

## Braun makes Senate race a 3-way battle

More than \$10 million raised; outside money spills in 13 months out

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

NASHVILLE, Ind. – To put the emerging \$100 million U.S. Senate race into perspective, the general election is a little more than 13 months away and already \$10.5 million in candidate money has already spilled in.



Add the astonishing amount of outside money – \$3,516,273 million at this point – that includes a \$993,928 buy (at this writing) by Americans For Prosperity tax reform push aimed at U.S. Sen. Joe Donnelly this month, and it's easy to see that the \$100 million figure isn't hyperbole, but a very real threshold. Democrats



State Rep. Mike Braun's first FEC report and the disapproval of Congress make his candidacy a real factor.

and allies have spent \$930,542 thus far and \$2,585,731 has been spent by Republicans and allied groups.

The third quarter FEC reports did not yield any truly shocking developments. Donnelly raised \$1.3 million and reported \$4.6 million cash on hand. U.S. Rep. Luke Messer rebounded from a disappointing second quarter by posting a decent \$735,000

**Continued on page 3**

## Sexual predator crisis

By **CHRISTINA HALE**

INDIANAPOLIS – Gorgeous women trying to make it big in Hollywood. The casting couch. Men abusing their power and position. The fact that so many assaults have happened to women (and some men) that are familiar to us through their fame and celebrity leaves many non-plussed. Others have been compelled to tell their personal stories of assault and victimization.



In Indiana, no one should be surprised. Here, even our littlest kids face sexual assault and rape every day, and we are not doing nearly enough to help. In fact, the problem is getting worse and worse. We must stop describing these problems and get to work on preventing them. If you



**“It’s clear the 6th District has a long history of terrific representation in Congress. If elected, my mission will be to continue this tradition of faithful servant leadership.”**

*- Greg Pence, announcing he will seek the GOP 6th CD nomination*



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need convincing, just count up the cases of sexually-transmitted diseases of all kinds in kids aged zero to five being treated at urgent care clinics and emergency rooms across our state. Children may not know how to report these crimes, yet sometimes they bear the evidence in horrible and life-altering ways.

**Here in Indiana**, we should know better. These kids aren't famous. They are our neighbors and relatives, friends of our own children; people we talk to every day, and wave to at the bus stop. One in six girls in Indiana is raped or sexually assaulted by the time they leave high school here. One in five faces assault on our college campuses.

We can also count the perpetrators we have caught. Please set aside some time to go to the state police website and look up the convicted sex offenders that live near you and those you love. It is beyond scary, particularly when you consider that the Department of Justice estimates that only 30% of these crimes are even reported.

Today many, and it can be argued, most, predators never get caught.

The IUPUI Global Communicators Center completed a study that tells us that most of these crimes in Indiana are perpetrated by someone known and trusted by the child victim, often by someone living in their very own household.

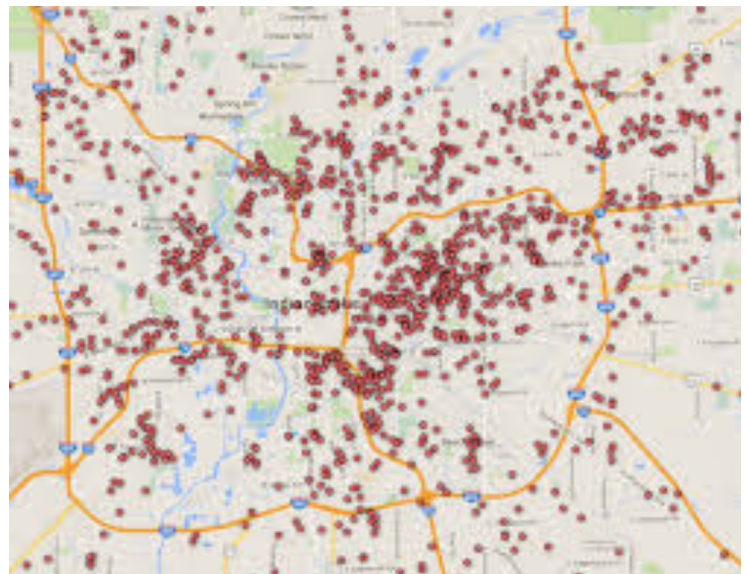
For kids in these situations, their normal is beyond horrific. In their home, it is normal that mom's boyfriend or in some extreme cases mom, is the abuser.

This is happening more and

more often, particularly as Indiana's drug addiction rates soar, but there are other trends to pay close attention to as well.

In 2014, an Indiana mom, Natisha Hillard, pleaded guilty to selling her infant and three-year-old daughters for the production of child pornography. This is not an isolated case, particularly when you consider that 9% of online porn is images of infants and toddlers, a fact presented this week in Indianapolis at the International Youth Protection Symposium.

In Indiana, the law does not



This is a graphic showing where known sexual predators live in Marion County.

require that public schools teach sex education to our young people, not even that we teach our kids in an age-appropriate way that they own their own bodies. That no one should be touching them where their bathing suit covers.

**Keeping our most** vulnerable safe from these kinds of crimes is the first necessary step. Here in Indiana it is time to climb down from our philosophical high horses and get very practical.

No surprises here. Just a lot of work to be done.

**Hale is president of Leadership Indianapolis and was the 2016 Democratic lieutenant governor nominee.**

## Senate race, from page 1

that surpassed U.S. Sen. Todd Young's haul (\$721,000) for the third quarter in 2015. If there was a mild surprise, it was U.S. Rep. Todd Rokita's \$450,000 haul for the quarter, though both he and Messer are reporting about \$2.4 million cash on hand.

The wildcard in the GOP primary race is State Rep. Mike Braun, who posted \$1 million that included \$800,000 from himself. He told HPI in August that he was prepared to self-fund an early sequence of his campaign in order to establish credibility. That he raised \$200,000 in outside money in a little more than a month reveals that he has money traction, particularly with the CEO class he banks on to further fund his campaign.

"Our fundraising success as a campaign is a clear signal that Hoosiers are ready for a leader with private sector experience who can deliver results and make conservative change happen in Washington," Braun said. "This campaign will receive support from a combination of grassroots donors and my own resources to ensure we can battle the money flowing from the D.C. swamp to my opponents. When I go to the U.S. Senate, I will not owe anything to anyone other than the Hoosiers I want to represent."

Traditionally the third quarter in the year prior to the election is one of the toughest cycles. Many early supporters max out in earlier quarters. In the Messer-Rokita showdown, many donors not committed to a candidate are watching to see if anyone emerges as a frontrunner. Thus far the Republican Senate race looks to be a pure tossup. At this point in 2015, Young's fundraising prowess over Eric Holcomb and U.S. Rep. Marlin Stutzman gave the perception that he was the emerging frontrunner.

With Congressional approval at 15% in a recent Fox News Poll, many observers believe there is a path for Braun to emerge between the brawling Messer and Rokita. On Oct. 10, Braun attempted to exploit the unpopularity of Congress by announcing he will support term limits.

"I made my career in the private sector. Our country needs more people who can tackle big issues from perspectives gained from running a business and not a career politician's perspective. Our country needs term limits if we want to clean up Washington," Braun stated. "The political establishment in Washington have no understanding of how to run a business and how their disastrous policies impact our fellow Hoosiers. The career politicians are always more worried about winning reelection than delivering results for the American people," Braun continued.

