



Schellinger seeks cash; JLT issues

Thompson goes on issue offensive as race heats up

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - While Indiana Republicans await either the re-election announcement of Gov. Mitch Daniels or, as he put it on Monday, a Hinkle Fieldhouse "head fake," Democrat Jill Long Thompson generated the most news this week.

Her call to suspend the gasoline tax beat a similar request from House Speaker B. Patrick Bauer by two days and drew a response from Daniels. The timing was conspicuous, a prelude to June when the 2008 Indiana gubernatorial race will come much more sharply into focus.

Daniels is expected to declare for a second term on June 16. Democrat Jim Schellinger is working feverishly to post commanding fundraising totals by June 30. So, too, is Senate Minority Leader Richard Young, who drew former Lt. Gov. Kathy Davis to a recent fundraiser, campaign sources told HPR. But it was Long Thompson who produced the gas tax issue at a time when prices reached historic highs.



Jill Long Thompson has fired off the opening issue salvos in the 2008 gubernatorial race on privatization and gas prices. (HPR Photo by Brian A. Howey)

Long Thompson said that such executive action is necessary to ease the growing burden on the pocket books of Hoosier working families by skyrocketing gas prices. In a satellite interview Wednesday shown on a South Bend television station, Daniels claimed there was little he as governor could do about the cost of gasoline at the pump, which currently is averaging well over \$3 per gallon. Some experts predict that the price will reach

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al Qaeda picking us apart

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - For the past 13 days, we've watched on CNN and Fox U.S. soldiers in swamps and marshes, in canals, on paths, busting down doors and rounding up all the usual suspects as they search for three kidnapped soldiers: Pfc. Joseph Anzack Jr., Spec. Alex Jimenez, and Pvt. Bryan Fouty. Anzack's body was found in the Euphrates River on Wednesday. We were told when Gen. David Petraeus was put in charge of the surge that American units would be spread into the populous to bond with the Iraqi people. The Iraq Study Group's Lee Hamilton warned of the kidnap scenario.

And here it is.



Brian Howey's Column



“Valor, *n.* A soldierly compound of vanity, duty and the gambler’s hope.”

- **Ambrose Bierce**, *‘The Devil’s Dictionary’*



When this small unit was ambushed and at least three soldiers were led away, it launched the hunt for needles in a forbidding haystack. Thousands of troops that were supposed to be quelling the violence in the Baghdad surge have been fanning out across the countryside in what will almost certainly be a futile "exhaustive" search.

There have been 84 American soldiers killed in May, many by a new al Qaeda tactic: the dismounted improvised explosive device, basically a homemade land mine. One killed Sgt. Joe Montgomery of Scottsburg on Tuesday. As our soldiers search, the DIEDs are now being planted in fields, along canals and paths. Al Qaeda is luring us into new killing fields. The goal is to isolate our troops and kill them, just as they have isolated America.

The insurgency has methodically worked to isolate our extended empire. They bombed the United Nations and killed its top envoy, and the U.N. pulled out. They bombed a train in Madrid and the Spanish pulled out. They bombed London and the British public is clamoring to go home. New Prime Minister Gordon Brown may do just that. Now their goal is to tip public opinion in America so that Congress imposes deadlines.

For years, Republicans ranging from President Bush to those in Congress have resisted deadlines. But in the past month, more and more Republicans are pointing to Gen. Petraeus's planned September report to Congress as a fish or cut bait scenario.

Bin Laden has long considered

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U.S. a giant with no stomach for a sustained war with no front lines in his "war of destiny." The political will has vanished. Last year, New York Times columnist Tom Friedman said it should be either "10 months or 10 years." Pull out in 10 months, or start a draft, commit the hundreds of billions of dollars it will take to reinvent Iraqi society and reinvade with overwhelming force to decimate the insurgency and create a new Iraq society from scratch.

But this war has been so utterly bungled and mismanaged, that I've come to the conclusion that al Qaeda is smarter than we and more committed. In a week or two, there will be other U.S. soldiers kidnapped and more searches.

I watched as U.S. Sen. John Warner said this week that it's time for the Iraqi government to "step up." This is a ludicrous notion. The bravest, smartest Iraqis were decimated in the 1980-88 Iraq/Iran War, in the 1991 uprising in the wake of the Gulf War that the U.S. encouraged and then ditched; in the Saddam purges that followed; not to mention

the 2003 war and its bloody aftermath when the U.S. failed to install civil service and security.

An estimated 2 million Iraqis, mostly professionals in the upper and middle classes, have fled. These were supposed to be the people to rebuild society. They have taken their Shia vs. Sunni hatred to places like Amman, Cairo, and Damascus.

And there is no way that we are going to "stand up" internal police and an Iraqi army that will fight. There is no judiciary left. We can't even equip our own American troops properly, let alone a ragtag Iraq army that U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer says will take 10 to 15 years to rebuild. We don't even take care of our own wounded Stateside.

