

# NEWS/OBITUARIES

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## Normal

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

"Every little thing will feel like a major case of the flu," his father said.

The night before days spent at Riley, Tyler is allowed to stay up late. He usually gets quiet that night and on the way to the hospital, his mom said.

"And Mom gets grumpy, too," Tyler said.

### How it started

Tyler was first diagnosed with leukemia over the July 4 holiday. He was covered in bruises after a day of tubing in Florida. His parents thought he had strep throat.

Doctors at a clinic told them it was cancer.

He was immediately flown home and taken to Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis.

Leukemia produces too many white blood cells. Treatment starts with a period called induction in which the chemotherapy tries to kill off as many of those cells as possible.

The induction period was hard on him. He had an infection that required hospitalization. He lost a lot of weight and had to undergo frequent painful procedures such as spinal taps and bone aspirations, where long needles pull out marrow and fluid for examination.

The consolidation period, the past 50 days, was less difficult on Tyler and the family. But the next period, called intensification, which is intended to rid the body of the remaining leukemia cells, will be more like the first phase.

### Preparations

During Tyler's first intense round of therapy, he developed a rare fungal infection in his lung, which had to be removed during surgery. The infection started with a tiny microbial spore, which can set in even in the most sterile environments.

This time, the Genneken aren't taking chances.

Large bottles of hand cleaner are stationed conveniently around the house with the word "antimicrobial" printed in large letters across the front.

Carpet can hide mold, dust mites and bacteria. So Tyler's parents ripped out carpet and laid hardwood floors in the kitchen, dining room, stairway and entire upstairs of the home.

But not all of the work is for the sake of keeping clean.

Reconstruction in Tyler's room included a built-in entertainment center. Drew Genneken's stepmother, who lives in Florida, helped with design work to create a tribute to Center Grove football in red and white.

During days when he is ill, Tyler will be able to stay in bed and play the Xbox 360 that his father's coworkers pitched in to get him. The entertainment center is built into the wall and the TV doesn't pick up glare from the windows so he can play while he is lying down.

Shadow boxes bearing the 12th-man jerseys that honor Tyler for his place on the Junior Trojan Football team adorn the red walls of the room.

His newly designed room also has special places for other people who have inspired him during the past six months, such as the band Jack's Mannequin. The lead singer, who also survived leukemia, invited Tyler to a concert. He left with a pair of drum sticks and a few other mementos, which are on display in the room.

Over the next few days, the crimson and cream bedding will all be washed, and everything in the room will be sanitized before the new round of treatment begins, his mother said.

### A new normal

To the Genneken, the most recent treatment period has

## ON THE WEB

Tyler's family keeps an Internet journal on how well he is feeling with updates on his treatment. If he is not responding well to therapy, his parents prefer to write the news once on the Web than to repeat it over and over again on the phone, they said. The diary also celebrates the family's victories and what they learn about the disease.

On the Net: Tyler's journal site: www.caringbridge.com/visit/tylergenneken Also on his site, visitors can download a country song specially written for him through the organization Songs of Love. The group works with artists to create songs for children who have serious illnesses.

The Genneken answered several questions about Tyler and their family and sent it to the foundation. The song, which is about the Genneken watching a Colts football game, is sung by William Sherry. The lyrics feature older brother A.J., Tyler's parents and grandparents and even the family dogs, Mud and Snoopy.

seemed like a break. He has been energetic and was able to visit with his grandparents over Christmas.

They would tell you their life has been normal.

**"We were in the grocery store and Tyler pointed a couple of aisles over and said he could smell the cinnamon."**

**Drew Genneken**

On his son, Tyler, who is suffering from leukemia. The medication the 11-year-old is taking to treat his cancer has enhanced his sense of smell, his father said.

She often describes their situation as becoming members of a club no one wants to join, her husband said.

"Once you're in, you have to attend all the meetings," he said.

Tyler has not been well enough to attend school this year. His immune system is not strong enough to be in an environment where he would have to fight off that many germs.

Two teachers visit him each day. They go over lessons with him for about an hour and a half and leave him with homework assignments.

He takes medicine to bolster his appetite and help keep him from getting sick to his stomach after chemotherapy.

The various types of treatments affect Tyler's appetites in different ways, and his parents are grateful if he is hungry at all. He needs to eat with his medication.

