



# DAILY JOURNAL

dailyjournal.net  
Johnson County, Indiana

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2009

50 cents

## WEATHER



**Today**  
Skies: Partly sunny  
Temps: High 50; low 40

MAP, PAGE A8

## YOU SHOULD KNOW

**Changes coming online**  
Visit dailyjournal.net and you'll see big changes. No longer is every story locked down, which meant you had to be a subscriber to read most stories. Visitors to the Web site, whether or not they are subscribers, now can view the first portion of news, sports and other stories. In the past, if you clicked on a headline, you would get a prompt indicating that you would need to become a subscriber. Now, everyone will be able to read the first four paragraphs of news and other stories. To read the entire story, you will need to subscribe to either the online or paper version of the Daily Journal. Subscribe by calling 736-2777.

## ON THE WEB

**Have your say**  
Indiana lawmakers are considering legislation to ban smoking in all public places. We want to know what you think. Should the state of Indiana forbid smoking in all workplaces? Visit dailyjournal.net to vote in our Web poll on this topic or send your comments to letters@dailyjournal.net.

**Get the early edition**  
For a sneak preview of what stories we're working on and what you can look forward to each day, sign up for the Daily Journal e-mail news update. You can subscribe by sending an e-mail to newsupdate@dailyjournal.net. Put "subscribe" in the subject line.

**Keep up with local boards**  
Visit dailyjournal.net for reports from school boards and county officials' meetings.

## DEATHS

- Franklin**  
Julia Ann Alcorn, 96,  
Evelyn M. Brazzell, 94
- Greenwood**  
Gary Michael Fulk, 49  
Cecil Ray Hubbard, 84  
Kyle B. Simpson, 53  
Robert D. Sowers, 64
- Whiteland**  
Geneva Johnson, 95
- Indianapolis**  
Dennis R. Anness, 51
- Elsewhere**  
Martha L. Utterback, 45

## INDEX

- Accent.....A6-A7
- Classifieds.....B7-B8
- Comics.....B6
- Editorials.....A4
- Obituaries.....A5
- Police, fire.....A3
- Sports.....B1-B2, B4-B5
- Southside.....A3
- TV listings.....A7
- Weather.....A8

## CALL US

**Main switchboard**  
736-7101  
**Delivery:** 736-2777,  
(888) 736-7101  
**Advertising:** 736-2700  
**News tips:** 736-2712



## What it means

Residents in two local school districts will vote in special elections to decide on building projects. Here's an example of what they'll see when they go to the polls in May.  
**Question:** "Shall Center Grove Community School Corporation Board of Trustees issue bonds or enter into a lease to finance a High School Base Project?"  
**Translation:** Should the school district spend \$84.21 million to renovate the high school to expand the cafeteria, build three major hallways to alleviate congestion, renovate space for small learning communities and conduct site development, including demolishing the old Maple Grove Elementary School?  
**MORE EXAMPLES, A2**

# Decoding ballot questions

By **KATY YEISER**  
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER  
kyeiser@dailyjournal.net

don't include the prices of the projects or the words "building," "construction," "renovating" or "shutting down schools." Instead, voters will be asked to answer yes or no to issuing bonds or entering into a lease to finance a co-curricular and extracurricular project and a high school base project and an elementary school consolidation project. The wording of the questions, (SEE **BALLOT**, PAGE A2)

**Key dates**  
**April 20:** Final day to register to vote  
**May 14:** Early voting begins at county courthouse  
**May 19:** Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Hensley, Nineveh and White River townships and Precinct 35 in Pleasant Township

**Special election a new experience**  
By **JOSEPH S. PETE**  
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER  
jpete@dailyjournal.net  
Voters will decide this spring if they want new Nineveh-Hensley-Jackson and Center Grove school building projects. Special elections will be conducted in both school districts May 19, which will mark the first time in recent memory Johnson County has staged a special election. Residents of both school districts will go to the polls in the same way city residents would in a municipal election. The Johnson County Election Board voted (SEE **ELECTION**, PAGE A2)

# PAINFUL CUTS

Laid off from her job with health benefits, a woman skips on her prescription medicine to make financial ends meet.



Rosie Williams and her husband, Steve, worry about how they'll pay for health care after Rosie Williams was laid off from Arbonne in Greenwood.

