



Democrats step on the gas

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

ELKHART, Ind. - As July drew to a close, House Minority Leader B. Patrick Bauer called on Attorney General Steve Carter to investigate price gouging by gasoline retailers.

"People are finding it difficult to afford to fill up their vehicles so they can get to and from work," Bauer said. "It is hard to listen to their concerns, then read newspaper accounts that tell us that the total earnings among the five largest oil companies have gone up more than 30 percent from a year ago." According to press reports, those earnings have hit \$33.6 billion, which is 32 percent higher than a year ago. The national average price of regular gasoline was just over \$3 a gallon on Thursday, compared to \$2.285 a year ago. That is an increase of nearly 32 percent. "I find it noteworthy that the percentage



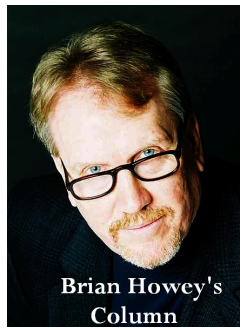
House Minority Leader B. Patrick Bauer kicked off Indiana Democrats' assault on the gas price issue. By the beginning of this week, it was being used against U.S. Reps. Chris Chocola and Mike Sodrel. (HPR and South Bend Tribune photos)

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The Lieberman factor

INDIANAPOLIS - So, how should we process the primary defeat of U.S. Sen. Joe Lieberman?

Look no further than U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh, who long cited Lieberman as a Senate mentor and a centrist model. Bayh will support the Democratic nominee, Ned Lamont. And he told the **South Bend Tribune** Wednesday night that the U.S. should leave Iraq "very quickly" unless the main Iraqi factions make the political decision to live together as a single country.



Bayh also drew a distinction between himself and Lieberman, perhaps the first political casualty of the



"The Democratic voters of Connecticut have spoken and Sen. Bayh respects their choice and will support their nominee."

- Dan Pfeiffer, spokesman for Sen. Evan Bayh



Iraq fiasco. He reiterated his position to the Tribune's Jim Wensits: unlike Lieberman, Bayh would not have supported the invasion of Iraq had he known there were no weapons of mass destruction to be found there.

The primary defeat of Sen. Lieberman is not good news for the presidential prospects of Sen. Bayh. The party appears to be ready to move to the left, just as the Republican Party looks to be headed toward the center, as evidenced by the defeat of pro-intelligent design candidates on the Kansas Board of Education last week. With moderates now in control of one of the hotbeds of far right ideologies, there are more and more Republicans taking long hard looks at moderate GOP 2008 presidential contenders such as Sen. John McCain and former New York City Mayor Rudy Guiliani.

Bayh has spent most of his Senate tenure arguing for "bipartisanship" and centrist thought. The party, angered by the debacle in Iraq, looks like it is preparing to take a major left turn.

They are fueled by books like **"Fiasco: The American Military Adventure in Iraq"** by Washington Post military reporter Thomas E. Ricks, who writes in the opening pages: "President George W. Bush's decision to invade Iraq in 2003 ultimately may come to be seen as one of the most profligate actions in the history of American foreign policy. The consequences won't be clear for decades, but it already is abundantly clear in mid-2006 that the U.S. government went to war in Iraq with scant solid international support on the basis of incorrect information -- about weapons of mass destruction and a supposed nexus between Saddam Hussein and al Qaeda terrorism -- and then occupied the country negligently."

Ricks writes the invasion was "launched recklessly, with a flawed plan for war and a worse approach to occupation. Spooked by its own false conclusions about the

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threat, the Bush administration hurried its diplomacy, short-circuited its war planning, and assembled an agonizingly incompetent occupation. None of this was inevitable."

Ricks blames President Bush, an "overweening Pentagon," a confused intelligence apparatus, Congress, "and the inability of the media to find and present alternative sources of information about Iraq and the threat it did or didn't pose to the United States."

The heroes, Ricks says, are the most powerless: American GIs and Marines on the front lines and Iraqi civilians.

Tuesday's primaries, that brought the defeats of U.S. Reps. Cynthia McKinney and Joe Schwartz of Michigan, portend trends we've already seen here in Indiana. It prompted Democratic political ana-

lyst James Carville to predict an anti-incumbency wave is developing that extends beyond Bush's GOP war hawks and wimps. "This could hit incumbents very, very hard," Carville said on CNN Wednesday morning. "There's a very, very large anti-incumbent feeling. These are very real winds of change moving across the country. There's a tremendous desire for change in the country and they want that crowd out of Washington."

Lieberman, McKinney, Schwartz, Bob Garton, Mary Kay Budak and Carolene Bottorff can attest to these winds of change. U.S. Reps. Mark Souder and Chris Chocola saw gadfly opponents get 30 percent of the primary vote.

It could get real ugly out there this fall, and not just for Republicans. ❖



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increase in the level of profits announced by the major oil companies mirrors almost exactly the percentage increase in the price of a gallon of gas across the country," Bauer noted. "I don't think you could consider this coincidental in any way, shape or form, and I think it demands more than just token attention from our state's leading law enforcement official."

Politics in second gear

Within a few days, the political exploitation of perhaps the best issue to be exploited had shifted into second gear. Bauer borrowed Gov. Frank O'Bannon's most successful re-election strategy from 2000: calling for a repeal of the state gas tax. That occurred in July 2000 when gas was \$1.80 a gallon. It was largely responsible for giving O'Bannon an insurmountable lead while costing state coffers about \$46 million.

"This has gone way too far. People are hurting. Middle-class and poor people need relief to get to work," Bauer said, noting that Indiana is one of seven states that impose a gasoline sales tax. "it's past time to give Hoosiers relief."

Gov. Mitch Daniels said he "wouldn't say never" to the idea of suspending the tax. "Clearly people are conserving a little bit on the gas they use and perhaps shifting to other discretionary purposes and holding back on those," Daniels said. "And we have just achieved the first balanced budget in eight years in this state, but we are still not done. We still have debts to pay off from the years when Mr. Bauer and his people were running this state, and it just seems a little early to me -- and I don't think I'm alone in this -- to head back in the direction of the red when we just escaped that time." Senate Majority Leader David Long called Bauer's move "pandering."

