



Triumphant Mourdock seeks unity

Debate begins over whether Indiana GOP is 'mainstream' or veering to right

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - U.S.

Sen. Dick Lugar – vanquished by age, longevity, barrel bottom congressional approval ratings and an aggressive opponent in Treasurer Richard Mourdock – seemed to be bridging a divided party when he took the stage shortly after 8 on Tuesday night as the magnitude of the 61-39% landslide against him registered.

“Hoosier Republican primary voters have chosen their candidate for the U.S. Senate,” said Lugar in Broad Ripple. “I congratulate my opponent on his victory in a hard fought race. I want to see a Republican in the White House, and I want to see my friend Mitch McConnell have a Republican majority in the Senate. I hope my opponent prevails in November to contribute to a Republican majority.”

Minutes later came a second written statement



Richard Mourdock conducts a rare press conference as part of a GOP unity event with (from left) Auditor Tim Berry, Secretary of State Connie Lawson, Gov. Daniels, Chairman Holcomb, Lt. Gov. Skillman and Supt. Tony Bennett. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howe)

that sent the political world from Indianapolis to Washington abuzz. It was a reaction to the \$4 million in outside money spent against him, and Mourdock’s all-out assault on “bipartisanship” that pre-staged the upset. The text had Lugar’s voice.

“If Mr. Mourdock is elected, I want him to be a

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DC divides into a chasm

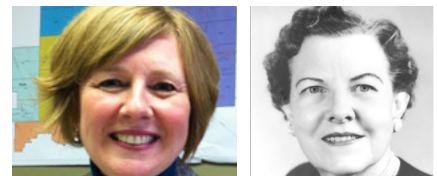
By **MARK SCHOEFF JR.**

WASHINGTON - Over the course of the 20 years that I’ve worked in Washington, the partisan divide has steadily grown into a chasm.



First, the Clinton administration made its campaign war room a central feature in daily policy battles. Later, the George W. Bush administration wasted an opportunity to cement bipartisan comity following the Sept. 11, 2001, tragedy by attacking Democrats in the 2002 election on security issues.

Democrats then became obsessed with payback – and Bush bashing



“She said, ‘There is no greater game than the game of politics.’ And tonight we won that game.”

- Victorious 5th CD Republican Susan Brooks, quoting former U.S. Rep. Cecil Murray Harden



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continued for years. Today, the parties have implacable differences on nearly every issue.

At each milepost along the journey, I was bullish about American politics. At the most critical times, legislators would figure out a way to compromise.

I'm losing my confidence following the defeat of Sen. Richard Lugar in Tuesday's Republican primary. The forces that took down Lugar are working to ensure that any attempt at bipartisanship – even an effort to listen to the other side – will be met with severe political consequences.

Lugar will continue to make substantial contributions to economic and security policy and international relations. Maybe he'll even find that leaving the Senate is liberating. The Senate, however, will find Lugar's departure a major setback. Tuesday was a sad day for U.S. governance.

I'm not sure where Congress will turn now to find leaders who can rise above the partisan fray and get something accomplished for the good of the country.

Profound legislative achievements always require the participation of both parties. Lugar proved that by teaming up with then-Sen. Sam Nunn, D-Ga., to write and pass a measure that has dismantled thousands of nuclear weapons in the former Soviet Union.

Lugar and Nunn worked together to overcome a strong resistance to international affairs in the early 1990s. The focus then was on the faltering economy – and Washington was riveted by a special Senate election in Pennsylvania that revolved around health care. Lugar and Nunn forged ahead, perhaps saving countless lives over the last generation in the process.

On the domestic side, Lugar was at the forefront of reducing the size and scope of government 15 years before the tea party threw its first fit about government spending. Lugar fought a lonely battle in the mid-1990s to slash the bureaucracy at the U.S. Department of Agriculture – meeting resistance even from fellow Republicans.

As chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, he wrote a farm bill around the same time that set U.S. agricultural policy on a glide path toward fiscal responsibility.



Sen. Lugar with Sam Nunn and Ambassador Burns at the Russian Foreign Ministry in Moscow. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

He was waging the ag fights at a time when the economy was growing and Washington didn't face a massive budget deficit. He wasn't riding a popular wave of fiscal conservatism. He was creating it based on the Hoosier values that he brought to Congress every day over more than three decades.

I cite these examples of Lugar's legislative career because I was working for him at the time -- as his deputy press secretary from 1992-94 and as press secretary from 1995-97. It was a privilege to see firsthand what each Hoosier civics



student should be taught about public service. Lugar is an exemplary legislator, leader and an exceptional man.

I have no way of knowing whether the Lugar campaign made mistakes, but the voters of Indiana surely did on Tuesday.

Somehow, they didn't see, or chose to ignore, that the very thing they were looking for in a senator – someone who works on their behalf across partisan lines – is exactly who they had in the incumbent.

Even though he was facing a tough re-election, Lugar stayed in the arena. He lost, but he stayed true to himself and true to the approach to governance that the country desperately needs at this time of overwhelming challenges.

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good senator," Lugar said. "But that will require him to revise his stated goal of bringing more partisanship to Washington. He and I share many positions, but his embrace of an unrelenting partisan mindset is irreconcilable with my philosophy of governance and my experience of what brings results for Hoosiers in the Senate. This is not conducive to problem-solving and governance. And he will find that unless he modifies his approach, he will achieve little as a legislator. Worse, he will help delay solutions that are totally beyond the capacity of partisan majorities to achieve."

At a unity press conference early Wednesday morning, HPI asked Gov. Mitch Daniels about the second Lugar statement, which could be a precursor to a Republican civil war. Many Lugarites were fuming at not only the tone and tenor of the Mourdock campaign, the fact that he subcontracted out much of his fundraising, organization structure, TV ads and direct mail, but that he took issue of the Lugar modus operandi. If Lugar had not accepted the outreach of U.S. Sen. Sam Nunn, for instance, the Soviet nukes would be loose.

Daniels responded with a story: A temperance woman was told that Jesus had made water into wine and she responded, "I wish

"Ideology cannot be a substitute for a determination to think for yourself, for a willingness to study an issue objectively, and for the fortitude to sometimes disagree with your party or even your constituents," Lugar said in a statement on Tuesday night. "Like Edmund Burke, I believe leaders owe the people they represent their best judgment."

That's what Lugar gave to Indiana for 35 years. Whoever wins his Senate seat in November should listen to Lugar and do likewise. ❖

Schoeff is HPI's Washington correspondent.

he hadn't done that."

A few minutes earlier, Daniels made the case that Mourdock is stitch and cloth right out of the Hoosier GOP quilt. "He comes right out of the heart and mainstream of our party," Daniels said. "That is his longest single suit, among many. That win he had yesterday, you will remember, some will let slip the fact that Richard began this campaign with more than two-thirds of all the mainline Republican chairmen supporting him as he went along. He's been elected twice in five years. A couple of million Hoosiers have voted for him in those two elections. He is really well positioned to be on the ticket with success this fall."

And, thus, the flotsam and jetsam of this historic Senate primary is in evidence, and it will take weeks and months to sort out.

Is Richard Mourdock an "extremist"? Is the Indiana GOP the proverbial "house divided"?

Indiana Democratic Chairman Dan Parker – a savvy "labeler" as Republican Chairman Eric Holcomb observed – believes so and will work to portray him as such. "He believes Social Security and Medicare are unconstitutional," Parker said. "Is that in the Republican mainstream? He's against the direct election of U.S. senators in the 17th Amendment. Does Gov. Daniels agree with that position? Will that be in the Republican Party platform?"

The future of the Lugar Senate seat – a GOP pos-



Indiana Treasurer Richard Mourdock celebrates his stunning upset, while U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar concedes in Broad Ripple before issuing a warning to the GOP.



session since 1977 – hangs in the balance.

HPI asked Mourdock about bipartisanship Wednesday morning. Is there a time when he believes he can reach out across the aisle to Democrats?

“Sure. There is always a time for compromise on issues, but not on principle,” Mourdock said. “The idea that compromise is based on principle usually leads to a discussion of bipartisanship. I recognize there are times when our country is incredibly polarized in that political sense. Right now is one of those times. The leadership

of the Republican Party and the leadership of the Democratic Party are not going to be able to reach compromise on big issues because they are so far apart in principle. My idea of bipartisanship going forward is to make sure that we have such a Republican majority in the U.S. House and U.S. Senate and in the White House, that if there’s going to be bipartisanship, it’s going to be Democrats coming our way, instead of them trying to pull Republicans their way.”

That feeds into a campaign trail notion that Mourdock’s priority is going to Washington to defeat liberals and Democrats. In the coming six months, this “compromise vs. principle” will play out in Kokomo, Columbus, Marion, Fort Wayne and Bedford – home to huge domestic auto plants that make vehicles or parts for Chrysler and General Motors.

An hour after Mourdock made that explanation, U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly met with reporters at Ralph’s Great Divide restaurant. Donnelly insisted the site was chosen because “they have great meatloaf,” but used the place as a metaphor that the contrast between him and Mourdock “cannot be clearer” while saying the general election will be “about jobs for every Hoosier.”

And Donnelly said that Mourdock was going on national TV shows this morning “saying he’s not a Tea Party guy, because he is. He tried to devastate the auto industry and he tried to destroy the lives of thousands of people in Kokomo.” That was in reference to Mourdock’s 2009 lawsuit



U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly answers a question from Politico’s David Catanese at Ralph’s Great Divide restaurant in Indianapolis Wednesday morning. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

to try and prevent the Chrysler/Fiat merger.

