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Buffalo, NY
Updated 3:03 AM EDT SUN JUL 04 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
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for State Supreme Court

ELECT TIM KENNEDY
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JIM HAYES
NYS Assembly 148th District
WORKING FOR YOU!

Jim Domagalski
for State Senate
59th District

Mike Ranzenhofer
State Senator

Antoine Thompson
NYS Senator

NY STATE SENATOR
GEORGE D. MAZIARZ

WILLIAM STACHOWSKI
Chairman of Commerce and Economic Development

DENNIS GABRYSZAK
143RD ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

ELECT JUDGE DEBORAH CHIMES
TO NEW YORK STATE SUPREME COURT

QUINN for NY
Jack Quinn
for NYS Senate 58th District

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 - For NY Supreme Court Judge -

Golombek for Assembly
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GOLOMBEK
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ELECT
PAT GALLIVAN
 59TH DISTRICT NYS SENATE



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 More Vetoes!

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 Afghan War At Crucial Stage

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July (5), 2010

[O's SATURDAY INTERNET ADDRESS](#)

PoliticsNY.Net: BUFFALO NEWS "AN ABOMINATION"



I started this publication as a print newsletter in 1996 & subsequently a web site in 1998 for one reason to answer the Buffalo News support for "abortion on demand" including partial birth abortion.

Ps. 139: "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb."

Also, the Buffalo News advocacy for gay rights & marriage.

Leviticus: "Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them."

Both an abomination according to the infallible word of God, the Bible.

Keep in mind on this 4th of July holiday the first U.S. print addition of the Bible was paid for by the new Congress in the late 1700's. The reason: The founders patterned the Constitution after Biblical principles.

These men met on an online dating service; then were allowed to adopt this female infant.

The Buffalo News endorses all of the above.

PoliticsNY.Net does not under any circumstances! ...

SIDEBAR UPDATE: Just checked! The NYS IP Executive Committee hasn't changed its rules. Sandy Rosenswie can claim autonomy from Steve Pigeon by extension Chairman Frank MacKay; BUT the state committee under the rules must sign off on her committee's endorsements including internal county endorsements like the 58th.

So the truth is all she & her committee can do is recommend a candidate to the state committee. The fact is Tim Kennedy doesn't have the line yet. However, as we have reported for months, we do expect the NYS IP Executive Committee to sign off on Kennedy.

Let me put it another way, as long as Rosenswie endorsed the Pigeon backed Kennedy Frank MacKay was allowing her the stage to spout off, so to speak. Pigeon did indeed back Stachowski but Bill's numbers are in the tank, no offense. The best Bill, according to sources feeling betrayed, can do is get even forcing Kennedy to spend his money on a primary.

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AD SPACE AVAILABLE

Keep in mind Tim has every right to run. However, his candidacy has fractured the Higgins team severely, Assemblyman Mark Schroeder supporting Bill Stachowski.

Right now Assemblyman Jack Quinn (R) is ahead in the general election by 18% plus against all comers....

Buffalo News political reporter Bob McCarthy is writing about the Erie County IP endorsement in the NYS Senate 58th of County Legislator Tim Kennedy like it is breaking news. We have told you for months Kennedy was getting the endorsement. What came as a surprise is Chair Sandy Rosenswie's rather disingenuous & strong condemnation of former Erie County Democratic Chairman G. Steven Pigeon. No doubt that Pigeon continues to play a key role in local IP politics; he maintains an excellent relationship with NYS Chairman Frank MacKay. ###

CHICAGO'S NEW GUN ORDINANCE



"The Chicago, Illinois, City Council in a 45-0 vote approved a new gun ordinance Friday, four days after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the city's 28-year-old strict ban on handgun ownership was unconstitutional. Among other details, the ordinance allows only one operable firearm per household, meaning all other guns would need to have gun locks or be in locked cases. It also requires owners to have a state firearms permit, to register weapons with Chicago police and to take four hours of classroom training and one hour of firing range training. The plan also bans assault weapons and gun shops in the city. See national screen

PoliticsNY.Net: Sources say that once Interim Police Commissioner Dan Derenda is confirmed the administration will assign him the task of reviewing gun control initiatives of cities around country, esp. Chicago. The plan, according to sources, is to take more guns off of our streets. ###

PRO LIFE vs PRO GUN



I am a registered conservative who believes in the value of life from conception & traditional family.

I have a very serious disconnect with my fellow conservatives who espouse a pro life position & have a very liberal approach to gun ownership.

Just like an abortionist's scalpel - guns kill period, esp. hand guns.

Five human beings have been murdered in the last ten days on the streets of Buffalo alone. Millions of lives lost since the turn of the century as a result of our nation & state's liberal approach to gun ownership.

If one values life - it is incumbent that one make a decision with respect to what is more important life or owning a gun.

Please do not make the 2nd amendment argument that was another time, surely we have advanced beyond that mentality. & Yes law enforcement & the military should carry guns. & YES I am opposed to the death penalty.

If we are enlightened to the extent we support life from conception, mandate motorcycle helmets, seat belts, ban smoking, etc. in order to save lives, how can we collectively support private gun ownership en masse; this is a glorified oxymoron.

I support making owning a gun period a felony, i.e. take every gun out of the hands of every American & illegal, end of story. ###

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Because of the involvement of a federal officeholder at this event, federal campaign finance laws and rules apply. Contributions must be made in federally permissible funds.

Checks drawn on the accounts of corporations or from general funds of local labor unions are prohibited, as are contributions from non-U.S. citizens. Contributions associated with this event may not exceed \$4,800 per contributor.

Contributions are not tax-deductible for income tax purposes

GOP LEADER DRAWS CRITICISM ANEW



Republican Party leader Michael Steele faced heavy criticism and calls for his resignation on Friday after blaming President Barack Obama for the Afghanistan war and suggesting it could not be won. At a Republican fundraiser in Connecticut on Thursday, Steele was videotaped while criticizing Obama's decision to bolster the Afghanistan war effort. The comments contradicted the stance of the party, which has consistently pushed for more troops and funding in Afghanistan. "This was a war of Obama's choosing," said Steele, chairman of the Republican National Committee. "This is not something the United States had actively prosecuted or wanted to engage in." Steele also called the recent resignation of Afghan war commander General Stanley McChrystal "comical" and made fun of Obama for deciding to increase the number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan. "If he's such a student of history, has he not understood that you know that's the one thing you don't do, is engage in a land war in Afghanistan?" Steele asked the crowd in a video promptly distributed by Democrats and posted on YouTube. "Because everyone who has tried, over a thousand years of history, has failed," he said. [Full story](#) ###

[Joe Illuzzi](#)

Shooting Down the Constitution

by Bill O'Reilly



Even a simple guy like me can figure out these words from the U.S. Constitution: "The right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed." That's contained in the Second Amendment. So why did four Supreme Court justices this week vote to infringe on the right to bear arms?

The court ruled 5 to 4 that 76-year-old Otis McDonald, an African-American Democrat who lives in Chicago, can own a handgun. McDonald, a retired working-class guy, sued the city for taking away his right to protect himself. McDonald was blunt: He said his neighborhood is full of thugs who threaten his well-being and the city cannot control the situation. So he has to protect himself from harm.

But Justices John Paul Stevens, Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg basically told McDonald to take a hike. They opined that guns cause a lot of damage to society; therefore, if a city wants to ban them, it can. But that is a policy belief, is it not? Where in the Constitution does it say that if guns become a menace to society they can be banned? Where does it say that?

The Founding Fathers well understood the need for individual protection. Under King George, British soldiers routinely threw Colonial families out of their homes using a bogus law called the "Quartering Act." Also, the colonists had little protection from harm because there was no federal authority and state governments were in their infancy. The founders also recognized that armed rebellion was a possibility even after we threw the British out. So they allowed the new American citizens the right to "bear arms" as protection and, indeed, wanted the folks to form "militias" in case of emergency.

A smart fifth-grader understands all that, but apparently four Supreme Court justices do not.

If these liberal jurists really cared about gun control, they would urge Congress to pass a law making all gun crimes federal offenses with mandatory prison sentences of 10 years. That would mean that any thug who carried a gun illegally or used one to commit a crime would be facing a 10-year stretch on top of whatever else he or she had done. You want bad guys with guns off the streets? That's the way to do it.

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My opinion on gun control changed drastically when I saw the chaos in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina. Armed bands of looters in boats cruised the city taking pretty much anything they wanted because the local police presence had collapsed. If you had remained in town in order to protect your property, you would have been at the mercy of these looters unless you had the firepower to ward them off. That is why all Americans have the right to bear arms.

It is depressing to think that the Ruth Bader Ginsburgs of this world do not care a whit about the welfare of Otis McDonald and other Americans who find themselves at risk. For Ginsburg, it is all about her liberal philosophy -- not what benefits the American people.

The Supreme Court is just one justice away from giving Ginsburg and her leftist crew the power to completely usurp the Constitution. Be very afraid.

Yankee Utopians in a Chinese Century

by Pat Buchanan



For those who can yet recall the backyard blast furnaces of Mao's China in the 1950s and the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution to re-instill peasant values in the 1970s, the news was jarring.

In 2011, said the *Financial Times*, China will surpass the United States as first manufacturing power, a title America has held since surpassing Great Britain around 1890.

Each year, China passes a new milestone.

Last year, China surpassed Germany as the greatest exporting nation. This year, China surpasses Japan as the world's second-largest economy. This year, China became the first auto manufacturer on earth.

For a decade, China has been running history's largest trade surpluses with the United States and has amassed a hoard of \$2.3 trillion in foreign currency. She now holds the mortgage on America.

How has China vaulted to the forefront in manufacturing, trade and technology? Export-driven economic nationalism.

Beijing cut the value of its currency in half in 1994, doubling the price of imports, slashing the price of exports and making Chinese labor the best bargain in Asia. Foreign firms were invited to relocate their plants in China and told this was the price of access to the Chinese market. Beijing began looting these firms of technology, as she sent her sons to study in America. Industrial espionage and intellectual property theft became Chinese specialties.

And how has America fared in the new century?

One in every three manufacturing jobs we had in 2000, nearly 6 million, vanished. Some 50,000 U.S. factories shut down. We have run trade deficits totaling \$5 trillion since NAFTA passed. The real wages of working Americans have been stagnant for a decade.

While China has resumed her 12 percent growth rate, the United States, with 25 million unemployed or underemployed, appears headed for a double-dip recession.

Yet, even as the end of America's tenure as the world's first manufacturing power was being announced, The Wall Street Journal admonished us to keep our eyes on the prize: a new world order where it does not matter who produces what or where.

"The pursuit of some ideal global 'balance' in trade and capital flows is an illusion. ... World leaders would do better to worry less about (trade) imbalances and more about whether their own nations are pursuing policies that contribute to global prosperity."

There you have it -- the conflict in visions between us.

For decades, America's leaders have followed the *Wall Street Journal* ideology. We put a mythical world economy before our own economy. We put "global prosperity" before national interest. We forced our workers to compete, in their own country, against the products of foreign laborers earning a tenth of their pay. And we let in tens of millions of semi-skilled and unskilled immigrants, legal and illegal, to take the jobs of our countrymen.

And the Chinese? They put China first, second and third.

You are cordially invited to join

Pat Gallivan

candidate for
New York State Senate
59th District



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And who won the decade? And who is winning the future?

Inside the July 1 *Washington Post* is a small story about how the World Trade Organization finally ruled that European nations have been unfairly subsidizing Airbus -- for 40 years.

While welcome, what good will it do now for scores of thousands of U.S. workers who built commercial jets for Lockheed and McDonnell Douglas, which Airbus took down, or Boeing, which was outsourcing jobs even before Airbus dethroned it as the world's No. 1 aircraft manufacturer.

Why did some U.S. president not tell the Europeans when they started this: Either stop subsidizing Airbus to kill our U.S. aircraft companies -- or start defending yourselves against the Russians.

The day the *FT* reported that China was sweeping past us to become No. 1 in manufacturing, *The New York Times* ran a front-page story on the closing of the Whirlpool refrigerator plant in Evansville, Ind., and the loss of 1,100 jobs. The plant is moving to Mexico.

The Times spoke with Natalie Ford, a worker, whose husband and son also worked at Whirlpool, as had her dad, "This is all about corporate greed," Mrs. Ford said, "It's devastating to our family and to everyone in the plant. I wonder where we'll be two years from now. There aren't any jobs here. How is this community going to survive?"

