



Dem poll gains; no sale yet

Chocola/Donnelly remains 'tossup'; Bush still sags; Governor's numbers bounce

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola was ... relieved.

The **South Bend Tribune/WSBT-TV** poll showed the incumbent Republican trailing Democrat Joe Donnelly only 46-41 percent. It was the first media poll showing a Hoosier GOP congressman down. Two other polls released by Donnelly and U.S. Rep. Baron Hill in the 9th CD showed 10 percent leads for the Democrats.

Chocola told the South Bend Tribune that people don't know much about Joe Donnelly. "They will on election day," said the man with almost \$2 million at his disposal.

Pollster Delair Ali told the Tribune, "I don't think that Chocola is higher than 45 points or lower than 40 points." He also thinks it unlikely that Donnelly is any higher than 48 or 49 points at this stage of the campaign because, "He hasn't quite made the sale."



U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola, shown here during the 2004 campaign in Rochester,

Within hours, Chocola was taking roundhouse swings at Donnelly, with St. Joseph County Republican Chairman Chris Faulkner accusing the Democrat of putting

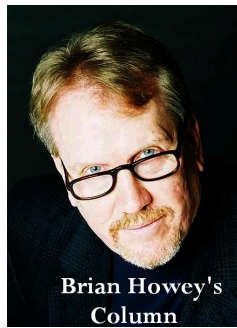
Continued on page 3

I heard the news today, oh boy

INDIANAPOLIS - I heard the news Sunday morning, oh boy! About a man whose brains were blown out in a car.

On Interstate 65. And another down the road. And two more shots up on I-69 near Muncie. The interstate was closed for eight hours. It was horrible news. Many Hoosiers felt as if we were preparing to relive the sniper terrorism that plagued Washington, D.C., and Columbus, Ohio.

HPR Washington correspondent Mark Curry, who covers the Bayh presidential campaign, can tell you all about a domestic terror sniper



Brian Howey's Column



"Indiana has now been spared, through the combined efforts of these outstanding professionals."

- Gov. Mitch Daniels, lauding police after the sniper arrest



HOWEY *Political Report*

campaign. One of the first shootings occurred a couple of blocks away from his Kensington, MD., home at a gas station. A few weeks later, Curry called me one afternoon to tell me that the sniper might be in a home across from his backyard. There were cops swarming the place, and helicopters buzzing overhead. The streets were blocked off. I could see his house on CNN.

This kind of terror is obscene. Even though there were only about a dozen victims, the randomness of the killings invades your psyche. You have a better chance, statistically, of suffering a fatal car wreck or a heart attack than getting picked off by the sniper. But it was there, ever present, as you walked across the Lowe's parking lot or drove the beltway.

On Monday, the news wasn't much better. Oh boy! The Indiana State Police were telling us to expect more sniper shootings.

But here's where the story changes from those awful experiences in Columbus and Washington.

Gov. Mitch Daniels ... called out the National Guard. He ordered Homeland Security to be on standby. You got the sense that if more shootings had occurred, we might have seen Humvees and troops atop interstate overpasses.

"We will not treat this just as a criminal act. We'll use any and all resources to find the person or persons responsible, and in the meantime, we'll make sure people can go about their business safely and confidently," Daniels told the state.

And after that, Indiana did a whole bunch of things right. We accepted help from Columbus and Franklin County, Ohio, police who had been there/done that. DC officials pitched in. A tip line was established and well publicized. State police didn't release too much information, like the make of the rifle, which might have inspired copy cats (and there was one lame attempt up in Hammond).

I can't overplay the reaching out to other agencies enough. As an

	HPR Interview: Melina Kennedy	p. 5
	Cam Carter: Politics & safety	p. 7
	Lugar's coming election record	p. 8
	Columnists: Smith, James	p. 9
	Horse Race: Eitel, Aylesworth line up for open House seats; the 'demon spawn'	p. 10
Ticker: Manous to repay union \$125K	p.13	

The Howey Political Report is published by NewsLink Inc. It was founded in 1994.

Brian A. Howey, Publisher
Mark Schoeff Jr., Washington Writer
Mark Curry, Washington Writer
Jack E. Howey, Editor

Subscriptions:
\$350 annually HPR via e-mail;
\$550 annually HPR & HPR Daily Wire.
Call 317-254-0535.

The Howey Political Report
PO Box 40265
Indianapolis, IN 46240-0265.

www.howeypolitics.com
BrianHowey@howeypolitics.com

Indianapolis Office: 317-506-0883.
Indianapolis Fax: 317-254-0535.
Washington, DC Office: 202-256-5822.
Business Office: 317-254-0535.

©2006, The Howey Political Report.
All rights reserved. Photocopying, Internet forwarding, faxing or reproducing in any form, in whole or part, is a violation of federal law.

editor and reporter for the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette, I watched the crack crisis become one of the biggest human catastrophes in Indiana history. When I moved to Indianapolis, where crack was just starting to gin up the homicide and driveby shooting rates, I found that folks down here weren't learning from the Fort Wayne experience. They were reinventing the wheel and doing bizarre things like putting roadblocks on interstate off-ramps. Hundreds more people lost their lives during that experience.

In the case of the Hoosier sniper, there wasn't another life lost.

We turned the news on Tuesday evening, oh boy!

We saw the burly doctor, Indiana State Police Supt. Paul Whitesell, announcing the arrest of a 17-year-old Gaston kid. The arrest stemmed from a citizen tip to a reserve Delaware

County deputy sheriff. ISP pounced on the information, developed the case, confronted Zachariah Blanton, and made the arrest.

Daniels stood by Whitesell and Delaware County Sheriff George Sheridan when the arrest was announced and details were released. The governor didn't grandstand. There wasn't even a press release.

"I'm here only to express the gratitude of all the people in this state for superb police work," Daniels said. "Indiana has now been spared, through the combined efforts of these outstanding professionals."

And so we were. Well served by lucky men who made the grade. Police professionals who reached out, worked together and, as Whitesell noted, all police are citizens and all citizens are police. I heard the news today ❖



From page 1

\$120,000 into his campaign while neglecting to pay his taxes on time.