“He said he’s for bipartisanship as long as Republicans get what they want,” Donnelly said. “That’s like the kid who comes to the park with the ball and bat and says, ‘We have to play by my rules or I’m going home!’”

As for the auto rescue – which actually came under President Bush – Donnelly charged that Mourdock’s goal was the “liquidate Chrysler” and said that if he had succeeded, Indiana pension funds would have recouped

“between zero and 18 cents on the dollar.” The actual expedited bankruptcy pushed by the Obama administration in June and July 2009 returned 29 cents on the dollar. “He was suing to get a lower amount,” Donnelly said, noting that federal district and appeals courts upheld the deal, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected the case, and Mourdock spent \$3 million with a “New York law firm.”

A March Howey/DePauw Indiana Battleground Poll showed that by a 51-44% margin, general election voters favored the rescue.

Murdock emphasized his Republican roots. “As we go forward, we are going to be drawing some very sharp contrasts,” he said. “As Eric Holcomb so appropriately said, the Democratic Party is very good at putting labels on people. The first label they are going to try and put on me is that Mourdock is this wild-eyed Tea Party guy. As the governor said, I’ve been swimming in the pool of Republican politics for a long time. This party, I love. This party, I think anyone who has been around will tell you, I have served well.”

In the April 30/May 1 Howey/DePauw Poll, Lugar’s lead among Republicans had shriveled to 52-36%. Losing 48-38% in that final poll, of the 14% undecided, 12% bolted for Mourdock, creating the stunning 60-40% landslide. It appeared to be a political earthquake at the 8.0 Richter level.

But two issue questions seemed to be more Luga-



resque in response. Asked if "I want a U.S. Senator to focus first on trying to solve our country's many problems, even if that means working with elected officials across the aisle to do it," 60% said yes, while only 33% backed "I want a U.S. senator to focus first on standing up for conservative principles even if that means not working with elected officials across the aisle to solve problems."

Democrats were feeding their expectation and dreams on those responses and how they will play with moderate Republicans, Lugarites, and independents. Among Republicans supporting Lugar, Howey/DePauw's April/May survey revealed that 12% had a favorable opinion of Mourdock and 57% had a negative opinion. Democratic pollster Fred Yang observed, "If Joe Donnelly can get 15% of the Republican vote, split the independents, that's how Frank O'Bannon defeated Stephen Goldsmith" for governor in 1996.

Daniels and Holcomb will become Republican bridge builders between now and the convention. What we don't know are how the various precinct and convention delegate balloting went and whether there is a classic Lincoln "House Divided" element in play that could give this Senate seat to Democrats, as occurred in Delaware and Nevada in 2010. As always, comparing events of one election cycle to the next are fraught with hype.

Indiana Democrats were sending out tracker video of Mourdock speaking to the Whitley County Patriots in Columbia City in June 2011. Mourdock compared Abraham Lincoln's famed "House Divided" speech on slavery to current tax policy. "I am here to suggest to you that we are in a house divided. You know this past April, when our federal taxes were



7th CD Republican Chairman John Hammond III chats with Treasurer Richard Mourdock. Below, Joe Donnelly holds court at Ralph's Great Divide on Wednesday (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

paid, 47 percent -- 47 percent -- of all American households paid no income tax," Mourdock said.

Parker asked this question: Where will the "Evan Bayh Republicans" go as the Indiana GOP veers right? In his 1992 gubernatorial reelection, Bayh won 24% of the Republican vote. In his 2004 Senate reelection, Bayh drew over 20% of the GOP vote.

HPI asked Daniels if Indiana Republicans were becoming more conservative. "I don't see how you can read that in," Daniels said. "There were a number of other candidates backed by the same groups and characterized as even more conservative and they all lost." He was referring to David McIntosh in the 5th CD, Travis Hankins in the 6th

CD and Kristi Risk in the 8th CD. All lost Tuesday.

The GOP is mainstream mode, Daniels said. "Richard Mourdock is going to be a very strong candidate for all the right reasons," Daniels explained. "The fact that he is squarely in the mainstream of Indiana opinion shouldn't confuse firmness with a lack of friendliness. He is a very kind and gentle person. People will like him. Our opponents' estimations and where they will invest their money will shift elsewhere."

Murdock added, "The moment the election is over, the moment the ballots are counted, there has to be healing within the party. What you're seeing right here, right now is part of that healing. This is part of that process that will lead to victory in November. I often quoted the old proverb, iron sharpens iron. That's what primary is about, that's what competition is about."

The reality is a fraction of the 19% of the electorate defeated the most prolific vote-getter in Indiana GOP history. It will be months before we know if it was a master stroke, or the epic fool's errand as Democrats and independents join the argument. ❖





National media, pols weigh in on Senate race

NASHVILLE, Ind. - Here is a sampling of national coverage centering on whether U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar's loss to Treasurer Richard Mourdock puts the Indiana Senate seat in play:

New York Times (Monica Davey): The morning after Senator Richard G. Lugar, in his 36th year in office, was overwhelmingly defeated in a Republican primary election, this state awoke on Wednesday to another surprise: A new battle, now likely to be far fiercer and costlier than once expected, was already brewing over the seat he leaves behind. Democrats were casting the general election fight as a referendum on whether moderates should still have a place in Washington, while Tea Party organizers said it would be seen as a national test of the movement's enduring strength. Democratic leaders, who had doubted their odds against Mr. Lugar, a Republican so moderate that even the leaders admitted that plenty of Democrats liked him, sounded giddy about their November opponent: Richard E. Mourdock, a Tea Party-supported Republican who seized a remarkable 61 percent of the vote in part by denouncing bipartisanship and pledging to an unwavering conservative approach. "Democratic donors across the country are going to see this as a prime pickup opportunity," said Matt Canter, a spokesman for the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, who added that the Indiana seat would fall among five top Republican-held seats being targeted in the fight for control of the Senate. Labor leaders, too, said they saw an opportunity now in Indiana. "We're all ramping up our plans as we speak," said Nancy J. Guyott, president of the Indiana A.F.L.-C.I.O. National conservative groups, some of which had poured more than \$3 million to benefit Mr. Mourdock in the primary, were poised to send still more if needed. The number of such outside groups also appeared likely to grow if the contest here, against Representative Joe Donnelly, a Democrat, appears truly competitive — a notion some conservative leaders remained skeptical about, given Indiana's Republican leanings. "It's a big race because a lot hinges on our success," said Brendan Steinhauser, director of federal and state campaigns at FreedomWorks, which trains Tea Party members and which spent about \$850,000 in Mr. Mourdock's victory and plans to be similarly involved in the general election. "If Mourdock were not to win," Mr. Steinhauser said, the gloating would come not just from Democrats but establishment Republicans, pointing to the Tea Party. "They would want to blame that on us — 'See, we told you so,' " he said. ❖

Washington Post (Paul Kane): Republicans need to pick up four more seats to take control of the Senate, and a year ago they had many plans for how to do so — none of which envisioned a battle to hold on to Indiana. But Tuesday's landslide victory in the GOP primary by Indiana state Treasurer Richard Mourdock gave Democrats hope for claiming a seat they have not seriously contested in three decades. The sudden opening reflects a growing sense that the potential for big Republican gains has begun to ebb and that Democrats have a real chance of hanging on to their majority. "Eight months ago, I thought that Republicans had a 60 to 65 percent chance of taking the majority. Now, it's a 50-50 proposition as to whether Republicans can take the majority," said Jennifer Duffy, a longtime expert on Senate races who works for the independent Cook Political Report. Stuart Rothenberg, editor of the Rothenberg Political Report, said he places his "pinky on the scale" now for Democrats retaining the majority, but added that his calculation hinges on economic improvements, particularly as reflected in the monthly unemployment numbers. "A few more months of less than 200,000 new jobs, and I take my pinkie off that scale," Rothenberg said. If Mourdock can unify Republicans, he should be a favorite in GOP-leaning Indiana. But if his candidacy gets swept up in the fervor of the tea party movement, as some 2010 Republican nominees did, then Indiana could turn into a headache for national Republicans who would prefer not to expend resources to defend that seat. "Lugar's loss in Indiana put the seat in play, but only marginally improved Democrats' chances of picking it up," Duffy said. The Club for Growth said it would contribute more, if needed, in the general election, said Mr. Donnelly was "an economic liberal who votes in lock-step" with Democratic leaders. ❖

Roll Call (Meredith Shiner): Richard Mourdock hasn't even been elected to the Senate and he's already calling for its leadership to be more conservative. But if Republicans regain control of the chamber on the back of the tea party, it could make the job of governing nearly impossible for Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.). The appeal from the Indiana Republican — fresh off his primary victory over six-term Sen. Dick Lugar — is not new. Sen. Jim DeMint (R-S.C.) has been trying for years to force his Conference to the right. But if Republicans succeed in switching McConnell's title from Minority Leader to Majority Leader, the caucus will likely be torn between tea party demands to eschew compromise and the need to govern with the help of Democrats. So Mourdock and DeMint's insistence on "changing leadership" in the party raises the question of how McConnell will navigate a more conservative caucus without encountering the same pitfalls and policy failures that have plagued Speaker John Boehner (Ohio) this Congress. ❖



Lugar supporters must settle disappointment and then join ranks

By **MIKE O'BRIEN**

PLAINFIELD - It's no state secret that how Republicans handle the coming months will largely determine the trajectory of the race for U.S. Senate in the fall.

