

OBITUARIES/NEWS

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Richard Lee Hodson, 60
Elsewhere
Frances Louise Fox, 89
Ruth Marie Gallagher, 89

Katrina stress causing suicides?

Officials report instances of violent deaths among hurricane evacuees

BROWN COUNTY

Frances Louise (Friend) Fox

Frances Louise (Friend) Fox, 89, died Friday, Jan. 27, 2006, at Grandview Convalescent Center in Martinsville. She was a resident of Brown County.

Survivors include a daughter, Mable Kathryn "Kathy" Emberton of Brown County; a son, William F. Fox of Brown County; eight grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, Albert and Clara (Highwood) Friend; her husband, Charles W. Fox; a daughter, Rose Ellen Fox; and a son, Ronald Wesley Fox.

The Rev. Barbara Wood will conduct a service at 10:30 a.m. Monday at Meredith-Clark Funeral Home, Cremation and Personalization Center, 179 E. Mulberry St. in Morgantown. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home. Burial will be at Goshen Cemetery in Brown County.

Memorial contributions may be made to Ronald McDonald House, 435 Limestone St., Indianapolis, IN 46202.

Information: www.meredith-clark.com; (812)597-4670

FAIRLAND

Ruth Marie Gallagher

Ruth Marie Gallagher, 89, died Thursday, Jan. 26, 2006, at her residence in Fairland.

Survivors include two daughters, Agnes Ann Darby of Fairland and Jerry Marie (Dr. James) Lorber of St. Anthony; a son, William Alan (Vickie) Gallagher of Avon; six grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; a great-great-grandchild; four step-grandchildren; and eight great-step-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Leo and Julia (Hermann) Hulsmann; and her husband, William Gallagher.

A service will be conducted at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at St. Vincent DePaul Catholic Church, 4218 E. Michigan Road in Shelbyville. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. Monday at Murphy-Parks Funeral Service, 703 S. Harrison St. in Shelbyville. Rosary will be recited at 3:30 p.m. Monday at the funeral home. Burial will be at St. Vincent DePaul Catholic Cemetery in Shelbyville.

FRANKLIN

Richard Lee Hodson

Richard Lee Hodson, 60, died Friday, Jan. 27, 2006, at his residence in Franklin.

Survivors include a son, Brian Richard Hodson of Franklin; two sisters, Linda Morgan of Edinburgh and Shirley Ann Smith of Trafalgar; five half brothers, Ronald, Raymond, Randy, Reginald and Royce Hodson, all of Franklin; a half sister, Norma Jean Agee of Morristown; and two grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, Norman Forrest Hodson and Frances Almeda (Wood) Hodson Carter.

A service will be conducted at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at Jessen Funeral Home, Franklin Chapel, 197 E. Jefferson St. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home. Burial will be at Greenlawn Cemetery in Franklin.

Obituary policy

The Daily Journal will publish free death notices for Johnson County area residents, former residents and close relatives of area residents.

A free death notice contains basic information, including details about visitation and services, memorial contributions and some survivors.

Families who want to include more information or include a photograph can purchase a custom obituary. Additional information may include memberships, employment, education and additional survivors.

By ALLEN G. BREED
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

With a newborn daughter, an autistic child and a fledgling music business, life was chaotic enough for Jerome "Slim Rome" Spears and fiancée Rachel Harris.

Then Hurricane Katrina hit, chasing them from New Orleans, throwing both out of work and putting Spears' plans to dominate the hip-hop scene on indefinite hold.

This week, in an Atlanta-area rental home hundreds of miles from the Big Easy, Spears shot his fiancée to death, severely wounded her 4-year-old son with a bullet to the back of the head, and then killed himself. The couple's 5-month-old daughter, born amid the Katrina chaos, was unharmed but is now an orphan.

Suicide is complicated, experts say, and exactly what role the hurricane played in the tragedy is unclear. But New Orleans' coroner says he has seen enough Katrina "is a recipe for suicide if I've ever seen one."