"My mom and dad told me that when they were young, there were jobs everywhere. They said we had Whirlpool, Bristol-Myers, Mead Johnson, Windsor Plastics, Guardian Automotive, Zenith. Now if you want to find a job, there's nothing around."

"Free trade! Free trade!" said Henry Clay in the tariff debate of 1833. "The call for free trade is as unavailing as the cry of a spoiled child in its nurse's arms for the moon or the stars that glitter in the firmament of heaven. It has never existed. It will never exist."

It will only place us, said Clay, "under the commercial dominion of Great Britain." Today, it is the dominion of China.

Erie County DA Frank A. Sedita III

Proposed changes in state laws will thwart justice

By Frank A. Sedita III



Douglas Pacyon was convicted of rape in 1985. This June, I joined in a motion to dismiss the charges. I did so because forensic evidence tested at the request of the District Attorney's Office showed he was innocent.

Vincent E. Doyle III, president-elect of the New York State Bar Association, cited Pacyon's case as an example of why six new crime bills pending before the State Senate should be passed. I oppose the passage of this body of legislation, as currently written, for the following reasons:

The conviction of an innocent person, especially in New York, is extremely rare. It is much more common for a guilty person to be acquitted rather than for an innocent person to be convicted. I am not suggesting that wrongful convictions are acceptable; indeed, they are anathema to all prosecutors and I have made the exoneration of the innocent a tenet of my administration. A prosecutor does not merely prosecute the guilty; he must also obtain justice.

The defense attorney, by contrast, has no obligation to ensure that the guilty are justly prosecuted; his sole obligation is to represent the interests of the defendant. The six crime bills before the Senate are principally sponsored by criminal defense attorneys under the cover of the bar association's Task Force on Wrongful Convictions. I would support and applaud the proposed legislation if its true purpose were to prevent *wrongful* convictions. I am, however, not fooled by slick euphemisms. The real and practical effect of the proposed legislation is to make it extraordinarily difficult to obtain *any* conviction.

Prosecutors must already provide the defense with information — before trial — that may clear the accused. One proposed bill would broadly expand the meaning of such "exculpatory" information to include detailed personal information about the victim and witnesses. One of the most troubling concerns for prosecutors is the protection of witnesses; this bill makes it far easier for the criminal to intimidate them.

A bill concerning so-called informants is similar. Under existing law, prosecutors must



independently corroborate the sworn testimony of those with ulterior motives, such as the defendant's accomplices. The proposed bill would broadly expand the meaning of "informant" to include a broad array of citizens, including sexual assault and domestic violence victims.

New York already offers protections and benefits to the criminal defendant unseen in other jurisdictions. I am not aware of any prosecutor, police officer or victims' advocate who supports this criminal-defense protection package.

I applaud our senators who have actually read the bills and recognize the hardships they will impose upon our ability to protect the public. Passage of these bills will irreparably erode public confidence in our justice system while costing millions in wasteful spending. Most importantly, it will go a long way to ensuring that convictions of the truly guilty will become a rare event.

AN EXCELLENT REASON NOT TO VOTE FOR CUOMO

Cuomo: Gay Marriage Will Be a 'Priority' in 2011



Andrew Cuomo marching with his daughters during the Gay Pride Parade along Fifth Avenue in Manhattan on Sunday.

Attorney General Andrew Cuomo said that, if elected governor this fall, he would push to legalize gay marriage in New York during his first year in office.

Asked by a reporter if he would make the passage of a same-sex marriage bill a priority in his first year on the job, Cuomo told reporters in New York City: "It's a priority."

State lawmakers, he said, "have their hands full with their current legislative agenda, most notably the budget, but my opinion, my policy point of view, it is a priority." Asked if he thinks a gay marriage bill could pass the Legislature in 2011, an off-election year, Cuomo replied: "Do I think it can? Yes."

In December, the state Senate [rejected a gay marriage bill](#) in a lopsided 38-24 vote, a stinging defeat for advocates who had waged a long, expensive campaign and had won pledges of support from Senate Democratic leaders.

Not a single Senate Republican voted for the bill, while eight Democrats opposed the measure. The bill had earlier that year passed the Democrat-controlled Assembly for the second time.

Ethan Geto, a prominent gay political strategist, said he was heartened by Cuomo's comments. "To me, that's extremely encouraging. For the guy to say it's a priority and then for him to say he may very well be able to get it done in his first year, it's terrific," said Geto.

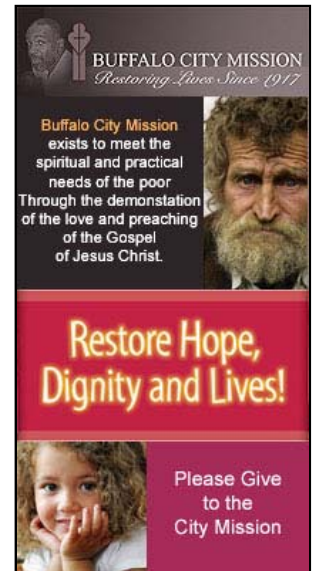
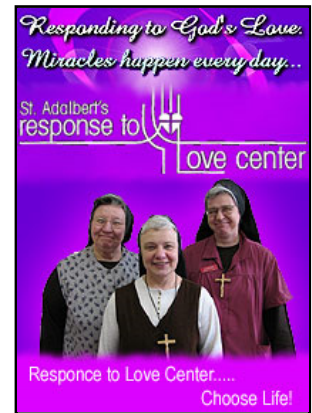
Cuomo's position on the issue has evolved over the years. When he ran for governor in 2002, the Democratic politician said he favored civil unions but did not support same-sex marriage. He declared his support for gay marriage when he ran for attorney general in 2006.

Since the last year's defeat, gay rights groups, led by Fight Back New York, a newly formed political action committee affiliated with Denver-based Gill Action Fund, have raised money from wealthy gay donors around the nation to try to defeat state Senate Democrats and Republicans who opposed the bill.

The PAC backed the Senate candidacy of Jose Peralta, who trounced Hiram Monserrate, a former senator who opposed gay marriage, in a special election in Queens held in March. Monserrate, who was convicted last year of misdemeanor assault against his girlfriend at the time, had lost his seat in February after he was expelled from the Senate. Wall Street Journal

July 4, 2010

Politics NY.Net: KUDOS TO SENATOR BILL STACHOWSKI





UB 2020 is a critical component to our region's economic growth over the next decade & beyond. It is a brilliant piece of work authored by UB President John Simpson, et al. UB 2020 touches just about every part of the overall scheme for economic revitalization in Buffalo, Erie County & WNY. Although every democrat in the 58th race, according to the latest poll, is trailing Assemblyman Jack Quinn by a least 18%, Bill, admired & respected by friend & foe alike, deserves our appreciation from breaking with his norm & putting up the good fight on our behalf. ###

ERIE COUNTY CHILD CARE SUBSIDY

Erie County Re-Opens Intake for Child Care Subsidy Program



The Erie County Department of Social Services (DSS) announces that it will open intake for the Child Care Subsidy program effective immediately. Erie County Social Services Commissioner Carol Dankert says the County is able to accept new clients because of a one-time allocation of federal dollars through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, more commonly known as the stimulus bill. Intake eligibility will be at 125% of the State Income Standard which is the same as currently active cases. The New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) notified Erie County late yesterday that it will receive \$1.7 million in stimulus funding toward program costs. This funding is a one-time allocation with no guarantee of additional monies when this funding is exhausted.

"This allocation of stimulus funding is welcome news," said Commissioner Dankert. "Erie County always pledged to open intake for the Child Care Subsidy program if the federal government allocated additional stimulus dollars targeted for this purpose. I am hopeful New York State will honor its critical role in providing Child Care Subsidy and fund Erie County's program in a way that reflects the needs of our community," she added. For questions about child care subsidy please call the TYKE line – 716.858.8953 ###

RECESS - NO BUDGET - HAPPY 4th!



GOVERNOR: Mass-vetoing gov is tower of power. Gov. Paterson unleashed a veritable veto-palooza yesterday -- slashing thousands of spending items from the Legislature's \$136 billion budget -- even as Senate Democrats skipped town without passing a vital tax bill needed to finish off the spending plan. The Democratic governor plowed all the way through a towering stack of paper to make about 4,700 vetoes during a series of marathon sessions in his Albany office. Helping him were a half-dozen aides seated in an assembly line to speed the painstaking process. The daylong veto-fest was designed to follow through on Paterson's vow to quash an estimated 6,900 spending provisions added to the budget by a defiant Legislature this week, including \$600 million in school aid and thousands of legislative pet projects known as member items. He's expected to do the rest of his 2,200 vetoes Friday morning. POST

SENATE: The state budget battle will likely continue into another week: The Senate adjourned without taking up the revenue bill. In closing comments, Senate Democratic Conference Leader

John Sampson wished the assembled chamber a happy Fourth of July holiday — a bit of a dead giveaway that legislators won't be taking up any business on the floor until Monday at the earliest. "We have unfinished business," Sampson acknowledged on the floor of the chamber. He noted that the death of U.S. Sen. Robert Byrd of West Virginia was one of several developments that had changed his thinking on the chances of New York seeing the Medicaid funding. He also said he was "definitely considering overrides" and "I think we'll get the votes." Republicans have indicated they will not support an override, and when asked how he would muster the 42 senators needed, Sampson replied "I can't divulge my method. I will continue to work." This will happen "as quickly as possible."

Senate Republican Leader Dean Skelos called the decision to leave Albany without taking up the revenue bill "the most amazing moment I think I've ever had sitting here in the Senate chamber." "As far as I'm concerned, and I believe the Republican side of the aisle, this session is not over," Skelos said. TU

ASSEMBLY: Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver is sending his members home for the summer at the end of the day. "We have finished the business of the session," he said. "I'm always available to talk. The governor has indicated he's finished talking." The Senate still wants to negotiate, but Silver said they are of minimal concern. "I'm not concerned. We negotiated long and hard with the governor and the Senate on a revenue bill," Silver noted. "The Senate revenue bill is identical to ours. It is an agreed bill. So, the negotiation on that is over. We've done a number of chapter amendments to satisfy some requests from the Senate, and there's nothing to negotiate in that bill." "What are we going to be blamed for? We're putting together a balanced budget, we're passing that budget and I don't know what there is to blame," Silver said. I asked: When do you expect to be back? "I don't," he replied. TU ###

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

Turning Tides ... Half View Obama as Not Meeting Expectations



[Marist Poll](#)

For the first time since taking office, more registered voters in the United States think President Barack Obama is falling below their expectations than those who say he is either meeting or exceeding them. Half of voters — 50% — believe Mr. Obama has fallen short. 44%, on the other hand, report Mr. Obama has met or exceeded their expectations. 6% are unsure. ...



Rushmore Plus One; FDR joins Mountainside Figures Washington, Jefferson, Teddy Roosevelt and Lincoln as Top Presidents

[Siena Poll](#)

For the fifth time since its inception in 1982, the Siena College Research Institute's (SRI) Survey of U.S. Presidents finds that experts rank Franklin D. Roosevelt as the top all time chief executive. The 238 participating presidential scholars round out the top five in order with Theodore Roosevelt, Abraham Lincoln, George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. Teddy Roosevelt had, more than any other president the "right stuff", and tops the collective ranking of a cluster of personal qualities including imagination, integrity, intelligence, luck, background, and being willing to take risks. Lincoln, according to the experts, demonstrated the greatest presidential abilities while FDR ranks first in overall accomplishments. ###

TAXING & OR BANNING GUNS



UPDATES: [The court denying the reality of guns](#)

Sources say that once Interim Police Commissioner Dan Derenda is confirmed the administration will assign him the task of reviewing gun control initiatives of cities around country, esp. Chicago. The plan, according to sources, is to take more guns off of our streets. ...

In light of the Supreme Court's decision 5-4 restating the rights of gun owners; Mayor Brown & the Common Council might consider a surcharge all guns sold & or owned within City limits. Another method to circumvent the Court's decision is our City can ban legal private gun possession from public places, like smoking, only with criminal sanctions in the case of guns. This has the effect of restricting a registrants right to bear arms to his or her home at least to the Constitution, 2nd amendment, can be amended. Only when our society finally values & respects all life as a perfect gift from God will that happen. ...

