

PROGRAM LETS KIDS PICK CARS, CAREERS

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PROTESTERS BURN EMBASSY

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CUBS, WARRIORS ADVANCE WRESTLERS

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KING MOURNED AT HER HUSBAND'S CHURCH

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DAILY JOURNAL

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2006

Johnson County, Indiana

50 cents

WEATHER



Today
Skies: Partly sunny
Temps: High 42; low 19
MAP, PAGE A8

COMING UP

Lacrosse, anyone?
Greenwood resident D.J. Garry is trying to help lead the Brebeuf lacrosse team to a state championship. A look at this little-understood sport and how Garry got involved.



Title chase

Center Grove sophomore sensation Michelle McKeehan, who won two state championships last season, looks to defend her titles and swim even faster at Saturday's state finals.

Where are they now?

This postseason marks the 10-year anniversary of the Center Grove girls basketball team's 1996 state championship. The Trojans, who begin sectional play tonight, have the distinction of being the last county team to win a single-class basketball championship. A look back on Center Grove's championship season.

THIS WEEK

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Let us hear about events

The Daily Journal wants to know about and publicize your meetings, events and activities. We will work to get it in a new section of the newspaper and Web site called Free Time, a guide to fun and cool events and activities on the southside and in central Indiana.

E-mail the information to freetime@thejournalnet.com. Or mail it to Free Time, Daily Journal, P.O. Box 699, Franklin, IN 46131.

DEATHS

- Franklin: Betty L. Morris, 65
- Greenwood: Charlotte Blevens, 71
- Indianapolis: Clifford "Cliff" Connerley, 84
- Elsewhere: Dorothy M. Adams, 78; Russell A. Johnson, 66; Claude C. Terrell, 74

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Road plan would bring county \$2.2M



Gov. Mitch Daniels proposed leasing the Indiana Toll Road during the State of the State.

Local street repairs would be priority for money from state

By ANNIE GOELLER
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Cracks and potholes on roads throughout the county could soon be fixed with unexpected money.

More than \$2.2 million during the next three years would help the county highway and local street depart-

ments fix roads that likely wouldn't have seen any work.

Motorists would see fixes on subdivision and less-traveled roads with the added money, which would be paid the first time this year, local officials said.

But first, the proposal that would bring in the money has to be approved by state legislators.

Local highway and street departments throughout the state have passed up needed repairs on less traveled roads in past years. Money that used to fund those projects ran out four years ago, said Gary Abell, spokesman for the state department of transportation.

(SEE ROAD, PAGE A5)

FOLLOW THE MONEY

Here is a look at where money from leasing an Indiana toll road would go in Johnson County, according to the governor's office:

- Unincorporated areas: \$424,524
- Greenwood: \$165,567
- Franklin: \$89,420
- New Whiteland: \$21,037
- Edinburgh: \$20,697
- Whiteland: \$18,184
- Bargersville: \$9,740
- Prince's Lakes: \$6,919
- Trafalgar: \$3,666

21 10

'One for the thumb'

Steelers earn elusive fifth Super Bowl ring for franchise



AP PHOTO

Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Hines Ward celebrates his 43-yard touchdown reception during the fourth quarter of the Super Bowl against the Seattle Seahawks on Sunday in Detroit. The Steelers won the game 21-10. Ward was named the game's MVP.

By EDDIE PELLIS
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT

Mike Jagger moved up and down the field at halftime more easily than the Pittsburgh offense did for most of the game. In the end, though, Jerome Bettis, the Steelers and their thousands of rowdy fans wound up the big winners on Super Bowl Sunday.

Save a few big plays that changed the game, style points were hard to come by on America's annual football

holiday. But to Pittsburgh, the 21-10 victory over the Seattle Seahawks was beautiful, a gritty grind of a game that included just enough flair to transform a blue-collar team playing in a blue-collar city into champions.

In a stadium brimming with thousands of Pittsburgh fans waving Terrible Towels, the Steelers finally captured their fifth title, that "One for the Thumb" that the Steelers have been waiting for since 1980.

