

BIG WINNERS COME FORWARD

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CONSUMER PRICES SURGE, LED BY GAS

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ATHLETE STARTED LATE, SEEKS MEDAL

PAGE B1

DAILY JOURNAL

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2006

Johnson County, Indiana

50 cents

WEATHER



Today
Skies: Mostly sunny
Temps: High 52; low 17

MAP, PAGE A8

COMING UP

The power of words

Lyrics are today's biggest musical influence, declare singer-songwriter Alicia Keys and the editors of Billboard, the nation's top music magazine.



Too much of a good thing

Surprise: Weightlifting can cause muscles to shrink. Brushing can hurt teeth. Experts explain why more isn't always better.

Cut risk of colon cancer

Forget the old advice about eating fiber. The latest science says to eat cabbage but skip red meat.

USA WEEKEND

Trojans at state, again

Another state meet, another Center Grove swimmer tries to defend a state championship. Center Grove senior Chris Oleksiak begins quest to repeat his state championship in the 500-yard freestyle.

Winning Woodmen

They're not flashy, they don't have a star, but the Woodmen do have an eight-game winning streak, the county's best record and a wealth of momentum as the boys basketball sectional rapidly approaches.

THIS WEEK

WEEKEND ACTIVITY

See a sci-fi thriller

Enjoy sci-fi classic "Alien" at the Artcraft Theatre's "Classic Cinema on a Classic Screen" at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

The historic theater is at 57 N. Main St. in Franklin.

Cost is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors 55 and older and \$3 for children younger than 12.

Information: 736-6823

DEATHS

Greenwood
Philip Clarence Ford, 82
Indianapolis
Pauline Cotter, 87
Elsewhere
Rebecca Lourine Bohannon, 17

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Board recommends smoking ban



STAFF PHOTO BY MATT DOOLEY/mooly@thejournalnet.com

The Johnson County Board of Health discusses a proposed countywide smoking ban Wednesday. The board recommended the measure.

Health panel votes for countywide ordinance

Daily Journal staff report

The Johnson County Board of Health has recommended a smoking ban that is more restrictive than one approved days earlier in Greenwood: The countywide ban would outlaw smoking in all public places, including bars.

The proposed smoking ban will next go to the Johnson County Board of Commissioners. Debate could begin March 6, and the three-member board of commis-

sioners would have to approve the ban at two public meetings.

Commissioners have questions and concerns about the ban, including whether it is logical to have conflicting bans in the same county.

One commissioner, Tom Kite, said he will not support the ban because government shouldn't interfere in business owners' decisions.

Some area bar owners and operators said a smoking ban would

shut them down. Similar fears were heard when Indianapolis approved a smoking ban in 2005. The ban in Marion County takes effect March 1.

The debate and upcoming decisions in Johnson County brings the community in step with cities and counties around the country that have prohibited lighting up in restaurants, bars or just steps away from workplace entryways.

(SEE BAN, BACK PAGE)

AT A GLANCE

The Johnson County Board of Health is recommending a countywide smoking ban.

If approved, here are some of the places you could no longer light up:

- Within 25 feet of a doorway to a business or workplace.
- Restaurants, including bar areas.
- Lobbies, hallways and common areas in apartment buildings and other multiple-unit residential facilities.
- Most outdoor seating for restaurants. The ban says smoking is OK in 25 percent of the seating.
- Private functions in public places like bars, restaurants, hotels and motels.

CLARK-PLEASANT CONSTRUCTION

Caught in red tape



Elementary school construction delayed



STAFF PHOTO BY MATT DOOLEY/mooly@thejournalnet.com / SUBMITTED ILLUSTRATION

Above: Clark-Pleasant Superintendent J.T. Coopman stands on the land where a new elementary school for the district is to be built. Top: An illustration of how the school would look provided by the district.

THE PROCESS

Annexation

Clark-Pleasant school officials have asked Greenwood to annex 90 acres at Stones Crossing Road and County Road 125 West, where an elementary school will be built. The school district wants city services, such as sewer lines.

Construction

While awaiting annexation, school officials decided to get approval from the county for the permits needed to start construction.

Greenwood can't issue any permits until the property is annexed into the city.

Waiting game

The county drainage board has asked for a document from Greenwood indicating the city is OK with the drainage plans because water from the site will be routed through the city.

Attorneys from the school district, the city and the county are discussing the details and documents.

In the meantime, Clark-Pleasant can't hire any companies for the project until its plans are given preliminary approval.