Bosma cites 'market forces'

House Speaker Brian Bosma, appearing at a House Republican press conference this morning at the Indiana

State Fairgrounds, scoffed at the shallowness of Bauer's energy solutions. "It would save the average family about \$3 a week," Bosma said. "If we did knock 15 cents off a gallon of gas, there would still be a 15 cent difference with Ohio and Illinois. The prices will rise to market levels. I believe the consumers will see very little benefit."

Simpson: Hair-splitting

By the beginning of this week, Democrats everywhere were stepping on the gas issue and confronting the Oil Presidency of Bush-Cheney.

Probable 2008 Democratic gubernatorial candidate Sen. Vi Simpson said, "While attorney-at-law Sen. David Long is splitting hairs over the legalisms of the proposed suspension of the sales tax on gas, there are many of us out here who are working to bring immediate relief to Indiana families. All across this state, families are feeling the pinch every time they pull up to the gas pump."

State Sen. Ronnie Alting's Democrat opponent, Dave Vorbeck said, "Even more disturbing is that gas prices in Lafayette jumped about 30 cents per gallon between the time I left for work yesterday morning and the time I came home. As a result, big oil companies are reaping record profits and the state's budget is experiencing a windfall while Hoosier families and small businesses are taking a hit at the gas pump. This is unacceptable."

The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee was unloading on U.S. Reps. Chris Chocola and Mike Sodrel. "Chocola voted to send \$2.6 billion in tax breaks to big oil companies and voted three times against gas price gouging protections for consumers," the ad says. "Indiana families face a choice this November. They deserve a member of Congress who puts families ahead of big oil companies, especially while drivers are paying more at the pump than ever before. "With gas prices at

record levels, families are the ones who deserve a break, not big oil companies," said Bill Burton, communications director of the DCCC.

On Tuesday, the first anniversary of the Energy



Former congressman Baron Hill commemorated the first anniversary of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 by noting increased foreign dependence and soaring energy prices. Hill is shown here during the 2004 campaign in Seymour. (HPR Photo by Brian A. Howey)



Policy Act of 2005, Hill blasted Sodrel, saying, "Since making the legislation law, America has not decreased its dependence on foreign oil, gas prices have soared well above \$3 a gallon, and our nation has made little headway toward achieving a clean and renewable energy future, Hill's campaign said. "Instead of giving tax breaks and subsidies to Big Oil, we should work together to achieve energy independence right here at home in Indiana."

Hill noted that since Bush took office, the price an average family pays annually for gas has risen by \$545, from \$1,403 in 2000 to \$1,948 in 2005 [Department of Energy, Consumer Federation of America Report]. "Congressman Mike Sodrel, who voted for the sham energy bill, has accepted over \$30,000 in campaign contributions from Big Oil companies such as Exxon Mobil."

The problem with calls for gas tax cuts is that economists say it is the wrong answer in the long term. It would do more damage while only resulting in pennies in the pockets of consumers. In his last **Business Week** column, Nobel Prize winning economist Gary Becker urged a 50-cent a gallon tax, reasoning that it would encourage conservation, reduce oil revenues, reduce terror financing, and cut down on emissions.

New York Times columnist Thomas L. Friedman is also calling for a 50-cent gas tax, saying that most Americans have little stake in the war in Iraq, the country with the second largest reserves that is pumping less now than in 2002. That is contributing to the supply and demand dilemma of today. Friedman said, "The American Renewal Tax (could) be used to rebuild New Orleans, pay down the deficit, fund tax breaks for Americans to convert their cars to hybrid technology or biofuels, fund a Manhattan Project to develop alternatives for energy independence, and subsidize mass transit systems for our major cities."

Republicans cite first plan ever

Facing a harrowing national backdrop, Indiana House Republicans responded with their energy policy at the Indiana State Fair today.

Noting that there are now 11 ethanol and three

biodiesel facilities under construction (compared to the one at South Bend two years ago), Bosma and Skillman (see photo below) announced the "Homegrown Energy Plan." It calls for incentives for alternative fuel accessibility, a renewable energy investment tax credit, ethanol production infrastructure assistance, incentives for hybrid vehicle purchases, and a government audit of its own energy consumption.



"We must keep driving, but now with alternative fuel, in the new direction that we steered Indiana toward 20 months ago," Bosma said. "These initiatives provide greater incentives to use alternative energy produced here in Indiana while blending well with the governor's comprehensive energy plan. These proposals will serve as a roadmap for Indiana's future

energy needs."

Skillman promised that after Friday, it will become clear that "Indiana will become a global leader in the production and use of biofuels."

She noted that there are now 40 E-85 stations in Indiana and the state is poised to "look at the next generation of biofuels" such as cellulosic ethanol being pioneered at Purdue University. "We've gone from nowhere to national leadership in a short period of time," Skillman said.

Bauer's response this morning: "Nothing the House Republicans have offered today will help resolve the gas crisis that Hoosiers are facing right now."

Epilogue: Questions

The questions for Republicans are whether voters will care about the state's balanced budget while paying \$3 a gallon gas on the way to the polls on Nov. 7. In her 1999 mayoral campaign, Sue Anne Gilroy tried to turn crime into a fiscal issue and was soundly defeated by Bart Peterson. Turning gas into budgets is recipe for political disaster. But, conversely, will voters compare the simplistic populist approach of Rep. Bauer to the more comprehensive work underway by the Daniels-Skillman administration? ❖



The crisis of crime

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - A dozen homicides last week on the bloody streets of Indiana's capital city did what decades of political inertia could never breach.

Marion County Superior Court judges stepped in Wednesday and issued a sweeping "directive" that could cost taxpayers tens of millions of dollars but provide them with more security. Mayor Bart Peterson offered up a budget with \$54 million in new spending to combat crime. Prosecutor Carl Brizzi announced six new homicide prosecutors. IPS Supt. Eugene White put middle school principals on notice that performance had to improve or heads would roll. Sheriff Frank Anderson declared a "war" was at hand.

