



Dem candidates at HPR Forum

Joint appearance for Thompson, Schellinger, LG Skillman to follow; Cillizza will keynote

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - In what will be the first joint appearance before the general public of the 2008 gubernatorial campaign, Democrats Jill Long Thompson and Jim Schellinger will headline the HPR Forum from 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday Oct. 23, at the Madam Walker Theatre in Indianapolis.

Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman will speak after the two Democrats. Thompson, Schellinger and Skillman will take questions from the audience and a media panel. Chris Cillizza, who writes "The Fix" political blog for the **Washington Post**, will keynote the forum, talking about the rise of the Internet in politics as well as 2008 presidential, gubernatorial and congressional races.

Admission to the HPR Forum will be a canned food



Democrats Jim Schellinger (left) and Jill Long Thompson will make their first joint appearance before the general public on Oct. 23 at the HPR Forum. The Washington Post's Chris Cillizza (left) will give the keynote. (HPR Photos by Brian A. Howey)

item that will be donated to a local foodbank.

"With the presidential and Indiana gubernatorial

See Page 3

Sen. Young into a vacuum

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - There was a surreal era in Hoosier politics last November and early December. It was a void.

Shortly after Election Day, Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson announced for a third term and took himself out of the 2008 gubernatorial race. The question everyone began asking was, which Democrat would rise to challenge Gov. Mitch Daniels?



Brian Howey's Column

Evansville Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel was mum. Former House speaker John Gregg was making the J-J rounds, but the perception was that he was more interested in making the ticket at



"I expect the 2008 session to be consumed by the property tax debate. The governor will have a proposal on the table."

- Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman, to the Columbus Republic, who said Gov. Mitch Daniels' 'long-term plan' will come in 30 days



lieutenant governor. Fort Wayne Mayor Graham Richard said he wasn't interested. Hammond Mayor Tom McDermott seemed to be better suited as an LG possibility. State Sen. Vi Simpson wasn't sure.

During this period, Indiana Democrats were rocked by the withdrawal of Sen. Evan Bayh from the 2008 presidential race.

Jim Schellinger and Jill Long Thompson were pondering only among a tight group of advisers. So was the unsuccessful secretary of state candidate Joe Pearson.

It was strange because in the modern era of Hoosier politics, there is almost always the heir apparent. In 1988 and 1996, it was Evan Bayh and Frank O'Bannon. In 1976, it was Larry Conrad. In 1980 and 1984, it was John Hillenbrand III and State Sen. Wayne Townsend. There were primary opponents during this era, but the eventual nominees entered the sequence as the ones to beat. It was their turn. If they couldn't get it done, there wouldn't be another chance.

Of course, the lone exception came in the 2004 sequence when then-Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan bowed out of the race in late 2002 in a fallout over O'Bannon's selection of Peter Manous as state chair. The party endured a harrowing, often bitter, showdown between Joe Andrew (and Bren Simon) and Simpson, with that wild ride disappearing into the mist of Gov. O'Bannon's death in September 2003, and the ascent of Gov. Kernan. As Mitch Daniels' "freight train of change" was hitting the small towns around the state, Gov. Kernan had essentially lost a year.

But in the early winter of '07, there was no heir apparent. In fact, there still isn't.

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But as 2006 waned, Senate Minority Leader Richard Young saw and felt the void, and it was as if he looked around and then said, "Well, if no one else is going to get in, I will."



Sen. Young withdrew from the 2008 governor's race on Monday as Indiana Democratic Chairman Dan Parker looks on. (HPR Photo by Brian A. Howey)

Young created a bit of a splash by telling the Louisville Courier-Journal that he was getting in, and that former First Lady Judy O'Bannon would chair his campaign.

Young's problem was that he headed the legislature's smallest caucus, and it was divided as he had to fend off a leadership challenge from Sen. Simpson. As HPR described it in December 2006, the Young candidacy "produced either amusement or groans - the classic wink-behind-your-back thing." We described Sen. Young as "widely seen as not credible at the

gubernatorial level" and that Indiana Democrats "will look to its mayoral class and, if a candidate doesn't materialize there, then past officeholders or the business class." Which is where Schellinger and Thompson come from.

Young was hamstrung when he couldn't raise money during the long legislative session while Schellinger was gathering up a million bucks. By sine die, Thompson was gearing up. Young could only raise about \$200,000 and raised eyebrows when he appeared at a Statehouse rally with Advance America's Eric Miller.

Young left the Indiana gubernatorial race on Monday, saying he felt he was a "buffer" between Thompson and Schellinger, even though he finished second in the WISH-TV poll.

Young said he hoped Indiana Democrats would "coalesce" around one candidate before the May 2008 primary, as party Chairman Dan Parker had long advocated. In the winter of '88, the Bayh-O'Bannon ticket was forged that would ignite 16 years of Democratic gubernatorial rule. Bayh defeated Kokomo Mayor Steve Daily in the primary, though O'Bannon's name remained on the ballot.

Young said he did not plan to endorse either Thompson or Schellinger, but called both "great candidates." Young said at a Statehouse press conference Monday morning, "I will do everything I can to narrow them down to one candidate as soon as we can." ❖



HPR Forum: From page 1

aces now rapidly evolving, this will be the first chance for HPR subscribers and the general public to hear the candidates talk about the critical public policy issues of our time," said HPR Publisher Brian A. Howey. "I expect anyone who attends will come away with a greater appreciation of the dialogue that will continue through November 2008."

The media panel will include HPR's Howey, Fort Wayne Ink Editor Vince Robinson, and Jack Colwell of the South Bend Tribune.

HPR Forum sponsors include Bose Public Affairs, DLZ, Winston/Terrell Group, John Frick & Associates

A reception will follow the Forum, in the Madam Walker's third floor ballroom.

HPR Forum Schedule

1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 23, 2007
Madam Walker Theater, Fourth Floor Ballroom,

- 1 p.m. Welcoming remarks, Brian A. Howey
- 1:15 p.m. Indiana Democratic gubernatorial candidate joint appearance
- 1:20 Jim Schellinger opening remarks
- 1:30 Jill Long Thompson opening remarks
- 1:50 Questions from audience
- 2:20 Questions from journalists: Brian A. Howey, Vince Robinson, Jack Colwell and Matt Tully.
- 2:45 p.m. BREAK: Music by Bill Lancton, Rusty Humphrey and Kevin Kouts
- 3 p.m. Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman
- 3:30 p.m. Questions from journalists and audience
- 4 p.m. Keynote Address, Chris Cillizza, Washington Post
- 5 p.m. Reception



Past HPR Forums: top photo, OMB Director Chuck Schalliol, Gov. Daniels, Paul Mannweiler and Brian Howey talk at the 2005 Forum; Sen. Lugar at the 2006 Forum with WTHR's Chris Proffitt; Prof. Larry Sabato at the 2004 Forum; and Gov. Joe Kernan talks with HPR Washington correspondent Mark Schoeff Jr. in 2004; 9/11 Commissioner Tim Roemer in 2006 and Fort Wayne Mayor Graham Richard in 2005.



