



FOOD
MAKE CHICKEN NEW AGAIN

PAGE A6

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL
NO BREAK FOR BROKEN BACK

Center Grove senior playing well despite injury.

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DAILY JOURNAL

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2007

Johnson County, Indiana

50 cents

WEATHER



Today
Skies: Mostly sunny
Temps: High 50; low 29

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INSIDE

At the Statehouse

Lawmakers advance measure to lease lottery, privatization oversight bill.

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WEB EXTRAS

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Greenwood seeking bigger houses

Proposed planning guidelines would de-emphasize small starter homes

INSIDE

Find how zoning guidelines would change under a new proposal and what home-building requirements are elsewhere on the Southside.

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By CANDACE BEATY
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER
cbeaty@thejournalnet.com

Bigger is better, Greenwood planners say.

So they have set new guidelines for developers that would mean larger houses with more space between neighbors — and bigger price tags.

Proposed changes would require homes to be 20 percent to 70 percent bigger and increase the size of

yards between homes.

The bigger homes are marketed to people who want to move out of smaller, starter homes, said a member of the committee studying the changes.

The Greenwood Advisory Planning Commission wants new developments to follow these guidelines to improve the quality of homes being built, commission member Trent Pohlar said.

For example, homes that can now be built at a minimum of 1,000 square feet

would have to be at least 1,700 square feet.

The changes were proposed to address the concerns of Greenwood residents who think too many starter homes are being built, Pohlar said.

"They're tired of seeing all the 1,000-square-foot homes," he said. "It rubbed a lot of people the wrong way."

But it's more than just aesthetics. More space between homes is needed because of fire safety, said Ed Ferguson, city planning director.

The commission made the recommendations after considering the city's long-range plan, property values and responsible development and growth, the proposal said.

Greenwood also needs homes for people ready to move into a larger home, he said. The larger, more expensive homes mean owners will pay more in property taxes and increase the city's tax base, Pohlar said.

(SEE HOUSES, BACK PAGE)

EMERGENCY PREPARATION

DANGEROUS MATERIALS

Officials: County ready for toxic spills



Emergency workers take part in hazardous materials training Feb. 14 at the White River Township fire station where a trailer designed to help workers respond to dangerous material spills is housed.

Most hazardous substances are used every day

Tornadoes pose more of risk to Johnson County residents than dangerous chemicals stored here or transported through the county, officials said.

Most chemicals marked as dangerous are used regularly, including diesel fuel pumped into a truck's fuel tank or chlorine used to keep swimming pool water safe.

Such chemicals present hazards when stored in bulk by businesses or government. The county and state governments track what chemicals are stored in the county, in what amounts, and what risks they pose.

Local government and firefighters track 34 sites of hazardous materials in the county.

IN CASE OF ACCIDENT

Vehicle accidents are the most common hazardous materials incidents firefighters respond to. Here's what they do:

- Assess what hazardous materials have spilled.
- Disable the wrecked vehicle's battery if there's a fuel leak so sparks don't ignite into an explosion.
- Trap chemicals they can in a detention pool and soak up what they can't with absorbent materials.
- Store the hazardous materials and ship them off for disposal.

Different materials must be reported when stored at different amounts. For example, more than 500 pounds of ammo-

nia, which a farmer might stockpile for fertilizer, must be reported.

"These are normal, everyday products, and there are very few accidents," said Forrest "Tug" Sutton, Johnson County emergency management director. "They're good corporate citizens, and it's just good business sense to be as safe as you can be."

Similar chemicals can be found all over the country, Sutton said. The hazardous materials found in Johnson County are common to manufacturing and trucking industries in central Indiana, he said.

Spills happen most often on the roads,

(SEE HAZARDOUS, BACK PAGE)

Special trailer ready in case of local, national emergency

White River Township has a state-of-the-art decontamination trailer firefighters hope they never have to use.

The township's fire department doesn't have a hazardous materials team and would use the trailer with other emergency responders in the event of mass contamination anywhere in the county.