US Term Limits President Philip Blumel commented on Braun's pledge, saying, "Mike's support of term limits shows that there are people who are willing to put self-interest aside to follow the will of the people and the found-

ing fathers. America needs a Congress that will be served by citizen legislators, not career politicians." The group's website does not list Messer or Rokita, who is campaigning on a "Defeat the Elite" slogan, as signees.

## Trump numbers sag

Beyond the FEC numbers, the other fascinating data sets are President Trump's Indiana numbers. Mark It Red, polling for the Indiana House Republican Campaign Committee, revealed that while Gov. Eric Holcomb's job approval stands at 62% with just 21% disapproving, Trump's approval stood at 47% with 50% disapproving. On the "favorable/unfavorable" question, Trump stands at 49/49%, but is at 87% favorable with Hoosier Republicans, which explains why Rokita and Messer continue to embrace the embattled president.

Last week a Morning Consult survey in all 50 states indicates that voters have grown bearish on his performance in office. It shows Trump's approve/disapprove in Indiana has declined from 55.3/33% in January to 49.8/44.9% in late September, or a 17% dropoff. The Messer campaign polling revealed similar numbers in July.

So this is the dilemma for Messer and Rokita. Both



U.S. Rep. Luke Messer posted \$735,000 in the third quarter FEC report. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

believe they need Trump voters to win the primary. And yet Trump is a double-edged sword, constantly pecking at House Speaker Paul Ryan and lately, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

On Monday, Trump seemed to be playing both sides. During rollicking joint press conference in the Rose Garden, Trump declared he and McConnell "are probably now ... closer than ever before. The relationship is very

good. We're fighting for the same thing. We're fighting for lower taxes, a big tax cut, the biggest tax cuts in the history of our nation. We're fighting for tax reform as part of that."

On Trump's pressure point aimed at Donnelly on tax reform, a CBS Tracker Poll found 58% of Americans think the current reforms being discussed would favor the rich, while 18% think they would favor the middle class. Another 19% feel the changes would treat all equally. Among President Trump's strongest supporters, 40% believe all would be treated equally.

The CBS poll found 39% of Republicans feel their party's congressional representatives "don't like" the president and are actively trying to undermine him, while another 37% think congressional Republicans don't like President Trump "but pretend to" in order to try to get their agenda passed.

### Bannon's insurgency

Then there is Steve Bannon's insurgency aimed at McConnell's caucus, Trump saying, "Steve is a friend of mine. I can understand where Steve Bannon is coming from. There are some Republicans, frankly, that should be ashamed of themselves." As for the Senate health care defeats, Trump said, "I'm not going to blame myself, I'll be honest. They are not getting the job done."

But in the very same news cycle, Bannon acted Monday on his pledge to lead a "populist nationalist con-

servative revolt," endorsing State Sen. Kelli Ward over Arizona Sen. Jeff Flake – the first sitting Republican senator to be formally targeted by the pro-Donald Trump group. "Americans are tired of the inaction from the Washington



U.S. Rep. Todd Rokita posted \$450,000 in the third quarter, but he and Messer have nearly an identical cash on hand. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

swamp and demand Senate Republicans get off their backsides and pass President Trump's America First agenda," Ed Rollins, chief strategist for Great America PAC, said in a statement. CBS News reported the group also announced Monday it was supporting retired Marine Kevin Nicholson in Wisconsin over state Sen. Leah Vukmir in the GOP primary

Coming in October

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to challenge Sen. Tammy Baldwin, a Democrat seeking her second term. Bannon is openly targeting Mississippi Sen. Roger Wicker (a former Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee chair), and Nevada Sen. Dean Heller.

Little wonder that Rokita has latched on to the “defeat the elite” slogan and the Messer campaign has positioned him to “run against the Senate.” McConnell and his related political action committee have not endorsed in the Indiana race and are likely to sit this one out. Messer and Rokita would probably prefer he stay on the Kentucky side of the Ohio River.

As the GOP field moves to woo Trump voters, and it is questionable whether many of these first-time voters in 2016 will even show up next May, the Donnelly campaign is compiling quotes and B-roll for the fall campaign.

“After kicking off his campaign and crossing the state in his RV, Joe told Hoosiers he’d continue to fight for them in the Senate, and our supporters responded incredibly,” said Donnelly campaign manager Peter Hanscom. “Their enthusiasm and small dollar contributions have pushed Joe’s campaign to another successful quarter. Joe’s thankful for their support, and by bringing the same fiscal conservatism that he relies on in Washington to the campaign trail, we’re certain we’ll have the robust cash on hand we need to defend his record for the next year.”

Donnelly’s campaign noted that small “grassroots” donations made up the bulk of the senator’s contributions

for the third quarter. More than half the contributions were for \$15 or less, it said, and 84% were for \$50 or less.

**HPI Horse Race Republican Primary: Tossup**

### Democrat blast ‘missing’ Messer

Five days into a week-and-a-half long recess, U.S. Rep. Luke Messer has not held a single event in the state, nor has he announced plans to, Indiana Democrats charged on Wednesday. After its last set of votes this past Friday, the House of Representatives adjourned until October 23 for recess, formally known as a District Work Period – when, as the name implies, Members of Congress are expected to work in their district. That would apply doubly for someone who, like Congressman Messer, is actively running for higher office and will face voters across the state next May. “Congressman Messer’s utter absence would be puzzling for any Member of Congress, let alone one running for the U.S. Senate,” said Will Baskin-Gerwitz, spokesman for the Indiana Democratic Party. “Where is Congressman Messer? As Joe Donnelly has shown, Indiana voters want a Senator who represents them with hard work and Hoosier common sense – disappearing when you’re supposed to be back home again in Indiana shows neither. If you need a break with 13 months still to go, maybe this isn’t for you.” ❖

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# From trite to freeze in the wake of Vegas

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

NASHVILLE, Ind. – In the wake of the Las Vegas massacre where 58 people were killed and about 550 people were injured, I surveyed all the “thoughts and prayers” reaction from our public servants and waited to write an analysis.

Why? Because the “thoughts and prayers” reaction seemed so thoroughly trite and hollow. Since the Columbine High School massacre, as a journalist I’ve written columns with the predictable gamut of emotions: Sorrow, outrage, denial, guilt, acceptance. But even the personal wrath and this question – “What happened to the Constitution’s preamble that strives for ‘domestic tranquility’” – now seems platitudinous.

As in waning empires, the dangerous reaction is one of resignation and that’s where we seem to be today.

There were predictable quotes, like this one from 28-year-old Russell Bleck, who observed, “People would run one way and then you’d hit a dead end; it was just a kill box. You were kind of getting led down like cattle would to a slaughterhouse. I saw bodies everywhere. The guy was just spraying the crowd.”

There seemed to be some change of perception. The fact that this assault was aimed at a country music crowd was different. Many country fans are ardent 2nd Amendment supporters, so much so that the NRA has an “NRA Country” component to its website. Being on the wrong end of a rigged up automatic weapon changes perspectives. Caleb Keeter, who plays with the Josh Abbott Band, observed, “I’ve been a proponent of the 2nd Amendment my entire life. Until the events of night, I cannot express how wrong I was.” Singer Jake Owen, who was standing about 50 feet away from country star Jason Aldean during the assault, said, “We put on concerts to take people away from the day-to-day life, to bring them to a happy place and this isn’t by any means what’s supposed to happen at these things.”

