



Education session roars back at sine die

Pence priorities addressed in final hours of compromise

By **MATTHEW BUTLER**

INDIANAPOLIS – With Religious Freedom Restoration Act and the Common Wage repeal settled, the “education session” came roaring back for the final days of the 2015 119th Indiana General Assembly. The House passed the budget 69-30 literally minutes to midnight Wednesday evening. Only a short period before the Senate passed the biennial spending measure 40-9.

The two super majorities passed legislation that addressed priorities Republican leadership and Gov. Mike Pence highlighted back in January, such as increased funding for K-12 education, a revised school funding formula, increased school choice funding, and significant reforms to the State Board of Education (SBOE).

Between SB1 and the budget, the superintendent of public instruction as an elected office is diminished in



Speaker Brian Bosma makes a point with House Minority Leader Scott Pelath in the final hours of the Indiana General Assembly on Wednesday. (HPI Photo by Mark Curry)

terms of powers and responsibilities. Oversight of ISTEP, most of the A-through-F grading system, and the state’s burgeoning school voucher program will be transferred to the SBOE’s control and, starting in 2017, the superinten-

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Pence in wonderland

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – On the Indiana Republican Party website under the “events” tab, the Marion County Reagan Dinner had been scheduled for tonight with Gov. Mike Pence on the bill as keynoter. It made perfect sense: The governor fresh off of his second biennial budget session and with much of his legislative agenda intact, would be expected to take a victory lap in the state’s capital city before the largest pool of Republicans in Indiana. Except that the dinner has been postponed until June 25, with an email from the party going out two weeks ago. And when it finally happens, it will be Indianapolis Mayor Greg Bal-



“Gov. Pence, we are hurt and disappointed. You failed. In doing so you betrayed the trust of millions of Hoosiers who elected you to protect the liberties we hold dear.”

- Rev. Ron Johnson, writing for the Indiana Pastors Alliance



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lard on the bill, and not the embattled governor.

HPI asked Robert Vane of the Pence reelection campaign why the dinner was postponed and Pence replaced as speaker in June. "Honestly, I have no idea," Vane responded. "I just got an email blast saying it was being postponed ... I've not talked to anyone about the reason or when it will be held. Marion County GOP would be best suited to give details."

Marion County Republican Chairman Kyle Walker said the postponement was due to "several of our large donors had a conflict with that date, so we decided to move it."

This comes after an Alice in Wonderland month for Indiana Republicans. Just to recount, it began with the Religious Freedom Restoration Act passage on March 25, the closed bill signing a day later, the "last supper" optics that emerged, Advance America's Eric Miller defining the legislation as allowing denial of business services to homosexuals, the corporate rebellion, the proposed "fix" pushed by Speaker Brian Bosma and Senate President Long and business leaders, which then quickly passed by the General Assembly. This was followed by a second clandestine Pence signing and a quick escape to, presumably, Europe just as the NCAA's Final Four was beginning. The Howey Politics Indiana Poll (HPI, April 16) revealed a historic drop-off of Pence favorables and job approval, including sharp declines with women, independents and white evangelical Christians.

The Republican rebellion isn't confined to Indianapolis. Allen County Republican Chairman Steve Shine said on April 5, "I find the (RFRA) situation repugnant, and contrary to that which I have tried to accomplish within the Allen County GOP for the past 22 years." Shine added, "The situation forces me to pause to reflect on whether, in the future, I wish to devote my time and leadership skills to help promote and support the election of lawmakers who advocate any policy that would pass legislation that, real or perceived, is deemed

discriminatory."

With just hours remaining in the General Assembly session, the final week's first exploding cigar was a public rebuke by the Indiana Pastors Alliance, where Rev. Ron Johnson Jr. of Crown Point stood with 19 other clergymen who accused Pence of a betrayal. The language was stunning. Pence, Bosma and Long were guilty of a "cowardly capitulation."

"You failed us," Johnson said. "And in doing so, you betrayed the trust of millions of Hoosiers who elected you to protect the liberties we hold so dear." Rev. Carl Kelley, an associate pastor at Phillips Temple CME Church, denounced Pence, who he described as "folding like a cheap suit" and suggested a 2016 primary challenge while invoking the "ouster" of Sen. Dick Lugar in the Republican primary four years ago.

Pence supporter and Tea Party activist Monica Boyer, posting on "Not on My Watch," blog wrote of Monday's pastor alliance demonstration, "Yesterday was a powerful day for people of faith and freedom-loving patriots. It was a day pastors united, some for the very first time, to hold our lawmakers accountable for their cowardly cave on religious freedom. Over 200 people came out to support nearly 30 pastors who had chosen to take a stand."

What this portends is the Indiana Republican Party is now more fractured than it has been since the Linley Pearson era. The RFRA episode has exposed the fissures between the competing interests of the social and economic conservatives that make up the GOP, as well as between local officials and Statehouse leaders. The language used by pastors to rebuke Gov. Pence, Speaker Bosma and President Long was angry and indicting.

The governor not only has troubles with female and independent voters revealed by the Howey Politics Indiana Poll on April 16, but he is now in trouble with his base, where the HPI Poll revealed just 59% of evangelicals approve of Gov. Pence's job performance. But breaking out

“white evangelicals” in the cross tabulations, Pence’s job performance stood at 61% approve and 31% disapprove. This is troubling data for Pence. In 2012 exit polls, Pence drew 70% of white evangelicals (presidential nominee Mitt Romney won 80%) while 28% voted for Gregg.

The troubling aspect for Indiana Republicans is that this showdown will almost certainly extend into the 2016 legislative session in what looks to be an exceptionally volatile election cycle.

How does Pence win in the general?

The emerging political question is how does Gov. Pence win a 2016 general election? The dilemma is stark. An expansion of the state’s civil rights code to include sexual orientation is likely to be the marquee issue in the 2016 General Assembly. Its demise could be a precursor to the out-migration of the NCAA headquarters and some of Indiana’s most coveted high tech industries and a further alienation of female and independent voters likely to determine the outcome of the gubernatorial election. Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal signaled his willingness to resist corporate pressure on a similar law there. Passage and signing would provoke an outright rebellion of the governor’s base.

Former congressman and HPI columnist Mark Souder observed, “I think Mike is in trouble in the general election. But it is a long way away. He has demonstrated some pragmatism. What is unclear is this: Did he build a broad enough base earlier? Right now he just needs to stay calm and decide if it is worth all this.”

Pence’s 2012 Democratic opponent, John Gregg, who is expected to make a final decision on a potential rematch “soon,” told HPI on Wednesday that Pence fulfilled

what he had predicted three years ago. “‘Overreach’ is the precise word,” Gregg said, enunciating a frequent campaign trail theme. “And then when his hand was called, (he) showed no leadership.”

In the face of all this, Pence is signaling a reelection bid. He brought back Matt Lloyd as deputy chief of staff in charge of communications, a similar portfolio he had in Pence’s congressional office and early gubernatorial campaign. Lloyd will be moving his family from Washington back to Indiana. The Pence campaign will likely bring in Nick Ayres, a partner at Target Enterprises, an advertising firm based in Los Angeles. Previously, Ayres worked with the Republican National Committee, and has worked with the Republican Governors Association and managed campaigns of Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty and Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue.

The key date will be June 18 for the Indiana Republican Spring Dinner featuring Gov. Pence and a “special guest.” This dinner, which is normally strongly supported by corporate Republicans, will be crucial to replenish the party’s sagging coffers that, sources tell HPI, have suffered since the RFRA debacle.

Gov. Pence, new Indiana Republican Chairman Jeff Cardwell, Lloyd and Ayres will have an arduous task to devise a political (and financial) recovery here and communicate it with the base. With the GOP’s fissures exposed, the economic conservatives in rebellion, the governor’s evangelical base rattled and angry, and more divisive social legislation on tap for an election year, the emerging strategy (as well as the caliber of a campaign for a Democratic opponent) portends to be one of the most fascinating election sequences in modern times. ❖

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dent will no longer be the automatic chairperson of that reconstituted body.

Last minute compromises

Some negotiations went down to the wire. For example, SB461 will allow localities facing health emergencies, like Scott County’s current HIV epidemic, to request permission to institute needle exchanges (See p. 12). The fate of the bill was quite uncertain last week. “For some the bill doesn’t go far enough, for others it goes too far,” said Rep. Ed Clere, R-New Albany, (pictured right) as he presented the conference report. Shortly after passage Gov. Pence announced



he would sign it. Considering the governor’s statements on needle exchanges mid-March, proponents should consider this a definite coup.

The anxiously anticipated gaming reforms in Rep. Tom Dermody’s HB1540 passed both houses Wednesday. In an attempt to ease competitive pressures from out-of-state gaming, the bill allows riverboat facilities to move inland within their existing footprint, raises free-play caps, provides a historical tax credit for the French Lick

casino, and, in a quite likely paradigm shifting manner, replaces “gaming position” caps from the state code with the term “gambling games.” Sources tell HPI the latter allows the potential for a far more expansive interpretation of gaming setups within all types of casino operations start-

ing in 2021. "It's always hard to reach consensus on these gaming bills," said Rep. Sean Eberhart, R-Shelbyville. "I think Rep. Dermody did a yeoman's job."

After a marathon effort that lasted past 9 p.m. Wednesday, conferees on Sen. Phil Boot's SB330 annexation bill eventually forged a deal. A key accord involved preserving remonstrance waivers for cities and towns as well as calling for a summer study over economic development. "We've worked very hard to come up with a very balanced approach," remarked conferee Rep. Sharon Negele, R-Attica. She drew applause from house members when another member congratulated her for reaching consensus between the Indiana Farm Bureau and cities and counties.

