

Civil rights consequences unclear

SB344 demise reveals Pence siding with base, legislative election battles coming, economic fallout could become issue

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – Gov. Mike Pence has delivered for Monica Boyer and Rev. Ron Johnson. Heading into a tough reelection bid, his social conservative base is more secure now that SB344, the LGBT civil rights expansion, is dead. But this episode underscored the narrative, even within his base, that he is a weak, indecisive “Chance the Gardner” governor. His fate with moderates and independent voters is undecided.

“I believe in the legislative process, and I respect the outcome of the deliberations on that legislation,” Pence said Wednesday, without saying whether he would have been inclined to sign SB344 if



State Sen. Travis Holdman withdraws SB344 on Tuesday.

it had reached his desk. “I’m especially grateful for the civility and the thoughtfulness that leaders of both political parties showed as they considered that issue.”

There appears to be little fear of political retribution and this won’t happen unless there is the kind of political assault that took Sen. Steve Johnson out in 2002, Senate Finance Chairman Larry Borst in 2004 and Senate President Pro Tem Robert Garton in 2006. Those were all challenges waged against moderates from the right.

The moderates and the various business consortiums seeking the extension have no political mojo for retribution, other than to close their checkbooks to the Pence campaign,

Continued on page 4

Acolytes of the cataclysm

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

WEST LAFAYETTE – Donald Trump, Ted Cruz and Bernie Sanders may be early precursors of an upheaval over the American horizon. The United States has experienced seismic events that profoundly changed the nation

about every 80 years, ranging from the American Revolution, to the Civil War, to the Great Depression and World War II, which ended 71 years ago. These candidates could be acolytes for a coming cataclysm.

Just hours before the Iowa caucuses, I spent more than an hour with Purdue President Mitch Daniels at his Hovde Hall office. Daniels could have been on the Republican



“Even though the legislature booted their responsibility, I am afraid that if municipalities create all these ordinances, we will be left with a hodge-podge of laws around the state.”

*- Elkhart Council President
 Brian Thomas (R) on LGBT*



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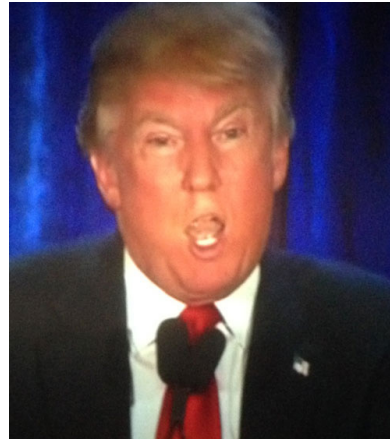
ballot that night if not for a fateful family decision in May, 2011, not to pursue presidential politics. He's been on record as believing he could have won the 2012 Republican nomination, but doesn't believe he could have defeated President Obama (I beg to differ). And he believes he would have had little chance in today's middle-finger mood in Republican politics.

Today, Daniels maintains his political "celibacy," though he responded to several broader questions about what Americans are experiencing in this fascinating 2016 cycle. Several of his answers came in the context of his role at Purdue.

Insurgent candidates like Trump and Cruz on the Republican side and Sanders captured roughly 50% of the vote in Iowa Monday night. It prompted the New York Times to report on Wednesday: "For the first time in recent history, insurgent candidates on both the left and the right are emerging from the caucuses with enough money to finance a strong offensive in the weeks ahead, across electoral terrain."

But more specifically, this angst among voters is fielded by a difficult transition from a manufacturing economy, to services, and now knowledge-based industries, which has been significantly different than the change from an agrarian economy a century ago to one of heavy, production line industries that transformed Indiana.

"Every time human ingenuity has created one of these transformations, people have worried," Daniels acknowledged. "They see what is being lost. It won't take a third of us to grow food. What's everybody going to do? Every time up to now, the new economy produced more opportunities than the old one did, not to mention better pay and safer jobs. You can go broke betting against that."



But the change gripping the United States today is worrisome to Daniels. "Watching as openmindedly as I can, reading as much as I can, I am not sure the transition from the early knowledge-based or modern knowledge-based economy automation . . . can easily replace a lot of jobs we've had. It's not yet clear to me that it will create sufficient categories of new high-paying jobs. Whether there will be enough of them to support a growing population and a middle class like we've known, that's what is bothering me."
 Up and down the economy, innovation is changing

employment opportunities. Google has replaced newspaper office librarians. Robotics have replaced auto assembly line workers. The driverless car could be throwing hotel valets out of work. Proficient data breakthroughs have the potential to rip through a wide strata of upper middle class white collar workers from attorneys to CPAs.

Daniels describes himself as a "congenital optimist" who tends to see "human ingenuity triumph over and over." He notes that many books have been written about the collapse of the American economy and middle class. He points to cleaner water and air, safer work environments and an increase in food production as reasons for optimism. The "poor" people of today own devices that were out of the reach of rich people just a generation ago. On the other side is production processes that refine work loads. "The benefits of science and of the technological advances this place is full of are going to be great for society," he said, referencing Purdue. "Those benefits are going to be produced by fewer and fewer people. The folks who are worried, and I am one of them, are disturbed about income inequality and they are yelling about the wrong things."

What should they be yelling

about?

"They shouldn't be yelling," Daniels said. "When something like 200 or 300 people at Instagram each makes more than George Eastman (of Eastman Kodak) made in his whole life, that's where you're getting this concentration of wealth. It has nothing to do with the tax system. We've moved into this so-called winner-take-all economy. If a few people happen to hit on a better mouse trap, they can go to 80 or 90% market share just like that. There are huge dollars associated with it, but it doesn't take many people to do it. I'm worried about the structure of the economy. It would only be made worse by much of what is being offered politically."

This is where Daniels gingerly observed the current political dynamic fueling Trump, Cruz and Sanders. "It is, to me, distressing that at least for the moment, we're not hearing from the apparent frontrunners anything I consider constructive about economic growth," Daniels said.

"We cannot keep limping along at 1% and 2% growth rates and have the opportunity at creating the number of jobs we need and the family-supporting incomes; no way in the world to get there at the rates of the last eight years. I don't think the frontrunners have had anything constructive to say. The things both parties are saying would be destructive in my opinion. And then they have nothing to say about the other issue, which is if we don't get on top of our debt problems, they are going to undo us economically and democratically."

Echoing the title of his 2011 book, "Keeping the Republic," Daniels said, "That's the test for this democracy."

A 1787 question from a woman posed to Benjamin Franklin underscores what's at stake: "Well, Doctor, what have we got, a republic or a monarchy?" With no hesitation Franklin responded, "A republic, if you can keep it."

Angry Americans and Hoosiers are watching the middle class decline. A Pew Research study published last December notes that earlier that year, 120.8 million adults were in middle-income households, compared with 121.3 million in lower- and upper-income households combined, a demographic shift that could signal a tipping point. In at least one sense, the shift represents economic progress: While the share of U.S. adults living in both upper- and lower-income households rose alongside the declining share in the middle from 1971 to 2015, the share in the upper-income tier grew more.

Pew continued: "Over the same period, however, the nation's aggregate household income has substantially shifted from middle-income to upper-income households,

driven by the growing size of the upper-income tier and more rapid gains in income at the top. Fully 49% of U.S. aggregate income went to upper-income households in 2014, up from 29% in 1970. The share accruing to middle-income households was 43% in 2014, down substantially from 62% in 1970."

So Pew underscores a coming "tipping point," and Daniels maintains that "keeping the Republic" literally is at stake.

"We're at that point? The stakes are that high?" I asked.



"Yes," Daniels said. "Right now, in ways that most Americans have never heard about, we are, in my view, immorally punishing the young generations of this country. We are borrowing not for investments in their future . . . but simply to support current consumptions. We are piling debts on top. We are pleased to bring down student debt at Purdue. We really worry about student debt. Every student I look at, with or without a student loan, has \$50,000 in national debt and climbing quickly."

Daniels added, "We've set up a health care system (the Affordable Care Act) that you can love or dislike, but it is another income transfer from young people to older people. Explicitly, they can't get enough young people or healthy people into the pool, right? Even its advocates would openly say this is about further burdening young people at the further benefit of their elders. So, again, I don't see either frontrunner or many candidates at all dealing with those. That's concerning."

If we can't get a handle on this, we may have people going from anger and Buchanan-style torchlight and pitchfork brigades supporting Trump and Sanders, to revolution taking to the streets. Americans and Hoosiers are arming themselves at accelerating rates. There have been polls showing 20% or so would favor their state leaving the Union, something unfathomable a few short years ago. Could this anger shift from the ballot box and social media to the streets as we witnessed last year in Baltimore and Ferguson, Mo.?

"I think your question is a real intriguing one," Daniels answered. "You can see clear evidence of the rise of demagogues, but a tendency for separation is another. The E.U. is under pressure. There are separatist movements in Scotland, Spain and all over the place. So here you're talking about red and blue states; there is to me a concerning tendency in this direction, to some extent it's cultural."

The 2016 election, thus, is a critical one. Poor, angry decisions compounded by a lack of a cohesive policy strategy are literally putting the American republic in the crosshairs. ❖

Civil rights, from page 1

the Senate Majority Caucus and the House Republican Campaign Committee. Other than a radio ad campaign that had little impact, their networks were not activated, and they delivered with the force of a paper tiger. At this writing, there are no primary challenges taking shape like those in the three successive cycles a decade ago. While the defeat of Johnson sent a clear shiver through the Senate establishment, there is no such squall line evident today.

"There's a majority of Hoosiers who are disappointed by this," said Bill Oesterle, who heads the Tech Equality coalition. "I believe this is going to lead to pain for Indiana and will trickle down to pain for our elected officials."

Freedom Indiana and Senate Democrats became hostage to the notion of the perfect defeating the good. With Holdman and Sen. Brandt Hershman excising transgenders from SB344, the Democrats and Freedom Indiana signaled intransigence that ultimately led to the death of the legislation. In a short session, with towering Republican super majorities, they entered this with a very weak hand, and did nothing to improve their position.

