



Weather  
Snow possible  
today and Friday  
with highs in the  
mid-30s.  
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# THE NEWS SUN

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## Backpack effort gets recognition

### EN's Cockroft lauded as 'hero' at seminar for philanthropic endeavor

BY DENNIS NARTKER  
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KENDALLVILLE —  
"Boomerang Backpacks is one of the greatest programs I've seen come along in a long, long time."  
— State Rep. David Yarde, R-Garrett.

Children with full tummies can come to school satisfied and ready to learn. That's the simple beauty behind Boomerang Backpacks, an initiative started last year with the East Noble schools that expanded into other school districts in northeast Indiana, and garnered interest from other school districts in Indiana and the country. The initiative is now called Boomerang Backpacks of Indiana, according to East Noble High School teacher Mark Cockroft, the initiative's

coordinator. Wednesday morning Boomerang Backpacks of Indiana hosted a program summit at the Northeast Indiana Four-County Vocational Cooperative's Fairview campus for participating schools, student volunteers and anyone interested in beginning a similar project. Jane Avery, executive director of the Community Harvest Food Bank, Bill Stockberger, grant coordinator for the Steuben County Community Foundation, and Becky Calhoun of Calhoun Grant Writing, led small group sessions on food sources, community involvement, marketing and fundraising.

Boomerang Backpacks are backpacks full of child-friendly food that children in need receive  
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DENNIS NARTKER

State Rep. David Yarde, R-Garrett, right, honored Boomerang Backpacks coordinator Mark Cockroft, left, with a certification of appreciation from the Indiana House of Representatives at Wednesday's Boomerang Backpacks program summit and training session in Kendallville.

### Police warn of scam

KENDALLVILLE — If you receive a phone call advising you had won \$5,000 from the Noble County Fair, don't believe it. Kendallville Police Chief Rob Wiley warned residents Wednesday about a possible scam. A woman reported to police that her husband had won \$5,000 from the fair. The woman's husband was deceased during the time of the fair and she refused to give information to caller. She hung up and called police.

Wiley warns residents not to divulge personal information to strangers over the phone. If the call is too good to be true, it probably is. Wiley advises those receiving a phone call that they believe to be a scam to hang up and call police.



Amputee Pierpaolo Petruzzello touches a robotic hand during a press conference in Rome, Wednesday.

### Experts: Man controlled robotic hand with thoughts

ROME (AP) — A group of European scientists say they have successfully connected a robotic hand to a man who had lost an arm, allowing him to feel sensations in the artificial hand and control it with his thoughts.

The experiment lasted a month. Scientists say it was the first time an amputee has been able to make complex movements using his mind to control a biomechanical hand connected to his nervous system.

The Italian-led team said Wednesday in Rome that last year they implanted electrodes into the arm of the patient, who had lost his left hand and forearm in a car accident.

The electrodes were removed after a month, during which the man learned to wiggle the robotic fingers and make other movements.

## Thespians staging 'Dove Tale'

### Christmas play is this weekend in Ligonier

LIGONIER — The Ligonier Community Theatre will present the holiday Christmas play "Dove Tale" in three performances this weekend at West Noble Middle School's Charger Hall.

The show, under the direction of area residents Cheryl Watts and Sidney Weade, will take place at the school on Friday at 7 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday matinees at 3 p.m.

Admission is free with patrons encouraged to bring a canned goods to help support West Noble Food Pantry, or article(s) of clothing to support The Clothing Closet.

"Dove Tale" is written by Ted Swartz, Lee Eshleman, and Ingrid De Santis. The play shows how the first Christmas came together of the old and very familiar biblical



Cast members from "Dove Tail," a Christmas-theme play being presented this weekend in Ligonier, are shown. In the front, from left, are Nate Reynolds and Erica Reynolds; in the back, from left, are Marcia Leitch, Lynn McCullough, Cheryl Watts and Taylor Watts. Performances are Friday, Saturday and Sunday at West Noble Middle School.

story with a "modern day" twist.

The cast of the show consists of Nate and Erica Reynolds, Taylor and Cheryl Watts, Lynn McCullough, and Marcia Leitch. The crew working behind the scenes includes Kathy West, Tom and Dawn Richie, Brandon Replogle, Matt Boggs, Dixie Kreager and Harlan Hite.

"The purpose of the performances and effort by the volunteers is to create an excellent Christmas play for a good cause for the community," according to Hite.

Organizers say the show would not take place without the support of West Noble School Corp. for the use of the school's facilities.

## Tiger admits 'transgressions'

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP) — With a public apology and another appeal for privacy, Tiger Woods acknowledged Wednesday that he let his family down with unspecified "transgressions" that he regrets with "all of my heart."

"I have not been true to my values and the behavior my family deserves," Woods said

on his Web site following a magazine report of an alleged affair.

It was his longest statement since a middle-of-the-night car crash outside his Florida home last week set off the greatest media scrutiny of Woods' career and his 5-year-old marriage to former model Elin Nordegren. He did not go into detail and said he would deal with his "personal failings" with his

family. "Those feelings should be shared by us alone," he said.

Shortly after the investigation of the car accident ended Tuesday with a \$164 citation for careless driving, Us Weekly reported that a Los Angeles cocktail waitress claims she had a 31-minute affair with the world's No. 1 golfer.

About three hours before Woods' statement, the magazine released what it said was a voice mail — provided by the waitress,

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WOODS' SPONSORS are behind him — for now, SEE PAGE A4.



Woods

## Lessons learned from flu outbreak

BY MIKE MARTURELLO  
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ANGOLA — Health care officials from the four-county area are learning lessons and facing shortages due to pandemic H1N1 influenza.

The two waves of H1N1 that have hit the area have put to the test emergency planning at area hospitals, where officials are seeing shortages of certain supplies due to federal treatment requirements.

"I think this has kind of taught us about our supply issues," said Rhonda Blevins, infection control manager at DeKalb Memorial Hospital, Auburn.

The key item that hospitals have shortages of are N-95 masks. These are masks that filter out 95 percent of particulate matter.

These are specialized masks that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Occupational Safety Health Administration require health care professionals to use when treating people with H1N1 and other respiratory ailments, such as tuberculosis.

Because of this requirement, the masks are difficult to come by.

"The problem is, we can't get them. We have a limited supply of them. Seeing that everyone in the world is ordering them, they're tough to get," Blevins said.

"Pretty much everybody's in short supply. On the good side, we

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### ONLINE:

#### ONLINE POLL

What do you think of President Obama's Afghanistan decision?

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BOB BRALEY

### Christmas all over

This house on Main Street in Wolf Lake, next door to the Wolf Lake Elementary School, has a collection of more than 15 inflatable Christmas

decorations facing the street and the school parking lot. Some of those decorations are shown.