Supporters of Richard Lugar, myself included, have an obligation to settle our disappointment and join ranks quickly.



Despite the assumption that the race between Richard Mourdock and Joe Donnelly is a dead heat, Republicans have a healthy head start. But it's true that we squander that early advantage if those who were active in the primary race spend too much time misreading victory or dwelling on defeat.

For the candidates, these next few months are a pageant show for outside support. While

the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee is paying attention to Indiana, its first priority is to make Republicans spend outside money here and drain away from more competitive and developed races elsewhere that will determine control of the Senate. So before both sides start writing eight-figure checks, let's take an inventory of Indiana politics.

Republicans currently hold every statewide office, large majorities in the state legislature, and a majority of mayor's offices, including two of the state's three largest cities. Democrats have won only three of the last 22 statewide races in Indiana, and no Democrat not named "Bayh" has been elected to the U.S. Senate since 1970. Republican presidential nominees have carried Indiana nine of the past 10 cycles.

For Democrats, winning

statewide has become mathematically complicated. The "Donut Counties" of Central Indiana produce enough Republican votes to offset Democrat margins in Lake and Marion Counties in even the best Democrat years. During their decades of statewide success, Democrats relied heavily on blue collar industrial towns in Northern Indiana.

In 2010, Richard Mourdock carried all of these counties, except for Lake. He even carried St. Joseph County, which is notable since his opponent was from South Bend and is now the mayor.

Democrats have similarly relied heavily on Southern Indiana. However, in 2008 and 2010, Republicans won both Southern Indiana congressional seats, 11 seats in the Indiana House, three seats in the Indiana Senate, and dozens of county offices. Complicating matters further for Democrats: Richard Mourdock is from Evansville.

The main focus of the primary election was the relentless outside attack on Richard Lugar, but Richard Mourdock can hold his own. In 2010, Mourdock won by a 25 point margin and carried 88 of the state's 92 counties. He carried Vanderburgh County, another Southern Indiana stronghold Democrats have surrendered, by a two-to-one margin.

Mourdock even beat Joe Donnelly in the 2nd Congressional District, and Donnelly won that year.

We've seen Democrats' spin before. In 2010, the DSCC spent months propping up another self-branded moderate. Brad Ellsworth tried running a campaign from the middle at a time when the nation was making a sharp right turn, which resulted in a 15-point loss. To his credit, Donnelly was able to survive 2010, navigating a narrow path to victory by distancing himself from President Obama and limiting focus on his record. Like Ellsworth, Donnelly has a difficult record to defend. He voted for health care reform, stimulus, bank bailouts and deficit budgets when Democrats controlled the House under Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

The only area where Ellsworth

and Donnelly diverge is on fundraising. In two straight quarters, Donnelly has raised half of what Ellsworth raised in his worst fundraising quarter. Last quarter, Mourdock raised twice as much money as Donnelly.

Democrats' excitement over the outcome in the Senate primary on Tuesday is premature, and a competitive race is in some ways outside of their control. The Republican Party's strength in Indiana can only be fully leveraged if the party is unified. So it's on us to make sure the inherent advantages in this race are realized

quickly and unimpeded by the temporary divisions of the last few months. ❖



Joe Donnelly with Brad Ellsworth at a 2006 campaign event with then Sen. Barack Obama. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

O'Brien is chairman of the Hendricks County Republican Party and a regular HPI columnist.



Who actually knew Richard Lugar?

By **KYLE D. CONRAD**

BROOK, Ind. - Tuesday's defeat of Senator Richard Lugar is the closing chapter of an esteemed career by one of Indiana's best known public servants. But who actually knew Richard Lugar? Ask Indiana's GOP county chairmen that question, and undoubtedly few would be able to answer.

Senator Lugar was an obscure public servant. He boasts about the fact that world leaders are always walking into his Senate office in Washington, D.C., but he probably can't tell you the names of more than a handful of Indiana's GOP county officers. Don't get me wrong, I have a deep appreciation and respect for Senator Lugar's work in the Senate, especially in foreign affairs, and I agree that he will be missed in this regard. But this is Howey POLITICS Indiana, and today we're talking politics.

As a county chairman and former district vice chairman, I never hosted our senior senator in my county until three months ago. He never popped in at a state committee meeting, rarely came to the GOP state convention other than to address the entire delegation, and there was never one of those Congressman Buyer moments when I'd pick up the phone and hear "Hi Kyle, it's Steve." Senator Lugar didn't know me, and I didn't know him. I've seen Evan Bayh more times in Newton County than I have Richard Lugar.

Over the past 20 years Senator Lugar appeared to have gotten too important for those of us back home, and especially for those of us in Indiana's rural, conservative counties. The annual Christmas cards with pictures of his family were nice, but they didn't replace the rapport he should have had with his county and state GOP officers and constituents. He lost that balance between being a public servant and doing the nation's work, and remembering how he got where he was, and who helped put him and keep him there.

I truly believe Senator Lugar got caught up in the Washington, D.C., mentality and he did lose touch with the people back home. It's unfortunate, but true. We will never

know for sure how long the discontent has been festering since he hadn't faced a formidable primary opponent during his senate career.

I know I've felt this way for nearly 20 years. Richard Mourdock's challenge in 2012 brought out a side of Senator Lugar that we had never witnessed. I dare say he attended more Lincoln Day Dinners and visited more Indiana communities in 2012 than in the past several years combined, which just goes to show he could have been doing it all along. Had Senator Lugar spent just some of the amount of time in Indiana the past 20 years that he was willing to this year, he might have had more support among the rank and file Republicans. Like it or not, being a statewide elected official requires being visible to those who elect and support you. A few more Lincoln Day dinner appearances, town hall meetings (not conducted by a staffer) and other community and GOP events would have gone a long way to make the senator appear to appreciate the Hoosiers he represented. We are his constituents, too.



To be fair, I have to admit that I was privileged to have Senator Lugar finally speak at my Lincoln Day Dinner in February. After trying for years to find a way to attract our esteemed senator to Newton County, I finally discovered what it took: Support his opponent. It was still too little, too late.

Had Richard Lugar spent the time back in Indiana that Hoosiers expected and deserved, I might have been able to justify telling the man I've supported since his first bid for state office in 2002 to wait his turn.

But in the end, the time for Richard Mourdock was now. He's one of us, and as long as he doesn't forget that his Washington (or Virginia) address is temporary, he will be for a long time to come. ❖

Conrad is the Newton County GOP chairman and a former 1st District GOP vice chairman and Newton County clerk.



Chrysler looms as No. 1 issue

By JACK COLWELL

SOUTH BEND - State Treasurer Richard Mourdock's court battle to halt the federal rescue of Chrysler looms as potentially the No. 1 issue as he campaigns now as the Republican nominee for the U.S. Senate against Democratic nominee Joe Donnelly.

Mourdock's effort as state treasurer to scuttle a plan now hailed as a success, with even Mitt Romney seeking to take credit for it, didn't come up until late in Mourdock's successful Republican primary campaign to oust six-term Sen. Dick Lugar.



Lugar, who supported the effort to save Chrysler and General Motors, hit in closing days of the primary campaign in a TV ad saying Mourdock "gambled Hoosier pensions on junk

bonds, wasted millions covering up his mistake and risked thousands of Hoosier jobs."

But the charge, aimed at convincing independents and moderates and even possible cross-over Democrats, came too late to save Lugar.

Also, it had no effect on Mourdock's tea party back-

ers, who derisively refer to the plan to save the American auto industry as a "costly bailout." That's why Lugar didn't use the issue earlier, when he still sought to sway some of the tea party activists to his side.

Donnelly, now the congressman from Indiana's 2nd District, won't have to be careful in raising the Chrysler issue. He supported the auto rescue plan and is proud of it. He will cite it as the best jobs program of all so far in combating the Great Recession. Tea party activists supporting Mourdock won't agree but won't vote for Donnelly anyway.

Donnelly, a moderate Democrat, will seek to capture the middle ground and also solidify the party base, citing Chrysler expansion and hiring in Kokomo and the robust gains of the American auto industry. He immediately jumped on the issue, saying Mourdock, with his court case, "could have destroyed tens of thousands of jobs in Indiana."

Romney, so critical of the rescue plan as he campaigned in Michigan's Republican presidential primary, shifted this week in seeking to reach more of the middle ground for the fall election. He said he will "take a lot of credit" for the success of the auto recovery, claiming he had proposed first what finally was done.

Mourdock would have a difficult time with such an Etch-a-Sketch shake. He wouldn't want to do it. And even if he did, neither his own supporters nor Donnelly would let him do so successfully. ❖

No longer the party of Doc

By RICH JAMES

MERRILLVILLE - The Indiana Republican Party is no longer the party of Doc Bowen, Bob Orr and Mitch Daniels.



It's not Richard Mourdock's party either. It's a party in disarray. It's a party that ousted the most heralded Republican in the history of the state when it defeated Sen. Richard Lugar on Tuesday. Mourdock and the other members of the obstructionist tea party said they dumped Lugar because he was too moderate and too anxious to compromise with Democrats for the common

good of the nation. Et tu, Brute.

A few talked about Lugar being 80 years old, but most criticized his politics.

Not only did the Tea Party do it to Lugar, but also to leading Republicans around the state who backed the Indiana's senior senator.

Foremost among those who suffered the wrath of the tea party was Gov. Mitch Daniels, a highly successful

governor in the eyes of Republicans, who said he backed Lugar not for what he has done, but what he still can do.

