



DAILY JOURNAL

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2007

Johnson County, Indiana

50 cents

WEATHER

Today
 Skies: Partly cloudy
 Temps: High 53; low 42
 MAP, PAGE A8

CLARIFICATION

Edinburgh superintendent

Edinburgh Superintendent Rebecca Sager said a story and headline in Tuesday's Daily Journal did not accurately reflect her thoughts about her five years at Edinburgh schools. In a letter to the school board, Sager wrote:

"It is with very mixed emotions that I prepare this letter of resignation from my position as superintendent of the Edinburgh Community School Corp. effective June 29.

"During my five years here in Edinburgh, I have come to regard this community as my home and its residents as my friends.

"I have been blessed to be part of the many positive changes that collectively we have perceived, believed, and achieved for the children and families of our school community. There is much consolation for me in knowing that I leave the Edinburgh Community School Corp. with talented, professional educational leaders, many outstanding teachers, capable and dedicated support personnel, and last, but not least, a Board of Education committed to attaining excellence in all programs.

"Most importantly, I know that you all have the wisdom and understanding that courage, expectation, patience, and diligence will get you there.

"My future plans concerning continued employment in the field of education are uncertain, but my faith that the right path will be made clear to me is not. In whatever role I find myself, the leadership skills that I have acquired working with all of you here in Edinburgh will be of great value to me, and I am greatly appreciative to have been given this opportunity.

"The Edinburgh Community School Corp. family will forever remain in my thoughts and prayers. I plan to keep in touch and to celebrate all the future successes that I know are in store for you."

In a letter to the Daily Journal, Sager said she is particularly proud that teachers spend time each week analyzing student assessment data, the district has visual reminders of its mission statement, full-day kindergarten is offered to all students, parents can communicate with the district via a special Web program, principals visit classrooms to observe and encourage instruction, and the district offers a character development program designed to involve the entire community. She is resigning as superintendent for personal reasons and no other reasons, she said.

DEATHS

- Edinburgh
Bill Tobias, 77
Greenwood
- Evelyn V. Ball, 82
Edna Jean Hampton, 78
Thomas James Kerr, 59
Michael L. McCart, 61
New Whiteland
- Edward P. Snapp, 77
Whiteland
- Thomas Ray James, 42
Indianapolis
- Richard W. "Dik" Hoover, 60
Elsewhere
- Cathy Elizabeth Erickson
Debra Lee Markle, 45
Daniel Lee Shonkwiler, 56

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Officials plan beltway meetings

BE A HOST

Local organizations or community leaders interested in scheduling a public meeting to get details and ask questions about a proposed toll road that would cut through Johnson County must make a request to the state. To do so, visit the department of transportation's Web site at www.in.gov/dot/p3.

Forums designed to answer public questions, give details

By ANNIE GOELLER
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State officials will answer questions, give details and listen to feedback about a proposed toll road in public meetings in the coming months.

Officials from the governor's

office and Indiana Department of Transportation will attend the meetings and answer as many questions as possible about the proposed Indiana Commerce Connector, said Joe Gustin, department of transportation deputy commissioner for public-private partnerships.

Whether Gov. Mitch Daniels,

who proposed the 75-mile toll road last year, will attend is unclear, and the dates, locations and times of the meetings have not been set. Officials plan to schedule the meetings based on requests from communities.

It was unknown whether a meeting would be conducted in or near Franklin.

The meetings will delay a first look at legislation that proposes allowing a private company to build, maintain and collect tolls on the beltway, which would cross five central Indiana counties, said State Sen. Tom Wyss, R-Fort Wayne.

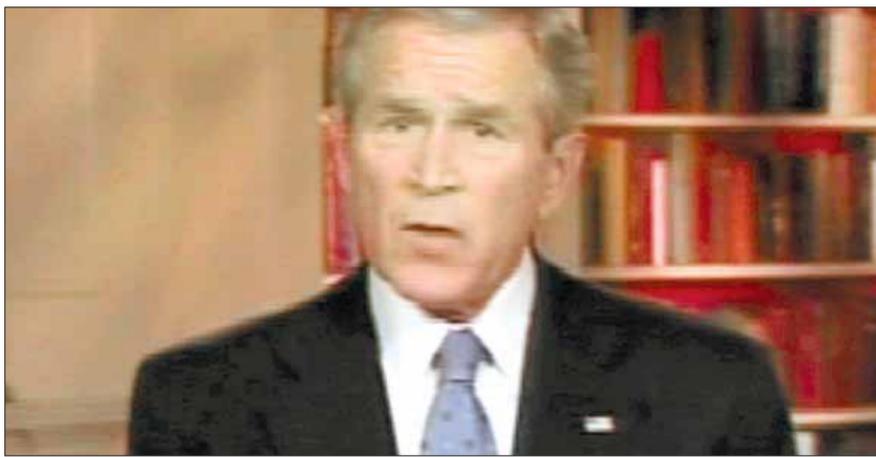
(SEE BELTWAY, BACK PAGE)

THE WAR IN IRAQ

A NEW WAY FORWARD

THE PLAN: 21,500 troops being sent to quell near-anarchy

THE REACTION: Democrats, some Republicans blast plan



President Bush addresses the nation from the White House library Wednesday night. Bush said he will be sending 21,500 more troops to Iraq this year and said it was a mistake not to send more troops last year.

WEB POLL

THE QUESTION
 Do you think the United States should send more troops to Iraq?

HOW TO VOTE
 Vote and offer comments at thejournalnet.com. Readers who don't have access to the Internet are welcome to mail or fax comments.

