

# HIGHWAY PLAN KEEPS ON TRUCKIN'

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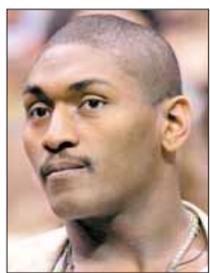


## CLEMENTINES BOOMING

PAGE A6

# HE'S STILL HERE

PAGE B1



66 PACERS

96 CAVALIERS

PAGE B1

# DAILY JOURNAL

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2006

Johnson County, Indiana

50 cents

WEATHER



**Today**  
Skies: Partly sunny  
Temps: High 40; low 19  
MAP, PAGE A10

COMING UP

**Nutritional education?**  
Many schools give students the option of eating burgers and fries from fast-food joints. What does this mean for students' health and increasing obesity rates?



**Best supporting cast**  
The Whiteland girls basketball team is ranked for the first time in team history, thanks in no small measure to Indiana All-Star candidate Jessica Huffman. But the Warriors' real strength might be in a supporting cast that ranks among the county leaders in several categories.

**Gearing up for Oden**  
On Saturday, the Center Grove boys basketball team must figure a way to stop Mr. Basketball front-runner Greg Oden.

THIS WEEK

**Do not go gently ...**  
Harrison Ford talks about aging gracefully. Plus, the editors of AARP The Magazine reveal why your parents' diseases don't have to be yours.



**Super Bowl, super dips**  
Recipes for three easy, crowd-pleasing dips to serve at the big game from CookSmart columnist Pam Anderson.

USA WEEKEND

DEATHS

- Edinburgh  
Russell D. Sallee, 69
- Franklin  
Eileen C. Schuman, 97  
Charles E. Skelton Sr., 62
- Greenwood  
John W. "Jack" Kreutzer, 78
- Indianapolis  
Pearl Marie Ellis, 90  
Mildred Chambers Stich, 92
- Elsewhere  
Harold Johnson, 76  
John N. McKee, 46  
Robert Charles Smith, 86  
Sharon Tinsley, 57

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# CG teachers at contract impasse

"There was a time when Center Grove led Johnson County in salaries. That's no longer the case. We're talking about a district where teachers are feeling pretty underappreciated at this point."

Nancy Knochel  
Center Grove's regional representative for the Indiana State Teachers Association

## Administration, union at odds over raises; mediator sought

By JO ELLEN WERKING WEEDMAN  
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The Center Grove teachers union and school board have deadlocked in contract negotiations. For the first time in at least 16 years, the Center Grove Classroom Teachers Association, which represents Center Grove's more than 350 teachers in negotiations about

salary and benefits each year, declared an impasse after a negotiation meeting Monday. A state mediator will be called to help settle the contract. Teachers, who have been working on the contract for the current school year since August, are asking for a 1.5 percent salary increase and an increase in the amount of money the school district contributes to their health

insurance premiums. The district has offered to agree to the union's proposal for health insurance contributions but has offered a pay increase of 1.125 percent, said Bill Long, Center Grove assistant superintendent. The difference between the raise teachers want and the raise the district is offering would amount to \$73,000 over one school year. Long and human resources

director Sally Hacker are negotiating with teachers on behalf of the school board. Teachers in the district will continue to come to work and teach, but there is a growing concern about the need for a clear plan to remain one of the best districts in the area to work for, union officials said.

(SEE IMPASSE, PAGE A8)

## WHITE RIVER TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT CENTER

# A gathering place

### New building becoming focal point for community groups in Center Grove area



Robin Head, an administrative assistant, works at her desk in the White River Township Government Center, which opened about six months ago. Since that time, the building has become the home of

Little League meetings, birthday parties, baby showers and homeowners' association meetings. The building also houses township offices and a satellite office for Johnson County sheriff's deputies.

By JASON MICHAEL WHITE  
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## THE FACILITY

In months past, Center Grove Little League met in churches, funeral homes, wherever space was available. The league's board sometimes crammed 30 members into a small room. Just getting elbow room was difficult, let alone enough space for coaches to lay out paperwork for picking teams. Now the league has space to stretch out while using laptop hookups and video projectors. The group meets monthly at the White River Township Government Center, an 18,897-square-foot building that township offices moved into about six months ago. The number of community groups and local government offices using the building has grown steadily since it opened. White River Township Trustee Dan Maple hopes the government center will turn into a focal point for the community, which has nothing to rally around except the Center Grove school district.