Will Daniels be remembered as the man who couldn't save Lugar? Perhaps.

So what happens in the fall when Mourdock will face Democrat Joe Donnelly? The biggest question is whether Lugar Republicans will back Mourdock or opted for Donnelly. There'll be some in each category. Or, will enough Lugar Republicans stay home to see that Donnelly gets elected. That's not out of the question given the expected turnout by organized labor in reaction to right-to-work and other anti-union measures pushed through the Republican-controlled Legislature in recent years. And, will the Republican turmoil end up hurting governor candidate Mike Pence, who is cut from the same old as Mourdock?

One thing for sure is that Democrats will be mobilized in the fall. The only question is whether they can attract enough Independents. President Obama already has made it clear that he isn't conceding Indiana.

How long it will take Indiana Republicans to find a new identity is hard to predict. But I suspect Hoosier Republicans feel the same way Democrats did when Sen. Evan Bayh announced at the last minute that he wouldn't be seeking re-election. Kind of like a ship lost at sea. ❖



‘Landslide Richard’ and other primary stories

By **MARK SOUDER**

FORT WAYNE - The big winners of Indiana primary election day 2012:

1. Richard Mourdock: “Landslide Richard,” one of the two Richards who carried the Indianapolis metro in a Republican primary. Talk about a “wow” factor.

2. Howey Politics: Getting a small but influential political report mentioned in the ads of Indiana’s longest serving senator is no mean feat (the Mourdock missed meetings) but the Howey Politics/DePauw University Poll was cited everywhere, and was absolutely on target.



3. Christine Matthews of Bellwether Research and Democrat pollster Fred Yang of Garin-Hart-Yang Research Group: The incredible value of this poll was not the head-to-head (almost any firm can do that) but the underneath questions that

predicted the path, not just the history. The key question of whether you altered your opinions in the last seven to 14 days, combined with favorable/unfavorable ratings (showing Mourdock with higher favorable and lower unfavorable, as well as 96% name identification; evidence that Lugar’s ad campaign had failed); hints of geographic vote changes in the Indy area; and the extra 50 test names to see if new voters could impact race showed professionalism at its best. The poll showed a 10-point lead but a straight upward line for Mourdock.

4. Club for Growth, Freedom Works, Tea Party Express and their national coalition: It was looking grim with their failure to knock out Orrin Hatch. Had they



lost, their future would have been shaky. But the defeat – the overwhelming defeat – of international leader Senator Lugar will once again mean that senators who drift will potentially be held accountable. I will never forget the comment of Senator Arlen Specter to me when we were

discussing a bill that would help people in Pennsylvania and Indiana. He said: “I just won. Nobody cares what I do

now. They will forget it in six years. I’ll campaign at the end and win.” Or, maybe not.

5. The Indiana Tea Party and its leaders:

First, every liberal media person, Democrat and frustrated Lugar supporter, has made them into a giant monolith and power far beyond their size in Indiana. Yet without them, Lugar would likely have coasted again. Two key leaders – Monica Boyer of Warsaw and Greg Fettig of Noblesville – led the effort, backed by other Tea Party groups, to have only one major candidate. Mourdock set his jaw and Mike Delph blinked, with a mix of personal choices. The Tea Party backed Mourdock, he bear-hugged them as a way to demonstrate that he was not “them” (Washington) and myth was born. Truth is that there aren’t exactly “Tea Party” membership cards. Each group – for example, several in Elkhart County – has a slightly different emphasis, and many are libertarians to whom the very thought of organized “anything” is evil. But what would we commentators have done without the Tea Party label to explain what was happening?

6. Susan Brooks: Her gritty win marks her as a future leader in one of America’s safest Republican seats. And, sorry I have to say this. My kids all graduated from Homestead High School in Fort Wayne. It is so gratifying to have a Homestead grad representing Carmel High School.

7. Luke Messer: Persistence pays off and he will never have to hear “potential future leader” again.

8. Congressman Larry Bucshon: He was the shakiest of the incumbents, with the least political background. He defeated activist Kristi Risk in a rematch. He’s not the glamour boy of the delegation, but if he beats Crooks, he may be around awhile in a district that was once called the Bloody 8th for good reason.

9. Jackie Walorski: She is a variation of “persistence pays” and “get yourself a good map in redistricting.” Remember this: Joe Donnelly decided he’d rather run against Lugar than Walorski. But her race was more than just those two points.

She has developed as a campaigner. She has some strength in St. Joe County, her home, and not just the GOP bastion of Elkhart. Joe Donnelly may help the ticket in that region, but on the other hand, Jackie is likely to help Romney, Pence, and Mourdock. Indiana will go from no female Republican representatives in





Congress to two potentially dynamic female members.

10. Local housing markets: With Charlie White convicted, and Lugar and McIntosh having residency as a huge issue, Fort Wayne's State Rep. Win Moses is scurrying to move back home from Indianapolis. His race will be a race to watch this fall, with 65% new, now majority Republican. I expect we shall see some scrambling to move back among the voters. Tie with Lincoln Days and parades.

Let me close with two thoughts:

Senator Lugar was one of the most personally gracious and intelligent men I ever met. He deserves our respect and thanks. Even when I disagreed with him on an issue, I always read and/or listened to his explanations because they were worthy of thought and analysis to challenge my own. He was ill-served in this campaign, from failure to anticipate an easily resolved residency problem to a pathetic, sad "whine" memo after a gracious consensus speech. Whether he wrote it or his staff did (my guess is staff, but we will never really know), it was his staff's obligation to stop it last night. We all need to move beyond Tuesday's primary and realize that we were represented by a living legend, not an ordinary politician.

The incredibly inaccurate spin that Mourdock will be easier to beat is an example of political spin, logical, by my friend Joe Donnelly. Of course he would say that, so would I in his shoes. But the supposedly impartial media can't just make assertions with no facts. National publications are comparing Mourdock to candidates who never won statewide elections, who had papered their state with stupid quotes, and who only had pockets of support. Republican turnout was not low, it was 50% higher than the McCain's 2008 vote.

The Democrat vote cratered, and it wasn't due to heavy Democrat crossover. In Hamilton County for example, they only have three Democrats, and one is marginal. Plus, how can anyone claim that the person who just defeated a living legend by 20 points – winning the Indy metro, the urban counties and the rural counties – is "weaker" than the person they just clobbered?

The Republicans, possibly Pence's lieutenant governor choice, and the replacement for state treasurer, will need some Indianapolis area balance and some Lugar allies. Connie Lawson's selection as secretary of state was a big start. But I look at the statewide, congressional and local candidates and see "sweep." And, of course, we Republicans are thankful that President Obama is on the ballot. ❖

Souder is a former Republican member of Congress.

What primary proves in Indiana

By **CHRIS SAUTTER**

BLOOMINGTON - Where does one start explaining how a 6-term U.S. Senator lost so convincingly to a guy who had failed in three previous congressional races? What did Indiana's primary election prove? And, who were the winners and losers?



What the Primary Proves

- Primary elections are about base. For years, Lugar neglected the Republican base while Mourdock courted it. The result was a primary election blowout by Mourdock.
- With Mourdock and Pence at the top of the ticket, the Indiana Republican Party is now farther to the right than any time in the past 50 years.
- Donnelly is the moderate candidate in the Senate race while Mourdock is currently showing no interest in "pivoting to the center."
- As Lugar's election night comments suggest, the gap between the conservative and more moderate wings of Indiana's GOP will not be easy to bridge.

• The victories by Republican Susan Brooks and Democrat Shelli Yoder (pictured) show that women candidates know how to win contested congressional primaries in Indiana.



• Democratic turnout in the primary was abysmal and could spell trouble for Democrats unless Obama, Donnelly, Gregg ramp up enthusiasm in the state.

Winners

- **Richard Mourdock:** In November, 1992 Mourdock had lost 3 straight congressional races. Now, he is poised to go to the U.S. Senate.
- **The Indiana Tea Party:** The Tea Party failed to coalesce behind a candidate in 2010, and establishment candidate Dan Coats won the Republican primary against a field, at least a couple of whom would have been every bit as strong in 2012 as Richard Mourdock. Lugar couldn't survive against just one Tea Party-endorsed opponent.
- **Senator Jim DeMint (R-S.C.):** DeMint orches-



trated the outside special interest campaign against Lugar as a part of his effort to take over the Republican Senate Caucus.

- **Joe Donnelly:** Donnelly's chances of winning the Senate seat improved greatly with Lugar's loss.
- **Indiana Democrats:** The Obama campaign is now likely to spend money in Indiana at the very least in order to give Donnelly cover.
- **Susan Brooks:** Brooks was the only candidate in the 5th district with a consistently positive message.
- **Shelli Yoder:** With an underfunded but enthusiastic grassroots campaign, Yoder came from nowhere to easily win the 9th District Democratic nomination against four opponents—two of whom outraised her.
- **Sue Errington:** After losing her state Senate seat in 2010, Errington came back to defeat party favorite Doug Walker for the nomination in an open State Representative seat.
- **Brian Howey:** Howey's polls became the public barometer for the Senate race. Howey provided by far the best and most consistent Senate race coverage.