"I've said this a few times before in the past seven years, but I've never meant it more than I mean it today: This is a big day in the city of Indianapolis," Peterson said at a Wednesday news conference flanked by Brizzi, Anderson and Judge Cale Bradford, who became the reluctant catalyst behind the directive. "These are major changes in the way we handle the criminal justice system post-arrest."

And a voice cutting through the gunfire and rhetoric -- Rev. Olgen Williams -- cited gas station tarmacs as lethal gathering points and fingered violent video games as producing the kind of "super predators" that Mayor Stephen Goldsmith predicted in the midst of the crack cocaine catastrophe in the mid-1990s. It just took the "super predators" a decade to penetrate the political realm that just months ago was at loggerheads over common sense moves like consolidating the county's two largest police departments.

Throughout Bloody August, the inescapable political fact is that political figures are running scared. When Mayor Peterson (up for re-election in 2007) declares a "crisis" and Sheriff Anderson (along with Brizzi, up for re-election this year) goes to "war," the political subtext shouts "Danger! Danger!"

Factor in an fed-up voting public which has shown little reticence for throwing the bums out of office (i.e. Bob Garton, Sen. Lieberman, Reps. McKinney and Schwartz, and 12 Pennsylvania incumbent legislators), and it's easy to see how someone like Sheriff Anderson should be worried.

He was thought to be on a breezy recorona-

tion until the Indianapolis Star pointed out what everyone within the dysfunctional criminal justice system knew: the Marion County sheriff gets rich, even when criminals are being released back on the streets to perpetrate even more mayhem. It was the fill-in-the-blanks part -- a \$360,000 annual salary and a \$50,000 raise -- that set the eyebrows arching deep into crinkled foreheads. Bloody August was simply the beginning of harvest season as violent crime rates accelerated for months.

Brizzi, the last standing Republican officeholder, appeared to be more vulnerable than Anderson going into this sequence. He was raising red flags about early jail releases for months. But he's played his cards pretty well this summer, from his handling of the Hamilton Avenue Massacre to his proposals to ship more inmates to DOC at New Castle.

The biggest danger for Brizzi is getting capsized in a national tidal wave that takes on a local retribution, particularly if the victims veer away from young, black males and more into the general population. That could trigger a wholesale house cleaning at the local level.

Anderson will probably survive because his opponent - Republican Steve Davis - might as well be a ghost who put out a couple press releases after the salary issue and has been mostly silent during Bloody August. Marion County Republicans have blown it once again.

Peterson has, in some ways, been way out front on crime at the beginning of his political career and now at the end of his second term. He campaigned for 200 new cops, hinting that he envisioned them walking police beats and developing rapport with neighborhoods. There were never really 200 new cops, and the impression I got well into the first Peterson administration was that there were more squad cars visible, but other than the bicycle patrols, you didn't see many blue uniforms strolling the streets, IDing drug houses and working up information networks. While Brizzi opponent Melina Kennedy claims a role in developing the Peterson public safety MO, she may be most vulnerable on whether community policing ever did take root in the most violent neighborhoods.

Mayor Peterson has been visionary on some fronts. When he targeted violent video games years ago, some thought it was a peculiar issue. But the fact is that we have an emerging generation of kids who have en-



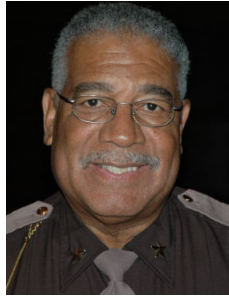
Prosecutor Carl Brizzi and Rev. Olgen Williams at Black Expo 2005. (HPR Photo by Thomas A. Howey)



tertain themselves on "Grand Theft Auto," their formative minds lodged deep into an anti-social computer hole. Suburban kids have deeper family and social networks that prevent most from making the tipping point leap from joystick to Smith & Wesson. Urban kids with parents who don't show up for parent/teacher conferences are now gunning and stabbing their own.

And Mayor Peterson strangely detached himself from the issue. His 2006 State of the City address will be more known for his plan to plant more trees than how to solve the crime problem. And, on the eve of police consolidation, the mayor has essentially removed himself from the day-to-day aspects of crime management.

I've long traced inertia on crime to 1988 when George H.W. Bush said, "Read my lips; no new taxes." We know that story. He raised taxes anyway and lost in 1992.



Sheriff Anderson

But a legion of Hoosier politicians from Evan Bayh and Frank O'Bannon to Goldsmith and David McIntosh learned the lesson well. No new taxes. Never. Ever. No matter for what. Not for a modern criminal justice center. Not for keeping community centers open for kids who otherwise roam the streets. No COIT increase. None for community street patrols. Never. Ever.

If there is to be blame, look no further that the City-County Council and the Indiana General Assembly, which treated the education and crime resource demands as a political game while people have been bleeding in the street.

One can gaze upon the roster of both these august institutions and see a compelling lack of statesmen and women. Republicans in both institutions took a pass on the consolidation efforts. There could never be a tax increase.

And this is the harvest we reap: astounding IPS dropout rates. Super predators. A full-fledged political crisis. And August, bloody August. ❖

Capital Crimes

By ABDUL-HAKIM SHABAZZ

What do you say if I ask you to name a capital where people are shot dead everyday and the government can't quite seem to get a handle on things? What you say? Baghdad? No, the answer is Indianapolis.

As I sit and compose this column there have been close to three murders a day in Indianapolis. City officials remain determined to win the war on crime, but I wonder if this is one of those times when the best hope is containment, not victory.



The budget plan introduced Monday night increased spending on public safety by 11 percent. The 53-million dollar increase will go toward staffing 250 new jail beds, three new courts, funding for the juvenile detention center and restoring 43 police officer positions to the Indianapolis Police Department. To pay for the increases in public safety, the Mayor's office decreases non-public safety spending by 5 percent.

There are no new city tax increases, however Peterson says there are property tax increases to pay for child welfare and juvenile justice bills which are owed to the state of Indiana. They amount to a nearly \$62 increase on the assessed valuation of a \$100,000 home.

