

# TROJANS PICK UP WIN AGAINST BEN DAVIS



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# WEEKEND

FIVE TIPS ON HOME DÉCOR

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# DEADLINE PASSES FOR JOURNALIST

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# PACERS GO FOR SECOND STRAIGHT

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# DAILY JOURNAL

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SATURDAY-SUNDAY, JANUARY 21-22, 2006

Johnson County, Indiana

\$1.00

**WEATHER**



**Today**  
Skies: Cloudy, flurries  
Temps: High 46; low 27

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**WHODUNIT?**

**No sign of an answer about signs of support**

The mystery goes on. Students, teachers and community members still wonder who put up signs supporting Franklin Community High School principal Leighton Turner.



And those responsible aren't talking. On Jan. 9, the school board voted to reassign Turner to assistant principal at the school starting July 1.

Five signs supporting Turner were put up around the city between midnight and 6 a.m. Thursday.

A letter dropped off to the Daily Journal on Friday was signed the "Who Done It Staff," indicating the group wishes to remain a mystery for now.

The end of the letter said, "Wake up and speak your mind! It's time, Franklin, to help a person (who) has given our children so much!"

Turner said students and faculty talked about the signs Friday, but he had not heard who might be responsible for putting them up.

"Nobody's slipping, and everyone is keeping very quiet," Turner said. "I can't share a thing, not even a guess."

Student council president Ryan Waggoner said Friday that he didn't know who was responsible for putting up the signs.

"About 5 million people have asked me, but we're all still in the dark," the senior said.

**DEATHS**

**Greenwood**  
Frances M. Brunner, 81  
Bessie G. Carlyle Martin, 94  
**Elsewhere**  
Shelby Andrew Hopper, 10  
Jennifer L. Shake Visconti, 42

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY

# ABCs of state legislature

Lawmakers are considering proposals that would affect when children take tests, how teachers are paid and how tax dollars are spent on education.



**Beyond desks and tests**  
Teacher Julie Hardig and students Ashley Flynn and Michael Bischoff work on a project at Whiteland Elementary School.



## MOVING ISTEP

Proposal

Would move the annual state standardized test to the spring of each school year beginning after June 30, 2007. Currently the test is given each September.

### What they said

"I worry that instead of focusing on the best teaching practices through the year, it would be easy to get sidelined and say we need to get kids ready for a specific test and lose learning as our goal and make testing even a greater goal."  
**William Patterson**  
Franklin superintendent

Teachers could see how their teaching affected students, but results may be so late that the information won't do teachers any good.  
**Julie Hardig**  
Fourth-grade teacher at Whiteland Elementary School

Testing at the end of the year gives teachers better information about how well they did teaching.  
**Rebecca Sager**  
Edinburgh superintendent

By getting results in December, teachers have an entire semester to make adjustments and work with students. Current testing date also gives teachers time to make sure kids who need summer school get referred to the program.  
**J.T. Coopman**  
Clark-Pleasant superintendent

Would love to see it moved to spring so kids don't return to school in August to a month of nothing but ISTEP preparation.  
**Kim Weeks**  
Parent of Center Grove students

Would prefer to keep testing in the fall because educators are now proficient at using the data and can quickly begin remediation.  
**Vickie Noblitt**  
Greenwood Middle School principal



## EVALUATING TEACHERS

Proposal

Would use ISTEP test scores as one of several criteria in evaluating the performance of teachers and administrators.

### What they said

"Will they look at how much (students) grew from when I got them or will I be responsible for getting them to pass the fourth-grade test when they're only at a second-grade skill level? I could have a student that grows two grade levels in reading; but if they still aren't on a fourth-grade level, am I a failing teacher?"  
**Julie Hardig**  
Fourth-grade teacher at Whiteland Elementary

Would support tying scores to evaluations, but the scores should not be the only or even the predominant factor. "We should use it as one piece."  
**Rebecca Sager**  
Edinburgh superintendent

"How many businesses take one week of business and equate that to the success of their company when they're in business 52 weeks a year? It is a barometer, but not the sole thing."  
**J.T. Coopman**  
Clark-Pleasant superintendent

"Our English and math teachers are the first people who want their hands on those scores, and they really take it to heart if their kids weren't successful."  
**Vickie Noblitt**  
Greenwood Middle School principal



## ALL-DAY KINDERGARTEN

Proposal

Money received under the tax amnesty program would be used to provide full-day kindergarten grants to selected schools.