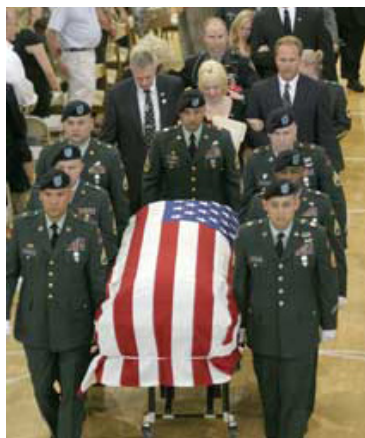
What is absolutely breathtaking is the stupidity and naivety of those in the American government who have allowed this catastrophe to occur.

Here's my message to our president, senators and congressmen: you are being absolutely out-smarted by the very enemies you claim to be willing to do anything to defeat.

They are smarter than we, more patient than we are, have more time than we do, and are luring us into a cataclysm.

It seems that all the lessons of Vietnam have been forgotten.

This Memorial Day, I will pray for courage and sense for our leaders. They are losing it. ❖



Servicemen carry the casket of U.S. Army Spc. Nicholas Scott Hartge of Rome City out of the East Noble High School gymnasium Wednesday afternoon as his parents follow closely behind. Hartge's body was laid to rest at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville. (Kendallville News-Sun Photo by Andy Barrand)



Schellinger & JLT: From page 1

as high as \$4 per gallon over the summer.

"I take issue with Gov. Daniels' assertion that his hands are tied when it comes to gas prices in Indiana," Thompson said. "If I were governor, I would declare an energy emergency and suspend the state gasoline sales tax for a period of 60 days, beginning immediately. If oil and gasoline prices remain high during that period of suspension, I would call the Indiana Legislature into a special session to consider tying the gasoline sales tax to gallons sold, rather than to pump price. Current law that ties the sales tax to pump price is regressive. Every time the price of gas escalates, the state in effect enjoys a tax windfall. Every time the price of gas goes up, it amounts to a new tax. As someone who has always opposed new taxes, I find this unacceptable."

Daniels wasn't inclined to rescind the gas tax at a time when he's trying to keep the state in the black. But he didn't rule out a future move ... perhaps timed for 2008. "Never say never," Daniels said about suspending Indiana's gasoline tax. "But right now, although I can appreciate maybe the short-term popularity that would go with it, I don't think it's a responsible step when you consider all the factors. Such relief would fall on the rich and poor alike," he said. "It wouldn't reduce the price very much and would benefit people who don't particularly need the relief as much or more as those who do."

In 2000, Gov. Frank O'Bannon declared an energy emergency because prices had climbed to about \$2 a gallon, using a 1981 statute created in the wake of the gas crisis of the 1970s that allows for an executive order spanning 120 days. The move was widely credited with O'Bannon widening his lead for re-election against Republican U.S. Rep. David McIntosh. O'Bannon won re-election by a comfortable margin. Indiana's gas tax is 18 cents a gallon, but the suspension would actually impact the state's 6 percent sales tax. Gas prices average \$3.196 nationally, but as much as \$3.59 in Indiana.

The issue was an important development for Long Thompson. She said that "contractual obligations" will keep her from officially declaring until July. That puts her past the June 30 money deadline.

But, according to Chris Sautter, who is assisting her campaign, Long Thompson is not dormant on the money front. She has made a pitch to EMILY's List and that organization now has a money specialist who will assist the candidate.

"Remember, she raised \$1.6 million in 2002," Saut-

ter said of her unsuccessful race against then-U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola. "She's got a pretty good network."

While Schellinger (pictured below) is expected to post what aide Mike Edmondson called "impressive" totals at the end of June, Long Thompson is attempting to outflank Schellinger on the idea front.

"I will use my personal days to talk about issues that are important to Hoosiers across the state including here in Northeastern Indiana, and will officially launch my campaign when I leave my current position in July," Long Thompson told WANE-TV. During her campaign, the Democrat says she'll focus on tax fairness, education, economic development, and government management without the use of privatization. Long Thompson has criticized Republican Gov. Daniels for privatization, including parts of Family and Social Services and the lease of the Indiana Toll Road.

"It is a national security issue. We should not be



leasing out to foreign investors our infrastructure. That is part of the Indiana commerce system and I think it was a very bad decision," Long Thompson said.

Schellinger is working on the money front, attending a series of Jefferson-Jackson Day dinners and meeting with congressional district committees.

"He's listening to concerns," Edmondson said. "He's focused on earning the support of Hoosiers."

Schellinger, essentially a blank slate on issues, told HPR in April that he would begin announcing stances on various issues in a matter of weeks. But Edmondson said that Schellinger would articulate his views "sooner rather than later. There's plenty of time. We want to do that as quickly as possible, but not rush into anything."

Edmondson called the June 30 financial reports "an early benchmark" on the Democratic race. On June 11, he travels to Washington for a fundraiser hosted by Brad A. Queisser of mCapitol Management and former Illinois Democratic Chairman Gary J. LaPaille. Gov. Daniels, who has more than a \$2.6 million war chest, will attend a



\$1,000 Washington fundraiser the next day.

Democratic sources have told HPR that during the Indiana Jefferson-Jackson Day dinner, there was talk of an official party endorsement in an attempt to clear the field. The source told HPR that a number of Southern Indiana Democrats vocally opposed the measure.

