



## Sodrel vs. Hill: Blood Feud 4.0

*War, Bush & Clinton will have an impact*

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**  
INDIANAPOLIS

- Welcome to the "Bloody 9th." In a district that has had candidates featuring ads with aborted fetuses and billboards questioning candidate devotion to Jesus on the cross, a fourth race between U.S. Rep. Baron Hill and former congressman Mike Sodrel materialized, as HPR had been forecasting. It comes with the backdrop of the bloody Iraq War, with the candidates already sharply divided on that issue, and a property tax-fueled anti-incumbency notion that will be more clearly defined after the Nov. 6 municipal elections. It is a race that could easily draw \$5-\$7 million, potentially prompting district voters to make a run on Tivo.

And Sodrel could well be the first American prod-



Republican Mike Sodrel (left) and Democrat Baron Hill during a debate at Vincennes University in 2006. The two will square off again for an extremely rare fourth time in 2008. (Vincennes University Photo)

uct of the "inevitable" nomination of Hillary Clinton for president. Sodrel told the **New Albany Tribune** after he announced his fourth race against U.S. Rep. Baron Hill, "It would be really nice if I knew who the respective presidential candidates were going to be, but I can't wait that late."

**See Page 2**

## Time to tax the Internet

By **MORTON J. MARCUS**

INDIANAPOLIS - How can states raise more money without raising existing taxes? Every state has financial problems that need to be solved. The conventional answer is "cut spending," but no group of citizens, including legislatures, can come up with a package of cuts on which they agree.



Morton Marcus  
Column

You have your ideas, I have mine, but we can not find common ground because we don't want to cut our favorite government programs. The programs we can agree on are those that ben-



"The election is turning a lot on his judgment and this did not help."

- U.S. Rep. Mark Souder on Fort Wayne mayoral candidate Matt Kelty following the 'birthday cake incident' (see Horse Race, page 7)



efit people who are not in the room with us.

Maybe we need a new approach. Maybe our current system is geared to an economy that is historical. Can we find new taxes that reflect our current reality? Can we find a new set of taxes or fees that fit the "new" economy?

**The answer is yes**, if we are willing. What is the "new" economy? It involves much more communication than we had in the past. That communication includes e-mails, phone calls, and text messaging. We can see this as great benefit for society or a new heavy cost that interferes with our productivity.

What if every person who initiated a message had to pay a tax for that message? This would include all kinds of messages from billboards to advertising in your mail box. It would put some restraint on our children's persistent "need" to be in touch with their peers. It would cut down on all those e-mails carrying old jokes about blondes or new put-downs of political candidates. Such a tax might help get rid of distracting ads on web pages. Inside businesses it might mean more time attending to work and less to checking prices on e-bay.

**There is strong**, organized opposition to taxing advertising because it is seen as a first amendment issue. "If you can tax my message you can control my freedom of speech." Internet communications are protected under the banner of "infant industry" arguments. "Let's not cut off this new technology before it has a chance to get established." Baloney! The internet is established and grows stronger every minute.

Another area in which we are missing out on taxation is internet sales to consumers. You order from Land's End or L.L. Bean and you do not pay a sales tax. If you bought the same goods in a store in your town there would be a sales tax. Why not on the internet?

"Well," the industry argues, "there are so many differences among

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communities and states in sales taxes, how would we know which rate to apply to which sales?" More baloney! In today's world there are simple ways of identifying each mailing address with its appropriate political jurisdiction. The state departments of revenue prepared a plan to tax internet sales, but the governors stepped in and stopped it.

**Then there** is the issue of taxing services. Why are doctors and hospitals exempt from sales taxes but chefs and restaurants are not? Why are plumbers and barbers exempt from sales taxes? If we are moving from a manufacturing economy to a service economy, then should we be taxing services?

It won't be easy, but we need to rethink our tax systems to make them consistent with the world in which we live. ❖

**Mr. Marcus is an economist, formerly with Indiana University's Kelley School of Business, who specialized in urban and regional issues.**



**Hill-Sodrel: From page 1**

Throughout the summer, GOP operatives were telling HPR that Sodrel might wait until February to see if Clinton would be the nominee. Deedee Benkie, the GOP's 9th CD vice chair, told HPR that Clinton is "despised" in Southern Indiana.

"I don't think Sen. Clinton will do well in Indiana and it may well drive some voters out that wouldn't typically be there," Sodrel told **Roll Call**. Sodrel is making a calculated judgment that a Hillary Clinton nomination could wring 2 to 3 points in his favor, enough to defeat Hill for a second time. But a ticket that included Indiana Sen. Evan Bayh could, as State Rep. Dave Crooks told HPR earlier this month, neutralize the "Hillary drag."

There had also been talk about trying to steer the Libertarian candidate, Eric Schansberg, away from the 2008 race and if not, Sodrel might take a pass. Hill received 50 percent in 2006, Sodrel received 45.5 percent; and Schansberg 4.5 percent. But Schansberg is back in, and said on Tuesday, "Although there's still only one fiscal conser-



vative in the race, Sodrel will compete with me for pro-life voters. Voters will now have two pro-life choices: a candidate who voted twice to take money from taxpayers to give to Planned Parenthood, and a candidate who would never do that."

But ultimately, Sodrel said, it is the state America is in today that drew him into the race. "Congress has an approval rating of 11 percent, a historic low," Sodrel told 150 enthusiastic supporters at the Calumet Club in New Albany. "Voters are both weary and wary of empty campaign promises."

That comment prompted **Roll Call** reporter Shira Toeplitz to ask HPR, "Won't voters get tired of listening to them again?"

As was the case with the other races, the 2006 Sodrel-Hill battle was a donnybrook compounded by a Hatfield/McCoy blood feud.

One Indiana GOP operative told **Politico.com** the ongoing battle between Sodrel and Hill is a "blood feud." "It tells you it's personal. When they're running against each other like that, that tells you they hate each other," the operative said.

Reader comments on the **Louisville Courier-Journal** website reflected what some see as "Hill-Sodrel Fatigue". "The Hill-Sodrel act is getting old. Neither of them do anything while they're in Washington," one reader said. Another added, "Hill and Sodrel are like the Mothra and Godzilla of Southern Indiana politics."