Daniels, Bush Indiana numbers up

Had the media poll corresponded with the Cooper Secrest poll, the 2nd CD likely would have shifted from HPR's "Tossup" status to "Leans Democrat." So Chocola gets a breather, temporarily. There were other reasons for saying so. Survey-USA's 50-state tracking showed President Bush's approve/disapprove in Indiana stood at 46/52 percent. In May, Bush stood a 36/61 percent down in the Gore/Kerry zone. And Gov. Mitch Daniels' tracking buoyed up to a 48/47 percent fav/unfav after swooning to 38/57 percent in March. The governor's Northern Indiana tracking wasn't much comfort to Chocola (36-52 percent).

But the national polls still showed President Bush in a precarious position heading into late summer. NBC had Bush at 39/56; Harris had Bush's approval at 34 percent; Gallup at 37 percent, CBS at 36 percent, ARG at 35 percent. Harris had the right/wrong track numbers at 28/61 percent -- nightmarish for incumbents. NBC/Wall Street Journal polling showed 56 percent disapproved of the President's handling of the economy. NBC put Congressional fav/unfav at 25/60; CBS at 28/58.

The CBS poll released Wednesday rated the issues: 23% think the "war in Iraq" is "the most important issue facing this country today"; 11% said "the economy and jobs"; 8% said "gas prices/heating oil crisis"; 7% said "terrorism"; 4% said "immigration"; 4% said "foreign policy"; 3% said "health care"; 3% said "defense/military"; 3% said "the President/G.W. Bush"; 2% said "moral values/family values"; 2% said "poverty/homelessness"; 2% said "environment"; 2% said "education"; 2% said "attention to domestic affairs"; 2% said "politicians/government"; 2% said "budget deficit/national debt"; 14% said other; 6% don't know.

Washington analyst Charlie Cook of the **National Journal** believes Chocola's breathing room will be short lived. "It is a virtual certainty that Republicans will lose House and Senate seats in the Nov. 7 midterm elections," Cook said. "The question is whether those losses will be small (single digits in the House, one or two in the Senate), medium (10-14 in the House, three-to-five in the Senate), large (15-20 in the House, six in the Senate, with control shifting in both chambers) or extra large (more than 20 in the House, seven or eight in the Senate)."

Cook continued, "Today, based on both national polls and looking at individual races, the answer can be

said to be fluctuating between medium and large, with the Senate somewhat less likely to turn over than the House. But a Senate switch is still very plausible. Many factors and issues will be playing into this equation. With an anticipated Gross Domestic Product growth rate of only 3.2 percent in



2nd CD Democrat Joe Donnelly has a 5 percent lead, but hasn't closed the sale, according to the South Bend Tribune/WSBT pollster. (Photo courtesy of Donnelly campaign)

the second quarter -- following an impressive 5.6 percent rate in the first quarter -- a slowing economy might be a key factor."

Cook eyes the economy, stupid

Cook posed this question: Keeping in mind that people were giving Bush terrible ratings on handling the economy even when it was growing at an impressive rate in the first quarter of 2006, one wonders what it will be like with a GDP growth rate of 3.2 percent, as most economists forecast, and below 3 percent in the third quarter, as many fear? Will people take a still dimmer view of Bush's stewardship in office and will it hurt his party even more? Or will they see it as confirmation of what they had already concluded and therefore make little difference at the polls?"

The heaviest millstone: Iraq

And then there is the Iraq War.

HPR has long considered this a heavy millstone around GOP necks. In the latest NBC/WSJ poll, 41 percent agreed with the decision to attack Iraq and 53 percent disagreed. Also, 38 percent said they were more confident about the war reaching a successful conclusion and 53



HOWEY *Political Report*

Weekly Briefing on Indiana Politics

percent felt less confident.

Cook observes, "For much of last fall, the focus was on the decision to invade Iraq, and the use (or misuse) of intelligence to support the decision to invade. This month, an average of 100 Iraqi civilians have been killed each day, hardly a sign of stability or progress. At the same time, the Iraq war's cost to U.S. taxpayers has surpassed \$1,000 for every man, woman and child. It's pretty safe to say that if the election focus is on the decision to go to war, it would certainly boost Democratic chances of getting the large or extra-large gains, and a majority on one or both sides of the Capitol Dome.

Retired Gen. William Odom, a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute (and thus familiar to Hoosiers) explained Iraq this way: "The president set forth three war aims as I remember. One was to get rid of WMD, the second was to overthrow the Saddam regime and third was to create a constitutional democracy which is pro-America. The first two, can be considered either irrelevant or accomplished and the last one is the issue. And there's not going to be a constitutional regime that's pro-American anytime soon. If that is the measure, that's the political aim, then why don't we get there soon?" Odom said. "Staying longer, cost the U.S. without gaining us anything. There's no other good reason to stay. And I don't think it makes sense to talk about winning or losing now, in a strategic sense we lost when we started the war. The strategic winners in this have been Osama bin Laden, because we diverted our forces from that, bogged ourselves down in Iraq, the Iranians were absolutely pleased because they hate Saddam, and we've virtually destroyed our own ground forces, they're so overextended, our equipment is so rundown and un-repaired right now, that I don't see any advantages for us for any purpose to stay there much longer."



Gen. Odom

Perhaps the most apocalyptic report came July 5 in the **New York Times**, where reporter Dexter Filkins reported from the Ramadi Government Center, a hot, urine-soaked, bombed out edifice defended by U.S. Marines. "The Government Center in the middle of this devastated town resembles a fortress on the wild edge of some frontier," Filkins reported. "In three years there the Marine Corps and the Army have tried nearly everything to bring this provincial capital of 400,000 under control. Nothing has worked. Now American commanders are trying something new. Instead of continuing to fight for the downtown or rebuild it, they are going to get rid of it, or at least a very large part of it. They say they are planning to bulldoze

about three blocks in the middle of the city, part of which has already been reduced to ruins by the fighting, and convert them into a Green Zone."

It was as if Morley Safer had just returned from a Vietnamese village, torched with Zippo lighters ... in order to save it.