2008 Indiana Governor

Governor 2008: Republican: Gov. Mitch Daniels, La Ron Keith. Democrat: Jim Schellinger, Jill Long Thompson. **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:** What will be the impact of Sen. Young's withdrawal? A July internal poll for the Thompson campaign showed a head-to-head between her and Schellinger at 33-8 percent. Thompson adviser Chris Sautter said the former congresswoman picked up more of Young's support than Schellinger did. "In our poll Young picked up 22 percent in Southern Indiana and Jill had 17 percent," Sautter said. "In the head-to-head with Schellinger, she picked up 6 percent and Schellinger 1 percent," Sautter said of the WISH-TV poll that had Thompson with 41 percent. "It did two things: It blew away the perception that the party would unite behind Schellinger and it ended the assumption that Gov. Daniels will have an easy race." As for money, Sautter said that since the WISH poll, "things have been brisk. We're catching up." Thompson announced the endorsement of State Sen. Earline Rogers on Wednesday. Thompson said of Young, "I want to publicly thank and commend Sen. Richard Young for the grace with which he conducted his campaign. Senator Young is a first-rate public servant and an honorable and gentle man. He brought to the campaign an important point of view and a commitment to making Indiana better. I intend to stay in touch with Senator Young and seek his advice throughout the campaign."

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Schellinger said of Young's departure, "Sen. Young has waged his campaign on the issues and a positive vision for what Indiana can be in the future. It has been a great honor to be on the same platform as Sen. Young." Schellinger spokeswoman Candace Martin said that Young's withdrawal has not altered the campaign's focus or execution. Noting that Jim and Laura Schellinger had made a couple of campaign swings through Southern Indiana, Martin said the campaign isn't "just focused on Southern

Indiana. Jim's goal is to visit all 92 counties" by Dec. 31.

Schellinger criticized President Bush for vetoing the State Children's Health Insurance Program. "President Bush's veto is disappointing when over 97,000 children are uninsured in the state of Indiana," said Schellinger. "Gov. Daniels' persistent refusal to take leadership on this critical need in our state has left our children and their families without any solutions. When Gov. Daniels refused to sign a bipartisan letter sent to Congress earlier this year urging to make the State Children's Health Insurance Program a top priority, he left those 97,000 children without the hope to lead healthy and productive lives."

Indiana Republican Chairman J. Murray Clark reacted by saying, "Jim Schellinger has absolutely no idea what he's talking about. Schellinger said he would bring businesslike sense to the Democrat Party, but no governor with any business sense would support a program that costs Indiana \$250 million dollars a year." Clark said that for more than a generation, Indiana has dealt with low income children's health care in a "bipartisan fashion and with success." Clark said the Healthy Indiana Plan, Gov. Daniels' landmark health care legislation supported by Democrats like Senator Vi Simpson, and Rep. Charlie Brown, will provide 132,000 uninsured Hoosiers with health insurance. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, under this SCHIP legislation, Indiana will see a net loss of more than \$250 million a year. This money will go to other states that haven't managed their efforts to insure children in need, at the expense of Hoosiers. That isn't equitable. "That's why Governor Daniels and Public Health Committee Chairman Charlie Brown (D-Gary) have opposed SCHIP in its current form," Clark said.



Senate Minority Leader Richard Young talks to the press as Indiana Democratic Chairman Dan Parker looks on. (HPR Photo by Brian A. Howey)

The Schellinger campaign

announced the endorsements of Laborers' International Union of North America, State of Indiana District Council, Marion County Sheriff Frank Anderson, Hancock County Democratic Party Chair Michael Adkins, Grant County County Chair Kem Linn, Vigo County Democratic Party Chair Joe Etling, Clark County Sheriff Dan Rodden, Clark County Assessor, Vicky Kent Haire, Jefferson County Commissioner Julie Berry, Vigo County Commissioner Paul Mason, Daviess County Chair Bill Walton, Morgan County Chair Daymon Brodhacker, Hancock County Chair Michael Adkins, Charlestown Mayor Mike Hall, State Representative David Crooks, Ripley County Democratic Chair Charlie Cook, and Fort Wayne City Councilor Tim Pape. **Democratic Primary Status:** LEANS LONG THOMPSON. **General Status:** Leans Daniels.



Indiana Chamber statewide poll shows severity of tax problem

Voters most blame flawed assessment system and government spending

INDIANAPOLIS - A statewide poll of 800 registered voters indicates the magnitude of Indiana's property tax dilemma, with an overwhelming 90% of respondents characterizing it as "a crisis" (56%) or "an important issue" (34%). This is among six significant themes that emerged from a survey commissioned by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce and conducted during the last month.

Specifically, voters:

*perceive there is a property tax crisis and they want action;

*believe market value is the correct assessment standard, but the assessment system is broken;

*misunderstand where property taxes are raised and spent;

*are looking to the General Assembly and governor to solve property tax problems;

*want government spending to be controlled and reduced versus adding more taxes of any kind to offset the spending; and

*want local government to be overhauled.

Asked to name

"the most important issue facing Indiana today that you would like to see action taken on to help you and your family," fiscal concerns were top. By a wide margin, the lead answer was taxes/budget/spending at 35%, economy/jobs/wages ranked next with 15%, followed by education/schools at 8% and health care at 5%.

"Since 1993, we've conducted annual polls that capture voter sentiment on the state's most important issues, but never before has any one issue ranked as high as taxes/budget/spending did this year with 35%," offers Indiana Chamber President Kevin Brinegar. "That reinforces how deep of a concern voters have on that topic."

Going hand-in-hand with why respondents most wanted to see action on taxes/budget/spending is how much their property tax bills changed this year. A total of 64% said they experienced increases in their 2007 bills, with another 26% uncertain how this year's amounts compared to last year's (in many cases because they had not received their bills yet). Of the 64% with increases:

*28% saw changes between 15% and 30%;

*19% experienced hikes of less than 15%;

*9% had increases of between 30% and 50%, and

*8% reported jumps of over 50%.

