



Hot, windy
Low 54, high 81
Page B6

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"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty" II COR. 3:17

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Hoosier odds of an audit are low

■ Taxpayers in state fare better than most, but IRS warns of new ways to catch cheats.

By Shannon Tan
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Hoosiers, take note: Your chances of being audited or prosecuted for tax fraud are slim compared with elsewhere in the country, according to a new report from Syracuse University.

The state's Southern District, which covers 60 counties in central and southern Indiana, ranked 79th out of 90 districts nationwide in the number of Internal Revenue Service criminal prosecutions per capita in 2002. The Northern District ranked 75th.

Only 14 out of every 10,000 taxpayers in Indiana had face-to-face IRS audits in 2000, the most recent year for which the data were available. By contrast, 48 out of every 10,000 taxpayers in Los Angeles that same year were audited, the highest rate in the country. That year, 20 out of every 10,000 taxpayers faced such audits nationally, giving Indiana a ranking of 25th out of 33 IRS districts.

But don't be tempted to cheat on that Form 1040, which is due at midnight tonight.

While enforcement has declined across the country since the late 1990s, when the agency was criticized for using overzealous tactics to collect taxes, it is once again on the rise — and the IRS is using other methods to catch tax evaders.

"Our numbers may be down, but your number may come up," warned Roger Wirth, special agent in charge of criminal investigation for the IRS in Indiana.

Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, a Syracuse University watchdog group that monitors federal data, found the odds of attracting face-to-face audits depend on where you live. Los Angeles residents were the

See Audit, Page A10

Open until midnight

The Downtown branch of the U.S. Postal Service, at 125 W. South St., will be open from 4 p.m. to midnight today. Postal workers will stand outside the post office to collect ready-to-mail tax returns from motorists and pedestrians.

More coverage inside

■ The state's cut: Indiana hopes to collect more this year. A10



War winds down

Tikrit: Last Hussein bastion seized with barely a fight

Departure: 2 aircraft carriers are set to leave Persian Gulf



Baghdad's finest: Zuhar Al-Naami (left), appointed by the U.S. Marine Corps as the temporary police chief in Baghdad, was deluged with questions at an event that drew 2,000 former officers who wanted their jobs back. Fewer than 200 were expected to show up. See story, Page A3.



WAR WITH IRAQ

INSIDE

■ **Pleasure dome:** The home of one of Hussein's sons was a hedonist's dream. A3

■ **Order from chaos:** Police — and a bit of normalcy — return to Baghdad's streets. A3

■ **A little relief:** U.S. troops bring some hope to suffering hospitals. A4

■ **Bayh visits:** Indiana's junior senator speaks with troops at Camp Atterbury. A4

ONLINE

IndyStar.com: Visit throughout the day for the latest developments from Iraq.

FINAL STRONGHOLD

Tactics shift with Tikrit's fall

By Rajiv Chandrasekaran
The Washington Post

BAGHDAD, Iraq — U.S. Marines seized control of Tikrit on Monday, wrapping up the last significant Baath Party stronghold in Iraq and marking a shift in the U.S. campaign from grabbing territory to targeting pockets of resistance, rebuilding war-ravaged infrastructure and creating a new system of government.

U.S. officials said the Marines who captured Tikrit, a small farming community 90 miles northwest of Baghdad and the ancestral region of former President Saddam Hussein, encountered lighter-than-expected resistance, mostly from paramilitary Baath loyalists instead of the organized military defenses some had feared.

By the end of the day, U.S. troops patrolled the city center and set up checkpoints, receiving a calm, if sometimes reserved, welcome from the popu-



Rolling in: Members of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force travel through one of Saddam Hussein's palaces in Tikrit.

lation.

Maj. Gen. Stanley McChrystal, vice director of operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in Washington that the fall of Tikrit means "major combat operations are over" in the 26-day military campaign to take out

Hussein's government. But the challenge of restoring civil order and searching for pro-Hussein militiamen remained formidable in this still-chaotic country of 24 million people.

See Tikrit, Page A5

'ROGUE NATION'

White House threatens Syria with sanctions

By Ron Hutcheson
Knight Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON — President Bush didn't list Syria as part of his axis of evil, but it is fast becoming his top target in his campaign to rid the world of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction.

