will jump start the economy and put Hoosiers back to work," said Luke Messer.

## **9th CD: More nods for Winningham**

9th CD Democrat Robert Winningham announced that he has received the endorsement of State Senator Richard Young of Milltown. "Robert Winningham's passion is creating jobs," stated Young in endorsing Winningham. "I'm endorsing Robert because he understands the struggles of working Hoosiers and has the experience to change the lives of Hoosiers." **Horse Race Primary Status:** Leans Winningham

## **Indiana House: Chamber endorses Rider**

The Indiana Chamber of Commerce, the state's leading business organization, this week announced its endorsement of Brad Rider for the Republican primary election to the Indiana House of Representatives, District 92. The endorsement was made by Indiana Business for Responsive Government (IBRG), the nonpartisan political program of the Indiana Chamber. "As a small business person, Brad Rider understands the need to grow our economy and to create jobs for Hoosiers. He will be a strong supporter of free enterprise and a very energetic and involved legislator for his constituents," said Jeff Brantley, vice president of political affairs for the Indiana Chamber of Commerce.

Indianapolis Star columnist Russ Pulliam featured the Republican primary in HD24. Pulliam called the race a "David-Goliath scenario." Mindi McMillan, an energetic mother of six, is running against Steve Braun, a business entrepreneur and multimillionaire. Both candidates are Republican conservatives who live in Zionsville. Pulliam observed, "Whoever wins the May 8 primary for House District 24 likely will win the fall election in the overwhelmingly Republican district, which includes parts of Zionsville, Westfield and Carmel. Braun has several advantages. He was the first person from Jasper, Ind., to go to Harvard University. He's been successful in business, growing a software consulting company that he later sold. He likes the Mitch Daniels model of efficiency in state government and wants to bring competitive free-market experience to the House."

"I'm a believer in putting business principles into government," said Braun. He donated \$15,000 to the House Republican Campaign Committee in 2010 and has the committee's backing in this race. He's also putting his own money into the campaign. McMillan, who operates a dog-breeding business, echoes populist themes. She won't be able to raise the money that Braun can pour into the race, but she has many personal contacts in the district. ❖



## Economist skills can be improved

By **MORTON J. MARCUS**

INDIANAPOLIS - "Psst, bud," the voice spoke from the shadows.

"Wanna earn a few bucks ...easy like?"

"How's that?" I questioned. "Simple," the voice answered with a raspy sound. "All youse gotta do is read off some numbers and peepule will pay ya. It don't take no trainin' to be an economist."

"Sounds intriguing," I said. "Could I pull it off?"

"Sirtunly," he assured me. "Just read from this page 'n' folks will shove a few bucks in ya hand or in ya hat if ya leave it on da ground."

He gave me the page. It had the names of the states down the left side and numbers in columns. I read, hesitantly from the top: "Basic aspects of short-term economic change. Ratios for December of 2011 compared with December 2010."

"No bad, for a beginner," he said. "Now put some emotion behind it. Sell it."

"Jobs in the United States were 1.0197 compared to 1.0110 for Indiana," I said.

"Stop!" he shouted. "Where's da life wut's in doze data? Ya gotta translate as ya go. Now try it agin."

"Jobs rose across the nation by nearly 2 percent between December 2010 and the same month in 2011," I

said. "Indiana advanced by just 1.1 percent, 33rd in the nation."

"Now youse is gettin' sum rhythm," he said. "Keep it rollin'."

"The average time Hoosiers spent working each week in December 2011," I said, "was down 1.1 percent while nationally average weekly hours advanced slightly. Average hourly earnings for workers in Indiana were up 1.5 percent, lagging the nation's 2.0 percent increase."

"Now take it home," he encouraged, "let 'em smell the sizzle."

"**And what do these** numbers tell us?" I asked my imaginary audience. "Let me tell you. They say that as 2011 ended, Indiana saw an increase in jobs and hourly wages, but not as much of an increase as the nation saw. On top of that, the number of hours workers in Indiana were employed actually fell while the nation saw an increase in this indicator.

"These three factors (jobs, hours, and hourly earn-

ings) succinctly tell the economic story of any area. At the state and metro levels, these data are available monthly and are the freshest information we have on how the economy is going. Other numbers may be more accurate or more detailed, but these are the most up-to-date figures you can get."

