



INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

HE CAN BACK IT UP

Two games of heavy-duty minutes help Peyton Manning's backup gain confidence and poise.

PAGE B1



ETIQUETTE

A LOST ART?

Saying thanks in a letter seems to be going the way of VHS tapes and rotary phones for younger generation.

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DAILY JOURNAL

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2006

Johnson County, Indiana

50 cents

WEATHER



Today

Skies: Partly sunny
Temps: High 52; low 34

MAP, PAGE A8

INSIDE



Search continues for group of trapped miners

Families held out hope for workers trapped in a coal mine in West Virginia as late Tuesday rescuers recovered one body. Prospects of finding anyone alive appeared bleak earlier Tuesday after holes drilled into the ground yielded deadly levels of carbon monoxide and no signs of life. The 13 men became trapped by an explosion Monday morning in the Sago Mine in Tallmansville, W.Va. For more coverage, see Page A2.

NEWS

Five seeking position formerly held by Rhoades

The deadline to seek a vacant Johnson County commissioner seat has passed with five candidates contending for the spot. A Republican caucus will meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at the Johnson County Museum of History, 135 N. Main St. in Franklin, to appoint a new commissioner to replace Jim Rhoades, who died in December. Applicants for the position are Craig Wells, president of Discover Downtown Franklin; Franklin City Council member Joe Ault, Greenwood Fire Department Lt. Tom Kite, former Brown County Commissioner Jim Crane and Indianapolis Power and Light employee Anthony Work. Whoever is appointed will serve the remainder of Rhoades' term, which is on November's election ballot.

DEATHS

- Franklin Sarah B. Cole, 75
- Greenwood Eleanor M. Pfendler, 92
- Indianapolis Margaret N. McClain, 77
- Ruth Ellen Walker, 94
- Elsewhere Chrystal Ann Lozanovski, 41

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Burton to face fight for seat



Republican Woody Burton has served 18 years in the Indiana House of Representatives.



Republican Ron West has been a member of the Johnson County Council for five years.

County council member to seek GOP nod for state position

By JASON MICHAEL WHITE
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A county council member said he is frustrated with state government and will challenge State Rep. Woody Burton for a seat in the Indiana House of Representatives later this year. On Tuesday, Ron West, 62, a

Republican, announced his candidacy for District 58, which includes Greenwood, Clark Township and parts of Franklin. West would give up his position on the council if elected. His term expires at the end of 2008. West's reason for running: Local governments need more control over tax money to improve roads and public services such as police

and fire protection, and he wants to be a strong voice of support in making that change happen. Burton, also a Republican, has represented the district for 18 years, and during that time, property taxes have become an increasing burden on homeowners, the quality of roads in Johnson County has deteriorated because of a lack of state dollars

and practically nonexistent communication between the state and county government has not improved, West said. Eighteen years is typically too long for any elected official to serve, West said. "If I was in an elected office for 18 years, I guarantee someone

(SEE SEAT, BACK PAGE)

House of worship

Unhappy with large congregations, faithful meet in members' homes



Bill and Lisa Baker conduct an informal church service in their Indianapolis home two Sundays each month.

'There's a sense of awe about smaller settings'

By MICHAEL W. HOSKINS
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Charles Stanley used to be a minister in Franklin, but he found himself searching for what his church could not offer. He wanted less structure and more time to focus on the Bible and just talk religion with people. So he left the church and ended up starting his own congregation in his New Whiteland home. No pulpits. No pews. Robes and dressy clothes are replaced by jeans and bare feet as about eight people sit around the living room on Sundays to share their faith and talk about religious beliefs. In a county with dozens of new church building projects, scores of specialty ministries and several church sports leagues, some people prefer meeting in a house rather than places with steeples and sanctuaries.

It's more like having friends over than church. But we learn about the Bible and talk about (God's) message all the same."