And preliminary approval can't be given until all the paperwork is in order, meaning it will be at least April before the school district can get on the drainage board agenda.

By JO ELLEN WERKING WEEDMAN

DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER
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Hundreds of Clark-Pleasant elementary students could start the 2007 school year in portable classrooms because of delays in building a new elementary school.

Getting approval from Greenwood and the county for

water drainage and other plans for the school has been a convoluted and unclear process, Superintendent J.T. Coopman said.

County officials said the process for the school district is the same as it would be for any developer and the problem is that the school district bought a site that has more water to drain and has more

restrictions on how the water can be drained.

"We don't just make up rules as we go," county surveyor Doug Lechner said. "They were told from the beginning what was required. The plan has been the same from the get-go."

The delay will cost the school district more money

(SEE BUILDING, BACK PAGE)

Getting building done in time will raise price tag

By JO ELLEN WERKING WEEDMAN

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Some Clark-Pleasant principals will move to different schools when a new elementary facility opens.

Terry Magnuson, principal at Break-O-Day Elementary, will

become the principal of the new elementary at Stones Crossing and County Road 125 West.

Sue Fries, principal at Sawmill Woods Elementary, will take the top administrator's job at Break-O-Day and Jenni Baker, a kindergarten teacher at Clark Elementary, will become principal of Sawmill Woods.

The board voted 5-0 Tuesday to approve the moves.

The changes will take effect in January to give Magnuson a semester to get ready to open the new school, which is scheduled to have students in August 2007.

(SEE GAME, BACK PAGE)

New elementary results in game of musical principals

EPA grant will help Franklin landowners assess sites

By MICHAEL W. HOSKINS

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After a local manufacturing business bought a Franklin building in November, owners wanted to know about any soil or water contamination that might exist.

They will get that knowledge in coming months, and won't have to pay for it either.

A federal grant from the Environmental Protection Agency is giving Boone Enterprises a way to find out more about their land.

Franklin planners received \$300,000 in 2004 to study eight local properties, which could be former factories, abandoned lots or other environmentally areas.

Boone Enterprises, located in the former Central L&M Supply Co. building on the south side of

Cincinnati Street, is one of four local companies using the grant money.

"At some point, someone may have done something we're not aware of," said general manager Jason Boone, whose parents own the business. "We'd like to know about that and decide what to do."

None of the studies has been done yet, but a city planner expects the environmental assess-

ments will be done in coming months.

A consulting firm will conduct research on the businesses that have been located on the site, what activity happened there and if any contamination exists in the soil or groundwater.

So far, only four property owners have contacted the city:

- Boone Enterprises, which is located at 159 Cincinnati St.

- 218 Cincinnati St., which is being sold by McGinn Tool and Engineering so the business can move to a new location on Yandes Street

- 351 E. Jefferson St., just east of the railroad tracks

- 99 E. Wayne St., an old garment factory building.

A professional assessment will

(SEE GRANT, BACK PAGE)

Major Moves facing changes

Republican wants statehouse OK for leasing leg of I-69

By MIKE SMITH

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS

Senate Democrats said Wednesday that Gov. Mitch Daniels' proposal to lease the Indiana Toll Road to a private venture could be a major mistake, but a top Republican said he believed legislation authorizing the deal would clear his committee and advance to the full Senate.

Daniels and other proponents of the deal, which could be completed if the legislation passes, say the money would help pay for hundreds of highway and other transportation projects and create tens of thousands of jobs.

According to a release from the governor's office, more than \$2.2 million during the next three years would help fix roads in Johnson County that likely wouldn't have seen any work otherwise.

Senate Appropriations Chairman Robert Meeks, R-LaGrange, said he would seek some major changes to the bill in his committee today, including requiring legislative approval of any future public-private partnerships involving highways or bridges.

Meeks said that would include any arrangement to make the planned extension of Interstate 69 through southern Indiana a toll road and lease it, something Daniels wants to do. As the bill stood Wednesday, it would allow Daniels to approve such future agreements without permission from the General Assembly.

Another change would require that some of the \$3.85 billion the state stands to receive for leasing the toll road in northern Indiana be set aside in a trust fund, Meeks said. The fund would be off limits until it reached \$1 billion, and then interest could be tapped for future projects.

"We just think the people of Indiana deserve some checks and balances, and we intend to put those in the bill," Meeks said.

(SEE CHANGES, BACK PAGE)