

JOHNSON COUNTY

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ON THE RECORD

Police/fire

Greenwood Thefts

• 600 block of Strobus Drive: A woman reported that she believed an acquaintance entered her vehicle and stole a credit card from her billfold between 4 and 5 a.m. Sunday. Also, someone moved her purse and car keys, which were inside her home, overnight.

• 300 block of East County Line Road: A man reported that someone stole prescription medication from his home while he was out of town between Wednesday and early Saturday.

• 100 block of Love Avenue: A man reported that he was in the area between 5:30 and 6 a.m. Sunday and saw two men drop a CD case on the ground as they ran away from a parked vehicle.

Counterfeiting

• 186 Surina Way, Greenwood Police Station: A taxi driver reported that a woman who rode in his taxi between 10 p.m. and midnight Saturday attempted to pay him with a counterfeit \$50 bill, which the driver refused to accept. After the woman got out of the vehicle, the driver found a counterfeit \$100 in the back seat. The driver provided police with a telephone number and description for the woman. The counterfeit \$100 bill was placed into evidence.

Criminal mischief

• 600 block of Woodale Terrace: A woman reported about 10:30 p.m. Sunday that someone slashed the tires on her vehicle.

• 100 block of Suncrest Drive: A man reported about 12:30 p.m. Sunday that someone threw flour on his vehicle. Several eggs had also been thrown in the area, but none hit the vehicle.

• 1000 block of Kings Mill Road: A woman reported that someone broke a window in her daughter's vehicle between 5 p.m. Saturday and 6 p.m. Sunday. Nothing appeared to be missing.

• 100 block of Love Avenue: A man reported that someone threw a rock through the rear window of his vehicle between 9 p.m. Saturday and 9:48 a.m. Sunday.

Property-damage accident

• 11:06 a.m. Sunday — U.S. 31 North and County Line Road

Jail bookings

The following people recently were arrested and booked into the Johnson County jail:

Daniel Caius Mason, 23, 7146 Harness Lakes Drive, Indianapolis; arrested on a charge of driving without a license; released on \$1,000 bond.

Angela Jean Gammons, 35, 3335 Leatherbury Lane, Indianapolis; arrested on a charge of driving while suspended with a prior conviction; released on \$1,000 bond.

Robert Carl Davis, 39, 352 Shadow Hill Drive, Greenwood; arrested on a charge of contempt; held on \$570 bond.

Aldo Joseph Serani, 50, 223 Crestwood Drive, New Whiteland; arrested on a charge of public intoxication; held on \$1,000 bond.

Eduardo Ramirez, 30, 5630 W. 38th St., Apt. 1, Indianapolis; arrested on charges of indecent exposure and public intoxication; held on \$2,000 bond.

Deborah J. McClanahan, 48, 3468 U.S. 31 South, Franklin; arrested on a warrant for failure to appear in court; released on \$2,500 bond.

Jason Matthew Foster, 24, 1262 West-

minster Row, Apt. 1, Greenwood; arrested on a warrant for failure to appear in court; released on \$2,500 bond.

Thomas J. Harmon, 27, 301 Watson Lane, Greenwood; arrested on charges of contempt, failure to appear in court, possession of marijuana/hashish and driving while suspended with a prior conviction; released on \$2,600 bond.

Randy Eugene Schultz, 43, 995 Timber Creek Lane, Greenwood; arrested on a charge of public intoxication; held on \$1,000 bond.

Bobby Allen Goforth, 23, 1135 N. Graham Road, Franklin; arrested on a charge of violation of community corrections; held without bond.

David James Woodard, 18, 817 Lionshead Lane, Greenwood; arrested on a charge of battery; released on \$1,000 bond.

Christopher D. Lepper, 30, 1317 Yellowstone Circle, Franklin; arrested on a charge of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon; held on \$20,000 bond.

Andrew Franklin Marshall, 19, 1722 Michele Lane, Greenwood; arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana/hashish; released on \$1,000 bond.

J.D. Wooters, 19, 205 Hart St., Apt. 4, Edinburg; arrested on charges of criminal recklessness and disorderly conduct; held on \$4,000 bond.

James E. Sisk, 49, 1795 U.S. 40 East, Clayton; arrested on a warrant for failure to appear in court; held without bond.

Scott Allen Thompkins, 21, 1719 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis; arrested on a charge of contempt; released on \$218.90 bond.

Natalia Rachford, 45, 1564 Abbey Court, Greenwood; arrested on a charge of domestic battery; released on \$1,000 bond.

Kevin Keith Baker, 41, 1116 W. Raymond St., Indianapolis; arrested on a charge of criminal trespass; released on \$2,000 bond.

Andrew Ali Davis, 28, 105 N. Second Ave., Indianapolis; arrested on a charge of domestic battery; released on \$1,000 bond.

Brian Anderson, 29, 155 E. Main St., Greenwood; arrested on charges of theft or receiving stolen property and possession of a controlled substance; held on \$6,000 bond.

Michael E. Crumpton, 19, 7605 Buck Valley Court, Indianapolis; arrested on a charge of forgery; released on \$800 bond.

Donald Gene Miller, 33, 678 Young St., Franklin; arrested on a charge of theft or receiving stolen property; held on \$6,000 bond.

Shelly A. Chance, 38, 354 Miller Drive, Greenwood; arrested on a charge of theft; released on \$3,000 bond.

Shawn Lee Brummert, 33, 164 Schoolhouse Road, Franklin; arrested on two warrants for contempt; held on \$2,200 bond.

The following people recently were arrested on charges of driving while intoxicated and booked into jail:

Austin R. Dickson, 21, 621 High School Road, Indianapolis; released on \$2,000 bond.

