

CHENEY SHOTS HUNTER

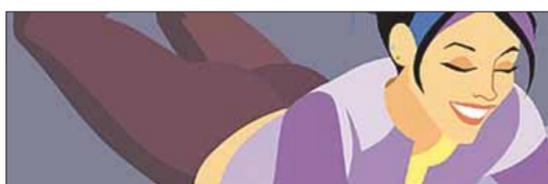
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ELECTION 2008

BAYH FOR PRESIDENT?

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SCOOP



TEENS DON'T DATE; THEY HANG OUT

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CENTER GROVE'S SEASON OVER

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DAILY JOURNAL

www.thejournalnet.com

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2006

Johnson County, Indiana

50 cents

WEATHER



Today

Skies: Partly sunny
Temps: High 39; low 26

MAP, PAGE A8

NEWS

Semi crash causes 4-mile backup on Interstate 65

Police said a semitrailer driver who overturned his vehicle Sunday near the Franklin exit on southbound Interstate 65 told a state trooper he had smoked crack two days before the accident.

Trooper Michael J. Meinczinger said the driver went off the road three times and then crossed both lanes of traffic before overturning his vehicle into the median at 4:47 p.m.

Emergency officials had to extricate the driver from the vehicle, said Capt. Rich Lashbrook of the Franklin Fire Department.

The driver, whose name was not available Sunday night, was taken by ambulance to Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis, and he complained of pain to his right leg.

Police are waiting for a blood test to be processed.

The accident caused a four-mile back up on northbound Interstate 65 because the left lane was shut down to clear the vehicle, Meinczinger said.

ON THE WEB

Find out what southsiders are saying about the proposed Greenwood smoking ban on our editor's blog.

You can let your voice be heard by adding your comments or voting in our Webpoll on the topic.

Readers who don't have access to the Internet are welcome to mail or fax comments. Write the Daily Journal, P.O. Box 699, Franklin, IN 46131. Fax: 736-2766

Web Extra
Visit the editor's blog and vote in our Webpoll at www.thejournalnet.com

DEATHS

Franklin
Betty Jane Clark, 88
John Benton Denny Jr., 32

Greenwood
Emily S. Cox, 72
Billy Earl Freeman, 60
Joseph E. Keller, 75

Indianapolis
Joseph T. Shea, 90

Elsewhere
Betty Ann Anderson, 89
Thoburn B. Orme, 40

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20-car accident closes interstate

Weather causes crash, provides diversions



AP PHOTO

Brandon Sunbury, left, Jacob Hill, center, and Andrew Gibson build a snowman in the median off Interstate 65 near Franklin on Saturday. The trio was stranded with hundreds of other motorists for two hours after a multi-vehicle accident closed the interstate.

By CHELSEA SCHNEIDER
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Emergency officials closed Interstate 65 for two hours Saturday between the Taylorsville and County Line Road exits to clear a 20-car pile up they said was caused by low visibility and snow-covered roads.

The wreck stretched more than two miles and left hundreds of motorists in stopped traffic from

11:30 a.m. to about 2 p.m.

The initial accident occurred near the Whiteland exit and caused multiple other cars to rear end other vehicles or slide off the road in attempts to avoid the wreck. The majority of the crash occurred in the northbound lanes of Interstate 65, Whiteland Fire Chief Dave Gabbard said.

One semi crossed the median into the southbound lane.

Some areas of Johnson County received up to six inches of snow while

others received virtually nothing, according to WISH-Channel 8. People traveling on the road hit an isolated pocket of snowfall, he said.

