

**THE WAR IN IRAQ**

# ABC ANCHOR, CAMERAMAN INJURED IN ATTACK

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**WRESTLING**

# CUBS WIN 11th STRAIGHT SECTIONAL

PAGE B1

**ATHLETIC TRAINING**

# TAPE HELPS HOLD IT TOGETHER

PAGE B1



# DAILY JOURNAL

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MONDAY, JANUARY 30, 2006

Johnson County, Indiana

50 cents

**WEATHER**



**Today**  
**Skies:** Rain or snow showers  
**Temps:** High 49; low 26

MAP, PAGE A8

**NEWS**

**Cause of Prince's Lakes house fire unknown**

Officials still are trying to determine the cause of a fire that damaged a home in Prince's Lakes on Saturday morning.

No injuries were reported.

The fire started in the kitchen and dining room area of the one-story home at 572 W. Fisher Drive, Nineveh Fire Chief Don Ford said.

The fire was contained to one wall and controlled within minutes, Ford said.

A damage estimate was unavailable.

**COMING UP**

**Still scoring strong**

Johnson County career scoring leader Megan Liffick is closing in on 1,000 career points at the University of Evansville despite missing all but six games of her freshman year with a knee injury.

**Leader on the ice**

A young man from Greenwood plays a key role on a central Indiana hockey team, the Arctic Blast. The team won the Silver Stick Finals in Ontario, Canada, recently.

**Lacrosse, anyone?**

Greenwood resident D.J. Garry is trying to help lead the Brebeuf lacrosse team to a state championship. A look at this unique sport and how Garry got involved.

**Tough places to call home**

The Village Crossing and Westminster apartment complexes account for more than 1 percent of the Greenwood Police Department's calls, or 260 last year, including drugs, domestic violence and rape, the Greenwood police chief says.

**THIS WEEK**

**DEATHS**

- Edinburgh  
Delores J. Wagers, 70
- Franklin  
Carol D. Watson, 68
- Greenwood  
Elizabeth Ann Thompson, 51
- Indianapolis  
Edna A. Dean, 90
- Robert C. Ventress, 75

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# Improved site locates sex offenders

At least 37 listed within two miles of two Franklin schools



The Indiana Sex Offender Registry Web site (www.indiana.sheriffs.org) shows the homes and workplaces of sex offenders around the red box, which indicates the site of Franklin Community High School and Northwood Elementary School.

**By ANNIE GOELLER**  
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A new Web site makes it easier for people to see where sex offenders live and work in the county and how close they are to schools and their homes.

The site, www.indianasheriffs.org, maps out exactly where the registered offenders live along with their picture and a list of offenses.

In Johnson County, the sheriff's office keeps a list of 120 offenders' home and work addresses. The number is frightening to anyone who lives near these offenders, especially if they live next door,

Sheriff Terry McLaughlin said.

But Johnson County is in line with or has fewer offenders than similar-sized counties. For example, Hendricks County, with a 2004 estimated population of 123,000 (compared to Johnson County's 125,000), lists 126 offenders. In Madison County, with a population of about 130,000, 275 offenders are listed on the registry.

The improved Web site allows people to determine how close an offender lives to their home or a school. In Johnson County, all six school districts had offenders living within two miles of one or more of their schools.

(SEE OFFENDERS, PAGE A5)

**CLOSE TO SCHOOLS**

- The five schools in Johnson County with the most offenders living or working within two miles of the building and some of the crimes offenders have committed:
- Franklin Community High School: 37 offenders**  
Includes offenses of child molesting, sexual battery and child solicitation. (Franklin)
  - Northwood Elementary School: 16 offenders**  
Includes offenses of child molesting, rape, child exploitation and sexual battery. (Greenwood)
  - Sugar Grove Elementary School: 15 offenders**  
Includes offenses of child molesting, rape and child exploitation. (Center Grove)
  - Creekside Elementary School: 14 offenders**  
Includes offenses of child molesting, sexual battery and child solicitation. (Franklin)
  - East Side Elementary School: 12 offenders**  
Includes offenses of child molesting, incest and sexual battery. (Edinburgh)
- SOURCE: www.indianasheriffs.org

# After 14 years, it's still ... STORYTIME

Southside woman shares tales with first-graders each week



Opal Scott reads one of her stories about Pinkum Henry Mouse II to Susan Sloop's first-grade class at Isom Central Elementary. Scott, 88, has shared her stories with Sloop's students every Friday for the past 14 years.