The budget faces major revisions and may change as city leaders look for ways to pay for additional public

safety measures such as more jail beds and court staff to move defendants quicker through the system to alleviate the jail overcrowding problem. City Comptroller Bob Clifford says some of those funds may come from unused overtime from police and fire departments.

Although Peterson says the city realized more than \$15 million in savings from police and fire consolidation, Clifford says they will still need city and county departments to underspend by at least \$3 million to balance the budget. However, with the recent trend in murders in the capital, Indy could go through the end of month with a homicide every day.

Back in May I wrote locally about the disturbing trend in rising crime. I saw stats that showed crime rising in January and February. It was scary because if there were two months where homicides should have dropped, those were the two. I figured if crime was going to be that bad in the winter, God only knows how bad it was going to be this summer. Now we know.

The homicide rate (90-95 depending on how you do the math) hasn't been this bad since 1998.

The only thing more frightening than the crimes that get reported are the ones that do not. A doctor is car-jacked and shot in the parking lot of his hospital. A young man is beaten to a bloody pulp on the canal. Another person is robbed at gunpoint for a backpack. These are crimes you don't hear about because they don't make the news. But they are symptomatic of a much larger problem. Crime is out of control. Our public officials are scrambling to deal with the problem. It is only going to get worse before it gets better. I hear Baghdad is nice this time of year. You don't even have to go out to get bombed. ❖



HOWEY *Political Report*

Jack Colwell, South Bend Tribune - Mitch is out of the ditch, now driving a Honda to higher ground in the polls. The July poll by SurveyUSA shows Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels ranked in a tie for 34th place in popularity among the nation's 50 governors, with 48 percent of Hoosier respondents saying they approve of the job he is doing; 47 percent disapproved. Thus, the governor has moved by a percentage point to positive ground, a far cry from back in the SurveyUSA April poll, when he ranked 46th among the governors and had only 35 percent approval. Daniels still isn't very popular in northern Indiana, where resentment runs high over the Toll Road deal and how he pulled it off. The poll found the governor with 38 percent approval in northern Indiana, lowest among the four regions listed. Even that is a big improvement over only 24 percent approval in the north in April. The big boost in the governor's statewide approval came in the Indianapolis area, where he now is wildly popular, with 70 percent approval. Right there in his home area, he also had been down in the polls before and was virtually booed off the court during ceremonies at a Pacers basketball game earlier this year. Critics of Daniels in the north might think his skyrocketing approval in Indianapolis is because folks there realized they will make out like bandits in getting the major share of Major Moves money, over a billion, from a Toll Road source they never could tap before. Not really. The major reason for the boost in the Indianapolis area is the decision by Honda a couple of weeks before the polling to build an auto plant at Greensburg, a city about 40 miles southeast of Indianapolis. The Indianapolis news media understandably hailed the decision and played up the fact that the site was selected in competition for the plant involving other states. Daniels basked in the glory. ❖

Rich James, Post-Tribune - Members of the U.S. Congress have left Washington to start vacations. They'll be gone until just after Labor Day. Some say the nation is now safer. Others say it will be difficult to tell the difference. I don't know that it's a healthy idea to leave George Bush alone in Washington, although the Republican-controlled Congress hasn't had the fortitude to stand up to what may be the worst president in the last 100 years. When Republicans come home to county fairs and corn roasts, they ought to be embarrassed. They also ought to be afraid of the retribution for what they have done to the country. Oh, you'll hear the GOP candidates spout the party line about family values — how they went to the wall on flag-burning, gay marriage, abortion and funding for embryonic stem cell research. That all makes me feel a lot better when I fill the gas tank. They'll also talk the tired line about how they fended off Democratic

attempts to take assault rifles out of the hands of anyone who wants one. But, they won't mention that most of those assault weapons fall into the hands of criminals. However, if the NRA wants it, most Republicans walk in lock step. They can be a deceitful lot, these Republicans. You'll likely hear them boasting about voting for an increase in the minimum hourly wage, knowing full well it wouldn't pass the Senate because the elimination of the estate tax was in the same bill. ❖



Dick Morris, New York Post - Sen. Joe Lieberman's primary defeat sends a message to all presidential contenders, particularly Sen. Hillary Clinton, that they have to move to the left on the war or be buried by the party's increasingly radical and leftist base. Al Gore is emerging as the one for her to worry about in 2008. Anti-war from the start, riding the global warming issue and a proven popular-vote winner, Gore will be increasingly attractive to the same left-wing voters who nominated Lamont in Connecticut. Hillary's convoluted flip-flops on the war won't play well in the primaries. ❖

Larry Sabato & David Wasserman, Crystal Ball - Just over one month ago, the Crystal Ball argued that a larger wave than currently existed at the time would have to build in order for Republicans to lose their congressional majorities. At the time, the race-by-race rather than national dynamic of competitive races pointed more towards a "micro-wave" than a "macro-wave" for out-of-power Democrats. But now, with a quarter of time elapsed between that pulse-reading and the election, surer signs are emerging that something more substantial than a "micro-wave" is heating up this summer. Historical trends and big picture indicators--generic congressional ballot tests and approval ratings of President Bush's job performance in particular - have always been heavily stacked against the GOP in this "sixth year itch" cycle, but aggregations of more race-specific indicators are now suggesting that Republicans are headed for their most serious midterm losses in decades. As national discontent over gas prices, Iraq, and general instability in the Middle East percolate, approval ratings of Congress, the president, and the national direction continue to languish at torrid depths. But as the Crystal Ball has cautioned again and again, Democrats cannot truly capitalize on the withering political climate faced by the GOP unless they succeed in convincing large numbers of voters to evaluate their home-state Republican candidates through the powerful lens of national displeasure. In other words, the size of Democrats' gains will be contingent upon how well they play the game of guilt by (Bush) association as Republicans seek to escape the shadow of their unpopular chief executive. ❖



Reid predicts 5 new Dem seats

TRENDLINE No. 1: Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid said Wednesday he expects the Democrat who knocked off Sen. Joe Lieberman in Connecticut's Democratic primary to win in November and remains convinced his party will gain at least five Senate seats in the fall elections (Las Vegas Sun). Reid, D-Nev., threw his support behind Ned Lamont, who defeated Lieberman Tuesday night in their Democratic primary.