Both could find another gutter fight a problem, particularly if one were to stay positive.

Sodrel put as much as \$1 million of his own money in his first race with Hill before he finally won the confidence of the NRCC in 2004 when he rode President Bush's coattails to victory. "Can't say I absolutely won't, but I don't intend to spend my own money," said Sodrel, who spent \$2.7 million in 2006. "I intend to run on the resources funded by my own constituents ... and other interested parties." Hill spent \$1.8 million and Democrats spent \$3.1 million. The problem there is that the NRCC probably won't have the \$3 million to dump into a Hill-Sodrel race in 2008. "The NRCC spent more on Sodrel's unsuccessful race last year than they currently have in the bank," said DCCC spokesman Doug Thornell in a statement. "Given all of the districts where they are on the defense, a rerun DeLay Republican who was fired by voters for being part of the problem will have a difficult time competing in this environment."

Sodrel attempted to cast the 2008 conflagration back to his humble beginnings after Democrats dubbed him "Millionaire Mike" in 2006. A release from the Sodrel campaign read: Sodrel began life sleeping in a dresser

drawer. His parents lived on Wainwright Court in New Albany's Beechwood housing project when he was born. His wife, Keta, began life living over a pool room and restaurant in Appalachia."

Between their four parents, 12 marriages were involved. The campaign notes that Mike and Keta "will be married 40 years this coming November. When he speaks of strong family values, it comes from a perspective of two people who had to survive broken homes, and break the cycle of divorce."

Numerous Republican sources have told HPR throughout this year that Keta Sodrel is the key to him waging a fourth campaign. She was initially reluctant to get into the Blood Feud 4.0. When Indiana Republican Chairman J. Murray Clark saw Sodrel at a GOP event in Bloomington in September, he said Sodrel "is acting like a candidate" and that Keta Sodrel appeared to be fully on board with the decision.

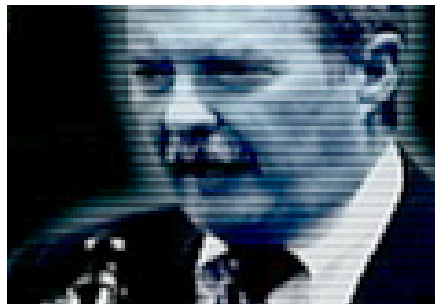
When Mike and Keta Sodrel married, they were \$3,000 in debt. He had been a truck driver and a mechanic, a bank messenger and a bank director. He started the Free Enterprise System, a local charter bus company in 1976. In 1987 he bought the family trucking company, Sodrel Truck Lines Inc., from other family members. The company now employs 600 people and the line's "Solo" trucks can be seen on roads across the Midwest.

Sodrel also served seven years in the 151st Infantry Battalion (now 152nd) of the Indiana National Guard.

Sodrel acknowledges his 1-2 won-loss record against Hill. But the campaign notes that Abraham Lincoln lost almost as many campaigns as he won on his way to the presidency.

"If I caved in to the Arab oil embargo in the middle '70s, or 18 percent prime interest rates, or the insurance crisis in the middle '80s, our companies wouldn't be here today," Sodrel said "You can't run a business if you run from the first crisis, or the first customer that says no.

"America has a lot of problems facing us today. I have spent most of my professional life anticipating problems, or solving problems. This race isn't about me or my opponent, it is about America. The future of our country and our children is at stake.



The grim and grainy images of TV ads during the 2006 campaign have many viewers in the Indianapolis, Evansville, Louisville and Cincinnati media markets bracing for, as one reader said, the "Mothra and Godzilla of Southern Indiana politics." (Indiana On Message)



"A lot of voters voted for change in 2006. I don't think higher taxes, more spending, and more programs were what they had in mind. We will run an issue oriented campaign. I'm not running for Congress to be important, I'm running to do some things that are important."

The "running from the crisis" line could be a critical point for Rep. Hill and Sodrel. Hill has been a strident critic of the Bush administration's commencement and handling of the war.

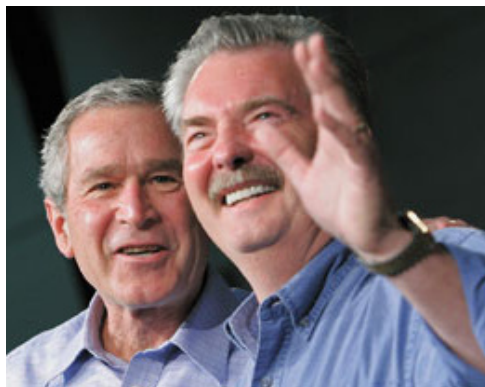
During the 2006 campaign, the most intense Indiana congressional races in the 2nd, 8th and 9th CDs almost ignored the obvious fork in the road over Iraq. In an Oct. 2, 2006, **USA Today** story, Sodrel explained, "I don't think losing is an option. A lot of people want to rehash how we got in there. That's really irrelevant to the situation today."

On Sept. 11, following the Capitol Hill appearances by Gen. David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker, Hill explained, "We must put General Petraeus' reports of successes in Iraq in perspective. The other two reports on the present situation in Iraq – from the Comptroller General of the Government Accountability Office, David M. Walker, and from a commission of retired military leaders headed by former Marine General James L. Jones, R. – sharply contrast to General Petraeus' statements."

Hill noted that in the Walker report, Iraq's Maliki government "failed to meet 11 of the 18 benchmarks." The Jones report noted "widespread corruption and malaise among Iraqi Security Forces."

Hill, who has accused the Bush-Cheney administration of lying about the pretext to the war that the Democrat supported in the October 2002 resolution (less than a month before the second Hill-Sodrel race) explained, "We must also remember President Bush's stated intention of the surge: to create breathing room for the Iraqi government to make political progress. They have not. It's time to re-evaluate the present strategy in Iraq."