And ... stem cells

There's one more exploitable issue that Democrats may seize with success: the President's first veto over stem cells. Conservatives from U.S. Rep. Mike Pence to the man on the street in Muncie are already upset with President Bush's fiscal stewardship. Bush used his first veto not to curb a spending bill, but stem cell research.

Newsweek columnist Jonathan Alter observed, "July 19, 2006, was a dark day for anyone who, like me, has experienced life-threatening illness. President Bush's veto of a modest bill that would have merely allowed surplus embryos from fertility clinics to be used for pathbreaking research instead of tossed in the garbage is more than a political blunder. And for those with a friend or relative who is sick -- in other words, almost everyone -- it is more than an abstraction. By slowing cures for several major diseases, this decision may well doom thousands to die prematurely. It contradicts the whole idea of what it means to be "pro-life."

Alter fleshed out the political dimension: "To get the politics out of the way first: with the veto-override attempt failing, this was a big week for the Democrats, as many GOP consultants have publicly admitted. At least some of the 193 House members and 37 senators who voted against the bill -- almost all of them Republicans -- may well lose their seats on this issue, if not this November then in 2008 or 2010. Once the "pro-cure" movement clarifies and penetrates, it will be awfully hard to stand firm against saving the lives of your constituents. More immediately, embryonic-stem-cell research splits the GOP down the middle, with many in the party who oppose abortion (like Sens. McCain, Orrin Hatch and Bill Frist) supporting it."

So here in Indiana we find Dr. Thomas Hayhurst, the Fort Wayne councilman, taking on U.S. Rep. Mark Souder, a champion of the Teri Schiavo political disaster, who said in 2001, "Before the U.S. government condones with federal funding research that results in the destruction of living human embryos, we have the moral obligation to explore and exhaust every ethical alternative."

Epilogue

Compared to 1994, when HPR moved three Democratic House seats into "Tossup" in late September, the wave process is well ahead of that pace. By late September, there's a good chance these races will flip out of the Tossup and into Leans Democratic. ❖



Kennedy discusses her policy background, experience

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - HPR sat down with Democratic Marion County prosecutor challenger Melina Kennedy on Monday to discuss her race with Prosecutor Carl Brizzi.

HPR: Where is your campaign at now?

Kennedy: I'm just where I want to be at this point in time. On focusing on the things a candidate needs to be focusing on to be effective. I've been very steadfast about improving what needs to be at the prosecutor's office: policy initiatives and statements. I'm spending a lot of my time getting out into the community. We're continuing to fundraise. Being a candidate is very similar to what I've done in the past, which is to get out into the neighborhoods a lot, meet face to face with people and hear what their thoughts are, and think of new ways to address old issues.

HPR: How much have you raised?

Kennedy: Our last filing we had around \$600,000 or so.

HPR: Will that allow you to get your message out?

Kennedy: I believe we're on target.

HPR: War and gas prices have the potential of nationalizing the 2006 elections, even down to this local level. Do you see that happening? Or do you see voters willing to cherry pick up and down the ballot?

Kennedy: There's been precedent in prior elections at the local level to follow the trends at the national level. In 1994 that was one year that followed the national trend. It's hard to say what will happen this year. I try to focus on the local issues. I have to assume that voters will look at us individually and make a decision based on what's important to them. But there's always the potential for what's happening at the national level to drive people to get out and vote or to vote for a particular candidate.

HPR: What is behind the surge in crime?

Kennedy: There are a whole host of things. I'm looking at how effective the prosecutor's office has been, both in getting criminals off the street for a long time in the first place, as well as any potential role it can or should have played in prevention. It's important that we continue to talk about the fact that we have people being released

from the criminal justice system early. Of course, one of the big issues is jail overcrowding. It's important to put that issue into a larger context. It's not just people being released because of jail overcrowding. It's important to note that jail overcrowding is part of the issue of early release of criminals. That is a very, very serious issue we must keep attacking. That includes the role of the prosecutor and how effective he is in putting people away. For example, for someone who has committed a crime and it's been reversed on appeal. What we see is a relatively small number of criminals committing most of the crimes. So you really want to target the worst of the worst. The goal here has to be getting a successful conviction after the trial. Because I'm a candidate for prosecutor, I have to look at the role of the prosecutor.

HPR: The same issues we were writing about 10 years ago are still here today. And they were probably the same a decade before that. It appears to me this generation has lacked the political will to deal with justice in Marion County.

Kennedy: I think that's relatively fair. I would also say that an important step forward was the City-County Council approving an increase in the county option income tax ...

HPR: Finally.

Kennedy: It had not been raised in 17 years. I think it's important that leaders across the board support that and I will say that current prosecutor was arguing against pay raises for prosecutors when COIT was first embraced. We just have to have leadership that is willing to make these kinds of decisions and in the

case, the need to be more effective in addressing public safety issues and to be supportive early on and not after it's been recognized that the COIT increase was a good idea. That was considered slightly more risky politically. I was deputy mayor at the time and advised Mayor Peterson to take that position.

HPR: As deputy mayor, did you play a role in the 200 new police officers that he ran on in 1999. What do voters need to know about your role in formulating public policy?

Kennedy: My role effectuating public policy in the mayor's office ... I was the lead adviser on public safety initiatives. Combating domestic violence, addressing youth violence issues, as well as economic development issues. I think that experience is extremely relevant. The office of prosecutor in the 12th largest city in the country needs to



Kennedy to Sheriff Anderson at her announcement. (Kennedy campaign photo)



identify problem areas and solutions. It's not just processing cases but overseeing some tough public safety issues. There is a staff of several hundred people and you have to have the ability to lead.

HPR: In adding 200 new cops, the concept was to have them walking beats and mixing with neighborhoods. Did that happen?

Kennedy: I think the concept of community policing, which is essentially what you're describing, is very important. The idea behind the law enforcement agencies consolidating is to be able to put more street officers out into the community. In case you didn't see it, there's a newspaper article this past week that explains how this consolidation should allow us to put more street officers out into the community. That supports the notion to have more of a presence out in the community. I think there should be a philosophy in the prosecutor's office to be even more out in the community. Very few people out in the community know what the prosecutor's office does. There isn't much of a connection between the prosecutor's office and the community I would otherwise expect in the nation's 12th largest city.

