



A bizarre tsunami epicenter

A disquieting week for Hoosier GOP on state, federal levels

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

NORTH WEBSTER - This was a bizarre week in Indiana politics, which is the epicenter in control for the U.S. House of Representatives with three seats fully in play.

And if you're a Republican, the news is discomfoting, disquieting, troubling and depressing.

It's bizarre when two House Republican incumbents -- State Reps. Andy Thomas (in a 63 percent GOP district) and Ralph Ayres (59.8 percent GOP baseline) -- quit their races in the middle of July, deepening the jeopardy of losing the Indiana House. Never seen anything like it.

It's bizarre when a second Republican congressman, in this case U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola, finds himself down by 10 points in his opponents Cooper Secrest poll. Last spring, Democrat Baron Hill released a poll that showed him with a 10 percent lead on U.S. Rep. Mike Sodrel.

It's bizarre when in the 68 percent Republican 3rd CD, Democratic Fort Wayne Councilman Tom Hayhurst has a \$206,989 to \$171,242 fundraising lead over U.S. Rep. Mark Souder. When it comes to cash on hand, Hayhurst's money lead over Souder is \$147,758 to \$68,358.

It's bizarre when dozens of Republican Members



Fort Wayne Councilman Tom Hayhurst has a money lead on 3rd CD U.S. Rep. Mark Souder. (Hayhurst Campaign Photo)

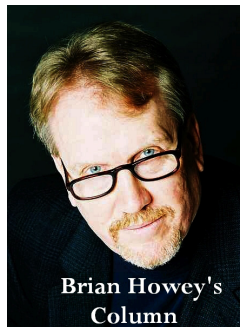
of Congress agree to kick in \$300,000 to U.S. Rep. John Hostettler's lagging fundraising (he trails Democrat Brad Ellsworth \$347,000 to \$168,000) and \$250,000 to U.S. Rep. Mike Sodrel.

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Stem cell debate returns

INDIANAPOLIS - U.S. Rep. Mike Pence took to the House floor the other day to urge President Bush to veto a bill allowing for federal funding of stem cell research.

"President Ronald Reagan famously said, 'we cannot diminish the value of one category of human life -- the unborn -- without diminishing the value of all human life.'" Pence, R-Columbus, said. "Yesterday the United States Senate passed a bill that authorizes the use of federal tax dollars to fund the destruction of human embryos for scientific research. And while supporters of the bill argue that this debate is a battle between science and ideology,



Brian Howey's Column



"I support the advancement of stem cell research with clear ethical guidelines because of the promise it offers for research and treatment options for countless Hoosiers."

- U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar



that really misses the point..”

Pence went on to say, “If the Castle-DeGette bill returns to the Congress tonight, we will simply decide whether Congress should take the taxpayer dollars of millions of pro-life Americans and use them to fund the destruction of human embryos for research. You see, I believe that life begins at conception and that a human embryo is human life. I believe it is morally wrong to create human life to destroy it for research. And I believe it is morally wrong to take the tax dollars of millions of pro-life Americans, who believe that life is sacred, and use it to fund the destruction of human embryos for research.

“This debate then tonight is not really about what an embryo is. This debate is about who we are as a nation and whether we respect fully half of our country.”

And President Bush did veto the bill, the first veto of his presidency.

The vetoed bill “would support the taking of innocent human life in the hope of finding medical benefits for others,” said Bush as he was surrounded by “snowflake babies” that came from embryos. “It crosses a moral boundary that our decent society needs to respect.” The children surrounding him, Bush said, “began his or her life as a frozen embryo that was created for in vitro fertilization but remained unused after the fertility treatments were complete. These boys and girls are not spare parts.”

Barry Welsh is a pastor at the Laurel United Methodist Church near Rushville and is also the Democrat running against Rep. Pence. Rev. Welsh explained, “Tens of thousands of unneeded embryos are discarded as hospital waste each year. HOSPITAL WASTE. President Bush surrounded himself with children who were produced outside of a woman’s body by science, and God bless each of them, but they would have been created in the petri dish regardless. That was shameful of President Bush to try to deceive us with that staged announcement.”

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Welsh continued, “The question is actually, should these embryos be used to find solutions to ailments, or be hospital waste, as they are now. President Bush chose hospital waste. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, a doctor, voted for research because he knew it would lead to cures, he is a smart man, and I would have voted the same way. President Bush, not a doctor, makes a medical decision with this veto that once again shows why he and his supporters have a disapproval rating of over 60 percent. As someone that has experienced family members with Alzheimer’s, which also struck Ronald Reagan down, and other cruel diseases that could be cured from this research, I find it disturbing that President Bush chose this time to use the first veto of his Presidency.”

Here’s what Sen. Frist, R-Tenn., said of the matter: “I am pro-

life, but I disagree with the president’s decision. Given the potential of this research and the limitations of the existing [human embryonic stem cell] lines eligible for federally funded research, I think additional lines should be made available.”

I have always felt that the pro-life industry emerged on this issue too late. If there is a moral objection to the “destruction” of embryos, many of which do become medical waste, then they shouldn’t have been created in the first place.

Secondly, the pro-life movement is cherry picking its willingness to save life while not playing God. I have always found it thoroughly inconsistent to take a pro-life position on conception, but then support the death penalty. ❖



From page 1

It was about this time of the year in 1994 -- just as The Howey Political Report commenced publishing -- that the whispers of the Republican tidal wave began to be audible. By late August, then U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton gave an emotional speech at French Lick, describing a "curtain" that had descended between him and other Democrats, and his constituents. But it wasn't until late September that the fledgling HPR flipped three congressional races into the "Tossups" category.

Twelve years later, we began rating the challenges to U.S. Reps. Mike Sodrel, John Hostettler and Chris Chocola as "Tossups" in the spring.

With the release of a **WSBT-TV/South Bend Tribune** poll early next week in the Chocola-Donnelly race, there is a distinct prospect that these congressional races may flip out of the tossup zone and into "Leans Democrat" category.

Delair Ali, of Research 2000, the polling firm used by the Tribune and **WSBT-TV**, said his gut reaction is that Donnelly is up in the polls because of "disgust" with Republicans nationally. Ali said he is not surprised to see Donnelly ahead, but said the finding that the incumbent is under 40 percent is somewhat suspect. "If it's true, Chocola's gone," Ali said.

And if Chocola is a goner, then Reps. Sodrel and Hostettler are also in grave jeopardy of losing.

But the real fascinating race is in that 68 percent Republican 3rd CD where Rep. Souder trails Hayhurst in fundraising. When HPR caught up with Allen County Republican Chairman Steve Shine at the June Indiana Republican Convention, he indicated to HPR that Souder's victory was not assured. Souder won his primary against gadfly Republican William Larsen, but the challenger got almost 30 percent of the vote. Ditto for Chocola's Playboy magazine burning challenger Tony Zirkle.

There is a vast difference between Chocola's 50/50 2nd CD and the 70/30 3rd CD.

