

Horse Race: Mayoral battles set

Rematches in Jeffersonville, Anderson; crowded primaries in Muncie, Gary, South Bend

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

KOKOMO – Almost 120 Hoosier cities will be electing mayors this year, with intense open seat primaries taking shape in South Bend, Kokomo, Muncie, Noblesville and Elkhart.

Democratic mayors Tom Henry of Fort Wayne and Joe Hogsett of Indianapolis are seeking to protect the only serious power base remaining for their party. Hogsett is likely to face State Sen. Jim Merritt, while Fort Wayne Councilman John Crawford is a likely challenger to Mayor Henry, though the councilman will have to fend off a primary challenge from business executive Tim Smith.

And Mayors Thomas McDermott of Hammond, Tony Roswarski of Lafayette, Duke Bennett in Terre Haute, Jim Brainard in Carmel and Lloyd Winnecke in Evansville



Mayoral rematches include Jeffersonville Mayor Mike Moore (far left) taking on Democrat Tom Galligan (left), while in Anderson Kevin Smith is challenging Mayor Tom Broderick.

will be seeking to burnish their credentials with milestone reelection bids. McDermott, Winnecke and Roswarski are not expected to be credibly challenged, with no opponents filing in Hammond and Evansville.

There could be fireworks in East Chicago, where

Continued on page 3

Mayor Pete's home base

By **JACK COLWELL**

SOUTH BEND – How South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg would fare in the 2020 Democratic presidential primary in Indiana is uncertain. Voters in Iowa, New Hampshire and other states will determine before then whether he is a viable contender. But one thing is certain: Buttigieg, if still an active candidate when Hoosier Democrats vote, would run away with the primary vote in his home area.



That was demonstrated by the enthusiastic response for the mayor this week at the first book signing for ["Shortest Way Home: One Mayor's Challenge and a Model for America's Future."](#)



“As someone who has always said teachers **MUST have a seat at the table, this is **SO** disappointing to read.”**

- Democrat John Gregg, reacting to a story that there are no teachers on Gov. Holcomb's teacher pay commission.



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A capacity crowd of 800 packed the Great Hall of Century Center to hear the mayor and buy his book. They applauded long and loud when the moderator for a conversation about the book mentioned his presidential prospects.

The most significant sign of enthusiasm for Buttigieg was the willingness of those who bought the book to wait in line for up two and a half hours to have the mayor sign it.

Attendees all bought the book. They had to in order to attend. The price of admission was \$30, same as the price of the book, and everybody attending was handed a copy.

Actually, sales topped attendance. Many bought additional books.

The fondness for the mayor in his home area also was shown by frequent applause as he talked of the stories in the book about South Bend and about himself.

"I hope that the book gives an understanding not just of me but of our community, of our city, of what it's been through and of where it's headed," Buttigieg said. Where he sees it headed – and describes that in his appearances around the country and on national TV – is one of reasons for his local popularity. South Bend area residents like to hear the city, in the past described as dying, described now as vigorous and growing.

His popularity will be tested in the upcoming mayoral primary. Buttigieg this week endorsed James Mueller, his former chief of staff, for the Democratic nomination for mayor in a nine-candidate race.

It's hard to transfer popularity. That's been shown time and again. Endorsements by a popular political figure often seem to have little effect with voters.

There is some risk for Buttigieg. Not to the extent that a loss in

the primary by his endorsed candidate would keep Buttigieg from carrying the area overwhelmingly if he is a viable presidential primary contender. But if the mayor's choice loses, it would be noted in evaluations nationally.

There also is danger that backers of some of the other mayoral nomination candidates not endorsed could be less enthusiastic in support of Buttigieg.

The mayor clearly regards Mueller as the person he would like to see carry on his work in South Bend. Mueller, 36, was part of the city administration until leaving to devote full time to the mayoral campaign.

He, like Buttigieg, is intellectual – has a doctorate – and is a South Bend native who came home and serves in city government.

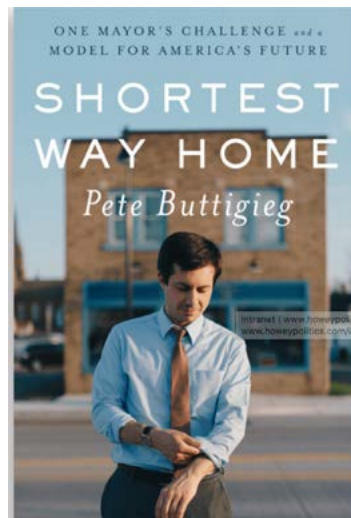
They were in the same class at St. Joseph High School in South Bend. Mueller is no sure bet for mayor, no doubt a reason that Buttigieg decided to make the endorsement rather than just help Mueller behind the scenes, as he had been doing.

With Mueller lacking in name recognition at the start of the campaign, there was no consensus frontrunner. Former St. Joseph County Democratic Chairman Jason Critchlow appeared to be off to the best start in the mayoral nomination race in terms of early organizing. Now Mueller has enhanced name recognition, recognized as the mayor's choice to carry on his programs.

It is certain that Buttigieg is popular in South Bend. Very popular. It will be interesting to see if the throngs who waited for up to two and a half hours for him to sign copies of his books will now sign on to the candidacy of his choice as the next mayor.



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



Mayors, from page 1

former legislator John Aguilera is challenging Mayor Anthony Copeland in the wake of the lead-poisoning crisis there, while Bloomington Mayor John Hamilton is facing a challenge from Monroe County Commissioner Amanda Barge.

This year brings a passing of the torch, as three-term Kokomo Mayor Greg Goodnight and six-term Mayor Ted Ellis of Bluffton decided to retire. The presidential candidacy of South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg and the retirement of Muncie Mayor Dennis Tyler have kicked off sprawling Democratic primaries in both of those cities.

In Anderson, Jeffersonville and Elkhart, former mayors Kevin Smith, Tom Galligan and Dave Miller are attempting comebacks. It will be a rematch for Smith and Anderson Mayor Thomas Broderick, while Miller has been out of office for a dozen years. Galligan was defeated by Republican Mike Moore in 2011. First term Elkhart Mayor Tim Neese's decision not to seek another term due to a police scandal there has given Miller a comeback route following his primary upset to Democrat Dick Moore, who then lost to Neese. If Miller emerges from the primary, he will likely face former Northwestern University basketball star and councilman Rod Roberson.

One troubling trendline for this cycle is the lack of local media coverage of mayoral races. While some of this report comes from local reporting, much of it has been pieced together via HPI sources and social media. Local candidates are urged to add HPI to your media lists as we will be the only media source monitoring races statewide.

Parties without nominees have until June 30 to field candidates via caucus. The general election will be Nov. 5.

Here is HPI's mayoral race rundown:

Anderson: Smith rematch with Broderick

For the sixth consecutive municipal election cycle, Republican Kevin Smith announced he is seeking the party's nomination for Anderson mayor (de la Bastide, Anderson Herald-Bulletin). Smith has served two terms as Anderson mayor, from 2004 through 2007 and a second time from 2012 to 2015. Smith is running in the May 8 primary election against current Madison County Auditor Rick Gardner. The winner will face either incumbent Democrat Thomas Broderick Jr. or Terry May in the November election. "It was a long soul-searching process," Smith said Thursday of his decision to seek another mayoral term. "I owe this to the community. Anderson needs hope again and not politics as usual," Smith said. Broderick's election committee had a balance of \$180,827 going into 2019. **2015 Results:** Broderick (D) 6,455, Smith (R) 6,048.

Auburn: Mayor Yoder retiring

Mayor Norm Yoder is retiring. By Friday's noon deadline to register for the municipal primary, Mike Ley

and Pete Stinson had filed Republican declarations of candidacy for the office of mayor of Auburn (KPC News). Yoder ran unopposed in 2015.

Batesville: Bettice seeks reelection

Republican Mayor Michael Bettice is seeking another term. It is unclear if he has an opponent. **2015 Results:** Bettice (R) 1,363, Vonderheide (D) 452.

Bedford: Girgis not running

Three-term independent Mayor Shawna Girgis announced she would not seek a fourth term. Former Lawrence County Sheriff Sam Craig, who currently serves as the city of Bedford's director of administrative services, is seeking the GOP nomination. Prior to serving as sheriff for two terms, Craig attained the rank of major and served as the detective commander for the Bedford Police Department. He also serves as president of the Lawrence County Council. **2015 Results:** Girgis (I) 1,483, Bough (R) 760.

Bloomington: Barge challenges Hamilton

Mayor John Hamilton faces a primary challenge from Monroe County Commissioner Amanda Barge. In announcing his reelection bid, Hamilton said, "I'm very proud of where our community is going, and where we



have come from, and where we're working, where it's happening" (Indiana Daily Student). Hamilton told the crowd he first decided to run for mayor in 2015 to improve jobs, enhance affordable housing and make Bloomington government more transparent. Hamilton won the 2015 election with 77% of the vote against Republican John Turnbull. In kicking off her

candidacy, Barge said, "Bloomington deserves a mayor who will listen, learn, and lead, in that order," said Barge. "I pledge to bring true leadership to the office and put people before politics. Transparency and open governing are the foundation of creating inclusive policies that benefit all voices." Barge's platform outlines three broad objectives: Changing the culture of city government, improving quality of life for all residents, and implementing an inclusive, community-driven leadership style. Barge's platform specifically calls for developing a transparency improvement plan to bring a teamwork approach to resident service, completing a housing inventory plan by 2021 to address affordable housing, providing evidence-based health services such as a social service emergency Line to address vulnerable populations, and establishing renewable energy goals for city operations. **2015 Results:** Hamilton (D) 6,248, Turnbull (R) 1,822.

