

UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL: PARKING LOT AT WORKONE SERVES AS UNOFFICIAL GAUGE LOCAL/B1

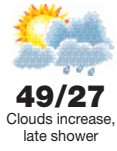


BUSY NIGHT OF BASKETBALL

College: Duke 76, Purdue 60; Evansville 89, SIU-Edwardsville 58
High school: North 68, Gibson Southern 57; Castle 64, Boonville 53
SPORTS/C1



Evansville COURIER & PRESS



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Heater ignites fatal fire

Victim moved back here after losing Arizona home

By **GAVIN LESNICK**
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A space heater that ignited bedding is being blamed for a house fire that claimed the life of

a 57-year-old Evansville woman early Tuesday.

Relatives say this already had been a bad year for Joann Schnautz, whose body was found inside her East Louisiana Street home by firefighters.

Schnautz lost her home in Arizona to foreclosure earlier this year and had to move back to her hometown of Evansville after living in the West more than 20 years.



Joann Schnautz

Facing an array of personal problems, she struggled to find

and hold a steady job, family members said. She fell behind on utility payments and had been living for about the last month without electrical service to the house. She was saving what she could to restore it.

"She had just about enough to have it turned back on," said Schnautz's older sister, 58-year-old Mary Guntel.

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JASON CLARK / Courier & Press

Joann Schnautz, 57, was killed after a fire broke out in her home at 109 E. Louisiana St. shortly before 1 a.m. on Tuesday.

Daniels has advice for Obama

And he would cash state stimulus check

By **BRYAN CORBIN**
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GREENFIELD, Ind. — Gov. Mitch Daniels has some advice for President-elect Barack Obama, should he decide to launch a massive economic stimulus package to jump-start road and bridge projects.

First, don't distribute the money using the existing federal highway formula. Daniels said Indiana gets only 92 cents for every dollar in federal gasoline taxes it sends to Washington.

Second, throw out the rule book. For the economic stimulus bill, waive the federal regulations normally attached to federal dollars that states receive for infrastructure projects.

"There are land acquisition rules that are extremely time-consuming — width of rights of way, thickness of pavement, all sorts of design standards. Sometimes they make sense, sometimes they don't. Let the states decide," Daniels said. "If this is not a bailout but an economic growth plan, then let's take the shackles off."

Daniels returned Tuesday from Philadelphia, where he was one of 40 state governors who met with Obama and Vice President-elect Joe Biden during the National Governors Association conference.

See **GOVERNORS** on Page A10



Gov. Mitch Daniels

INSIDE
 How would federal aid help the states, and what would this sort of spending do for the nation's economy as a whole? See report on Page A10.

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MORE ON ECONOMY

■ The Big Three formulates pitches to persuade the federal government to give it a bailout of up to \$34 billion. See report on Page A4.

■ Auditors say the government must toughen its monitoring of the \$700 billion bailout package. See report on Page A4.

■ In return for an expansion of Berry Plastics' headquarters, Evansville leaders let Berry buy a baseball field for \$1. See Dan Shaw's report on Page C6.

Charter schools hit growth spurt



DENNY SIMMONS / Courier & Press

Kirsten Robards, 18, diagrams a sentence in her AP/IB English class taught by Julia Gregg, left, at Signature School on Tuesday afternoon. Gerunds (words that are derived from verbs but function as nouns) were the hot topic of the afternoon.

By **JOHN MARTIN**
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Indiana's charter schools have growing enrollments and high parental satisfaction, and they are staying within the open enrollment policies state law requires, according to a new report.

The Center for Evaluation and Education Policy at Indiana University spent more

See **CHARTER** on Page A10



Signature School students create books using students from Joshua Academy as their heroic subjects in Julia Gregg's English class. The Joshua Academy students also are creating books using the Signature School students as the main characters.

INDIANA CHARTER SCHOOL FACTS

■ Among the state's 49 charter schools, 28 are sponsored by Ball State University, 18 by the Indianapolis Mayor's Office, two (Signature School and Joshua Academy) by the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corp. and one by the Lafayette School Corp.

■ More than two-thirds of Indiana charter schools are in or near Indianapolis, Gary and Fort Wayne.

■ Charter school enrollment statewide is growing at an average of 2,300 students per year.

■ About 70 percent of students served by charter schools statewide are members of an ethnic minority.

SOURCE: IU Center for Evaluation and Education Policy

QUESTION OF THE DAY

If the federal government gives money to Indiana, what should it be spent on?

Go to courierpress.com to voice your opinion in our online poll. Look for the previous day's poll results on Page B3.



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Local air quality controls dealt blow

By **MARK WILSON**
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Evansville officials fear a state decision to cancel its contracts with local air pollution control agencies could be a setback for efforts to improve air quality here.

"Frankly, we were taken

by surprise," Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel said.

The city was not aware the state was going to make the change until it received notice Monday of the decision through a brief letter, Weinzapfel said. But the letter left out details of how the state would replace the services.

"We haven't heard any de-

"Frankly, we were taken by surprise."

— Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel

tails on how IDEM will pick up that workload," Weinzapfel said. "My primary concern is not the money. I'm concerned we won't see the attention paid

to air and environmental concerns here in Evansville and the surrounding area that we have had."

Weinzapfel said it is still too early to know exactly how the decision will affect the Evansville Environmental Protection Agency or the jobs of the six

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