Another important bill for local governments was SB436 and how it addresses the so-called "dark store" assessments for big-box retail chains. The original language tried to prevent that methodology from sweeping the state by specifying the use of cost measures. The House version used recent sales comparisons. The conference report settled on the cost approach, less depreciation and obsolescence, while assessing the underlying land separately. "We had members of both interest groups, the cities and towns and stores, sit down for three hours," explained Chairman Brown. "They all signed off on it." The bill also includes a de minimis small business exemption from the business personal property tax.

The 2016-17 budget

The biennial budget totals \$31.5 billion with reserves at \$1.8 billion. Both chambers also passed Gov. Pence's balanced budget constitutional amendment HJR-19. Faced with a reduced revenue forecast, lawmakers prioritized K-12 and community corrections over other



Senate President David Long confers with Appropriations Chairman Luke Kenley in the waning hours of the Indiana General Assembly on Wednesday. The two were instrumental in hammering out the biennial budget. (HPI Photo by Mark Curry)

areas such as higher education and road funding. K-12 spending grows \$464 million, 2.3% per each year. The quite late, but successful lobbying efforts of Gov. Pence to restore full funding to his Regional Cities Initiative request (\$84 million) surprised some, especially after questionable tactics by the Indiana Economic Development Corporation last week. The governor and administration officials were report-

edly ecstatic over the outcome at a private event Tuesday evening.

On Monday, Gov. Pence conferred with Republican leadership in Senate President David Long's office. On sine die they met in Speaker Bosma's. The fact that the governor was seen going to and from legislative leaders' inner chambers was the subject of some buzz among lobbyists in the hallways.

After Gov. Pence emerged from those talks midday Wednesday, he remarked, "I'm very encouraged with the progress we're making in passing another balanced budget that is going to put a real priority on education in our state. This is a budget that's going to make a historic commitment to our K-12 schools."

David Long said upon adjournment, "Lawmakers have substantially increased funding support for our K-12 schools, boosted pay for our best teachers, and given local schools more flexibility and freedom."

Democrats decried the budget's spending priorities, particularly cuts to urban public schools experiencing stagnant or decreasing enrollments. Senate Democratic Leader Tim Lanane posed the question, "How can



Centaur Gaming's counsel John Keeler works the phones on the live dealer compromise. (HPI Photo by Mark Curry)

we spend a record amount on education and still have schools lose funding?" House Democratic Leader Scott Pelath said minutes before midnight, "Not every kid in Indiana is getting a fair shot. They live in decaying cities. They drive on roads that are crumbling."

Reforming and empowering the SBOE

Early forecasts predicted reforms to the superintendent and SBOE would be the most contentious issues of the session. Indeed, there was a growing push to have the superintendent reduced to an appointed, rather than elected position. When Gov. Pence outlined his legislative agenda in December and proclaimed 2015 an "education session," he asked lawmakers not to eliminate the superintendent but rather drastically curtail her power in relation to the SBOE. He wanted that body to elect its own chairperson, citing the need for harmony. Lawmakers settled on Sen. Travis Holdman's SB1 to reform the SBOE. The bill number signifies the importance invested in the matter. Democrats cried foul and Ritz spoke to a very large statehouse rally supporting her position (and policies) back in February.

A last-minute change to SB1 kept the SBOE an 11-member board, as opposed to the nine members proposed as of Tuesday. The new methods of appointments will be phased in starting 2017. The governor's eight appointments will join the superintendent, no more than five of whom can be of one political party; two additional members will be appointed by the House and the Senate, respectively. The SBOE will also be designated as a "state educational authority," a roughly equal footing with the DOE. It will require the bodies to share information and empower the SBOE to basically control the A-through-F school grading system.

"I'm just very grateful that we're rolling our sleeves up and finding some ways to improve the functioning and providing resources necessary for the SBOE to provide that role of oversight over education policy in the state of Indiana it's designed to do," Pence told reporters midday.

Democrats took a different tact. "I realize that the shock of Superintendent Ritz's election was hard to take," Rep. Pelath told the house. Austin Democratic Rep. Terry Goodin concurred, "This is a blatant political power grab that slaps the face of Hoosier voters." Ten Republicans joined Democrats in voting nay in the house.

This new SBOE composition would set the stage for a 7-4 split favoring Republicans if incumbents are reelected in 2016. Nonetheless, Ritz remains the chair for the duration of her remaining



term. Pence arguably did not want that, at least at the beginning of the session. Reforming the SBOE's chair involved a considerable expenditure of political capital by the governor. Observers wondered as to the necessity since the body had already rewritten its own rules, effectively neutering the chairperson's, i.e., Ritz's, ability to set meeting agendas.

Late revisions to the budget also invested the SBOE with powers at the expense of DOE, such as control over the state's school voucher program and the new \$500 per pupil facilities grant for eligible charter schools. The latter was a major request on the part of the governor that was initially removed by the senate but survived in a pared-down form.

Asked if he supported removing oversight of the voucher program from the DOE, Gov. Pence said yes and framed it as part of a "range of consolidations" to improve education policymaking. "The SBOE is the proper place to oversee those programs and to make sure that they're being operated in the best interests of our kids and our families and consistent with the policies embraced by the legislative process," he said.

Upon Sine Die, Speaker Bosma said, "From the very beginning, I pledged that this would be the education session, and our legislative accomplishments reflect that. Providing teachers with a tax credit and substantially increasing our investment in education are just some of the many accomplishments to support our educators." ❖



State Rep. Dennis Zent grabs some pizza while State Reps. Jud McMillin and Ed DeLaney (top photo) debate on the House floor. (HPI Photos by Mark Curry)

Indiana Senate slugfest is about to begin

By **MARK SOUDER**

FORT WAYNE – Ever since Mike Pence ran for governor, pundits have claimed that his every move was secretly driven by his presidential ambitions. I am certain that the RFRA debate in Indiana was not manufactured by the governor to moderate his image so he could compromise while the state legislature looked extreme.



To some conservatives, Pence is seen as just a craven cover not only to big business and the homosexual lobby, but also on health care and education. I must confess that in all my decades of knowing Mike I never once suspected him of being a secret pagan communist.

Into this boiling cauldron of Indiana Republican politics, the comparatively rare opportunity of an open United States Senate seat is tempting to ambitious politicians. Eric Holcomb was the first out of the political gate, prepared the day Dan Coats announced that he would not seek reelection. He has worked for Congressman John Hostetler, Gov. Mitch Daniels, served as state Republican chairman and as state director for Sen. Coats. While on paper he wins the award for being politically the most ambidextrous Republican, the fact is that he has not won a significant election, didn't have federal money stockpiled (there are laws on federal money, unlike state money where the rule is basically "write it down"), and as a candidate will either be forced to take sides on controversial issues or fade away.

Eric had a decent start in fundraising and a solid list of early supporters, especially Republican mayors, for a race in which most elected officials asked to back a candidate will wring much skin off their hands. However, it was hardly a lockdown list since big holes existed in major vote centers. He will likely be the underdog candidate who works hard, smiles aggressively, and hopes that the congressmen, and potentially others, stumble.

Of the Hoosier Republican congressmen, it appears that all but Todd Young and Marlin Stutzman have ruled out a race. Stutzman, unless he reverses himself, plans to announce his candidacy in about a week.

In the 2010 primary, Marlin chose to run for the

right to challenge Sen. Evan Bayh. While Marlin emerged as the leader of the early pack, Bayh remained the overwhelming favorite to win in the fall. Then Dan Coats decided to enter the race with a few days remaining, and Bayh folded his campaign within hours.

Stutzman battled Coats hard, exploiting his weaknesses as a lobbyist, non-resident, and some particular votes. Significantly, Stutzman tied Coats in northeast Indiana, the region from which Coats rose to political power. Still, Coats prevailed. When my sin of having an affair became known to our families after I had won the primary, I decided to resign. (No one forced me. Period. I had the nomination. The sin was personal.) Stutzman had an overwhelming advantage heading into a caucus, as I was well aware.

There are many compelling reasons why a Senate race in 2016 is his best chance to win statewide. He has made some very serious political mistakes which have damaged his ability to advance in the House for now. However, in the 3rd District, he remains basically unscathed. Nor has Stutzman faced harsh negative ads in any race or serious press scrutiny.

The fundraising deficit between Stutzman and the other Republican members of the Indiana delegation is likely the lowest it will ever be. Reps. Todd Young, Todd Rokita, Susan Brooks and Luke Messer are all superior in this category. Marlin's comparative "bank imbalance" will likely grow every two years. Running statewide, money isn't everything but having the most is far more pleasant.

Stutzman's 2010 statewide surprising primary vote was already five years ago. By 2018 it will be ancient history. Should a Republican become president, unseating Sen. Joe Donnelly will be far more difficult than winning a Senate seat this year. Furthermore, the fact that Marlin doesn't have a college degree is somewhat mitigated by presidential candidate Scott Walker of Wisconsin also lacking a degree so would likely be less of an issue in 2016. (Not all members of Congress have a degree; Dan Burton was effective without one.)

Marlin has an incredibly strong base in northeast Indiana. He should pull up to 75% of the vote if the only other candidates are Young and Holcomb. Furthermore, he should do well in the adjacent South Bend district in a primary since it is anchored by Elkhart and northern Kosciusko counties. If anything, Stutzman has had slight slippage so running now is a better option

than waiting two more years. If Congressman Stutzman wants to be a senator, this is best opportunity. He may not win, but the odds become longer every two years he waits.

