



LACROSSE

# GETTING PHYSICAL

County student fulfills athletic dream playing lacrosse for Brebeuf.

PAGE B1

BUSINESS

# MARSH: CUTBACKS WILL SAVE \$12 MILLION

PAGE A7

THE WAR IN IRAQ

# U.S.-LED COALITION TO SHRINK THIS YEAR

PAGE A2

# DAILY JOURNAL

www.thejournalnet.com

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2006

Johnson County, Indiana

50 cents

## WEATHER



Today  
Skies: Mostly sunny  
Temps: High 38; low 28

MAP, PAGE A10

## YOU SHOULD KNOW

### Daily Journal to bring readers what they want

No doubt you have noticed changes in the Daily Journal. We are always changing to better serve our readers.

For more than a year the Daily Journal has made changes in the look of the paper and planned stories aimed at making sure folks know what happens in their communities.

The changes are a result of a massive study and series of discussions we had with southside residents about what issues have the greatest impact on their lives and how the newspaper can help. You'll notice more changes on Saturday and will continue to see upgrades.

• **Get Personal** will give you a look at a slice of someone's life you can relate to.

• Page A2 is becoming **Take 5**, a page full of information about people, issues and activities in our community.

• **Did You Know?** will fill you in on something interesting about your community you might have never known.

• **Know Your Neighbor** will introduce you to southsiders in a question-and-answer format.

• **What You Missed** will give you a short synopsis of what you missed if you didn't pick up the Daily Journal during the week.

• **Things You Need To Know and Do.** We will help you plan your weekend and give you a look at the important issues and events to help you navigate the week ahead.

The goal is to better connect you to your community. Let us know what you think.

— Scarlett Syse, editor  
syse@thejournalnet.com

### Web Extra

Visit the editor's blog at [www.thejournalnet.com](http://www.thejournalnet.com)

## DEATHS

### Franklin

Mary Lorena Marlin, 93  
Dorothy Peters, 71

### Greenwood

Curtis Ronald Harris, 65  
Wilma J. Wilson, 70  
Robert Jay Winters, 66

### Whiteland

Kenneth Ray Lawrence, 61

### Indianapolis

Arthur F. Culmann, 75

Maria Ann Molloy, 58

## INDEX

Accent.....C1-C5  
Classified.....C6-C8  
Comics.....B9  
Editorials.....A4  
Johnson County.....A3  
Obituaries.....A5  
Police, fire.....A3  
Sports.....B1-B7, B10  
TV listings.....C2  
Weather.....A10

## CALL US

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



6 01442 20050 0

# County homebuyers move up

## Jump in average price of new homes due to families wanting more space

By ANNIE GOELLER  
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER  
agoeller@thejournalnet.com

Center Grove isn't the only area where bigger and better homes are sprouting up.

Homebuyers across the county want more space and a bigger yard, and they're willing to pay more for it.

Last year, the average value of a new home increased in Greenwood, Franklin, Bargersville, Whiteland and most of the unincorporated parts of the county, according to building permits issued.

The increases reflect a trend over the past several years, but planning officials expect to see those values move up and down

in the next few years as construction begins in subdivisions marketed to first-time homebuyers.

Builders targeted families wanting to move into a larger home last year. The homes are usually larger with more yard space and a bigger price tag.

More construction of those homes increased the values for

most areas in the county, planning officials said.

Some homebuyers were able to snag more land by building in less developed areas, such as Clark and Pleasant townships and Whiteland. Others just wanted larger kitchens and more bedrooms and found those in developments in Greenwood and Center Grove, planners said.

The average home price in Center Grove last year was more than \$300,000.

Center Grove homes jumped in value by about \$30,000 last year. Though buyers aren't getting larger lots, the trend in the area is for larger, more expensive homes in new subdivisions, said

(SEE MOVE, PAGE A9)

# Habitat building momentum

## Group planning two houses in Franklin



Construction manager Mike Gorman, left, and Doug Grant of Habitat for Humanity examine the smoke- and fire-damaged remains of a house that will be replaced by a new Habitat for Humanity home this summer.

STORIES BY MICHAEL W. HOSKINS ■ PHOTOS BY SCOTT ROBERSON

# Volunteers to start clearing site Friday

A Franklin home that was destroyed by fire in November will be rebuilt this summer by Habitat for Humanity.

