

British tycoon offers prize to fight global warming

The Associated Press

LONDON

British tycoon Richard Branson dangled a \$25 million prize before the world's top scientists Friday seeking to spur research into devising ways to suck greenhouse gases out of the air.

Former Vice President Al Gore lent his support to the challenge, which came a week after a landmark report by the world's leading climate scientists and government officials warned that global warming will continue, creating a far different planet in 100 years.

"Man created the problem, therefore man should solve the problem," Branson said.

He compared the quest to a competition Britain's Parliament launched in 1714 to devise a method of estimating longitude accurately. Six decades passed before English clockmaker John Harrison received his prize from King George III for discovering an accurate method.

"The Earth cannot wait 60 years. We need everybody capable of discovering an answer to put their minds to it today," Branson said.

Branson hopes his offer will lead to a viable machine for vacuuming the Earth's atmosphere of carbon dioxide, one of the greenhouse gases blamed for rising temperatures.

It's an idea many scientists and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change say may be possible someday.

Crash

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

Indiana Rail Road spokesman Chris Rund said it's a coincidence that the same locomotive was involved in two accidents in a week.

"It's purely coincidental, though this is not common," he said.

Locomotives are switched out on the basis of availability, he said. The railroad returned the locomotive to service after a complete mechanical inspection Sunday.

The engine, which dates back to the late 1980s, suffered minor damage in Friday's collision.

The locomotive was moving empty coal cars from Indianapolis back to mines in Greene County in southern Indiana. Between the two incidents, the locomotive made one round trip.

The conductor in Friday's incident returned to work. The locomotive engineer involved in the Stones Crossing Road accident remained on leave through the week's end.

Indiana Rail Road encourages train crews involved in accidents with fatalities to use counseling services to help them recover from the emotional trauma, Rund said.

Locomotives get daily inspections and more comprehensive inspections every three months.

Expenses

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

and switched two salaried full-time employees to part-time, hourly wage positions. They won't receive paid holidays, vacations or health insurance.

The trustee office now is open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, closing a half-hour earlier. Also, the office is no longer open on Fridays.

The changes will save taxpayers about \$18,000 a year, Marks estimated. Such savings are a start, he said.

He also eliminated the office's staff investigator, who was paid \$5,000. The township now hires a private detective and stands to save about \$137 per case, Marks said.

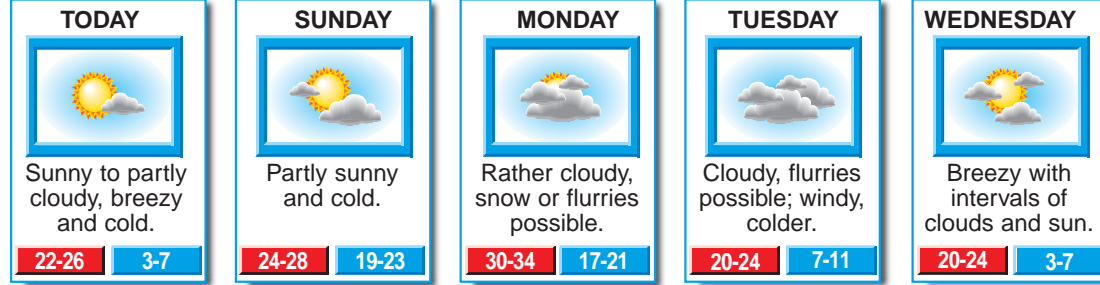
The township office also cut a part-time janitorial position, which cost taxpayers \$160 a week. Employees now pick up after themselves around the office. Marks said he sweeps and takes out the trash himself.

