



SUMMER'S SWEETEST BERRY

Think beyond shortcake; strawberries are this year's versatile fruit » **Taste**

THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 2010 ★ "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" II COR. 3:17 ★ 75 CENTS ★ CITY EDITION



Today's weather
LOW: 70 HIGH: 87
Expect storms today; some could be severe.
Details, A10



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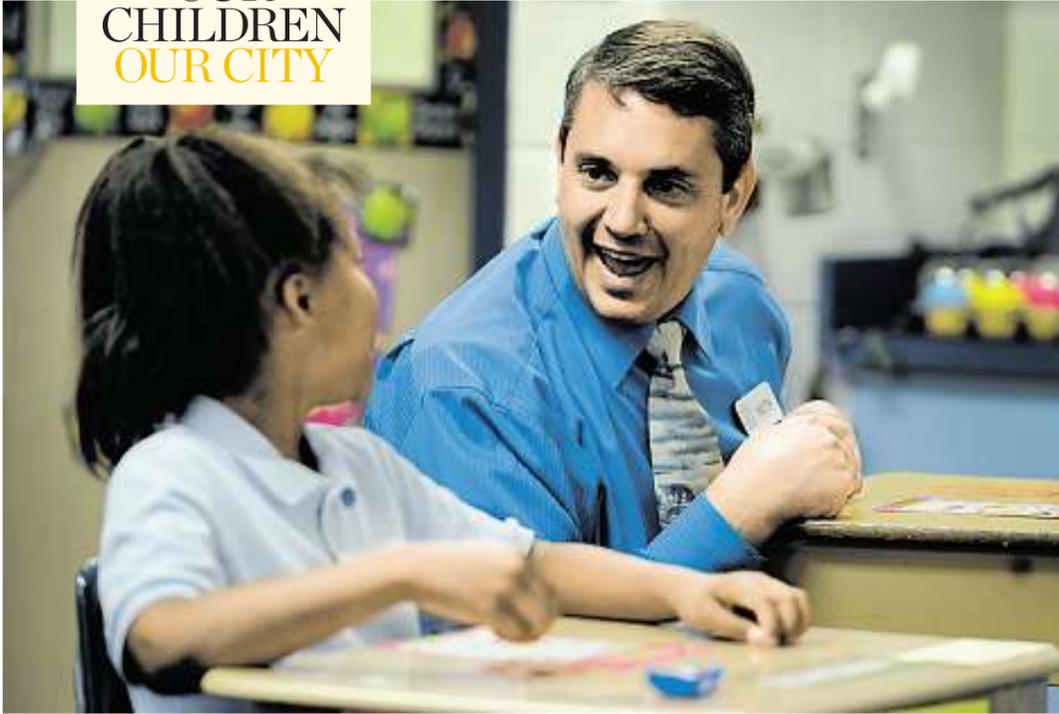


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OUR CHILDREN OUR CITY



MATT KRYGER / The Star

FOR THE KIDS: Keith Stoller, technology manager at the Kroger store at 71st Street and Binford Boulevard, plays a game with students at School 46. Each classroom at the IPS elementary has a Kroger store and its employees at its disposal.

THE DEFINITION OF DEVOTION

SINCE '85, KROGER'S BEEN THERE FOR SCHOOL 46

By Dana Hunsinger
dana.hunsinger@indystar.com

In a run-down shack next door to School 46, seedy adults lurked about doing things no child should ever see.

But the shack also had become a magnet for students, who either didn't want to go home or didn't want to go to school. They would sneak inside and hang out.

The school knew it was a problem, but what could it do? How could it keep its children safe and make sure they never happened

+ ADVICE: Kroger's tips for other companies that might want to forge a business/school partnership. **A11**
+ HOW TO HELP: We'll connect you with volunteer opportunities. **A11**

upon the drugs and crime? In stepped a seemingly unlikely partner — a supermarket.

The Kroger Co. bought the land, tore down the shack and built a new house on the property. It then sold the home and gave the profit to the school.

A noble gesture, and yet really

nothing compared to everything else the grocer has done in what may be the best example in Indianapolis of a company digging in and truly making a difference in the lives of children.