**By SHERRI EASTBURN**  
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As students in Susan Sloop's first-grade class at Isom Central Elementary School hurried in after lunch, they greeted their every-Friday friend, Opal Scott.

Students crowded to sit cross-legged on the floor near Scott, who will celebrate her 89th birthday in March.

All eyes were on the white box beside Scott, which was filled with various sizes of felt mice.

Many classroom volunteers have come and gone through the years, Sloop said. "Opal is the only one who has stayed," Sloop said. "She has come to read to the

kids every Friday for 14 years."

Scott's tales are from her own imagination. And they are about the trials and tribulations of Pinkum Henry Mouse II, better known to the children simply as Pink Mouse.

Twenty years ago, while riding on a trip with her grandchildren, Scott made up a few stories to keep them entertained.

"And a pink mouse came into my head, for some reason," Scott said.

Each of Scott's stories has a lesson for children, such as acceptance, responsibility and kindness, Sloop said.

"Henry and Betta Mouse had almost everything they ever dreamed of," Scott read as she removed a gray mother and father mouse from the box.

"They had everything except for a little

baby to love," Scott said with a smile.

As Scott read about the birth of Pinkum Henry Mouse II, she removed the only bright pink mouse from the box.

The story described Pink Mouse's interaction with his first friend, Pete.

"I never saw a pink mouse," Pete said. "Are you always pink? You're different. But you're OK."

Later, when Pink attended school, his pinkness made him vulnerable to Herman the Bully.

Scott removed Herman the Bully from the box and stood the mouse next to Pink and Pete.

She and her students talk a lot about Pink Mouse's adventures, Sloop said.

(SEE STORYTIME, BACK PAGE)

# Department considers new fire station site

**By ANNIE GOELLER**  
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White River Township and Bargersville residents could soon have a fire station close to home.

The Bargersville Fire Department is considering buying an acre of land from 266 acres developers plan to use for a 681-home development.

Developers and fire officials discussed the possibility of building a fire station along Smokey Row Road, near where commer-

(SEE STATION, BACK PAGE)

**Proposal**

The Bargersville Fire Department is discussing the possibility of building a new station as part of a 266-acre development proposed by Pulte Homes.



STAFF GRAPHIC BY STEPHEN JENDRASZAK

# Gamers: Educational value outweighs graphic content

**By MICHAEL W. HOSKINS**  
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One teenager learns how to build a city with skyscrapers, roads and houses and contemplates what he might do if his community is flooded.

Another goes off to war, dodging land mines, rescuing fellow soldiers and anticipating where the next enemy strike may come from.

Others can learn football strategies.

None of them ever has to leave the living room.

The virtual world of video games has opened up ways for gamers to learn how to solve problems, deal with disaster and get a glimpse into career fields.

Video game sales nationwide reached an all-time high in 2005, topping \$10.5 billion and increasing about 6 percent in 2004.

While some games are considered violent, gamers argue that the educational values of some games far outweigh the violence. Gamers also contend most of the scenes they see are no more

(SEE GAMERS, PAGE A5)



STAFF PHOTO BY SHERRI EASTBURN/seastburn@thejournalnet.com

Kenneth Simmons of Greenwood talks to his sister, Ann Murray of Nashville, Tenn. The siblings were reunited after 40 years.

# Siblings reunited after decades

Greenwood man meets lost sister

**By SHERRI EASTBURN**  
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A missing part of Kenneth Simmons' life is now tucked into a frame on the wall of his basement apartment in Greenwood.

He waited more than 40 years for the picture.

It is a color photo of Ann Murray, Simmons' only sibling. Her photo shares the frame with another important photo, the faces of the late Fred and Monty Newkirk, their maternal grandparents.

Born with cerebral palsy, Simmons drags his left leg and walks slowly across the room. He sits down in a chair, covered by an orange and brown afghan.

Simmons smiles as he begins the story.

He and his sister were born one year and three days apart to the late Fred and Ruth Ann Simmons. He is the older brother, at age 52.

(SEE SIBLINGS, BACK PAGE)