At the other end of the spectrum, 8% said their taxes didn't increase at all, while only 2% noted a decrease.

Voters believe market value is the correct assessment standard, but the assessment system is broken. Nearly two-thirds of the respondents (65%) agreed that property assessment should remain based on the market value of their property, which Indiana switched to in 2002. Meanwhile, 20% reported unhappiness with the market-based appraisal and 15% felt uncertain. Additionally, a clear majority of voters - 58% to 29% - supported equity and fairness when it comes to who pays what, agreeing that a business and residence with the same market value in the same taxing district should pay the same amount of property tax.

For an overwhelming number of respondents, the center of the problem is the assessment system that has 1,100 assessors all working independently. A total of 71% said the current property assessments are "not uniform and equitable," whereas only 12% believe they are "uniform and equitable."

Voters misunderstand where property taxes are raised and spent.

Perhaps the most revealing finding is that a significant number of voters don't realize that the property tax dollars collected actually go to fund local government budgets, with less than 1% designated for state govern-

ment uses. When asked "where is most of the property tax revenue spent," over one-third (37%) said schools, 20% tapped state government and 18% named various local government units (8% city/town, 7% county and 3% township). More than 20% said they didn't know where their tax dollars went. Additionally, when asked, "what is causing property taxes to increase," nearly half (46%) incorrectly said state government spending.

By a margin of nearly two to one, voters hold state legislators, at 38% - above any other group or leader - as the most responsible for finding a solution for the current property tax problem. Gov. Mitch Daniels was identified by 16%, while 13% turned their attention to local government.

Ironically, voters held themselves the second most responsible at 20%, which may translate into them getting more involved in local government meetings and/or taking action in the upcoming November municipal contests and the 2008 general election. Market Research Insight conducted the poll of 800 voters, with a 3.5+/- error rate. ❖



Gov. Daniels with Kevin Brinegar of the Indiana Chamber. (HPR Photo by Brian A. Howey)



Carson's health predicament ignites new round of rumors; Myers says he 'supports' Julia

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - U.S. Rep. Julia Carson was back in the news this week after the blogosphere discovered she was hospitalized and was taking a leave of absence through originally Oct. 1, now extended to Oct. 15.

It brought more speculation on the durability of the congresswoman and rumors that Dr. Woodrow A. Myers, who served as Indiana and New York City health commissioner, might move to challenge the incumbent.

Myers told HPR in a Wednesday e-mail, "The people of the 7th Congressional District in Indiana have an elected representative. I continue to support Congresswoman Carson, and like many others, pray for her swift, complete recovery."

Carson was hospitalized at Methodist Hospital with a leg infection in September, but her absence wasn't acknowledged by her office until last Friday. Aides say she is now recovering in a rehabilitation facility.

Several blogs criticized Carson's office for not being more open about the illness and the news media for being so late to report that fact. When the Indianapolis Star finally got around to it last Friday, it reported that Carson had missed 42 out of 77 votes in September.

A predictable pattern emerged.

Roll Call reported that Carson works on the House floor in a wheelchair and often needs help from other members casting votes. "Ordinarily, what she asks for is help getting it out of the card holder. But on a particularly bad day, she might ask somebody to put it in the machine and then she'll push the button," Chief of Staff Leonard Sitek told the Indianapolis Star. "It's her vote. She's casting the vote. She's asking for assistance to place the card."

Marion County Democratic Chairman Michael O'Connor reaffirmed the party's loyalty to Carson. "If Julia Carson has a desire to run again, I will be, and I believe the party structure will be, supporting her," he said.

Then came quotes from former congressman Andy Jacobs Jr. : "People will tell me that they'll see Julia come in and she seems very feeble. She'll get help up to the podium. Then when she gets to the podium bam! The

firecracker goes off and she has them rolling in the aisles."

Indianapolis Star Matt Tully once again called for Rep. Carson to retire, but in doing so apologized for how he posed that demand last winter. "Carson is letting her career come to a sad conclusion," Tully wrote in Wednesday's edition. "She needs to put her city first and accept what most everyone else knows: It is time to retire. Those who know Carson say she worries retirement will leave her lonely and forgotten. She needn't worry. The many people she has helped over the years will always remember her."

Tully added, "In a fit of anger in February, I wrote that Carson was an embarrassment to the city. I've regretted that column ever since. There's nothing embarrassing about a woman who built a career by focusing on people who are so often forgotten."

It is all indicative of what HPR calls the "Queen" syndrome. Carson is a political boss with loyal allies. Anyone who encroaches into the succession zone does so at considerable risk. Potential successors are castigated by the Carson machine for appearing to even ponder moves that would position them for the day Carson no longer serves. Almost no established political figure would dare challenge Carson in the primary because they can't guarantee they can bring down the Queen, and if they can't they are toast.

It would take someone who doesn't care about that political structure and could make an appealing case to independents, white liberals and parts of the African-American establishment worried that a post-Carson primary featuring multiple candidates might be so unpredictable that the seat would pass from its minority

moorings.

Some of the blogs and even **Congressional Quarterly** have mentioned Myers as playing that role. Myer told HPR, "I am proud to have established the home base for my company, Myers Ventures LLC, in Indianapolis and to be an active participant in the continued growth of central Indiana."

The Carson machine isn't as formidable as it once was. Its ability to turn out the vote in 2006, with Democrats retaking Congress in reaction to the Iraq War, Carson posted a mere 7.5 percent victory over Eric Dickerson, an underfunded Republican whose auto dealership had just collapsed while he fended off published stories of decade-old domestic abuse. That compares to the fully-funded energetic challenge from Brose McVey in 2002 that Carson thwarted 53-44 percent. ❖



U.S. Rep. Julia Carson with Marion County Sheriff Frank Anderson in October 2004. (HPR Photo by Brian A. Howey)



2008 Indiana Congressional

Congressional District 2: Republican:

David C. "Chris" Minor. Democrat: U.S. Rep. 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%. **2002**

