

OBITUARIES/NEWS

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GREENWOOD

Mervin M. Molgaard

Mervin M. Molgaard, 87, died Thursday, March 9, 2006, at St. Francis Hospital Beech Grove. He was a resident of Greenwood.

Services are pending at G.H. Herrmann Funeral Homes.
Information: 787-7211

INDIANAPOLIS

Denny Eugene Oliver Jr.

Denny Eugene Oliver Jr., 68, died Thursday, March 9, 2006, at Bethany Village in Indianapolis. He was a resident of Indianapolis.

Survivors include a daughter, Terri Oliver of Indianapolis; two sisters, Ima Jean Kidwell of Indianapolis and Josephine Patterson of Lafayette, Tenn.; and three grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, Denny and Mildred (Steward) Oliver.

A funeral service will be conducted at 1 p.m. Saturday at Jessen Funeral Home, Whiteland Chapel, 729 U.S. 31 North. Friends may call from 11 a.m. until service time Saturday at the funeral home. Burial will be at Youngs Creek Cemetery in Franklin.
Information: 535-6880

SEYMOUR

Betty Maxine (Cook) Owens

Mrs. Betty Maxine (Cook) Owens went home to be with our Lord on Wednesday, March 8, 2006.

She was born in Salem on Aug. 15, 1921, the daughter of O.L. and Anna Cook. She was the youngest of 10 children.

She graduated from Salem High School in 1940.

On Dec. 31, 1940, she married John N. Owens of Salem. For six years they lived in Louisville, Ky., moving to Seymour in 1946.

Betty was active in Tri Kappa Sorority and Girls Club work in Seymour. She was the executive director of Girls Club Inc. for nine years, during which time a new Girls Club was built in 1966. The family moved to Greenwood in 1971 and lived there until May of 2005.

Betty was a member of Greenwood United Methodist Church.

She is survived by her husband of 65 years, Maj. Gen. John N. Owens; three daughters, Dana (Tom) Bollinger of Seymour, Donna Wyatt of Bloomington and Cindy Lu Owens of Sarasota, Fla.; five grandchildren, Amy Bollinger (Danny) Rupp, Todd (Kandi) Bollinger, Lindsey Bollinger (Matt) O'Haver, Emilee Wyatt and Luke Wyatt; and five great-grandchildren, Kyle Whistler, Jacob and Caleb Bollinger and Danni Lynn and Alexandra Rupp.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a son-in-law, Tom Wyatt; and all her brothers and sisters.

Funeral services will be 1:30 p.m. today at Voss and Sons Funeral Home, 316 N. Chestnut St. in Seymour. Visiting will be one hour prior to the service today at Voss and Sons. Dr. Gene Gladney will officiate. Burial will follow at Riverview Cemetery in Seymour.

Memorials may be given to Girls Club Inc. Capital Campaign, 501 W. Second St., Seymour, IN 47274.

Information: www.vossfuneralservice.com

GREENWOOD

Clarence W. Prentice

Clarence W. Prentice, 72, of Greenwood, passed away Thursday, March 9, 2006.

He was born Jan. 11, 1934, in Ionia, Mich. to Clarence F. and Addie (Redfield) Prentice.

He was a graduate of Okemos High School in Okemos, Mich., and of Michigan State University in 1959 with a degree in civil engineering.

Clarence was employed at Reilly Industries for 40 years and retired as director of corporate engineering services in 1999.

He served as a Perry Township Advisory Board member for 20 years and as a precinct committeeman.

He was an Army veteran.

He enjoyed the outdoors, fish-

Greenwood

Mervin M. Molgaard, 87
Clarence W. Prentice, 72
LaTonia Watson, 53

Indianapolis

Denny Eugene Oliver Jr., 68
Oscar "Jack" Thompson, 87

Elsewhere

Betty Maxine Owens

ing, golf, gardening and travel.

Clarence is survived by his wife, Carole Marie (Kennedy) Prentice; children, Kirk (LaTonia) Prentice, Elaine Kay (David) Rhyne, Kerrie (Paul) Milnebaugh and Kevin (Heather) Prentice; brother, LeVon (Susan) Prentice; sister, Iris Jeane Prentice; 11 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 2:30 p.m. Saturday at SS Francis and Clare Catholic Church, 5901 Olive Branch Road in Greenwood with calling from 1 p.m. until the time of service at the church. Internment will be in Forest Lawn Memory Gardens in Greenwood.

Church and Community Funeral Services is handling arrangements.

INDIANAPOLIS

Oscar "Jack" Thompson

Oscar "Jack" Thompson, 87, died Wednesday, March 8, 2006. He was a resident of Indianapolis.

Survivors include his wife, Gloria J. Thompson; three daughters, Roseanna K. (Steve) Head, Donnetta J. Thompson and Jacqueline J. (Brant) Milholland; three grandchildren; and a sister, Hazel Helms. He was preceded in death by his parents, Elijah and Rosa Lee Thompson.

A funeral service will be conducted at 10 a.m. Saturday at G.H. Herrmann Greenwood Funeral Home, 1605 S. State Road 135. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. today at the funeral home. Burial will be at Forest Lawn Memory Gardens. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 6030 W. 62nd St., Indianapolis, IN 46278.

GREENWOOD

LaTonia (Gregg) Watson

LaTonia (Gregg) Watson, 53, died Tuesday, March 7, 2006, at Greenwood Health and Living Center. She was a resident of Greenwood.

