



NBA

DONE DEAL: PACERS TRADE ARTEST

PAGE B1

- Indiana sends troubled but talented forward to Sacramento in exchange for sharpshooter.
- Former top defensive player had demanded trade in December, then changed his mind.

DAILY JOURNAL

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2006

Johnson County, Indiana

50 cents

WEATHER



Today
Skies: Mostly sunny
Temps: High 46; low 30

MAP, PAGE A8

COMING UP

Home cooking, sort of

Working parents, new mothers and families coping with sickness all have one thing in common: They don't have time to cook.

But two area businesses are offering residents the chance to fix meals weeks in advance without having to spend hours on prep work or cleanup duty.

Gearing up for Oden

On Saturday, the Center Grove boys basketball team must find a way to stop Mr. Basketball front-runner Greg Oden.

Prescription for future

Pharmacists now have to fetch cold medicines for folks, help them pick out what they want and help seniors navigate the new prescription drug program. How has their world changed, and is it better for customers?



COMING SOON

Do not go gently ...

Harrison Ford talks about aging gracefully. Plus, the editors of AARP The Magazine reveal why your parents' diseases don't have to be yours.



Super Bowl, super dips

Recipes for three easy, crowd-pleasing dips to serve at the big game from CookSmart columnist Pam Anderson.

USA WEEKEND

DEATHS

- Edinburgh
Charles Lee Gross, 67
- Indianapolis
Elizabeth Webb Goad
Sharon D. Tinsley, 57
William C. Stevenson Sr., 87
- Elsewhere
John W. Kasting, 85
Ernest D. Pate, 57

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Insect could put ash trees at risk



Pain in the ash:
Emerald ash borer has been found in Carmel.

By MICHAEL W. HOSKINS
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER
mhoskins@thejournalnet.com

A Greenwood man fears that he might have to cut down three trees in his back yard in the coming years.
His trees, which he planted in the past five years, are still healthy.

But Jerry White's trees and 147 million others throughout the state are being threatened by a tiny insect from Asia that is munching its way through Indiana and across the country.

The bug is so deadly to trees that arborists and tree experts compare the insect's chomping wrath to chestnut blight and Dutch elm dis-

ease, which nearly wiped out the two species in the 1950s.

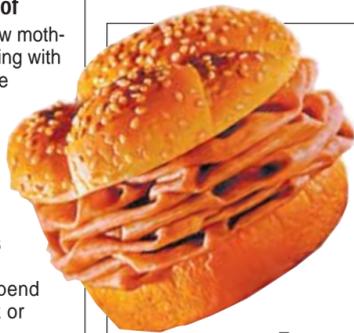
But the state has stopped cutting down ash trees near infested areas, giving homeowners final say on the fate of the trees.

"There's a real pessimistic view of the long-term survival of

ash trees, not just here but nationwide," said White, who is an Indianapolis arborist. "I wouldn't be surprised to learn that it's already here on the south side, and that's a grave concern."

The exotic beetle known as the emerald ash borer has devoured

(SEE TREES, PAGE A5)



NUTRITION IN SCHOOLS

Food fight



Students prefer pizza, chains' sandwiches



From left, Center Grove High School students Tanner Riley, 14, and Keith Dietel, 15, eat lunch at the school on Tuesday.

High school diners vote with wallets

By JO ELLEN WERKING WEEDMAN
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER
jweedman@thejournalnet.com

Center Grove freshmen Katie Alexander and Reva Darlington find their table in the school cafeteria and sit down to their regular Tuesday lunch: Domino's pizza.

They are eating four of the 1,600 slices of cheese or ham pizza from Domino's that are served in the Center Grove cafeteria every Tuesday.

On Mondays, students at the high school eat as many as 750 Chick-fil-A chicken sandwiches.

On Wednesday, they can have a Subway sandwich, and Friday means there will be roast beef sandwiches from Arby's on the food line.

