



VITAMIN 'D' — DEFENSE COMES UP BIG
With offense struggling, fumble return proves difference. **B6**

GRIZZLIES ADVANCE IN TOURNEY **B6**

DAILY JOURNAL

dailyjournal.net

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2008

Johnson County, Indiana

50 cents

WEATHER



Today
Skies: Flurries likely
Temps: High 40; low 22

MAP, PAGE A10

WEB EXTRAS

Get the early edition

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The daily e-mail keeps you up-to-date about what is going on in Franklin, Center Grove, Greenwood and central Indiana.

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COMING SOON

Letters to Santa

CHAMPIONS: CENTER GROVE WINS STATE TITLE

UNBELIEVABLE



Center Grove players celebrate after the team won the IHSAA Class 5A football championship in a stunning comeback win Saturday against Carmel.

STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT ROBERSON/sroberson@dailyjournal.net

Center Grove grabs first-ever

COMING SOON

Letters to Santa

This holiday season, the Daily Journal will continue its tradition of publishing a special section of children's letters to Santa Claus.

The section will be inserted into the Daily Journal on Wednesday.

Information: 736-2701

FREE TIME

Spread the word

Want to have your own events added to our weekly Free Time listing?

The best way to get your event publicized is to get the information to us at least three weeks in advance.

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

DEATHS

Franklin

Keven Michael Short, 26

Greenwood

Anna Marie Hays, 86

Harold A. "Red" Miller, 88

Jerry L. Perkinson, 71

Morgantown

Kenneth L. Sharrett Sr., 85

Indianapolis

Samuel E. Farrar, 85

Nineveh

Jerry Edwin Waid, 68

Elsewhere

A.D. Norris, 69

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Center Grove players celebrate after the team won the IHSAA Class 5A football championship in a stunning comeback win Saturday against Carmel.

Center Grove grabs first-ever state football title in frantic finish

'WE HAVE THE CROWN'

By JEFF SKIRVIN

DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER
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INDIANAPOLIS

Carmel has the Copper Kettle, but Center Grove wears the crown. The Class 5A top-ranked Trojans and coach Eric Moore wouldn't have it any other way.

"I'll take that any day," Moore said after Center Grove's 36-33 win against defending champion Carmel Saturday night in Lucas Oil Stadium.

Running back Tanner Riley compared the journey to Carmel's 2007 title run. The Greyhounds lost a thrilling one-point contest to the Trojans early in the regular season. They went on to win 11 of their final 12 games to capture the state championship.

This season, Center Grove lost a 33-32 heartbreaker, at home, to Carmel in Week 3. Center Grove then rattled off 12 straight wins, including Saturday's victory — the biggest comeback in state finals history.

Center Grove erased a 19-point deficit in the final eight minutes and outscored Carmel 22-0 in the fourth quarter.

For the players, it was sweet revenge. And Carmel's players can boast all they want about the Copper Kettle, the trophy given to the winner of the two schools' annual rivalry game, Riley said, so long as the Trojans have the state title.

"We'll take the crown, baby," Riley said. "We'll take the crown."

Saturday's victory capped off the single greatest football season in Center

(SEE CROWN, BACK PAGE)



Senior center Derek Long celebrates with a hug from Trojans assistant coach Patrick Mallory. More photos of the celebration, Page A2.

'WHEN YOU BELIEVE'

By BOB JOHNSON

DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

The fire trucks were out in Center Grove late Saturday night, but the only thing hot on this crisp November night was the Trojans' state champion football team.

A motorcade of White River Township fire trucks led the team to Center Grove Gymnasium, where 2,500 red-clad fans waited to greet their heroes.

Coach Eric Moore and his team entered the celebration with the state championship trophy held high as Center Grove students flowed out of the stands to greet their team at center court.

Moore and the Trojans acknowledged the support of the fans as key to the team's improbable 36-33 comeback win against Carmel.

"You have no idea what it means to the players and coaches to come into (Lucas Oil Stadium) and see that place three-fourths full of Trojan fans," Moore said.

But it was the faith of the fans that especially moved the coach.

With 6:40 left in the state championship game and his Trojans trailing Carmel 33-14, Moore recalled, "I could hear the students chanting, 'We believe, we believe, we believe.'"

(SEE BELIEVE, BACK PAGE)

Extended coverage

Read more about the Trojans' victory inside, starting on **Page B1**



Check out our photos

Visit dailyjournal.net for slideshows from Saturday's game.



Watch video

Visit dailyjournal.net to see clips of the game and celebration.

Late taxes could stall loan payments

By ANNIE GOELLER

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ernments have to pay back money borrowed to pay salaries, utility bills and fuel costs when they didn't get tax money



Council member: Put city building to vote

By JOSEPH S. PETE

DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER
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A developer thinks opposition

lease the city a new government building. Leasing to own is just one option, and the council will have to look at others because of the city's limited finances. Mayor