

Team star Jermaine O'Neal to be sidelined for weeks with injury.



DAILY JOURNAL

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2006

Johnson County, Indiana

50 cents

WEATHER



Today
Skies: Mostly sunny
Temps: High 53; low 38

MAP, PAGE A12

COMING UP

Stop and go

Indiana transportation officials are trying to find a pattern to red lights on U.S. 31 and State Road 135. Studying traffic patterns will help the state determine how to synchronize lights. The goal? Helping these roads handle increased traffic.

Report cards coming

Local school districts will publish reports about their demographic information as well as attendance and test scores Monday. The reports will let the public know how their schools measure up in a wide variety of categories.

In need of a miracle

A 7-year-old Whiteland second-grader born without a gall bladder is in desperate need of a liver transplant. Her parents are praying for the call that could save their youngest child's life.

COMING SOON

Super Bowl, super dips

Recipes for three easy, crowd-pleasing dips to serve at the big game.

USA WEEKEND

FYI

Drive open to collect food for homeless animals

Several locations around Greenwood will serve as drop-off sites for a food and supply drive to benefit Johnson County Animal Control.

Through Feb. 14, donors can drop off food and cleaning supplies during the "Feed a Furry Friend Food (and Supply) Drive."

Drop boxes are at Greenwood Public Library, the Greenwood Chamber of Commerce, Site Line Inc., Auntie Leila's Pet Salon & Barkery, Ryan Creations, Pet Supplies Plus and National City Bank.

DEATHS

- Greenwood
 - Delbert G. Striely, 72
 - Jean E. Sutton, 69
- Elsewhere
 - Rex A. Farris, 44
 - Marvin Lewis Lane, 73

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AT THE STATEHOUSE: 2006 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

On, off the agenda

Measures affecting county meet varied fates



Greenwood police patrolman Aaron Wehnert, left, talks to a construction worker at the Homecoming at University Park development in Greenwood. Police say their ability to build trusting relationships with immigrants, regardless of whether they are documented, is important to creating a safer community.

Police: Bill on immigrants could erode trust

By JO ELLEN WERKING WEEDMAN
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A plan to put more limits on health care for illegal immigrants and to require stricter checking of residency could harm efforts to earn the trust of Greenwood's Hispanic community, according to a southside outreach ministry and the Greenwood police chief. Indiana lawmakers are debating a bill that would prohibit undocumented immigrants from receiving most types of public assistance along with health care. It

also would require law enforcement agencies to verify the status of what the bill calls suspected illegal aliens. The proposals are ridiculous, said both Margarita Hart, who runs a community ministry for Hispanics in Greenwood, and Greenwood Police Chief Joe Pitcher. According to census data, about 1,700 Hispanics live in Johnson County, but people who work with Hispanics say the number is closer to 8,000 in Greenwood alone. How many are undocumented is unclear. Greenwood police are not inclined to check the status of immigrants because officers aren't trained to do it, don't have

the resources and, perhaps most important, need the trust of the Hispanic community, Pitcher said. "We are slowly but surely making inroads with this immigrant community," Pitcher said. "In the past, they've been reluctant to come to us, but now they're starting to share information with us when they're victims of crimes and helping weed out their own bad." The portion of the bill that would require police to check the immigration status of individuals is another example

(SEE TRUST, BACK PAGE)

Cities, towns criticize inaction on tax ideas

By JASON MICHAEL WHITE
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A lobbying association for cities and towns is speaking out after its property-tax proposal didn't get a vote by a legislative committee. The Indiana Association of Cities and Towns is criticizing the House Ways and Means Committee for not voting on a proposal to reduce city and town governments' dependence on property taxes by letting them collect sales, income, hotel or food-and-beverage taxes. "Quite frankly, I'm fairly disgusted," said Greenwood Mayor Charles Henderson, a Republican who is active in the association. "To not even give us a vote, ... they passed their bill, but they wouldn't even give our bill a vote." Association members hope to rally enough support

(SEE TAX, BACK PAGE)