Hill explained, "We must re-examine the effects the war in Iraq has on our overall national security. I believe this war has had a devastating impact on our armed forces, National Guard and reservists. I believe it is time to begin the process of safely redeploying our troops out of Iraq. We have lost focus as to our goal, our enemy and our purpose. We must refocus our troops' efforts to confront terrorism on its front lines and bring our National Guards-



**Mike Sodrel with President Bush in 2006; Baron Hill with President Clinton. In 2006, both candidates will likely invoke the legacies of these two presidents.**

men and reservists home."

On March 24, 2006, Sodrel stood with President Bush at the Murat Center in Indianapolis. Bush said, "Let me give you a Mike Sodrel quote. He said, 'The first role of the federal government is to provide for the defense of the country.'"

Bush added, "It's important to have people in the United States Congress who understand this is a nation at war. I wish I could tell you otherwise. It's important to have members of the United States Congress who understand the stakes in the global war on terror. And Mike Sodrel understands the stakes."

Bush also noted no domestic terror attacks since Sept. 11, 2001. "My most important job is to lead our nation and to protect you," Bush said. "And so I have."

In an op-ed article for the **New Albany Tribune** last May, Sodrel raised a number of questions and challenged Rep. Hill to act on his convictions.

"A supplemental military funding resolution that establishes a timeline for withdrawal is the worst possible action Congress can take,"

Sodrel wrote. "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."

Sodrel challenged Hill, saying that 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."

Sodrel then said, "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. 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."

Thus the debate in the "Bloody 9th" has now been enjoined, and some of the critical questions have been asked and are now up for debate. ❖



## 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:**



Daniels joined Arcadia

HealthCare chief executive Marvin Richardson today to announce the company's plans to relocate its national headquarters here, creating more than 400 new jobs by 2010. The provider of home healthcare and products will invest more than \$3 million to relocate its suburban Detroit headquarters to Indianapolis' north side and will begin hiring managers, pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and sales staff later this year. "New jobs in Indiana are always a great story, but headquarters announcements have special meaning in the variety of jobs, higher pay, and deeper civic commitment they bring," said Daniels. "And we've seen a string of new headquarters coming to the state this year - Really Cool Foods, SMC Corporation and Veolia Water just to name a few."

**State Sen. Earline Rogers** has endorsed Democrat Jill Long Thompson for governor in 2008 (**Times of Northwest Indiana**). Rogers, D-Gary, said Monday that Thompson "has the experience and leadership qualities Indiana needs to get back on the right track. Jill gives the Democrats their best chance of defeating Mitch Daniels. Jill will be a governor for the whole state and will put the concerns of Northwest Indiana at the top of her agenda." Thompson also picked up the endorsement of former U.S. Rep. Dave Evans, who served from 1974 to 1980 in the 4th CD. "I have seen Jill Long Thompson at work up close and I am greatly impressed with her experience and leadership ability. As Governor, Jill will work to get Indiana moving in the right direction again," said Evans.

**Schellinger has begun posting** videos about himself and his views on his Web site: [www.jimshellinger.com](http://www.jimshellinger.com). The videos, which are commercial-quality, are meant to give potential voters insight into why Schellinger is running for governor (**Fort Wayne Journal Gazette**). The first one focuses on the need for health insurance for all Hoosiers. In the video, Shellinger relates his experience when his first son early in life needed five surgeries, when the candidate was still in college and lacked full health insurance. The campaign plans to post one or two new videos weekly. **Democratic Primary Status:** LEANS LONG THOMPSON. **General Status:** Leans Daniels. ❖



## Gubernatorial Democrats, Washington Post's Cillizza headline 'free' HPR Forum

INDIANAPOLIS - When the annual HPR Forum gathers at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 23, at the Madam Walker Theater ballroom, the opening 2008 presidential primaries and caucuses will be less than three months away.

**Washington Post** blogger Chris Cillizza will give the keynote address at this year's HPR Forum. Prior to the keynote, the Democratic gubernatorial candidates, Jim Schellinger and Jill Long Thompson, will make one of their first joint appearances before the general public.

### 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
- 2:10 Questions from journalists: Brian A. Howey, Vince Robinson, Jack Colwell and Matt Tully.
- 2:20 p.m. BREAK: Music by Bill Lancton, Rusty Humphrey and Kevin Kouts
- 2:30 p.m. Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman
- 3 p.m. Questions from journalists and audience
- 3:30 p.m. Keynote Address, Chris Cillizza, Washington Post
- 4:15 p.m. Blogger panel: Thomas Cook of Blue Indiana, Gary Welsh of Advance Indiana, Mark Curry of HPR
- 5 p.m. Reception





## Daniels promises the ‘same vigor, same creativity’ on property/government reform

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - What are the tax and reform tea leaves saying these days?

What better place to look than the Delaware County Lincoln/Reagan Day Dinner in Muncie Wednesday night. It was here that Gov. Mitch Daniels spent a half hour describing what **Muncie Star Press** reporter Nick Werner called “accomplishments” that emphasized job creation and streamlining government.

And then he came to property taxes. Daniels said his administration would attack the problem “with the same vigor and the same creativity” that it did with other initiatives, such as leasing the Indiana Toll Road. “We are not going to be a state where people work all their lives to own their homes and then can’t afford to keep [them],” Daniels said.

Part of the problem with property taxes, Daniels said, is Indiana’s antiquated government. The property tax relief plan, he added, has taken time because the issue is complex and he did not want the plan to place more burdens on taxpayers.

“You can get to the point where you get to overload with respect to information, but I think there is some distilling going on,” said State Sen. Luke Kenley (Smith, **Associated Press**). “The danger is that people could get fixated on their idea and they don’t keep the goals in mind.” Kenley and State Rep. Jeff Espich said it was vital that Gov. Daniels use his bully pulpit to push tax reform, instead of allowing legislators to “thrash” it around in the people’s assembly, as Daniels opted to do last winter. “You (a governor) can’t just throw it to the legislature because there are so many competing interests,” Espich said.

The governor’s remarks at Muncie came as the Kernan-Shepard Commission began hearing testimony at the first of four forums. More than 200 residents showed up at Indiana University-Northwest at Gary on Monday and, as the **Times of Northwest Indiana** reported, “poured out their frustrations in a tirade against government waste.”