But Dr. Hayhurst is a respected retiring family physician who has notably served on the Fort Wayne City Council. He is Souder's most credible general election opponent in his Congressional career.

War and record high gasoline prices are already presenting enough troubles for Republican incumbents. But the public is in no mood for hair splitting or any notion of going back on a pledge.

Shine told HPR that no one is panicking. "Souder has had a long time position of raising the money that is necessary. He relies heavily on grassroots." Shine said that if Souder believes he is vulnerable, "he can turn on the spigot immediately." Still, there are indications of an erosion of the GOP position. Senate Foreign Relations Chairman Dick Lugar warned U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad that



Rep. Ayres

Americans are growing increasingly impatient about the bloodshed in Iraq. That same day, an Associated Press/Ipsos survey found Democrats were favored 51 to 40 percent in its Congressional generic question. Moderates were backing Democrats at 56 percent and conservatives were at an amazing 24 percent. If the 3rd CD - currently rated "Leans" Republican - comes fully into play next fall, that would portend to a Grand Old Bloodbath.

Stuart Rothenberg, editor of the **Rothenberg Political Report**, wrote in **Roll Call**, "Democrats have a number of surprisingly good polls that suggest a wide range of Democratic challengers, from top-tier hopefuls to second- and third-tier long shots, have a serious chance of winning this fall. But that's the problem. Rather than reflecting the appeal of Democratic candidates, those surveys primarily reflect the national political landscape. Many of these surveys measure the landscape, not the combatants, and we won't know how well Democratic candidates will do until much later in the year, possibly mid-October -- after Republicans have spent some of their sizable war chests on demonizing their opponents."

The Ayres, Thomas capers

While the Congressional fundraising and polling was problematic for Hoosier Republicans, the jettisoned candidacies of State Reps. Ralph Ayres and Andy Thomas can only be seen as troubling. In the 12 years that HPR has been publishing, only once was there a case of a nominee dropping off the ticket so late in the process (2004: Jeff Lee in HD46) and that was due to personal reasons. Two incumbents jumping ship is unheard of. Both were expected to win this fall, even in the most severe environment. HPR had rated Thomas "Safe" and Ayres "Likely."

The best explanation Ayres came up with was today in the **Times of Northwest Indiana** where he said, "I need some space." Thomas got a job at Ivy Tech.

Both districts are overwhelmingly Republican, but the fact is the House Republican Campaign Committee is now going to have to muster new candidates and resources for two more open seats in addition to protecting the seats being vacated by Reps. Luke Messer, Bob Hoffman and Mary Kay Budak. None of those are slam dunk wins.

All things being equal and playing out to Tip O'Neill's famed "all politics is local" quip, HDs 44 and 4 should stay in the Republican stable. But this election cycle appears to be anything but normal. HPR believes, as was the case in 1994, that the national dynamic could drive turnout, where Republicans need to fear base suppression, and has the potential of swamping everybody in its path. ❖



Donnelly campaign catches Washington's attention

By MARK SCHOEFF JR.

WASHINGTON--Joe Donnelly has caught the attention of Washington. Although the Democratic congressional challenger in the 2nd CD trails incumbent GOP Rep. Chris Chocola by a wide margin in fundraising, Donnelly has generated buzz in the capital.

"People all around this town are talking about Joe Donnelly," said Joe Andrew, former national and Indiana Democratic Party chairman who now works for the law firm Sonnenschein, Nath & Rosenthal in Washington. "He's got a lot of momentum."

Andrew asserts that Democrats in Indiana's other two pivotal House races -- Brad Ellsworth in the 8th CD and Baron Hill in the 9th CD -- are pulling away from their respective opponents, incumbent Republicans John Hostetler and Mike Sodrel. Now, the party is turning its attention to Donnelly, a South Bend attorney who lost to Chocola in 2004. "He's the unanticipated

find," Andrew said. Two developments over the past week seem to support Andrew's assessment. On July 13, the Democratic Congressional Committee designated Donnelly's race as one of 34 for its "Red to Blue" program.

So far, the initiative has generated about \$3.8 million for Democratic races. In 2004, the DCCC raised \$7.5 million and spent an average of more than \$250,000 per campaign in 27 Red-to-Blue contests.

The DCCC also has started to air radio ads this week in the district that feature a voice impersonating President Bush leaving a message for Chocola thanking him for his support of "big oil and gas," according to a report in the Washington Post.

In addition, Donnelly released a Cooper Secret poll on Tuesday that shows him leading Chocola 48-38 percent. In an HPR interview with Brian Howey (see page 5), Donnelly said the poll reflects frustration with Chocola. Voters "want change and they want change now," he said.

High gas prices and continuing bloodshed in Iraq are among the top concerns. Earlier in the week, Donnelly told HPR: "There's a feeling throughout the district that we're on the wrong track and they want to change direction. I'm offering that opportunity."

Chocola's campaign dismisses the Donnelly survey. "You can manipulate a poll to say whatever you want it to say," said Brooks Kochvar, Chocola's chief of staff.

Chocola's focus security, low taxes and cutting wasteful spending appeals to Hoosiers in northern Indiana, said Kochvar. He also maintains that Chocola is "working toward a comprehensive energy plan that would make the country less dependent on foreign sources of oil" and has supported legislation to prevent price gauging by oil companies. "Voters from across the district are supportive of his agenda in Congress," said Kochvar.

For Donnelly to be a viable alternative, he will have to overcome some huge obstacles. One is Chocola's substantial fundraising advantage. In the most recent Federal Election Commission report, Chocola had \$1.5 million cash on hand compared to Donnelly's \$435,215. One visit by President Bush earlier this year raised \$650,000 for Chocola. Chocola's resource lead is demonstrated in his advertising. He first went up on television in South Bend in May to respond to ads sponsored by the liberal group MoveOn.org. Now Chocola has a positive ad up touting his efforts to cut government waste.

Chocola was not on the air this early in 2004, when he beat Donnelly in their first match up, 54 - 45 percent.

He did go up in the summer of 2002, when he won the open seat in a contest against Jill Long Thompson. Donnelly is not concerned about the fundraising chasm. "We're going to be in fine shape to have the money we need to be successful," he said.

On the issue front, look for Republicans to try to define Donnelly as someone who will raise taxes. The national GOP asserts that Donnelly is a cipher who hasn't indicated whether he would have supported a bill to extend several of Bush's tax cuts until 2010. "He's adverse to taking a position on any issue of consequence," said Ed Patru, a spokesman for the National Republican Congressional

Committee. In response to a question about the tax bill, Donnelly said: "I've been supportive of low taxes and making sure we have a fiscally responsible government."

Beyond specific issues, Patru said, "Our candidate is battle-tested," he said. "He has experience winning tough races, our opponent has none." Patru also cautioned against reading too much into polls that show voters favoring a Democratic takeover of Congress. "The only poll that matter is do you approve or disapprove of your member of Congress," he said. Typically, generic surveys are undermined by the fact that people tend to have an attitude of "hate Congress but love your congressman."