Survivors include two sons, Obadiah and Zachary Watson; and one brother, Douglas (Jody Ann) Gregg.

A memorial service will be conducted at 1 p.m. Saturday at G.H. Herrmann Greenwood Funeral Home, 1605 S. State Road 135. Friends may call from noon until time of service Saturday at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Arthritis Foundation, 8660 Guion Road, Indianapolis, IN 46238; or Ovar'coming Together, 3050 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46208.

Obituary policy

The Daily Journal will publish free death notices for Johnson County area residents, former residents and close relatives of area residents.

A free death notice contains basic information, including details about visitation and services, memorial contributions and some survivors.

Families who want to include more information or include a photograph can purchase a custom obituary. Additional information may include memberships, employment, education and additional survivors.

What the government knew

Debate persists on how much information Bush had on Katrina

By TOM RAUM

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

Much of the controversy has focused on 10 words: "I don't think anybody anticipated the breach of the levees."

President Bush made the statement in a television interview Sept. 1, three days after Katrina slammed into the Gulf Coast and inundated much of New Orleans.

Now, the disclosure of videotapes and transcripts of meetings among federal and state disaster-management officials just before and during the storm's Aug. 29 landfall has refreshed the debate over what the government knew about the levees protecting New Orleans, and when.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan has said Bush's comments were not intended to suggest that no one had anticipated levee failures. Instead, McClellan says, the president meant that once the storm had initially passed many people believed the region had escaped the worst-case scenario.

The transcripts and videotapes have touched off a brushfire among liberal and conservative bloggers, provided midterm election-year ammunition to Democrats and brought a defense by the White House.

There is no specific mention of levees being breached at Bush's videoconference with federal, state and local disaster management officials on Aug. 28, the day before Katrina's landfall. A videotape of that meeting was one of two videos and seven transcripts of Katrina-related briefings reported by The Associated Press last week.

But there were dire warnings of a gigantic storm that could overflow the levees at that session and at other pre-landfall conferences. And specific mention of possible



President Bush, left, and New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin view flood wall construction at the Industrial Canal levee in New Orleans, La., on Wednesday during the president's 10th visit to the region.

breaches was raised at an Aug. 29 teleconference that included Joe Hagin, deputy White House chief of staff.

The Army Corps of Engineers considers a breach a hole developing in a levee rather than an over-run, or water flowing over the top.

But civil engineers understand that once a levee is "topped," floodwaters can rapidly erode the structural base of the levee and nearly always result in a breach, according to AP interviews with officials from the Corps of Engineers and others.

Video of the Sunday, Aug. 28, teleconference shows the National Hurricane Center's Max Mayfield warning Bush and the others that the levees could be topped. Mayfield called it a "very, very grave concern." Bush was monitoring Katrina's progress from his ranch in Crawford, Texas.

In that final Aug. 28 briefing before the hurricane hit, Bush asked no questions but assured soon-to-be-battered state officials: "We are fully prepared."

White House officials later sought to explain why Bush asked no questions at the briefing. They said he had been on the phone with governors in affected states and had received updates from then-FEMA chief Michael Brown and his own staff.

Bush got on the videoconference to boost morale, not to collect information, McClellan said, and left before it ended.

Bush has drawn criticism from Democrats who say he did not give Katrina the attention it deserved. For instance, Bush — shortly after the storm's landfall — headed West on Air Force One for a previously scheduled two-day trip to Arizona and California.

Concern over possible levee breaches does show up in the transcript of a conference on Aug. 29. Participating from Air Force One, Hagin asks about "the current status of the levee system."

Brown, who later resigned as FEMA chief under pressure, told participants he had spoken twice that day to Bush directly and that the president was asking questions about reports of breaches.

When interviewed by KHOW Radio in Denver on Monday night, Brown characterized the distinction between levees being breached and overtopped as a matter of semantics.

"I can tell you everyone involved in that videotape and in my conversations with the president and with the chief of staff, our concern was always the breach of the levees," he said.

Fewer older Americans working past age 65

By STEPHEN OHLEMACHER

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

Senior citizens are leaving the labor force sooner than they did 50 years ago, even though they are living longer, healthier lives.

A government report released Thursday shows that fewer than one in five men 65 and older were part of the labor force in 2003. In 1950, nearly half the men that age were still working.

Women are working in much larger numbers earlier in life, but among those 65 and older, their participation in the labor force has remained steady at around 10 percent since 1950.

"Not too long ago, people, particularly men, worked until they were physically unable to work," said Robert Friedland, director of the Center on an Aging Society at Georgetown University.

"Now, people have a period of time to which they are looking forward."

But they can only look forward

to retirement if they are financially prepared, said Friedland, who noted that \$1 million in a retirement account isn't that much to live on if you expect to be around another 20 or 30 years.

"If you leave the labor force thinking you have plenty, and then realize that you don't, then you are stuck," Friedland said.

The findings are part of a report thick with statistics on America's elderly, called "65+ in the United States: 2005."

It was commissioned by the National Institute on Aging and compiled by the Census Bureau.

The findings have added importance as the first baby boomers near retirement age.

The oldest baby boomers turn 60 this year, and the new report suggests that many of them already have left the labor force.

There are about 35 million Americans age 65 and over, a number that is projected to more than double by 2030, according to the report. About 59 percent of seniors are women.

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