“There’s just not enough communication being given to the people in my community,” East Chicago resident Maxine Cole said. “We’re not being heard.”

Hammond resident Mike Victor provided the real life testimony that Daniels underscored two days later in

Muncie. “You’re talking about property taxes going up?” Victor asked. “Mine has tripled. A lot of people lost their homes in Hammond. They just walked away from it, can’t afford it.”

Part of the evening was spent addressing the seven Lake County library taxing districts. Several of those boards have pre-emptively pushed back at any attempt at reform, voting against consolidation into a countywide system.

The Times reported that Lynn Frank, director of the Crown Point Community Library, said the discussion questions were skewed against local entities. “Saying all local government is overspending is inappropriate,” she said. “They’re trying to punish everybody and not look at what the problem is.” Frank said East Chicago’s library receives four times the tax rate and budget that Crown Point’s does, yet it serves the same number of people. Whiting’s library pulls in twice as much money while serving half as many people, she said. Frank advocated a re-evaluation of tax rates for all entities.

Library officials attended the hearing en masse to speak out against a proposed consolidation of libraries. “The state legislature needs to quit putting patches on everything,” said St. John Township Assessor Hank Adams. “The best thing they could do is take five years and do nothing. Every year we get a new bill on how to do our jobs.”

The Kernan-Shepard Commission will hear testimony in New Albany and Franklin next week.

The long-term reform discussions came as local governments were debating the local option income tax that Daniels, Speaker B. Patrick Bauer and Senate President David Long have pleaded with them to adopt in order to cut property taxes. The Kokomo City Council passed the LOIT with no dissent, a vote that came less than a month before the municipal elections. “I figured, with all of the low-income and fixed-income people being hurt by the property taxes, I’m willing to pay [the income tax increase] to help those that need it,” Councilman Mike Wyant, D-1st, said after the 9-0 vote (**Kokomo Tribune**). Howard County would be the 11th county to pass the LOIT.

The Wayne County Council wavered. It passed the LOIT on a 5-2 first reading vote in September, but it was tabled Monday. “We’re talking about a tax shift here,” said Councilman Steve Rabe (**Richmond Palladium-Item**). “I do believe we need property tax relief, but I believe there needs to be a tax reduction.” Councilman Jeff Plasterer said he has found more opposition. “I simply think we’re putting more burden on Wayne County residents if we impose this income tax,” Plasterer said. “I don’t think this is the time to do that.” ❖



Former Gov. Kernan, Chief Justice Shepard and Gov. Daniels when the Blue Ribbon Commission was announced last summer. (HPR Photo by Brian A. Howey)



## 2008 Indiana Congressional

### 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:** We'll probably have this race in "Tossup" zone for the next 12 months. **Status:** TOSSUP.



kirk (R) 19,701. **2007 Forecast:** Rep. Mark Souder told the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette Wednesday he is "very troubled" by Matt Kelty and publicly distanced himself from the Republican Fort Wayne mayoral candidate. In an interview Wednesday, Souder said Kelty and his campaign continue to demonstrate a lack of judgment. The most recent example was a joke birthday cake that disparaged other Republicans. "The election is turning a lot on his judgment ability," Souder said, "and this did not help." Souder, who has known Kelty for many years and worked with him on the staff of Sen. Dan Coats, supported Kelty's opponent in the primary. But after Kelty won, Souder appeared at his side and described him as the candidate "who can best lead Fort Wayne into the future." On Wednesday, his enthusiasm had dimmed. "As the congressman of this district who basically agrees with the issues Matt has raised, I can't see myself publicly endorsing (Democrat Tom) Henry, but I

## 2007 Mayoral

### Anderson: Republican: Mayor

Kevin Smith. Democrat: Kris Ockomon. **2003 General Results:** Smith (R) 8,947, Rock (D) 7,821. **2007 Forecast:** Ockomon told the Anderson Rotary that the city's education system is in "trouble," and, if elected, he pledged to introduce a city leader/student mentoring program and emphasize drug awareness and resource police officer programs. Ockomon also talked about the city's crime rate, which he said is quite high. He also pointed to a police department that has cut positions and is less "pro-active." "Currently, our crime statistics are through the ceiling," said Ockomon, who has been a police officer for 22 years. "If your crime rate is going up, and the police department is not pro-active, we need to do something about that." Ockomon was speaking about the education system and public safety under the blanket of bringing business and jobs, to the city. Ockomon fielded questions from the audience. The one he most aggressively answered was in regard to the proposal to build an airport for metropolitan Indianapolis. He disagreed with the plan, favoring development of Anderson Municipal Airport. He said that there has been talk of an investor seeking to put \$2 million into Anderson's airport to improve it. "The airport they want to construct is very similar to the airport we have," said Ockomon. "In my opinion, I say no to the (proposed) airport." **Status:** LEANS SMITH.

**Fort Wayne:** Republican: Matthew Kelty. Democrat: Tom Henry. **2003 Results:** Richard (D) 27,251, Bus-



The Kelty birthday cake has the GOP headquarters in an outhouse.. The cake prompted U.S. Rep. Mark Souder to distance himself from Kelty. Just another example of one of the strangest campaigns in Hoosier history.

am very troubled," Souder said. "Obviously I had concerns in the primary," he said, which were compounded by "the grand jury indictments, the cake, which is a little thing, and some other things that have happened since, and there are many that aren't public." The birthday cake had a Wizard of Oz theme. It depicts an outhouse labeled "GOP HQ" sitting on top of a baseball field, believed to be reference to the \$120 million Harrison Square project Kelty opposes (**Fort Wayne Journal Gazette**). Resting atop the diamond and under the outhouse are legs resembling those of the Wicked Witch of the East. The outhouse also refers to Allen County Republican Chairman Steve Shine and Allen County Commissioner Nelson Peters, whom Kelty defeated in the mayoral primary. From the outhouse is a yellow road leading to the Emerald City. Along the road are signs referring



to City Councilman Sam Talarico, R-at large, who has been an outspoken supporter of Kelty's opponent, Democrat Tom Henry. On the Emerald City is a sign saying, "The wizard of Ozz is in," which likely is a reference to Ozzie Mitson, Peters' campaign manager. Mitson said local Republican officials confirmed the witch was intended to be Allen County Prosecutor Karen Richards, and the toilet paper on the outhouse bears the pictures of County Recorder John McGauley and Souder. McGauley was the first local elected Republican to publicly criticize the Kelty campaign. A photo of the cake was posted on Kelty's campaign website (**Blue Indiana**), though it isn't currently posted. **Status: LEANS HENRY.**