Stutzman may not win the primary, but he will be a strong contender. His biggest challenge, ironically, is this: He is the presumed favorite of social conservatives and the Tea Party. They are on fire about what has happened in the religious freedom debate. Other Republicans, who may



U.S. Rep. Marlin Stutzman is almost certain to announce a Senate candidacy May 9.

not have agreed with the initial legislation, are stunned by the prejudice against traditional Christian views expressed by major corporations and the media in this state. They are spoiling for a battle.

Either Marlin stands with social conservatives or he will be an orphaned candidate. State Sen. Mike Delph or another conservative will step in as the standard bearer for a large percentage, perhaps the majority, of the primary vote.

Congressman Todd Young would be a formidable contender for the nomination, possibly the favorite. Holcomb is a sleeper candidate. It is unclear from which

Congressman he will take the most votes, but his impact may determine who prevails. David McIntosh and Club for Growth are not likely to sit on the sidelines.

This is going to be an interesting primary battle to observe. More candidates could emerge. And, as a flood of illegal immigrant children on the southern border, RFRA, recent events in the Middle East, and riots in Baltimore have demonstrated, issues can rapidly change. ❖

Souder is a former Republican congressman for the 3rd CD.



Holcomb announces supporter list

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – Republican U.S. Senate candidate Eric Holcomb has a pretty simple early campaign strategy: As other Hoosier officeholders mull, he is traveling across the state like a dervish, lining up as much support as he can before anyone else can announce.

On Monday morning, the former Republican state chairman announced the backing of 18 chairs and Republican Central Committee members, 11 mayors and 10 legislators. He also released a list of individual supporters that reads like a who's who from the Daniels administration days.

Holcomb is the only announced candidate, and since his campaign kickoff on March 26, he has attended more than a dozen

Lincoln dinners, pie auctions and other Republican events. He is using his contacts when he served as Gov. Mitch Daniels reelection campaign manager in 2008, his time as the governor's deputy chief of staff, and his two years as state chairman to line up early support. The goal is to dissuade other potential candidates from even entering the race. Holcomb is attempting to exploit his statewide ties, while his potential opponents represent smaller slivers of the state in congressional districts and state Senate seats.

Thus far, U.S. Reps. Susan Brooks and Jackie Walorski have announced 2016 reelection bids while U.S. Reps. Marlin Stutzman and Todd Young are researching campaigns. Stutzman is expected to make an announcement of his 2016 plans on May 9. Young has told Howey Politics Indiana that he is "preparing" for a Senate bid, but has not made a final decision, saying that he has some time to decide. Stutzman and Young have to consider walking away from safe Republican House seats and prominent committees. Young, for instance, serves on

the influential Ways & Means Committee while Stutzman serves on Financial Services. House Speaker Brian Bosma of Indianapolis, State Sens. Mike Delph of Carmel and Jim Merritt of Indianapolis are also Senate campaign options open, but were not expected to publicly address the race until after the Indiana General Assembly concluded its business on Wednesday.

"It's just been a month since the announcement and we haven't come off the road yet," Holcomb said Sunday. "Today at lunch, I attended the sixth of eight straight Lincoln Day Dinners and last Saturday we did two in one day! Along the way, we're picking up support in all regions of the state and it's growing by the day."

That list includes: Republican state committeemen & county chairs: Brown County Jenni Voris, Gibson County C.T. Montgomery, Hendricks County Mike O'Brien, Johnson County Sandi Huddleston, Knox County Linda Painter, Lake County Rebecca Holwerda, LaPorte County Mike Gonder, Madison County Kyle Hupfer, Marion County Tom John, Pike County Mark Flint, Porter County Chuck Williams, Pulaski County Sam Frain, Ripley County Ginger Bradford, Scott County Justin Stevens, Starke County Brenda Stanojevic, Tippecanoe County Barb Knochel, Vanderburgh County Wayne Parke, and Vigo County Randy Gentry. Of that group, Holcomb has lined up support from county chairs in five of the top 10 GOP counties.

Mayors signing on include Evansville's Lloyd Winnecke, Frankfort's Chris McBarnes, Franklin's Joe McGinnes, Greenwood's Mark Myers, LaPorte's Blair Milo, Marion's Wayne Seybold, Mishawaka's Dave Wood, Portage's Jim Snyder, Valparaiso's Jon Costas, West Lafayette's John Dennis, and Winchester's Steven Croyle.

County elected officials include Decatur Prosecutor Nate Harter, Gibson Prosecutor Robert Krieg, Hancock Commissioner Brad Armstrong, Hendricks Sheriff Brett Clark, Howard Commissioner Paul Wyman, Johnson Commissioner Brian Baird, Johnson Sheriff Doug Cox, and Tippecanoe Commissioners Tom Murtaugh and Tracy Brown. State legislators signing on include State Reps. Jim Baird, Bob Cherry, Randy Frye, Bob Heaton, Wendy McNamara, Sharon Negele, John Price, Matt Ubelhor and Cindy Zimke, and State Sen. Mike Crider. ❖



HPI's mayoral primary forecast

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – Incumbent mayors in Columbus, East Chicago, Lake Station, Logansport and Westfield appear to be facing high hurdles for renomination in next Tuesday's municipal primaries, while Howey Politics Indiana monitors close races in Elkhart, Carmel and Bloomington. Some of these races could be determined by low voter turnout and a candidate's ability to get out their base.



Vigo County Republican Chairman Randy Gentry told Howey Politics that at while Terre Haute vote centers had been open for three weeks, "a total of 66 people have voted and taken a Republican ballot, an all-time low.

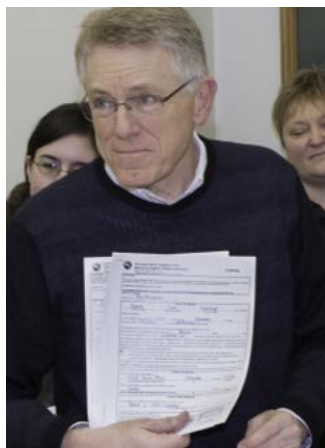
This includes absentee mailed in ballots."

Races in some of Indiana's biggest cities, Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Evansville and Terre Haute, are already set for the fall with incumbents and leading opposition candidates expected to breeze toward nominations.

Most vulnerable incumbents

Columbus: First term Republican Mayor Kristen Brown is one of the most vulnerable incumbents, seeking to fend off a challenge from Columbus Council President Jim Lienhoop. Brown has often clashed with "establishment" Republicans on the council. Brown's leadership style has been described by local sources as off-putting, something Lienhoop has stressed on the campaign trail. Because no Democrats are opposed, there is potential for a significant crossover and vote for Lienhoop. **Primary Horse Race Status:** Leans Lienhoop.

East Chicago: First-term Mayor Anthony Copeland faces unique opposition, writes NWI Times' Publish-



Columbus Council President Jim Lienhoop (left) is challenging Columbus Mayor Kristen Brown (second from left); East Chicago Mayor Anthony Copeland is facing a Democratic primary challenge from city Clerk Mary Morris Leonard.

er William Nangle. Besides opposition by city clerk-treasurer Mary Morris Leonard, it's being said two men who were a part of East Chicago's colorful past political conflicts are seeking to influence the outcome. Former mayor George Pabey, who has spent time in jail for misdeeds while in office, and longtime political operative Bobby Cantrell are reportedly working for Copeland's ouster. Copeland came into office as mayor and put the city on a sound financial basis. He reduced the patronage army left by Pabey, has worked tirelessly for restoration of the Cline Avenue bridge and has witnessed work to improve the city's shoreline along Lake Michigan. **Primary Horse Race Status:** Tos-sup.

Lake Station: Indicted Mayor Keith Soderquist is facing a four-way primary with Democrats Robert Gutzmer, Ray Ostrander and Christopher Anderson challenging. Anderson stepped down after seven years as Lake Station city judge in a bid to unseat Soderquist. The NWI Times reported that Soderquist, his wife, Deborah, and stepdaughter, Miranda Brakley, are awaiting trial on allegations the mayor and his wife gambled at a casino with money diverted from the mayor's campaign treasury and a city food pantry and tried to cover up the theft of bond money from the city court by the mayor's stepdaughter.

Primary Horse Race Status: Leans Anderson.

Logansport: Republican Mayor Ted Franklin is being challenged by former Indiana State Police trooper Larry Hood, as well as Mike Berkshire. Of the two challengers, Hood is considered a credible threat to the first-term mayor who has endured a number of controversies throughout his first term. The Republican nominee will likely face former Pharos-Tribune editor Dave Kitchell, who faces Ricky Ricks in the Democratic primary. **Primary Horse Race Status:** Leans Hood; Likely Kitchell.

Westfield: Republican challenger Jeff Harpe has opposed a controversial funding plan pushed by Mayor Andy Cook on a soccer complex. Given that Cook had a narrow 61-vote Republican primary victory in 2011 against Russell Cameron, the mayor was vulnerable heading into

this cycle. Harpe was drawn into the race after filing an open-door challenge with the Indiana public access counselor. "The actions of the mayor and city council of Westfield in conducting business behind closed doors, in total disregard of the public at large, speaks volumes as to the true beliefs of those individuals," Harpe told the IndyStar. "I have taken these actions to hopefully give the people of Westfield a chance to voice their opinions, pro or con, on the proposed indoor soccer facility financing and lease." A late \$99,000 from the Shamrock PAC has been spent on Cook's behalf, indicating the incumbent is feeling a heated challenge. **Primary Horse Race Status:** Tossup.

Incumbents facing close races

Carmel: Five-term Republican Mayor Jim Brainard is being tested by Council President Rick Sharp. Brainard has purchased about \$30,000 in late TV advertising, doubling what he had spent earlier in the race. Brainard has survived other primary challenges, including a three-way race with Marnin Spigelman and John Accetturo in 2011, winning with 7,456 votes. **Primary Horse Race Status:** Leans Brainard.