— Charles Stanley, on church services he hosts in his home

Some just want to share faith with people closer to their own age. Others disagree with traditional churches' efforts to raise money and construct larger buildings. They have found that less is more.

No agency keeps an accurate list of how many home churches are organized statewide, but Internet sites list at least two in the Johnson County area. A couple more are listed in Indianapolis. In Stanley's home church, about eight people attend on Sundays, except during holidays or when members are out of town. They gather at a member's home in the living room or recreation area, serving snacks that each other bring and coffee or juice. They also bring their own Bibles, Stanley said. Traditional sermons are replaced by people who want to talk about how God is impacting their life, he said. "It's more like having friends over than church," he said. "But we learn about the Bible and talk about (God's) message all the same." Stanley sometimes leads the group in song or presents a sermon. But he

(SEE WORSHIP, PAGE A5)

Wendy's diners ready to take off

Customers buy in bulk, sort trash for airline coupons

By MICHAEL W. HOSKINS
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A woman walked into the Franklin Wendy's restaurant and ordered 228 medium-sized Cokes. Hold the Coke. Others dug through trash bins outside, ripping open bags and fishing through half-eaten hamburgers and empty fry containers for drink cups. Across the country, the hunt was on. Now, customers are cashing in their cups for free plane tickets as part of a two-month promotional offer. Wendy's teamed up with AirTran Airways for the offer, which meant people could earn plane tickets based on the number of coupons they collected from 20-ounce and 32-ounce beverages. A total of 32 cups equaled a one-way plane ticket, while 64 earned a round-trip ticket. Medium-sized drinks cost \$1.29 and the large "Biggie" size costs \$1.59, managers said, meaning a round-trip ticket could be had for about \$83. The promotion ended Dec. 31, but customers ages 18 and older have until Feb. 13 to trade in their cups for free airline tickets good through the end of the year. The Indianapolis area was one of the top seven locations nationwide sending in Wendy's cups for tickets, according to AirTran spokeswoman Judy Graham-Weaver. Areas that have accrued the most redemptions so far include Akron, Ohio; Atlanta and New York, she said. She did not have a breakdown of how many cups were collected or the number of tickets redeemed, but Weaver-Graham said more than 2,000 tickets had been issued across the country and more than 200,000 cups have been sent in. AirTran flies from Indianapolis

(SEE DINERS, BACK PAGE)

Postal service sticks it to customers

Price of first-class stamp increasing to 39 cents Sunday; big mailers adjusting

By PAIGE E. WASSEL
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Adding your two cents is about to be crucial in avoiding returned mail. Beginning Sunday, it will cost you 2 cents more to mail bills and letters. The U.S. Postal Service approved the 5.4 percent across-the-board rate increase this past fall, making the jump the first such increase since 2002. A first-class stamp will now cost 39

cents. So getting your utility or phone bill and sending your payment back will cost you and the company a little more. For businesses that send thousands of newsletters, bills or notices every month, even the slightest increase means rewriting the spending plan and making cuts in other areas. Churches and nonprofits are looking for nontraditional ways to reach their audiences. And some area residents are thinking about ways to cut down even more

on their "snail mail." Mailing gifts to relatives during the Christmas holiday already had Greenwood resident Lucille Bartley frustrated with postage rates. She participates in a cookie exchange with relatives in Florida, Idaho and Montana, Bartley said. Her one box of gifts this year cost \$27 to mail, and it wasn't filled with heavy items, she said.

(SEE SERVICE, BACK PAGE)

BY THE NUMBERS

Here's a look at some rate changes from the U.S. Postal Service:

	Old	New
First-class letter (1 oz.)	37 cents	39 cents
First-class letter (2 oz.)	60 cents	63 cents
Priority mail (1 lb.)	\$3.85	\$4.05
Express mail (1/2 lb.)	\$13.65	\$14.40
Express mail (2 lbs.)	\$17.85	\$18.80
Certified mail	\$2.30	\$2.40
Money orders (up to \$500)	90 cents	95 cents