We propose that the Legislature pass a surcharge of \$500 on every registered gun in NY State. Like cigarette smokers who pay a substantial tax on cigs let the gun owner pay for the clean up, the blood, on our streets. Mayor Brown, who has worked with Mayors Daly & Bloomberg on this public policy issue, might consider a [hand gun ban](#) in Buffalo similar to the ban in Chicago. Byron might consider creating a one or two officer "gun squad" whose sole purpose is to confiscate illegal fire arms. Buy backs, etc. have very little impact. A reward for those identifying the location of illegal fire arms, \$100 for rifles & shot guns, \$200 for pistols & \$300 for assault weapons of any kind; obviously, arbitrary numbers. This time addiction to drugs can work against the drug dealers; if any one knows where the guns are its the drug addict! You have to start somewhere! ###

[Joe Illuzzi](#)

Terror & Candor

by Charles Krauthammer



The Fort Hood shooter, the Christmas Day bomber, the Times Square attacker. On May 13, the following exchange occurred at a hearing of the House Judiciary Committee:

Rep. Lamar Smith, R-Texas: Do you feel that these individuals might have been incited to take the actions that they did because of radical Islam?

Attorney General Eric Holder: There are a variety of reasons why I think people have taken these actions. ...

Smith: OK, but radical Islam could have been one of the reasons?

Holder: There are a variety of reasons why people --

Smith: But was radical Islam one of them?

Holder: There are a variety of reasons why people do these things. Some of them are potentially religious-based.

Potentially, mind you. This went on until the questioner gave up in exasperation.

A similar question arose last week in U.S. District Court when Faisal Shahzad, the Times Square attacker, pleaded guilty. Explained Shahzad:

"One has to understand where I'm coming from ... I consider myself a mujahid, a Muslim soldier."

Well, *that* is clarifying. As was the self-printed business card of Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan, the Fort

Hood shooter, identifying himself as SoA: Soldier of Allah.

Holder's avoidance of the obvious continues the absurd and embarrassing refusal of the Obama administration to acknowledge who out there is trying to kill Americans and why.

In fact, it has banned from its official vocabulary the terms jihadist, Islamist and Islamic terrorism.

Instead, President Obama's National Security Strategy insists on calling the enemy -- how else do you define those seeking your destruction? -- "a loose network of violent extremists." But this is utterly meaningless. This is not an anger-management therapy group gone rogue. These are people professing a powerful ideology rooted in a radical interpretation of Islam, in whose name they propagandize, proselytize, terrorize and kill.

Why is this important? Because the first rule of war is to know your enemy. If you don't, you wander into intellectual cul-de-sacs and ignore the real causes that might allow you to prevent recurrences.

The Pentagon report on the Fort Hood shooter runs 86 pages with not a single mention of Hasan's Islamism. It contains such politically correct inanities as "religious fundamentalism alone is not a risk factor."

Of course it is. Indeed, Islamist fundamentalism is not only a risk factor. It is *the* risk factor, the common denominator linking all the great terror attacks of this century -- from 9/11 to Mumbai, from Fort Hood to Times Square, from London to Madrid to Bali. The attackers were of various national origin, occupation, age, social class, native tongue and race. The one thing that united them was the jihadist vision in whose name they acted.

To deny this undeniable truth leads to further absurdities. Remember the wave of speculation about Hasan's supposed secondary post-traumatic stress disorder -- that he was so deeply affected by the heart-rending stories of his war-traumatized patients that he became radicalized? On the contrary. He was moved not by their suffering but by the suffering they (and the rest of the U.S. military) inflicted on Hasan's fellow Muslims, in whose name he gunned down 12 American soldiers while shouting "Allahu Akbar."

With Shahzad, we find the equivalent ridiculous -- and exculpating -- speculation that perhaps he was driven over the edge by the foreclosure of his home. Good grief. Of course his home went into foreclosure -- so would yours if you voluntarily quit your job and stopped house payments to go to Pakistan for jihadist training. As The Washington Post's Charles Lane pointed out, foreclosure was a result of Shahzad's radicalism, not the cause.

There's a final reason why the administration's cowardice about identifying those trying to kill us cannot be allowed to pass. It is demoralizing. It trivializes the war between jihadi barbarism and Western decency, and diminishes the memory of those (including thousands of brave Muslims -- Iraqi, Pakistani, Afghan and Western) who have died fighting it.

Churchill famously mobilized the English language and sent it into battle. But his greatness lay not just in eloquence but in his appeal to the moral core of a decent people to rise against an ideology the nature of which Churchill never hesitated to define and describe -- and to pronounce ("Nahhhzzzz") in an accent dripping with loathing and contempt.

No one is asking Obama or Holder to match Churchill's rhetoric -- just Shahzad's candor.

Last week

PoliticsNY.Net: MAYOR TOP DEPARTMENT APPOINTMENTS



Mayor Byron W. Brown Tuesday announced that he has filed with the Buffalo Common Council the appointment of Daniel Derenda as Commissioner of the Buffalo Police Department. In addition, Mayor Brown announced his appointment of a veteran of the federal Drug Enforcement Administration to the position of Deputy Police Commissioner, Kevin J. Helfer as Commissioner of the city's newly formed Department of Parking, David Rodriguez as Corporation Counsel, Timothy A. Ball, Senior Deputy Corporation Counsel and Peter J. Savage III, Deputy Corporation Counsel. These appointments follow the recent appointments of Garnell Whitfield as Fire Commissioner and James Comerford as Commissioner of Permits and Inspection Services. ###

NYS CONSERVATIVE PARTY CHAIRMAN MIKE LONG



NYS Conservative Chairman Mike Long is calling for Erie County Chairman Ralph Lorigo's resignation from both the County chair & the State vice chair. Lorigo is leading a rebellion against Long's endorsement of Rick Lazio in favor of Carl Paladino. Lorigo an attorney, is waging a primary fight against Lazio for the line; he claims that Paladino reflects the values of the party via life & the right to bear arms, Lazio does not. Lorigo further claims that with Lazio on the line the Conservative party will not get the 50,000 votes in the governor's race to retain the line past November. We disagree. We believe we will lose the line with Lorigo or Paladino on the line, esp. considering Paladino is promising a "TAXED ENOUGH ALREADY" line, etc. The only chance our party has to garner the 50,000 vote benchmark is with Lazio. There are many who believe Lorigo is in this because of his business interests tied to Paladino, who knows. What we do know is Lorigo's days as a power broker in Erie County could be numbered. ###

[Joe Illuzzi](#)

Kagan Hearings

Surpass World Cup For Most Boring TV Event

by Ann Coulter



The two main points being made by Democrats in support of Elena Kagan's nomination to the Supreme Court merely serve to remind us that Democrats are inveterate liars.

First, it has been repeatedly observed how wonderful it is that Ms. Kagan is "someone who's an intellectual heavyweight who's going to give Roberts a run for the money" -- as Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., put it.

Whew! Good thing the Democrats got that Hispanic nominee out of the way, so they could appoint somebody with intellectual heft! Hey! What happened to the "wise Latina"? At least now you know what liberals really think of you, Sonia.

Second, liberals are raving about Kagan's "skill at building a consensus ... reaching out and building coalitions" -- as Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., said last week.

It's as if they're talking about a governing majority in the Senate. Next thing you know, liberals will be complaining about a "do nothing" Supreme Court.

On MSNBC's "Hardball" back in May, Sen. Klobuchar said: "We want to get some things done on this court."

Get some things done? Amy Klobuchar is not considered a lunatic, but this was a crazy, giveaway moment. (Durbin is not considered a lunatic, just a hack.)

The Supreme Court is not supposed to be "getting things done." Durbin's and Klobuchar's statements reveal a massive misunderstanding of the role of the court.

Congress, as the people's elected representatives, is supposed to "get things done." If they don't, that usually means the people don't want those things done. It's not the court's job to say: "Hey, Congress, you forgot to enact this! Don't worry, we'll take care of it."

But liberals see the Supreme Court as their backup legislature, giving them all the laws Democrats can't pass themselves because they'd be voted out of office if they did.

Can't get Americans to approve of abortion? Get the Supreme Court to do it! Can't get Americans to ban the death penalty? Get the Supreme Court to do it! Can't get Americans to release criminals? Get the Supreme Court to do it!

Usually Democrats denounce the idea that they want an activist judiciary as a vicious, right-wing lie. But now they're complaining that the court's not activist enough -- and they need Kagan up there to "get some things done"!

Despite the herculean efforts of liberals to redefine "judicial activism" as "overturning laws," the two acts are completely unrelated.

It would be like redefining "terrorist" to mean "airline passenger." Some airline passengers are terrorists and some aren't -- indeed, some battle the terrorists. The two have nothing to do with each other, although, sometimes, both notions come together and you get an airline passenger who's a terrorist -- and blows up the plane.

It makes as much sense to say, "Republicans say they're against 'judicial activism,' but conservative justices strike down laws more than liberals do!" as it does to say, "Republicans claim they're against terrorism, but they fly more than Democrats do!"

Different things.

As former Chief Justice William Rehnquist described the proper role of judicial review in a constitutional democracy, the courts have the last word "as to whether a law passed by the legislature conforms to the Constitution."

It would be every bit as "activist" for the Supreme Court to refuse to strike down a law that violated the Constitution -- e.g., Chicago's anti-gun laws or Congress' restriction of free speech via the campaign finance laws -- as it is for the court to strike down laws that do not violate the Constitution.

We know that laws restricting speech and the right to bear arms violate the Constitution because it says so. The very first two items in the Bill of Rights prohibit the government from infringing on -- I quote -- "the freedom of speech" and "the right of the people to keep and bear arms." You can look it up yourself.

If Congress passed a law banning books critical of the Supreme Court and the court refused to strike down that law, that would be "judicial activism."

Historically, judicial activists have preferred to strike down laws that are perfectly acceptable under the Constitution than to let unconstitutional laws stand. Constitutionally permissible laws include laws against abortion and laws providing for the death penalty.

We know that laws prohibiting abortion do not violate the Constitution because neither abortion, nor its synonyms, nor anything vaguely resembling abortion, is mentioned -- much less granted protected status -- by the Constitution.

And we know that laws providing for the death penalty are permitted by the Constitution because it goes on and on about capital crimes. The Fifth Amendment, for example, says:

-- "No person shall be held to answer for any capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury";

-- "nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb";

-- "nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law."

States are free to ban the death penalty on their own, but the Constitution requires only three things for the imposition of a death sentence: a grand jury indictment, no double jeopardy, and a hearing. The End. Love, the Founding Fathers.

And yet, the Supreme Court banned the death penalty -- even with those three safeguards -- as "unconstitutional" from 1972-1976.

Several justices -- including Kagan's mentor, Justice Thurgood Marshall -- continually voted to ban the death penalty, despite the fact that the Constitution clearly, repeatedly, unquestionably provides for capital punishment.

That's how liberals "get some things done." That's judicial activism.

GOP BIGGIE TO CHALLENGE HOYT, STATUS QUO



Local attorney Brian Biggie announced his campaign for the 144th State Assembly District. The 144th District encompasses a substantial portion of North Buffalo, the West Side and Grand Island and is currently represented by 18-year incumbent Sam Hoyt.

Biggie cited the failure of current office holders in his decision to run. "I have lost faith in our elected officials' ability and will to do what is right for Western New York. I am running for the New York State Assembly because I am fed up with career politicians placing their ambition for reelection above what is right for their constituents. I pledge to challenge the status quo on spending, taxes, ethics and entitlement programs. It is time to make New York State government work for its citizens again."

In 2005, Biggie created "Buffalo Christmas Wishes," a program that organizes and delivers Christmas gifts to underprivileged children at select Buffalo and Niagara Falls schools. (www.BuffaloChristmasWishes.com). Biggie also serves as Board President of the Buffalo Alliance for Education. Biggie brings private sector experience to the race as an attorney at Goldberg Segalla LLP.

As Assemblyman Biggie will fight for Western New York by advocating for lower property taxes and relief for small business owners:

"I see State Legislators being indicted for felonies, and entire legislative bodies engaged in petty games. I look at our State budget, with \$140 billion in spending, and nearly \$9 billion in debt, and cannot understand why we pay more in Medicaid than Texas and California combined," said Biggie. "It is time to bring principles of hard work and honor back to Albany. Today I begin my campaign to challenge the status quo that creates and give Western New York a representative they can be proud of."