HPR: Will you be talking in this campaign about the administration's role in the police merger?

Kennedy: I certainly will talk about my role in the Peterson administration. It's been very effective in many capacities.

HPR: Did you play role in the police merger?

Kennedy: As you probably know, the formulation of that policy and how it will work is very technical, but to the extent I was deputy mayor when this was proposed, I certainly played a role as deputy mayor. I certainly stand by more efficient government; government that's able to provide more effective services. The current prosecutor's office, on one of the top public safety initiatives like consolidation, has been silent. That's the kind of leadership we need. Whether you like or don't like consolidation I would think you'd have an opinion. The role of elected prosecutor has to be about leadership and leadership on public safety issues.

HPR: The Brizzi campaign is going to come at you and make the case that you've never tried a case. How will you respond?

Kennedy: That is a clear attempt in my opinion to skirt the real issue which is how can the office be effective and has it been effective. We can't afford to treat the prosecutor's office in this size of a city in the way a city with only one or two prosecutors on staff. This office oversees everything from 150 lawyers to child support, to victim advocacy, youth programs and prevention. This office is about seeing the big picture. I would argue that in many aspects, my experience is significantly more relevant to lead this office. I do have criminal law experience. It's just at a higher level than my opponent. I worked at the appellate court, the highest court in the state, for two years doing nothing

more than reviewing on a daily basis some of the most serious criminal cases on behalf of the judge on what the prosecutor did right and what the prosecutor did wrong. Secondly, I worked in private practice. I worked on some very complex litigation cases representing families where water was contaminated by large companies. Those skills are critical for a prosecutor in such a large office to have. I would say, without question, my most relevant experience is that as deputy mayor; the ability to know what's happening in the neighborhoods and identify the largest issues that impact our community and to translate that into how a city agency directs that issue.

HPR: After the Hamilton Avenue murders, Carl Brizzi said he was going to personally prosecute those cases. Would you have the ability to do that? Or should the prosecutor even be trying cases?

Kennedy: Certainly it's up to the discretion of the local prosecutor on how they want to handle that. I would start out by saying of the Hamilton Avenue case that I don't want that to be politicized. I support the prosecutor in pursuing the death penalty. That's the appropriate decision. We can look at history and see how various prosecutors have addressed this issue. Jeff Modisett had a team that had experience in death penalty cases. I'm not aware and I would ask that you check whether Carl Brizzi has actually prosecuted a death penalty case. I don't know the answer to that question. **(Publisher's Note: Brizzi is currently working two such cases, but has not taken a death penalty case before a jury).**

HPR: Where do you believe Prosecutor Brizzi has failed to run his office effectively?

Kennedy: I am concerned about the office management and morale. There has been a very high turnover. He can't hide from that fact. I have had some concerns about the scandals that have happened in that office. There has been a dramatic exodus of deputy prosecutors. Secondly, I have concerns about the prosecutor's ability to get convictions. I will be talking more about that relatively soon. That is something of concern. My campaign is going to be focused on what I can bring to the table; how I can be a more effective prosecutor and produce results. I am committed to running an office that understands the big picture.

HPR: Walk me through what happened with the jail overcrowding issue. Brizzi came up with the New Castle idea. The mayor and sheriff ended up supporting that.

Kennedy: To be clear, I have been part of a solution approach from the beginning on jail overcrowding. Back in December, Sheriff Anderson and I proposed adding more jail beds which, literally, has already come on line. The idea of the New Castle jail beds, I said from the beginning it's worth hearing more about that sooner rather than later to hear the details of that proposal. The only thing I ever saw in writing was a two-page press release with no details whatsoever. We can't make public policy by press



release. So I was on record from the beginning saying we should hear all aspects of this plan. I believe if we're going to do more jail beds we ought to do them locally because of the immediate issue of transportation. It's been the right decision to step up in a bipartisan fashion. Where I differ slightly is we cannot have a short term solution. We need a long term solution. Our goal has to be moving people out of the local jail and into the state prison system. When someone escapes and cuts their ankle bracelet, there's a separate felony charge that can be filed against

that person. I've been calling for the prosecutor for the past five months to consistently file separate felony and escape charges. One, it sends a message that there are consequences. Two, if you convict them quickly, they can go to state prison while the other case develops. Three, that's important leverage, potentially. I asked five months ago for the prosecutor to routinely file charges. There are over 100 cases where the prosecutor hasn't filed those charges. Not filing felony escape charges is a sign of weakness. ❖

Politics and public safety

By CAMERON CARTER

It used to be that politics stopped at the water's edge, meaning that when vital interests were at stake - say, the safety of our people - partisanship took a back seat to progress against a common foe or the protection of our citizens. But, in this post-modern era the degree to which partisanship rules is disheartening, especially in Marion County.

Of late, one could easily be disgusted by the buck-passing, finger-pointing and general haplessness surrounding public safety and jail overcrowding in Marion County. One needs look no farther than Democrat partisans in municipal and county government - including Mayor Bart Peterson and Sheriff Frank Anderson, who have only recently embraced any meaningful change.



Peterson and Anderson are no fools - political futures are at stake. That's why they acted in concert to distance themselves from fellow Democrats on the City-County Council (led by President Monroe Gray) and embraced Republican Prosecutor Carl Brizzi's call for additional jail beds. At the last meeting of the Council's Public Safety Committee, majority Democrats embarrassed themselves and their party by spending all of their energy and effort launching political attacks against Brizzi instead of giving thoughtful consideration to Brizzi's jail overcrowding proposal (essentially, renting space from private corrections providers or the state, price tag about \$1.6 million).

Indianapolis has ample evidence of the horrible consequences of the early release of criminals, most recently that of a child molester who, when released, went on to molest again. Were Council Democrats outraged, deciding "Enough is enough!?" Did they pound their fists on the table and say, "It's time to act!?" Regrettably, no. They thought it best to gut Brizzi's proposal to rent additional jail beds and replace it with a meaningless resolution to keep looking at the problem and studying the topic.

