

## Briefs

### Let water run

Residents are reminded to let water run in a pencil stream during freezing temperatures to prevent frozen water pipes.

### VFW to serve dinner

The VFW will serve tenderloins and chicken strips for dinner today from 5 to 7 p.m. Carry outs will be available by calling 552-9154. The dinner is open to the public.

### Trash pickup

According to Street Department employees trash will be picked up the remainder of the week as weather allows.

### Judge Pyle to speak

Madison Circuit Court Judge Rudolph Pyle III will lead a community discussion on the Madison County Courts and the criminal justice system from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at East Main Street Christian Church. The public is invited.

### Valentine date night, dinner and movie

The East Main Street Christian Church Big Time Believers Youth Group will present Valentine date night, a dinner and movie Saturday, Feb. 13. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. followed by the movie at 7 p.m. The event is \$25 for couples and \$13 for singles. There will also be free child care. Tickets may be purchased at the door, in advance at the church or by calling 765-635-7967 or 765-635-7966. All proceeds go towards the 2010 group work camp mission trip in July.

### Valentine day dinner

The ECHS Band Boosters will serve a Valentine Day pork chop dinner from 5 to 7 p.m. Feb. 14 at St. John Lutheran Church. Tickets are \$15 for two or \$8 for one and can be purchased from any band booster, by calling 765-623-3162 or at the door.

### Curves offers free weight class

Elwood Curves, 1139 N. Anderson St., is offering a free weight management class at 7 p.m. Wednesday. The class is open to men, women and non members. For more information call 557-0053.

### Zumba at YMCA postponed

The Zumba class which was to begin today at the YMCA has been postponed until Feb. 16. The class will meet each Tuesday and Thursday from 7 to 8 p.m. Angie Remington will be the instructor. Registration is open at the YMCA.

### Open basketball

The Elwood National Guard Armory has open gym for basketball from 5 to 7 p.m. every Wednesday. For additional information call Alexander Voronin, 552-3681, ext. 10.

### Tenderloin dinner

A tenderloin dinner will be served from 4 to 7 p.m. Saturday at the Elwood Conservation Club. The dinner can be delivered in Elwood for an additional 50 cents by calling 552-3058. The public is invited to attend.

### Healing Touch

### Session canceled

The Healing Touch group session planned at 7 p.m. today at the St. Joseph Church in Elwood has been canceled due to inclement weather. The program will be rescheduled at a later date.

### Frankton board to meet

The Board of Education of Frankton-Lapel Community Schools will meet at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the administration office.

### Bingo canceled

Bingo planned at the Elks Wednesday evening has been canceled.

### County Council meeting canceled

The Madison County Council meeting scheduled for 4 p.m. today in the Madison County Government Center has been canceled.

### Free meal Saturday

The public is invited to a free meal of taco beef ole from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Saturday at the First United Methodist Church, 1500 N. A St. Use the front door and go downstairs.

## Another major storm headed to Mid-Atlantic

WASHINGTON (AP) — Snow blew across the Midwest today on track for the hard-hit Mid-Atlantic region, where federal government offices were closed for a second day and utility workers struggled to restore power knocked out by a weekend blizzard.

The storm hit the Midwest early, closing schools and greeting commuters with slick, slushy roads from Minneapolis and Chicago to Louisville, Ky. Powerful winds and snow were expected to hit Mid-Atlantic states by the afternoon, and could leave as much as 20 inches of new snow in Washington and 18 inches near Philadelphia — a Northeast travel hub — by Wednesday night.

Parts of the region were already buried under nearly 3 feet of snow. Airlines that shut down flights to Washington over the weekend warned that more would be canceled and that travelers who didn't depart by tonight were likely out of luck. Washington resident Chris Vaughan was fortunate enough to land a seat.

"I'm done with city, urban snow life," said Vaughan, who was going skiing in Utah. He dodged a \$100 taxi "snow fare" by having a friend drop him off at Reagan National Airport — in exchange for a bottle of wine.

Others were filling their pantries in case they get stuck at home again.

"Getting around is a pain right now as it is, so slushy and sloppy," said Meghan Garaghan, 28, as she stocked up on staples and sweets at a supermarket in Philadelphia, which got 27 inches of snow. "I don't want to think about what it's going to be like with another foot and a half of snow dumped on top of this mess."

Some spots, including parts of Maryland, had nearly 3 feet of snow from the earlier storm. One scientist said if all that fell on the East Coast were melted, it would fill 12 million Olympic swimming pools or 30,000 Empire State buildings. Philadelphia and

Washington each need about nine more inches to give the cities their snowiest winters since 1884, the first year records were kept.