New Albany: First term Democrat Mayor Jeff Gahan is being challenged by businessman David White on the May 5 primary Democratic ballot for mayor of New Albany (Louisville Courier-Journal). The winner will face off against Kevin Zurschmeide who runs unopposed on the Republican ballot, and likely Independent candidate Roger Baylor, a co-founder of New Albaniana Brewing Co., who is working to accumulate the needed signatures to appear on the fall ballot. Gahan has staked his first term on city beautification projects



Carmel Mayor Jim Brainard (from top) Carmel Councilman Rick Sharp, New Albany challenger David White and Westfield Mayor Andy Cook. New Albany Mayor Jeff Gahan is pictured left.

and has paid off \$27 million in sewer utility debt. His campaign website emphasizes that New Albany has become physically cleaner and financially stronger under his administration. White, 56, does not agree that the city is financially stronger, pointing to \$89 million in bonded debt, the loss of some important businesses, and a near quintupling of the budget for the parks department, among other things. "We're losing Pillsbury," he said. "We're losing Indatus — they just invented a new software that no one has in the world. In a decade we've not had one major business move in. We're not investing in things that have recurring revenue." **Primary Horse Race Status:** Leans Gahan.

Incumbents expected to win easily

Anderson: Republican Mayor Kevin Smith should be renominated in his race against Heather Prophet despite a fractured GOP in Madison County. The list of Democratic candidates includes four who have been elected to public office and three who have run for mayor in the past. Kris Ockomon defeated Smith for Anderson mayor in 2007 but lost a rematch in 2011. Ockomon announced his mayoral campaign in early 2014. Fred Reese lost in the 2011 mayoral primary to Ockomon and was elected in November to a term on the Madison County Council. Tom Broderick Jr. served a term as Madison County prosecuting attorney and several terms on the Madison County Council. The manager of Broderick's campaign is city councilman David Eicks, who had been considering a run for mayor himself. Rodney Chamberlain has been elected several times to an at-large seat on Anderson City Council. We see this race coming down between Ockomon, who fended off an indictment after leaving office, and Broderick, with the latter having a slight edge. **Primary Horse Race Status:** Safe Smith; Democrat: Tossup.

Elkhart: Two-term Democratic Mayor Dick Moore is expected to be renominated and he will face either former State Rep. Tim Neese or Downtown Elkhart Inc. Executive Director Dan Boecher. The Elkhart Truth endorsed Boecher, writing, "Boecher's long-term strategy is broader and deeper than his opponent's, and because of that, we endorse Boecher." Neese faced a challenge in his last House race by a Republican who

was pretty aggressive, fairly well-regarded, and Neese won with nearly 60% of the vote. **Primary Horse Race Status:** Safe Moore; Leans Neese.

Fort Wayne: Two-term Mayor Tom Henry is expected to easily dispatch Wayne Township Trustee Rick Stevenson as well as from Tom Cook, David Roach and John Roberson. Stevenson created an early buzz when he was endorsed by local firefighters, but Henry should win easily and face Republican Councilman Mitch Harper in the fall. Harper is expected to easily win the GOP primary, though he reported only \$31,000 cash on hand. **Primary Horse Race Status:** Safe Henry; Safe Harper.

Gary: Democratic Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson faces four primary challengers, Jim Nowacki, Robert Buggs Sr., Joe L. White and Dean Hensley. The Post-Tribune reported that Nowacki has tossed the most mud at the mayor's campaign finances, saying some of the contributions are evidence of "pay to play" politics. He and Buggs filed complaints last month with the Lake County Board of Elections claiming the mayor's campaign received improper contributions and failed to itemize receipts and contributions. Freeman-Wilson has finalized the Gary/Chicago International Airport runway expansion and put the airport in the hands of a private developer, the Post-Tribune reported. She cobbled together funding to demolish the Sheraton Hotel and secured \$6.5 million to demolish homes throughout the city. She wrestled with the city's budget, reducing its debt by \$17 million. **Primary Horse Race Status:** Safe Freeman-Wilson.

Hammond: Democratic Mayor Thomas McDermott Jr., should defeat Councilman Homero "Chico" Hinojosa, who has waged an emotional campaign via Facebook against the mayor, but hasn't raised much money. Republican Umberto Prado will face the winner. If McDermott prevails as expected, he could become a player in either the 2016 gubernatorial or U.S. Senate race. **Primary Horse Race Status:** Safe McDermott.

LaPorte: Republican Mayor Blair Milo is facing a challenge from City Councilman Roger Galloway, who believes the office needs more of an old-fashioned, personal touch. "I'm a little old style. I like to talk to people face to face. Shake their hand," said Galloway, 65, a former platoon sergeant in the Army who served in the Vietnam War, told the NWI Times. Milo is seen as a rising star in the Indiana GOP and has traveled the state pushing physical fitness. She has also been involved in the No Labels movement seeking bipartisan solutions in Washington. **Primary Horse Race Status:** Leans Milo.

South Bend: First-term Mayor Peter Buttigieg should win his second nomination with an easy win over Councilman Henry Davis Jr. Buttigieg began running TV

ads this week, suggesting he is not feeling too much heat from the controversial Davis. **Primary Horse Race Status:** Safe Buttigieg.

Open seats

Bloomington: Democratic Mayor Mark Krizan is stepping aside, and Democrats John Hamilton and Darryl Neher are the Democrats seeking the nomination. Hamilton challenged Krizan unsuccessfully in 2011. Krizan, State Rep. Matt Pierce, former party chairmen Dan Combs and Pat Williams, former Monroe Circuit Judge



Bloomington Democratic mayoral candidates Darryl Neher (left) and John Hamilton.

Vi Taliaferro, Monroe County Councilwoman Shelli Yoder and former city council member and county commissioner Charlotte Zietlow are backing Neher. Additionally, Democrat John Linemeier dropped out of the race and endorsed Neher. Hamilton entered the race with a front-runner status due to his increased name recognition from the 2011 challenge. But local observers believe that Neher has been stronger in the homestretch of the campaign, doing well in last week's WFIU debate. This could be one of Tuesday's closest races. The winner will take on Republican John Turnbull, sports director for the Bloomington Parks & Recreation. **Primary Horse Race Status:** Tossup.

Indianapolis: Democrat Joe Hogsett and Republican businessman Chuck Brewer are expected to easily win nominations on Tuesday. **Primary Horse Race Status:** Safe Hogsett; Safe Brewer.

Richmond: With Democratic Mayor Sally Hutton retiring, businessman and college basketball referee Kyle Ingram faces Dianna Pappin in the Republican primary. Ingram was recruited by a group of businessmen who have helped him double the war chests of all other challengers. Larry Scott, radio personality Dave Snow and Monica Burns are seeking the Democratic nomination. Scott is disability services coordinator at Indiana University East. **Primary Horse Race Status:** Likely Ingram; Likely Snow. ❖

Coats sees Citizens United 'floodgates'

By MAUREEN HAYDEN
CNHI Statehouse Bureau

INDIANAPOLIS – Of all the things written about U.S. Sen. Dan Coats' retirement, a headline calling him "old school" is among his favorites. But when faced with seeking reelection, Indiana's senior senator found the Citizens United decision transforming the funding needed for reelection, or as he put it, opening up the "floodgates."



Coats, 71, who isn't running to keep his Senate seat after 2016, said he won't miss the "grenade throwers" in his party. Nor, he said, will he miss trying to work with what he calls a "my way or no way" Democratic president. And he really won't miss raising millions of dollars for reelection. "I now have the privilege of serving in the Senate for the next 20 months without having to run around the country and raise untold amounts of money to campaign," Coats said.

Coats has been returning donations from recent contributors who've requested refunds. And he's been making plans to use remaining campaign dollars to support Republican candidates in Indiana and across the country. "I was never very good at asking people for money for myself," he said.

Coats is on his second tour of duty in Congress. He served in the House from 1981 to 1989, and in the Senate for the next decade. He was the U.S. ambassador to Germany, then a lobbyist, before state Republicans wooed him to to run again in 2010. The average cost of winning a Senate race that year was about \$9 million, according to Maplight, a non-partisan research group that tracks money in politics. It's now more than \$10 million. Campaign fundraising is "infinitely worse" now than it was during his first stint in the Senate, said Coats, who raised over \$6 million for his 2010 race. "It's unbelievable what you have to go through these days," he said. "Every race is a multimillion-dollar race."

Coats puts a big part of the blame on the U.S. Supreme Court and its landmark decision in 2010 that allowed corporations to spend unlimited money to influence federal elections. "They opened the floodgates," he said, making it harder for incumbents and challengers alike. "You can't just count on support from your own state," he said. "You have to run all over the country to raise that kind of money."

You also have to keep an eye out for super PACs, the political action committees that can make or break a candidate. "There's always somebody who doesn't know who you are but doesn't like what you said on this issue or

that," he said. "And they can write a check for \$10 million and create a super PAC that will blow you right out of the water."

By the time he decided against reelection, Coats had slowed his fundraising considerably. He raised less than \$65,000 in contributions during the first three months of this year, a big drop from the \$223,000 he'd raised in the last quarter of 2014. Of \$1.5 million he'd collected in campaign contributions since his 2010 election, Coats had \$967,000 left in the bank as of late March. Coats said he needed that large stash of campaign money, even though his seat was considered safe. "It's no longer about raising support from your state, from people who like who you are or like what you're doing. It's now amassing huge amounts of money to deter anybody else from running against you," he said. "As soon as you're elected, you start raising money again. And it's such a time-consuming distraction."