**Indianapolis:** Democrat: Mayor Bart Peterson. Republican: Greg Ballard. Libertarian: Fred Peterson. **2003 Results:** Peterson (D) 92,763, Jordan (R) 55,354. **2007 Forecast:** Ballard criticized the mayor for not taking public safety seriously. Standing in front of a burned out building, rumored to be a pea shake house, Ballard lamented inaction in the wake of recent increases in crime. "Despite what Bart Peterson says, his police consolidation was a failure and the recent rash of murders and arsons on the near Northside is an unfortunate reminder of Bart Peterson's poorly executed plan." Ballard said. "Police response times have significantly increased since the merger, and unfortunately police are stretched too thin to adequately protect city residents." Ballard made his remarks in the wake of a murder spree near the Butler-Tarkington neighborhood in the past few days. "If Bart Peterson were serious about public safety, especially on the near Northside, he would have taken steps to get back to community policing," Ballard said. **Status:** Likely Peterson.



**Kokomo:** Democrat: Councilman Greg Goodnight. Republican: Councilman Rick Hamilton. **2003 Primary Results:** Republican: McKillips 1,565, Donoghue 972, Bolinger 327, McKay 243, T. Hamilton 38. Democrat: Castner 1,360, Lushin 1,358, Alexander 969, Ellis 34. **2003 General Results:** McKillip (R) 5,229, Castner (D) 4101, Dunlap (I) 832. **2007 Forecast:** Goodnight begins his cable TV campaign today. Hamilton has not made a buy. Both candidates kept it civil at their first debate Wednesday, but there was no doubt Hamilton and Goodnight came into Wednesday's forum intending to show clear differences in philosophy (Smith, **Kokomo Tribune**). From Hamilton's contention, during his opening statement, that property taxes have gone up by "several million" during Goodnight's last four years on the city council, to Goodnight's claim that membership declined during Hamilton's run as Kokomo/Howard County Chamber of Commerce president, both candidates threw jabs. For Hamilton, the repeated theme was a promise to lower property taxes if he's elected. "I think we're paying too much in taxes. If you elect me

mayor, we will in fact reduce property taxes," Hamilton said, after noting Goodnight didn't make a similar promise in his respective opening statement. For Goodnight, the refrain centered around "commitment to Kokomo," with the Democrat opening by noting he's lived in Kokomo his entire life, followed by implications concerning Hamilton's decision to step down from a city council seat to take up residence in the county. Hamilton moved back to the city last year in time to establish residency for the city election. The responses to those respective claims were at times testy, with Goodnight using the term "privatization" to describe some of Hamilton's specific cost-cutting ideas, and Hamilton saying he was fairly sure he's paid more Kokomo property taxes over time than his opponent. **Status: LIKELY GOOD-NIGHT.**

**New Albany:** Democrat: Doug England. Republican: Randy Hubbard. **2003 Democratic Primary Results:** Garner 2,512, Scharlow 814, Clemons 714, Goldberg 552, Kersey 68, Tuttle 48. **2003 General Results:** Garner (D) 5,971, Overton (R) 3,893, Hughes (L) 196. **2007 Forecast:** England did a Q&A with the News-Tribune and made his case for returning to the mayor's office, saying, "I have seen New Albany from both inside and outside city government. My years as mayor, extensive background in private industry and active involvement in many community organizations have given me a unique perspective and insight into the problems and opportunities in our city. I feel that I have the experience and the knowledge to cooperate with the City Council, citizens, community groups and the business community so that New Albany can live up to its potential." England said his first priority would be to "closely examine all of our city's finances to determine what resources are available and how they can best be allocated." **Status: TOSSUP.**

**Muncie:** Democrats: Jim Mansfield Jr. Republican: CSharon McShurley. **2003 Results:** Canan (R) 7,211, Tyler (D) 6,758. **2007 Forecast:** Mansfield was asked to speak before the Citizens for Delaware County Property Tax Repeal and wouldn't commit. "I can't answer that at this time," Mansfield said. "I told Jan Etchison that I would if at all possible. I have been swamped with requests for appearances and speaking engagements. With their planned event having been set for Nov. 1 at 6:30 p.m., it doesn't look too promising at this time. With the event being held less than a week before the election, my free time has become almost non-existent." McShurley has agreed to attend. The two candidates disagreed on adding volunteer firefighters. Mansfield is set against the idea of volunteers or any further reductions in firefighting staff; he has said repeatedly it would put the city at risk. During the business council forum, McShurley said she would consider such a change, telling the Muncie Star Press, "I would rather have 110 firemen and five reserves than just have 110 firemen," she said. **Status: LEANS MANSFIELD. ❖**





## THE BOAR'S NEST

### *She sent the gift of 'world peace' & Lugar responds*

By **BEVERLY PHILLIPS**

Asked what gifts she wants for birthdays and holidays, Indianapolis resident **Jane Rutledge** often tells her adult children she wants "world peace." She's said it so often over the years that it now has become a humorous but also serious response. Daughter **Karen Rutledge** decided that in honor of her mom's recent 69th birthday she would try to get her some world peace by next year when her mom turns 70.

Karen wrote letters to numerous elected officials, including President **George Bush**, Sen. **Evan Bayh**, Sen. **Richard Lugar**, Gov. **Mitch Daniels**, and U.S. Reps **Julia Carson** and **Steve Buyers**. "Please think about my mother this year and if you could do one thing to get us closer to our goal before September 22, 2008, then I can tell my mother I did my part too," she said in explaining her mother's birthday wish.

No word back from President Bush yet. And of the Indiana officials contacted, so far Karen has received only one response: Sen. Richard Lugar. We give Sen. Lugar's office an A+ for constituent communications.