"If he wants to eat pasta with butter and cheese, we let him," Joyce Genneken said.

The medicine affects his senses in strange ways too, his father said.

"We were in the grocery store and Tyler pointed a couple of aisles over and said he could smell the cinnamon," Drew Genneken said.

The Genneken have to be extremely careful about where Tyler eats when he is not at home. The food has to be prepared and served in an exceptionally clean environment because Tyler's immune system is so prone to attacks.

Tyler has been able to enjoy many of his favorite holiday foods, although he still cannot go out to eat at his favorite kind of restaurant: a buffet.

During the next phase of treatment, there will be no eating out or take-out food at all.

His energy is up, but Tyler's slight frame still shows how much weight he has lost.

He slouches under his Marvin Harrison football jersey. All you can see are two pointy shoulders and some tufts of wiry hair.

"Sit up little man," his dad said.

His father made him trim his hair because relatives were coming for Christmas.

But Tyler has made it through three periods of therapy without his hair falling out, and Drew Genneken doesn't have the heart to make him cut it any more.

"It's his way of thumbing his nose at chemotherapy," he said.

INDIANAPOLIS

### Harlene (McElfresh) Baker

Harlene (McElfresh) Baker, 72, died Monday, Jan. 1, 2007. She was a resident of Indianapolis.

Survivors include her husband, the Rev. Leon Baker; a son, the Rev. Brad (Diane) Baker; two daughters, Becky (Hermon) Spurlock and Libby (Bobby) Allen; two sisters, Alice Sizemore and Helen Murphy; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, William C. and Katherine Jean McElfresh.

A service will be conducted at 11:30 a.m. Saturday at G.H. Herrmann Greenwood Funeral Home, 1605 S. State Road 135. Friends may call from 4 to 9 p.m. Friday at the funeral home. Entombment will be at Forest Lawn Memory Gardens in Greenwood.

Memorial contributions may be made to the House of Prayer Tabernacle, 5501 S. Linwood Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46237.

FRANKLIN

### Louvina Hamm

Louvina Hamm, 76, died Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2007, at Franklin Meadows nursing home. She was a resident of Franklin.

She was born Aug. 19, 1930, in Liberty, Ky. Her parents were Claxton Andrew and Lena (Allen) Pennington. She married Arlis Hamm on Feb. 1, 1947. He survives.

Other survivors include three sons, Glen (Shannon) Hamm of Greenwood, Gene (Ruby) Hamm of Franklin and Ronald (Cathy) Hamm of Edinburg; a daughter, Charlott (Chuck) Wright of Greenwood; two brothers, Vernon Pennington of Clarksville and W.C. Pennington of Liberty, Ky.; five sisters, Brenda Goode, Ivadean Helm and Katharine Wethington, all of Liberty, Ky., Opal Clements of Dunville, Ky., and Eugina Clements of Ottawa, Ill.; 14 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Joe Pennington; and a sister, Elizabeth Rose Pennington. She enjoyed quilting.

The Rev. Homer Whited will conduct a service at 11 a.m. Saturday at Eskew-Eaton Funeral Home, 302 E. Main Cross St. in Edinburg. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home. Burial will be at Rest Haven Cemetery in Edinburg.

BARGERSVILLE

### Kenneth H. 'Pap' Hogan

Kenneth H. "Pap" Hogan, 85, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2007, in Franklin.



HOGAN

He was a long-time resident of Bargserville.

He was born May 27, 1921, in Brown County to John and Zola E. (Smith) Hogan. He married Ruth Ann (Robards) Hogan on June 17, 1950. She preceded him in passing Sept. 7, 1996.

He is survived by one daughter, Nancy (Jeff) Mosburg of Franklin; two granddaughters, Amy (Travis) Hartwell of Indianapolis and Ann Mosburg of Franklin; one brother, Scott Hogan of Trafalgar; and three nephews, Steve Hogan, Cecil Hogan and Kenny Hogan.

He was preceded in passing by his parents, John and Zola; wife, Ruth Ann; and brother, Oris Hogan.

He attended Brown County and Nineveh schools.

He was a U.S. Army veteran, serving from July 31, 1942, to

BARGERSVILLE

### Kenneth H. 'Pap' Hogan

Franklin

Louvina Hamm, 76

Opal H. Kelley, 99

Indianapolis

Harlene Baker, 72

Margaret Louise Key, 74

Morgantown

Melvin E. Ratliff, 82

Phyllis J. Swopes, 72

Elsewhere

Conner D. McCain, 80

Dec. 5, 1945. He served with the 201st Anti-Aircraft Battalion in North Africa, Italy and Corsica Island.