The civil rights battles a half a century ago were waged with incremental victories, culminating with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and bolstered by things like affirmative action and the repeal of Jim Crow laws throughout the southland. Freedom Indiana wanted it all, now! They didn't have the numbers to do so. With Senate Democrats prepared to fight to the end for the "Ts" (though Minority Leader Tim Lanane said after SB344's rescinding that he was willing to compromise), what Holdman and Senate President David Long faced was the majority caucus shouldering the passage and the primary political risk.

In his comments after Holdman rescinded SB344, Long delivered a significant rebuke to those advocating against the legislation. Long noted that some 40% of Hoosiers are covered under local civil rights ordinances, and that will likely grow to 50% if the Kokomo City Council joins some 18 other communities. "Most have been in place for years, most with no problems," Long said, echoing comments from Hammond Mayor Thomas McDermott Jr., and South Bend Mayor Peter Buttigieg, both of whom have told HPI that none of the so-called transgender rest-

room issues has been experienced in their cities.

Freedom Indiana won a significant victory in 2014 when it was able to convince a handful of House Republicans to rewrite the second sentence of HJR-3, essentially knocking off a statewide ballot referendum that November. It is instructive that the U.S. Supreme Court rendered it all moot with its Obergefell decision last June. It's one thing to convince a handful of moderates in one caucus. It's quite another to conjure 26 votes in the Senate and 51 in the House to actually get something passed. With minority Democrats in both chambers digging in over transgender inclusion, the fate of SB344 was sealed.

And while President Long and Sen. Holdman showed leadership in the willingness to create SB100 and SB344, the fact is that both had their fingerprints all over the 2015 Religious Freedom Restoration Act (as well as Gov. Pence), which created this dynamic in the first place.

So the critical question following this episode is whether there is a price to be paid for this recalcitrance? And at this writing, there is little evidence to suggest there is. Oesterle said that his PAC will be involved in several open seat and challenger races, though he does not expect many additional candidate filings between now and the noon Friday deadline. "We're clearly going to be involved in some races, but the work we do will remain behind the scenes. We'll attempt to support candidates who have a legitimate shot."

So are Pence and the super majorities off the hook? Not necessarily. If there are other shoes to drop, such as Gen Con and other big conventions leaving Indianapolis, or the NCAA shopping around its headquarters to Chicago, Louisville, Columbus or Charlotte, there will be a political price that Democrat gubernatorial candidate John Gregg can exploit.

With the NCAA Women's Final Four coming to Indianapolis in late March, the issues are likely to be reignited in that context, with the national media back in the city.

A gubernatorial reelection campaign likes to be in position where it can control the issues. Mike Pence exploited this type of dynamic from the time he announced in June 2011 through the third week of October 2012, keeping social issues out of the discussion. When an event like Richard Mourdock's debate blunder surfaces, a campaign can lose control. So the Pence campaign is exposed on this front.

Oesterle told HPI on Wednesday, "Gov. Pence is not playing with very big margins. Indiana voters at the statewide level have proven to be remarkably flexible in who they vote for over the last few election cycles."

Oesterle, who managed Gov. Mitch Daniels' 2004 campaign and donated \$150,000 to Pence in 2012, added,



Bill Oesterle addressed the civil rights issues outside the Indiana Statehouse last autumn. (HPI Photo by Mark Curry)

"It is short-sighted for the governor to ignore those trends."

The Pence campaign may also find challenges on donations from the corporate community and service industry titans like billionaire hotelier Dean White, who has been conspicuously absent from the Pence big donation hauls this far this cycle.

Pence has been accused of a lack of leadership, cited in subtle comments by President Long and Speaker Brian Bosma, as well as Sen. Lanane during Tuesday's SB344 demise fallout. This episode continues to underscore a prominent sentiment throughout the General Assembly that he is weak on leadership and possesses little ability as an enforcer. Pence repeatedly says that Hoosiers don't like discrimination, and he is opposed to the concept. But when he had the chance to lead and end potential discrimination that was confirmed by Indiana Chamber President Kevin Brinegar (LGBTs can be fired for being gay), Pence declined to act. And those watching socially conservative Senate Republicans exiting a lengthy Senate caucus this week described "Cheshire cat smiles." To them, Pence delivered. Whether the antithesis message can be delivered to moderate Republicans, independents and educated females – the voting blocs that will ultimately decide the Pence/Gregg race – will be a key element heading into November.



Sources within the business coalition Indiana Competes told HPI on Wednesday that it will continue to mobilize businesses to share the message with legislators about how critical it is for Indiana to move forward on equal rights for all. "You'll continue to hear radio ads and see a presence at Third House meetings. Indiana Competes membership is still growing and we will be talking with more potential members. Our Indiana Competes Business Ambassadors will continue to be on the ground at least through March," the source said. "We're keeping all options on the table between now and the next legislative session. As far as what happens after March, we don't have definitive plans yet on what role we'll have in the conversation during campaign season."

The fulcrum for business advocates could involve the national dynamic. If a divisive presidential candidate with high negatives like Donald Trump or Ted Cruz is nominated, that could have the kind of down ballot impact that Barry Goldwater did in 1964 and George McGovern did in 1972. Goldwater's nomination created a 78-seat Democratic House majority, and McGovern created a 72-seat Republican House majority. Pence and the majority caucuses would then need as much money as possible, and they may find closed checkbooks. Business advocates HPI have talked with are not amused. Some are coming to the conclusion that the super majorities act counter to their interests, and may be open to funding pro-business

Democratic challengers.

Can Gregg fashion a campaign with LGBT expansion a conspicuous plank? Probably not. He said on Tuesday, "Never has the intolerance of so few, hurt the reputation of so many. The failure of Governor Pence to provide any leadership to address the crisis he created is inexcusable. Until we update Indiana's civil rights statute our economy and reputation will continue to suffer. I remain committed to adding four words and a comma to our civil rights code so, together, all Hoosiers can move forward." He can use the demise of SB344 to rev up his base. And if there are major business defections, the Gregg campaign can contest a key Pence notion that the GOP will do everything in its power to create a better business climate.

If Gregg seeks to make LGBT a conspicuous campaign theme, he could nominate South Bend Mayor Peter Buttigieg for the ticket.

Gregg and LGBT advocates have some compelling statistics that back up their position, ranging from the Howey Politics, Bellwether, Ball State and IndyStar polls all revealing 54-34% strata polling margins backing the expansion, to economic data that shows 80% of job creation comes in communities that have LGBT protections in local civil rights ordinances. Social conservatives in the legislature continue to question the data, and they do so at their own risk if a charismatic political figure can exploit it to their detriment.

Pence and Republicans routinely stake out policy positions that defy public sentiment. Look no further than the vast majorities who favor modest gun reforms and that back climate change policy in a number of national and state polls. Pence and Republicans steadfastly hold their positions that are popular with their base. No one has made them pay politically for being out of step with a majority of voters on those issues.

The family advocacy groups are also clear winners. The civil rights expansion, as President Long predicted, will be back in 2017, 2018 and beyond. They will be able to exploit these continued efforts to raise money and rally a base of supporters.

Speaker Bosma is an early winner. He and his caucus have been spared a tough debate and vote. Bosma will be in a better position with social conservatives he will need as he gears up his 2020 gubernatorial campaign. But as that campaign evolves, Bosma will be repeatedly tested by the issue.

Finally, President Long predicted that a lack of action by the General Assembly will almost certainly bring a judicial response. "This effort was hampered by extreme messaging from both sides, many of them from out of state," Long said. "My way or the highway doesn't work in the legislative process. As a result, nothing is happening today. The cold reality is if we don't forge a solution, the courts will." ❖

Iowa eliminates, it doesn't nominate

By MARK SOUDER

FORT WAYNE – Iowa eliminates, it does not nominate. The same can be said for New Hampshire. Neither is typical of much of anything about America, especially the diversity. But they do function as a form of baseball's spring training. The players can be examined in close detail, with the starters separating from the others. With



Republicans Huckabee and Paul already dropping out, the clearing of the deck has begun.

Iowa offered many insights of what is likely to come on the Republican side. On the Democrat side, we Republicans can only cheer on Bernie to a point, hoping for chaos and forcing Clinton even further out of the mainstream while we try to sort things out.

The big loser in Iowa was clearly Donald Trump. He was seriously wounded but far from eliminated. He was the man who believed in polls, who sold himself as the "winner." Trump was at 37% and the clear leader in all polls, but received 24% and squeaked into second place. The first post-Iowa poll shows Trump at 38%. If he again declines in New Hampshire, especially below 25%, his campaign will be in serious trouble.

His polls let him swagger. He could re-make his ideology at will, mock evangelicals with fake piety, and say whatever outrageous or insulting thing that went through his mind. His was an epic collapse. He can still win some primaries with his brand of race-baiting, tearing down opponents and offering no policies. But Iowa exposed some weaknesses.

His first post-Iowa moves were to drop the Bible, sound briefly humble and announce the support of Scott Brown, a former Massachusetts senator who is to the left of the party. Perhaps it is a more honest version of Trump, but will his followers buy these changes? Then he briefly recovered the "old" Trump by claiming Cruz had "stolen" Iowa. My feeling is that New Hampshire may be the high point of his campaign, regardless whether he wins or not.

From the first lines at polling places, it became apparent that something odd was happening in the waiting lines. The first-time caucus voters weren't universally Trump people. One reporter, ignored thereafter, said that

as many people there seem to be turning out to vote against Trump as for him. Hmm.

The farm subsidy vote rescued Trump from a weak third. He included an ethanol attack on Cruz in his final election night words. In the suburban Republican base, Rubio and Cruz were clubbing him in many areas. Trump's strongest areas were the poorest and agriculture subsidy dependent west and southwest part of Iowa. In America, that is not the home of the predominant majority of Republican voters.

The other surprise was that Trump voters were switching to Rubio. In other words, Rubio's more positive vision, the Reagan approach versus "I'm mad as hell" politics, worked to an amazing degree. People were both getting tired of Trump and realizing that he was not a real governing option. Is there anyone who thinks that Rubio wasn't trending up and Trump down?

