

# September

## Sept. 1

**Gas prices jumped as high as \$3.50 per gallon in parts of the state after oil refining in New Orleans was compromised by Hurricane Katrina.** Frantic fuelers waited in lines 10 vehicles long to fill up at the Franklin Swifty gas station.

**A teacher at Southwest Elementary School in Greenwood helped fourth-grade students** organize a collection campaign for a school on the Gulf Coast.

**SAT scores increased in nearly all Johnson County school districts** in a year when more students took the college entrance exam. Greenwood scored the highest.

## Sept. 2

**Officials of Franklin-based Grimmer Industries expected** an increase in sales when businesses in Louisiana and Mississippi need to replace damaged and lost air compressors, which range in price from \$10,000 to \$90,000.

**Agencies working to help hurricane victims pleaded with charitable residents** to send money instead of food and clothing.

## Sept. 3-4

**More than 100 Johnson County high school students packed 15,000 lunches** for Camp Atterbury soldiers heading to Mississippi and Louisiana to help Hurricane Katrina victims.

**Johnson County parents worried about what to tell their children** when the kids asked about Hurricane Katrina and how they can help.

## Sept. 5

**Johnson County REMC workers David Heuchan of Franklin and Chris Thompson of Trafalgar** helped restore power to spots hit hardest by Hurricane Katrina along with 74 other electrical workers from the Indianapolis area.

## Sept. 6

**Some parents of Center Grove students were worried that a proposal** to start school 30 to 45 minutes later would leave them wondering what to do with their children during the extra time in the mornings.

## Sept. 7

**Franklin College offered free fall semester tuition for students displaced by Hurricane Katrina.** Two students planned to take the college up on its offer.

**Police and officials from charity groups warned residents** to be cautious of scams when they write checks to aid in hurricane cleanup.

**Center Grove and Franklin schools both offered programs** that allowed parents to pay \$300 a month to send their children to full-day kindergarten.

## Sept. 8

**Bargersville veterinarian Emily Williamson tended to stranded animals** near New Orleans with the Johnson County Animal Disaster Rescue Team.

**Greenwood police officers discovered an illegal drug lab** in a Whiteland home at 100 U.S. 31 South for the second time in the past three years.

## Sept. 9

**At least 14 students displaced by Hurricane Katrina** were attending Johnson County schools. Clark-Pleasant enrolled eight students, Center Grove had one family with three children, and Nineveh-Hensley-Jackson welcomed a family of three.

**A truck-van collision in White River Township killed Molly McHone,** 49, of Greenwood on her way home from work. McHone was a mother of three and had a passion for working with children with disabilities.

**CVS planned to open mini-clinics** for people to get check-ups and treatment of colds or ear infections from a certified nurse.

## Sept. 10-11

**The Franklin Community High School football team suspended 18 varsity players,** including eight starters, after a party where alcohol and marijuana reportedly were consumed. The students could avoid the suspension if they agreed to conditions set forth by school officials.



DAILY JOURNAL FILE PHOTO

Franklin Mayor Brenda Jones-Matthews sought input of residents living near a proposed site for a county animal shelter. Nearly half of those interviewed opposed building the shelter there because of noise and odor.

## Sept. 12

**Local chaplain the Rev. David Mark Owens was part of a team** of six Johnson County residents who headed to Baton Rouge, La., and Biloxi, Miss., to help Katrina survivors talk through their emotions as trained members of the National Organization for Victim Assistance.

**The Franklin high school football team tried to bounce back** after a slate of suspensions crippled the lineup. Coach Mike McClure said he hoped all of the team's players would learn from the mistakes of the 18 suspended players.

**Two Johnson County residents** — Timothy J. Martinez, 22, and April L. Mulry, 29 — were killed in separate car accidents.

**Six businesses in Johnson County were recipients** of Small Business Administration loans to help companies hurt by the Sept. 11 attacks.

## Sept. 13

**Commissioners decided they would support Johnson County** following Eastern time, falling in line with Marion County and other central Indiana counties.

**Athletic buses and field trips** were getting more scrutiny in some county school districts because of a rise in gas prices.

**The Greenwood father of a baby girl who was stabbed in the head** in October 2004 pleaded guilty to neglect and said he still hoped to gain custody of the child.

