

10 YEARS LATER

Center Grove's state champion girls basketball team together again.

PAGES B1, B3



PREP BASKETBALL

THE WAR AGAINST TERRORISM

BUSH: SPYING SAVED TOWER

PAGE A2

VOLUNTEERISM

GIVING BACK TO COMMUNITY

PAGE A6

DAILY JOURNAL

www.thejournalnet.com

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2006

Johnson County, Indiana

50 cents

WEATHER



Today

Skies: Mostly cloudy
Temps: High 41; low 23

MAP, PAGE A8

YOU SHOULD KNOW

Daily Journal to bring readers what they want

No doubt you have noticed changes in the Daily Journal. We are always changing to better serve our readers.

For more than a year the Daily Journal has made changes in the look of the paper and planned stories aimed at making sure folks know what happens in their communities.

The changes are a result of a massive study and series of discussions we had with southside residents about what issues have the greatest impact on their lives and how the newspaper can help. You'll notice more changes on Saturday and will continue to see upgrades.

• **Get Personal** will give you a look at a slice of someone's life you can relate to.

• Page A2 is becoming **Take 5**, a page full of information about people, issues and activities in our community.

• **Did You Know?** will fill you in on something interesting about your community you might have never known.

• **Know Your Neighbor** will introduce you to southsiders in a question-and-answer format.

• **What You Missed** will give you a short synopsis of what you missed if you didn't pick up the Daily Journal during the week.

• **Things You Need To Know and Do.** We will help you plan your weekend and give you a look at the important issues and events to help you navigate the week ahead.

The goal is to better connect you to your community. Let us know what you think.

— Scarlett Syse, editor
syse@thejournalnet.com

Web Extra
Visit the editor's blog at www.thejournalnet.com

DEATHS

Franklin

Mary Lorena Marlin, 93
Dorothy Sanders Peters, 71
James Melton Taylor, 55

Greenwood

Ralph Emerson Alden, 80
Jacqueline Watness, 78

Indianapolis

Walter E. Beaver Sr., 77
Alan F. Wilhelm, 54

Greenwood

Patricia Ann Dewar, 67

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Greenwood to hire park planner

WHAT'S NEXT

The Greenwood Parks and Recreation Department plans to hire Indianapolis-based Schmidt Associates to plan park developments for 72 acres at 1348 Averitt Road.

Consultants have a tentative timeline for completing the park plan:

March 10: Complete survey

March 15: Meet with parks department

March 29: Present preliminary options

April 19: Conduct meeting for public comment

May 3: Present plan

June 7: Finalize plan

Firm that was part of water park group to offer site ideas

By JASON MICHAEL WHITE
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A member of a defunct committee planning a new city pool in Greenwood will be hired to develop parkland originally earmarked for a water park.

Greenwood park board members voted unanimously Wednesday to start negotiations to hire Indianapolis-based Schmidt Associates to plan development for 72 acres on Averitt Road.

Kyle Miller works for the consulting firm, and he also served on a committee that made plans for a new water park on the same property. The parks department dropped its new pool plan after community opposition and unanswered questions from the city council.

Park board members say they are not asking the consultant to make plans for a new pool on the site.

Instead, Schmidt Associates will be asked them to recommend what-

ever uses they see fit, park board member Marya Jo Butler said.

The board does not consider Miller's position a conflict, and park officials were interested in hiring Miller because he is familiar with the community, she said.

Public input will drive decisions about how to use the property, Miller said. He expects to conduct community surveys, listen to the parks

(SEE PARK, BACK PAGE)

WEB EXTRA



What do you think the land should be used for? Send your ideas to speakout@thejournalnet.com. Include your name, city and a phone number for verification purposes.

CENTER GROVE SCHOOLS

MEETING THEIR needs

Parents teach stimulating skills not covered on standardized tests



Neal Barnett speaks about construction practices during an enrichment program at Center Grove Middle School Central on Monday. The club meets for an hour after school each Monday and helps students learn what goes into a construction project.

Clubs offered on construction, fencing, investing, debating

By MICHAEL W. HOSKINS
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While some Center Grove Middle School Central students go to study hall, others learn how to lunge and parry in fencing class, plan construction project activities or invest an imaginary \$10,000 in the stock market.

