

# Inside Marion County

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## Fort union leaders optimistic

By GERRY LANOSGA  
The Indianapolis News

On the eve of another session of contract negotiations, leaders of the civilian union at Fort Harrison say they are optimistic that this time they can reach an agreement.

The 3,500 civilians employed at the post have been working since January 1989 under the terms of an expired contract.

The civilian leadership and post officials are to begin a 20-day session Monday. It will mark another episode in a drawn-out dispute in which each side accused the other of bad faith.

But Paul Tucker, executive vice president of local 1411 of the American Federation of Gov-

### LAWRENCE

ernment Employees, thinks this time will be different.

"I really believe . . . that we can come to an agreement," Tucker said. "I don't think we're going to be stonewalled as we have been in the past."

If nothing else, there will be new faces in the negotiations.

The two sides, meeting in April — when the last session broke down — agreed to appoint new chief negotiators for the latest round of talks. Representing the union will be Arvin Byrd, AFGE's 6th district national representative; representing the

post will be Doug Gindling, chief of management-employee relations at the fort.

Among the issues to be discussed are:

- Reduction in force. Union officials want Soldier Support Institute employees whose jobs are eliminated to be able to fill vacancies in the Defense Finance and Accounting Center.
- Official time. The union leadership, which now is allowed to devote half of its working time to employee-management relations, wants that increased.
- Video display terminals. The union wants the post to address safety concerns about prolonged use of VDTs.
- Union rights. The union

**'I really believe . . . that we can come to an agreement. I don't think we're going to be stonewalled as we have been in the past.'**

— Paul Tucker  
American Federation of Government Employees

wants a union rights article put into the new contract.

Post officials decline to comment on any details of the negotiations, saying it is best left to the bargaining table.

If no settlement is reached after 20 work days, the two sides

will go to extended hours for 10 more work days. On the eighth day, either side can ask for two days of federal mediation.

If there's still no contract, the Federal Services Impasse Panel will be brought in to resolve the dispute.

Tucker said the union has no plans to stage any informational picketing over the dispute.

Officials have repeatedly disallowed the union from holding its picket lines on post property. A Federal Labor Relations Authority decision in April, however, cleared the way for such pickets.

### Eastbrook honors 2

Ryan Graessle and Adam Hadley have been recognized by their school, Eastbrook Elementary, for excellence in academics, citizenship, leadership and attitude.

The two fifth-graders are the recipients of the Lynn Featherstone Outstanding Student Award, which was established in honor of Featherstone by the Eastbrook Parent-Teacher Association. A former Eastbrook second-grade teacher, Featherstone was killed in an automobile accident in 1987.

The award is presented annually to one boy and one girl in the fifth grade. Graessle's and Hadley's names were added to a permanent plaque displayed in the hall, and each received a plaque during a school honors ceremony.

## Cleaning house



A satisfied customer leaves a garage sale in Eagledale Tuesday morning with a lawn chair. The sale was at the home of

Lois Deppe, who said shoppers started arriving at 8:30 a.m. Most of the tools had been bought by early morning.

Jim Young/The Indianapolis News

## Uncertainty of budget causes salaries freeze

By PAUL BIRD  
The Indianapolis News

The salaries of administrators and non-teaching employees of Decatur Township Schools have been frozen because of the uncertainty of Gov. Evan Bayh's 1992 budget proposal.

The school board voted unanimously Tuesday to freeze the salaries of the 320 district employees on a recommendation by Superintendent G. W. Montgomery.

Board president Kathy Shaw said a variety of scheduled salary increases affected by the freeze could be reinstated if state lawmakers pass a budget favorable to the school district.

Decatur's secondary education summer school, originally scheduled to begin Thursday at Decatur Junior High, has been moved to Decatur Central High School.

State budget uncertainty also brought considerable discussion about overnight outdoor education programs for Decatur's schools.

Montgomery said that in previous years all four of the district's elementary schools participated in the overnight trips at a cost of \$2,500 per school. Only one school continues with the practice, and parents and stu-

### DECATUR TWP.

dents raise the money to help pay for the trip.

The board also discussed Montgomery's proposal for a new student assessment policy. The policy would allow teachers to test their students through various means to determine if they have mastered a subject.

"Six weeks or nine weeks grading periods are only to denote the progress toward mastery of the course/grade level outcomes," the policy states.

Montgomery said teachers must have their final assessments approved by the principal prior to being administered, and will be used to further demonstrate the mastery level of the course/grade level outcomes.