Write: Daily Journal, P.O. Box 699, Franklin, IN 46131
Fax: 736-2766

President takes responsibility for Iraq mistakes

By TERENCE HUNT
 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

President Bush acknowledged for the first time Wednesday that he erred by not ordering a military buildup in Iraq last year and said he was increasing U.S. troops by 21,500 to quell the country's near-anarchy.

"Where mistakes have been made, the responsibility rests with me," Bush said.

The buildup puts Bush on a collision course with the new Democratic Congress and pushes the American troop presence in Iraq toward its

highest level. It also runs counter to widespread anti-war passions among Americans and the advice of some top generals.

In a prime-time address to the nation, Bush pushed back against the Democrats' calls to end the unpopular war. He said that "to step back now would force a collapse of the Iraqi government, tear that country apart and result in mass killings on an unimaginable scale."

"If we increase our support at this crucial moment and help the Iraqis break the current cycle of violence, we can hasten the day our

(SEE FORWARD, BACK PAGE)

Troop buildup sets stage for contentious battle in Congress

By TOM RAUM
 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

President Bush's announcement that he is sending more troops to Iraq sets up the first major test of wills between his administration and the new Democratic-controlled Congress. Both sides are digging in.

The political stakes raised by Bush's prime-time television address were high on both sides.

ANALYSIS

Democrats, who came to power in midterm elections two months ago in large part because of growing public opposition to the war, must walk a fine line between criticizing Bush's plans and appearing to be obstructionists or undermining the military.

And they presently rule Congress with insufficient numbers to block Bush's plan.

For Bush, the decision to send more troops to Iraq — rather than begin a withdrawal of combat forces as recommended last month by the bipartisan Iraq Study Group — is a huge gamble.

If it fails, he will have few if any options left.

Defying public opinion polls and the

(SEE CONGRESS, BACK PAGE)

Judge orders tests for suspect

Evaluation for woman comes after courtroom behavior raises concern

By CANDACE BEATY
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A woman accused of beating her 83-year-old mother to death will be evaluated by a doctor to determine if she is competent to stand trial.

Stephanie Bryant, 45, was arrested Dec. 25 and later charged with murder.

Bryant's mother, Stella Morgan, was found dead Dec. 24 at her Greenwood home.

A doctor will evaluate Bryant to decide if she is competent to assist in her defense, Johnson Circuit Judge Mark Loyd said.

He ordered the competency evaluation after observing Bryant's actions in court: She had difficulty answering fairly simple questions, Loyd said.

If the evaluation determines she is not competent, Bryant would be sent to a mental health center. She would stay there until she became competent and could stand trial, he said. Bryant would be re-evaluated regularly.

Competency evaluations are requested three to five times a year, Loyd said.

An Indiana University doctor will perform the evaluation, he said.

A pretrial hearing is scheduled for March 1. The results from the evaluation should be back before then, Loyd said.

The prosecutor and defense attorney can challenge the findings in a competency hearing if they choose, he said.

Both Johnson County Prosecutor Lance Hamner and defense

(SEE SUSPECT, BACK PAGE)

'Today' crew trails cancer patient

Franklin man, family taped for TV show segment about coping with disease

By CANDACE BEATY
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Life seems fairly normal for Buzz Bay as he plays a game with his family at their Franklin home.

Except for the video camera catching every move.

Bay's wife, Susan, imitates the game show host of "Deal or No Deal?" as they play the board game with 11-year-old son Ryan while a camera crew working for NBC's "Today" captures the moment.

Bay, who was diagnosed with cancer in 2000, will be featured on the national morning news show to promote a book about five families

"They're putting a face with illness. Cancer can affect everyone and does."

Buzz Bay
 Franklin resident and cancer patient on a book and TV project he's involved in

facing life with illness. It is being written by Richard Cohen, husband of "Today" co-host Meredith Vieira. "They're putting a face with illness," Bay said. "Cancer can affect everyone and does."

So when the Bay family attended church Sunday, the cameras followed.

When Bay went to work as the volunteer coordinator at Americare Hospice, the two-person crew got that too.

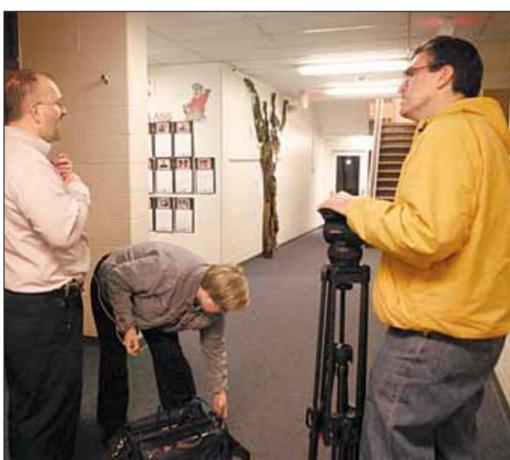
Same goes for a meeting with a teen hospice group at Franklin Community High School.

The camera crew followed him and his family Saturday, Sunday and Monday. The footage will be edited into a segment for the show.

"Today" producer Terry Shaefer said the plan is to profile each of the five families in Cohen's book on the show.

An air date has not been set for the first segment, but it should appear on TV in the coming weeks, she said. The show will air stories

(SEE CANCER, PAGE A5)



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT ROBERSON/roberson@thejournalnet.com

Marla Williams, center, prepares to attach a wireless microphone to Franklin resident Buzz Bay, left, as Williams' husband, Greg, gets ready to film a segment for NBC's "Today" show at Webb Elementary School. It is not known yet when the segment will air.