Long Thompson, Schellinger and Young all spoke to 8th CD Democrats at Clinton recently. A Democrat there described Schellinger's comments as "introductory."

Daniels, meanwhile, returned with a 32-man European delegation in which he made a couple of modest jobs announcements. The highlights were his meeting with DaimlerChrysler CEO Dr. Dieter Zetsche and Lakshmi Mittal, president and CEO of Arcelor Mittal, one of the leading Northwest Indiana steel producers and employers.

"It was an enormous privilege to spend a couple of hours with one of the leading businessmen in the world and tell him how proud Indiana is that his company has made such a large investment in our state and workers," said Daniels. "The continued strength of the steel industry remains central to Indiana's overall economic health. It was invaluable for me to listen to Mr. Mittal talk about his vision for the future of the industry and his company."

Daniels' visit with Zetsche came on the same "historic" day that the Chrysler sale was announced. The governor expressed caution about the Getrag transmission plant possibly coming to Tipton County that would build parts for Chrysler.

Perhaps the biggest development for the governor's re-election came on Friday in Kokomo, when Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman announced the federal record of decision on the U.S. 31 Kokomo bypass.

"This is a major milestone. I joined INDOT in 1959, and for many of the years since then, U.S. 31 through Kokomo has been a problem," said INDOT deputy commissioner Bill Rinard during a press conference at Kokomo Municipal Airport (**Kokomo Tribune**). "I didn't think we'd ever see a resolution."

"Today is a day to celebrate," Skillman said. "The 15 signals that disrupt the free flow of traffic will be soon be gone. This new highway will save time and allow economic development to flourish. Northern and central Indiana will become even more attractive to businesses who want to establish or expand their operations. Good transportation infrastructure will help us keep the good paying jobs we already have, and allow us to add thousands of new ones."

This is a huge transportation development for Hoosiers from Michigan City to LaGrange and all points south to Indianapolis who have for decades battled stoplights and traffic at Kokomo. The \$1 billion for the project comes from Major Moves and the lease of the Indiana Toll Road will almost certainly be a campaign theme in 2008, with construction scheduled to begin a year later. ❖

2008 Indiana Governor

Governor 2008: Republican: Gov. Mitch Daniels. Democrat: Senate Minority Leader Richard Young, Jim Schellinger. **1996 Results:** O'Bannon (D) 1,075,342, Goldsmith (R) 997,505, Dillon (L) 35,261. **2000 Results:** O'Bannon (D) 1,230,345, McIntosh (R) 906,492, Horning (L) 38,686. **2004 Results:** Daniels (R) 1,302,912, Kernan (D) 1,113,900, Gividen (L) 31,644. **2008 Forecast:**



Daniels has no plans to follow a predecessor's lead and suspend Indiana's sales tax on gasoline (**Louisville Courier-Journal**). Daniels' general counsel, Mark Massa, said yesterday that he

doesn't think that state law gives the governor the authority to suspend the 6 percent tax on gas sales, although the administration is seeking an opinion from the attorney general just to be sure. "The governor wants to know once and for all what his options are -- if any," said Daniels' press secretary, Jane Jankowski.

Eric Holcomb will manage the re-election campaign for Daniels (Shella, **WISH-TV**). Also look for Cam Savage, manager of the Mike Sodrel campaign in 2006, to play a role in the Daniels re-election bid. Bill Oesterle will still be involved but on a supervisory level. As an architect of expensive designer schools, Democratic gubernatorial hopeful Jim Schellinger is probably upset about things like this happening in Indiana (**HoosierPundit.com**): State Budget Director



HOLCOMB

Chuck Schalliol said that school construction costs in Indiana declined from more than \$1 billion in 2005 to \$755 million last year. Schalliol presented a report on 2006 construction for public schools that showed \$337 million in savings from the prior year. The costs dropped even though the Department of Local Government Finance approved about the same number of projects -- 108 in 2005 and 105 in 2006. When Daniels took office, he implemented new and stricter rules on school construction projects in an effort to make them more cost-efficient and centered on education. Since then, the Department for Local Government Finance has drawn up new construction guidelines and examining school district bond issues more closely.

Democratic Primary Status: Leans Schellinger. **General Status:** Leans Daniels. ❖



Iraq: Is it time?

By Mike Sodrel

NEW ALBANY - Before I address our current Congressman's vote on withdrawal from Iraq, I would like to make my own reservations clear. I have a problem with the Iraq Study Group. If the purpose of the ISG was to evaluate our current Iraq policy, and define our future policy, why weren't prominent Iraqis included? I believe one of the co-chairmen of the ISG should have been an Iraqi. Other Iraqis should have been part of the committee as well.

How can a proper course of action in Iraq be determined without the full participation of respected and influential Iraqis? As far as I know, there was not one Iraqi citizen participating in the ISG. We certainly have a vested interest in a stable Iraq. However, the people who live in Iraq are at risk on a daily basis. How can we determine the proper policy toward Iraq, if we do not know what the Iraqis want for themselves?

