



INDIANA PACERS

# MORE TROUBLE FOR TEAM?

PAGE B1

VALENTINE'S DAY

# FREE CELEBRATION AT WINERIES

Local businesses offer wine, desserts to mark holiday.

PAGE C1



# DAILY JOURNAL

www.thejournalnet.com

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2007

Johnson County, Indiana

50 cents

## WEATHER



Today

Skies: Partly sunny  
Temps: High 28; low 7

MAP, PAGE A8

## BREAKING NEWS

### House fire leaves resident needing temporary shelter

A Franklin house fire left at least one person needing temporary shelter Wednesday evening.

The home at 201 W. Madison St. caught fire around 8:30 p.m. No one was there at the time, firefighters said.

A resident at a neighboring home called 911 when he saw power lines behind the house on fire. When firefighters arrived, they found the lines down behind the house, and the home was on fire.

The home is a rental owned by Bryan Wertz.

The fire was contained to the kitchen, but smoke damaged the rest of the house, said Richard Lashbrook, fire captain.

Firefighters are unsure if the power line fire and the house fire are related. The house fire was accidental, Lashbrook said.

## FREE TIME

### Need something to do?

The Daily Journal wants to publicize your events.

E-mail the information to [freetime@thejournalnet.com](mailto:freetime@thejournalnet.com) or mail it to Free Time, Daily Journal, P.O. Box 699, Franklin, IN 46131.

Get ideas on what to do inside.

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## COMING UP

### Remember the thrill

Don't miss a special section commemorating the Indianapolis Colts' dramatic victory in Super Bowl XLI.



SATURDAY

## DEATHS

Indianapolis

Harold Ray Jackson, 83  
Rex E. Kelp Sr., 90  
Robert C. Strain, 80

Elsewhere

James E. Bryant Sr., 72

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# Delay in toll road plan proposed

## Legislator suggests studying beltway before giving OK

By ANNIE GOELLER  
AND MICHELE HOLTKAMP-FRYE  
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITERS

A toll road through six suburban counties would be studied then brought back to Indiana legislators no sooner than next year under a proposal by an Indianapolis lawmaker.

If state Sen. Jean Breaux's changes are accepted, Indiana legislators would not be asked this



BREAUX

year to give authority to the governor to build a toll road through Johnson County and lease it to a private company. Instead, lawmakers' approval would come after studies on the need for the beltway, a potential route, and economic and environmental impacts.

The timing of legislative approval has been an issue for local and state elected officials and the public. The initial proposal would not allow for further approval by lawmakers, and many have said they need information about the

(SEE DELAY, PAGE A7)

## IF YOU GO

On Monday, all local elected officials and residents are invited to meet with the Indiana Department of Transportation about the proposed toll road that would pass through Johnson County.

After the meeting, the Johnson County Council could discuss taking a stand for or against the project at the group's monthly meeting, which also is open to the public.

**What:** Meeting between INDOT and all local elected officials about the Indiana Commerce Connector

**When:** 5 p.m. Monday

**Where:** Beeson Hall in the Franklin Cultural Arts and Recreation Center, 396 Branigin Blvd.

**More information:** Page A7

## Feedback not just show of hands

By CANDACE BEATY  
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Community forums to discuss the proposed Indiana Commerce Connector toll road are just one way state officials receive feedback on the project, officials said.

Most people at public forums, such as one in Trafalgar on Tuesday, vocally oppose the road, which would pass through Johnson County, south of Franklin.

If the public does not want the road, it's not going to be built, said Gary Abell, spokesman for the Indiana Department of Transportation. He's repeating a promise made by Gov. Mitch Daniels.

To get an accurate assessment of

## INSIDE

Residents south of Franklin are getting a crash course in eminent domain as tollway and natural gas pipeline projects loom. A local attorney explains how the process works and what your chances are of beating it.

Page A7

the public's sentiment toward the beltway, the department is meeting with business groups and civic organizations, will give just as much weight to people who speak to them privately about their support for the project and will consider the benefits the road could provide in other parts of the state.

(SEE FEEDBACK, PAGE A7)

## FRANKLIN SCHOOLS

# 'We looked at what was best for the students'

## In 28 years serving district, former board member saw Union Township change from rural to suburban



Stanley Poe stands in the gymnasium at Union Elementary School. Poe attended high school in the building before Union Township became part of Franklin Community School Corp. He retired from the school board in January.

For the 1970s, the debate was heated. The Franklin school board was deciding whether to install electric hand dryers in school restrooms.

One board member was convinced the children were going to be electrocuted. Others thought the machines were innovative.

