

HEALTHY SNACKING

CAUGHT WITH YOUR HAND
IN THE CANDY JAR?

Tips for avoiding empty calories in the workplace.

PAGE A6



THE WAR AGAINST TERRORISM

AT LEAST 68 IRAQIS KILLED; CURFEW LIFTED

PAGE A8



PREP BASKETBALL SECTIONALS

BRAVES, WARRIORS ADVANCE

PAGE B1, B2



DAILY JOURNAL

www.thejournalnet.com

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2006

Johnson County, Indiana

50 cents

WEATHER



Today

Skies: Chance of showers

Temps: High 55; low 41

MAP, PAGE A10

YOU SHOULD KNOW

Smoking bans begin today

Starting today, Marion County and Greenfield are smoke-free.

The Marion County ban forbids smoking in establishments that allow customers younger than 18 and in other public places. The Greenfield ban outlaws smoking in all restaurants and businesses.

A smoking ban in Carmel will take effect Sunday, and smoking in most public places in Greenwood will be illegal beginning April 22.



COMING SOON

Slick stadium name?

According to WISH-Channel 8, the Indianapolis Colts are expected to announce today that California-based Lucas Oil Co. will purchase naming rights to the new downtown stadium.

Look for coverage in the Daily Journal later this week.



COMING SOON

Reports from the front

Soldiers use Internet to provide unprecedented instant updates on life in the war zone.

USA WEEKEND

DEATHS

Bargersville
Eugene Maggard, 78
Franklin
Naomi Ellen Tasich, 75
Greenwood
Alice Mae Griffin, 89
Nineveh
Beverly Gault, 54
Indianapolis
David J. Carlie, 44
Elsewhere
Robert G. Minner, 81
Phyllis Jane Richeson, 77
Mary Jane Ladd Wolforth

INDEX

Accent.....A6-A7
Classified.....B7-B10
Comics.....B6
Editorials.....A4
Obituaries.....A5
Police, fire.....A3
Sports.....B1-B5
Southside.....A3
TV listings.....A7
Weather.....A10

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Boys hospitalized after explosion, fire

Quick-acting neighbor puts out child's burning clothes



Shoes and what's left of a pair of pants lie in the back yard of a home on Ross Court in Franklin after three children were burned.

All three boys were taken to the hospital. Firefighters said the youngest two were believed to be in critical condition Tuesday night.

By ANNIE GOELLER

DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

agoeller@thejournalnet.com

Charred clothing and a burned shoe were vivid reminders of a fire that sent three youngsters to the hospital.

Had a neighbor not arrived to put out burning clothing, the incident could have turned fatal.

It all began Monday afternoon when three boys, ages 6, 7 and 9, were playing with a bottle filled with gasoline in a storage shed behind a house on Ross Court in Franklin.

The boys were trying to set a shoe on fire when the bottle exploded, said Eddie Dougherty, spokesman for the Franklin Fire Department.

Steve Navarro, who lives next door, was working in his garage when he heard the explosion and felt the ground shake.

He went next door and found two of the



Two bikes lie abandoned in the front yard of a Franklin home where three boys were burned after an explosion. One boy lived in the home; the other two were neighbors.

boys with their clothes on fire.

He grabbed one, rolled him on the ground and took off his burning clothes. Another child was crying and had flames on his hands. Navarro told the boy to roll on the ground.

Other neighbors called for help.

The flames set part of a fence behind the home on fire. Firefighters put out the flames within minutes, Dougherty said.

All three boys were taken to the hospital for burns. The two youngest were believed to be in critical condition, Dougherty said.

The 6- and 7-year-old boys were taken to Wishard Memorial Hospital in Indianapolis. The 9-year-old was taken to Johnson Memorial Hospital in Franklin, Dougherty said.

All three children were still in the hospital Tuesday night.

The home at 1005 Ross Court is owned by Kevin and Missy Mederios, Dougherty said.

A relative of one of the children was baby-sitting while the boy's parents were gone. The other boys were neighbors who had come to the house to play, Dougherty said.



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT ROBERSON

Tina Sprong, an assistant on a special needs bus, lowers a wheelchair lift at Franklin Community High School on Tuesday.

(SEE DRIVERS, BACK PAGE)

School face-lift plans readied

Franklin studying renovation options

By JO ELLEN WERKING WEEDMAN

DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

jweedman@thejournalnet.com

When the existing Franklin Community High School becomes a middle school, classrooms could be set up like they are now.

Or nearly all of the classroom space could be demolished, and classrooms could be configured in groups like they are at Custer Baker Middle School.

Four design options were presented to the school board Monday for what will be the district's middle school in August 2008. Custer Baker will become an intermediate school.