Kenneth began his career with New York Central Railroad in November 1947, later becoming Amtrak in Beech Grove. He retired June 17, 1983.

He was a member of First Christian Church in Bargserville. Kenneth enjoyed playing the lottery and driving around the county.

The Rev. Roger Gifford will conduct a graveside service at 2:30 p.m. Friday at Greenlawn Cemetery in Franklin. Friends may call from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday at Flinn and Maguire Funeral Home, 2898 N. Morton St. in Franklin.

Memorial contributions may be made to First Christian Church, P.O. Box 15, Bargserville, IN 46106.

Online condolences may be sent to www.flinnmaguire.com.

FRANKLIN

### Opal H. Kelley

Opal H. Kelley, 99, died Monday, Jan. 1, 2007, at Franklin United Methodist Community. She was a resident of Franklin.

She was born May 25, 1907, in Shelby County. Her parents were Gus and Alta (Harris) Hirschauer. She married Earl F. Kelley on April 8, 1928. He preceded her in death March 4, 1966.

Survivors include a son, Phillip Kelley of Lafayette; a brother, Robert H. Hirschauer of Indianapolis; 12 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by two sons, Glenn A. Kelley and David Kelley; and a brother, Harold Hirschauer.

She lived most of her life in Shelbyville. She worked in the bookkeeping department of Shelby National Bank for 15 years, retiring in 1971. Mrs. Kelley lived the past 27 years at Franklin United Methodist Community.

She was a member of Kappa Kappa Sigma and Naamah Order of the Eastern Star. Mrs. Kelley also was a member of First Christian Church.

A memorial service will be conducted at 11 a.m. Saturday in Wright Memorial Chapel at the Franklin United Methodist Community, 1070 W. Jefferson St. in Franklin. Burial will follow at a later date in Forest Hill Cemetery in Shelbyville. No visitation will be observed.

Donations may be sent to the Franklin United Methodist Home, 1070 W. Jefferson St., Franklin, IN 46131.

Online condolences may be sent to www.freemanfamilyfuneralhomes.com.

INDIANAPOLIS

### Margaret Louise Key

Margaret Louise Key, 74, died Sunday, Dec. 31, 2006. She was a resident of Indianapolis.

Survivors include a stepson,

Greg (Brenda) Key of Whiteland; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Edward and Hazel (Williams) Connor; her husband, G.B. Key; and a daughter.

A service will be conducted at 11 a.m. Friday at Forest Lawn Funeral Home, 1977 S. State Road 135 in Greenwood. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. today at the funeral home. Burial will be at Forest Lawn Memory Gardens in Greenwood.

Information: www.forestlawnmemory.com

BENGAL

### Conner D. McCain

Conner D. McCain, 80, died Monday, Jan. 1, 2007, at Select Specialty Hospital in Beech Grove. He was a resident of Franklin.

He was born May 6, 1926, near Bengal. His parents were Paul and Treca (Conner) McCain. He married Reba J. (Haehl) McCain on June 23, 1946. She survives.

Other survivors include two sons, James Paul (Sara) McCain of Franklin and Michael Charles (Dale Ann) McCain of Edinburg; two daughters, Jean Ann (Bob) Edney of Oklahoma City and Laura Joy (Rex) Patterson of Saline, Mich.; 11 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a son, Richard Duane McCain; a brother, Merrill "Jack" McCain; two sisters, Elnora Lawrence and Waneta Barlow; and an infant sister.

He was a lifelong farmer in Hendricks Township in Shelby County.

After graduating from Franklin High School in 1944, he joined the U.S. Navy, serving for two years during World War II. After the war, he began farming, an occupation he truly enjoyed.

Mr. McCain served on the Second Mount Pleasant Cemetery board for 28 years and served as a Shelby County Council member for six years. He was a former member of the Honda Gold Wing Club. Mr. McCain was an active member of Bengal Christian Church, where he served as an elder and former treasurer. He also was a former treasurer of the soil and water conservation district board.