It was a nakedly partisan attempt to undermine Brizzi as he seeks re-election - "can't let that guy get the credit." Pathetic. In another era, less civil citizens would have run Monroe Gray out of town on a rail.

Serious violent crime is growing in Indianapolis, an inconvenient fact for Peterson who first ran in 1999 on a public safety platform and whose ambitions for higher office are jeopardized by the current situation. Ditto for our \$360,000-a-year sheriff, although he's a relatively late entrant to the public safety debate compared to the mayor. The fact is there are an increasing number of criminals committing more serious crimes. The county's criminal justice system is overloaded. There are many improvements we can and should make to our criminal justice system, including more courts, prosecutors and public defenders, but it is undeniable that we need more jail beds.

We must have a place to hold criminals awaiting trial or courts will always be faced with the dilemma of releasing a bad guy (or a really bad guy). Under such circumstances, if a criminal doesn't give up his lifestyle - and he won't - the public (that's you and me) remains vulnerable to his next violent act.

Prosecutor Brizzi is right to keep insisting that the jail overcrowding issue be addressed and he has put forward a serious, short-term proposal to do so. As a result, Mayor Peterson and Sheriff Anderson came up with the resources to rent additional jail beds here in Marion County. That's a start, but it's not nearly enough. They should look harder and find the funds to take advantage of Brizzi's idea that we also rent jail beds in New Castle state prison - and then move on to structural changes (and perhaps the attendant tax increases that go with them) to provide a long-term solution to the problem.

The mayor and the sheriff engaged in a small bit of bipartisanship here, but it took immense public pressure and media scrutiny to force them to do so. When they and Council Democrats care more about your safety than they do about the electoral prospects of prosecutor candidate Melina Kennedy (or their own), then we'll know they've reached the water's edge.

Prosecutor Brizzi will be waiting for them, saying, "You're late, boys, but I'm glad to see you. Come on in, the water's fine." ❖



An election record coming for Lugar

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Sen. Richard Lugar was speaking at a breakfast event off-campus, when U.S. Rep. Charlie Rangel, D-Mich., burst into the room. He had seen Lugar through the door, came right in and interrupted the Senator and essentially endorsed Lugar as a senator for everyone.

Rangel launched into a story about his frustration with the partisanship on Capitol Hill and in our country and said that when he meets with young Democrats his message is not to get mad because that anger doesn't accomplish anything. He ended by saying that he has never heard anyone identify Lugar as partisan, but "just a good senator."

Rangel left amid much laughter and clapping.

Indiana Democrats have taken some heat for leaving Sen. Lugar unopposed, the first time in modern Indiana history that a major party has failed to contest a U.S. Senate seat.

For the Democrats who for the first election in 18 years don't have a sitting governor, it was a matter of where the money could be used wisely. Taking on Lugar was a losing proposition from the get-go.

But what it means is that Lugar will only have a Libertarian opponent in Steve Osborn, who can be expected to get somewhere between 2 and 5 percent of the vote.

What this means is that Lugar will probably carry all 92 counties and will likely surpass Sen. Evan Bayh's Indiana record of 1,488,782 votes and 62 percent set in 2004. Lugar has come close before in his 1988 race against Democrat Jack Wickes where he carried all but Lake County.

How did Sen. Lugar get to the point where he is not only unbeatable, but essentially running unopposed?

An aide who asked not to be identified, put it like this: It goes back to the fact that he works hard to find common ground (different than compromise) with others. He pays attention to the things that he and others agree on and works at them, with the ISTA endorsement being a pretty good example. He pulls people together for a common purpose. His thinking comes



Sen. Lugar on CNN's Late Edition last Sunday as Beirut burned.

in the form of strategic, instead of the more common tactical. He tries to solve big problems. He sets a course, and then determines the way to achieve the goal of getting there.

His career is crowded with stunning achievement, from the Nunn-Lugar Act (the first in history where an arch-rival nation helped scrap the arsenal of another in the old Soviet Union), the Chrysler bailout, his actions in the Philippines elections that ended the corrupt Marcos regime, his Unigov consolidation plan as governor, and the Shortridge desegregation plan as a school board member.

The Lugar we'll never forget went on conspicuous display before the nation in 1995-96 when he ran for president. I don't often deal in hypotheticals, but it's an interesting exercise to think what a President Lugar might have meant.

Would there have been a Sept. 11 attack by the terror pilots? Perhaps not since Lugar has keenly been ahead of his times when it came to national security, to the point in 1995 when he predicted the "destruction of an American city in our lifetime." The World Trade Center had more than 50,000 employees.

Would there have been a war in Iraq? Certainly not the way it's been conducted to date.

Would we have an energy crisis? Lugar has long warned of the strategic security pitfalls as well as developing alternative sources.

Would there still be an IRS? Lugar sought an across-the-board consumption task.

Alas, Lugar was not sexy or, as he said, "not famous enough."

