



PREP BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Find out how the boys teams from Center Grove, Franklin, Greenwood, Indian Creek and Whiteland did.

PAGES B1, B3



DIFFERENT ROLE

Oscar nominee Mark Wahlberg's life easily could have taken a different direction. But he persevered.

TODAY'S USA WEEKEND

WEEKEND

LOCAL PRODUCE YEAR-ROUND

Marketing efforts promote locally grown fruits and vegetables.

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SATURDAY-SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24-25, 2007

Johnson County, Indiana

\$1.00

WEATHER



Today
Skies: Cloudy, rain
Temps: High 42; low 33

MAP, PAGE A6

FREE TIME

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The Daily Journal wants to know about and publicize your meetings, events and activities.

The best way to get your event publicized is to get the information to us at least three weeks in advance. If you are already planning a big event for spring or summer, let us know now.

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Got something to say about sports?

Send your comments about all things sports to speakout@thejournalnet.com.

DEATHS

- Edinburgh
Omer Johnson, 84
- Greenwood
Louise Sarah Hopkins, 90
Georgene Jackson
- Christina Rae Lowery, 51
- Indianapolis
Don H. Arvin, 75
Warren D. Henry, 80
- Nineveh
Ralph V. Simpson, 65
- Elsewhere
Mary Agnes Bates, 86

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POLICE: TEEN USED STOLEN GUN

Wounded pair recovering

By ANNIE GOELLER
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The gun used to shoot two Greenwood police officers was stolen from an Indianapolis home a year ago, the police chief said.

Greenwood police officers continue to investigate the shootout in a southside restaurant parking lot that left officer Eric McElhane

with internal injuries, injured officer Jay Arnold and killed an Indianapolis teen.

McElhane is doing well, Greenwood police Chief Joe Pitcher said. He is being treated at Wishard Memorial Hospital in Indianapolis after surgery for internal injuries caused by as many as four gunshot wounds.

(SEE GUN, PAGE A2)



Greenwood police officer Jay Arnold was injured in a gun-fight Wednesday on the southside.



Kyle Collins, 18, Indianapolis was killed in the shootout in a fast-food restaurant parking lot.



Police officer Eric McElhane was injured in the shootout and was still hospitalized Friday.

INSIDE: Former chief says officers will have emotional scars after physical wounds heal. Page A2

Officers praised as hard workers

By ANNIE GOELLER
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Two officers shot and wounded Wednesday night are sharp, funny and never have to be told to do their job, people who have worked with them said.

A fellow officer, former co-workers and an officer from another department said officers Eric McElhane and Jay Arnold are serious about their jobs but

have a good sense of humor. "These are two of the hard-working guys you'll ever meet," Greenwood police Sgt. Tim McLaughlin said.

Both officers are sharp and attentive to detail, said Kenny Swint, who retired last year from the Greenwood Police Department.

McElhane is a by-the-book officer who has received several

(SEE OFFICERS, PAGE A2)

FATAL VEHICLE-TRAIN ACCIDENT

The right track

Community uniting behind safety efforts

STORY BY ANNIE GOELLER ■ WIRE PHOTO

A Center Grove area woman hopes a company most think of for a quick meal will donate \$15,000 to safety, while another community member pulled out his phone book looking for friends willing to make substantial contributions.

Community members are searching for ways to make a difference after the deaths of two boys in a vehicle-train crash.

They mention fund-raising efforts at parties and meetings, look for ways to donate their time and money and ask state and local officials for answers to who is responsible for upgrading the

railroad crossing where Travis Findley, 9, and Jake Findley, 12, were killed.

Now, they plan to work together as a community to add crossing arms and flashing lights to at least one Center Grove area railroad crossing and possibly others.

What started as individual projects, with a phone call here and an e-mail there, turned into plans for a community-wide meeting to find volunteers to organize fund-raisers.

Jennifer McCarty contacted Hamburger

(SEE TRACK, BACK PAGE)

WHAT THEY'RE DOING: RAILROAD CROSSING EFFORTS

Individuals, a school board member, elected officials and a local church want to outfit at least one railroad crossing in the Center Grove area with crossing arms and flashing lights. The efforts follow a fatal vehicle-train accident Feb. 2 in which brothers Travis and Jake Findley were killed. Individual projects are in the works along with a community meeting. Here's a look at what they are doing:



CLEMENTS



COPP



MCCARTY

County commissioners, council and highway department

Planning a meeting to discuss funding options and what can be done to upgrade railroad crossings. The highway director researched what the county has done in the past to crossings, including maintaining and replacing signs and road markings, and plans to find out more about how the county can improve the crossings in a meeting with the railroad company. He'll present his information to county commissioners.

Jennifer McCarty, Center Grove area resident

Sent an application to Hamburger Helper's Myhometownhelper.com, asking for \$15,000 to upgrade the railroad crossing on Stones Crossing Road. McCarty heard about the giveaway on the radio and decided to apply. "It's just a drop in the bucket to get those (crossing) arms there. Fifteen thousand (dollars) is nothing, but it's a start," she said. Community members can view McCarty's essay and post comments about the request by visiting www.myhometownhelper.com, clicking on Find a Project and searching for The Jake and Travis Findley Special Fund in Indiana.