**The country music fan** stereotype begged to be shattered, and star Roseanne Cash stepped up, writing in the New York Times, “It is no longer enough to separate yourself quietly. The laws the NRA would pass are a threat to you, your fans, and to the concerts and festivals we enjoy. I know you’ll be bullied for speaking out. This is how they operate. Not everyone will like you for taking a stand. Let it roll off your back. Some people may burn your records or ask for refunds for tickets to your concerts. Whatever. Find the strength of moral conviction, even if it

comes with a price tag, which it will. Don’t let them bully you into silence. That’s where their power lies – in the silence of rational voices and in the apathy of those who can speak truth to power.”

And there were predictable reactions to journalists who did speak out. State Rep. Jim Lucas announced he would author a bill to license journalists, reasoning that “If you’re OK licensing my 2nd Amendment right, what’s wrong with licensing your 1st Amendment right?”

**Astronaut Mark Kelly**, husband to former U.S. Rep. Gabby Giffords, said, “All we’re hearing is thoughts and prayers. Thoughts and prayers are important. They are not enough. Your thoughts and prayers aren’t going to stop the next shooting.”

Conservative commentator Bret Stephens, writ-



ing “Repeal the 2nd Amendment” in the New York Times, observed, “From a personal safety standpoint, more guns means less safety. The FBI counted a total of 268 ‘justifiable homicides’ by private citizens involving firearms in 2015; that is, felons killed in the course of committing a felony. Yet that same year, there were 489 ‘unintentional firearms deaths’ in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Between 77 and 141 of those killed were children.”

Stephens concludes: “I wonder what Madison would have to say about that today, when more than twice as many Americans perished last year at the hands of their fellows as died in battle during the entire Revolutionary War. My guess: Take the guns, or at least the presumptive right to them, away. The true foundation of American exceptionalism should be our capacity for moral and constitutional renewal, not our instinct for self-destruction.”

And there was the realization that someone as evil as Stephen Paddock could figure out how to take a mas-

sacre that would kill a dozen or two to the type of carnage we witnessed on Oct. 1. It's like that late night college drinking conversation: "Do you think you could actually pull off a bank robbery?" I plead guilty to such a conversation, though there was never any intent; it was an intellectual exercise. Last year, I took part in a similar conversation about how a truly sinister character could create a new killing threshold, knowing that Anders Behring Breivik did it in 2011 when he used diversionary bombs to kill 77 at a Norwegian camp on Utoya Island. What we conjured was a notion that Paddock obviously discovered.

**This massacre demanded** new American perspectives simply because of the scope, though the killing came close to matching the Orlando Pulse atrocity where 49 died. But on the Strip, there were far more wounded. As CNN's James Gagliano notes, "The casualties inflicted upon a crowd of country music fans was roughly the equivalent of a U.S. military battalion. To put this into perspective: In the bloodiest campaign in the Iraq War, the Battle of Fallujah, which spanned Nov. 7 to Dec. 24, 2004, there were 82 combat deaths and some 600 wounded."

So our domestic atrocities are approaching new thresholds of lethality in battlefield context.

But beyond the "thoughts and prayers" perspectives, little changed politically. Multiple news stories and commentaries reached the conclusion that laws weren't likely to change. U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein acknowledged that any new law wouldn't have stopped Paddock, who up until his slaughter had been a law-abiding citizen. There was talk about banning bump stocks, the device Paddock used to evolve his semi-automatic weapons to machine guns.

This is a nation that's gone from Charlie Whitman and the University of Texas bell tower in 1966 to Columbine HS, to Newtown where little children and their teachers were murdered, to a plethora of movie theaters, malls, universities and even military installations, and finally, as a prelude to the Vegas strip, a baseball field in Arlington, Va., last June where the congressional Republican baseball team was practicing. The most severely wounded was Majority Whip Steve Scalise.

**Fox News's Martha MacCallum** asked Scalise if his experience and the deadly mass shooting in Las Vegas on Sunday night have changed his views about 2nd Amendment. "I think it's fortified it," Scalise responded. "Because first of all you've got to recognize that when there's a tragedy like this, the first thing we should be thinking about is praying for the people who were injured and doing whatever we can to help them, to help law en-

forcement. We shouldn't first be thinking of promoting our political agenda."

There was no dissent to that perspective in the majority caucuses.

**State Rep. Ed DeLaney**, D-Indianapolis, shifts the parameters of what's at stake. "Now what's under threat is the right of assembly," Delaney explained. "The 1st Amendment guarantees me the right of assembly. Where do I want to go now? Do I want to go to an indoor place like that night club in Orlando? Do I want to go to a public school, like in Connecticut? Do I want to go sit outdoors and listen to a rock concert? Where am I going to be safe? Where can I assemble? We better start talking



State Reps. Jim Lucas (left) and Ed DeLaney invoke the 1st and 2nd Amendments in the wake of the Las Vegas atrocity. (HPI Photos by Mark Curry)

about that right."

The NRA went dark for several days, seemed to be willing to compromise on bump stocks, but other than that, little has changed. The new speculation is that if Newtown, Orlando, Charleston, Las Vegas and the GOP baseball team assaults don't change the dynamic, will anything? An assault on the National Cathedral? Wrigley Field or Fenway Park? Or against the Mormon Tabernacle Choir or the Radio City Rockettes?

**It brings to mind** a conversation I had with former U.S. Rep. Shepard Crumpacker of South Bend, who was seated in the U.S. House chambers on March 1, 1954, when Puerto Rican nationalists shot up the place with semi-automatic weapons from the Gallery.

Crumpacker told me that those who attempted to flee caught the shooter's attention, with five representatives shot, though none fatally. He and fellow Hoosier Rep. E. Ross Adair froze in their seats and survived the carnage unscathed.

Congress remains in similar repose and will so until events so sinister change the political dynamic. ❖

# Braun prepared to campaign on House, DWD jobs legacy

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

NASHVILLE, Ind. — Steve Braun believes he laid a foundation of career development and job growth during his one term in the Indiana House and as commissioner

of the Department of Workforce Development under Govs. Mike Pence and Eric Holcomb. Now he believes he can best serve the state representing the 4th CD.



“My whole approach

about is is believing that I’m the guy who can really drive results, and that is sorely needed in Washington right now,” Braun told Howey Politics Indiana on Wednesday. “The deficit is out of control. Nothing is getting done. I’m a believer that a strong business background is a critical component to drive outcomes.”

Earlier this week, Braun posted \$163,000 on his third quarter FEC report. While that trails the \$208,000 that rival Diego Morales posted, the Braun campaign points out that the Zionsville Republican didn’t kick off his campaign until Aug. 31. They also note that a significant chunk of the Morales haul can’t be used until the general election. “We didn’t really start until Sept. 5,” said Braun. “It was a real sprint to the end of the third quarter, but we’re thrilled at the outcome we’ve had, and the diversity of the support from the district and state.”