Result: Chocola 95,081 (50%), Long Thompson 86,253 (46%); **2004 Result:** Chocola 140,496 (54%) Donnelly (D) 115,513 (45%) **2006 Result:** Donnelly 103,561, Chocola 88,300. **2008 Forecast:** Chris Minor, 39, launched his fledgling 2nd District congressional campaign here Tuesday, asking GOP supporters to return "a very staunch conservative" to Washington (Wensits, South Bend Tribune). The blue-collar Republican from Kokomo - his mother was a UAW worker and his dad is a retired police officer - said in an appearance at the Mishawaka Brewing Co. that he is hopeful that Republicans nationally can regain the 16 seats they need to re-take control of the House and oust Nancy Pelosi as speaker. Minor said he would like to replace Pelosi with Rep. Mike Pence, R-Ind., "the pride and joy of the conservative movement." Pence "lives and breathes Christian values we all respect," said Minor, a retired U.S. Army captain who continues serving in Iraq as an intelligence analyst for the State Department. Minor said he'd like to return the House not just to Republicans, but to conservative Republicans. "Our country's at war right now," said Minor, explaining why he is running. "Unfortunately, the majority of America has forgotten about why we're there, who attacked us, how we were attacked, the nature of the attack." Minor said it is time for Americans to reawaken to the fact that "we are threatened" and that there is a scourge "that wants nothing more than to destroy us."

The new candidate also criticized fiscal values in Congress, politely apologizing to the Navy after saying that members of the legislative body "spend money like drunken sailors." "It's not just Democrats doing it, it's our fellow Republicans," said Minor, adding that it is time to send a message that conservatives are sick and tired and that Congress needs to live within its means. Minor called for securing U.S. borders, both to fight illegal immigration and to protect the nation from its enemies. "Our borders, right now, are an open sieve," he said. In his job as an intelligence analyst, Minor said, he has seen on a daily



basis the firsthand nature of the fight in Iraq and the support that the enemy gets from Syria and Iran (South Bend Tribune). To fight this war successfully, Minor said, the nation has to take on Iran, "whether that means diplomatically or, if diplomacy doesn't work, then there is another course of action, and that's what we need to start examining very seriously. Iran has been directly responsible for the death of hundreds, if not thousands of our soldiers and they must be notified this will no longer be tolerated," he said. Minor predicted that the war on terror will be "a long, challenging difficult war" that could last for generations. The candidate said it is too early to predict how he will fare against Democratic incumbent Joe Donnelly but believes he has a good chance and promised a "very energetic" and clean campaign. Minor said he will be in Iraq for most of the next several months, but plans to return early next year to begin campaigning in earnest. According to Minor, his intelligence job requires him to work out of the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, and he is fluent in Arabic. Minor said he does not believe it will be necessary to return to a military draft, but would encourage increasing the size of the military "force structure" by another three to four divisions of 15,000 to 20,000 troops each. Asked to reconcile the cost of the troop increase with his desire to reduce government spending, Minor said that the military is a necessary function of government. "You find the means to pay for it," he said, whether that means borrowing or whether it means a reduction in other spending.

Minor finished a 20-year stint in the U.S. Army last year, but he's soon to leave on a new assignment in Iraq, as a contractor with controversial security consulting firm Blackwater USA (Kokomo Tribune). Minor said Wednesday he can't discuss Blackwater, or even the broader policy discussion on the use of contractors in Iraq, due to the terms of his upcoming contract with the company. **Status:** LIKELY DONNELLY

Congressional District 9: Republican:

Open. Democrat: U.S. Rep. 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%). **2006 Results:** Hill 110,455, Sodrel 100,469, Schansburg 9,893. **2008 Forecast:** "Candidate" Sodrel could announce this weekend at the Harvest Festival. **Status:** LEANS HILL.

2007 Mayoral

Crown Point: Republican: Gayle Van Ses-



sion; Democrat David Uran. **2003 Republican Primary Results:** Klein 1,447, Van Session 1,157, Roth 760. **2003 General Results:** Klein (R) 4,289. Isailovich (D) 2,158. **2007 Forecast:** Uran said on Tuesday he would appoint Pete Land and Greg DeLor as police and fire chiefs, respectively, if elected. Both men held the same positions under previous administrations. **Status:** TOSSUP.

Elkhart: Democrat: Dick Moore. Republican: Councilman Jim Pettit. **2003 General Results:** Miller (R) 4,730, Perron (D) 3,533. **2007 Forecast:** A Republicans for Moore committee has surfaced and there was significant Republican cross-over in the primary for Moore (pictured, right). We think this election is Moore's to lose. **Status:** LEANS MOORE.



Fort Wayne: Republican: Matthew Kelty. Democrat: Tom Henry. **2003 Results:** Richard (D) 27,251, Buskirk (R) 19,701. **2007 Forecast:** Special prosecutor Dan Sigler heard additional testimony before the Kelty grand jury, but said it was more along the lines of "dotting i's and crossing t's." The Fort Wayne Journal Gazette lauded a public safety plan that Kelty released last week. Henry on Monday unveiled his plan to strengthen the city's older commercial corridors (**Fort Wayne Journal Gazette**). Dubbed "Strengthen the Heart," the plan calls for providing grants to older commercial buildings, enacting improvement plans for the corridors and changing city rules regulating the areas. Henry said it is critical that older commercial areas remain vibrant, because that leads to more investment in surrounding residential areas. "Their economic vitality makes our entire city stronger," he said. The grants would range between \$25,000 and \$125,000, and would focus on structural and mechanical improvements. Henry said the money for the program would come initially from federal grants and possibly from local economic development income taxes, if needed. Kelty said Henry's proposal was fine, but it didn't really include much new than how things have been done in the past. He said he worked on neighborhood plans and streetscape projects as an architect for years. "I'm trying to figure out what is different than what we've been doing over the last 15 years," he said. **Status:** LEANS HENRY.

Mishawaka: Democrats: Councilman Mike Hayes. Republican: Mayor Jeff Rea. **2003 Results:** Rea (R) 5,691, Bodle (D) 4,225. **2007 Forecast:** A poll conducted for the **South Bend Tribune** and **WSBT** has found Mayor Rea leading Hayes 45-33 percent. Twenty-two percent of the people polled Sept. 24 and 26 were undecided. The margin of error for the poll is 5 percent. "It's Rea's race to lose," said Del Ali, of Research 2000, the Rockville, Md., company that conducted the poll. Ali said answers

to other poll questions show that more people are pleased than displeased with Rea. Of those polled, 46 percent have a favorable opinion of Rea and 35 percent had a favorable opinion of Hayes. **Status:** LIKELY REA.