## Sept. 14

**About 30 Franklin Community High School student-athletes** were suspended from sports for a year for drinking and smoking marijuana. Several were expected to have their penalties reduced dramatically by taking part in drug and alcohol assessment programs.

**Franklin resident Steve Young took a break from overseeing the maintenance** of Indianapolis schools and helped examine schools in New Orleans.

**Franklin school board members gave the go-ahead for a \$58 million building project,** which called for replacing Webb Elementary school, remodeling the existing high school to become a middle school and either building or leasing space for a new administration center.

## Sept. 15

**Four Whiteland football players, including two starters,** were suspended from two games after attending an underage drinking

party on Sept. 4 at the home of a former Whiteland student.

**Franklin officials wanted a site plan for the new animal shelter** before deciding whether the county could build it close to the city's wastewater treatment plant on State Street.

## Sept. 16

**Franklin taxpayers planned to spend more than \$1 million** to widen less than two miles of County Road 200N and extend the road to intersect with U.S. 31 North.

**A local ministry that helps Hispanics in Johnson County** find medical care and English classes took up residence at an office building in Polk Place in Greenwood.

## Sept. 17-18

**A new development planned for the northeast corner of Olive Branch Road and State Road 37** would bring in more than 600 residences and up to 20 shops to the west side of White River Township where most county residents moved to escape the northern township hustle and bustle.

## Sept. 19

**Former Franklin College football players said the school** had lost a pillar of its community and a man filled with compassion for other players after the death of legendary Grizzlies coach Stewart Ray "Red" Faught.

**Indiana students began two weeks of ISTEP testing** that gauge whether schools meet guidelines set by the federal government to receive funding. Sophomores must pass the tests to get a high school diploma.

## Sept. 20

**Six double-sided billboards were planned to be built** on three of the Franklin's busiest roads: U.S. 31, Interstate 65 and State Road 44.

**As gas prices continued to surge,** drivers were increasingly turning to carpools to save money.

## Sept. 21

**Johnson County school districts had different philosophies for naming their schools and sports fields.** Greenwood used location to name schools. School districts, such as Clark-Pleasant and Franklin, had school titles with community histories behind their names.

**Greenwood council members voted to approve the 2006 budget** after making \$200,000 worth of reductions that includ-

## Oct. 1

**Land near Interstate 65 between Main Street and County Line Road began changing.** What was once farmland was paved for new warehouses, retailers, office space and homes.

**As the harvested corn and beans piled up in grain bins and semitrailers,** farmers also received higher energy bills that cut into farming profits. Expenses for items such as fertilizer, seed, chemicals and fuel have risen 40 percent since 2000, according to Purdue University's Crop Costs and Return Guide.

## Oct. 3

**As donors dipped into their wallets to help hurricane evacuees,** concern was raised about the limited amount of money folks had left to give to local charities.

**Military and civilian rescue groups from around the state** showcased their different capabilities at the Mari Hulman George Search and Rescue Academy at Camp Atterbury. The academy also offered courses in both canine and non-canine search and rescue training.

## Oct. 4

**A Center Grove High School student admitted to making an online death list** of classmates and Roncalli students. The juvenile suspect hacked into a student band's Web page and placed a link on that page and was labeled "people who should die."

**Noblesville project leaders offered advice for the effort to build a new Catholic high school** in White River Township. Leaders in White River Township needed to decide exactly why they wanted the school.

## Oct. 5

**Parents and doctors urged children to put down the Coke, Pepsi and Mountain Dew** as they grappled with growing waistlines. The American Beverage Association recommended in August that soda be plucked from elementary and middle schools and that soft drink offerings be cut in half in high school machines.

**The Johnson County sheriff looked at expanding the capacity of the jail.** A renovation project in 2001 solved a space problem but wasn't a longterm fix.

## Oct. 6

**About 250,000 tons of dirt from the new Colts' stadium site** was planned to be dumped in Johnson County. Wallace Construction said the dirt, as long as it was not contaminated, would help preserve land bordering White River.

**The U.S. Department of Energy predicted a 71 percent increase in natural gas prices** in the Midwest, according to the Energy Information Administration. People who used other means to heat their homes would be affected too. Propane prices were expected to rise 40 percent, the price of coal was forecasted to go up 16 percent, and electricity prices were expected to increase 11 percent.

