

# Disney set to buy Pixar for \$7.4 billion in stock

The Associated Press

## LOS ANGELES

The Walt Disney Co. said Tuesday it is buying longtime partner Pixar Animation Studios Inc. for \$7.4 billion in stock in a deal that could restore Disney's clout in animation while vaulting Pixar CEO Steve Jobs into a powerful role at the media conglomerate.

Disney's purchase of the maker

of the blockbuster films "Toy Story" and "Finding Nemo" would make Jobs Disney's largest shareholder. Jobs, who owns more than half of Pixar's shares and also heads Apple Computer Inc., will also join Disney's board.

"With this transaction, we welcome and embrace Pixar's unique culture, which for two decades, has fostered some of the most innovative and successful films in history," Disney Chief Executive Robert Iger said in a statement.

# • Sign

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

Workers at the nearby White Castle noticed the sign and called the motel, which in turn called the fire department. Greenwood Mayor Charles Henderson spotted the danger as well and called for city emergency workers.

Crews were most concerned that the sign, if it fell, would land in Sheek Road or pull down nearby power lines. Guests at the motel were moved to the safest corner of the structure, in case the sign fell onto the building, Dhondt said.

# • Goal

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

"That's OK because it worked," Henderson said.

## Fitness and trails

City officials built more new parks and trails in 2005 than they have in years. Now Henderson is asking residents to commit to fitness by using these parks and trails for exercise.

City engineers laid out more than 13½ miles of trails last year, and the parks department doubled the amount of parkland.

Parks and trails are great for attracting new businesses, Henderson said, but they also make it easier for residents to exercise.

Henderson is challenging residents this year to "commit to be fit," echoing a theme from Gov. Mitch Daniels' state of the state address this month.

New trails and parks give people more opportunities to bike, walk and exercise. Henderson said he and his wife try to walk 30 minutes four times a week, and he hopes more Greenwood residents take advantage of the trails, too.

Last year, the parks department:

- Purchased 72 acres of land at 1348 Averitt Road. This land was previously earmarked for a new pool, which is still an option but is not being discussed publicly.
- Opened a 43-acre park in Homecoming at University Park subdivision on the eastside of Greenwood. Developer C.P. Morgan donated the park to the city instead of having to pay park-impact fees, which is a requirement for developers unless they give up some land to the city.

- Finished Polk Hill Trail, running about a mile from Craig Park, skirting Polk Hill and stretching north along the Smith Valley Road bypass.

- Received a \$1 million grant to fund future trail projects.

The parks department plans to have public meetings to gather input about recently purchased parkland, but nothing is scheduled yet.

Meanwhile, city workers are planning a walking bridge over Smith Valley Road, a pathway underneath a remodeled I-65 interchange and a pedestrian bridge over U.S. 31, all as part of the trail system.

The next planned trail project is Tracy Trail, an asphalt pathway from Summerfield Park to Greenwood Community High School, from the high school to the middle school, and to Craig Park, where it will connect with Polk Hill Trail.

## Comprehensive plan

Ball State University architecture and development students will present their proposal for a city comprehensive plan at 7 p.m. Monday in the Greenwood city building, 2 N. Madison Ave.

The plan is a rough draft; but in its final form, it will guide new housing, business and park requirements across the city.

University students spent the fall semester coming up with ideas for city developments after getting input from residents.

For example, they mapped out design and development possibilities for downtown, an area with potential to become a cultural and artistic center for the city. Students sketched design possibilities for downtown that included infrastructure improvements, such as landscaped medians, renovated building fronts, and

ornate street lights and signs.

They envisioned downtown with a cultural arts center and additional craft-oriented businesses, such as woodworkers and stained-glass makers.

Nearby, an old grain elevator near U.S. 31 and Main Street could be turned into an indoor climbing wall.

City planners will take the students' proposal, hire a professional consultant, and make a final draft that city council members will have to approve.

## Special census

About 7,000 new residents have moved to Greenwood since the most recent U.S. census, and the city plans to cash in on those people this spring by taking a head count.

Greenwood will get nearly \$500,000 extra per year after the special census is complete, according to estimates by city planners.

The state distributes gas, cigarette, food, beverage, liquor and excise taxes to cities and towns based on population, so the more residents a city has, the more tax money they will get from the state.

Each new resident counted is expected to bring in about \$61.

Census workers will count residents only in parts of Greenwood that have grown, such as the Clark-Pleasant school district and the southwestern part of the city. The cost of the headcount is \$225,000, which the city has budgeted.

While going door to door, census workers will collect information from residents based on a list of questions that is much shorter than standard census questions. Workers will ask questions including who the head of the household is and how many people live there.

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# • Impasse

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

"There was a time when Center Grove led Johnson County in salaries. That's no longer the case," said Nancy Knochel, Center Grove's regional representative with the Indiana State Teachers Association. "We're talking about a district where teachers are feeling pretty unappreciated at this point."

The school board in December approved 1.5 percent raises for the district's support staff and a one percent raise for most administrators.

Two of the district's three assistant superintendents received a five percent raise to bring all three assistant's salaries to \$106,050.

Board members Matt Shepherd and Jim Copp voted against the raises.

Teachers said they are concerned that administrators' contracts were in place before they expired at the end of December, but teachers have been working six months with no new contract.

"Teachers deliver instruction and make a difference for kids and we are the last group in this corporation to get a contract," said Sally Spangler, co-president of the teachers association.

The association's request would cost the school district a total of about \$373,000 this year, Long said.

The proposal offered by the school district would cost about \$300,000, he said.

Knochel on Tuesday notified the Indiana Education Employment Relations Board that Center Grove was at an impasse.

The agency, which was established by law in the 1970s to monitor collective bargaining for educators, will assign a mediator to Center Grove. That mediator will set up the next meeting between the union's representatives and Long and Hacker.

Long said the situation is unfortunate.

"We always have and still do have a good relationship with our classroom association," he said.

In 2004-05 the salary range for Center Grove teachers was \$31,257 to \$64,641. The state average was \$27,059 to \$72,333.

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