

OBITUARIES/NEWS

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FRANKLIN
Betty Jane (Flagle) Clark

Betty Jane (Flagle) Clark, 88, died Saturday, Feb. 11, 2006, at Indiana Masonic Home Medical Center in Franklin. She was a resident of Franklin and a former resident of Indianapolis and Morgantown.



CLARK

She was born Feb. 9, 1918, in Fort Wayne. Her parents were Russell E. and Estella (Pape) Flagle. She married Raymond E. Clark on Jan. 19, 1946, in Indianapolis. He preceded her in death Aug. 21, 2002.

Survivors include her nephew and caregiver, Russell E. Flagle III of Indianapolis; three other nephews, Fredrick Flagle and Raymond Flagle, both of Indianapolis, and Robert Flagle of Golden, Colo.; three nieces, Betty Hadley, Nancy Flagle and Susan Rodgers, all of Indianapolis; and several great-nieces and -nephews.

She graduated from Warren Central High School in 1936. She worked as an accountant for Ostromier Paper Co. in Indianapolis.

She was a former member of Maple Hill Methodist Church in Wanamaker and was a member of the Franklin Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star.

The Rev. Cleon Wright will conduct a memorial service at 2 p.m. Saturday in the Kresge Chapel at the Indiana Masonic Home, 690 State St. in Franklin. Inurnment will be at Nebo Memorial Park Cemetery in Martinsville.

Memorial contributions may be made to Indiana Masonic Home Memorial Fund, 690 S. State St., Franklin, IN 46131.

Condolences to the family may be sent to www.meredith-clark.com. For information, call (812) 597-4670.

Franklin
Betty Jane Clark, 88
Gary Allen McCreary, 51
Indianapolis
Grady C. Scott, 76
Bernard R. Ungerer, 97
Wanda A. Whittemore, 76

Survivors include his wife, Ruth M. (Smith) Scott; five sons, Claude Scott of Greenwood, Grady S. Scott of Indianapolis, Darrel E. Scott of Westfield, Joseph J. Scott of Indianapolis and Donald C. Scott of Anderson; a daughter, Kristen Jarchow of Indianapolis; 17 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, Grady M. and Tessie (Davis) Scott.

A graveside service will be conducted at 1 p.m. Thursday at Forest Lawn Memory Gardens in Greenwood. There will be no calling.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 6030 W. 62nd St., Indianapolis, IN 46278.

Information: 535-9003

INDIANAPOLIS
Bernard R. 'Bob' Ungerer

Bernard R. "Bob" Ungerer, 97, died Monday, Feb. 13, 2006, at Community Hospital South in Indianapolis. He was a resident of Indianapolis.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Barney and Cora (Baughman) Ungerer.

A service will be conducted at 10 a.m. Thursday at Wilson St. Pierre Funeral Service & Crematory, Greenwood Chapel, 481 W. Main St. Friends may call from 4 to 7 p.m. today at the funeral home. Burial will be at Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis.

Information: www.wilsonstpierre.com

INDIANAPOLIS
Wanda A. (Montgomery) Whittemore

Wanda A. (Montgomery) Whittemore, 76, died Sunday, Feb. 12, 2006, at Manor Care South in Indianapolis. She was a resident of Indianapolis.

Survivors include two sons, Richard C. Whittemore and Thomas L. Whittemore, both of Indianapolis; a daughter, Kathy L. Hurrell of Indianapolis; a brother, Al Montgomery of Indianapolis; two sisters, Ann Hubb and Irene Freeman, both of Westmoreland, Tenn.; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, Robert and Mary (Smolding) Montgomery; and her husband, Coy H. Whittemore.

David Dodd will conduct a service at 1:30 p.m. Thursday at Forest Lawn Memorial Home, 1977 S. State Road 135 in Greenwood. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. today at the funeral home. Burial will be at Forest Lawn Memory Gardens in Greenwood.

