



GOP ANNOUNCES AGENDA

Speaker: Republicans will be aggressive in shortened session.

New plans

House Republicans proposed a series of measures aimed at property tax relief and luring small business. **Story, Page A2**

Government limits

A House committee advanced a bill that would restrict the power of governments to seize property to use for private economic development projects.

The bill could affect the dispute between the Indiana Stadium and Convention Building Authority and the N.K. Hurst Co., a bean company on the site of the new Colts stadium that wants to stay in the spot.

WELL-RESTED COLTS READY FOR STEELERS

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DAILY JOURNAL

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2006

Johnson County, Indiana

50 cents

WEATHER



Today
Skies: Cloudy, rain
Temps: High 48; low 40

MAP, PAGE A8

NEWS

Highway to be closed

A portion of State Road 44 will be closed Wednesday and possibly Thursday for construction work. The area, about 1½ miles west of State Road 135 near Bud, will be closed from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday for culvert replacement, an Indiana Department of Transportation spokesman said. The road will be reopened at 4 p.m.

If the work is not finished, the road will be closed again at 9 a.m. Thursday and will be reopened after the repair is completed.



COMING UP

Memorable song lines

USA Weekend and Billboard magazine invite you to pick what you think was the greatest song lyric of the past 13 years.

USA WEEKEND

State of the cities

What will the mayors of Greenwood and Franklin focus on in their annual state of the city addresses?

Sales pay dividends

They don't conduct business from the top floor or work 9 to 5: Women who work as independent consultants enjoy the best of business and family life, using part-time sales to earn money and set their own schedules so they can be with family.

THIS WEEK

DEATHS

- Edinburgh
John Malone Jr., 78
- Franklin
Harold E. Cline, 82
- Greenwood
Ada M. Richard, 89
- Trafalgar
Elizabeth B. Roller, 95
- Indianapolis
Richard Dale McClain, 74
- Evelyn N. Perkins, 86
- Claude Benjamin Vance, 86
- Elsewhere
Betty June Bingham, 81

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Franklin principal demoted

Turner to become assistant

By JO ELLEN WERKING WEEDMAN
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Franklin's high school principal was reassigned to an assistant position Monday after he initially was told his employment with the school district could end.

Leighton Turner, a 33-year administrator at Franklin, will finish the school year as principal and then become an assistant principal at the school July 1.

Superintendent William Patterson on Monday asked the school board to offer Turner a two-year contract as assistant principal. The board approved the request 5-0.

Patterson and school board members said Turner was not being reprimanded for any wrongdoing. Instead, leadership at the high school must address issues such as a high dropout rate, large numbers of students being expelled or

(SEE TURNER, BACK PAGE)



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT ROBERSON/sroberson@thejournalnet.com

Franklin Community High School Principal Leighton Turner won't continue as the school's leader next year. He will become an assistant principal at the end of the school year.

Show of support: Teachers, student back school's leader

By MICHAEL W. HOSKINS
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One Franklin Community High School teacher compared the demotion of principal Leighton Turner to a blow to the gut.

Six of the about 30 teachers at the school board meeting Monday and the high school student council president spoke in protest of Turner's reassig-

ment to assistant principal next school year.

They voiced support for him, demanded to know why the decision was made and asked that the board reconsider the vote.

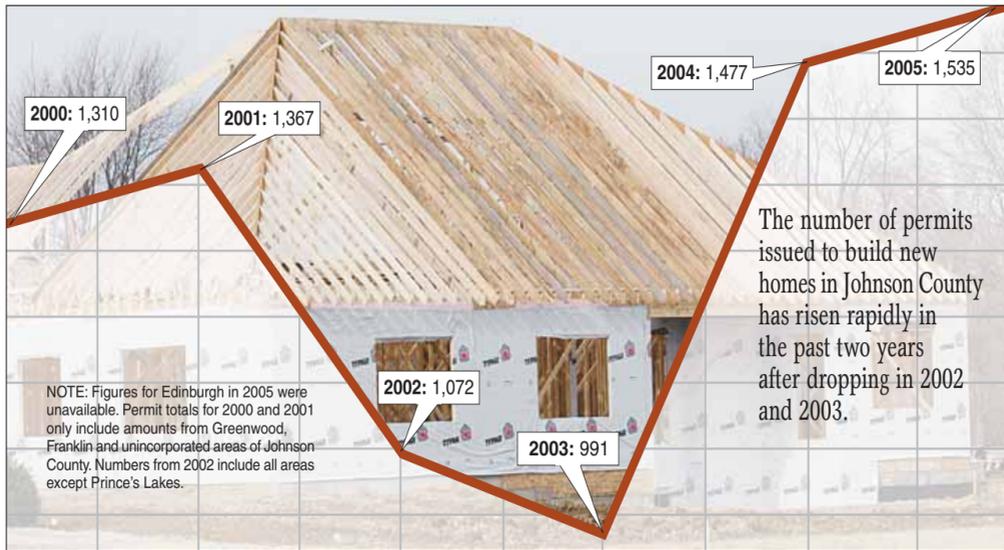
"The earthquake that has started to shake the high school and community today is just the beginning of what is to come," teacher Debra Landers said.