I also believe President Bush is putting too much emphasis on democracy being the cure for Islamic fascism. Democracy will not necessarily bring peace, stability, or tolerance to the region. I have visited several Islamic countries. Jordan and Morocco are among the more moderate Islamic nations that I have visited. Both of them have kings, not democratically elected presidents. On the other hand, the Palestinians democratically elected Hamas, a terrorist organization to run their government. It is better to deal with a moderate kingdom than a radical democracy.

It is individual liberty that will bring an eventual halt to terrorist activity. The question is not whether the majority of Iraqis will accept democracy... the question is: Will they embrace individual liberty? Will they grant liberty to their neighbor? Do they want liberty for themselves and their families? If they do not value liberty, we cannot force it on them. Forced liberty is a contradiction of terms.

Having said that, a supplemental military funding resolution that establishes a timeline for withdrawal, is the worst possible action Congress can take. Our troops deserve our full support as long as they are in the field. To

say you support the troops but not the mission is political double speak. Anyone who does not support the mission should insist that our troops be brought home now ... not six months from now, or a year from now, but right now.

On the floor of the U.S. House, Congressman Hill said: "It is time to stop the open-ended commitment there. It is time for the government of Iraq to take responsibility for their own security." If this is so Congressman, you should insist on a bill that brings the troops home immediately. If it is time, then it is time. Your party is in the majority. Have the courage of your convictions. Either support the mission, or vote to have the troops pack up and come home.

Don't put them in a tactical purgatory, waiting for some arbitrary date to arrive.

Don't put our soldiers in harm's way until an appointed day and hour. Don't create an environment where our soldier's objective is to stay alive until the clock runs down ... while our enemies redouble their efforts to kill us before we leave. We must fight to win, or leave the field.

Straddling the political fence is demoralizing and dangerous for our troops. Congressman, this is not basketball. You cannot hold the ball and run out the clock.

We need to determine if the majority of Iraqis and the majority of Americans are on the same page. We need to know if their picture of a stable Iraq looks like ours. If it does, the surge stands a good chance of success, and we should support it. If not, we need to leave a force adequate to provide security for our embassy ... make sure they have adequate

air support available, and withdraw the balance of our military forces.

Someone needs to inform Congressman Hill that military actions cannot succeed on an arbitrary timeline. You are either committed, or you come home. And someone needs to remind President Bush that the Statue of Liberty stands in New York harbor, not the goddess of democracy. ❖

The writer is a former congressman from Indiana's Ninth District.



Then-congressman Mike Sodrel posed with U.S.-trained Iraqi troops in Iraq in 2005. Sodrel has not announced whether he will challenge U.S. Rep. Baron Hill in 2008.



Hill offers rebuttal on Sodrel's Iraq War stance

By U.S. REP. BARON HILL

WASHINGTON - Former Congressman Mike Sodrel offered several criticisms of my position on the war in Iraq, but offered absolutely nothing in the way of alternative strategies. Instead, Mr. Sodrel continues to endorse the President's "stay-the-course" tactic in Iraq. And, that strategy is not working and has never worked.

I cannot endorse that flawed and stale strategy and neither do the American people. Last November they sent us a clear message: Find a way to bring our troops home in a timely and honorable way. I listened, and fully intend to do just that.

It is surprising, however, that Mr. Sodrel attempts to knock President Bush over his apparent confusion between liberty and democracy. I assume Mr. Sodrel attacks the President on such a convoluted argument because his political con-

sultants told him it is time to start distancing himself from a President who has an abysmal approval rating. Mr. Sodrel seemed to have no problem with the President during the last campaign as he used him and other administration officials to help raise considerable sums of money.

But now, Mr. Sodrel appears to want to reenter the realm of public service. To do so, Mr. Sodrel, you need to bring new ideas to the table. Your editorial piece offered none but only conveyed the same, old attack rhetoric that the people of Southern Indiana are tired of hearing.

I will continue my work representing the citizens of Southern Indiana and continue to offer new ideas and new legislation to better the lives of my constituents and bring about real change on critical issues like energy independence and enacting environmentally-sound policies. I will continue to be an independent voice for the people of my district, reflecting their values and real desire for change. I suggest you, Mr. Sodrel, come up with an original, educated thought. ❖



U.S. Rep. Baron Hill speaking on the floor of the House. (Photo courtesy of Rep. Hill)

Hamilton: Coming our way

WASHINGTON - After an initially tepid reception from policymakers, the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group are getting a second look from the White House and Congress, as officials continue to scour for bipartisan solutions to salvage the American engagement in Iraq (**Washington Post**).

With negotiations continuing this week on a new war funding bill, the administration is strongly signaling that it would accept the idea of requiring the Iraqi government to meet political benchmarks or else risk losing some assistance from the United States. That was one of the key proposals from the group headed by former secretary of state James A. Baker III and former Indiana congressman Lee H. Hamilton, but it was initially dismissed by the White House when first proposed last December.

The administration is also preparing for its first substantive discussions with Iran, to begin on Memorial Day, not long after its first high-level talks with Syria in more than two years. The Iraq Study Group had strongly urged such regional diplomacy aimed at fostering a political settlement and bringing down the sectarian violence in Baghdad.