Study: New Orleans could lose 80 percent of black population

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — The city of New Orleans could lose up to 80 percent of its black population if people displaced by Hurricane Katrina are not able to return to damaged neighborhoods, according to an analysis by a Brown University sociologist.

Professor John R. Logan, in findings released Thursday, determined that if the city's returning population was limited to neighborhoods undamaged by Katrina, half of the white population would not return and 80 percent of the black population would not return.

"There's very good reason for people to be concerned that the future New Orleans will not be a place for the people who used to live there, that there won't be room in New Orleans for large segments of the population that used to call it home," said Logan, who studies urban areas.

The study used maps from the Federal Emergency

Management Agency that detailed flood and wind damage and compared them to data from the 2000 U.S. Census to determine who and what areas were affected.

It found the storm-damaged areas had been 75 percent black, compared to 46 percent black in undamaged areas of the city. It also found that 29 percent of the households in damaged areas lived below the poverty line, compared with 24 percent of households in undamaged areas.

More than half of those who lived in the city's damaged neighborhoods were renters, the analysis found.

"The odds of living in a damaged area were clearly much greater for blacks, renters and poor people," the study said. "In these respects the most vulnerable residents turned out also to be at greatest risk."

— The Associated Press

"You can imagine how it feels to lose your house, to lose your job and to lose a loved one," says Dr. Frank Minyard, who attributes seven suicides in his flood-stricken city alone to Katrina-related stress.

While suicides and violent deaths have yet to be fully tallied among scattered Katrina evacuees, reports of such cases are already numerous.

Five days after Christmas in

the Dallas-Fort Worth suburb of Grapevine, evacuee Ryan Peter Ruiz, facing imminent eviction from a temporary apartment, killed his wife and 14-year-old son with a shotgun, then took his own life. Houston-area officials report at least two evacuee suicides.

Filmmaker Stevenson J. Palfi, 53, whose 1982 documentary "Piano Players Rarely Ever Play Together" chronicled the lives of three New Orleans jazzmen, shot

himself at his home Dec. 14. Relatives say he had been severely depressed after losing most of his possessions to Katrina.

Calls to the National Suicide Prevention hot line more than doubled in the month after the Aug. 29 storm that swamped more than 80 percent of New Orleans, ripped up the Mississippi and Alabama coasts, and claimed more than 1,300 lives. Katrina knocked out Charity

Hospital, greater New Orleans' primary mental-health crisis center with 96 beds. There are waiting lists for beds, and Dr. Tony Speier has heard disturbing anecdotes of suicides among people who had "focus and purpose in their lives."

"It's definitely a crisis," says Speier, director of the federally funded Louisiana Spirit crisis counseling program.

"The resources that were present that people relied on for years are severely compromised."

But as traumatic as Katrina was, Dr. Holly A. Parker says it would be wrong to blame all of these suicides on the storm.

"I can tell you that a very common myth that people have is that there was one thing, one event that pushed someone over the edge," says Parker, a psychopathologist who is part of a Harvard Medical School project assessing the mental health needs of Katrina survivors.

"The reality is that people who die by suicide have what is called a suicidal career, meaning that it's not just one thing that happened."

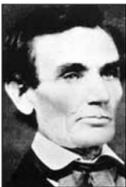
Researchers suspect Lincoln suffered from genetic defect

'Clumsy gait' could be blamed on mutation in president's DNA

By AMY FORLITI
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MINNEAPOLIS

Abraham Lincoln's appearance and historical documents that note his especially clumsy gait have long caused researchers to puzzle over whether he may have had a genetic disorder called Marfan syndrome.



LINCOLN

Now, members of the president's family tree are wondering if Lincoln had a different, incurable hereditary disease called ataxia, which affects the coordination it takes to walk, write, speak and swallow.

Researchers at the University of Minnesota have discovered a gene mutation in 11 generations of relatives who descended from Lincoln's grandparents. There's a 25 percent chance that Lincoln also inherited the gene, said Laura Ranum, a genetics professor who led the research.