(SEE SUPPORT, BACK PAGE)

JOHNSON COUNTY: HOME CONSTRUCTION

BOOM ON THE WAY?

Building permits continue to rise in the county, especially in subdivisions around Greenwood



SOURCES: City, town and county planning officials

STAFF GRAPHIC BY STEPHEN JENDRASZAK AND SCOTT ROBERSON

Modest 2005 could be followed by blockbuster years

By ANNIE GOELLER
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More sold signs are being stuck into yards, more lots are being turned into new homes, and, on average, newcomers or those moving up are paying more for a place to call home.

Countywide, the number of new homes being constructed increased 4 percent in 2005 from the previous year, according to building permits issued by cities, towns and the county. The number of homes, both existing and new, sold in 2005 increased at the same rate. Buyers also are paying more to build houses in Bargersville,

Permits by area

	2003	2004	2005	Change since '04
Bargersville	39	37	47	up 27%
Edinburg	9	8	n/a	n/a
Franklin	156	301	261	down 13%
Greenwood	265	522	768	up 47%
New Whiteland	144	132	55	down 58%
Prince's Lakes	n/a	40	42	up 5%
Trafalgar	8	12	6	down 50%
Whiteland	25	13	9	down 31%
Unincorporated areas	354	420	347	down 17%

Edinburg, Franklin, Greenwood, Whiteland and unincorporated parts of the county and to buy existing homes throughout Johnson County.

The cost of a new home increased in Whiteland, Cen-

ter Grove and Greenwood, where average new home values have increased nearly \$30,000 since 2002.

New homes mean more motorists on the road and more students attending the

county's six public school districts and handful of private schools. Growing school districts, such as Clark-Pleasant and Center Grove, will need to prepare for more students. And the county and cities will spend more money to repair and maintain roads.

While some cities and towns saw only slight gains in the number of homes built in 2005, planners working for the county and in Franklin, Whiteland, Trafalgar and Bargersville said they expect next year's homebuilding to boom because of large subdivisions and developments that are expected to be

(SEE HOME, BACK PAGE)

Drug plan pain to some

Many seniors hit snags as Medicare program begins

By PAIGE E. WASSEL
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Seniors looking for savings with Medicare-approved prescription drug insurance plans are finding frustration.

Computer glitches and paperwork snafus are causing holdups for seniors trying to get prescription drugs under the new plans.

Some residents are visiting drugstores to discover that they aren't listed in computer systems, or that they're visiting a pharmacy that doesn't serve their plan.

While it's still too early for seniors to calculate savings under the new plans, discounts are being delayed as companies try to sort through new enrollees.

Insurance coverage should have started Jan. 1 for people who signed up by the end of 2005.

Several people who signed up late in the month haven't received a letter or prescription drug card to show proof of the new coverage.

In some cases, seniors eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid programs were automatically enrolled in a separate Medicaid plan, causing further headaches at the drugstore.

Senior Promise, a St. Francis Hospital senior advocacy group, helped about 700 seniors on the south side of Indianapolis and in Johnson County sign up for the insurance plans.

Of that number, they have heard complaints from only about 10 to 15 people, program manager Jim Poole said.

(SEE PLAN, BACK PAGE)

STUDENT KEEPS ON HIS TOES

CG grad, once embarrassed about being dancer, pursues career

By SHERRI CONER
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For most of his childhood, Brett Perry hid his talent. He feared being the brunt of jokes at school. He didn't know other males who studied dance. His passion for the stage remained a secret.

"I grew up where football and basketball ruled everything," said Perry, a lanky young man

TELL YOUR STORY

Know someone who should be profiled in the Daily Journal? Send their story to newstips@thejournalnet.com.

with a scruff of beard and a frequent smile.

"I used to lie about it," Perry said. "Nobody knew I danced." Now nearly 20 years old, Perry is a student at the world-

renowned Julliard School of Dance in New York City.

His love for dance is no longer a secret.

Perry has the worn dance shoes bound with duct tape to prove his hours of dedication.

As a preschooler, Perry fell in love with another child's pair of tap shoes.

"She brought in her dance shoes one day for show and

(SEE DANCER, PAGE A5)

Brett Perry runs through a series of steps during a practice session at the Dance Company in Indianapolis. The Center Grove High School graduate is now attending the prestigious Julliard School in New York. "The payoff for that is performing in front of a sold-out audience. That's what we work so hard to do," Perry says about the hard work dance requires.



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS WILLIAMS