Please, please in 2008 pray for a visionary, albeit boring, president. ❖

Indiana Election Records

PRESIDENTIAL

2004
Bush, 1,474,475 60%
Kerry, D 969,011 39%
Badnarik, L 18,058 1%

1972
Nixon, R 1,405,154 66%
McGovern, D 708,568 33%

INDIANA GOVERNOR

1992
E. Bayh, D 1,382,151 62%
Pearson, R 822,853 37%

1980
Orr, R 1,257,383 58%
Hillenbrand, D 913,116 42%

U.S. SENATE

2004
E. Bayh, D 1,488,782 62%
Scott, R 903,913 37%
Barger, L 27,344 1%

1988
Lugar, R 1,430,525 68%
Wickes, D 668,778 31%

CONGRESSIONAL

2004 5TH CD
Burton, R 228,349 72%
Carr, D 82,637 26%
Hodgin, L 7,008 2%



Sylvia Smith, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette - There are plenty of "yes men" in politics. If Sen. Evan Bayh wants to be president, he'll find a No Man. Bayh needs someone to tell him that it's time to hire a speechwriter, listen to a charisma coach, dig up some passion, learn to wow a crowd. He needs a talking-to the way only a hard-nosed, politically savvy pro can dish out tough love. The No Man would tell Bayh that the speech he gave last week in Washington and repeated in Iowa has the makings of a successful campaign theme. It has good ideas on dealing with college costs, taming the health care pinch and coping with the specter of a long and financially miserable retirement. But the speech has kinks, both in substance and in style. It needs the touch of a professional speechwriter. As written, the speech comes off as a laundry list delivered with practiced – not authentic – passion. The speech is the skeleton of a solid campaign Big Idea. John Edwards owns the poverty/compassion theme, and Bayh can't compete with that. Focusing on the middle class works on policy grounds as well as political grounds. The concept worked for Clinton in 1992 – it's the economy, stupid – and it can work for Bayh in 2008. Besides, Bayh has a legitimate claim to this issue, having been a governor who was an early advocate of tougher rules for welfare recipients and the architect of a program that ensures college tuition payments for kids of modest means who stay off drugs and get decent grades. But he's got to lose the catch-phrase "our middle class." Class distinction – an economic caste system – is what comes to mind with the "middle class." And the "our" comes off as patronizing. Bayh should talk about the people who work hard and play by the rules, how the Bush administration is ignoring the real America, how he wants to take back America and be the president for the forgotten America, how we all know that if this country makes smart investments in its best assets – innovative Americans and our kids – we'll kick butt internationally. It all means middle class, but it doesn't get people's hackles up the way "our middle class" does. Bayh has \$10 million in his political action committee and \$1 million in his Senate campaign fund. He ought to spend some of it on a really good speechwriter who gets him. He should find the Democratic equivalent of Mike Gerson, the gifted speechwriter who so completely understands the essence of Bush that he can explain Bush to himself – and the rest of the country. Yes, of course it's tough for politicians to allow someone else to write the words that will come out of their mouths. Bayh should do it anyway, and do it now. Gerson may or may not have been completely in tune with Bush from the start; it doesn't matter. Bush hired him two years before the 2000 election, and whatever meshing needed to take place had time to develop. ❖



Rich James, Post-Tribune - In April 1984 – a month before the primary – there was a parade of some sort through the streets of Hammond. Peter Visclosky – who was challenging U.S. Rep. Katie Hall – walked the parade route. Shortly after Visclosky, who came out of nowhere to beat Hall and Lake County Prosecutor Jack Crawford for the nomination, I asked his father at what point he felt his son would win. "The parade in Hammond," said John Visclosky, adding that he could feel the emotion in the people who reached out to his son. Twenty-two years later, Visclosky's fall opponent was barred from displaying the name of the office he was seeking in Fourth of July parades in Merrillville and Highland. My initial thought was that it didn't really matter, in that Republican Mark Leyva doesn't have a chance of beating Visclosky. Thousands of Republicans recognize Visclosky's value to Northwest Indiana and vote for him every two years. The same thing happened to Dan Bursac, the Republican candidate for sheriff, on the Fourth of July. Bursac said Sheriff Roy Dominguez may have had a hand in him being banned from the Highland parade. Don't buy it. First, it's not Dominguez's style. Second, the United States has a better chance of finding Osama bin Laden than Bursac does of beating Dominguez. Clearly, Bursac isn't a victim of politics – not in Highland, anyway. Both towns said they have rules that prohibit non-incumbents from campaigning during their Fourth of July parades. Despite the futility of what Leyva and Bursac are trying to do, I got to thinking about the statement being made by the two towns. Aren't they violating the candidates' First Amendment right to free speech? ❖

Gary Gerard, Warsaw Times-Union - In Arabic, Hezbollah means Party of God. How's that for irony? This is why I hold out little hope for peace in the Mideast. Honestly, if you think you are doing God's work by lobbing rockets, kidnapping and killing, what are the chances you are willing to peacefully negotiate? ❖

Leslie Stedman Weidenbener, Louisville Courier-Journal - It's been a difficult month for the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles and its customers. A \$32 million computer upgrade -- one that's been in the works for six years under three governors -- did not go as well as planned, leaving some customers unable to complete transactions on their initial visits and others waiting in long lines to do so. Commissioner Joel Silverman has apologized for the problems. So has Gov. Mitch Daniels. The men have largely accepted blame for the situation while at the same time deflecting some blame to previous administrations. ❖



DCCC takes aim in Ohio Valley

TRENDLINE No. 1: Signaling a new phase in the struggle for control of Congress, House Democrats have reserved time for more than \$30 million worth of campaign advertising this fall in roughly two dozen congressional districts, with a heavy emphasis on the Northeast and Midwest (Epsco, **Associated Press**). The Democratic targets include clusters of Republican-held seats in the Philadelphia area held by Reps. Jim Gerlach, Curt Weldon and Michael Fitzpatrick, as well as the Ohio River Valley, where Reps. John Hostettler of Indiana, Geoff Davis of Kentucky and Steve Chabot of Ohio can expect a protracted televised barrage. Also targeted will be 9th CD U.S. Rep. Mike Sodrel. The DCCC reported this week it had \$32 million in the bank as of June 30, compared with \$18.4 at the same point two years ago. The NRCC reported slightly \$26.5 million cash on hand as of June 30.



TRENDLINE No. 2: Gov. Mitch Daniels has formed a PAC and has raised \$200,000 to help elect House Rs.

TRENDLINE No. 3: State Rep. Duane Cheney continues to ride shotgun for House bomb throwers, calling Gov. Daniels the "demon spawn," according to the **Post-Tribune**. Cheney had earlier accused Gov. Daniels of "raping" Indiana. Those darn Cheneys!