Not just with money. Not just with time. Not just with gifts.

With all of the above — for 25 years. And not for its bottom line.

"This is not going to get people to buy groceries. It's not about that

» See Devotion, Page A11

GULF OF MEXICO DISASTER

Criminal, civil charges are possible in oil spill

BP LOSES \$21B IN MARKET VALUE IN DAY; FIX EFFORT INITIALLY WILL WORSEN LEAK

By Mike Kunzelman and Greg Bluestein

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — BP's stock plummeted and took much of the market down with it Tuesday as the federal government announced criminal and civil investigations into the Gulf of Mexico oil spill. BP engineers, meanwhile, tried to recover from a failed attempt to stop the gusher with an effort that initially will make the leak worse.

Attorney General Eric Holder, visiting the gulf to survey the fragile coastline and meet with state and federal prosecutors, would not say who might be targeted in probes into the largest oil spill in U.S. history.

"We will closely examine the actions of those involved in the spill. If we find evidence of illegal behavior, we will be extremely forceful in our response," Holder said in New Orleans.

Investors sawed off 15 percent, or \$21.1 billion, of the company's market value Tuesday, the first trading day since the previous best option — the so-called "top kill" — failed. BP, the world's fourth-largest company before the April 20 blowout on the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig, has lost a staggering 40 percent, or \$74.4 billion, of its market value in six weeks.

The company's stock dipped steeply Tuesday with Holder's late-afternoon announcement, which also sent other energy stocks tumbling, ultimately causing the Dow Jones industrial average to tumble 112 points.

After six weeks of failures to block the well or divert the oil, BP was using robotic machines to carve into

+ NO-GO: See how BP has tried to stop the oil leak, and a graphic of the latest containment plan. **A5**

» See Oil, Page A5

IN TODAY'S STAR

PASTORS TO FEDS: INVESTIGATE ALLEGED POLICE BEATING

Church leaders, including Richard Willoughby (left) and Lionel T. Rush, want the Department of Justice to look into how a 15-year-old was treated. **A13**



» **MATTHEW TULLY:** The call for a federal investigation is premature, the columnist says. **A2**



GAZA BLOCKADE EASES; CARSON SEEKS INQUIRY

The Gaza blockade is temporarily eased after condemnation of the deadly Israeli raid; Rep. Andre Carson calls for a fact-finding investigation into the raid. **A3**



LEADING BY EXAMPLE

The Star's series on exceptional seniors continues with Keisha Merriweather, who strives to provide inner-city kids with an alternative path. **A13**

ENERDEL GETS \$65M INFUSION

The Indianapolis battery maker is getting a cash injection as it ramps up output for electric cars. **A6**

Hotels and restaurants find less 500 is more

By Dana Hunsinger
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Hotels, restaurants and retailers have three words for this year's condensed Indianapolis 500 race schedule: short and sweet.

One day after most race fans rolled out of town, hospitality leaders say the shortened schedule, mixed with an improving economy and sunny weather, drove up attendance, created longer stays at hotels and lured people to spend money at restaurants and

stores.

"There was more interest right from the beginning this year," said Chris Clifford, director of operations for St. Elmo Steak House and its sister eatery, Harry & Izzy's, both of which saw "significant increases" in sales compared with last May. "There was just more buzz."

And buzz is exactly what race officials wanted when they moved opening day to May 15, squeezing the track activities that

led up to the race two weeks later.

Most of May's activities were squeezed into 15 days, with the cars running for nine consecutive days

» See 500, Page A5



WIN-WIN: Officials say good weather and a shorter track schedule fueled spending and hotel stays.
CHARLIE NYE / The Star



INDEX » Lottery A2 » Business A6-7 » Editorials A8 » Movies A11 » Deaths A16-17 » Scoreboard B5 » Comics C8, 12, 14 » Puzzles C13, 16 » TV C16



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Devotion

» Kroger put up \$85,000 for a pool at the school.

From A1

at all," said Daniel McQuiston, chairman of the department of marketing and management at Butler University. "It's about doing good. It has been said that it is far more noble to invest greatly in the welfare of one than slightly in the welfare of many."