Ted Cruz had to win, and he did. Impressively, I might add. So why don't many analysts think he can progress much after the SEC southern primary on March 7? Rubio is trying to be Reagan, the inclusive optimist. Cruz is a religious Goldwater, proud to proclaim that "extremism in defense of liberty is no vice, moderation in pursuit of justice is no virtue." I agree with that slogan as well, but how one carries it into the political arena tends to separate Reagan from those who lost. When you go around blasting other conservatives as unacceptably conservative, you narrow your appeal dramatically. It will be interesting to see if Cruz adjusts, should he become the clear leader after the southern primaries.

Dr. Ben Carson received the same percentage of the vote as Bush, Kasich, Christie and Fiorina combined. Dr. Carson, however, has many problems including that he had been the leader in the early polls, his shaky finances,

his campaign chaos, and his debate performances that were not especially good and getting worse.

Iowa made it clear to Jeb that Republicans do not want a third Bush, even those who like all three of them. If he remains in the race, it means his jealousy and anger at Rubio have turned into a destructive desire to weaken Rubio in Texas and Florida. His first post-Iowa ad in New Hampshire was not aimed at leaders Trump and Rubio, but

unloaded on Rubio – again. He wants to attack Rubio even at the price of nominating Trump or Cruz. I like Bush, who is very qualified and seems like nice, intelligent man. But with his sour grapes approach, Bush can only play a destructive role from now on.

Kasich and Christie have zero chance of winning in the long haul. They have now fallen behind Rubio even in New Hampshire. However, perhaps they could play impor-

Battle for the White House								
RCP Poll Averages								
	National		New Hampshire			South Carolina		
	Trump 35.8	Trump	33.4	Trump		36.0		
	Cruz 19.6	Cruz	12.2	Cruz		19.7		
	Rubio 10.2	Rubio	10.8	Rubio		12.7		
	Carson 7.6	Kasich	10.4	Bush		10.0		
	Bush 4.8	Bush	9.0	Carson		8.7		
	National		New Hampshire			South Carolina		
	Clinton 51.6	Sanders	55.5	Clinton		62.0		
	Sanders 37.2	Clinton	38.0	Sanders		32.5		
	O'Malley 2.2	O'Malley	2.2	O'Malley		1.0		
General Election Match-Ups								
	Clinton 44.0	Cruz	46.8	Rubio		47.0		
<	Trump 41.3	Clinton	45.5	Clinton		44.5	>	
	Clinton +2.7	Cruz +1.3		Rubio +2.5				

tant convention roles if Kasich were to win in winner-take-all Ohio and Christie were to do the same in New Jersey should no clear leader emerge. Their best bets would be to suspend their campaigns. Kasich still has the possibility of becoming the vice-presidential nominee. Christie might be a good attorney general.

Rubio clearly was the “winner” in Iowa not just because he beat expectations but how he did it. Rubio had a great debate and Iowa proved he could win over Trump voters, plus turn out new ones. Then, importantly, Rubio gave the first primary night speech, it was optimistic, he was smiling, and he spoke to issues. South Carolina Sen.

Tim Scott endorsed him post-Iowa, which also should provide some assistance in building momentum there.

But now Rubio is a threat to every other candidate. Can he maintain his optimism and positive message under the combined negative barrage? Just how big a barrier is the “anything but removing every illegal immigrant” to becoming a Republican nominee? If more candidates don’t withdraw by the March 7 primaries (the start of the actual delegate season), then Trump will likely have regained some footing and the chaos will continue. ❖

Souder is a former Republican congressman.

Iowa results increase chance for president campaigns to play here

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – Monday’s Iowa caucuses, where anti-establishment Sens. Ted Cruz and Bernie Sanders either won or ended up in a virtual tie, portend for the presidential three-ring circus to potentially come back home again to Indiana.



The results reveal that in both Republican and Democratic parties, the insurgents received around 50% of the vote total. Cruz ended up with 28%, topping Donald Trump with 24%.

The establishment contender now appears to be Florida U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, who came in at 23%. Democrats Hillary Clinton and Sanders both ended up at 50%, with Clinton taking a one-delegate lead. So both major parties are roiled in a seething, anti-Washington establishment revolt.

Jeb Bush, Dr. Ben Carson, Sen. Marco Rubio, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, Donald Trump, Sen. Randy Paul, Ohio Gov. John Kasich and Cruz have met the Indiana threshold for Republicans, while Clinton and Sanders have qualified for the Democrats.

Rubio turned in more than 8,000 signatures on Wednesday, two days after his third-place finish in Iowa. “This is further evidence of the momentum of the Rubio campaign in Indiana,” said Rubio state co-chair Tom John. “In a time where many candidates hire outside firms to gather the signatures to place their candidate on the ballot, this initiative was done solely with members of the Rubio campaign and scores of volunteers who visited hundreds of events around the state and knocked on

thousands of doors. The stunning success of this initiative shows the grassroots momentum around Marco’s campaign to lead us into the new American century.”

“I have been elated to see the number of millennials who have rallied around Marco’s positive message for the future and it showed in this effort,” said State Sen. Carlin Yoder, one of Rubio’s Indiana co-chairs. Rubio’s Indiana co-chair, State Rep. Cindy Ziemke said, “This has been a great campaign so far and we are just getting going. I am proud to be joined by my colleagues, Reps.



Hillary Clinton campaigns at Allison Transmission plant in Speedway in April 2008 (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

David Frizzell, Tom Saunders, Lloyd Arnold, David Ober, Randy Frye, Heath VanNatter, Casey Cox, Holli Sullivan, and State Sens. Brandt Hershman, Travis Holdman, Jean Leising and Joseph Zakas in endorsing Marco for president and working to get him elected.”

Lost in these races was the battle cry by Gov. Mike Pence in 2014 and 2015 that “America needs a governor in the White House.” Not only were Pence’s own presidential

aspirations sidelined by the Religious Freedom Restoration Act uproar, but Kasich and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush are far behind Trump and Cruz in New Hampshire, with the Real Clear Politics polling composite showing Trump at 33%, Cruz at 11.5%, Kasich at 11.5% and Bush at 10.3. Rubio is at 9.5%. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie is in single digits, and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley and Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee ended their campaigns Monday night.

For the circus to come to Indiana, the best scenario is that Trump, Kasich, Rubio or Bush wins New Hampshire, and any momentum there gives them a shot in South Carolina, where Trump leads Cruz 36% to 19.7%, while Rubio is at 12.7% and Bush at 10%. South Carolina U.S. Sen. Tim Scott endorsed Rubio today, and Gov. Nikki Haley rebuked Trump in her Republican State of the Union response, urging Republicans to resist the temptation to "follow the siren call of the angriest voices" during anxious times. So there are seeds for momentum for the anti-Trump candidates.

Scott said of Rubio, "I am putting my confidence and my trust in Marco Rubio, because I believe that he takes us to that better future. Marco Rubio understands that here in America, it's not about where you start, it's about where you are going. We have one shot in 2016 to beat Hillary Clinton and that shot is Marco Rubio, and with him as our candidate we win."

As for the Democrats, Sanders is almost assured of winning New Hampshire, where he had a RCP 55.5% to 37.5% edge over Clinton. That is reversed in South Carolina, where Clinton has a 62-32.5% edge. But things can change rapidly. Bellwether Research Pollster Christine Matthews tweeted this morning, "Don't throw existing polls out, but if 2012 is guide, half of NH primary voters will make up their minds THIS week: 1 in 5 on primary day."

CNHI's Maureen Hayden asked Matthews about the Indiana dynamic. Matthews noted that in December, before the heated rush of media coverage of campaigning in Iowa and New Hampshire, Matthews asked Indiana voters who they'd pick if the primary

was held that day. Both Trump and Sanders handily won. "They're two sides of the same coin," she said. Both capitalize on voter discontent.

At stake is a repeat of 2008, when Clinton and Barack Obama spent seven weeks crisscrossing the state, with Clinton pulling out a win with less than a 1% plurality. The two packed basketball arenas and fairgrounds in what was the most sensational presidential primary since Bill Clinton defeated California Gov. Jerry Brown in 1992, Ronald Reagan defeated President Jerry Ford in 1976, and the granddaddy primary of them all, where Sen. Robert F. Kennedy defeated Sen. Eugene McCarthy and Indiana Gov. Roger Branigin in 1968.

Governor

Pence, Gregg file for reelection

Both Gov. Mike Pence and Democrat John Gregg filed ballot petitions for reelection on Wednesday afternoon. Former Republican gubernatorial candidate Jim Wallace is signaling his intentions to run on the Libertarian ticket.

Gregg releases vote reform plan

Democratic gubernatorial candidate John Gregg



Democrat John Gregg (top photo) and Gov. Mike Pence along with First Lady Karen Pence file their candidacies at the Indiana Secretary of State's office on Tuesday and Wednesday.

says Indiana's dead last in the nation voter turnout needs a remedy (Howey Politics Indiana). "Only 28% of registered voters actually cast ballots," Gregg said. "This low rate of civic engagement should concern

every Hoosier, no matter your political party or philosophy, because it puts the future of our democracy in jeopardy. In Indiana, partisan politics has made it harder and harder for Hoosiers to participate in our own government. We have some of the shortest voting hours in the country; there are cumbersome requirements to register and to vote; and voting by mail requires a signed affidavit. On top of all that, the General Assembly continues to pass laws to make voting even more difficult every year." Gregg is advocating expanding polling hours, allowing for automatic voter registration, expand acceptable forms of voter ID, expand vote by mail and early voting, and create an independent redistricting commission. "These proposals are just a starting point," Gregg said. "Some may work, some may not, and there certainly will be other ideas to add to this list. The point is this: We must try to address this crisis

before it gets any worse.”

U.S. Senate

Hill posts \$676,000 for 2015

Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Baron Hill posted \$676,136.34 in his 2015 year-end FEC filing (Howey Politics Indiana). Hill has \$382,418.08 cash on hand. It includes \$178,624 from political action committees and \$434,634 from individuals. He filed his candidacy Wednesday.