## Oct. 7

**A Johnson County Prosecutor's Office delinquency petition** was filed against a Whiteland teenager. Tylar Thomas, 17, reportedly struck a friend in the head, causing a serious injury. The petition charged Thomas with battery resulting in serious bodily injury, which would constitute a Class C felony if filed against an adult. Thomas was accused of hitting Paul Sapp, 16, in the head during a dispute over a girlfriend.



DAILY JOURNAL FILE PHOTO

Children were being urged to put down the Mountain Dew in favor of water as doctors and parents grappled with kids' expanding waistlines.

Sapp, 16, was taken to Methodist Hospital with a serious head injury.

**Police officers were called to Greenwood Community High School school after they received** a report of four teenagers smoking marijuana at an area park. The investigation led to the discovery of a gun and some knives in a student's car in the school's parking lot. A 17-year-old boy was taken to the Johnson County Juvenile Detention Center.

## Oct. 8

**Indiana Wesleyan University announced a \$4.5 million expansion** project that would make Greenwood home to a new campus. The project would bring its 13th regional site to Johnson County, offering space for as many as 1,000 students to continue or finish management and business programs.

## Oct. 10

**Nichols Group LLC planned to build 200 single-family homes in White River Township** on 100 acres of farmland between Travis and Smokey Row roads. The subdivision, called Silverleaf, was the latest proposal for new homes planned within the Center Grove school district, one of the fastest-growing districts in the county.

**State and federal government groups called out all-terrain vehicles** for safety concerns and cited increases in accidents involving children on the machines. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission proposed a series of safety rules to regulate ATV sales. Many dealerships were trained to notify customers about safety concerns when selling ATVs.

## Oct. 11

**Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson told Johnson County Democrats** to challenge the status quo and be willing to make bold changes to serve residents. The mayor came to Greenwood as the guest speaker at the Johnson County Democratic Party's annual Jefferson-Jackson dinner.

**Olive Branch Neighbors for Responsible Development was formed by residents** who live near Olive Branch Road and State Road 37. Homeowners were concerned about McCarty Farms and other subdivisions that planned to bring more than 11,000 homes and 20 businesses to the area.

## Oct. 12

**Franklin school administrators worked to answer questions** and make their case for a new building project through e-mail messages, a blog and speaking engagements. The school board in September approved a project that called for replacing Webb Elementary School, remodeling the existing high school to become a middle school and either building or leasing space for a new administration center.

**A tip to the county sheriff's office helped detectives arrest Terry Roberts,** a man wanted in the 1991 rape of a teenager in Edinburg. Roberts, 55, 610 N. Parsons Ave., Seffner, Fla., was arrested on a charge of child molesting and was released on a \$15,000 bond.

## Oct. 13

**Interstate 69 planners hoped to learn what routes people preferred** for the proposed corridor stretching from Indianapolis to Evansville at a community forum in Martinsville. A crowd of 600 residents attended the event and made it clear they didn't want the interstate in the first place.

**Johnson County courts sought to hire a full-time interpreter** as more and more cases come before the courts in which the defendant does not speak English. The county had three court interpreters who speak Spanish but none worked full time.

## Oct. 14

**A committee of real estate agents, residents and farmers was formed to create** a guide for future development in the county for the next 10 to 20 years. For the next two years, a committee of 27 county residents planned to meet to discuss ideas, conduct public hearings and examine demographics, growth projections and traffic studies.

## Oct. 15

**A construction worker at a new-home site in Greenwood was critically burned** in an explosion after the vehicle he was driving accidentally ran over a gas line. The explosion rocked the site of a 152-home subdivision, Tuscan Village, that was being built just south of the Target store at Curry and Honey Creek roads. Hector Esquivel was taken to Wishard Memorial Hospital in Indianapolis.

**White River Township residents would not hear the rumble of 500 trucks** a day or worry where 250,000 tons of dirt would go. Colts stadium soil planned for Johnson County would instead go to a landfill on the south side of Indianapolis because it would cost less to move it there.

