

JOHNSON COUNTY

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ON THE RECORD

Police/fire

Franklin Thefts

• Advanced Vending Systems Inc., 31 Blue Chip Court: A manager reported that an employee stole money from his route Friday.

• First block of Patterson Street: A man reported Monday morning that someone stole a gun from a box of his belongings while he was moving.

• 300 block of East Adams Street: A woman reported that someone slashed his unlocked vehicle and stole his wallet and a CD player remote between 1:30 and 6:30 a.m. Monday.

• 1900 block of Younce Street: A woman reported that someone stole her son's bicycle from school property between 7:30 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. Monday.

Criminal mischief

• 300 block of East Adams Street: A woman reported that someone slashed a tire on a vehicle parked in front of her house between 10 p.m. Sunday and 6:30 a.m. Monday.

Greenwood Burglary

• Imperial Fence Co., 100 Academy St.: An employee reported about 6:15 a.m. Tuesday that someone broke into the business overnight. The employee discovered a forklift left running, smashed doors and several tools missing.

Thefts

• 1200 block of Scarborough Lane: A man reported at 7 a.m. Tuesday that someone had stolen his vehicle.

• Sun Tanz, 1001 N. State Road 135: An employee reported about 4:30 p.m. Monday that someone stole a stereo from a tanning room.

• Taco Bell, 153 N. State Road 135: A customer reported that someone stole her purse from the store between 6 and 6:30 p.m. Sunday.

Shoplifting

• J.C. Penney, 1251 U.S. 31 North: A loss-prevention officer reported about 8:45 p.m. Monday that a woman attempted to steal four pairs of underwear, and a girl attempted to steal 12 items. All the items had a combined value of about \$160. The adult was issued a summons to appear in court. The girl was released to her mother.

• Bed, Bath & Beyond, 723 U.S. 31 North, Suite A: An employee reported about 11 a.m. Monday that someone stole a trash can valued at \$179.

Jail bookings

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

DeMario Allen Davis, 18, 358 Sunnydale Drive, Westland, Mich.; arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana/hashish; held on \$1,000 bond.

Wendy K. Maple, 32, 105 W. Harriman St., Bargersville; arrested on a warrant for failure to appear in court and a charge of driving while suspended with a prior conviction; released on \$3,500 bond.

Kimberly D. Cochran, 41, 430 W. Hinshaw Drive, Nineveh; arrested on a warrant for failure to appear in court; released on \$5,000 bond.

Donald Reece Roltz, 20, 154 S. County Road 700W, Morgantown; arrested on a charge of possession of paraphernalia; released on \$1,000 bond.

Timothy A. Robbins, 35, 1064 E. County Road 260N, Franklin; arrested on a warrant for failure to appear in court; released on \$100 bond.

Gildardo Martinez, 29, 920 N. Dearborn St., Indianapolis; arrested on a charge of driving while suspended with a prior offense; released on \$1,000 bond.

Bradley O. Simpson, 40, 710 Doran Ave., Shelbyville; arrested on a warrant for violation of probation; held without bond.

Steven Joseph Chestnut, 28, 956 Stonegate Road, Greenwood; arrested on a warrant for failure to appear in court; released on \$2,500 bond.

Dennis D. Biggerstaff, 51, 4846 Upper Salt Creek Road, Nashville; arrested on a warrant for failure to appear in court; held on \$300 bond.

Charles W. Hanson, 21, 2190 N. Gale St., Indianapolis; arrested on a charge of driving without ever receiving a license; released on \$1,000 bond.

Andrea Danielle Spees, 18, 519 Quail Run, Greenwood; arrested on a charge of theft or receiving stolen property; held on \$6,000 bond.

Julie L. Hayden, 29, 1033 E. Washington St., Indianapolis; arrested on a Hendricks County warrant, a Marion County warrant and a charge of possession of paraphernalia; held without bond.

Jessica R. Gilbert, 24, 3507 W. Wisconsin St., Indianapolis; arrested on a warrant for failure to appear in court; held on \$5,000 bond.

Kristy M. Hilligoss, 36, 59 Worman Ave., Indianapolis; arrested on a charge of contempt; released on \$400 bond.

Danielle Renee Allard Gorham, 30, 803 Hurricane St., Franklin; arrested on a Morgan County warrant; held without bond.

