

BRIEFS  
**STATE**

MARTINSVILLE  
**Myers' lawyer seeks new trial over jury misconduct**

An attorney for the man convicted of killing Indiana University student Jill Behrman is seeking a new trial on grounds of jury misconduct and new evidence.



BEHRMAN

John R. Myers II's defense attorney, Patrick Baker, filed court papers

Tuesday alleging the sequestered jurors misbehaved, drank alcohol, and smuggled in a television set and that at least one called home on a bailiff's cell phone.

The Morgan County jury was sequestered for about two weeks and deliberated for about 50 minutes on Oct. 30 before finding Myers, 31, guilty of murder in the death of 19-year-old Jill Behrman.

"This fact alone gives rise to a strong presumption that the jury had been discussing the case and deliberating throughout the trial, even as it drank and partied," Baker's motion said.

INDIANAPOLIS  
**Bill pushes death penalty in some child murders**

A state lawmaker from the southern Indiana town where a 10-year-old girl was abducted and killed is renewing a push for legislation making it mandatory for prosecutors to seek the death penalty in some child murders.

The proposal by Rep. Terry Goodin, D-Crothersville, would require prosecutors to pursue the death penalty when someone is charged with murdering someone younger than 18 while attempting or trying to commit certain other crimes. Those include child molesting, criminal deviate conduct, rape, kidnapping or criminal confinement.

Similar legislation was overwhelmingly approved by the House in 2005, but it was not considered by the Senate.

BRIEFS  
**NATION**

WASHINGTON  
**Manufacturing sector expanded in December**

The nation's manufacturing sector expanded in December to the market's surprise, reversing the previous month's contraction.

The Institute for Supply Management said Wednesday its manufacturing index registered 51.4 in December, compared with 49.5 in November, which was the first time the sector's activity shrank since April 2003. A reading below 50 indicates contraction, while above 50 signals expansion.

December's index came in above the average analyst expectation for a reading of 50, or no change in the sector's output.

LAMAR, Colo.  
**National Guard delivers food, medicine to Plains**

Volunteers on snowmobiles joined a National Guard airlift to feed thousands of snowbound cattle Wednesday, fanning out across eastern Colorado in search of animals stranded by back-to-back holiday blizzards.

Eight Guard helicopters and a C-130 cargo plane were dispatched Wednesday in the campaign to save the livestock herds that are vital to the region's economy.

Soldiers delivered about 500 bales of hay Tuesday to cattle unable to get through the snow to grass and water, Maj. Gen. Mason Whitney said.

The latest snowstorm struck last week, blowing snow into drifts 10 feet and deeper in southeastern Colorado.

DEATH OF A PRESIDENT: GERALD FORD



AP PHOTOS

Above: The casket of former President Gerald Ford leaves Grace Episcopal Church after funeral services in Grand Rapids, Mich., on Wednesday. Top: Former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, Ford's son Steven and former President Jimmy Carter, from left, were among the speakers who eulogized the nation's 38th president at the church.

Rumsfeld, Ford's son Steven and former President Jimmy Carter, from left, were among the speakers who eulogized the nation's 38th president at the church.

**LAI D TO REST**

Ceremony caps eight days of mourning for Ford

By KATHY BARKS HOFFMAN  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich.

Gerald Ford was laid to rest on the grounds of his presidential museum Wednesday after eight days of mourning and remembrance that spanned the country, from the California desert to the nation's capital and back to Ford's boyhood home.

The burial at sunset capped the official mourning for the 38th president, whose casket traveled more than 2,700 miles before reaching its final stop on a hill overlooking a river at the museum in Ford's hometown.

At a graveside service that included a 21-gun salute and a 21-aircraft fly-over, Vice President Dick Cheney presented former first lady Betty Ford with the American flag that was draped over her husband's casket.

Earlier, Ford was remembered as a man not afraid to laugh, make tough decisions or listen to the advice of his independent wife in eulogies delivered during a funeral at the church the couple attended for six decades.

An honor guard carried the casket inside Grace Episcopal Church, where Ford's defense secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, and Ford's successor, Jimmy Carter, recalled his public service.

His widow, Betty, wiped away tears as she sat with the couple's four children and more than 300 dignitaries and family friends, including Cheney

and golfing legend Jack Nicklaus. "He was one of us," Rumsfeld said. "And that made him special and needed in a dark and dangerous hour for our nation."

Rumsfeld, who recently left his post as President Bush's defense secretary, remembered Ford as a courageous and steady leader who healed the nation after Watergate.

Rumsfeld said the military is considering naming a new aircraft carrier after Ford, a Navy veteran of World War II. Later at the Pentagon, the Navy confirmed that it would make an official announcement in a few weeks.

"How fitting it would be that the name Gerald R. Ford will patrol the high seas for decades to come in defense of the nation he loved so much," he said.

Carter described the close personal friendship he and Ford developed over the years.