In running for his sole House term, Braun knocked on 4,000 doors and he’s planning on launching a similar grassroots campaign for the 4th CD seat that came open when U.S. Rep. Todd Rokita opted for the U.S. Senate race.

Braun is a Harvard University graduate, was recruited to work for Price Waterhouse as a CPA, and then in 1990 launched Braun Technology Group, a hi-tech consulting company that he grew to more than 700 employees before its sale in 2004. His companies have specialized in software development and applications to drive corporate outcomes. “I’ve been able to take that experience and drive strategies for big companies to drive their marketplace perfor-

mance.”

During his term in the General Assembly, he was part of House GOP leadership and authored Regional Cities and Career Council legislation, both top priorities for Gov. Pence. “I was able to move the needles in the legislature,” Braun said. Pence had told HPI that both Regional Cities and the career councils will ultimately be the cornerstone of his gubernatorial legacy.

HPI asked Braun the same question asked of Gov. Holcomb in July, which is with gaping holes between the 180,000 open jobs today and the lack of a skilled labor pool, how long will it take for the career councils to find traction and fill in the labor hole?

“I think they’re going to happen quickly,” he said, calling the initiative “revolutionary.” He explained, “The career councils became the first time employers and educators got together. The strategic plan was to lay the foundation. I knew the plan wouldn’t work unless there was a real strong data-driven component to what skills needed to be taught and when they needed to be taught.”

Once Gov. Pence signed the legislation, he decided to take the governor’s offer to head DWD. “We’ve identified every open job out there with the data base,” Braun said. “We have a good ability to forecast that and how they will evolve and grow.”

So when Gov. Holcomb recently forecast the creation of a million new jobs, it was Braun’s data sets that that established potential and in Braun’s view, likely outcomes. He used the example of hundreds of machinist jobs open in central Indiana and the career councils are now creating the curriculum to fill the labor demands. He also was instrumental in the creation of a virtual counselor tool, Indiana Career Explorer, that allows eighth graders and their parents to understand what career tracks are available.

“I don’t think people realize how much foundation we’ve laid over the last two and a half years,” Braun said, calling it “transformational.”

His campaign for the 4th CD will give him the platform to articulate these advances. In addition to Morales, Braun faces West

Point graduate Jared Thomas and Kevin Grant in the GOP race.

On the issues, he calls President Trump’s plea for historic tax reform “hugely needed,” but he acknowledges he has big concerns about a potential spike in future budget deficits. “The current tax system is way too com-





plex with way too many loopholes. We need to make sure people in the middle class have relief from tax burdens.” As for the projected deficits, he noted his role on the Indiana House Ways & Means Committee and said, “I’m an old school guy. Tax reform needs to happen on a basis we’ve done in Indiana. We don’t do it in a deficit spending mode.”

As for the opioid crisis, Braun believes the ultimate answers lie in the workforce development issues he conveyed earlier. “Communities have been hollowed out due to economic issues,” he said. “People lost jobs and moved into positions that were not conducive to their long term health. We have to fix it.”

On health care, he believes that federal block grants to states will allow the type of innovation that Govs. Mitch Daniels and Pence achieved during the Healthy Indiana Plan and HIP 2.0.

As for burdensome federal regulations, he points to his tenure at DWD. “We sought out fraud and overpayments, and the savings were significant. We have specific data that shows we saved \$200 million.”

Braun launched his campaign after his brother, State Rep. Mike Braun, kicked off his U.S. Senate campaign. It may be the first time two brothers simultaneously ran for Congress in the same cycle. “He and I understand the uniqueness of the situation. We both made our decisions independently. We’re both out there now and I have tremendous respect for him. We’re of similar minds but we come from different experience sets.

**HPI Horse Race Republican Primary Status:**  
Leans Braun

## Congress

### Demcorats find money traction

Indiana Democratic congressional candidates are showing some traction on third quarter FEC reports. In the 3rd CD, Courtney Tritch raised \$88,718 in one of the most Republican CDs in the nation. In the 9th CD, Liz Watson posted \$200,229 with \$169,000 cash on hand, and Daniel Canon posted \$208,000 with \$130,000 cash on hand. In the 8th CD, William Tanoos posted \$80,036 with \$57,000 cash on hand.

The Republican incumbents are all flush, with Rep. Jim Banks reporting \$321,813 raised and \$268,000 cash; Rep. Larry Bucshon with \$325,628 raised and \$412,015 cash; and Rep. Trey Hollingsworth with a \$574,762 haul and \$249,428 cash. The incumbents will need to stay that way given President Trump’s unpopularity and a do-nothing Congress which is aggravating GOP donors and creating the atmo-

spherics for a sizable if not historic mid-term wave.

In the open 4th and 6th CDs, as we’ve reported Republican Diego Morales posted \$207,000 with \$200,000 cash to lead the 4th CD field, while Steve Braun raised \$163,000 and had \$147,000 in cash. In the 6th CD, State Rep. Mike Crider and Muncie businessman Jonathan Lamb both reported \$67,000, while Crider has \$59,000 in cash and Lamb has \$52,000. Greg Pence is expected to enter that race sometime this fall. The veep’s bro had a pretty successful quarter, raising \$735,000 for Senate candidate Luke Messer (compared to \$450,000 for Todd Rokita).

Here is the 3rd quarter FEC listings:

- **1st CD:** U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky (D), \$378,568 raised, \$483,443 cash on hand.
- **2nd CD:** U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski (R), \$992,684 raised, \$696,758 cash on hand; Mark Summe (R), no report filed; Doug Carpenter (D) no report filed; Aaron Bush (D), no report filed; Mel Hall (D) no report filed.
- **3rd CD:** U.S. Rep. Jim Banks (R), \$321,813 raised, \$268,873 cash; Courtney Tritch (D) \$88,718 raised, \$70,044 cash.
- **4th CD:** Diego Morales (R), \$207,000 raised, \$200,000 cash. Steve Braun (R), \$163,000 raised, \$147,000 cash. Kevin Grant (R) no report filed; Jared Thomas (R), no report filed; Sheryl Shipley (D), \$8,228, \$3,600 cash; Joe Mackey (D) no report filed. Tobi Beck (D), \$12,957 raised, 0 cash on hand.
- **5th CD:** U.S. Rep. Susan Brooks (R), \$549,080 raised, \$1.497 million cash. Mike Hartley (D), \$3,052 raised, \$533 cash; Dean Dugdale (D), \$216 raised, \$70 cash; Jeremy Edom (I), no report filed.



Democrats Daniel Canon, Liz Watson and William Tanoos have shown traction on their FEC reports.

■ **6th CD:** Jonathan Lamb (R), \$67,426 raised, \$52,711 cash. State Sen. Mike Crider (R), \$67,175 raised, \$59,344 cash. Stephen Mackenzie (R), \$2,004.50, \$4.50 cash. James Prutt (D), no report filed. Atruras Kerelis (D), no report filed.

■ **7th CD:** U.S. Rep. Andre Carson (D), \$353,979 raised, \$939,809 cash; Tony Van Pelt (R), \$6,328 raised, \$1.34 cash; Wayne Harmon (R), \$606 raised, \$280 cash.

■ **8th CD:** U.S. Rep. Larry Bucshon (R), \$325,628 raised, \$412,015 cash; Glen Miller (D) no report filed; William Tanoos (D), \$80,036 raised, \$57,486 cash.