The question in South Bend, Logansport, Elkhart, Michigan City and Plymouth over the next few months is whether Chocola will feel that love from voters or will they file for divorce. ❖



Rep. Chocola and President Bush in 2005.



Donnelly gets a poll bounce

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - A Cooper Secrest poll put 2nd CD challenger Joe Donnelly up by 10 points over U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola. We talked with Donnelly on Wednesday morning to get his reaction.

HPR: What does the Secrest Poll mean to your campaign?

Donnelly: Obviously we think it's an indication of what I've been seeing as I've been visiting thousands of families here in the district. They want change and they want change now. That's what's reflected in the poll. I'm pretty pleased with the outcome, but what we're going to do, Brian, is to continue to approach things like we're 10 points down with 10 days to go. That's the only way we know how to do it; to just keep working.

HPR: I understand WBST will be out in the field this weekend. Do you expect similar results?

Donnelly: I don't know. I don't know their polling methodologies. All I know is our pollster, Alan Secrest, has a tremendous reputation for fairness and integrity. That's why we use Alan and why I'm so confident in his work.

HPR: What's the biggest problem facing Congressman Chocola? Is it the war? High gas prices?

Donnelly: People in this district want a congressman who works for them and is not just a rubber stamp for a party or for an administration. I think that's a huge problem for him. Gas prices are a significant problem. The agricultural community in the district is suffering from fuel prices and that there is no real policy. Certainly those are two issues that are playing a part of this.

HPR: What are you hearing when you knock on doors about the war in Iraq?

Donnelly: They don't think we can just walk out. We need to try and stabilize Iraq. They don't like the way this has come about. But they're also of the understanding that we can't just walk away. We're in this now and we need to stabilize the country and then have our troops come home as soon as possible. We just lost another soldier from this past week two weeks ago. It really hits home to every family. Every-

body is very concerned, but everybody wants to support the troops.

HPR: What are our options in Iraq?

Donnelly: What I proposed is that instead of just hoping things go well, we've heard from folks like Sen. Biden and others that we need some strict standards to follow. We need to have more Iraqi troops and police in three months than we have today. We need to see progress and we need to see standards set and met. General Eisenhower was never afraid to say "Here are our objectives." General Patton wasn't afraid to do that.

HPR: We've heard Newt Gingrich call this World War III. With the events in the Middle East this past week, does that have the potential to bring about a whole new dimension on the war on terror?

Donnelly: The United States, obviously, has to remain engaged in the Middle East. That clash between Israel, Hamas and Hezbollah is that they are pretty much a client group of Syria and Iran. I think they're doing those



Democrat Joe Donnelly released a poll this week showing him with a 48-38 percent lead over U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola. (HPR Photo by Brian A. Howey)

country's bidding. My feeling is Israel has every right to protect itself and that's what it's doing.

HPR: Is the Bush administration's hands tied on Iran and North Korea now that we're bogged down in Iraq?



HOWEY *Political Report*

Donnelly: There's an incredible amount on the administration's plate. In retrospect, in terms of Iraq where there were no weapons of mass destruction, there were no ties to al Qaeda, we would have been better off not to be in Iraq so we could better deal with these other issues.

HPR: Gov. Daniels' popularity has sagged in Northern Indiana. Will Major Moves and Daylight saving time influence your race?

Donnelly: It's very simple. Congressman Chocola at every turn has refused to step up to the plate and make any effort to influence the toll road decision or the time decision. The toll road, which is an Interstate highway, couldn't even pick up the phone and call Gov. Daniels. It is an ill-conceived idea and Chris Chocola needs to be held accountable.

HPR: Even when the governor comes to Lakeville and announces the federal go ahead to make U.S. 31 a freeway? Will that change people's perceptions?

Donnelly: Absolutely not. People understand our toll road has been sold; it's been sold to a foreign country and the money has been taken down to Indianapolis. We're a common sense group up here. We know what happened and we know the congressman took a pass.

HPR: What can we expect out of the Donnelly campaign in these next four months?

Donnelly: We're just going to continue to work hard and hit as many doors as possible.

HPR: Chocola has a big money lead on you. Will you have enough money to get your message out?

Donnelly: He's personally worth over \$50 million so he can do whatever he wants. We're not focused on what he does; we're focused on what we can do and we will have enough resources to do everything we hope to do in this campaign.

HPR: Will that include DCCC and Moveon?

Donnelly: I can't speak about them. All I can do is focus on what we're doing and I'm real pleased with our end. ❖

Congressional District 2: Republican: U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola. Democrat: Joe Donnelly. **Geography:** South Bend, Michigan City, Mishawaka, Elkhart, Kokomo, Plymouth, Logansport; LaPorte, St. Joseph, Starke, Marshall, Pulaski, Fulton, Cass, Carroll and parts of Howard, Porter, Elkhart and White counties. **Media Market:** South Bend-Elkhart, Indianapolis, Lafayette, Chicago. **People:** Urban/rural 73/27%; median income \$40,381; Poverty 9.5%; Race 84% white, 8% black; 5 Hispanic; Blue/white collar: 34/50%. **2000 Presidential:** Bush 53%, Gore 44%; Cook Partisan Voting Index: R+5; **2002 Result:** Chocola 95,081 (50%), Long Thompson 86,253 (46%); **2004 Result:** Chocola

140,496 (54%) Donnelly (D) 115,513 (45%) **2006 Forecast:** The Coopers Secrest poll has Donnelly leading Chocola 48-38 percent. WSBT-TV and the South Bend Tribune will be in the field this weekend. The news isn't all bad for Chocola. His June 30 FEC filing shows he raised \$1.9 million for the cycle and has \$1.5 million cash on hand, compared to \$564,833 raised by Donnelly, who has \$435,215 cash on hand. Delair Ali, of Research 2000, a polling firm used by The Tribune and **WSBT-TV**, said his gut reaction is that Donnelly is up in the polls because of "disgust" with Republicans nationally. Ali said he is not surprised to see Donnelly ahead, but said the finding that the incumbent is under 40 percent is somewhat suspect. "If it's true, Chocola's gone," Ali said. Ali will do a poll for The Tribune and WSBT-TV this weekend for release early next week. We're going to keep this race where it's at until we see independent polling data. **Status:** TOSSUP ❖



This Could be Dangerous



Abdul & Howey
9 a.m. Every Monday





Bayh takes message to Iowa middle class

By **MARK SCHOEFF JR.**

WASHINGTON - U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh outlined on Monday an economic agenda of tax credits for college education and fuel-efficient vehicles, health care subsidies and a retirement savings program that he said would appeal to the middle class, a constituency he believes Democrats too often overlook.

