

**In Opinion, A7:**

• Rutherford's health ranking well deserved

**In Local, B1:**

• Board approves land purchase for middle school



Bre Thomas

Tony Adams

In Sports

# Athletes of the Week

Both juniors swinging for success this year, C3

**dnj.com** Go online today for: Video interviews with the DNJ Prep Athletes of the Week

# The Daily News Journal

MAY 7, 2008 | WEDNESDAY

SERVING RUTHERFORD COUNTY SINCE 1849

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**INSIDE TODAY**



THE UNITED WAY HONORS



Jenny Williams

20 Under 40

IN LIFESTYLES D3

**SPORTS**

## Going for the title

The Oakland baseball team reaches 7-AAA title game. C4

**LOCAL**

## Five arrested in La Vergne

An alleged drug deal gone bad lands several in jail. B1

**LIFESTYLES**

## Grilling out

Cookbook guides way to a special outdoor dinner. D1

### dnj.com

#### Online poll results

■ Did Mayor Ernest Burgess negotiate a better deal for the county in a proposed financing package for Bible Park USA?  
**Yes: 42.5% No: 57.5%**  
Total votes cast: 1,477

### TODAY'S WEATHER

Partly cloudy  
High: 82  
Low: 57

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# Opinion unclear on park funding

## AG: Tax money to fund religious endeavors may not violate state law

By TURNER HUTCHENS  
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Tennessee's attorney general issued an opinion Tuesday saying public funding of

religious endeavors such as the proposed Bible Park USA does not necessarily violate state law.

In his opinion, Attorney General Robert Cooper said

the use of public funds for an individual project "would depend on all the facts and circumstances" of the development and the deal with the local government.

Cooper said the real question is whether it violates the Establishment Clause of the U.S. Constitution, which prohibits the government from

**Inside**

■ Rutherford County Commission meets today to discuss park financing. B1

establishing or promoting religion.

Cooper, however, was not asked to address whether Bible Park USA, the \$175 million to \$200 million Bible

theme park planned for the Blackman community, was a religious business. Even so, Cooper said the Tennessee law which allows the use of tax revenue for development projects doesn't exclude any project because it is religious.

His opinion came in response

See FUNDING, page A2

## SCHOOL EXPANSION



DNJ photo by John A. Gillis

Siegel High School on West Thompson Lane in Murfreesboro could get 12 new classrooms in the coming years.

# Board eyes school expansions

## More classrooms at Siegel, Eagleville could be added in the next few years

By SCOTT BRODEN  
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The wave of school expansion projects in Rutherford County could emerge at the Siegel High and Eagleville campuses within the next few years.

The county's Board of Education recently reviewed proposals to add 12 classrooms at Siegel High for about \$2.5 million; and 23 classrooms, including ones for band and chorus, an auditorium and a cafeteria with more seats at Ea-

gleville School for about \$6.3 million.

The board is yet to vote on these projects, which could come after other construction plans are completed through August 2011.

Siegel High opened in 2003-04 off West Thompson Lane in north Murfreesboro, and the campus this year reached its capacity of 2,000 students. Principal Ken

**Inside**

■ Board approves land purchase for middle school on DeJarnette Lane. B1

Nolan expects his school to reach 2,100 students next year.

"I'm excited about the possibilities," Nolan said. "We're getting four more portable classrooms in

See BOARD, page A2

# Mayor may get to hire, fire employees

## Move comes after racial complaints

By MEALAND RAGLAND-HUDGINS  
mragland@dnj.com

LA VERGNE — The power to hire, fire, discipline and promote city employees and department heads could lie with the mayor as soon as

next month.

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen voted 4-1 Tuesday night to turn the authority, currently held by City Administrator Mark Moshea, over to Mayor Ronnie Erwin. The change will become effective if passed on second and final

reading at the next board meeting, set for June 10.

Under the current system, board members could vote to have Moshea terminate a depart-



ERWIN

ment head's employment, but he would not be compelled to do so. Terminating the city administrator would require a board vote, Erwin said.

"I do want to be aware of hiring, at least meeting them and talking with them for a few minutes and asking my

See PROTEST, page A2

## ELECTION '08

# Obama wins N.C.; too close to call in Ind.

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Barack Obama swept to victory in the North Carolina primary Tuesday night and declared he was closing in on the Democratic presidential nomination. Hillary Rodham Clinton led narrowly in Indiana, struggling to halt her rival's march into history.

"Tonight we stand less than 200 delegates away from winning the Democratic nomination for president of the United States," Obama told a raucous rally in Raleigh, N.C. — and left no doubt he intended to claim the prize.

He said it appeared Clinton had won Indiana's primary. Thousands of votes had yet to be counted, principally in Lake County, a heavily black area not far from Obama's home city of Chicago.

Returns from 62 percent of North Carolina precincts showed Obama was winning 56 percent of the vote to 42 percent for Clinton, a triumph that mirrored his earlier wins in Southern states with large black populations.

Obama won at least 40 delegates and Clinton at least 31 in the two states, with 116 still to be awarded.

That made Indiana a virtual must-win Midwestern state for the former first lady, hoping to

See PRIMARIES, page A2



OBAMA



CLINTON

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