And invest greatly in one school — School 46 — is exactly what Kroger has done.

More than \$1 million has been donated in 25 years to this Near-Westside school where 90 percent of the students are in the free- or reduced-price lunch program. Thousands of hours in employee time have been spent inside the school.

Over the years, Kroger has fed the children, mentored them and clothed them.

"This is just the right thing to do for our kids. They are our future," said Bob Moeder, president of Kroger's central division, which includes Indiana. "But we get more, personally, when we do those things than the kids."

The grocer has brought the students into its stores to job-shadow workers. It has built them a swimming pool. It gives scholarships when they graduate from high school. It gives bags of groceries to parents who can't afford food.

Kroger takes them to Washington, D.C., to the Speedway in May, to the zoo.

"These kids? When else would these kids ever get to go to the zoo?" said Phyllis Imel, who was principal at School 46 when the partnership began in 1985.

"There are schools that don't want businesses involved. What are they afraid of? Look at what has happened here all because of Kroger."

Whether it's truly because of the Kroger partnership or not, School 46 performs better academically than Indianapolis Public Schools with similar poverty levels.

Last school year, the school beat the state average for passing both the English and math portions of ISTEP in the fall and nearly matched it in the spring.

"Kroger is incredible," said Scott Coffey, the school's interim principal. "We are a better school because of them."

Imel agrees, and she swears it's because students look forward to what Kroger has to offer. Call it bribery or incentives, but the kids want to do well to get the treats. Leftover stocks of sunglasses. Cupcakes. Candy. Flowers to plant outside the school.

"It's an incentive. When Kroger comes in, we don't just start handing things out," said teacher Nikki Cantwell. "It has to be earned."

To go on the traditional last-day-of-school trip to the zoo, kids must have an attendance rate of 95 percent or better. Of the 380 students at the school, 230 went this year. Joining them? More than 40 Kroger employees.

And when you step inside this school, don't expect to see fighting and scuffling in the hallways. These students walk silently, hands down by their sides.

Kroger plays an active role in encouraging that behavior. The grocer allows each teacher to pick two students — one boy and one girl — from their class and reward them as good citizens. The reward? A party at Chuck E. Cheese.

As Michael Tharpe played a video game, downed pizza and gathered tickets to buy prizes last month, he knew exactly why he earned the trip.

"I was being good, good, good, good. Very good," said the



STEVE SANCHEZ / The Star

REWARD TIME: Sarah Henderson helps Michael Tharpe, 6, with a game at a Chuck E. Cheese party for School 46 students chosen as great citizens. "It makes me want to be good," Michael said of the rewards from Kroger.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Our online tool at IndyStar.com/ourchildren will connect you with the right people to make good use of your time, talents or donation. Here's how it works in three easy steps:

1) See a list of various volunteer opportunities in Indianapolis to choose from. Or use the interactive tool to help match you with the right agency, depending on such things as where you want to volunteer, how many hours you can work and how you want to help.

2) Sign up. You can submit your information to the group you choose. The group will get back to you and help you take the next steps.

3) Feel good.

'OUR CHILDREN, OUR CITY'

The Indianapolis Star is joining our readers and the community to improve the lives of children and education in our city. The Star has set three goals for the project, including increasing the number of volunteers in the community by 10,000. If you would like more information or want to arrange for someone from The Star to speak to your organization about this effort, call (317) 444-KIDS — (317) 444-5437 — or e-mail us at ourchildren@indy.com.

+ ONLINE: For more about this series, please visit IndyStar.com/ourchildren.

kindergartner. "Kroger. They bring us stuff when we're good. And take us places. It makes me want to be good."

The School 46-Kroger partnership was begun to do just that.

It was the 1984-85 school year, and the Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce decided it would be a good idea to hook up some businesses with underprivileged schools.

Kroger got School 46. It is the only partnership that remains from the original group.

"Back then, it was simpler," Imel said. "If we needed something to cheer them up or needed help taking them outside to play, they'd come help out."

But it didn't take long for Kroger to see the need and for

the partnership to blossom.

