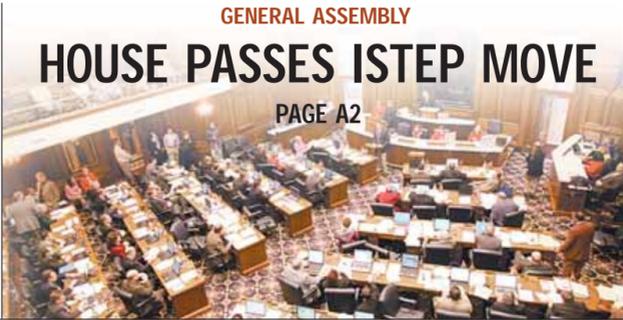




OSCAR HISTORIAN HAS BUSY NIGHT

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MOVIES



HOUSE PASSES ISTEP MOVE

PAGE A2

GENERAL ASSEMBLY



KNOW YOUR OPPONENT

PAGE B1

PREP SPORTS

DAILY JOURNAL

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2006

Johnson County, Indiana

50 cents

WEATHER



Today

Skies: Cloudy, chance of rain
Temps: High 48; low 29

MAP, PAGE A8

COMING UP

Let the Games begin

Former U.S. gold medalists, including Peggy Fleming, handicap this year's Olympic Games in Turin, Italy. Plus, find a guide from sports analysts to keep with you while you watch curling, skating, skiing and more.

USA WEEKEND

Lacrosse, anyone?

Greenwood resident D.J. Garry is trying to help lead the Brebeuf lacrosse team to a state championship. A look at this little-understood sport and how Garry got involved.



Major Moves

What would Gov. Mitch Daniels' highway plan mean for Johnson County?

COMING SOON

FYI

Whiteland show choir to host dinner, concert tonight

Whiteland Community High School Rhythm Masters show choir will present a preview of its competition performance tonight. Before the show, those attending are invited to an all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner from 5:30 to 7:10 p.m. at the high school. Cost for the dinner is \$6 for adults and \$4 for children 12 and younger. The performance will begin at 7:30 p.m. Donations will be accepted.

DEATHS

- Edinburgh
Wendy Lou Conner, 33
- Franklin
Deborah J. Lehr, 52
- Indianapolis
Richard L. Etchison, 63
- Elsewhere
James W. Barber Sr., 72
Ola M. Brown-Leggett, 85
Jerry W. "Bud" Cope, 68
Lena P. Lambert, 79

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Benefits contract drawn up in secret

Deal for processing federal aid to be signed without scrutiny

By KEN KUSMER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS

A \$1 billion plan to contract out the application process for food stamps, Medicaid and other federal benefits received by one in six Indiana residents will be approved without pub-

lic oversight, a procurement document states.

The request for proposals drew fire Thursday from advocates for the needy, who said the state is more interested in reducing the number of people receiving benefits than in making sure those eligible for benefits receive them.

Secretary Mitch Roob of the Family and Social Services Administration said that was not the state's intention.

The state this week began soliciting proposals for taking over the eligibility determination services for the federal safety-net programs the state manages. At stake are the bene-

fits that go to about 1 million clients, half of them children.

The state estimates the contract will be worth at least \$100 million a year over 10 years.

The solicitation posted Tuesday is listed as a draft, but Roob said few, if any, changes

(SEE SECRET, BACK PAGE)

AT A GLANCE

What's the deal? The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration is soliciting proposals from private vendors to take over the job of determining who qualifies for food stamps, Medicaid and other federal benefits.

Who's worried? Advocates for the needy worry that some people who are eligible for benefits will lose them and that it will be harder to apply.

What's next? The state expects to sign a contract June 29 and turn over the duties to the successful bidder by Dec. 31.

ADVANCED COURSES

Earning extra credits

Whiteland students fulfill high school, college requirements with one class

By Jo ELLEN WERKING WEEDMAN
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER
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Whiteland Community High School students can get a jump on college without spending a dime and without leaving school.

An agreement between the high school and Ivy Tech Community College allows students to take any of 10 selected courses during their high school careers and earn both high school and college credit.

If a student gets a B or better in the course, they get credit for the course at Ivy Tech. And it's free.

The deal is so good that sophomore Jed Key is already thinking about studying computers at Ivy Tech when he graduates.

He is one of 32 students in a computer applications course at the high school that teaches students to use programs such as Excel and Access.