Congress

Hollingsworth, Tom top FEC report

Indiana’s two open congressional seats appear to be headed for three-way showdowns, as evidenced by the year-end Federal Election Commission reports that are lifting eyebrows in political circles at both ends of the state.

In the 3rd CD open, as U.S. Rep. Marlin Stutzman is seeking the U.S. Senate seat, Republican Kosciusko County farmer Kip Tom raised \$264,000 in the fourth quarter. Even more impressive is, while Tom is said to have the ability to self-fund, he has yet to tap personal resources. Tom’s cash on hand is on par with State Sen. Jim Banks, who posted \$134,000 for the quarter and has \$359,000 cash on hand, compared to \$354,000 for Tom. A third candidate, State Sen. Liz Brown, has \$167,000 cash on hand and may also have the ability to self-fund.

While Sen. Banks has been seen as the early favorite, has the backing and financial bundling support from Club For Growth and is running TV ads, Tom appears to be a financial force. “I’m humbled that so many Hoosiers are eager to support an outsider who has spent a life in farming and business and not politics,” Tom said. “Indiana Republicans are embracing our campaign because they are sick of career politicians and want new leaders to shake things up and fight for our pro-life, conservative values in Washington.”

In the 9th CD where Senate candidate Todd Young is leaving an open seat, Tennessee transplant Trey Hollingsworth posted \$694,000 for the quarter that included \$686,000 loaned from the candidate. Hollingsworth has \$510,000 cash on hand and is running TV ads in the Indianapolis and Louisville markets. State Sen. Erin Houchin posted \$111,000 for the quarter, \$240,000 for the cycle and has \$177,000 cash on hand.

Hollingsworth’s TV ads are taking aim at Attorney General Greg Zoeller, the early favorite in the 9th CD because of his two statewide victories and large lead in

name ID. Zoeller, who filed his candidacy this morning, posted \$101,000 for the quarter, \$232,000 for the cycle and had \$135,000 cash on hand. While Houchin didn’t mention Hollingsworth’s loan to his campaign, she said, “I’m proud that our grassroots campaign continues to gain momentum every single day from voters in this district and I’m humbled by the outpouring of support across Southern Indiana.”

Having lived in the state less than a year, Hollingsworth, who describes himself as a conservative Christian businessman, is a big unknown. It remains to be seen how much his personal money will help gloss over the carpet-bagging accusations that are already flying down south (or if accusations of Hollingsworth trying to buy a congressional seat ramp up in light of his report). What was shaping up to be a two-way horse race between Houchin and Zoeller could end up being a three-way affair if Hollingsworth keeps his personal checkbook open.



State Sen. Jim Banks (from top left) Kip Tom and State Sen. Liz Brown are creating a three-way race in the 3rd CD. In the 9th, Trey Hollingsworth (lower left), State Sen. Erin Houchin and Attorney General Greg Zoeller lead the money war there. (HPI Photos by Mark Curry)

Howey Politics Indiana will begin rating congressional, gubernatorial and legislative races in the Feb. 11 edition after the Feb. 5 filing deadline.

Here are FEC totals from all nine CDs:

1CD: Rep. Pete Visclosky (D): \$142K raised quarter, \$484K raised cycle, \$392K cash on hand. John Meyer (R): No report filed.

2CD: Rep. Jackie Walorski (R): \$139K raised quarter, \$832K raised cycle, \$773K COH. Jeff Peterman (R): No report filed. Lynn Coleman (D) \$55,000 receipts, \$55,000 cash on hand.

3CD: Kip Tom (R): \$264K raised quarter, \$418K raised cycle, \$354K COH. State Sen. Jim Banks: \$134K

raised quarter, \$436K raised cycle, \$359K COH. Pam Galloway (R): \$130K raised quarter, \$274K raised cycle, \$83K COH (Includes \$50K from candidate this quarter, \$200K from candidate this cycle). State Sen. Liz Brown: \$53K raised quarter, \$242K raised cycle, \$167K COH (Includes \$75K from candidate this cycle). Todd Nightenhelser (D): \$0.5K raised quarter, \$0.7K raised cycle, \$0.3K COH. John Forrest Roberson (D): No report filed.

4CD: Rep. Todd Rokita (R): \$179K raised quarter, \$654K raised cycle, \$1.23M COH. John Dale (D): No report filed. Robert Farrar (D): No report filed.

5CD: Rep. Susan Brooks (R): \$103K raised quarter, \$830K raised cycle, \$1.222M COH. Angela Demaree (D): \$18K raised quarter, \$30K raised cycle, \$22K COH. Allen Ray Davidson (D): \$0.4K raised quarter, \$0.4K raised cycle, \$0K COH.

6CD: Rep. Luke Messer (R): \$201K raised quarter, \$892K raised cycle, \$639K COH. Charles Johnson, Jr. (D): No report filed. Danny Frank Basham, Jr. (D): No report filed

7CD: Rep. Andre Carson (D): \$130K raised quarter, \$529K raised cycle, \$897K COH. Danny Godfrey (D): No report filed. Wayne Harmon (R): No report filed. J.D. Miniear (R): No report filed.

8CD: Rep. Larry Bucshon (R): \$115K raised quarter, \$473K raised cycle, \$446K COH. Richard Moss (R): \$36K raised quarter (including a \$28,000 loan from

himself), \$36K raised cycle, \$32K COH. Rachel Covington (R): No report filed. David Orentlicher (D): \$102K raised quarter, \$102K raised cycle, \$101K COH. Ron Drake (D): No report filed.

9CD: Trey Hollingsworth (R): \$694K raised quarter, \$694K raised cycle, \$510K COH (Includes \$686K from candidate for quarter/cycle). State Sen. Erin Houchin (R): \$111K raised quarter, \$240K raised cycle, \$177K COH. State Sen. Brent Waltz: \$102K raised quarter, \$166K raised cycle, \$86K COH (Report has been filed and amended, but it's unclear if the amended report fixed all issues; the most current report listed \$102K in total receipts, but only \$94K in contributions). Attorney General Greg Zoeller: \$101K raised quarter, \$232K raised cycle, \$135K COH. Jim Pfaff (R): \$17K raised quarter, \$25K raised cycle, \$5K COH (Includes \$2K from candidate for quarter/cycle; campaign has \$15K in debt). Bob Hall (R): No report filed. Shelli Yoder (D): \$93K raised quarter, \$243K raised cycle, \$223K COH. Bill Thomas (D): No report filed.

Zoeller files in 9th

Indiana Attorney General Greg Zoeller on Monday filed to make his candidacy for CD9 official. Zoeller, a Republican and a New Albany native, filed his paperwork in the morning with the Indiana Secretary of State's office and then traveled across the 9th District talking to potential constituents. "I'm running for Congress to help change

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the direction of Washington, D.C., to bring conservative leadership that gets results for our country, our state and the people of the 9th District," Zoeller said in a news release. "As attorney general, I have fought for Hoosiers and against federal overreach. Now it's time to take the fight to Washington."

Nightenhelser files in 3rd

Huntington businessman Todd Nightenhelser has filed as a candidate for the Democrat nomination for CD3 being vacated by Marlin Stutzman (Huntington TAB). "All Hoosiers deserve a living wage, access to affordable health care and an excellent public education," he says. "I will work with those with different opinions to provide better solutions for all today, rather than refusing to pass a bill for personal or party reasons like many current politicians."

General Assembly

Moed gets primary challenge

Democrat State Representative Justin Moed of Indianapolis is getting a primary challenger (Abdul, IndyPolitics). Perry Township Advisory Board member Jason Fletcher has filed to run against Moed in House District 97. Fletcher posted Wednesday on his Twitter page, "I am very proud to announce that today I officially filed for Indiana State Representative, Indiana House 97." According to his LinkedIn profile, Fletcher works in the Marion County Prosecutor's Office as a criminal investigator.

Rhoads won't seek reelection say sources

Harrison County Auditor Karen Engleman has filed for HD70, the seat being of retiring State Rep. Rhonda Rhoads.

Smith faces primary rematch

State Rep. Milo Smith is facing a rematch of his 2014 Republican primary, with a twist (Howey Politics Indiana). Bartholomew County Council President Matt Lauer has filed against Smith after losing to the Columbus Republican in 2014, 4,239 to 2,895. But this will be a three-way primary, with Lew Wilson also filing. Two Democrats, Dale Nowlin and Robert M. Pitman, have also filed for the seat.

Freeman, Ruckleshaus, Shreve slated

Aaron Freeman, John Ruckleshaus and Jefferson Shreve won Indiana Senate slating nods. Shreve defeated Indianapolis Councilman Jack Sandlin, who may still pursue the nomination. Freeman defeated State Rep. Cindy Kirchhofer for the SD32 nod. Nearly 300 voting members of the Marion County Republican Party attended the convention with a total of approximately 500 in attendance. "I was incredibly happy to see a great turnout of our grassroots supporters this morning. They have selected a well-qualified group of candidates who will be great leaders for our city and county," said Party Chair Jennifer Ping.

The Marion County Republican Party endorsed candidates for the 2016 primary election are the following: SD30 John Ruckleshaus; SD32 Aaron Freeman; SD35 Sen. Mike Young, SD36 Jefferson Shreve; HD86 Scott DeVries; HD87 Connie Eckert; HD88 Speaker Brian Bosma; HD90 Rep. Mike Speedy; HD91 Rep. Robert Behning; HD92 Bradford Moulton; HD93 Rep. David Frizzell; HD98 Gary Whitmore; County Treasurer Danielle Coulter; County Surveyor Chic Clark. State Rep. Cindy Kirchhofer wasn't slated, but filed for HD97 on Wednesday.

