

Young's Senate bid survives a 'stunt'

Stutzman camp claims GOP 'establishment' saved opponent

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – Friday was, before the Indiana Election Commission, in the words of the campaign of Republican U.S. Senate candidate Todd Young a day of "confidence" and one where a political "stunt" was dispatched with three retrieved ballot signatures and a series of 2-2 votes.

From the viewpoint of the Marlin Stutzman campaign, it was thwarting of the "rule of law" as the Hoosier Republican establishment bowed down to protect the status quo. Indiana Democrats saw it as a circumvention of the process by a corrupt commission.

Young remained on the ballot after almost seven hours of grueling testimony. Essentially, attorney David Brooks resurrected three signatures for Young, including one on a phantom "page 51" from Lake County that no one bothered to copy, then depended on Republican members Bryce Bennett and Zachary Klutz to block the challenge. That evening, Young beat back a



series of technical challenges, including one on a forged signature.

For the campaign of Marlin Stutzman, the immediate test is to refute the notion that the congressman from Howe joined forces with Indiana Democrats in order for a clear path to the nomination. Stutzman campaign manager Joshua Kelley acknowledged to HPI that the campaign took some hits, but placed a populist twist on the matter

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'Madam Governor' fading

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

NASHVILLE, Ind. – When Indiana emerged from the suffragette movement in the 1920s, the best path to the governorship was to be an ally of the Ku Klux Klan and then for the next generation, an American Legion commander. This gave way to Statehouse leadership in the 1960s and '70s.

Secretary of State Edgar Whitcomb won the governorship in 1968. Lt. Govs. Richard O. Ristine and Robert Rock ran for governor that decade and lost. In 1972, Doc Bowen used the House speakership to propel himself to the second floor, and that established the modern lieutenant governor trend. Lt.



"It is time to focus on which Republican candidate can best unite our party, earn the support of independents and disaffected Democrats and win the election this fall. It is clear to me that Marco Rubio is that candidate."

- U.S. Sen. Dan Coats



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Govs. Robert Orr and Frank O'Bannon used the second banana perch to win the top office in 1980 and 1996. Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan seemed to be on that path until there was a political falling out between himself and the O'Bannons and he opted to head back to South Bend rather than seek the top job in 2004.

In the midst of this period, Brian Vargas, who headed IUPUI's Public Opinion Laboratory that Indiana wasn't ready for a female governor.

As offensive as it was, the notion had firm roots in history, but it came after the political glass ceiling found cracks, particularly after Walter Mondale added U.S. Rep. Geraldine Ferraro to the Democratic presidential ticket in 1984. A century after the suffragette movement began, after Hoosier May Wright Sewall, working alongside Susan B. Anthony, pushed for political equality and the right for females to vote, it now seemed fathomable that someday soon there might be a female president or Indiana governor.

Of course, we know the tragic circumstances that ultimately produced a Kernan gubernatorial candidacy with the death of Gov. O'Bannon in 2003. These events seemed to open the prospects of a new era, the potential for Indiana's first female governor. Kernan nominated Indianapolis Controller Kathy Davis in December 2003. The Kernan-Davis ticket lost, giving way to Mitch Daniels and a second female LG, this time State Sen. Becky Skillman.

By 2012, the new trend seemed established as Mike Pence selected freshman State Rep. Sue Ellspermann as his running mate, following the arc of county party political leadership. If there was a male county chairman, the vice chair was to be female, and vice versa.

Next week, with the resig-

nation of Ellspermann as lieutenant governor, the Hoosier political scene appears to be pulling away from breaking this ceiling. Unlike the ambitious Orr and O'Bannon, the pedigree of the female LG was more of a wonkish nature that Davis and Ellspermann brought to the table, or



Gov. Joe Kernan announces Kathy Davis would become the first female lieutenant governor in 2003, and Mitch Daniels chose Sen. Becky Skillman for his ticket in 2004. (HPI Photos by Brian A. Howey)

Skillman's role, which was to move the legislative levers on behalf of Daniels, who arrived at the Statehouse as an outsider from Washington. This trio of LGs were ticket balancers, fulfilling a political necessity in real time. They were not dynasty builders.

When the opportunity presented itself for Davis and Skillman to seek the governorship, there were two brief openings, and both quickly closed. Instead of Davis taking the LG platform, it was former congresswoman Jill Long Thompson who emerged in 2008, winning a tough primary against Jim Schellinger for the right

to take on Daniels, arguably the best politician in modern Indiana politics. Thompson struggled to raise money and strap herself to the Barack Obama phenomenon. Even though Obama became the first Democrat to carry Indiana since 1964, Thompson lost to Daniels 58-40%.

Skillman briefly ran for governor beginning in 2010, but it was not a pre-ordained arrival. Lunching with top Daniels aides Earl Goode and Eric Holcomb a few months earlier, I asked about the inevitability of a Skillman gubernatorial run. The surprising answer: "It has never come up." When Skillman did form a campaign, sources told me she didn't have access to Daniels' prodigious donor list, and by this time, she found herself in the crosshairs of presidential politics.

In 2010-11, both Daniels and U.S. Rep. Mike Pence aspired to the White House. As we know now, a Daniels candidacy had been fomenting deep within his circles for close to two years. A Pence candidacy was a complicating factor. Indiana had never produced two major party candidates for president simultaneously, thus the need for loyal Hoosier Republicans to clear the decks for their man Mitch. Pence found an open career path to the governorship at the expense of Skillman, who quickly opted out, citing "minor" health concerns. Pence would move into the gubernatorial sphere and gain the executive portfolio that might afford him a presidential run somewhere down the road.

And then came Ellspermann, who quickly earned respect in a vein similar to Davis. She was wonky, a facilitator, who produced distinct outcomes on projects such as laying a foundation for statewide broadband, blight reduction and military economic development. Her 2013 tour of all 92 counties was seen as creating a political foundation. But after the Religious Freedom Restoration Act episode and the rise of the LGBT civil rights era, multiple sources have cited a falling-out between Pence and Ellspermann, something both deny. There had been other minor kerfuffles between governor and lieutenant governor in the past, but nothing that would prompt a mid-term resignation.



Democrat Jill Long Thompson (top) became the first major party female gubernatorial nominee in 2008, while Gov. Mike Pence celebrates his 2012 victory with Lt. Gov. Sue Ellspermann and Republican Chairman Eric Holcomb (background, right).

Next week, Ellspermann exits, giving way to political operative Holcomb, perhaps to take the helm of Ivy Tech, though at this point that is not a sure thing. Sources tell HPI that Ellspermann had little appetite for the kind of bare-knuckle politics that it would take to win the governorship. She leaves the gubernatorial scene a little more than six months after two other female candidates, Supt. Glenda Ritz and State Sen. Karen Tallian, tried to follow the trail blazed by State Sen. Vi Simpson in 2003 and Virginia Dill McCarty a half century ago. But in all those cases, like Thompson, the checkbooks didn't open and labor wasn't on board.

Looking to the not-so-distant future, the rising star names in gubernatorial politics are John Gregg, Brian Bosma, Todd Rokita, Peter Buttigieg and Thomas McDermott Jr. Some will add U.S. Rep. Susan Brooks to that mix. Gregg is in the best position to bring gender inclusion to the table this year, with Democrat legislators such as Tallian and Reps. Terri Austin and Christina Hale in the wings. After Saturday's presidential caucus win in

Nevada, Hillary Clinton holds a substantial delegate lead and could be the first major party female to win a presidential nomination.

On the Republican side, the Lugar Series for Public Excellence has churned out a generation of graduates, and Brooks and Jackie Walorski have established a new trend for congressional politics, with State Sens. Liz Brown and Erin Houchin potentially joining their ranks this November. But the gender inclusion has not made significant strides, as only a fifth of the General Assembly is female, nine out of 50 in the Senate and 22 out of 100 in the House, all static numbers. These numbers could go down as Sens. Earline Rogers and Patricia Miller are retiring, along with Reps. Gail Riecken and Donna Harris.

But the notion of Indiana's first female governor on March 2, the day Ellspermann resigns, seems to be a far away thing. I still think Vargas was wrong. Hoosiers are open to the idea of a female governor. But the political process has yet to prepare, or find a charismatic figure, a Hoosier Nikki Haley, who can actually pull it off. ❖

Young Senate, from page 1

that corresponds with the current unprecedented state of politics. "We got exactly what we wanted out of that signature process," Kelley said Monday morning. "The more moderate candidate had to run to his establishment backers to save his campaign. They'll do anything to get him in a position of power.

"Marlin Stutzman is the conservative in this race, working against the establishment," Kelley continued. "He's going to break the corrupted system in Washington. At the end of the day, we got what we wanted, which was to make it apparent the establishment will do anything they can to get what they want."

In a freak-of-nature parallel, Stutzman and Republican presidential frontrunner Donald Trump may differ on the nuances of Planned Parenthood funding and abortion, but they are stylizing their campaigns as bulls in the establishment GOP china shop.

While Young prevailed on Friday, it was a conspicuously uncharacteristic episode in a political career that began in 2010 when the Bloomington Republican defeated former congressman Mike Sodrel in the 9th CD primary, then upset Democrat U.S. Rep. Baron Hill in the general. Between those two races, Young reloaded financially, setting up a reputation as a fundraiser par excellence that helped him land a seat on the House Ways & Means Committee as his career flourished on a distinct upward arc.

While the Young political operation has been a juggernaut, the fact that he came this close to being knocked off the ballot, coming down to three signatures, was a strange, uncharacteristic twist. As one Republican political operative noted, "It was pure stupid they got themselves in such a predicament. They should have had 700 or 800 signatures" in 1st CD.