Carmel: Glynn challenges Mayor Brainard

A county councilor who just staved off a primary

and general election challenger plans to take on Carmel Mayor Jim Brainard in May (IBJ). Fred Glynn, a Carmel resident who represents District 1 on the Hamilton County Council, announced he will challenge Brainard, who is seeking his seventh term, in May's Republican primary. Glynn, a mortgage lender, was just reelected to his second term on the county council, where he's known as a fiscal conservative. In his latest run for a council seat, Glynn told IBJ he'd like to introduce the concept of zero-based or priority-based budgeting in Hamilton County. Essentially, rather than starting with the budget a department had the year prior and adding on, the county would begin with a budget of \$0, and department heads and council members would build a new budget every year. In his campaign for mayor, Glynn is targeting spending by Brainard and the current Carmel City Council. Carmel's current debt obligations total \$1.32 billion, according to the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance. That's higher than any of the other Hamilton County municipalities. "It is a false narrative that we have to choose between good government and fiscal responsibility," Glynn said in a prepared statement. "My time on county council proves you can do both." **2015 Results:** Brainard ran unopposed in the general.



Columbia City: Daniel seeks second term

Mayor Ryan Daniel (R) is seeking a second term. Daniel was elected mayor in 2011 with more than 65% of the vote in the general election. The Whitley County Elections site listed Daniel as the only candidate. **2015 Results:** Daniel (R) 1,671, Buchanan (D) 538.

Columbus: Lienhoop unopposed

First-term Republican Mayor Jim Lienhoop did not have a challenger at last Friday's filing deadline. "Generally, Democrats are satisfied with his job performance," Bartholomew County Democratic Chairman Bob Hyatt told the Columbus Republic. "But those who are most outspoken against him tend to be his fellow Republicans," in reference to supporters of former Republican mayor Kristen Brown, who Lienhoop defeated in the last mayoral primary in 2015. Lienhoop may be challenged, but it will likely be in the primary, Hyatt predicted. Columbus City Council president Frank Miller, a Republican, said the situation shouldn't surprise anyone. "In every city, there will always be a faction or group within a party not in step with the administration," Miller said. "While some in Columbus are happy with the current administration, there are also some who don't seem to be happy with anything." **2015**

Results: Lienhoop ran unopposed in the general.

Crown Point: Clerk challenges Mayor Uran

Clerk-treasurer Kristie Dressel is throwing her hat in the ring to be the city's next mayor (Kirkman, NWI Times). Two days after announcing plans to withdraw her reelection bid for clerk-treasurer on the Republican ticket, Dressel said she plans on running against incumbent Mayor David Uran, a Democrat. "I have sat for three years as treasurer and watched uncontrollable spending," Dressel said, claiming the city has experienced drastic changes in attorney fees, credit rating and high debt levels. "We have over 14 bonds outstanding for millions of dollars. Taxpayers will be responsible to pay those over the next 10 years." In response to Dressel's claims, Uran said, "As a city, we have to invest in ourselves," adding the net worth of the community has continued to increase during his three terms as mayor. **2015 Results:** Uran ran unopposed.

East Chicago: Aguilera targets Copeland

Hours before Friday's filing deadline, former state Rep. John Aguilera announced a run for East Chicago mayor against incumbent Anthony Copeland (Cross, NWI Times). Aguilera, who served from 1994 to 2000 as a county councilman and the following six years as a state legislator representing East Chicago, is one of the few Latinos ever to hold office at the Statehouse. According to records available online, Aguilera and Copeland are, so far, the only two candidates to file for the race. As a four-term state representative, Aguilera worked on the General Assembly's Ways and Means, Local Government, and Transportation committees, according to a news release. He also served two terms as a Lake County councilman, including two years as council president. He also served seven years in the U.S. military. According to a news release, Aguilera said he "wants to use this experience to ensure our city government has diverse representation that invests in people before profits." The release said he wants to "restore the checks and balances system of our city government and remind citizens of East Chicago that they're the most important resource of the state." Aguilera sought the East Chicago mayor's job in fall 2010, asking a caucus of East Chicago Democratic precinct committeemen to name him as a replacement to former East Chicago Mayor George Pabey. But he received only one vote. He also was the unsuccessful Democratic candidate for state treasurer in 2018. **2015 Results:** Copeland (D) 2,111, Santos (R) 204.

Elkhart: Miller seeks return

Former mayor Dave Miller, who is running for the Republican nomination for mayor, is the only GOP candidate to have filed so far. City Councilman David Henke was planning to run, but decided to seek reelection. For the Democrats, former councilman and Northwestern basket-

ball star Rod Roberson will face Ashley Boling Molyneaux, who co-founded the Elkhart Education Foundation and has been its executive director since 2015. Before that, she was a high school teacher in the Chicago area for eight years, according to her biography on the foundation's website (South Bend Tribune). Roberson is director of co-curricular programming for Elkhart Community Schools. Miller kicked off his campaign to retake the office during an event Friday evening at Lex 530. Miller was elected mayor in 1999 and served until 2007, when he did not seek a third term. But after a 12-year sabbatical, working in the RV transportation industry and as a school bus driver, Miller said he is more eager to run for mayor than ever before. Current Mayor Tim Neese defeated Democrat Mayor Dick Moore four years ago, but shocked the city by announcing he wouldn't seek a second term after a police scandal emerged. **2015 Results:** Neese (R) 3,740, Moore (D) 2,081.

Evansville: Dems can't find challenger

Republican Mayor Lloyd Winnecke has no Democratic challenger and faces a GOP primary challenge from a novice candidate, Connie Whitman, a 68-year-old South-



east Evansville resident, who came into the Election Office before 11 a.m. with the intention of filing for mayor as a Democrat (Langhorne, Evansville Courier & Press). Whitman said she just hates to see uncontested elections. She is a frequent presence at public meetings. She said she was distressed to read in the Courier & Press that no one was willing to challenge

Republican Mayor Lloyd Winnecke. Vanderburgh Democratic Chairman Scott Danks told the Courier & Press, that six potential Democratic mayoral candidates had come forward before Friday's filing deadline, Danks said, but he judged them not ready for primetime and stressed the difficulties of the endeavor to them. **2015 Results:** Winnecke (R) 12,309, Riecken (D) 6,723.

Fishers: Mayor Fadness faces Day

An outspoken critic of Fishers' plan to convert the

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Nickel Plate Railroad into a trail has filed to run against Mayor Scott Fadness in May's primary election (Quinn, IBJ). Logan Day, who previously served as the spokesperson for the Save the Nickel Plate organization, on Friday morning officially filed to run in the Republican primary. Last month, Day formed an exploratory committee to gauge whether he'd have the financial and political support to run for office. Now, he feels confident he's ready to proceed, he said. "It is my greatest hope to serve the residents of Fishers as a conduit of their needs and desires directly in the administration," he said in a prepared statement. "I'm so excited to continue sharing my vision and work with citizens to build a future for Fishers together." Day has been the face of a grassroots campaign to prevent the railroad tracks from being ripped out and replaced with a trail. Fadness, who is completing his first full term as mayor, filed to run for reelection last week. "As long as we have the courage and entrepreneurial spirit to recognize what is happening globally, innovate and adapt, we will continue to be a strong community, poised for success," he said in a prepared statement issued last week. In his campaign, Day is calling for more transparency and sustainable spending. His platform includes providing more communication and clarity about the city's contracting process with taxpayer money, he said. He said he plans to spend every Wednesday morning at The Original Pancake House in Fishers, where residents can meet him and talk about their concerns, meetings that will continue if he's elected. **2015 Results:** Fadness (R) 3,872.

Fort Wayne: Henry seeking 4th term

Democratic Mayor Tom Henry is seeking a fourth term. He will face Gina Burgess and perennial candidate Tommy Schrader in the Democratic primary. Republican Councilman John Crawford will face Tim Smith, Matthew McLaughlin and perennial candidate David Roach. Smith is an executive at MedPro and kicked off his campaign saying, "I believe, even in these economic times, that our political leadership can deliver far more than what Fort Wayne residents currently experience. That is why I



Mayor Henry and Councilman Crawford.

am running for mayor of our great city. Expect more, each and every day, when I'm mayor. Expect the safest, smartest, and strongest city in the Midwest." Dr. Crawford is an oncologist and outlined his campaign's platform, which includes fiscal conservatism, public health, crime reduction and economic development. We will have a positive message to tell people the ways we plan to make citizens' lives better," Crawford said. "We will spend our time giving citizens reasons to vote for us rather than tear down our

opponents." He said if elected he would draft the first zero-based budget in more than 20 years and re-evaluate all city expenditures and programs for their effectiveness and necessity. Henry's reelection bid will focus on his economic development successes downtown and recent initiatives to revitalize the extensive river coordinators that course through the city. On Wednesday Henry announced plans for a new residential tax abatement. "State law allows for this initiative and I would like to ask council for positive consideration of this neighborhood investment opportunity," he said. **2015 Results:** Henry (D) 23,769, Harper (R) 18,068.

Frankfort: McBarnes seeks third term

Mayor Chris McBarnes, who'd previously been vehement about his desire not to serve more than two terms in office, now says he'll stand for reelection next year (Jastrzebski, WBAA). McBarnes was one of Indiana's youngest mayors when he was first elected in 2011, shortly after he graduated from college. For almost the entirety of his seven years in office, he's said two terms was his limit. McBarnes told WBAA that he felt out of place leaving government. "Over the past six or seven months, I haven't felt like myself," McBarnes says. "I feel like I've been a top spinning in the wind, trying to knock down doors that weren't meant to be knocked down." McBarnes will face at least one challenger, Councilman Lewis Wheeler. McBarnes says he's worried about what might become of ongoing economic development projects if a fiscal hawk like Wheeler is elected. "I am terrified – terrified – that if that other ideology is elected, that my hometown will stay the same, will continue to become sleepy," McBarnes says. "That will dramaticize (sic) over the years to come and we will fade into the abyss." **2015 Results:** McBarnes (R) 1,748, McKinney (L) 241.

Gary: 8 challengers for Freeman-Wilson

Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson can usually count on some opposition. She defeated 11 challengers of all political stripes in 2011 and nine in 2015. Lake County Assessor Jerome Price filed at deadline, joining eight fellow Democrats challenging incumbent Freeman-Wilson: Councilwoman LaVetta Sparks-Wade; Mildred "Tinye" Alcorn; Kerry Rice Sr.; Carl "Doozie" Jones; Eddie Tarver Jr.; Joe L. White; James "Sirmack G.I." Edward McKnight II; and Jerry "Freeman" Wilson. According to the NWI Times, Freeman-Wilson's administration may be vulnerable to criticism because the city government's finances rarely have been in worse shape, but she commands a campaign machine that raised nearly \$167,000 in campaign contributions last year. **2015 Results:** Freeman-Wilson (D) 7,190, Wright (I) 228, Tarver (I) 1,581, Campbell (I) 212, Syron Smith (I) 423, Charles Smith (I) 472.