All designs include major renovations, but they range from little change in the way classrooms are configured to keeping none of the general education space and building 86,000 square feet of new classrooms.

The designs all include keeping areas such as the gyms, auditorium and performing arts areas. Those spaces will be repaired or expanded. None of that space would be demolished in any of the plans.

No cost estimates or schedules were presented. Architects said those figures won't be available until a work session March 27.

Board members did not eliminate any options and said they need to see costs and timelines and hear educational advantages or disadvantages for each design.

(SEE OPTIONS, BACK PAGE)

WHAT'S NEXT?

March 27: School board work session to get cost estimates, timelines and educational advantages and disadvantages of the four designs for turning the existing Franklin Community High School into a middle school.

May 8: Board will approve a design at school board meeting.

January: District will ask firms to submit prices for construction work.

February: Some construction will begin.

Edinburgh not losing plant, jobs

Daily Journal staff report

The Edinburgh Sonoco plant will stay open, despite some plant closings in other locations, a company spokesman said.

South Carolina-based Sonoco is expanding its flexible packaging business in the United States, and Edinburgh is an important part of that operation, spokesman Roger Schrum said.

Also, the company recently acquired a flexible printing plant in Waco, Texas.

Sonoco will close underperforming plants this year, as announced by the company president and chief executive, but the Edinburgh plant is not slated for closure, he said.

Edinburgh's Sonoco Flexible Packaging plant, at 6502 U.S. 31 South, employs about 180 workers.

The company moved to Edinburgh about 10 years ago.

Sonoco Flexible Packaging makes packaging for a wide range of products, from snacks to pharmaceuticals.

These bus drivers are a special breed

Serving students with special needs requires additional training

By JO ELLEN WERKING WEEDMAN

DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

jweedman@thejournalnet.com

Some of the students a Center Grove bus driver transports to school during the day are in wheelchairs. Some are autistic. Occasionally someone has a seizure.

John Priest is able to fasten and unfasten car seats, operate a wheelchair lift, give first aid emergency care or distract an upset autistic child who is screaming. Sometimes he has to do these tasks all in the same day.

Driving a special education bus is a calling, Priest said.

But it's a calling that requires a lot of training, local transporta-

tion directors said.

More than 300 students in Johnson County are transported on special education buses every day. Some are taken to school and back. Others need to go to Earlywood Education Center in Franklin. And some are high school students who are doing job training at businesses in the community.

In addition to shuttling students all over the country for eight to 10 hours a day, special education bus drivers have in their care children with highly specialized needs. And no child has the same needs as any other.

Some have physical and mobility issues. Others have emotional or behavioral issues.

Making sure the county's bus drivers are trained in everything from how to communicate with parents to how to get a student out of a wheelchair on a bus that's on fire is a priority of transportation directors around the county.

A recent incident that involved a Nineveh-Hensley-Jackson United School Corp. bus driver slapping an autistic student has generated discussion about more training in some districts.

N-H-J Superintendent John Reed and transportation director Bruce Lasley are working with state officials to create workshops for all bus drivers in their

(SEE DRIVERS, BACK PAGE)

Fictional 'Hoosiers' still evokes memories of Milan win

IF YOU GO

What: "Hoosiers"

Where: Arclight Theatre, 57 N. Main St., Franklin

When: 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday

How much: \$5 for adults; \$4 for seniors, college students and military personnel; \$3 for children 12 and younger

Special appearance: Three members of the Milan High School 1954 state championship basketball team — Gene White, Bobby Plump and Bill Schroder — will sign autographs prior to Friday's showing. Area residents Jerry Petro and Ken Gorrell, who appeared in the movie, also will greet the public.

Information: 736-6823, www.historicarclighttheatre.org

By RICK MORWICK

DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS EDITOR

morwick@thejournalnet.com

Two decades after its release, Gene White is still often asked the same question about the movie "Hoosiers." "People will ask me what character in the movie represented me," said White, starting center on the 1954 state champion Milan High School basketball team. "I can't say that there were any."

"The only thing I can say for sure was, the last shot won the game. That was true."

Little else about the 1986 film, widely

regarded as the No. 1 sports movie all time, resembles the "Milan Miracle." The characters and settings are fictional. So is the team and the story.

But its portrayal of Hoosier Hysteria in the 1950s, especially in rural Indiana, is dead accurate. And that's why White, a Franklin resident, is a fan of the movie, which celebrates its 20th anniversary this year.

"I thought it depicted '50s basketball in the state of Indiana pretty well," said White, who will take part in a commemoration of the movie's release on Friday evening at the

(SEE HOOSIERS, BACK PAGE)