

THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR

A GANNETT NEWSPAPER
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"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty" II Cor. 3:17

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2005

CITY FINAL
★ 50 CENTS ★

Coming up: a social hub for up-and-comers

Group to offer 1-stop networking
for Indy's young professionals

By Raygan Swan
raygan.swan@indy.com

Desperate to make social and business connections when she moved to Indianapolis three years ago from Oklahoma, Robyn Allen volunteered one weekend for a neighborhood cleanup.

Instead of meeting other young professionals, however, the 26-year-old found herself working alongside orange-suited inmates performing community service.

Allen laughs about it now — and has since joined several Indianapolis groups for young professionals that offer more of what she was looking for, including Opera Lite, Art Amour and the Indianapolis Museum of Art's Art Music People.

• WHO'S WHO: Learn about some people spearheading Indy Hub and groups you might like, A8

The city has a growing number of such groups, but they rarely intersect and can be tough for newcomers to find. To make it easier for young professionals like Allen to find one another — and in the process, make connections outside work — Indianapolis is about to join more than 100 cities across the nation that already have developed umbrella networking organizations.

By helping folks link up with groups that cater to their interests, cities hope to lure and keep the kind of young, emerging talent that can transform an economy.

The need is so critical that the city of Indianapolis and Biocrossroads, a life sciences economic development initiative, put up \$50,000 to launch the Indianapolis version, called Indy Hub. Without such a group,

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KELLY WILKINSON / The Star

MOVERS AND SHAKERS: Indy Hub board members include (front left) Trevor Belden; (seated, from left) Jenny Siminski; Troy Hege; Annie Hernandez; (standing, from left) Molly Wilkinson Chavers, executive director; Faraz Abbasi; and Scott Hollingsworth.

SPORTS, D1
PEGGY FLEMING
TO SPEAK IN
INDY THURSDAY



FOOD & DRINK, E1
CLICKING TO DINE
A table for two is just a few keystrokes away.

OF HUMAN INTEREST, A2
**ROYALS FLY
ACROSS THE
POND TO U.S.**

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OUT OF THE BLUE: ATA TO END ITS INDY FLIGHTS

The struggling Indianapolis-based airline says all flights in and out of the Circle City will end after Jan. 9 and that the move would result in some job losses. But the corporate headquarters isn't going anywhere, officials say. **C1**

Traveling after Jan. 9? ATA representatives will contact customers holding tickets for flights on Jan. 30 or after. Those needing more information can call (866) 252-7994.

\$7.1 BILLION SOUGHT FOR BIRD FLU

President Bush asks Congress for funds to develop and stockpile drugs to prepare for a possible pandemic. **A3**

Coming up: a social hub for up-and-comers

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By Raygan Swan
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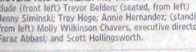
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3 slayings stun community

Minnesota police
catch suspect, who
threatened suicide

By Tim Evans
tim.evans@indy.com

ROSELDALE, Ind. — A sign draped with a black ribbon hung outside Rosedale Elementary School on Tuesday in tribute to two sisters whose short, hard-crackable lives ended violently last weekend.

The memorial was for Brittany and Victoria Williams, who were killed along with their mother, Trisha Cottrell, in a triple homicide that shocked this western Indiana community.

The capture Tuesday of suspect Chad Cottrell, Trisha Cottrell's husband and the girls' stepfather, in a Minnesota police chase brought a



SUSPECT AND 2 OF THE VICTIMS: Police say that Chad Cottrell killed his stepdaughters, Brittany, 12, (center) and Victoria Williams, 10, (right) and their mother, Trisha Cottrell (not pictured).

slight of relief but offered little solace. "Things like this just bring to the forefront how hard life is sometimes," said Southwest Parks Community Schools Superintendent

Leonard Orr. That was particularly true for Brittany, 12, and Victoria, 10, who were shuffled between relatives after their mother and father divorced several years ago. Court records show the girls also were molested from 2001 to 2003 by their grandmother's boyfriend, Cottrell, 35. Rosedale was taken into custody shortly after noon in central Minnesota following a 23-mile chase that ended with him holding a gun to his head and threatening suicide, said Anne "Thunder" Hinds, chief of the Sauk Centre Police Department.

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State is making strides into information age but has light-years to go to catch much of nation, study finds



How can Indiana plug into the tech economy?

By Erika D. Smith
erika.d.smith@indy.com

If Indiana were a technology student in a world that hired only those with doctorates, it would be a high school dropout headed back, midlife, for its GED.