144th District Assembly Candidate Joe Golombek

WITH 1,500 DOORS DOWN, 8,500 TO GO, ASSEMBLY CANDIDATE GOLOMBEK PLEDGES HE WILL "NOT TOE PARTY LINE" ... FIGHT FOR WNY, NOT DOWNSTATE INTERESTS ... CALLS HOYT'S SENIORITY "MEANINGLESS"



Published internet article

Published internet article

What's the message voters have been offering NYS [Assembly candidate Joe Golombek](#) as he continues to visit over a hundred homes a day in his Democratic primary campaign?

"What people are telling me more than anything else is that 18 year Albany incumbents are not wanted by voters this year," he quickly replied as part of an exclusive during his successful Tuesday night Pearl Street Brew Pub fundraiser. "If my opponent, Assemblymember Sam Hoyt had only been in Albany for two years, I think the voters would be inclined to give him a pass. But, I think most people feel that 18 years is a good enough test. If he hasn't been able to change things in the Legislature in that amount of time, then it's time to elect someone new."

How would Golombek be different?

"The big difference people would see if I am elected is that I wouldn't toe the party line," he declared. "I wouldn't vote a certain way just to go along or to please party leaders. I would stand up for WNY's interests, not those of downstate, first, last, and always. I would vote on issues based on their merits and what's in the best interests of our community, not based on politics. Actually, just by being elected, I would send a powerful message to the powers that be in Albany that just doing things the same way we always have just isn't going to be good enough any more."

What about Hoyt's displays of "independence" such as his vote against last year's budget despite the fact that it was supported by the Democratic Party's leadership in Albany?

"I don't consider it independence when Sam Hoyt goes to the Speaker of the Assembly and has to beg for permission to vote against the budget or some other bill because he needs to do it politically to curry favor with his constituents," Councilman Golombek points out. "That's not real independence. If I'm elected, I'm not going to ask for anyone's permission to vote my conscience or to cast votes that help WNY."

As for Assemblymember Hoyt's much vaunted "seniority," the North District Councilman doesn't think much of it.

"What has he been able to accomplish with his seniority that has resulted in Albany being turned around or this state being turned around," he asks. "Sam Hoyt's seniority is meaningless because it hasn't accomplished anything that's lead to real change that would really make things better for

average New Yorkers."

What kind of campaign will Golombek run?

"I'm going to bring this campaign to the voters by personally visiting over 10,000 homes," he promises.

"I've already gone to 1,500 doors already in all parts of the district. I want to go to Albany to join with other like minded members to bring real change to this state, not just to play politics.

PoliticsNY.Net: COMPTROLLER POLONCARZ: COLLINS IS A "BULLY"



I have to laugh every time I hear or [read](#) Erie County Comptroller Mark Poloncarz or a Democratic County Legislator like Maria Whyte call County Executive Chris Collins a bully.

I just checked the most recent State legislation on the issue of "bullying." I didn't see anything in the Bill that included County government or Chris Collins for that matter. So I guess Collins is safe for the time being!

Maybe Mark needs to just 'man up', so to speak! ###

BUFFALO NEWS BOB MCCARTHY HAS ZERO FOR BRAINS



Bob! There you go again! McCarthy actually wrote an [article/column](#) claiming the state dems are taking Carl Paladino more seriously. The truth is the dems are simply attempting to raise the bar for Paladino in order to get Lazio to spend more time & money on the primary. Its a tactic Bob for goodness sakes! I have not spoken or read one serious democrat who believes Paladino will be on the ballot in November. Russ Thompson is Carl's gal friday (oops) & is a democrat; maybe he is McCarthy's source. ###

BAUERLE vs PALADINO

WATER KNOWS ITS OWN LEVEL



The WBEN 930 audience was subjected to circa 15 minutes of rants by talk show host Tom Bauerle & candidate Carl Paladino Friday morning.

The fodder or in this case bovine manure for the tirade was Paladino's remarks on Thursday during an interview in Watertown of all places. Paladino called the Gov a "drug addict"; Bauerle asked for proof. Of course Paladino couldn't produce the proof claiming he will wait for the appropriate venue to validate his claims.

Calling a Black gov a drug addict in a place like Watertown plays according some questionable political thinking; this is probably why Paladino ad nauseam said to Bauerle, "I am not a racist".

The really funny part of the exchange is when Bauerle referred to Paladino's continued use of his slogan, "I am bringing my baseball bat to Albany"; Paladino claiming this is a metaphor for "the people."

Bauerle said, Paladino's use of the baseball bat metaphor could be Freudian; meaning a metaphor for Paladino's genitalia.

Our immediate reaction was 'yeah Tom just like your microphone' !

Bauerle always referring on air to the size of his privates as being to small, juxtaposed with his telling his audience he watches pornography & went so far as to give a URL over the air.

Obviously, Entercom sanctions this kind of banter. ###

[Joe Illuzzi](#)

SENATE CANDIDATE PATRICK GALLIVAN



Elimination of "Discretionary Funds" Needed to Get New York State Back on Sound Financial Footing

Former Erie County Sheriff and Republican State Senate candidate Patrick Gallivan proposed eliminating "pork" spending, more commonly known as "member items."

"The State of New York is facing serious financial challenges and we need to prioritize programs and services that our residents depend upon—"pork" spending is not a priority in my view," said Patrick Gallivan. "Over the past several years, New York State government has looked at our residents as their own personal piggy bank, withdrawing more and more of their hard-earned money so that they can spend unbridled while currying favor with voters. Eliminating "pork" spending would save taxpayers \$200 million annually, and is a good first step towards addressing our state's budget crisis. It will also set an important tone that the state legislature is finally serious about tax relief, reduced spending and budget reform."

The New York State Comptroller's office has indicated that approximately \$82.3 million in unused funds are sitting in an account for "pork" projects, including \$29 million assigned for the governor. That means the account is short by about \$140 million if the "pork" projects in the current state budget are to be paid.

Gallivan added, "With nearly 6,800 "pork" projects costing taxpayers nearly \$200 million annually, and with a state budget approaching a \$9 BILLION budget deficit, I think that state lawmakers should think of the taxpayers first. While, I am sure that many of the recipients of this "pork" funding are fine organizations, we must reduce state spending and optimize those dollars for the benefit of the many, rather than the select few. State spending must be reduced and state government must be reformed—this is a good starting point."

Gallivan is a former Erie County Sheriff and New York State Trooper with a proven record of accountability, integrity and transparency.

Gore Ruining My Pristine Reputation

By Roger Stone

I am outraged that former Vice President Al Gore would sully my pristine reputation by booking his massage assignments under my name. I would never book a full-service massage through a hotel concierge. What a buffoon.

What is it with these Democrats. We were told the Gore's was outraged by Bill Clinton's antics with Monica Lewinsky. Now it appears the rage may all have been Tipper's since we will learn that the former Vice President also saw high end call girls in New York. In fact ,Gore has been in some of the same eh...places...as former Governor Spitzer.

After reading the police report from Portland I have to say Al has none of the moves.

"If the complainant and the Portland Police Bureau wish to



pursue the possibility of a criminal prosecution," District Attorney Michael D. Schiraldi said in a statement Thursday, "additional investigation by the bureau will be necessary and will be discussed with the Portland Police Bureau." A spokesman for Gore replied "no comment" when asked about the D.A.'s statement by the Associated Press. Gore and wife Tipper Gore announced in early June they were separating after 40 years of marriage. The alleged victim was a 54-year-old massage therapist at the luxury Hotel Lucia where Gore was staying on his trip to campaign for Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski. Gore -- who registered at the hotel under the name "Mr. Stone" -- ordered the \$540 in-room massage for 11 p.m. through the hotel's front desk. When the experienced, licensed massage therapist arrived at Gore's hotel room door, he embraced her.

"The hug went on a bit too long and I was a bit taken aback by it," she told the police. "If it weren't Al Gore I would have seriously questioned the situation right there because a hug from an unknown male client before a session is a bit odd and unprofessional by typical LMT [Licensed Massage Therapist] business standards." The woman said Gore requested she massage his abdomen, and while she did, "he became somewhat vocal with muffled moans etc. he began demanding I go lower and massaging on the abdominal area." She became "so freaked" that she "decided to clarify things by asking him as he angrily complained that I was not doing what he wanted, for him to show me exactly what he wanted me to do, such as where to massage." Then the former Vice President allegedly grabbed her hand and "shoved it down under the sheet to his pubic hair area... and said 'There!' in a very sharp, loud, angry-sounding tone." She refused to perform a sexual act on him and pulled back her hand.

While she was packing up her massage table, Gore pursued trying to have sex with her. The woman says Gore physically attacked her by caressing her "buttocks and breasts" and "forced an open-mouth kiss" and "pressing his body" against her while wearing only a bathrobe. She told the police that Gore insisted she sit on the bed and listen to the Pink song "Dear Mr. President." Ironically, the alleged victim voted for Gore for President in 2000. As she sat on the edge of the hotel bed, she said Gore "flipped me flat on my back and threw his whole body face down over atop me, pinning me down and outweighing me by quite a bit." She had to "physically struggle and wrench around" to get out from under him" and refused Gore's repeated attempts to have sex with her. Finally, as she was at the hotel door, she told the police that "He pleaded, grabbed me, engulfed me in embrace, tongue kissed me, massaged me, groped my breasts and painfully squeezed my nipples through my clothing, pressed his pelvis against mine, rubbed my buttocks with his hands and fingers and rubbed himself against my crotch, saying, You know you want to do it."

When she got home, the massage therapist noticed stains on the front of her black slacks which she thought could be "bodily fluids from Gore pushing up against me repeatedly" because "he had nothing on but his hotel issued terry robe with a belt to hold it closed." The woman said that she does not want to be "bought off into silence," but instead wants "justice and this ugly thing to come out of the shadows." She told the police that her gut tells her that "I'm not the first woman to be assaulted by him" and she pleaded for other women to "come forward in spite of his public stature and army of lawyers.... I believe if someone had spoken up before this would not have happened to me." She told the police that Gore "should not get a free pass merely because of his position. People in power are not to be given a license to behave in ways that the rest of us are not, to be above the law and to abuse women through criminal acts."

PoliticsNY.Net: TUESDAY'S NYS INTERNET NEWS



UPDATE: NY POST: Exclusive - Budget war in Albany escalates as Legislature denies Gov.'s request. A day after the Legislature insultingly refused to accept receipt of Gov. Paterson's budget bills, the legislative leaders have escalated their war with the governor. A source close to Paterson said this morning that the Legislative Bill Drafting Commission had just rejected requests by the governor's office to help in the writing of some new proposals coming from the governor, a normal commission function. The rare if unprecedented rejection by a commission controlled by Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and Senate Democratic Conference Leader John Sampson "is an action that had to be approved by the leaders," the source, who works for the governor, said. The commission's refusal to work with the governor came just 12 hours after Paterson began issuing what is expected to be a massive set of vetoes aimed at derailing the Legislature's newly approved budget bills, containing hundreds of millions of dollars in expenditures that the governor says the state can't afford. Entire post ...

AP: NY judge temporarily halts cigarette mail ban Seneca businesses have gotten some relief from a federal judge who ordered a temporary halt to a new law that bans the shipment of cigarettes

through the mail. Federal District Judge Richard Arcara ruled Monday in favor of Seneca tobacco business owner Aaron Pierce by granting a temporary restraining order. The new law would have taken effect Tuesday. The judge scheduled a July 7 hearing. [Full story](#) ###

NY TIMES: Lawmakers Restore Cuts, but a Veto Comes Quickly. Hoping to seize control of a budget battle dominated for weeks by Gov. David A. Paterson, lawmakers voted on Monday to restore hundreds of millions of dollars in education and health spending that the governor had sought to cut. But just hours later, Mr. Paterson exercised his line-item veto power to cancel the added school aid — and said that more such vetoes were on the way.

NY TIMES: Little Diversity at Top of Bloomberg's Administration. Since winning a third term in November, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg has announced a parade of major appointments: bringing aboard three new deputy mayors and six commissioners and trumpeting most of those arrivals in the Blue Room at City Hall. All nine are white. All but one is a man. [Full story](#)

NY TIMES: The Court: Ignoring the Reality of Guns. About 10,000 Americans died by handgun violence, according to federal statistics, in the four months that the Supreme Court debated which clause of the Constitution it would use to subvert Chicago's entirely sensible ban on handgun ownership. The arguments that led to Monday's decision undermining Chicago's law were infuriatingly abstract, but the results will be all too real and bloody.

