

# All's fair on insurgents' playing field • Election



**Web extra**  
For a complete list of filings for May's primary election, visit [www.thejournalnet.com](http://www.thejournalnet.com).

By PAUL GARWOOD  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## BAGHDAD, Iraq

Marwan Rassam's restaurant is a Baghdad institution, famous for its pizzas and grilled meat sandwiches wrapped in flat "saj" bread.

Ordinary as that may seem, Rassam's diner was bombed last year by extremists who have broadened their targets beyond Americans, Iraqi police and troops to include bakers, cigarette vendors and even employees of a perfume boutique.

In the past two weeks, mechanics, blacksmiths, bakers and liquor dealers have been killed in drive-by shootings or roadside bombings.

Just why Iraqis with no clear ties to the U.S. military or Iraqi police are being killed or kidnapped in increasing numbers has



Iraqis inspect the scene following an explosion in Baghdad, Iraq, on Wednesday. Insurgents are targeting anyone they find, leaving little Iraqis unsure where they will strike next.

become one of the most disturbing questions of the post-Saddam Hussein era.

In Rassam's case, perhaps the young couples sitting at outside tables enraged Islamic extremists. Or the diner could have been

targeted by militants wanting to kill policemen who regularly eat there. Nobody knows for sure, except the bombers.

The 2004 bombing wounded several of Rassam's patrons but caused no deaths. A year later,

someone planted a bomb at the front door when the restaurant was closed, causing damage but no injuries.

Many blame the government for not securing the country. Others blame the Americans for failing to ensure law and order after overthrowing Saddam's authoritarian regime in 2003.

An Iraqi army officer criticized the government, saying its weakness allows thugs to blackmail, murder and carry out sectarian reprisals at will.

"No one hesitates to seek revenge over tribal disputes or kill people even if they raise their voices," said Maj. Gen. Jawad al-Daini.

"Today they kill a Shiite baker in a Shiite area and tomorrow they will kill a Sunni supermarket owner. They can kill anyone they think is against them."

Christina Lynn White.

Two county council members have opponents in their race. Republican Charlie Canary, who holds the District 2 seat, will face Democratic candidate Carl Brewster in the fall general election. Anita Knowles is running against council member Paul Reed, who holds the District 4 seat, in the Republican primary.

Council member Ron West is also facing Rep. Woody Burton for the District 58 seat in the Republican primary.

Races have also emerged for Franklin Township assessor and trustees from Franklin and White River townships.

Nine people filed for seats on the three-member Needham Township Advisory Board. None of the members from the Franklin Township Advisory Board planned to run for another term. Voters will see more than 25

positions on the ballot with a Democratic candidate when they go to the voting booth May 2. Winners from the primary election will move on to the general election Nov. 7.

Candidates have until noon Monday to withdraw their names and until noon March 1 to turn in their campaign finance reports.

Voters must register by April 3 to be eligible to vote in the primary election.

**Buy it.  
Sell it.  
Find it.  
Call Classified:  
736-2700**

## Trail

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

would allow them to build the bridges so trail users can safely cross U.S. 31 to trails east and west of the highway.

The agreements from the landowners will help move the projects forward, said Don Cummings, former chairman of the Trails Advisory Board.

Land donations from business and property owners show more residents are getting excited about trails, said Evan Springer, Greenwood parks department director.

The agreements are not legally final yet, but officials are already planning how the land will help connect trails.

Two landowners, who did not wish to be named, agreed to allow the city to use their land, Cummings said.

One agreed to let the city use land that fronts the west side of U.S. 31 near Lotus Garden restaurant for one end of a bridge and link to sidewalks there. The land will not be donated to the city, Cummings said.

Another plans to donate about an acre of land at the shopping center at the southeast corner of Madison Avenue and Smith Valley Road, so the trail can wrap around shops there.

## WHAT'S AHEAD FOR GREENWOOD PARKS

### Coming up this summer

#### New places to bike and walk:

- Polk Hill Trail, which starts at Craig Park and stops at Grassy Creek Lane. Plans are to continue the trail to Main Street Trail and Emerson Pathway, which runs along Emerson Avenue between Main Street and County Line Road. Board members are still discussing on which side of the street to build the trail.

- A paved path on Sheek Road, south from Grassy Creek Lane. Now, the pavement stops for about 100 to 200 yards. Once the gaps are filled, the trail will continue to Polk Hill Trail and can continue to Clark-Pleasant Intermediate School.

- A path along Greenwood Municipal Airport property at County Line Road and Emerson Avenue.