■ **9th CD:** U.S. Rep. Trey Hollingsworth (R), \$574,762 raised, \$249,428 cash; Daniel Canon (D), \$208,000 raised, \$130,000 cash; Liz Watson (D), \$200,229 raised, \$169,050 cash; Jason Leineweber (D), no report filed; Tod Curtis (D), \$54,630 raised, \$5,504 cash (Curtis has dropped out of the race); Robert Chatlos (D), no report filed.

## 2nd CD: Hall kicks off campaign

Saying "We've had enough, it's time for action," minister-turned-CEO Mel Hall announced Tuesday that he'll seek the Democratic nomination to unseat Republican Rep. Jackie Walorski in Indiana's 2nd CD next year (Parrott, South Bend Tribune). Walorski has held the seat since narrowly beating Democrat Brendan Mullen in 2012, shortly after Republicans redrew the district's boundaries to make it more favorable for the party's candidates. In 2014 and 2016 she enjoyed wider margins over Democrats Joe Bock and Lynn Coleman, respectively. Still, Hall said he is confident he can win next November.

## 4th CD: Thomas enters race

West Point graduate Jared Thomas has entered the Republican 4th CD race, joining Diego Morales and Steve Braun. The Army veteran earned a Bronze Star in Iraq in 2016. "I care deeply about my home state and specifically the people in the communities that helped raise me," Thomas told HPI. "I feel very strongly that they deserve better than the status quo in Washington D.C. Hoosiers deserve a real leader that is uninfluenced by political ties or special interest groups. We need more warriors in Washington, and I intend to fight for the conservative principles that have long made America the 'shining city on a hill' that Ronald Reagan immortalized." Thomas, born in Indianapolis, attended William Henry Harrison High School in West Lafayette. Earning nominations from Rep. Steve Buyer and Sen. Richard Lugar, Thomas went on to graduate from the United States Military Academy at West Point. Thomas deployed to Northern Iraq in 2016 in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, where he received the



Bronze Star Medal for his efforts in tackling the complex issue of ISIS-controlled drones.

## 6th CD: Pence seeks is brother's CD seat

Greg Pence officially kicked off his 6th CD campaign on Wednesday. "As my wife Denise and I traveled around the district, more and more people encouraged us to consider a run for Congress. Our family and friends have been incredibly supportive, and we are very grateful," Pence said in a statement and a video released late

Wednesday afternoon. "More than 30 years ago I stepped forward to serve my country as an officer in the Marine Corps. Once you experience what it is like to serve your fellow citizens, you are always looking for different ways to do that. It's clear the Sixth District has a long history of terrific representation in Congress. If elected, my mission will be to continue this tradition of faithful servant leadership."

Pence promises to focus on the issues that are critical to improving the quality of life for Hoosiers. Pence joined the Marine Corps at a young age in 1979 in his hometown of Columbus. Today, Pence feels the same calling to serve his country and the people in the Sixth District. The three declared GOP candidates for the 6th CD attended, including Michael "Mike" Crider, Jonathan Lamb and Stephen Mackenzie.

## Zody reacts to Pence entry

Democrats face long odds to win the seat (Verhovek, ABC News). President Trump won Indiana's 6th District by more than 40 points in the 2016 presidential election. Democrats in the state pounced on the news. "If you thought one Pence was damaging enough to our state's economy, wait until you see what a second can do. Mike Pence was so blinded by his political ambition that he divided the state, cost our economy \$60 million and set himself on track to lose the governorship had he not been parachuted out," Indiana Democratic Party Chairman John Zody wrote in a statement. "Now comes Greg Pence, so blinded by his own ambitions that he's willing to overlook the damage his brother caused to the Indiana economy. Voters must hope that he doesn't represent a second helping of that harm."

## Senate GOP girds for war with Bannon

Senate Republicans say they will fight back vigorously against former White House chief strategist Stephen Bannon's efforts to knock off GOP incumbents in primaries next year (Bolton, The Hill). They hope that President

Trump will have their backs, but they're not counting on it. GOP leaders are urging their colleagues to put laser-like focus on their home states and constituents so even if Trump abandons or criticizes them ahead of the mid-term elections, they'll still be in a position to win... Senate Republicans are publicly and privately calling on Bannon to step back... A Republican senator who is not up for reelection next year called Bannon's maneuvering "terribly counterproductive" and grumbled, "I don't think much of it."

## General Assembly

### SD11: Zakas reelect bid likely

State Sen. Joe Zakas, a 36-year veteran, is likely to seek reelection, according to Matt Zapfe of the Senate Majority Campaign. "He's talking about reelection," Zapfe said, though a final decision hasn't been made. If Zakas wins another term, he would surpass State Sens. Robert Garton, Larry Borst and Johnny Nugent, who all served 36 years. Nugent retired, while Garton and Borst were defeated in Republican primaries.

### SD26: Commissioner Owens, LaMar in

With State Sen. Doug Eckerty stepping down, Republican Madison County Commissioner Stephanie Owens of Pendleton is preparing a bid and seems to be consolidating support in her county which makes up 60% of the district. Henry County Council President Nate LaMar has switched to this race from the 6th CD. A couple of Delaware County candidates are also considering this race.

### SD45: Sen. Smith won't seek reelection

Republican Indiana Sen. Jim Smith announced today he will not seek reelection when his term expires in 2018, according to a news release (Rickert, News & Tribune). No Democrat has filed for the seat. "I've been fortunate to serve the constituents of Clark, Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings, Scott, Switzerland and Washington counties since 2010," Smith said. "While serving in the Senate, I have had many meaningful experiences and worked on a variety of issues to make Indiana 'A State That Works.' It has been an honor to represent the great people of Southern Indiana, and I am grateful to them for the opportunity to serve in the legislature." Since 2010, Smith has represented Indiana's SD 45. During his time as senator, Smith has authored legislation to phase out the state's inheritance tax, and sponsored legislation that would provide financial support for training programs created by partnerships with schools and employers. Businessman Chris Garten of Scottsburg is preparing to run. He owns Signature Countertops.

### Rep. Arnold resigns

State Rep. Lloyd Arnold (R-Boonville) will leave his southern Indiana seat to become the new head of

law enforcement at the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (Smith, WBOI). Gov. Eric Holcomb announced the appointment Wednesday. Arnold replaces Danny East, who left DNR last month. He's the second state lawmaker to leave the General Assembly this year; Republican Sen. Luke Kenley officially retired last month.

### HD72: Rep. Stemler won't seek reelection

State Rep. Steve Stemler will not seek another term. Stemler confirmed his decision to not run for reelection in a text response to the News and Tribune, but declined an interview, instead deferring to colleagues and friends. "We've known each other for nine years now, approximately, and he's been great to work with," Rep. Ed Clere said Thursday. "He's a good friend and colleague and someone I trust completely, and rely on regularly."

Jeffersonville City Councilman Matt Owen, a Republican, said he was "shocked" to hear Stemler won't be running next year. Owen later posted on Facebook that he received numerous calls from people asking if he would run. "Right now my focus is on doing the job I was elected to do," he wrote, adding that he would consider running "if it means I can continue [to] make a difference in District 71."