Effort to fight identity theft fails to advance in House

Daily Journal staff report

A bill that would have made it safer to leave debit or credit card receipts in the trash died in the Indiana House Thursday. The proposal aimed to limit identity theft by barring businesses from printing entire card numbers on receipts. Receipts would show only the final four digits, which already is common practice for most restaurants, gas stations and retailers. This would make it more difficult for identity thieves to get their hands on consumers' credit card information, according to Rep. Dave Crooks, D-Washington, who proposed the bill. Some businesses still print complete credit and debit card numbers on receipts. Many card users toss away their receipts without giving thought to someone finding them and using the number illegally. Locally, stolen credit and debit card numbers are the most common fraud complaints to law enforcement agencies. The sheriff's office alone gets about eight to 10 new cases of credit or debit card theft per month.

Seeing into CG's future

Leaders plan trip to study best way to expand high school

By JO ELLEN WERKING WEEDMAN
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Though it already has a good reputation, Center Grove High School must change to ensure students are ready to compete in a global economy, school leaders said. A committee studying what Center Grove High School should be like in the future plans a trip to see the most modern and innovative high schools in America. The group will bring back ideas for how an expanded high school would be structured.

Assistant superintendent Janet Boyle and members of an expansion task force told parents and community members at a forum Thursday that they are working to design a program to meet the needs of Center Grove students.

Some things already are clear in the research they've examined, Boyle said: Teachers will be guides, not lecturers. They will teach students with different needs in different ways and collaborate with colleagues who teach other subjects.

Students will perform hands-on activities and have the latest technology at their fingertips. They will get out into the community to do internships and spend time in smaller schools within their large high school. Then the district will plan a building expansion around those programs.

Center Grove is planning an expansion to the high school, which is near capacity at about 2,200 students. The expansion would not open until three years after it gets school board approval, but administrators want to make sure teaching necessities steer the building's design.

That approach was applauded by parents at the forum. "I think it's great they looked at programming first," said Liz Anderson, a mother of three

(SEE FUTURE, BACK PAGE)

ROAD TRIP

More than half of the crowd of about 40 at a public forum Thursday on the future of Center Grove High School were either committee members or school employees. School officials want to get their ideas out to parents and community members and get feedback about what kind of programming should be in place at the high school. They will take their show on the road to interested community groups or homeowners' associations. For more information or to schedule a presentation, call the district office at 881-9326.

THURSDAY'S OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

Property taxes
A provision outlawing property taxes appeared headed for defeat, but other measures to relieve residents' property tax burden passed the House. **Story, Back Page**

Abortion
Several bills cleared a committee, including one that would require clinics to tell women that life begins at conception and that their fetus may feel pain.

Eminent domain
A bill that cleared the House would limit government ability to seize private property.

Home-cooked meals for those with no time to cook

By PAIGE E. WASSEL
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Working parents, families coping with sickness and new mothers have something in common: They have little time to cook. Two area businesses offer residents the chance to fix meals weeks in advance without having to do prep work or cleanup. Dinner's Ready! and Super Suppers

let families pick out their favorite dinners and pack them away in the freezer until they need a quick meal. People using the services said the meals relieve stress and cut down on time and money spent eating out. Owners of the businesses said their services can help bring families back to the dinner table for better food than they can get at a drive-through. Fewer than a third of American households make dinner from scratch, according to an annual survey of

American eating trends done by the Institute of Food Technologists. Although three out of four Americans eat at home each night, fewer dinners are prepared there. Almost half were fast food or take-out meals from restaurants or supermarkets, the report said. Area parents said the services offered by Dinner's Ready! and Super Suppers allowed them to avoid some of the takeout and fast-food fare. Southport resident Ladonna Sweit-

zer said she was frustrated trying to work a full day at a bank and still have time to put together a meal for her two children. Sweitzer, a senior vice president at Republic bank in Indianapolis, said that between her work and her children's activities, it was hard to get something on the table that wasn't fast food. Using the Dinner's Ready! service,

(SEE MEALS, PAGE A5)

INSIDE

Just like mom used to make ... People with little time to fix home-cooked meals have two southside-area services to help them. Check out profiles of the two companies. Page A5