



# DAILY JOURNAL

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MONDAY, JULY 10, 2006

Johnson County, Indiana

50 cents

## WEATHER



Today

Skies: Afternoon thunderstorm  
Temps: High 88; low 64

MAP, PAGE A8

## COMING UP

### There's no place like home

The Indianapolis Indians are enjoying a rare treat in minor-league baseball: a 14-game homestand.



### Calamity Jane?

As one local shooting club shows, an increasing number of women are getting involved in shooting sports.

### Dangerous connection

A recent study shows many female athletes suffer from eating disorders and osteoporosis.

THIS WEEK

## WEB EXTRAS

### Peer over editor's shoulder

Visit [www.thejournalnet.com](http://www.thejournalnet.com) for a look at our Editor's Blog, which offers a look at stories we're working on, a critique of news events or simple observations about everyday life.



### A sneak peek at the news

For a sneak preview of what stories reporters are working on, sign up for the Daily Journal e-mail news update. You can subscribe by sending an e-mail to [newsupdate@thejournalnet.com](mailto:newsupdate@thejournalnet.com). Put "subscribe" in the subject line.

## WEB POLL

### THE QUESTION

Should a natural gas pipeline be built in Johnson County?

### HOW TO VOTE

Online: Vote and offer comments on the Daily Journal's Internet edition, [www.thejournalnet.com](http://www.thejournalnet.com). This is an unscientific poll.

Write: Daily Journal, P.O. Box 699, Franklin, IN 46131  
Fax: 736-2766

## DEATHS

Edinburgh

Dorothy G. Waltz, 87

Franklin

Merle Raymond Trimmell, 85

Greenwood

Jack Hyland Smith, 76

Carolyn Sue Snider, 67

Luther J. Turpin, 83

Indianapolis

John A. Willey, 85

Elsewhere

Brenda K. Bugh, 62

Greg Lee Durham, 24

Vera L. Hitchings, 54

Benjamin Andrew Lindle, 23

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# Animals seek new home ... with you



STAFF PHOTO BY PAIGE E. WASSEL/pwassel@thejournalnet.com  
Kayla Ross, 12, looks at a section of siding on her Franklin home that was pulled back by raccoons.

## Displaced wildlife blamed for increase in critter complaints

By KATIE O'KEEFE  
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A soft scratching noise sounded from under the mobile home. Kayla Ross watched as her dog Freckles paced around the Franklin home with his nose to the floor. The canine's snooping snout was Ross' first clue that something wasn't right.

While playing in the bushes in her yard, the 12-year-old solved the mystery.

A raccoon had pulled away the panel of her home and decided to live below Kayla Ross' living room.

The family never had problems with animals living beneath the floor before, said Kayla Ross' mother, Jennifer Ross. The reason she thinks animals are poking around

the home is visible from her back yard, the new Franklin high school.

About 173 acres of land were disturbed to make room for the new school.

As Johnson County continues to transform fields of crops into fields of houses, experts said developers should keep some land untouched to

(SEE ANIMALS, BACK PAGE)

## BY THE NUMBERS

County residents had nearly seven times the number of animal complaints in May as they did in January.

January: 13

February: 14

March: 38

April: 54

May: 89

June: 50

SOURCE: Indiana Wildlife Conflicts Hotline

## SAMANTHA'S HOUSE



The Samantha's House Foundation is building a home in Greenwood for Nicole Richards. The interior will be designed to accommodate Richards' wheelchair so she can live there independently, and will include a kitchen where she'll be able to reach all the appliances.

# A home for Nicole

## Charity to help disabled woman live independently in Greenwood

Her house will have all the special new home features: brand-name appliances, stylish furniture and fresh paint.

But what Nicole Richards looks forward to most is being able to go to the kitchen and make herself a snack.

Richards has used an electric wheelchair since 2000, when she was injured in a car crash returning from a gymnastics meet at Ball State University. In August, she will move into a new home built by the Samantha's House Foundation, which will allow her to live independently.

Her wheelchair does not fit through most of the entryways in the Perry Township home the 24-year-old now shares with her mother, sister and brother. If no one is home and she wants something from the kitchen, she has to wait.

During the past few weeks, Richards has picked out appliances, paint colors and couch fabrics.

But she has no idea where her new home will be built and what it will look like. Builders with C.P. Morgan are keeping details a secret until the house is finished.

"The surprise will make it even more special," she said.

She does know her home will be somewhere in Greenwood. The house will have wide doorways and hallways, and elevated appliances so she can reach into the refrigerator and cook on the stove while in her chair, which gives her a high seating position.

A physical therapist helped design the home, which also will make it easier for Richards' to let her service dog, Puppies, in and out.

While in college, Richards had shared several apartments with friends. Living on her own has been her hope since she graduated from Ball State in 2004. She has lived with her mother, Donna, 17-year-old sister Alli and 14-year-old brother Danny since she graduated.

She and her mother knew the dream would be



The living room of her parents' Perry Township home is one of only three rooms in the house Nicole Richards can enter because of her wheelchair.

costly since the home would have to be built to her own specifications or retrofitted to allow her full access.

"It would have to be permanent; it isn't something we could change every few years. It was always a goal; we were just taking our time," Nicole Richards said.

She planned to save money from her job in human resources at Defense Finance Account Services in Indianapolis.

Richards was surprised with the news that the home would be built for her at a golf outing June 21 for her foundation, which raises money for spinal research. The Samantha's House Foundation is heading the project.

The group began by building a home for Samantha Allen last year. Allen was struck by a car in 2003.

Their help means independence for Richards, although family and friends will be nearby.

"I don't really have any fears.

I'm just excited. I know if I need anything, I can get it myself or help is a phone call away," she said.

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Nicole Richards who is getting a home designed to make life in her wheelchair easier

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STORY BY SARAH LIPPS ■ PHOTOS BY SCOTT ROBERSON

# Court workers offered Spanish

## Up to 80 employees eligible for course

By PAIGE E. WASSEL  
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Area residents who speak only Spanish may soon have one more way to communicate when they visit the county courthouse.

Ivy Tech Community College is offering a free course for court employees to learn phrases in Spanish that they can use in the office.

Johnson County judges and court employees said they're interested in sending people to the program so they can better answer questions for Spanish speakers who come into court offices.

Courts employees who take the course likely would not become translators in the courtroom.

The course would help the staff talk about dates and times, explain courtroom procedures, provide directions and reference court documents in Spanish, according to a description of the course on the Indiana Supreme Court Web site.

The tuition and book expenses for the program are being paid by the Indiana Judicial Center and the Division of State Court Administration.

Johnson County courts still are figuring out when employees would be able to take the course and who they would send, said court administrator Donna Sipe.

"It's something I'm sure we'll take advantage of, but all of the

(SEE COURT, PAGE A5)

# VETERANS HELPING VETERANS

## Former soldiers provide faith-based counseling

By PAIGE E. WASSEL  
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The thought of air travel used to leave Sgt. Nick Bennett with a sense of dread.

The New White-land resident, a Marine who was injured in Iraq, had to take several trips to National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., for surgeries after he returned from the Middle East. For months he had visions of rockets, destruction and the plane crashing whenever he stepped into an aircraft.

Bennett said he can get on a plane today mostly because of his Christian faith and being able

## MORE INFO

To find out more about the Warrior's Hope Retreat Program, call 882-1929 or go online to [www.warriorshope.com](http://www.warriorshope.com).

(SEE VETERANS, BACK PAGE)