

# 'SUPERMAN'S' WIDOW DIES OF CANCER

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# JUNIOR GUARD LEADS FRANKLIN

PAGE B1

THE WAR AGAINST TERRORISM

# CONGRESS APPROVES PATRIOT ACT RENEWAL

PAGE A2

# DAILY JOURNAL

www.thejournalnet.com

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2006

Johnson County, Indiana

50 cents

### WEATHER



Today

Skies: Rain showers  
Temps: High 55; low 47

MAP, PAGE A8

### PORT SECURITY

#### House Republicans plan to block ports deal

WASHINGTON — House Republican leaders on Tuesday embraced legislation that would block a Dubai-owned company from taking over operations at several U.S. ports, brushing aside a veto threat from President Bush.

"We want to make sure that the security of our ports are in America's hands," said Rep. Jerry Lewis, R-Calif., whose House Appropriations Committee planned to approve the measure today.

The legislation is expected to reach the House floor next week as part of a \$91 billion measure for wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and aid for Gulf States recovering from Hurricane Katrina.

### COMING UP

#### Easing the chores

Save time, money and effort with sparkling tips on 13 big chores. The surprises include using newspaper for lint-free window washing and fresh-smelling closets.



USA WEEKEND

#### Home Inside & Out

Find out how a southside woman plans to build an environmentally friendly house and how a Queen Anne-era Franklin home is getting a makeover in Your Home Inside & Out.

THURSDAY

### DEATHS

- Bargersville  
William "Bill" Cloud, 72  
Franklin
- Albert Marion Flake, 82  
Todd James Hickman, 38  
Indianapolis
- Mary Etta Brown, 67  
Thelma R. Nealy, 77
- Robert H. Shoemaker, 80  
Elsewhere
- Kenneth "K.A." Adams, 70  
David Herschel Castner, 7  
Richard R. Irwin, 79  
Lola E. Maness, 92  
Harry Allen Sisson, 65

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# Franklin gets OK to raise tax rate

## Bookkeeping error in 2001 will allow city to collect about \$2 million more



JONES-MATTHEWS

By JASON MICHAEL WHITE  
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The city of Franklin has the OK to collect more property tax dollars and increase the tax rate by 24 percent.

After seven months of debating with the state about the city's right to

collect additional taxes, and even going so far as to file a lawsuit, the city has discovered a nearly \$2 million math error made in 2001.

The Indiana Department of Local Government Finance says that error gives the city just cause to collect additional property tax dollars.

The city tax rate, which is just one

portion of the property tax bill that Franklin home and business owners pay, is expected to increase from 87 cents to \$1.07 per \$100 of assessed valuation, according to the city's financial consultant.

The change will affect 2005 taxes paid this year, meaning residents could see the increase on bills as early as May.

Franklin will use additional tax money to balance its budget and stop spending from its cash reserves. Mayor Brenda Jones-Matthews said. The city expected to exhaust its cash reserve by the end of next year, she said.

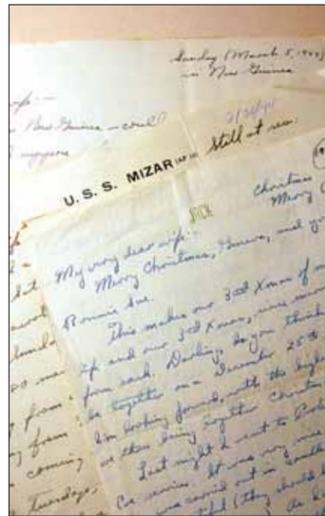
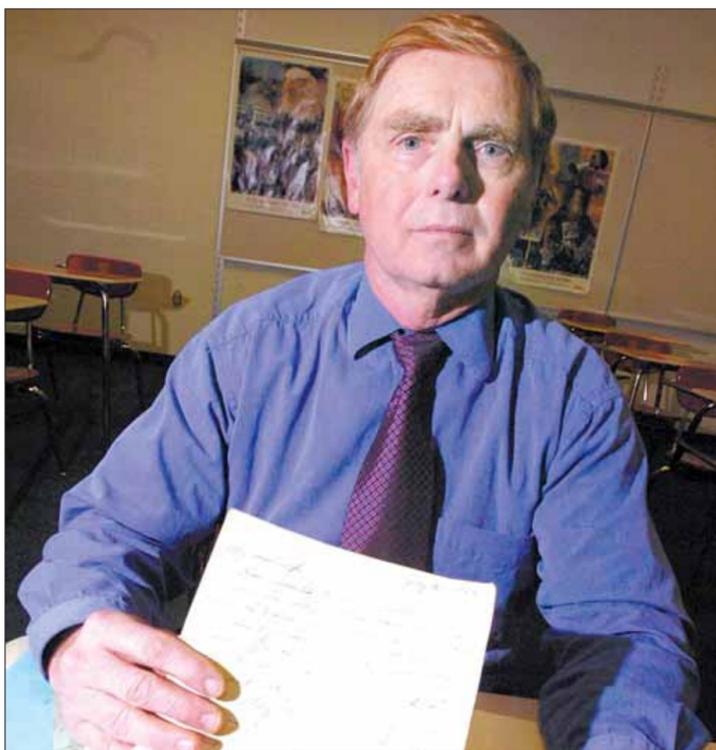
The city will dismiss the lawsuit

(SEE TAX, BACK PAGE)

### TEACHING TECHNIQUES

# Learning from love

## Southside teacher to transcribe parents' wartime letters



DAILY JOURNAL FILE AND SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Top: Letters written during World War II by Jack and Geneva Brogan, shown above, will be compiled into a book funded by a grant from the Lilly Endowment.

