

THE NEWS SUN

Kendallville, Indiana

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\$1.25

Weather
Some clouds today
with a high
in the mid-80s.
Low in the 60s.
Page B6

GOOD MORNING



Ugliest dog

Miss Ellie celebrates her win in the World's Ugliest Dog Contest's pedigree class at the Sonoma-Marina Fair Friday in Petaluma, Calif. She is a blind 15-year-old Chinese Crested Hairless.

Dillinger exhibit to open July 15

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — An exhibit featuring artifacts, photographs and documents about Depression-era gangster John Dillinger will open July 15 at the Indiana State Library in Indianapolis.

The exhibit follows the scheduled July 1 release of the new Dillinger movie "Public Enemies," starring Johnny Depp.

Indiana state librarian Roberta Brooker says the exhibit will offer a glimpse into the life of Dillinger "and what factors led this ordinary Hoosier farm boy towards a life of crime."

The exhibit is scheduled to run through Dec. 31.

Dallas stop yields pot in casket

DALLAS (AP) — A casket minus a cadaver yielded nearly 100 pounds of marijuana after a traffic stop in Dallas.

William Dale Crook of Cave City, Ark., was in jail Friday on a marijuana possession charge, plus traffic and seat belt violations.

Dallas police say Crook was arrested Wednesday when bundles of marijuana were discovered under the casket's cover and pillow.

Sr. Cpl. Kevin Janse (JAN'-see) told said the van turned up during surveillance on a suspected drug house. Police stopped the van in Mesquite, after noticing Crook not wearing a seat belt. Officers also said he allegedly ran a red light and did an improper lane change.

State parks could close

Legislature must pass budget by midnight Tuesday to keep facilities open

BY MIKE MARTURELLO
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LAKE JAMES — People with reservations to camp or rent any number of facilities at Indiana's state parks and reservoirs started receiving notice late Friday that they might not get to spend their holiday at the parks.

That's because state parks and reservoirs could end up closing on

Wednesday if the Legislature does not pass a budget by Tuesday's deadline.

The state's fiscal year ends at midnight Tuesday. Terry Coleman, north district supervisor for Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of State Parks and Reservoirs, said e-mails went out Friday to those who made reservations online for camp sites,

cabins, shelters, recreations buildings and the like. Letters were sent out to those who didn't make their reservations online.

"Basically we're preparing for a potential shut down," Coleman said on Saturday. "You want to inform the folks. This is the busiest holiday of the recreation season."

On Friday, Gov. Mitch Daniels outlined services that would be

suspended until a budget can get passed and signed by him into law. On the list was closing DNR recreation properties, including such places as Pokagon State Park in Steuben County, Chain O' Lakes State Park in Noble County and the Pigeon River Fish and Wildlife Area in Steuben and LaGrange counties.

SEE PARKS, PAGE A8

Progress



KARLY THERNEY

The new industrial park in LaGrange County will be completed with the help of collaboration with the state of Michigan for sewer lines coming from Sturgis. This sewer line is being constructed just off S.R. 9.

Potential drownings probed in LaGrange County

BY DENNIS NARTKER
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SHIPSHEWANA — LaGrange County authorities are investigating a pair of possible drownings which claimed two lives late Saturday afternoon.

A 3-year-old girl and another person died from possible accidental drownings in county lakes Saturday.

At about 5:36 p.m. emergency responders and Indiana conservation officers were called to Cass Lake west of Shippshewana to a possible drowning, according to a spokesman from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Northern District headquarters.

Witnesses reported the girl missing and called for help. At about 5:41 p.m. a person at the scene found the girl's body in about four feet of water. An autopsy was scheduled, according to the conservation officers headquarters spokesman.

The spokesman said he could not release the name of the child because she was a juvenile.

The spokesman confirmed conservation officers also investigated a possible accidental drowning death in Dallas Lake which had occurred earlier in the afternoon.

