

PRIME MINISTER
SUFFERS STROKE

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OFF-SEASON SPORT

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COOL FAMILY OUTING

PAGE C1

DAILY JOURNAL

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2006

Johnson County, Indiana

50 cents

WEATHER



Today

Skies: Mostly cloudy
Temps: High 41; low 24

MAP, PAGE A6

COMING UP

Baby talk



Learn the 15 things every parent needs to know about when caring for their new baby, from swaddling to the first trip to the dentist.

Disney discounts

Think you have to take out a loan to take the family to Disney World? Think again. Check out easy ways to save while visiting the land of Mickey Mouse.

USA WEEKEND

Player, heal thyself

Center Grove basketball player Tyler Kitchel has helped the Trojans get off to a quick start despite an injured left shoulder that has been dislocated twice during games this season. When that happens, the junior has a technique for popping it back into place and returning to the floor.

Taking some time off

How will the Colts spend their bye week-end? Their coach is heading to Tampa, Fla., and the team won't know its AFC divisional opponent until late Sunday.

Nursing homes

One Johnson County nursing home is losing its Medicare funding. Do the others get passing grades?

Buying a dream

Everything you need to know about financing your first house.

A look at Greg Allen

How did the man who controls so much area development get his start? A look at his business, his critics and his plans for the future.

COMING SOON

DEATHS

Franklin
Roberta M. Bates, 80
Greenwood
Eniah N. Champion, infant
Indianapolis
Eleanor J. Fraser, 64

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'Miracle' at mine turns to despair

'We was looking for them to come through that door'

INSIDE

By ALLEN G. BREED
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TALLMANVILLE, W.Va.

- Miners hung a protective curtain and waited to be rescued

- Did the media exercise poor judgment in reporting the story?

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High on a tree-shaded hill beside the Sago Baptist Church, the moss-covered inscription on a weathered tombstone reads: "Sometime we will understand."

There is so much the people of this central Appalachian coal community are waiting to under-

stand: How an explosion two miles into a mountain had trapped 13 of their men and how someone could tell them that 12 of the miners had somehow survived the blast.

Most of all, they want to know who got the information wrong, and to understand why state and company officials let them rejoice for more than two hours before telling them that instead of 12 survivors, they would be

bringing home 12 corpses.

"We was looking for them to come through that door, man," a red-eyed John Casto said Wednesday as he stood beside a funeral home tent in back of the Sago Baptist Church, where the bells had tolled the "miracle" just hours before. "And it didn't happen that way."

(SEE DESPAIR, BACK PAGE)

AP PHOTO
Family members react to the news that 12 of 13 trapped coal miners found were dead, three hours after they began celebrating news that the miners were alive Wednesday in Tallmansville, W.Va.GETTING GREENER
IN GREENWOOD

City's park department made major strides last year

STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT ROBERSON/sroberson@thejournalnet.com
Kara Kudro of Greenwood jogs with her dog Bailey along the Polk Hill Trail in Greenwood near Craig Park. Polk Hill Trail opened in April. It is one of several trails the Greenwood Parks Department worked on during 2005, and more additions are planned for this year.

PARK AND TRAIL ROUNDUP

Greenwood trails developed in 2005

- Polk Hill Trail:** About a mile long, from Craig Park, skirting Polk Hill and running north along Smith Valley Road bypass. The trail opened in April.

- Craig Park:** Greenwood workers constructed an 8-foot-wide paved trail through the park, connecting Polk Hill Trail to Washington Street on the other end of the park.

- Main Street:** City workers built a paved 8-foot-wide trail along Main Street, west from Emerson Avenue.
- Tracy Trail:** The city received a \$1 million grant to help develop the trail, about 2.5 miles of asphalt pathway from Summerfield Park to Greenwood Community High School, to the middle school and then to Craig Park.

- Honey Creek Road:** The city built an 8-foot-wide paved trail along Honey Creek Road, south from Smith Valley Road.

Parkland purchased in 2005

The park board purchased 72 acres at 1348 Averitt Road that will become the city's largest park. The board is paying for the property by selling a \$1.9 million bond, going into debt and using property tax dollars to pay back that debt. Options for the land, which was once the prime site for a new city pool, include playgrounds, trails and shelters.