Lugar replied in earnest: "Thank you for your suggestion regarding U.S. efforts to promote world peace. I appreciate this opportunity to respond. Throughout my tenure as chairman and ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I have advocated an expansion of the capabilities and budget of the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Our security and prosperity depend on a comprehensive approach to foreign policy that emphasizes diplomacy, foreign assistance, trade relations and the building of democracies to help pave the way to peace.

"The United States must assign U.S. economic and

diplomatic capabilities the same strategic priority that we assign to military capabilities.

"At a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on February 8, 2007, I outlined my concerns with an inadequate civilian budget for international affairs, which includes money for the State Department, embassy operations, foreign assistance, cultural and education programs, contributions to international institutions, and many other aspects of our outreach to the world.

"I said: 'Unfortunately, despite two wars and multiple diplomatic crises, Congress has routinely cut the President's requests for the 150 [Foreign Affairs] Account ...We also barely notice that the Foreign Affairs Account is a relative bargain at one-fourteenth the size of the Defense budget. In fact, the budget for FY2008 seeks an an increase in defense spending over 2006

appropriated levels of approximately \$71 billion. This two-year increase alone is roughly twice the size of the entire 150 [Foreign Affairs] Account.' You may wish to read more about this and other hearings at <http://foreign.senate.gov/>.

"I will continue to support legislation that lays the groundwork for international peace and prosperity. Again, thank you for writing."



Sen. Lugar with U.S. Ambassador Burns outside the Rosatom Agency in Moscow last August. The 2007 Nobel Peace Prize will be announced Friday (HPR Photo by Brian A. Howey)

### **Sodrel combats millionaire image**

HPR received a press release this week announcing **Mike Sodrel's** "historic 4th bid for congress" that was so unusual we were compelled

to confirm it actually was sent from his campaign.

"Sodrel began life sleeping in a dresser drawer," the release begins. In the first paragraph we learn the dresser drawer was in a housing project where his parents lived.



The release goes on to say Sodrel and his wife Keta spent their childhoods in poverty and a series of broken homes. Their four parents were married multiple times -- collectively 12 marriages! A promptly returned call from Sodrel campaign media liaison **Diego Morales** explained, "It is an unusual release. We want to let people know where Mike came

from. We want the media and the public to know the truth. Past elections he's been painted as 'Millionaire Mike.' People do not know he lived in the projects and was poor." To read the full release visit [www.mikesodrel.com](http://www.mikesodrel.com). ❖



## Dating Iowa: the first week in January

By **MARK CURRY**

WASHINGTON - The 2008 presidential campaign calendar is beginning to shape up with word this week that Iowa's Republican and Democratic parties are both considering holding caucuses the first few days into the new year.

"All the talk inside Iowa political circles is about setting the date for the caucuses," wrote David Yepsen of the Des Moines Register. "Forget whether Hillary Clinton's taking off, whether Barack Obama can catch her or whether John Edwards is slipping. Forget whether Rudy Giuliani's making a mistake in ignoring Iowa, whether Fred Thompson's falling flat or whether Mitt Romney may have peaked."

Numerous reports indicate the Republicans have settled on Jan. 3, though nothing is official. Word is the Democrats have two choices - Jan. 3 or Jan. 5 - but most sources seem convinced the earlier date most likely.

"Right now, we are not just thinking as individual parties. We are thinking as Iowa and its first-in-the-nation status," Mary Tiffany, a spokeswoman for the Iowa Republican Party, told CNN.

Both Iowa and New Hampshire insist they constitute the first stage in the presidential nomination process. New Hampshire Secretary of State William Gardner told the Register yesterday the state intends to host its primary "no later than Jan. 8." Most candidates have been quite happy to cooperate since Jimmy Carter earned his ticket to the White House. Nowadays, other state parties, particularly Democrats prodded by various constituencies, are vying for a piece of the action by scheduling their dates ever earlier. The result is what Chuck Raasch of USA Today called a "calendar creep" that "threatens to push Iowa and New Hampshire to consider wrapping around Christmas, leading into a Feb. 5 'Tsunami Tuesday' of 20 or so states who plan primaries that day."



Pundits are already speculating about the impact of the early contests. The Iowa GOP's rumored decision benefits former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, according to the Evans-Novak Political Report. "Sooner is better for the front-runner, and a date that close to New Year's Day will make organization more important - playing to Romney's strength."

Yepsen reported that Sen. Hillary Clinton's campaign prefers the Jan. 5 date, which falls on a Saturday. "That will make it easier for them to get older women and blue-collar women who may be working or find it hard to get a baby sitter on a weeknight," he wrote. "It's also closer to New Hampshire's primary, which will limit the damage to her if she loses Iowa to Obama or Edwards, as polls indicate could happen."

### Log Cabin Republicans attack Romney

Over the next week or so, the Log Cabin Republicans, a federated gay and lesbian political organization that supports the Republican Party, will run an ad on Fox News in Iowa that portrays the former Massachusetts governor as changing his positions on abortion, gun rights, even his opinion of former President Ronald Reagan, according to an article in the Washington Times.

"He's changed his views so many times it's really hard to predict what a Romney administration would be like," Log Cabin President Patrick Sammon told reporter Joseph Curl. "This education effort on our part is about more than gay rights, it's about this man's principle and whether you can trust him."

Romney's campaign claims the charges are prompted by Romney's strengths, not his weaknesses, according to Curl. "I think voters can accept someone who realizes they were wrong and has moved in the right direction on an important issue," said campaign spokesman Kevin Madden, who accused the Log Cabin Republicans of favoring Republican Rudy Giuliani.

The Associated Press noted that Romney has said he changed his view on abortion after a November 2004 meeting with a Harvard stem cell researcher. He said he became convinced he could not be publicly supportive of abortion rights while being personally opposed to abortion.

### Gore still not running

Al Gore is still not running for president despite recent pleas from supporters, according to reports.



Democrat John Edwards at a Michigan City fundraiser hosted by LaPorte County Democratic chairman Vidya Kora in September. Former chairman Shaw Friedman is at left. (Photo courtesy of Shaw Friedman)



Draftgore.com made news yesterday when it ran a full-page ad in the New York Times begging the former vice president to reconsider and enter the 2008 contest.