Instead, the Young campaign turned in 640 in the heavily Democratic 1st CD about two weeks prior to the deadline, apparently stopped the process, and then barely survived. The Stutzman campaign, in contrast, turned in more than 900 signatures in the 1st CD and had 750 certified.

The Young campaign didn't have copies of certified signatures and those left on the cutting room floor. Attorney Brooks at one point politely explained Young's predicament with the phrase "stuff happens." For a campaign that usually hits on all cylinders, whoever was responsible for ballot qualifications dropped the ball with near disastrous consequences.

The fact is, there hasn't been a credible congressional level campaign that has come even close to this

type of fiasco, with all due apologies to Bob Hidalgo Kern. Coats himself reestablished the bar in 2010, when he entered the U.S. Senate race just days away from filing deadline, paying a consultant to obtain the necessary 4,500 signatures, which were uncontested.

While Young won the day, this story may not be over, as Indiana Democratic Chairman John Zody strongly hinted at a legal appeal. In doing so, he issued a blistering assessment: "Today's hearing showed two things: Todd Young thinks he's above the law and it's always someone else's fault. After numerous counts by the



Attorney David Brooks (left) and Young campaign manager Trevor Foughty make their case as Jim Bopp Jr., and Democrats Clay Patton and Chairman John Zody look on. (Indiana Public Media photo)

IDP, independent media sources and others, it was clear Todd Young ignored the law set by the Indiana Election Division, did not meet the threshold requiring at least 500 certified signatures from registered voters from each congressional district, and took zero responsibility for his error. This was made absolutely clear in today's hearing."

Not only is there a chance for a festering legal appeal that will play out during the hotly contested primary battle, it will be something Baron Hill will almost certainly latch onto at a time when Americans and Hoosiers are skeptical of politics as usual.

Young campaign manager Trevor Foughty told HPI on Monday that he was always confident his boss would prevail. "I think we came out with a lot of momentum," he said, citing the endorsement of new Marion County Republican Chairwoman Jennifer Ping on Monday. "It was a real shot in the arm for our grassroots. Marlin came out of this as damaged goods. He sided with Democrats. It was a cheap stunt."

Asked about how the campaign seemed to survive in the skin-of-the-teeth mode, relying at one point on a signature from page 51 that doesn't seem to exist, Foughty said, "Even without that we'd have 500. We had enough. We were always confident the commission would

side with us.”

Kelley from the Stutzman campaign pointed to the Young campaign’s confidence as an example of a corrupt process, noting that Commissioner Chairman Bryce Bennett had donated \$1,000 to a previous Young campaign.

Foughty touted media assessments from Friday, pointing to Democrat consultant Jennifer Wagner on Fox59 (“My winner for this week is Todd Young”); from Mary Beth Schneider on WRTV’s “This Week” (“Todd Young comes out looking like the guy that everybody sees as the frontrunner”); and Mike Murphy on Fox59 (“My winner is Todd Young and the people of Indiana because we can get by this silliness...”)

IPFW political scientist Michael Wolf told the Journal Gazette that Stutzman’s ploy “might be viewed by a lot of fellow partisans as taking the choice away from them for the Senate seat.”

Nathan Gonzales, editor and publisher of the nonpartisan Rothenberg & Gonzales Political Report, questioned Stutzman’s thinking – as well as Young’s campaign organization. The Huntington native told the Journal Gazette, “This whole thing could have been avoided if the Young campaign hadn’t gotten so close on the number of signatures. And this whole blowback against Stutzman could have been avoided if he had just let the Democrats carry the water on challenging Young.”

For the campaign of Marlin Stutzman, not only did Young survive, but he must now live with the bad optics from Friday, and an opponent who has more than double the money advantage. There were Stutzman’s attorney, Jim Bopp Jr., and his outreach director, Jodi Lohrman, seated next to Zody and Democratic attorney Clay Patton. This will fuel the emerging narrative in GOP circles that Stutzman had teamed up with Democrats in an attempt to devour his primary opponent. It was a repeat of his 2010 campaign against Coats, with Stutzman and Indiana Democrats publicly questioning his legal residency.

Stutzman weighed in last week, noting that 15 other statewide candidates easily met that burden this year. “Todd Young must accept responsibility for his own campaign and drop the accusations of partisan politics,” Stutzman said.

In doing so, Stutzman earned a new level of ire

from Sen. Coats, who not only called this chapter “un-seemly,” but told the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette last week that it looked like he put his “own personal ambitions” ahead of his party’s best interests. “It looked awfully self-serving, ... because Republicans deserve to have (the nominee) decided by their voters going to the polls rather than by one of the candidates trying to take out the other one.”



Leading up to Friday, Coats conducted more than a half dozen media interviews and blasted Stutzman in all of them. This fuels a persistent storyline about Stutzman, who won open Indiana Senate and the 3rd CD seats via caucus, as an ambitious politician with an equally ambitious and involved wife, willing to do what it takes to advance his career.

There was speculation that Coats will likely endorse Young, though Foughty told HPI on Monday that nothing is currently in the works.

Coats wasn’t the only Republican upset with Stutzman tag-teaming with Indiana Democrats. GOP chairs from Howard, Monroe and Morgan counties all objected to the move. The talk in Republican circles was that Stutzman didn’t need to do anything, letting Democrats assault Young while the congressman



stewed. Now Stutzman owns part of the unsuccessful challenge.

Young’s campaign used the episode to accuse Stutzman of practicing “Chicago-style” politics for siding with Indiana Democrats in challenging the number of his 1st CD ballot signatures. In the Young ad, which pictures Stutzman with President Obama, the voice over says: “Some Hoosiers like Chicago style pizza. But nobody wants Chicago style politics. But that’s exactly what Marlin Stutzman is giving us. He ripped a page out of Obama’s playbook and joined the Democrats in resorting to dirty tricks against Todd Young. Seeing Marlin Stutzman sink as low as Obama and the Democrats sort of leaves a bad taste in your mouth, doesn’t it? Get the facts at ToddYoung.org.” The Chicago reference is to that of Barack Obama’s first state Senate campaign, which challenged ballot signatures of his opponent. Following Friday’s hearings, Christy Stutzman tweeted out, asking whether signatures could be certified after deadline. She used the hashtag “AboveLaw.”

On Monday, the Stutzman campaign released a new TV ad titled “Pocket Change,” narrated by Mrs. Stutzman. “It highlights his integrity and that he doesn’t change,” Kelley said of the ad. ❖

Old style politics in the Senate race

By MARK SOUDER

FORT WAYNE – The one thing the voters have clearly communicated thus far in this primary season is that they are sick of politicians trying to gain power by manipulating the system. Yet trying to remove opponents who already have been ruled by election boards as eligible has become a strategy of Trump, Stutzman, and Indiana Democrats.



Historically, the goal has been to be ballot inclusive, not knocking off the ballot legally certified candidates because one is afraid of losing or because a candidate desires a coronation. Donald Trump has become rather experienced at this approach to politics, beginning with his fueling the “birther” accusations about President Barack Obama.

As a presidential candidate, when Trump felt the political pressure from Ted Cruz, Trump questioned whether Cruz should be on the ballot. Now Trump feels pressure from Marco Rubio, so he raised questions as to whether Rubio should be on the ballot.

What is particularly troubling about the Trump ballot challenges is that he uses them as a less-than-subtle racial tactic. Obama has African heritage. Cruz and Rubio are of Hispanic heritage. Trump and his wives were also immigrants, but of course they are white European immigrants. Winning, closing the deal, is all that apparently matters to some.

In the Indiana U.S. Senate race, it was clear why the Democrats wanted to prohibit the Republican Party from nominating Todd Young. They realized that with Eric Holcomb now joined with Gov. Mike Pence in the gubernatorial race, Young was likely going to win the GOP nomination.

The Democrats, and those handicapping this race across the country, realized that Marlin Stutzman was the weaker candidate. Young had won a heavily financed grueling battle against incumbent Congressman Baron Hill. The Democrats did not want a rematch. Young has a substantial cash advantage over Stutzman and one that was increasing even before this latest political stunt. Stutzman’s campaign has also been in relative disarray.

But even the Democrats had to be stunned that Stutzman joined the national Democrat effort to recapture the U.S. Senate majority. Then again, based upon past impulsive statements and actions by Stutzman, maybe not. He has proved to be their foil before. During the poorly planned government shutdown, Stutzman delivered the punchline used to mock all Republicans in the national

media.

President Obama used Stutzman as his press conference example to build pressure for the Republicans to cave in to his demands. Atlantic magazine’s headline was among the many to make this point: “Here is the short GOP quote that perfectly defines the shutdown: Forty-eight hours into the negotiations, one Republican stalwart’s official position is that he has no idea what he’s negotiating for.”

Stutzman’s infamous quote was this: “We’re not going to be disrespected. We have to get something out of this. And I don’t know what that even is.”

Stutzman has not faced the withering fire of a highly funded, heated campaign as yet. Dan Coats moved back to the state just before the 2010 filing deadline, started a campaign from a standing start, didn’t run a negative campaign against Stutzman or the others (Stutzman hammered Coats but raised comparatively little money), and had a solid win after 90 days’ work.

Marlin inherited the 3rd District congressional race soon thereafter when I resigned the seat because of my sin. It is only relevant here because Marlin has never faced a tough open election fight other than having to persuade small numbers of Republicans in several caucuses. Marlin is charming and a passionate conservative true believer, which works well in small groups of fellow believers.