"We saw these less fortunate children; they've been living on the basics of life," said Bryant Clayton, district operations coordinator with Kroger and with School 46 for nearly 20 years.

"We could expose them to so many wonderful things."

When Kroger came in, the school did not have a playground. Children walked across Harding Street to play on one in the neighborhood. Two children were killed crossing that street.

Kroger stepped in. It pushed for a new school with a playground.

The district

balked. "Kroger gave us visibility. Nobody knew about this little school or cared about it," Imel said. "All of that pressure is what caused the School Board to buckle."

"There are schools that don't want businesses involved. What are they afraid of? Look at what has happened here all because of Kroger."

Phyllis Imel, former principal at School 46

the buzz | people

Gores: Growing apart spurred decision to split after 40 years

By Erik Schelzig
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Former Vice President Al Gore and his wife, Tipper, are separating after 40 years of marriage.

According to an e-mail circulated among the couple's associates Tuesday, the Gores said it was "a mutual and mutually supportive decision that we have made together following a process of long and careful consideration."

Gore spokeswoman Kalee Kreider confirmed the statement

came from the Gores but declined to comment further.

The Gores were telling friends they "grew apart" after 40 years of marriage and there was no affair involved, according to two longtime close associates and family friends, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because it was a personal matter.

One of the associates said: "Their lives had gotten more and more separated."

Al Gore lost the 2000 presidential election to Republican George W. Bush. He since has

campaigned worldwide to draw attention to climate change, which in 2007 led to a Nobel Peace Prize and an Oscar for the documentary "An Inconvenient Truth."

Tipper Gore was a co-founder in 1985 of the Parents Music Resource Center, which pushed for parental warning labels on music with violent or sexually explicit lyrics.

The Gores have four adult children, Karenna, Kristin, Sarah and Albert III. The Gores were married on May 19, 1970.

The new school, at 1450 S. Reisner St., opened in 1995. Kroger employees were there for the celebration.

They've been there for the tough times, too. Just a year before the new school opened, LaShonna Bates, a fourth-grader at School 46, was abducted and beaten to death.

Kroger didn't want her to be forgotten. So the grocer put up \$85,000 to build a pool for the new school. They named it the LaShonna Bates Aquatic Center. Kroger's involvement with its school is unparalleled in Indianapolis. Each year, every classroom at School 46 has an entire Kroger store devoted to it. Teachers and employees meet at the beginning of the year to set goals and make plans for the children's success.

Robert Worley is one of those employees. He has been matched up with teacher Deborah Colbert for more than 20 years.

His day job officially is produce manager at the Haughville store. But here, at School 46, he is a mentor and a needed male role model at a school where so many children come from single-parent homes.

Most at School 46 call him "Dad" or "Grandpa."

"I'm here to work with the children," Worley says. "People don't have time for their kids. They don't eat together. They don't talk. It's a shame."

As he worked on a lesson last week with Colbert's fourth-graders, he asked: "Who wants to try 19?" Hands shot up in the air.

"Go for it, Ben." Worley knows every child's name.

"What's the opposite of failing?" Ben read. Silence. "Certainly?" he asked.

"No, Ben. What else could it be?" Worley asked. More silence.

Worley has learned patience and that these children need first, second and sometimes third chances to get it right.

"Successful?" Ben asked. "There you go, Ben!" Worley said, a huge smile spreading across his face.

Just down the hall, Mary Peterson — a food service manager at the 71st Street and Bimford Boulevard store — was playing a money game with the kids in Karen Ginther's third-grade class.

"Who's got 18 cents?" When no one answered, she asked, "Who's got any sense at all?" The boys at her table burst out laughing. Peterson beamed.

The partnership energizes employees so much that over the years, hundreds of them have been known to pitch in their own money and even bring family members to help out.

And the example is set from the very top.

Two years ago, Moeder sat down with his wife and son to talk about Christmas and the children at School 46.

He asked whether they would give up exchanging gifts with one another and use the money to buy a pair of shoes and socks for every child at the school. The cost: more than \$8,000.