Title No. 5 for Pittsburgh was the first for jut-jawed coach Bill Cowher, a 14-year veteran, and for Bettis, The Bus, who said he would end his 13-year career with a win in his hometown, only a few miles

from where he grew up.

"I played this game to win a championship," he said. "I'm a champion and I think the last stop is here, in Detroit."

When it was over, Cowher found himself drenched, with water from the traditional dousing given to him by his players, and with tears, as he hugged his wife and daughters. It was a scene much different than one 10 years ago, when the Steelers lost in the Super Bowl and Cowher had to do most of the consoling.

Two plays made a difference in this one: Willie Parker's record-setting 75-yard run

(SEE STEELERS, BACK PAGE)

CLOSE TO HOME: CENTER GROVE

'Work now, play later' attitude breeds success

By SHERRI EASTBURN
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In Mike Abdalla's opinion, living the American dream requires a "work now, play later" attitude about life. "Work really hard when you're healthy and able," he said. "Unfortunately, that's when people really want to have fun."

Barely into his fourth decade of life, Abdalla, 41, is a successful business

owner who resides in White River Township.

He recently visited seventh-grade students at Center Grove Middle School Central to talk about his personal success.

Abdalla has an impressive history of sharing his knowledge.

While working as an electrical engineer at Commonwealth Edison in Chicago during the 1990s, Abdalla also served on the company's speakers

bureau. He spoke to students at Purdue University, University of Illinois and Michigan Tech University.

Talking with young adults about passion and planning is second nature to this man. His résumé shows the direct correlation between hard work and success.

Abdalla admits that most of his life has not been lived in the moment.

(SEE SUCCESS, BACK PAGE)



ABDALLA



STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL W. HOSKINS
Rhoades True Value Hardware opened for the final time Sunday afternoon.

Hardware store, Franklin fixture closes doors for good

By MICHAEL W. HOSKINS
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A second generation family hardware store has closed its doors, ending 34 years of doing business in downtown Franklin.

Rhoades True Value Hardware

opened Sunday for its final five hours, welcoming customers who wanted to get one last look at the empty aisles.

"This is a sad day," said Margie May, who has frequented the Jefferson Street business for 26 years. "It's nice to go to a place where you can get personal ser-

vice or buy a bolt, instead of a whole package."

The store's closing comes about two months after the death of owner Jim Rhoades, a lifelong Franklin resident who had opened the business with his father in 1972.

Rhoades, also a county com-

missioner, had announced in November that he was closing the store.

The 52-year-old had talked about opening a restaurant or banquet hall in the building at 377 E. Jefferson St., but employees

(SEE STORE, PAGE A5)



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT ROBERSON/
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Construction continues on a development at the corner of Whiteland Road and State Road 135 in the Center Grove area.

Lane closures coming for 135

Road improvements to make way for businesses, condos

By MICHAEL W. HOSKINS

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Motorists on Whiteland Road and State Road 135 will likely see some lane closures in coming months before new shops and businesses open.

Local developer Mike Duke is planning to widen or revamp both roads in preparation for construction of new shops, banks, restaurants and condominiums.

Construction has started on the southeast corner of the intersection for the 44-acre South Grove Landings.

Work crews are installing curbs and entranceways and putting in infrastructure, such as water and sewer lines, he said.

Road improvements include adding acceleration and turning lanes along Whiteland Road and State Road 135, he said.

Once the project is finished, between eight and 12 businesses could occupy the land and include banks, restaurants, shops and medical offices, Duke said.

"This is going to be a nice front door for Bargersville," he said.

Business condominiums will surround the shops, allowing companies to buy space for their office instead of leasing, he said.

Duke would not name tenants he is hoping to bring to the area, but expects to start construction on the buildings in March. Some might be open by the end of summer, he said.

He expects road work on State Road 135 could start in the next 30 to 60 days, depending on weather.