The Senate race of 2012 resulted in the stunning upset of Indiana’s longest-serving senator in history, Richard Lugar. Treasurer Richard Mourdock, a former Vanderburgh County commissioner, had won multiple statewide elections. He aligned himself with the Tea Party movement at its peak. Mourdock performed well in his debate with Lugar. Issues, combined with the persistent concerns about the incumbent’s age and length of time in office, resulted in the nomination of Mourdock.

Mistakes by candidates unprepared for the heated spotlight of a nationally important race can be politically fatal. This happened to Mourdock, whose poor choice of words did not even represent his own views accurately. He was focused on an ideological point, not how his comment would be perceived by those who did not share his views.

The Democrats are salivating at the potential of having a repeat performance in this Senate race. Republicans are in pretty deep trouble in six Senate races already. If Stutzman is nominated, the number immediately becomes seven. The death of Justice Antonin Scalia is but one of the many reasons the Republicans must maintain control of the Senate.

There were no “merits” to the actual election board case. There was no fraud. Young was ballot-certified by election boards in all nine congressional districts. Election board legal precedent was to be inclusive (often 4-0) even when candidates did not have enough signatures. Young not only had the needed certified signatures but even more that should have been certified among the 640 submitted in the challenged district.

The Stutzman website claimed that voters should not be disenfranchised while attempting to do precisely that. It was rather sanctimonious of Christy Stutzman to falsely interpret election law with the hashtag “@AboveLaw.”

Stutzman supporters took the clue, bashing everyone who favored maintaining Indiana law as a RINO. Coats, Pence, Mitch Daniels, and anybody else who holds

office (except, apparently, Stutzman) can't be trusted.

The Democrats, meanwhile, are thanking Stutzman for joining their Senate campaign. Perhaps the more appropriate hashtag for the Stutzman camp would be: @DupedAgain. ❖

Souder is a former Indiana Republican congressman.

Losing the battle (before it's fought)

By CRAIG DUNN

KOKOMO – It probably seemed like a good idea at the time, or maybe even a stroke of genius. Any good military commander will tell you that most battles are won or lost before they are even fought. The good folks calling the shots for Marlin Stutzman's U.S. Senate campaign must have thought that the stars were aligned and leprechauns were tossing gold coins to the faithful. It must



have looked like one of those once-in-a-lifetime opportunities that just couldn't go wrong.

Stutzman's best hope of winning the U.S. Senate seat currently held by Dan Coats, before fellow candidate Eric Holcomb's abrupt change of career path to the lieutenant governor's office, was the hope that Holcomb and Congressman Todd Young would split up the same potential vote and

allow him to slip into victory with something less than 50 percent of the vote. Holcomb's move to the Statehouse immediately shattered that dream and left Stutzman with the unenviable job of beating an opponent with three times the cash on hand and an avalanche of organizational support flowing quickly from Holcomb to Young. With Plan A gone awry, the Stutzman team was forced to look for any life preserver floating around the quickly sinking ship.

But then in a wink of an eye fate intervened and appeared to lay the golden egg at the foot of the Stutzman campaign. Those lovable rascals we call Democrats were up to their wacky grab bag of election year stunts and tricks. They decided to target the 1st Congressional District candidate petitions of Todd Young. They combed every single line of the petitions and using their supernatural mathematical skills and political acumen, declared that Todd Young had fallen short of the 500 signatures of registered voters that are required in each congressional district to be eligible to run for U.S. Senate. Never mind that duly elected county clerks in each of the

three counties that make up the 1st District certified 501 signatures. Also, never mind that the certifications were done two weeks in advance of the filing deadline, giving Young ample time to go get more signatures if the aforementioned clerks had not certified the signatures.

Our good friends and able adversaries, the Democrats, quickly filed a challenge to the candidacy of Todd Young. It seems they made the judgment call that Young would be a much more formidable opponent for Baron Hill to compete with in November. After all, Young had pretty much wiped the floor with Hill in their head-to-head congressional race in 2010, even embarrassing Hill in his home county. With a 2016 ballot shaping up of Democratic retreats facing proven Republican winners, the future for the Democrats looked bleak. Why not try and take Young out on a technicality and hope that Stutzman might melt down like Richard Mourdock did in 2012? Stutzman's propensity to mix religion and politics might just open the door for them.

Before the ink was even dry on the challenge to the Indiana State Election Board, Stutzman dove into the fray and had one of his staff people file their own complaint. It would be like Yukon Moose Cholak and Dick the Bruiser ganging up on Cowboy Bob Ellis. Except it wasn't.

Back in 1994, another wizard thought that she had a strategy that would eliminate an opponent before a crucial contest. The potent duo of geniuses, Tonya Harding and Jeff Gillooly, came up with the seemingly brilliant idea of having star figure skater Nancy Kerrigan's knees broken before the 1994 Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway. You just can't do a double flying lutz with triple salchow with your leg in a cast. But most nut jobs and half-wits find a way to botch even the simplest plans and Harding's and Gillooly's kneecapping of Kerrigan was quickly found out and a vengeful public made Harding's life and her Olympic dreams go up in smoke.

My gut tells me that Marlin Stutzman will suffer a similar fate. The Republican primary voters are keenly aware that Stutzman cast his lot with the Democrats in an attempted one-two knockout of Young. Now that the election board has driven a stake through his plan, I believe that the Republican voters, workers, leadership and financial contributors will drive a stake through the heart of the Stutzman campaign.

Although I don't believe that it will do any good, Stutzman should publicly apologize to Young for his

scheme. I believe he should apologize to Republicans for consorting with the enemy in an attempt to deny primary voters a choice of Senate candidates.

I also believe that Stutzman should apologize to the staff person who was thrown under the bus when asked to sign the challenge with the election board. Finally, he should apologize to me for making me watch the entire election board hearing as it was streamed online. No one should ever have to sit through that process except people who are paid to do so. To paraphrase Democrat election board member Anthony Miller, "I've got better things to do

on a Friday night!"

Can Marlin Stutzman recover from his disastrous tag-teaming with the Democrat Party?

Perhaps. I'm guessing that the smart money and voters will have a very long memory when it comes to this sordid affair. I believe that Todd Young will win handily on May 3 and go on to a big victory in November. Sometimes, the good guy does win. ❖

Dunn is chairman of the Howard County Republicans.

The path to LGBT civil rights is Gregg and bigger Dem caucus

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – The big economic news at the end of last week was that Indianapolis landed one of two DowDuPont global business centers. The big one, the corporate headquarters, slipped away.



There was a bipartisan effort to land the headquarters, with Gov. Mike Pence, Mayor Joe Hogsett and Purdue President Mitch Daniels all working with the Indiana Economic Development Corporation. Could Indiana's conspicuous wrangling over LGBT civil

rights, including the death of legislation earlier this month, have contributed to DowDuPont keeping its headquarters in Wilmington, Delaware?

The IEDC's Ted McKinney told the IndyStar that the issue didn't factor in discussions.

Since the Religious Freedom Restoration Act episode that played out 11 months ago, we heard threats that the state stood to lose economic plums, that conventions would flee, the NCAA might pull up stakes and leave. That still could happen, and someone beyond the Pence administration and IEDC might have a different take on the LGBT impact on DowDuPont (the latter, a source told me, pays for employee gender change operations).

But I'm skeptical.

LGBT advocates raised the specter of business flight and political repercussions. That still might be the case, but there are only two credible ways for civil rights expansion to occur, and that is the election of John Gregg as governor, where he would then use any clout he had to forge a compromise, and Indiana Democrats digging into the Republican super majorities. The former has a better chance than the latter, and neither is anywhere close to

being a slam dunk.

Gregg has sided with the "four words and a comma" stance when it comes to civil rights. And while most polls show support for the expansion in the 54-34% range, this is not likely to be a cornerstone issue in his coming rematch with Gov. Pence. Gregg can use the issue to motivate his base, but it will be pocketbook, education and infrastructure issues that will most likely decide this race.

Perhaps the best way to underscore the issue at that level would be Gregg tapping South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg for the ticket. The mayor announced he was gay last summer, after serving a Naval Reserve intelligence stint in Afghanistan. In this scenario, Gregg and Buttigieg wouldn't even have to broach the topic. The notion of Buttigieg running the normal traps of a gubernatorial campaign would show many Hoosiers that a gay public servant (who also happens to be a Rhodes Scholar and a veteran of the Afghan theater) might not be much different than a straight nominee.

As for the General Assembly, I look at one of the filing deadline story lines and see that 21 House Republicans and 14 Democrats have no primary or general election opponents, or a third of the body. This is an indicator that gerrymandering is alive, well and effective. The Republicans have a 71-seat super majority; in my first look at potential pickoffs, I count six seats at this early point, including the open HD20 and HD26 seats, where Democrats look to have a realistic shot at winning. Another two are rematches between Mara Candelaria Reardon and Rep. William Fine in HD12 and Shelli VanDenburgh against Rep. Julie Olthoff in HD19. Another potential Democratic gain would be former Sen. Tim Skinner against Rep. Alan Morrison. I wouldn't characterize any of these races as anything more than either tossup and leans races.

There may be other races that emerge and tighten, and Democrats have until the end of June to slate challengers, but even if Democrats run the table and if, perhaps, a Trump-Palin ticket self-destructed into a Goldwater/McGovern style fiasco, House Republicans are still looking at something in the range of a 65-35 majority.

In the Senate, of the 20 Republican seats with

candidates, nine have no Democratic opponents. Eleven Republican incumbents – Charbonneau, Hershman, Glick, Long, Head, Kenley, Pete Miller, Crider, Young, Bray and Becker – look like locks or close to it. Senate President David Long may have an intense primary as he is being targeted by social conservatives and the Tea Party wing, but that seat will not go Democratic no matter who the nominee is.

