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handicapped**
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Local in brief

REGION

Football hopefuls will get their chance in Hammond

HAMMOND - Boys and girls ages 8 through 11 are invited to show off their football skills in punting, passing and kicking in the Greater Post, Fun and Kick contest Sept. 5 at the Hammond Civic Center, 2025 South Ave.

Davenport College adds three associate degrees

MERRILLVILLE - Davenport College has added three associate degrees which will be offered this semester. Students can now earn two-year degrees in general business, sales and marketing, and business management.

Area students will attend state math, science academy

MUNCIE - Several students from Northwest Indiana are among the 123 high school juniors chosen to attend the Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics and Humanities fall.

The academy, on the Ball State University campus, is a residential state school for gifted high school students. Those local high school juniors and their hometowns are: Catherine Czerniowski, South Point; Shannon Ross of Cedar Lake; Tracy Miller and Sara Spencer of Crown Point; Sheri Moulting of Dyer; Masha Armore, Mandi Artman, Yotta Brooks, Ed Cook Jr., Derek Jones, Alexa Hamilton, Wanda Hardy, George Kostalis, Michael Terry and Sarah Wild of Gary. Also Tammy Servino of Hammond; Adriana Cervino and Sarah Wignate of Lowell; and Christine Behy of Schererville.

Wheatfield budget for 1993 will be approved today

WHEATFIELD - Adoption of the town's proposed budget for 1993 is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. today in the town hall.

The \$223,600 budget reflects an increase of \$10,000 over the 1992 figure of \$204,000.

Lowell zoning board allows two homeowners to expand

LOWELL - The town's Board of Zoning Appeals has granted two variances for additions to two existing homes.

High Day of 127 S. Nichols received a rear setback and lot coverage variance for construction of a family room and bedroom, with the stipulation that the addition does not exceed the size of the existing home.

Lake Central gets grant to develop new programs

ST. JOHN - A \$25,000 grant has been awarded to Lake Central High School for its work in the area of school improvement.

Valpo business college gets grant from Kemper

VALPARAISO - The Valparaiso University College of Business Administration has been awarded a \$7,500 grant by the Jamis S. Kemper Foundation, Long Grove, Ill.

'Stay-at-home' moms team up for information

LANSING - If most of your conversation these days consists of dialogue with an infant or toddler and you find yourself craving adult company once in a while, one Lansing woman thinks she has the answer.

Dawn Kwasniewski is forming a support group for "stay-at-home" moms so they can share information.

Kwasniewski, 25, had her first baby, Jessica, four months ago. After Jessica's birth, Dawn left her position as an office

Drifter linked to motel slayings

By BOB BROWN
Times Staff Writer

A 48-year-old drifter who allegedly carved "165" on the chest of a rape victim has become the prime suspect in the murders of two Days Inn clerks in 1989.

Schaumburg in April. Indiana State Police investigators have taken DNA samples from Franco, which have been sent to the FBI for genetic testing in an attempt to link him to the slayings of Mary Margaret Gill and Jeanne Marie Gilbert.

Gill, 24, of Ross Township was sexually assaulted and killed inside the Days Inn at Interstate 65 and U.S. 30 in Merrillville on the morning of March 1, 1989.

help and, based on her description of the assailant, police arrested Franco, the source said.



Times photo by Twyla Marie Duester

Flying high

Ronald Trath of Justice, Ill., reaches out his foot to touch the center of a swing set in Wickler Park. Ronald was in town visiting his mother.

Dyer considers tough budget cuts

By TRACY HAYHURST
Times Staff Writer

DYER - Plans for a 4 percent pay raise for town employees, two new squad cars and an additional police officer could be dropped as town officials look for ways to cut \$300,000 from the proposed 1993 budget.

Residents will get the chance to voice their opinions on the proposed budget at a public hearing at 6:30 p.m. today at the town hall.

Officials estimate that slightly more than \$2 million is to be raised through property taxes. The balance of town revenues will come from miscellaneous sources such as fees on gasoline and cigarette taxes that come from the state.

WHEN BABY AND YOU MAKES OVERWHELMING

'Stay-at-home' moms team up for information

By KYM LEBLER
Times Staff Writer

Dawn Kwasniewski is forming a support group for "stay-at-home" moms so they can share information.



Times photo by Twyla Marie Duester

Dawn Kwasniewski plays with 4-month-old Jessica. Dawn is looking for others to form a support group for "stay-at-home" mothers.

Sewer districts' futures murky

Independence Hall, M'ville merger isn't likely anytime soon

By DEBORAH LAVERTY
Times Correspondent

MERRILLVILLE - If the town's two sanitary sewer districts were to merge in the near future, it wouldn't be a love match.

But talk persists about a "marriage of convenience" between the Merrillville Conservancy District and the Independence Hill Conservancy District, which have been at odds almost since the beginning.

One of the strongest supporters for either a merger or a separate town-wide sanitary district is state Rep. Chester Dobbis, D-Merrillville.

About three years ago, at the Town Council's request, he helped sponsor a state law that allowed for the possibility of merging the Independence Hill and

Parker keeps close watch on her 'baby'

By DEBORAH LAVERTY
Times Correspondent

MERRILLVILLE - Lucille Parker, chairman of the Independence Hill Conservancy District, doesn't have to face the problem of a long commute to the office each morning.

Part of her home has served as a rent-free office for the district since February, the year she was named chairman of the IHCD board of directors.

"The district has been my baby ever since," Parker said. The grand-sons, two-story combination house is located east of Fair Street in a residential area in

Lake Cal foes: We have proven city hall beatable

By LARRY GALICA
Times Correspondent

CHICAGO - U.S. Rep. George Sangmeister, D-Ill., told opponents of the Lake Calumet airport Sunday they proved they can beat city hall if they work together.

About 100 opponents of the airport gathered to thank political and community leaders as well as citizens for helping to defeat the site, which would have wiped out almost the entire neighborhood.

The dinner was held at Steve's Lounge in the Hegewisch neighborhood, which would have been wiped out by creation of an airport.

Sangmeister, the keynote speaker, opposed the Lake Calumet site, preferring a Kankakee site, one of three suggested rural sites for the third airport.

"The old slogan that you can't beat city hall is going to fall... The power is in the people. We can have renewed faith in democracy because it really does work."

The Lake Calumet site apparently died in

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