

BRIEFS  
STATE

INDIANAPOLIS

## Ford closing Indianapolis steering systems plant

Ford Motor Co. plans to idle its Indianapolis steering systems plant with more than 1,500 workers by the end of 2008, the company said Thursday.

Ford was unable to find a suitable buyer for the plant, which opened in 1957 and has been outpaced by changing automotive production, Ford spokeswoman Della DiPietro said.

The plant makes hydraulic steering systems, while much of the industry, including Ford, is switching to electronic systems, DiPietro said. The auto industry also is moving away from big plants to smaller operations with lower overhead, she said.

INDIANAPOLIS

## House to consider slots at Indiana horse tracks

At least one proposal to authorize slot-like machines at Indiana's two horse racing tracks will get a hearing before a House committee, Speaker Patrick Bauer said Thursday.

Bauer, D-South Bend, said efforts to legalize video poker machines were a "long shot" in the General Assembly, but that the House Public Policy Committee would consider legislation authorizing slots at Hoosier Park in Anderson and Indiana Downs near Shelbyville.

There could be three proposals for authorizing the machines, but Bauer said he was not sure whether they had been filed as bills yet. Tuesday is the deadline to file bills in the House.

PORTAGE

## Police: Boy threatened classmate on MySpace

A 14-year-old boy accused of threatening on MySpace to bring a shotgun to school and kill another student has been arrested.

Police said the Willowcreek Middle School student arrested Tuesday night had access to a shotgun and assault rifle that belong to a family member. Police said he was upset at the target of his threats, a 14-year-old South Haven girl, because he believed she was trying to break up his relationship with another girl.

The threatened girl's mother called police Tuesday after her daughter told her a school acquaintance said he would kill her in a message sent to her at a MySpace Web site.

INDIANAPOLIS

## House GOP whittles priorities to four goals

House Republicans touted a 50-point legislative agenda during the campaign season, but after losing control of the House in November's election, they have narrowed their focus to four main goals.

That list includes about two dozen initiatives organized into four categories: preventing general tax increases, cracking down on crime, making changes to education and promoting economic development, party leader Brian Bosma said Thursday.

On the education front, Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels has proposed phasing in full-day kindergarten over three years.

But the House Republicans' plan would allow districts to choose whether to use state money for full-day kindergarten programs or other options, such as programs for gifted students or professional development for teachers.

## 4 wounded in Indy workplace shooting

Police: Shooter was standing next to vending machine with gun when officers arrived

By RICK CALLAHAN  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Judy Burnam says it seemed like any other day when she dropped off her 24-year-old son Thursday morning at the plant where he's worked for nearly two years.

Jason Burnam, who takes medication to combat bipolar depression, appeared fine as he stepped from the car and she pulled away into the pre-dawn darkness.

"It was like every morning. I had no idea, none whatsoever, something was wrong," she said.

Shortly after he walked into Crossroads Industrial Services, however, police said Jason Burnam opened fire on co-workers. The four victims, who suffered non-life-threatening injuries, had apparently angered him, said Indianapolis Police Lt. Douglas Scheffel.

Burnam, who faces four counts



BURNAM



A police officer talks to the mother of one of the employees at Crossroads Industrial Services after four workers were shot Thursday in Indianapolis.

of attempted murder and one count of carrying a handgun without a license, told police the shooting arose from issues of "respect," Scheffel said.

"There was some type of confrontation that was brewing all week and it just came to a head and he got fed up and started shooting people," he said.

Officers arrested Burnam without incident in the cafeteria of the east side plant, which em-

ploys about 100 people, most of them with physical or developmental disabilities.

Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Chief Michael Spears said Burnam was standing next to a vending machine and armed with a semiautomatic handgun when police arrived.

Police said Burnam fired the gun seven times inside the business.

Candy Morrison, director of

## AT A GLANCE

**Charges:** Jason Burnam, 24, was charged with four counts of attempted murder and one count of carrying a handgun without a license in the Thursday shootings of four co-workers at Crossroads Industrial Services in Indianapolis. All four were hospitalized with non-life-threatening injuries.

**Reasons:** Burnam told police he shot the two men and two women over issues of respect and indicated those targeted were people he was having problems with. Burnam's mother said her son is taking antidepressants to combat his bipolar depression.

**The plant:** Division of Easter Seals Crossroads, a nonprofit agency that serves children and adults with disabilities. It has about 100 employees who do light manufacturing. 85 percent of the production workers have physical or developmental disabilities.

marketing, said Burnam had been a production worker at the plant since March 2005 and was regarded as an affable employee with no history of problems.

"He's been kind of a teddy bear. Everyone is just shocked because he has not been a problem all," she said.

The shooting occurred about 6:30 a.m., just after the start of the work day at the plant, which subcontracts light manufacturing jobs for companies. Three of the workers were shot in cafeteria, the fourth in an office area, police said.

The victims were identified as: Howard Mallory, 53; Jermaine Ealy, 29; Cammie Duncan, 38; and Anita Frazen, 52. All were shot at least once in the leg or arm. Ealy was shot twice.

Managers decided to close the plant until Monday, when counselors will be available to talk to employees.

"We certainly regret that the incident occurred, but we're grateful that no one was seriously injured," said CEO Jim Vento.

Jack Thompson, a 21-year employee, said he was coming out of the bathroom when he heard gunshots and saw a man with a gun walk down a hallway.