Republicans are very likely to keep four open seats – SD 12 (Yoder), SD30 (Schneider) and SD32 (Pat Miller) and SD36 (Waltz) in the GOP fold, with Blake Doriot, John Ruckleshaus, Aaron Freeman and either Jefferson Shreve or Jack Sandlin in SD36. There are no credible Democrats.

Do the math and Democratic inroads in the Senate are a real long shot. It could still be 40-10 next Organization Day.

Right now, legislative Republicans are feeling very little LGBT heat. Bill Oesterle and Indiana Competes don't seem to have much of a general election strategy other than closing checkbooks, though the former says he may fund a handful of credible challengers. Freedom Indiana is indicating it won't be targeting Republican incumbents. So unless there are big headlines of business flight tied to the issue, not much is likely to change on this front.

The big wrinkle for Republicans is that more city councils are moving toward LGBT ordinances in Kokomo (Democratic) and in a handful of Republican cities like Munster, Elkhart, Fishers as well as Evansville.

The best opportunity was SB344, which died when the author, Sen. Travis Holdman, found all sides dug in. This was a classic miscalculation by LGBT advocates and legislative Democrats, who had tiny caucuses that wouldn't compromise on the transgender omission. It was easy to see how Senate President Long and Speaker Bosma, seeing little chance of Indiana Democrats backing the bill, decided why risk moderates and a controversial vote?

Playing chicken with roads and cities

The other significant trend that kind of feeds into our lead narrative is occurring in the House where Speaker Brian Bosma has linked the extra \$42 million for Regional Cities to HB1001, his road bill.

As we reported beginning late last year, Bosma was unamused when Gov. Mike Pence added a third Regional Cities winner without checking with Bosma, though Senate Republicans were fully on board at the onset. Bosma's icy reaction would portend to what is unfolding now and it dovetails into the lead. Unless there is a presidential level Republican collapse, Bosma is looking at maintaining a majority in the 65-seat range, more than enough to override any Pence veto.

Pence saw the extra \$42 million as electoral sugar. It would give him another batch of sweet ribbon cuttings and project announcements as he girds for his rematch with John Gregg in what many see as a tossup race. Pence told HPI last year that he envisioned Regional Cities as potentially one of his lasting legacies. When tax amnesty

brought in enough to fund a third RC winner, instead of banking it for a second round in 2017, Pence was confronted with a political opportunity and took it.

Bosma is putting on the brakes. It is hard to fathom Bosma taking this tactic when Gov. Mitch Daniels was in office. Legislators are reasserting themselves, and Bosma is displaying some muscle not only for Pence, but for Sen. Brandt Hershman. You want Regional Cities? The bargaining chip is HB1001.

The bitter pill for Pence is that while HB1001 is visionary, creating a new generation of road funding, Pence is thinking about this election cycle and only this election cycle. Gas and cigarette tax hikes don't fit his reelection narrative.

How this sorts itself out will be one of the key storylines after the March 10 sine die.

U.S. Senate

Baron Hill makes case for stronger unions

Former U.S. Congressman and Indiana Legislator Baron Hill gave the keynote speech at the Cass County Democrat dinner. He's running as the lone Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate seat now held by Republican Dan Coats (Middlekamp, Logansport Pharos-Tribune). Hill, who was born and raised in Seymour, served in the Indiana House of Representatives for eight years and 10



years as a U.S. Representative for Indiana's 9th District. He said Congress needs more members who can work across the aisle as less partisan, calling himself someone who can and has in the past. "This is not always about the next election, it's about doing what's right for the American people," Hill said in an interview before the event.

"All the electioneering that goes on the halls of Congress needs to be toned down." There are many people in the state and country who are "being left behind," Hill told the crowd, saying those people need to be provided good education and the state needs an environment to support unions. "We need to strengthen them, not weaken them," he said about unions. Hill was a part of the Blue Dogs as a congressman, a group of Democrats who identify as conservative Democrats. Hill said the group believes in fiscal discipline and living "within our means." He also wants to strengthen the educational system in the country and will hope to address solutions to climate change, if elected. **Primary Horse Race Status:** Tossup

9th CD

Republicans debate Saturday

Despite all five candidates generally expressing conservative Republican views, there were differences.

Each was given an opportunity to make opening and closing remarks (Hawkins, Bloomington Herald-Times). Robert Hall, a business owner from Monroe County, said he would like to bring back jobs to Indiana, eliminate income taxes and the IRS and repeal the Affordable Care Act. He also said he didn't believe scientists' claims about global warming and called for a balanced budget and term limits. Trey Hollingsworth, representing Clark County, said he had started eight businesses and employed hundreds of people. "I want to get back to the America that inspired the Constitution," he said. He also wants to repeal the Affordable Care Act. State Sen. Erin Houchin, a state senator who had worked for U.S. Sen. Dan Coats, said she is "pro-life" and supports the 2nd Amendment. The Washington County representative said the fabric of the nation has changed, and Republicans in Congress don't seem to do anything about it. "It's time conservative principles started to win again," she said. State Sen. Brent Waltz, also a state senator, said he started an investment banking firm when he was 26. As a Johnson County commissioner and state senator, he has represented the conservative views of his constituents. "It's our time" for Republicans to achieve their goals, he said. Attorney General Greg Zoeller, the state attorney general and former aide to U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle, said Republicans have to be serious about the election. "As attorney general, I've worked hard to represent you," the New Albany native said. "I've been pushing back. I fought the EPA. ... These are seri-

ous times." The candidates were asked about Carrier, an Indianapolis-based business, which recently announced it is moving 2,100 jobs from Indiana to Mexico. Zoeller said he's looking at grants given to Carrier in the state and trying to determine whether they should be called back. Waltz said tax breaks and incentives given to some companies are "lousy deals for taxpayers." Hollingsworth said the United States was being hit by a bad two-way deal. "We're sending jobs to their benefit and they're sending illegal immigrants to us," he said.

Hollingsworth drawing scrutiny

During Saturday's debate, Sen. Brent Waltz pointed out that Trey Hollingsworth had moved to the state to run for Congress. "It would never occur to me to move from Tennessee and run for Congress here, representing 740,000 people," Waltz said. "You wouldn't be able to represent them." Hollingsworth said he'd worked in Indiana for 10 years and is "a proud Hoosier." And Advance Indiana blogger Gary Welsh reports that Hollingsworth has not filed his financial disclosure. Hollingsworth did not become a resident of the 9th District until he registered to vote in Jeffersonville last fall. He's a Tennessee native, born and raised in Clinton, Tenn., where his father, Joe Hollingsworth, is a multi-millionaire businessman and founder and owner of The Hollingsworth Companies. According to his initial filing with the Federal Election Com-

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mission, Hollingsworth donated \$91,077 to his own campaign and loaned it an additional \$594,500. That combined amount of \$685,578 he's either contributed or loaned to his campaign represented all but \$8,400 of his reported contributions. All but one of the five individual contributors to his campaign were from out of state, including three from Tennessee and one from Texas. All candidates for Congress are required to file with the clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives a financial disclosure statement listing a candidate's debts, assets, sources of income and potential conflicts of interest. Hollingsworth's original filing deadline was Nov. 20, 2015. He requested a 90-day extension to file his report, which made it due on Feb. 18, 2016. According to the publicly accessible database at the House clerk's website, Hollingsworth has not filed his report.

General Assembly

Educator to challenge Karickhoff

A Howard County educator and political newcomer announced last week her decision to challenge one of the area's most familiar representatives (Myers, Kokomo Tribune). Democrat Natalie Guest, who previously taught at Northwestern High School and currently owns Organic Tan, will challenge incumbent Republican Mike Karickhoff for the District 30 seat in the Indiana House of Representatives during this year's general election. Karickhoff, the House deputy speaker pro tempore, has held the position since 2010. Despite Karickhoff's reputation as an established political representative, Guest said she isn't apprehensive about running for the position. "I am not intimidated in the slightest," said Guest, who, along with Karickhoff, doesn't have a primary election challenger. "I am just hoping to bring us back to the issues that are important to Hoosiers. ... I am going up against someone who has been in office for quite some time, but hasn't accomplished anything meaningful. In general, we have a wide focus with what we are going for. I don't want the focus on the campaign or within my platform to solely be education," she said. "Being an educator, I am extremely passionate about the issues. I have seen how changes in funding have affected my school, my students ... But I am also focused in terms of infrastructure and working on our roads and bridges. "The Democrats have proposed a plan, and [Republicans] are not willing to talk about any issues on the other side of the table," she continued. Guest went on to accuse Republicans, including Karickhoff, of placing legislative focus on divisive social issues while taking away any chance at meaningful governance. Guest criticized Gov. Mike Pence and other statehouse conservatives of giving Indiana a hostile reputation, specifically in relation to the issue of LGBT civil rights. "Mike Pence and the [Republican-led] statehouse have embarrassed our



state, time and again," she said.

Statewides

Curtis Hill files for attorney general

Elkhart County Prosecutor Curtis Hill officially filed his candidacy for the Republican nomination for Indiana attorney general. The filing was made at the Indiana Republican Party headquarters. The nominee will be chosen by delegates at the Indiana Republican Party Convention in June in Indianapolis. Shortly before Hill filed his candidacy he spoke to the Indiana Drug Enforcement Association at their annual training conference. Hill stated, "If I am entrusted with the responsibility to serve our state as attorney general, I will work tirelessly to enforce our drug laws while also creating programs to prevent pathways to drug use and related crime."