LOTTERY

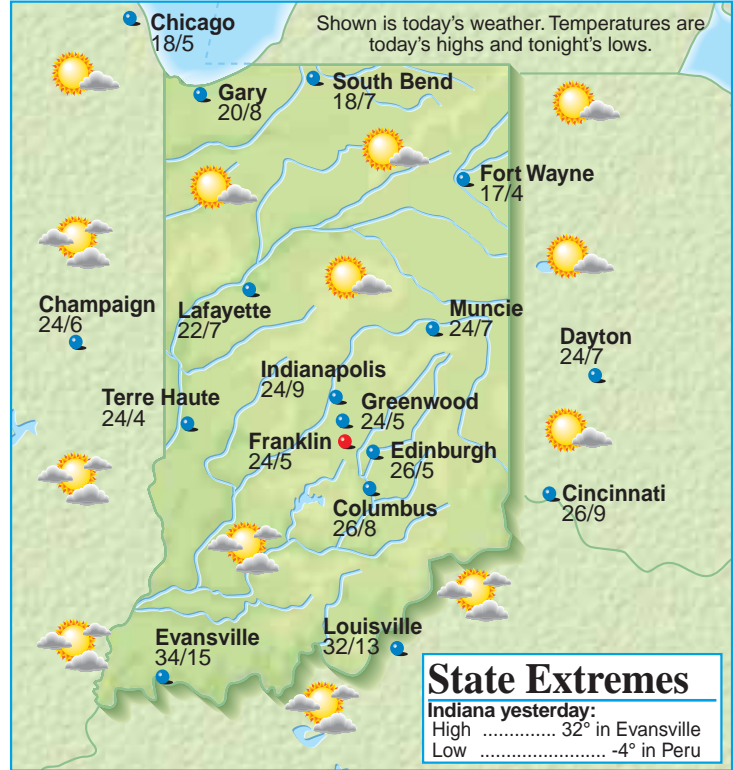
Here are the winning numbers selected Friday in the Hoosier Lottery:
Daily Three Midday: 8-8-7.
Daily Three Evening: 5-9-5.
Daily Four Midday: 8-8-5-9.
Daily Four Evening: 5-0-2-9.
Lucky Five Midday: 1-4-7-13-28.
Lucky Five Evening: 2-12-13-28-35.
Mix and Match: 23-24-41-44-50.
Here are the winning numbers selected Thursday in the Hoosier Lottery:
Daily Three Evening: 9-0-8.
Daily Four Evening: 4-4-9-4.
Lucky Five Evening: 5-13-16-23-25.
Hoosier Lotto jackpot: \$16 million.
Powerball jackpot: \$37 million.

WEATHER

AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Johnson County



Regional weather



State Extremes

Indiana yesterday:

| | |
|------|-------------------|
| High | 32° in Evansville |
| Low | -4° in Peru |

Regional summary

Indianapolis/Greenwood: Mostly sunny, breezy and cold today. Snow tonight, accumulating up to an inch. Some sun tomorrow. Monday: Snow or flurries possible.

Edinburgh/Franklin: Mostly sunny, breezy and cold today. Snow tonight, accumulating up to an inch. Partly sunny tomorrow. Monday: Snow or flurries possible.

Today in weather history™

On Feb. 10, 1980, snow closed interstate highways in Alabama and Dallas. Exactly one year later, spring-style tornadoes damaged schools and shopping centers from Texas to Alabama.

Regional cities

| City | Yest. Hi/Lo/W | Sun. Hi/Lo/W | City | Yest. Hi/Lo/W | Sun. Hi/Lo/W |
|-------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Anderson | 19/1/pc | 24/14/pc | Indianapolis | 20/1/pc | 23/21/pc |
| Bloomington | 27/9/sn | 30/21/pc | Kokomo | 19/3/pc | 22/13/pc |
| Chicago | 18/2/pc | 24/15/pc | Lafayette | 18/1/pc | 24/16/pc |
| Cincinnati | 24/2/pc | 32/20/pc | Louisville | 33/15/pc | 34/28/pc |
| Evansville | 32/17/sn | 36/29/pc | Muncie | 17/0/pc | 21/17/pc |
| Fort Wayne | 19/-3/sn | 20/12/pc | South Bend | 23/1/sn | 21/13/pc |
| Gary | 24/2/pc | 23/15/pc | Terre Haute | 18/7/pc | 28/18/pc |

Free Heating Service Call!

With repair, an \$89 value. Not valid with timed service options. Coupon must be presented at time of service. Cannot be combined with other offers. Offer expires 2/28/07. SL0107

HEATING, AIR CONDITIONING, PLUMBING & DRAIN CLEANING EXPERTS!

Heating: 375-2175
Plumbing: 881-5961

Free Plumbing Service Call!

With repair, an \$79 value. Not valid with timed service options. Coupon must be presented at time of service. Cannot be combined with other offers. Plumbing License #CP8890054. Offer expires 2/28/07. SL0107

Petition

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

Residents have been e-mailing around the form letter addressed to the Johnson County Highway Department, Indiana Rail Road Co. and county commissioner Mitch Ripley.