In a speech at the National Press Club, Bayh said that traditional Democratic initiatives, like raising the minimum wage, focus on the poor but don't resonate with people higher on the income ladder. "Too often our signature proposals do nothing directly for them," he said. "We must convince the middle class that we're on their side not only by fighting poverty but by directly addressing their challenges, too."

Bayh said he favors raising the minimum wage but wants to go beyond that issue by creating an "opportunity society for the middle class. We must re-establish the Democratic Party as the instrument of middle class progress," he said. Bayh would do that by providing a \$6,000 refundable tax credit to cover the first \$6,000 of college costs for families making up to \$100,000 per year; having the government cover 75 percent of health care costs above \$50,000; replacing the current 401(k) and Individual Retirement Account deduction with a 30 percent government match; and implementing tax credits of up to \$3400 of new, high-mileage vehicles. Bayh said the tuition program would cost about \$250 to \$275 billion over 10 years and that the health care proposal would be between \$5 and \$20 billion annually.

"It's possible that all are not doable at once, and all must comply with fiscal reality," he said. One way to help pay for the initiatives is to let tax cuts for the top 1 to 2 percent of American earners expire in 2010.

Although Bayh hasn't made a decision on whether to run for president in 2008, he sounded like a candidate and outlined his proposals just before heading to Iowa. "If both parties energize the heck out of their bases, the Republicans have a slight advantage," he said. "We have to reach out to the middle. There's a misconception by the middle class that we don't stand for them."

Andrew sees cunning politics

While presenting his plan on Monday to help the Democrats appeal to the middle class, Sen. Evan Bayh

implicitly criticized fellow Democratic Sen. Edward Kennedy and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi for putting too much focus on raising the minimum wage. But he named names when it came to a former Senate colleague who may be a fellow competitor for the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination. "Working to eliminate poverty, which my friend John Edwards speaks so eloquently about, is a moral imperative," Bayh said in a speech at the National Press Club.

"But if we don't also directly strengthen the middle class, we will never achieve our potential as a nation. And Democrats will not be in a position to help anyone, poor and middle class alike."

Edwards, a former Senator and the Democratic vice presidential nominee in 2004, now runs a poverty institute at the University of North Carolina. Joe Andrew, former national and Indiana Democratic Party chairman, said Bayh's reference to Edwards was politically artful. "That was a deft distinguishing, not a criticism," said Andrew, who attended Bayh's speech. "He found a way to compliment his close personal friend, John Edwards,

but distinguish himself from him."

Andrew said Bayh was not risking alienating Iowa Democratic primary voters by taking up the banner of the middle class rather than the poor. He said the Bayh message will play well with Iowans. "What they care about most is electability," said Andrew.

The Republican National Committee thought little of Bayh's comments. "Senator Bayh's politically motivated claims represent his presidential aspirations far more so than any genuine commitment to the middle class," RNC spokeswoman Camille Anderson said in a statement to the **Louisville Courier-Journal**. "Democrats like Bayh would do better to push permanent tax relief rather than criticize an agenda that has reduced the tax burden on millions of middle-income families and created over 5.4 million new jobs."

Gordon Fischer, former Iowa Democratic Party chairman, said that's a solid strategy to appeal to the middle class. "There's no question that in order to win elections, the Democrats, Republicans, independents, or whatever have got to speak to the concerns of the middle class," Fischer told the **Courier-Journal**.

Larry Sabato, director of the University of Virginia's Center for Politics, said Bayh is following a familiar political script. "Who does this remind you of? Bill Clinton. He's basically trying to reconstitute the Clinton majority."

Robin Winston, former Indiana Democratic Party chairman, said Bayh's message is consistent. "Bayh was talking about this stuff before there was a Clinton presidency" when he was Indiana governor, said Winston, who said he would support the senator's presidential run. ❖





John Barnes, the anti-Buell

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - The Horse Race designation that seems to be the most questioned in both political parties these days isn't the "Leans Bosma" in HD88, which I figured would bring some pretty gusty feedback.

No, it is the "Tossup" in HD89 where veteran Republican Larry Buell is being challenged by Democrat John Barnes.

This is surprising. Almost from the get-go of Eddie Mahern's 2002 maps, party pros on both sides were predicting that as the Marion County demographics continue to shift, Rep. Buell would find himself in the crosshairs. And it's happening this year with school teacher John Barnes.

He was chairman of the Warren Central HS government department for the past 10 years, teaching there for 23 years. Barnes finds former students almost every day when he goes door-to-door. He moved to Stony Brook MS a couple of years ago to teach 8th grade social studies, a move that allowed him to prepare to move into politics. Stony Brook is on a full-year schedule, and that means that Barnes has three weeks off in late September and early October. He plans to use those three weeks to do what he's been doing for a good part of 2006 - going door-to-door.

Warren Township was once a solid Republican bastion, but now its township advisory board has a 4-3 Democratic majority. Republican Trustee Tom Marendt, a thorn in the side of Mayor Bart Peterson's fire consolidation efforts, is facing a tough challengee from Democrat Jeff Bennett.

As many areas in Indianapolis, such as Fall Creek, have rebuilt their neighborhoods, it is the East Side -- the "Least Side" -- that has seen an influx of poorer families. There is a growing immigrant community, with 50 to 60 languages now spoken at Warren Central HS. Ten years ago, it was a 60/40 Republican district. Today, the baseline Democrat vote is about 44 percent, "but there are a huge

number of swing voters and soft Republicans," says Barnes, "especially in the off-year elections."

While Barnes is aggressively going door-to-door, he hasn't seen much of Rep. Buell, that is, until the Republican held a press conference last week announcing

he would offer legislation to revise the way Indiana sheriffs are paid. This was a reaction to news that Marion County Sheriff Frank Anderson was making \$360,000. "He was looking to get a little name ID," Barnes said.

"Everybody thinks Larry Buell is a nice guy," Barnes said. "At least, those who know him. But he offers little legislation other than he's against class basketball. Most people I talk to don't know who he is."

Barnes says that health care, property taxes and education are the big issues with people he's talked with. He says of Buell, "Larry is on Ways and Means. He's worked for Health & Hospital. It's just that he's not working on these issues."

So here we have an aggressive candidate with deep community roots, a demographically shifting district where Democrats have already made inroads at the township level, and then throw in the state and national overlap that suggest a huge Democratic year developing, and you'd think that a candidate like Barnes would be getting state party help.

Nope.

The Marion County Party tried to lure Councilwoman Mary Moriarty Adams into the race. When she took a pass, it appears that the party did, too.

"They've told me their priorities are incumbents, open seats and then challengers," says Barnes, who has raised just \$10,000, perhaps his only flaw. But it may be a big enough one to allow Buell to survive.

"There are now two more open seats, so I suppose that puts me further down on the list," Barnes said.

Buell has survived intense challenges before, defeating Democrat Brian Sims in 2000 by 1,794 votes.

But HD89 has changed since then. ❖



Democrat John Barnes is waging an aggressive campaign against State Rep. Larry Buell, but he's not getting much traction with the party. (HPR Photo by Brian A. Howey)



Some outside-the-box thinking on education

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Twenty-seven percent of Hoosier high school freshmen don't graduate, according to the Editorial Projects in Education Research Center.