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

Eric James Lee, 23, 1254 Stonehedge East Drive, Apt. H, Greenwood; held on \$1,000 bond.

Will Everett Slinger, 18, 764 Shoreview Drive, Franklin; also arrested on charges of theft or receiving stolen property; reckless possession of paraphernalia; possession, consumption or transportation of alcohol by a minor; and reckless driving; held on \$16,000 bond.

Brandi N. Abbott, 32, 1665 Haystack Court, Apt. A, Greenwood; also arrested on charges of possession of marijuana/hashish, possession of cocaine, narcotics or methamphetamine, possession of a controlled substance, possession of paraphernalia and reckless driving; held on \$11,000 bond.

Minutes

School boards

Center Grove School Corp.

Monday, the board:

- Approved 4-1 the nomination of Mark Dietel to serve as school board president. Matt Shepherd voted no.

- Approved 5-0 the nominations of Jackie Ponder to serve as school board vice president and Jerry Davis to serve as school board secretary.

- Heard an update on school construction projects. The high school roof project has been completed, and a final checklist is being prepared. The heating, ventilation and air conditioning project is back on schedule after a change in contractors. The locker room project is almost finished, with one missing locker to be installed this week along with some other work.

- Approved 4-1 granting an about 1.9-acre easement on property at Whiteland and Saddle Club roads to Centex Homes for \$50,000. Centex will also put in \$7,550 in improvements to the easement for the benefit of future use by the school district. Jackie Ponder voted no.

- Recommended 4-0 that priority be given to finding a central location within the school district for building an operations center for school buses. If a central location cannot be found, board members preferred building the center south of current district property. Shepherd abstained from the vote.

- Approved 4-0 a proposal to install a 10-gigabyte line for a wide-area computer network for the new elementary school that would be paid for from funds dedicated to the new elementary school. Shepherd abstained from the vote.

- Approved 5-0 for the administration to sign a \$90,000 contract with Cinergy for the network, pending review by a school attorney.

- Approved 5-0 for the administration to proceed with discussions for a demographic study where the cost would not exceed \$15,000.

- Approved 5-0 a list of school board goals for 2006. Goals include providing training in curriculum mapping, differentiation and assessment at the corporation level for staff in order to raise student achievement; reviewing all staff evaluation templates to reflect 21st century goals and expectations; completing the work of the high school expansion task force; developing a master plan for the central campus; developing a three- to five-year plan for equipment maintenance; using request-for-proposal procedures to review Center Grove's health insurance; and improve education and participation in advanced placement courses.

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Council answers call for fee hike

Landline phone users will see increased emergency charge in March

By ANNIE GOELLER

DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER
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Another new fee has been added to the budgets of people who use landline phones in Johnson County.



WEST

In March, residents and business owners will start paying \$15 more per year in their landline phone bills to help cover the costs of police and fire departments.

County council members approved the hike at Monday's monthly meeting.

Ron West voted against the change, which increased the 911 emergency charge from 70 cents per month to \$1.95 a month, a nearly 200 percent increase.

Local police and fire departments need the extra money to help pay for upgrades and maintenance to the county's emergency radio system, a committee of emergency responders told commissioners and council members.

More money will allow regular upgrades to systems in all departments across the county, which will keep everyone on the same system and keep communication clear, Johnson County Sheriff Terry McLaughlin said.

The fee, which generated about \$64,000 per month (\$768,000 total) in 2005, didn't cover all the ex-

penses of the county's emergency departments.

An increased fee will generate more than \$2 million per year, according to projections from the committee.

The added money will pay for upgrades to the emergency system but will also allow the group to cover the salaries of dispatchers. The move will free up about \$500,000 in the county's general fund to be spent elsewhere.

In addition, the money will pay off a lease for software and equipment used in the county's dispatch system, Greenwood Fire Chief Steve Dhondt said.

Additional money was also added into the future budget to install a new emergency radio tower in Edinburgh, where police

officers can't always get a signal on their radios, Dhondt said.

Commissioners had already approved the fee increase last month, but council members requested more information.

The board wanted to know how much the group had been spending and what expenses they planned to cover with the new funds.

West was the only council member who voted against the fee hike, saying that the increase was too much for families and businesses that have more than one landline phone in their homes and also pay fees in their monthly cell phone bills.