Losers

- **Dick Lugar:** A long, distinguished political career ended sadly in large part because Lugar was slow to recognize the degree to which he was vulnerable, because he failed to change with the times, and because he failed to address an untenable residency problem until it was too late.
- **David McIntosh:** Like Lugar, residency issues ended McIntosh's political career.
- **Carpetbaggers:** Dan Coats survived residency issues in 2010, but he may be the last Hoosier carpetbagger.
- **Republican Bi-partisanship:** Susan Collins may be the only Republican in the U.S. Senate in 2013 willing to reach across party lines to get the nation's business done.
- **Lunch pail Republicans:** The group backed Lugar and opposed the Indiana Right to work law. Their endorsed candidates lost. ❖

Sautter is a Democratic consultant based in Washington and a frequent HPI columnist.

Epilogue to Lugar leaves unanswered questions

By **DAVE KITCHELL**

LOGANSPORT - Tuesday night evoked memories of the last day the legendary A.J. Foyt stepped out of a race car at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, a moment that evinced the words "There comes a time ..." from the first four-time winner of the greatest spectacle in racing.



There comes a time to retire, or just walk away from your passion, Foyt started to say. He never made it to the end of his sentence. Emotion overcame the man they called "Super Tex" and anyone who knew him or about him and how much he loved doing what he loved most.

For Richard Green Lugar, the same moment came Tuesday night in a concession speech that many who have known or covered Lugar thought would never happen.

If most Hoosiers were asked to name the most famous Republican from their state, or the best model of political integrity in their state, or the all-time most popular politician from their state, chances are a majority might answer with the words "Dick Lugar." Based on longevity alone, his career in the U.S. Senate makes a case for that answer. He was the first four-term U.S. senator from a state, and went on to serve two more.

Had some other state elected Lugar to six terms, he might still be serving in the U.S. Senate again. But that's just one of many unanswered questions in the epilogue of the Lugar legacy. Even another former Hoosier, Abraham Lincoln, lost from time to time, as Lugar did in 1974 when Birch Bayh defeated him.

Had Lugar been in Alaska and faced the same situation he faced Tuesday – a GOP primary loss – he could do what Sen. Lisa Murkowski did, or as Sen. Joe Lieberman of Connecticut did after he lost a Democratic primary bid for another term. He could run as a third-party candidate in the general election this fall. But that's not Dick Lugar's style. Like the outcome or not, Lugar will give the candidate who defeated him his best wishes and public party support – and move on, if not move back to Indianapolis.

What at first seemed unlikely, then stunning and then a foregone conclusion – his defeat by State Treasurer Richard Mourdock – was a byproduct of several factors. Those who are not familiar with Lugar or the race might be asking, "Was the election really about Lugar, or was it about Mourdock?" The answer to the question is that it was



probably more about Lugar than Mourdock. The pretext of the end to Lugar's political career is the question all politicians should ask themselves privately: What's my exit strategy?

Though we may never know, it's likely Lugar's exit strategy was to serve out his life, even most of his 80s, at the highest level of government. He may have had no exit strategy other than to do the thing he loved most.

Another possibility is that he had no exit strategy because unlike other states, there was no clear-cut member of Indiana congressional delegation from the Republican side poised and prepared to take his place. Names such as Marlin Stutzman, Todd Rokita and Larry Bucshon were too new to the fray. Mike Pence wanted to run for governor. Dan Burton wanted to run for cover after winning only a plurality in a GOP primary two years ago. Gov. Mitch Daniels had bigger fish to fry in that he would only run for president if he ran for any office again.

There was no groomed heir apparent to Lugar, and so he kept on being the Energizer bunny of the party, the standard bearer for all things shirt-and-tie, well-groomed and well-funded about the Indiana Republican Party.

Perhaps where Lugar went wrong is in not gauging the same information pollster Fred Yang conducted on the U.S. Senate race. If there was anything that could have been read from the polling tea leaves Yang brewed, it was this: There had come a time for Lugar to find an exit strategy. He could have simply retired. Had he thought there was a single person capable of filling his shoes, he might have. But there was no clear indication there was such a person. That's not to say there weren't other factors working against Lugar, not the least of which was his age. At 80, he had reached the threshold of becoming Indiana's version of Strom Thurmond, and Indiana voters, traditionally fickle after three terms, sensed it was inevitable that Indiana would have a new senator soon. Six years is a long time to predict how effective a public servant will be after they're elected, particularly when they're 80.

Among the other factors working against Lugar were his Virginia residency and the use of an address where he no longer lives as his official Indianapolis residence. But while Lugar was virtually living in Virginia, farmers in Indiana were moving off the farm. They were an essential component to Lugar's success in times when trade agreements limited farm exports and farmers were left to fend for themselves against a myriad of subsidies including the Payment-in-Kind and wetlands legislation. His background in agriculture made him a natural hero for every Republican farmer in the state. In an era when fewer than 2% of Americans live on farms, one of Lugar's key constituencies was virtually eliminated by progress.

The other factor Lugar might not have realized is

the point when his career actually crested. Some might say it came in the 1980s when he was a member of the U.S. Senate majority and chaired the Foreign Relations Committee. But it wasn't long after that when Republicans passed over him for Dan Quayle to become the party's vice presidential nominee and ultimately the second most powerful elected official in the country.

That might have been a George H.W. Bush mistake more than a Lugar shortcoming, but that's a discussion for another time. Lugar might have been the Chuck Yeager of the Republican Party. He might have had the right stuff, but he didn't have the right timing or the right people in his corner.

When Lugar finally ran for president and proposed the streamlining of the IRS that was later mirrored by Steve Forbes, the GOP field was too crowded and the message did not resonate. Lugar's book "Letters to the Next President" was thought-provoking, but his message on the importance of foreign relations before 9/11 was akin to a warning from a U.S. Army official that we could someday be attacked by the Japanese without an effective air force on our western front. Nobody listened.

Lugar's ease in winning term after term and even the Democrats' decision not to field against him six years ago may have contributed to campaign atrophy. When it mattered most this year, Lugar could still raise more money than his opponent, but his campaign was not up to the muster of previous years when he carried officeholders from Valparaiso to Vevay and Vincennes to Versailles into office after him.

What was Lugar's relevance in this campaign? It was foreign policy and moderation. These are two things conservative primary Republican voters identify with in Indiana as much as Eskimos care about coconut and sugar cane subsidies. Lugar was no longer in the majority. He wasn't going to be on a presidential ticket. He was going to ride out his career in the Senate, and that's when the most covetous opponents since Caesar and Brutus begin to breathe the fire of vulnerability.

Ronald Reagan, who once referred to America as the shining city on the hill, might have referred to Indianapolis as the shining city that Lugar fashioned through his embrace of Unigov. Lugar's vision made it one of the top cities in the nation, if not the world.

Tuesday's loss had to cut through the soul of Dick Lugar. For years, he has been as sought-after Sunday morning television guest as any secretary of state or ambassador. For one night, he was dismissed as any other politician voters had come to believe had served their usefulness. Had he received a call from Foyt after President Obama lauded him Tuesday night, Lugar might have been told by an old race driver that he deserved Victory Lane, and not Gasoline Alley. ❖



GOP Congressional ceiling shatters with Brooks' 5th CD win

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - In 1948, Rep. Cecil Harden teamed up with Sen. Margaret Chase Smith of Maine and Rep. Frances Bolton of Ohio to criticize the "male dominance" of the Republican Party.

Harden became the first Republican female congresswoman from Indiana when Rep. Noble J. Johnson resigned in July 1948 to accept a federal judgeship. The seat had been held by Democrat Rep. Virginia Jencks, a three-termer who was defeated in 1938.

Harden retired in 1959, and for more than a half century no Hoosier Republican woman would attain member status in Congress. That changed Tuesday night with Susan Brooks' upset victory over former congressman David McIntosh in the 5th CD. Going into Tuesday's primary, Brooks trailed McIntosh slightly in fundraising and internal polls showed he had a one-time commanding lead. But tag-teaming with fellow Republican John McGoff, the two branded McIntosh a carpetbagger, calling his Virginia residency into question in the same way Sen. Dick Lugar's arrangement was.

And to the same devastating effect.

A second element was Indianapolis Star columnist Matt Tully's column excoriating McIntosh over Brooks' involvement with the Women's Fund and a connection to abortion. The McIntosh campaign had shopped that story around for months, then used it to ignite conservative support. But it may have galvanized female support for Brooks.

When the dust settled late Tuesday night, Brooks had an 800-vote victory, defeating McIntosh 30-29% with McGoff drawing 23%. "It was a tough race," Brooks told the Indianapolis Star. "I really am looking forward to bringing all of the different folks together. There are a lot of voters we need to meet in order to win in November. This is just the beginning." Brooks quoted Harden to supporters Tuesday: "She said there is no greater game than the



Susan Brooks celebrates her narrow win over David McIntosh. At left is the first female Hoosier GOP congresswoman, Cecil Murray Harden.



game of politics. And tonight, we won that game." Ironically, she "won the game" with 70% of the district supporting the rest of the field, almost the same percentage that U.S. Rep. Dan Burton received in his razor thin victory in 2010, which sent him on the path to political oblivion. Brooks challenge in the coming two years is to consolidate her impressive, come-from-behind win. The way she campaigned this spring, she certainly has the capacity to do so.

And, thus, the GOP gender gap began contracting in 2012. Former state Rep. Jackie Walorski, who lost a narrow

race to U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly in 2010, was renominated in the 2nd CD and will be a heavy favorite. She faces Democrat Brendan Mullen. Brooks' primary victory is tantamount to winning in the fall with the 5th CD overwhelmingly Republican.