"They are coming our way," Hamilton said in a recent interview. The comeback of the Iraq Study Group's suggestions underscores the intense desire by some in Washington to fashion a workable long-term policy on Iraq. The months since the commission issued its report have seen increased polarization, with Democrats mostly united in their desire to end American involvement in the war and President Bush struggling to buy time for additional troops to pacify Baghdad. ❖



Ellsworth, Pence are calling immigration bill ‘amnesty’

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

WASHINGTON - Hoosier congressmen from both sides of the aisle are calling the Senate immigration compromise “amnesty.”

U.S. Rep. Rep. Brad Ellsworth explained, “On the day this bill becomes law, 12 million illegal immigrants will be eligible for legal protections they didn’t have the day before. And each one will gain that status despite having broken America’s immigration laws. That sure sounds like amnesty to me.”

Ellsworth said that as a former sheriff, rewarding people for breaking our laws “just doesn’t sit right with me. I don’t blame people for wanting to come to America; it’s a great place to live and work. All I ask is that they do it legally.”

“The bill under consideration by the Senate will reward the violation of our current immigration laws with amnesty,” Ellsworth, D-Evansville, explained. “I join the vast majority of my constituents in believing this is wrong, and if the House considers legislation with similar provisions, I will not hesitate to stand up to Congressional leadership and oppose it.”

U.S. Rep. Mike Pence, who for more than a year searched for an immigration solution with U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas, said on the House floor earlier this week, “From what we know about the Senate compromise, there are many commendable elements in the plan, including border security measures and a shift to a merit-based immigration system. However, ultimately the grand bargain is no bargain for the American people.

Pence, R-Columbus, continued, “By permitting illegal immigrants to get right with the law without leaving the country, the Senate compromise amounts to amnesty for millions of illegal immigrants and I cannot support it. Over the past year I have worked with colleagues in the House and the Senate to achieve border security and comprehensive immigration reform without amnesty. Illegal immigration is a crisis and demands a national response but

amnesty is not that response.”

Pence said that he planned to continue to seek a compromise. He said that any solution must require workers to learn English and employers to operate under the law.

U. S. Sen. Dick Lugar supported the compromise, saying that immigration policy should be updated in a comprehensive way to provide some realistic resolution to the status of at least 12 million undocumented immigrants. This comprehensive approach includes greater border security and some provisions for a temporary worker program, a press release from his office said.

Ellsworth comes to the debate with much more political pressure than Pence, who drew fire from conservatives over his “Ellis Island Centers” proposition that would have illegal aliens return to their homelands, and reapply for worker visas that would allow them to return.

Ellsworth defeated U.S. Rep. John Hostettler in 2006, who staked his political future on a rejection of any compromise that would allow any of the 12 to 20 million illegal immigrants from staying in the United States.

During his campaign, Ellsworth said that he was essentially on the same page as Hostettler. To back the Senate compromise has the potential of putting him on shaky ground in the competitive 8th CD.

“Instead of new protections for illegal immigrants, the cornerstones of immigration reform must include securing our borders,

ensuring reliable employment verification, and enforcing laws already on the books. I believe those are the places we must start to fix this problem, so I introduced the Legal Employee Verification Act to help well-intentioned employers ensure their workforces are legal, and double the minimum fines on employers who break our laws and hire illegal immigrants,” Ellsworth explained.

“For the past five years, Congress and the President have shortchanged border security and looked the other way while our laws were broken. This Congress must do better,” Ellsworth said. ❖



Immigrants stand with the American flag at a 2006 rally in Indianapolis. After that rally, then U.S. Rep. John Hostettler wondered why police didn’t arrest illegal aliens in the crowd. (HPR Photo by A. Walker Shaw)



Clinton, Giuliani slip in Iowa

DES MOINES - Two new Iowa polls published Sunday indicate the big story to come out of the Iowa caucuses next January could be the defeats of the early national front-runners in both parties (Yepsen, **Des Moines Register**).

On the Democratic side, John Edwards leads Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton among likely Iowa Democratic caucus-goers. He gets 29 percent of the Iowa vote. Obama gets 23 percent, and Clinton comes in third with 21 percent. Nationally, Clinton leads in most polls of the Democratic race. On the Republican side, Mitt Romney (pictured) has taken the lead with an impressive 30 percent of the vote among that party's likely caucus-goers. John McCain is in second at 18 percent, and Rudy Giuliani is in third with 17 percent. Nationally, Giuliani or McCain hold the lead in many polls. That means the surveys are good news for Edwards and Romney and bad news for everyone else, right? Of course. In any campaign, a politician generally likes to lead in the polls. It helps raise money from donors,

attracts media attention and volunteers and can become a self-fulfilling prophecy.

But in the world of caucus politics, an early lead in the polls can actually be bad news, thanks to something called the "expectations game." That's because in the caucuses, "victory" often goes to the candidate who stages a surprise, who beats what media people and others in the political community expect to have happen.

Right now, Romney enjoys his top tier status, but it's also raising the standard for what he has to do on caucus night. ❖



Haven't made a decision who the next president should be? We liked the feel of this White House photo featuring Colts QB Peyton Manning, who could run and win anything in Indiana, Tennessee and Louisiana. Peyton in '08!