- Tracy Trail, which will be further developed with a \$1 million grant from state. Plans are to connect the trail, which runs

from Summerfield Park north to Greenwood Community High School, Greenwood Middle School and Craig Park.

### What's next

#### What the city can do with recent land donations and developments:

**Build a bridge over U.S. 31:** A landowner agreed to let the city use property on the west side of U.S. 31 in front of Lotus Garden restaurant for one end of walkway bridge and link it to Tracy Trail. The city needed a safe location to cross U.S. 31 and connect the trails through the intersection of U.S. 31 and Madison Avenue.

**Smith Valley Road bridge and trail around shopping center:** Landowner of the shopping center at the southeast corner of Smith Valley Road and Madison Avenue donated about an acre of land to extend trails west on Smith Valley Road to the Tracy Trail and build a walking bridge to cross Smith Valley Road.

**Interstate 65 underpass:** The state agreed to let the city use land under the Main Street overpass to connect to Sheek Road and Emerson Avenue south. Plans are to connect to park land in Homecoming at University Park, a subdivision to the east, and get users to Sheek Road and Emerson Avenue to the west. Traffic lights will include pedestrian signals so users can safely cross the interstate's on and off ramps. Lawyers for the state and the city are drafting a legal agreement for land ownership and use.

**Funding:** Applying for grant from Metropolitan Planning Organization for U.S. 31 bridge, getting \$1,600 for bridges from donations and working to get more money from sponsors of trail benches.

SOURCES: Evan Springer, Greenwood parks department director, and Don Cummings, former chairman of the Trail Advisory Board

State officials agreed to allow a trail under Interstate 65, with traffic signal and intersection upgrades there. Walkers and bikers will get a pedestrian signal to cross ramps to and from the interstate, said Thane Morgan, chairman of the board.

Plans are to extend that trail to connect with Homecoming at University Park, a subdivision with 43 acres of park land, Morgan said.

Lawyers still need to finalize an agreement between the state and the city on who will own the land and how Greenwood will be

able to use it, Morgan said.

Now, officials are concerned with how to pay for their ideas.

A state grant already awarded will pay for about \$1 million worth of work.

But board members also applied for a second grant from the Metropolitan Planning Organization, which would help pay for the U.S. 31 bridge, Gabehart said.

In addition, donations from people have helped pay for a bridge that will cross a ditch on Whetzel Trail along Worthsville Road, Cummings said.

## Courses

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

About a million people in the country have completed the class, which is conducted at more than 5,000 churches nationwide, according to the Web site [www.alphausa.org](http://www.alphausa.org).

"It's religion for the nonreligious," said Bob McDonald, a pastor at Vineyard Community Church in Greenwood. "We cover the basics in a very simple, non-denominational way (so) that any person off the street who's never been associated with Christianity would understand."

The course begins with dinner, followed by a talk and then small-group discussions. The environment is designed so that no question asked is branded as silly or too simple, McDonald and other course leaders said.

Each week, leaders explore a different question and allow people to talk among themselves, ask questions and just get familiar with the material, he said.

"The thing that makes Alpha unique is that people can be comfortable with what they don't know," said the Rev. Dan Sinkhorn of Grace United Methodist Church in Franklin. "We find that a lot of people aren't comfortable admitting they're not familiar with the Bible."

The Alpha class at Grace is under way. It's the 10th time the church has hosted the course, Sinkhorn said.

Greenwood resident Amy Hartman, who has attended Grace for about five years, is taking the class on Thursday nights. She said she has been exposed to

### The class

Alpha is a 15-week nondenominational introduction to the Bible and Christian faith, exploring universal questions such as "Is there a God?"; "Why am I here?"; "What are the differences in religions?" and "How can I make the most of the rest of my life?" The course, which started in London nearly 30 years ago, was designed for non-churchgoers, new church members, or anyone wanting to brush up on the basics. The first class starts with a light meal, where people get to know each other,

different religious backgrounds and views on Christianity since starting the class in January.

Growing up in a Methodist church in southern Ohio, the 35-year-old said Alpha's diversity is strengthening her faith and causing her to look at her religious beliefs more carefully.

"All too often, when questions were raised, I found myself saying that I just believed something and never questioned that," Hartman said.

"But this is making me question my thoughts and theories, why I believe what I do."

For example, one question that groups discussed has been "How do people get into heaven?"

Hartman always believed that the primary method was having faith that God and Jesus died for people's sins. But another member asked how that applies for someone who is a Buddhist and does not believe in the same God.

"Why shouldn't they?" she said, thinking about the question. "That makes you think."