Most high schools in the county offer some kind of program that allows students to earn credit for high school and college at the same time.

Last year, 143 students at Whiteland in Grades 10, 11 and 12 earned dual credit in at least one class. Students may earn up to a maximum of 15 credit hours toward a degree program at Ivy Tech.

For instance, students who took Whiteland's information technologies course could earn three hours' credit for Ivy Tech's Web site development class. Whiteland's design processes class could lead to credit for technical graphics. And business foundations corresponds to introduction to business.

A program like the one at Whiteland helps high schools get students ready for college, said Beatrice Dunn, Clark-Pleasant's curriculum director.

"We want high school to be more rigorous and relevant, and this is helping us make sure our curriculum is rigorous," Dunn said.

The high school must submit the curriculum for each course to Ivy Tech. College officials then review the course and decide if it matches what they teach in a similar course at the college. They look at lesson plans, tests, grading scales and what textbooks are used.

Center Grove High School has a similar arrangement with Ivy

(SEE CREDITS, BACK PAGE)



Above: Business teacher Rhonda Csikos helps Whiteland sophomore Jessica Waeltz with a project in a class that can count for college credit.

Left: Students in Csikos' class use computers to learn business applications.

STAFF PHOTOS BY MATT DOOLEY/
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Police: Driver slapped student

N-H-J suspends man; no charges filed

By ANNIE GOELLER
AND Jo ELLEN WERKING WEEDMAN
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITERS

A Nineveh-Hensley-Jackson school bus driver has been suspended after he smacked a special needs student in the face on the ride home, police and school officials said.

Stephen L. Pottorff, 54, has been suspended with pay while the school and the Johnson County Sheriff's Office investigate the incident.

He has not been arrested or charged with a crime.

On Monday, Pottorff was driving students home.

At 3:55 p.m., he stopped the bus on County Road 125W, south of State Road 252. He got out of his seat, smacked the boy on the face and yelled at him. The 9-year-old boy, who is severely autistic, according to a sheriff's office detective, was wearing a vest that restrains him to his bus seat.

The slap left a red mark on the boy's left cheek, his parents reported.

After meeting with school Superintendent John Reed, the student's father said he feels the school district handled the situation well.

"I feel that our children are being treated well by the system," said Steven Williams, the boy's father. "They've done everything they can, and I believe this was an

(SEE DRIVER, BACK PAGE)

Restraint vests used rarely, officials say

By Jo ELLEN WERKING WEEDMAN
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School districts have the right to use special vests to restrain unruly special needs children but never do without talking to parents first, local school officials said.

The vests, which are put on the student and fastened to the bus seat, are rarely used, they said.

"We try not to do that unless child is going to injure himself or someone else," said Susan Henderson, transportation director for Franklin schools. "The first step would be to make him sit by himself. If the lone ranger approach doesn't work, we would always discuss that with a parent."

The transportation department at Nineveh-Hensley-Jackson schools follows a similar procedure, Superintendent John Reed said.

A bus driver was suspended with pay after he reportedly hit a 9-year-old special needs student who was restrained by a vest on the bus.

Reed said he could not comment specifically on the incident but said it is the school district's

(SEE VESTS, BACK PAGE)

Crash victims to share each other's pain in one home

By PAIGE E. WASSEL
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Twin sisters and two men injured in a weekend car wreck have piled into the same Franklin home to recover from fractures, bumps and bruises.

Andrea Coryell and her twin

sister Amber Coryell, 17, are at their Franklin home with friends Jared Sebastian, 19, and Paul Denzio, 19, after their car was hit Saturday night while they were traveling to dinner.

Brenda Coryell, the mother of the twins, decided to care for Sebastian, Amber Coryell's boyfriend, and Denzio, his best friend,

along with her girls because they thought they would heal better if they stayed together, she said.

"For what they've been through, they're all doing really, really good," Brenda Coryell said.

Andrea and Paul have fractured ribs, and Andrea has a sore shoulder from the crash. Jared has pelvis fractures, fractured

neck vertebrae, a clavicle fracture and a bruise on the brain, Brenda Coryell said.

Amber, who was thrown 30 feet from the rear of the car, had several scrapes and a sore shoulder, Coryell said. Doctors are monitoring her for possible bleeding on

(SEE VICTIMS, BACK PAGE)