The state is inching along, while other states and other nations are cranking out engineers, mixing tech startups and deploying high-speed networks at a rapid pace.

Not a pretty picture. But it was one the Indiana Chamber of Commerce and the trade group Techpoint painted Tuesday with their study of the state's economic performance in technology.

"I think we only give ourselves a C if we're grading on a curve," said Scott Jones, whose foundation helps fund the annual study. "The reality is a D if you take into account what's happening in the rest of the world."

There is momentum here. But it

See Tech, Page A9

Alito would tip court to Catholics

If nominee's confirmed,
members would hold
majority for 1st time

By Rachel Zell
rachel.zell@indy.com

More than 200 years of Protestant domination on the Supreme Court would end if Samuel Alito is confirmed as its next justice. For the first time in U.S. history, five Roman Catholics — a majority — would be on the high court.

Yet news that the son of an Italian immigrant father, someone who grew up in a suburban Newark, N.J., parish where he served as a lector and later married, doesn't carry quite the power it might have had in the days when John and Robert Kennedy ran for the White House.

Catholics have become part of the nation's political mainstream — far removed from the blatant anti-Catholic prejudice that once permeated America. They are as divided as other Americans on abortion and other social issues, which will be a focus of Alito's confirmation hear-

See Alito, Page A7

THE COURT'S CATHOLICS

The state has a strong university presence, but a shortage of residents with advanced physical science and engineering degrees is indicative of its "brain drain."

RANKING: 31st
Get students more interested in technology by getting more effective computer literacy programs in schools.

WHAT WE NEED TO DO:
Sources: Techpoint, Indiana Chamber of Commerce, state officials

GO TO INDY STAR.COM
Business is not the full report, with the online version of this story.

PROTESTANT: David Souter and John Paul Stevens.

JEWISH: Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen Breyer.

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WEATHER
Mostly sunny today,
mostly clear tonight.
Full forecast, B8

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A FEW LOCAL GROUPS

AMP

What: AMP — Art Music People — launched in September and aims to connect young professionals with art and music. Events feature live music, hands-on art participation and exploring galleries and gardens.

When: The second Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. Admission is \$14 for the public and \$7 for IMA members.

www.ima-art.org/amp.asp

YPCI

What: Young Professionals of Central Indiana brings together the future business leaders of Central Indiana through networking.

When: YPCI's annual meeting will be at 6 p.m. Tuesday in the basement of Rock Bottom Brewery Downtown. The event is free to members. Joining is free. Contact jamie.ratner@nationalcity.com for membership information.

www.ypci.net

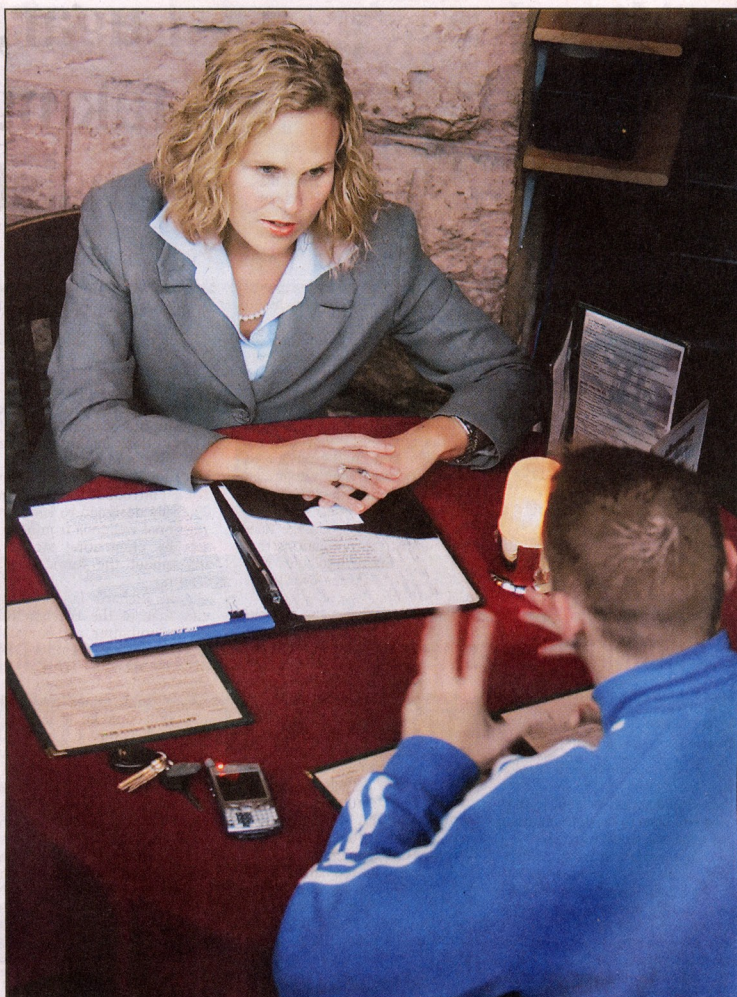
Friday Lunch Club

What: A diverse, membership-based networking group designed to promote professional and personal development in the city through activities and events.