With that out of mind, Coats will spend the next 20 months working on what he said are two critical security issues. One involves Senators' efforts to shape an agreement between the United States and Iran, which aims to reduce Iran's ability to build nuclear weapons. Coats has criticized President Obama for giving away too much, and he wants the Senate to play a role in stopping Iran's quest for nuclear weapons capability. But he refused to join a majority of Senate Republicans who signed a letter sent Iran's leaders, warning that an agreement signed with the Obama administration wouldn't last beyond Obama's presidency. Coats said the letter was an unnecessary provocation and opened the door for Democrats to accuse Republicans of being partisan with foreign policy.

His other passion: Urging Congress to move on what he calls the national "debt bomb" created by politically popular entitlement programs, including Medicare and Social Security. Two years ago, Coats was a key player in negotiations with the White House on entitlement reform, but the effort failed. Earlier this year, he turned to a different tactic to call attention to the federal debt. He now takes to the Senate floor to announce a "Waste of the Week," on spending that Congress could cut. His first suggestion: A loophole that allows individuals to collect both Social Security disability insurance and unemployment benefits. Ending it would save \$5.7 billion, he said. Coats said his "Waste of the Week" is a meager initiative compared to what he'd hoped to get done on debt. "But maybe it'll embarrass my colleagues into action," he said.

Just last week, Coats made headlines when he voted against confirming Attorney General Loretta Lynch. He cited her support for Obama's deportation amnesty, an executive order last year that delayed the deportation of millions of undocumented immigrants. Coats said the nation needs an independent attorney general who will enforce the law as written.

He plans to continue weighing in on critical issues while he's got the time left. "You know the saying about how March goes in like a lion and comes out like a lamb?" he said. "That's not me. I plan on going out like a lion." ❖

Timeline for state's HIV outbreak crisis

By **MATTHEW BUTLER**

INDIANAPOLIS – Since January Gov. Mike Pence's administration has endeavored to reduce and keep an HIV epidemic in southeastern Indiana localized, while also grappling with the question as to proper long-term solutions. There is now a better sense of direction since lawmakers passed on Wednesday a compromise program in SB461 to allow needle exchanges in counties experiencing health emergencies.

It would take effect immediately upon the promised signature of the governor. As of Tuesday, 143

142 cases of HIV linked to illegal drugs

Many cases in Scott County are traced to people injecting Opana, a prescription painkiller similar to heroin and sold in pill form.



SOURCES: CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION, STATE OF INDIANA BILL THORNBRO | HERALD-TIMES

Bill Thornbro | Herald-Times

new cases of HIV have been confirmed since December in and around Scott County. Between 2009 and 2013, Scott County only saw three new HIV cases. Drug

users sharing needles is the primary culprit. On March 26, Gov. Pence announced a public health emergency allowing county officials to implement a needle exchange program to stem the infection rate for a 30-day period. He extended that another 30 days on April 20 as the number of new cases continued to increase. The order and recently passed legislation is necessary because state law prohibits possession of a syringe without a prescription.

This remains a developing story with health and public policy implications for years to come.

Howey Politics Indiana felt it important to describe an in-depth chronology of the outbreak and the administration's response. Last Thursday, April 23, we sat down with Gov. Pence's deputy chief of staff for executive branch agencies, Sean Keefer, to clarify how the administration became aware of the epidemic, consulted local and federal experts, and, finally, came to the decision to issue the emergency executive orders.

Keefer is overseeing the state's response to the current HIV outbreak having led the state's precautionary measures during the ebola outbreak last year and with two years' experience at the Indiana State Department of Health. The administration was in consultation with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) as early as late February and Gov. Pence was directly interacting with local and federal officials in the days preceding his first executive order.

There have been suggestions, if not accusations, that Pence was slow to react due to ideological reasons. He has repeatedly aired his opposition to needle exchanges in regard to drug policy. Leaders like Speaker Brian Bosma disagree with that characterization. "If a needle exchange program had not been implemented in Scott County there would be a very valid concern that ideology would trump health concerns," Bosma told reporters last Thursday. "I can tell you the governor is not a fan of a needle exchange program but he readily implemented it when the CDC recommended it as did his own health experts. They were uniform in their recommendation and it was implemented promptly. We met with the governor promptly, supported him, and encouraged him to declare the emergency situation in Scott County. [I] support fully his extension of that emergency status."

December through February

Nestled in rural southeastern Indiana along the I-65 corridor, Scott County was especially unprepared to deal with this type of public health emergency. Its 24,000 Hoosiers have some of the worst wellbeing indexes for the state. According to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's County Health Rankings, out of Indiana's 92 counties, Scott ranks 92nd in health outcomes, 91st in social and economic factors pertaining to health, 89th in clinical care, 88th in physical environment, and 56th in health behaviors. The epicenter is the 4,000-person town of Austin where a fifth of residents live in poverty and there is only one physician. There is only one drug treatment program for the county on an outpatient basis. Moreover, since 2013, when the Scottsburg's Planned Parenthood was shuttered, Scott County had been without HIV testing prior to detection of the outbreak. That specific clinic did not offer abortion services but was closed, according to the organization, because of 2011 state funding cuts. Two others in adjacent counties were also closed.

The Scott County drug users tied to the HIV epidemic prefer crushing the painkiller Opana (oxymorphone) and injecting it in solution. "We've known for a long time we've got an epidemic here but the epidemic hasn't necessarily been an HIV epidemic," Scott County Prosecutor Jason Mount told WDRB-TV. "It's been a drug-use epidemic and there's a lot of reasons for that: Under employment, under education, poor health, poor transportation. Those reasons go on and on and on and on."

Alarms go off in December

Whereas it was generally well known Scott County had severe substance abuse issues, particularly with opioids, alarm bells of a surge in HIV infections presented warning signs in December but were not fully apparent until February.

Scott County had a total of only 21 cases of HIV in its history before December 2014. In a March 27 letter to Gov. Pence, Dr. Shane Avery said during his 16 years

of medical practice in Scott County, he had only diagnosed one case of HIV prior to this outbreak. "We had noticed a sharp rise in the number of hepatitis C cases in the previous year," he said. "But last December, I diagnosed two cases of HIV in just a few weeks." By the end of that month there were six cases.

By Jan. 23 the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) learned of 11 new cases of HIV in the region and began to investigate. There were 18 confirmed by Jan.

31. Dr. Avery did not diagnose a third patient until February but was then notified by ISDH that 26 total cases of HIV had been discovered since mid-December in the county. Two days later ISDH met with Avery and other local officials. The same held true with neighboring Clark County officials.

"I asked about a needle exchange program or syringe exchange program, such as that started in Ohio in 2013, or the one that was up for discussion in Kentucky, and was told that this was not legal in Indiana. Efforts were to be made to identify the infected and get them treatment," Dr. Avery wrote.

It is on this point some question if the Pence administration failed to implement a needle exchange without delay or against expert medical advice, such as from the CDC. The administration says that is absolutely incorrect. "There is already a CDC person within the Department of Health each and every day," Keefer told HPI. "There is a fantastic relationship with the CDC." As he explained, a CDC epidemiologist works fulltime with the department to monitor disease outbreaks.

Keefer stresses the ISDH was proactive in liaising with Clark and Scott County health officials and physicians like Dr. Avery in January and February. "We had already been on the ground. We had already established protocols and engaged the local health departments. Indiana is a home-rule state so we do not have direct supervision over the local health departments; that's usually the county council. We provide logistical support, financial support, technical expertise. But ultimately, the local health departments are the first line of defense. We're really the ones to assist in surveillance and jump in when we need to," Keefer told HPI.

We asked CDC to come

As for the CDC? "We actually asked them to come," Keefer said, after the state confirmed 26 new HIV cases. "On Feb. 27 there was a discussion. Pam Pontones, the state epidemiologist, held a call with the CDC to discuss potential Epi-Aid." The term refers to teams of disease intervention specialists coming from Atlanta. Indiana was told the CDC would consider the request and what assistance they could provide. On March 5 the state held a



Dr. Shane Avery testifies before a House committee. (CNHI Photo)

second call with the CDC on the matter.

By the end of February there were 41 confirmed cases of HIV and by March 9 that had grown to 44. That day the state epidemiologist sent an email to the CDC requesting Epi-Aid; the following day the state submitted the formal written request. Another request was sent on March 18 and on the 19th the ISHD held a conference call to

prepare for the arrival of CDC teams to the state.

"The CDC has been fantastic to work with," Keefer emphasized. "The CDC always said they were going to help." He said they have a supportive role and never "intimated" they would force Indiana to take any actions during the crisis. Instead, Indiana was doing everything it needed to be doing already but the CDC provided cutting-edge expertise and input on best practices.

Meanwhile, by mid-March local legislators began to seek input from local officials and health care professionals on the outbreak. After meeting with local leaders such as Scott County Sheriff Dan McClain in his constituency, Sen. Jim Smith, R-Charlestown, met with Gov. Pence's chief of staff, Jim Atterholt, on Monday, March 23. He pleaded for a needle exchange. "I was adamantly against it initially," Sen. Smith told CNHI's Maureen Hayden. "It's a needed tool to triage the situation to contain the outbreak. I have no question this is the right thing to do."

Also that Monday, the seven-member Epi-Aid CDC team arrived in Indianapolis and held a full briefing with state health officials. They also met with Gov. Pence in his office and discussed, according to Keefer, various aspects of stopping the outbreak, including a potential needle exchange. By then the HIV totals exceeded 50 new cases. The following day, March 24, the team moved to Scott County and began operations. On March 25, Gov. Pence traveled to Scott County to meet with the CDC Epi-Aid team and local officials. Pence told reporter his "administration has been evaluating options."