At about 4:56 p.m. emergency responders were called to 0000 West block of C.R. 590N on Dallas Lake southwest of Valentine. Authorities refused to release further details late Saturday night.

Conservation officers, who are the law enforcement arm of the IDNR, investigate all potential drownings.

SILVER LININGS

Local economic development agencies see better times on the horizon

BY CINDY BEVINGTON
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A rural business development center in Avilla. An industrial hub of distribution and transportation centers in Howe.

Shovel-ready building sites in Ligonier and Kendallville. A nucleus of museums and an expanding, diversifying industrial base in Auburn.

And in Angola, a cooperative effort to revitalize downtown in a way that, in just a few years, should make the city an epicenter for education and performing arts, business and industry and jobs of the future.

While some of these projects in Noble, LaGrange, DeKalb and Steuben counties are still on the drawing board or waiting for a final OK or funding from a governmental body, all are part of local officials'

plans to stir the local economy and bring new jobs to northeastern Indiana.

According to the May figures, Noble County had the third-highest unemployment in the state at 17.3 percent. LaGrange County was fourth at 16.6 percent Steuben County, ranked eighth, saw an increase in unemployment from 15.0 percent to 15.7 percent in May.

DeKalb County, with the lowest unemployment rate in the four-county area at 14.0 percent in May, ranks 12th in the state. It saw an increase from 13.4 percent in April.

Murmurs of an uptick in these communities' manufacturing bases have been making the rounds lately, with reports that this or that factory had called back workers, or had returned to 12-hour shifts and were

SEE ECONOMY, PAGE A8

ICE is expanding, accepting applications

ANGOLA — Industrial Contracting & Engineering (ICE) is breaking the ice of silence that other local industries have put up about whether or not they're hiring, expanding or increasing work hours. ICE not only is accepting employment applications, but has moved to a new location that is 10 times larger than the old one.

"It's not all doom and gloom," said Karen Van Vlerah, office manager of ICE and co-owner of the company with her husband Jim. "Certainly we had our share of work in the auto industry, but we have a gamut of other customers, for example,

SEE ICE, PAGE A8

Backpack program to continue, thanks to local support

BY DENNIS NARTKER
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KENDALLVILLE — When school ended for the summer, East Noble Boomerang Backpack coordinator Mark Cockroft didn't know if he had enough financial support to continue the program for the 2009-2010 school year.

"I wanted it to continue because we'll still have children coming to school hungry, but I didn't know," he said last week.

His worries are over. Thanks to the generous support from local industry, businesses and private individuals, the East Noble Boomerang Backpack program will not only continue the next school year but expand into all five of the corporation's elementary schools. In addition to Boomerang Backpack continuing at South Side and Rome City elementaries, the program will begin in the fall at North Side, Wayne Center and Avilla elementary schools.

"We're hoping to feed 400 kids, and that's fantastic. The reaction has just been overwhelming," Cockroft said.

Courier Kendallville officials announced last week that the company and its employees would make an \$18,000 donation to the program.

Courier Kendallville plant manager Christine Bitner said she saw NBC's Making a Difference feature on the Boomerang Backpack program and was so moved she asked employees if they'd like to help.

"Many of them had also seen it and wanted to do something," she said.

Employees not only donated cash but directed year-long paycheck deductions to support the program, according to Peggy Gleason, Courier Kendallville human resources manager.

"The Courier Kendallville employees have been extremely

SEE BACKPACK, PAGE A8



DENNIS NARTKER

East Noble Boomerang Backpack program coordinator Mark Cockroft, right, receives a check for the program from Courier Kendallville employees Terry Lewis, Christine Bitner, Kathy Warner and Peggy Gleason.

Info

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Inside

ClassifiedD5-D8
DeathsA4
BusinessB6-B7
OpinionA6
SportsB1-B5
LifeC1
ReligionC3

Vol. 100 No. 177



7 06804 15704 8