

- MOVIE LISTINGS, C2
- NUPTIALS, C2
- COMMUNITY CALENDAR, C6
- WORSHIP SCHEDULE, C7

ACCENT

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SECTION **C**

Assistance dog Luke, a yellow Lab, waits patiently as his owner, Brad Duerstock, does work at Purdue University. "Luke does a lot of simple tasks for me that most people take for granted," said Duerstock, a neurobiologist at the school in West Lafayette. AP PHOTOS



Janet Hommel Mangas

Choosing jobs a bit easier after snow, Colts game

My life-changing revelation: No future as a NFL referee or big-rig trucker.

While watching the nail-biting Colts-Patriots game Sunday night, I made a mental note to myself not to seek employment as a NFL football referee.

The pressure of missing one small call, like pass interference, (while taking a mere nano-second to apply a quick coat of much-needed Chapstick) could turn a stadium full of your neighbors completely against you.

Only nine months ago on April 15, I had a similar life-changing revelation.

While traveling Interstate 70 from Copper Mountain to the Denver airport, the snow-covered interstate became more treacherous.

Though we had skied for three days in sunny 60 degree weather, it snowed heavily the morning we left at 6:30 a.m.

As we slowly crept down the icy mountain road from 8,000 feet into Denver's rainy 5,200 feet elevation, I had a life-changing revelation as I drove by a multitude of slide-offs on I-70.

I realized that the No. 1 totally unsuitable career choice for me would be working as a trucker driving an 18-wheeler through an icy mountain range.

As we passed a line of 10 trucks pulled off to the side of the icy, snowy road that seemed to slant about 30 degrees, I watched as the truckers heroically left the warmth and safety of their rigs and attached metal chains to their rubber wheels.

In case the truckers couldn't tell how slippery the roads were by the sight of overturned trucks lying on the side of the road like a herd of hit possums, the state of Colorado has illuminated signs that hang above the interstate that inform drivers when it is illegal to drive without chains. Violators will be fined.

As we crept along, I imagined these truckers talking to their bosses on their CB radios or cell phones: "Fred, this load of broccoli and lettuce will be a few hours late. I gotta slow down through Colorado. We got new snow."

His boss would answer in his controlling and irritable voice: "Bud, just get that lettuce to the stores before it wilts, or I'm gonna have to dock your pay."

Bud feels the stress of his job but also knows he's not going to risk his life for somebody's fresh, perky lettuce. He has a wife and three kids to take care of.

Now I'm not being hoity-toity, and I respect truck drivers, but I just don't think I could cut it as a long-hauler.

I don't think anyone would want to drive on the interstate with a 47-year-old, overly-anxious flatlander trying to control a big

(SEE JOBS PAGE C5)

Working like a dog

By JENNIFER CHRISTOS
LAFAYETTE JOURNAL & COURIER

WEST LAFAYETTE

It took Brad Duerstock about a week to teach his dog Luke how to open a sliding glass door.

With a tug rope tied to the door's handle, the service dog had to learn to pull in the right direction and parallel to the door, instead of perpendicular, as he had learned with other doors.

A neurobiologist at Purdue University, Duerstock was matched with the yellow Lab through Indiana Canine Assistant and Adolescent Network last year. He is one of only a few adults who have been chosen for the program.

Indiana Canine is a nonprofit organization based in Indianapolis that partners with the Indiana Department of Correction. Inmates train assistance dogs for Hoosiers who need help because of a disability.

Having a service dog gives Duerstock more freedom and autonomy both at home and at work, allowing him to perform tasks he never thought possible.

"Luke does a lot of simple tasks for me that most people take for granted," he said.

Indiana Canine dogs are trained to perform tasks including opening a refrigerator, turning a light switch on and off, retrieving laundry from a dryer, pulling money from a bag to pay a cashier and bracing someone

(SEE DOG, PAGE C3)

Therapy canines help the disabled, provide diversion for inmates



Luke takes a piece of paper to the trash for his owner, Brad Duerstock, at Purdue University. The Indiana Canine Assistant and Adolescent Network, which uses prison inmates to train service dogs, paired Duerstock with his dog.