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 South Bend Tribune/WSBT-TV poll shows Donnelly leading 46-41 percent. Pollster Delair Ali said he believes that most of the 17 percent who chose the war in Iraq as the most important issue are against what is going on

in that conflict, a finding that favors Donnelly (Wensits, South Bend Tribune). The fact that 10 percent rated taxes/spending and 9 percent the war on terror as top issues favors Chocola, Ali said. He said he was also surprised at the number of people who brought up the Toll Road (7 percent) and time zone change (5 percent) as campaign issues. "To me, it sounds like people are ticked off at Republicans in general," Ali said. The pollster predicted that if the weights given issues identified in the poll remain unchanged, Donnelly will win. "I'm pleased with the poll results," Donnelly said in a Monday statement. "It's clear to me that voters want change and they understand that when Chris Chocola goes to Washington, he goes to defend his party's interests and the special interests," Donnelly said. Chocola said he is actually pleased with the poll results, given, he said, that there have been several hundred thousand dollars spent by "third parties running false and misleading ads" against him. Donnelly's habit of being late paying property taxes on his Granger residence as well as on a vacation home in Michigan City has been raised as a campaign issue by Republican opponents (Wensits, **South Bend Tribune**). "It takes an incredible level of arrogance for Joe Donnelly to have tax increases on Indiana taxpayers at the top of his agenda when he doesn't seem to bother paying his own taxes," said National Republican Congressional Committee spokesman Ed Patru. "If Joe Donnelly thinks high taxes are so important to good government, perhaps he should start by paying his own on time -- the way most people do," Patru said. The attack was quickly denounced by Donnelly campaign general chairman Shaw Friedman, who called it "a sign of early desperation" that opponents sought to make the late tax payments an issue. Tax records in St. Joseph and LaPorte counties indicate that Donnelly has paid his tax bills late on several occasions since 1999, and has had to pay delinquent penalties several times through the years. The records also indicate that Donnelly is currently up-to-date in both counties and has actually paid a bit more than he owes in LaPorte County. "He's a little bit ahead as we speak," Ken Layton, LaPorte County treasurer, said Monday. "Joe Donnelly owns a small business and has two kids in college," Friedman said. "Like many small businessmen and women, Joe gets cash flow at different times in the year, and for the past several years property taxes have hit him at a rough time. "Bottom line," Friedman said, "the taxpayers were not hurt one dime by Joe and Jill choosing to pay taxes, interest and late fees after the due date when they had some cash flow from the business."

Status: TOSSUP ❖

Congressional District 3: Republican: U.S.

Rep. Mark Souder. Democrat: Fort Wayne Councilman Thomas Hayhurst. **Geography:** Fort Wayne, Goshen; Kosciusko, Whitley, LaGrange, Steuben, DeKalb and parts of Elkhart and Allen counties. **Media Market:** South



Bend-Elkhart, Fort Wayne. **People:** Urban/rural 65/35%; median income \$44,013; Race: 87% white, 6% black, 4.5% Hispanic; Blue/white collar: 36/52% **2000 Presidential:** Bush 66%, Gore 33%.
Cook Partisan Voting Index: R+17. 2002 results: Souder 92,566 (63%), Rigdon 50,509 (34%). **2004 Results:** Souder, Parra 2004 Results: Souder 171,389 (69%), Parra 76,232 (31%). **2006 Forecast:** Watch for President Bush's stem cell veto to play out in this race. Concilman Hayhurst is a medical doctor. Souder has helped lead the pro-life Congressional movement against stem cell research, saying that all other alternatives must be exhausted. Souder was also a leading advocate in Congress intervening in the Teri Schiavo case. Both these issues, while they could help coalesce the conservative base, have the potential of alienating independents and moderate Republicans. **Status:** LEANS SOUDER

Congressional District

6: Republican: U.S. Rep. Mike Pence. Democrat: Rev. Barry Allen Welsh.
Geography: Anderson, Muncie, Richmond; Wells, Adams, Blackford, Jay, Madison, Delaware, Randolph, Henry, Wayne, Rush, Fayette, Union, Decatur, Franklin, and parts of Bartholomew, Shelby, Johnson and Allen counties. **Media Market:** Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Dayton, Cincinnati. **People:** urban/rural 59/40%; median income \$39,002; poverty 9.7%; race: 93% white, 3.8% black, 1.3% Hispanic; blue/white collar 35/49%; **2000 Presidential:** Bush 58%, Gore 40%; Cook Partisan Voting Index: R+10; **2002 results:** Pence 118,436 (64%), Fox 63,871. **2002 Money:** Pence \$1.2m, Fox \$342,987. 2004 Results: Pence 182,529, Fox (D) 85,123, Roots (L) 4,397. **2006 Outlook:** Pence has teamed up with U.S. Sen. Kay Baily Huchison on the immigration compromise. Their plan, which contains many of the elements that Pence has been advocating since May, would establish benchmarks for increasing border security, require illegal immigrants to return to their country of origin before applying to return to the United States and imple-

Battle for the House

R29 D36

Likely Takeover (1)

Woodruff (Battles)

Tossups (8)

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



Leans (12-R; 10-D)

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

Likely (1-R; 2-D)

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

Safe

(29 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) Lawson, Harris, C. Brown, Bauer, Niezgodski, Dvorak, Plath, Cheney, 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., Crawford, Mahern, Porter

Movement: Unchanged from last week. ❖



ment a temporary worker visa program for people from countries included in the North American and Central American trade agreements. People would apply for visas at Ellis Island Centers in their home countries. Pence is being targeted with anti-immigration ads from a PAC sponsored by a fellow Congressional Republican, U.S. Rep. Tom Tancredo. Tancredo (R-CO), Chairman of the 97-member House Immigration Reform Caucus, expressed disappointment at Pence's policy shift on immigration reform on his House website. "Mike Pence is making the same mistakes that the President has, using the straw man of mass deportations and redefining amnesty to suit his interests," said Tancredo. "Unfortunately, like the President, Pence is breaking from House conservatives who remain steadfast in their support of a security-first approach to immigration," said Tancredo. "Pence's plan would require illegal aliens to return to their home countries to apply for a new 'W' worker visa. Employers could hire as many foreign workers as they want under the W visa, and, in practice, they would likely hire the same workers who they employed illegally before. Pence wants to start the new foreign worker program before border security is even proved effective, which is the same strategy that was used in the 1986 amnesty. Twenty years later, the U.S. got amnesty as promised but no border security. Pence's W visa is aptly named. It gives the Administration exactly what it wants: unlimited foreign workers first, enforcement later or never," said Tancredo. "Pence's plan is just the 1986 amnesty with a trip home tacked on." The ads are running on WIBC-AM in Indianapolis. We've never heard of a Member running ads against a fellow party member.