"He's going to be pretty hard to beat right now. He's the person to beat," said Reid, who said he would not try to persuade Lieberman to drop plans to run as an independent candidate.

TRENDLINE NO. 2: Most Americans believe the GOP-controlled Congress has been a failure and say they plan to vote for Democrats in November, according to a poll released Wednesday. Fifty-three percent of registered voters polled by Opinion Research Corp. for CNN said they were supporting Democrats, while 40 percent said they were leaning Republican. The remaining 7 percent either planned to support another party or had no opinion. As for changing their minds when they get to the ballot box, only 43 percent of those planning to vote for Democrats said that was a possibility as opposed to 54 percent of those saying they plan to support Republicans.

TRENDLINE NO. 2 Same-sex couples in Indiana will be allowed to adopt children after the Indiana Supreme Court let a lower court ruling stand (**Indianapolis Star**). In a 4-1 decision Friday, the state's highest court declined to hear arguments against unmarried couples adopting, effectively upholding a lower-court ruling that allowed adoption by joint petition -- a procedure that gives both partners equal custody. Justice Brent Dickson wrote a three-page dissent suggesting the Supreme Court should have heard the case in order to clarify issues regarding same-sex adoption. "The court is missing a valuable opportunity to address and resolve important questions left undecided," Dickson said. "By denying this case, we are missing a valuable and important opportunity to minimize uncertainty and confusion." The decision also disappointed state Sen. Jeff Drozda, R-Westfield, who is opposed to same-sex adoptions. He said the courts were not representing the views of Hoosiers. He said he will introduce legislation in 2007 to bar same-sex couples from adopting. "The concern that I have is that the integrity of the judicial and the legislative procedures is in jeopardy because the court has decided to legislate, and I believe that is the role of the General Assembly," Drozda said.

Congressional Races

Congressional District 2: Republican: U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola. **Democrat:** Joe Donnelly. **Geography:** South Bend, Michigan City, Mishawaka, Elkhart, Kokomo, Plymouth, Logansport; LaPorte, St. Joseph, Starke, Marshall, Pulaski, Fulton, Cass, Carroll and parts of Howard, Porter, Elkhart and White counties. **Media Market:** South Bend-Elkhart, Indianapolis, Lafayette, Chicago. **People:** Urban/rural 73/27%; median income \$40,381; Poverty 9.5%; Race 84% white, 8% black; 5 Hispanic; Blue/white collar: 34/50%. **2000 Presidential:** Bush 53%, Gore 44%; Cook Partisan Voting Index: R+5; **2002 Result:** Chocola 95,081 (50%), Long Thompson 86,253 (46%); **2004 Result:** Chocola 140,496 (54%) Donnelly (D) 115,513 (45%) **2006 Forecast:** The fact that Daniels is doing at least a little better even in northern Indiana is good news for Chocola (Colwell, **South Bend Tribune**). Although it might not be fair to make Chocola suffer for perceived sins of Mitch, there have been rumblings among voters, including Republicans angry over the Toll Road deal or the time issue, that they will vote against Chocola to smite Daniels, also a Republican, who won't be a target on the ballot this fall. With all kinds of issues and battles of TV, radio and telephone messages ahead in a hot congressional race, most Republicans, despite initial anger over actions or attitudes of Daniels, may well come home to their party and vote for Chocola. How Democratic challenger Joe Donnelly is defined in the view of voters as the battle rages will be a key. But if the race stays close, any defections, either way, could be crucial. In the recent poll by The Tribune and WSBT-TV, Daniels had a positive job performance rating of 41 percent in the 2nd District. The gender gap remains. That's the difference long found in how men and women tend to vote. Polls all around the nation have shown stronger Democratic support among women, stronger Republican support among men. In The Tribune-WSBT poll, Chocola, who trailed by 5 percentage points overall, 46-41, actually was ahead with male respondents by 4 points, while Donnelly was ahead with females by 14 points. Women ranked war in Iraq as the single most important issue in determining their vote for Congress. Men listed taxes and spending as their No. 1 issue. **Status:** TOSSUP ❖

Congressional District 8: Republican: U.S. Rep. John Hostettler. Democrat: Vanderburgh County Sheriff Brad Ellsworth. **Geography:** Evansville, Terre Haute, Greencastle; Posey, Vanderburgh, Warrick, Gibson, Pike, Martin, Daviess, Knox, Sullivan, Greene, Owen,



Clay, Vigo, Vermillion, Parke, Putnam, Warren and part of Fountain counties.

Media Market: Evansville, Terre Haute, Indianapolis. Lafayette. **People:** Urban/rural 58/42%; median income \$36,732; poverty 10.7%; race white 93.7%, black 3.7%, Hispanic .9%; blue/white collar: 32/52%. **2000 Presidential:** Bush 56%, Gore 42%; **Cook Partisan Voting Index:** R+8. **2002 Results:** Hostettler 98,952 (51%), Hartke 88,763 (46%), **2004 Results:** Hostettler 145,576, Jennings (D) 121,522, Garvin (Green) 5.680.

