

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

DUNGY MAKES IT OFFICIAL

After some speculation about whether Colts coach would return next season, team announces he'll stick with Indy.

PAGE B1

BUSINESS

DARK DAY FOR FORD WORKERS

Automaker planning massive job cuts and will close 14 North American plants.

PAGE A2



DAILY JOURNAL

www.thejournalnet.com

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2006

Johnson County, Indiana

50 cents

WEATHER



Today
Skies: Partly sunny
Temps: High 44; low 29

MAP, PAGE A10

COMING UP

Invasion of the ash killers

Thousands of tree-killing bugs, emerald ash borers, have invaded northern Indianapolis. Are they on their way to the south side?



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?

Prescription for future

Pharmacists now have to fetch cold medicines for folks, help them pick out what they want and help seniors navigate the new prescription drug program. How has their world changed, and is it better for customers?

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.

USA WEEKEND

FYI

Legislative activity on agenda for GOP women

The Greenwood Republican Women's Club will conduct a public meeting at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at Greenwood Public Library, 310 S. Meridian St.

Legislative updates will be the topics.

Information: 881-3072

DEATHS

- Franklin
 - Virginia L. Newkirk, 90
 - Marlene Diane Phillips, 53
- Greenwood
 - James T. Bobrowski, 57
 - John W. "Jack" Kreutzer, 78
 - Reese A. Maxwell Jr., 80
 - Mary Jane Wood, 77
- Indianapolis
 - Claude Ed Burgess, 81
 - Eva L. Selzer, 81
- Elsewhere
 - Harold Johnson, 76
 - John N. McKee, 46
 - Beatrice Mischo, 88
 - Bobby Joe Parker, 66

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Franklin sues state over taxes

City seeks right to raise rates to avoid running out of money next year

By JASON MICHAEL WHITE
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It's official: Franklin is suing the state because, officials say, the city needs to raise the property tax rate.

The mayor's stance is simple. State officials either need to fix a mistake that could lead to the city going broke by the end of 2007 or

else give cities and towns more options to collect money and reduce reliance on property taxes.

Franklin has enough money in its cash reserves to keep from going broke for a while. However, Franklin Mayor Brenda Jones-Matthews said the city is growing and needs more police and fire protection.

But like many growing cities, she said, Franklin cannot afford

to expand public-safety services as needed. So city officials felt they had no choice but to file the lawsuit in hopes they will get at least some additional property tax money.

City attorney Robert H. Schafstall filed the lawsuit with the Indiana Tax Court on Monday. City council members voted unanimously at a meeting this month to give Schafstall that authority.

The lawsuit is aimed at the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance, which denied the city's request to collect as much as \$2.5 million in additional property tax dollars and raise the city tax rate by up to 33 percent.

The tax commissioner denied the request because Franklin has money in its cash reserves and the city's budget had no mathe-

matical errors, such as incorrect addition or subtraction.

City officials argue that the math error is 2003 legislation that froze the amount of property taxes cities and towns can collect. This law hurt more than a dozen cities and towns that were keeping their property tax rates low, according to the Indiana

(SEE SUES, PAGE A5)

MATTERS OF FAITH

Keeping the sabbath

Family schedules don't always allow for church

By MICHAEL W. HOSKINS
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Mark Newman regrets it when his family can't make it to church on the weekend, but he doesn't think missing service is a sin.

The reasons for missing church are varied: Weekend work. Scout activities. Occasional illness. Making sure one parent is always with the children.

The list goes on, and sometimes church falls off the agenda for the Center Grove family.

"We're always busy," Newman said. "We reserve Sunday morning for church, but there's always something going on, and that can't always happen."

Missing church has become more common among the county's faithful. Several area churches estimate that about 20 percent of their members occasionally miss a weekly service.

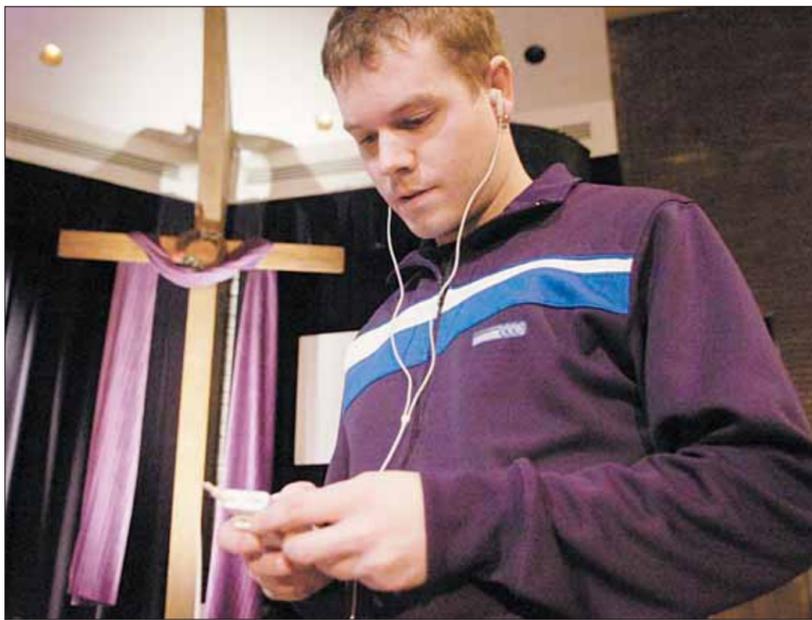
Most church leaders surveyed are understanding when people cannot make it to church and offer multiple service times and online sermons to help people balance churchgoing with busy lives.