TIMES UNION: NY Senate GOP now in control of Democrats' budget. Democrats in control of every statewide office and both houses of the Legislature likely have given the final say in the state budget to 30 Republicans in the Senate minority. Democratic Gov. David Paterson's promise Monday night to veto all 6,900 budget additions and pork-barrel projects approved hours before by the Democrat-led Senate and Assembly means any override attempt would hinge on whether Republicans would side with Democrats. That's unlikely following months of Republican anger after being excluded from budget talks by the Democratic legislative leaders and Paterson.

TIMES UNION: Veto spells delay for budget. Paterson rejects plan from lawmakers, saying state can't afford it Minutes after lawmakers were patting themselves on the back Monday for what they thought was a successful end-run around Gov. David Paterson's more modest budget proposal, they received a sign that the political battle may be far from over. [Full story](#)

NY DAILY NEWS: I'll veto everything! Gov. Paterson shreds pols' budget try, says his pen will run dry. Gov. Paterson showed state lawmakers the power of the pen Monday night. Paterson capped a dramatic budget day at the state Capitol by vetoing \$419 million in extra education aid defiant lawmakers tucked into their spending measure. The governor, who issued his veto during a hastily arranged news conference, warned that's just the start.

NY DAILY NEWS: 'Accidental Governor' Paterson scores victory as Albany clowns don't know own price tag. The so-called budget lawmakers approved Monday is such a joke that Senate Finance Committee boss Carl Kruger couldn't say how many billions of your dollars he and his cohorts were committing to spend. Senate Republicans asked for the price tag just before the vote, and Kruger (D-Brooklyn) shockingly admitted he had no clue. "I will have the numbers available for you within several hours," Kruger said, showing no obvious sign of embarrassment. And where, GOPers wanted to know, is the report spelling out the cash that legislators are required to have in their hands before voting on budget bills? "That would be not available," came Kruger's nonchalant reply. [Full story](#)



NY DAILY NEWS: Michael Steele's decision to bypass Ed Cox in funneling cash is slap at state GOP leader. The national GOP is funneling cash for local elections directly to county leaders - a step never before taken in New York and a clear snub to embattled state Republican Party Chairman Ed Cox. The decision to bypass the state party is a direct slap at Cox. Republican National Committee Chairman Michael Steele doesn't trust Cox after his plan to run Democrat-turned-Republican Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy for governor blew up in his face, GOP sources said. [Full story](#)

NY POST: Pols trash gov's budget bid. Dump last-ditch bills on the floor as they OK own big-spender plan. That's how the state's top lawmakers treated Gov. Paterson's last-ditch effort to balance Albany's books yesterday. They left his plan sitting on an office floor and voted to boost spending by hundreds of millions of dollars. "The Legislature did not disrespect me; they disrespected the people of New York," Paterson fumed after learning his budget was treated like rubbish. Even by Albany's standards, yesterday's budget battle reached new lows. Paterson ordered aides to personally deliver his last round of emergency spending legislation after his fellow Democrats refused to accept the bills. The governor's documents were left on the floor of the Senate counsel's office.

NY POST: Paterson threatens campaign season session. Gov. Paterson – no longer running for election himself this year - said this morning he'll gladly call lawmakers back to Albany during the upcoming campaign season to settle any lingering budget woes. The Democratic executive cited Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver's refusal to create a back-up plan if Congress follows through on threats to slash - or nix altogether - \$1 billion in federal Medicaid aid the state expected. "They don't have a plan to solve this problem; we're going to be a billion dollars in debt," Paterson said during an appearance on WOR 710-AM. "I'll tell you what, there's kind of an understanding that the governor will not call the Legislature back during the election." "I will," he said. "And the reason that I will is because they left a hole." [Full story](#)

NY POST: Cuomo advises Gov., rips lawmakers in budget talks. Democratic gubernatorial candidate Andrew Cuomo laced into the state Legislature Monday, in one of his strongest condemnations since the lawmakers have failed to reach a budget deal with Gov. Paterson. [Full story](#)

DEMOCRAT & CHRONICLE: Duffy lobbies in Albany. Rochester mayor and lieutenant governor candidate Robert Duffy made a final push at the state Capitol on Monday to lobby for legislation that would give the mayor control over city schools. The legislation, which would make the schools a city department and put the mayor and City Council in charge, passed the state Assembly last week and awaits action in the state Senate, where its passage remains uncertain. [Full story](#)

POST STANDARD: Judge sides with Cayuga Indians; tells Seneca County to dismiss indictments, return cigarettes. A Seneca County judge today dismissed an indictment against the Cayuga Indian Nation and ordered his county to return some \$375,000 worth of cigarettes seized in a 2008 tax raid at the Cayugas' Seneca Falls store. Judge Dennis Bender ruled after a 10-minute hearing between the two sides, said Daniel French, a Syracuse lawyer who represents the Cayugas, said. [Full story](#) ###

[Joe Illuzzi](#)

Gun Control Laws

by Thomas Sowell



Now that the Supreme Court of the United States has decided that the Second Amendment to the Constitution means that individual Americans have a right to bear arms, what can we expect?

Those who have no confidence in ordinary Americans may expect a bloodbath, as the benighted masses start shooting each other, now that they can no longer be denied guns by their betters. People who think we shouldn't be allowed to make our own medical decisions, or decisions about which schools our children attend, certainly are not likely to be happy with the idea that we can make our own decisions about how to defend ourselves.

When you stop and think about it, there is no obvious reason why issues like gun control should be ideological issues in the first place. It is ultimately an empirical question whether allowing ordinary citizens to have firearms will increase or decrease the amount of violence.

Many people who are opposed to gun laws which place severe restrictions on ordinary citizens owning firearms have based themselves on the Second Amendment to the Constitution. But, while the Supreme Court must make the Second Amendment the basis of its rulings on gun control laws, there is no reason why the Second Amendment should be the last word for the voting public.

If the end of gun control leads to a bloodbath of runaway shootings, then the Second Amendment can be repealed, just as other Constitutional Amendments have been repealed. Laws exist for people, not people for laws.

There is no point arguing, as many people do, that it is difficult to amend the Constitution. The fact that it doesn't happen very often doesn't mean that it is difficult. The people may not want it to happen, even if the intelligentsia are itching to change it.

When the people wanted it to happen, the Constitution was amended 4 times in 8 years, from 1913 through 1920.

What all this means is that judges and the voting public have different roles. There is no reason why judges should "consider the basic values that underlie a constitutional provision and their contemporary significance," as Justice Stephen Breyer said in his dissent against the Supreme Court's gun control decision.

But, as the great Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes said, his job was "to see that the game is played according to the rules whether I like them or not."

If the public doesn't like the rules, or the consequences to which the rules lead, then the public can change the rules via the ballot box. But that is very different from judges changing the rules by verbal sleight of hand, or by talking about "weighing of the constitutional right to bear arms" against other considerations, as Justice Breyer puts it. That's not his job. Not if "we the people" are to govern ourselves, as the Constitution says.

As for the merits or demerits of gun control laws themselves, a vast amount of evidence, both from the United States and from other countries, shows that keeping guns out of the hands of law-abiding citizens does not keep guns out of the hands of criminals. It is not uncommon for a tightening of gun control laws to be followed by an increase-- not a decrease-- in gun crimes, including murder.

Conversely, there have been places and times where an increase in gun ownership has been followed by a reduction in crimes in general and murder in particular.

Unfortunately, the media intelligentsia tend to favor gun control laws, so a lot of hard facts about the futility, or the counterproductive consequences of such laws, never reach the public through the media.

We hear a lot about countries with stronger gun control laws than the United States that have lower murder rates. But we very seldom hear about countries with stronger gun control laws than the United States that have higher murder rates, such as Russia and Brazil.

The media, like Justice Breyer, might do well to reflect on what is their job and what is the voting public's job. The media's job should be to give us the information to make up our own minds, not slant and filter the news to fit the media's vision.

PoliticsNY.Net: MONDAY'S NYS INTERNET NEWS



NY TIMES: Weighing Two Plans in Albany Budget Fight. New legislation proposed by state lawmakers would temporarily eliminate a sales tax exemption on clothing, expand hours for video lottery machines and require online travel companies to collect sales taxes on hotel rooms — measures that the lawmakers said were needed to finalize a state budget.

NY TIMES: A chance for a fairer count. A Chance for a Fairer Count. Most states, including New York, have longstanding laws saying that a prison is not a legal residence. But that hasn't stopped prison gerrymandering — the cynical and unfair practice under which inmates are counted as "residents" as a way of padding populations that are too small to pass muster under federal election law. [Full story](#)

TIMES UNION: No shutdown, no deal either. Lawmakers' revenue plan ignores governor's call for SUNY tuition reform, Medicaid funding fix. The shutdown is called off, although the showdown remains. A defiant Legislature came to Albany on Sunday evening but ignored every item on the governor's to-do list. Instead, the Senate and Assembly gavelled in and out in "extraordinary" sessions that, added together, totaled less than 10 minutes. Gov. David Paterson had asked them to address plans to revamp SUNY's tuition schedule and set up a contingency fund for a potential \$1 billion federal shortfall in Medicaid funding.

NY DAILY NEWS: Gov. Paterson raises budget stakes, angrily vows he'll 'veto everything'. An angry Gov. Paterson drew a final line in the sand Sunday night in his nasty budget battle with state lawmakers. With legislators prepared to go their own way on a budget deal to avoid a government shutdown at 12:01 a.m. tomorrow, Paterson warned, "I'll veto everything" if they don't do things his way.

NY DAILY NEWS: Democratic AG hopefuls all say no way to Hiram Monserrate's Assembly bid. The idea of convicted domestic abuser Hiram Monserrate winning an Assembly seat is so repugnant to the five Democratic candidates for attorney general that all of them support his rival.

Hopefuls Richard Brodsky, Sean Coffey, Eric Dinallo, Kathleen Rice and Eric Schneiderman are endorsing fellow Democrat Francisco Moya for the 39th Assembly District seat. They say Monserrate, an ousted Queens state senator, has zero business in public office. [Full story](#)

NY POST: Dems fear backlash for boosting Silver. Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver's last-ditch effort today to derail Gov. Paterson's budget cuts and reform agenda may fall victim to nervous Senate Democrats, who fear a voter backlash, sources said late yesterday.

NY POST: Doomsday vote on NY's budget. Last-ditch battle to keep state on the job. All eyes turn to the Capitol again today as lawmakers gather for a high-stakes showdown that could either end Albany's three-month budget impasse or shut down critical state agencies. Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver (D-Manhattan) and Senate Democratic Leader John Sampson of Brooklyn planned to vote on a 2010-11 spending plan that would reject several of Gov. Paterson's hallmark proposals, including allowing wine sales in grocery stores and capping property taxes. Their decision followed a day of vicious behind-the-scenes backbiting among the Democratic leadership. [Full story](#)

DEMOCRAT & CHRONICLE: Municipal water loss is pouring dollars down the drain. As Rochester residents brace for an increase in water rates, nearly one in four gallons of water treated for consumption never reaches the tap because it is lost in an aging distribution system that drains about 2.6 billion gallons annually, city water records show. [Full story](#)

POST STANDARD: Former Gov. Mitt Romney to speak at Upstate Conservatives dinner NY - Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, who was a 2008 Republican presidential candidate, will be the keynote speaker at a Sept. 20 dinner hosted by the Upstate Multi-County Committee of the New York State Conservative Party. [Full story](#)

POST STANDARD: Gov. David Paterson threatens vetoes while Senate holds 3-minute special session. Take that, governor. The state Senate called it a night three minutes after starting an extraordinary session called by Gov. David Paterson on Sunday. The Assembly also recessed quickly without voting on any of Paterson's budget proposals. [Full story](#) ###

COLLINS HAS DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATORS IN A "SNIT"



UPDATE: There was a General Stanley McChrystal like event over at the County Legislature recently. A staffer inadvertently sent an email to Legislator Betty Jean Grant. The staffer's email purported Grant as being a "bitter woman" & her behavior as of late should be forwarded to the inner city Buffalo Challenger. Like O - Grant went ballistic & public suggesting the staffer should be disciplined if not fired by Chairwoman Miller Williams. However, unlike McChrystal who was fired, the staffer was given three days off, we assume without pay. Grant found the punishment to be wholly inadequate. Grant's concerns were buoyed by her colleague former Chairwoman Lynn Marinelli, enthuses on former. Marinelli telling the press she fired a staffer for in-kind behavior last year, during her last year as Chair we might add. ...