Several residents report receiving it five to 10 times and passing it on to hundreds of people.

The letter states that safety warnings were needed long ago: "The lack of necessary safety warnings at one of our Johnson County railroad crossings was the cause of these deaths, and we are concerned that if the necessary changes are not taken that it could lead to further incidents."

The letter continues:

"With a tragedy like this, it's crazy to think it could happen again because we did nothing."

Rick Johnson

On efforts to improve railroad-crossing safety in wake of an accident that claimed the lives of Jacob and Travis Findley last week

"We, the citizens of Johnson County, want attention taken, plans made, funding available and projects completed to install the proper railroad safety crossing at all railroad crossings that currently only have stop signs. We want crossing arms, bells, signs, lights, and all necessary safety warnings described in the Federal Railroad-Highway Grade Crossing Handbook."

Those passing the petition on to

Cost

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

the high school will be renovated to make room for more students.

Keep in mind, these aren't the only building projects the district has planned, said Steve Sonntag, Clark-Pleasant business director.

In the next four years, Clark-Pleasant plans to build another elementary and another intermediate school, which would share common spaces with the new middle school. Major renovations to the high school are planned for 2013.

The tax impact of those projects hasn't been estimated. Clark-Pleasant has made a con-

certed effort to scale back projects, phase construction and keep property-tax increases to a minimum, Sonntag said.

Projects such as the renovation of Break-O-Day Elementary and construction of the administration building and Pleasant Crossing Elementary were spaced out, he said.

He said some factors are out of the district's hands.

A tax collected on the inventory of merchandise from businesses such as car lots was eliminated by the state legislature. Now the district can't count on that income.

Full-day kindergarten, if approved by the state legislature, will mean the district will have to find more classrooms to accommodate the extra students.

Collision

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

for Norman-based Booker Co., for failing to yield the right of way and not wearing a seat belt.

"We wonder what he was doing in the truck," said Indiana State Police trooper Kelly Lazzell. "Was he listening to music so loud he couldn't hear? Was he eating? He's just lucky he's not dead."

A badly shaken Huffman had few words. He said he looked both ways at the intersection.

"It all happened so fast," he said. "It happened too fast to feel panic."

Since 1975, seven vehicle-train wrecks have occurred in the town, Bargersville Police Chief John O'Rourke said. Four took place at the Old Plank Road crossing.

After the fatal Center Grove accident, O'Rourke researched putting gates and warning lights

at the two railroad crossings in Bargersville. The town council has considered the matter before, deeming it too costly.

O'Rourke has been looking for grant money that would allow the town to put in warning lights and gates, estimated to cost at least \$250,000 per railroad crossing. He plans to bring the matter before the town council during its meeting Tuesday.

The increase in White River Township's population mean more vehicles pass the railroad crossings, making such accidents more likely, Bargersville Fire Chief James White said.

Bargersville would need state or federal support to pay for railroad crossing warnings, said town manager Mike McCarthy.

"We're on the same page with the county in putting safeguards at these crossings," McCarthy said. "We just need to find the funding."

The Indiana Rail Road Co. owns the railroad, which has two crossings in Bargersville.

Sun and moon

Sunrise today 7:43 a.m.
Sunset tonight 6:14 p.m.
Moonrise today 1:47 a.m.
Moonset today 11:22 a.m.



AccuWeather UV Index™

Highest Today in Johnson County
Values indicate the exposure to the sun's ultraviolet rays.



Weather Trivia™

What is snow burn?

A burn caused by the sun's rays reflected off snow cover.

Wind Chill Today

How cold it feels based on temperature and wind speed.

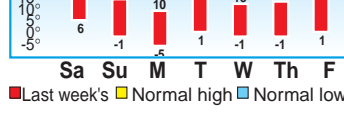
8 a.m. Noon 4 p.m.
-1° 5° 12°

Heating Degree Days

Index of energy consumption indicating how many degrees the average temperature was below 65 degrees for the day with negative values counting as zero

Yesterday 56
Month to date 491
Normal month to date 332

Weekly temperatures



Last week's Normal high Normal low

River stages

Fld: flood stage. Stage: in feet at 7 a.m.