**Getting by**  
Surviving the recession  
«An occasional series on making it — or not — in our battered economy»

**«Inside**  
President Barack Obama urges Americans to pull together to face crisis and says best times are ahead. **A2**

More than 400 will lose Cummins jobs in Columbus as part of company's layoffs. **A3**

Southside resident Rosie Williams worries what will happen if her fainting spells return or her diabetes gets worse. She lost her health insurance when she was laid off from Arbonne International and no longer can afford prescriptions, including her blood pressure medication. Williams, who was among 95 workers laid off by the skin-care products distributor last month, has been driving around and dropping off résumés at places she knows offer health insurance benefits, such as grocery store distribution warehouses. She hopes her age, 60, won't prevent her from landing another position. Every time, she hears the same thing: They're not hiring; check back in a month or two when things might get better. She also has to take care of her husband, Steve, who has a tumor on his

brain stem. Fifteen years ago, doctors performed 21 surgeries on him, delicately cutting away at the growth, which isn't cancerous but is large enough to be life-threatening. The neurosurgeons had to carefully avoid any contact with the brain stem, which could have left him paralyzed or comatose. Because of its location, they couldn't scrape it all out, and Steve Williams finally said he'd had enough. He couldn't deal with the risk of being turned into a vegetable every time they went in. Doctors said he would have 10 to 15 years to live. The tumor is still growing and eventually could suffocate his brain. But these days, he worries mostly about his wife. "My biggest fear is that she doesn't (SEE **CUTS**, PAGE A5)

**"We have rent, utilities, a car payment and Steve's prescriptions. Those are what we have to pay, and the rest isn't necessary."**  
**Rosie Williams**  
Woman laid off last month

# Oren Wright plan morphing?

By **SARAH MICHALOS**  
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER  
smichalos@dailyjournal.net

County officials are considering if they should incorporate a downtown library branch and space for an additional court into a new building that will replace government offices ruined in the flood. The building would be split into sections with different entrances, so people coming to check out a book wouldn't pass inmates in shackles

on their way to a court hearing. The multiuse building is the latest idea proposed for replacing the Oren Wright Building and how to use the opportunity to improve the downtown at the request of Franklin's mayor. A new library could serve as a cornerstone for downtown, and the system already is drafting plans for a new Franklin branch, its director said. But the county commissioners said their first responsibility is to

erect a building for the more than 40 county employees displaced when the June 7 flood filled Oren Wright with nearly 7 feet of water, not to revitalize Franklin. They're also concerned about such different departments being able to mesh well in one building, which would need to be three or four stories tall and a maximum 120,000 square feet to fit everyone. Another concern is the price tag (SEE **PLAN**, BACK PAGE)



DAILY JOURNAL FILE PHOTO  
Local officials are debating the best plan for replacing the flood-damaged Oren Wright government building.

Searchlights, twirling signs, balloons and inflatable signs currently (SEE **SIGNS**, BACK PAGE)



STAFF PHOTO BY **SCOTT ROBERSON**/sroberson@dailyjournal.net  
Ava Wettrick, 8, searches through books in Karen Isenhour's second-grade classroom at Center Grove Elementary School.

# Classrooms to become mini-libraries

By **JASON MICHAEL WHITE**  
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER  
jwhite@dailyjournal.net

Center Grove educators plan to stock classrooms with books by students' favorite authors and literature about their favorite subjects. The school district is spending about \$75,000 to increase the number of books in elementary classroom libraries, about \$500 per classroom. Media specialists and literacy coaches will pick out a variety of fiction and nonfiction books for different skill levels, including students who are struggling with reading and advanced students who read above their grade level. Center Grove decided to purchase more books for classrooms based on a recommendation two years ago, when the school district made a plan for how it could improve reading skills, said Janet Boyle, assistant superintendent. One of the district's top goals is improving the reading ability of students, she said. To meet that goal, the district decided to make more books available for elementary students to read while they are in class, instead of making them rely on limited trips to the school library.

In-class libraries give students more time to read and give teachers more opportunities to tie reading into the lessons they teach, said Julie Young, a literacy coach at Center Grove and West Grove elementary schools. For example, second-grade teacher Karen Isenhour put together a stack of more than a dozen books on frogs when they were studying the animals in class. She pulled nonfiction books off her shelves to let kids learn more about frogs, and she stacked fiction books that included frogs for kids to read for (SEE **CLASSROOMS**, PAGE A5)