2008 Presidential Polls

Republican	Date	Giuliani	McCain	Thompson	Romney	Comp. Spread
Zogby	03/22 - 03/26	27%	13%	9%	9%	Giuliani +14%
Gallup	05/10 - 05/13	29%	23%	12%	8%	Giuliani +6%
Rasmussen	05/14 - 05/17	26%	18%	14%	15%	Giuliani +8%
Time	04/05 - 04/09	35%	20%	10%	10%	Giuliani +15%
CNN	05/04 - 05/06	25%	23%	13%	10%	Giuliani +2%
Cook/RT	05/11 - 05/13	26%	24%	9%	9%	Giuliani +2%
FOX News	05/15 - 05/16	24%	17%	8%	9%	Giuliani +7%
Pew Research	03/21 - 03/25	33%	23%	--%	8%	Giuliani +10
LATimes/Bloombg	04/5 - 04/09	29%	12%	15%	8%	Giuliani + 22
NBC/WSJ	04/20 - 04/23	33%	22%	17%	12%	Giuliani +11%
Democrat	Date	Clinton	Obama	Edwards	Gore	Comp. Spread
Zogby	03/22 - 03/26	32%	22%	13%		Clinton +10%
Gallup	05/10 - 05/13	35%	26%	12%	16%	Clinton +9%
Rasmussen	05/14 - 05/17	35%	25%	18%	--	Clinton +10%
Time	04/05 - 04/09	33%	26%	25%	--%	Clinton +7%
CNN	05/04 - 05/06	38%	24%	12%	12%	Clinton+14%
Cook/RT	05/11 - 05/13	32%	24%	13%	10%	Clinton +8%
Pew Research	03/21 - 03/25	35%	26%	16%	12%	Clinton +9%
FOX News	05/15 - 05/16	35%	20%	13%	13%	Clinton +15%
LATimes/Bloomb	04/05 - 04/09	33%	23%	14%	13%	Clinton +10
NBC/WSJ	04/20 - 04/23	36%	31%	20%	--	Clinton +5%

Hoosier Support: Giuliani (\$172,450 raised in Indiana): Marion County Prosecutor Carl Brizzi, Stephen Goldsmith, Tim Durham, Beurt SerVass, Steve Hilbert. **McCain:** Gov. Mitch Daniels. **Romney (\$83,750):** Attorney General Steve Carter; Secretary of State Todd Rokita, James Bopp, Dan Dumezich, Bob Grand, Chris Chocola. **Thompson:** U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer. **Clinton (\$71,000):** Mel Simon, Bren Simon. **Edwards:** Robin Winston, Ann & Ed DeLaney, 9th CD Chair Mike Jones, State Reps. Russ Stilwell, Dennie Oxley, Terri Austin, Terry Goodin, Sheila Klinker, Robert Kuzman, Linda Lawson and Scott Pelath; Greencastle Mayor Nancy Michael; Bill Moreau Jr., Shaw Friedman, Vanderburgh Co. Chairman Mark Owen, 8th CD Vice Chair Mary Lou Terrell, Greg Hahn, Bruce Kehoe. ❖



Gary Gerard, *Warsaw Times-Union*

- You'll be happy to know that you stopped paying for government a couple of weeks ago. According to the Tax Foundation, "Tax Freedom Day" was April 30 this year. That's the day when local, state and federal officials - taxers at all levels - stopped digging into our wallets. W's tax cuts dropped the day from May 1 in 2001 to April 21 in 2002. The day rolled back to April 18 in 2003. But it moved up a day to April 19 in 2004, and a full week to April 26 in 2005. It was April 28 in 2006, which is just about where it was when W took office. The recent increases are doubly disturbing because there have been no big federal tax hikes. ❖

Sylvia Smith, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*

- Blogging for Bayh, the all-Evan blog, has petered out. There hasn't been an entry in more than a month. Sen. Evan Bayh's fundraising, a robust enterprise that normally takes in \$2,000 a day, was moribund for the first three months of the year. He raised exactly \$3,488 in 90 days. Within days of dropping his plans to run for the Democratic presidential nomination, Bayh's campaign staff had started lining up jobs with other candidates who are still in the mix. This paints a picture of a man who has laid aside his interest in the 2008 campaign and has come to grips with the fact that he won't be leading an inaugural parade in January 2009. But it's a highly suspect picture. I doubt you would find anyone in the inner or outer Bayh orbits who'd insist that his ambition for the Oval Office has petered out or turned moribund. It may be derailed for another cycle or two, but it is most definitely not dead. It is entirely likely, in fact, that Bayh is still hard at work on his campaign, albeit with another White House goal: the vice presidency. Some political observers say that Bayh's presidential campaign - the endless money-raising, the travel, the speeches, the political action committee, the staff, the exploratory committee - was never aimed at the top of the ticket anyway. These folks theorize that Bayh's intention all along was to position himself as a serious top-tier candidate: a proven campaigner, a solid fundraiser, a public speaker not prone to gaffes. In this line of thinking, Bayh's pullout in December - just days before his fundrais-

ing team was scheduled to arrive in Washington for the beginning of a major push - was calculated to take the campaign to the brink but cause no lasting damage. Far from being a whim, the decision was part of a master plan.

