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Coaches seek to keep regular-season routine during playoffs.
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ESCAPES BOMB ATTACK
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DAILY JOURNAL

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2007

Johnson County, Indiana

50 cents

WEATHER



Today
Skies: Intermittent clouds
Temps: High 46; low 25

MAP, PAGE A10

WEB EXTRAS

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DEATHS

- Greenwood
Robert L. "Mac" McAndrews, 80
Indianapolis
Kyle Herrington Collins, 18
Mary Louise Morrissey, 84
Elsewhere
Edward H. Ratzburg, 73
Ross Allen Sheridan, 21

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Police: Man fell out of truck

Driver, passenger sought so officers can determine events



Ross A. Sheridan, 21, was found dead early Saturday in Greenwood. Police believe he fell out of a pickup.

By ANNIE GOELLER
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER
agoeller@thejournalnet.com

A man found dead on the side of a Greenwood street early Saturday morning fell out of the back of a moving pickup and struck his head on the pavement, police said. Investigators want to talk to the dri-

ver and a passenger of the truck to find out more about what happened, Greenwood Police Chief Joe Pitcher said.

Ross A. Sheridan, whose family said he lived in Morristown, was found dead on the side of Sheek Road near the entrances to Stout's RV and St. Andrews Apartments at 3:25 a.m. A friend who was with the 21-year-

old told police he and Sheridan left a bar in Southport and went to the Taco Bell restaurant at Stop 11 Road and Madison Avenue looking for a ride to a friend's house on the southeast side of Greenwood, Pitcher said.

About 3 a.m., they got a ride with two men in a Ford Ranger pickup. The cab of the truck was too small to fit four people, so Sheridan rode in

the back, Pitcher said. Police believe Sheridan fell out of the truck on Sheek Road and struck his head, causing a serious head injury that killed him. Police found blood spatter on the pavement where they believe Sheridan struck his head, Pitcher said.

(SEE TRUCK, BACK PAGE)

RAILROAD CROSSINGS

Price of safety

Deputies keep eye on crossings, ticketing drivers who ignore stop sign, roll across tracks



Johnson County sheriff's deputy Steve Wray writes a traffic ticket for a motorist accused of disregarding a stop sign at a railroad crossing on Stones Crossing Road in the Center Grove area Monday afternoon.

By ANNIE GOELLER
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER
agoeller@thejournalnet.com

A Greenwood woman has the ticket and a dent in her pocketbook to remind her to stop before crossing railroad tracks.

Brenda Callahan knew better than to roll through the stop sign at a Center Grove area railroad crossing, but she didn't see a train coming and just kept going.

The shock of blue and red flashing lights and a \$113 fine will be a reminder when she crosses the tracks again, she said.

"It's not like I don't know better than that," Callahan said.

In the past three weeks, sheriff's deputies have written more than 40 tickets at railroad crossings in the Center Grove area.

Much of the attention has been focused on Stones Crossing Road, where two boys were killed in a vehicle-train accident Feb. 3. Deputies have also fanned out to other crossings, such as Olive Branch and Smokey Row roads.

The goal is the same at each crossing: Get people to stop, look and listen instead of just rolling through the crossing.

"I'm amazed at the people and how they don't even make an attempt to stop," Johnson County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Tom Krukemeier said.

"Your chances of getting hit by a train aren't that great; but if you do get hit, it's permanent, and it's going to be a serious accident."

Deputies have been stationed at crossings in the area at least once every shift, Johnson County Sheriff's Maj. Randy Werden said.

Some drivers stop at the signs, especially

(SEE SAFETY, BACK PAGE)

"I guess everybody's in a big hurry, but they just need to slow down and get there."

Tom Krukemeier,

Johnson County sheriff's sergeant on motorists traveling over railroad crossings

Bargersville to install reminders at crossings

By CANDACE BEATY
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER
cbeaty@thejournalnet.com

Stop at the railroad crossing. Look left and then right. Listen for a whistle or an oncoming train.

That's what Bargersville officials hope everyone does at the railroad crossings in the town.

The town council voted to buy "stop, look and listen" signs for the crossings located at County Road 144 and Main Street and at Harriman Avenue and Baldwin Street, town manager Mike McCarthy said.

The signs have been ordered and will be posted once the town gets them, he said.

Each sign costs about \$50, and four signs were ordered, utility town superintendent Jeff Raufeisen said.

A sign will be posted at each side of the crossing. The 18-by-24-inch, bright yellow sign says "Caution" at the top and "Stop, look and listen" below, he said.

Stop signs and railroad warning signs currently are posted at the crossings, he said.

Seven accidents have happened at those crossings since 1976, Bargersville Police Chief John O'Rourke said. The last acci-

dent happened Feb. 9 when a train hit a tractor-trailer; no one was injured.

Changes to make the railroad crossings safer had been discussed before the accident, O'Rourke said.

Installing gates at the crossings would cost more than \$160,000 per intersection, which is too costly, O'Rourke said. A representative from the railroad company told O'Rourke that half of train-vehicle accidents happen at crossings that have gates, he said.

McCarthy said he knows the signs are not a fix, but he hopes they will help.



ArvinMeritor once employed 850 people in Franklin. The plant closed in 2004 and now is home to several smaller companies.

Working at Arvin plant: A family affair

By BORIS LADWIG
THE (COLUMBUS) REPUBLIC
bladwig@therepublic.com

Much of William Whited's life revolved around the Arvin plant on Franklin's northeast side.

His grandfather and uncle both worked there. And his father retired from there after 42 years.

William Whited, a tool-and-die

maker by trade, had worked at the plant 32 years when it closed in 2004. His first stint in 1964 was interrupted when he got drafted.

For about 70 years, the Arvin plant supported families in and around Franklin, in latter years producing exhaust systems for major automotive companies.

With a staff of 850, it was Franklin's largest employer when

it closed. About 750 of the employees were part of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America Local 2993.

Whited has few good words for Meritor Automotive Inc., the commercial vehicle parts supplier that merged with Columbus-based Arvin Inc. in 2000 and

(SEE FAMILY, BACK PAGE)

Feeling poorly? Blame the flu

Seasonal ailment shows jump; best prevention is simply hand-washing

By JOSEPH S. PETE
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER
jpeter@thejournalnet.com

Many people will sniff, cough and call in sick with the flu for another six to eight weeks, experts said.

Want to avoid a high fever, exhaustion and runny nose?

The experts agree with Mom: Wash your hands.

An outbreak of seasonal influenza is spreading through central Indiana, according to state tracking reports.

The outbreak is minor, said Shawn Richards, chief flu specialist for the Indiana State Department of Health.

The flu has struck about 5 percent of Hoosiers, about one percentage point more than in past flu seasons, Richards said.

Statistics are not kept specifically for Johnson County.

Dr. Doug Bullington, who practices as a physician in the Center Grove area, said he hasn't treated more flu cases than usual this year. A gastrointestinal virus that causes diarrhea and vomiting, which patients commonly confuse with the flu, has been making its way around, he said.

Flu sufferers should see a doctor in the first two days of symptoms or the virus will just have to run its course, Bullington said.

More children have been absent from school in recent weeks, which officials said is common this time of year. Needham Elementary School, for instance, had 17 to 30 students out sick each day last week. No more than 10 usually call in sick in warmer weather.

But parents don't specify the flu when keeping sick children home.

No one keeps statistics of flu cases. Doctors don't report seasonal influenza as a disease unless blood work is done, which is costly and usually considered needless, experts said. Doctors recognize the flu from the common symptoms.

To gauge the extent of the flu,

(SEE FLU, BACK PAGE)