"I heard first screaming and then shooting and more shooting," he said. "This is the just the nuttiest thing."

He said Burnam was quiet and said he was unaware of any grudges that he may have had.

## Lilly halts Virginia plant project

By CAROL DRUGA  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS

Eli Lilly & Co. said Thursday it will halt construction of a Prince William, Va.-based insulin plant as part of a shift in the drugmaker's focus toward biotech products.

The Indianapolis company said it will stop building the Prince William County, Va., center because production can be handled by existing plants and a center being built in Italy. All 120 employees in Prince William will be given a chance to transfer or will receive severance packages.

The company also will offer exit packages to 250 of the 1,000 employees at its plant in Lafayette.

"Our commitment to insulin and to diabetes is unchanged and shouldn't be misinterpreted because of this," said Lilly spokesman Phil Belt.

## AT A GLANCE

**Stop:** Eli Lilly & Co. said Thursday it will halt construction of a Prince William, Va.-based insulin plant as part of a shift in the drugmaker's focus toward biotech products. Production can be handled by existing plants and a center being built in Italy, Lilly said.

**Employees:** All 120 employees in Prince William will be given a chance to transfer or will receive severance packages. The company also will offer exit packages to 250 of its 1,000 employees at its small molecule, active ingredient plant in Lafayette.

**Investment:** Lilly plans significant investments in its facilities in Kinsale, Ireland, and Indianapolis to meet production needs for the launch of one biotech product per year beginning in 2010.

Belt said added capacity and improvements in other plants, including ones in Italy, Indiana and Puerto Rico, plus long-term

expectations for insulin demand, prompted the decision to abandon the Virginia site.

Lilly introduced the first commercially available insulin in 1923, and its diabetes portfolio accounts for one-fifth of the company's revenue.

Scott Canute, Lilly's president of manufacturing operations, said the company expects demand for its insulin products to grow, but not at levels projected when plans for the Prince William site were made in 2003.

Lilly plans significant investments in its facilities in Kinsale, Ireland, and Indianapolis to meet production needs for the launch of one biotech product per year beginning in 2010.

The buyouts at Tippecanoe Labs in Lafayette will be voluntary, Belt said. Up to 250 people will be offered the exit plans, and no one will be forced to leave.

## U.S. House passes bill to bolster stem cell research

By ANDREW TAYLOR  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

The Democratic-controlled House passed a bill Thursday bolstering embryonic stem cell research that advocates say shows promise for numerous medical cures.

But the 253-174 vote fell short of the two-thirds margin required to overturn President Bush's promised veto, despite gains made by supporters in the November elections. Bush vetoed identical legislation last year, and the White House on Thursday promised he would veto it again.

The White House said the bill, the third of the Democrats' first 100 hours agenda to pass the House, "would use federal taxpayer dollars to support and encourage the destruction of human life for research."

At stake was whether research on cells taken from human embryos, considered by scientists to be the most promising approach

to developing potential treatments or cures for dozens of diseases, should be underwritten with taxpayer funds.

The debate raises passions because the research typically involves the destruction of frozen embryos created for in vitro fertilization.

It draws fierce opposition from anti-abortion lawmakers and like-minded constituents who believe their taxes should not fund such research. Proponents of the research said it is done on embryos that would otherwise be discarded from fertility clinics anyway.

"I support stem cell research with only one exception: research that requires killing human life," said Minority Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio. "Taxpayer-funded stem cell research must be carried out in an ethical manner in a way that respects the sanctity of human life. Fortunately, ethical stem cell alternatives continue to flourish in the scientific community."

**Happy 50th Anniversary Mom & Dad**  
*Happy & Proud you are the base of our family tree. May we enjoy many more years.*  
**Love,**  
**Donna, Steve, Diana, Dusten, Trent & Travis**

**FRANKLIN GIRL'S SOFTBALL SIGNUPS**  
**AGES 6-14**  
SAT. JAN 13, 10-2  
WED. JAN 17, 6-8  
SAT. JAN 20, 10-2  
@ FRANKLIN DAIRY QUEEN  
COST IS \$75..... \$45 FOR SECOND CHILD

**SALOON Fish Fry**  
Serving Fresh Icelandic Cod  
Dinner-Fish Sandwich, baked beans & coleslaw \$ 5.95  
Fish Sandwich \$4.25  
**Saturday, January 13 11-6**  
Carryout Available  
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MILES AHEAD IN HEART CARE

## "I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER."



Dan Spartz is Director of Pulmonary and Emergency Services at Columbus Regional Hospital.

Dan Spartz knew the symptoms of a heart attack. "But when I felt chest pain, I thought it was my asthma."

Fortunately, his family called 911 and got him to Columbus Regional Hospital.

"It turned out I had an 85% blockage and needed angioplasty. The experts there took care of me and helped me get back on track."

The Heart Center at Columbus Regional Hospital delivers the region's most advanced and comprehensive cardiac care, including open-heart surgery. We're the first hospital in southeastern Indiana to receive Chest Pain Center Accreditation and have been recognized for surpassing national standards of clinical excellence in the treatment of heart attacks.

"So don't ignore the signs. If you think it might be your heart, get to Columbus Regional Hospital, right away."

For information on heart attack symptoms, visit [www.crh.org/heart](http://www.crh.org/heart).



**THE HEART CENTER**  
**AT COLUMBUS REGIONAL HOSPITAL**

*Miles ahead, not miles away.*