Issuing the executive orders

The next day, March 26, Pence issued the executive order declaring a public health emergency in Scott County for the next 30 days. Recognizing that there were then 79 new cases of HIV originating from Scott County since December, Pence's statement read, "The order, upon the recommendation of officials from the CDC, also authorizes Scott County health, safety, law enforcement and local officials to take the actions they deem necessary to respond to the epidemic, including designing and implementing under the supervision of ISDH a targeted,

short-term needle exchange program for the sole purpose of containing the epidemic."

Scott County officials unanimously approved a formal request to implement a needle exchange; it was quickly approved by ISDH. By that Thursday evening, 81 total HIV cases were confirmed.

Asked if the administration set a specific target number or threshold of new HIV cases before deciding on a needle exchange, Keefer told HPI, "No. I think what happened was that we started seeing the numbers exponentially spiraling out."

Gov. Pence, he said, followed the science that a needle exchange was "the most powerful tool" within a larger arsenal to stem infection rates. "The threshold, we said, was this is not going to be contained and that we have to do something strong to stem the tide. That was really the driving factor. I think when February's numbers came out in the middle of March, then we said, 'This is skyrocketing.'"

In issuing his executive order, Gov. Pence was careful, however, to reiterate his skepticism of needle exchanges. "In response to a public health emergency, I'm prepared to make an exception to my long-standing opposition to needle exchange programs," Pence told reporters. He promised to veto legislation that would allow for needle exchanges statewide, a reference to SB461 being heard that week in the House Public Health Committee. Its language at the time would have allowed the ISDH to authorize needle exchanges for communities deemed at risk. Chairman Ed Clere, R-New Albany, was "very disappointed" with the governor's veto pledge. "I wish he'd been here to listen to three hours of compelling testimony from experts and others from all across the political spectrum who spoke passionately and in near unanimity regarding the need to facilitate needle exchange and how it should not be limited to Scott County," Clere told CNHI's Hayden.

"The people of Scott County are working hard to address this crisis, and with additional state resources and new tools provided by this emergency declaration, I am confident that together we will stop this HIV outbreak in its tracks," Pence declared. However, Beth Meyerson, co-director of the Rural Center for AIDS/STD Prevention at IU, told the IndyStar Pence was unrealistically optimistic. "There's zero evidence to support the governor's proposition. His solution is not based on public health science. I appreciate the governor's flexibility, but it's not even close to being an appropriate response," she said. She added there were many rural areas within the state similar to Scott County and thus potential sites for additional epidemics. She said a statewide testing system was impera-

tive.

Mobile command arrives

On March 31 mobile command vehicles with both state and federal workers arrived in Scott County. With CDC and local assistance, ISDH began not only HIV and hepatitis C testing, but a so-called "one-stop-shop" providing drug treatment counseling, directing HIV positive patients toward appropriate treatment, and enrolling many them in HIP 2.0. A social media and billboard outreach campaign along the I-65 corridor was also begun encouraging those at risk to contact a HIV services hotline.



Gov. Mike Pence with State Rep. Terry Goodin and IDOH Commissioner Jerome Adams on March 26 in Scott County.

Supplies for the needle exchange also arrived on March 31. The source of the needles, Chicago Recovery Alliance, told the media the executive order might need to be extended beyond 30 days. According to WISH-TV, State Deputy Public Health Commissioner Jennifer Walthall pumped the brakes on

the idea, stating, "If we do (this) quickly and effectively we will be looking at a different thing in 30 days." She added, "We have then the ability to reassess and make recommendations."

As the crisis entered April, the state began receiving assistance from other states as well, including five disease intervention specialists from health departments in Colorado, Missouri, and Virginia. By April 20 ISHD had provided 563 total services in Scott County. The needle exchange had dispensed 4,481 sterile syringes and collected 3,254 dirty ones.

With 128 confirmed HIV cases, Pence extended the public health emergency in Scott County another 30 days on April 20. It would have otherwise expired on April 24 and it now runs until May 25. "On the recommendations of the Indiana State Department of Health and in consultation with Scott County officials and the Centers for Disease Control, I used my authority as governor to extend the public health emergency in Scott County for an additional 30 days," Pence said in a statement.

Keefer told HPI that success in Scott County would be a downward decline in new cases each week. "Ultimate success would be no new cases for 30 days," he said. As of Tuesday, only two new cases of HIV had been confirmed since Friday, which might suggest the ISDH's efforts are making an impact. By last count over 7,000 clean needles have been distributed. Gov. Pence met with a delegation of high-ranking CDC officials in Indianapolis on Monday. Among them was former Indiana state health commissioner, Dr. Judy Monroe, now a deputy director and director of the agency's Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support.

"Indiana and CDC have been working very closely since early on in the outbreak," said Commissioner Dr. Jerome Adams on Monday. "Everyone understands that the way in which we respond to this outbreak and the lessons we are learning are going to build the model for prevention and response should this type of outbreak happen in other communities in the U.S. The fact that Drs. Monroe and Jonathon Merwin of the National Center for HIV/AIDS Prevention have come here to meet with the governor, the state health department team and local responders speaks to that understanding."

A sine die fix?

Last week legislative leaders on both sides of the aisle agreed to the necessity in addressing how to conduct the ongoing needle exchange and, if needed, future emergency programs. As late as Thursday it was uncertain whether an agreement could be made in conference committee on the language. Then Democratic Senate Leader Tim Lanane said, "We only have a few days to deal with it and we need to deal with it." House Public Health Chairman Ed Clere, R-New Albany, has the led charge in his chamber, telling the Statehouse File last week, "We've already waited too long." Speaker Bosma was confident the legislature could "pivot" in time to address the issue. "No one had been talking about needle exchange programs or the HIV outbreak until maybe the second month of the session here. It just wasn't an issue," he told reporters Thursday.

Lawmakers considered needle exchanges last year in relation to the hepatitis C epidemic concomitant to the state's recent tidal wave of heroin. That blood-borne infectious disease is widely considered an indicator of HIV prevalence; the CDC estimates 50 to 90% of IV drug users with HIV also have hepatitis C.

Muncie Democratic State Rep. Sue Errington's HB1051 called for hepatitis C testing and counseling as well as a summer study into the desirability of needle exchanges. The Indiana State Medical Association, supported the measure. It passed the Public Health Committee unanimously. It also passed the House with the support of 83 members. Though Pat Miller, Senate Health and Provider Services chairwoman, sponsored the bill, it was referred to the Corrections & Criminal Law Committee and never heard.

Whereas Indiana's epidemic is exceptional, the risk factors and circumstances are shared by neighboring states. On March 25 Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear signed a bill allowing locally administered needle exchanges within wider anti-heroin legislation. On April 23 the Louisville City Council, fearing what might come its way from up north via I-65, voted unanimously to immediately begin a program. Ohio communities gripped by hepatitis C epidem-

ics stemming from heroin and painkillers instituted needle exchanges in 2012. Illinois removed restrictions on possession of syringes as far back as 2003.

In trying to find a compromise before sine die, Senate President David Long said he supported the Scott County needle exchange but feared expanding it to a statewide program "might be hasty." He tapped Sen. Brandt Hershman to handle the senate side of conference committee negotiations. Meanwhile, Greg Zoeller, in his capacity as both attorney general and co-chair of the state's Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force, declared his support for a statewide system of needle exchanges and urged lawmakers to act before the end of the session. "Before everybody in every county knows someone with HIV, we've got to do something. And we've got to do it now," he told CNHI's Hayden. "I'm not going to have anybody put to death with HIV just because they've broken the law."

On Tuesday the conference committee agreed upon a program in which local health officers could

request permission from the ISDH and institute supervised needle exchange programs. Eligible counties must prove they are experiencing an "epidemic" or "health emergency," Sen. Hershman told reporters Tuesday. The conference report also creates a comprehensive study committee to develop oversight procedures for local needle exchange programs and

other efforts to battle IV drug abuse through both treatment and law enforcement. It would sunset in 2019.

"The thing I'm really pleased with is that the language still allows hepatitis C to be used as basis for needle exchange," Rep. Clere told HPI Tuesday. "In other words, we won't have to wait for another HIV outbreak like what we've seen in Scott County." If the state had used that measure before the current emergency, Clere said it would have been identified as the third highest county at risk for a potential HIV epidemic in the state and thus grounds for a preemptive needle exchange program. "The bill will allow needle exchange in a number of counties which at this point isn't possible anywhere except for Scott County," he added. "It's a major step."

Whereas Pence threatened to veto a statewide system of needle exchanges in March, the administration was involved in these negotiations and reportedly approves of the final language.

"All the language in the bill has been vetted through the administration and much of it at this point represents their suggestions and requested changes," Clere told HPI. Sen. Hershman also remarked, "The administration has been a key partner in the development of this program and my understanding is they are very pleased."

Gov. Pence said on Wednesday, "Our administration obviously responded swiftly to word that we were facing an epidemic in Scott County, Indiana. I supported the creation of a broad range of resources including a needle exchange program in Scott County to stem what has been



an alarming outbreak of the HIV virus in that community. And, we've been working very closely with legislators and the leadership to ensure that any legislation going forward would be focused on giving our public health community and our law enforcement community the tools they need to confront an outbreak of this nature in the future."

State Health Commissioner Dr. Jerome Adams said this past weekend Indiana has spent \$2.1 million on tackling the epidemic so far. These costs will certainly

mount and, most likely, become a new normal. Thanks to medical science HIV is relatively treatable, although incurable. According to Healthline Networks, the monthly costs for HIV treatment drugs range from \$2,000 to \$5,000 per year; the lifetime costs for treatment exceed an estimated \$500,000. Indiana will bear a portion of these costs as well. ❖

Do 49 other governors want to be like Mike?