Now we know what Germaine Greer was writing about when she penned her best seller back in the 70's "The Female Eunuch."

She was writing about County Legislators Maria Whyte & Lynn Marinelli, et al. They like et al. over at the Leg!

Anyway, the gals are upset that County Executive Chris Collins won't spend the balance of the stimulus money on "job creation." They actually convinced their colleagues to vote with them 9-6 to force Collins to spend the money. Collins has promised a veto.

One would assume that these legislators would have realized by now you cannot bully Collins via legislation. He will either use his veto pen or just ignore the resolution, which is his right in certain cases.

"Collins has decided to spend about 75% of the stimulus funds on repaying old debts acquired through "smoke and mirrors," and place the remaining 25% into a reserve fund of sorts, which would help soften a future property tax hike.

Democratic Legislators argue that the federal money must be spent on job creation or economic development. They also believe Collins should restore funding to local cultural as well as daycare subsidies.

"It's there to stimulate the economy," said Legislator Lynn Marinelli (D-Tonawanda). "It's not there to wait. In fact, why wait? Our economy needs stimulating."

Maria Whyte told Channel #2 that's not a very prudent way to look at that in a big picture sense, and let me explain what I mean. You can't use one-shot revenue to fund re-occurring expenses. We learned that from the Giambra days."

We would like to see Collins use the money as a down payment on a new convention center; we won't hold our breath. What Chris might not fully grasp is in five years the his successor could undo very easily all the great work he is doing, esp. with County finances. A new convention center & subsequent economic impact, i.e. return on investment, is a legacy, Chris!

The truth is Erie County does not even get a fraction of our fair share with respect to the billions in convention dollars. We heard CVB CEO Dottie Gallagher - Cohen on the Peter Hunt show; we agree there is & should indeed be a multi pronged approach, e.g., sports, cultural for attracting tourist dollars.

However, the epicenter of our efforts should be attracting visitors via our convention business. Please keep in mind a vibrant convention business is a global marketing tool for all of our assets.

The County should have a 150-175,000 square foot, state of the art facility.

You cannot argue with success; under Chris Collins watch Erie County is has become premier local government in NYS. ###

[Joe Illuzzi](#)

SENATE CANDIDATE PATRICK GALLIVAN

FORMER ERIE COUNTY SHERIFF AND STATE SENATE CANDIDATE PATRICK GALLIVAN SIGNS ONTO REFORM PLEDGE TO FIX ALBANY



"Former Erie County Sheriff and Republican State Senate candidate Patrick Gallivan announced that he has signed onto former New York City Mayor Ed Koch's NY Uprising Reform agenda in order to hold elected officials accountable for their actions and bring real reform to New York State Government.

Former Erie County Sheriff and Republican State Senate candidate Patrick Gallivan said, "Just in the last two weeks, media reports have indicated that two New York State Senators are under investigation for alleged ethics violations, the state budget is over two months late, and a recent Quinnipiac Poll showed that over 83 percent of New Yorkers think that New York State is broken. This is not simply a Republican, Democratic, Liberal or Conservative issue. We all have a responsibility to bring back integrity, honesty, trust and accountability to Albany. That is why I have signed onto New York Uprising's reform agenda, which if implemented, will do just that."

New York Uprising is a non-partisan, independent coalition formed by former Mayor Edward I. Koch that advocates for meaningful government reform across New York State. Their mission is to put an end to corruption in Albany and reinstate the public's faith in government by offering real, honest and sensible solutions that legislators and candidates can implement, adhere to and be held accountable for executing once elected or re-elected to office. Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani and former New York State Comptroller Ned Regan are also trustees of this organization.

"Political corruption, crippling state debt, a hostile business environment, ever-increasing taxes, fees (and more on the way) are forcing families and businesses to leave our region for better opportunities elsewhere," said former Erie County Sheriff and Republican State Senate candidate Patrick Gallivan. "It's not hard to see why New Yorkers are expressing their disappointment with our elected officials. We need to bring back integrity, honesty, trust and accountability to Albany. I will stand up and represent the best interests of the citizens of the 59th Senate District as their next State Senator. It is why I am pledging my commitment to New York Uprising and their proposals."

Patrick Gallivan is the former Erie County Sheriff and a former New York State Trooper with a proven record of accountability and transparency, along with the integrity needed to clean up the mess in Albany."

Poor Richard's Internet

by John Armor

John Armor practiced First Amendment law in the US Supreme Court for 33 years and wrote this article at the behest of the [American Civil Rights Union](#).



Let's raise two questions: What would Ben Franklin think of the Internet? And, what would be his opinion of efforts by the current Administration to censor Internet content, or even [shut it down](#) in "an emergency?"

Events in Franklin's life may answer those questions. A recent two-hour TV special on him made one point that deserves repeating: Of all the Framers who created the United States of America in law and in fact, the one who would be "most at home in the modern world" was Dr. Franklin.

First, Franklin was a scientist. He observed facts in the real world. He developed theories to explain those facts. Then, he developed experiments to prove whether his theories were correct. Today, this process is called "the scientific method." Franklin would be quite at home with all modern scientists who still deal in facts and proofs, in addition to theories.

Second, Franklin was a student of communication over time and space. As Assistant Royal Postmaster, Franklin created a postal service that would get mail from New York to Boston in two days, and it turned a profit. Most importantly, his post office connected the rebels in the Committees of Correspondence in all colonies with each other, to the great benefit of the American Revolution.

Franklin also communicated effectively as the publisher of The Pennsylvania Gazette and of the very successful Poor Richard's Almanack. His post office turned both into national publications.

Lastly, he's famous for changing electricity from a parlor trick into a subject for effective scientific inquiry.

The Internet combines all three of these Franklin interests. He would be entranced by it. He would seek out those who could explain computers and the Internet. Days later, after experimenting with both, he would be back with suggestions to make the Internet faster, better, cheaper and more effective.

Franklin would recognize that the Internet is the 21st century culmination of all his efforts as a patriot, publisher and postmaster in the 18th century. Would Franklin oppose political content censorship of the Internet? He spoke and wrote against censorship. But an event from his childhood gives a solid answer. When Franklin was 13, he was still an apprentice to his older brother James. The Massachusetts government took offense to an editorial James published, in his newspaper, The New England Courant. James was jailed for one month. After his release, he was ordered not to publish his newspaper by name and with him as Editor. Therefore, James engineered a subterfuge. The Courant was now to be published by Ben Franklin, not James, even though Ben was the young apprentice.

As a printer, Franklin was well aware of three attempts by King George to control the colonial American press. The first was to forbid any presses in America unless allowed by Royal decree. This failed due to the skills of smugglers. The second was to require licensing of all existing presses. This failed due to the abilities of printers to disassemble, move and hide their presses. The last was the Stamp Act, requiring all newspapers and legal documents to be printed on paper bearing the Royal stamp, available only from the Royal Governors. There were riots; warehouses of paper were burned; and Parliament repealed this Act on the eve of the Revolution.

Lastly, on his deathbed, Franklin knew that the Constitution he worked on in Philadelphia had been ratified, and that the price of ratification was the addition of the Bill of Rights, drafted by Congressman James Madison at the demand of the states. Franklin knew that the First Amendment contained a guarantee of freedom of the press.

The whole career of Benjamin Franklin, from very young to very old, stands for the proposition that the press should be free to criticize the government – that when criticisms sting the most, they are the most essential. It follows that he would oppose any bill giving any President the

power to shut down any part of the press in a self-declared "emergency."

If old Ben were with us today, Poor Richard's Almanack would be Poor Richard's Internet. Ben would be happily publishing from his desk top to the world his opposition to all tyranny by all governments, especially tyranny over his beloved press.

The Chaos Factor

by Bill O'Reilly



With apologies to Rod Serling and his classic "Twilight Zone" TV series, there is a signpost ahead in America, and it reads, "The Chaos Zone." The firing of Gen. Stanley McChrystal is just one piece of a jumbled public policy puzzle that now threatens the presidency of Barack Obama.

Let's take it step by step. Afghanistan is going poorly because the Afghan government is corrupt and the folks distrust their leadership. So there's not great enthusiasm to fight the Taliban even though those killers are despised, as well. Also, to avoid civilian casualties, U.S. and NATO forces rarely call in air strikes and have a virtual checklist before firing at bad guys. Now, their commander has been fired because of a stupid article in Rolling Stone magazine, of all publications. Couldn't it have at least been Reader's Digest?

Back home, the oil spill continues to gush unabated. To say this situation is chaotic is understating it by miles. Recently, the Coast Guard stopped vessels from vacuuming up oil slicks in order to check out the life vest situation. Geez.

The economy may not be in chaos, but is anyone banking on it, pardon the pun? I mean, anything could happen at any time. Stocks could drop 1,000 points in a day. Is anyone in charge here?

And then there is Mexico. Chaos in Spanish is "caos." Drug cartels run entire cities, and more than 23,000 people have been murdered since President Felipe Calderon declared war on the cartels. Like the Afghans, many Mexicans despise the corruption they see all around them. And so they try to come to the United States to escape poverty and violence. The U.S. government knows all this yet will not secure the southern border, adding to the chaos on both sides of it. This has been going on for decades.

Smack in the middle of all this sits President Obama in the Oval Office. Is the oil slick his fault? Was he the cause of the dumb comments made by McChrystal and his staff? Is Mexican violence on the president? The answer to all those questions is no. Obama had nothing to do with them.

But now he does. He must clean up the oil, handle the fallout from McChrystal and stop the border madness. These things are all in motion on his watch.

The problem for the president today is one that Herbert Hoover had back in 1929. So many things are out of control that it may be impossible to round them all up. That is the chaos zone. It brought down Hoover, Jimmy Carter, Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon, to name just a few.

President Obama was slow reacting to the oil spill. He seems loath to send the National Guard to the border. Afghanistan? Who the heck knows? Same thing with the economy.

Americans like strong leadership that appears to have things under control. Anybody seen that recently?

PoliticsNY.Net: BUFFALO NEWS EDITOR SULLIVAN'S LAMENTATIONS

[Seeking a return to civility in online comments](#)



We have found that like talk radio the comments posted on blogs as a rule simply reflect the quality & opinions of the host or in the case of the Buffalo News the reporter or editor posting a commentary, etc.

“Let’s face it,” an editor said. “We’ve created a class of anonymous flamethrowers.”

True of the Buffalo News only the literati (bloggers) are not anonymous!

Almost as interesting is the same people are either calling in to a talk show or commenting on a particular blog; there really isn't a diverse body of opinion, esp. racial & ethnic.

Sullivan writes that the Buffalo News is very concerned about the quality of the comments as a result of the anonymity of the PC user rendering the comment. So the Buffalo News will require a complete background check on those wishing to comment on its various blogs. A patriot act for those who choose to comment on the News web site, an invasion of privacy to say the least.

Lest us not forget to mention a degree of censorship as well!

The problem for Sullivan is she claims the Buffalo News gets 32,000,000 visits per year or was it 36 to its web site, of course that number is ridiculous. One measure of how overstated that number is would be the number of comments on its blogs. The Buffalo News really doesn't do well on that score; the truth is very few, given the numbers the News' Sullivan claims comment on the News' blogs; maybe 1% of 1% or less.

This is true of WNY Media, etc. these sites get NO where near the traffic they claim they get & hardly NO one comments on their various blogs except the same PC users over & over again. The only quality blogger, albeit, we always disagree with Bedenko, on WNY Media is Alan Bedenko the rest are an absolute joke. Who are they anyway?

UPDATES: WNY Media's Chris Smith must have been writing about his mother in his most recent post. 90% of what he wrote certainly doesn't apply to me, just wishful thinking on his part. I believe this guy needs help! Kind of a Freud thingy! ...