Jerry Bennett, manager of the Strosniders hardware store in Silver Spring, Md., said he sold 500 snow shovels in two hours Friday. Since then, customers have been stalking shipments.

"Every third question is, 'Do you have shovels?'" Bennett said. "Every three hours, we can answer 'yes,' and then they're gone."

The storm that began Friday closed schools, and some 230,000 federal workers in Washington had Monday and today off. Power was still out for tens of thousands of homes and businesses, and utilities said deep snow was hindering some crews trying to fix damaged power lines before the next storm hits.

The snowbound U.S. Senate met only for a few minutes Monday, and the House called off floor votes today.

Majority Leader Harry Reid, wearing a V-neck sweater over his usual shirt and tie, said it was difficult to make it to work on snow-clogged streets and the subway system was running on a limited basis.

Planes weren't the only way out of town. Union Station was bustling with long lines as many passengers decided to try Amtrak after flights were canceled.

Manuel Bernardo, 30, of Bethesda, Md., was on his way to Barcelona, Spain. He bought a ticket to New York and was hoping to make it there in time to catch his flight to Madrid.

"Until this morning, I was happy as pie, because I love snow," he said.

In Falls Church, Va., a Washington suburb, Jeff Patmore, 43, was trying to get his Jeep out. The State Department employee's family was running low on supplies — particularly milk for his three young children.



Individuals pictured at the Northern Madison County Community Leaders meeting Friday include, first row, left to right, State Representative Terri Austin; Sherry Eubanks, Chamber of Commerce director; Jackie German, NMCCCHC volunteer, Mayor Merrill Taylor and Ralynn Kelley, Marketing Coordinator for the NMCCCHC; back row, Anthony Malone, CEO and president of the NMCCCHC; Ann Yates, St. Vincent Mercy Hospital Chief Nursing Officer; Bill Savage, Elwood Economic Development Director and Teresa Rodebaugh, NMCCCHC facilitator. (Metina Miller photo)

## Northern Madison County Community Health Center opens at new location

By METINA MILLER

The Northern Madison County Community Leaders meeting was held on Friday at the new facility located at 1518 Main Street.

The facility is now open and accepting patients. Anthony Malone, CEO and President of the NMCCCHC, thanked Mayor Merrill Taylor, and Bill Savage, Economic Development Director, stating, "It took a lot of various people from Elwood and Madison County to make this happen." The combined collaboration on the \$1.2 million project offers medical, dental and behavioral healthcare. "We hope to educate the community as our services continue to expand," Malone said.

A brief tour of the facility was given to those in attendance. A volunteer at the center, Jackie German, said, "I'm very excited to know we have a facility like this open in Elwood. There are many persons without health insurance in this area."

Persons in attendance for the meeting to discuss the upcoming grand opening scheduled for March 25, included, State Representative Terri Austin, Mayor Taylor, Savage, Malone, Ann Yates, RN and Chief Nursing Officer for St. Vincent Mercy Hospital; German, Sherry Eubanks, director of the Elwood Chamber of Commerce, Teresa Rodebaugh, NMCCCHC facilitator, and Ralynn Kelly NMCCCHC mar-

keting.

Malone said the facility is currently working closely with a psychology student from Ball State University and its close collaboration with St. Vincent Mercy Hospital could result in an outpatient clinic. There will also be a prenatal clinic and baby store on site.

The upcoming NMCCCHC's grand opening will be held for the public from 4 to 6 p.m. March 25 and will include tours of the facility, presentations on the past and future of the center and door prizes. The center is currently seeking partners and sponsorships for the grand opening.

The NMCCCHC is not a free clinic. Everyone is expected to pay the \$25 medical office fee or minimum \$30 dental fee when applying for their discount program. Clients can apply for the sliding fee eligibility also. Enrollment help is offered for HIP, HHW and Medicaid.

The center's current services include medical, dental and behavioral health. Medical hours are Monday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m. to noon. Dental hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information or to schedule an appointment call the center, 552-0841.



## Schools closed due to snow

Approximately 300 delays and closings were announced for schools around the state early this morning. The Elwood Community School Corporation was closed and was on a two hour delay on Monday. The entire state of Indiana is under a winter storm warning issued by the National Weather Service until 1 p.m. Wednesday. Nearly two to three inches of fresh snow had fallen as of 9 a.m. today. According to the forecast, light winds today are expected to get progressively stronger with the National Weather Service predicting four to eight inches of snow by Wednesday. Wind gusts of up to 35 mph are predicted for tonight and Wednesday which will cause blowing and drifting of snow. The above photo was taken at Oakland Elementary School. (Metina Miller photo)

## Jackson's doctor out on bail

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Michael Jackson's doctor returns to court in April to find out the date for the next major step in the case — a proceeding that will reveal for the first time the evidence the prosecution believes will show his "gross negligence" was the direct cause of the pop star's death.

