

HOOSIERS MAKE IT TO BIG TEN SEMIS



PAGE B1

WEEKEND

MAKE YOUR LAWN BEAUTIFUL

PAGE C1

BUSH: PORT DEAL COLLAPSE COULD HURT U.S. ABROAD

PAGE A6



COMPROMISING ON ISTEP

PAGE A7

DAILY JOURNAL

www.thejournalnet.com

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, MARCH 11-12, 2006

Johnson County, Indiana

\$1.00

WEATHER



Today
Skies: Cloudy with showers
Temps: High 66; low 49

MAP, PAGE A10

INSIDE

TAKE FIVE

What you need to know

Find out what you missed in the news last week, what to do on St. Patrick's Day and what it's like to get in the wrong car in a parking lot.

PAGE A2

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.

TODAY'S USA WEEKEND



COMING SOON

Wondering what to do?

A new section devoted to events, activities and things to do on the southside and in central Indiana debuts in the Daily Journal on Thursday. Free Time, in the paper and on the Web at www.thejournalnet.com, helps you pick the best activities for your family and allows you to plan your outings a couple of weeks in advance. We hope to give you a broad range of listings, including volunteer opportunities, sports leagues and church and school activities, plus the usual listings of concert, museum and theater events. Submit an event by e-mail to freetime@thejournalnet.com or mail it to Free Time, Daily Journal, P.O. Box 699, Franklin, IN 46131.

DEATHS

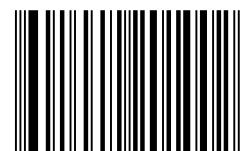
- Franklin**
James Oliver Baugh, 85
- Greenwood**
Betty Jean Chipman
Mervin M. Molgaard, 87
Helen Louise Schnippel, 93
- Elsewhere**
M. Kibbe Snell, 90
Dr. Jack Leon Walters, 79

INDEX

- Accent.....C1-C6, C8
- Business.....B8-B9
- Classified.....D1-D6
- Editorials.....A4
- Obituaries.....A5
- Police, fire.....A6
- Real Estate.....E1-E6
- Southside.....A3
- Sports.....B1-B6, B10
- Weather.....A10

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DIVERSITY ON THE SOUTHSIDE

'Ola, salamu and ciao, Johnson County'

Number of non-English-speaking pupils jumps

By JO ELLEN WERKING WEEDMAN
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The world has suddenly gotten smaller in Johnson County classrooms. In just the past year, the number of students who speak only limited English has tripled in Clark-Pleasant Community School Corp. It has doubled in Franklin, where 20 languages other than English are spoken by students. In Greenwood, the number has gone from 14 in 1998-99 to 80 in 2004-05.

In all, there are more than 500 students in the county who speak limited English, enough to fill a typical elementary school. Their parents have come to Johnson County for a variety of reasons. Some came to escape civil war in their homeland. Others came for jobs. Still others came because housing is a much better bargain here than in the part of the United States where they first immigrated. And others came because there already were people here who spoke their native tongue. This explosive growth in the number of students with limited English has had a significant impact on the school systems. In October, when Nicci Sargent started her job in Franklin schools teaching students who didn't speak English, she was told to expect about 16 students. Her latest count shows the district has 126.

"Things are changing here," said Sargent, the district's English as a new language teacher. "Most people are still thinking this a farming community, but Indianapolis is moving south; and families who don't speak English are moving here." The most recent U.S. Census was conducted in 2000. At that time, only 4 percent of the county's 115,000 residents were members of racial minorities or Hispanic. But the growth in the number of students with limited English has gone up significantly in the past few years. For example, in Clark-Pleasant, there were eight students in 2003-04, 63 in 2004-05 and 209 this year. About 70 students in kinder-



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT ROBERSON/sroberson@thejournalnet.com
Northeast Elementary School fifth-grader Jazmine Gonzalez, 11, reads the day's announcements in Spanish on Friday morning.

garten through Grade 12 from Punjab, India, have moved to Whiteland in the past few years. Community leaders and school officials said the benefits of having a more diverse population are many. Besides making the area more attractive to business and industry, people from other cultures have much to teach Americans. "A lot of these kids in our schools aren't going to spend their lives in Johnson County, and this is a chance to see what the real world is really like," said Simone Tilon. (SEE PUPILS, PAGE A9)

BY THE NUMBERS

More than 20 different languages are spoken by students in Johnson County's public schools. Here's a look at a breakdown of the number of students who speak different languages. These numbers represent only students who meet state guidelines to qualify for English as a new language services at school. Several other students may speak more than one language but no longer qualify for special services, school officials said.

