



# Franklin Favorite

O N L I N E E D I T I O N

## **Disaster and Emergency Preparedness**

*Thursday, January 12, 2006*

The five local public schools will soon become much safer and prepared for natural or manmade disasters.

Simpson County is among 11 southcentral school districts to receive a \$471,000 grant for disaster and emergency preparedness.

Each participating school district will put together a safety team of school personnel and emergency responders. Vulnerability assessments of two schools in each district will be performed by Risk Solutions International. The safety team will then evaluate the other schools.

Simpson County Superintendent Jim Flynn said the project will not only identify safety needs at each school but it will also map out appropriate responses to specific kinds of disasters.

"This is an unique opportunity to engage a lot of community agencies in the safety of our schools," Flynn said. "It brings a lot of people to the table to make some good plans in the event of a crisis. I think it will be healthy for us. God forbid we will ever need it, but it's good to be prepared."

David Keller, a former executive director of the Kentucky School Boards Association, applied for the grant on behalf of the Green River Educational Cooperative. Simpson County Assistant Superintendent Frank Schwab is organizing the local efforts.

The grant will provide training, software and tools.