By JACK COLWELL

SOUTH BEND – "Our state is on a roll," Gov. Mike Pence boasted in his State of the State address on Jan. 13. He didn't expect the way it would roll when he claimed: "Tonight, there are 49 other governors across the country who wish they could me."

How many? Not that many then. Darn few if any now. Not since Pence miscalculated reaction in Indiana and nationally to his signing and initially stumbling defense of what was widely interpreted, whether rightly or wrongly, as a "freedom to discriminate" act.

A Howey Politics Indiana poll, with a record for accuracy, shows Pence rolling downhill fast. In January, Pence was regarded as a possible Republican nominee for president or, if he decided not to go for the White House, a "sure bet" for reelection as governor of Indiana.



The Howey poll showed approval of Pence fell in mid-April to only 45 percent among Hoosier voters, a plummet from 62 percent approval in polls as recently as February. The percentage viewing Pence unfavorably was higher than those with a favorable impression, 38 to 35 in percentages. The poll showed Pence also was damaged, especially among women, by fighting with Supt. of Public Instruction Glenda Ritz.

Democrats now have high hopes of defeating Pence for governor in 2016, although it's far from certain that they will unite behind a strong challenger. The unkindest cuts inflicted on Pence, however, come from some prominent Republicans suggesting need for a different nominee for governor and even calling on former Gov. Mitch Daniels to run for governor again.

Even if the dispute over interpretation of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act had not occurred, the boast

of January past would come back to haunt Pence like the Ghost of Christmas Past. Pence based his boast on a claim that governors elsewhere would envy this: "Unemployment has fallen faster here than almost anywhere in America."

Not so. Not then. Certainly not now.

When Pence made the claim, governors of 30 states had experienced lower unemployment rates in December than had Pence in Indiana. Would those 30 like to be like Mike? Now that question could be asked of 33 governors.

Indiana's unemployment rate for March shows it has slipped behind 33 states. The rate, 5.8 percent, is above the national jobless rate of 5.5 percent, contradicting any claim that Indiana's rate has "fallen faster than almost anywhere in America." It hasn't fallen at all since back in December, when it also was 5.8 percent. Slow but continued economic recovery elsewhere leaves Indiana now in the bottom third of states. March statistics show Indiana actually lost jobs since February.

Going back a year, the Indiana rate has dropped only .2 percent. According to a Wall Street Journal analysis, only six states had worse jobless rate recovery. The nation did far better during that 12-month period, with the rate dropping 1.1 percent. Neighboring states all had more significant rate reduction as well.

Statistics can be used in all kinds of ways. And Indiana has shown better employment numbers in some categories, including manufacturing. But the level of compensation for new jobs is an important question. Indiana has been slipping toward the bottom ranks of states in per-capita personal income.

That slide could well continue on the basis of another finding in the March employment report: A significant decrease in professional and business services jobs. Those are jobs with higher salaries, ones that states seek to attract. Negative national publicity for Indiana over the religious freedom-or-discrimination controversy certain didn't have an impact on those jobs in March. Business leaders worry, however, about a possible future impact.

Also, a report by the Indiana Institute for Working Families shows a 29-percent increase in people living in poverty in the state since the year before the Great Recession.

How many of those 49 governors wish they were Mike Pence? ❖

Don't let old ideas trump urban needs

By **MORTON MARCUS**

INDIANAPOLIS – Today, for the first time, I drove down a repaved section of my street. It's only about 30 yards, but it had been a mess for several years. It felt good. I felt good about my city government and myself. Persistently bad streets send a message that you are not worth better treatment.



It was what I witnessed in Gary after Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson repaved many treacherous streets. She chose well which streets to repair and there was a definite increase in morale in that much abused city.

Gov. Pence could learn from this. Instead of spending 2 million dollars on an advertising campaign to restore Indiana's tarnished reputation, turn that money over to the cities and towns for street repairs.

Instead of spending \$10 million or \$42 million or \$84 million on a nebulous regional program, let our cities and towns boost Hoosier self-esteem by giving us smooth driving.

Our image starts with our feelings about ourselves. If our ordinary travels are a misery, we will project that condition in our interactions with others. As we teach our children: "How can others respect us, if we do not respect ourselves?"

The governor and his buddies at the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) have gone back 50 years to pluck the regional cities concept from the ever-present dust heap of ideas that stagnate around the capitol building.

In the mid-to-late '60s, the IU School of Business prepared a map organizing Indiana's 92 counties into 14 economic regions. One influential legislator did not like it and Indiana got 15 regions. For several years this map was used as the State Planning Regions. Then Gov. Otis Bowen declared that any two consenting, contiguous counties could form a region. (Does that have some vague contemporary ring?)

The idea of laissez-faire regionalism coexisted with separate state regions for libraries, hospitals, criminal justice, and a host of governmental functions. Today, work force development boards operate in regions and who knows how many different regional configurations serve environmental and anti-terrorism purposes.

The IEDC has proposed a competition for regions to design themselves (the lessez-faire model once again) and propose programs to establish their identities, strengthen ties among their counties, raise their incomes, and make themselves more visible to the outside world.

The best of these proposals would then get some money from IEDC to carry through their programs.

This is paternalistic, state-sponsored bullying. You do the work of preparing an exhaustive, detailed proposal, and if you are good (whatever that means to a highly politicized entity), the Santa-state will fund your activities – for a while. The Special Staff for Silly Stuff in the governor's office even gave 25 selected legislators gift bags that were to encourage them to vote for the program.

In a state that talks the talk of conservative politics, this regional cities program is more than a joke, it is counter-productive. Give the money to the cities and towns, let them repair some of their long-neglected infrastructure, and let the people of Indiana go about their business of making our state more prosperous. ❖

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No jobs for high school graduates since 2009

By **MICHAEL HICKS**

MUNCIE – The economic recovery that began in June 2009 is now 70 months old, making it the fourth longest expansion since the presidency of Martin van Buren. It is also a very sluggish recovery, with GDP growth at the



lowest post-recession rates in history. The extraordinarily tepid pace of the recovery is rightfully worrying many Americans, with recent GDP figures signaling the potential end to the expansion. More troubling than slow growth is the composition of job creation.

From June 2009 to March 2015, the economy created a net 7.1 million new jobs. Of these, 6.5 million were held by adults with a bachelor's degree or high-

er, while a further 1.9 million were held by adults who had been to college, but not completed a four-year degree.

Now, an astute reader will say that there must be something amiss in Dr. Hicks' mathematics. How can it be that we've created 7.1 million jobs, but 8.4 million of them went to those with a degree or some college experience? Well, these are net jobs. Employment for workers with only a high school degree dropped by 1.1 million and for those without a high school degree by 257,000 over the same time period.

It is worth summarizing: Since the end of the re-

cession in Summer 2009, all the net job growth has gone to folks who went on to college. That is a 15.3 percent increase for college grads, a 5.6 percent increase for college attendees, and a 3.2 percent and 2.5 percent decline for high school grads and non-grads respectively. I think there are several implications of this labor market outcome.

The first is the absolute need for post-high school education. I'm sure there are occasional puppetry majors who are not working or underemployed; otherwise college grads are at full employment today. We probably could have more folks working if we had more college grads available. I have been and will continue to be a critic of universities where it is warranted, but these data offer pretty good evidence that we are underinvesting in education at both the family and state level. Where that underinvestment is occurring isn't clear because the failure to succeed after high school may have its roots in early childhood education.

Second, we ought to be careful about what we do

about the very real problem of income inequality. These jobs numbers aren't fueled by CEO greed or stock wealth or any of the other shibboleths of envy. This looks precisely like a long-term structural change in the economy that values education. Tax policy won't fix that.

Third, we should expect a significant revival of populism. The 2016 campaigns will everywhere be about ways to help poorly educated workers advance, and how to get everyone else more education. We ought to expect that almost everything else from global warming to international affairs will take a back seat to middle-class job opportunities. I only hope that the discussion will be about creating jobs of the future, not reviving jobs of the past. ❖

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RFRA risk for Pence is base stays home

By RICH JAMES

MERRILLVILLE – Sometimes it is a fellow Republican, as opposed to a Democrat, who is the toughest on Republican Gov. Mike Pence. And for that Republican to be from Lake County is somewhat of a surprise. Such seems to be the case as the fallout continues over the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.



When Pence signed the bill into law, the vast majority of Democrats expressed outrage. The same could be said for a good number of Republicans. The critics said the legislation paved the way to discriminate against gays and lesbians under the cloak of religion.

While Pence staunchly defended the bill, the criticism became too much, especially after his appearance on George Stephanopoulos' Sunday morning political show, "This Week."

When the heat got insufferable, Pence retreated and asked the Legislature to "fix" the bill, and he signed a "fix" into law. The outcry largely subsided although most Democrats said it didn't go nearly far enough. While most Republicans were quieted, Democrats continued to say the "fix" didn't solve the problem. But the Democratic outrage quickly ebbed, leaving the governor to think he had weathered the storm.

But, he was mistaken.

The governor found out this week when some 200 Republicans, many of them ministers, rallied in the Statehouse to condemn the governor for approving a "fix." And the man leading the charge was the Rev. Ron Johnson Jr., the senior pastor at Living Stones Church in Crown Point.

Johnson chastised the Republican leadership and the governor, saying, "We witnessed the cowardly capitulation by our leadership who must now be held responsible for turning a bill designed to protect our God-given, constitutionally enshrined liberties into what is now, effectively, a gay-rights bill." Johnson said the non-discrimination requirement was forced on the legislative leadership by "the liberal media, large corporations and gay activists." He went on to say, "For Christians, sexual sin can never be defined or treated as a civil right."

