



NEW IMAGES OF ABUSE IN IRAQ?

PAGE A2

KING OF THE HILL?

Will dark-horse Oscar contender knock "Brokeback" from front-runner status?

PAGE C1



DAILY JOURNAL

www.thejournalnet.com

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2006

Johnson County, Indiana

50 cents

WEATHER



Today  
Skies: Rain  
Temps: High 56; low 30

MAP, PAGE A8



BREAKING NEWS

Reports: Davis out at IU

Embattled Indiana University men's basketball coach Mike Davis has resigned, CBS, SI.com and The Sporting News reported late Wednesday.

He agreed to stay on for the remainder of the season, SI.com said, citing a source in the IU athletic department with knowledge of Davis' situation.

SI's source added that the university is planning a news conference in Bloomington as early as today to discuss details.

According to The Sporting News, Davis planned to tell his players of his resignation following Wednesday's 71-68 loss at Penn State.

Davis' resignation would bring an end to his turbulent six-year tenure as Indiana's head coach. He spent three years as an assistant before taking over the program after Bob Knight was fired in September 2000.

Following Wednesday night's loss, Davis' record at Indiana is 109-76. Indiana (13-9, 5-6 in the Big Ten) has lost six of its past seven games to drop to seventh place in the conference, putting the Hoosiers' NCAA Tournament hopes in jeopardy.

The Hoosiers had dropped out of The Associated Press top 25 poll after being ranked in the top 10.

According to the source, Davis informed Indiana officials of his decision more than a week ago, and Davis' attorney and the university negotiated the terms of his departure, which were finalized this week, SI.com said.

DEATHS

- Franklin
- Margie M. Baker, 95
- Betty Jane Clark, 88
- Max Hudson
- Greenwood
- Vera H. Keene, 83
- Indianapolis
- Robert A. Hughes, 81
- Letha I. Marple, 92

INDEX

- Accent.....C1-C6
- Classified.....C7-C10
- Comics.....B7
- Editorials.....A4
- Johnson County.....A3
- Obituaries.....A5
- Police, fire.....A3
- Sports.....B1-B6, B8
- TV listings.....C2
- Weather.....A8

CALL US

Main switchboard  
736-7101  
Delivery: 736-2777,  
(888) 736-7101  
Advertising: 736-2700  
News tips: 736-2712



6 01442 20050 0

Driver who smacked student fired

In wake of incident, N-H-J plans more training opportunities for other bus drivers

By JO ELLEN WERKING WEEDMAN  
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER  
jweedman@thejournalnet.com

The bus driver who slapped a special-needs student on his bus was fired Tuesday.

After discussing the issue in a closed meeting, the Nineveh-

Hensley-Jackson school board voted 5-0 to fire Stephen L. Pottorff, 54.

On Jan. 30, Pottorff stopped his bus on County Road 125 West and slapped a 9-year-old autistic boy who was wearing a restraint that strapped him to his seat.

The boy's 8-year-old sister, who

was also on the bus, told her parents about the incident when she got home.

A video camera on the bus recorded the incident, which school officials immediately reported to the Johnson County Sheriff's Office. Police turned the investigation over to the prosecu-

tor, who will decide what if any charges to file against Pottorff.

N-H-J Superintendent John Reed said Pottorff, who had been on paid suspension since the incident, was fired for failing to follow procedure.

Pottorff said he slapped the child because of the building

stress of dealing with him on the bus. He said he wanted to apologize to the family.

School officials have been reviewing their procedures and training opportunities for bus drivers. Reed said he is working

(SEE DRIVER, BACK PAGE)



500 FESTIVAL MINI-MARATHON

On your mark

Runners prepare for 13.1-mile Indy trek



Todd Raker, right, leads a group training for the 500 Festival Mini-Marathon at Mount Pleasant Christian Church.

STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT ROBERSON/sroberson@thejournalnet.com

Local church's program allows runners to train together

By MICHAEL W. HOSKINS  
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER  
mhoskins@thejournalnet.com

Leigh Lawson could barely run around her White River Township neighborhood last summer.

She started running with a friend for the social aspect but wanted more of a challenge.

Now, the 36-year-old is preparing to trade in her neighborhood route for a 13.1-mile race in the spring.

Lawson will be one of 1,319 people from

INSIDE

Who's planning on running in the mini-marathon? A look at some facts and figures.