Left: The Brogans' son, Tom, a teacher at Center Grove High School, earned the grant and will compile the book.

# Grants to let local educators draw up special lessons

By PAIGE E. WASSEL  
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Three Johnson County teachers will have the opportunity to hike the Appalachian Trail, travel to France or transcribe war letters to develop unique lessons for their students.

John Frank, Susan Quebe and Tom Brogan plan to add these experiences to their teaching toolboxes through grants they received from Lilly Endowment Inc.

The foundation awarded teacher creativity grants to 126 teachers, principals, guidance counselors and library/media specialists in Indiana this year.

Frank, a Center Grove High School teacher, and Quebe, a Greenwood Community High School teacher, will use travel to enrich their classroom offerings.

Brogan, of Center Grove High School, will work closer to home, sorting and transcribing his father's 108 war letters to his mother.

### Family ties

Brogan is looking to his family history to help him have more to offer in his government and history classes.

He will spend the summer sorting through letters his father, Jack Brogan, wrote to his mother, Geneva, when he served in the U.S. Navy from 1942 to 1945. Brogan's goal is to compile the correspondence into a book.

Brogan said the letters illustrate communication over distance and time and how difficult it can be for people to stay in touch with family and friends at home.

The letters include some observations on the war he thinks would be universal to readers who have family and friends serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Brogan said he may do some research for the book at the Naval Historical Center in Washington.

He also hopes to find some of his father's shipmates to interview for the book.

### Take a hike

Frank's proposal will take him away from school for a semester. He plans to hike the 2,175-mile Appalachian Trail and send Web updates to his students about his trip.

He was one of six recipients in the

(SEE LEARNING, BACK PAGE)

# S.R. 135 is crowded; studies will tell us just how badly

By ANNIE GOELLER  
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Motorists who get stuck in rush hour traffic along State Road 135 will soon get a look at the number of cars causing the jam.

In 2000, state officials estimated the number of vehicles on the road range from 12,000 to 55,000 per day, depending on the intersection.

A new study is coming, and the results could show that the number of vehicles at some intersections has increased by as many as 5,000, planning officials said.

The most recent study was performed

long before a SuperTarget was built on State Road 135 south of Smith Valley Road.

The newest counts will also account for the motorists who live in the more than 1,000 homes constructed in the Center Grove area during the past five years.

The Indiana Department of Transportation plans to release new traffic studies in the spring, which will detail how many vehicles travel along several major routes throughout the county, including U.S. 31, State Road 135 and State Road 37.

Not only can motorists see proof that their daily commute is tedious, but the numbers can be used to justify adding

(SEE CROWDED, BACK PAGE)



DAILY JOURNAL FILE PHOTO

A new state study could show as many as 5,000 more cars passing through some State Road 135 intersections each day than in 2000, planning officials say.

# Change in route of I-69 opposed

## Officials call shift needless expense

By ANNIE GOELLER

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Some local officials and groups across the state oppose changing the route of Interstate 69, which would likely take it out of Johnson County.



DANIELS

Local legislators and officials from Indianapolis to Evansville oppose moving the proposed interstate for a variety of reasons. One of those reasons is that moving the path of the interstate from Indianapolis to Evansville away from State Road 37 through Perry Township and the Center Grove area would result in a delay in construction.

Also, planning and mapping a new route would add to the cost. In addition, local motorists would get no guarantee that a major road would get needed improvements any time soon.

A four-person legislative committee will try to resolve the issue by the end of the week.

The Indiana House of Representatives approved a transportation bill that included leasing the toll road in northern Indiana to a private company and using the nearly \$4 million from the lease for road construction projects

(SEE ROUTE, BACK PAGE)

# Two firms to study larger jail

## Sheriff: Overcrowding will be issue in future

By MICHAEL W. HOSKINS

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Inmates have not been forced to sleep on the floor because of overcrowding at the Johnson County jail lately.

But some were forced to during nine months in 2005 when the jail exceeded capacity.

Sheriff Terry McLaughlin expects the overcrowding to happen again, but he hopes a long-term fix for the problem can be found.

He is working with two engineering firms to study options for expanding the jail, along with needs of the juvenile detention center and community corrections buildings located nearby.

In coming months, engineers will study the buildings to determine

(SEE JAIL, BACK PAGE)