"In recent weeks, you may have noticed that the number of comments which ultimately make it to our pages has declined. Well, there is a reason for that. We've taken some steps to clean up our comments section while we continue to formulate a formal policy for the next iteration of our website. Moderating offensive, racist, omniphobic, libelous, and dumb comments is just part of the job description as an editor at WNY Media. It's a tedious job, but we've continually been asked by our readers to clean up the site. Those who are respectful of others and have built up a bit of a reputation are given more leeway than those who show up and tell our writers to forcibly insert objects into their various orifices."

This statement is exactly what we are writing about! The template of WNY Media was to invite this kind of comment to attract a readership & it failed miserably. The bloggers were guilty of the same kind of malicious libel, racist nonsense that Smith is accusing others of including Smith himself. The most egregious point in Smith's blog is that WNY Media is cutting back on comments. Except for the Paladino email blog WNY Media NEVER - EVER had a significant number of comments on its blogs. Just an out & out lie. WNY Media tells YNN & WECK, et al. that their traffic numbers are real but they are not; they are as phony as pseudo intellectuals Marc Odien, Chris Smith & their pathetic crew. I have never read a blog where the bloggers were so desperate to be intelligent. Actually, its fraud if anyone is paying these characters any money based on their false claims. ...

We should mention that WNY Media's Marc Odien & Chris Smith did get their 15 seconds when they released the Paladino emails.

It is also worth stating that the Buffalo News', Jim Heaney for example (esp. with people of color), influence on the political outcomes, hard news, editorials, & blogs, in WNY are negligible at best.

The Buffalo News endorsements mean near nothing & the News' political reporter Bob McCarthy isn't taken seriously because his reports are simply a repeat of what you read on PoliticsNY.Net days, weeks, at times months in advance of the light bulb going on over McCarthy's head. Not to mention he is a "yellow journalist". He drinks to much & is just lazy.

Talk radio, blogs like WNY Media have no relevance in the real world of WNY political discourse & subsequent outcomes; they just hate everyone because it makes good fodder for a talk show & or blog.

The bottom line here is welcome to the real world of the "blogosphere" it took you long enough to catch on Margaret.

Ps. PoliticsNY.Net is not a blog. PoliticsNY.Net is a commercial political news web site. ###

[Joe Illuzzi](#)

BASS PRO



JUST SAY "NO" TO BASS PRO ###

LEGISLATURE PUSHES BACK



Governor recalls lawmakers Sunday (today) for a rare Sunday session as a clash brews. A week ago, New York lacked a final budget plan for the current fiscal year. Today, we have two of them -- along with two branches of government using two different strategies to stuff their plan down the throat of the other. See state screen

Illuzzi: We propose that the Legislature pass a surcharge of \$500 on every registered gun in NY State. Like cigarette smokers who pay a substantial tax on cigs let the gun owner pay for the clean up, the blood, on our streets. ###

NYS IS DYSFUNCTIONAL SAY VOTERS



[Poll](#)

New York State Is Dysfunctional, 83% Of Voters Say, Quinnipiac University Poll Finds; Candidates Should Pledge To Fix District Lines. ###

THE 58th & 59th NYS SENATE RACES

In political land these are the premier Senate races, at this point in time, across NYS.



UPDATE: Joe, "lets set the record straight: Senator Stachowski is running. He is not going to resign the race after his petitions are filed." ...

Here is what we know: Incumbent Bill Stachowski (D) is circulating petitions & at this point he is running for reelection. Sources say he called a meeting of his top aides last Saturday & said he is running. The other part of the Stachowski story is, sources say, if he does not improve in the polls he could resign the race after he files his petitions. If this scenario plays out Bill's Committee of Vacancies would assign the primary spot to either Assemblymen Dennis Gabryszak, Dem Chairman Lenihan's choice, or Mark Schroeder. However it is not certain whether either would give up a sure thing to run against a very popular Assemblyman Jack Quinn (R) who is way ahead in the polls. Erie County Tim Kennedy is ahead in the primary polling & has the Conservative endorsement. (Mike Kuzma (D) is in the race but who really cares, thats rhetorical. Ditto for Marc Coppola's (D) announcemet in the 61st against Senator Ranzenhofer (R)

Everyone is waiting to see what the IP does. Sources say Erie County Chair Sandy Rosenswie is waiting until after the petitions are filed, unconfirmed. Sources continue that an unnamed IP member could primary the 59th. The **RUMOR** is NYS IP Chairman Frank MacKay will rescind his permission to allow the locals to do the endorsements.

Let me make a quick point: NYS is a "fusion" state, the last, meaning all the votes are counted as a single count rather than down party lines because for instance a democrat can run on the GOP line with a cross endorsement. In non fusion states there are no cross endorsements; meaning a republican cannot run on the IP line, etc.

(In electoral fusion, the same candidate receives nomination from more than one political party and occupies more than one ballot line. Fusion was once common in the United States but is now commonly practiced only in New York State, although it is allowed by law in seven other states.)

When these polls are done the poll reflects all five party's. So when we say, for instance Quinn is way ahead in the 58th, which he is, this number reflects both the major & minor party lines; at times this point gets lost on people. They think, for instance, Kennedy will make up the difference in the general election on the Conservative & IP lines, not the case.

The 59th is a rough & tumble event! All three GOP candidates, Jim Domagalski, Pat Gallivan & Dave DiPietro showing well in the polls. Gallivan is ahead. The problem for DiPietro is he will not be able to raise much money. Gallivan is just coming off a successful fund raiser. Domagalski will have hundreds of thousands to spend on the race. We, however, do not believe money is going to decide the race. This race will depend on who knocks on the most doors, etc. A real grassroots effort will decide this outcome; if any candidate should go overly negative that will backfire in our view. Who ever wins the GOP primary in the 59th will win the seat in November.

Keep in mind the majority of the Senate is at stake & by extension redistricting (drawing lines), Albany isn't going to get into any popularity contests. The GOP Election Committee both state & senate, with the senate leadership at stake, is going to put their resources into the campaign of the person they believe will win the primary. So watch which candidate the committee is financing in the 59th, a good indicator of who is ahead in the polling.

SIDEBAR: In the 144th Assembly primary race between Democrats Councilman Joe Golombek & incumbent Sam Hoyt the race is close. While Erie County Legislator Dan Kozub looks like a primary winner in the 146th.

Buffalo News Bob McCarthy did another hit piece on the Pigeon/Golisano tandem in Wednesday's paper. This time McCarthy is quoting an obscure state AG primary candidate, Sean Coffey (D) or whatever.

Our sources, not Steve Pigeon, tell us that Tom Golisano with the possible exception of one or two races is ex officio retired from a playing key role on the NYS political scene; with all the investigations, etc, what is a Florida resident to do throw good money after bad? Which Golisano is famous for I might add, no disrespect intended. Apparently, McCarthy didn't know that fact when he wrote his vacuous article & or opinion piece. Our understanding is McCarthy, after using Golisano's name repeatedly in his column or article, didn't bother to call Golisano for comment. Typical! ###

[Joe Illuzzi](#)

Pork Lawsuit Appeal Victorious!

The Court agreed with the plaintiffs' main contention that the State may not funnel taxpayer funds through public benefit corporations such as Empire State Development Corporation to benefit private corp. like Bass Pro.



In a decision that will send shockwaves throughout New York State, the Third Department Appellate Division Thursday revived a citizens' lawsuit that seeks to outlaw billions of dollars in cash grants (Bass Pro) to private firms for alleged "economic development."

<http://decisions.courts.state.ny.us/ad3/Decisions/2010/508604.pdf>

The plaintiffs will hold a press conference to discuss the victory today (Thursday) at 5pm in front of Erie County Hall in downtown Buffalo (92 Franklin St.) and will gather at the Pearl St. Grille at 6pm to celebrate this rare victory of taxpayers over the political class.

The Court agreed with the plaintiffs' main contention that the State may not funnel its funds through public benefit corporations such as Empire State Development Corporation as a means to avoid the Constitution's ban on gifts to private firms.

The case now goes back to Supreme Court, Albany County where the defendants must file an answer. Should the plaintiffs win the case, the current practice of giving billions of dollars of tax money to private firms, many of which then kick back campaign donations to politicians, will abruptly end.

The case also has implications for New York State's chronic budget deficits since eliminating these illegal grants could possibly lead to a balanced budget.

James Ostrowski, a solo practitioner and tea party activist from Buffalo, New York, is counsel for the plaintiffs. Andrew Cuomo is the attorney for the numerous state defendants including Governor Paterson and Speaker Sheldon Silver. Cravath, Swain and Moore represented defendant IBM on appeal.

Ostrowski said his group will now file a class action suit against every municipality in the state that provides cash grants to private firms under a similar but separate clause in the state constitution.

MEET THE STATE CHAIRMEN

A PoliticsNY.Net Exclusive

NYS Democratic Chairman Jay Jacobs

JACOBS TAKES OVER DEMOCRATIC REINS SAYS BUFFALO VISIT SUCCESS

by Staff



What will Gov. Paterson do and when will he do it? Does he really intend to stick it out and run

for re-election even though his poll numbers seem below the point of resuscitation? And what about Andrew Cuomo, the extremely popular Democratic attorney general who seems ready, willing, and able to lead Democrats in next year's elections?

Those questions and many others are among the challenges facing the state's new Democratic chairman, Nassau County's Jay Jacobs who took over the party's reins in Buffalo during a two-day conference that featured Paterson, Cuomo, Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown, and Democrats from across the state hoping for party unity in next year's looming elections.

"It went really very good in Buffalo," said Jacobs during an exclusive interview with www.PoliticsNY.net. "I talked to a lot of people and I think we've set ourselves on a good course."

Asked about the biggest challenge the party faces, Gov. Paterson's sinking popularity in the face of the state's growing budget deficit and his insistence on running for re-election, Jacobs said it's too early to panic.

"I think we have a good deal more time than everybody thinks," said Jacobs. "We're not through the 2009 elections yet, so the governor has some time to make his case to the public and he's going to do that. The poll numbers today may not be the poll numbers of tomorrow," adding "Gov. Paterson is running and I support him."

That position seems to fly in the face of the conventional political wisdom--and apparently President Obama's wishes--to let Andrew Cuomo top next year's ticket to avoid a Democratic statewide meltdown with a weak Paterson leading the way. But Jacobs insists Paterson has the opportunity and time to resurrect himself and says his job is to build an organization and a strong party to take on the Republicans in 2010.

As for Cuomo, Jacobs says the attorney general's high standing in the polls is well deserved. "He's done a great job," says Jacobs, "and I supported him in 2002 [during Cuomo's battle with Carl McCall], and I was one of the few county chairmen who did and he's certainly someone I've always considered a good friend. I haven't heard anything but that he's running for re-election as attorney general, but what happens in the months ahead, I don't know," emphasizing again his support for Paterson.

On the battle for control of the State Senate, long a Republican stronghold but currently narrowly controlled by not-always-united Democrats, Jacobs says "you don't look at it [the Senate] in the aggregate, but in the target races where the parties are vulnerable. You have to be very strategic, raise the revenues, in order to fund strong races. I have been telling the [party] leadership that we had a procedural fight (a reference to the coup) in June, and now we have to demonstrate to the people that we have been fighting for them on the important issues, and we need substantive results to show that we should elect a Democrat. And I am going to try and help our leaders do that."

One Senate seat that many Democrats fear might be vulnerable next year is Bill Stachowski's in the 58th District, and Jacobs said "we know that was a tight race last time and we will have to keep a careful eye on that. We must weigh the threat and obligations of our party to protect our incumbents," saying he will be doing that as he travels the state to ready the party for next year's political battles.

Even though Democrats enjoy a roughly 5 to 3 voter enrollment edge in the state over Republicans, Jacobs cautions that "New York voters are smart, and while they have affiliation, we can't rest easy on that. Of course I would rather be us than them, but we can't leave any stone unturned."

Jacobs said he's optimistic that Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, who took over Sen. Clinton's seat when she joined by Obama cabinet, will fare well with voters next year despite her rather poor standing in the polls. "President Clinton said last week that a poll is just a snapshot of a horse race that isn't finished," said Jacobs, "and the campaign hasn't even begun. Not many voters know her but after she spends millions letting people know what she has done, her name recognition and positive poll numbers will go up dramatically."

Right now, according to Jacobs, voters only know Gillibrand through the short snippets in newspaper stories and that will all change after she gets her message out. "I don't worry about the early poll numbers," said the new chairman. "I respect them [the poll numbers] but don't overly appreciate them."