Muncie: Democrats: Jim Mansfield Jr. Republican: CSharon McShurley. **2003 Results:** Canan (R) 7,211, Tyler (D) 6,758. **2007 Forecast:** Our local sources say that Mansfield is poised to reclaim this for the Democrats, who have been out of power for 12 years, but who have made impressive gains in the county over the last two election cycles. **Status:** LEANS MANSFIELD.

South Bend: Republican: Juan Manigault. Democrat: Mayor Stephen Luecke. **2003 General Results:** Luecke (D) 10,598, Schmidt (R) 4,188. **2007 Forecast:** Luecke appears to have a comfortable but not insurmountable lead over Republican challenger Juan Manigault, according to a poll conducted by the **South Bend Tribune** and **WSBT-TV**. The poll showed Luecke with a 12-point, 44 to 32 percent lead over Manigault, with 1 percent indicating they might vote for "other" and 23 percent undecided. There is no "other" on the ballot, but Green Party candidate Tom Brown is running as a write-in candidate. The poll, by Research 2000, of Rockville, Md., queried 400 likely voters in the city between Wednesday and Friday and has a plus-or-minus 5 percent margin for error. Those polled gave Luecke a 42 percent favorable and 35 percent unfavorable rating, with 23 percent undecided. For Manigault, the numbers were 36 percent favorable, 21 percent unfavorable and 43 percent undecided. "What it tells me is it's the incumbent's race to lose," said pollster Del Ali, who heads Research 2000, adding that the poll also indicates that, "voters are not overjoyed with the incumbent." Ali said that when an incumbent polls under 50 percent, he's vulnerable. The reasoning is that if polls indicate people are unhappy with an incumbent, "it may be time for a change." On the other hand, Ali indicated, the fact that Luecke's unfavorable ratings are in the 30s is not bad. When you've been around awhile as Luecke has, you have a record, Ali said. The problem for Manigault, Ali said, is that he's not near 40 percent in the poll. Even if you allow for the margin for error, Luecke's ahead, the pollster stated. "Clearly, he hasn't made the sale," Ali said.

Luecke's vision for South Bend to be the region's center for arts and culture has helped create a renaissance downtown and fueled an expansion of entertainment and dining possibilities. And, according to two recent studies, Luecke's efforts have helped the region reap millions in economic spending. The city-owned Morris Performing Arts Center will generate a \$5.9 million indirect economic impact this year on the community, not including its own ticket sales, according to a study conducted by Saint Mary's College. **Status:** LEANS LUECKE ❖



Debt collection can add to strained government coffers

By **BEVERLY PHILLIPS**

INDIANAPOLIS - As government officials respond to public discontent over rising taxes, they're increasingly looking at how they can slash budgets and increase revenue. Case in point: The Marion Superior Court (Indianapolis) announced this week they've recovered \$3.7 million worth of unpaid tickets for moving violations, some nearly 10 years old. The two-year-old program works with private debt collection companies, including Indianapolis-based Premiere Credit of North America. Court officials say there are approximately 90,000 unpaid tickets dating back to 1988 that represent around \$17 million in potential revenue. It's pure profit for government given that collection agencies are paid through tacked on fees to the debtors, generally up to 25 percent of the debt.

Todd Wolfe is the President & COO of Premiere Credit located on Indianapolis' eastside.

HPR: What are the different types of debt that government agencies are trying collect?

Wolfe: Among federal, state, and local government agencies we collect every possible type of debt you can imagine. For example, we have government contracts collecting everything from unpaid traffic violations to student loans. The placement of the debt for collection with an outside agency is directly related to the political climate of the jurisdiction. Some states that have been cash strapped for several years, have been outsourcing for quite some time, while others that are just now beginning to realize a financial crunch are just beginning to look at their outsourcing options. Ultimately, all government agencies are under increasing pressure to do more with less, so outsourcing their bad debt will only increase over the next few years.

HPR: In the past, how did they collect this debt?

Wolfe: Past collection efforts are directly related to the agency. A lot of government agencies have never tried to collect and their write-off criteria is so involved that the bad debt is never written off and just sits on the books. Some agencies, such as tax departments, have used a variety of methods, such as call center campaigns and field agents while other agencies have relied more upon administrative options such as suspending a license and waited for the debtor to come forward. More and more agencies are using both a collection contact campaign complimented by administrative actions like license suspension.



HPR: Are there ever barriers that prevent collecting government debt?

Wolfe: There are numerous barriers. Everything from the RFP process to laws that make it difficult, if not impossible, to outsource the debt. For example, some states actually have statutes that prohibit outsourcing the collection efforts to a private collection agency. It is difficult to understand why such a restrictive law would be passed. I am sure that it has something to do with privacy concerns, harassment, or some other flawed perspective. However, at the end of the day debt recovery companies are subject to huge liability if they fail to comply with the myriad of laws that protect individual rights.

HPR: What is the oldest debt you have recovered?

Wolfe: Many debts to the government are not subject to the statute of limitations, so it is not uncommon to see debts well beyond seven to ten years in delinquency. I can recall a debt owed to the state of Idaho that was originated in 1974, defaulted in 1979 that we collected in 2001.



TODD WOLFE

HPR:

That was a 22-year-old debt! What is the typical reaction when you contact people concerning very old debt?

Wolfe:

Most people that have an outstanding debt that they owe to a government agency know they owe it, so most of the time it is a simple process of explaining who we are and what options they have.

HPR: The U.S. federal government, followed by individual states, reduced the practice of debtor's prison in 1833. Are there still debts that citizen's can be imprisoned for?

Wolfe: Yes, but it's very limited. You can't be jailed for failing to pay your credit cards or defaulting on your student loans, but you can be jailed for disregarding child support or alimony obligations. For the example of child support, it typically only happens in the most egregious cases or when a judge or official wishes to make a bold statement. Debts related to fraud or criminal acts can also result in jail time. ❖



THE BOAR'S NEST

Candidate advocates absentee voting in Indy

By **BEVERLY PHILLIPS**

Marion County City Council candidate **Ryan Vaughn** (R) penned a constituent letter this week that arrived in HPR's Indianapolis Broad Ripple mailbox. It reminded the voting public that "Your taxes just went up 65%, again!" (referring to an October 1 income tax increase). He says "skyrocketing tax increases, an exploding crime rate, and diminished services" have all occurred under the watch of the current Council. Vaughn, who replaced a seat left by a quick-exiting **Jim Bradford** earlier this year, also reminds everyone of May's Marion County election debacle of late or non-opening polls. Despite Democratic Clerk **Beth White's** assurance that it will not happen again, Vaughn includes in his mailing, not one but two, absentee ballots and self-addressed envelopes to her office. "Voting by absentee is the best way to be certain that your vote will count. Absentee ballots are processed early and are not affected by staffing problems that arise at polling locations," he said.