"If a president had it, and he was disabled but still running the country, maybe people would lighten up on disabled people a little bit."

Terry Smith
Ataxia sufferer, on research suggesting Abraham Lincoln also suffered from the disease

"Because the historical literature talks about his clumsy gait ... it raises the possibility that that was caused by a mutation in this gene," Ranum said.

But since Lincoln has no living direct descendants, confirming whether the nation's 16th president had the defective gene would require that his DNA be taken from historical artifacts and tested, an issue that has been debated over the years.

"What historical purpose would it serve? It (wouldn't) change the facts of how he became a great president," said Kim Bauer,

Lincoln curator at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Ill.

"I would fall on the side of leaving President Lincoln alone."

The new findings on the ataxia gene were reported this week in the online edition of the journal Nature Genetics.

Since 1992, the Minnesota researchers have studied more than 300 members of the Lincoln family. About one-third of them have ataxia.

Terry Smith and Laurie Crary — both ataxia sufferers and descendants of Abraham Lincoln's uncle Josiah Lincoln — said they would like to know if the president had their disease.

"If a president had it, and he was disabled but still running the country, maybe people would lighten up on disabled people a little bit," said Smith, 57, of Manteca, Calif., who said he was once arrested for drunken driving because of the disease's symptoms.

About 150,000 Americans have ataxia, a degenerative disease.

BMV center planned for Winchester

By DEANNA MARTIN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS

The Bureau of Motor Vehicles plans to open a new mail-processing center in Winchester, creating about 60 jobs as a part of an initiative to bring new investments to small towns.

Gov. Mitch Daniels said Friday he has ordered the Indiana Economic Development Corp. and state agencies to consider whenever possible putting new investments in small towns like Winchester, a community of 5,000, 25 miles east of Muncie.

"Sixty jobs doesn't mean a lot in Indianapolis or Carmel or Fort Wayne, but it can mean an awful lot in a town the size of Winchester," Daniels said.

Small towns can offer a stable work force and low costs, which are good for private companies

and public agencies, Daniels said.

The new processing center, to be housed in a former supermarket, will be used to handle BMV mail and Internet transactions.

BMV Commissioner Joel Silverman said most of the jobs will be new, and the center will free employees in branches across the state from mail-processing duties.

"Now they can focus 100 percent on the customer at the counter and not be called to the back office to process this mail," Silverman said.

Last year, the state closed two BMV branches in Randolph County, where Winchester is located, and another two in nearby

Wayne County. Silverman said those closings — two of 27 branches shut statewide — were a factor in where to locate the mail center.

"Winchester is kind of in the middle of those two counties, which from at least an economic viewpoint, we will have six times the jobs that those branches lost," he said.

Officials from eastern Indiana said Friday's announcement was a big for the area.

"This is the most positive news about economic development that we have heard about in Randolph County for some time," said Rep. Bill Davis, a Republican from Portland.

In Memory of my Dad

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"Love you more than you know"

Lou Ann

The Family of

JIM RHOADES

Molly, Jayme and I would like to express our appreciation for the overwhelming concern the community and county has shown us since the passing of Jim. Your prayers, cards and kind thoughts have been greatly appreciated. Jim was right when he said, "We live in the greatest town."

Jayne, Molly and Jayme Rhoades

KEEPSAKES

Do you need additional copies of the Daily Journal for your family, friends or scrapbook? Limited back issues are available at our Customer Service Center, 2575 N. Morton St. (U.S. 31) in Franklin.

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February Service Schedule
Sundays: Morning Prayer 9:30 a.m.; Mass 10:00 a.m.
Wednesdays and Holy Days:
Evening Prayer 5:30 p.m.; Mass 6:00 p.m.

This Month's Holy Days.
Thursday, February 2: Purification of BVM
Friday, February 24: St. Matthias

Bible Study
as announced by the Rector

Recitation of Rosary
February 19 following Mass

Blessing of the Sick
February 26 following Mass

Pastoral Staff
Father Keith Coyner, Rector (cell phone: 727-3282)
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