Life in the classroom takes a different dimension each week at the school, where 68 students participate in enrichment clubs. Participants get practical lessons in a wide range of subjects, such as math, economics, debate and construction.

"Kids are scoring higher on standardized testing, but their needs aren't always met," said Center Grove parent Cassie Burnett, who organizes the enrichment program. "We wanted to find out what would light these kids up in the classroom and bring more enrichment to their lives."

School administrators started the program last year and asked parents to share

"They need something to keep their brains busy. They're learning lifetime skills that are really neat to be involved in."

— Andria Hine,
Center Grove parent who leads a fencing club

hobbies and interests they thought classes could be organized around, Burnett said.

Now, four groups meet for the final 20 minutes of the school day, during study hall for other students. Some meet once a week; others meet more often and after school.

"They need something to keep their brains busy," said parent Andria Hine, who teaches fencing for 22 students, including her 13-year-old son, Sam.

"They're learning lifetime skills that are really neat to be involved in."

During each lesson, they focus on how to make the most accurate strikes using

the tip or unsharpened edge of a saber.

Students learn how to take turns and strike a blow anywhere above an opponent's waist, being judged on accuracy, power and sprinting ability, Hine said. As they practice, students wear layered protective suits and metal masks.

"There's a lot of competitiveness, but it helps you think and is different than a regular sport," said 12-year-old Hunter Muhney, who has been participating in fencing for almost a year.

(SEE SKILLS, BACK PAGE)

State representative says he won't seek re-election



Rep. David Yount, R-Columbus, has represented parts of Johnson and Bartholomew counties for 10 years.

By JASON MICHAEL WHITE
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A state legislator who represents part of Johnson County does not plan to run for re-election after 10 years as a state lawmaker.

Rep. David Yount, R-Columbus, said he plans to finish his term and move to Indianapolis, outside his district, where he and his wife will become more involved with a family business. As a legislator, Yount represents 63,000 people

in Johnson and Bartholomew counties.

This leaves the District 59 seat in the House of Representatives open. The primary is scheduled for May 2, and the general election is Nov. 7.

Yount was political newcomer when he defeated a 22-year Democratic incumbent in 1996.

He said he considers his accomplishments pushing for a state do-not-call list and giving more money to education by increasing the state sales tax a penny.

He has served on the Republican caucus leadership team to determine goals

and priorities for his party.

Yount, 44, said he thought about devoting more time to business a few years ago but wanted the chance to serve in the legislature when his party was in the majority and the governor was a member of his party.

Yount said he plans to stay involved in politics but on a non-elected basis.

Gary Bell, 59, Columbus, has filed as a Democrat for Yount's seat, which covers parts of Johnson and Bartholomew counties, including Franklin, Edinburgh and Nineveh.



Greenwood police officer Brian Swisher's patrol car can be seen through a home under construction in the Homecoming at University Park subdivision.

Thefts costly to builders

Schools, business take precautions

By ANNIE GOELLER
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Fears of curse words spray painted on freshly built walls or thousand-dollar tools suddenly missing prompted more spending on a Clark-Pleasant school district construction project.

A police car with watchful eyes inside was the welcome for any would-be vandals or possible thieves for about three months.

The price tag: as much as \$9,000. Clark-Pleasant school officials spent the extra \$150 per night for about three months while their new administrative building on Whiteland Road was sitting wide open. The building wasn't far enough along to hang doors or windows, allowing anyone to come in, Superintendent J.T. Coopman said.

The investment paid off. Thieves and vandals stayed away, Coopman said.

(SEE THEFTS, BACK PAGE)

Offices planned on 135

By JASON MICHAEL WHITE
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Four office and retail buildings are planned for land on State Road 135 between Smith Valley and Olive Branch roads.

Greenwood City Council members voted unanimously to annex four acres on the southwest corner of Stella Street and State Road 135. Stella turns into Curry Road on the east side of the highway.

Developer Derrick Christy of Greenwood plans to have builders construct four office buildings for a total of 30,000 square feet. Likely tenants include neighborhood businesses and business offices, said Ray Good, an Indianapolis attorney representing the developer.

(SEE OFFICES, BACK PAGE)