



TEAMS TAKE THEIR BEST SHOT

PAGE B1

NEW-HOME SALES CONTINUE SLIPPING

PAGE B4

HEY, KIDS: TURN THE MUSIC DOWN

PAGE A6



DAILY JOURNAL

www.thejournalnet.com

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2006

Johnson County, Indiana

50 cents

WEATHER



Today
Skies: Partly sunny
Temps: High 52; low 42
 MAP, PAGE A10

COMING UP

Reports from the front



Soldiers use Internet to provide unprecedented instant updates on life in the war zone.

Taste of Hollywood

From "Rocky" to "Chocolat," columnists pick their best movies in categories from sports to food.

USA WEEKEND

Tournament-bound

The Franklin College women's basketball team fell one shot short of winning its conference tournament, but with an at-large bid the NCAA tourney, the Grizzlies' postseason will continue with a game Friday night.

Measuring fees' impact

Franklin and Greenwood are collecting fees from developers to fund new parks, but how much of the money has been spent?

The skinny on obesity

A look at what schools and other groups are doing to battle childhood obesity.

COMING SOON

FYI

Services in area will mark Worldwide Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer is Friday. This year's theme is "The Signs of the Times." Three services will be conducted in Johnson County on Friday:

- 10 a.m.:** Franklin United Methodist Community, 1070 W. Jefferson St., Franklin
- 1 p.m.:** Indiana Masonic Home, 690 State St., Franklin
- 7 p.m.:** Rocklane Christian Church, 4430 E. Rocklane Road, Greenwood

DEATHS

- Bargersville**
- Alvin L. Goodwin, 55
- Franklin**
- Evelyn Mae Hiatt, 93
- Indianapolis**
- Sandra J. Thrall, 53
- Elsewhere**
- Phyllis Jane Richeson, 77

INDEX

- Accent.....A6-A7
- Classified.....B6-B9
- Comics.....B5
- Editorials.....A4
- Obituaries.....A5
- Police, fire.....A3
- Sports.....B1-B3
- Southside.....A3
- TV listings.....A7
- Weather.....A10

CALL US

Main switchboard
 736-7101
Delivery: 736-2777,
 (888) 736-7101
Advertising: 736-2700
News tips: 736-2712



Franklin City Council member Ann Gordon talks about a smoking ban during the council's meeting Monday.

Franklin to ban smoking?

City could consider proposal at March 13 meeting

By JASON MICHAEL WHITE
 DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER
 jwhite@thejournalnet.com

Franklin soon will consider a citywide smoking ban for public places and restaurants. City council members decided by consensus Monday to

draft a no-smoking ordinance for discussion and vote as early as their March 13 meeting. The city council will have a public hearing before making any decision about whether to pass a smoking ban and, if so, what types of businesses to include or exempt from the ban.

Their decision comes a week after Greenwood passed a no-smoking ordinance for public workplaces and restaurants, except for bars and private clubs. County government is considering a smoking ban, too.

(SEE FRANKLIN, BACK PAGE)

JOINING THE CLUB

Here's a look at some smoking bans in central Indiana:
Marion County, Greenfield: Starts Wednesday
Carmel: Starts Sunday
Greenwood: Ban, which excludes bars, will go into effect April 22
Johnson County: Commissioners will consider ban that could include bars

Voluntary change

Bargersville adds professional firefighters

Providing fire protection in Bargersville is going from a part-time job to a full-time one.

Residents will not notice changes at first when calling for an ambulance or fire truck. But behind the scenes, administrators are orchestrating changes that include planning a second fire station this spring, how the community can get involved and what residents should expect in future fire protection.

The town's fire department is going from its traditional volunteer structure to a combined department with career positions. Bargersville joins several other local departments, such as White River Township, that are making the switch.

Volunteer fire chiefs across the state and county complain they can't find or keep volunteers and that permanent positions are needed to meet a growing demand of fire and medical calls.

"We've been holding on to a volunteer force department as long as we could,"

(SEE CHANGE, BACK PAGE)



Above: Chief James White talks about the new Bargersville fire station (below), which is under construction on Smokey Row Road.

STORY BY MICHAEL W. HOSKINS
 PHOTOS BY SCOTT ROBERSON



Fate of Edinburgh plant, workers unclear

By JASON MICHAEL WHITE
 DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER
 jwhite@thejournalnet.com

Whether an Edinburgh packaging company will close remains unclear, as does the employment of its 180 workers.

South Carolina-based Sonoco

Flexible Packaging will continue to close underperforming plants this year, President and Chief Executive Officer Harris DeLoach said during a conference in New York. The company closed several plants in 2001 and 2003, according to a news release. Sonoco will not say which

plants will close this year or comment on its Edinburgh plant, at 6502 U.S. 31 South.

A Sonoco factory in Frankfort closed in 2003, costing 90 jobs.

Johnson County Development Corp. Executive Director Cheryl Morphew did not have any information about whether the Edin-

burgh plant was slated for closure.

Sonoco moved into Edinburgh about 10 years ago. It is one of 317 plants in 35 countries. In Indiana, the company also has plants in Akron, Marion and New Albany.

The company makes packaging for a range of products, including snacks and pharmaceuticals.



A new Wal-Mart store is under construction at Emerson Avenue and County Line Road in Greenwood.

Grant to help county kids get ready for school

By JO ELLEN WERKING WEEDMAN
 DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER
 jweedman@thejournalnet.com

A Center Grove program that helps low-income families get their children ready for school will be available at every school in the county this summer.

Fast Track Back to School, which provides supplies, backpacks, shoes and even haircuts to students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches, will now be available to

CAN YOU HELP?

Community leaders have raised about 30 percent of the \$113,000 they need to match grant funds for a countywide Fast Track Back to School program. To make a donation or for more information, call Bea Northcott at 441-5295.

about 2,500 students from all six county public school districts. Johnson County community lead-

ers have been working for a year to decide on the best way to spend more than \$225,000 to meet a local need.

The United Way of Johnson County received \$113,000 from Lilly Endowment. An equal amount must be raised locally to start a program and provide the financial base to keep it going after the grant money runs out in 2008, said Bea Northcott, a consultant to the United Way. About \$34,000 has been raised so far. Community leaders asked for feedback from the public about

how to spend the money, and education was a frequent request, Northcott said.

"This money can't solve every problem we've got, but we wanted to do something for education," she said.

Children who start school with no pencils, folders or backpacks have a hard time catching up, Northcott said.

The idea of Fast Track is to

(SEE GRANT, BACK PAGE)