Statewides

McCormick seeks school stability

Jennifer McCormick, superintendent of a roughly 2,500-student school district near Muncie, announced Thursday she would challenge the state's current superintendent of public instruction, Democrat Glenda Ritz, in this year's election (Clark, Louisville Courier-Journal). Republican McCormick told the Indianapolis Star there is frustration with the Ritz-led Department of Education. McCormick, who is the superintendent of Yorktown Community Schools, said she hopes to resolve what she called a communication issue between the department and educators. She visited the party's Clark County headquarters on Thursday. "There are a lot of unanswered questions, a lot of miscommunication or lack of communication. I think the teachers are feeling it ... all those barriers need to be removed," McCormick told the Star. "People want a change and just want stabilization." The party loyalty of a Republican candidate for state education superintendent is being questioned because she cast a vote in the 2012 Indiana Democratic primary (Welsh, Advance Indiana). McCormick defended her voting record, noting that she cast a Republican ballot in the more recent 2014 primary election. "To me it's not about politics, it's about students," McCormick told the Indianapolis Star

Wednesday filings

Democrats: Baron Hill U.S. Senate, John Gregg governor, Bruce Peavler CD6, Pierre Quincy Pullins CD7, Jesse Kharbanda SD36, Randy Howard SD42, Drake Morris HD2, Brian Smith HD22, Rose Ryan HD23, State Rep. Sheila Klinker HD27, Natalie Guest HD30, Nancy Tibbett HD53, Mimi Pruet HD55, Edward Dean O'Connor HD58, Steve Bonifer HD72, Mike Wilbur HD82, Jason Fletcher HD97. **Republican:** Sen. Ted Cruz president, Donald Trump president, Sen. Rand Paul president, Sen. Marco Rubio president, Gov. Mike Pence governor, Mark Baringer CD3, Catherine Ping CD7, Richard Moss CD8, Allen Stevens SD8, Aaron Freeman SD32, Zachary Taljonick SD32, Sen. Michael Young SD35, Richard Pfeil HD8, Matt Prine HD47, Rep. Sean Eberhart HD57, Ann Ennis HD64, Franklin Andrew HD65, Karen Engleman HD70, Scott DeVries HD86, Rep. Cynthia Kirchhofer HD89, Gary Whitmore HD98. ❖

Smaltz's meth bill passes House

INDIANAPOLIS — Members of the House of Representatives voted today in support of State Rep. Ben Smaltz's (R-Auburn) bill to combat the growing number of meth labs in Indiana.

Pseudoephedrine is a key ingredient used in the production of meth and often found in a small number of cold, flu and allergy medications. If enacted, HB1390 would allow Hoosiers who have a relationship on record with a pharmacy to continue to obtain pseudoephedrine of their choosing without a prescription. If a purchaser

does not have a relationship on record, the bill would give pharmacists the option to sell them tamper-resistant products or a small package of 24-count 30mg regular pseudoephedrine. If the purchaser still refuses and demands regular pseudoephedrine, the bill would require them to obtain a prescription.

"My proposal is designed to protect law-abiding Hoosiers. It would not enact a full prescription requirement on pseudoephedrine in Indiana or add pseudoephedrine to the list of controlled substances," Smaltz said. "The common consumer who needs to purchase pseudoephedrine in order to fight their symptoms will still be able to. This bill would work to curb meth production by restricting access to pseudoephedrine for meth cooks, and hindering the practice of smurfing which is when individuals purchase large quantities of these products for illegal purposes."

Smaltz said tamper-resistant pseudoephedrine works the exact same as regular pseudoephedrine. Most importantly, he said these products negatively impact the production of meth by limiting the extraction of pseudoephedrine, and are widely available to Hoosiers at a similar price.

"You got me convinced that good people aren't going to have to pay for the bad people," said Rep. David Wolkins, R-Warsaw (Kelly, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). And House Democrat Leader Scott Pelath said "it's nice to see I can still be decisively persuaded by an outstanding presentation on the floor."

Bosma comments on crossover point

As session reached the halfway point this week, House Speaker Brian C. Bosma (R-Indianapolis) said House Republicans have moved forward on passing their legislative agenda, which focused on road funding, supporting public educators and curbing illegal drugs. In total, House members passed 116 bills, sending them to the Senate for consideration. "House Republicans worked quickly and efficiently on passing all of our priority bills, including a

comprehensive, responsible and sustainable road funding plan," Bosma said. "I am proud of the progress made in the first half on these sound policies and look forward to continuing the momentum." House lawmakers passed House Bill 1001, which is a comprehensive plan to fund Indiana's short- and long-term infrastructure needs at the state and local level. The bill calls for a portion of the state's reserves to be devoted to roads and bridges, in addition to indexing the gas tax to reflect the change in buying power from 2002 to today. Bosma said the plan also includes assistance for local units by allowing counties to adopt a local option income tax (LOIT) specifically for transportation infrastructure. Larger municipalities could adopt an additional excise wheel tax, and maximum allowable rates for existing county wheel taxes would be increased. In addition, the bill establishes matching grants for local road and bridge projects. Under this bill, personal income tax rates would also be cut from 3.23 percent to 3.06 percent over the next 10 years – making it the lowest rate in the nation.

In addition, House lawmakers passed HB 1235, which provides that minimum sentences for the worst drug dealers cannot be suspended. In the first half of session, House lawmakers also passed several bills aimed at curbing the meth epidemic in Indiana. Under HB 1390, a consumer could purchase medications containing pseudoephedrine (PSE) without a prescription if they have a prior relationship with a pharmacy or purchase a smaller dose. A prescription would only be required in the small number of cases where a person does not have a pre-existing relationship with a pharmacy and refuses the smaller dosage or tamper-resistant options. The House also passed HB 1157 aimed at preventing drug felons from obtaining PSE and includes penalties for illegal possession of the drug. If enacted, HB 1211 would create a new criminal charge and establish a reporting requirement for meth fires. House lawmakers also passed HB 1102, which would enhance substance abuse and addiction treatment.

Senate unanimously passes road plan

The Indiana Senate on Wednesday voted unanimously to approve Gov. Mike Pence's \$500 million infrastructure infusion (Kelly, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). Senate Bill 333 would transfer about \$460 million from the state surplus to fund state road and bridge maintenance, as well as shift \$50 million in interest earned from a road trust fund to immediate needs. That money would be available in fiscal year 2017, which begins in July. The bill also gives the administration authority to issue bonds for road projects, but not until 2018. "This is a win for Hoosier families who will not have to see their taxes raised," said Sen. Carlin Yoder, R-Middlebury. He was referring to a gas and cigarette tax increase contained in the House Republican roads bill. Sen. Luke Kenley, R-Noblesville, said the legislation correctly focuses on existing state resources. "We are on track," he said. "We know that we will be committed to having the best roads you can have in America."



Holdman's abortion bill passes

Pregnant Hoosier women who learn their child will be born with Down syndrome or another genetic disease, defect or disorder would be prohibited from obtaining an abortion, under legislation approved 35-14 by the Republican-controlled Senate (Carden, NWI Times). Senate Bill 313, sponsored by state Sen. Travis Holdman, R-Markle, bars doctors from performing an abortion if the doctor knows the patient is seeking an abortion due to a diagnosis, or potential diagnosis, of a genetic fetal disability. The legislation also prohibits abortions motivated by gender selection, or due to the race, color, national origin or ancestry of the fetus. Holdman said he hopes the proposal, which now goes to the Republican-controlled House, will reduce Indiana abortions and demonstrate that Hoosiers believe all life has value.

Child abuse registry passes

The Indiana Senate has passed a bill that would create a public registry of people convicted of child abuse or neglect (Associated Press). The bill that would create a list similar to online sex-offender registries was passed by the Senate on Wednesday on a 49-0 vote. The bill was inspired by the death of 19-month-old Kirk Coleman who died of a brain injury in 2014 while being cared for by a baby-sitter who had previously pleaded guilty to child neglect. She is awaiting trial on a charge of felony battery resulting in death. State Sen. Carlin Yoder authored the bill. The Republican from Middlebury calls it one more tool for parents to help assure the safety of their children.

Glick's hate crimes bill passes

SB 220 passed the Senate Tuesday with a vote of 34-16. In her presentation of the bill, author Sen. Sue Glick, R-LaGrange, pointed out the extent of the problem (Indiana Public Media). "Over the last three years, the Indiana State Police estimates that there have been between 45 and 52 crimes which clearly fell in the category of bias or hate-motivated crimes," Glick says. "There is reason to believe that there are many more for which we have no statistics." The bill will now move on to the House.

ISTEP bill passes House

A bill that would scrap the ISTEP+ test passed the Indiana House Tuesday 83-11 (Indiana Public Media). The bill would create a commission to evaluate Indiana's system for measuring K-12 performance. This commission would also be tasked with establishing the next generation of assessments for Hoosier students. "This is the most opportune time to look at ISTEP and see where we can

go from here," said bill author Rep. Bob Behning, R-Indianapolis, in a statement. "My focus will always be putting students first. By finding a new way to measure student progress, we can focus on transparency which will allow all educators, parents and students to have a better understanding of what they're being tested on." Behning is also the Chairman of the House Education Committee.

Ford's fantasy sports bill advances

State Sen. Jon Ford's (R-Terre Haute) legislation to regulate paid fantasy sports games passed the Senate Wednesday by a vote of 38-11. Senate Bill 339 would provide basic consumer protection and transparency to Hoosiers who take part in fantasy sports. The bill would also establish the Fantasy Sports Regulation and Administration Fund. Game operators would be required to implement procedures concerning: Verifying that a game participant is at least 18 years of age; Allowing individuals to restrict themselves from entering paid fantasy sports games; and Disclosing the number of paid fantasy sports games that a single game participant may enter. "Daily fantasy sports are becoming increasingly popular across the U.S.," Ford said. "As more Hoosiers take part, I want them to know their rights and be protected while playing. SB 339 makes the process of fantasy sports fairer and more up-front for players in Indiana."

ACU rates Indiana legislators

WASHINGTON DC – The American Conservative Union Foundation's 2015 ratings of the Indiana State Legislature demonstrate the hallmarks of a swing state, even though an overwhelming majority of state elected officials are Republicans. In fact, despite the chambers' composition of 80 percent Republicans in the Senate and just under 70 percent Republicans in the House, only 3 out of 50 total members of the Senate received a Conservative Excellence Award, and remarkably, just 3 out of 101 total members of the House received that award. Legislators who scored above 80% in ACU's 2015 Ratings of the Indiana General Assembly will receive awards for their hard work toward passage of legislation that reflects conservative principles. The following Representatives and Senators will receive a 2015 ACU Ratings Award: Reps. Braun, Burton, Carbaugh, Culver, DeVon, Gutwein, Hamm, Harman, Huston, Judy, Koch, Lucas, Mayfield, Miller, Morris, Nisly, Ober, Price, Rhoads, Schaibley, Smaltz, M. Smith, Soliday, Speedy, Steuerwald, Torr, Truitt, VanNatter, Wesco and Zen. Senators: Banks, Messmer, Pete Miller, Schneider, Smith, Walker and Yoder. ❖

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YOUR FRIENDS ALL HANG OUT HERE... DO YOU?