This, after a series of self-proclaimed "Education Governors" going back to 1987 and Gov. Robert Orr, who pushed through a tax hike for his A-Plus program to limit class sizes. Billions of dollars have been spent since then. The funding from that effort still exists, even though class sizes have ballooned, and most of our schools aren't meeting No Child Left Behind standards. Evansville had a successful full-day kindergarten program but ended it a couple of years ago due to a funding crunch, and now reports are in that first graders are regressing.

So, Indiana, what are we going to do about this at a point in our history where China, India, Japan and South Korea are churning out huge numbers of science and mathematic students?

Look no further than a superintendent, a mayor and a governor. Each of them are thinking outside the box.

Vigo County School Supt. Dan Tanoos announced this past week that he was going to visit every kid who decides to drop out this year. The Terre Haute Tribune-Star's Sue Loughlin reported that Tanoos told his school board, "I'm going to meet with every kid and every family." Tanoos said he wants to find out why a student opts for withdrawal and will try to convince them to remain in school. "I need to do a better job of working with dropouts," he said.

Gov. Mitch Daniels announced last week that with the state budget in the black for the first time in a decade, the state will make an immediate \$160 million payment to schools after years of delaying payments.

"It was wrong for the state to paper over its deficit spending on the backs of schools," Daniels said. "Now that we have restored the state to solvency, it's important to pay these debts back as fast as we possibly can and continue practicing fiscal responsibility so no future state government is tempted to use this unfair tactic again."

So, we are now watching key education and state officials ending years of denial by getting personally involved and putting money where only rhetoric once existed.

Then there's Hammond Mayor Thomas McDermott Jr., who was listening to National Public Radio one day and heard of the "Kalamazoo Promise," the city in Michigan where an anonymous donor promised to bankroll, indefinitely, the college tuition of thousands of public school

graduates.

McDermott came up with his "College Bound" plan to use casino revenues to do the same thing. Hammond has lost 20,000 residents in the past three decades. "Only 65 percent of our homes are owner-occupied," McDermott, a first-term Democrat, said. That compares with 90 percent owner-occupied homes in places to the south like Dyer and Crown Point.

There is a distinct link between home ownership and the promise of college tuition. In Kalamazoo, the Chicago Tribune reported that "hundreds of new homes are slated to be built" after decades of decline in its manufacturing based economy. McDermott is hoping that the same thing happens in Hammond. To qualify a student's family must live in a homestead exempted house.



The program was passed unanimously by the Hammond City Council, with support from both political parties. More than 200 residents turned out for each of the four public hearings.

"This program is going to turn Hammond around," Mayor McDermott said. "People are buying houses here that never would have before. They know they can save \$30,000 in college tuition costs; more if they have more than one kid. We're trying to keep people here. Only 11 percent of our residents are college educated. This is a crisis." The problem with the College Bound program is that some State Board of Accounts bureaucrat told Hammond that the program is illegal. "They said it was inappropriate because it was use of public funds for personal gain," the mayor said. The bureaucrat even compared it to former East Chicago mayor Robert Pastrick's sidewalk-for-votes scheme, which is absurd.

McDermott said that the casino funds are set to be paid directly to the college, not the student, be it Indiana University, Notre Dame or Vincennes.

SBA went out of its way to attack the program during its exit interview of the city's 2005 budget which did not include College Bound. This past week, some sanity from the state emerged, as the Indiana Gaming Commission announced it was going to look into the legality of the program. "I think that's a positive sign," McDermott said.

Yes, all innovative signs from a superintendent, a governor and a mayor - from both political parties - feeling the urgency of our education crisis. ❖



Rich James, Post-Tribune - Just how far down has George Bush dragged America? U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh conveyed the depth pretty well Sunday when he spoke at a fund-raiser for Lake County Sheriff Roy Dominguez. So how bad is it? It's so bad that Bayh said he did a double take the other day when he saw a bumper sticker. It read: "I miss Nixon." While that drew a chuckle from the crowd, it didn't diminish the fact that Bush is still president. "In 21st years, the Bush era will be over, done, gone, finished," said Bayh in his best presidential voice. Although Bayh was introduced as "the next president of the United States," everyone in that room knew it'll be a long climb. But few discounted the possibility. I don't know if Bayh can get the Democratic nomination for president in 2008. I don't know that he can't. What the country needs — more so than it needed in 1960 — is another Camelot. Another Jack and Jackie to lift the spirits of the people. Bayh, his attractive wife, Susan, and their twin sons, 11, present a pretty picture, but no Camelot. So, why does Bayh even have a chance of winning the nomination? Largely because the party is in disarray and searching. Yet, the Democratic Party's saving grace is that the Republicans are worse — they don't know whether to build the party platform on the Bible or Constitution. If it weren't for the inflammatory social issues — abortion, flag-burning, gay marriage and prayer in school — the GOP wouldn't have any issues at all. Hillary Clinton would make a good president. Not only is she immensely brighter than Bush, it would be good to have Bill back in the White House. Although she probably can get the nomination if she wants it, some Democrats don't believe she could win in the fall. And there's Al Gore and John Kerry, both maneuvering for another run, although neither will admit it. Each arguably can make a case that he had an election stolen from him. But, only the Republican Party trots out the retreats. No, Gore and Kerry aren't the fresh start the party so desperately needs. The same can be said for John Edwards, who had so much potential, but failed miserably as a vice presidential candidate. There are those who contend the nation needs to look to the Heartland for a candidate who embodies the values upon which this nation grew. Bayh touched on that when he spoke at the Avalon Manor Banquet Center, saying we need to get away from the "politics of narrow self-interest — what's in it for me?" He also sounded a bit like JFK when he said the nation needs "to focus on what each of us can do to make (life) more compassionate, equal and just." ❖



recently our proud state showed up at the top of the list of states with the most high school dropouts. Nice. And we have eight of the 10 largest high school gymnasiums in the world, so we certainly top that list. But the list we top that came out this week was the most bizarre yet. Yes, Indiana tops the list of states with the most terrorist targets. That's right. We have more terror targets right here in the Hoosier State than they do in New York, California, Illinois or Washington, D.C. All across the land, 77,069 terror targets were identified, so Indiana contains roughly one in nine of them. That's between 11 and 12 percent. Of course, this terror target list was compiled by the federal government so that should tell you right away how credible it is. ❖