## Statewides

### Holcomb boosts Klutz

Indiana Auditor of State Tera Klutz brought her campaign Indianapolis where she was joined by Gov. Eric Holcomb along with a large group of supporters. Klutz is the first CPA to serve as Indiana's chief financial officer in Indiana's 200-year history. In kicking off her campaign for a full term, Klutz referenced many of her accomplishments during her nine months in office, "I am proud to have increased the transparency of Indiana's finances as well as created an Internal Control Department which will work to improve the processes within the auditor's office." Holcomb said, "Tera Klutz's experience as a certified public accountant, as Allen County's elected auditor and for the last eight months as our auditor of state, have only reassured me that she was, and continues to be, the best choice to serve as Indiana's chief financial officer. I fully support her campaign."

### Mitchell to seek reelection

After serving three years as state treasurer, Republican Kelly Mitchell is running for reelection next year (Statehouse File). As the 55th state treasurer, Mitchell added 105,000 new accounts to College Choice 529, a college savings program. She also oversaw the expansion of text-to-911 throughout Indiana and launched a new program, INvestABLE, a savings plan that allows disabled Hoosiers to save more money without sacrificing their state and federal aid benefits. ❖

# Mel Hall is a data driven candidate

By JACK COLWELL

SOUTH BEND – Mel Hall is a data guy. When he was chief executive officer of Press Ganey, the South Bend firm grew to collect data for more than half of the hospitals in the nation on consumer evaluations. Hall had this sign in his office: "In God we trust. All others bring data."

So, it's no surprise that Hall commissioned a poll for data on political prospects in Indiana's 2nd Congressional District before announcing his candidacy for the Democratic nomination in that district, now represented by Republican Congresswoman Jackie Walorski. Hall says the poll shows that the 10-county district is indeed Republican flavored, as intended when it was drawn in Republican-controlled redistricting. The GOP advantage in percentages, he says, could be "plus 9, plus 10, plus 11." Of his chances of



defeating Walorski, Hall concedes that strictly on the basis of the political data, "It's not a slam dunk; it's not likely."

If Hall wins the nomination – and no other potential Democratic nominee has organized as he has and filed with the Federal Election Commission – he will enter a race with Walorski as an underdog. Still, Hall says both the poll data and his personal contacts as he contemplated running show he can win because voters want a member of Congress "who will show up and stand up."

Well, sure, if he can convince a majority of voters that he will stand up for what they want and that Walorski has not. Not simple to do.

**In his** announcement statement, Hall never mentioned Walorski. Democrats criticize her lack of town hall meetings and refusal to debate. But does that convince voters beyond the Democratic base? Hall needs to go beyond that base, which is not enough to win in the district, and convince a significant percentage of Republicans and independents to vote for him.

Two poll findings that Hall would reveal are highly significant in forecasting the political climate for the congressional race next fall, one pointing to dangers of stormy weather and the other showing chances for a favorable

tide. "The president's popular in the district," Hall says. He adds that the poll found Trump "strong but polarizing."

Trump was so strong in Indiana in the presidential race that he won the state by nearly 20 percentage points. The Trump tide took under every Democrat running statewide, and Walorski's 2016 opponent, Lynn Coleman, didn't have a chance. If Trump retains anywhere near that popularity in the district next fall, even though he won't be on the ballot, Hall's chances would diminish.

**One recent statewide** poll showed Trump's popularity slipping some in Indiana, as it is in most states. But the president's base is solid, and a big majority of Hoosier Republicans sticks with him. That's why the two Republican congressmen battling for the party's nomination for the U.S. Senate refrain from ever criticizing the president and debate over which one is truly 100 percent with Trump. Republican primary election voters aren't likely to pick a nominee who breaks with Trump. That's no doubt why Hall was so cautious in answering questions about Trump after his announcement. An anti-Trump attack that would gladden the hearts of Democratic progressives would be a ticket to defeat in the Republican-flavored 2nd.

Hall says his poll, in testing views in the district on state and national political figures, found that Sen. Joe Donnelly "is the most popular of all." Donnelly, the Democratic incumbent from Granger, will be in one of the costliest and closest races for the Senate. If Donnelly retains high popularity in his home district, the resulting district tide could be one pulling Hall along rather than pulling him under. Hall plans to run as a Donnelly-style moderate Democrat.



While neither Donnelly nor South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg is expected to endorse Hall before the primary, prominent supporters of both are already with Hall. Data is important. Support like that is more important. ❖

**Colwell has covered Indiana politics over five decades for the South Bend Tribune. ❖**

# Where never is heard a discouraging word ...

By **LEE HAMILTON**

BLOOMINGTON – Our political system appears dysfunctional and occasionally on the verge of breakdown. But however dire things appear in Washington, I believe we have it within us to set the country back on a productive track.

I've been reminded recently of the old cowboy song, "Home on the Range." You know the line, "Where never is heard a discouraging word"? That is not the United States right now. Pretty much everywhere I turn, all I hear is discouragement. Our institutions of government are paralyzed. We face serious national problems with no effective response in sight – or even, in some cases, an acknowledgement that a problem exists. We're fighting over racism, identity, security and culture. Our political system appears dysfunctional and occasionally on the verge of breakdown.



All of this is serious. But the question we have to confront is not, "What's going wrong?" It's, "How do we respond?" Or, at the risk of seeming hopelessly out of step with the national mood, "How do we set about making a great country still greater?"

As always, the answer to our problems does not lie in efforts to tinker with the structures we've erected or the systems we've created. It lies in us; in the American people. Whatever our political beliefs, we share some characteristics that I think give us cause for hope.

I've always thought that Carl Schurz, a German-born U.S. senator from Missouri, summed up something basic about the American character when he said, on the floor of the Senate in 1872, "My country right or wrong; when right, to keep her right; when wrong, to put her right."

**Americans respect** the ideals of this country. They're devoted to those ideals – freedom, liberty, justice for all – and they want the nation to live up to them. They believe in fighting oppression and expanding opportunity, in the rule of law and making progress on Americans' pursuit of happiness. They believe in the words of the Constitution's preamble, "To strive for a more perfect union."

We do not give up, and we always hold out hope that the country is fixable. Even when we believe the nation is falling short of its ideals, we're moved not by malice or hatred, but because we want to make the United States stronger and fairer.

Americans in overwhelming numbers believe in

and respect what this country stands for, appreciate the differences and the diversity that are our hallmark, and recognize those differences and diversity as a strength. This creates a remarkable degree of unity on broad goals. There is widespread acceptance of the notions that people here should have access to good health care, that we need to be good stewards of the environment, that everyone should have a fair shot at success, that voting should not be burdensome.

**Americans believe in** a strong national defense, that the U.S. ought to play a benign role in the world, that people of all kinds are welcome to engage in the political process, that civil liberties ought to be staunchly defended, and that we all deserve equality before the law. Our differences arise over the means of achieving those goals.

All of us also recognize that this nation has its faults, some of them deep-seated and stubborn. We believe that America can do better. But there is a broad streak of pragmatism in this country. Because of its size, diversity and complexity, it's hard to get things done, and Americans understand this and often approach the country's problems with sleeves rolled up.