Goshen: Snyder challenges Stutsman

Terry T. Snyder has announced his intention to

seek the Republican nomination for Goshen mayor in the May 7 municipal primary election (Goshen News). Snyder, 77, filed his candidacy paperwork at the Elkhart County Clerk's office Thursday. He is hoping to unseat current Goshen Mayor Jeremy Stutsman, a Democrat, who is seeking a second term. The deadline to file a declaration of candidacy for the primary was noon Friday. A Goshen native, Snyder's family has lived in the Goshen area for five generations. Following his graduation from Goshen High School in 1959, Snyder went immediately into the workforce as a local electrician, a job he would stick with for the better part of 60 years as owner and operator of Snyder Electric. "I was the youngest electrician in the history of Goshen, at the age of 16," Snyder said of his work. "I'm technically retired. I haven't been in the phone book for three years, but the phone still keeps ringing. I do a lot of service work, troubleshooting, etc., at this point in my life. I don't do any big jobs anymore." **2015 Results:** Stutsman (R) 3,080, Cripe (D) 2,691.

Greenfield: Student challenges mayor

College student Zachary LaFavers is challenging 75-year-old Mayor Chuck Fewell (Middleton, Greenfield Reporter). LaFavers, who will turn 22 in less than two weeks, said he's confident voters will embrace his "positive and progressive" stance on city issues and choose him over Mayor Fewell, who's running for his second term in office. "I'm glad that the local Republican party feels good enough and strong enough to have me run," Fewell said. **2015 Results:** Fewell was unopposed in the general.

Greenwood: Myers faces GOP opponent

Greenwood Mayor Mark Myers will face a Republican primary challenge from Dale Marmaduke. Myers ran unopposed in 2015.

Hobart: Former mayor drops challenge

Former Hobart Mayor Linda Buzinec earlier withdrew her challenge to Hobart Mayor Brian Snedecor (NWI Times).

Hammond: McDermott seeks 5th term

Mayor Thomas McDermott Jr. is seeking a fifth term and is unopposed. He said in an NWI Times op-ed, "Serving the residents of Hammond is the best job I've ever had and most likely the best job I will ever hold. I'm sure very few people, including me, thought the fresh-faced 34-year-old you elected in 2003 would still be your mayor in 2018. Why do I believe I deserve your vote in 2019? First and foremost, because I always put Hammond first in every situation. I fight for our city every day, and I'm not afraid to let other people and elected officials know that. Another reason that I ask for your continued support is because of the tremendous experience I now have to tackle the many tough challenges that lie ahead. The next term (2020 through 2023) will bring many new challenges

to cities across Indiana, and Hammond will need an experienced, steady hand to guide our city through these four years." **2015 Results:** McDermott 5,918, Prado (R) 863.

Indianapolis: Hogsett, Merritt primaries

Mayor Joe Hogsett and Republican State Sen. Jim Merritt each face challengers ahead of an expected matchup in November (WIBC). Denise Hatch, who lost a run for Center Township constable last year, will try to upset Hogsett, while Merritt faces Felipe Rios and Christopher Moore. Hogsett sought to rally Democrats last Saturday, citing RFRA, adding, "I don't think those positions reflect the values of the people of Marion County. Hell, I don't think they reflect the values of most people in the Marion County Republican Party." Hogsett warned that Merritt takes his "marching orders on gun violence from the NRA. It's a wonder they didn't just hold their slating convention and the NRA convention at the same time and save themselves money, time and trouble," Hogsett said. Merritt has taken aim at Hogsett over the record homicide rates after the incumbent ran on a law-and-order platform in 2015, and the pockmarked streets, though Hogsett pushed through a \$120 million infrastructure plan last year. **2015 Results:** Hogsett (D) 92,830, Brewer (R) 56,661, Carson (I) 221.



Jasper: Ex-Huntingburg mayor running

A Republican caucus in December chose Jasper Councilman Dean Vonderheide as the new mayor. He will fill the remaining year of the term of Terry Seitz, who announced earlier this month he accepted a senior staff position with U.S. Sen. Mike Braun. Seitz won reelection in 2015 by a single vote. Marvin Belcher, a former mayor of nearby Huntingburg, is seeking the Democratic nomination. **2015 Results:** Seitz (R) 1,856, Schuetter (D) 1,855, Budd (I) 190.

Jeffersonville: Moore, Galligan rematch

Republican Mayor Mike Moore is seeking a third term and will likely face former three-term Democratic Mayor Tom Galligan. Moore defeated Democratic challenger Dennis Julius in 2015. Galligan, 72, who lost to Moore in 2011, has been thinking about running for about "six to eight months," saying he is not happy with the way things are being done under Moore. "I have been watching how everything has been going and I don't think it's going in the right direction," Galligan told the News & Tribune. "A lot of things are happening, but the way it's being done is not in the best interest of the citizens of Jeffersonville." Galligan served as chairman of the Clark County Democrat Party after his time as mayor and also headed up the Clark County Airport. He still works at his business, T Galligan

Consulting, LLC. "One reason I am running is the citizens of Jeff(ersonville) need to come first, not the individual," he said. "A lot of things are going on that I don't think should go on. We always tried to get the best deal for the people. Eight years ago, Galligan backed a canal to be built in downtown Jeffersonville that would have helped with flooding issues, he said. Moore ran against the canal, saying it was too expensive, and eventually won the race. Galligan said Moore backs a downtown school which was approved by referendum, and he is giving those who voted against that school a choice. "When he came out for the downtown school, he said if you don't like me you can vote me out of office," Galligan said of Moore. "I am giving them an option to vote him out." **2015 Results:** Moore (R) 6,406, Julius (D) 5,558.

Kokomo: Two primaries in Kokomo

The Kokomo mayoral lineups are set following the unexpected retirement of three-term Democrat Mayor Greg Goodnight (Myers, Kokomo Tribune). Running for the Republicans are Howard County Commissioner Tyler Moore and political novice Richard Stout. Democrat candidates include former policeman and Kokomo Councilman Kevin Summers and Abbie Smith, who has taken a leave of absence from her position as the United Way of Howard County's president and CEO. Smith emerged with an early platform focused primarily on economic development, infrastructure and public safety. She said her campaign will narrow its focus to specific ideas following "listening sessions" and interactions with city voters. Summers' campaign has focused largely on measures that would rebut the last 11 years of Mayor Goodnight, including needs he believes range from road construction reversals to the return of a city-run ambulance service. Moore works as an escrow manager at Moore Title & Escrow. "My family's roots in this area go back generations," said Moore, referencing his great(x4) grandfather Miami Indian Chief Jean Baptiste Richardville, after whom this area was originally named Richardville County. "I love this city and I want to see it continue to grow and thrive for my family and for yours. As mayor, you can expect more from me. You can expect better roads, a greater emphasis on public safety, and the sound and transparent management of taxpayer money." **2015 Results:** Goodnight (D) 6,003, Lake (R) 4,744.

Lake Station: Open seat

City Councilwoman Esther Rocha-Baldazo and Bill Carroll, director of daily operations at a local hardware store, will vie in the

Democratic primary to be the city's next mayor. The winner will compete against Republican Cynthia Robbins, who is unopposed on the GOP side (NWI Times). Lake Station Mayor Christopher Anderson, who has served as mayor since 2016, told The Times late Friday morning it was time for him to move on to a new career. Anderson previously served as Lake Station's city judge for seven years before shaking up Lake Station's political scene by challenging former Lake Station Mayor Keith Soderquist. Anderson fired the mayor's stepdaughter, Miranda Brakley, for embezzling public funds from city court and alerted state and federal authorities to investigate Soderquist and Soderquist's wife, Deborah. The U.S. attorney's office charged and won convictions of the Soderquists for gambling at local casinos with money diverted from Keith Soderquist's campaign donations and the city's food pantry. "During my years of public service, I have given my all to my duties and obligations as a public servant," Anderson said Friday. **2015 Results:** Anderson (D) 1,483, Peralta (R) 227.

Lafayette: Roswarski seeks 5th term

Democrat Mayor Tony Roswarski is seeking a fifth term (Bangert, Lafayette Journal & Courier). "I've always told people I don't want to go anywhere else," Roswarski said this week. "This is where I hope I can retire. I want to run, again, this year and probably one time after that." If Roswarski, 58, is serious about making one more run in 2023, that would put him in position for a sixth term. That would tie him with Jim Riehle, a Democrat who was mayor for 24 years after first being elected in 1971. "People ask me about that all the time," Roswarski said. "Jim did a marvelous job, and I certainly don't see myself in competition with him. I want to continue to do it, as long as I feel like I'm contributing and the people feel I'm



contributing and my health is good. If that's 20 years or 24 years or whatever it is, that's what I'm going to do." **2015 Results:** Roswarski (D) 4,158, Reed (R) 967.

West Lafayette: Republican incumbent

Republican Mayor John Dennis, who hinted four years ago that the current term might be the last, told the Journal & Courier's Dave Bangert there's too much work in progress, on both sides of the Wabash River, for him to see stepping back. Dennis did not have a challenger at filing deadline. In West Lafayette, that means managing the development expected to follow \$120 million in improvements along State Street, a new West Lafayette downtown plan, a \$34 million recreation center in Cumberland Park and the renovation of Morton Center as a permanent city hall. "I imagine it's the same for Tony (Roswarski) – in fact, I know it's the same for Tony," said Dennis, who takes every opportunity to highlight the fact that the two mayors started as patrol partners with the Lafayette Police Department. "We've got a great team," Dennis said. "And I use that term 'team' not just here in West Lafayette, but in Lafayette, too. We're different cities, but in it together in so many ways. ... That's probably why it works so well."