### What they said

Would be thrilled if the state would start by making kindergarten a requirement.  
**William Patterson**  
Franklin superintendent

Would like to see it as an option for parents who work or have older children.  
**Kim Weeks**  
Center Grove parent

Research shows making sure students have skills early on improves their performance in school.  
**Vickie Noblitt**  
Greenwood Middle School principal

Edinburgh already has full-day kindergarten and supports it, but would always appreciate more funding for the program.  
**Rebecca Sager**  
Edinburgh superintendent



## SHARING RESOURCES

Proposal

Would allow schools to consolidate purchases for buses, fuel, textbooks and utilities and share some administrative work. The goal is to spend more money on instruction.

### What they said

Clark-Pleasant and most schools around the state already do bulk buying and work together to buy natural gas, diesel and food.  
**J.T. Coopman**  
Clark-Pleasant superintendent

Wouldn't want to order textbooks with other districts because of different needs.  
**William Patterson**  
Franklin superintendent

Schools already do much of what the governor is suggesting.  
**J.T. Coopman**  
Clark-Pleasant superintendent

Most districts belong to service centers that buy supplies in bulk, but more is possible.  
**Rebecca Sager**  
Edinburgh superintendent

High schools could pool resources to offer advance placement courses.  
**William Patterson**  
Franklin superintendent

Franklin uses a service center. The board has committed to study more ways to collaborate with other districts to save money.  
**William Patterson**  
Franklin superintendent



Rebecca Sager



**Bulk discount**  
Some schools purchase large quantities of goods and share them with each other. At left, boxes of food are stored at Custer Baker Middle School in Franklin.

TEXT BY JO ELLEN WERKING WEEDMAN; STAFF PHOTOS BY SCOTT ROBERSON AND MATT OOLEY

# Dogged police work cracks Angle burglary

By ANNIE GOELLER  
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Two years after a burglary at an Indian Creek High School coach's house, DNA evidence scraped from a discarded cigarette led to the arrest of a second suspect in the incident.

John Hash, 20, Franklin, was arrested Thursday on a charge of burglary.

The crime he was put in jail for stretches back nearly two years.

On Jan. 31, 2004, Shawn M. Abel, 20, and another man stole a radar detector, a basketball and clothing and slashed 10 tires on three cars at the home of Larry Angle, their former coach, according to police reports.

A cigarette butt left in the street on that snowy day was the evidence police said led them to Hash. Abel was arrested when neighbors and students identified his vehicle as being in the area that

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INSIDE



**'I'm still fascinated'**  
Greenwood woman takes joy in doing work for people who will never be able to see it.

**Group protests arrest**  
More than 50 people rally for a midwife accused of helping with a home birth without proper credentials.

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# Subdivisions assess fees, set rules for homeowners

By ANNIE GOELLER  
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Painting the front door red might require more than an OK from a spouse. Many homeowners also need to make sure they aren't breaking any rules.

Subdivisions across the county use homeowner associations to make sure people follow rules about upkeep and appearance. The boards are made up of subdivision residents. They handle issues such as caring for entrances, mowing

open areas and plowing some streets and driveways.

A yearly fee homeowners pay goes into a budget to cover those tasks. The fees vary widely. In six subdivisions on the north side of the county, fees range from \$35 to \$420 per year.

Fees in new subdivisions are higher because of the cost of maintaining the open space that city and county officials want to see in those communities. For example, Highland Park residents

(SEE RULES, BACK PAGE)