

"I kept saying, 'I think his nose was bigger than that.'"

Judy O'Bannon to a crowd after the bust of her husband, Frank O'Bannon, was unveiled



AP PHOTO

Former first lady Judy O'Bannon examines the bust of her late husband, Gov. Frank O'Bannon, at the Statehouse in Indianapolis on Monday.

Statue of O'Bannon unveiled at Statehouse

By MIKE SMITH
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS

Frank O'Bannon spent more than three decades at the Statehouse, carving out a reputation as a down-home Democrat who valued teamwork and friendship.

More than 300 people cheered that legacy Monday as a bronze bust of the late governor was unveiled during a festive ceremony at the Statehouse.

Former first lady Judy O'Bannon said the bust, which will be displayed in an enclave outside the state Senate chamber, was a fitting tribute to a man who "was committed to government, to making a community work with everyone involved."

O'Bannon died during his second term as governor in September 2003 after suffering a massive stroke. He was 73. He had served 18 years in the state Senate, eight more as lieutenant governor, and won the first of his two terms as governor in 1996.

Ken Ryden, a professor of art at Anderson University who completed the privately funded bust, said he wanted it to please family and friends but also inspire those who did not know O'Bannon to learn more about his life.

The bust has O'Bannon in a suit and tie, and it features his large, bent nose. Judy O'Bannon said she encouraged Ryden to capture the nose as it was.

"I kept saying, 'I think his nose was bigger than that,'" she said, drawing laughter from the crowd. "He didn't have a big enough nose."

But it was O'Bannon's personal and political character that several speakers, including former Gov. Joe Kernan, Gov. Mitch Daniels and former O'Bannon chief of staff Tom New, recalled during the hour-long ceremony.

They talked of his love for Indiana and dedication to public service, his ability to forge compromise, and his belief in teamwork. They also remembered him as one who spread friendship and warmth throughout his life.

Daniels cited an adage that "friends are family you make for yourself, and by that definition, Frank O'Bannon will have the largest family we ever know of."

Kernan, who served as lieutenant governor under O'Bannon until succeeding him following his death, said his friend and political partner was a "gentleman from soul to crown and never met a stranger."

He said the bust could be an inspiration, much like the "play like a champion today" signs that athletes at Kernan's alma mater, the University of Notre Dame, touch before taking the field.

"As you're walking by, it's not a bad idea to give it a touch and to remind yourselves to play like a Hoosier today, because that is what Frank O'Bannon would want all of us to do and all of us take from his extraordinary example that he gave to each and every one of us that call Indiana home," Kernan said.

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Closely split chamber unlikely to raise taxes

Daniels fighting for new, local taxing options

By MIKE SMITH
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS

In his State of the State speech last month, Gov. Mitch Daniels said the days of top-down control of local affairs by state government had run their course.

"As I did last year, I call on the General Assembly to liberate localities to raise funds from sources other than the overused and unfair property tax," Daniels said.

ANALYSIS

But just like last year, the GOP-controlled House is not heeding his call and it appears the Republican governor is whiffing toward strike two.

The GOP-controlled Senate passed legislation last year that would have provided new local income tax options to help fund spending for counties, schools and cities and towns, instead of relying on property taxes. The proposal went nowhere in the House.

Daniels detailed a plan earlier this session that would allow counties to adopt new income taxes, sales taxes, restaurant and hotel taxes as long as 80 percent of the

revenue went toward property tax relief. It never got a hearing in the House.

The Indiana Association of Cities and Towns spent months developing a plan that would give counties and cities and towns new tax alternatives. Many of the jurisdictions would have had to use a portion of the revenue to cut property taxes or offset increases. It got a hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee, but no vote. So that's where it stopped.

The House did pass a bill that would provide some property tax relief to homeowners this year, and some modest relief in future years, but it did not include new taxing options.