LaPorte: Dermody v. Stabocz

Longtime business owner and former state lawmaker Tom Dermody will run against at-large councilman Tim Stabocz. This election comes as former Mayor Blair Milo resigned to take a position with Gov. Eric Holcomb. She was replaced by Mark Krentz in a 2017 caucus, who then declined to seek a full term. Dermody said, "This community has been very good to me and my family. I just felt a real commitment to the future of La Porte." Dermody has been attending council, board and commission meetings to learn more about issues facing the community and said he has also been meeting with residents to understand their concerns and visions for the future. "I really want to challenge the status quo to deliver an improved quality of life in La Porte," he said. "I think this is a great community and I think we can have high expectations." **2015 Results:** Milo (R) 1,693, Maxfield (I) 404.

Lawrenceburg: Councilman faces mayor

Former Lawrenceburg City Councilman and business owner Mike Lawrence is challenging Mayor Kelly Mollaun. Lawrence was elected to the Lawrenceburg Common Council for one term as a Democrat in 2011. He frequently challenged city spending and often criticized then-Mayor Dennis Carr, a Democrat. He left the council after losing to Carr in the 2015 Democratic primary for mayor. In kicking off his campaign, Mollaun said, "I am committed to continuing what we started three short years ago. I am officially announcing my bid for reelection to remain your mayor. Let's see what we can accomplish together in the second term based upon the success we've had during the

first one." **2015 Results:** Mollaun (R) 513, Carr (D) 391, Estis (I) 111,

Lebanon: Ottinger challenges Gentry

Mayor Matt Gentry officially filed to run for reelection in the May 7 primary. Gentry was first elected in 2015 after upsetting Mayor Huck Lewis in the primary and is currently the youngest serving Republican mayor in Indiana at age 29. Gentry enters an already crowded field of three candidates which includes long-time politician and current Boone County Republican Party Chair Debbie Ottinger. "I am excited that voters will have a clear choice in regard to the vision for our community's future. Some want to look backwards towards how it's always been done. In contrast, I believe we must embrace our past while continuing to look forward and prepare for Lebanon's bright future," Gentry said. **2015 Results:** Gentry (R) 2,264, Thomas (D) 1,106, Korman (I) 35.

Logansport: Kitchell v. Martin

Mayor Dave Kitchell is in the midst of his fourth year as the city's mayor, a position he said he does not consider a job, but a calling (Logansport Pharos-Tribune). Kitchell (pictured) defeated Republican Mayor Ted Franklin in 2015. "Because I feel called to continue to serve



you and further our community, I'm asking you tonight to take this path further with us," he told colleagues and supporters on Dec. 18 at Boondockers. "I believe in the people that define Logansport, Indiana, and I will seek a second opportunity to serve you as your mayor in 2019." Kitchell cited that the city's unemployment rate has gone down during

his term, while population and property values have risen. Republican Chris Martin also announced his candidacy for mayor in the upcoming election. The 27-year-old previously ran for Logansport City Council twice during his career, the first time at just 19 years old. One of Martin's promises if elected to City Council four years ago was that he would lead the way to develop opportunities for kids in town. Through his involvement in the aforementioned nonprofit organizations, he has tried to do just that. **2015 Results:** Kitchell (D) 1,835, Franklin (R) 1,148.

New Albany: Gahan seeks third term

Democratic Mayor Jeff Gahan is seeking a third term and will face David White in the primary. It will be a primary rematch from 2015 when Gahan won by 699 votes. White maintains that spending "has been out of control" and he has been unwilling to work with Floyd County officials. Republican Floyd County Commissioner Jeff Seabrook is also running. City Councilman Dan Coffey is running as an independent. **2015 Results:** Gahan (D) 3,527, Zucshmiere (R) 2,695, Baylor (I) 462.

Noblesville: Crowded GOP primary

Mike Corbett, owner of Hamilton County Media Group, which publishes Hamilton County Business Magazine, announced he'll seek the Republican nomination next May to succeed current Mayor John Ditslear (Quinn, IBJ). Ditslear, who was first elected in 2003, is not seeking reelection. His current term, which he was elected to in 2015, expires in 2019. Noblesville Common Council President Chris Jensen and Noblesville School Board member Julia Church Kozicki are also running in the Republican primary. Corbett ran in the Republican primary for mayor in 2015 and 2011 and lost to Ditslear both times. Driving his current campaign is what he calls a lack of transparency in city government, Corbett said. "It became clear to me during early meetings about the Nickel Plate Trail just how unresponsive our government is," he said in written comments. "Dozens of citizens at city meetings expressed their displeasure with the city's plan to rip up the rails, but the deal had already been made and it didn't matter what the citizens thought. The city went ahead with its plan anyway. That's just one example of why we need change." Jensen and Kozicki both emphasize downtown development, and in particular the need to create more downtown housing

(WIBC). Jensen boasts Noblesville's historic downtown, bisected by the White River, is a natural asset which neighboring communities have tried to create on their own. He says he'll be listening to residents' ideas for a downtown development strategy. **2015 Results:** Ditslear (R) 2,661.

Madison: three seek open seat

Madison's mayor now, Damon Welch, announced Nov. 9 that he will not seek a third term. Bob Courtney, the Jefferson County Republican Party chair, is the latest to announce he will be a candidate for Madison mayor in next year's election. Andrew Forrester, now the city's community relations director, also announced he will enter the GOP race (Madison Courier). Julie Berry, a Democrat who served on the Jefferson County Commission for three terms and was special projects administrator for Madison in the 1980s, had already announced she would run for mayor. Bryan Hernandez, an 18-year-old senior at Madison Consolidated High School, also filed on the Democrat ticket. Berry served as Special Projects Administrator for Madison during an extremely challenging period in the 1980's. "Following the abrupt closure of the Marble Hill Nuclear Plant, it was necessary to work hard on industrial



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development. I was part of teams that attracted Arvin Sango, Madison Precision Products and Century Tube industrial plants to Madison. I understand how to network, promote, and seal deals for our community," said Berry. "I think it is time to bring in bold ideas, methods, and action to ensure our City's growth and sustainable future." **2015 Results:** Welch (R) 1,915, Vetrhus (D) 1,192.

Marion: Henderson challenges Alumbaugh

Steve Henderson, a Republican who has served on the city council for three years will challenge Democratic Mayor Jess Alumbaugh. Henderson is quoted saying that he "wants to see our city overcome past obstacles." When the Chronicle-Tribune asked what the obstacles were, Henderson largely spoke of finances. "Obviously, we need some different direction to go and some better management of our funds," Henderson said. **2015 Results:** Alumbaugh (D) 2,865, Lawson (R) 1,856.

Michigan City: Mayor Meer in 3-way race

Democrat Mayor Ron Meer is facing a three-way primary race. Councilwoman Virginia Falls Martin, who served four terms on the council and has "a lifetime of service to the community," filed last week to run for mayor in the May Democratic Primary. She joins Clifford Townsend. Republicans Robert Lonie and Duane Parry also filed. Martin was recruited by a segment of African-American wards because of disenchantment in that community with Meer's police chief, Mark Swistek. During her 16 years on the council, from 1992-2007, Martin worked with several administrations as both a councilwoman and council president. To put it simply, Martin said, "I want to make things better for everyone in the city." The first black woman to ever serve on the City Council and as council president said, "Quality of life for all who live here is paramount, from better paying job opportunities to improving our neighborhoods, housing and infrastructure." **2015 Results:** Meer (D) 2,083, Behrendt (R) 1,810, Hamill (L) 100.

Muncie: Nine running in Muncie

The Muncie Democrat candidates for mayor are (Muncie Star Press): Terry Whitt Bailey, the city of Muncie's Community Development director; Andrew Dale, a longtime local business owner; Kenneth Davenport, a perennial candidate for office; David Smith; and Saul Riley. Republicans have four candidates for mayor: Nate Jones, Delaware County's veterans affairs officer; Tom Bracken, a seven-year member of the Ball State Board of Trustees and descendant of the Ball Family; Dan Ridenour, a Republican representative for District 2 on Muncie City Council; and Tony Cox, a retired police officer. As filing for the spring primary election closed midday Friday at the Delaware County clerk's office, incumbent city council member Linda Gregory filed a candidacy challenge against Democratic mayoral candidate Terry Whitt Bailey (Muncie Star Press). Gregory asserts in her challenge that Bailey, as the

Community Development director for the City of Muncie, is paid with federal monies, which would be a violation of the Federal Hatch Act of 1939. The act and an amendment to it, passed to eliminate corruption during the Roosevelt administration, blocks federal employees whose positions are primarily paid for by federal funds from seeking political office. Bailey, however, disputes the challenge. "It's one of the reasons we took so long to file," Bailey said Friday afternoon, noting her campaign team had done their research. **2015 Results:** Tyler (D) 3,269.

Peru: Mayor Greer faces Bunker

Democrat incumbent Mayor Gabe Greer will face a rematch with Republican Wayne Bunker, who ran as an independent candidate in 2015. Greer defeated Republican Mayor Jim Walker. Bunker has previously served on the Peru Community School Board as president and CFO. He is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, serving from 1971 to 1975. He also served on the Peru Fire Department for 18 years. **2015 Results:** Greer 1,283, Bunker (I) 277, Walker (R) 885.

Plymouth: Senter seeks reelection

Mayor Mark Senter is running for reelection, seeking a fourth term. Senter faces a Republican primary challenge from Ben Fisher. Democrat Josh Walker also filed. **2015 Results:** Senter (R) 864, Crump (D) 543.

Portage: Indicted Snyder not running

Mayor James Snyder has opted not to seek reelection as his public corruption trial continues in federal court (Ross, NWI Times). Candidate filings ended at noon Friday without Snyder, but with a four-way primary race on the Democratic ticket for mayor and lone Republican mayoral candidate John Cannon. Democrats seeking the party's nomination are Leo T. Hatch Jr., City Council member Sue I. Lynch, city director of economic development Andy Maletta and Clerk-Treasurer Christopher D. Stidham. There are also primary races among Democrats for city clerk-treasurer and for the at-large, and 2nd and 4th district City Council seats. Snyder is facing a corruption trial with the case going to the jury last Monday. **2015 Results:** Snyder (R) 3,730, Clancy (D) 3,505.