Again and again in times of adversity, we see Americans of all backgrounds and political perspectives pitching in to help out. Americans believe in the values of hard work, the importance of family, self-sufficiency, community engagement and involvement. For the most part, they do not approve of people who incessantly and harshly criticize the country.

**This is why, however** dire things appear in Washington, I continue to believe that we have it within us to set the country back on a productive track. We know that in order for us to progress we all have to give something back – that with freedom and liberty come responsibility. And when we see others stand up for the nation's ideals and act to broaden opportunity for others, it sends, as Robert Kennedy said, "a ripple of hope" through the community that, in time, becomes an unstoppable current of change. ❖

**Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar, IU School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice, IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.**

# Building on local assets

By **MORTON MARCUS**

INDIANAPOLIS – “Week after week. Don’t you get depressed or bored telling us about Indiana’s problems and shortcomings?” That was Faye of the Forest, a sprite sitting on the rail of the deck overlooking our trees and creek. Her newly blue and blonde hair was down to her shoulders in ringlets.



“Why the change in hair color?” I asked.

“To celebrate Indiana,” she answered. “And I want to impress the governor when I see him with the fierce idealism of the Hoosier forest people.”

“Yes, you’ve had some success recently saving forested land in Indianapolis,” I said.

“Don’t forget the comprehensive urban forest maintenance program we’ve initiated in Highland,” she boasted. “It’s going to remove and replace rotted trees, keep older neighborhoods beautiful and sustain property values.”

“Yeah,” I snarled, “but how many jobs does it create?”

“There’s more to life than jobs,” she said. “There’s living and living well.”

“Without jobs that pay well, living is an ordeal,” I said.

“No,” she countered, “living is a challenge. But you neglect what can be done, and is being done, by Hoosiers with energy and imagination. Go look at New Castle.”

“What’s there beside a big gym and a memorial to Hoosier basketball?” I asked.

“They have a small, but sustained group called HOPE focused on local solutions to national problems. They’ve addressed the disgrace of every established community with run-down, abandoned houses. Tore them down. They are working to get Pre-K education for every child in Henry County despite having the overhead of five school corporations. They’ve identified local people to fight the opioid problem at its roots, in the homes, streets and institutions of the community.

**“This is not some bombastic** bureaucratic organization, but a small, shifting alliance of determined people, focused on serious problems with limited, achievable, and observable goals.”

“OK,” I agreed, “Sounds good.”

“Don’t dismiss the good because it’s small,” she chastised me. “Great and lasting mosaics are made of tiny tiles.”

“Easy, easy,” I said. “Don’t get defensive about your size.”

“It’s not about me,” she insisted. “It’s about the Hobarts of Indiana.”

“There’s more than one?” I asked.

**“There just one,” she said.** “And their local government is working with people and funding from local, state, and federal sources to improve the choices of the people who live or visit Hobart. You should see their plans, realized and prospective, for Lake George downtown and that river of commerce we call U.S. 30. It respects the past while anticipating the future. Again, it’s building upon existing local assets rather than speculating and conniving to bring a miracle down from the clouds.”

“OK,” I yielded.

“Right, she said, flapping her hummingbird-like wings and lifting off. “It’s all about the efforts of Hoosiers laying the foundations for a better future that won’t show up in your precious data until a decade from now.” ❖

**Mr. Marcus is an economist, writer, and speaker who may be reached at [atmortonjmarcus@yahoo.com](mailto:atmortonjmarcus@yahoo.com).**

# An \$11 million payday at Gary Public schools

By **RICH JAMES**

MERRILLVILLE – I guess that when you have almost \$2 billion in the bank, you can be a little loose with your money. That’s exactly the feeling one gets when looking at the agreement between the Legislature and the person hired to turn around the struggling Gary Community School Corp.



Peggy Hinckley and her Gary Schools Recovery team stand to make \$11.4 million over the next three years. Hinckley was hired by the state to turn around the woefully weak Gary school system, which has struggled for years with an unbalanced budget while racking up more than \$100 million in debt. All the while, school buildings fell into disrepair and the student achievement scores plummeted.

ings fell into disrepair and the student achievement scores plummeted.

**The situation got so bad** that the state took control of the school corporation and hired Hinckley as the emergency manager. And she will be paid handsomely. According to her tentative contract, she will be paid \$3.9 million for the current school year and similar amounts over the next two years if the school district meets performance targets.

While that is a heckuva lot of money, the incentive

pay is nothing to sneeze at either.

Some \$550,000 in incentive pay is available if the team does some basic things like creating a viable deficit reduction plan by Jan. 31, 2018, improving student achievement on state tests by 10%, resolving certain audit findings and establishing internal controls for major financial systems. That seems to be basic kind of stuff.

**But, it's the \$100,000 bonus** that Hinckley already has received that is troublesome. The \$100,000 was for achieving a "smooth start" to the school year by ensuring that classes started on time in clean, safe and well-supplied buildings with minimal bus transportation issues.

A series of elected Gary school boards did an awful job of running the schools, amassing massive amounts of debt that is almost unforgiveable. So, too, is the amount of money the state is paying to fix the problem, including incentives for Hinckley to simply do her job.

**Rich James has been writing about state and**

**local government and politics for almost 40 years. He is retired from the Post-Tribune.**

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**YOUR FRIENDS ALL HANG OUT HERE... DO YOU?**

**Photography With Punch**

Mark Curry On Indiana Politics

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**Thomas Friedman, New York Times:** Well, it took almost a year, but we now have the “Trump Doctrine.” It’s very simple. And, as you’d expect, it fits neatly into a tweet. On nearly every major issue, President Trump’s position is: “Obama built it. I broke it. You fix it.” And that cuts right to the core of what is the most frightening thing about the Trump presidency. It’s not the president’s juvenile tweeting or all the aides who’ve been pushed out of his clown car at high speed or his industrial-strength lying. It’s Trump’s willingness to unravel so many long-standing policies and institutions at once — from NAFTA to Obamacare to the global climate accord to the domestic clean power initiative to the Pacific trade deal to the Iran nuclear deal — without any real preparation either on the day before or for the morning after. Indeed, Trump has made most of his climate, health, energy and economic decisions without consulting any scientists, without inviting into the White House a broad range of experts, without putting forth his own clear-cut alternatives to the systems he’s unraveling, without having at the ready a team of aides or a political coalition able to implement any alternatives and without a strategic framework that connects all of his dots. In short, we’re simply supposed to take the president’s word that this or that deal “is the worst deal ever” — backed up by no serious argument or plan about how he will produce a better one. ❖



**George F. Will, Washington Post:** With eyes wide open, Mike Pence eagerly auditioned for the role as Donald Trump’s poodle. Now comfortably leashed, he deserves the degradations that he seems too sycophantic to recognize as such. He did Trump’s adolescent bidding with last Sunday’s preplanned virtue pageant of scripted indignation — his flight from the predictable sight of players kneeling during the national anthem at a football game. No unblinkered observer can still cling to the hope that Pence has the inclination, never mind the capacity, to restrain, never mind educate, the man who elevated him to his current glory. Pence is a reminder that no one can have sustained transactions with Trump without becoming too soiled for subsequent scrubbing. A man who interviewed for the position Pence captured, Sen. Bob Corker (R-Tenn.), is making amends for saying supportive things about Trump. In 2016, for example, he said he was “repulsed” by people trying to transform the Republican National Convention from a merely ratifying body into a deliberative body for the purpose of preventing what has come to pass. Until recently, Corker, an admirable man and talented legislator, has been, like many other people, prevented by his normality from fathoming Trump’s abnormality. Now Corker says what could have been said two years ago about Trump’s unfitness. The axiom that “Hell is truth seen too late” is mistaken; damnation deservedly comes to those who tardily speak truth that has long been patent. ❖