On Friday, volunteers will start clearing debris from the property in the Knollwood Farms subdivision. It will be the site of one of two houses that will be built this year by a county Habitat chapter.

Construction should start in June. The second project, in Woodfield Village off Hospital Road, is expected to begin by September.

"Both these sites becoming available so quickly really took us by surprise, and we had to jump at them," said Doug Grant, service learning coordinator at Franklin College, who is

leading the Habitat group. "People are starting to realize we're here and what we're doing."

Plans for both sites come after several months of restructuring by the Habitat group. A chapter in Johnson County has not existed because of problems finding land and getting help from the community.

Since October, the group has reorganized its leadership, moved into a new headquarters at Franklin College and been searching for land to build homes.

The house at 4195 Knollwood Court was destroyed by a fire Nov. 26 and has been empty

(SEE HABITAT, BACK PAGE)

# Souped-up fund-raiser on the schedule

Homemade soup bowls decorated with stars, Colts colors and swirls of paint will help raise money to build and rehabilitate houses.

A fund-raising event for Habitat for Humanity designed by a county leadership group is set for Feb. 26 at Franklin College.

For \$15, people can choose a bowl, fill it up with soup and enjoy some bread and cookies. "You come in, buy a ticket and have a whole myriad of bowls to choose from," said Melissa Duke, who works at Heartland Community Bank and is helping organize the fund-raiser. "You can pick out any bowl that speaks to you."

Members of a Leadership Johnson County class came up with the idea as one way to benefit county residents, Duke said.

The idea was to make bowls that people would buy. Then, using soup and bread donat-



Danielle Phair forms clay into a bowl at the Franklin Parks and Recreation Department on Wednesday.

ed by local restaurants and bakeries, the class would prepare a meal for those who bought bowls, with the money going to local programs that help feed those in need.

Locally, the fund-raiser will benefit Habitat for Humanity, which rehabilitates and builds

(SEE FUND-RAISER, BACK PAGE)

## ABOUT HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Habitat builds and rehabilitates houses and provides interest-free mortgages with no down payment for families who cannot otherwise afford their own homes.

Applicants go through an extensive screening, including a credit check, rental history, financial need assessment and an analysis of current living conditions. Family income must fall between 30 percent and 50 percent of the median household income in Johnson County.

Families selected must take lessons in household finance, insurance, mortgages and home maintenance. They also must contribute time volunteering on Habitat chapter projects.

## THE SITES

Habitat expects to build two houses in Franklin this year. One is on a vacant lot in the Woodfield Village subdivision off Hospital Road. The other is in Knollwood Farms subdivision.

## CAN YOU HELP?

The chapter needs volunteers to help carry out materials and debris from the site in Knollwood Farms on Fridays and Saturdays through March.

Habitat also needs donations of building supplies and services during the building process.

Information: Doug Grant, 738-8762.

# Panel OKs bill on 'God' plates

## Burton proposal on special vehicle tags heads to full Senate

By DEANNA MARTIN  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### INDIANAPOLIS

Indiana license plates with the words "In God We Trust" printed on them would be created under a proposal a Senate committee approved Wednesday.

Rep. Woody Burton, the bill's sponsor, said the license plates do not endorse specific religions, but rather reflect an important motto from American history.

"It has to do with the heritage of our country," said Burton, a Republican from Greenwood.

Last year, a similar bill to create an In God We Trust plate was debated and defeated. Burton said the bill died in the Senate because the chamber was reluctant to add to the 55 specialty plates already available in Indiana.

(SEE PLATES, BACK PAGE)



BURTON

# New homes opposed in Whiteland

By MICHAEL W. HOSKINS  
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER  
mhoskins@thejournalnet.com

Residents have a message for a Greenwood company that wants to develop one of the largest remaining tracts of Whiteland farmland into restaurants, stores and housing: Businesses are welcome, homes and apartments are not.

"I want commercial," Whiteland resident Debra Hendrickson said. "I'm tired of going to Greenwood and Franklin for groceries. We need that here, just not with all the houses or apartments."

The theme was common during Tuesday night's town plan commission meeting, where more than 50 residents gathered for a two-hour public hearing on the project.

Developer Bob Lane is asking that nearly 155 acres be rezoned for commercial and residential use. The land is southwest of Whiteland Road and U.S. 31, north of the town's wastewater treatment plant.

The area would be part of a 181-acre development tentatively

(SEE WHITELAND, PAGE A9)