Princeton: Seven file

Republican Princeton Mayor Brad Schmitt is seeking a second term and will face three GOP primary challengers in Sherri Smith, Michael Stilwell and Greg Wright. Running for the Democratic nomination will be Dan Beard, James Brines and Robert Hurst. If Hurst wins, it would be a rematch of the 2015 general election. **2015 Results:** Schmitt (R) 1,066, Hurst (D) 650.

Richmond: Snow seeking 2nd term

Democrat incumbent Mayor Dave Snow is seeking a second term. Republican Jack Cruse, a former employee

of the mayor, is running. Snow was elected president of the AIM Conference of Mayors. **2015 Results:** Snow (D) 3,421, Ingram (R) 2,732.

Seymour: Open seat draws four

Democrat Jim "Mike" Kelly faces political newcomer Rexanne Ude. The 61-year-old tossed her hat into the ring in January (Seymour Tribune). Two Republicans filing include Bridey Jacobi, 43, and Matt Nicholson, 41. Kelly, who is employed at PMG Indiana Corp. in Columbus, said he decided to join the race because he feels the city should prioritize projects that make a greater impact to the community. Kelly said he has attended council meetings and opposed the welcome sign on the city's east side and the park that opened downtown. He said he would rather see the city go after other projects, like improving drainage systems. "I've lived in Seymour for 22 years, and it seems like each time it rains, everything floods," he said. "It seems only a select few people benefit from the park we built when the drainage issue affects more." Kelly said he plans to run a grassroots campaign by walking door-to-door. **2015 Results:** Luederman (R) 1,260.

Shelbyville: Ridgeway challenges DeBaun

Councilman Brad Ridgeway will challenge Shelbyville Mayor Tom DeBaun, a Democrat, who is seeking a third term (Walker, WSVX). Ridgeway is now in his first term on the City Council and has often been a dissenting voice on matters before the council. DeBaun ran unopposed in 2015.

South Bend: Buttigieg endorses Mueller

There are nine Democratic candidates for South Bend mayor and one Republican candidate. While there are nine candidates running for the open mayoral seat, Mayor Pete Buttigieg weighed in, endorsing James Mueller, the executive director of the city's Department of Community Investment. "I knew that I needed to turn to somebody who could be trusted," Buttigieg said Monday inside the office of the former Gates Automotive downtown used-car lot, now transformed into Mueller's mayoral campaign headquarters (Parrott, South Bend Tribune). The other candidates include Lynn Coleman, the retired South Bend police officer, who was the 2016 Democratic candidate for the 2nd CD; Jason Critchlow who was the chair of the St. Joseph County Democratic Party until stepping down last month; Councilman Oliver Davis; Councilwoman Regina Williams-Preston; businessman Will Smith; 19-year-old businessman Shane Inez; 21-year-old businessman Salvador Rodriguez; businessman Richard Wright; and Republican Sean Haas, a former U.S. Marine and current high school teacher. Buttigieg's endorsement could give Mueller an advantage, though our sources tell us it unsettled a number of Democrats. **2015 Results:** Buttigieg (D) 8,515, Jones (R) 2,074.

Terre Haute: Bennett seeks 4th term

Mayor Duke Bennett is seeking an unprecedented fourth term for a Republican. Democrat Terre Haute City Councilman Karrum Nasser hopes to run against Bennett in the fall. Nasser says the past three years on the council have taught him a lot about how city government works. Former City Engineer Pat Goodwin is running as an independent. "During my entire time in this office, we have worked very hard to make Terre Haute a better place. In spite of a significant loss of property tax revenue, we have eliminated several fund deficits, have a balanced budget and have still continued to invest in our community. I have great department heads and a city workforce that strives to deliver positive results to our citizens every day," Bennett said. **2015 Results:** Bennett (R) 4,285, Bird (D) 3,972.

Valparaiso: Costas not running

Mayor Jon Costas declined to seek another term. Bill Durnell and Debora "Deb" Porter will be battling it out for the Democratic nomination for mayor in Valparaiso. The winner of that race will go on to face Republican Matthew R. Murphy. Costas ran unopposed in 2015.

Vincennes: Yochum seeks 3rd term

Mayor Joe Yochum says he will run for re-election next year. If Yochum is reelected, he'll join the late Bill Rose as the only mayor to serve three terms in office in Vincennes.

Warsaw: Thallemer faces challenger

Incumbent Warsaw Republican Joe Thallemer will face Republican Ron Shoemaker (Warsaw Times Union). **2015 Results:** Thallemer 843.

Westfield: No challenger for Cook

Republican Mayor Andy Cook had no challengers file at last Friday's deadline. Cook ran unopposed in 2015.

Winchester: Byrum not running again

Mayor Shon Byrum is not seeking reelection, citing "manufactured controversies," including arguments over a new opioid-treatment center, was one of the reasons he's not seeking a second term (Muncie Star Press). Democrat William Richmond and Republicans Bob McCoy and Larry 'Moe' Lennington have filed. Byrum told the Star Press, "I don't know if national politics has anything to do with it," Byrum said of political divisiveness in Winchester. "I think national politics is sort of playing out at the local level and given some people authority to go into a whole new realm of interaction with their government." In addition, the Democratic mayor is 36, while the average age of the all-Republican city council is 60, he said, "so there's also a generational difference." **2015 Results:** Byrum (D) 606, Younts (R) 524, Monroe (I) 51. ❖

Goodnight's advice for incoming mayors

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

KOKOMO – When Greg Goodnight became mayor of the City of Firsts, the city was on the verge of historic unemployment and a collapse of its sprawling GM and Chrysler industrial complexes. He'll exit after three terms with a \$24 million cash balance, the lowest debt per capita of Indiana's largest 35 cities, a reduction of city employees from 520 to 350, a new baseball stadium and riverfront district.



Goodnight leaves office with a decline in crime, with 2017 having the lowest level of calls for service in more than a decade.

Kokomo was one of the first cities in Indiana to sue opioid manufacturers and distributors and the city and Howard County have taken the lead in providing addiction recovery services, with the System of Care and Turning Point programs making 500 referrals and serving 125 people since last May.

Under Goodnight, the city has removed more than 40 traffic signals, built a new YMCA and downtown parking garage, created housing for homeless veterans, merged emergency dispatch with the county and shifted city ambulance service to area hospitals. There are a comprehensive smoking ban and a human rights ordinance. Annexation and one of the best business climates in the nation have seen Kokomo's population grow from 46,000 in 2008 to nearly 58,000 people today.

HPI sat down with Mayor Goodnight on a foggy Monday afternoon and conducted this "exit" interview in his City Hall office to see if he had any advice for an incoming crop of mayors.

HPI: By the end of the year you'll have been a mayor for 12 years. Drill down on what have been the essential lessons of your style of local governance.

Goodnight: Every day is a test. Our community has faced just about every challenge that can confront you. I've had the highest unemployment in the state during the peak of the Great Recession, I've dealt with two devastating tornadoes just about two and a half years apart from each other. I've dealt with a 100-year flood the same year of the first tornado in 2013. I've dealt with a lot of good things that have happened in the community.



Every day's different, every day is a challenge. There are a lot of things from international trade, to decisions made in Washington D.C., to decisions made in Indianapolis at the Statehouse and allocation of funds and who received them that impacts every community. All you can do is do your best to navigate the system. It's challenging.

HPI: The recent Indiana Supreme Court ruling that overturned 150 years of law that now allows trains to block roads for long periods of time is becoming an issue for a lot of cities. Is that something you're dealing with?

Goodnight: It's not a problem here.

HPI: But that's an example of power from somewhere else having a chain reaction for a city.

Goodnight: Yep. There are going to be big challenges facing cities. If you look at the fact that people are migrating to cities at a faster rate than they ever have in the history of the world. They are moving to major metropolitan areas, though this is happening in smaller communities, too. Tying your economy to a larger metropolitan area is your best choice for success. There are exceptions to every rule. If you look at those changes, the automation changes that are going to be taking place over the next few years and every time something changes, it usually presents a whole new set of challenges.

HPI: A couple of years ago I asked Purdue President Mitch Daniels what keeps him up at night and it was automation and the potential for not enough middle class jobs to be supported. Does that keep you up at night?

Goodnight: It does. It worries me. I only have to worry about my small area in Kokomo. But things like that and climate change are a concern. I tell people that climate change is not cheap. It's very expensive. So when you deal with two devastating tornadoes in three years, there's an expense to taxpayers. When you deal with that and flooding and the unpredictable weather patterns

and you're spending a lot of your time on emergency management, you're not able to focus on some of the basic things that people expect. It takes away from your time and energy and resources to the things five years down the road that worry Mitch Daniels.

HPI: So, you're seeing a perceptible change in the climate. Mayor Pete Buttigieg noted the extremes of thousand-year floods and polar vortexes wreaking havoc on South Bend.

Goodnight: We didn't have a devastating tornado in my lifetime until recently. The last one we had was April 11, 1965, which was before I was born.

HPI: Yes, the Palm Sunday tornadoes.

Goodnight: Palm Sunday. Then all of a sud-

den we deal with two, 28 months apart. They took a very eerily similar path through the same neighborhoods. We've had sporadic downpours. We've had floods in areas that had never flooded before, like out near Ivy Tech on the northeast part of Kokomo. It was in an isolated area, but it caused a huge amount of damage at the Kokomo Speedway on the far northside and these other pockets. It's expensive. It takes away your limited resources that cities are facing and you're just trying to manage that. I always tell people the hardest part of the job is to wade through so you can look five or 10 years down the road where you're looking at population shifts or changes in the economy or automation and the trends taking shape.

HPI: What does the emergence and spread of social media mean to a modern mayor? When you started, for instance, I don't believe Twitter existed.

Goodnight: You can't tell the truth fast enough to keep up with all the lies. I always joke it used to be if you wanted to complain to your city council or the school superintendent or the mayor, you used to have to find out what time the meeting was, put on your shoes, arrive to the meeting on time, state your name, give your opinion based on the facts you may have, subject yourself to questions of where your information came from, and have a discussion. And now, you can say whatever you want, you don't even have to use a real name, just say it. Those things may have happened before. You may have had someone venting to two or three people at the coffee shop. Now, you get on social media and you have a megaphone. As an elected official, you can't spend all your time chasing down all these things and counteract it.