2006 Forecast: National Democrats have canceled at least \$110,000 worth of reserved television advertising in the 8th Congressional District race, about 9 percent of their total investment here. At the same time, national Republicans have dramatically stepped up their reservations for TV ad time in the Evansville and Terre Haute media markets, placing several orders that area TV stations were still processing Wednesday afternoon. A Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee spokeswoman said the cut in spending on behalf of Brad Ellsworth's campaign should not be interpreted as a lack of confidence in Ellsworth. The Democratic committee had just shy of \$1.5 million in TV ad buys and reserved ad time on Ellsworth's behalf before the cancellations. The figure is still at least \$1.3 million. "Brad Ellsworth is an outstanding candidate, and the Indiana 8th District is one of our best opportunities to pick up a seat (in the U.S. House of Representatives)," Democratic spokeswoman Adrienne Elrod said. "It's a very common practice on both sides," campaign manager Jay Howser said. "This is the first race in the country that (the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee) bought media time in. "They're just doing a reconfiguration of their media buying schedule. They're confident in our campaign." A television advertisement by the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee says Hostettler has voted to raise his own pay while opposing pay raises for soldiers in Iraq (Langehorne, **Evansville Courier & Press**). The ad says Hostettler, a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee, is "first in line" to increase his own pay but "refused to give our soldiers

Battle for the House

R30 D36

Likely Takeover (1-R)

Woodruff (Battles)

Tossups (6-R; 1-D)

Buell (Barnes)
Borders (Bledsoe)
Heim (Dembowski)
Open (Budak: Dermody vs. Renner)
J. Smith (Herrell)
Saunders (Sadler (D), and Bell (L))

Orentlicher (Densborn)



Leans (14-R; 9-D)

Bosma (Fuldauer)	Hoy (A. Smith)
Lehe (Sutton)	Fry (Hiler)
Harris (Hile)	Micon (Basham)
Davis (Liggett)	Austin (Metzger)
Lutz (Mengelt)	Tincher (Dallas)
Dodge (Rauen)	Denbo (Patton)
Stutzman (Rorick)	Crooks (Arnold)
Open (Hoffman: Knollman vs. Lanning)	Open (Stemler v Theobald)
Open (Messer: Eberhard vs. Lux)	Bischoff (Ullrich)
Hinkle (Olds)	
Bright (Cheatham)	
Walorski (Kovach)	
Open (Thomas: Thomas v. Thompson (D))	
Open (Ayres: Soliday v. Graham (D))	

Likely (1-R; 2-D)

Ulmer (Puro) Klinker (Rhoda)
Pflum (Bell)

Safe (30-R; 36-D)

(30 Republican) Gutwein, Wolkins, Ruppel, Friend, McClain, Thompson, Richardson, Turner, Buck, Torr, Whetstone, T. Brown, Foley, Frizzell, Behning, Murphy, Noe, Pond, Borror, Bell, Espich, Ripley, Crouch, Duncan, Koch, Open (Yount: M. Smith), Burton, Cherry, Leonard, Neese

(36-Democrats) Avery, Lawson, Harris, C. Brown, Bauer, Niezgodski, Dvorak, Pelath, Cheney, Grubb, Stevenson, Open (Aguilera: Reardon), Dobis, V. Smith, Kuzman, Bardon, Tyler, Reske, Kersey, Welch, Pierce, Goodin, Robertson, Cochran, Oxley, Stilwell, Open (B. GiaQuinta, P. GiaQuinta), Moses, Dickinson, Avery, VanHaaften, Day, Summers, Mays, Crawford, Mahern, Porter.

Movement: Orentlicher to Tossup; HD4 (Soliday) and HD44 (Thomas) from Tossup to Leans Republican. ❖



and their families a hand." "They put their lives on the line every day. Protecting our families, while their own are left to worry and struggle. When Congress had the chance to give our soldiers in Iraq a \$1,500 bonus, John Hostettler voted NO." In his first paid media of the 2006 campaign, Rep. John Hostettler has released a radio advertisement that attacks Democratic challenger Brad Ellsworth's record on crime. Hostettler's ad says Ellsworth, who is Vanderburgh County's sheriff, was "neglectful" in the case of work release participant Travis John Moore, who fatally shot his ex-girlfriend and two other people before taking his own life in April 2005. The ad text is read by a woman and punctuated near its conclusion by the sound of a gunshot. "John Hostettler would never violate the Constitution to raise his pay, and Washington liberals know it. So why are they lying, claiming he voted to raise his pay by violating the 27th Amendment? Because liberals are trying to cover up Sheriff Brad Ellsworth's release not long ago of a dangerous inmate who then murdered a mother of three and two of her friends. Ellsworth had brushed off two phone calls from the young mother, who pleaded for protection from the inmate. The press reported that Ellsworth was oblivious to the calls until after her murder."

Status: TOSSUP

Congressional District 9: Republican: U.S. Rep. Mike Sodrel. Democrat: Baron Hill. **Media Market:** Evansville (11%), Indianapolis (23%), Louisville (55%), Dayton, Cincinnati (10 percent). **People:** urban/rural 52/48%, median income \$39,011; race white 94%, 2.3% black, 1.5% Hispanic; blue/white collar: 34/50%; **2000 Presidential:** Bush 56%, Gore 42%; Cook Partisan Voting Index: R+8. **2004 Presidential:** Bush 59%, Kerry 40%. **2002 Results:** Hill 96,654 (51%), Sodrel 87,169 (46%). **2002 Money:** Hill \$1.144m, Sodrel \$1.62m. **2004 Results:** Sodrel 142,197, Hill 140,772, Cox (L) 4,541. **2006 Forecast:** Sodrel and several of his colleagues are visiting the U.S./Mexico border over the next two days. Sodrel sent the below email tonight after he and his colleagues toured the border near San Diego and received briefings from Border Patrol agents. "One young Border agent said we can't afford to lose this war either. I'm confident he is correct. It is quite a challenge. Every time we install a measure to impede the illegal movement into the US, the other guys develop a counter measure. Got guys riding around on the Mexican side selling specially designed ladders designed to work on our cantilevered fences. I climbed one, they work pretty good, and are light weight. The grates in the culverts that are necessary to carry water must be inspected and repaired daily. The coyotes use plasma torches, and Kentucky smoke wrenches (acetyle) to defeat them. The camera and light poles are a constant target as well. The infrastructure helps though. Supervisor said he was using 364 Border agents to secure 5 miles.....now has 208 securing 10 miles. Border is 1987

miles to Brownsville, do the math. Not that every area needs to be as heavily defended. This area has 3.5 million on North side of the border, and 2.5 million South side. One of every 10 people entering the US at an official Port of entry enter at San Ysidro South of San Diego."