By running full-bore up to the point he withdrew, Bayh demonstrated how he performs on a national stage. But by calling it quits when he did, Bayh burned no bridges with major fundraisers or - more importantly - with whomever Democrats eventually choose as their nominee. If Clinton is, indeed, the Democratic nominee, Bayh would be a logical VP contender. Not necessarily the only or obvious choice, but quite a safe choice. He would not overshadow Clinton

the way a black running mate or flamboyant personality might. He would have more appeal in the Republican Midwest states (even if he couldn't persuade Hoosier voters to go blue in November 2008) than a more liberal choice. He could contribute the \$10 million in his Senate re-election

fund. His youthful and pretty family could resonate with family issue voters. You can be sure that Clinton and her closest advisers are taking all of that - and much more - into account as they survey the suitors who are hoping to woo themselves onto the Democratic ticket. ❖

Rich James, *Post-Tribune*

- Dear Rudy Clay: I've been giving this a lot of thought, and I think it's time for you to hang it up. I don't mean the mayor thing. No, the people of Gary said you are

headed in the right direction and want to give you a full term to carry out what you've started. I'm talking about the chairmanship of the Lake County Democratic Party. I know you didn't seek the chairmanship; you were simply an easy choice when they wrested it from Stig. Anyway, it's time you stepped down in the best interests of Democratic politics. You don't need the chairmanship; you're coming up on 72 in July, and I suspect won't seek another term as mayor in 2011. I'm telling you, Rudy, you've got the toughest job in Lake County. It's not even close. The pressure you feel must be enormous, particularly with what might be an unprecedented number of homicides in the last month. Gary seemingly is on the cusp, Rudy. It's up to you to save it or lose it. If you aren't putting in 60 to 70 hours a week, I'd be surprised. My point, Rudy, is that you don't have time to run the county Democratic precinct organization the way it needs to be run. ❖





National Guard won't march for USS Indianapolis

By BEVERLY PHILLIPS

The USS Indianapolis Museum will be dedicated on July 7 and there will be a parade, but the Indiana National Guard will not be marching.

"They said they'd give us a color guard, but the troops tell us they want to march," said **John Gromosiak**, a survivor of the sinking of the Indianapolis in 1945 and chairman of the parade. "I think I'm going to ask the governor."

Gromosiak said in a letter that Lt. Col. **Todd Townsend** said that the Indiana National Guard has "limited assets" and would be unable to support the parade.

"This is the USS Indianapolis," Gromosiak told HPR of the worst naval disaster in U.S. history. Of the 1,196 hands, only 316 survived. "We think they should be there and they want to be there."

The Brizzi 500

Sure, anyone one can open the doors of their home to stump for a politician, but how many can host a political fundraiser at their two-story 70-car garage? Tomorrow night businessman **Tim Durham** will do just that. He's raising big bucks for Marion County Prosecutor **Carl Brizzi** at the 2nd annual, race-themed "Brizzi 500" that includes a celebrity party. He says he began adding classics to his car collection about five years ago and estimates his 35 classics are valued at \$15 to \$20 million dollars. Notable cars are numerous and include a Duesenberg owned by **William Randolph Hearst** and a Stutz made in Indianapolis. Other cars on display include Mercedes, Rolls Royce, Lamborghini, Ferrari, and Porsche.

The fundraiser includes live entertainment and celebrity guests in town for the race are expected to attend, including 500 drivers, **Kato Kaitlin**, **Jesse Metcalf** of Desperate Housewives, Sacramento Kings owners Joe and **Gavin Maloof**, and possibly Grammy Award winning rapper **Ludacris**. Durham says his "house party" is on the "places to go" list for celebrities in town so others may show up. Joining Durham as a title sponsor is **Tim Griggers**, owner of the local Ruth's Chris Steak House that's catering the event. Brizzi has a 40-member event pit crew

that includes **Tomisue** and **Steve Hilbert**, **Cory** and **Beurt SerVaas**, and **Kim** and **Jim Purucker**. Tickets start at \$250 with tiered event perks for larger donations. Call (317) 396-4994.

Loving that Corvette Pace Car

HPR couldn't help but enviously admire State Rep. and Indianapolis Recorder publisher **Carolene Mays** sporting around town this week in an official 2007 Chevrolet Corvette Convertible Pace Car similar to what actor Patrick Dempsey will drive at Sunday's Indianapolis 500. According to Chevrolet, the car is virtually identical to the regular production model with a top speed of 186 mph. A replica can be yours for a beginning sticker price of \$66,995 but hurry -- only 500 are available.



Outrun the Sun

Outrun the Sun (OTS) Run/Walk takes place on the IUPUI campus and Indianapolis Canal Walk on Saturday, June 2, beginning at 7 p.m. with post-race music, food and exhibits. More than 2,100 people participated in last year's event, making it one of the largest fundraisers in the country benefiting melanoma research and education. OTS co-founder **Marci Reddick** is a former executive assistant to Gov. **Evan Bayh** and corporations counsel during his years as secretary of state. She's now with Sommer Barnard and says her OTS involvement is an extension of her other political and public policy advocacy efforts "for causes that need more attention from policy makers like more funding for a melanoma cure and public awareness of the risks of skin cancer." A lifelong friend and also a cousin are skin cancer survivors. Register at www.outrunthesun.org.