HPI: Some politicians, like President Trump, use Twitter to directly communicate to 40 million people. Mike Pence announced his gubernatorial candidacy via social media. Now, we see congressmen like Greg Pence and Trey Hollingsworth completely evade news media. Is that the downside?

Goodnight: There's a bit of that. I use Twitter and Facebook and we try to get information out. It has an upside for things like catastrophic weather events. It is very helpful; you can get information out very quickly to a large group. But there's not much accountability to it when you don't get your facts right. It just doesn't work that way. I can vouch for a lot of other mayors who say the same thing.

HPI: How much has being a mayor changed over the past decade?

Goodnight: I don't want to sound too old. It's

still a great job. I feel I can have a big impact on our community. I think most mayors would say the same thing. I get invited to the best things in the community. I get to tell our story, whether it's good or bad. What's changed is to some extent... we don't make long-term decisions. We don't do the hard work that reaps benefits down the road. We've become very impatient in society. We pull up to the drive-up window and we're upset if we didn't get our order when we thought it should have come. Everybody wants their street plowed first, everybody wants their trash picked up first thing in the morning.

HPI: Has social media coarsened the political discourse?

Goodnight: Yeah, probably. It's not all bad. We try to use it in a productive way. But things we never

heard about in other cities and other states, we now hear about. You hear about flaws and human behaviors and even mid-level crimes in other states and cities and it just becomes the new norm. It just seems like a lot of people weigh in on everything.

HPI: There will be a new crop of mayors by the end of the year in places like Muncie, Elkhart and

South Bend. What would be your advice to them? How should they prepare?

Goodnight: I don't know if I'm the best one to give advice. I'm proud of what we accomplished here in the city and I say what I'm most proud of is the perception. If you ask leaders across the state whether they are other leaders, from the universities, from the news media, I think we as a group have improved the image of our city. My advice is do what's best for your community, gather as much information and make the decision on what's best for the community. It's probably the only thing that allows you to sleep at night.

HPI: You've already told me you're not interested in running for governor. Do you deem yourself playing a role in Kokomo or broader Indiana in the coming years? You're still a pretty young guy.

Goodnight: I'm 53. I don't know. You never say never. I have no plans to run for office, but you never know what may come up at some point. I still love serving. If you have to weigh all the good things and all the bad things I've had in my 11-plus years, there are definitely more good things. I have more good stories than bad stories. Who knows? I really don't know what I'll do. Everybody keeps asking me what I want to do and I really



don't have a plan. That's unusual for me. My wife always teases me that I never enjoy today because I worry about tomorrow and two and three days from now.

HPI: I've heard other mayors like Paul Helmke, Win Moses and Jim Perron talk about that third term. With all apologies to Jim Brainard and Ted Ellis, is there a shelf life for a mayor?

Goodnight: I would say not for everyone. We are fortunate in Indiana that we have some very good, longstanding mayors. You have Tom McDermott and Jim Brainard who are good examples. Tony Roswarski ...

HPI: And in all those cities, there's ...

Goodnight: A lot of good stuff going on. So, I don't know if there's a natural shelf life or expiration date.

As much as those tornadoes cause problems, I learned a lot about our community and myself. I learned a lot about the balancing act of trying to prioritize things and make quick decisions for a 24- to 48-hour period. Those things don't wear you down. It's the little things ...

HPI: Like when are you going to pick up my trash?

Goodnight: Yeah... potholes, barking dogs and weeds on the tennis court. Those are the things that can drive you nuts. I'm the longest serving mayor in this city's history. I'm the only Democrat to be elected to three terms. There's a lot of things we can be proud of. We've had some changes in our community that are improvements and it's all good. ❖

Aguilera, Prince prompt big Lake showdowns

By RICH JAMES

MERRILLVILLE — It has been three decades since Lake County has had one of those in-your-face Democratic mayoral primaries. One has to look back to the contests between Mayor Robert Pastrick and challenger Bob Stiglich for the last heated race in East Chicago. In Gary, one has to look back to the last few challenges to Mayor Richard Hatcher, who finally was defeated by Thomas Barnes in 1987.



Look no further.

A Gary politician and one from East Chicago have lighted fires under the politically stagnant landscape in Northwest Indiana.

Within minutes of the close of filing last Friday, John Aguilera filed for East Chicago mayor against incumbent Anthony Copeland, the city's first black mayor, who is seeking a third term.

Aguilera long has been a popular Hispanic politician in a city that is majority Hispanic. He served from 1994 to 2000 as a Lake County councilman and then spent six years as a state representative. He ran unsuccessfully for state treasurer last year. While Aguilera promises to be a formidable opponent for Copeland, Jerome Prince promises to be an even stronger opponent for Gary Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson.

Prince has been one of the most prominent Gary politicians over the last two decades. Prince served as a city councilman from 2000 to 2008. From 2008 to 2014, Prince was a Lake County councilman representing Gary. Most significant for Prince is that he has been chairman

of the Gary Democratic Precinct Organization since 2016. Prince currently is in his second term as Lake County assessor. Prince has served virtually without controversy in each of his elected positions. He didn't draw an opponent in his reelection for county assessor.


While Freeman-Wilson has been a fairly popular mayor, the city has amassed millions of dollars of debt under her leadership. Freeman-Wilson also has lived with a financially top-heavy administration while the city's population has plummeted. The unemployment rate in Gary has remained high as the crime rate continues to be the city's largest obstacle to attracting business to the city.

The fact that there are eight challengers, including three women, is expected to be a benefit for Prince. ❖

Rich James has been writing about politics and government for 40 years. He is retired from the Post-Tribune, a newspaper born in Gary.

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Lis Smith plots a wide Buttigieg rollout

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS — For a virtually unknown mayor beyond the Michiana region, South Bend's Pete Buttigieg's exploratory presidential rollout has been sensational. Our early analysis was that for Buttigieg to find traction, he would need compelling staff. Communications Director Lis Smith has been invaluable in the rollout. Buttigieg is taking novelty (a gay mayor with a husband) and attempting to establish market differentiation with some early success.

She is the co-founder of 50 State Communications based in New York. The Dartmouth College graduate was the deputy campaign director for Martin O'Malley's 2016 presidential campaign. According to Ballotpedia, Smith previously worked on campaigns for former Sen. Tom Daschle, Sen. Claire McCaskill, President Barack Obama and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio. She was

Obama's director of rapid response with a reputation of adroitly using Twitter and other social media avenues. Forbes Magazine considered her one of "the essential people to follow on Twitter." The New York Times noted that Smith's rapid response tweets "were a big reason that the campaign was able to define Mitt Romney before he could define himself" during the 2012 campaign.



On Wednesday, the Buttigieg campaign put out a call for rapid responders.

During a recent Howard Schultz appearance, Smith noted Ron Brownstein's assessment: "By night's end, the list of questions he wouldn't answer – and aggressively refused to answer – might exceed the number he did, certainly the number he did w/specific ideas," with Smith adding, "Everyone in this room is now dumber for having listened to it. I award you no points, and may God have mercy on your souls."

According to Ballotpedia, after the Obama campaign, Smith moved to Eliot Spitzer's run for controller of New York City. When Spitzer lost the primary election, she was hired on the communications team for Bill de Blasio's New York City mayoral campaign. There are also press accounts of a romantic relationship with Spitzer, the former New York governor who resigned in a sex scandal.

How effective is Smith? Mayor Buttigieg has been featured on Sunday talk shows including ABC's "This Week," and CNN's "State of the Union." He did Chuck Todd's "Meet The Press Daily" last week (with the host suggesting he'd be back on the show or its Sunday version soon) and

MSNBC's "Hardball" with Chris Matthews, CBS "This Morning" and ABC's "The View." There have been prominent features in the Washington Post magazine, as well as Politico, the New York Times, and the New Yorker. On Feb. 18, New York Times columnist Frank Bruni will interview the mayor in Brooklyn. The mayor will be on "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" tonight.

On MSNBC's "Morning Joe" this morning, Buttigieg provided some bipartisan context, saying, "I had to buck my own party to raise the gas tax in the legislature. As a mayor, you have to work with the other party." On the national front, Buttigieg said, "What is Medicare for all? It's a compromise. The compromise is the single payer. We have to fight the right in moving the goal posts." He added, "The right did a masterful job of pulling the center of gravity to the right of where most people are."

The New Yorker's Benjamin Wallace-Wells portrayed Buttigieg's "Quiet Rebellion," noting, "Against the image of the millennial left, Pete Buttigieg appears to be a relatively prosaic presidential candidate, but, in his own understated way, he is suggesting a sharp break with the past."

The New Yorker continued: "If you thought in terms of the effects of public policy on millennials, he said, you began to see generational imbalances everywhere. The victims of school shootings suffered because of the gun liberties given to older Americans. Cutting taxes for the richest Americans meant that young people, inevitably, would have to pay the bill.

Climate policy, he said, was the deepest example of the imbalance, but the Iraq War was perhaps the most tangible. 'There's this romantic idea that's built up around war,' he said. 'But the pragmatic view is there are tons of people of my generation who have lost their lives, lost their marriages, or lost their health as a consequence of being sent to wars which could have been avoided.'"

And Wallace-Wells offered this fascinating nugget: "In 2015, Buttigieg gave a speech at Harvard, and David Axelrod, President Obama's longtime chief strategist, was in the audience. The speech, Axelrod told me this week, was moving and thoughtful, and he noticed that, though Buttigieg had notes, he rarely consulted them. What struck him was a familiar kind of talent. 'His story is an incredible story,' Axelrod said, 'but more impressive than the story is the guy. At a time when people are aching for hope and a path forward that we can all walk, he is a relentlessly positive person.' Part of the paradox of Buttigieg's candidacy is that he has placed himself in a performative role, without the benefit of a performative personality. 'He is reserved, and maybe that's a hindrance,'

Axelrod told me.”

