

# PASSING NOTES IS SO PASSÉ

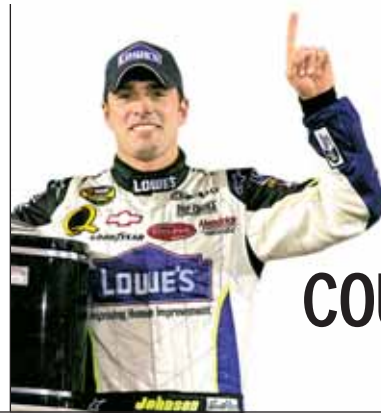
Teens find text messaging useful at home, in a movie theater, and even in class.

PAGE A6



# JOHNSON CHEATER OR CHAMP?

PAGE B1



# COUNTY SHUT OUT IN STATE MEET

PAGE B1

# DAILY JOURNAL

www.thejournalnet.com

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2006

Johnson County, Indiana

50 cents

**WEATHER**



Today

Skies: Mostly cloudy  
Temps: High 39; low 24

MAP, PAGE A8

**COMING UP**

**Will city go smoke-free?**

The Greenwood city council is to vote yes or no on a proposed smoking ban tonight.



**Bird flu plan**

What will the county do if bird flu strikes here?

**Creating a community**

A look at the new Homecoming at University Park. Who is moving here and why?

**Old tree and lots of green**

A large oak tree dug up last summer in an Edinburg gravel pit could be 6,000 years old, scientists say. The wood from the tree could command top dollar if used to make furniture or plaques, the pit owner said.

THIS WEEK

**FYI**

**Lawmakers to attend college breakfast**

State senators and representatives serving the Franklin area will attend a legislative breakfast Tuesday at Franklin College. Sen. Robert Garton and Reps. Woody Burton, Ralph Foley and David Yount will be available to answer questions regarding bills and issues facing the current legislature. The breakfast is being hosted by Franklin Chamber of Commerce and will begin at 7:30 a.m. in the Dietz Center on the Franklin College campus. The event is open to the public. Cost is \$10, and reservations are requested.

**Information:** Franklin Chamber of Commerce, 736-6334

**DEATHS**

- Franklin  
Dolan Ray Dicken, 67
- Greenwood  
Walter G. Wise, 85
- Nineveh  
Robert Luther Beetem, 75
- Indianapolis  
Dorothy Jean Tex, 85

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LENDING A HELPING HAND

# Communal construction

Church groups build homes for hurricane victims



Cameron Harbert, 6, writes "God loves you" on a house frame. Many volunteers wrote Scripture and words of encouragement as they built housing frames to be shipped to states hit by Hurricane Katrina and assembled for victims.

## Panels marked with Scripture to be shipped to Gulf, assembled

By SHERRI EASTBURN  
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Surrounded by lots of plywood and a spirit of community, workers made noise all weekend, driving nails during a Katrina relief project at Scott Hall on the county's fairgrounds in Franklin. "This is building a house by committee," said Jack Smith, a member of Honey Creek Christian Church.

Smith was one of more than 250 volunteers who participated in the two-day mission project sponsored by Crossroads Missions in Louisville, Ky. This pre-fab panel building marathon was the inspiration of Chuck McCoy, a member of New Whiteland Christian Church.

Since McCoy and other members of New Whiteland Christian Church had previously teamed up with Andy White, director of Crossroads Missions, to help build homes and churches in Mexico and Eastern Kentucky, McCoy also enlisted the assistance of Crossroads Missions. After hurricanes devastated the south,



Tara Payne of Franklin writes Scripture on a panel in Scott Hall on Saturday. The panel will be used to build a home in a Gulf state.

White and other volunteers with Crossroads Missions focused primarily on offering assistance to the Gulf states.

To date, volunteers in Indiana and Kentucky have helped build 75 homes for Katrina victims, White said.

McCoy said he was interested in bringing the Crossroads Missions experience to Johnson County residents.

This was an opportunity for locals to participate in a mission project without

leaving their home county.

McCoy reasoned that, to make a definite difference in the lives of Katrina victims, Johnson County volunteers should come through with housing. Five houses, to be exact.

To meet that goal, McCoy contacted area churches. He asked specifically for volunteers and for fund-raising efforts in each congregation.

Each church made a commitment to raise at least \$5,000, the money for materials to build pre-fab panels for one home.

Each church dedicated to the project met McCoy's challenge.