President

GOP wakes up to 'Trump nightmare'

Establishment Republicans are reckoning with something they thought would never happen: That it might soon be too late to stop Donald Trump (Politico). With the controversial businessman the clear front-runner heading into Nevada and next week's Super Tuesday contests, there's an emerging consensus that the odds of dislodging him are growing longer by the day. Whispered fears that Trump could become the Republican nominee have given way to a din of resigned conventional wisdom – with top party officials and strategists openly wondering what the path to defeating him will be. "If anyone else in this field had gone second-first-first in the first three contests, we would all be saying that it's over," said Mike DuHaime, a former Republican National Committee political director who guided Chris Christie's presidential bid.

Trump leads Kasich in Ohio

Donald Trump leads John Kasich by 5% in the governor's home state of Ohio, according to the results of the latest Quinnipiac University poll of likely Republican primary voters released Tuesday (Politico). With 31 percent, Trump leads the field ahead of the state's March 15 primary, while Kasich comes in a close second with 26 percent. Texas Sen. Ted Cruz followed with 21 percent, with Florida Sen. Marco Rubio (13 percent) and Ben Carson (5 percent).

Trump wanted to 'punch out' protester

Donald Trump wished grievous bodily harm on a protester at his rally here on Monday night, saying he'd like to punch the man in the face and see him carried out on a stretcher. "The guards are being very gentle with him," Trump said. "I'd like to punch him in the face, I'll tell you that." The billionaire said he missed the "good old days," when the man would be treated differently. ❖

Break out the smelling salts as Trump rolls

By **LARRY J. SABATO, KYLE KONDIK**
and **GEOFFREY SKELLEY**
Sabato's Crystal Ball

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. – If you had told us when Donald Trump entered the race that he would take second place in Iowa, win New Hampshire easily, and then triumph in South Carolina, you'd have needed smelling salts to revive us. But he's done it, and no one else has really been able to shake the intense hold he has on about a third of the Republican Party.

The old question becomes THE question: Can Trump expand his ceiling to 40% and above, as the number of opponents dwindles? Even if he can't, can he continue to rack up wins while the Keystone Kops (otherwise known as the GOP establishment) try to get their house in order?

The three finalists before South Carolina were Trump, Marco Rubio, and Ted Cruz. The three finalists after South Carolina are Trump, Rubio, and Cruz.

Jeb Bush's candidacy died long ago, even if it took another poor performance to convince the candidate of that. Three Bushes were one too many, and we've said that from the day he announced. He was the epitome of the establishment in an anti-establishment year, and his candidate skills proved underwhelming.

Ben Carson may persist, and some Republicans think that's OK because most of his voters might otherwise migrate to Cruz, who is perhaps even more unacceptable to the party's establishment power centers than Trump. Maybe Carson will stay in just to spite Cruz over lingering bad blood from Cruz's Iowa antics: The Cruz campaign suggested Carson was dropping out of the race when he wasn't.

John Kasich may be able to compete in places such as Massachusetts and Michigan in early March, and hang on to win Ohio with the hope that his delegates prove crucial. But he just isn't built to play in enough states, nor does he have a broad enough appeal in the GOP, to truly challenge for the nomination.

Most mainstream Republicans will sooner or later move to Rubio, but will it be soon enough? He can't keep on finishing second or third – or fifth, as he did in New Hampshire. You have to start winning, but where? Trends from Iowa and New Hampshire manifested themselves once again in South Carolina. Trump did better among voters with lower education levels, while Rubio did better among the more educated. Cruz did well with the most conservative voters, but he doesn't show much appeal outside of the hard-liners. To have a shot, Cruz must do well in the most religious and conservative states. Unquestionably, South Carolina is one of them, yet Cruz didn't get a single delegate. Cruz is well-funded and has

some theoretically promising states coming up on Super Tuesday, like his home state of Texas, but his hopes of winning the nomination seem to be dwindling, at least at the moment.

Now that Bush is out, Rubio might want to consider a daring gambit, openly offering Kasich the vice presidential slot in exchange for the Ohio governor's support. (Ronald Reagan did something similar much later in his 1976 campaign, right before the Republican convention, and while it didn't work out, Reagan shook up conventional wisdom. It is a tactic worth considering.) If Rubio can somehow push Kasich out after Bush's exit, it seems reasonable to think that the lion's share of their supporters would go to him, and in a three-way race, that could be enough for Rubio to start getting the victories he has failed to secure so far. However, Kasich seems inclined to continue to run, and the Republican power brokers who favor a Rubio-Kasich ticket probably won't take the risks necessary to make this happen.

Let's make no mistake: Trump, amazingly, is in a commanding position to become the Republican presidential nominee. The fact that he won about the same share of the vote in New Hampshire and South Carolina, two wildly different states, shows the broad appeal of his campaign among a significant portion of the Republican electorate. As we noted in the Crystal Ball on Thursday, we're rapidly approaching a critical point in the Republican primary process: After Florida, Illinois, Missouri, North Carolina, and Ohio vote on March 15, nearly 60% of the Republican delegates will have been won. If someone is going to beat Trump, Rubio probably has the best shot, but the hour is growing late for all of the non-Trump candidates.

Clinton hangs on in Nevada

After very narrowly winning Iowa and losing New Hampshire in a blowout, Hillary Clinton has moved on to her "firewall," the more diverse states that come after the lily-white leadoff contests. Clinton's wall held in its first test in Nevada, but her modest margin of victory isn't going to scare Bernie Sanders into surrendering. Clinton remains on track to win the nomination, barring intervention by the FBI or some unrelated, unexpected development, but Sanders is hanging around. And with the money he's raising and the enthusiasm he's generating among the young, he likely can continue for quite some time.

In essence, while Clinton is very likely to be the candidate of the Democrats' present, Sanders may better represent the Democrats' future. Despite a more diverse electorate in Nevada, Sanders maintained his staggering margins among the youngest voters, winning 18- to 29-year-olds, 82%-14%, effectively the same margins he captured in Iowa and New Hampshire among what must certainly be a more varied population of young people. (The entrance polls did not drill down on the racial makeup of the youngest voters.)

However, let's treat the caucus entrance polls with

some skepticism. They showed Sanders winning Hispanics by eight points, more than he won whites (two points). Possibly, this could be a function of Sanders' big lead among younger voters: 36.5% of Nevada's eligible Hispanic voters are in the 18-29 group, while just 21.1% of the state's voters are in that age bracket overall, according to the Pew Research Center. So the fact that Nevada Hispanics skew younger might explain the entrance polls. It will be fascinating to see whether this age differential in the

Hispanic vote continues in future contests.

African Americans only comprised 13% of the voters, and they went to Clinton by an impressive 76%-22% margin. That's a good sign for Clinton as the race heads to South Carolina, where the electorate next Saturday will be more than half African American (55% in 2008). Realistically, Clinton should win South Carolina by about as much as Sanders won New Hampshire. That's how we should measure the results there. ❖

Is there a deal in the works for Ellspermann?

By JACK COLWELL

SOUTH BEND – If we didn't know better, we'd think this was some kind of a sleazy political deal. But, hey, this is Indiana, never known for politicians making questionable deals.

Still, some suspicious folks, always looking for a conspiracy, suggest that there is a deal, sleazy or not, in Lt. Gov. Sue Ellspermann resigning in the midst of the legislative session and Gov. Mike Pence praising her qualifications to be the new president of Ivy Tech. She now seeks the job. And the governor appoints Ivy Tech board members



who will decide if she gets it. Just a coincidence.

But then the suspicious types point to speculation well before her resignation that Pence wanted somebody other than Ellspermann as his running mate on the Republican ticket this fall. Reports about disagreement between Pence and Ellspermann over whether there's need to expand civil rights after the religious freedom

legislation of last session was attacked as discriminatory and brought national threats of boycotting Indiana. Pence clearly wants the issue to go away with no expansion. Ellspermann, while never openly challenging the governor, has said: "I think what we've heard is that Hoosiers are probably not satisfied yet. They want to be assured 100 percent that there is no further discrimination."

Pence courts the Tea Party. Ellspermann? Not so much.

Also, campaign style for Pence this fall doesn't fit in with Ellspermann's disdain for negative campaigning. Pence made the mistake of running what was deemed a positive campaign in 2012, stressing a "roadmap for Indiana" and refraining from negative attacks on John Gregg, the Democratic nominee. Few Hoosiers paid any attention

to the roadmap, and Pence slipped in the polls until he just barely defeated the underfunded Gregg.

Pence won't make that mistake in the rematch with Gregg. He will hit hard at Gregg, and he will be helped now by a running mate ready to go on the attack. Pence picked Eric Holcomb, a former state Republican chairman, to be the new lieutenant governor. Holcomb will be confirmed by the Republican-controlled legislature and be on the Republican ticket this fall.

Holcomb is not a bad choice. He's qualified. He also brings more "establishment" support for Pence from roles as a top staff aide and campaign advisor for former Gov. Mitch Daniels and Sen. Dan Coats. Critics do suggest, however, that removing a woman from the ticket isn't likely to help Pence close a gender gap in which he doesn't do well with female voters.

If it's a deal, it's a good deal for Holcomb. He was running for the Republican nomination for the Senate seat being vacated by Coats and was seen as running third in a three-candidate race. Now, he will for sure be lieutenant governor for the remainder of the year, perhaps for all of the next term and for what that would mean for a future bid for governor.

If it's a deal, is it a good deal for Ellspermann? Certainly not a terrible deal if it's greased for her to become Ivy Tech president. Nice gig. Having a college presidency tossed to you is better than being tossed off the Republican ticket with no place for a soft landing. What if she doesn't get it? There are other high-profile contenders with qualifications.