The Franklin church is the only congregation listed with the national organization to start the Alpha class this year. A class at

## BACK TO BASICS

learn about the course and see if they want to come back. No commitments are needed. Members break up into small groups and talk about various faith-related topics and ask questions.

**At least seven area churches have or at one point held the Alpha class.**

#### They include:

- Edinburgh United Methodist Church; starts in March
- Grace United Methodist Church in Franklin; running the course through March
- First Baptist Church of Franklin

- Greenwood Presbyterian Church; no longer offering course

- Vineyard Community Church in Greenwood; starts April 24 following Easter

- The Church at Stones Crossing; no longer offering course

- Southport Presbyterian Church; starts at 6:45 p.m. Monday

SOURCES: Alphausa.org directory of courses and members of local congregations

Southport Presbyterian begins Monday. Edinburgh United Methodist Church will start the program in March, and Vineyard Community will start its program after Easter.

"We're not trying to save you or condemn people for not knowing something. It just lays out the story for you," said the Rev. Byron Fritz, Edinburgh's senior pastor who has led the course for two years.

"Maybe people will stop and say, 'I didn't realize this was true for me,' then be open to applying the class to their own lives."

In the six or seven years that Southport Presbyterian has hosted the class, associate pastor June Barrow has noticed that people have been able to call themselves Christians and be more confident about their faith after Alpha.

Edwards, who started attending the Southport church in April 2004, said the course helped him and his wife open

up to the church.

"Now, we can say we know why we've got those beliefs and can explain it," he said.

**TAX CHECK BEDDING SALE!**  
**FREE LAY-A-WAY**  
Brand Name Mattresses  
We Will Not Be Undersold!  
Immediate Delivery Available  
Inventory In Stock  
Twin Size Mattress \$89  
Queen Size Sets \$199  
90 Days Same As Cash (Ask for details)  
The Mattress King  
Open Daily  
1990 Northwood Plaza, Franklin (North end of plaza) • 346-0303

**WE'RE STILL HERE!**  
YES, WE CLOSED OUR STORE IN FRANKLIN, BUT OUR AMITY STORE IS GOING STRONG.  
**\$\$\$ SALE \$\$\$**  
Save Big Now on new and used furniture for every room in your home!  
**Long's Furniture WORLD**  
Home of World's Largest Rocking Chair  
5 mi S. of Franklin on US 31 • OPEN 6 DAYS • 738-3302

**Quality Dentures**  
Tooth Extractions On Site  
Premium dentures are designed to fit your:  
• Personality, Sex, and age  
• Color of eyes, hair and complexion  
**New Hours: Mon. 8-5, Fri 8-5**  
**Wednesday-Appointments from 1pm - 9pm**  
(No need to take time off work)  
• SOFT SUCTION CUPS  
• LAB ON PREMISES • FLEXIBLE PARTIALS  
**Denture by Design**  
1176 N. Main St., Franklin, IN  
Across from post office  
**736-0900**

Franklin Heritage, Inc. Presents  
**Classic Cinema on A Classic Screen**  
At The Historic  
**ARTCRAFT Theatre**  
1 Block north of Johnson County Courthouse  
Downtown Franklin  
The fun starts at 7:30  
Admission \$5.00 Adults \$4.00 Seniors \$3.00 Children under 12  
Classic Film  
February 24th & 25th at 7:30 pm  
**ALIEN**  
Starring Sigourney Weaver  
Sponsored By: Sprint

"If you met this staff, you'd understand why I chose JMH."  
JONI KENDALL, Avon  
The decision to have bariatric surgery wasn't a simple one for Joni. "I wanted to make sure I was doing the right thing. So I talked to people I knew had the surgery. And I met with doctors at a couple of different hospitals." When her deteriorating health became too frightening to deny, deciding where to have the procedure was a lot easier. Joni says her experience at Johnson Memorial made up her mind "in the first ten minutes. The doctors, the nurses, everyone made me feel really cared for."  
If you're considering weight-loss surgery, visit our website at [www.johnsonmemorial.org](http://www.johnsonmemorial.org). Or call our Bariatric Surgery Coordinator, Eileen Williams, toll-free at 866-837-0531 to register for one of our free seminars. A bariatric success story herself, Eileen will give you a first-hand account of what you can expect from our program.  
TWO SPECIAL SEMINARS  
February 23 from 10am-noon and March 7 from 6pm-8pm  
Attend a seminar led by Eileen and featuring our own Bariatric Specialist, Dr. Dana Lindsay.  
Call 866-837-0531 to register.  
**The Bariatric Care Center**  
Johnson Memorial Hospital  
1125 West Jefferson St. | Franklin, Indiana 46131