Jacobs, who has been the Nassau County Democratic chairman since 2001, says he met and talked to Mayor Byron Brown during his Buffalo visit "and I was extremely impressed by him. Very talented, tremendous potential, certainly someone who is likely to go places. One place where Brown has been mentioned as likely to go is on the ticket with Andrew Cuomo next year, providing Cuomo is the candidate at the top.

As for the two leading Republican names that have been bandied about for governor and senator, Jacobs says he doesn't think either former Mayor Rudy Giuliani or former Gov. George Pataki will risk their political legacies on races they might lose. "I have a sense that Rudy will take a long

look and decide it's not a race and I think Gov. Pataki will do the same. They are both making a ton of money in the private sector and a loss would be catastrophic to their legacies and wouldn't make sense."

The only announced Republican candidate for governor so far is former four-term Congressman Rick Lazio who has been warmly received by Conservative Party Chairman Mike Long.

Jacobs has enjoyed great success as chairman in Nassau County where Democrats, under his watch, have re-elected a Democratic majority in the legislature in 2001, 2003, 2005, and 2007, and elected a Democratic county executive, comptroller, assessor, and district attorney.

He takes over as state chairman from June O'Neill.

A PoliticsNY.Net Exclusive

NYS Republican Chairman Ed Cox

COX SAYS ALL IS WELL WITH NIAGARA COUNTY CHAIRMAN HENRY WOJTASZEK

by Staff



Ed Cox, the soon-to-be Republican state chairman, stopped in Buffalo on Wednesday, the same day former Long Island Rep. Rick Lazio was in town to pitch his candidacy to be the GOP candidate for governor next year against most likely Atty. Gen. Andrew Cuomo.

Cox, a lawyer and the son-in-law of former President Richard Nixon, met with Erie County Republican Chairman Jim Domagalski and other party faithful, including his defeated rival to lead the party, Niagara County Chairman Henry Wojtaszek who had enjoyed the support of former Mayor Rudy Giuliani, himself a possible gubernatorial candidate.

But Cox tells www.PoliticsNY.net that all is well with Wojtaszek, saying "I have Henry's full support and he is being very helpful." And Cox also had high praise for Giuliani, who had stumped hard to win the chairmanship for Wojtaszek, fueling talk that Giuliani wanted his own chairman for an expected gubernatorial run.

It was not the first time Cox had squared off against Giuliani. As chairman of John McCain's presidential campaign in New York State, Cox butted heads with the former mayor who harbored his own presidential ambitions. But on Wednesday, Cox was conciliatory.

"Mayor Giuliani would have made a great president," Cox said in a telephone interview. "But given the international situation, I felt McCain would be a little better. And secondly, I think the mayor is a wonderful asset for New York State and the Republican Party, so I wouldn't let anyone attack him during that [presidential] campaign, including the fire fighters in New York."

Cox added that he believes Giuliani "would be a great candidate and would make a great governor," adding he didn't think Giuliani's support for Wojtaszek "means that he was against me."

As for the enthusiasm of some GOP faithful to Lazio's candidacy, Cox said: "Well, when you are the only candidate out there, people get very enthusiastic. He has a lot of attractive features. He was a major J P Morgan Chase executive and that bank survived and did well during the economic recession. He [Lazio] has a certain charisma, supports a unicameral (single body) legislature. There's a lot there. But we're going to see a full field of candidates going forward."

Cox is expected to win election as state chairman next Tuesday at the GOP organizing convention in Albany when he will formally take over the party's leadership from Joe Mondello. While he would appear to face an uphill fight in rebuilding the party, Cox appears ready and willing to take on the challenge.

"I'm very excited, the opportunities to do good things for people are just tremendous," said Cox who had the clear backing of the majority of party leaders across the state, perhaps best exemplified by GOP Chairman Jay Dutcher of Ontario County who said the following about Cox: "...Ed Cox stands out as the candidate with the ability to rejuvenate the party, raise the funds, recruit the candidates and provide the support and leadership the Republican candidates across the state deserve."

So Cox will take over the helm of a party badly in need of rejuvenation, with a battle for control of the State Senate looming as well as the positions of governor and senator. And Cox was especially energized about taking on Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand who was appointed to fill out Hillary Clinton's term.

"She is very vulnerable," said Cox in describing Gillibrand as a "political chameleon without moral scruples or principles. She was a hard-core conservative [as a congresswoman] who voted for funding Acorn. Even [Sen.] Schumer voted against funding Acorn," an organization he said washes taxpayer funds for political purposes.

"She supported [Acorn] because she's concerned about the far left, especially in the New York primary process. I think taxpayers will be looking for principled candidates who will fight for the forgotten taxpayers of New York State."

Cox said that's what the party will be looking for, candidates who are dedicated to taking care of the forgotten state taxpayers who are paying more for less, feel that their jobs are being threatened, and witnesses their children leaving the state for better opportunities elsewhere. Cox included former Gov. George Pataki as one of those principled candidates who will be in the mix. The former governor and former Mayor Giuliani have both been mentioned as possible Senate candidates against Gillibrand.

So come Tuesday, the leadership of the State GOP will be in the hands of Cox, a prominent Manhattan lawyer who in 2008 was named in Super Lawyers in the area of Securities & Corporate Finance and his firm, Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLL was ranked number one in New York city and number three in the U. S. on the American Lawyer's list of elite law firms.

Cox is perhaps best known as the husband of Tricia Nixon, daughter of the late President Nixon.

A PoliticsNY.Net Exclusive

NYS Conservative Party Chairman Mike Long

LONG HOPES GOP ENDS FIGHT SOON, BOOSTS POSSIBLE LAZIO CANDIDACY

by staff



State Conservative Party Chairman Mike Long says he hopes New York Republicans settle their leadership fight soon so that the focus will be on the full slate of offices up next year, including governor, comptroller, attorney general, and two U. S. Senate seats. There's also the matter of the State Senate, controlled for so many years by Republicans but now in the tenuous grip of Democrats.

"It's their fight, not mine," said Long, the state's longest tenured chairman (20 years) in declining to comment directly on the GOP chairmanship battle between Niagara County's Henry Wojtaszek and Nixon son-in-law Ed Cox. But Long added it was his hope that Republicans will settle the matter quickly and move on to developing a strong slate of candidates for next year's important elections with the state mired deep fiscal troubles.

Long, who jokingly refers to himself as the longest running play in town, told www.PoliticsNY.net that so far, the only Republican who has approached him about the top state office next year is former four-term Congressman Rick Lazio who lost to Hillary Clinton during the 2000 Senate campaign, largely because he got too close to her during a debate in Buffalo, seen as an intimidating move by many women voters.

"We have not committed to support anyone yet," said Long, adding that the only potential candidate who has approached so far is Lazio who has made a number of appearances before Conservative Party organizations giving every indication, according to Long, that he intends to run.

"I think he [Lazio] is a bright, articulate guy who if he has the support and money could be a serious contender," said the chairman. "He's always had the Conservative Party endorsement and he ran statewide in 2000, so he certainly knows the state and he is willing to make the personal sacrifices. At some point he will leave his job, a fairly high-salaried position (Wall Street executive) and campaign for governor."

Long said Lazio shows a willingness to take on the state's deep troubles and states there is a need for change. "We have to defend the taxpayers," said Long. "People are losing their jobs, taxes and spending are out of control. I think he understands that and feels New York is worth fighting for. He also bring some vision for the future," adding there is a need to stop people from voting with their feet and leaving the state.

"I like what he's saying," said Long, adding no other person has approached him or talked about being given consideration for a gubernatorial run.

As for former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, who is backing Wojtaszek for chairman, Long said he didn't believe the 9/11 hero was planning a run.

"I heard he was saying he would decide in 30 to 60 days," said Long. "I would think if he was serious, he would be moving around. I don't believe he's considering a run for governor. A lot of people are trying to encourage him, but it doesn't appear he's going that way."

On the matter of Attorney General Andrew Cuomo, who is seen by many as the strongest potential Democratic candidate next year given Gov. Paterson's dismal poll numbers, Long said that while Cuomo did speak at a major Conservative Party event last February, he doesn't expect that Cuomo would be looking for the endorsement of the party.

The Conservative leader said he did receive a visit from Assemblyman Jack Quinn at party headquarters in New York recently who, according to Long, said he wanted to work more closely with the party going forward. Long said Quinn (R-146th District) "is possibly looking to run for higher office," but that he made no commitment to Quinn who has been mentioned as a possible challenger to Democratic State Sen. William Stachowski next year. The other possibility should Senator Dale Volker retire is Quinn will move into that district & contest for Volker's seat. However, many political observers believe that would be a critical error in judgement on Quinn's part for reasons that will surface in the near future.

"Right now, I'm involved in the 23rd District congressional race," said Long, "We're going to support a conservative Republican when the seat becomes vacant later this year, with a special election possible in November. Maybe we can pull off a mini-Jim Buckley race and win a three-way contest." Long said the Conservative Party will support Doug Hoffman in the 23rd which covers mainly the north country, including Watertown.

As for the current state of the Conservative Party in New York, Long said the policies of Gov. Paterson in Albany and of President Obama in Washington are giving life to conservative policies.

"We [the party] have had our ups and downs, but I think with what's happening in New York and Washington with Paterson and Obama we're seeing a spike in support of conservative policies and a growth of the party," said the long-time leader.

A PoliticsNY.Net Exclusive

NYS INDEPENDENCE PARTY CHAIRMAN FRANK MACKAY

IP SETS GOAL OF 500,000 VOTERS

by Staff



The state Independence Party, the third line on the election ballot, is not focusing on next year's gubernatorial election, at least not yet.

That's the word from Chairman Frank MacKay (Suffolk County) who tells www.PoliticsNY.net that the focus right now is on party building. MacKay was doing just that while chatting on the phone

from his car while traveling in Columbia County after a stop in Albany County, as the party seeks to expand its registered membership from the roughly 412,000 voters it has right now.

"That's the largest third party in the history of the U. S.," says MacKay, "and we're on the path toward 500,000, and that's certainly a goal of ours and it is within reach. When it does [reach 500,000], then we'll celebrate."

In this space recently (scroll down) , state Conservative Party Chairman Mike Long signaled the party was warm to the expected gubernatorial run of former Rep. Rick Lazio, who is expected to get into the race shortly. Meanwhile, President Obama is sending signals to New York Gov. David Paterson that he should not seek election next year, obviously recognizing Paterson's dismal poll numbers and the fear that Paterson at the top of the ticket could hurt Democratic candidates in numerous key races. Obama appears to favor Andrew Cuomo, as the attorney general enjoys very high standing among voters.

"It's early on the governor's race," says MacKay. "We don't endorse until we know who is in the game. We'll make our decision after we find out who is running and who is being endorsed. Paterson is a friend, as is Andrew and Rudy Giuliani. Also, Rick Lazio. All types of people. But we always go last."

Make no mistake about Chairman MacKay's allegiance to billionaire Sabres owner Tom Golisano and his top political adviser, Steve Pigeon, both of whom will most certainly have a lot to say about the party's candidate for governor next year.

"Tom Golisano is the founder of our party, and without him we wouldn't be here," says MacKay. "Our respect is never ending. Steve and Tom are very close, and certainly Steve is an ally and a friend," adding Pigeon's voice will have a great deal of influence with party leaders.

It is clear that MacKay is also hoping for harmony in Erie County, a place that he refers to as "Beirut on the Lake" because of the many party squabbles over the year. MacKay also had kind words for former Chairman Tony Orsini, still a state party vice chairman who seems to have retired to his Springville home following his tumultuous run as the local party's top guy. "We like Tony and we respect him," says MacKay, but he clearly notes the chairman is now Sandy Rosenswie and he's obviously hoping that Erie County will no longer set the bar in the state for rough and tumble politics and will enjoy a period of relative tranquility.

But MacKay says his focus right now continues to be party building and he's urging everyone to test the waters, with more and more candidates coming over, being independent rather than being Democrat or Republican. And he's also pushing hard to bring party unity to the fore, saying "yesterday's enemies can become our friends today."

MacKay, who has led the Independence Party at the state level since early 2000, usually makes three or four trips a year to Erie County, and while he couldn't say for sure when he will make his next visit, he said it would certainly be in the near future.

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