Those suspicious types think it's a done deal. The chairman of the Ivy Tech search committee is Tech vice chairman Michael Dora, a Pence ally. Dora also is the Rush County Republican chairman. Who better than a GOP county chairman to conduct a nonpartisan search for the best possible Ivy Tech president and to reject any kind of a political deal?

If it's a deal, would the deal makers go back on their word and name someone other than Ellspermann? They wouldn't do that. Would they? If we didn't know better, we'd think there really was a deal. Glad we're not suspicious. ❖

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

The story of Lincoln's mallet

By **MAUREEN HAYDEN**
CNHI Statehouse Bureau

INDIANAPOLIS – Dale Ogden is used to getting calls from strangers claiming to have artifacts from Abraham Lincoln's early life in Indiana.

For Ogden, chief curator of cultural history at the Indiana State Museum, those calls almost always end in disappointment.



"Ninety-nine times out of hundred, the claims just aren't true," he said.

But a call last fall from friends of a man whose ancestors were neighbors of the Lincoln family, when they lived as pioneers on the Indiana frontier, turned out to be more fruitful.

That led to the discovery of what Ogden calls one of the important Lincoln artifacts now in the museum's collection - a wooden mallet, dated to 1829, inlaid with square-edged nails that form Lincoln's initials, A.L.

Displayed at the museum for the first time last week, in honor of Lincoln's Feb. 12 birthday, the mallet comes with some interesting lore.

For five generations, this simple bench tool has been in the possession of the family of Barnabas Carter, an early Indiana settler and a neighbor to the Lincoln family farm in Spencer County.

During some of those years, the mallet was hidden under the floorboards or tucked in the attic of Carter family homes. More recently, it's been sitting on a fireplace mantle of a Carter descendant who didn't completely appreciate its value.

The artifact is significant, Ogden said, since few material things remain from Lincoln's life in Indiana.

Significant, too, is the fact that it was left behind at all – and that Lincoln's father, Thomas, allowed it.

Thomas Lincoln, a carpenter and farmer, moved his young family across the Ohio River from Kentucky in 1816 to forge a new

life. Here they stayed until 1830, when they moved to Illinois. Abraham was 21.

The mallet would have been used by Abraham Lincoln to drive hand-carved, wooden pegs into the simple, Federal-style furniture that he and his father made.

But it's actually re-tooled. It was crafted from a larger, splitting maul used to drive metal wedges into logs.

Use of such a tool is why Lincoln was later portrayed, when he first ran for president, as a brawny frontiersman wielding a heavy ax. His political handlers nicknamed him "The Rail Splitter."

"He hated being called that," Ogden says.

A true Lincoln-ophile, Ogden is dedicated to bursting the myths that have sprung up around Lincoln.

Among them, he says, is one that paints the 16th president as a simple farm boy neglected by an inept father, who later stepped out of the woods to save the nation from a fractious Civil War.

Ogden thinks that Lincoln left the maul-turned-mallet behind intentionally, offering it as a gift to Carter because he no longer wanted the life it represented.

His father's decision to move to Illinois led to the younger Lincoln's larger journey of becoming a lawyer, legislator, president and Great Emancipator.

"It's true he came from pioneer stock. He came from a family of farmers," Ogden said. "But he wanted much more than that."

Realizing that Lincoln was aspirational and ambitious, even in his youth, also chips away at his portrayal as a poor farm boy who rose up into a pillar of virtue above the dirty world of politics.



"He was premier politician," Ogden said. "He knew how to work a smoke-filled room better than anyone."

Ogden is grateful for the Carter family's Lincoln artifact, which was loaned to the museum for Indiana's bicentennial year.

He hopes it adds to the understanding of the complex man and makes him a more relatable hero.

"The story of Lincoln is phenomenal enough as it," Ogden said. "We don't need to embellish it." ❖

Maureen Hayden covers the Indiana Statehouse for CNHI's newspapers and websites. Reach her at mhayden@cnhi.com. Follow her on Twitter @Maureen-Hayden

Meth bill headed to House floor

INDIANAPOLIS – A bill linking Sudafed access to your other prescriptions is headed for the House floor (Berman, WIBC). Legislators are steering away from a Senate-passed bill to have pharmacists question Sudafed buyers, in favor of a House bill which requires a prescription only if you don't have any other prescription at that drugstore. That bill overwhelmingly passed the House earlier this month. Auburn Rep. Ben Smaltz, the bill's author, made one tweak to address concerns from drugstore chains that



checking everyone's transaction history will create long, slow lines. Instead of the pharmacist having to check whether someone has other prescriptions, the bill now calls on the pharmacy technician to do it. Smaltz says the pharmacy

tech is already at the computer and can make the check more easily, and leave the pharmacist to focus on dispensing medication. The bill squeaked through the House Public Health Committee 6-5, with New Albany Republican Ed Clere joining committee Democrats in voting no. While Clere has been a consistent opponent of the bill, House Democrats voted for it unanimously three weeks ago. Indianapolis Representative Greg Porter says Democrats objected to Chair Cindy Kirchofer's (R-Indianapolis) refusal to allow amendments, particularly one to guard against pharmacists turning people away for no reason. Those concerns were raised about the Senate bill requiring a Q-and-A with the pharmacist, but Smaltz says those provisions are gone from the latest version. He says the decision will lean on pharmacies' databases to check whether someone does business there or not. Customers seeking Sudafed at a new pharmacy would have a choice of tamper-resistant capsules, a single 24-count box of pills, or coming back with a prescription. The full House will vote next week. It'll also consider a second bill banning convicted drug offenders from buying medication containing pseudoephedrine. The committee approved that bill 8-2.

ISTEP on chopping block

Indiana lawmakers appear ready to kill a rescore of the problem-ridden 2015 ISTEP — but not because they're assured every student received the correct score on the test (Cook & Schneider, IndyStar). Instead, top Republican lawmakers — including some who once supported a rescore — say it's

likely dead because of the estimated cost, plans to replace ISTEP and the belief that the results of last year's test are simply too tainted to redeem. The House's education policy leader proposed rescoring last year's ISTEP after an IndyStar investigation revealed that a computer glitch gave an undetermined number of students incorrect scores. Seven scoring supervisors for CTB/McGraw Hill told IndyStar that the glitch was widespread enough to warrant rescoring but management decided against it. The proposal — House Bill 1395 — began as a required rescore, but lawmakers later made it optional and left the decision up to the Indiana State Board of Education. Now, the Senate Education and Career Development Committee has removed the rescore. A rescore could be expensive, and lawmakers have already suspended the 2015 ISTEP's influence on teacher pay and A-F school accountability grades. In other words, lawmakers are skipping the rescore not because they're confident in the test scores but because they don't think it would placate Hoosier educators, students and parents. "I just think we can chase our tails on that forever," Senate President Pro Tem David Long said. "I think we need to put ISTEP in our rearview mirror as soon as we can."

Adoption records bill heads to Pence

Indiana legislators have passed a bill that would ease access to adoptees' birth records (Kwiatkowski, IndyStar). Sen. Brent Steele, R-Bedford, authored Senate Bill 91, which would allow the state to release identifying adoption information to people who were adopted from 1941 through 1993 — unless their birth parents sign a form prohibiting it. That is how people adopted before or after that time period can receive their records. The bill cleared the Senate in January and, on Monday, the House voted 72-24 in favor of it. The bill now goes to Gov. Mike Pence for his review. "Governor Pence wants Indiana to be the most pro-adoption state in the country," spokeswoman Kara Brooks said in an email. "He will give careful consideration to the legislation when it reaches his desk."

Crouch lauds gender neutral bill passage

State Auditor Susanne Crouch applauds the Indiana General Assembly for passing House Bill 1173. "The Indiana General Assembly sent an empowering message to women— young and old—that in Indiana they can be a part of the success story because they can help to write it," Auditor Crouch said. "This bill removes another barrier and paves the road to a prosperous 21st Century where more women will lead the way and participate in the marketplace of ideas so that we may progress further and faster than ever before." House Bill 1173, authored by Rep. Sharon Negele

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and sponsored by Sen. Jean Leising, updates Title 4 of the Indiana Code and replaces gender-specific language referencing statewide office holders with more gender-neutral pronouns. The House passed HB 1173 earlier this month 92-0 and the Senate passed the bill 50-0 Monday afternoon.

EPA bill rewritten by Senate committee

A House-approved plan requiring Indiana's environmental regulations be no more stringent than the minimum federal standards was rewritten Monday by a Senate committee (Carden, NWI Times). House Bill 1082, sponsored by state Sen. Ed Charbonneau, R-Valparaiso, now requires the Indiana Department of Environmental Management submit an annual report to the General Assembly detailing all the rules adopted or proposed by the agency in the past year. Charbonneau said his revision satisfies the House goal of reaffirming the policy-making role of the General Assembly and preventing IDEM from going regulation-crazy, but without taking away the agency's ability to protect Indiana's environment. "We can review and judge for ourselves whether the policies we've established for clean air, land and water are being properly implemented," Charbonneau said. The Senate Environmental Affairs Committee approved the revised legislation, 8-0. It now goes to the full Senate for an expected vote on whether to send the new proposal to a conference committee.