Jack Colwell, South Bend Tribune - Will they Bayh Evan in Iowa? The senator from Indiana is trying mightily to sell folks who will vote in the Iowa Democratic caucuses on the idea that he, with his centrist approach and governmental credentials, could win back the White House. During recent campaigning in Iowa -- his fifth trip there in a year -- Bayh put it this way: "I have a proven track record of doing something this president said he would do and never did, and that's being more of a uniter than a divider, reaching out to independents, reasonable Republicans as well as all of our Democrats." In other words, Bayh is saying he can put together the votes to win the presidency. And that is what Democrats voting in the Iowa caucuses early in 2008, in the first actual vote test for presidential aspirants, will be seeking, a Democrat who can win after the party in each of the last two races suffered a Bushwhacking. He is attracting national attention. An Associated Press article last week led with this observation: "In a quiet, methodical style reflecting his Midwestern roots, Sen. Evan Bayh is laying the foundation for a presidential campaign and prompting some Democrats to talk about a candidate with a realistic shot." The National Journal's Hotline ranking of Democratic contenders puts Bayh No. 4, behind, in this order, Clinton, Edwards and former Virginia Gov. Mark Warner. Bayh had slipped, however, from third in a prior ranking. There was this explanation: "As much as we admire the mechanics of Bayh's bid -- his staff, money, grass-roots work, his national security positioning -- he can't get buzz. That doesn't bother his team, which embraces the 'fear the turtle' scenario." Ideally for him, he would emerge as the alternative to Hillary Clinton. Then, as the race moved to the New Hampshire primary and the other key tests, Democrats would decide whether she or he could and should win the White House. If they won't Bayh Evan in Iowa, a neighboring Midwestern state, he will have no chance for the nomination. That's why he's doing the best selling job he can right now in Iowa. ❖

Gary Gerard, Warsaw Times-Union - Indiana has made a name for itself many times over the years by being at the top of this list or that list. Like just



Sodrel, Hostettler seek to prohibit court jurisdictions

TRENDLINE No. 1: Wednesday, the House voted 260-167 for a bill prohibiting most federal courts from hearing constitutional challenges to the use of the words "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance. It now goes to the Senate where its future is uncertain (**Indianapolis Star**). The House previously approved a bill by Rep. John Hostettler, R-Ind., to block federal court involvement in laws banning same-sex marriage. Rep. Mike Sodrel, R-Ind., is going after a federal judge's decision that prayers offered on the floor of the Indiana Statehouse cannot mention Jesus Christ or endorse a particular religion. "If James Madison and Alexander Hamilton and George Washington didn't want Congress to have this authority, then they would have left it out of the Constitution," Hostettler said.

Congressional Races

Congressional District 3: Republican:

U.S. Rep. Mark Souder. Democrat: Fort Wayne Councilman Thomas Hayhurst.

Geography: Fort Wayne, Goshen; Kosciusko, Whitley, LaGrange, Steuben, DeKalb and parts of Elkhart and Allen counties. **Media Market:**

South Bend-Elkhart, Fort Wayne. **People:** Urban/rural 65/35%; median income \$44,013; Race: 87% white, 6% black, 4.5% Hispanic; Blue/white collar: 36/52% **2000 Presidential:** Bush 66%, Gore 33%. **Cook Partisan Voting Index:** R+17. 2002 results: Souder 92,566 (63%), Rigdon 50,509 (34%).

2004 Results: Souder, Parra 2004 Results: Souder 171,389 (69%), Parra 76,232 (31%). **2006 Forecast:** Hayhurst has a money lead on Souder, \$206,989 to \$171,242 for the cycle. As for cash on hand, Hayhurst is leading \$147,758 to \$68,358. This is a 68 percent Republican district, so it shouldn't be in play, unless there is a national wave poised to wipe out the 1994 GOP majority. If Souder is in trouble, then Chocola, Hostettler and Sodrel are goners. **Status:** LEANS SOUDER

Congressional District 8: Republican: U.S.

Rep. John Hostettler. Democrat: Vanderburgh County Sheriff Brad Ellsworth. **Geography:** Evansville, Terre Haute, Greencastle; Posey, Vanderburgh, Warrick, Gibson, Pike, Martin, Daviess, Knox, Sullivan, Greene, Owen,

Clay, Vigo, Vermillion, Parke, Putnam, Warren and part of Fountain counties. **Media Market:** Evansville, Terre Haute, Indianapolis. Lafayette. **People:** Urban/rural 58/42%; median income \$36,732; poverty 10.7%; race white 93.7%, black 3.7%, Hispanic .9%; blue/white collar: 32/52%. **2000 Presidential:** Bush 56%, Gore 42%; **Cook Partisan Voting Index:** R+8. **2002 Results:** Hostettler 98,952 (51%), Hartke 88,763 (46%), **2004 Results:** Hostettler 145,576, Jennings (D) 121,522, Garvin (Green) 5,680. **2006 Forecast:** Ellsworth outraced Hostettler \$347,000 to \$168,000 (**Evansville Courier & Press**). Ellsworth has received 53 percent of his donations from individuals; Hostettler received 81 percent from individuals. Committees giving to Ellsworth included the United Steelworkers PAC and the International Association of Firefighters. Those giving to Hostettler included the Back America's Conservatives PAC and the campaign fund of the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Jerry Lewis, R-Calif. Ellsworth had more than \$676,000 on hand, Hostettler had just more than \$195,000. Hostettler is usually out-spent by his challengers, and has won reelection five times. "Every year the Republicans fret, yet (Hostettler) always seems to pull the rabbit out of the hat," Howey said. "The difference is John Hostettler hasn't faced the kind of (anti-incumbent) wave that seems to be building." **Status:** TOSSUP

Congressional District 9: Republican: U.S.

Rep. Mike Sodrel. Democrat: Baron Hill. **Media Market:** Evansville (11%), Indianapolis (23%), Louisville (55%), Dayton, Cincinnati (10 percent). **People:** urban/rural 52/48%, median income \$39,011; race white 94%, 2.3% black, 1.5% Hispanic; blue/white collar: 34/50%; **2000 Presidential:** Bush 56%, Gore 42%; Cook Partisan Voting Index: R+8. **2004 Presidential:** Bush 59%, Kerry 40%. 2002 Results: Hill 96,654 (51%), Sodrel 87,169 (46%). **2002 Money:** Hill \$1.144m, Sodrel \$1.62m. 2004 Results: Sodrel 142,197, Hill 140,772, Cox (L) 4,541. **2006 Forecast:** Sodrel raised more money than challenger Baron Hill during the last quarter and had more cash on hand on June 30, according to reports filed with the Federal Election Commission (**HPR**). Sodrel, a Republican serving his first term in Congress, reported contributions totaling nearly \$445,000 for the quarter and more than \$1.54 million during the cycle that began after the 2004 election. Hill reported nearly \$284,000 in contributions for the quarter and more than \$1.06 million for the cycle. Hill started fund-raising later than Sodrel. Sodrel had \$1,138,747 on hand as of June 30, the last day of the quarter. Hill had \$967,878. That doesn't include the money Hill raised during a July 5 visit from President Bill Clinton. Brian Howey, publisher of Indiana's **Howey Political Report**, said that even though Hill is behind, he won't run short of money to buy commercials in the fall (Lee,





Evansville Courier & Press). "He'll have enough to wage the campaign he'll need to do," Howey said. **Status:** TOSSUP.