GM to invest \$545M in Michigan

Troubled automaker will focus on five plants, hire 300 workers

By DEE-ANN DURBIN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PONTIAC, Mich.

General Motors Corp. said Tuesday that it will hire nearly 300 workers and put nearly \$545 million in five Michigan plants, which is good news for the automaker's home state, but still only a fraction of the 30,000 jobs GM is shedding nationally by 2008 in a broad restructuring.

GM's home state has lost an estimated 130,000 auto manufacturing jobs in the past five years. As a whole, the company has let go more than 27,000 workers since 2000 as it faced mounting competition and rising costs for health care and pensions.

A big chunk of the investment, \$163 million, will go to GM's Pontiac Assembly Center, which makes the Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra pickups, GM spokesman Dan Flores said. Production of the next generation of those pickups is scheduled to begin later this year.

GM plans to hire 280 people at the Pontiac plant, all workers who are currently employed at GM plants or have been laid off from their jobs. GM has several thousand laid-off workers in a jobs bank. They get most of their pay and benefits even when they're not working.

The company also disclosed three improvement projects that have already been started but weren't announced earlier.



AP PHOTO

Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm addresses a news conference in Pontiac, Mich., on Tuesday after General Motors announced the company will hire nearly 300 workers and invest \$545 million in five Michigan plants.

The company is investing \$152 million in its Ypsilanti transmission plant to increase production capacity for its rear-wheel-drive, six-speed transmissions, Flores said. It is investing \$60 million in its Romulus engine plant for making the small-block V8 engines that will go into its new full-size trucks. It is also spending \$32 million to update the hydroforming equipment in its Pontiac metal stamping plant, which uses water to help make the unique curves on the Pontiac Solstice and Saturn Sky roadsters.

GM said it is investing \$138 mil-

lion to expand the body shop in its Lansing Grand River assembly plant, a state-of-the-art facility that will make the new Cadillac CTS. The sedan will go into production late this year or early next year.

Joe Spielman, vice president and general manager of GM's North American manufacturing operations, said the investments demonstrate GM's commitment to Michigan and to improving its products.

"It's good for our people. It shows we're investing in our future," Spielman said.

Spielman said GM wants to be more proactive about publicizing investments it makes in plants and products.

"Rest assured, we are working hard to return this company to profitability and long-term sustainable growth," he said.

GM lost \$8.6 billion last year as it struggled with falling U.S. sales and increased costs for health care and materials. But the company has said it won't sacrifice product development, and its global capital spending was up \$1 billion to \$8 billion in 2005.

It has targeted 12 facilities for closure by 2008, including four locations in Michigan that employ 4,751 hourly and salaried workers. The closures must still be negotiated with the United Auto Workers union, whose contract with GM expires in 2007.

GM and the UAW also are in talks now with auto supplier Delphi Corp., which has threatened to ask a bankruptcy court judge to void its union contracts by this Friday if it doesn't reach an agreement to lower its labor costs. Delphi is GM's former parts division and the automaker's largest supplier.

Flores said GM's announcement Tuesday wasn't related to the Delphi talks.

"This has nothing to do with any potential Delphi, GM and UAW agreement," Flores said.

GM shares closed up 17 cents to \$21.92 on the New York Stock Exchange Tuesday.

Chairman: ISTEP bill likely too expensive

By DANIELS MARTIN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS

The Senate Appropriations chairman says he's in a "Texas standoff" with the governor's administration over a bill that would move statewide student testing from fall to spring.

Robert Meeks, R-LaGrange, said the state cannot afford this year to pass a bill that could cost more than \$45 million by some estimates.

But officials from Gov. Mitch Daniels' administration have said it could cost next to nothing to move ISTEP testing to the spring.

"I know it's one of the governor's priorities, but we just can't continue to spend money," Meeks said Tuesday.

Meeks said he met with Daniels' education adviser, David Shane, on Monday for a lengthy discussion of the bill.

"I know (moving ISTEP) is one of the governor's priorities, but we just can't continue to spend money."