Back Page

and the Center Grove area have signed up, placing Greenwood in the top five among cities represented. Franklin has 180 participants.

Most runners are from Indiana, and more than half are participating in the half-marathon for the first or second time, according to demographic data.

"This is definitely a new experience for me," said Lawson, an X-ray technician at Community Hospital South on County Line Road. "I was never good enough for

(SEE MARK, BACK PAGE)

Woman arrested in phony-check spree

By PAIGE E. WASSEL  
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER  
pwassel@thejournalnet.com

A Pennsylvania woman wanted in several states for a fake-check scheme reportedly tried to repeat the practice in a Greenwood bank on Tuesday and was caught, police said.

Jennie Hill, 1337 Pike St., Philadelphia, was arrested on

charges of forgery, identity deception, fraud on a financial institution, theft and counterfeiting.

E-mails from bank employees, FBI fingerprint files and U.S. Secret Service agents helped police track down Hill and figure out her true identity, according to a Greenwood police report.

Hill's accomplice, a man, fled the scene as police arrived and

was not caught, the report said. No description of his vehicle was available.

An e-mail alerted employees at a Charter One bank on State Road 135 that a woman was using customer account numbers to cash fake checks, the report said.

A bank vice president said she had received a corporate alert with photos of people imperson-

ating bank customers and the crimes they may have committed in other states, the report said.

She received an e-mail from another bank that said a woman matching Hill's description had cashed about \$6,000 in fake checks from Sovereign Bank and Advance Family Dentistry under

(SEE SPREE, BACK PAGE)

Franklin looking for hundreds of mentors to help kids

By JO ELLEN WERKING WEEDMAN  
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER  
jweedman@thejournalnet.com

More than 400 elementary students in Franklin schools are in need of an adult to tutor them or simply spend time with them.

Education and business leaders in Franklin hope to have adults in the community matched with some of those kids by fall.

The adults would schedule reg-

CAN YOU HELP?

If you're interested in mentoring or tutoring a Franklin student, call the district's administration office at 738-5800.

ular times to spend time with students and could help students read, take them to their business to show them around or just chat

After discussions among Franklin school district, Franklin College and city and business leaders, the Franklin Education Coalition is studying other mentoring programs around the state.

The coalition, formed by Franklin Superintendent William Patterson, Franklin Mayor Brenda Jones-Matthews and Franklin College President James "Jay" Mosley, meets every other month

to talk with business and community leaders about how to improve the city and its schools.

Business leaders told educators to act quickly to get a mentoring program in place, Patterson said.

Patterson asked principals to estimate how many of their students need a mentor to be successful. The answer: at least 400.

"We're not talking about a little program where we get a few vol-

unteers, we're talking about a huge community investment in the schools," Patterson said.

Members of the coalition will visit other programs around the state. One program Patterson is interested in is in Fort Wayne, where nearly 1,000 volunteers go to schools to mentor or tutor students. Students are bused to businesses after school to spend time with their mentors, Patterson said.

'She was a shining star'

Franklin man recalls September crash that killed his wife

By PAIGE E. WASSEL  
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER  
pwassel@thejournalnet.com

He looked left, looked right and saw a glimpse of red. Then everything went black.

Brian Mulry vividly remembers the Sept. 10 accident that claimed the life of his wife, April.

As he kneeled in front of her newly laid gravestone a few weeks ago, Mulry still couldn't believe someone so full of joy and life is now gone.

Five months after the accident, Mulry looks to the courts for justice and focuses on the one thing that keeps him going: his 6-month-old daughter, Alyson.

But he can't escape memories of the crash.

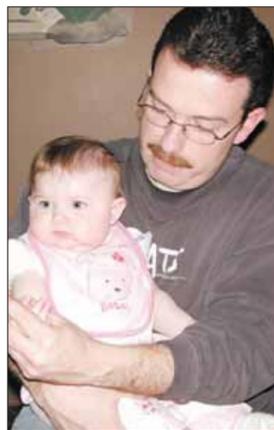
The couple was less than a mile away from a friend's home where they were going to have dinner.

They talked as 5-week-old

(SEE CRASH, BACK PAGE)



A. MULRY



STAFF PHOTO BY PAIGE E. WASSEL/pwassel@thejournalnet.com

Brian Mulry and his 6-month-old daughter, Alyson, survived a September car crash that killed their wife and mother, April Mulry.