Burrous health declining

Former House Speaker **Kermit Burrous** is now residing at the Brownsburg Nursing Home. Burrous, 75, was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 1980. "That's a long time to live with this," said **Anita Burrous**, his wife. "He's not in great condition." Friends and colleagues of Burrous can send cards to the Burrous home at 7629 Walton Drive, Indianapolis, 46214. Anita Burrous can be reached at 317-273-0827. ❖

Got a tip for the Boar's Nest? Send it to: phillipsgroup@comcast.net



Scottsburg soldier killed in Iraq

SCOTTSBURG - A 29-year-old soldier from southern Indiana was killed in Iraq, his family said (**Associated Press**). An army chaplain informed Gail Bond early Wednesday that her son, Sgt. Joe Montgomery, 29, died Tuesday while on a mission in Baghdad dealing with underground explosives, Bond said. "Joe stepped on a wire that triggered an explosion and he was killed instantly," Montgomery's uncle, Bill Graham, told **WHAS-TV**.



Goode eyes 8th CD run

TERRE HAUTE - An Indiana State University legislative liaison is exploring whether to run against incumbent Democrat Brad Ellsworth in next year's 8th Congressional District race. Greg Goode, ISU's executive assistant to the president for external affairs, said Tuesday he is considering running on the Republican ticket — something already acknowledged in political blogs and Web sites (**Loughlin, Terre Haute Tribune-Star**). "I have been approached by some folks to consider it, and out of respect to those people, I indicated I wouldn't rule anything out and would consider it," said Goode, 34, ISU's liaison to the Indiana legislature, Commission for Higher Education and Congressional delegation. He also is ISU's liaison to the city of Terre Haute, particularly in issues dealing with economic development. Goode, of Terre Haute, has been employed at ISU for five years. He previously served as a legislative assistant to Indiana 7th District Rep. Ed Pease from 1997 to 2001 and later was chief of staff to U.S. Rep. Brian Kerns, also a Republican who formerly represented the 7th district. Bill Treadway, Vigo County Republican Party chairman,

said he's heard the same rumors. "I think he'd be an excellent candidate. I'd love to see him run," Treadway said. "He's a first-rate guy and does a great job at ISU ... It would be great for the district and great for Terre Haute." Marsha Carrington, Republican chairwoman for Indiana's 8th District, said Goode is attending Lincoln Day dinners and talking to former congressmen "to see what it would entail and to see if he would enjoy it."

Assessors face training

LAFAYETTE - Jerry Rooze has served as the Shelby Township trustee-assessor for about 20 years (**Lafayette Journal & Courier**). But a new law says he will soon no longer meet the requirements for performing all of his current duties unless he undergoes some extra training. The Indiana General Assembly passed a bill this year that mandates assessment officials be certified as level II assessor-appraiser before they enter office. Rooze says he hasn't yet decided if he will take the training, which would force him to spend two weeks in classes. He thinks the roughly \$2,000 he makes a year for assessing property would hardly compensate him for the hassle, so he may decline to run for office again.

Peterson wants to try for 2012 Super Bowl

INDIANAPOLIS - A day after Indianapolis lost its bid to host the 2011 Super Bowl, Mayor Bart Peterson said he is ready to try again as long as he can line up business and public support (**Indianapolis Star**). The city's biggest employer, Eli Lilly and Co., said it would back another effort. Before a formal decision is reached, Peterson said he wants to get a better handle on the odds of landing the 2012 game. "I don't think we need to have certainty, but we have to have a good chance," Peterson said.

Spurned educator won't sue

INDIANAPOLIS - Carol D'Amico, who resigned from Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana after being passed over for president, agreed to accept a year's salary and received a letter of recommendation in exchange for agreeing not to pursue legal action against the school (**Indianapolis Star**).

Muncie legislators facing huge property tax hikes

MUNCIE - Huge property-tax increases and a crackdown on illegal gaming like drawings and pull tabs in local taverns dominated discussion during a legislative town hall on Wednesday (**Muncie Star Press**). "Is that a possibility that taxes will raise that high?" retired auto worker Mike Burns asked about recent reports of skyrocketing property tax bills. Rep. Dennis Tyler, D-Muncie, acknowledged that Delaware County could see huge increases from a combination of annual reassessments, elimination of business inventory taxes, a decreasing homestead credit and local tax levy increases. This week, Tyler found out that his Halteman Village home valued at \$112,600 could see an 87-percent hike in property taxes this year. Sen. Sue Errington, D-Muncie, will see a 62-percent tax hike on her west Muncie home valued at \$143,300.

Prison riot cases goes to prosecutor

NEW CASTLE - More than four weeks after hundreds of inmates rioted at the New Castle Correctional Facility, investigators with the Indiana State Police and Indiana Department of Correction turned the case over to the local prosecutor on Wednesday (**Muncie Star Press**).

Daniels signs Molly's Law

INDIANAPOLIS - in a ceremonial signing, Gov. Daniels signed House Enrolled Act 1306 (HEA 1306), also known as "Molly's Law." ❖