"I relished his sound advice," Carter said as his wife, Rosalynn, cried. "I want to thank my predecessor for all he did to heal our land."

Ceremonies were conducted last week in Southern California, near Ford's retirement home. The mourning then shifted to the nation's capital before his casket was returned for a 17-hour viewing Tuesday night and Wednesday at the museum.

Thousands of flag-waving mourners lined the roads under sunny skies as the motorcade bearing Ford's casket

traveled between his presidential museum in downtown Grand Rapids to the church, before returning to the museum.

The viewing had to be extended Wednesday until nearly noon so everyone in line could pay their respects. Some 57,000 mourners waited hours to file past the flag-draped casket during the night. Some stopped and made silent prayers.

"We're here to honor him," said Philip Bareham of Lansing, who was the final person to view the casket and whose parents were among Ford's earliest supporters and political allies. "We just love this family. They are so down to earth."

During the burial ceremony, people lined the top of a six-story parking garage and a neighboring office tower to watch events at the museum below.

Ford represented Grand Rapids in Congress for 25 years. His family had belonged to Grace Episcopal Church since the early 1940s.

Richard Norton Smith, an author, presidential historian and former director of Ford's museum and library, reminded mourners how important Ford's hometown was to him.

"Grand Rapids returned his affection many times over," which was "unforgettably demonstrated by the tens of thousands who stood in line for hours outside the museum, braving the cold to assure that his last night was anything but lonely," Smith said.



AP PHOTO

Tuashua Ware holds her goddaughter, Lataya Sorense, as students evacuate Foss High School after a shooting at the school Wednesday in Tacoma, Wash.

**Student arrested in fatal school shooting**

By GENE JOHNSON  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TACOMA, Wash.

A teenager was shot to death in a high school hallway Wednesday as classes resumed after the winter break, and police arrested a fellow student found wandering a neighborhood a few miles away, authorities said.

Police were trying to determine what prompted the shooting.

Witnesses said the gunman fired three shots at point-blank range, splattering blood on lockers at Foss High School and

setting off panic. He did not appear to be aiming at anyone other than the victim.

The victim "got shot — bang — and he just fell," said sophomore Malcolm Clark. "He just froze and he fell backwards into the lockers."

The teenager suspected in the shooting was caught without incident about two hours later in a suburban area dotted with homes and shopping centers.

The identities of the suspect shooter was not immediately released.

Freshman Sam Sao, 14, said she was in the lunchroom when the shots were heard about 7:30 a.m.

"Everyone was yelling, 'Get in the gym! Get in the gym!'" she said. "At first we thought it was a fight. Then the teachers started getting on the tables and screaming."

Student Jacki Phongsavath said he heard the gunfire.

"I thought it was fireworks," Phongsavath said. "I looked around the corner and saw someone laying on the ground and blood on the lockers."

The medical examiner's office identified the victim as Samnang Kok.

The school was locked down after the shooting.

**Survey: Majority supports all-day 'K'**

60 percent favor tax increase to fund plan

By DEANNA MARTIN  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS

About three-quarters of Indiana residents support state-funded full-day kindergarten, and more than 60 percent would support the programs even if taxes were raised to pay for them, according to a survey released Wednesday.

Education advocates could use the survey by Indiana University's Center for Evaluation and Education Policy to help garner lawmaker support for full-day kindergarten, which Gov. Mitch Daniels plans to push as a top priority during the legislative session.

Suellen Reed, the state's superintendent for public instruction, predicted supporters would cite the survey during General Assembly debates about full-day kindergarten. Teachers and other education officials have worked to stress the importance of such programs for years, Reed said, and the survey results show that people now know and like the idea.

"All of that work is beginning to pay off," Reed said. "If it's going to happen, this is going to be the year. I'm very hopeful."

The survey questioned 612 Indiana residents age 18 or older in November and has a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

Jonathan Plunker, director of IU's Center for Evaluation and Education Policy, said the survey found support for full-day kindergarten that was not seen for other programs.

"Indiana citizens have been paying attention," Plunker said. "They really like the idea."

**BY THE NUMBERS**

A look at some of the results of the 2006 Public Opinion Survey on Education in Indiana, conducted by Indiana University's Center for Evaluation and Education Policy. The survey questioned 612 Indiana residents age 18 or older in November and has a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

Over the past five years, have the public schools in Indiana gotten better, worse or stayed the same?

- 26 percent: Better
- 43.8 percent: Same
- 19 percent: Worse
- 10.8 percent: No answer

Do you support or oppose state-funded full-day kindergarten?

- 73.7 percent: Support
- 22.9 percent: Oppose
- 3.4 percent: No answer

Would you support or oppose full-day kindergarten if taxes had to increase to pay for it?

- 61.3 percent: Support
- 36.1 percent: Oppose
- 2.6 percent: No answer

Would you support or oppose the establishment of a charter school where a majority of the instruction is provided over the Internet?

- 15.8 percent: Support
- 75.9 percent: Oppose
- 8.3 percent: No answer

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