Stanley Poe voted for the dryers. The majority won, and the blowers went in. "Looking back, it seems silly now; but at the time, it was serious," Poe said.

After serving 28 years, Poe retired from the school board in December. He said his greatest achievement is the facilities that have been provided for the students of the district while he has been in office.

He hasn't always voted with the majority. For example, Poe voted against the financing for the \$33 million project to turn the current high school into a middle school for seventh- and eighth-graders three months before he left.

Two principles have guided his decisions, Poe said.

"First I do what is good for the students, and then I do what I can for the taxpayers; and those two don't always match up," he said.

Poe joined the Franklin school board in 1979. He has served with six superintendents and was one of the longest serving officials in Johnson County.

He decided not to run in the last election for the Union Township seat on the Franklin board. His youngest son graduated from high school during his last term in office. The time had come for him to leave the board, he said.

Now, the retired researcher for Eli Lilly and Co. plans to serve on a national agriculture committee and work on the family sheep farm.

Most days, that is how he spends his time, working with the breeding stock on the Poe Hampshires farm near Hopewell.

While the issues that brought about the most conflict during his years were generally larger than hand dryers, the focus usually came back to school buildings.

In the fall, a major piece of the school system will open, the new Franklin Community High School between Simon and Branigin roads.

When the idea of building a new high school was proposed, few people opposed it, he said.

But when the time came to select a location, board votes were split, petitions were signed, and parents voiced angry concerns at board meetings about where to put the new high school.

Some wanted the building put on land the district owned on Upper Shelbyville Road. Others, including Poe, wanted a location near the center of the district.

"We looked at what was best for the

(SEE BOARD, BACK PAGE)

STORY BY SARAH LIPPS ■ PHOTO BY SCOTT ROBERSON

# Whose bright idea was it to light up new school?

## Manufacturer suggests turning on stadium lights to get special bulbs working correctly

By SARAH LIPPS  
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Drivers and neighbors near Branigin and Simon roads couldn't miss it.

This weekend, the stadium lights at the new Franklin Community High School lit the winter sky.

No one forgot to hit the off switch, and no midnight football practices were being conducted, school officials said.

New mercury vapor lights arrived for the football fields, and workers were following the directions on the bulb's packaging.

Think of charging your cell phone battery for the first time.

The lights were left on for 80 hours, from Thursday to Sunday, so they could get hot.

They are 1,500-watt metal halide bulbs, which contain mercury. They cost \$50 each.

Heating them up allows the mercury inside to spread evenly

throughout the bulbs, said Bill Goley, facilities director.

This helps the bulbs to burn longer and brighter. Neighbors were warned the bright lights would be on for a few days.

"Just turning them on and off shortens the life of the bulb," Goley said.

Workers also have left on new lights inside the building in the gym and pool area.

Bulbs in the parking lot also will be left on for 80 hours in the

next few weeks, after asphalt is poured. But those lights should not be as bright, he said.

At least 100 bulbs will light up the new high school's field, Goley said. That means the cost of the lights is about \$5,000.

When they are replaced, the school will have to pay an electrician and rent a piece of equipment to lift the person to change the bulbs.

(SEE BULBS, BACK PAGE)

# Crossing upgrades county's decision

## Costs are key in improving railroad warning devices

By ANNIE GOELLER  
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Four railroad crossings in the Center Grove area that residents and officials believe are dangerous could be upgraded if the county can find the money.

Following a train-vehicle crash Saturday that killed two brothers, county commissioners have said they want cross arms and flashing lights added to at least four crossings in the Center Grove area, including the one on Stones Crossing Road where the accident occurred.

County officials are trying to figure out who has the authority to improve the crossings and where the money comes from.

Officials from the Indiana Department of Transportation, Federal Railroad Administration and Indiana Rail Road Co. said they know the answer: the county.

The crossings aren't scheduled for work by the state for years, meaning the only other way to pay for upgrades is for the county to come up with the money, said Andy Dietrick, spokesman for the transportation department.

To add cross arms and flashing lights, state officials estimate the cost would be about \$250,000 per crossing.

Three state legislators who represent the northern parts of Johnson County are looking at ways to obtain more federal funding for railroad crossings in Indiana.

State Sen. Brent Waltz said either he will propose an amendment to a bill this session, or it will be the first bill he proposes next year. State Reps. David Frizzell and Woody Burton are considering proposing a bill that would provide more funding for railroad-crossing upgrades.

County commissioner Mitch Ripley, who has been vocal about

(SEE CROSSING, BACK PAGE)



BURTON



FRIZZELL



RIPLEY



WALTZ