**Jon Webb, Evansville Courier & Press:** Wayne Parke must enjoy asking for resignations. Back in April, the chairman of the Vanderburgh County GOP demanded that County Commissioner Cheryl Musgrave step down. She responded by laughing in his face. Now he’s coming after City Councilor Dan McGinn who, sick of Parke’s repeated criticisms, penned a glorious screed over the weekend announcing his departure from the Republican Party. The tipping point apparently came when Parke railed against McGinn’s votes in favor of a tax increase and establishing an independent council that could redraw political districts to curb gerrymandering. “You have criticized us for exercising our independent judgement and doing what we feel is best for the people we represent rather than marching lockstep to political doctrine,” McGinn wrote. “I no longer wish to be affiliated with any person or organization that condones dishonesty. I no longer wish to be affiliated with any person or organization that punishes independent thinking and demands adherence to political dogma. This is 2017, not 1984.” Parke, of course, didn’t care for that, and demanded that McGinn step aside so voters could be “represented by a Republican.” Problem is, “Republican” doesn’t mean much in local politics. “Democrat” doesn’t either. If you removed the “R” and “D” from city and county politicians’ names on ballots and judged them only by their actions, you’d have a hard time pinning down their parties. Mayor Lloyd Winnecke, with his fairly progressive social politics and push for large government-funded projects such as the Downtown hotel, looks a lot like a traditional Democrat. City Councilor Missy Mosby, with her loud praises of law enforcement and patriotism, can sound like a Republican. ❖

**Bob Zaltsberg, Bloomington Herald-Times:** Indiana State Rep. Jim Lucas, R-Seymour, knows how to get some attention from journalists. Last week, he got plenty after a bill he has drafted that would require professional journalists to be licensed landed in the headlines. News of the bill went beyond state lines to national journalism organizations and publications. He was waving a red flag at a bull and he knew it. After spending time and taxpayer money having the bill drafted, he told some media outlets he was just making a point; he didn’t want the bill to pass and was just countering media opinions that oppose the bill he really wants. That one would repeal Indiana’s requirement for people to be licensed to carry a handgun. The Lucas rationale: If you want to license my 2nd Amendment rights, why shouldn’t I be able to license your 1st Amendment rights? While a few people might find the question reasonable, lawmakers and the courts have never approached the two amendments exactly the same way. Nor should they. Neither 1st Amendment freedoms nor 2nd Amendment freedoms are absolute, and lawmakers and courts have agreed upon ways to restrict both in their own way. ❖



## Teacher shortage in 94% of districts

TERRE HAUTE — A mid-September survey of Indiana school superintendents shows that 94 percent are reporting a teacher shortage in their districts this fall, and special education continues to be the area of greatest need (Loughlin, Terre Haute Tribune-Star). "The teacher shortage is real and we continue to see the proof," said Terry McDaniel, Indiana State University professor in the department of educational leadership. "We need to continue to find ways to keep our good teachers in the profession and recruit high-quality new teachers." Of 141 district superintendents responding to the survey, 94 percent indicated they had a teacher shortage, with 69 percent reporting a shortage in special education, an increase of 10 points since 2015. Science and math are other areas with shortages, with 57 percent of superintendents reporting shortages in those areas.



## Region, Indy submit Amazon HQ2 bids

GARY — Hammond, Gary and Northwest Indiana have submitted bids for Amazon's widely coveted second headquarters, which could invest \$5 billion and employ up to 50,000, six-figure employees over the next 15 years (Pete, NWI Times). Hammond, which filed its bid Wednesday evening, pitched the old State Line Generating Plant property on the coast of Lake Michigan. Gary also filed its bid last Thursday in conjunction with the Indiana Economic Development Corp. and the Northwest Indiana Forum. The bid focused on prospective sites in Gary's downtown but include prospective Northwest Indiana locations outside of the Steel City, in case Amazon preferred building on a greenfield site to redeveloping an urban area, Northwest Forum Chief Executive Officer

Heather Ennis said. The state government is backing bids from Northwest Indiana, the Indianapolis area and the Indiana suburbs of Louisville. The Indianapolis region has officially sent in its formal bid to be considered as the site for a second Amazon headquarters, according to the Indy Chamber (Colombo, IBJ). Chamber spokesman Joe Pellman said Wednesday morning in an email that the bid "has been sent as of last night to arrive ahead of the Oct. 19 deadline."

## Annexation suit dismissal denied

NASHVILLE — A Brown County judge has denied a state request to dismiss a lawsuit the City of Bloomington filed this year challenging a state law that blocked the city's annexation efforts (Costello & Brosher, Indiana Public Media). The lawsuit claims the legislation violates the state constitution because it singles out an individual community for regulation. The lawsuit names Gov. Eric Holcomb as the defendant.

## Holcomb heads to India next week

INDIANAPOLIS — Gov. Eric Holcomb will next week begin an economic development trade mission to India (Brown, Inside Indiana Business). The governor, alongside First Lady Janet Holcomb and Indiana Secretary of Commerce Jim Schellinger, will visit with government officials, representatives of foreign chambers and business leaders "to discuss opportunities to advance mutually-beneficial business and workforce development initiatives." The group is scheduled to depart for India October 27 and return November 3. Holcomb also plans to meet with executives of Indian companies with a presence in Indiana, including Infosys, and executives with Indiana-based companies with operations in India, such as Columbus-based Cummins Inc.

## Madison, Culver named Stellar

INDIANAPOLIS — Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch has unveiled the 2017 Stellar Communities designees (Brown, Inside Indiana Business). The city of Madison and the town of Culver were chosen out of a group of six finalists.

## Trump offered \$25k to grieving dad

WASHINGTON — President Trump, in a personal phone call to a grieving military father, offered him \$25,000 and said he would direct his staff to establish an online fundraiser for the family, but neither happened, the father said. Chris Baldrige, the father of Army Sgt. Dillon Baldrige, said that Trump called him at his home in Zebulon, N.C., a few weeks after his 22-year-old son and two fellow soldiers were fatally shot by an Afghan police officer on June 10.

## Trump didn't call Hunter family

WASHINGTON — AP reached out to the families of all 43 people who have died in military service since Trump became president and made contact with about half the families. Of those who would address the question, relatives of nine said they had heard from Trump by phone or mail. Relatives of nine others said they haven't. After Army Sgt. Jonathon M. Hunter [23] of Columbus, Ind., died in a suicide bombing attack in Afghanistan in August. Mark Hunter, his father, said a military casualty officer informed the family that Trump would call and the family was let down when he didn't. Trump told Fox News Radio's "Brian Kilmeade Show" on Tuesday: "[T]o the best of my knowledge, I think I've called every family of somebody that's died ... I have called, I believe everybody but certainly I'll use the word 'virtually' everybody ... I've called virtually everybody."