First Wednesday Series

Indianapolis Star columnist **Matthew Tully** will moderate a lunchtime panel discussion "Prisoner Re-Entry: When is a crime paid for?" on November 7, Noon at the Indiana History Center, 450 West Ohio Street, Indianapolis, as part of NUVO Social Justice Series. The First Wednesday Series is free and sponsored by the ACLU of Indiana. Call (317) 635-4059 to RSVP. Upcoming on December 5, "Immigration in Indiana: They're here, now what?"

Pulaski official questions DNA collection

The Indiana State Police outsourcing effort to collect and analyze felony DNA for the entire state is in full gear ... well almost. A judicial officer in Northeastern Indiana Pulaski County, population 13,755, believes the state's administrative code must be changed in order for the county to legally collect felony DNA for criminals not sentenced to the Indiana Department of Correction. Collection systems are up and running in the 91 other Indiana Counties through an outsourced effort involving Strand Analytical Laboratories, Indiana's only private DNA lab. The National Institute of Justice announced this week that Strand was recently awarded contracts to provide analysis services for the states of Maine and Nevada to help reduce their felony DNA backlog.

First Ladies team up for heart health

The college years are a time of discovery and growth - and often a sense of youthful invincibility. **Cheri Daniels**, First Lady of Indiana, and Indiana University First Lady **Laurie Burns McRobbie** say it is the perfect time for women to start thinking more seriously about their cardiovascular health. "Heart disease takes too many precious lives each year. It's up to us to tell the women we love about heart disease and encourage them to live heart healthy lifestyles," Daniels said.



First Lady Cheri Daniels (right) will promote cardiovascular health at IU. (HPR Photo by Brian A. Howey)

Fortunately, says McRobbie, heart disease is "almost completely preventable with simple lifestyle changes." On Oct. 4, Daniels is bringing her "Heart to Heart" program to IU Bloomington, where she and McRobbie will encourage students, faculty and the general public to adopt lifestyle changes that will serve them well for the rest of their lives.

The program will begin at 5:30 p.m. in Indiana Memorial Union's Alumni Hall. The event is free and open to the public. Beginning at 4:30 p.m., the event will feature exhibits and free healthy heart screenings.

In addition to comments from Daniels and McRobbie, the program will include information about how to live a heart healthy lifestyle, presented by nurse practitioner **Cindy Adams**, director of the Health Heart Center at the Indiana Heart Hospital. **Jeanne Johnston**, an exercise physiologist in the School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, will discuss her research involving young women and heart disease. ♦ **Got a tip for the Boar's Nest? Send it to: phillipscgroup@comcast.net**



Dems out-raise GOP nearly 2-1

By MARK CURRY

WASHINGTON - Most campaigns have released fundraising figures for the third quarter and the totals are not looking good for the red team.

Since January, the major Democratic presidential candidates have raised more than \$200 million for their campaigns, nearly double the total amount expected to be reported by their chief Republican counterparts, Jeanne Cummings wrote in yesterday's **USA Today**.

During the three-month period that ended Sunday, major Democrats raised a combined \$63 million, compared to roughly \$33 million expected from the chief Republicans, according to Cummings, who said the lopsided results present the latest evidence of a fall-off in Republican giving that is eroding hopes of gains in the 2008 elections.

The **New York Times** reported strategists in both parties say the fund-raising imbalance shows that Democrats, and their donors, are more energized this year as they battle to reclaim the White House after nearly eight years of Republican rule. And they said President Bush's sagging popularity is hurting the Republicans who are vying to replace him.

In a sign of potential money woes, Rudy Giuliani fired his presidential campaign's chief fundraiser. The New York Daily News reported that Anne Dunsmore, who took control of Giuliani's day-to-day fundraising operation in May, has been replaced by Jim Lee, a Texas money man and Bush ally who is already one of Giuliani's national finance co-chairs. The Giuliani campaign has yet to release third quarter figures.

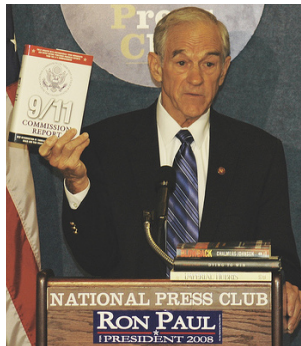
The Federal Election Commission's deadline for campaign finance reports is Oct. 15. Here's what to expect when the official data becomes public: Hillary Clinton (\$22 million) and Barack Obama (\$19 million) are doing very well. All others lag behind. The only major Republican candidate to offer a clue by today's HPR deadline was Fred Thompson, who claimed to have raked in \$11.5 million.

One surprise among the Republicans is Rep. Ron Paul (R-TX) who reported yesterday that he raised \$5 million during the quarter. The **Houston Chronicle** stated that the libertarian-leaning Republican has drawn media

interest and a group of devoted followers, in part because of his outspoken opposition to the Iraq war, which has set him apart from other GOP presidential candidates.

Time Magazine reported that at least two candidates - Democrat John Edwards and Republican John McCain - find themselves at a potential make-or-break moment.

Edwards, who has indicated that he will report having raised somewhere north of \$5 million for the quarter, has announced that he would accept public matching funds. Time noted that McCain has indicated that he, too, will accept matching funds. The Arizona senator's third-quarter numbers will be closely watched to see whether his campaign has any real claim to viability. According to the magazine article, word in Republican circles is that McCain got some boost with a powerful and intensely personal fund-raising letter he sent out in July that bluntly addressed his campaign's dire situation.



Young white evangelicals: Less Republican, still conservative

An analysis of surveys conducted between 2001 and 2007 by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press suggests that younger white evangelicals have become increasingly dissatisfied with President Bush and are moving away from the GOP, according to Dan Cox, research associate.

The question is whether these changes will result in a shift in white evangelical votes in 2008 and beyond, Cox wrote. Bush's approval rating has dropped particularly among white evangelicals ages 18-29. This group was among Bush's strongest supporters in the beginning of his presidency, but his rating had plummeted from 87 percent in 2002 to 45 in August 2007. Likewise, the percentage who identified themselves as Republicans fell 15 percentage points to 40 percent, compared with only a 5 point drop for older white evangelicals.