Parkland donated in 2005

C.P. Morgan donated 43 acres of land to Greenwood as part of a 985-home subdivision called Homecoming at University Park, south of Main Street, between Precedent South Business Center and Griffith and Allen roads. University Park includes the city's first designated dog park, a basketball court, playground equipment and the city's second amphitheater. C.P. Morgan donated the parkland instead of paying city park impact fees.

Purchase, donation of land coupled with opening of trail to shape plans

By JASON MICHAEL WHITE
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Greenwood increased its parkland by more than 50 percent and opened its first paved trail last year.

The acquisition of 115 acres of parkland and construction of 1.5 miles of trail represents the most park activity the city has seen in years.

Now the parks department has to decide what to build on its recently purchased land and plan a 2.5-mile trail that will connect Greenwood schools, Summerfield Park and Craig Park.

"This year has been unbelievable; easily the busiest we've ever been," city park director Tim Schrader said. "We've made huge advances in addressing our parkland deficiency."

Highlights in 2005 included:

- Purchasing 72 acres of land at 1348 Averitt Road.

- Opening the 43-acre park in Homecoming at University Park subdivision on the east side of Greenwood. Developer C.P. Morgan donated the land. The ground includes the city's first dog park.

- Finishing construction of Polk Hill Trail, which runs about a mile from Craig Park, skirts Polk Hill and stretches north along the Smith Valley Road bypass.

- Receiving a \$1 million grant to pay for future trail developments.

The parks department plans to use grant money for the construction of Tracy Trail, an asphalt pathway from Summerfield Park to Greenwood Community High School, from the high school to the middle school, and to Craig Park, where it will connect with Polk Trail.

(SEE GREENER, PAGE A5)

Can you hear that sound?

It's the gasps of residents getting heating bills

By PAIGE E. WASSEL
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Even after a stretch of warm weather this week, winter heating bills are providing a cold jolt for some area residents.

Some homeowners report paying \$200 for a month's heat and worry what the traditionally colder January and February months will bring.

Vectren Energy Delivery of Indiana predicted residential bills may jump from 28 to 38 percent this winter based on typical winter weather.

December bills may climb even higher as it was colder than normal for the month, director of corporate communications Mike Roeder said.

Many area residents said they haven't seen their most recent bills yet, but they've been doing

(SEE BILLS, BACK PAGE)

Convicted murderer appeals

By PAIGE E. WASSEL
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The man on death row for murdering Franklin College freshman Kelly Eckart wants his sentence reduced.

Lawyers for Michael Dean Overstreet argued his appeal Tuesday before the Indiana State Supreme Court.

He was convicted of the slaying in 2000.

The 18-year-old Boggstown woman disappeared Sept. 26, 1997, on her way home from Franklin's Wal-Mart. Three days later, her body was found in a Brown County ravine. She had been raped and

(SEE MURDERER, PAGE A5)

Commissioner to be chosen from among eight tonight



Jim Rhoades died Dec. 5, leaving his county commissioner's seat vacant.

By ANNIE GOELLER
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Two more candidates applied for the vacant county commissioner's seat in the final days applications were accepted.

A homebuilder and a former three-term county commissioner both applied for the seat Friday.

Their names bring the number to eight applicants who will be considered at

tonight's caucus to fill the seat left open when commissioner Jim Rhoades died Dec. 5.

Ron Grose, 53, and Russ Ferrill, 65, both applied for the spot, Johnson County Republican chairman Doug Lechner said.

They join Craig Wells, president of Discover Downtown Franklin; Franklin City Council member Joe Ault; Greenwood Fire Department Lt. Tom Kite; former Brown County Commissioner Jim Crane; Indianapolis Power and Light

employee Anthony Work and Doug Fraker, former transportation data supervisor for county commissioners in Florida.

Precinct committee members will decide who will complete the remainder of Rhoades' term, which runs through the end of the year. The caucus will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Johnson County Museum of History, 135 N. Main St. in Franklin.

(SEE EIGHT, BACK PAGE)



ECKART



OVERSTREET