Being able to get fast food at school is something that makes most students happy, and more likely to eat lunch,

(SEE FOOD, PAGE A5)

A YUMMY DEAL

School food service departments make a 30 percent to 50 percent profit on the food they buy from fast-food vendors and then sell to students.

For instance, every week Whiteland high school pays \$6 each for 140 pizzas, which have eight slices each. The school charges students \$1.50 per slice, or \$2.55 for the piece of pizza, two side dishes and a milk.

The money stays in the food service departments, which are self-supporting in each school district. The profit margin on the fast-food items is the same as on other a la carte items cafeterias offer.

How much do they eat?

At Center Grove each week students eat 1,600 slices of pizza from Domino's, 750 Chick-fil-A sandwiches and between 400 and 500 Subway sandwiches.

At Whiteland, students eat 600 Chick-fil-A sandwiches a month and 1,120 slices of Domino's pizza a week.



About that hospital 'bill'? Forget it

By MICHAEL W. HOSKINS
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER
mhoskins@thejournalnet.com

An estimated 1,000 people who were treated at three Indianapolis hospital centers are getting balance statements in the mail that they should disregard.

St. Francis Hospital and Health Centers sent out statements to 1 percent of people who had received services at one of the hospital's three campuses in Beech Grove, Indianapolis and Mooresville since early December.

Patients received a letter notifying them of an unpaid insurance

claim and that they should contact the hospital or insurance carrier.

For example, a statement for services on Jan. 2 was mailed out on Jan. 19 and said the claim is more than 45 days old.

The hospital's finance director said the letters were not mistakenly mailed out, but the system

automatically sent out the letters to people, even to those who had claims that were less than 45 days old.

"We understood this could be a consequence of changing how we send out our statements," said

(SEE HOSPITAL, BACK PAGE)

The people posting signs, handing out fliers and planning a protest at a school board meeting for a soon-to-be-demoted Franklin principal still refuses to identify themselves.

In fact, some of them may even disguise themselves at a public protest the group is planning for Feb. 13.

Back Leighton Turner, or BLT, is a group of parents, students and maybe some teachers who want the school board to reinstate Turner as principal, said Nicholas John Kelly Peterson, an Indiana University student who says he's the face of the group.

Signs protesting the superintendent's and school board's decision to reassign Turner started appearing in the community last week. A second wave of signs went up between late Sunday and early Monday.

Messages are becoming more direct as they promote an upcoming protest, request the school board to reconsider Turner's reassignment and instruct community members, teachers and students to show their support for him.

But the people behind the signs have yet to make themselves known, and the mystery is getting more discussion than the messages of support.

"Everyone is still wondering and trying to figure out who it is," guidance counselor Shelly Phillips said. "But we just don't know; they're keeping quiet."

Homemade poster board signs were put out in at least five new spots last weekend: posted to a utility pole at State Road 44 and King Street, posted at two intersections

(SEE PROTEST, BACK PAGE)



TURNER

INSIDE

Q&A session with spokesman for group supporting school's principal. Back Page

Mayors push legislators for options on property taxes

By JASON MICHAEL WHITE
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER
jwhite@thejournalnet.com

Mayors asked a state committee for a permanent fix to communities' reliance on property taxes. The committee's answer: We'll get back with you.

This is ironic to some mayors because the committee's chairman last week pushed through his own property-tax-relief bill, and critics say it is a temporary fix.

The House Ways and Means Committee on Wednesday postponed voting on a bill that would let local governments collect new

sales, income, hotel or food-and-beverage taxes if part of that money is used to lower property tax rates and keep them from rising again.

Mayors from across Indiana made their case to the committee, asking for more funding options so they can reduce dependence on

property taxes and continue to fund city services.

Cities asked for new sources of revenue because of need, but committee chairman Rep. Jeffrey Espich, R-Uniondale, said he is skeptical about how much of new taxes collected would actually go to property tax relief instead

of new spending.

The state has talked for years about local property taxes but has not gotten anything done, Greenwood Mayor Charles Henderson said. He asked the committee to give cities and

(SEE TAXES, BACK PAGE)