"Mr. Vice President, there are times for politicians and times for heroes," the New York Times ad stated. "America and the Earth need a hero right now - someone who will transcend politics as usual and bring real hope to our country and to the world. Please rise to this challenge, or you and millions of us will live forever wondering what might have been."

Eighteen Gore groups have come together under the Americans for Gore network, the Washington Times reported. They are raising money, writing letters and pushing radio and Web ads. CNN reported that Gore's spokeswoman Kalee Kreider said the former vice president "truly appreciates the heartfelt sentiment behind the ad, however, he has no intention of running for President."

Alan Fram, writing for the Associated Press, noted that Donna Brazile, campaign manager for Gore's 2000 loss to Bush, said she believes he will not run - this time. Still, one in eight Democrats backed a Gore presidency in last month's AP-Ipsos poll, wrote Fram, who concluded the

article with this quote culled from the DailyKos blog: "Mr. Gore has not said to stop." Gore's fans are certain to push even harder if rumors are true that he will earn the Nobel Peace Prize, which should be announced Friday.

### Coming up

Here are highlights of upcoming campaign events gleaned from the "Futures Calendar" published by the ABC News political blog, The Note.

**Oct. 15** - Presidential candidates' quarterly report due with the FEC.

**Oct. 20** - The Family Research Council honors Dr. James Dobson in Washington DC. The event caps the second annual Washington Briefing on values voter summit sponsored by FRC Action, Focus on the Family Action, American Values, and the Alliance Defense Fund. Guiliani is scheduled to speak.

**Oct. 21** - Florida Republican Party and Fox News host a GOP presidential debate in Orlando.

**Oct. 25** - Iowa AARP and Iowa Public Television host a Republican Candidate Forum in Sioux City.

**Oct. 30** - DNC presidential debate in Philadelphia.



## 2008 State Presidential Polls

Iowa (R)	Date	Romney	Giuliani	Thompson	McCain	Huckabee
Des Moines Reg.	Oct. 1-3	29	11	18	7	12
ARG	Sept. 26-29	22	21	16	11	4

New Hampshire (R)	Date	Romney	Giuliani	Thompson	McCain	Huckabee
ARG	Sept. 26-29	24	20	8	20	3
Zogby	Sept. 26-28	24	21	7	16	5

South Carolina (R)	Date	Romney	Giuliani	Thompson	McCain	Huckabee
Inside Advantage	Oct. 2	16	16	21	16	11

Florida (R)	Date	Romney	Giuliani	Thompson	McCain	Huckabee
Quinnipac	Oct. 1-8	17	27	19	8	--

Iowa (D)	Date	Clinton	Edwards	Obama	Richardson
ARG	Sept. 26-29	30	19	24	10
Des Moines Reg.	Oct. 1-3	29	23	22	8

N. Hampshire (D)	Date	Clinton	Edwards	Obama	Richardson
ARG	Sept. 26-29	41	10	22	8
Zogby	Sept. 26-28	38	12	23	8

South Carolina (D)	Date	Clinton	Edwards	Obama	Richardson
ARG	Sept. 26-29	41	7	30	5
Rasmussen	Sept. 26-27	43	10	30	2



**Sylvia Smith, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette** - Rep. Julia Carson hasn't been to work in a while and has announced she's taking sick leave until at least Oct. 15. Because of ill health, the Indianapolis congresswoman has missed a ton of floor votes (68 percent since Congress returned from its summer break), not to mention the work being done in her committees. Carson is not alone in being absent from her Washington duties for long stretches. After all, Congress is a big place - 535 elected officials - and stuff happens. For example, South Dakota's Sen. Tim Johnson was off work for nearly nine months because of a brain hemorrhage. Because of that generous sick-pay policy, lawmakers who need to be gone from Washington for days on end should be forthcoming with their constituents. Carson is a case in point of how not to handle things. Her hometown paper, the Indianapolis Star, is quite properly curious about Carson's voting absences. (If Rep. Mark Souder missed a couple of weeks' worth of votes, most folks in northeast Indiana would want to know why. If he's having surgery, they might want to send get-well wishes. If he's, oh, playing golf a la Rep. Dan Burton, they might want to send wishes for many tee shots into the rough.) But Carson has been selective about explaining her health issues. After being admitted to the hospital Sept. 21, for example, she didn't ask for a leave until several days later. When she did, Carson didn't state the reason, and reporters' inquiries were initially rebuffed. I believe that, in the main, constituents are understanding. Few people would begrudge Carson a couple of weeks off to recuperate from a leg infection. But in exchange for that consideration, Carson owes something. Carson - and any other lawmaker in this situation - should tell the people she represents that she is ill, that she expects to be off work for a few weeks or a month and here's how the work of her office will be done in her absence: X, Y, Z. ❖

**Emmett Smelser, Richmond Palladium-Item** - It's understandable that Hoosiers might feel a tingle of excitement at hearing the name of one of their own being mentioned for a national office. Less understandable is your apparent excitement over Indiana Democrat Sen. Evan Bayh's being named as a possible "moderate" running mate to balance a presidential ticket with Hillary Clinton. Hoosiers have a habit of electing likeable candidates who talk moderate or even conservative at home but vote right along with their liberal colleagues in Washington. Witness Bayh's own father, former Sen. Birch Bayh, and former Rep. Phil Sharp -- both fine, decent men whose intelligence and engaging personalities led many to disregard voting records out of sync with most Hoosiers' views. Bayh has a lifetime rating by the liberal Americans for Democratic Action of 95 percent versus a rating by the

American Conservative Union of only 21 percent. His ratings by other leading liberal interest groups are just as telling: NAACP, 100 percent; National Abortion Rights Action League, 100 percent. Just because Bayh is not your typical strident liberal talk show guest doesn't make him a moderate. ❖