Johnson himself tried a couple of times to be one of those state representatives voting on "religious freedom" legislation. In 2000, Johnson ran for the 19th House District seat as a Republican against Democratic Rep. Robert Kuzman, who won rather easily. In 2012, Johnson tried again against Democratic Rep. Shelli VanDenburgh and again was substantially defeated.

Whether there will be political fallout for Pence if he seeks reelection in 2016 remains to be seen. There may not be serious consequences, although Johnson said he and other Republican clergy won't be raising money or campaigning for Pence and GOP leaders. Yet, Johnson and those who demonstrated with him aren't likely to back a Democrat for governor. The worst that can happen to Pence is that they will stay home. ❖

Rich James has been writing about state and local government and politics for more than 30 years. He is a columnist for NWI Times.

John Krull, Statehouse File: The letter, which was signed by the alliance's executive director, Ron Johnson Jr., also offered up a curious argument. That argument took issue with the idea of state government making promises of non-discrimination. Johnson contended that the idea of law itself is discriminatory because laws define what is acceptable and what is not. And, to close the deal, he justified allowing businesses to deny services to gay and lesbian citizens by noting, correctly, that we as a society wouldn't want child molesters managing or working in day care centers. What his argument misses, of course, is that child molestation is against the law – and, for good reason, because children, unlike adults, are incapable of granting meaningful consent. Same-sex marriage – and this may be what really drives him crazy – now is law. So what Johnson is arguing is that he and other like-minded people should be able to determine which laws they want to follow and which ones they would prefer to ignore. That insight doubtless is too logical for the pastors' alliance. But logic really isn't what the group wants to communicate. If Johnson's letter conveys anything, it is a profound anguish. The pastors and other evangelical Christians who focus on the Bible's more heavy-handed passages and speed past the admonitions to "judge not" and avoid casting stones feel that they have been marginalized. They feel their views are not being considered. That the things they care most about are being disregarded. That their lives, loves and values are not only being ignored, but disparaged. Gee, I wonder if any gay or lesbian Hoosier has ever felt that way. ❖



Randall Shepard crisscrossed the state earlier this month to shine light on the 2015 Indiana Civic Health Index: We are lacking in many areas. As the study led by the two Evansville natives states: "A community with strong civic health is more resilient when hardship hits, has more effective governance, and is a better place to live. A low level of civic health can lead to dysfunctions in communities that make it harder to address pressing public problems." But what was particularly troubling, and what we've touched on repeatedly in the past, is low voter turnout — though, Hamilton pointed out, the state could make things easier by extending live voting hours and, down the line, looking at online possibilities. In the 2012 presidential election, Indiana ranked 38th among all states with a 59.3 percent turnout — and that came after only 39.4 percent voted in the 2010 midterms. The numbers have been worse in Evansville and Vanderburgh County elections. In primaries, which, in this community, often determine our elected officials (Democrats within the city, Republicans for the entire county), it's even more sickly. Last year, 5.7 percent of registered voters participated in the Vanderburgh County primary, perhaps the lowest total ever (it was 6.1 percent 2007). In 2008, the number was 35.6 percent, thanks to the Democratic presidential race between Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama, but from 2004 through 2014 no year eclipsed 14 percent. In city election primaries, this has been the turnout: 2011 (10.06 percent, or 9,311 out of 92,546 registered voters); 2007 (6.12 percent, or 5,070 of 82,834); 2003, 8.5 percent (or 7,089 of 83,400). ❖

Tim Swarens, IndyStar: On Monday afternoon, thoughts of Kenya and its people crept into my mind as I stood in the Statehouse listening to pastors proclaim that Christians are under assault in Indiana because Gov. Mike Pence and Republican legislators bowed to pressure to "fix" Indiana's Religious Freedom Restoration Act. Ron Johnson Jr., executive director of the Indiana Pastors Alliance, even went so far as to say that, "We are at a Bonhoeffer moment." (Inspired by his faith, Dietrich Bonhoeffer stood courageously against Nazi barbarism for years; imprisoned and later sent to Buchenwald, he was executed 70 years ago this month.) Pastor, with all respect, let's get a grip — and some perspective. Today, Christians are dying for their faith, as Bonhoeffer did, in Kenya, Libya, Egypt, Nigeria and Pakistan. Persecution is undeniably on the rise in many places in the world. But American Christians who confuse political losses, consequences of the democratic and legislative process, with true persecution dilute the meaning of the word. And undermine the witness of those who stand firm in the face of evil. ❖

Nate Silver and Harry Enten, FiveThirtyEight: Jeb Bush is expected to declare a fundraising total in the "high tens of millions of dollars," The New York Times reported on Monday. Any talk of record fundraising totals ought to account for inflation — as well as the fact that it's easier to raise big dollars since the Citizens United decision (most of the contributions to Bush will go to his Super PAC). Nonetheless, Bush's haul should be an impressive figure. But money is unlikely to be Bush's problem in this campaign, and cash may be a less valuable resource than another sort of currency in which he is lacking: The support of influential Republicans, like current senators and governors, especially those who publicly endorse a candidate. Historically, these endorsements have been the best proxy for support in the "invisible primary" and a leading indicator for which candidates may emerge victorious through the rough-and-tumble nomination race. So far, Bush has won very few endorsements. No current Republican senators or governors have endorsed him, and only five members of the House of Representatives have done so, all from his home state of Florida. Fortunately for Bush, none of his rivals is doing much better. The overwhelming majority of Republican officials have stayed on the sidelines, at least publicly. ❖

Tim Etheridge, Evansville Courier & Press: There is a reason that former U.S. congressman Lee Hamilton and former Indiana Supreme Court Chief Justice

Donnelly bill targets heroin

FORT WAYNE — An Indiana town's HIV outbreak underscores the need for deterring opioid abuse across the nation, Sen. Joe Donnelly said Wednesday (Francisco, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). Donnelly, D-Ind., and Sen. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., announced that they have reintroduced legislation aimed at reducing heroin and pain medication dependency through improved prescription practices, increased law enforcement, greater public awareness and training first responders to administer overdose-reversal drugs. Although the bill is similar to one Donnelly and Ayotte introduced last year, "the need for it has become even more glaring," Donnelly said in a conference call with Indiana journalists. "This is a situation we're living every single day in Indiana right now," he said. More than 140 cases of human immunodeficiency virus infection have been reported since late last year in Austin, a town of 4,200 residents in southern Indiana's Scott County. The outbreak has been caused by needle sharing among people injecting prescription painkillers. "That's a staggering number," Donnelly said. "Everybody here (in the Senate) understands: Look, this isn't an Indiana problem only, this isn't just a rural problem; this can happen anywhere."

Pence signs powder alcohol ban bill

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana residents will be barred from purchasing, selling or using a powdered form of alcohol under a bill Gov. Mike Pence has signed into law (Associated Press). Pence signed legislation Wednesday that bans the substance. The bill also calls for further study of the issue this summer. A powdered form of alcohol

called Palcohol received federal approval in March and can be mixed with any liquid to create an alcoholic drink. It comes in rum, vodka, cosmopolitan and margarita flavors.

Indy 11 stadium bill dies in conference

INDIANAPOLIS — A bill that would have helped pay for the construction of a new Indy Eleven soccer stadium will not gain approval this year in the General Assembly. The measure stalled today in a conference committee.

The professional soccer team currently plays its home games at the IUPUI Michael A. Carroll Track and Soccer Stadium. The team was asking legislators to allow them to put an extra fee on ticket sales that would help offset the construction of a new \$82 million stadium in downtown Indianapolis. "While we are disappointed in the final outcome from the Indiana General Assembly, we are encouraged by the widespread support that was gained in both houses," Peter Wilt, president and general manager of Indy Eleven, said in a statement. "Nevertheless, we will endeavor to return and build upon the support generated at the Statehouse and that of our loyal fan base." The bill passed both the House and the Senate earlier this legislative session, but lawmakers could not work out the differences between the House and Senate versions.

Pence to mark Lincoln funeral

INDIANAPOLIS — Gov. Mike Pence and others are set to mark the 150th anniversary of the day that President Abraham Lincoln's body lay at the Indiana Statehouse following his assassination (Associated Press). Pence and leaders of the General Assembly and the state courts will lay wreaths and flowers in remembrance at the Statehouse on Thursday. The

Lincoln funeral train arrived in Indianapolis at Union Station on April 30, 1865. The coffin was brought by carriage to the former State House to lie in state. From early morning to late that night thousands of Hoosiers filed through the building and past the coffin to pay their respects. The train then went to Michigan City, Chicago and finally to Springfield, Illinois, where he was buried. Lincoln spent much of his boyhood in southwestern Indiana's Spencer County.

Winnecke gratified over med school

EVANSVILLE — Mayor Lloyd Winnecke expressed gratitude almost two days after more than \$25 million in state funding was set aside for the proposed Downtown medical school in Evansville, according to a statement released Thursday morning (Evansville Courier & Press). "They (Gov. Mike Pence and legislators) understand the importance of this project not just to Evansville but to the entire State of Indiana," Winnecke said in the statement released by the Indiana University of Medicine at 12:01 a.m. Thursday. "This project is about improving access to health care, training and retaining physicians and medical professionals in the community, with the added benefit of boosting the economic viability of the entire region."

Gray was hurting himself says Post

BALTIMORE — A prisoner sharing a police transport van with Freddie Gray told investigators that he could hear Gray "banging against the walls" of the vehicle and believed that he "was intentionally trying to injure himself," according to a police document obtained by The Washington Post. The prisoner, who is currently in jail, was separated from Gray by a metal partition and could not see him. His statement is contained in an application for a search warrant, which is sealed by the court.