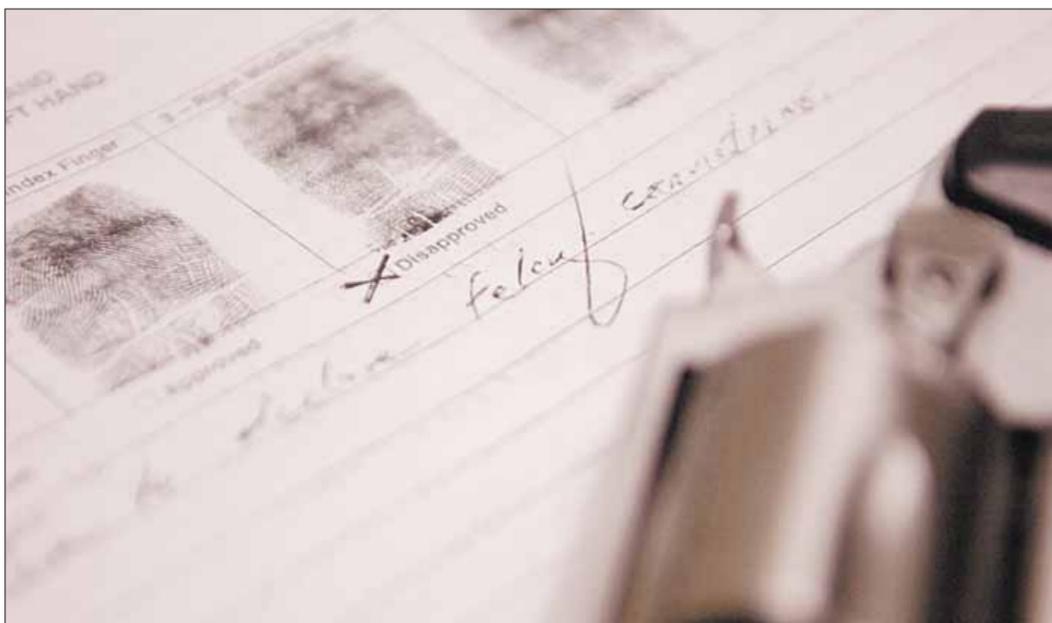
Five people were treated and released from the hospital, and one person had to be extracted from a car. No one suffered life-threatening injuries.

"Given the conditions, it was probably one of the biggest messes I've

(SEE CRASH, BACK PAGE)

Aiming for approval

Applications to carry firearms up in 2005



STAFF PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SCOTT ROBERSON/sroberson@thejournalnet.com

This application for a handgun permit was rejected because a background check revealed the applicant had a previous felony conviction.

Police reject permits based on state law, own policies

BY THE NUMBERS

Here is a breakdown of how many people applied to renew or get a new gun permit in Franklin, Greenwood and Johnson County over the past two years and so far this year:

Franklin
2004: 218
2005: 259
2006: 27 through Feb. 6

Greenwood
2004: 436
2005: 483
2006: 74 through Feb. 7

Johnson County
2004: 714
2005: 726
2006: 87 through Feb. 9

Statewide

2004: 68,447
2005: 70,167

SOURCES: Franklin Police Department, Greenwood Police Department, Johnson County Sheriff's Office, Indiana State Police

By ANNIE GOELLER

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Nearly 200 county residents asked for permission to carry their handguns to work and on their daily errands so far this year.

Though the number isn't a record yet, police from two local agencies said they are on track to reach numbers higher than in 2005.

More people applied for and renewed their permits to carry a handgun last year than in 2004.

The biggest jump in 2005 was in Franklin, where nearly 19 percent more people applied for handgun permits. An increase in Greenwood, where police received 10 percent more applications, wasn't far behind.

In all of Indiana, a total of 70,167 people applied for the state's permission to legally carry a handgun last year. That number is an increase of more than 2 percent over the 2004 total.

Police aren't sure why more people requested permits last year, but the increase isn't a record in recent years.

In 2001, police agencies saw a spike in the number of people wanting to carry a handgun. In Greenwood, the number reached 628 for the year, 37 percent higher than in 2000.

For people without a criminal background, getting the permit is not difficult. Most people who apply are approved, police said.

State police denied a total of 1,050 applications last year, said Capt. Doug Shelton, Indiana State Police Firearms Licensing Division.

