



INSIDE

Free Time



You asked for it, you got it: An expanded guide to events and activities in central Indiana. It's got cheap thrills and plenty of fun for families and friends. Pull it out. Save it. Use it. Have a blast.

DAILY JOURNAL

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THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2006

Johnson County, Indiana

50 cents

WEATHER



Today
Skies: Cloudy, showers
Temps: High 54; low 32

MAP, PAGE A8

INSIDE

Iraq in perilous position

For weeks, news reports have warned of increasing violence in Iraq, leading many to wonder whether the country will descend into civil war. But is it already there?

IRAQ NEWS, PAGE A5

Sense of relief

Since announcement of coach's resignation, Hoosiers playing with nothing to lose as they go for an NCAA Tournament win.



SPORTS, PAGE B1

COMING UP

Learn the ABCs of zzz's

Feeling groggy? Learn some simple ways to improve your sleep.

USA WEEKEND

FYI

They won't serve green spaghetti, will they?

Clark Elementary School will host a St. Patrick's Day spaghetti supper from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday.

The evening will feature entertainment by Generation Gap, a band that plays blues, rock and alternative music at venues in the Indianapolis area.

The school event will feature a book fair in the library and a community fair in the gymnasium.

The all-you-can-eat dinner includes spaghetti or pizza, garlic bread, salad and beverages.

Cost is \$5.50 for adults at the door and \$3 for children 12 and younger. Desserts are 50 cents each. Advance orders save 50 cents on each ticket.

The school is at 5764 E. County Road 700N in Clark Township.

Information: 535-6438

DEATHS

Greenwood
George Lane, 79

Whiteland

Dorothy Helen Trisler, 76

Elsewhere

Frank D. Friedersdorf Sr., 67

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Legislature left mark on county

Local governments get no tax options

By JASON MICHAEL WHITE
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Homeowners will get a tax break next year, but their property taxes will still go up, just not as much as they might have.

Legislators representing Johnson County voted in favor of a bill to give a temporary tax break to homeowners and limit yearly property-tax increases. Meanwhile, the inventory tax is

(SEE TAX, PAGE A2)

INSIDE



A look at some of the bills that passed, ones that failed and why the session was mixed for Gov. Mitch Daniels.

Page A2

Governor's highway plan moving forward

Staff and wire reports

Gov. Mitch Daniels claimed victory in a battle over whether to lease a state highway to foreign investors.

The state legislature approved his "Major Moves" highway plan

late Tuesday night, shortly before the General Assembly adjourned its 2006 session.

The transportation plan will have an impact on Johnson County both by what the bill does and what it doesn't do.

(SEE PLAN, PAGE A2)

SPRING BREAK

Fun-in-the-sun destinations still possible, but families have to drive

Fill up your gas tanks, dig out the swimsuits and hunt for some sunscreen: Spring break is coming. All Johnson County schools will be out for break the first week of April, meaning a slew of families will be fleeing the unpredictable Indiana weather to spend a week in the sun. Not all families will make it to sunny Florida or warm Mexico; some are taking a less-expensive trip. And for others who haven't planned their vacation yet, good luck finding a way out. Flights are booked, and hotels are full at most of the popular spring break destinations, local travel agents said. But there is still hope for people willing to fill up their tank and drive. Families can find room

(SEE BREAK, PAGE A5)

WHEN IS IT?

Spring break falls in the first week of April for southside students, but when school lets out varies.

March 31 to April 10
Center Grove schools, Our Lady of the Greenwood School, and St. Rose of Lima Catholic School. Franklin students have a half-day on March 31 and return to school April 10

April 3-10
Clark-Pleasant, Edinburg, Greenwood and Nineveh-Hensley-Jackson schools, Greenwood Christian School, Roncalli High School and Greenwood Christian Academy

St. Petersburg, Fla., is a popular spring break destination for many Hoosiers. From left, Lindsay Phillips, Whitney Phillips and Grace Endris enjoyed their trip last year.

STILL PLANNING?

Some new places to try and some ideas for families who want to stay closer to home.

Cruising along: Spaces are still available on many cruise ships, but families need to drive to where the boat is leaving from, such as Texas or Florida.

Closer beach: Don't want to drive all the way to Florida or hop on a plane? Try Myrtle Beach, S.C. The drive is shorter, but the weather is often cooler than the beaches of Florida or Mexico.

Down south: Head to Louisville, Ky., for a week of shopping and crafts. Folks can also stay on Caesar's Riverboat and visit a spa or restaurants. Head across the river and enjoy all the city has to offer.

Traditional spots: Families planning a trip to Mexico this year could find some good deals in Cancun. The city is rebuilding from the hurricanes and is offering some better deals to attract hesitant vacationers.

Little bit country: A shorter trip to Nashville, Tenn., can bring some new scenery for families looking to shorten their trip and save money. The city offers arts and crafts, shopping, a country atmosphere and, of course, country music.

Windy city: A three-hour trip to Chicago can lead to days of shopping, concerts and shows. Parents can take their kids to the planetarium or spend a few days shopping, dining and staying in a nice hotel. The weather will be cold, but the family will have plenty to do.

SOURCE: Ian Santamaria, travel agent and owner of Greenwood Travel and Cruise, and Suzanne Decellis, vice president of travel services for AAA

STORY BY ANNIE GOELLER ■ ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHEN JENDRASZAK

Census tracking suburbs' growth

County's population estimated at 128,436, 11th highest in state

By STEPHEN OHLEMACHER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

America's fastest-growing counties are suburban, rural or a mixture of both as more people seek big yards and open spaces, even if that means a long commute.

New Census Bureau estimates show the nation's population shifting south and west, to the distant suburbs of metropolitan areas stretching from Florida to Utah.

"I think low density is the attraction," said William Frey, a demographer at the Brookings Institution, a Washington think tank. "People would rather make a long commute and have a big yard and a big house."

The estimates released today are for from July 5, before Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast and forced thousands of people to relocate. The population

(SEE CENSUS, PAGE A5)

Franklin targeting dropouts

Committee developing two alternative schools

By Jo ELLEN WERKING WEEDMAN

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One out of every five students who start at Franklin Community High School doesn't graduate.

School officials are working on plans to create an alternative school at both the middle school and high school to address this problem.

The idea is to create a different kind of school for students who are in danger of dropping out.

A committee of teachers, counselors and administrators has been meeting since January. They agree on some of the basic philosophies.

(SEE FRANKLIN, PAGE A5)

Southside boy refuses to give in to disease

By KELLY BOGGS
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In Keegan McCarthy's online journal, he writes about all the newest video games.

He cheers for the Pacers and any team that plays Indiana University.

He keeps track of his sister's soccer game scores.

The 11-year-old also writes about blood transfusions, spinal taps and chemotherapy. He thanks people for making meals for his family, for raising

(SEE DISEASE, BACK PAGE)



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Shannon McCarthy, left, matched as a bone-marrow donor for her older brother, Keegan McCarthy, who is undergoing chemotherapy as he battles acute lymphocytic leukemia.

Hair yesterday, gone today: Benefit to help young patient

By KELLY BOGGS
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Soon silverware won't be the only thing shining at the Bay Window restaurant in Greenwood. Diners might just be able to see their reflections in owner Jane McKendree's shaved head.

McKendree and about 30 others are going bald today to raise money for childhood cancer research and to support 11-year-old Keegan McCarthy's fight against leukemia.

Through the St. Baldrick's Foundation, groups raise money by taking pledges and

(SEE BENEFIT, BACK PAGE)