Brooks and Walorski hope to join the ranks of Hoosier female members of Congress that include Jencks and Democrat U.S. Reps. Katie Hall, Julia Carson and Jill Long. In the 8th CD, Kristi Risk lost to Rep. Larry Bucshon, 58-42%. Bucshon faces Democrat Dave Crooks in November.

In the 7th CD, Cat Ping scared slated frontrunner Carlos May, who defeated her 27-24%, or by just over 1,000 votes. May will challenge Rep. Andre Carson in the general.

"We are about to add two women to Congress," said Republican Chairman Eric Holcomb. "In addition to the two congressional women, we also have the opportunity to add to the Statehouse composition," with Cindy Ziemke's



primary win in HD55, Morgan County Clerk Peggy Mayfield in HD60, and Attica Clerk-Treasurer Sharon Negele in HD13.

The irony is that these breakthroughs come on the same night of the defeat of Sen. Dick Lugar, who for years has sponsored the Lugar Series of Excellence, a program to school female Republicans in the art of politics. At the annual banquet in February, Gov. Mitch Daniels noted that 140 Lugar Series women have served in his administration. He also selected Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman to the second post. She followed Democratic Lt. Gov. Kathy Davis.

"We're excited," Holcomb said. "The Democrats always say there's a war on women. Well, not in Indiana. The lieutenant governor of Indiana is a woman. The secretary of state in Indiana is a woman. It is the year of the woman Republican in Indiana."

Additionally, former Miss Indiana Shelli Yoder, an employee at Indiana University, won the 9th CD Democratic nomination and will face Rep. Todd Young in the general election. Yoder carried 47% of the vote, easily defeating Robert Winningham with 20% and Jonathan George with 17%.

Messer wins in the 6th CD

Twelve years after he lost a primary race to Mike Pence, and two years after a razor thin loss to Rep. Dan Burton in the 5th CD, Luke Messer is finally going to Congress. Messer easily defeated Travis Hankins, Don Bates Jr, and several other candidates in the 6th CD in the seat vacated by Pence. Messer ended up with a 9,000 vote plurality, defeating Hankins 40% to 29% while Bates finished with 13%.

Messer is a former executive director of the Indiana Republican Party and served three terms in the Indiana House. Messer will face Democrat Bradley Bookout of Yorktown in November's election in the Republican-leaning district.

Mullen with face Walorski

In a match up that most had predicted, the race for Indiana's 2nd Congressional district became clear Tuesday night with primary wins by Democrat Brendan Mullen and Republican Jackie Walorski (South Bend Tribune). After acknowledging their wins -- Mullen beat challenger Dan Morrison 54 to 46 percent; while Walorski beat Greg Andrews 73 to 27 percent -- both candidates used the term "laser focus" to describe the next 182 days until the general election. But before they get to November -- when Mullen and Walorski will also face green party candidate Andrew Straw and libertarian Joel Ruiz -- both candidates said Tuesday night that they plan to keep spreading their message to local voters. For Walorski, a former state representative who ran for the same congressional seat in 2010 against Joe Donnelley, the message means reaching out

to more than just the conservative base. "We haven't had an independent voice; I think both political parties have let down the people of the 2nd District," Walorski said. "I think the district deserves more than it's had. And we're being laser-focused on making sure people understand that we're with them." Mullen, a native of South Bend who graduated from West Point and served with the Army in Iraq, offered a similar response, arguing that his campaign is about offering a better solution to the problems in Washington. "Folks across the community are no longer looking for the finger in your face, the bickering voice, or the incendiary rhetoric," Mullen said. "They're looking for problem solvers, they're no longer looking for professional politicians." And even with six months to go until the general election, even in the glow of a post-primary win, both candidates hinted at the talking points they'll be using between now and November. "While I was serving my country in war and then starting small businesses," Mullen said, of Walorski, "she was running for political office, posing for photographs and marching in parades."

1st CD: Phelps wins GOP nomination

Joel Phelps defeated Dave Wenger on Tuesday in the Republican primary for Indiana's 1st Congressional District, which includes Lake and Porter counties and eastern LaPorte county (NWI Times). Phelps, 35, an industrial engineer, will oppose 14-term U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky, D-Merrillville, in the Nov. 6 general election. Visclosky, 62, was unopposed in the Democratic primary. Phelps said he was heartened by Richard Mourdock's victory over a long-term incumbent in the Republican U.S. Senate race Tuesday and said he hopes to similarly dislodge Visclosky. "I'm really excited; I know what we've got ahead of us, I know what we've got to do and we're charged up and ready to go," Phelps said.

4th CD: Nelson to challenge Rokita

In her second try at the nomination, Tara Nelson defeated Lester Terry Moore in Tuesday's Democratic primary for Indiana's 4th Congressional District, which includes Newton and Jasper counties (Associated Press). Nelson, of Lafayette, will face U.S. Rep. Todd Rokita, R-Indianapolis, in the Nov. 6 general election. Rokita, a Munster native, was unopposed in the Republican primary. In 2010, Nelson was defeated in the Democratic primary by David Sanders. Rokita then beat Sanders to win his first term in Congress after serving eight years as Indiana's secretary of state.

Indiana General Assembly

HUSTON DEFEATS DRISKELL IN HD37: Todd Huston, with the endorsement of Gov. Mitch Daniels,



defeated Indiana Township Association Director Debbie Driskell, 60-40% in the GOP primary. Driskell was backed by the ISTA and had opposed Daniels' government reform initiatives.

MAYFIELD WILL FACE REP. WELCH: Morgan County Clerk Peggy Mayfield defeated Daniel Elliott 56-39% in HD60. She will face State Rep. Peggy Welch, D-Bloomington. The race had originally featured a showdown between Welch and Republican State Rep. Ralph Foley, who decided to retire.

MOTSINGER OUTLASTS RIDER: Republican Tim Motsinger defeated Brad Rider 49-44%, despite \$150,000 of late money on behalf of Rider. Motsinger was slated by Marion County Republicans, but his close ties to indicted financier Tim Durham prompted the HRCC to back Rider, an executive with United Liquor. Motsinger, a former aide to

Marion County Sheriff Jack Cottey, will face Democrat Karlee Macer, who won a three-way race with 52%.

ERRINGTON WINS HOUSE NOMINATION: Sue Errington won the three-way Democratic District 34 legislative race with 53 percent of the vote. David Walker drew 43 percent, and Karen Brand 3.74 percent. No Republican candidate has filed for the seat (Muncie Star Press).

25-YEAR-OLD OBER WINS HD82: The strategy paid off big-time. When 25-year-old David Ober of Albion decided to run for the newly drawn House District 82 seat, he figured a known political figure from Noble County would be vying for the seat (KPC News). His strategy was going to be to first work the outlying areas of the district, where none of the candidates was known. Building from that base, he would work back toward the center of the district.

REP. HARRIS RENOMINATED: State Rep. Earl Harris, a 30-year veteran of the Indiana House, won the Democratic nomination Tuesday for the 2nd House District (NWI Times). Harris, an East Chicago Democrat, beat Ricardo "Rick" Garcia, 29, also of East Chicago. Garcia said he would have worked for the Cline Avenue Bridge to be rebuilt as a free road if elected to the Indiana General Assembly. But it wasn't enough to beat Harris, who has served the area since 1982. The district represents the east side of Hammond, East Chicago and the west side of Gary. Harris could not be reached for comment Tuesday night.

REP. BROWN WINS: Longtime state Rep. Charlie Brown won the Democratic nomination for the 3rd Indiana House District on Tuesday against Gary attorney Tony Walker (NWI Times). Brown, a 30-year member of the Indiana House, defeated Walker, who serves on the Gary Public Library Board and the Indiana State Board of

Education. "It's good to have the faith and confidence of voters," Brown said. Redistricting in response to the 2010 U.S. Census placed new areas in the 3rd District, including Hobart, Lake Station and New Chicago. "I can only assume that they went on my record as a legislator since I haven't represented them before," Brown said.

DEVON WILL FACE WARNOCK IN HD5: Dale DeVon, a county council member since 2003, has moved a step closer to becoming a state representative (South Bend Tribune). DeVon, a homebuilder who lives in Granger, won the Republican primary for the District 5 seat in the Indiana House of Representatives on Tuesday. He captured 74 percent of 4,572 votes, according to preliminary results, to prevail over Osceola resident Cory Stith. DeVon will face Jerod Warnock, a business representative and organizer for Teamsters Local 135, in the fall election. Warnock, who lives in Mishawaka, was unopposed in the Democratic primary. Rep. Craig Fry, D-Mishawaka, currently holds the District 5 seat but isn't running for re-election. The district sits in the northeastern corner of St. Joseph County.

NIEMEYER WILL FACE HART IN HD11: Republican Rick Neimeyer won the Republican nomination in HD11 with 77% of the vote and will face Democrat John Hart, who won a three-way race with 48% of the vote (Howey Politics Indiana).

NEGELE WINS HD13: Attica Clerk-Treasurer Sharon Negele, who almost upset State Rep. Dale Grubb in 2010, won the Republican nomination in HD13. She defeated Dan Young with 65%.

REP. SMITH WINS HD14: State Rep. Vernon Smith, D-Gary, appeared to coast to an easy victory Tuesday over challenger Sherman Carson for the Democratic nomination in the Indiana House District 14 race (NWI Times). Smith said "it looks good" as he waited for vote totals Tuesday night. "I really appreciate the honor people are giving me to serve them," said Smith, who has 22 years of House experience. "I don't take it lightly." Indiana House District 14 includes south Gary and Merrillville after last year's redistricting. State Rep. Chet Dobis, D-Merrillville, represented most of the district for the past 42 years. Dobis decided not to seek re-election. No Republican is running in Indiana House District 14, but the GOP still could name a candidate for the general election.

