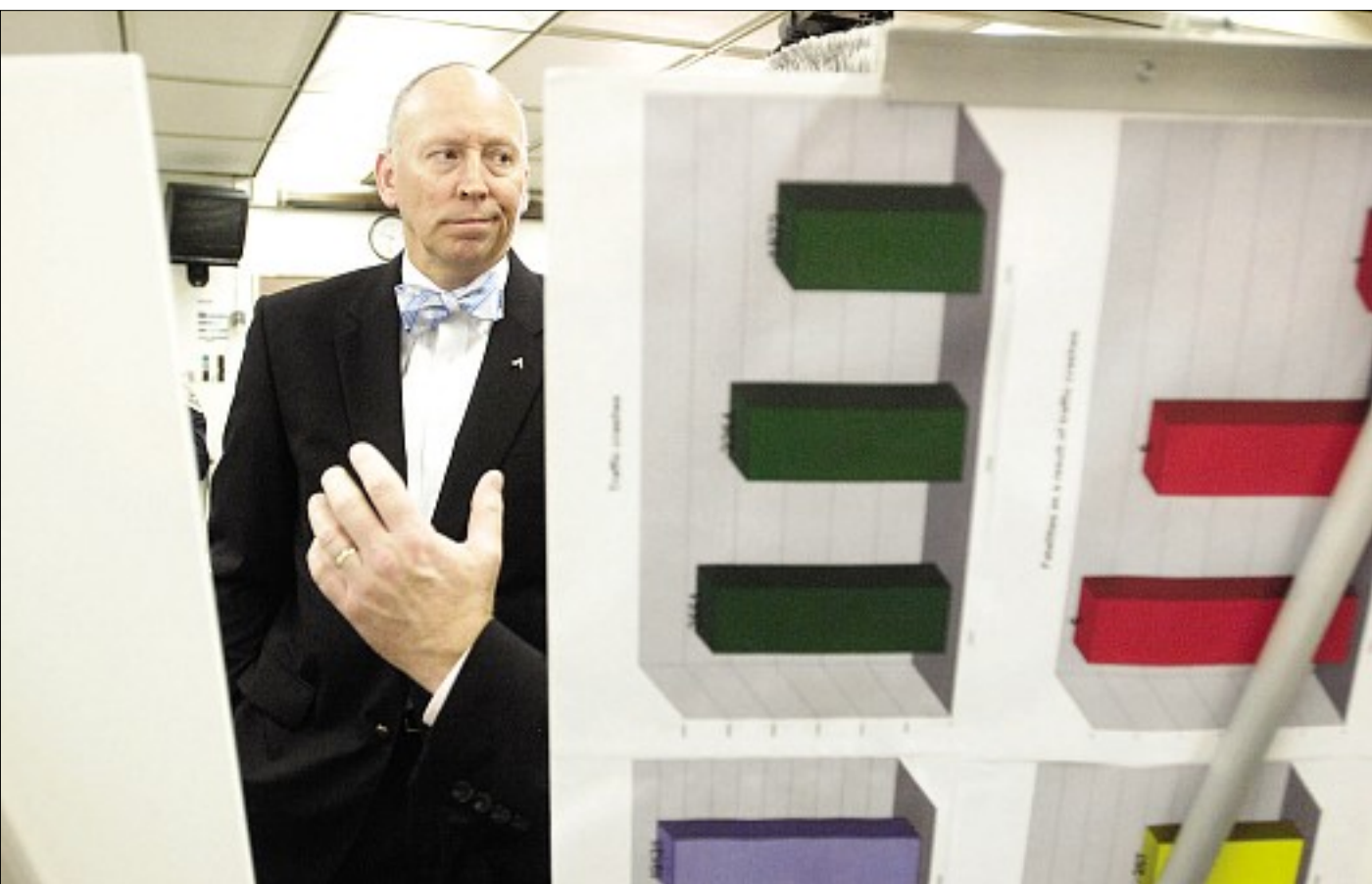




The Elkhart Truth

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2010 • 50¢ eTruth WE BUILD COMMUNITY • 121ST YEAR, NO. 70

Police tout lower crime figures as enforcement gets stronger



Truth Photo By Jennifer Shephard

Mike Harmless talks with Andy Jones, not seen, as they look over charts and statistics following a press conference that provided a midterm report detailing Elkhart's recent crime statistics Wednesday.