Legislative Races

Senate District 4: Republican: Paul Childress. Democrat: State Sen. Karen Talian. **2002 Results:** Antich (D) 16,011, Shane (R) 12,583. **2006 Primary:** Talian 5,743, Chubb 2,796; Childress 2,247, Vojstlavak 2,078. **2006 Forecast:** Republican Paul Childress has withdrawn his candidacy, leaving speculation that retiring State Rep. Ralph Ayres will file to take on Sen. Talian, who was appointed to this seat and has been a vociferous opponent of Major Moves and the Daniels administration. "I didn't know that I was interested in it," Ayres said of the 4th District Senate seat, which some had speculated was his motive for ending a 26-year tenure in the House (**Times of Northwest Indiana**). "That is not the reason I took the action I did," he said. "If I have to announce that I'm not interested, I will." **Status:** SAFE TALIAN.

House District 4: Republican: Open. Democrat: Sylvia Graham. **2002 Results:** Ayres 12,447. **2004 Results:** Ayres 19,656, Stegers (D) 8,581. **2006 Forecast:** After filing resignation papers Monday -- the deadline for allowing local Republican officials to replace him on the Nov. 7 ballot -- Ayres said he was merely looking for a career change. He sounded frustrated by speculation of ulterior motives (**Times of Northwest Indiana**). "I need some space, I guess is what I'm saying," Ayres said. "I did not decide to withdraw my candidacy based on any premise to run for the state Senate and that is the dog garn fact. Period." The retired Chesterton High School teacher also put the kibosh on rumors he somehow had become dissatisfied with his role in Indianapolis. "I love the job. That has nothing to do with it," Ayres said. "I'm at an age, -- 57, I'll be 58 in September -- where if I'm going to do something other than serve in the House, this is it." This is a 59.8 percent Republican district and has been trending that way. However, in 2004, Gov. Mitch Daniels won here with only 50.9 percent of the vote. President Bush won it with 60 percent. Some believe that

Battle for the House

R29 D36

Likely Takeover (1)

Woodruff (Battles)

Tossups (8)

Buell (Barnes)
Borders (Bledsoe)
Heim (Dembowski)
Open (Budak: Dermody vs. Renner)
J. Smith (Herrell)
Saunders (Sadler (D), and Bell (L))
Open (Ayres: Graham (D))
Open (Thomas: Thompson (D))



Leans (12-R; 10-D)

Bosma (Fuldauer)	Orentlicher (Densborn)
Lehe (Sutton)	Hoy (A. Smith)
Harris (Hile)	Fry (Hiler)
David (Liggett)	Micon (Basham)
Lutz (Mengelt)	Austin (Metzger)
Dodge (Rauen)	Tincher (Dallas)
Stutzman (Rorick)	Denbo (Patton)
Open (Hoffman: Knollman vs. Lanning)	Crooks (Arnold)
Open (Messer: Eberhard vs. Lux)	Open (Stemler v Theobald)
Hinkle (Olds)	Bischoff (Ullrich)
Bright (Cheatham)	
Walorski (Kovach)	

Likely (1-R; 2-D)

Ulmer (Puro) Klinker (Rhoda)
Pflum (Bell)

Safe

(29 Republican) Gutwein, Wolkins, Ruppel, Friend, McClain, Thompson, Richardson, Turner, Buck, Torr, Whetstone, T. Brown, Foley, Frizzell, Behning, Murphy, Noe, Pond, Borror, Bell, Espich, Ripley, Crouch, Duncan, Koch, Open (Yount: M. Smith), Burton, Cherry, Leonard, Neese

(36-Democrats) Lawson, Harris, C. Brown, Bauer, Niezgodski, Dvorak, Plath, Cheney, Stevenson, Open (Aguilera: Reardon), Dobis, V. Smith, Kuzman, Bardon, Tyler, Reske, Kersey, Welch, Pierce, Goodin, Robertson, Cochran, Oxley, Stilwell, OPen (B. GiaQuinta, P. GiaQuinta), Moses, Dickinson, Avery, VanHaaften, Day, Summers., Crawford, Mahern, Porter

Movement: Last week we had the Safe category 36D and 31 R. Republicans Andy Thomas and Ralph Ayres bolt, and until replacements are selected, these two seats go from Safe (Thomas) and Likely (Ayres) to Tossup. The Thomas seat was held by Democrat Sue Crosby for more than a decade. ❖



Ayres' stunning resignation of candidacy will actually leave the GOP in better shape since they won't have to defend Ayres' Major Moves vote. By retiring this year, Ayres can take advantage of an oft-criticized lifetime health insurance program that allows retiring legislators to lock in current premiums, even while out-of-pocket expenses for other state employees increase over time. Ayres said that perk played no role in his decision, and that he hopes to have a full-time job before his term expires in November. Local Republican Party officials have less than 30 days to elect replacements for Ayres and for Paul Childress, who won the 4th Senate District primary in May, but resigned Friday, citing personal reasons. Both Ayres and Porter County Republican Chairman Chuck Williams say they have spoken with a pair of candidates capable of defeating Democrat Sylvia Graham, a Valparaiso nurse, in the 4th District House race.

Status: TOSSUP

House District 44: Republican: Open.

Democrat: Jackson Township Trustee Richard E. Thompson. **2002 Results:** Thomas 8,997, Schimpf (D) 6,507.

2004 Results: Thomas 15,126, Wolfe (D) 7,286. **2006**

Forecast: Kenneth Eitel Jr., a Greencastle florist who challenged State Rep. Andy Thomas in 2004, appears to be the odd-on favorite to win the August caucus after the stunning candidacy resignation of Thomas. Eitel lost to Thomas in the 2004 Republican primary, 5,180 to 3,405. The district has a 63.4 percent baseline Republican vote. But prior to Thomas, it was held by Democrat Susan Crosby for 12 years. Michael Davis of the Indiana Chamber, which endorsed Eitel in 2004, said that Crosby "had been a good match for the district." While we believe that Republicans can hang on to this seat, there is no question that it will have to put in resources, which could be distracting since it has four other open seats. Gov. Daniels won this district in 2004 with 58.4 percent. **Status:** TOSSUP

House District 77: Republican: Andrew G.

Smith. Democrat: State Rep. Phil Hoy. **2004 Results:** Hoy (D) 11,308, Hennig (R) 9,804, Garrett (I) 1,285.