GUTWEIN, KUBACKI DOWN LUNCHPAIL REPUBLICANS: State Rep. Douglas Gutwein defeated Lunchpail Republican Diana Boersma 56-44% in the HD16 Republican primary. He will face Democrat Rich Ludington, who won a two-man race with 71%. In HD22, freshman State Rep. Rebecca Kubacki defeated Jon Hare of the Lunchpail Republicans, 63-37%.

HARMON DOWNS ELLERT: Rochester businessman Timothy Harman defeated Francis Ellert in HD17, 62-38%. Ellert lost to State Rep. Nancy Dembowski in 2010.





BRAUN WINS IN HD24: Venture capitalist Steve Braun defeated Mindi McMillan 63-37% in the newly created HD24 Republican primary.

VANNATTER EASILY RENOMINATED: State Rep. Heath VanNatter defeated two opponents in HD38 with 65% of the vote to be renominated in HD38.

MORRISON EKES OUT WIN IN HD42: Alan Morrison, who almost upset State Rep. Clyde Kersey in 2010, won the GOP nomination with a 36-33% win over Jim Meece, while Bill Webster had 31% in what turned out to be the closest legislative race of the primary season (Howey Politics Indiana)

PRICE WINS OPEN SEAT HD47: John Price got 55% of the vote in the newly redistrict open HD47, outdistancing John Young with 30% and Mark Meadows with 16%.

REP. NEESE CRUISES: Tim Neese cruised to victory in the Republican primary for the District 48 seat in the Indiana House, beating back a challenge from Jerry Brewton (Elkhart Truth). With ballots from 113 of Elkhart County's 117 precincts counted, Neese, who's seeking his sixth term, had 3,370 votes, 59.8 percent of the total. Brewton had 2,120 votes, or 37.6 percent, while Randall Weinley, the third GOP contender, trailed far back with just 166 votes. No Democrats are vying and unless Elkhart County Democratic officials slate a competitor, Neese faces a clear path to Indianapolis in the November general election. The electoral battle between Neese, who runs the Solid Waste Management District of Elkhart County, and Brewton, who runs an Elkhart area insurance agency, grew heated at times. Brewton lambasted Neese as a double dipper at the public till stemming from his job at the SWMD, a state-mandated body, and his House post. Neese criticized Brewton for playing fast and loose with the facts.

ZENT PREVAILS IN HD51: Dr. Dennis Zent, Lake James, earned the Republican Party's nomination for the House District 51 seat in the Legislature. With his victory over Aaron Claudy, Pleasant Lake, Zent will face Lon Keyes of Fremont (KPC News). It assures someone from the health care field will represent District 51 come January. Zent is a dentist. Keyes is a pharmacist.

SMALTZ EASILY WINS HD52: As votes were tallied Tuesday night, the race was never close for the Indiana House of Representatives District 52 Republican nomination. Ben Smaltz, 42, of Auburn, already led by a few hundred votes with only a few precincts reporting, and it snowballed into a 2,200-vote victory (KPC News). "I wrote a consolation speech and not a victory speech when I woke up today," Smaltz said. "I was ready to be gracious." Smaltz, currently president of the DeKalb County Council.

CHERRY RENOMINATED: Despite redistricting, incumbent Bob Cherry won the Republican primary for District 53 state representative on Tuesday (Anderson Herald-Bulletin). A 14-year veteran of the Indiana House, Cherry

will represent portions of southern Madison County for the first time due to the redrawing of the political boundaries. "It's not starting over, but it is in a way," Cherry, a resident of Greenfield, said. Cherry, who collected 67.97 percent of the vote in Madison County over challenger Sam Weist, said he wants to get to know the people of Madison County better. "I hope that we can get to know each other so that they feel comfortable calling me," Cherry said. Weist, who is Markleville's police chief, said he was encouraged despite the defeat. "I think I did very good for the first time running," he said.

ZIEMKE OUTLASTS WILLIAMS IN HD55: In the open seat created by the retirement of Republican State Rep. Tom Knollman, Batesville businesswoman Cindy Ziemke narrowly defeated Lora Williams, 33-29%, while Fayette County Republican Chairman Sam Harvey had 25% and Bob White had 12%.

HAMM WINS ANOTHER HD56 NOD: Dick Hamm, a perennial candidate in HD56, won another nomination with 51% of the vote against two opponents.

Indiana Senate

HARRIS WILL FACE SEN. ARNOLD: There will be five state representatives and four state senators who represent portions of St. Joseph County in the next Indiana General Assembly (South Bend Tribune). Eight of those nine seats are up for grabs in this year's elections, but they produced just four primary contests for voters to decide Tuesday. Two of those competitive primaries were for the District 8 seat in the Indiana Senate. With 93 percent of precincts reporting in the Democratic primary, incumbent Sen. Jim Arnold, of LaPorte, had garnered 69 percent of 6,848 votes against Maxine Spenner, also of LaPorte. Eric Harris, of South Bend, appeared to be the winner over LaPorte resident Austin Griffin in the Republican primary. Harris had 52 percent of 7,712 votes with 93 percent of precincts reporting. Arnold, a former LaPorte County sheriff, has been a state senator since 2007. He will face Harris, who is an admissions adviser at Indiana University South Bend, in the general election in November. District 8 covers the eastern two-thirds of LaPorte County, the northern half of Starke County and the western part of St. Joseph County.

BIG WIN FOR SEN. ROGERS: State Sen. Earline Rogers easily dispatched two opponents with 58% of the vote. Her main rival, Darren Washington, received 22%.

SEN. YOUNG WARDS OFF KINNAMON: State Sen. Mike Young was renominated with 64% of the vote in the SD35 Republican primary. He defeated Daniel Kinnamon with 36%.

A BRAY WILL CONTINUE IN SD37: Rodric Bray defeated Ryan Goodwin 55-45 in the open seat created when State Sen. Richard Bray retired. The results were with 86% of the precincts reporting. ❖



Gary Welsh, Advance Indiana: Thirty-two years ago, as a bright-eyed 18-year old, I walked into a farm home in Charleston, Illinois to meet in person the man I most admired. For an admission fee of \$25, I got to hear a future president, Ronald Reagan, eloquently speak with that perpetual twinkle in his eyes, clinging to every word he uttered while standing just feet away. When he finished speaking, I slowly worked my way across the living room towards him, nervously introduced myself, shook his hand and offered him a gift as a small token of appreciation for his visit to rural east-central Illinois. He thanked me and posed for a quick picture that I still proudly display on my wall, along with a kind letter of thanks that I received a couple of weeks later. "You may be assured that the enthusiastic participation of your young Republicans helped to make my visit to Illinois a successful one," he wrote. "Such enthusiasm will indeed aid us towards our goal of achieving a great victory in November." An assistant no doubt penned the letter, but it bore his unmistakable signature and that's what mattered. That was and is one of the most memorable moments of my life. Tonight on the eve of the inconsequential Indiana primary, another guy set to become the next nominee of my party spoke at a fundraiser in downtown Indianapolis at the J.W. Marriott for a starting admission price of \$2,500. There was no meeting with the little people or even reporters to answer questions. Mitt Romney shook hands and took pictures with lobbyist/power broker types like Bob Grand and Dan Dumezich, along with a sprinkling of government contractors like Steven Chancellor. I never considered digging into my wallet to meet Romney. It's not about the money. I just have no desire to meet the man or have my picture taken with him, even if I had been offered a free ticket to meet him in person. He doesn't inspire me like Reagan, who I sincerely believed when he said that America's best days were ahead of us. I have no faith that his election will save our nation from the unhappy ending it seems more likely than not to meet. It really is sad because our country needs a real leader now more than ever that neither party will offer the voters this year. ❖



Reid Wilson, Hotline On-Call: By most reasonable measures, Sen. Orrin Hatch should face the same fate as Sen. Richard Lugar, who lost his primary last night to a conservative challenger by 20 points. Hatch, after all, has been in Washington as long as Lugar, and he has the same reputation for working across the aisle that hurt Lugar with conservative voters. What's more, Utah's unusual primary system -- which kicks off with precinct caucuses and a convention before heading to the actual primary electorate -- should put Hatch in even more jeopardy: The smaller the electorate, the more committed, and presumably more par-

tisan, they will be. But Lugar has lost, and Hatch appears to be on a glide path toward re-election. Why? Because campaigns matter. And the contrast between the Hatch and Lugar campaigns could hardly be more stark. On one hand, Hatch's team ran what amounted to several thousand mini-campaigns. The campaign identified previous convention delegates, polled them extensively and found which delegates were likely to back one of Hatch's rivals. They then recruited opponents, helped those alternative candidates amass the support necessary and shepherded them through the precinct caucus process. Come convention time, Hatch had effectively picked his own electorate. And he almost avoided a primary altogether: Hatch needed 60 percent to skip a primary; he scored 59.2 percent. Polls indicate Hatch leads former state Sen. Dan Liljenquist by a wide margin among the wider primary electorate. Lugar, on the other hand, hadn't had a real re-election challenge in three decades -- and it showed. Challenged on whether he actually resided in the state, Lugar spent weeks, even months, defending his home address, his decision to live in northern Virginia and even whether he was legally eligible to vote in Indiana at all. His entire campaign, in other words, was spent answering questions his opponent wanted him to answer. Both candidates rushed home to save themselves during the final weeks, and even then they received very different coverage: Hatch, who left the Senate for the three weeks leading up to state convention, spent his time meeting with delegates, even those who opposed him. Lugar got headlines like this, from the Post-Tribune newspaper: "Lugar makes rare stop in Northwest Indiana with primary drawing near." ❖