When: The next event is at 11 a.m. Tuesday at the Omni Severin Hotel, 40 W. Jackson Place. Aside from an evening event on the fourth Friday of each month, the club meets on the second Friday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

To RSVP or join, visit www.fridaylunchclub.com

— Raygan Swan



SAM RICHE / The Star

NETWORKING: Molly Wilkinson Chavers, executive director of Indy Hub, talked last month at The Rathskeller with Ryan Hupfer of www.HupsHopty.com about opportunities to meet other young professionals.

strengthened my career and found a real home here."

If a newcomer to Indianapolis fails to make a connection within the first 90 days of their stay, studies show, they're two to three times more likely to leave, said Molly Wilkinson Chavers, 30, Indianapolis, the director of Indy Hub. She struggled to make connections when she moved to Indianapolis eight years ago and knows what Allen means when she bemoans the alternative to a group like Indy Hub:

"Falling back on the bar scene to meet quality people can be a huge disappointment."

The need for Indy Hub

Today's rising professionals are willing to try alternatives to the traditional service clubs and other groups their parents once flocked to.

Many find they'd rather hold an evening gathering over Wolfgang Puck hors d'oeuvres at the Indianapolis Museum of Art. That's where Allen does most of her networking as part of Art Music People, which meets monthly at the museum.

"I've found that once you're involved in one arts organization," she said, "it's easy to find interests and like-minded people in other art forms."

AMP is just one example of the groups already in play around the city — groups Indy Hub hopes to steer more people to.

Another is Young Professionals of Central Indiana, which draws the more financially minded to monthly meetings where they can

talk shop or sniff out the next big deal over imported beers at a pub.

Mark Hollis, a 29-year-old banker in Indianapolis, founded the young professionals group in 2001, and the group now has more than 100 members.

His organization allows young attorneys, CPAs, bankers and others to network in social settings, he said, at Indianapolis Indians or Indiana Pacers games, golf outings and local bars such as the Far Northside's Fox and Hound pub or Downtown's Rock Bottom Brewery.

While AMP and the young professionals group highlight that Indianapolis is likely to have a networking outfit meeting just about any interest, for now they can be as aloof from one another as the cliques in a high school cafeteria. Finding the best one for you can be tough. Many are less than well-publicized.

That's where Indy Hub steps in — promoting the existing groups and helping them grow.

"The concept is good," Hollis said. "We hope it creates more visibility for groups like us that struggle to get the word out or lack resources."

Despite the city's young professional population having reached 214,000 — 62 percent of them with some college or more — Chavers said the average membership for the young professional groups never tops 100.

"We think the memberships should average about 3,000 people," she said.

Impact on the work force

Before starting Indy Hub, Chavers looked to nationally recognized Generation-X guru Rebecca Ryan, founder of Next Generation Consulting, for guidance.

Ryan's Madison, Wis., firm counsels employers and communities across the country on how to appeal to young people. Bottom line: She shows cities how to be cool.

In her experience of studying thousands of young professionals, Ryan, 33, said organizations like Indy Hub do a good job of two things: connecting young professionals to one another and then connecting them to the community.

Milwaukee's group launched in 2001, also under the direction of Ryan's firm, and now has 4,000 members.

More young people have seats on important boards, and the city's perceptions are improving since the group formed, said Shelley Jurewicz, 46, executive director of Young Professionals Milwaukee.

"A city influenced by young professionals is a city that can attract and retain them," she said.

That's the focus of most of the young professional groups forming in places such as Jacksonville, Fla.; Cincinnati; Charlotte, N.C.; and Memphis, Tenn.

The key force behind all the groups, Jurewicz said, continues to be "young people's need to find each other and be a part of the scene."

★ Call Star reporter Raygan Swan at (317) 444-6000.

5 PEOPLE YOU OUGHT TO KNOW

A list of five promising young professionals at the heart of the city's networking social groups.