Chuck and Becky Findley, parents of the boys killed in the accident

Set up The Jake and Travis Findley Special Fund account at Regions Bank to collect money to upgrade railroad crossings in the county and state. "A lot of people are backing something to be done. We thought if we set up a fund, it just might help," Chuck Findley said. Money can be donated to the fund at any Regions Bank branch in Greenwood and Indianapolis.

Charles Miller, Center Grove area resident

Met with a lobbyist for the state and a staff member for U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer Wednesday. They discussed how to get upgrades. He'll now take suggestions, including keeping legislators involved and raising private funds, to a community group meeting.

Mount Pleasant Christian, the Findleys' church

Forwarding community letter to area churches to inform them of the accident and community involvement and forwarding information about McCarty's efforts to church members.

Indiana Railroad Co., which owns the crossing where the accident occurred

Planning a meeting with county officials to discuss options to upgrade the crossing. Company has not discussed funding but typically provides \$5,000 to \$10,000 in yearly maintenance of warning devices once they are installed. If the county were to install an overpass or underpass at the crossings, which can cost between \$1 million and \$3 million, the company typically is willing to help pay for equipment and construction.

James Copp, Center Grove school board member, and Brady Clements, Center Grove area resident

Planning a community meeting early next month to discuss fund raising and community involvement. They want to get the community involved in asking businesses, clubs, organizations and individuals to donate money to upgrade the railroad crossing and possibly others in the Center Grove area. "We just want to get some organization, so we don't have a duplication of our efforts and we can pool our resources," Copp said. The meeting date will be announced in the coming weeks.

Ballots set for primary

By JOSEPH S. PETE
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The mayor of one Johnson County city faces opposition in May's primary election, and several city council races in both Franklin and Greenwood will be contested.

Franklin Mayor Brenda Jones-Matthews is unopposed in the Republican primary in her bid to be elected to a full term.

In Greenwood, Mayor Charles Henderson faces a challenge from businessman Mike Campbell.

Former police officer David Payne filed to run for mayor Thursday, but he withdrew his candidacy Friday. He said a three-way race wouldn't help bring change to city government.

Jones-Matthews was appointed by a Republican Party caucus in July 2005 after Mayor Norman L. Blankenship Jr. died from complications from a brain tumor.

Voters will choose their party's candidates in the primary elections May 8. The deadline to file to run in the primary was Friday.

(SEE PRIMARY, BACK PAGE)

ELECTION DATES

April 9
Deadline to register to vote in the May 8 primary

Oct. 9
Deadline to register to vote in the Nov. 6 general election

ON THE WEB

Complete list of candidates

Parents may fight C-P plan

By SARAH LIPPS
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A couple who are parents of Clark-Pleasant students have given the school board an ultimatum: Hear their alternate plan for handling growth or face a petition to delay the project.

The district plans to start construction next year on the new \$54 million school near the current intermediate school on Sheek Road. Contractors would bid for the work in December, and the money would be borrowed in January.

Several procedures, such as a hearing the school board conducted

Thursday, must take place in order for that to happen on time.

If residents want to try to stop the project, they must file petitions against the plan, called a remonstrance, by March 26, Clark-Pleasant business manager Steve Sonntag said.

Parents Tad and Vicki Bohlsen said they might do that if they can't get the administration and school board to consider the plan they have to build several smaller buildings instead of fewer large ones.

Superintendent J.T. Coopman said

(SEE PLAN, PAGE A5)

Lawsuit: Tobacco rules too vague

Franklin restaurant fights ordinance to restrict smoking

By CANDACE BEATY
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A restaurant that turned into a private club to avoid the Franklin smoking ban is now challenging the restriction.

D&D Club, formerly Don and Dona's, filed a lawsuit against the city of Franklin on Thursday.

The lawsuit claims the smoking ban ordinance is too vague, so it should be declared void. It further claims the way the ordinance is enforced violates the state constitution.

Franklin's smoking ban, which went into effect Aug. 1, prohibits smoking in public places such as restaurants, stores and workplaces. Smoking is allowed at private clubs and bars. D&D Club's lawsuit claims the city enforced the ban wrongly.

In the lawsuit, the club asks the court to restrict the city from enforcing the ban against D&D Club or to say the ban is void.

Mary Barnaby, owner of the club, has fought the ban since it was proposed. The lawsuit was filed by D&D Club and building owner Barnaby Development, which hired attorney Michael Limrick with McTurnan and Turner law firm in Indianapolis.

According to the lawsuit, D&D Club's reputation in the community was harmed by the city's enforcement of the ban.

Older customers have stopped frequenting the business because of the city's enforcement, Barnaby said. They don't want to patronize a business that they believe is doing something wrong, she said.

Barnaby filed the lawsuit to determine if the business is following the ordinance as a club, which she believes it is, she said.

(SEE LAWSUIT, BACK PAGE)