



MLK DAY
REMEMBERING A KING
 Nation honors Martin Luther King Jr.
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ACCENT
FOCUSSED ON FITNESS
 Zeroing in on weight-loss success
 PAGE A6

DAILY JOURNAL

www.thejournalnet.com

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2007

Johnson County, Indiana

50 cents

WEATHER



Today
 Skies: Partly cloudy
 Temps: High 30; low 18

MAP, PAGE A8

NEWS



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT ROBERSON

A Franklin firefighter tries to put out a fire Monday night in the basement of 149 W. Madison St.

Fire damages basement of apartment building

A fire at 149 W. Madison St. in Franklin badly damaged the basement of an apartment building Monday night. Shaun Starks, a resident of one of the building's two apartment units, saw smoke coming into his kitchen just after 7 p.m.

He got up from watching television and ran to his door. Smoke filled the front stairs, so he ran down the back, he said. He escaped unharmed, and no one else was injured.

Firefighters were investigating the cause of the blaze Monday evening. It started in the basement, and Starks was the only person home at the time, said Franklin Fire Department spokesman Eddie Daugherty.

The fire was contained mostly to the front of the basement of the building, said Franklin Fire Department Deputy Chief Greg Nelson.

— Sarah Lipps

WEB EXTRA

Tell us what you think

Can the Colts make it to the Super Bowl?

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

FREE TIME

Publicize your events

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

E-mail the information to freetime@thejournalnet.com or mail it to Free Time, Daily Journal, P.O. Box 699, Franklin, IN 46131.

DEATHS

- Franklin
- Russell Dale McTarsney, 71
- Billy Leon York, 63
- Greenwood
- Dave McKenzie, 62
- Dorothy I. Russell, 89
- Indianapolis
- Helen H. Jones, 92
- Andrew Levi Snyder, 85

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Few fans corral Colts playoff tickets

1,000 seats sell in moments at 90 sites statewide

By SARAH LIPPS
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He was cold. He was wet. He was out of bed way before any other self-respecting college student on a day off of school.

But Matt Saba didn't care. Packed in with hundreds of others dressed in blue and ready to beat the odds, the Center Grove graduate and Indiana

University student stood in line outside the RCA Dome on Monday hoping to purchase tickets to Sunday's AFC title game.

The only memorabilia he left with was the plastic bracelet dome officials gave him for a lottery, which was not drawn in his favor.

About 1,600 people lined Capitol Avenue in downtown Indianapolis hoping for a chance at the 1,000 tickets that went on sale for the game between the

Indianapolis Colts and New England Patriots.

But even most of those selected to stand near the front of the line to purchase the tickets in person from vendors at the dome didn't stand a chance at the coveted seats.

Tickets went on sale at nearly 90 other ticket shops around Indiana and in Louisville, Ky., said Larry Hall, vice president of

(SEE TICKETS, BACK PAGE)



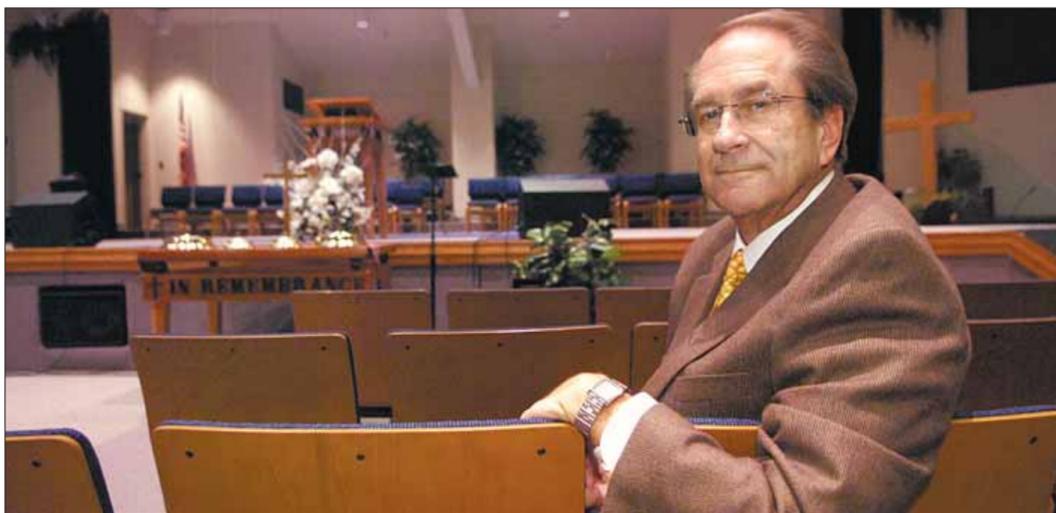
AP PHOTO

Hundreds of fans wait in the rain Monday for a chance to buy the 1,000 tickets available for Sunday's AFC title game between the host Colts and the Patriots.

EXPANDING CHURCHES

Faith, fitness, coffee

Projects aim to increase churches' community roles



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT ROBERSON/sroberson@thejournalnet.com

The Rev. Shan Rutherford sits in the Greenwood Christian Church sanctuary. This church and the Mount Pleasant Christian Church will

undergo expansion projects priced up to \$8.5 million. They will add a gymnasium, a coffee house and many other get-together spots.

By CANDACE BEATY
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Two area churches will add recreational and social areas and renovate other areas to give churchgoers more places to gather, meet, worship and play sports.

Greenwood Christian Church and Mount Pleasant Christian Church will expand worship centers, add more fellowship areas and build sports fields and workout rooms.