Friday. Chg: change in previous 24 hours.

| Station | Fld | Stage | Chg |
|-------------------------|-----|-------|-------|
| White River | | | |
| Mooreville | 9 | 7.99 | -0.03 |
| White River (East Fork) | | | |
| Edinburgh | 12 | 4.69 | -0.12 |

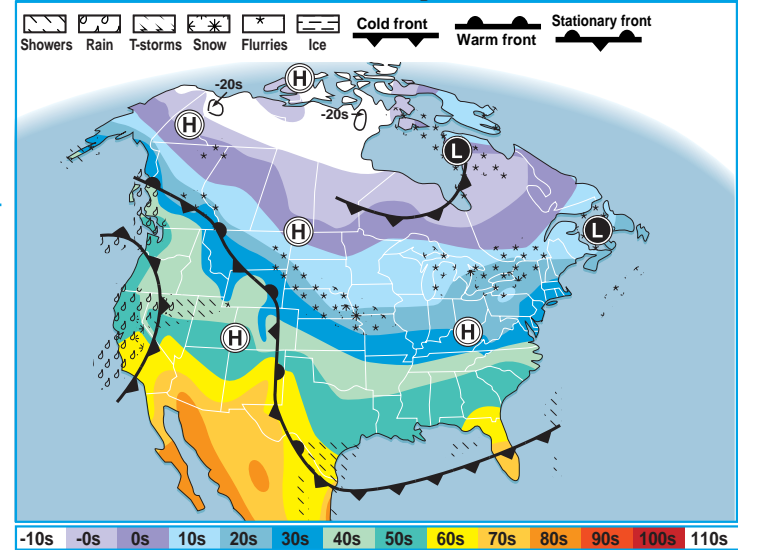
Almanac

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2007

Statistics for Indianapolis through 5 p.m. yesterday.

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Temperature | Wind |
| High 17° | Average dir./speed NW at 8.0 mph |
| Low 1° | Highest speed 9 |
| Normal high 38° | Humidity |
| Normal low 21° | Yesterday's average 60% |
| Record high 66° in 1943 | Today's average 59% |
| Record low -18° in 1899 | |
| Precipitation | |
| 24 hrs. ending 5 p.m. yest. 0.00" | |
| Month to date 0.41" | |
| Normal month to date 0.72" | |
| Year to date 4.82" | |
| Normal year to date 3.20" | |

National weather today



Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

National cities

| City | Yest. Hi/Lo/W | Sun. Hi/Lo/W | City | Yest. Hi/Lo/W | Sun. Hi/Lo/W |
|----------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| Albany, NY | 23/16/c | 27/9/pc | Houston | 58/50/c | 68/60/c |
| Atlanta | 43/35/r | 53/37/pc | Jacksonville | 71/43/pc | 68/40/pc |
| Atlantic City | 32/17/s | 35/16/pc | Kansas City | 21/16/sn | 32/22/sn |
| Baltimore | 34/18/s | 36/19/pc | Las Vegas | 69/53/pc | 66/45/c |
| Boston | 29/19/pc | 33/20/pc | Los Angeles | 70/54/pc | 65/50/c |
| Buffalo | 25/14/sf | 23/14/c | Louisville | 33/15/pc | 34/28/pc |
| Burlington, VT | 19/5/sf | 19/6/pc | Memphis | 37/28/sn | 47/41/c |
| Champaign | 13/4/pc | 27/18/pc | Miami | 81/62/pc | 77/64/pc |
| Charleston, SC | 58/36/sh | 57/40/pc | Milwaukee | 17/3/pc | 23/15/sf |
| Cheyenne | 49/22/pc | 43/23/c | Minneapolis | 12/-7/pc | 14/3/sf |
| Chicago | 18/2/pc | 24/15/pc | Nashville | 35/23/c | 45/32/pc |
| Cleveland | 21/2/sf | 24/16/pc | New Orleans | 73/53/c | 60/56/c |
| Columbia, SC | 53/32/sh | 56/35/pc | New York | 33/20/pc | 33/23/pc |
| Columbus, GA | 49/37/r | 59/39/pc | Philadelphia | 33/16/pc | 34/22/pc |
| Dallas | 45/38/c | 63/57/c | Phoenix | 79/53/pc | 72/52/pc |
| Denver | 38/19/c | 48/25/c | St. Louis | 31/18/pc | 36/26/c |
| Des Moines | 16/7/pc | 25/13/sn | Salt Lake City | 51/35/pc | 47/32/c |
| Detroit | 25/9/pc | 25/15/pc | San Francisco | 59/53/r | 58/47/sh |
| El Paso | 73/42/pc | 71/46/pc | Seattle | 56/42/r | 48/40/r |
| Fairbanks | 18/5/c | 5/-14/s | Tampa | 74/49/pc | 70/54/pc |
| Honolulu | 76/64/pc | 78/67/pc | Washington, DC | 34/16/pc | 38/25/pc |

Weather (w): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, f-ice.



entire address books said they don't want to assign blame, they just want the problem to be fixed.