## Oct. 17

**Nearly one-third of telemarketing victims were age 60 or older,** according to the National Consumer League's National Fraud Information Center. Grown children of the elderly were left wondering how to protect their parents from pushy salesmen and scam artists while still helping their parents live independently and manage their own money.

## Oct. 18

**Cheryl Morpew worked her first day on the job as executive director** of Johnson County Development Corp., a public-private group in charge of bringing new businesses into the county. Morpew replaced Chris Kinnett, who resigned in August.

## Oct. 19

**One-third of Greenwood's largest subdivi-**

**sion, Homecoming at University Park,** was larger than most other communities in the city. Homebuyers already purchased 275 spots in the neighborhood since January. The new subdivision was expected to add about 1,000 students to Clark-Pleasant schools.

**Nearly half of a walking trail planned to wind around the new Franklin high school** would not be built. The part planned to be built, though, met requirements of the city that control the thickness of the pavement. School officials said building the trail to meet the city's requirements was too expensive and that they didn't know all of the trail would have to be built to city specifications.

## Oct. 20

**Kindred Healthcare Inc. planned to open a long-term acute health-care center** at the southeast corner of County Line Road and Emerson Avenue in Greenwood. The health-care center would replace a smaller hospital in Greenwood, where the company has leased space for 12 years and had no room to grow.

**Being cheaper than other schools and closer to home were marketing pitches** that were selling with students. Ivy Tech Community College's new Franklin campus more than tripled enrollment in the past year. In October, 368 students had enrolled in 42 different classes at Ivy Tech's new campus at the 1159 building at Johnson Memorial Hospital. The heightened interest in the program had officials planning to offer full degree programs in Franklin.

## Oct. 21

**Twelve Johnson County residents were in the path of Hurricane Wilma,** a Category 4 storm. The group of church members from Franklin Memorial Christian Church was on a mission trip to Mexico.

## Oct. 22

**After more than a year of study, committee meetings and board discussions,** the Franklin school board planned to give the final go-ahead to a \$58 million building plan in the following week.

**Indianapolis resident Malcolm McNeil Jr., 46, died** after he was found shot in the head behind a Franklin gas station. McNeil had one bullet wound to the head and was alive but unresponsive when he was discovered. Investigators didn't know whether the gunshot was self-inflicted or if someone shot the man.

## Oct. 24

**Center Grove High School boasted two titles at the IHSAA state tennis championship.** Senior Christian "Binky" Nikou won the singles championship, and sophomores Matt Smith and Zane Smith were doubles champs. Center Grove's twin wins made it only the second school in IHSAA history to produce singles and doubles champions in the same season.

## Oct. 25

**Two years after the most recent Habitat for Humanity house was built in Franklin,** the group finally received a headquarters with organized leadership. Habitat builds and rehabilitates houses and provides interest-free mortgages with no down payment for families who otherwise cannot afford their own homes.

**Twelve Franklin church members missed the crashing waves and screaming winds of Hurricane Wilma** while on a mission trip in Mexico. They were scheduled to leave Cancun,

ed money to enhance parkland and to buy new police cars and even toilet paper.

**Franklin officials planned for taxpayers to pay for new cars** for the sheriff's office, pickup trucks for other departments and laptop computers for the county's court judges.

## Sept. 22

**Bargersville firefighter Mike Pruitt and more than 70 others** with Task Force One, a federally supported rescue group in Indianapolis, were sent to help potential victims of Hurricane Rita in Texas.

**A \$1.5 million grant to Johnson County school districts** focused on helping preschoolers get ready for school and prenatal classes for parents. Libraries, Johnson Memorial Hospital and all six public school districts would get money, said Jann Johnson, Franklin College assistant dean of academic services.

## Sept. 23

**A Greenwood Community High School varsity football player** was removed from the team for the rest of the season after reporting to practice under the influence of alcohol.

**Greenwood detectives participated in a daylong undercover operation** to stop sexual activity in Northwest Park Annex. Four men were arrested in the sting.

**Cheryl Morpew of Trafalgar took the lead in recruiting** new businesses to Johnson County as the executive director of Johnson County Development Corp.

## Sept. 24-25

**More than half of the county's restaurants and other businesses** charged with collecting a new tax already were behind in turning in their first payment.