On the social media front, the Buttigieg campaign has its work cut out. An Axios analysis this morning shows that Buttigieg does not register on capturing social media attention during the opening wave of the 2020 campaign. U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris has a wide lead with 16.5 million mentions (Sen. Elizabeth Warren is in second at 14.5 million) between November and February, while Michael Bloomberg brings up the rear at 195,000.

Buttigieg was initially deemed a lower-tier candidate when he began his presidential quest. The media attention he’s gained to date has been reserved more for the perceived heavyweights in past cycles.

Hoosier week in The New Yorker

This must be Hoosier presidential week in The New Yorker. First came Benjamin Wallace-Wells’ portrayal of South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg’s [“Quiet Rebellion”](#) in the context of the emerging 2020 presidential race. Then Jill Lepore’s [“Eugene V. Debs and the Endurance of Socialism.”](#) These articles feature two Indiana presidential candidates from South Bend and Terre Haute, their stories playing out a century apart.

Lepore finds Debs growing up in Terre Haute working on the railroads, his political origins in the Democratic Party. She writes: “For a long time, Debs disavowed socialism. He placed his faith in democracy, the franchise, and the two-party system. ‘The conflict is not between capital and labor,’ he insisted. ‘It is between the man who holds the office and the man who holds the ballot.’ But in the 1880s, when railroad workers struck time and time again, and as many as 2,000 railroad men a year were killed on the job, while another 20,000 were injured, Debs began to wonder whether the power of benevolence and fraternity was adequate protection from the avarice and ruthlessness of corporations backed up by armed men. ‘The strike is the weapon of the oppressed,’ Debs wrote in 1888.”

Debs ran his final of five presidential campaign in 1920 from a jail cell. It’s too early to determine what confines Buttigieg will be operating from if his fledgling candidacy makes it to 2020. But with President Trump’s State of the Union vow that America will never be a “Socialist country,” it is the notion of historic socialism and Buttigieg’s recasting from a Millennial perspective that provides a fascinating subplot to the 2020 presidential campaign.

South Bend under the microscope

Scrutiny of an obscure to rising presidential candidate is a two-way street. Mayor Buttigieg is getting that first, respectful look from the national media. Should he continue to find traction and begin to register in polls in places like Iowa and New Hampshire, the next phase will be national reporters descending on South Bend to gauge his seven years as mayor, checking out everything from

the mundane on budgets to the controversial with the police tape saga. Savvy opposition researchers from other campaigns will surely lend assistance during this period.

Buttigieg’s book, “The Shortest Way Home,” will offer the first take on his tenure from the candidate himself. He will appear at 2 p.m. Sunday Feb. 24 at IUPUI as part of his book tour. The event will be at Hine Hall.

Iowa gauges Buttigieg

How did Mayor Pete do during his first Iowa trip since announcing his exploratory effort? The Iowa Starting Line newsletter featured an article titled “The Other Way That Pete Buttigieg Stood Out In Iowa.”

The ISL observed: “Even in an incredibly crowded 2020 field, there’s plenty of ways that Pete Buttigieg, mayor of a mid-sized Midwestern city, stands out: He’s young, gay, and an Afghanistan War veteran. But his first appearances in Iowa after his presidential campaign announcement were noteworthy in a much more simple way: How bluntly and honestly he answered questions.”

There was also this observation: “The South Bend, Indiana, mayor kicked off his well-attended events in

Ames and Grinnell on Friday with a very short stump speech (possibly too short, actually, for this early in the race for a little-known contender) before diving right into questions. He was asked what kind of impact he would have for a candidate that didn’t have much of a chance to win. ‘That was very diplomatic,’ Buttigieg joked in his response. ‘Because there is a chance we might not win, it gives us a kind of pressure, but I think it also gives us some permission, to be a little bolder in our thinking... This is a season for big ideas, this is a season for bold initiatives.

And I think the bigger and bolder various candidates are, the more it puts those stakes on a very big field and lets voters choose what makes the most sense.”

ISL: “And that mindset certainly permeated throughout most of his interactions with Iowa caucus-goers. Buttigieg often took questions presented to him at face value, sometimes seeming to think about the topic for the first time and formulate his opinion on the go. It may seem silly to deem Buttigieg’s candid responses as noteworthy, but go to enough Iowa Caucus events and you’ll see candidate after candidate who pivots every single question back to a very specific, pre-set talking point. The Iowans who listened to Buttigieg seemed to notice it, with several students saying he seemed ‘genuine’ and ‘real’ afterward. For the multitude of candidates who begin the 2020 race as long-shots, they’ll all need some sort of moment to break out nationally. But if and when that happens, that candidate will also need plenty of other skills to capitalize on it. One will be their retail politicking chops and ability to actually connect with choosy Iowans when speaking to them face to face.

“Buttigieg seems to at least have that part of his 2020 challenge down already.” ❖



Commuting costs need consideration

By **MORTON MARCUS**

INDIANAPOLIS – Let’s take a short stroll through the orchards of data prepared by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. While we are there, please consider how your county can increase the earnings (wages and salaries) of your residents.

No, I’m not going to preach for higher minimum wages, more skillful workers, or generous employers.

Leave all of that outside the orchard gate. Let’s just think about the income generated in our counties, but paid to workers who live elsewhere.

That’s right. The person working next to you in a factory, warehouse, office or store may be an “alien” from Henry County (New Castle). He takes his earnings back home to Hancock County (Greenfield) where he buys groceries and pays property taxes, to say nothing of other spending.

Do you have any sense of the magnitude of those funds flowing out as each commuter leaves for his or her home in another Indiana county? Or maybe even in an Ohio county?

In 2017, the most recent year for which we have data, \$64.5 billion left Hoosier counties in the pockets of these “foreign” workers. If those dollars went to another Indiana county, we take a pretty relaxed attitude about it... just part of our good neighbor policy. But we might get queasy about that money leaving the state and ending up in Illinois, Michigan, Kentucky, Ohio or elsewhere.

Luckily, when we count up all the dollars that entered Hoosier counties, they equaled \$70.5 billion. It’s a whopping 37% of Hoosier base earnings. Additionally, interstate commuting left Indiana with a surplus of \$6 billion. For every dollar escaping Indiana, we had a \$1.09 coming back.

Did you hear the governor, his legislative buddies, or anyone object? Of course not. The idea that commuting gives a little twist to our understanding of our economies and economic development efforts is not a popular topic.

Look at Marion County, the great heart pumping economic life into so much of the state. In 2017, Marion County gained \$4.5 billion from commuting while it sent \$20.9 billion to comfortable suburbs through a maze of potholes. What candidate for public office would campaign against this \$16.4 imbalance?

Similarly, would candidates in Hamilton County

seek to reduce its net commuting “surplus” of \$6.4 billion? Neighboring counties of Hendricks and Johnson each net over \$2 billion from commuting. While Elkhart County has a commuting “deficit” of \$2.7 billion, Vanderburgh County “loses” \$1.5 billion annually.

In all, 71 of Indiana’s 92 counties have inflows of earnings greater than the outflows they experience. That leaves 21 counties in the reverse positions of outflowing earnings exceeding the inflows.

Should we care? I would argue, yes. At one time, commuting might have been the most efficient household decision subsidized by government infrastructure. Now, we should look more closely at where jobs are located and whether better choices can be made to reduce commuting costs. ❖

Mr. Marcus is an economist. Reach him at mortonjmarcus@yahoo.com. Follow his views and those of John Guy on “Who gets what?” wherever podcasts are available or at mortonjohn.libsyn.com.



Housing demand in Indiana communities

By **MICHAEL HICKS**

MUNCIE – A year ago, my Center colleagues and I met with staff from Accelerating Indiana’s Municipalities to consider several different issues facing Indiana over the coming years. Among the leading issues they asked us to study was housing. That is the genesis of a housing study published by Ball State last week. The results will be surprising to many Hoosiers.

Our study examined more than 20 years of home prices, construction costs, and other factors that influence new home construction across all Indiana counties. The chief finding of the study is that the traditional economic factors of supply and

demand explain nearly all new home construction in Indiana’s counties. In short, in a world where markets often do not work well, housing is a place where markets set home prices and quantities very effectively.

The problem is that many folks don’t like those market outcomes. This will be especially hard for many groups who have been arguing that there is a shortage of housing in many corners of the state. That view is mistaken and it doesn’t take sophisticated economic models to debunk the notion of a housing shortage in Indiana. After all, the U.S. Census reports more than 300,000 vacant



homes across our state. There are enough vacant single-family homes to house almost one-third of all Hoosiers.

The truth is that Indiana has the exact opposite of a housing shortage. The excess supply of homes in the state are a meaningful economic drag on communities. In particular, the excess stock of housing suppresses the value of existing homes. This has become the real housing problem both in Indiana and across much of the Midwest. There are decades of economic research on the issue.

The excess in homes is largely caused by out-migration in many places. The problem is actually so acute that in 62 of Indiana's 92 counties, the average home is worth less than it would cost to rebuild. In those counties, new speculative home construction has essentially stopped. In fact, in only 12 Indiana counties is it clearly profitable to build a new speculative home. That is why across the state, new home construction remains around half of what it was in the two decades before the Great Recession.

Now, many Realtors will argue that these vacant homes don't matter, because they aren't really part of the real estate market. No one, they argue, will buy them. They are about half right. No one is likely to buy them, but they are part of the real estate market just the same. The problem is that they have a zero (or lower) value. Of course, if these homes were located in downtown Chicago or Atlanta they'd be worth hundreds of thousands of dollars each, and would attract an equal amount of renovation dollars. That no one will buy them speaks forcefully about their value, and sadly the value of other homes in those counties. That offers a tough reckoning for much of our state.

Of course, not all the news is bad. One factor that likely keeps housing less expensive in Indiana is the absence of very restrictive land-use policies like those that afflict parts of California. This will continue to act as a magnet for younger households, as long as the other fundamentals are strong.

To be clear, home prices reflect fundamental factors of supply and demand. Our study describes how

factors such as school quality, low crime rates and nice neighborhoods influence home prices. We also estimate how large the effects of population change, the size of the county, negative or positive price shocks and labor market conditions contribute to new home construction. We also provide maps of other issues of importance, such as vacancy rates, and rental market conditions.