Michael Dean Hommel, 54, 699 Yandes St., Franklin; released on \$1,000 bond.

Zachariah Lee Lightfoot, 22, 1193 Londonery Lane, Apt. 1735, Greenwood; also arrested on charges of domestic battery and failure to stop an unattended vehicle; held without bond.

Hospital offers congestion cure

Officials hope additional entrance will relieve chronic traffic headache

By PAIGE E. WASSEL

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Visitors to Community Hospital South frustrated with traffic near County Line Road and U.S. 31 may soon find some relief.

A new, second entrance to the hospital off U.S. 31 is set to open this week north of Stop 13 Road.

Staff, patients and visitors might be able to avoid traffic snarls at the border of Johnson and Marion counties, where at least 42,300 cars travel daily, according to 2000 figures from the Indiana Department of Transportation.

Though there won't be a stoplight or access across the median at the new entrance, drivers southbound on U.S. 31 can use the road to enter and exit the hospital campus.

The new road should also help streamline ambulance runs to the hospital, as units heading south won't have to go through the intersection, Community Health Network spokeswoman



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT ROBERSON/sroberson@thejournalnet.com

Traffic on U.S. 31 South, just north of Stop 13 Road in Indianapolis, passes by a new entrance to Community Hospital South.

Gayle Sweitzer said.

"It's a little bit quicker and safer for them," Sweitzer said.

As of now, the only entrances to the hospital are located on County Line Road.

New traffic signals, wider lanes and turn lanes were added to the road in 2002 and 2003 to help ease traffic flow along the busy road.

Residents living near County

Line Road across from the hospital said they will welcome the new access road or any change that might cut down on wait times for getting out of their subdivisions.

Jona Wainscott said she counts on a 10- to 15-minute wait if she leaves her home on Tanglewood Drive during rush hour or during Christmas break.

The retired Kohl's Department Store employee said it would easily take her 20 minutes to drive less than two miles to work.

Wainscott and her neighbors said that Christmas is the worst time to try to exit onto County Line Road as roads are stuffed with shoppers going to Greenwood Park Mall.

Greenwood resident Mike Brown said only a couple of cars would be able to leave the subdivision every few minutes when the road is at its busiest.

"It's a pain in the butt," Brown said.

Greenwood resident Allen Hogue said the new road may help a little with hospital traffic, but he was skeptical that it wouldn't do much to address the main traffic problem of drivers trying to get to the mall.

Other residents living in the area said they have to wait for some traffic but didn't find the intersection as difficult to deal with as the crossing of State Road 135 and County Line Road.

Funding

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

to do so, even on a short-term basis.

A lobbyist group, the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns, has proposed a list of new sales and income taxes that local governments could collect, with the goal of using some revenue from those taxes to reduce property taxes or offset property-tax-rate hikes.

Cities could impose new taxes, but if they chose not to, cities and towns could pass the taxes in their communities, according to the association's plan.

The higher a municipality's property taxes, the more money from new taxes would have to go toward property tax relief.

But all jurisdictions have the option of spending at least 25 percent of their new revenue on things besides property tax relief. And some cities would not have to spend any new revenue on property tax relief at all, which is a concern to House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Jeff Espich of Uniondale.

"By and large it's a spending bill," Espich said. "It's a bill to give them additional money to spend, and I'm not interested in that."

Provisions need to be in place to prevent a municipality from imposing new taxes and raising

property tax rates at the same time, said State Rep. David Yount, R-Columbus. He said that before the bill gets his support it must have a written guarantee that municipalities passing new taxes will decrease their property tax rates and keep those rates down.

Yount has opposed attempts to create new local taxing options that did not include restrictions on property-tax increases.

"Our objective is to try and mitigate the growth of property taxes and reduce it," Yount said. "Unless you have that specific language in there, it's just impossible to do that."

State Sen. Luke Kenley, R-Noblesville, chairman of the Senate Tax Committee, drafted a plan last session that would have created a new income tax for local governments and frozen property tax rates at 2005 levels. But local officials said the bill was too complicated, and it failed to pass.

Garnton said he expects something similar to be proposed that would make local governments freeze property taxes and use new tax revenue to pay for any budget increases. The obvious choice for new revenue is a local option sales tax, he said.

But he said he would rather wait until next year's longer session and address the state taxing system as a whole instead of addressing only property-tax relief during this short session.

But local governments are eager to get property-tax options. Mayors Brenda Jones-Matthew

of Franklin and Charles Henderson of Greenwood want alternatives to property taxes to lessen the burden on homeowners, who must pay higher property taxes regardless of their income or ability to pay.

Jones-Matthews said she would like municipalities to have the option of passing wheel taxes to raise money for local road construction and repair, which is important to attracting new business and jobs.

Henderson said he would prefer a local sales or food-and-beverage tax, which is included in the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns plan.

Legislators expect to hear other tax-relief proposals besides the association's plan.

For example, House Republicans want to shift child-welfare expenses from counties to the state, Foley said.

"It's a check the governor says we can't write," Foley said, "but

the House Republicans want to explore it to see if that can be worked out in any way, shape, form or fashion."

Espich said he had been considering the plan to shift the cost of child-welfare services from counties to the state.

It would have been phased in during five years, with tax credits given to homeowners the first two years to eliminate the portion of property taxes they pay for such services.

But a recently revised financial estimate predicted \$74 million less in tax revenue than lawmakers had expected for the current budget.

Now Espich says he might propose property tax relief to homeowners only this year, perhaps tapping some money from a recent grace period for delinquent taxpayers.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.



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