Teacher bill amendment fails in Senate

Many school district administrators and Indiana's teachers unions are arguing against a legislative proposal that would give districts the authority to negotiate higher pay with individual teachers (Associated Press). The Republican-dominated state Senate rejected an attempt Monday to strip from a bill those provisions that supporters say would help school districts recruit teachers in high-demand subjects such areas as science, math and special education. The debate comes as state officials and local school leaders have debated possible steps to address possible teacher shortages as the number of first-time teaching licenses issued by the state Department of Education has declined by 33 percent in five years. Senate education committee Chairman Dennis Kruse, an Auburn Republican, said school districts should have more flexibility to fill their teacher vacancies. "We need to have our school corporations be able to respond locally to school shortages," Kruse said. The Senate voted 30-20 against an amendment sponsored by Republican state Sen. Vaneta Becker of Evansville to remove the authority for individual teacher negotiations.

Washburne judge bill goes to governor

The Indiana House of Representatives voted unanimously today in support of State Rep. Tom Washburne's (R-Evansville) bill creating a pilot program providing additional resources to judges with demanding workloads.

"With this bill we are trying to establish a full program that would assist superior and circuit court judges in researching and writing opinions on complex motions," Washburne said. "We want to put our state judges in the same situation as our federal judges."

Stolen valor bill passes Senate 50-0

A person falsely claiming to be a military veteran to obtain a benefit or a discount may soon instead be on the receiving end of a \$5,000 fine (Carden, NWI Times). The Indiana Senate voted 50-0 Monday for House Enrolled Act 1187 making "stolen valor" a misdemeanor crime punishable by a fine or up to one year in jail.

Captive hunting bill goes to House

The House Natural Resources Committee voted 8-4 Monday to impose modest regulations on high-fenced hunting operations (Kelly, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). There are seven such facilities, in which farm-raised deer bred for large racks are hunted for money on fenced properties. But the bill would allow for many more to open. Senate Bill 109 sets acreage minimums – 100 acres for new and 80 acres for grandfathered facilities – as well as some prohibitions. "I think this bill is a good compromise to put common sense regulations in place," said Rep. Sean Eberhart, R-Shelbyville. The bill now moves to the House.

Umbilical cord bill passes

Legislation authored by State Sen. Liz Brown (R-Fort Wayne) encouraging umbilical cord blood donation passed the House of Representatives today and now heads to the governor for his consideration. Senate Bill 315, which passed the House by a vote of 94-0, would require the Indiana State Department of Health to provide information on voluntary and free cord blood donation to entities that assist pregnant women, like health clinics.

Legislators get an earful on Dunes pavilion

Nearly two dozen Region residents urged the Senate Public Policy Committee on Monday to reject House-approved legislation that could allow alcohol sales at a renovated Indiana Dunes State Park pavilion (Carden, NWI Times). House Bill 1247, which is set for a committee vote Wednesday, authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to obtain a new "state park" alcohol permit, for any or all of its parks, without having to follow most of the procedures typically required to get state permission to sell beer, wine or liquor — including local review. State Sen. Karen Tallian, D-Ogden Dunes, seemed to speak for many when she called the DNR's contract with Pavilion Partners overly generous, and blasted the end-run of the local review process that twice denied the developer an alcohol sales permit. "We do this far too often here. When somebody can't get what they want at home, they come to the Legislature and say, 'Here do this for me,'" Tallian said. "I think this is an abuse of our process." ❖

Some surprising lessons from Carrier

By MICHAEL HICKS

MUNCIE – The closure of two manufacturing plants employing some 2,100 Hoosiers has angered and disappointed many. That is understandable, as is the political rhetoric surrounding it, along with the simple question, “Just who are the bottom dwellers who own these companies?” Brace yourself for the answer.

United Technologies, the parent company of both plants, is 83 percent owned by institutional investors and mutual funds. And who owns these mutual funds you might ask? Well it is us, and I don’t mean that in the abstract. The Indiana Public Retirement System, including the Indiana Teachers Retirement Fund, TIAA-CREF (the leading retirement fund to almost all colleges and universities in the state) and even the United Steel Workers retirement plan, invests in United Technologies.

My guess is that half of working Hoosier households in Indiana own a part of these companies. We are all capitalists now, and that ought to make us a bit more thoughtful about our policies towards business.

The now-closing plants made HVAC systems. The biggest demand for these involves new home construction, which has been dormant for a decade. The workers who make these products reportedly earn \$20 to \$24 an hour. Health care benefits are surely more than \$7 an hour, and other costs at least \$4 an hour. The company claims it is relocating to Mexico, where workers will earn perhaps \$3 an hour. The American workers would have to be about 10 times as productive as the Mexicans to justify this wage differential.

The unfeeling laws of economics might demand this move, but I am skeptical this company is actually moving to Mexico. I think this claim is made simply to allow their workers additional benefits under the Trade Adjustment Assistance rules. I suspect that most of these jobs will be swallowed by automation, not Mexicans. That leads us to the role of government.

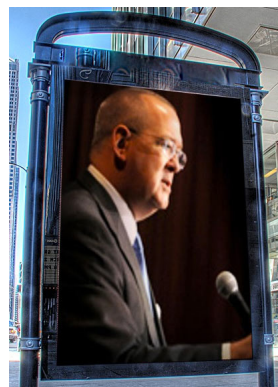
These plants are reported to have received millions of dollars of federal, state and local assistance. This means that through government largesse profitable companies and working households subsidized a company whose business plans couldn’t ultimately include staying in the US. In hindsight, maybe that wasn’t a good investment. Perhaps it would be wiser for government to invest in making people more productive.

We do want workers to earn \$24 an hour, with

health benefits and retirement and vacation. But to do so they have to produce \$24 an hour in goods, plus the cost of health care and retirement and vacation. They also have to help earn a profit for their company (6.1 percent last quarter for UT). Otherwise those troublesome owners will force them to become more profitable, either through automation or moving where labor is cheaper.

My suspicion and hope is that most of these workers will quickly find new jobs. After all, good manufacturing workers are not a commodity. Still, the lesson is clear; directly subsidizing businesses is a seductive, politically popular but perilously ineffective method of keeping jobs in the US. ❖

Michael J. Hicks, PhD, is the director of the Center for Business and Economic Research and the George and Frances Ball distinguished professor of economics in the Miller College of Business at Ball State University.



Losing jobs is like a natural disaster

By MORTON MARCUS

INDIANAPOLIS – There is a common, comforting acceptance that “what is, is.” However, any disturbance (actual or anticipated) of “what is” may become unreasonable fear. See those daily stock market reports.

Emotionally and economically, we (Hoosiers, Americans, all humans?) are unprepared for change, although we will blithely insist, “The only constant is change.” Thus, when oil prices fall, selected individuals, companies, communities and countries which depend on those prices suffer severely. Likewise, a rise in those same prices brings hardship to a different set of entities.

What should we do when companies leave town, abandoning workers, relationships, and property? That is hardly different from natural disasters and their effects on those left behind, disadvantaged by forces beyond their control. How do we help flood victims, corn farmers, or oil field workers? Should we take the health care route?

In health care, we once believed in strange mists and devilish spirits. Ultimately, we blamed the sick for getting sick. They failed to take the precautions advised by grandparents and, more recently, by research. Afterwards, we set up systems requiring private insurance (sharing the risk with others). Finally, we accepted the burden of illness as a public responsibility and pay for it,



partially, through government aid.

Similarly, we turn business decisions into public policy events. We are too quick to pay companies to locate or expand in our communities. We then feel betrayed if they leave for the sweet wine flowing elsewhere.

Today in Indiana, there is a loud pounding of chests because United Technologies will close manufacturing facilities in Indianapolis and Huntington. About 2,100 jobs will be lost as production moves to Mexico. Yet Indiana is the self-declared business-friendly state. How can we protest when firms decide that other states are more attractive? Are we conservatives being jilted by companies moving elsewhere?

Economic freedom, as we understand it, permits businesses and households to move as they please. What they leave behind in damaged workers, spoiled neighborhoods, lapsed business relationships and environmental hazards often become governments' responsibility. In that case, retraining workers and preserving prior living condi-

tions could require higher taxes on companies to pay for the economic dislocation they cause.

For years we've had "unemployment insurance." Ultimately that "insurance" is paid for by workers through lower wages and fewer jobs. Is the next step to require workers to buy private insurance in case a job is lost for reasons beyond the control of the worker? Isn't that the health care solution given us by a Congress, the same Congress that now calls it "Obamacare?"

Losing jobs might be as natural as floods, tornados and blizzards. We shouldn't be surprised when jobs are lost, nor should we over-react with the simian chest-thumping seen recently among public officials. My former dean used to say, "We must all learn to play the accordion, to make music as we expand and contract." ❖

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

NW legislators get tough on crime

By **RICH JAMES**

MERRILLVILLE – Seven Republican legislators from Northwest Indiana told their constituents a week ago that they are doing what is necessary to crackdown on drug dealers.



State Reps. Michael Aylesworth, Bill Fine, Julie Olthoff, Hal Slager and Ed Soliday and state Sens. Rick Niemeyer and Ed Charbonneau told their constituents in Lake and Porter counties that they are carrying legislation to get tough on drugs. They spelled it out in an op-ed column in The Times of Northwest Indiana.

Northwest Indiana does have a narcotics problem, particularly heroin that is killing dozens of young people every year. The bills also target cocaine dealers and methamphetamine labs and the acquisition of the necessary ingredients to make meth.

The bills do two primary things. First, they increase the mandatory penalties for the more major drug dealers and make it more difficult for meth lab operators to obtain pseudoephedrine (PSE) and ephedrine, ingredients found in cold and allergy medications that are key ingredients in the making of meth. Another bill would require pharmacists to conduct consultations with a customer to determine if a PSE purchase is medically necessary.

I guess we are going to turn pharmacists into part-time law enforcement officers. I'm sure they'll love that.

Another bill gives prosecutors more tools to convict those who attempt to make meth and those who cause meth fires.