By last weekend, the steady flow of workers at Scott Hall proved that McCoy's dream has spread widely, bringing volunteers not just from Johnson County but also from Indianapolis, Beech Grove and New Palestine.

Pre-fab panels will be transported from Johnson County to hurricane victims in the bayou, outside New Orleans. Then teams of volunteers will construct one home in an eight-hour work day, White said.

(SEE HOMES, BACK PAGE)

## Greenwood woman a party animal

By PAIGE E. WASSEL  
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Jennifer McKinney-Seet has always known how to put together a party.

She started event planning at age 5, recruiting neighborhood children to put on a talent show complete with tickets and refreshments.

They pooled the earnings from their 10-cent tickets to buy candy.

Now, at age 33, tickets to her events cost significantly more money and attract a much larger crowd.

McKinney-Seet oversees almost 35 events per year for the Indianapolis Zoo and White

River Gardens and runs her own event consulting company, DIY Events.

The Greenwood wife and mother of two said whether she's at home or work, she's always planning events and waiting for something to inspire her.

Her neighborhood talent show marked the first of many events she'd have a hand in coordinating.

When she was a student at Ball State in the mid-1990s, she put together a T-Comedy Jam to raise money for the telecommunications department.

But she said her college years sparked a

(SEE PARTY, BACK PAGE)



Charles Vanderploeg, 90, was in the final graduating class at Hopewell High School.

By JO ELLEN WERKING WEEDMAN  
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Charles Vanderploeg put his old Hopewell sweater on not too long ago for a picture, but after his wife spent several minutes trying to yank it off of him, he's decided not to wear it anymore.

More than 70 years after he graduated from Hopewell School, where he earned his sweater and four yellow stripes for playing varsity basketball, Vanderploeg is hoping to donate the sweater and a few of

his other possessions to the Johnson County Museum in Franklin.

Vanderploeg finds that, as newcomers move to the community and the landscape of the county changes from rural farmland to suburban shopping centers, not many people know the history of the area.

"You could write a book about every city in this county," Vanderploeg said. "I worry that no one is interested in that."

The 90-year-old was one of five people to make up the final graduating class of Hopewell in 1935.

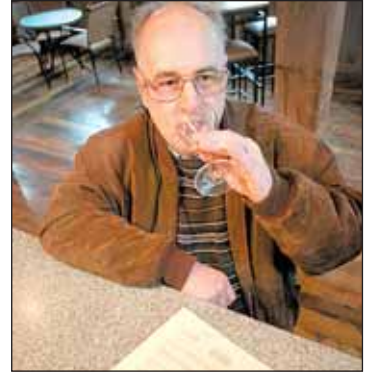
His rural Franklin home is full of items

from decades ago, including children's books from the 1920s, valentines from the 1930s and a basketball uniform from Hopewell in the 1930s.

Vanderploeg plans to offer these items to the Johnson County Museum and is trying to find someone in the county who would be interested in writing about his memories from the "old times."

He remembers when Franklin roads weren't paved and churches had places to park horses and buggies, Vanderploeg said.

(SEE HOPEWELL, PAGE A5)



STAFF PHOTO BY MATT OOLEY  
Dave Miller of Franklin tastes wine at Mallow Run Winery in Bargersville on Friday.

## Measure worries wineries

### Bill would limit sales methods

By MICHAEL W. HOSKINS  
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Indiana wine-drinkers beware: a proposed state law could change how you get wine to your table and how much you pay to get it there.

State lawmakers are examining legislation that would limit how wineries send their products to consumers, requiring wineries to use a distributor to get wine orders to people, restaurants or retailers.

Now, wine lovers, restaurants and retailers can order their wine directly from small wineries in Indiana. Online shoppers can have their merlot and chardonnay shipped directly from the wineries to their doors.

But proposed legislation would add extra steps and cost.

For example, shoppers would have to order wine from the winery, rather than buy it directly from their shelves. A local wholesaler would pick up that order and deliver it to a local liquor

(SEE WINERIES, BACK PAGE)

## Children orphaned by meth

### Kids whose parents abuse drug at risk

By PAIGE E. WASSEL  
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They're ignored by parents who spend hours sleeping after their drug highs wear off.

They have to leave their homes, sometimes in the middle of the night, with only the clothes on their back.

Children found in homes where methamphetamine is made may be the most neglected of all children of drug users, area police said.

When they are taken out of their homes, they face hours of medical checkups and interviews before going to a relative's home or foster family.

(SEE METH, PAGE A5)