LGBT protections in New Mexico

By **CRAIG DUNN**

KOKOMO – In my book, travel is one of the greatest experiences of life. Whether it is visiting the four corners of the United States or jetting off to exotic worldwide locations, learning about the people, history and geography of the areas I visit is one of my special joys. I just returned from a week-long vacation to New Mexico and thoroughly enjoyed the trip. I also learned a few things along the way.

Here are a few of the things that I learned:

Every restaurant features green chili stew and the spiciness varies from hot to nuclear. The people of New



Mexico are friendly, happy and hospitable. The landscape is varied and beautiful. There seem to be more Indian casinos than Starbucks. If you think the work of Los Alamos ended with the Cold War, you'd be very wrong. Santa Fe is a true art mecca. Anyone who thinks you should trust the U. S. Government completely hasn't been to an Indian reservation. In Indiana, the Rio Grande River

would be considered a creek.

In addition to the above, I also learned that New Mexico has civil rights statutes that protect the rights of its citizens in the area of both sexual orientation and gender identity in employment, housing, credit, public accommodations and union membership. I also learned that the state has functioned quite well in this atmosphere of acceptance.

The ayatollahs in the Indiana Legislature and their extremist masters would have you believe that the world will go to hell in a hand basket if full civil rights protections were extended to the Indiana LGBT community. We'd have little girls being molested by middle-aged men in Colts cheerleader outfits in restrooms at the mall. We'd have every street corner occupied by gays dressed in exotic outfits. Berniece will become Bernie and will want to be on the boys high school wrestling team. Dogs will marry cats, pigs will fly and, well, you get the picture.

Well I'm here to tell you that in my brief week in New Mexico, I witnessed nothing out of the ordinary in its shops, restaurants, museums and hotels. I did see a strangely dressed man who looked like Elvis and was wearing at least 10 pounds of silver jewelry. I'm pretty sure that passes for fashion in Santa Fe.

Businesses are coming to New Mexico. No one is threatening to boycott the Albuquerque Balloon Festival and I saw no protesters carrying signs in front of the New

Mexico Statehouse. In short, life looked to be pretty good in the Land of Enchantment.

That being said, life on the surface can be as misleading as a goose on the water. In New Mexico, what appears to be a way of life is being challenged in the state legislature by a proposed statute (HB55) that would "prevent the state from burdening a person's free exercise of religion by requiring the person to provide a service or to conduct business in a manner inconsistent with adherence to that person's sincerely held religious belief." Take that Indiana! You won't extend civil rights protections, but we'll top you by taking rights away! Game, set, match!

The legislation would specifically remove sexual orientation and gender identity from the state's nondiscrimination protections while preventing local governments from extending the protections in the future. Even more troubling, the language of the bill defines corporations and government agencies as people, "Person means one or more individuals, a limited liability company, partnership, association, organization, corporation, joint venture or any legal or commercial entity, legal representative, business trust, estate, trust, trustees, receivers or government agency." Yep, pilgrim, that about sums up the whole shebang! That just about defines everyone and everything as a person except a saguaro cactus and a diamondback rattlesnake.

This piece of legislation arose from a unanimous New Mexico Supreme Court decision in 2013 (*Elane Photography v. Willock*) that upheld a civil rights claim against a photography studio that refused to take pictures of a same-sex couple's commitment ceremony in 2006. The New Mexico Supreme Court held that enforcing the New Mexico Human Rights Act did not violate the photographer's free speech rights. The U.S. Supreme Court refused to consider an appeal of the case in 2014.

Unlike Indiana, New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez will not get a pass on this nasty piece of legislation. Because the upcoming session is limited to only 30 days, Martinez will select which legislation receives consideration before the legislature.

Unless, Martinez, now famous for her "toasted" call to 9-1-1 after the governor's staff Christmas party, intends to rehabilitate her image with the religious right, she will take a pass and let HB55 die. Like most other states, New Mexico has suffered from the same malaise affecting employment quality, personal income stagnation and surviving the oppressive Obama Administration regulatory environment. She would do well to focus on improving the economic lives of all New Mexico citizens instead of trying to abrogate the rights of a protected class.

On my last day of vacation in New Mexico I took a long drive down the east side of Sandia Mountain and ended up in the tiny, hole in the wall of Madrid, New Mexico. The locals remind you that the emphasis is on the "Mad." You may remember Madrid, New Mexico, as the locale of the greatest motorcycle movie of all time, "Wild Hogs," starring John Travolta, Tim Allen, Martin Lawrence

and William H. Macy. Okay, well maybe "Easy Rider," "Electra Glide in Blue" and 200 other motorcycle movies were better but I'm searching for a metaphor so give me some slack.

"Wild Hogs" is the story of four normal and fearful city slickers who don biker gear and go off on a road trip to live out their fantasies as rough and tough bikers. When confronted with a real biker gang, they are accused of being "posers" by the leader of the gang. The Wild Hogs, as the four "posers" style themselves, shrink from fear until they are finally forced to step forward, be men and be brave instead of merely posing.

The movie ends with the climactic realization that the biker gang looks mean, talks mean and acts mean but

wilts when the good people of Madrid and the Wild Hogs stand up for their rights. There on the dusty, narrow, two-lane road that passes for the only street in Madrid, right in front of Maggie's Café, the good townfolk learned the lesson of courage in the face of evil.

Let's hope that the Wild Hogs of the Indiana Senate and House will learn this same lesson of courage and extend full civil rights protections to every Indiana citizen. If not, I'm afraid the political wars of 2016 will be as hot as a bowl of New Mexico green chili stew. As my aching stomach can tell you, you don't want that. ❖

Dunn is chairman of the Howard County Republicans.

Legislators should focus on reality

By MORTON MARCUS

INDIANAPOLIS – The circus is entertaining once more at the Statehouse. Yes, ladies and gentlemen, children of all ages, the Indiana General Assembly is in session. Once again, you can see the stars of the show attempt to make daring public policy, swallow the fire of tax increases, and walk the tightrope of discrimination. Off to the side are the brave few battling the beasts of ignorance, indifference, and stupidity.



Let's resist the temptation to shine a light where so much darkness dwells. Instead, we retreat to the Garden of Data where, despite some weeds, the air is clean and invigorating.

Imagine if our legislature stopped for a moment to sniff this delicate statistic from the American Community Survey (ACS) of 2014: About a third of all Hoosiers work outside their county of residence. That's a higher proportion than found in Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, Illinois or Wisconsin. It isn't as great as Virginia, where nearly 52 percent of workers cross county lines to work. Nor is it as low as Hawaii, where 8 percent cross watery county boundaries. What are the implications of commuting across county lines for our transportation systems, for shopping and for equitable taxation of sales and income? These are subjects worthy of legislative consideration.

In another part of the garden are dazzling data points. Look there, 6.2 million Americans work at home, just 4.4 percent of those holding jobs. Indiana has 96,000 persons working at home or 3.3 percent of job holders. Women in Indiana work at home more than men

(3.5 percent compared to 3.1 percent). Also, working at home rises with age. Among Hoosiers 20 to 24 years, only 2.1 percent work at home. By ages 55 to 59, it's 3.8 percent and rises in the early 60s to 4.4 percent, reaching 6.7 percent among those 65 years and older.

Is working at home a good deal for workers and employers? Or is it just another means for bosses to cut wages and reduce other costs while placing new stress on workers?

Working at home is nothing new, although it has several new names: Telecommuting, distributed work, mobile work, remote work, smart working, and work-shifting.

In the past, many piece-work jobs were performed at home, evading any regulation of working conditions. Nowadays, working at home is considered a benefit for the employee, granting status and comfort, enabling multiple family interactions while granting superior access to the refrigerator. Work at home is growing in the for-profit and not-for profit sectors, and in all levels of government. Some studies report major improvements in productivity, while others suggest that productivity is impaired by separation from the formal worksite.

What does this trend mean for Indiana's urban areas and their transit systems? Does the lack of high-speed internet in rural areas discourage telecommuting and deny good paying jobs for Hoosiers? Yet, we understand. It is hard for our legislative circus performers to stop thinking about guns for their assistants and focus on the real world. ❖

Mr. Marcus is an economist, writer, and speaker who may be reached at mortonjmarcus@yahoo.com.

The 'F' score in ISTEP

By JACK COLWELL

SOUTH BEND – Despite the Indiana legislature granting a reprieve for accountability consequences for plummeting ISTEP scores, it's clear for whom "F" grades are deserved in this test mess. Not the kids, faced with tests too long and then shortened, and with glitches galore and questionable grading. Not the teachers, challenged with changing test requirements and belittled by politicians shifting blame to them.

The ones who flunked this test are Gov. Mike Pence, more concerned with politics at the national level than with education here in Indiana, and those legislators who also played politics to turn ISTEP into ISTUMBLE.

It all started back in the 2014 legislative session. Legislators, following the call of Gov. Pence, regarded then as a potentially viable contender for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination, voted to reject state planning to join the national effort to set high education standards through a bipartisan effort called Common Core State Standards.

Common Core was launched when 48 governors, with Republican governors in the lead, decided to do something

about those scary rankings of American students in comparison with kids in other countries, like 26th in math, behind even such countries as Slovakia. Indiana was among 45 states accepting the challenge to improve education through adopting the higher Common Core standards.