Robert Meeks, R-LaGrange
Senate Appropriations chairman on why he's against moving ISTEP to the spring

"He didn't convince me, and I didn't convince him," Meeks said. "We're kind of at a Texas standoff."

The ISTEP bill is scheduled for a hearing Wednesday in the Senate Education Committee.

Meeks said he would like to even make it to Senate Appropriations, where Meeks could derail it by denying it a hearing.

Meeks said he will see what the education committee does before deciding.

"I'm going to wait and see how the bill comes in, but my intent right now is not to spend any

money," Meeks said. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Suellen Reed has estimated that switching ISTEP to the spring would cost more than \$45 million.

The Legislative Services Agency, which provides financial estimates on proposed legislation, says the change would cost more than \$11 million.

But Shane and some Republican legislators have said the cost would be minimal. Testing companies have already agreed to pay the cost of moving the test, which would eliminate the

immediate fiscal ramifications of the bill, they said.

Meeks said he wasn't sure how much moving the test would cost but that it would definitely come with some price.

"I've looked at the report that Suellen Reed gave me. I don't know if it's right or not, but you've got to believe somebody," Meeks said.

"She's the superintendent of public instruction. You'd think she would try to give me the most accurate information."

Daniels has pushed for a spring ISTEP test, and until this month, Reed, a fellow Republican, had not taken a strong stance on the move.

But on Feb. 1, Reed bucked her own party and sided with Democrats, who say the test should stay in the fall.

She said lawmakers should use the estimated \$45 million to help pay for other education programs.

Liability among concerns on bill to legalize fireworks

By DEANNA MARTIN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS

A bill that would allow people to legally set off fireworks would fix Indiana's "sham" of a fireworks law, supporters say, while detractors claim users would not be liable for injuries or damage they might cause.

Senators brought out liability and other concerns Tuesday during a committee hearing on the bill that would allow people to use fireworks on their property or on someone else's if they have approval.

Current law requires people who buy certain fireworks, such as firecrackers and bottle rockets, in Indiana to sign a statement pledging to use them outside the state or set them off at certain controlled locations.

Bill sponsor Rep. David Frizzell, R-Indianapolis, told the Senate Tax and Fiscal Policy Committee that the law does not prevent most people from using them in the state anyway.

"The statute, though probably well-meaning many years ago, is a sham," Frizzell said.



"The (current fireworks law), though probably well-meaning many years ago, is a sham."

Rep. David Frizzell, R-Indianapolis
on why his bill would be better to control out-of-state fireworks

Frizzell also said his bill would impose a 4 percent public safety fee onto the retail cost of fireworks, with the money going toward firefighter training or other public safety efforts.

Several firefighters organizations said they support the concept of the measure, which officials estimated could bring in more than \$2 million for training.

"We're one of the only states left in the United States that do not provide training for firefighters," said state Fire Marshal Roger Johnson.

Chad Abel of the Indiana Fire Instructors Association said some people wonder whether firefighters are accepting "blood money" by supporting a bill to permit dangerous fireworks in exchange for

training funds. But he said he supports the bill's concept because the state needs to change its fireworks law.

But some senators said making fireworks legal would bring new public safety problems and that people would not be held liable if their legal fireworks injured someone, burned a neighbor's roof or damaged other property.

Tracy Boatwright, a former state fire marshal, spent years trying to ban fireworks sale but never persuaded the General Assembly to change current law.

"It's like a kid going into a liquor store and buying a quart of vodka and writing a note, 'I promise not to drink this.' That's about how silly our fireworks law is," he said.

Frizzell's bill would require people to be 18 years old to buy fireworks.

Eric Dietz, executive director of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, said fireworks have a negative effect public safety. But the funds raised could improve public safety so much that it would be worthwhile to pass the bill, he said.

Committee chairman Luke Kenley, R-Noblesville, said he would hold the bill for a week so lawmakers have time to address some of the concerns raised by senators and some suggestions made by firefighters. He said a vote could be taken next week.

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