

Crawfordsville  
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- Area News
- Area Sports
- Obituaries
- Lifestyle
- Entertainment
- Photo Gallery

Announcement  
 Forms/Letter to the  
 Editor

Engagement  
 announcement  
 form  
 Classifieds

- Subscription
- Feedback
- Calendar
- Business News
- Military News
- Birthday  
 Celebrations
- Sports Spotlight
- Scrapbook photos
- Garden Oddities

**76**  
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CHANGING



Thursday, August 03, 2006



Indiana State Police escorted trucks hauling a Raybestos press Wednesday. The press was hauled to Sullivan. Photo by Maria J. Flora/maria@jrpress.com

## Raybestos stops traffic, moves large press

State Police escorted Raybestos' oversized specialty semi trucks hauling a press to Sullivan on Wednesday.  
 Wednesday, August 02, 2006

## Area News

### Man charged with child pornography

A Crawfordsville man has been charged with possession of child pornography as police investigate more allegations in four other states.  
 Wednesday, August 02, 2006

## Area Sports

### ATHENIAN HEAVY

When the Colt League World Series' second day begins at Lafayette's Loeb Stadium tonight, one team will have its share of Crawfordsville flair.  
 Wednesday, August 02, 2006

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## Journal Review

### Area News

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Obituaries  
Lifestyle  
Entertainment  
Photo Gallery

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Editor

Engagement  
announcement  
form  
Classifieds

Subscription  
Feedback  
Calendar  
Business News  
Military News  
Birthday  
Celebrations  
Sports Spotlight  
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[home](#) : [area news](#) : [area news](#)

Thursday, August 03, 2006

8/2/2006 11:01:00 PM

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## Raybestos stops traffic, moves large press

[Melissa Franklin](#)

Reporter

State Police escorted Raybestos' oversized specialty semi trucks hauling a press to Sullivan on Wednesday.

Raybestos employees stood framed by an open dock door and watched the semis, and more jobs lumber away into the morning sun. One woman made a rude gesture in the trucks' direction before turning and going back to work.

"The press has been scheduled to be moved for six months," Dan Booher United Steel Workers Local 7-164 President said. "This is nothing we haven't expected."

Raybestos is ceasing steel stamping, with that work going to third parties, Raybestos Human Resources Manager Elizabeth Sowers said.

Layoffs began in July, although the company has said it wants to keep up to 200 jobs in Crawfordsville, down from 600 jobs here last year.

"Raybestos will stay here," Montgomery County Economic Director Bill Henderson said. "What the footprint is going to look like, no one knows for sure. We're all about retention, and we've offered them the assistance of MCED. One of our strong points is retention of industries. We hope they can stay."

"From the city's perspective, a lot of people may have the misconception that if a particular company is imperiled, the city has the means to intervene," Crawfordsville Mayor John Zumer said. "We can't do that."

"As far as the individual workers, certainly we're aware of how traumatic it can be when downsizing takes place," Zumer said. "We basically just serve as a conduit for those state agencies that have more expertise and resources - whether it's new job training temporary or financial assistance."

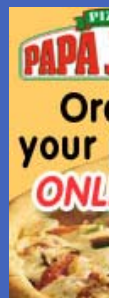
Raybestos officials announced in October it would lay off a third of its estimated 600 employees to improve profitability. The decision came after the union voted not to open the previous contract to negotiate cost savings anticipated by moving the company. That contract expired May 1. The union has since turned down three contract proposals.

Nick Barber runs an etcher on the night shift. He said the new contract is unsatisfactory because wages are lower, insurance is higher, and hours are unpredictable.

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"Stress is high and morale is low because nobody knows what they're coming into every day," Barber said. "You don't know what else is going to happen."

Raybestos recently opened a new plant in Greenwood, Miss., where the company will move the majority of its assembly operation, Sowers said. An estimated 200 jobs will be created there.

"We are trying to assist the folks who might be displaced," Henderson said. "One of our projects is the Bright Future Campaign. We'll be launching our Web site, [www.hoosieremployer.com](http://www.hoosieremployer.com) ... People can go there, look at job opportunities in Montgomery County and link to the process they need to get re-employed. We're trying to be helpful as we can with that."

"Our avenue has always been we try to get those people in touch with the people who have more resources and expertise to help them," Zumer said. "In our limited setup, we can't provide those services."

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