

TROJANS, CUBS MOVE ON; WARRIORS FINISHED



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WEEKEND

BLACKBERRY GETS THUMBS UP

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TAXING PROPOSITION

House leader says measure on optional fees is dead for now; Franklin lawsuit aims at raising more taxes.

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INMATE'S DEATH LIKELY NATURAL

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DAILY JOURNAL

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SATURDAY-SUNDAY, MARCH 4-5, 2006

Johnson County, Indiana

\$1.00

WEATHER



Today
Skies: Partly sunny
Temps: High 48; low 20

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INSIDE

TAKE FIVE

What you need to know
Find out what you missed in the news last week, what you shouldn't miss next week and what a Franklin restaurateur thinks.

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Reports from the front



Soldiers use Internet to provide unprecedented instant updates on life in the war zone.

Taste of Hollywood

From "Rocky" to "Chocolat," columnists pick their favorite movies in categories from sports to food.

TODAY'S USA WEEKEND

COMING UP

Drinking black gold

Think smoking is the only expensive habit? Think again: Some area java enthusiasts spend up to \$400 a month on drinks and snacks from coffee retailers such as Starbucks.

Spreading the word

In the next year, expect to hear more about a new Catholic school in the Center Grove area and plans for church construction at two of the county's largest Christian churches. And that's just the beginning.

Made for the game

A robot created by Center Grove students will hit the court soon in a competition at Purdue University.

NEXT WEEK

DEATHS

Indianapolis
William L. Roddy, 84
Elsewhere
Lamar "Bud" Davis, 85

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CENTER GROVE HOSTAGE PLOT

NINE-STEP PLAN

Ringleader had a plan, sought other students and gave each member of the group a task.

CHARGES PENDING

Prosecutor says he will make a final decision about charging the teens as adults on Monday.

GIRLS REPORT THREAT

Two or three girls told administrators about a worrisome conversation they overheard before school.

POLICE: TEEN RECRUITED PEERS

- 'It had every potential to become a large disaster'
- 'Grateful those courageous young ladies came forward'



Four students at Center Grove High School were arrested Thursday after a reported hostage plot was uncovered.

By JASON MICHAEL WHITE
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Four Center Grove teens methodically outlined a plot to take their principal hostage and confine the student body, police said.

The ringleader of the group recruited other students, wrote a nine-step plan and assigned tasks to each member of the group, Johnson County Sheriff Terry McLaughlin said.

He could get a gun that was secured at his home. Another student was thinking about buying a gun.

An ideal stage for the hostage situation was when a majority of the 2,250 high

school students would be gathered in one place, such as a pep rally scheduled for Friday, McLaughlin said. The plan did not specify a date.

The boys were tired of being made fun of by student athletes and also wanted money, McLaughlin said.

Teasing angered them and had a part in their decision to carry out the plot, but the teasing had not extended to physical bullying, McLaughlin said.

"Based on the fact that they were planning on confining the entire school at gunpoint, it had every potential to become a large disaster," Johnson County Prosecutor Lance Hamner said.

"Fortunately, we'll never have to see what the results of these plans would have been."

The students, ages 15 and 16, were arrested Thursday.

They will likely be charged with conspiracy to commit confinement with a deadly weapon, Hamner said. He will make a final decision Monday and likely ask that their cases be moved to adult court.

Based on evidence Hamner has seen so far, the crime the teens are accused of is so serious that it justifies charging them as adults, he said.

If the students are charged as adults and convicted, they could serve six to 20 years in prison.

Detectives are still sorting out the reasons why each teen decided to help carry

(SEE PLOT, BACK PAGE)

Students urged to report threats every time

By ANNIE GOELLER

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A threat blurted out in frustration is still a concern to police and school officials.

Worries about physical or verbal confrontations at a school should be reported immediately, even if the information seems unimportant, police and school officials said.

School shootings in Colorado, Arkansas, New Mexico and Tennessee within the past 10 years tell police that this is an age where students sometimes act on threats.

The past decade brought changes to how seriously schools take those threats. Parents are being warned about signs to

(SEE REPORT, BACK PAGE)



WISH-CHANNEL 8 PHOTOS

The security and police presence at Center Grove was elevated after Thursday's threats, but school wasn't canceled either Thursday or Friday.



News of incident released hours after report

By PAIGE E. WASSEL

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For seven hours on Thursday, students and teachers at Center Grove went about their day.

They went to class, ate lunch in the cafeteria and talked to classmates in the hall.

At the same time, police were in the high school, searching lockers and learning about a detailed plan to take the principal hostage.

Teachers, students and parents were not officially told about what was going on until after the school day ended.

That's when high school Principal Matt Shockley told teachers about the plot.

About 4 p.m., officials put a statement on the district's Web site.

(SEE INCIDENT, BACK PAGE)

Franklin man, 82, killed in crash

S.R. 135 accident hurts second man

By ANNIE GOELLER

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A Franklin man died following an accident on State Road 135 about a mile west of Trafalgar Friday afternoon.

Albert M. Flake, 82, was pronounced dead at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis.

He was trapped in his vehicle, and firefighters had to cut him out, police said. He was flown by helicopter to the hospital, police said.

A second driver, B. Scott Senior, 28, of Morgantown, was taken to Johnson Memorial Hospital in Franklin.

His condition was not available late Friday afternoon, but police said he was alert and conscious at the scene.

The accident happened just before 2 p.m. in the 4700 block of South State Road 135 near South County Road 450W.

Flake's vehicle was struck head-on by Senior, who swerved while trying to avoid a turning vehicle, said Maj. Randy Werden of the Johnson County Sheriff's Office.

Senior was driving a pickup

(SEE CRASH, BACK PAGE)

GROWING PAINS

Indiana school districts with fastest-growing enrollments since the 2000-2001 school year by percentage:

- 62.1 Hamilton Southeastern
5,454 more students
- 41.7 Westfield-Washington
1,544 more students
- 40.6 Avon
2,090 more students
- 39.4 Clark-Pleasant
1,318 more students
- 38.7 Zionsville
1,345 more students

SOURCE: Indiana Department of Education

C-P forum helping with plans

Public prefers more schools over larger class sizes

By Jo ELLEN WERKING WEEDMAN

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Clark-Pleasant school officials are being urged to build new schools rather than expand existing ones and to keep classes as small as possible.

District officials, on the other hand, want to know how the public thinks they're doing spending tax dollars.

They got some of the answers at a forum Thursday.

More than 200 community members, staff members and students at the forum registered their opinions on many subjects, including how big schools should be and whether the district should build athletic facilities and community spaces.

INSIDE

A breakdown of the growth in Clark-Pleasant schools.

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