"Doin' swell, kid," he told me. "Now put the whipped cream on the top."

"When you multiply these three ratios together," I said, "you come up with the big payoff: the aggregate weekly earnings in the state or metro area. Now you are talking dollars. Dollars for groceries and the gas pump. Dollars for taxes and for toys. Dollars for savings or for health care.

"For the U.S., aggregate earnings or total payroll rose by 4.3 percent December to December. But in Indiana the increase was a mere 1.5 percent."

"**Ya got it kid," he said.** "Now put the cherry on da crown. Tell 'em how dis ain't wut da officials of da state government is tellin' dem."

"No," I said firmly. "If I am to be an economist, my statements should be without political commentary. I should be sterile, neutral, non-judgmental and, most of all, non-controversial."

"But kid," he reproached me, "if ya wanna make da big bucks, ya gotta give 'em wut dey want. Ya dress up in somethin' neutral, but ya make sure dey get to see plenty of wut dey is lookin' fur."

"Maybe that's why I'm not making the big bucks," I said. ❖

**Mr. Marcus is an independent economist, speaker, and writer.**

## Daniels promotes healthy rivers

TURKEY RUN - Several Parke County students met Wednesday with Gov. Mitch Daniels and learned firsthand about the state's efforts to conserve land in the students' own back yard along Sugar Creek (Terre Haute Tribune-Star). About a dozen students who attend Turkey Run Community schools heard from the governor and Department of Natural Resources staff. They gathered in a picturesque area surrounded by woods and ravines, with Sugar Creek close by. "I guess you guys know this, but the rest of us [in Indiana] are so jealous you get to live here," Daniels told the students on a warm, windy day. "I hope you don't get so used to it that you ever take it for granted." They gathered on land owned by the Nature Conservancy of Indiana that the state is in the process of acquiring as part of the Healthy Rivers Initiative. ❖





## Cheap doesn't work with child protection

By **SHAW R. FRIEDMAN**

LAPORTE - We've just gone through a month of some tough investigative reporting by both the Indianapolis Star and South Bend Tribune and both newspapers have come to the conclusion that longtime observers of Indiana's troubled child protection system long ago reached: Cheap doesn't work when it comes to kids' services.



The Governor can give all the pep talks to beleaguered DCS workers like he did last Friday in Indianapolis when he – true to his deeply partisan nature – accused Democrats of “grandstanding” the issue, but those hardworking employees at the agency aren't to blame.

Just like when the Governor (and his sidekick Mitch Roob) thought they could take

a one-size-fits all computerized business model to intake and eligibility for food stamps and TANF which resulted in the FSSA/IBM debacle that is now playing out in a Marion County courtroom. The Governor and his DCS department head James Payne failed to learn from past mistakes.

How else to explain a centralized call center in Indianapolis for abuse and neglect calls where so many of the calls are being “screened out” under a one-size-fits-all questionnaire that once again strips local control and resources from those who know best?

Rather than having those calls go to local DCS offices where caseworkers have a network of contacts including law enforcement and the courts where they can follow-up and investigate, now all calls go through the centralized office. As the South Bend Tribune put it on February 12th, “centralization has cut ties among agencies that used to work together.”

**St. Joseph County Probate** Judge Peter Nemeth, a veteran of juvenile issues says bluntly “the local folks don't have much say, in my opinion. I think a cult has been created of ‘do the least you can do for the children.’” Nemeth is only one of a number of juvenile court judges and service providers critical of the system designed by Jim Payne to strip authority and funds from local courts and county DCS offices.

Chief among the concerns regarding the Administration's highly touted “Safely Home, Families First” policy is

that too many kids are kept too long in potentially abusive settings rather than removed and placed in foster care or residential placement – because of money.

The Fort Wayne Journal Gazette stated the case well in a recent editorial when the paper said “the dirty little secret behind Indiana's budget surplus is exactly how it came to be. Not the bounty of a booming economy but the result of nicks, cuts and downright slashing of programs critical to the safety of vulnerable Hoosiers and to the economic future of all its residents.”

**The paper then went on to say** that “nowhere have the cuts been as deep and as dangerous as in the Department of Child Services, where almost \$104 million allocated by the Indiana General Assembly was returned unspent in the past fiscal year. The current biennial budget slashed an additional 15% from spending on child protection. The results: Programs intended to prevent and treat child abuse and neglect – eliminated. Fewer kids receiving services. And, tragically, some children dying.”