2006 Forecast: Smith sent this e-mail to HPR, updating his campaign. "Things are going extremely well," he said. "I continue to be in first place in the HRCC 'Points Program.' Local donors have contributed over \$45,000 to my campaign. I have knocked almost 14,000 doors so far this summer. And—perhaps best of all—I continue to pick up endorsements from community leaders and activists who have traditionally supported Democrats." Smith said the most important of these happened last Sunday. Rev. Adrian Brooks, pastor of Memorial Baptist Church (the largest predominantly African-American church in Evansville with over 4,000 members) offered "a fairly ringing endorsement" during the Sunday service. Rev. Brooks is one of the most influential leaders in Evansville, particularly on matters of concern to residents of the center city. "I don't believe he has ever endorsed a Republican for statewide

office before this," Smith said. He and I have spent quite a bit of time talking about the future of Evansville, economic development for the center city, and education reform, and I am deeply honored to receive his support. He joins a number of other prominent African-Americans who are supporting my campaign: Lois Duncan, President of the Baptist Ministers' Wives Council; Rev. Rabon Turner, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church (the oldest and 2nd largest African-American church in Evansville—and also the place where I announced my candidacy); Daphne Robinson, first principal of the Joshua Academy (Evansville's only predominantly minority charter school); Harold Calloway, local businessman and head of the Indiana Gaming Commission; Tony Kirkwood, policy advisor to Governor Mitch Daniels; Ike Randolph, Indianapolis City Councilman; Rev. Billy D. Garrett, former Independent candidate for State Rep. in District 77. Smith added, "District 77 is probably the most racially, economically, and politically diverse district in the state of Indiana. If I can be competitive among African American voters, then this race could well end up being a landslide in my favor. With the support of these outstanding leaders, I have no doubt that we will be more competitive in the 4th Ward than any Republican in a long, long time. The **Status:** LEANS HOY

House District 89: Republican: State Rep.

Larry Buell. Democrat: John F. Barnes. **2004 Results:** Buell 15,391. **2006 Forecast:** Buell had a rare press conference where he called for legislation limiting the amount of money sheriffs can make. It came after news reports that Marion County Sheriff Frank Anderson made \$360,000 that included a \$50,000 pay raise. Buell said his bill would require that any compensation earned through the collection of overdue taxes and which surpasses that level would be given to counties to use for public safety. Most prosecutors in Indiana make about \$110,000 a year. Buell and Anderson's opponent in November, Republican Steve Davis, held a news conference Thursday criticizing Anderson's compensation. Davis said that if elected, he would forgo all dollars generated by fees that taxpayer-paid civil deputies collect in overdue taxes. "It appears to have gotten out of control," Buell said. "All the citizens need to know exactly what public officials are making." **Status:** TOSSUP.

Marion County Prosecutor: Republican:

Prosecutor Carl Brizzi. Democrat: Melina Kennedy. **2006 Forecast:** Kennedy called for the hiring of 17 new deputy prosecutors, 17 new public defenders and a year of night felony court operation. Brizzi said at a meeting Wednesday of the City-County Council's Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee that the county should buy additional jail space. He said the facility, operated by Community Corrections of America, could house an additional 200 inmates for \$42.75 per inmate each day, and the company could also rebuild the jail to house 220 more inmates. The committee rejected his proposal. **STATUS:** TOSSUP❖



Feds won't help with bird flu

FORT WAYNE - Allen County's top public health official warned the Fort Wayne City Council on Tuesday about a possible flu outbreak and the importance of early preparation (**Fort Wayne**

Journal Gazette).

Dr. Deborah McMahan, Allen County health commissioner, told the council, "We have been told repeatedly that we should expect no help from the federal government," she said.



Lugar, Bayh vote yes on stem cell bill

WASHINGTON - Sens. Dick Lugar, R-Ind., and Evan Bayh, D-Ind., both voted yes Tuesday for the legislation regarding expanded stem cell research. "I support the advancement of stem cell research with clear ethical guidelines because of the promise it offers for research and treatment options for countless Hoosiers and people across the country who suffer from Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, diabetes, paralysis and other debilitating and life-threatening diseases," Lugar said in a statement.

Daniels working the county fair circuit

RENSSALAER - Sporting a red 4-H baseball cap, Gov. Mitch Daniels stopped by the Jasper County 4-H fair Wednesday during a two-day statewide expedition (**Lafayette Journal & Courier**). His visit was without fanfare as he mingled among the crowd at the swine show. "The governor sat down next to me and started talking," said Marcy Budde, 20, who was taking pictures of her younger brother, Paul. "I was shocked that he wanted to hang out with me," she said. Daniels

said he was embarrassed when he met the woman's younger brother, Paul. "Two boys were sitting on the bleachers, and I asked if they were brothers or buddies," said Daniels. The governor said the boy looked at him funny before responding, "buddies." "After I found out Paul's last name, I wondered if he thought I was referring to his last name, Budde," Daniels laughed.

Parker calls for Silverman firing

INDIANAPOLIS - The Indiana Democratic Party today launched an online petition where Hoosiers can voice their opinion about current service at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and the need for Gov. Mitch Daniels to replace BMV Commissioner Joel Silverman with a competent leader. "It's with no great pleasure that I call on Mitch Daniels to fire Joel Silverman, but it's become abundantly clear to me and to most Hoosiers that he's not the guy we should have in charge of one of our largest, most important agencies," said Chairman Chair Dan Parker. "From closing down branches to shutting down service, Silverman's tenure at the BMV has been a mess," Parker said. "It's time for the Governor to admit he made a mistake." Earlier in the week, HD80 Democrat nominee Phil GiaQuinta called for Silverman's resignation.

Council wants to talk to Daniels about I-69

MARTINSVILLE - City leaders want Gov. Mitch Daniels to come listen to their objections to the state's plans to build the Interstate 69 extension through their community (**Associated Press**). The City Council voted 7-0 Monday to ask for the visit, a week after the state highway department did not send anyone to a meeting about using the Ind. 37 corridor for the I-69 route.

Governor says Indiana should lead in biofuels

HAMMOND - Biofuels will be one of the catalysts for Indiana's economic comeback while helping the nation become less dependent on foreign oil, Gov. Mitch Daniels said yesterday (**Associated Press**). "A state like ours, the fifth-biggest producer of soybeans, has a remarkable opportunity not just to participate but to lead in this movement," Daniels said at the opening ceremony for the state's first biodiesel production plant. "The time has come for this." Daniels predicted that by the end of 2007, Indiana will have 16 to 18 renewable-fuel plants producing more than 1 billion gallons of fuel a year.

Buncich back on merit board

CROWN POINT- Former Lake County Sheriff John Buncich is the rightful winner of a seat on the county police merit board, a judge announced Wednesday (**Times of Northwest Indiana**).

GOP snubs Kokomo mayor

KOKOMO - Kokomo Mayor Matt McKillip's relationship with the Howard County Republican Party is anything but typical (**Kokomo Tribune**). Howard County Republicans are hosting a fundraiser Aug. 3 for three GOP candidates running for state office in November. Most elected officials were asked to sign on as co-hosts, but McKillip was not among them. As a result, Secretary of State Todd Rokita decided not to attend the fundraiser. Howard County Republican Party Chairman Brad Bagwell said he was asked to invite "Republican office holders that were part of the Republican team." Obviously, Matt McKillip's name came up as someone who's not a team player." Bagwell said. ❖