"It's just sensible to do something," said Center Grove area resident Rick Johnson, who was Jacob Findley's youth coach at Mount Pleasant Christian Church. "With a tragedy like this, it's crazy to think it could happen again because we did nothing."

Johnson County commissioners have said they want to upgrade the safety equipment at four railroad crossings in the Center Grove area. They've asked the county highway department to figure out how to get it done, with a report scheduled for the Feb. 27 meeting.

Equipping railroad crossings with warning lights and gates is estimated to cost \$250,000. Those signing the petition said cost should be no objection.

"I am told the cost is outrageous,

... so what," wrote Center Grove area resident Brady Clements in an e-mail to hundreds. "This is a road traveled by thousands of residents in our community every day. If not this, then what project is worthy of spending our money on?"

Clements asked people to pray for the families. Many members of their church, Mount Pleasant, have been active in passing around the petition.

Long has lived in the area for 20 years and has been concerned about safety at the Stones Road Crossing railroad crossing. Her sons passed it daily when attending Center Grove High School.

"Now we're addressing this as a community," she said. "We need to do what we must to make it safe."

Residents are asked to copy and sign the letter as "a concerned, motivated, and caring voting citizen of Johnson County."

for the building was shared with the public, some residents said they were concerned.

Some questioned if too many athletic fields were proposed and whether athletics were being made a priority.

New layouts show a basic plan that puts function over form, Rigsbee said.

"Building important-looking buildings shows that what is going on inside the buildings is important," said Jim Schellinger, a principal with architects CSO Schenke Schultz.

But the district will walk a fine line in not over-building the school, he said.

"The community will monitor that closely," he said.

Marks wants community input on the proposal. He's already talked to about 100 people, who he said have been supportive.

Center Grove residents now must reserve the community rooms and pay a refundable deposit.

Currently, the only group paying to use the building is a home-school group, which pays \$25 a week to use a room every Thursday.

The center offers the only community venue in the area aside from churches and schools.

Rental money would pay for electricity, heat and cleanup costs incurred from weekend use of the building, Marks said. The rooms offer access to audio-video equipment, an LCD projector, Internet hookup and a DVD player.

Township policy already outlines a fee structure for rentals, but it has not been enforced, he said.

The township auditor leases office space at the government center, which also hosts a sheriff's annex.

U.N. chief appoints American to top spot

The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon named an American ambassador to the top U.N. political post Friday as part of a long-awaited overhaul of senior U.N. posts to start shaping his new administration.

As part of the shakeup, he also gave key jobs to officials from the United States, China, Japan and Egypt and accepted the resignation of 17 senior staff members.

The secretary-general, who took office Jan. 1, decided to leave a number of senior U.N. officials in their jobs including Undersecretary-General for Peacekeeping Jean-Marie Guenhoe of France, Legal Counsel Nicolas Michel of Switzerland, and security chief David Veness of Britain.

With his previous appointments, Ban has kept the U.N. tradition of giving top jobs in the U.N. Secretariat to the five permanent Security Council nations — the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China — as well as its largest financial contributors, the U.S. and Japan.

As predicted, Ban named the U.S. ambassador to Indonesia, B. Lynn Pascoe, as undersecretary-general for political affairs. Pascoe, 63, a career diplomat who has served in Moscow, Hong Kong and Bangkok, as well as Beijing twice, has been ambassador in Jakarta since October 2004.

Some diplomats have questioned whether putting an American in such a sensitive post dealing with global hotspots especially in the Mideast will work, because even though all U.N. staff pledge to support the world body, they still carry the weight of the politics in their home countries.

Pascoe will replace Ibrahim Gambari of Nigeria who visited Myanmar twice last year to appeal to the military government to release all political prisoners and institute democratic reforms.



BAN