Those of limited vision like Mitch Daniels and Jim Payne pride themselves on being budget cutters and claim with much hubris to deliver “more for less.” Maybe the business model worked at a place like BMW, but the needs are wholly different in social services. In this case, they are delivering ‘less for less’ and they simply can't put lipstick on this pig. The Journal Gazette ended their editorial quite simply: “Early efforts by Gov. Daniels administration to improve long-standing problems in child protection looked promising, beginning with separating it from the cumbersome and bureaucratic FSSA. Somewhere along the way, however, an emphasis on saving money overtook the commitment to protecting children. It's past time to reorder priorities.” ❖

**Shaw R. Friedman is a LaPorte attorney and a regular HPI contributor.**





**Kenneth Tomlinson, Weekly Standard:**

After a lifetime of political good fortune in Indiana, Senator Richard Lugar can't catch a break. He is facing what Politico calls his "toughest reelection campaign in decades," and with the May 8 GOP primary looming, he desperately needs to repair relations with party conservatives. In few states is the party base as certifiably conservative as in Indiana. One poll shows 70 percent of the state's Republicans respect the Tea Party — and few issues raise the ire of these party activists like congressional earmarks in spending bills. So what does Lugar do? Three months before the primary, when the Senate had a chance to ban this symbol of big-government malfeasance, Lugar joined with Harry Reid in a key Senate vote to save earmarking. Lugar's primary foe, Indiana treasurer Richard Mourdock, immediately hit statewide television with ads that not only decried the Senate vote but also exposed Lugar's support over the years for such infamous earmarks as Alaska's bridge to nowhere, a rainforest for Iowa, and a teapot museum for North Carolina. "Dick Lugar won't vote to end wasteful spending and earmarks. I will," Mourdock declared. A couple of days later Mourdock was back on television holding a news conference in front of the Indianapolis home Lugar lists as his official voting address — despite the fact that he sold the house 35 years ago and has lived in McLean, Virginia, ever since. Lugar's spokesman compounded the political damage when he sought to justify Lugar's not having a residence back home in Indiana: "It's just like the United States military. If you're . . . in service to this country and you're overseas, you keep your last place of residence." One newspaper mocked the response with the headline: "Lugar 'in defense' of country from Virginia." ❖



**Mark Kiesling, NWI Times:** Voting in Lake County's largest Democratic organization resulted in a couple of surprises Monday night. Not only is the Hammond precinct organization the largest, but Mayor Tom McDermott Jr. is the county's Democratic chairman, which makes it even more significant. Maybe the biggest surprise of the evening was that incumbent Surveyor George Van Til was not slated and that the party's endorsement went to John Garcia, who was beaten four years ago by Van Til. It could be a surprise, as McDermott asked for a blanket endorsement of all incumbents. But you also have to take into account that Garcia is the owner of a Hammond engineering firm. "Garcia got two-thirds of the vote, and that's interesting," McDermott said Tuesday. "I was shocked Mr. Van Til did not do as well. "I know he sent me an ugly text because he didn't like the results." Van Til needs to deal with it. Why send McDermott an angry text? He came out as party chairman with the blanket endorsement of all incumbents.

In the coroner's race, there are no incumbents because the current office holder, Tom Philpot, did not file for re-election. But there was a surprise in Hammond's endorsement of Merrilee Frey, a political newbie, for that office. Some of that, I think, had to do with one of the front-runners making comments about how Hammond's glory days are in the past. George Deliopolous, a veteran investigator for the coroner, made those remarks only to be followed by Frye, who painted a much more rosy picture of the future of Hammond. "I can't believe he said that," McDermott said. I can't either — not if he wanted the precinct organization's endorsement. In one of the county's hottest races, one in which the precinct organization could not endorse, 2nd District Lake County Commissioner Gerry Scheub is the beneficiary of the blanket incumbent endorsement. And McDermott predicted Scheub will be victorious over challenger Roy Dominguez, the county's former sheriff. "I think Scheub will be easily re-elected, and I don't say this just because Roy and I don't get along," McDermott said. "Roy Dominguez has burned almost every bridge he can burn." It will be interesting to see if Hammond is a bellwether of county voting, given that McDermott is county chairman. ❖