Churches are no longer just for Sunday morning services.

They are doing what used to be reserved for schools and are becoming the center for activity and families, said the Rev. Shan Rutherford, senior pastor at Greenwood Christian Church.

Both northern Johnson County churches are depending on their members, a combined total of 4,460 people, to pay for the projects. A campaign for Greenwood Christian will start in March, and Mount Pleasant has pledged from 745 households to give more than \$6.2 million, according to its Web site www.mount.org.

Greenwood Christian Church

A larger worship center, a coffee house and bookstore will make Greenwood

Christian Church a destination for people to gather and meet, Rutherford said. The church, at Averitt and Worthsville roads, plans to expand its current building and construct a new worship center.

The project will cost about \$8 million, and construction will start in spring 2008, he said.

Included in the expansion will be five new nurseries, a youth worship center, office space, a multipurpose area and more classrooms for the church's school, he said.

With increasing attendance, the church needed a larger worship area and more general use space, he said.

The current sanctuary can seat 750 to 800 people comfortably, Rutherford said. As many as 1,100 people have packed into the church, but that's jammed, he said.

The new worship center will seat 1,300 people in a fan-shaped room that can be expanded to seat 2,388 in a future building project, Rutherford said.

Current sanctuary areas will be converted into a large fellowship hall, he said. A coffeehouse and bookshop will be built in that area, along with some classrooms and offices, he said.

The coffee shop and bookstore could make it more like a Starbucks or Borders

(SEE CHURCHES, BACK PAGE)

THE ADDITIONS

Here's a look at what each church project will include:

Greenwood Christian Church

2045 Averitt Road
 Expansion will include a 1,300-seat worship center, youth worship center, coffeehouse, bookstore, ball diamonds, soccer fields, additional classrooms for the school, office space, five new nurseries and a conversion of current worship center to fellowship area.

Mount Pleasant Christian Church

381 N. Bluff Road, Greenwood
 For the Community Life Center, to be built at Bluff and Fairview roads across from the church:

Student ministry space, office space for student ministry and recreation staff, elevated running track, aerobic and fitness room, weight and cardiovascular room, game room with pingpong, foosball and pool tables, two full-sized basketball courts that will double as volleyball courts, child-care room and meeting room.

Changes to the Family Life Center, already a part of the church, will include larger children's worship area, classrooms for 2-year-old to fourth-grade student programming and children's worship and activity area.

SOURCES: Shan Rutherford, senior pastor at Greenwood Christian Church; Mount Pleasant Christian Church's Web site, www.mount.org

County facing penalty by state

\$3.5 million could be withheld until right forms filed

By JOSEPH S. PETE
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A state agency is threatening to withhold an estimated \$3.5 million due to the county because of mislabeled spreadsheet headings.

The Indiana Department of Local Government Finance sent letters to county officials last week warning of a penalty for failing to turn in the correct sales and tax documents needed for a statewide overhaul of the way property is assessed for taxation. The threat was made to Johnson and 13 other counties.

Johnson County submitted the requested sales documents in January, after the state decided to withhold the money in December. Counties were not notified that funds might be withheld until last week.

The state still requires revisions be made to spreadsheet headings before it backs off the threat, county assessor Jan Richhart said.

County officials said the matter can be cleared up shortly but that they don't take the threat

(SEE COUNTY, BACK PAGE)

Property tax bills delayed by two months

By JOSEPH S. PETE
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Annual property tax bills will arrive late this year, giving property owners extra time to scrape together the hundreds or thousands of dollars they owe to local governments.

Johnson and other counties across the state have had difficulty adopting a new system of determining the value of homes, businesses and land and turning that information, plus supporting documents, over to the state.

The delays mean that tax rates needed to determine how much you'll pay this year aren't going to be known by the Feb. 15 deadline.

Both county and state officials doubt that tax bills will go out in mid-April and come due in early May as usual. The county might not be able to send out bills until the summer in the worst-case scenario, county assessor Marla Hash said.

The county assesses the value of all real estate owned by residents and businesses. Local government units, such as school

(SEE DELAYED, BACK PAGE)

Wanted: Cheerleading, one who can relate to kids

Center Grove settles on characteristics of new leader; now board must find superintendent

By SARAH LIPPS
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When the weather gets bad, Center Grove students want a new superintendent who isn't afraid to call off classes.

They also want a leader who is visible in the schools, can relate to students and is confident, according to a report from a consultant hired to guide the district in its superintendent search.

Parents and the community want someone who will bring a balance between sports and academics to the district, the report

WEB EXTRA

Visit the communities section of our Web site to read the full consultant report.

thejournalnet.com

compiled by BWP & Associates said.

On Monday, the school board will meet in private to review a list of candidates for the position. They will use the qualifications listed in the report to decide which people they want to interview. If one or two candidates really stand out, those people may be interviewed right away.

The search firm has completed some background checks of candidates and will do more research on those whom board members say they are interested in, he said. The firm will continue to recruit potential candidates, search consultant Ronald Barnes said.

Barnes said he wasn't sure how many people had applied or how many would be on the list the board will get Monday.

He said some will be candidates board members had heard of before and asked him to look into. Others are candidates he or others from his firm recruited.

In December, parents, teachers, staff, school board members and others from the community were asked what qualifications the new superintendent should have. Here is a glimpse at what they said:

- The new leader should be approachable, visible and part of the community, deal with concerns in a timely manner and lead rather than manage, parents and community members said.
- An ideal person for the job would be a good decision maker, live in the district, be confident

(SEE LEADER, PAGE A5)