Status: LIKELY PENCE

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:** Two radio ads running on stations in Southern Indiana criticize Rep. Mike Sodrel for giving corporate welfare to the oil industry and Rep. John Hostettler for opposing an increase in the minimum wage (**Evansville Courier & Press**). The Democratic

Congressional Campaign Committee paid for both the ads, which will run for at least a week. The ad against Hostettler began Monday, and the Sodrel ad started Wednesday. While the ads are generally true - Hostettler has consistently opposed minimum wage increases and the energy legislation supported by Republicans has been generous with tax breaks and subsidies for energy producers - the ads do contain some distortions and inaccuracies.

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 will be targeted by the DCCC as it takes on a half dozen vulnerable Republicans in the Ohio River Valley media markets of Cincinnati, Louisville and Evansville. **Status:** TOSSUP.

Legislative Races

House District 4: Republican: Open. Democrat: Sylvia Graham. **2002 Results:** Ayres 12,447. **2004 Results:** Ayres 19,656, Stegers (D) 8,581. **2006 Forecast:** John Wichlinski has filed and former Porter County GOP Chairman Mike Aylesworth is pondering a run for the vacated Ralph Ayres seat, sources tell HPR. Ed Charboneau will not seek this seat. **Status:** TOSSUP

House District 44: Republican: Open. 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:** Filing for the Tuesday caucus includes Amos Thomas, father of departing State Rep. Andy Thomas; Kathy Deer of the Department of Commerce; Kenneth Eitel Jr., who challenged Thomas in the 2002 primary; Brazil pharmacist Fritz Mauer; Darwyn Nelson and Jerry Carver. Thomas and Eitel would have to be considered the top tier of candidates in the caucus. **Status:** TOSSUP

Marion County Prosecutor: Republican: Prosecutor Carl Brizzi. Democrat: Melina Kennedy. **2006**

Forecast: Kennedy will begin running 1,000 points of TV ads in a \$160,000 buy over the next three weeks. The ad features still photos and voice over. The ad is expected to gin up the challenger's name ID, which is still low. **STATUS:** TOSSUP❖



Manous to repay Carpenters union \$125K

HAMMOND- Former Democratic Party Chairman Peter Manous has settled with the Carpenters Pension Trust Fund, hoping to shut the door on the Coffee Creek land scandal (**Post-Tribune**). Manous agreed to a total of \$125,000 and the promise of testifying against the remaining defendants. The union had filed a civil suit against Manous, two real estate brokers and a union insider in an attempt to recoup some of its losses resulting from the misguided investment the four of them orchestrated. "It is our view that this closes the door on Peter Manous' involvement in Coffee Creek," said Mark Rotert, Manous' attorney.



Workforce releases new job figures

INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate went up two-tenths of a percentage point in June to 5.2 percent, according to the monthly report released today by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. Nationally, the unemployment rate was unchanged from May to June at 4.6 percent. The state's 5.2 percent seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for June 2006 is down from 5.4 percent one year ago. The number of employed Hoosiers on a seasonally adjusted basis in June 2006 was 3,088,000 compared with 3,031,100 in June 2005 and 3,015,800 in January 2005.

Grand jury convened on Indianapolis library

INDIANAPOLIS - A grand jury has begun investigating a former

Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library Board member and his work with a firm that helped manage the flawed Central Library project. Marion County grand jurors first heard testimony about David "Mark" Bowell a week ago, according to a source familiar with the investigation (**Indianapolis Star**). The panel is looking into Bowell's relationship with Turner Construction Co. of Indiana, which was the lead partner in a joint venture that oversaw work on the Downtown library project.

Democrats opposed I-69 tollway

BLOOMINGTON - The expansion of I-69 into southwestern Indiana should not be a toll road, three Democratic lawmakers from the Bloomington area wrote in a letter to federal highway officials (**Associated Press**). The lawmakers -- Sen. Vi Simpson, Ellettsville, and Reps. Matt Pierce and Peggy Welch, both of Bloomington -- oppose the suggestion by Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels to build the I-69 extension as a toll road. They filed a three-page letter with the U.S. Department of Transportation as part of the public comment portion of the project.

Gaming commission eyes East Chicago

EAST CHICAGO - State gambling regulators have asked East Chicago to turn over records detailing how Mayor George Pabey's administration has spent millions in casino revenue, **The Times** has learned. Communities that host riverboat gaming receive ongoing economic development subsidies, and the city's contract with Resorts East Chicago has netted more than \$4.2 million since Pabey took office last year. Struggling to stay afloat financially, the city has tapped those funds to pay various attorney fees, Carmen Fernandez, corporation counsel for East Chicago, acknowledged Wednesday. That practice is at the center of an inquiry launched

earlier this month by the Indiana Gaming Commission. "I wouldn't call it 'under investigation,'" Ernie Yelton, the commission's executive director, said Wednesday. "We have asked the city of East Chicago to give us an itemization of their receipts and expenditures under the local development agreement with Resorts, as well as invoices and billings and payments of legal fees."

Curley reprimands two for violating party rules

CROWN POINT - A Lake County Republican precinct committeeman faces removal from that position after soliciting campaign contributions for a Democrat (**Times of Northwest Indiana**). A panel of three GOP city chairmen on Wednesday found Calumet Township precinct committeeman Carl Doppler in violation of two Republican state party rules and recommended his removal. Lake County Republican Chairman John Curley must now act on the recommendation. The panel also found Vern Vierk, chair of the party's annual Lincoln Day Dinner, in violation of party rules and referred their findings to Curley for his consideration when Curley next makes appointments to the Lincoln dinner committee. Vierk and Doppler were accused of soliciting contributions for Democrat Judge Jesse Villalpando in a race this spring that did not feature a Republican candidate.

New Latino group forms

COLUMBUS - The Indiana Statewide Latino/Hispanic Association - - the first statewide Latino association - is expected to connect more than 220,000 Hoosiers of Latino and Hispanic descent. ISLHA is a nonprofit, non-partisan alliance of Latino leaders, organizations, community activists, students and individuals advocating positive social change and political advancement. Information: islhaonline.org.