A service will be conducted at 11 a.m. Friday at Bengal Christian Church. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. today at Freeman Family Funeral Homes, Carmony-Ewing Harrison Street Chapel, 819 S. Harrison St. in Shelbyville, and from 10 a.m. until service time Friday at the church. Burial will be at Second Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Bengal Christian Church, 3534 S. Shelby County Road 750W, Franklin, IN 46131.

Online condolences may be sent to www.freemanfamilyfuneralhomes.com.

MORGANTOWN

### Melvin E. Ratliff

Melvin E. Ratliff, 82, died Sunday, Dec. 31, 2006, at Johnson Memorial Hospital in Franklin. He was a resident of Morgantown.

Survivors include a daughter, Janet E. (Gary) Sighting; two sons, Stephen E. (Betty Jo) Ratliff of Franklin and Allan Craig (Virginia) Ratliff of Morgantown; two sisters, Martha Emberton of Brown County and Lorene Smith of Franklin; six grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles W. and Ada May (Roberts) Ratliff; and his wife, Doris M. (Norman) Ratliff. Angela McPherson will con-

duct a service at 10:30 a.m. today at Meredith-Clark Funeral Home, Cremation & Personalization Center, 179 E. Mulberry St. in Morgantown. Friends may call one hour before the service today at the funeral home. Martinsville Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion honor guards will conduct military graveside rites at East Hill Cemetery in Morgantown.

Memorial contributions may be made to Mount Nebo Community Church, 1809 John R. Wooden Drive, Martinsville, IN 46151.

Information: (812) 597-4670; www.meredith-clark.com

MORGANTOWN

### Phyllis J. (Roberts) Swopes

Phyllis J. (Roberts) Swopes, 72, died Monday, Jan. 1, 2007, at Meadow Lakes Center in Mooresville. She was a resident of Morgantown.

Survivors include her husband, Carl D. Swopes; two daughters, Mary J. (Zeke) Zuicens of Martinsville and Rory A. (David) Sandmeyer of Trafalgar; two sons, Carl D. "Skip" (Linda) Swopes Jr. of Martinsville and Brett M. (Cheryl) Swopes of Mooresville; a brother, Marvin L. Roberts of Ozark, Ala.; six grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, LeRoy L. and Mary C. (Lutz) Roberts.

The Rev. Ben Swopes will conduct a private family celebration of life service Friday at Meadow Lakes Clubhouse in Mooresville. Inurnment will be at East Hill Cemetery in Morgantown. Meredith-Clark Funeral Home, Cremation and Personalization Center in Morgantown is handling arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Thomas More Catholic Church, 1200 N. Indiana St., Mooresville, IN 46158; or Morgantown Baptist Church, 109 E. Elm St., Morgantown, IN 46160.

Information: (812) 597-4670; www.meredith-clark.com

### Obituary policy

The Daily Journal will publish free death notices for Johnson County area residents, former residents and close relatives of area residents.

A free death notice contains basic information, including details about visitation and services, memorial contributions and some survivors.

Families who want to include more information or include a photograph can purchase a custom obituary. Additional information may include memberships, employment, education and additional survivors.

The custom obituaries on this page have been paid for.

The deadline for submitting obituaries to the Daily Journal is 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. On Sundays, the deadline is 1 p.m.

In Memory Of  
**Richard D. Sanders, Sr.**  
On Your Birthday  
December 28, 1941  
When the joys  
are still remembered  
But the sorrow  
Has quietly gone,  
There will always be  
a special place  
In our hearts -  
where love lives on.  
We still Love you &  
Miss you very much,  
Donetta, Ashley & Katie

In Loving Memory of  
**JOHNNY A. POINDEXTER**  
Not Forgotten  
His life was earnest, his actions kind, A generous hand and an active mind, Anxious to please, loath to offend, A loving father and faithful friend.  
I Love You Dad!  
Mike

**Daniel S. Martin**  
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Don't Delay, Call for your BRACES today!  
After school appointments available!  
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**DAILY JOURNAL**

**\$1,000**  
**Academic scholarships offered by REMC**  
Johnson County REMC is offering two \$1,000 academic scholarships to high school seniors planning to attend an Indiana college or university in the fall of 2007. An application and eligibility guidelines may be obtained from the REMC office or the REMC website.  
Student's parent or legal guardian must be a Johnson County REMC member.  
**Deadline to apply is January 31, 2007**  
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