Scott Hollingsworth

Age: 30.
Status: Married.
Occupation: Associate at Barnes & Thornburg law firm, vice president of the Indianapolis Urban League Young Professionals and board member of Indy Hub.
Details: Known for his dapper appearance and colorful bow ties, Hollingsworth loves pop culture, is a closet reality-TV fan and likes to teach his 3-year-old daughter movie lines such as "You can't handle the truth," from "A Few Good Men."



Trevor J. Belden

Age: 30.
Status: Single.
Occupation: Associate at Baker & Daniels law firm, board member of Young Professionals of Central Indiana, chairman of the board of Indy Hub and member of Penrod Society.
Details: A self-described workaholic, Belden often works late at the office. However, on occasion, you might see him shed his professional pinstripes and throw on a leather jacket to ride his Harley-Davidson motorcycle to Broad Ripple. During football season, you'll find him tailgating at Purdue University.



Brian Ho

Age: 30.
Status: Married.
Occupation: Multimedia designer with DyKnow and board member of Indy Hub.
Details: Ho created IndyDDR at www.indyddr.com, a Web site dedicated to players of the video game Dance Dance Revolution and related music-based video games. The site attracts mostly high school and college-aged people throughout the state and serves as an informal social hub.



Robyn Heine

Age: 35.
Status: Single.
Occupation: Global Public Affairs leader at Dow AgroSciences, board member of Indy Hub, member of Public Relations Society of America and volunteer for the 4-H Foundation and her church.
Details: Heine's job has her working with many local community, cultural and civic organizations such as BioCrossroads, Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, The Children's Museum and United Way. When she's not working, she's traveling or pursuing almost any outdoor activity.



Ibrahim Alghani

Age: 30.
Status: Single.
Occupation: Director of policy and strategic initiatives for the Health and Hospital Corp. of Marion County, board member of Indy Hub, a culture scout with the Indianapolis Cultural Development Commission, board member of the Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership, member of the Penrod Society and co-founder of Bungee Black Records.
Details: Alghani has made keeping his finger on the city's cultural pulse a full-time job, along with philanthropic projects close to his heart. Being the diverse character he is, Alghani also spins records at Broad Ripple's hot spot, The Red Room, and hosts international movie nights at his home. Regardless of the scene, Alghani is always making friends.

— Raygan Swan

WHO THEY ARE

- Number of adults, 25-34, in Indianapolis area: 214,000.
- Use the Internet: 69 percent.
- Have a cell phone: 66 percent.
- Cell phone bill tops \$150 a month: 2 percent.
- Own a DVD player: 76 percent.
- Own a video game system: 41 percent.
- Store most commonly shopped at: Wal-Mart, followed by Meijer and Target.
- Most popular beer: Bud Light.
- Most popular wines (tied): white zinfandel and merlot.
- Belong to health club: 15 percent.
- Most popular activity: gardening, followed by swimming, biking and photography.
- Most commonly visited U.S. travel destination: Chicago.
- Source: Scarborough Research, January 2005

HOW INDY HUB WORKS

The front door of the nonprofit organization is its Web site, www.indyhub.org, where young professionals can go to network and look for groups to join. There's no membership fee.

Indy Hub also will be a resource where young professionals learn how to become major players in the city.

INDY HUB SNEAK PEEK

When: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Nov. 17.
Where: Skyline Club, 1 American Square, 36th floor of the American United Life building.
Cost: Free.
For more information, contact Molly Wilkinson Chavers at Indy Hub, (317) 624-0248.

— Raygan Swan

Social

◆ Group could help metro area maintain a vibrant work force.

From A1

said Anne Shane, the vice president of Biocrossroads, the city risks losing gifted young workers to other areas.

"Our chief motivation is to help populate life science and research jobs with talented knowledge workers in Indiana," she said.

Making the need even greater is the looming exodus of baby-boomers from the work force. That mass departure will create a wave of job openings for young people if they have the right skills — and connections.

Indy Hub will be a network for young professionals that aims to create a vibrant and attractive community as it connects lawyers, Web designers, bankers and others with opportunities on the business, social and civic levels. Through its Web Site, Indy Hub will be a clearinghouse of leads for people seeking an interesting group to check out.

Allen would have loved that kind of help when she arrived. If it hadn't been for the groups she managed to find on her own, Allen said, "I would have run back home with my tail between my legs years ago." A Web publications manager for the Indiana Arts Commission, she added that connecting with like-minded people around her age has had a big payoff: "I've built friendships,

Good ways for young professionals to connect? Go to IndyStar.com/feedback with your comments.