He told his family that some of the older kids wear shoes to school, then have to hand them over when they get home so their parents can wear them to work. Some of the students wear shoes three sizes too small.

The family didn't hesitate.

"It's sad. You just can't believe some of these kids have never had a new pair of shoes," he said. "We thought it would be much more meaningful for us to do something like that for these children."

Such gifts, however, are presented in fun. Never in a way that makes the children feel needy.

"These kids are positive kids," said John Elliott, public affairs manager for Kroger's central di-

MAKING IT WORK

Kroger Co. has enjoyed a successful and unparalleled 25-year relationship with one school. During that time, the grocer has learned a lot about how to make such a relationship work. Here's some of the company's advice to others who might want to forge a successful business/school partnership:

- » Senior leadership must see, experience and believe in a school partnership, or it will fail. For example, all Kroger employees are offered four paid hours per month to volunteer at School 46.
- » Create as many one-on-one opportunities as possible to be positive, encouraging and supportive of individual students.
- » Invest time to find the most appropriate mix of time, talent and resources to share with individual schools. Sometimes it's the financial need that is greatest. Other times it's personal mentoring and classroom help.
- » Focus on deep, strategic impact rather than quick wins.
- » Give priority to core academic skills as a foundation for other learning. It's not just math and reading. It's social skills, manners and behavior outside school that must be taught as well.

- » Invest a portion of your efforts in removing obstacles to learning. Hungry children may be aggressive. Cold children may not be able to concentrate. As a partner you may need to provide food for the child's home or a winter coat.

OTHER GRANTS

School 46 is not the only school that has received financial support from Kroger. Other grants that Kroger has given to Indiana schools in the past year include:

- » **\$5,000 TO NORA ELEMENTARY**, Indianapolis, to buy books for the school's library.

- » **\$3,000 TO INDIAN CREEK ELEMENTARY**, Indianapolis, to support a nutrition and fitness program.

- » **\$5,000 TO SCHOOL 84**, Indianapolis, for the school's participation in Project SEED, which reinforces core math skills for students.

- » **\$2,500 TO SHELBYVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOLS** for the Pre-school Parent Fair, a kindergarten preparedness program.

- » **\$3,500 TO NOBLE CROSSING ELEMENTARY**, Noblesville, for a leveled library, which will have books that meet the needs of students with various reading abilities.

- » **\$1,250 TO GUION CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL**, Indianapolis, for a program to teach math in either English or Spanish.

- » **\$5,000 TO TAYLOR PRIMARY SCHOOL**, Kokomo, for the Read Cycle program, which provides two books to each student to match their reading levels.

vision. "Who are we to tell them otherwise?"

Elliott's favorite part of the day is going into the classroom and just talking to his kids.

"They want to tell you about the A they got on the spelling test," he said. "We listen to them. We praise them. We tell them they do a good job."

Elliott, however, has one hope beyond success for the kids at School 46 — that more local companies step up and devote themselves to a school.

"I don't have any assumption that people will copy what we are doing," he said. "But maybe they can come up with their own model — some way to help the kids. Because it's all about the kids."

★ Call Star reporter Dana Hunsinger at (317) 444-6012.

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THE SECRET IN THEIR EYES (Subtitled) (12:30, 3:15) 6:40, 9:30	
ROBIN HOOD (12:45, 3:45) 6:45, 9:45	
BABIES (1:00, 3:00, 5:00) 7:15	
IRON MAN 2 (1:45, 4:45) 7:45, 10:30	
LETTERS TO JULIET (1:30) 6:30	
CITY ISLAND (4:00) 9:00	
THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO (Subtitled) 9:15	
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Associated Press 2007 file photo

AMICABLE PARTING: Former Vice President Al Gore and his wife, Tipper, have four adult children. They were married in 1970.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Actor **Stacy Keach** is 69. Rock musician **Charlie Watts** is 69. Composer **Martin Hamlisch** is 66. Actor **Jerry Mathers** is 62. Actor **Dennis Haysbert** is 56. Comedian **Dana Carvey** is 55. Actor-comedian **Wayne Brady** is 38.

— Compiled from Star news services