Elkhart's leaders unveil new data that show what they say are the fruits of the policies they've implemented since taking office in early 2008.

BY EMILY MONACELLI emonacelli@etruth.com

ELKHART — Steve Williams said he's seen a difference in the way Elkhart police have cracked down on night-time crime.

"I think they're doing a great job, an excellent job," Williams, an Elkhart resident, said. "It's been a lot quieter at night."

Those results coincide with Mayor Dick Moore's effort to make Elkhart a cleaner, quieter, safer city when he took office in 2008. In the past two years, noise ordinance citations and traffic stop numbers have risen while violent crimes are down, according to the city's crime stats that Moore and police officials released at a press conference Wednesday.

According to the numbers, noise ordinance citations are up from 710 tickets in 2008 to more than 1,100 in 2009, reflecting the department's effort to enforce the ordinance.

Traffic stops have increased roughly from 11,000 in 2008 to 19,000 in 2009. Violent crimes, including rapes and robberies, decreased from 4,400 reported crimes in 2008 to 3,000 in 2009, reflecting a national trend. Nonviolent crimes—including shoplifting and driving under the influence—decreased from

ELKHART POLICE DEPARTMENT CRIME STATISTICS

- Noise ordinance citations are up from 710 tickets in 2008 to 1,131 in 2009
- Traffic stops increased from 11,091 in 2008 to 19,131 in 2009
- Violent crimes, including rapes and robberies, decreased from 4,400 to 3,093 in 2009.
- Nonviolent crimes, including driving under the influence and shoplifting, decreased from 4,600 reported crimes in 2007 to 2,832 crimes in 2009.

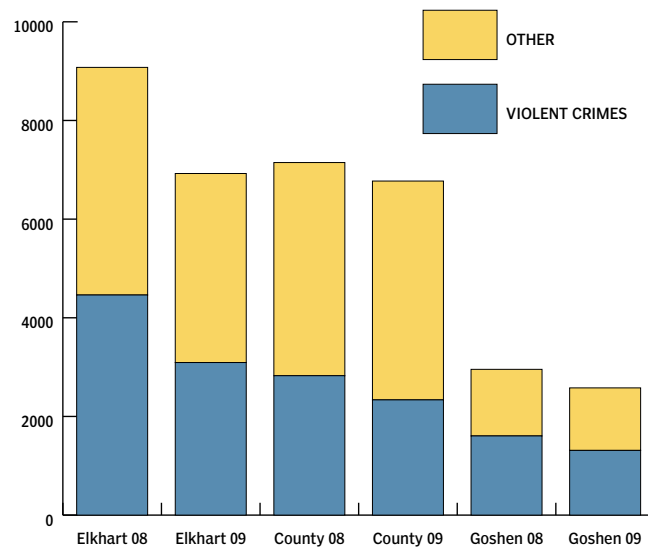
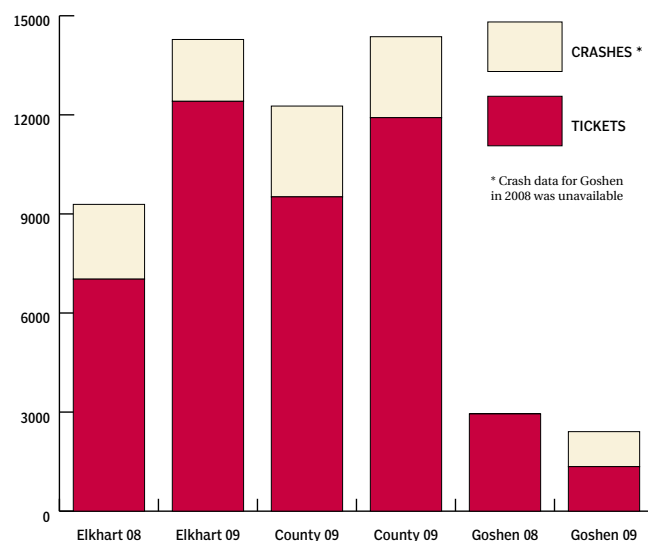
Source: Elkhart Police Department

eVIDEO FROM THE PRESS CONFERENCE Mayor Dick Moore and police officials describe successes over the last two years. etruth.com/know

4,600 reported crimes in 2008 to 2,800 in 2009.