**George Will, Washington Post:**

Today, conservatives dismayed about the Republican presidential spectacle may write a codicil to what is called the Buckley Rule. He said that in any election, conservatives should vote for the most electable conservative. The codicil might be: Unless the nomination or election of a particular conservative would mean a net long-term subtraction from conservatism's strength. If nominated, Mitt Romney and Rick Santorum might not cause such subtraction. Both are conservatives, although of strikingly different stripes. Neither, however, seems likely to be elected. Neither has demonstrated, or seems likely to develop, an aptitude for energizing a national coalition that translates into 270 electoral votes. If either is nominated, conservatives should vote for him. But suppose the accumulation of evidence eventually suggests that the nomination of either would subtract from the long-term project of making conservatism intellectually coherent and politically palatable. If so, there would come a point when, taking stock of reality, conservatives turn their energies to a goal much more attainable than, and not much less important than, electing Romney or Santorum president. It is the goal of retaining control of the House and winning control of the Senate. Several possible Supreme Court nominations and the staffing of the regulatory state are among the important reasons conservatives should try to elect whomever the GOP nominates. But conservatives this year should have as their primary goal making sure Republicans wield all the gavels in Congress in 2013. ❖



## Compromise on smoking ban

INDIANAPOLIS - A joint House-Senate committee has reached a preliminary compromise on a state-wide smoking ban (Indianapolis Star). Committee member Charlie Brown, a Democrat House representative from Gary, said it's in the hands of Senate Republicans now. If they sign off, the legislation could go to the House and Senate for votes by Friday. Here are some of the details: Brown said bars would be exempted under the ban, able to allow smoking. Nonprofit private clubs and fraternal organizations that vote to allow smoking could have children on the property. However, smoking must be limited to a designated, enclosed area. Exemptions for mental health and nursing facilities would be removed. An exemption for at-home businesses would remain, so long as only people who live in the home work at the business. The committee has been negotiating a final version all week. The House Jan. 31 passed legislation that exempted certain gaming facilities, cigar/hookah bars, retail tobacco stores, nonprofit private clubs and fraternal organizations. The Senate, led by the efforts of Republicans, this month tacked on exemptions for bingo halls, mental-health facilities, nursing homes, at-home businesses and bars. While senators are mulling over the proposal, Brown isn't sure he can vote for a ban that includes bars. At the same time, he'd like to see the state pass a ban this year. "That's the conundrum," he said. "Do I accept the fact that all bars and all private clubs are exempt? Do we want to come back and fight the whole thing all over again?"



State homeland security officials say Indiana hospitals treated at least 77 people who were injured in last week's deadly tornadoes. The agency said Wednesday that the 77 tornado-related injuries the hospitals have reported do not include people who were treated by first responders or other medical personnel in the field. Wednesday's update on the tornadoes that killed 13 Indiana residents also said officials estimate that last Friday's tornadoes left behind one million cubic yards of green debris such as trees limbs and 100 cubic yards of regular debris in hard-hit Clark County in southern Indiana. That initial estimate does not include damage to the town of Henryville's high school.

## Rev. Robertson calls for legal marijuana

WASHINGTON - Of the many roles Pat Robertson has assumed over his five-decade-long career as an evangelical leader — including presidential candidate and provocative voice of the right wing — his newest guise may perhaps surprise his followers the most: marijuana legalization advocate. "I really believe we should treat marijuana the way we treat beverage alcohol," Mr. Robertson said in an interview on Wednesday. "I've never used marijuana and I don't intend to, but it's just one of those things that I think: this war on drugs just hasn't succeeded." Mr. Robertson's remarks echoed statements he made last week on "The 700 Club," the signature program of his Christian Broadcasting Network, and other comments he made in 2010. While those earlier remarks were largely dismissed by his followers, Mr. Robertson has

now apparently fully embraced the idea of legalizing marijuana, arguing that it is a way to bring down soaring rates of incarceration and reduce the social and financial costs. "I believe in working with the hearts of people, and not locking them up," he said.