- Center Grove**
Spanish: 15
Japanese: 6
Korean: 5
Turkish: 3
Chinese: 2
Dutch: 2
Tagalog (Philippines): 1
- Clark-Pleasant**
Spanish: 120
Punjabi (India): 70
Vietnamese: 6
Tagalog: 4
Chinese: 3
American Indian: 1
Swahili (central Africa): 1
Bosnian: 2
Japanese: 2
- Edinburgh**
Spanish: 18
- Franklin**
Spanish: 53
Bosnian: 10
Russian: 10
American Sign Language: 6
Kikuyu (Kenya): 6
Punjabi: 8
Gujarati (India): 5
Arabic: 5
Fouzou (China): 4
Swahili: 3
Mandarin (China): 2
Japanese: 2
Shona (east Africa): 2
Vietnamese: 2
Tagalog: 2
Italian: 1
Marathi (India): 1
Thai: 1
Sindhi (Pakistan): 1
Swedish: 1
German: 1
- Greenwood**
About 150. Language breakdown not available.
- Nineveh-Hensley-Jackson**
Ukrainian: 1
SOURCE: Johnson County school districts

HELP AVAILABLE

The Johnson County Public Library Adult Learning Center offers free private tutoring for adults who do not speak English as their primary language. About 40 adults are enrolled in the program. A majority of those speak Spanish, but several other languages are represented, including Japanese, Vietnamese and Korean. The center also has had students from Turkey, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil and India. For more information, to sign up for tutoring or to volunteer, call 738-4677.

COMING SOON

A look at Johnson County's growing Indian population. MONDAY

School expels girls

Students accused of stealing wine

By JO ELLEN WERKING WEEDMAN
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Two Franklin Community High School students accused of stealing and drinking a bottle wine while on a school-sponsored trip have been expelled for the rest of the school year.

Tara Hight and Andrea Parsley, and their parents, were notified by a letter Thursday that they will be expelled for the rest of the school year and won't receive any credit for their courses this semester, according to Rick Doyle, the girls' attorney.

The girls deny they took the wine.

The expulsion officially took effect Friday. Assistant Superintendent Vickie Davis said the girls have 10 days from that date to file a written request with the school board for a hearing.

The school board would vote on whether to hear an appeal.

Davis said Friday she couldn't comment on specifics of the case or any disciplinary action against a student.

(SEE STUDENTS, BACK PAGE)

Franklin to debate smoking

By JASON MICHAEL WHITE
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The city of Franklin likely will extinguish public smoking, but whether the ban will include bars or private clubs is unclear, according to city council members.

Most council members lean toward supporting a citywide smoking ban in some form. The question is whether the ban would cover every type of business and workplace in the city.

The council will meet at 7 p.m. Monday at city hall to hear information about the proposed

(SEE SMOKING, BACK PAGE)

IF YOU GO

What: Franklin City Council meeting
When: 7 p.m. Monday
Where: City hall, 55 W. Madison St.
Why: To hear information on a proposed citywide smoking ban. No vote will be taken until the March 27 council meeting at the earliest.

Gabehart guilty of misdemeanor for driving drunk

Greenwood employee ordered to get GED

By PAIGE E. WASSEL
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Greenwood's director of operations must get his high school equivalency diploma and cannot drive a vehicle as terms of his second drunken-driving conviction in five years.

Norman L. Gabehart, 43, was convicted Friday of operating a vehicle while intoxicated with a prior conviction.

Greenwood Mayor Charles Henderson and Greenwood Police Chief Joe

Pitcher testified at the hearing on the positive changes they had seen in Gabehart's behavior since he was arrested in May 2004 for driving while intoxicated.

Gabehart told Special Judge Jane Crane that he goes to Alcoholics Anonymous meetings at least three times a week and has been sober since June 1, 2004, the day after his arrest.

He said he wasn't embarrassed about obtaining his GED, noting it

(SEE EMPLOYEE, BACK PAGE)



Norman L. Gabehart, Greenwood's director of operations, was convicted Friday of operating a vehicle while intoxicated with a prior conviction.

Henderson urged friend to sue city council

By PAIGE E. WASSEL
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While testifying on his employee's behalf Friday, Greenwood Mayor Charles Henderson recounted a conversation he had with Norman L. Gabehart during which he questioned why Gabehart hadn't sued the Greenwood City Council.

While the two were riding together one day to look at a city project, the discussion turned to Gabehart's recent arrest and his pay cut, the mayor said.

"I said, 'Norm, why not sue the city council and get your money back?'" Henderson testified during Gabehart's sentencing hearing Friday.

Henderson was referring to action taken by the council since Gabehart's drunken-driving arrest in May 2004, first to cut the salary for Gabehart's position by 23 percent then to deny him a raise recommended by the mayor.

The mayor said he had talked to the city attorney about what action the city could take against Gabehart

(SEE HENDERSON, BACK PAGE)