House Speaker Brian Bosma, R-Indianapolis, has said there prob-

ably is not enough time in a short session to provide long-term options.

The House voted 97-1 for an amendment that calls for elimination of property taxes after 2008, but the provision said nothing about how schools and local governments would make up the \$5 billion in annual revenue.

It was dismissed as an empty promise by some senators.

"I could do what the House has done and respond in kind. I could abolish death and put that in the bill and we would have something that both abolishes death and taxes," quipped Senate Tax Chairman Luke Kenley, R-Noblesville.

Proponents for new, local taxing options, including Daniels, Kenley and IACT, say they have not given

up. There is still half a session left.

Kenley allowed IACT to promote its plan before his committee last week, and he floated a plan of his own. He didn't take a vote on either proposal, and does not intend to pursue that or another plan unless House leaders show a willingness to consider the issue.

The issue may remain irrelevant in the House, and politics might be a major reason for it.

The House has been closely divided for years, and Republicans have just a 52-48 majority going into November when all 100 seats will again be on the ballot.

Do you think either party in the House wants to go into the next election having voted for anything that could be viewed as a tax increase?

Sallie Mae: Muncie center would add 700 jobs

The Associated Press

MUNCIE

Student loan provider Sallie Mae plans to open a center in the city that would create an estimated 700 jobs over three years, officials said Monday.

"Today's job announcement is the largest here in 20 years and means that our high school and college graduates can choose a career with a Fortune 500 company right here in Muncie," Muncie Mayor Dan Canan said.

Canan and Sallie Mae CEO Tim Fitzpatrick Monday signed a letter of intent allowing the company to lease a 54,000-square-foot building at the Muncie Airpark for 10 years, then buy it, according to a news release from the



AP PHOTO

Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels announced 700 new jobs were being created by Sallie Mae on Monday in Muncie. Sallie Mae, a student loan provider, plans to open a debt-collection operation in late fall 2006.

office of Gov. Mitch Daniels. Muncie workers would focus on student loan default prevention,

which is performed by subsidiaries in the company's debt management division.

Hiring will begin as early as August, the news release said.

Up to 300 jobs would be available within the first year, and the company planned to fill 200 jobs in each of the next two years, bringing the total to 700 by 2008.

"I've been talking to Sallie Mae and am delighted they chose Muncie as a place for this great new investment," Daniels said in a statement. "We showed them several options, and Muncie really stepped up."

Sallie Mae is one of the nation's top student loan providers. The new jobs will bring the company's employment in Indiana to more than 3,000. One of the company's four loan serving centers is based in Fishers, north of Indianapolis.

Potential workers would need at least a high school education and communication and analytical skills, the company said.

Sallie Mae primarily provides federal and private student loans, including consolidation loans, for undergraduate and graduate students and their parents.

It owns or manages student loans for 8 million borrowers, and employs 10,000 at offices nationwide, according to the company's Web site.

Sallie Mae was originally created in 1972 as a government-sponsored entity.

The company began privatizing its operations in 1997, a process it completed at the end of 2004, and is listed on both the Fortune 500 and the Forbes 500.

State police report meth labs are slowly decreasing in Indiana

The Associated Press

FORT WAYNE

Authorities seized fewer methamphetamine labs in Indiana in 2005 than 2004, a sign that more aggressive enforcement and tougher sentencing might be making a dent in the production of the addictive drug, Indiana State Police said.

State police and other agencies seized at least 1,300 of the makeshift labs in 2005, according to 1st Sgt. Lori Petro, coordinator of the

state police's Methamphetamine Suppression Unit. In 2004, police busted 1,549 labs.

Recent restrictions on the common ingredients in meth, such as the farm chemical anhydrous ammonia and products containing pseudoephedrine and ephedrine, have also aided the fight, Petro said.

Even so, methamphetamine remains a pervasive problem. Only five counties in Indiana did

not have any labs seized in 2005. In 1995, only five labs were seized in all of Indiana, state police said.