Material kids: Wealth a top priority for young people

Obsession for things spans all social classes

By MARTHA IRVINE
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO

Melissa Greenwood sees it every day at her high school: the hyper-focus on designer labels, the must-have trendy cell phones, the classmates driving Sport Utility Vehicles.

You could say it's just teens being teens. But new polls show that the obsession with material things is growing and that being rich is more important to today's young people than in the past.

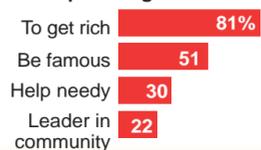
UCLA's annual survey of college freshmen, released last Friday, found that nearly three-quarters of those surveyed in 2006 thought it was essential or very important to be "very well-off financially." That compares with 62.5 percent who said the same in 1980 and 42 percent in 1966, the first year the survey was done.

Another recent poll from the Pew

The dash for cash

Wealth and fame are top goals for today's 18- to 25-year-olds.

Most important goals in life?



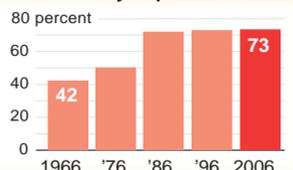
SOURCES: Pew Research Center; UCLA's annual freshmen survey AP

Research Center found that about 80 percent of 18- to 25-year-olds in this country see getting rich as a top life goal for their generation.

"It bothers me because I would like to think I am the opposite," says Greenwood, a 16-year-old high school junior from Arlington Heights, a well-off suburb outside Chicago. She tries to keep her own spending in check under the watchful eye of her parents.

But even she sometimes finds it difficult to avoid the urge to fit in.

Percentage of college freshmen considering being financially well-off very important



"Let's face it," she says. "Honestly, what teenage girl doesn't want to look cute and have the latest accessories?"

Young Americans' obsession with material things recently caused talk show host Oprah Winfrey to vent her frustrations, when asked why she chose to build a school in South Africa instead of this country.

"If you ask the kids what they want or need, they will say an iPod or some sneakers," Winfrey told Newsweek, referring to visits with students in

inner-city school. "In South Africa, they don't ask for money or toys. They ask for uniforms so they can go to school."

Indeed, researchers say materialism is an obsession that cuts across socioeconomic lines for American youth.

"Our kids have absorbed the cultural values of more, easy, fast and fun," says David Walsh, a psychologist who heads the National Institute on Media and the Family in Minneapolis. He's also author of the new book, "No: Why Kids — of All Ages — Need to Hear It and Ways Parents Can Say It."

As his book's title suggests, he believes parents have played an integral role in encouraging their children's materialism. His research found that, when adjusted for inflation, parents are spending 500 percent more money on kids today than just one generation earlier.

"A lot of parents have developed an allergic reaction to their kids being unhappy," he says.

Ann Fishman, a generational marketing consultant in New

(SEE WEALTH, PAGE C3)

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With the holiday season just behind us, your digital camera and photo files are probably bursting at the seams.

Don't let them stack up willy-nilly on your computer. Showing them off is easy and often free. Here's how:

Pick a program: Whether it's iPhoto or Kodak Picture Viewer, test a few different photo-viewing programs until you find one you want to stick with. It's easier to keep track of all of your photos in one place.

Share the fun: Sending photos via e-mail can be a major time waster. Store them online instead. Photo sites such as Flickr.com and KodakGallery.com let you create online albums for free. E-mail friends and family the link, and they won't have to sit through never-ending downloads.

DIY? No need: Let the pros handle printing. Online services such as Kodak and even CVS, Walgreens and Target let you upload digital photos and print them for pennies each. The best part: They are delivered to your home within a few business days.