Status: TOSSUP.

Secretary of State: Republican: Secretary of State Todd Rokita. Democrat: Joe Pearson. **2002 Results:** Rokita (R) 789,261, Fernandez (D) 627,416, Sink-Burris (L) 60,937. **2006 Forecast:** Winston-Terrell is shepherding the Pearson campaign after it was receiving virtually no support from the Indiana Democrats. Rokita has hired a fellow Munster native to run his 2006 re-election campaign (**Times of Northwest Indiana**). Michael O'Brien, a senior public affairs consultant with BoseTreacy Associates in Indianapolis, previously lobbied the General Assembly on behalf of the Indiana State Medical Association and served as legislative director for Gov. Mitch Daniels. O'Brien also worked on the unsuccessful 2004 U.S. Senate campaign of Illinois business executive John Cox. "As my campaign manager, Mike brings a great deal of leadership and experience to my team," Rokita said in a news release. **Status:** LIKELY ROKITA

Legislative Races

Senate District 4: Republican: Porter County Clerk Dale Brewer. Democrat: State Sen. Karen Talian. **2002 Results:** Antich (D) 16,011, Shane (R) 12,583. **2006 Primary:** Talian 5,743, Chubb 2,796; Childress 2,247, Vojstlavak 2,078. **2006 Forecast:** Porter County Clerk Dale Brewer as a candidate for the Republican nominee for the 4th District State Senate race abandoned by Porter businessman Paul Childress. **Status:** LIKELY TALIAN.

House District 4: Republican: Edmond Soliday. Democrat: Sylvia Graham. **2002 Results:** Ayres 12,447. **2004 Results:** Ayres 19,656, Stegers (D) 8,581. **2006 Forecast:** Valparaiso resident Edmond L. Soliday filed Tuesday as a candidate for the Republican nominee for the 4th District State House race vacated by long-time Rep. Ralph Ayres, R-Chesterton, according to Dale Simmons, co-general counsel at the election division of the Indiana secretary of state's office (**Times of Northwest Indiana**). Ayres said he is excited about Soliday's candidacy. As a native of the district, a retired vice president from United Airlines and a member of Liberty Bible Church, Soliday has a lot to offer, particularly in the areas of economic development, public education and safety issues, Ayres said. Soliday is expected to face off this fall against Democrat Sylvia Graham. This race had been a tossup while vacant, but it is a 60 percent Republican district and we believe Soliday will have advantage. Soliday, a former airline pilot, donated \$365 two years ago to Democrat John Kerry's failed bid for



the presidency. Soliday said it was not the only donation he has made to Democrats, but it will be the last now that he has declared himself a Republican candidate. He said he believes Republicans are moving in the right direction for Northwest Indiana, but he is not a black-and-white thinker. "I am not of the, 'Good and evil rests solely in one party' mentality," he said. Porter County Republican Chairman Chuck Williams, who stands behind Soliday, said the candidate mentioned the Democratic donations the first time they met to discuss his possible run for office. Soliday was recommended for the post by firmly established Republicans and is now backed by Ayres and the three others considered for the candidacy -- Bob Wichlinski, Dolores Ayresworth and Vince Galbiati, Williams said. **Status:** LEANS SOLIDAY

House District 17: Republican: State Rep. Steve Heim. Democrat: Nancy Dembowski. **2004 Results:** Heim 14,100, McLiver (D) 8,321, Foley (I) 854. **SD5 Results:** Heinold (R) 24,753, Dembowski (D) 24,398. **2006 Forecast:** Heim told HPR this morning that he expects to be out-spent by Dembowski and the unions. **Status:** TOSUP

House District 21: Republican: State Rep. Jackie Walorski. Democrat: Bob Kovach. **2002 Results:** Mangus 10,722. **2004 Results:** Walorski 13,753, Kaser (D) 7,737. **2006 Forecast:** Walorski told HPR this morning that she believes she has weathered the tide. **Status:** LEANS WALORSKI

House District 44: Republican: Amos Thomas. Democrat: Jackson Township Trustee Richard E. Thompson. **2002 Results:** Thomas 8,997, Schimpf (D) 6,507. **2004 Results:** Thomas 15,126, Wolfe (D) 7,286. **2006 Forecast:** Amos Thomas, father of State Rep. Andy Thomas, won the caucus. We believe this race now favors the father. **Status:** LEANS THOMAS

House District 52: Republican: State Rep. Marlin Stutzman. Democrat: LaGrange County Democratic Chairman Dennis Rorick. **2002 Results:** Stutzman (R) 6,950, Sturtz (D) 6,701. **2004 Results:** Stutzman (R) 12,872, DeLucenay (D) 6,496. **2006 Forecast:** Stutzman told HPR this morning that his re-election prospects will be greatly enhanced when the \$40 million Major Moves checks arrive in LaGrange on Sept. 15. "People are pessimistic about state government," Stutzman said. "When LaGrange gets its money, people will realize that we made promises and we kept them." **Status:** LEANS STUTZMAN.

House District 77: Republican: Andrew G. Smith. Democrat: State Rep. Phil Hoy. **2004 Results:** Hoy (D) 11,308, Hennig (R) 9,804, Garrett (I) 1,285. **2006 Forecast:** Smith announced the launch of his new campaign website, www.smith2006.com. "I think it's important to provide voters with all the information they need to make an informed decision. This website is a great way of

doing that," said Smith. **Status:** LEANS HOY

House District 86: Republican: Kathryn Densborn. Democrat: State Rep. David Orentlicher. **2002 Results:** Orentlicher 9,909, Atterholt (R) 9,872. **2004 Results:** Orentlicher 15,178, Large (R) 13,261, Goldstein (L) 585. **2006 Forecast:** Our sense is this race is truly in play, in part because conservative Democrats are upset with Orentlicher over the prayer in the House issue. This is a true 50/50 district. Densborn appears to have full support from conservative and moderate factions, as well as Marion and Hamilton County Republicans and is raising money. Orentlicher works hard and the national environment favors him, but Gov. Daniels popularity in the Indianapolis area is highest in the state. If Densborn can make this a referendum between Daniels vs. Bauer, it could become a GOP pickup. **Status:** TOSSUP.