Good idea? Gov. Mitch Daniels thought so. Tony Bennett, the Republican state school superintendent, thought so. With Indiana not exactly known in a positive way for test scores and graduation rates, most Hoosiers thought so. Alas, President Obama said he thought Common Core was a good idea and urged all the states to accept the challenge. Well, if Obama was for it, some conspiracy theorists began warning, it must be an Obama plot to take over education and indoctrinate American kids with foreign philosophies.

Here's one example from a conspiracy blog that I cited at the time: "Common Core is evil personified. Unabashedly indoctrinating budding jihadists into the glories of Islam. Proof that Obama is the new Hitler." Was Mitch Daniels a secret Hitler admirer?

Opposition to Common Core began to grow in ranks of Republican conservatives who had come to distrust anything associated with Obama, even an initiative pushed by Republican governors seeking education accountability. Gov. Pence, eyeing a potential presidential bid and knowing the power of the most conservative of Republicans in the Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire

primary, took a leading role in bashing Common Core. He called for Indiana to abandon it. With legislators falling in line, Indiana in 2014 did abandon Common Core, the first state to do so. Indiana was No. 1 in something involving education. The governor promised that there would be new standards "written by Hoosiers, for Hoosiers."

How has that worked out? The writing and implementing, with all the delays and glitches and reports of scoring errors and additional costs, hasn't produced something "for Hoosiers," at least not for Hoosier kids or their teachers.

The testing became embroiled in the bitter power struggle between Gov. Pence and Glenda Ritz, the Democrat who was elected as state superintendent of public instruction in 2012, upsetting Bennett. Whether Ritz would have been good or bad as superintendent if left to do her job, without Pence appointees to the Indiana State Board of Education trying to impede her, is unknown. Pence took ownership of the testing when he pushed away Common Core and sought to push aside the superintendent. Whether chaos would have been avoided if Bennett had been reelected also is an unknown. He was an advocate of Common Core. Would he have switched to work with Pence to ditch it? Or would Pence have put aside a chance for political points in Iowa and New Hampshire to work with Bennett to implement it successfully?

We'll never know. But we do know for whom "F" grades are deserved now in this test mess. ❖

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



AFP is right on road tax issue

By SHAW FRIEDMAN

LaPORTE – Under the theory that even a blind squirrel finds an acorn now and then or that a broken clock is right twice a day, the Koch Brothers-funded Americans for Prosperity got it right for once; there's no need to raise taxes in Indiana to fund roads. Yes, we need to

"prioritize existing funds better" as AFP urges, but we better also stop the loss of needed tax revenues by putting a moratorium on further tax cuts scheduled in corporate, bank and individual income taxes.

We also better look at a fairer distribution of highway and road dollars, as currently there's a massive disparity between regions. The LaPorte County Commissioners



released data in 2015 showing that the affluent suburbs around Indianapolis that make up the Greenfield INDOT district received \$1.7 billion more in funds for state highways, interstates and roads over the past 10 years than the INDOT district in Northwest Indiana received.

That's how we end up with gold-plated highways like the Keystone Parkway in Hamilton County while roads and bridges are crumbling across Northwest Indiana. Now, if we can only get AFP to sign on to the moratorium called for by State Sen. Karen Tallian (D-Portage) and others, who point out that continued phased reductions in our corporate tax rate, bank tax rate and individual tax rates simply gut needed revenues for new road construction. Can I get an amen from AFP?

There is little question that Speaker Bosma and State Chamber head Kevin Brinegar are barking up the wrong tree in calling for tax increases on the little guy to pay needed road improvements in our state. The plan, devised by Rep. Ed Soliday (R-Valparaiso), backs a mixture of gas tax increases, increased local option taxes and even considers tolling I-65 and I-70.

If we need the revenue to do the road improvements that all agree we need, let's stop poking holes in our revenue stream. I'm not talking about hiking taxes, which forces legislators to go back on their no tax pledges or offends groups like AFP, but it means putting a moratorium on further scheduled tax reductions like those pushed by Gov. Pence in 2013.

The corporate income tax and the financial institutions tax paid by the big banks had rates that started at 8.5% in 2013 and are scheduled to phase down to 4.9% by 2021. That's a 42% decrease. The scheduled reductions in the income tax rate from 3.4% in 2013 to 3.23% in 2017 also creates a revenue hole. As Sen. Tallian has pointed out, the future rate reductions for these three taxes equal more than \$2.27 billion in state revenue dollars lost over the next eight years.

Why continue shredding our tax revenue base? As Gary Malone, CPA and partner at Umbaugh, wrote in a great op/ed for Indianapolis Business Journal recently, low tax rates are no bargain in helping attract new business if they reduce the quality of our communities, our public schools or our infrastructure. CNBC in their annual business climate survey says the cost of doing business in Indiana is now lowest in the country, but they still rank us 42nd for workforce training, 46th for quality of life and 22nd for infrastructure.

How about collecting what's already owed to Indiana by closing tax shelters and loopholes being used by the largest multi state and multinational corporations to evade taxes that are owed to Indiana coffers? The highly respected, nonpartisan Multi-State Tax Commission says \$400 million a year is lost to Indiana by corporations taking advantage of offshore tax shelters and other dodges like transfer pricing. When will we hear from Bosma and Brinegar about that lost income? Nothing but crickets from the Bosma/Brinegar tandem when it comes to asking big

business to do their fair share and pay what's already owed.

Can I get another "amen" from Americans for Prosperity?

AFP, I'm not talking about "raising taxes" but merely halting planned reductions of both corporate income taxes, the bank tax and individual income tax rates as well as collecting that which is already owed to the state treasury.

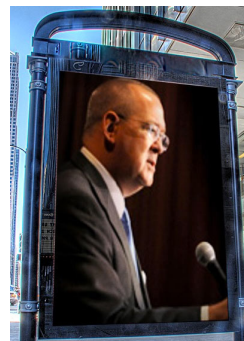
That's the adult conversation that Speaker Bosma and the Chamber's Kevin Brinegar aren't willing to have. They congratulate themselves and Rep. Soliday for supposedly having the "courage" to ask ordinary, hard-working Hoosiers to kick in more in gas taxes, local option taxes and tolls on our interstates, but absolutely refuse to ask the most profitable corporations that do business in Indiana and use our roads and highway system to do their fair share. For one brief shining moment, economic progressives and the Koch Brothers share a common theme that it is absolutely not necessary to hit "the little guy" with higher taxes to fix roads. The planets may have aligned ever so briefly and I suspect we'll be parting company soon, but it's a rare moment of agreement that is certainly worth noting. ❖

Shaw Friedman is former legal counsel for the Indiana Democratic Party.

Practical men and economic theory

By **MICHAEL HICKS**

MUNCIE – In most my dealings with questions of economic development I run across men and women who view themselves as pragmatic doers, totally immune from anything quite as impractical as academic research. That is an appealing stance for many, but it really means something quite different. Instead of living lives of practicality, these folks are simply devotees to some long discredited ideas on how the world works. Nothing better exemplifies this than the "economic base theory" that finds itself implicitly inserted into most local economic development/business attraction efforts and plans.



Economic base theory is the notion that a region's economy is divided into two sectors, the base and non-base sectors. Regional prosperity is achieved by building up the base through exporting more goods from the base or preventing fewer imports. This appears in economic development policies as efforts to bring in out-of-state visitors, build up

a local supply chain and, most frequently, attracting new businesses that sell their goods or services outside the region.

Economic base theory predates World War I and had its heyday in the 1940s and early 1950s. It has several advantages as an explanation for how the economy works, and how a region can generate prosperity, and it is easy to explain in a non-technical way. The data elements of the economic base model are now familiar to most of us, and easy to calculate. In short, the economic base theory enjoys all the benefits of a useful theory except for one. It is wrong. Economic base theory was replaced in the late 1950s by theories that far better explained economic growth. By the 1970s, economic base was taught only in passing at the undergraduate level, and lengthy condemnations of its use in policy were commonplace in those (impracticable) academic journals.

This does not mean there is not some truth to the old economic base theory, or that some parts of it aren't useful. Calculating multipliers and location quotients offer

some insight into regional economies. In the mid-1980s a young Paul Krugman used bits and pieces of economic base theory and combined it with other models to revolutionize how we think about regional growth and prosperity.

However, economic base theory tells us nothing about how regions become more prosperous. In fact, the places with the strongest economic bases in Indiana are quite frequently the most dismal, dying, impoverished places. Efforts to squeeze out prosperity by attracting more of an economic base will continue to fail. But we've known that fact since at least the 1980s.

If your local government is busy trying to attract a new factory or build a new shell building or to attract people who "make things" they are simply wasting public money better spent on things that matter. Oh, and by the way, those theories of growth from the 1950s onwards tell us it is almost only people that matter in the economic prosperity of a region. Remember that the next time you hear someone say they have a clever, practical idea of how to grow the economy. ❖

A murderous problem for East Chicago

By **RICH JAMES**

MERRILLVILLE – East Chicago Councilman Robert Battle has city and county Democrats wondering how they can get out of the mess they are in. Battle is sitting in jail as he awaits trial on drug and homicide charges. And, all the while, he is pulling in a cool \$42,356 a year for his services as a city councilman. But if you are one of his constituents, it probably is pretty tough to reach Battle with a complaint or suggestion. That's just how the penal system works.



There is outrage in some quarters because Battle is allowed to serve as a councilman and because he is drawing a salary while in jail. Because the law says one is innocent until proven guilty, local

Democrats aren't sure what to do about Battle. The one thing they agree on is that as long as Battle is an incarcerated councilman, he is an embarrassment to East Chicago and Lake County as a whole.

Lake County Sheriff John Buncich, who doubles as county Democratic chairman, wants something done with Battle, at least on a temporary basis. Buncich has written Northwest Indiana state legislators asking them to pass a law that would alleviate the situation. Buncich said he understands that a person is innocent until

proven guilty, but he added that there should be at least a temporary solution to provide that people in Battle's council district have representation.

East Chicago city councilmen were polled on the matter and they either refused comment or danced around the issue. Council President Juda Parks said there are rules for the council to expel a councilman if he cannot perform his duties. Then Parks got a little absurd when he said, "Even though Mr. Battle is wherever he's locked up at, if he has access to a phone, calls a constituent and answers a question or takes care of a problem from where he is, is he fulfilling his duty? It's a very gray area."