Matt Tully, Indianapolis Star: For Sen. Richard Lugar, this isn't the way it should have ended. A revered and reasonable statesman shouldn't lose in a low-turnout election marked by voter anger and non-voter apathy. His career shouldn't end with an ineffective campaign that turned desperate and even sad in its final days. Most important, a lawmaker who spent decades diligently addressing big issues and tackling looming crises shouldn't be treated as a pariah simply because he viewed the other side as fellow Americans, and not enemy combatants. But that's what happened Tuesday night as one of the state's most accomplished political careers crashed to an end. Joining a list of moderate Republican incumbents around the nation who have lost to far-right challengers, Lugar now heads back to Washington, D.C., to finish up his sixth and final term. The man who has fought for Indiana farmers and Hoosier students, and against gridlock in Washington and nuclear weapons overseas, could convince persuade only a tiny percentage of Indiana's adult population to vote for him. The rebuke was clear. ❖



Obama embraces gay marriage

WASHINGTON - President Obama announced Wednesday that he believes same-sex couples should be granted the right to marry, becoming the first U.S. president in history to fully embrace that level of civil rights for gays (Washington Post). Obama's announcement gave an immediate jolt to the decades-long movement for gay equality at a moment when a growing number of states are moving to ban — or legalize — same-sex unions and as polls show a majority of Americans support marriage rights. A Washington Post-ABC News poll in March found that 52 percent of adults think it should be legal for gay couples to marry. For Obama personally, the disclosure completed a long conversion process that advisers said ended earlier this year after soul-searching and talks with his family. "I've just concluded that for me personally it is important for me to go ahead and affirm that I think same-sex couples should be able to get married," Obama said in an interview with Robin Roberts of ABC News. Obama had hinted at that sentiment for years as he repeatedly said his views on gay marriage were "evolving," but his statement still came as a dramatic election-year revelation that promised to energize advocates on both sides. Gay rights activists and many Democrats embraced the news, but some religious leaders, including one of Obama's spiritual advisers, said they were distraught. The potential dangers for Obama could be seen just one day before his announcement, when voters in North Carolina, a swing state critical to his reelection, voted overwhelmingly for a state constitutional amendment to ban same-sex unions. Obama



hinted at the rapidly shifting political fault lines on Wednesday, saying he had weighed the teachings of his Christian faith against a growing pro-marriage consensus among younger Americans — a key target group for his reelection campaign. "You know, when I go to college campuses, sometimes I talk to college Republicans who think that I have terrible policies on the economy, on foreign policy, but are very clear that when it comes to same-sex equality or, you know, sexual orientation, that they believe in equality," Obama said in the interview, excerpts of which were aired during a rare midday newscast.

Gregg raises Pence residency issue

FORT WAYNE – On the heels of two election-night defeats related to residency, Democratic gubernatorial candidate John Gregg on Wednesday labeled Republican opponent Mike Pence as a Virginian who is running for office in Indiana and is out of touch with Hoosier voters (Kelly, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). "He may meet that legal definition (of residency)," Gregg said. "It's a question of whether or not they've gone Washington with them being out there." Pence was first elected to Congress in 2000 and has had a home in Arlington, Va., since 2002 while serving in the U.S. House of Representatives. Gregg released a 30-second campaign video Wednesday that compared Pence to U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar and David McIntosh — two politicians with homes in Virginia who lost in Tuesday night's primary election. Lugar does not own a home in Indiana, instead staying at hotels when he visits. McIntosh rented a place in Anderson for his congressional run this year. Gregg also conducted a conference call on the topic Wednesday, questioning why Pence won't give a straight answer on how he is

dividing his time between Indiana and Virginia. Pence and his wife own a home in Virginia, where his younger kids go to school. His oldest is at Purdue University. That house, according to property records, is valued at more than \$600,000. Virginia does not have homestead exemptions on property. The couple also owns a home in Pence's hometown of Columbus that is valued at \$140,000. It has a homestead exemption for property tax purposes. Both houses are upper-middle-class brick homes. In a recent interview with The Journal Gazette, Pence declined to specify how much time he is spending in Indiana campaigning compared with time he spends in Washington, D.C., on congressional duties. "I think it's very clear that Mike's an Indiana resident," said Christy Denault, spokesman for the Pence campaign, noting that Pence and his wife vote in Indiana.

Mourdock says 'bring it' to Dems

FORT WAYNE - Richard Mourdock took a victory lap through Fort Wayne on Wednesday, hardly slowing down ahead of his next race (Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). The day after trouncing six-term Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., in the Republican primary election, Mourdock began campaigning against his Democratic foe in the November general election. Mourdock said he had two words for Rep. Joe Donnelly, D-2nd: "Bring it." Speaking at the Allen County GOP's traditional post-election lunch, Mourdock scolded Donnelly for supporting President Obama's economic stimulus plan and health care law. Donnelly's voting record "will time and time again be linked to Barack Obama, and that is not going to win in the state of Indiana," the second-term state treasurer told about 125 people at the local Republican headquarters.



‘Delaware again’ says Steele

INDIANAPOLIS - Former Republican National Committee Chairman Michael Steele didn't help the GOP case any by saying that Mourdock's win was "Delaware all over again," a reference to the Senate seat Republicans lost in 2010 by nominating tea party candidate Christine O'Donnell (Indianapolis Star).

19% turnout in primary

SOUTH BEND - Statewide, according to preliminary figures, roughly 19 percent of the 4.4 million registered voters in Indiana cast ballots in Tuesday's primary. About three-quarters of those voters participated in the Republican primary (Allen, South Bend Tribune). The Secretary of State's office doesn't yet have official numbers for the statewide turnout, because county clerks can send in the certified results at any time before May 21. Tuesday's numbers contrasted with voter turnout for the Indiana primary in 2008 — the previous presidential election year. About 1.7 million Indiana voters, or nearly 40 percent of registered voters, cast ballots in the state primary in 2008, and about 75 percent of those participated in the Democratic primary.

Ex-Dem chair's home raided

COLUMBUS - Federal authorities raided the home of former Bartholomew County Democratic Chairman Jaimie Johns on Tuesday, as an Indianapolis-based ambulance service provider took over his ambulance business (Columbus Republic). A line of police vehicles, including cars from the Columbus Police Department, lined Bayside Court in front of Johns' home

at Tipton Lakes on Tuesday morning. In February, the FBI raided the offices of STAT Ambulance at 17th Street and Central Avenue, which Johns owns. But federal officials could not acknowledge Tuesday that they are conducting an investigation

Lugar loss means less clout in DC

INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana could lose money, jobs and power after the state's longest-serving U.S. Senator is voted out of office (WTHR-TV). It's not just about 36 years, it's about the power that comes with those years. Senator Richard Lugar helped plant trees and read to kids, he helped a once-young reporter with a passport to cover Operation Desert Shield in 1990. But as Lugar prepares to leave the Senate after Tuesday's loss, it is his wins that will live on. "IU, Purdue, and Rose-Hulman have benefited greatly from his ability to get research dollars into the state. Science, health and advanced manufacturing," said University of Indianapolis professor Dr. Matthew Will. Those dollars sparked the life sciences boom on Hoosier campuses. "He has been very passionate about research," says student Abdullah Karimi at IUPUI. "And things like renewable energy." In fact, Karimi's study group is actually in IUPUI's Lugar Lab. "Surely, we wouldn't be as well off as we are," said Allison Transmission worker Reggie Temple as he headed home from his day shift Wednesday. "Indiana has benefited greatly from free trade," Will said. "All bi-products of free trade." Because of ethanol, Indiana farmland prices are up, as are corn prices, which is good for many farmers. Thank Lugar, the spark behind ethanol subsidies, even as many Republicans are backing away from them. "It's the knowledge of what grant programs are available. You've got an industrial park, how do you get money for sewers and water?"

How do you pay for the rail spur?" asked Democratic consultant Robin Winston..

Miami courthouse security concerns

PERU - Miami County commissioners are limiting the number of employees who can have keys to the courthouse after video footage showed two women rummaging through desks in the prosecutor's office before the building officially opened (Kokomo Tribune). Commissioner Craig Boyer Monday said an individual also carried a gun into one of the courthouse offices during an earlier incident. Although courthouse hours are set from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., the building opens at 7 a.m., allowing anyone access to the facility. Commissioners immediately barred entrance to the building until 7:45 a.m. after the video footage came to light. Some county employees going to work early were surprised last week when they discovered they were locked out of the building.

Jobless applications decline this week

WASHINGTON - The number of people applying for U.S. unemployment benefits ticked down last week after dropping sharply the previous week, evidence hiring could pick up this month. Weekly applications dropped 1,000 to a seasonally adjusted 367,000 in the week ending May 5, the Labor Department said Thursday. The previous week's figure was revised up slightly. The four-week average, a less volatile measure, fell by 5,250 to 379,000. It was the first decline since late March. Applications are a measure of the pace of layoffs. When they stay consistently below 375,000, it suggests job growth is strong enough to lower the unemployment rate.