The trends toward dissatisfaction with Bush and away from the Republican Party by younger white evangelicals suggest that the Democratic Party may have a new opportunity to appeal to this group, according to Cox. But, he added, a strong allegiance to conservatism and conservative positions suggests that young white evangelicals turn away from the president and his party may be the product of dissatisfaction with this particular administration rather than the result of an underlying shift in this group's political values and policy views.

Candidate pumpkin stencils available

The **Des Moines Register** offers online readers a set of pumpkin-carving stencils featuring the 2008 candi-



dates.

Print it out, tack it on to your gourd, and slice your favorite politician's face, suggested Sarah Wheaton of the New York Times political blog, the **Caucus**. You can choose John Edwards, Mitt Romney, Senator John McCain, Senator Barack Obama, Rudolph W. Giuliani or Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton.

As Wheaton noted, we'll leave it to you to decide which candidate is the scariest. Here's the url for the Register's website:

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=200771001015>



Hoosier Support List

Giuliani: Marion County Prosecutor Carl Brizzi, Stephen Goldsmith, Tim Durham, Beurt SerVaas, Steve Hilbert. **McCain:** Gov. Mitch Daniels; Attorney General Steve Carter. **Romney:** Secretary of State Todd Rokita, James Bopp Jr., Dan Dumezich, Bob Grand, Chris Chocola. **Thompson:** U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer, U.S. Rep. Dan Burton, David McIntosh, Mike McDaniel, Rex Early. **Clinton:** Sen. Evan Bayh, Joe Hogsett, Mel Simon, Bren Simon. **Edwards:** Robin Winston, Ann and Ed DeLaney, 9th CD Chair Mike Jones, Vidya Kora, State Reps. Russ Stilwell, Dennie Oxley, Terri Austin, Terry Goodin, Sheila Klinker, Linda Lawson and Scott Pelath; Robert Kuzman, 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. **Obama:** Kip Tew, State Rep. Charlie Brown, Melina Kennedy, State Rep. Mae Dickinson, State Rep. Bill Crawford, State Rep. Jeb Bardon, State Sen. Earline Rogers, Frank Short, Jack Wicks, Andy Miller, John Fernandez, Dennis Lee. ❖



Pence to appear with GOP contenders

Rep. Mike Pence, the Republican who represents Indiana's 6th Congressional District, is among the list of featured speakers at the Defending the American Dream Summit today and tomorrow in Washington, D.C.

Others on the agenda include presidential contenders Romney, Giuliani, McCain, Thompson, Paul, Sam Brownback and Mike Huckabee. The event is sponsored by the conservative Americans for Prosperity and the Americans for Prosperity Foundation. ❖

2008 State Presidential Polls

Iowa (R)	Date	Romney	Giuliani	Thompson	McCain	Huckabee
Newsweek	Sept. 26-27	24	13	16	9	12
ARG	Sept. 26-29	22	21	16	11	4

New Hampshire (R)

ARG	Sept. 26-29	24	20	8	20	3
Zogby	Sept. 26-28	24	21	7	16	5

South Carolina (R)

ARG	Sept. 26-29	26	23	10	15	1
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Florida (R)

Strategic Vision	Sept. 21-23	9	35	24	6	-
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Iowa (D)

Iowa (D)	Date	Clinton	Edwards	Obama	Richardson
ARG	Sept. 26-29	30	19	24	10
Newsweek	Sept. 26-27	24	22	28	10

N. Hampshire (D)

ARG	Sept. 26-29	41	10	22	8
Zogby	Sept. 26-28	38	12	23	8

South Carolina (D)

ARG	Sept. 26-29	41	7	30	5
Rasmussen	Sept. 26-27	43	10	30	2



Thomas L. Friedman, *New York Times*

I will not vote for any candidate running on 9/11. We don't need another president of 9/11. We need a president for 9/12. I will only vote for the 9/12 candidate. What does that mean? This: 9/11 has made us stupid. I honor, and weep for, all those murdered on that day. But our reaction to 9/11 — mine included — has knocked America completely out of balance, and it is time to get things right again. It is not that I thought we had new enemies that day and now I don't. Yes, in the wake of 9/11, we need new precautions, new barriers. But we also need our old habits and sense of openness. For me, the candidate of 9/12 is the one who will not only understand who our enemies are, but who we are. Before 9/11, the world thought America's slogan was: "Where anything is possible for anybody." But that is not our global brand anymore. Our government has been exporting fear, not hope: "Give me your tired, your poor and your fingerprints." You may think Guantánamo Bay is a prison camp for Al Qaeda terrorists. A lot of the world thinks it's a place we send visitors who don't give the right answers at immigration. I will not vote for any candidate who is not committed to dismantling Guantánamo Bay and replacing it with a free field hospital for poor Cubans. Guantánamo Bay is the anti-Statue of Liberty. Roger Dow, president of the Travel Industry Association, told me that the United States has lost millions of overseas visitors since 9/11 — even though the dollar is weak and America is on sale. "Only the U.S. is losing traveler volume among major countries, which is unheard of in today's world," Mr. Dow said. Total business arrivals to the United States fell by 10 percent over the 2004-5 period alone, while the number of business visitors to Europe grew by 8 percent in that time. Those who don't visit us, don't know us. ❖

Gary Gerard, *Warsaw Times-Union*

I have a simple question for W. I promise you, if I saw him face to face, I would ask it. Are you nuts? Honestly, I think he's completely lost control of his senses. Sure, there have been lots of things W has done that I disagreed with. But in those cases - like the Iraq war, immigration, No Child Left Behind, the prescription drug benefit and the deficit - there was always either a principled argument or some political expedience involved. You could say that, well, even though you disagreed, you could see why he was doing it. But when it comes to SCHIPS, W's threatened veto is just plain lunacy. W will veto because he objects to an expansion of this safety net for children of the working poor. He uses the slippery slope argument that the legislation is just another step "toward the goal of government-run health care for every American." He also carps about the cost and the method of financing. Senators like Orrin Hatch and Chuck Grassley, never noted for particularly moderate,

have urged W otherwise to no avail. Faithful readers of this column may well be throwing up their arms in despair over my apparent liberal bent on this issue, but please understand, I am still an opponent of big government. I have long decried the waste, fraud and inefficiency of government programs. Often in my discussion with liberals, I have said, "You show me the one government program that actually hits its intended target and I'll give you them all." Well, I believe this one gets about as close as any. And the price is right. Certainly \$40 billion over 10 years and an additional \$35 over five years is a lot of money. But W just sent his defense secretary to Congress asking for another \$190 billion for the Iraq war. That pushes the total cost of the Iraq war - starting March 19, 2003 - to almost \$750 billion. OK, I know that's apples and oranges. But at the same time, I think W's argument that providing health insurance for the children of the working poor is too costly are pretty lame when you consider he's spent three-quarters of a trillion dollars so far on Iraq with no end in sight. That's the principle. ❖