Well, I doubt that Battle has a phone in his jail cell and likely won't be able to take care of business if he receives a written complaint from a constituent. Battle, seemingly, is unable to perform his duties and probably should be removed by fellow councilmen. They have vowed to talk about it behind closed doors next week.

As usual, Lake County Republicans haven't had the first thing to say about the matter. Local Republicans never have anything to say publicly about the legal troubles of local Democrats. While most Lake County Democratic officials are hardworking and honest, there have been several over the years who have gone to jail after public corruption convictions or plea agreements. Yet, when it comes campaign time, Republicans never have anything to say about the trouble encountered by Democrats. Perhaps local Republicans are content to accept their lot in life as also-rans. ❖

Rich James has been writing about state and local government and politics for more than 30 years. He is a columnist for The Times of Northwest Indiana.

John Krull, Statehouse File: A quiet drumbeat regarding Democratic gubernatorial candidate John Gregg has started. Republican campaign operatives – who are nervous not just about Mike Pence’s political wounds, but also about the governor’s seeming determination to both inflict and reopen those wounds himself – have started a whispering campaign about Gregg’s “evolution” on issues. They say, with some accuracy, that his positions on issues such as same-sex marriage, equal rights for LGBT citizens and education reform are different than they were just a few years ago, when Gregg loved to proclaim himself a conservative Democrat who loved God and guns. The GOP whispering campaign has been successful enough to get a couple of pundits to bite. The Republicans’ goal is to create the impression in voters’ minds that Gregg is a flip-flopper, an insubstantial figure who shifts his views based on expediency or political calculation. In that way, they can divert attention from the fact that their candidate is the most polarizing figure in modern Indiana political history. Most people have made up their minds about Mike Pence, so he and his campaign are not likely to persuade new voters to cast their ballots for him. The next best thing is to discourage Gregg voters from going to the polls. ❖

Jon Webb, Evansville Courier & Press:

A bill authorizing legislative employees to carry handguns in the Indiana Statehouse passed the Senate last week. Sen. Jim Tomes, R-Wadesville, wrote the bill. He said legislative employees work late into the evenings and need protection while walking to their car. In past legislative sessions, Tomes has also authored bills authorizing guns in libraries, parks and school parking lots. He has also moved to lift gun restrictions for alcohol offenders and led the successful push to legalize manufactured sawed-off shotguns. Lawmakers were already authorized to carry firearms inside the Statehouse. “A lot can happen,” Tomes said. “It’s a violent world.” ❖

Dave Bangert, Lafayette Journal & Courier:

Sometimes you have to explain yourself when you live in Indiana. Like the other day when a co-worker from the past, living one state over, noted with little empathy that Indiana was making another futile run at an 80-year-old ban on retail carryout alcohol sales on Sundays for, what, about the gajillionth time in as many years. His Facebook condemnation came without mercy, sizing up the state’s lingering blue law as nothing more than lawmakers trembling before a Statehouse pulpit: “The utter hypocrisy of the Sabbath ban in Indiana is that the same feckless lawmakers who pretend to be so moral about demon liquor wouldn’t dare raise a peep of opposition to the beer flowing by the barrel every Sunday the Indianapolis Colts play at home.” I knew it was probably a mistake, and even hesitated, letting my index finger hover two extra counts before wading in with a reply: Oh, Lord, please don’t let

Indiana be misunderstood. It’s trickier than that, came my pale attempt to explain. The Sunday carryout debate, well-worn by now, is less about the Sabbath at this point than it is about competition between liquor stores stuck with one set of regulations and limitations and big grocery stores with another set of rules. The fight is nuanced by the intricacies of leveling competition between two very different models built over eight decades, not by the slapping pistons of V8-powered fire and brimstone. ❖

David Ignatius, Washington Post: Who will win the Republican and Democratic nominations is still anyone’s guess, but the Iowa caucus voters defined three themes that are likely to roll through the rest of this year’s campaign, alienation, disruption and resilience. Let me unpack those words. Our political system has been shaken by the anger of middle-class voters who doubt the elite’s political nostrums; the insurgent candidates’ provocative, populist counterarguments have had a disruptive effect on both parties; and yet, the most extreme and demagogic responses seem to have been rejected by a resilient electorate. How will this fractious campaign look to people overseas who are at once hungry for American leadership and dubious about its staying power? I hope they will see that the United States is in a necessary process of internal renewal and reinvigoration. We’re grappling with the same issue facing all advanced economies — how to revive growth and distribute its fruits more fairly. Foreign fears of a U.S. implosion should diminish, too: The likelihood that the bombastic Donald Trump will emerge as the winner — which a week ago provoked gasps, quite literally, from European friends of the United States — now looks a little less likely. ❖

Larry Sabato and Kyle Kondik, Sabato’s Crystal Ball: New Hampshire, as usual, will not be inclined to ratify the result of its early-state rival, Iowa. In open seat races, it’s natural for New Hampshire to zag after Iowa zigs: In the modern era of presidential nominations starting in 1972, there have been 16 legitimately contested presidential primaries (seven for the Republicans, nine for the Democrats). In only four of those races did the same candidate win both Iowa and New Hampshire: Presidents Gerald Ford (R) and Jimmy Carter (D) won the first two contests against, respectively, Ronald Reagan in 1976 and Ted Kennedy in 1980, and Al Gore and John Kerry won both while cruising to the Democratic nomination in 2000 and 2004. If polls are to be believed (and they were not terribly accurate in Iowa), Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump are clear favorites in New Hampshire, the first primary. And as of this writing, five days before the Granite State votes, we think Sanders and Trump are in fact the favorites, but we don’t believe their leads are as big as the polls suggest. And voters in New Hampshire are notoriously fickle late deciders. ❖



Trump seeking Iowa do-over

NASHUA, N.H. — Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump is accusing rival Ted Cruz of stealing the Iowa caucuses and is demanding a do-over (Associated Press). "Based on the fraud committed by Senator Ted Cruz during the Iowa Caucus, either a new election should take place or Cruz results nullified," Trump tweeted Wednesday. "Ted Cruz didn't win Iowa, he stole it. That is why all of the polls were so wrong and why he got far more votes than anticipated," he wrote. The inflammatory accusation marked a reversal for Trump, who on Monday night delivered a concession speech thanking Iowans for his second-place finish and congratulating Cruz. On Tuesday night in New Hampshire, he told reporters he was "very happy with what happened in Iowa." But by Wednesday, Trump was laying out a list of accusations. He pointed to a mailer sent by the Cruz campaign headlined "voting violation" and resembling an official notice. The mailer showed recipients their history of voting or not in past caucuses, along with the turnout record of their neighbors, and drew complaints from Iowa's secretary of state. "Actually, I think I came in first," Trump told supporters at a rally that drew thousands in Little Rock, Arkansas, Wednesday evening, suggesting the rumors may have given Cruz a winning edge. "Oh that voter fraud!"

Paul and Santorum out, endorses Rubio

WASHINGTON — Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky and Rick Santorum, the former Pennsylvania senator, both ended their presidential campaigns on Wednesday, as the fallout from the Iowa caucuses continued to winnow the Republican field (New York Times). Mr. Paul, whose once

popular message of resistance to government surveillance and foreign intervention fell out of fashion amid growing anxieties about terrorism, dropped out of the race after a disappointing fifth-place finish in the Iowa caucuses on Monday. And Mr. Santorum said on Wednesday evening on Fox News that he had endorsed Senator Marco Rubio of Florida.

Campbell to appeal Hamilton chair race

NOBLESVILLE — Feeling like the outcome was unfairly orchestrated, Laura Campbell has decided to appeal her loss for the Hamilton County GOP chair to the state party (Sikich, IndyStar). County party precinct officials voted Fishers City Council President Pete Peterson over Campbell, a Carmel City Council member, by a 151-115 margin Saturday at the Ritz Charles. But Campbell believes 52 of the people who voted for Peterson were not eligible to participate. "I have received a lot of calls with support from precinct committeemen, volunteers and people from across the state," Campbell said. "My phone has been ringing nonstop and I have gotten a lot of texts and emails." "I'm not really sure what good comes from this," he said. "All we are doing is prolonging a conversation that does not need to be prolonged in what is a very important year for Republicans in the state and nation."

Allen replaces cousin in Lake Co.

CROWN POINT — Democratic Party leaders chose Gary City Councilman Kyle Allen on Wednesday night as Lake County's next 1st District commissioner (Dolan, NWI Times). Some 144 precinct committee members from Gary, Hobart, Lake Station, Merrillville, New Chicago and a portion of Crown Point picked Allen to replace his cousin, Roosevelt Allen, who died last month.

Elkhart, Goshen eye LGBT law

ELKHART — The withdrawal of a controversial bill that would have provided state anti-discrimination protections for lesbian, gay and bisexual people is prompting Elkhart and Goshen city officials to take another look at whether local ordinances are needed. In Goshen, newly elected Mayor Jeremy Stutsman, a Democrat, said he continues to support an executive order put into place last year by former Mayor Allan Kauffman. "My administration will not discriminate, and I will do all I can to make sure Goshen is a safe and inclusive community for everyone who chooses to live and work here," Stutsman said Wednesday. "If the state doesn't do something this year, I do believe that the Goshen City Council itself needs to be the ones to decide if they will bring forward an ordinance." Elkhart's Republican Mayor Tim Neese said he is exploring adding LGBT civil protections to city policies protecting city workers, but he doesn't support going beyond that. "I want to speak with legal before I do anything," Neese said Wednesday. "I am not really wanting to go beyond city employees. I don't feel comfortable dictating this policy in the private sector." Elkhart City Council President Brian Thomas said he would support an ordinance expanding rights to the LGBT community if it is well crafted and in line with other ordinances from around the state. "I don't think we need to do that at this point," the Republican councilman said Wednesday. "Even though the legislature booted their responsibility, I am afraid that if municipalities create all of these ordinances, we will be left with a hodge-podge of laws around the state. I feel comfortable waiting to see what they do in the next year down in Indianapolis."