Cell phone users pay a fee of about 65 cents per month, which brings in about \$250,000 a year, Dhondt said.

Highway chief could have new duties, higher pay

By ANNIE GOELLER

DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER
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The county could soon have a new highest-paid official.

A new highway department director, whom commissioners plan to pay a salary of about \$100,000, would top the sheriff's salary of about \$91,000.

Commissioners are looking for a new director and an engineer

for the highway department. Director Don Sanders retired at the end of last year, and the board fired the previous engineer, A.J. Wortkoetter, in July.

The open positions give officials a chance to restructure one of the most important departments in a growing county, said commissioner R.J. McConnell. Bridges were costing the county too much money because the department's director did not

have the knowledge to oversee where his engineer was spending money, he said.

Now, the board would like to fill the director position with an engineer. That person would perform administrative duties but also would handle and oversee much of the engineering and design work, McConnell and commissioner Mitch Ripley said in a presentation to the county council Monday night.

But council member John Price, who previously served as county highway director, doesn't think the idea will work.

The department has too much work for one person to handle and needs two engineers on the payroll, Price said.

Price and McConnell plan to discuss their issues with the proposal before a joint meeting with council members and commissioners at 6 p.m. Feb. 1.

BRIEFS

LOCAL

JOHNSON COUNTY

County, churches could utilize eminent domain

Some area landowners might soon have no choice but to sell their land to the county when commissioners decide the sale is necessary.

Two new Johnson County churches are facing the same problem: how to get nearby homeowners to sell their land so the churches can meet road rules and build their new buildings.

Church officials at the Christ Fellowship Worship Center and New Whiteland Liberty Tabernacle already have the land and the money for their building, but the highway department requires them to have a lane where motorists can pass vehicles waiting to turn into the parking lots.

The problem is that the churches' new neighbors don't want to sell their land.

County commissioners are trying to figure out a way to get the land from homeowners and might take it through a legal action called eminent domain. The tactic involves court action where the county offers landowners an amount based on three appraisals for their land, but takes it without needing their permission.

Because the problem has arisen before, the county should figure out a way to solve it for good, commissioner R.J. McConnell said.

Commissioners discussed a possible ordinance that would automatically dictate using eminent domain in instances where homeowners don't want to sell off their land. Their reasoning was that the passing lane is a safety issue, allowing motorists to travel safely through the area.

The county would then own the land where that lane sat.

First, the commissioners plan to sit down with leaders of the churches and contact the homeowners to see if a compromise can be reached. Both churches need the land to start construction on their new buildings.

Commissioners plan to discuss a potential ordinance at their Jan. 30 meeting.

CENTER GROVE

Board delays campus plan, moves meeting day

Recommendations about what to do with a master plan for Center Grove's main campus will be delayed as administrators first figure out what to do with Center Grove High School. Superintendent Candace Milhon-Baer said she would feel better about making a recommendation to the school board when they knew more about plans for a possible high school expansion.

She said the delay would also give the high school expansion task force more time to attend ongoing meetings, look at high school planning and visit other metropolitan high schools.

A public forum to discuss the expansion of the high school will be conducted at 7 p.m. Jan. 26 in the high school auditorium, 2717 S. Morgantown Road.

The board also decided meetings will be moved from the first to the third Monday of each month beginning in March.

In the past, administrators have said that monthly financial reports often were a month behind because reports could not be completed by the first Monday of the month.

Milhon-Baer said that the move

would allow administrators to be able to gather more pertinent data to present to the school board.

Several meetings on the first Monday of the month had to be rescheduled because of holidays.

BARGERSVILLE

Police link alcohol, fatal accident in December

A Bargersville man who died in an accident was drinking alcohol, according to an autopsy.

Investigators believe alcohol was related to the crash that killed Charles Hogan about 8:30 p.m. Dec. 17.

Hogan, 44, had a blood alcohol level of .223, Johnson County Coroner Dave Lutz said.

Someone with a blood alcohol level of .08 is considered to be too impaired to drive.

His vehicle went off the side of County Road 725W and struck a tree. Hogan was not wearing his seat belt, which is not required by law in trucks, and died of head injuries at the scene, Lutz said.

Officers also found a small amount of marijuana on the man, but the autopsy did not find any drugs in his system, Lutz said.

KEEPSAKES

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DAILY JOURNAL



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