House District 88: Republican: House Speaker Brian Bosma. Democrat: Susan Fuldauer. **2004 Results:** Bosma 23,289, Gordon (L) 2,132. **2006 Forecast:** Bosma is polling, with the results to be used to determine whether he is vulnerable, or whether he can take his own warchest and begin dispersing it to other GOP candidates. Bosma told HPR this morning that he will be able to spread his warchest out among caucus members. Fuldauer began her "Front Porch" campaign, meeting with voters in various neighborhoods. **Status:** LEANS BOSMA.

Marion County Prosecutor: Republican: Prosecutor Carl Brizzi. Democrat: Melina Kennedy. **2006 Forecast:** City and county leaders endorsed 18 anti-crime initiatives Wednesday, including creating a strike force to track down people suspected in violent crimes the day they miss a court date, establishing a night court and hiring more firearms experts to hasten Crime Lab work. All elements of the plan, designed to speed up the criminal justice system and alleviate jail overcrowding, will be in place within a month, although funding, which is estimated at \$2.2 million for this year, must be approved by the City-County Council. City leaders including Mayor Bart Peterson, Prosecutor Carl Brizzi and Sheriff Frank Anderson praised the plan, which was handed down by three Marion County judges. Brizzi is doubling the number of deputy prosecutors assigned to homicide cases in response to the recent rash of killings in the city (**Indianapolis Star**). Brizzi will add six deputy prosecutors to the homicide unit, he said Monday, and will beef up the handgun prosecution unit as part of a plan being developed by some judges to add a night court for gun crimes. "What we're trying to do is send a coordinated message to the criminals by saying police will be adequately staffed, we're going to have jail beds to keep people locked up, we're going to have prosecutors to make sure justice is done swiftly," he said. **STATUS:** TOSSUP❖



Terror threat level elevated after airline plot

WASHINGTON - The U.S. government raised its threat warning to the highest level for commercial flights from Britain to the United States early today in response to a reported terror plot in London and also stepped up the general level for all flights within the U.S. or entering the country (**Associated Press**). "We believe that these arrests (in London) have significantly disrupted the threat, but we cannot be sure that the threat has been entirely eliminated or the plot completely thwarted," said Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff in announcing that the threat level for flights from Britain to the United States has been raised to the highest "severe or red" level.



Another sniper attack at Cline Avenue

HAMMOND - Two Illinois men traveling in Indiana became the 10th victims Wednesday of someone who has been shooting at vehicles along Cline Avenue (**Post-Tribune**). Neither man was hurt, but the back window of their pickup was shattered as they drove south about 4:30 p.m. Kevin Reisner, 28, of Chicago, told police he heard a "very loud pop," and thought he had blown a tire. He pulled into a gas station at Cline and Columbus Drive to call police when he realized his back window had been damaged. Marked and unmarked police from Gary, East Chicago and Hammond have been patrolling

Gov. Daniels dedicates new fire training center

AUBURN - In front of an unexpectedly large crowd Wednesday

evening, Gov. Mitch Daniels designated a hands-on firefighter training area as the first state-sponsored firefighting training center. More than 150 firefighters, their family members and other residents joined state officials for the dedication service behind the Auburn Fire Department's station on Grandstaff Drive (**Fort Wayne Journal Gazette**). About 50 extra chairs were needed to accommodate the audience. The Auburn center is the first of 10 centers expected to be designated statewide as part of the newly created Indiana Fire Training System. The initiative splits the state into 10 districts with the purpose of standardizing training now being done independently at hundreds of fire departments in the state. Daniels - who said he was "stunned" to learn on his first night as governor about the lack of a statewide training system for firefighters - said Auburn's designation as the first center came naturally. Flanked by training buildings, Daniels praised Auburn residents and Mayor Norman Yoder for being "a home to visionary ideas." The new training system will be an asset to the state's readiness for any hazard, Daniels said.

139 school districts on academic watch

INDIANAPOLIS - The State Board of Education affirmed the category placements Wednesday as part of Public Law 221, the accountability law for public education. The system places each of Indiana's schools and districts into one of five categories: exemplary progress, commendable progress, academic progress, academic watch and academic probation. DOE said 139 other Indiana school districts are on academic watch. Of the state's largest districts, nine of 15 are on academic watch.

von Arx joins Daniels administration

INDIANAPOLIS - Former Marion County Auditor John von Arx

has joined the Daniels administration as policy director for public safety. "This new position is clearly a rare and unique opportunity to serve the citizens of Indiana, and to serve Gov. Daniels," von Arx said. "It is also a great opportunity that allows me to apply my skills and experiences that I have acquired throughout my career."

Galligan weighs mayoral comeback

JEFFERSONVILLE - When the new Jeffersonville City Hall opened for business on Monday, the man receiving credit for the project wasn't the city's top elected official, Mayor Rob Waiz, but his political rival (**Louisville Courier-Journal**). Tom Galligan, who served as mayor from 1996 to 2003, was thrust back into the spotlight by the City Council, which gave him an award for his role in moving the city's offices. Standing before a small crowd with a plaque in his hand, Galligan gave a short speech and shook each council member's hand. It was one of only a few public moments for Galligan since he lost a Democratic primary to Waiz more than three years ago. But that might change in the coming months. Galligan, 60, said yesterday that he is "very seriously" considering a run against Waiz in the May 8 mayoral primary next year. Although candidates can't file until January and Galligan hasn't formally announced, he already has started a bumper-sticker campaign and said he might form a fundraising committee in the next few weeks.

50 new jobs coming

HARTFORD CITY - Fifty new jobs are coming to the Blackford County seat in part because the community "was in the bull's-eye" (**Marion Chronicle-Tribune**). Petoskey Plastics, a plastic bag manufacturing and plastics recycling company, has acquired the former Overhead Door complex on Wabash Avenue and plans to have its new facility in full operation in February.