Vigo County, in central Indiana on the border with Illinois, again led the state in the number of busts with 83, down from the 166 in 2004.

The Methamphetamine Protection Act has played a big role, Petro said. The law went into effect in July and restricts the sale of medications containing pseudoephedrine or ephedrine. Those medicines can be sold only to people 18

or older, and purchasers must present photo identification and sign a log book. Also, no one may purchase more than 100 tablets of ephedrine or pseudoephedrine products per week.

Although paper logs can be tedious to check, they are effective when law enforcement officials monitor their contents, Petro said.

"I think the log has a lot to do with it," she said. "Those guys have been checking them down there."

Noble County in northeast Indiana had 47 busts last year, a drop from 69 in 2004, when the county tied for third most in the state. Noble County Sheriff Gary Leatherman credits an increased number of tips and other intelligence among agencies.

"Sooner or later, you're going to make a dent," Leatherman said. But law enforcement officials cannot rest easy, he said.

"Are we winning the battle? I don't know," he said. "I'd say the jury's still out on that."

Northeast digs out from record snowfall; travelers stranded

By ROGER PETTERSON
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Drivers shoveled out their cars, marooned travelers waited impatiently for trains and planes to get back to full service, and utility crews struggled to restore power Monday after a record-breaking weekend snowstorm across the Northeast.

Most highways were in good shape for the morning commute, though many city streets and sidewalks were still snow-packed and slippery.

Hundreds of schools canceled classes from West Virginia to Massachusetts, but youngsters did not get a holiday in New York City, where subways continued running and major streets had been plowed despite a record-breaking 26.9-inch snowfall.

The storm blanketed the East Coast from Maine to the mountains of western North Carolina, where Robbinsville get 20 inches of snow and a scenic highway remained closed Monday by 6-foot drifts.

Airlines worked to catch up after canceling hundreds of weekend flights at major airports from Washington to Boston, stranding travelers across the country.

All three major New York-area airports — Kennedy, LaGuardia and Newark — had reopened with limited service by Monday morning.

Amtrak still had numerous



AP PHOTO

A woman emerges from a subway station at Times Square in New York on Monday. The Northeast spent Monday slowly recovering from a record-breaking storm that dumped 2 feet or more of snow.

storm-related schedule changes.

Some passengers were stranded Sunday on the Long Island Rail Road east of New York City, where trains got stuck on snow-covered tracks.

The storm also knocked out power across parts of the Northeast, most severely in Maryland, where utilities said more than 48,000 homes and businesses still had no power Monday.

About 16,000 customers lost power Sunday in New Jersey, but almost all of them had electricity again on Monday.



Your Dental HEALTH

by Philip J. Mirise, D.D.S.
www.cedarlanefamilydentistry.com

TREATING GUM DISEASE

For most adults, gum disease presents a greater potential than tooth decay for tooth loss. With this in mind, dentists recommend that patients floss daily to remove the bacteria-laden plaque that sticks to teeth. Otherwise, the gums may become swollen and inflamed, which are usually the first indicators of gum problems. Regular professional dental cleaning can help remove built-up plaque that causes inflammation. Without these regular cleanings, plaque may harden into a substance called tartar (calculus), which requires "scaling" for its removal. This procedure involves using sharp instruments to scrape away tartar deposits below the gumline. In the event that gum disease progresses

beyond the ability of scaling to remove tartar, "flap surgery" may be necessary.

With proper care, gum disease can often be prevented. Even if it does start, it can usually be treated and arrested if you catch it in the early stages. At CEDAR LANE FAMILY DENTISTRY, we can perform many procedures to enhance your smile, your self-esteem, and your personal success. We invite you to call 736-7476 to schedule an appointment for experienced and comprehensive dentistry. We're located at 850 Cedar Lane, where we provide the very best care with state-of-the-art technology. If you don't have a dentist at this time, we're currently accepting new patients.

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