Dr. Conrad Murray pleaded not guilty Monday to a charge of involuntary manslaughter and a judge released him on \$75,000 bail.

Superior Court Judge Keith Schwartz ordered Murray to turn in his passport and said he could travel within the U.S., but not to any foreign country. The prosecutor had suggested he might flee to his native Grenada or to Trinidad where he has a child.

Murray was ordered to return April 5 to have another date set for

his preliminary hearing. That proceeding, a virtual minitrial, will disclose the evidence prosecutors maintain will demonstrate Murray's "gross negligence."

Murray is accused of giving Jackson a fatal dose of an anesthetic to help him sleep. Jackson died June 25. If convicted, the doctor could face up to four years in prison.

Schwartz told Murray he was restricting his practice of medicine, barring him from using any anesthetic agent, specifically the drug propofol that a coroner's report found was the cause of Jackson's death with other drugs as contributing factors.

"I don't want you sedating people," the judge said.

Immediately after the hearing, LaToya Jackson issued a state-

ment saying she believed her brother had been murdered and that others besides Murray were involved in his death.

"I will continue to fight until all of the proper individuals are brought forth and justice is served," LaToya said. She was in court along with siblings including Jermaine, Tito, Jackie and Randy.

Her father, Joe Jackson, expressed the same views Monday night in an interview on "Larry King Live" and claimed that his son believed he was going to be murdered. He did not elaborate.

As he left the courtroom, the family patriarch said, "We need justice."

Outside the Los Angeles airport

## U.S. Army closes in on south Afghan town

NEAR LASHKAR GAH, Afghanistan (AP) — U.S. Army soldiers launched a preliminary operation today in support of a planned U.S.-Afghan attack on the largest Taliban-controlled town in southern Afghanistan.

NATO and Afghan officials, meanwhile, urged militants holding Marjah, where an offensive is expected, to lay down their arms and warned civilians there to "keep your heads down."

About 400 U.S. troops from the 5th Stryker Brigade as well as 250 Afghan soldiers and their 30 Canadian trainers moved into positions northeast of the town.

No casualties were reported. Large plumes of smoke could be seen in the area, and reporters traveling with the U.S. unit could hear the distant rattle of 50-caliber machine gun fire and detonations from MK-19s, which fire 40 millimeter grenades from Stryker vehicles.

U.S. officials have not said when the main attack on the town of some 80,000 people will take place but have nonetheless heavily publicized plans to attack, causing hundreds of people to flee the opium-producing center in advance of the fighting.

However, today Taliban militants prevented townspeople from leaving Marjah, as families huddled inside their homes, witnesses said.

The offensive will be the first major one since President Barack Obama announced he was sending 30,000 reinforcements to Afghanistan.

Villager Mohammad Hakim gambled that he could wait until the last minute because he was worried about abandoning his cotton fields.

He finally tried to move his wife, nine sons, four daughters and grandchildren out of Marjah earlier today but said militants told him to return home because they had mined the surrounding roads.

"All of the people are very scared," he said in a telephone interview. "Our village is like a ghost town. The people are staying in their homes."

NATO and Afghan officials have insisted their primary goal is to

gain public confidence and promised to follow the military action with projects aimed at restoring government control and services in the area.

"The success of the operation will not be in the military phase," NATO's civilian chief in Afghanistan, former British Ambassador Mark Sedwill, said today.

"It will be over the next weeks and months as the people ... feel the benefits of better governance, of economic opportunities and of operating under the legitimate authorities of Afghanistan," he told reporters in a briefing at NATO headquarters in Kabul.

International officials believe the insurgency has been able to capitalize on widespread public anger over President Hamid Karzai's corruption-ridden government and failure to provide services after more than eight years of war.

Two NATO service members were killed today in separate attacks, including an American who died in a bombing in the south.

A French soldier also was killed during a gunfight after insurgents attacked an Afghan army convoy being escorted by French troops in the eastern Kapisa province, according to French President Nicolas Sarkozy's office.

The governor of Helmand province said it was unusual but necessary to broadcast the plans for the offensive "to make the people aware that we are coming, that the purpose of this is to work for them, not just to conduct a military operation."

Authorities have not advised Marjah residents to leave but have warned them to stay inside and avoid road travel once the operation begins.

Gov. Gulab Mangal said a commission was ready to handle the flow of refugees and any other fallout from the military action.

Mangal said at least 164 families had left Marjah. Afghan families have an average of six members, according to private relief groups.

"The commission is fully prepared. We have got tents. We've