**Lou Jacobson, Stateline.org** - When it comes to the future of his state, Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels is thinking big. But his first term demonstrates how bold action might not be the surest ticket to a second term. The governor has ruffled so many feathers that two credible Democrats are raring to take him on in 2008. Daniels, former director of the Office of Management and Budget under President George W. Bush, has pushed a series of controversial policies since ending a 16-year Democratic hold on the governor's office in 2004. His aim is to improve the economic competitiveness of his sagging industrial state. "This was a state in which the average citizen out-earned the average American 40 years ago, in the heyday of manufacturing," Daniels said in a telephone interview. "I wanted it to be that state again. We knew it wouldn't be accomplished in one administration, but we wanted to get it started." "Hoosiers are resistant to change, even if it's good change," said Ed Feigenbaum, who publishes a political newsletter in Indianapolis. Early on, Daniels convinced the Legislature - narrowly - to join most other states on Daylight Saving Time. Though aimed at streamlining logistics and boosting commerce, the shift led to a messy, county-by-county reassessment of which time zone to be in. The result was frustration with the governor for opening a Pandora's Box. Daniels also sought to slash bureaucracy, bypassing the Legislature to close a host of motor vehicles offices - an unpopular idea in small towns and rural areas where his party is ordinarily strong. And Daniels secured a deal, approved by just one vote in the House, to lease the Indiana Toll Road to an Australian-Spanish consortium. But the governor has forged ahead. "The Daniels governorship has often done the absolute opposite of conventional wisdom, and the governor has told me several times he doesn't care about the short-term political fallout," said Brian Howey, who publishes a political newsletter in Indianapolis. The backlash against his policies "didn't have to be this painful," said Indiana Democratic Party communications director Jennifer Wagner. "He should have sold it better. ... He always asks for forgiveness, not permission." Daniels concedes the assertion - up to a point. "We have moved maybe too fast for some people or on some occasions, and on the list - a long one - of things I should have done better, preparing the ground for certain actions might have been a good idea," he said. "Sometimes we had to choose between getting the job done and getting the P.R. done, and we chose the former."



## **Car belonging to Rep. Murphy in hit & run**

INDIANAPOLIS - A car identified as belonging to Republican State Rep. Mike Murphy was involved in a hit-and-run crash behind an Indianapolis bar late last month, police said (**WRTV-TV**). A black Infiniti with State Representative license No. 49, which is



registered to Michael Murphy, hit Lektia Thomas' (pictured) parked vehicle behind Ike and Jonesy's bar downtown just after midnight Sept. 23, 6News' Jack Rinehart reported. Two witnesses said the car's driver took off without leaving a note. When Thomas got to her car, witnesses said they had seen the crash and had retrieved the license number. Jerry Beeler took pictures of the Infiniti, which shows damage on the left-rear, three days after Murphy denied having been involved in the crash and said he wouldn't fix the damage, Thomas told police. "I told him, 'That's OK, I'll contact the media. Within 30 seconds, they accepted liability, said they wanted to fix my car because he is a public figure and they did not want this to get out into the media,'" Thomas said. Thomas said Murphy and his insurance company agreed to cover the \$1,600 in damage done to her car and that it was repaired on Tuesday, Rinehart reported.

## **Bernstein tells reporters to defy editors**

FORT WAYNE - Local media got a lesson in Journalism 101 on Wednesday from Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and Watergate reporter Carl Bernstein (**Fort Wayne Journal Gazette**). Bernstein asked reporters during the news conference whether they were planning on attending his evening speech, because he didn't

want to repeat himself if they were. Most were not because of early deadlines and having to go on the air before the speech. When asked whether he would summarize his speech, Bernstein said that that was hard to do and began criticizing reporters for not spending enough time at events or with people and constantly speeding in and out of things. The best advice he has for journalists is to be good listeners. "I think it's really the most important lesson of all," Bernstein said. When asked how journalists were supposed to avoid going from event to event with the shrinking staff sizes of newspapers, forcing a fewer number of reporters to cover the same amount of news, Bernstein said journalists needed to be aggressive with their editors about what they need to do to get a good, quality story. "Most good reporting is done in defiance of management," Bernstein said.

## **Supreme Court hears case in Evansville**

EVANSVILLE -The wood-paneled walls of the Evansville City Council Chambers served as the backdrop Wednesday for a rare visit from the Indiana Supreme Court (**Evansville Courier & Press**). The local arguments were part of efforts by the state's highest court to reach out to the public by hearing cases in cities around the state. Every seat in the council chambers was occupied, and the walls were lined with onlookers — mostly local attorneys and judges — as the Indiana Supreme Court justices heard oral arguments in a civil assault case originally filed in Marion County. Chief Justice Randall Shepard, an Evansville native, was among those hearing the case in which Joseph E. Doescher, a perfusionist — a person who operates a heart-lung machine during heart surgery — at St. Francis Hospital in Indianapolis, alleged that heart surgeon Daniel H. Raess intentionally inflicted emotional distress and assault on him.

## **Bayh, Burton seek answers in GI's death**

WASHINGTON - Sen. Evan Bayh and Rep. Dan Burton asked the secretary of the Army yesterday for a speedy investigation of the death of an Indiana National Guardsman while in the care of a Kentucky Army unit for wounded soldiers (**Associated Press**). Sgt. Gerald Cassidy, 32, of Westfield, was injured in a roadside explosion in Iraq more than 15 months ago. He arrived at Fort Knox in April with blinding headaches, memory and hearing loss, and post-traumatic stress disorder. He was assigned to a "warrior transition unit" created by the Pentagon for treating wounded service members.

## **Reassessment likely for Scott County**

SCOTTSBURG- Scott County leaders came away from an hourlong state hearing yesterday predicting they'll soon be ordered to reassess all of the county's commercial and industrial property (**Louisville Courier-Journal**). During a morning hearing at the county courthouse, Commissioner Cheryl Musgrave of the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance said the county's vendor used no alternate methods to calculate accurate valuations on factories, shops, parking lots, and other commercial and industrial parcels.

## **Town manager disciplined**

MERRILLVILLE - The Merrillville Town Council has disciplined Town Manager Tim Brown following drunken-driving charges filed last month, but the town not disclosed details of the sanctions.

## **Charges dropped against Councilman Gibson**

INDIANAPOLIS - Assault charges have been dropped against Democratic Indianapolis City-County Councilman Rob Gibsoni. ❖