In general, the local legislators say the bills "would crack down on violent criminals and meth cooks."

These are the kinds of bills that legislators love to boast about.

When the legislative session ends in the middle of March, the legislators will return home and either begin or continue their reelection campaigns. And the one thing you will find in all of their campaign brochures is something about how they cracked down on narcotics and drug dealers. The one thing none of these bills includes is money to enhance the fight against narcotics.

Every law enforcement agency in Northwest Indiana will tell you that they simply lack the resources to wage the kind of war they would like to against drug dealers. The local departments lack the money to hire enough police officers to combat drugs, and they lack the money needed to pay overtime to the officers fighting drugs.

While the legislators will puff up their chests and talk about what they are doing to fight drugs, they could be doing a whole lot more.

That is especially true when you consider that the state is sitting on a \$2 billion Rainy Day Fund.

And, I believe the safety of Hoosiers is the priority of the governor and all legislators. ❖

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.

The Federalist Staff: Let me tell you about Smaug. Now, I knew the guy a long time, a good friend, he worked with me on the Laketown deal and told me he learned a lot from watching me. You could say I invented him. By the way, people do tell me that all the time, that I am one of the great teachers. They tell me that on my hit show *The Apprentice*, they tell me that in life. But Smaug, if he learned anything, he didn't learn enough. He turned out to be a terrible investor, a real dummy, just sat on his gold. He literally sat on it! No deals, no moves. I said Smaug, you dummy, you gotta be out there making deals, negotiating, sitting down at the table, incinerating people with fire. You're not going to make any money sitting there like a big lazy dumb rock! You'll be small potatoes forever! But he didn't listen and he stayed in that backwater and he got so lazy, he was such a slow moving target – I mean, come on, an illiterate redneck takes one shot at you and boom, done, gone, dead. At a Trump property, we are always on the move, we are cutting deals, the best deals, and we use gold the way it was meant to be used, on fountains, escalators, walls – all the best, and very classy, people say. I'm the best at talking to Sauron, I really am. Tough guy, tough negotiator but you really just have to have a man-to-man. Not like the people running Gondor, they're stupid. I mean, how stupid are they? Now, my tower – and let me tell you, it's the biggest, classiest tower, great views of the whole ring of stone and the forest and the river – I can get him on the line. Doesn't answer anybody else, but when I want him, here's there. I'll be so good at dealing with him, it'll make your head spin. See now Gandalf, that guy is a total failure. Very low in the polls. Can't win Rohan, can't win Gondor. ❖



Brett Voorhies, NWI Times: If there were ever a more opportune time to stand up and fight against the Trans-Pacific Partnership—now would most certainly be it. Last Wednesday, two Indiana plants announced that they are moving operations to Mexico and taking 2,100 Hoosier jobs with them. The Carrier manufacturing plant in Indianapolis and the UTEC plant in Huntington plan to close the doors on their workers by 2019. Carrier employs 1,300 United Steelworkers from Local 1999 and UTEC employs 700 IBEW members from Local 983. When news broke that these two plants would turn their backs on their workers, it struck a chord with working people around the nation, working people who are already anxious and, since the announcement of the TPP, fear the imminent threat of having their jobs shipped overseas or to Mexico, just like the 2,100 Indiana workers whose lives were upended this month in an act of corporate greed. How is it that a company that profited \$7.2 billion in the last year is suddenly unable to afford workers who average \$50,000 a year? Looking at that staunch difference in revenue — how can they possibly justify “cutting labor costs?” We have seen massive layoffs in the past. We have witnessed what

it does to hardworking families and to our communities. As a state federation of labor, we will not stand to watch it happen again with deals like the TPP. For those unfamiliar with the TPP, let's get one thing straight: it is an outsourcing deal — not a trade deal. We continue to hear that the TPP will help bolster the U.S. economy against competition from China, but we know better. Take what's happening to Indiana workers as the first (of many) examples. Aside from corporate greed, the main reason Carrier can get away with something like this is the major flaws that have been built into international trade deals like North American Free Trade Agreement and the Trans-Pacific Partnership. These kinds of deals make sure these types of tragic announcements happen more frequently. These deals put U.S. manufacturers in closer competition with foreign companies that pay low wages and don't respect labor rights. This encourages U.S. companies to offshore in order to keep up with those foreign companies. And these trade deals eliminate tariffs in the trade zone, further encouraging companies to shift jobs to trade partners because corporations know they can ship goods back into the United States without paying tariffs, thus using the tariff cuts to increase U.S. imports instead of increasing U.S. exports. So I, along with union members across Indiana and the nation, challenge everyone who supports working families and fundamental fairness to join the fight against this devastating “trade deal.” ❖

Benjy Sarlin, NBC News: Donald Trump won South Carolina while doing seemingly everything in his power to lose. That is a scary thought if you're a Republican trying to beat him on March 1, when a slew of southern contests could give him a substantial boost to the nomination. Trump took 32.5 percent of the vote on Saturday, far ahead of Sen. Marco Rubio and Sen. Ted Cruz. His dominating win delivered all 50 of South Carolina's delegates. Watching Trump the last week, it was tempting to assume he had made a bet with a friend that he could sabotage his campaign as frequently and needlessly as possible and his supporters would stick with him. Or maybe that even he realizes things have gone too far at this point and he wants out. The aura of infallibility he's developed after blowing through expectations during the election ensured no one would declare a meltdown, but if there was a method to his madness, it was hard to single out in real time. Entering South Carolina with a dominant lead, Trump could afford to play things relatively safe like he did in the lead-up to New Hampshire. Instead, he needlessly tweaked GOP dogma and feuded with everyone from the last Republican president to Pope Francis. He accused George W. Bush of lying his way into Iraq and blamed him for not preventing 9/11. He dumped on House Speaker Paul Ryan on Wednesday. He seemingly endorsed Obamacare's insurance mandate on Thursday and then walked it back on Friday. Yet somehow it worked. ❖

Coats endorses Marco Rubio

WASHINGTON, DC – Senator Dan Coats (R-Ind.) endorsed Florida Senator Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) for President of the United States:

"After months of spirited debates and now three consequential primary contests, it is time to focus on which Republican candidate can best unite our party, earn the support of independents and disaffected Democrats and win the election this fall. It is clear to me that Marco Rubio is that candidate. He has all the qualities needed to unite our fractured nation and address the major domestic and foreign policy challenges that confront America because of Barack Obama's failed leadership. I have sat literally side-by-side with Marco on the Senate Intelligence Committee for over five years and have witnessed up close his grasp of complex issues and readiness to lead our nation as commander-in-chief. I am excited to support him and look forward to the next generation of conservative leadership under Marco Rubio."



federal help to combat the abuse of opioid painkillers (Groppe, IndyStar). "The good news is that there is strong bipartisan support to address this issue," President Barack Obama told governors Monday, the final day of the National Governors Association's winter meeting. That includes new funding for drug treatment that Pence said is a top priority. "We can't just arrest our way out of this problem," Pence said while attending the four-day governors' meeting. "We've got to expand

treatment options for people that are caught up in the web of drug abuse and addiction."

LGBT ordinance passes in Evansville

EVANSVILLE – While they've been a protected class for four years in the city, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people now have backing to protect against discrimination (Evans, Evansville Courier & Press). After a lengthy discussion that included more than 20 speakers from the public, the City Council Monday night voted 7-2 to amend its human rights ordinance to give the Human Relations Commission enforcement and investigatory powers into claims of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Goodnight backs LGBT ordinance

KOKOMO – In his annual State of the City address Monday night at City Hall, Kokomo Mayor Greg Goodnight backed an ordinance extending LGBT civil rights (Myers, Kokomo Tribune). "Some members of our city council have already been public with their support for extending civil rights protections to include sexual orientation and gender identity," said Goodnight. "That is why I commend this council's commitment to enacting legislation that would amend our community's human rights municipal code. It is the smart thing

to do for our economy, it is the best thing to do for our community and it's the right thing to do for our very own neighbors, both current and future."

Long questions cig tax hike

INDIANAPOLIS – The House GOP's road funding proposal includes a cigarette tax hike that some say may sink the idea's chance of passing (Smith, Indiana Public Media). House Republicans say their cigarette tax hike doesn't really pay for roads; it would go to Medicaid to free up that money for roads. Senate President Pro Tem David Long says you can't separate the tax hike from the road repairs it's intended to pay for. "We have to find more long term permanent funding for the roads that's one of the reason why the senate think we need more talk. We need more time to get our heads around what it's going to take to invest in our roads in such a way that not only can we invest in our most important projects, but we have a sustainable source of revenue." "There's a lot of major positive increases that can be done for infrastructure that don't require any new taxes. We have to remember we have to get this thing around the governor. They don't talk about him enough. And we have to remember he has that veto pen and I thought he was pretty clear in his State of the State."

Ex-Brown Chamber director murdered

KALAMAZOO – One of the victims of the Saturday night shootings in western Michigan was the director of the Brown County Chamber of Commerce in Nashville during the 1990s (Bloomington Herald-Times). Dorothy "Judy" Brown died at age 74. Brown was killed, along with three of her friends, in the parking lot of a Cracker Barrel restaurant in Kalamazoo.

GOP announces platform leaders

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana Republican Party announced today the leadership of the 2016 Platform Committee for the Indiana Republican Party Convention, which will be held on June 11, 2016 in Indianapolis. The platform committee will be co-chaired by State Rep. Eric Koch (R-Bedford) and Indiana Republican Party Vice Chair Misty Hollis.

Pence seeks federal drug funding

WASHINGTON — Democratic and Republican governors alike — including Indiana's Mike Pence — want