Although U.S. officials downplay prospects of military action, and Syrian officials deny the charges, the steady stream of accusations from the White House, the Pentagon and the State Department is strikingly similar to the invective aimed at Iraq in the buildup to war.

On Monday — a day after Bush accused Syria of producing chemical weapons — administration officials branded Syria "a rogue nation" and threatened diplomatic, economic and unspecified "other" sanctions.

U.S. officials also have ac-

cused Syria of offering sanctuary to top Iraqi leaders and harboring a host of terrorist organizations. Syria has been on the government's official list of nations that sponsor terrorism since the list's inception in 1979.

A newly released CIA report says that Syria has a stockpile of sarin, a deadly nerve agent. It also says that Syria "apparently is trying to develop more toxic and persistent" chemical weapons and is probably seeking biological weapons.

"Syria needs to seriously ponder the implications of their actions," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer warned Monday. "They need to examine their ties to terrorists, their harboring of terrorists, their harboring of Iraqi leaders, and their development of weapons of mass destruction."

See Syria, Page A5

INDEX

- Advice.....E2
- Comics.....E4, 6
- Editorials.....A12
- Education.....B3
- For the Record.....E5
- Billy Graham.....E2
- Lotteries.....A2
- Movies.....E5
- Obituaries.....B4, 5
- Public notices.....F4, 5
- Puzzles.....E6
- Scoreboard.....D8
- Star Classifieds.....E2, F1-8
- Stocks.....C2, 4-8
- Technology.....C3
- Television.....E7
- Weather.....B6



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Neighbors cry foul over goose eggs

By George McLaren
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State wildlife officials said Monday they were investigating two frustrated condo residents who reportedly destroyed goose nests because they were honked off about the noisy, messy birds.

The nest attacks at a North-westside development left other residents bitterly angry.

"It's just viciousness," said neighbor Cindy Edwards.

"I made me sick, literally sick," added Sharon Haskins, who said she watched the nest destruction and confronted the two women she said did it.

Canada geese, estimated to number more than 100,000 in Indiana, are the bane of golf courses and subdivision ponds. They foul lawns with their drop-



Federally protected: A goose egg that was removed from its nest was later damaged by the elements or an animal.

pings and aggressively defend their turf against intruders, often setting up residence year-round. But state wildlife officials said it is illegal to destroy goose nests, which are protected under the federal migratory bird act —

See Eggs, Page A11

Senate OKs riverboat bill

■ Orange County residents' wishes may come true after 10-year battle at legislature.

By Kristina Buchthal
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It could be known as one of those great small-town Indiana victories, like Bobby Plump's final-second shot in tiny Milan High School's 1954 state basketball championship.

On Monday, residents of French Lick and West Baden Springs won the biggest victory in their 10-year struggle to revive destitute Orange County when the Indiana Senate approved a bill that would give the county the state's 11th riverboat casino.

"This is just like Milan," said Jack Carnes, 70. "This bill today will be for every small town in the state of Indiana. It ought to hang on every wall in the state of



113th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
IndyStar.com: Will a floating casino save Orange County from its economic woes? To share your comments, go to Star Links at www.indystar.com/starlinks/

Indiana — to say if you work hard at it, you will be heard."

The 32-18 vote on House Bill 1902 was viewed as the final barrier to a casino that many see as the savior for Orange County. The county consistently posts the state's highest unemployment rate, which was 9.9 percent in January.

And it was the crowning achievement for a group of citizen lobbyists who had more heart than money.

For 10 years, the group of about 200 residents known as the

"Orange Shirts" tried to catch the attention of legislators. They logged thousands of miles on their cars and pickup trucks in trips to the Statehouse. This year alone, they passed out more than 1,000 oranges, as well as candy bars and leaflets — items that Geneva Street, a leader of the Orange Shirts, bought with her monthly Social Security check.

"I'm so happy I can't even talk," said Street, whose eyes welled with tears as she watched the senators cast their votes Monday. "I'm just so excited, nothing can express it."

Last year, Street cried in sadness when the Senate rejected the proposal, which had passed the House.

There are still hurdles this year. The House, which passed the bill 84-13 last month, must concur with the Senate's changes. The bill then must be signed by

See Riverboat, Page A8