

Marsh slashes staff, will shutter stores

Hoosier firm says sweeping plan will save \$12M

By ASHLEY M. HEHER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS

Marsh Supermarkets will close nine stores amid a massive corporate restructuring expected to save the 75-year-old company \$12 million.

The Indianapolis-based grocery chain said Wednesday that by the end of the month it would close a Marsh supermarket in Fort Wayne, a Savin\$ store in Muncie, six Village Pantry convenience stores and a Noblesville restaurant.

Also Wednesday, the board of directors removed the grocery chain's president David Marsh, replacing him with his uncle, William Marsh.

The board also decided to lay off 25 employees at the company's headquarters, including executive president Arthur Marsh, vice president Don Marsh Jr., and senior vice president Joseph Heerens.

Arthur, Don and David are sons of Don Marsh, the compa-

"These efforts will require sacrifices at many levels."

Marsh board of directors
In a statement about a series of job cuts and store closings

ny's long-time chief executive. Heerens is Don Marsh's son-in-law, said Marsh spokeswoman Myra Borshoff Cook.

"This is a time when the company's management needs to focus their efforts on restructuring the company's operations, reducing costs and improving profitability," the 10-member board of directors said in a statement. "We recognize that these efforts will require sacrifices at many levels, and it is important the company's management lead the way."

Closing the Fort Wayne Marsh and the Muncie Savin\$ store will affect about 115 employees. Workers at the Village Pantry locations in Anderson and Indianapolis and employees at the Trios Di Tuscanos restaurant will be reassigned, Cook said.

The reductions were expected to save the financially struggling grocer \$12 million but will also lead to a fourth-quarter charge of between \$5.8 million and \$6.8 million, as well as future cash expenditures of up to \$10 million related to future lease payments.

In late November, the company said it was studying a possible sale of the company amid lackluster earnings as it lost \$3.4 million during its most recent quarter. The following month, the company's chief financial officer resigned over disagreements with other executives over the company's operations.

Marsh operates 70 Marsh grocery stores, 38 LoBill Foods stores, eight O'Malia Food Markets and 160 Village Pantry convenience stores in Indiana and western Ohio.

AT THE STATEHOUSE: 2006 GENERAL ASSEMBLY



The parents of murder victim Kelly Eckart, left, are strong supporters of a bill that would allow the family members of victims to watch murderers' executions.

Measure would fine those who send junk fax messages

By DEANNA MARTIN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS

Companies that send out junk faxes — including ones offering hot stock tips or too-good-to-be-true vacation deals — would face new fines if a bill that cleared a Senate committee Wednesday becomes law.

The legislation would prohibit advertising services or products through a fax unless the sender has an existing business relationship with the person they are faxing to, or if the person gives them permission to send the fax. The Senate Judiciary unanimously advanced the bill, which would mirror federal junk fax laws.

Unlike Indiana's telephone do-not-call list, people and businesses are automatically covered by the bill and would not have to sign up to stop receiving unwanted faxes.

It would allow the state attorney general to go after senders of unwanted faxes, with a fine of up to \$1,500 per violation.

Currently, the attorney general's office can prosecute junk fax senders, but only in federal court, where such cases are not always a top priority. The bill would allow the office to use Indiana courts to prosecute unsolicited fax cases.

Bill sponsor Rep. Michael Murphy, R-Indianapolis, said the legislation could have the same

"It has a tangible cost — the paper, the ink, the use of the machine ..."

Steve Carter
Indiana attorney general
on annoying junk faxes

effect as the do-not-call list.

"We were able to spare most Hoosiers from unwanted, harassing telephone calls," Murphy said. "This, I guess, might be considered act two."

Attorney General Steve Carter said junk faxes can be more than just an annoyance.

"It has a tangible cost — the paper, the ink, the use of the machine, the tying up of the phone line," Carter said. "The most ironic one I think I came across was someone promoting good deals on ink for fax machines, with the idea that they're using up people's ink and burning out their cartridges so they have to buy more."

Unwanted faxes are sent to both businesses and homes. Carter said one Indiana resident complained to his office after he was awakened by junk faxes coming into his home machine in the middle of the night.

Carter said although not many people buy the products advertised in such faxes, that doesn't stop people from sending them.

Execution bill clears hurdle at statehouse

By MIKE SMITH
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS

A bill that would allow relatives of murder victims to witness the execution of those convicted of the crime gained traction in the Indiana House on Wednesday.

The House Courts and Criminal Code Committee endorsed the bill 7-1 and sent it to the full House. It already had won overwhelming approval in the Senate.

Under current law, family members of victims are not allowed to witness executions without permission from the inmate who will be put to death. The inmate is allowed to choose up to 10 people to watch the execution.

There have been times when a condemned prisoner allows relatives of the victim or victims to view the execution, but that is entirely up to the inmate.

Sen. Thomas Wyss, R-Fort Wayne, told the committee Wednesday that he learned about the current law during a tour of the Indiana State Prison in Michigan City, where death row inmates are held and executions are carried out. He said he was surprised that relatives of murder victims needed permission from the inmate to view executions.

"This bill says they will not be victimized a second time," Wyss said.

The legislation would allow up to eight adult members of a murder victim's family to witness an execution, and the inmate could select five other witnesses instead of the 10 allowed now. The Department of Correction plans to install a partition to separate the viewing room into two areas if the bill becomes law.

Rep. Trent Van Haften, D-Mount Vernon, asked Wyss whether his bill was a move toward public executions.

Wyss said it was not and he also did not look at it as revenge. It was simply about the state showing families that it was sympathetic about their loss, he said.

Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the Indiana Catholic Conference, testified against the bill, saying it indirectly supported a cycle of violence and would not help victims' relatives achieve closure.

"Anger does not bring healing and peace of heart," he said.

Rep. Greg Porter, D-Indianapolis, was the lone committee member who voted against the bill. He said he did so because he opposed capital punishment.



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Roncalli Salutes Award Winning Student of the Year Rebecca Bodnar



Roncalli High School senior Rebecca Bodnar was recently honored by the Learning Disabilities Association of Indiana with the Outstanding Student of the Year Award. Each school in the state of Indiana is allowed to nominate one student who has overcome a learning disability to achieve academic success. Bodnar was chosen as this year's top student from nominees throughout the state. Bodnar received her award at a luncheon held at the Learning Disabilities Association State Conference in November. Congratulations to Rebecca and her parents David and Christine.

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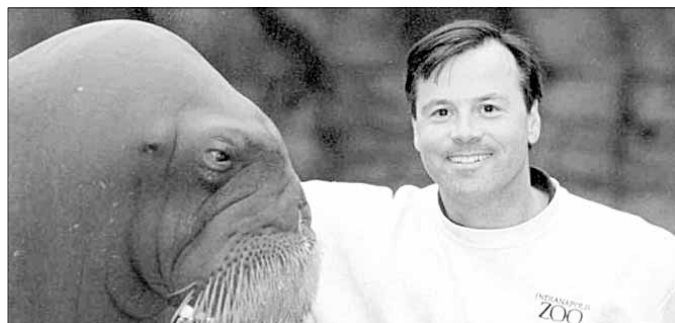
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