Our study also makes policy recommendations. We believe municipal governments should understand the fundamentals of housing before embarking on efforts to subsidize new construction. We also think that stabilizing middle-class communities and eliminating blight should be a growing focus of state and local government.

Mostly, we argue it is important to stick to fundamentals. Low housing values are likely due to underlying problems within communities. Fixing these problems will most likely solve most housing woes. However, some places may need additional resources to fix the problem. We recommend a broad reform of TIF that would make it less costly to communities, but more available for addressing housing problems. We also argue that the state's property tax rules likely contribute to rental shortages and the astonishing oversupply of vacant homes. This may be remedied by public policy, but it'll take a summer study commission to fully evaluate alternatives.

Housing is a tough, emotional issue across much of Indiana. Still, for most places the problems have been misdiagnosed. Housing markets work very well, and housing fundamentals determine both price and quantity of new housing stock. If housing market results aren't doing what you want in your neighborhood, its best to focus on the fundamentals: schools, amenities and community characteristics. ❖

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Kelly Hawes, CNHI: Democrats have been talking about national health insurance since the Truman administration, and they're not likely to stop now. Stacey Abrams, who won national attention in her campaign for governor of Georgia, addressed the issue in the Democratic response to President Donald J. Trump's State of the Union address. "In this great nation, Americans are skipping blood pressure pills, forced to choose between buying medicine or paying rent," she said. "Maternal mortality rates show that mothers, especially black mothers, risk death to give birth. And in 14 states, including my home state where a majority want it, our leaders refuse to expand Medicaid, which could save rural hospitals, economies and lives." Health care was a prominent issue in last year's congressional election, and it is already an issue in the 2020 presidential campaign. Soon after launching her bid last month, Democrat Kamala Harris made headlines when she seemed to endorse a Medicare-for-all program that would get rid of private insurance. "Let's eliminate all of that," she said. Aides later backed away a bit, but they insisted Medicare for all remained the candidate's preference. Republicans weren't slow to pounce. "Democrats in 2019: If you like your plan, let's eliminate it," the Republican National Committee wrote in an email to reporters. The idea of eliminating private health insurance also drew a response from Howard Schultz, the former Starbucks chief executive who is pondering an independent run for president. "That's not correct," Schultz said on CBS "This Morning." "That's not American. What's next? What industry are we going to abolish next? The coffee industry?" Brad Bannon, a Democratic strategist, told The Hill that staking out a position on health care will be tricky for his party's presidential hopefuls. A winning argument in the Democratic primary, he said, might be far less popular in the general election. "That's the balance," he said. Still, at least on the surface, Medicare for all is a popular concept. A survey taken in January for the Kaiser Family Foundation found that 56 percent of respondents would support a national health plan. So the message to Democrats is simple. Health care could be a winning issue. Candidates just need to find that elusive solution. ❖



Mary Beth Schneider, Statehouse File: Vice President Mike Pence sat like a bobblehead doll behind President Donald Trump on Tuesday night, nodding along with either a stern glare or a happy smile to whatever Trump said. But I was more interested in what two other Hoosiers must think about a president who stokes fear about a non-crisis at our Southern border while only exacerbating real problems in other corners of the world. Trump boasted about pulling out of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty and about stopping a war with North Korea that had simmered, only to flare due to his own bellicosity. Sitting in the U.S. House of Representatives was Dan Coats, the former Indiana senator who

now is director of national intelligence. Coats gave his own threat assessment to Congress days earlier, and it wasn't caravans from Mexico he was worried about, but an aligned Russia and China, an ISIS foothold in Syria and a North Korea that isn't yet giving up nuclear weapons, no matter how much Trump thinks they are. Watching on television was another former Indiana senator, Richard Lugar. His career was focused in large part on trying to reduce the threat of nuclear weapons. His bipartisan success—first with Democrat Sen. Sarm Nunn of Georgia and later with Democrat Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts in negotiating arms limitation treaties with Russia—made the world a safer place. The morning after Trump's speech, I asked Lugar if he felt the world is, still, safer. Ever the diplomat, he said yes, citing our strong military. But he also spoke of the threat growing on Trump's watch of another arms race. "Very recent developments, I believe, have been unfortunate," he said. Yes, Russia was violating the intent of our treaties by developing a new intermediate range weapons system. But Lugar's answer is not pulling out of the treaties we have but doing the hard work of new negotiations and verification. "There are some in our government ... who really want to begin building more nuclear weapons to contest Russia in this respect," Lugar said. "Before we start down that trail it would be very wise for the president and President Putin to have very serious conversations about the future of nuclear weapons in the world, because otherwise if we get back into a competition of that sort again, there's no end to the potential difficulties and horror that may occur." Does he think Trump and Putin, of all people, could actually do that? "Well, I'm not optimistic for the moment because things have been moving in just the other direction," he said. In that '96 campaign, Lugar's slogan was "Everything a President Should Be." And that, to me, is everything Trump is not. ❖

Mamon Powers, NWI Times: My grandfather founded Powers & Sons Construction in 1967. Over the next 50 years, our family home-building company grew to become a leading construction firm spanning commercial, industrial and institutional businesses. It has taken hard work from three generations of our family, and it hasn't always been easy. Worthwhile endeavors are rarely easy. It's a lesson we're learning again this year at the Indiana Statehouse, as advocates push to pass a law protecting Hoosiers from bias crimes. We're one of just five states that haven't stood up against hate by adding criminal penalties for offenses motivated by bias against personal characteristics like race, religion, sexual orientation and gender identity. Enough is enough. We have to stop turning a blind eye to the violence, vandalism and other crimes inspired by intolerance. We have to recognize economic reality, that thriving communities offer a diverse workforce. Indiana should welcome all, by being open to people and employers who want to contribute to our state. ❖

Congress to vote on shutdown today

WASHINGTON — Congress released its spending bill very, very late Wednesday night. It's 1,159 pages (Politico Playbook). It will get a vote today, first in the Senate, then in the House. [Read the bill.](#) By tonight, the government will be funded through September, and the two-and-a-half-month legislative impasse over DHS funding will be a thing of the past. There are a few dynamics to keep in mind as Washington moves forward: Trump is likely to seek more money for his border wall. There are several avenues he could go down. He could declare a national emergency, or issue an executive order. He could also try to shuffle money from other accounts. There's political and practical risk in all approaches. He could get challenged in court. He could chafe lawmakers on Capitol Hill. If he digs into military accounts, hawks won't be pleased. Democrats are going to keep a close eye on this process too. The Senate will move to pass this bill first today. The House expects to take it up around 6:30 p.m., lining it up for a vote tonight at 9 p.m. or so. A big Senate vote is expected, and that could push the House totals up. If President Trump stays the course and doesn't say anything outwardly negative about the spending deal, House Republicans will likely vote for it in big numbers. If he gets wobbly in any way, then things will get really hairy.

Bill would allow Gary casinos move

INDIANAPOLIS — One of Gary's two casinos could be allowed to relocate anywhere in the state, instead of only to Vigo County, under legislation unveiled this week at the Indiana General Assembly (Erdody, [IBJ](#)). New language in Senate Bill 66, which was previously a vehicle bill,

would allow the owner of Majestic Star Casino I and Majestic Star Casino II—soon to be Spectacle Entertainment—to relocate one casino inland in Gary and move the other one somewhere else in the state. The Indiana Gaming Commission would be responsible for approving the new location outside of Gary. Spectacle Entertainment is a new company led by some of the same individuals who controlled Indianapolis-based Centaur Gaming before it was bought by Las Vegas-based Caesars Entertainment Corp. The company is in the process of acquiring Majestic Star and Majestic Star II. Since the acquisition was announced in November, Spectacle has said it's interested in relocating the casinos. Senate Appropriations Chairman Ryan Mishler is the author of SB 66, which is scheduled to be heard by his committee on today.



Bill would allow abortion drug deny

INDIANAPOLIS — Pharmacists could deny women access to abortion-inducing drugs if they have a moral or ethical objection under a bill approved by a Senate committee Wednesday (Indiana Public Media). Current law – in place for more than two decades – says a physician or hospital employee doesn't have to perform or assist in abortions if they have an ethical or moral objection. This year's bill would expand that to nurses, physician assistants, and pharmacists. Indiana family doctor Andrew Mullally says the law should reflect the changing face of health care. "Conscience rights of literally tens of thousands of health care workers are at risk of being violated," Mullally says.

Alcohol bill would hike city permits

INDIANAPOLIS — State lawmakers on Wednesday made changes to two major bills addressing alcohol issues before moving both pieces of legislation to the full House

for consideration (Erdody, [IBJ](#)). The omnibus alcohol bill authored by Rep. Ben Smaltz, R-Auburn, would give cities and towns another way to increase the number of alcohol permits available and would create a special food hall permit meant to benefit the \$300 million Bottleworks development that is under construction at College and Massachusetts avenues in Indianapolis. The bill would create a food hall three-way alcohol license for an initial fee of \$100,000, plus one-, two- and three-way sub-permits for \$25,000 for the vendors in the food hall. (Three-way permits allow retailers to serve beer, wine and liquor.) The food hall permits—and the sub permits—would not be counted as part of a city's overall permit limit.

2nd anniversary of Delphi murders

DELPHI — An update Wednesday on the now-two-year-old murders of two Carroll County girls, Liberty German and Abigail Williams, gave little information suggesting authorities are any closer to catching the killer ([Indiana Public Media](#)). Newly-elected county prosecutor Nick McLeland was tight-lipped about the case. Though he outlined information that could be included in what he'd consider a "god" tip, McLeland declined to comment on how many of the more than 38,000 tips received in the last 24 months meet the threshold.

Rising Sun PD chief killed in crash

VEVAY, Ind. (WTHR) — A southern Indiana police chief was killed in a crash early Wednesday. Rising Sun Police Chief David Hewitt crashed on SR 56 near the town of Vevay along the Ohio River around 7:20 a.m., WLWT-TV reported. Hewitt was flown to a hospital across the river in Carrollton, Kentucky where he died. Investigators believe icy roads may have played a factor in the single-vehicle crash.