Township offices moved into the White River Township Government Center about six months ago. The center, at 4800 W. Stones Crossing Road, near Center Grove High School, cost about \$2.78 million. The center includes:

- Township trustee and assessor offices
- Satellite office for Johnson County sheriff's deputies. The office includes interview rooms, conference rooms, and a lobby area.
- Community room that can be divided into three rooms, each big enough to hold about 160 people
- Kitchen and pantry
- 4,400 square feet of space once planned for a Center Grove alternative school. Those plans changed.

The township has no city or town government to bind its community together. Residents have Greenwood or Bargersville addresses. Law enforcement and parks and recreation services are provided by the county government, based in Franklin. And the community has no mayor.

This is ironic as White River Township's population of nearly 40,000 is bigger than any city in the county and more than all the county's towns combined. The township's government center hardly had any use about six months ago when township offices moved in, Maple said as he sat at a conference table and flipped through a calendar book. Only two or three dates were scribbled in for June and July. As months passed, more openings filled up with birthday parties, sororities from Franklin College, baby showers and meetings for local government, homeowner associations and Center Grove school officials. Maple attributes growing interest in the center to word of mouth, starting with people who worked on the project and moved into the building's offices. People are impressed with the look of the building and its available space, he said. For example, Center Grove resident Mike Davis is part of a company that

(SEE PLACE, BACK PAGE)



STAFF PHOTO BY PAIGE E. WASSEL/  
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High winds Tuesday threatened to knock this damaged 74-foot-tall sign at Red Roof Inn in Greenwood into a street, powerlines or a building.

# Motel's sign at risk of falling

### Firefighters fear fierce winds could push sign onto road

By ANNIE GOELLER  
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Part of Sheek Road near Main Street and Interstate 65 in Greenwood was closed Tuesday evening and part of this morning because firefighters feared a 74-foot sign at a nearby building could fall. For more than three hours emergency workers could only watch the sign at the Red Roof Inn, 110 Sheek Road, sway in the more than 30 mph winds. After one sign company refused to work on the sign in the high wind, a second company planned to attempt to fix the sign. But high winds kept that company from making repairs, either. The road would remain closed until this morning, Greenwood Fire Chief Steve Dhondt said. Workers hoped to be able to repair the sign today, Dhondt said.

Wind gusts were measured at 38 mph Tuesday afternoon and were expected to reach 45 mph by the end of the evening, according to the National Weather Service. The sign was clearly tilted, but electrical lines nearby, high winds and the weight of the sign kept emergency workers from doing anything but watch and wait. Motorists and diners at nearby restaurants were instructed to park their cars several lots away, Dhondt said. At 2 p.m., a manager at the motel heard a loud pop. Firefighters determined that welding that holds two pieces of the pole together had broken. In the hours since then, wind gusts further damaged the pole and sign, causing it to tilt more, he said.

(SEE SIGN, PAGE A8)

# Improving Greenwood and its residents is mayor's goal



By JASON MICHAEL WHITE  
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Fix roads, build parks and get fit. Those are Greenwood Mayor Charles Henderson's priorities. The mayor outlined his plans, accomplishments and the status of the city in his annual speech Tuesday at Valle Vista Conference Center. He said the city is not struggling financially and its property tax rate was kept down to an increase of just

more than a penny this year. This means, Henderson said, that city officials have more time to plan for residential and businesses growth and to focus on improving services, such as roads and recreation. In the past, Henderson identified five subdivisions as having the city's worst streets. Road repairs in Valle Vista and Northern Park subdivisions are halfway completed, but he said the city needs a plan to pay for fixing streets in the other three: Whispering Trails, Coopers

and Shady Creek. He said he expects to have that plan later this year. City council members have final say in how the roads can be repaired and can go against the mayor's recommendation, much like they did two years ago for Valle Vista and Northern Park. The council voted to fund the projects with cash the city had for capital projects instead of following the mayor's proposal, which involved selling a bond and going into debt.

(SEE GOAL, PAGE A8)