## Sept. 26

**A state agency claimed that erosion control methods weren't properly used** in the construction for a White River Township subdivision. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management wanted Larry Walker and Hickory Stick Development LLC to pay \$39,250 for violations.

## Sept. 27

**The city redevelopment commission doubled a special taxing district** near Interstate 65 and proposed a new taxing district at the future home of two expanding businesses.

**Franklin Mayor Brenda Jones-Matthews wanted input of residents** living near the proposed animal shelter site on State Street. Five people out of 12 interviewed opposed the site because of potential noise and smell.

## Sept. 28

**Because it wasn't considered a top priority, a project to widen State Road 135** in Johnson County was facing a possible postponement. Two other projects in the county, both of which would add lanes to Interstate 65, had a better chance of starting on time.

## Sept. 29

**A developer proposed building 190 homes** at Olive Branch and Paddock roads, and 750 homes were planned near State Road 135, all in White River Township.

**High fuel costs forced many schools to cut back on the number of field trips** they took, with some schools canceling trips that had become traditions.

**The city of Franklin said it would not consider leasing land for a new county animal shelter** until leaders were satisfied that residents' concerns, including worries about noise and odors, were taken into account.

## Sept. 30

**Animal control officers shot an alligator in Franklin and found three baby alligators nearby.** The adult reptile was the second alligator spotted in Johnson County this year. Officials didn't remove the baby alligators because they weren't a threat to residents.

**A Greenwood couple claimed that a lawyer accepted a \$50,000 settlement** on their behalf and redirected the award to former Johnson County Juvenile Magistrate Craig Lawson, who died in February.

about 180 miles northeast of Bacalar and on the coast, on Saturday, but the airport and many of the roads leading to the city were closed after the hurricane passed through. The missionaries saw some rain and winds up to 25 mph.

## Oct. 26

**Parents in Johnson County had more options this year** for making sure the flu shot their child got was safe. The Johnson County Health Department and many pediatrician offices offered a mercury-free version of the vaccine this year.

## Oct. 27

**Animal shelter task force members who were frustrated that they hadn't been kept informed** about plans for a new shelter learned the reason at a meeting: Mitch Ripley, the county commissioner in charge of their efforts, wanted to keep information hidden from the public and the media.

**The city's police and fire chiefs planned to discuss locking all large receptacles** after dark after a string of trash-bin fires being set in Greenwood. Six fires had been set in trash bins behind businesses this year.

## Oct. 28

**Work on the new Greenwood fire station stopped because of unexpected soil problems:** Contractors ran into a large vein of sand, water problems and other soil difficulties while digging out for the station's basement.

**A clock radio in a Greenwood woman's bedroom and bathroom** did more than tell her the time or play tunes. The woman's personal trainer was accused of giving her the digital clock radio with a video camera inside as a gift and recorded more than 400 images of her, police said. Will Lenzy, 57, 720 Woodale Terrace, Apt. 16 in Greenwood, was arrested on charges of voyeurism with an electronic device, a felony, and harassment, a misdemeanor.

## Oct. 29

**Home prices in Johnson County increased by 17 percent** over the same time period in 2004. The increase brought the average price of a home in Johnson County to \$156,240. The county ranked third among Marion County and the seven surrounding counties in percentage increase but it ranked fifth in average price.

**An explosion that critically burned a construction worker in Greenwood on Oct. 14** was reviewed by the state office that investigates workplace safety. About 58 percent of Hector Esquivel's body was burned, said his attorney, Rahul Malhotra. Investigators from Indiana's Occupational Health and Safety Administration planned to review the construction site at Tuscan Village and if safety rules were followed, Deputy IOWA Commissioner Tim Grogg said.

## Oct. 31

**A federal investigation of an August helicopter accident did not determine** what caused the crash at Greenwood Municipal Airport. But the flying instructor involved in the incident was back in the pilot's seat and conducted more than 30 tours in a smaller helicopter, using the mishap to teach youngsters about safety.

**On the threshold of her 89th year,** Sara Lusk fulfilled a longtime wish to fly an airplane once again. After a 25-year-plus break from flying, Lusk's time in the sky was a flight lesson for her, said Lusk's co-pilot, Dale Byrom.