Most people don't ask for a permit if they have a criminal record, one of the main reasons for denying an application, said Greenwood Police Chief Joe Pitcher.

State police will deny the request if the person was convicted of a felony, arrested for a violent crime or one that involved a deadly weapon, according to state law.

Local police chiefs and sheriffs will do a criminal history check on an applicant before sending the application onto the state. If the application is approved, the state

(SEE APPROVAL, BACK PAGE)

WHY TO GET A PERMIT

Anyone who plans to carry a handgun with them or to their place of work needs to have a permit. Also, hunters who use a handgun need a permit that allows hunting or target practice with the gun.

The permit also allows hunters to carry the gun with them to a hunting site or a repair shop.

Without a valid permit, a person could face a charge of carrying a handgun without a permit, a class A misdemeanor, with a sentence of up to one year in jail and a \$5,000 fine. If that person has a previous felony conviction or is carrying the gun in a school area, the charge is then a C felony, with a sentence of two to eight years and a \$10,000 fine.

Find out how to get a permit and why you could be rejected on Page A8.

SOURCE: Indiana law



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT ROBERSON

Center Grove's Michelle McKeehan nears the finish of the 100-yard breaststroke Saturday afternoon at the 2005 IHSAA swimming and diving state finals. McKeehan won the event and the 200-yard individual medley.

'She's the best'

CG swimmer defends state titles

By JASON MARTIN
DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

INDIANAPOLIS
Michelle McKeehan's movements during her events in the high school girls state swim meet in the IUPUI Natatorium pool on Saturday were all fluidity, power and nary a wasted motion.

In between and after the races, however, came the intermittent coughing and sniffing that made the Center Grove sophomore look like anything but a sleek champion athlete.

"She was so sick last week, she probably shouldn't have been in school," Center Grove coach Jim Todd said. "That tells you what kind of heart she has."

McKeehan surged to victories in the 200 individual medley and the 100 breaststroke, defending her titles from last year and coming within a fraction of a second in both races of new state records.

McKeehan also helped the Trojans set two school records in relay events for a seventh-place team finish, their best standing in six years.

In the process, she became Center Grove's and Johnson County's

(SEE SWIMMER, BACK PAGE)

Husband charged in killing

Staff and wire reports

NASHVILLE

A Morgantown man suing Brown County's sheriff for naming him as a suspect in his wife's 2003 death now faces a murder charge alleging that he strangled her and left the body in a hot tub.

Michael B. Smith, 61, was being held Sunday in the Brown County Jail on a preliminary charge of murder.

Brown County Sheriff Buck Stogsdill said Smith had been arrested on a warrant late Friday, but said authorities would wait until today to release details surrounding the case.

(SEE KILLING, BACK PAGE)

Elvis serenades Skillman at annual Republican dinner

By MICHAEL W. HOSKINS
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An annual Republican dinner Sunday night brought out people running for election office and the state's second top leader.

But the real hit of the dinner was Elvis, as impersonated by a state representative from southwestern Indiana.

Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman spoke to

a crowd of more than 400 Johnson County Republicans at the party's annual Lincoln Day Dinner on Sunday night at Jonathan Byrd's Cafeteria in Greenwood.

Before speaking to the crowd, Skillman shared a song and dance with the Elvis impersonator: Indiana State Representative Bruce Borders, who represents parts of southwestern Indiana.

"People don't take me as seriously on the political side any-

more," Borders joked, referring to his impersonations.

He sang a few songs, including "Don't be Cruel" before relinquishing the stage to Skillman.

Her message: Indiana, under Gov. Mitch Daniels' leadership, is creating jobs, bringing new businesses to the state and funneling money back to local levels that benefit schools and roads.

"When we took office, our state was far from sound," Skillman

said. "We still have our challenges ahead, but the state is a much different place now and is moving forward."

One of Daniels' proposals, a statewide transportation plan called Major Moves, is designed to fully fund more than 200 road projects statewide, she said.

The plan would benefit Johnson County by bringing more

(SEE DINNER, BACK PAGE)