Nonviolent crimes in 2008

Please see **CRIME, A2**



Official definitions: **Part 1 — violent crimes:** felony battery, rape, murder, robbery, arson, burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft; **Part 2 — other crimes:** battery, curfew offenses, loitering, embezzlement, forgery, counterfeiting, disorderly conduct, DUI, most drug offenses, fraud, gambling, liquor, offenses against family, prostitution, public drunkenness, runaways, sex offenses, stolen property, vandalism, vagrancy, and weapon offenses

Please see **PRIMARY, A2**

Elkhart still tops Indiana jobless

BY MARILYN ODENDAHL modendahl@etruth.com

ELKHART — Being No. 1 is not always cause for celebration.

For all of 2009, the city of Elkhart ranked first among all Indiana municipalities with the highest unemployment rate. Now in a new year, the community is maintaining its dubious position.

JOB SPENDING AND JOB LOSS

Indiana's January jobless rate held steady at 9.7 percent. **A5**

January jobless figures released Wednesday from the Indiana Department of Workforce Development show 17.2 percent of Elkhart residents were out of work, virtually the same as in December. While the city's unemployment dropped last year, it spent the winter and spring hovering between 19 percent and 20 percent then slipped into about 18.8 percent for the summer.

Senate passes a \$150 billion package intended to help jobless people go back to work. **C1**

Why the City With a Heart has become the state capital of unemployment is dif-

Please see **JOBLESS, A2**

'Pot' meth lab explodes in the hand of a suspect as police arrive

Truth Staff

ELKHART — Three people will be charged in connection with a small meth manufacturing explosion Tuesday night at a home in Elkhart, according to the Elkhart County Sheriff's Department.

Philip Hartsough, 30, of Goshen; Erika Bruner, 20, of Cromwell; and Andre Melfi, 38, of Elkhart face preliminary charges of manufacturing methamphetamine.

Police went to 1031 Evans St. just after 10:30 p.m. on a tip meth was being made at the home.

Less than a minute after officers arrived, police said they heard a noise and saw people running.

Hartsough apparently was holding a one-pot meth lab which exploded, burning



Bruner



Hartsough



Melfi

Please see **METH, A2**

Two months before the primary, one GOP hopeful has been shut out of Congress race

The 2nd Congressional District GOP endorses State Rep. Jackie Walorski, but lifelong Republican Jack Jordan can't get party officials to return his phone calls.

BY JOSH WEINHOLD jweinhold@etruth.com

As one Republican congressional candidate picks up a string of endorsements, another party hopeful is feeling left out in the cold.

State Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-Elkhart, seeking the GOP nomination to challenge U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly, was endorsed by the 2nd Congressional

District Republican Party and several county party chairmen at a recent meeting.

But the man who may be Walorski's most prominent challenger, Jack Jordan, R-Bremen, told *The Elkhart Truth* Wednesday that his own party didn't give him a chance to be heard.

District and county party leaders won't return his calls or e-mails, he said, and he hasn't been invited to several "meet the candidates" events. For a lifelong Republican, Jordan said his first foray into party politics has been frustrating.

"To be treated like this is just disappointing," the

Please see **PRIMARY, A2**

Almost six years after he was left in a vegetative state by a riptide, a young man has died

BY JODI MAGALLANES jmagallanes@etruth.com

ELKHART — A local man who survived an accident at Lake Michigan in 2004 has died.

Juan Contreras — "Juanito" to his family — died at the home of his sister and brother on Monday. The three came to live together after the accident, with Norma Pargo and Guillermo Contreras

providing around-the clock care for the nearly brain-dead young man.

Juan had reportedly been standing in the waters of Lake Michigan, near Washington Park Beach in Michigan City, when a rip current pulled him deeper into the lake. He suffered brain

Please see **RIPTIDE, A2**



Advice D4-D5 Extra C1 Sports B Classified C3-C8 Movies..... D8 Stocks C2 Comics D4-D5 Obituaries.... A6-A7 Sudoku C8 Crossword C4 Opinion..... A4 Television D8

60° 41° Cloudy, breezy and rainy. More weather, B7

COMING TOMORROW

DARWIN'S F: Homeschool parents note a lack of balance in some science texts. LIFE, D1