Sylvia Smith, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*

When 45 House Republicans vote for legislation that President Bush has promised to veto, you can surmise two things without knowing a thing about the bill: • There's a lame duck in the White House, a very unpopular lame duck. • The other 151 Republicans are, as columnist David Broder put it, "putting their careers in jeopardy." Indiana's Republicans, with the exception of Sen. Richard Lugar, and a tobacco-protecting Democrat are on the misguided side of the issue. They voted against raising cigarette taxes 61 cents a pack to pay for health insurance for children from families of the working poor. The program - SCHIP - was created 10 years ago by Republicans. Rep. Mark Souder voted for it then, as did Rep. Dan Burton. They raised cigarette taxes to pay for medical insurance for kids in families that made too much money to qualify for Medicaid and not enough to buy insurance if their employers didn't provide it. Now many in Congress want to expand the program to include more uninsured children from moderately low-income families.

David Yepsen, *Des Moines Register*

Hillary Clinton's campaign reminds me of Ronald Reagan in 1980, when he thought he could bypass Iowa and wound up firing John Sears in New Hampshire, or Al Gore, when he had to strip down his campaign in 2000, move it to Nashville. The Clinton campaign is very - - sort of top-heavy, sluggish. It's bureaucratic. She's got to get rid of some of that, get out from underneath that bubble, enter -- allow some media people a chance...to interview her, get into the small towns of Iowa and do some retail. ❖





Daniels seeks 'firm, final' tax reform

INDIANAPOLIS - Gov. Mitch Daniels says he'll put forward his own plan for slashing property taxes by the end of the month, and says it will include a proposed constitutional amendment

(**Frugal Hoosiers**).

Daniels says any property tax solution must be,

in his words, "firm, far-reaching and final." He says the only way to ensure tax bills don't creep up again is to write it into the constitution: "Three times before -- '72, '82 and '02 -- state government has tried to ride to the rescue and subsidize local spending and school spending," Daniels says. "In each case, years later -- in this case, it only took five years -- state taxes were higher and so were local property taxes."



Jones fundraiser could net Daniels \$1 million

CARMEL - The Democrats knew Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels would be able to raise a mountain of money for his re-election run, but \$1 million in a night? That's how much Daniels stands to make at a fundraiser Tuesday night at the Carmel home of Scott Jones, the multimillionaire entrepreneur says (**Indianapolis Star**). Jones said he thinks it will be the largest fundraiser in an Indiana governor's race and will signal strong support for Daniels in the business community. "This governor has had one term for the people to see that he actually does heavy lifting," Jones said. State Democratic Chairman Dan Parker characterized the event as Daniels "trying to surround himself with his friends and make himself look popular."

Township assessor urged to resign by county

EVANSVILLE - Knight Township Assessor Al Folz said Wednesday he has no intention of resigning just because Vanderburgh County Assessor Jonathan Weaver has asked him to do so (**Evansville Courier & Press**).

Folz disputed Weaver's contentions that he and Chief Deputy Shirley Reeder are not doing their jobs. In a letter Tuesday, Weaver asked Folz, who has been the Knight Township assessor for more than 20 years, and Reeder to resign, saying their "work ethic, attitude and leadership" are "not in the best interest of the taxpayers of Vanderburgh County and does not fit the mold of the team I'm trying to create." "Of course not," Folz said. "We were elected by the people of Knight Township. They elected us because they know they can trust us and what we are doing. This is a disgrace to all our government officials. We are elected by the people, not politicians." Weaver said he can't force them to resign, but he pointed out that in other counties, township assessors have relinquished their duties to the county assessor. "We're treading on new ground here, and at this point I'm asking them to resign. They have a job to do," Weaver said. "I don't have the time or the staff to do their job. They're the weak link in that chain and they need to be cut loose."

Laux to resign Fort Wayne Chamber

FORT WAYNE - Phil Laux, Greater Fort Wayne Chamber of Commerce president and chief executive for 12 years, announced Wednesday he'll step down.

Dominguez to meet Daniels

CROWN POINT - Gov. Mitch Daniels will step in to try to broker a detente today between Lake County Sheriff Roy Dominguez and the Indiana Department of Environmental ManagementD (**Post-**

Tribune). Dominguez said he will meet with the governor this afternoon in Indianapolis about the conflict over environmental testing at the Feddeler landfill west of Lowell. IDEM has threatened to fine the Sheriff's Department up to \$25,000 per day if the department doesn't close wells it dug on the site to check for contaminants.

1,000 jobs coming to Wayne County

CAMBRIDGE CITY - What started as an idea in a supermarket for Michael Recanati a few years ago, turned into a 1,000-job, \$100-million opportunity for Wayne County on Wednesday afternoon (**Richmond Palladium-Item**). More than 350 people attended the Really Cool Foods groundbreaking ceremony at the Indiana Gateway Industrial Park. Really Cool Foods plans to invest \$100 million in the manufacturing complex and other additional facilities over a five- to seven-year span, said President and CEO Bob Clamp. "Obviously, you are going to get (only) so many opportunities to bring in four-digit jobs," said Gov. Mitch Daniels of the company's plans to eventually expand to 1,000 employees. "When you look at organic foods, it's a growing trend and it's a trend that I want the state of Indiana to be a leader in."

Candidate tells Gray 'pick one job'

INDIANAPOLIS - The challenger to City-County Council President Monroe Gray said Wednesday that Gray should choose between serving on the council and the Indianapolis Fire Department (**Indianapolis Star**). Republican Kurt Webber said his call comes in response to an Indianapolis Star story Sunday raising questions about Gray's Fire Department role as community liaison, for which few records exist. "Monroe Gray has gotten himself into another pickle," Webber said. "Mr. Gray should remove these conflicts of interest by choosing one of these positions and resigning from the other."

