

SUNDAY

February 10, 2008

8 a.m. Noon 6 p.m.

4 8 6

High 11, low minus 4.
Hang on until Monday.

DETAILS, PAGE C14



JOURNAL & COURIER

LAFAYETTE—WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA

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What's inside

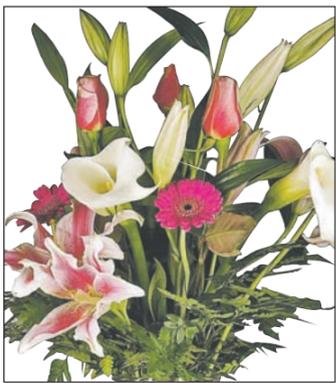
SPORTS



CONNOLLY CAPS PREP CAREER

Harrison standout earns her fourth, fifth state titles. **B1**
Purdue stuns Wisconsin, 72-67, in a battle for first place in the Big Ten Conference. **B1**

LIFE



Roses? A fine (yawn) choice. But other flowers might wow your valentine more. **D1**

LOCAL

A lucky pelican's journey to a recovery center near Delphi began in Newton County. **C6**
A rookie entrant finishes first at a chili cook-off, but Columbian Park is the big winner. **C9**

BUSINESS

Nonresidential construction in the Lafayette area last year was impressive. **B9**

NATION

The East Coast president of the writers guild urges a yes vote on a deal with studios. **A2**



Kristy Gross, who teaches fourth grade at Murdock Elementary School, works Wednesday with Brandon Barron (left), Rosa Hernandez and Jordan Reiss. As of January, nine of Gross's 22 students arrived after the school year began.

By Michael Heinz/Journal & Courier

When students move, their grades can suffer

Lafayette schools grappling with high mobility

By MERANDA WATLING
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When a new student arrives in Mitzi DeYoung's third-grade class at Murdock Elementary School, it doesn't take long for the "new kid" status to wear off.

"When they get in, I say, 'OK, we have a new kid,'" DeYoung said. "Within 20 minutes everyone is settled down."

It has to be that way in a school where more than half of the students change from year to year and new kids are part of the culture.

The impact of such high mobility runs deep. The new children and their parents bring different experiences and expectations. With that come challenges for the families — and for the schools.

Of the 2,798 first- through fifth-grade students in Lafayette School Corp. when this school year began, 888 of them — about a third — were new to their school. Of those, 319 students were new to the district, according to information compiled by the district for the *Journal & Courier*.

Affecting achievement

Although there may be other factors at work, LSC schools with higher mobility rates performed worse on standardized tests than schools with the least mobility.

For example, about 47 percent of students were new to Miller Elementary this fall, not counting kindergartners. The average number of students in all grades who passed both English and math portions of the ISTEP exam was 42.3 percent, according to the Department of Education.

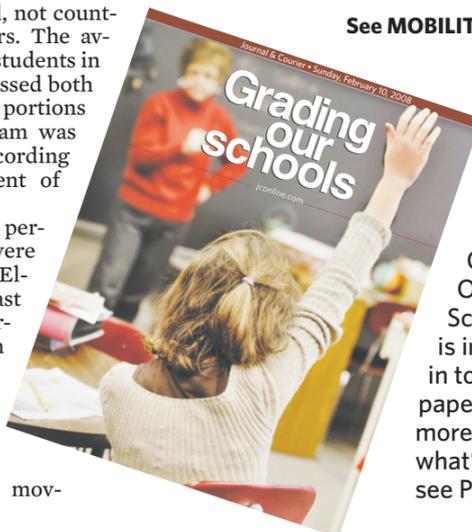
By contrast, 23 percent of students were new to Earhart Elementary this past year, and 67.1 percent of students in all grades passed both ISTEP portions.

The concern educators have is that frequent mov-

ing leaves students with knowledge gaps they and their new schools must work to fill.

At Glen Acres Elementary, first-grade teacher Deb Patterson lost several students this year for a variety of reasons. She's concerned about the effect frequent moving has on basic

See **MOBILITY**, Page A4



Inside

A 20-page special section, *Grading Our Schools*, is included in today's paper. For more on what's in it, see Page A4.

NIPSCO: Dams not at fault

By MERANDA WATLING
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Like many residents below Oakdale Dam, Pam Mansfield is a bit angry and confused about the way NIPSCO handled the recent floods.

The Horseshoe Bend area resident said she built her current home two years ago and has owned a nearby cottage for about 17 years. In that time, she's never experienced a flood like either the one in January or last week, and she wants to know how it could happen twice.

"They knew the water was coming," Mansfield said of the power company that operates both the Oakdale and Norway dams. "We had snow, and the rain was forecast. Why didn't they let some water out?"

NIPSCO spokesman Jim Fitzer said both hydroelectric dams are "run of the river" dams.

"Whatever water flow comes into the dam, we discharge from the dam," Fitzer said.

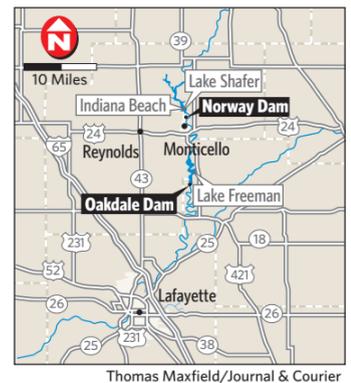
"We don't have a reservoir for control, nor are we licensed for flood control."

The flood last week happened after rain fell on the already saturated, snow-covered ground and had nowhere to go except into river and lakes. That caused record flows for the dams.

Prior to this year, the record for the dams was in 1959, when Oakdale topped out at just more than 22,000 cubic feet per second, Fitzer said. In January's flood, that rate topped 30,000 cubic feet per second, and in the latest flood it was nearly 26,000 cubic feet per second.

Fitzer said there are floodgates that offer limited balance between the dams, which create lakes Freeman and Shafer. But both floods were beyond the dams' control

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Thomas Maxfield/Journal & Courier

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NEWS TRACKER

Central Catholic girls wear sectional crown
Carroll, West Central tourney champs, too. **B1,4,5**
At Earl Butz funeral: 'Grandpa was a teacher'
Final goodbyes to former agriculture chief. **C1**
La., Washington, Nebraska back Obama
Huckabee hopes Kansas victory will matter. **A3**



Her season's over.

COMING TOMORROW

Peace Corps and Purdue
Purdue University has, for the first time, been named among the nation's top 25 Peace Corps recruiting colleges. On Monday, read about what's driving the trend. **See Page 1.**

ON JCONLINE.COM

George Awards
Nominations are being taken for the *J&C's* annual George Award, given to individuals who recognize a need and take the leadership or action to fill it. Get a form at jconline.com/georgeaward.



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