## FOP doesn't like police entry bill

INDIANAPOLIS - A leading police organization continues to fight proposed legislation that spells out when residents might be legally justified in using force against police officers (Associated Press). Indiana Fraternal Order of Police attorney Leo Blackwell told lawmakers Wednesday his group worries the proposal will give people justification for attacking officers. The bill is in response to a public uproar over a state Supreme Court ruling last year that residents couldn't resist officers even during an illegal entry. House and Senate



negotiators are trying to reach a compromise on the measure that specifies people are protected by the state's self-defense law if they reasonably believe force is necessary to protect themselves from unlawful actions by an officer. They plan to offer a proposal before Friday's planned adjournment of the legislative session.

## **4 Hoosiers on billionaire list**

NEW YORK - Forbes magazine released its annual ranking of the world's billionaires on Wednesday. Here are the four Hoosiers who made the list: Gayle Cook: Widow of William Cook, founder of Bloomington medical device company Cook Group, No. 330, with a net worth of \$3.4 billion. Herb Simon: Indiana Pacers owner and shopping mall magnate, tied at No. 719, with a net worth of \$1.8 billion. Dean White: Hotel mogul, tied at No. 719, with a net worth of \$1.8 billion. Jim Irsay: Owner of the Indianapolis Colts, No. 913, with a net worth of \$1.4 billion.

## **Feds pull plug on Carbon Motors**

CONNERSVILLE - Carbon Motors of Connersville will not be receiving federal help (WIBC). The company had planned to hire more than 1,500 people in Fayette County but they announced Wednesday they will not get a loan from the Department of Energy to proceed. The company had applied for a \$310 million loan under the Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing Program. Carbon Motors had planned since 2009 to build high-tech police cars in Fayette County. Governor Mitch Daniels reacted by saying, "We're deeply disappointed for the people of Connersville and those who tried to bring this promising business here. It would have been far

better if the federal government had never gone into the banking business. Companies like Carbon that might have proceeded and succeeded with a conventional business plan were seduced into wasting irreplaceable years chasing federal subsidies that never happened. As President Reagan once said, "When you get in bed with the federal government, you get a lot more than a good night's sleep."

## **College credit bill poised to pass**

INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana colleges will soon have to limit the number of credits needed to earn a degree. The Indiana House of Representatives has approved the plan to limit the college credits needed for graduation to 120. Universities will have to ask the state Commission on Higher Education for permission to require more. WIBC-FM reported Monday that the House voted 62-21 to approve the measure. Gov. Mitch Daniels included the measure as part of his final legislative agenda saying that he was concerned that college degrees were becoming too expensive. Opponents of the measure, including the state's public universities, won a key concession from lawmakers. The altered proposal allows them to breach the 120-credit limit for programs that require the extra credits for national accreditation.

## **GOP revives specialty plate bill**

INDIANAPOLIS - With the legislative session scheduled to end Friday, Republicans are scrambling to revive a bill targeting specialty license plates -- an issue that had been declared dead only days ago. The attempt to resurrect the bill has Democrats charging that this is an improper end-run about legislative

rules and traditions, aimed at mollifying conservatives who are upset that one of those specialty plates has been given to a support group for gay youths. Sen. Ed Soliday, R-Valparaiso, said multiple versions of an amendment were being drafted to cut down on the number of specialty plates and put lawmakers in charge of who gets them. The issue is expected to be inserted into Senate Bill 257, which also deals with motor vehicle issues. Soliday initially changed another bill, Senate Bill 327, to eliminate plates for most of the 10 groups that won them this year, including the Indiana Youth Group for gay youths, the Indianapolis Zoo and the Tony Stewart Foundation. Although the youth group plate had sparked controversy, Soliday said his goal was to stop the proliferation of specialty plates, which now number more than 100, and to force a public accounting of how the groups spend the money raised from the plate sales.

## **Daniels wants 31 closure for revamp**

CARMEL - As the state prepares to work on the final stretches of the massive \$1.1 billion Indianapolis-to-South Bend upgrade of U.S. 31 this spring, concentrating on Carmel and Westfield areas, Gov. Mitch Daniels thinks he can get the work done faster and cheaper (Indianapolis Star). Daniels wants to use some creative financing to save an estimated \$50 million and strategic road closures to accelerate the project in Hamilton County, with completion in three years. For motorists, that means potentially closing all four lanes of the highway in Carmel from the Monon Trail south to at least 116th Street. "This is the right way to do it," said Carmel Mayor Jim Brainard, who endorsed the idea. "The state is going to save tens of millions of dollars this way. It's just so much cheaper to build when you don't have to maintain traffic." ❖