"What we are seeking is the student mastering a subject, and sometimes some students have difficulty in the early stages with a subject, but catch on totally later," Montgomery said.

"Theoretically, that student could be failing the class in the early stages and master the work by the end and receive an A for the course."

In other action, the board re-named Decatur Junior High School as Decatur Middle School.

## Housing rehabilitation will be expanded

By DERRICK STOKES  
The Indianapolis News

A coalition of several city and community agencies wants to expand rehabilitation efforts from individual houses to an entire neighborhood.

Dr. Gene McFadden, chairman of the Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership, said the purpose of the expansion is to develop low- to moderate-income housing.

"As we look around the city today, we still have 30,000 unsafe and unsanitary homes," McFadden said.

The city of Indianapolis, the Department of Metropolitan Development, the housing partnership and the Community Development Corp. have joined forces in the Housing Improvement Planning strategy.

The Department of Metropolitan's division of planning will seek information from neighborhood organizations about problem areas.

"We've been doing this for

little over a year," Deputy Mayor Paula Parker-Sawyers said Tuesday at a news conference.

She spoke in front of a rehabilitated home at 3424 N. Broadway St. The coalition spent about \$50,000 to fix the home, which will be leased.

"It's people helping people," Parker-Sawyers said.

The neighborhood rehabilitation plan is 75 percent complete in the Mapleton-Fall Creek community, Parker-Sawyers said.

Other areas expected to benefit from the plan are Highland-Brookside, the Near-Westside and Fountain Square-Fletcher Place.

Carl Lile, deputy director of the Department of Metropolitan Development, said up to \$11 million in private and public funds will be used to finance projects.

Angelo Franceschina, executive director of the Mapleton-Fall Creek Development Corp., said public works improvements and higher police visibility also are needed.

## Health screenings set at Mapleton-Fall Creek

The Indianapolis News

Mapleton-Fall Creek residents will receive free screenings Friday when the Marion County Health Department's cardiovascular program conducts a chronic disease test from noon to 7 p.m. at St. Peter Claver Center, 3100 Sutherland Ave.

The screening will include blood pressure and cholesterol measurements as well as interviews to discover which individuals may have risk factors for certain chronic diseases.

On June 21, the St. Vincent Mobile Mammogram Unit will be parked outside the St. Peter Claver Center to offer free mammo-

grams to women identified during this week's screening.

Health screenings were initiated in the area after the health department conducted a survey last fall and discovered much of the population had poor health.

"This area is small in size with a population of only 7,401; however, it represents one of the most underserved areas in Marion County," said Dr. Frank Johnson, MCHD director.

"We are committed to the surveillance of health problems and the assurance that identified problems will be addressed."

The next series of screenings will be conducted next month in the Meadows area.

## Friar focuses on successful living

By KATHLEEN SCHUCKEL  
The Indianapolis News

The Rev. Justin Belitz points to pen marks that climb up a doorway featuring children's names and ages.

The names have faded, and the family doesn't live at 3650 E. 46th St. any more. The children are now adults and long ago stopped growing taller.

The home is now the Hermitage, a retreat and educational center, and the center of Belitz's life. But he's been careful to not paint over the markings.

Maybe that's because the Franciscan friar sees his life work as symbolic of these measurements. He has dedicated his life to helping others grow and build successful lives.

He's taken the words that he has written behind the Hermitage's shelter and made them into a book, "Success: Full Living."



tails and what their future holds, Belitz said. After the wedding and setting up a household, they may consider themselves "successfully" married.

"If they get stuck in this place they call 'success,' their lives get boring," Belitz said. He suggests to troubled couples that they separately list in detail the goals they have for themselves and their home in five years.

Then they can discuss the differences and work together to establish a common ideal.

**'I believe that we are here to enjoy friends, family, health, happiness.'**

— Rev. Justin Belitz



Father Justin Belitz founded The Hermitage in Indianapolis.

Belitz' book also discusses meditation, relaxation techniques, visualization, attitudes, creativity and conscience.

The Roman Catholic priest also believes that healthy thinking can lead to a healthy body or help heal a sick one. A goal is to help people learn that science and theology can come together to provide mental and physical

well-being.

One of Belitz's proteges, Rosalie Londry, is leading a support group for cancer patients at Westview Hospital and another for their families that will use the book as its text.

She said she will use the book to help others learn what Belitz's teachings have helped her learn — gaining strength from within.