"Life happens," said Joyce Long, spokeswoman for Mount Pleasant Christian Church in White River Township. "We definitely understand when schedules can't make (attending church) happen."

Attendance is usually lower during summer, when families go on vacations, said the Rev. David Strange, executive pastor at Greenwood Christian Church.

He said the church tracks attendance by passing pads down each row

(SEE SABBATH, BACK PAGE)



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT ROBERSON/sroberson@thejournalnet.com

Jeremy Kennicutt puts the Mount Pleasant Christian Church services online for people to download and

listen to if they can't make services in person at the Center Grove-area church.

E-sermons among ways churches adapt

By MICHAEL W. HOSKINS
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When he can't make a Sunday morning church service, a Center Grove-area man doesn't miss the sermon.

He can fit it into his morning commute, a plane ride or when he has a few moments of free time.

Joe Berkemeier uses his portable music and broadcast player to download sermons

from Mount Pleasant Christian Church.

"They're generally posted a few days after the service," the 28-year-old said. "I can download it in a couple of minutes and listen while driving to and from work."

iPods, the Internet and other technology are giving church-goers who miss a Sunday service more options to see and hear what happened in their absence.

(SEE ADAPT, BACK PAGE)

Many churches are putting their sermons online and making them available for portable media devices such as iPods, pictured at right.

STAFF ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHEN JENDRASZAK



Plaque on war dead at center of dispute

By ANNIE GOELLER
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A board in charge of conserving natural resources is embroiled in a yearlong argument over a plaque honoring war veterans.

The 60-year-old plaque has placed the Johnson County Soil and Water Conservation Dist-

ric Board at the center of an issue involving longtime Franklin residents, a state representative and local officials.

Monthly meetings of the board used to involve discussions on how to spend grants. Now they feature visits from local residents and Franklin Mayor Brenda Jones-Matthews.

(SEE PLAQUE, BACK PAGE)



DAILY JOURNAL FILE PHOTO

A plaque at the old Franklin High School pays tribute to soldiers killed in World War II. The building is now used as office space for community agencies.

Bill on child-welfare costs would affect local decisions

By JASON MICHAEL WHITE
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When a parent goes on a drug binge and leaves a child home alone, the county pays for the child's counseling or foster care as part of the state welfare system.

The cost of child welfare is expected to grow by as much as 33 percent statewide this year because of the growing number of abused or neglected children and delinquents.

Indiana counties combined collect about \$275 million to \$300 million a year for child welfare, with the cost to homeowners ranging from 1 percent to 10 percent of their property tax bills, said Jeffrey Spalding, an analyst with the state's main financial committee.

Child-welfare services provide counseling and psychiatric treatment programs, arrange foster care and pay for foster families' expense.

(SEE BILL, PAGE A5)

Ayres closing to lay off 149

No date set on converting store in Greenwood

By MICHAEL W. HOSKINS
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Nearly 150 people will lose their jobs when the L.S. Ayres store becomes Macy's at Greenwood Park Mall this year.

The department stores' parent-company, Federated Department Stores Inc., plans to cut 765 jobs when four Indiana stores are closed.

The company will lay off 149 employees in Greenwood, 286 from the L.S. Ayres store at Castleton Square Mall, 188 at the Famous Barr store in Evansville and 142 at the Marshall Field store in Mishawaka.

The move is part of the Cincinnati company's consolidation after acquiring May Department Stores Co. in August.

Part of the deal includes the Greenwood L.S. Ayres store becoming a Macy's, leaving the mall without one of its major tenants.

A tenant for the Macy's space has not been found.

Federated plans to offer all management-level employees in both stores a position at either the Macy's in Greenwood or other Federated stores in the Indianapolis area, spokeswoman Marla Shavin said.

Most associate workers also will be offered jobs, but she could not provide an estimate of how many people will be affected.

Workers at the Greenwood Macy's will be employed at the store at least through March 1, but Shavin could not say exactly when the store would be closed.

A local manager at Macy's would not discuss the pending closure Monday.