The trailer, one of 43 in Indiana, could be dispatched anywhere in the state if the president declares a national emergency.

Nearly half of White River's firefighters are trained to contain dangerous chemical spills but don't have the protective suits they'd need to wear during such incidents. Both the Franklin and Greenwood fire departments have hazardous materials teams, which would call for the trailer if needed.

The township department obtained the trailer last fall with a \$107,000 federal grant from the Department of Homeland Security. The Franklin Fire Department

received a hazardous materials trailer and detection equipment during the same grant cycle.

The county's emergency planning committee chose White River to house the trailer because its trained personnel could work with other departments in the event of a crisis, said chairman James Sipes, a Greenwood Fire Department captain.

The White River Township Fire

(SEE TRAILER, BACK PAGE)

STORIES BY JOSEPH S. PETE ■ PHOTO BY JOSHUA MARSHALL

Police: Man died of injuries in snowplow accident

By SARAH LIPPS
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER
slipps@thejournalnet.com

Injuries a Center Grove man received after being hit and run over by a plow truck caused his death, according to a coroner's report.

The police investigation into the Thursday incident is complete, and the driver of the plow did nothing

criminal, said Johnson County Sheriff's Office Maj. Randy Werden. The Marion County Coroner's Office listed the cause of death for 84-year-old Roscoe Pike as multiple blunt force injuries. His death was an accident, according to a report from the office.

Pike, who lived in the Mount Pleasant I subdivision, told police the day of the accident that he had been run over by the truck. He

had flagged down Mark W. Barnd, 25, who was plowing his driveway that morning for A Cut Above Lawn Service in Greenwood.

A neighbor told police she saw Pike get knocked over by the truck as he was inspecting his driveway.

The driver and his passenger carried the man into his home. They told police they didn't know the vehicle had struck Pike, Werden said.

Prosecutors will be sent the case for review, but Werden said he would not recommend that any charge be filed.

"This is just a tragic accident," he said.

Pike had fractures in his leg and arm, consistent with being run over by a truck. He had more fractures and bruising on his

(SEE ACCIDENT, BACK PAGE)

Search heats up for CG leader

Board set to review applications for superintendent job

By SARAH LIPPS
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER
slipps@thejournalnet.com

Center Grove area residents, get your school superintendent questions ready.

You'll be able to ask the three finalists for the top job at Center Grove schools about education philosophy, National Merit finalists, the curriculum, the football program and more, probably by the end of March.

Parents, teachers and taxpayers will be invited to participate in the selection process, school board president James Copp said.

More than 30 people have applied for the job, with about 10 more expected by Friday's deadline.

Ron Barnes, a consultant with search firm BWP & Associates, said applicants are from across the United States.

Consultants will sort out candidates who don't fit the job qualifications and narrow the list to five to seven people.

At a private meeting next week, school board members will review that list. They also will have a chance to see which candidates were not selected, Barnes said.

The school board plans to interview the first round of candidates early next month. By mid- to late March, the board should be ready to re-interview the three finalists, he said. A committee of community members, administrators and teachers will interview the finalists.

Then the school board will interview them in private, Copp said.

The board also plans to conduct one or more sessions for the public to question the candidates, Copp said. Candace Milhon-Baer resigned from the superintendent's position in December to take a job in Marion County. John Coomer, a retired superintendent who lives in the Center Grove area, is serving as interim chief.

The school board sets the superintendent's salary. Milhon-Baer was paid \$117,000 per year.

Center Grove includes a high school, two middle schools and six elementary schools, with a total enrollment of 7,361 and more than 370 teachers.

WHAT'S NEXT? Here are the next steps in the search for a new Center Grove school superintendent:

Next week: Private meeting for school board members to discuss applicants
Early March: Preliminary interviews of five to seven candidates
Late March: Finalist interviews, including committee interviews and question-and-answer forums with the public



COOMER



COPP