

BRIEFS
NATION

WASHINGTON

Productivity down, wage pressures increased in '06

Productivity grew at a healthy 3 percent annual rate in the final quarter, although this critical measure of U.S. economic vitality for all of 2006 expanded at the slowest pace in nine years.

Productivity, the amount of output per hour of work, rose by 2.1 percent for all of 2006, down slightly from a 2.3 percent increase in 2005. It was the slowest pace since a 1.6 percent gain in 1997, according to the latest figures released Wednesday by the Labor Department. But the 3 percent annual growth rate of the last three months of 2006 was nearly double what economists had been expecting.

Labor costs for each unit of output rose 3.2 percent for all of 2006, up from a 2 percent increase in 2005 and the fastest rise in worker wages and benefits since a 4.2 percent increase in 2000.

For the fourth quarter, wage pressures eased a bit, rising by just 1.7 percent, a better outcome than analysts had been expecting following a 3.2 percent rate of increase in the third quarter.

HOUSTON

NASA to revamp screening process in light of arrest

Lisa Nowak, transformed from space hero to criminal suspect, returned to her home in Houston on Wednesday for a medical assessment, a day after she was charged in Florida with attempted murder and attempted kidnapping in what police depicted as a love triangle involving a fellow astronaut.



NOWAK

Nowak was met on the tarmac by police and escorted into a waiting squad car after her release on bail. She faced a medical exam at Johnson Space Center.

NASA, at a loss to explain what went wrong, said it would revamp its psychological screening process in light of Nowak's arrest.

The review will look at how astronauts are screened for psychological problems.

Nowak's children were with her husband, Richard, who works for a NASA contractor. She was being replaced as a ground communicator for the next space shuttle mission in March.

BRIEF

WORLD

SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

Military probe: No evidence guards beat detainees

An Army officer who investigated possible abuse at Guantanamo Bay after some guards purportedly bragged about beating detainees found no evidence they mistreated the prisoners — although he did not interview any of the reported victims, the U.S. military said Wednesday.

Col. Richard Bassett, the chief investigator, recommended no disciplinary action against the Navy guards named by Marine Sgt. Heather Cerveny, who had said that during a conversation in September they described beating detainees as common practice.

In an affidavit filed to the Pentagon's inspector general, Cerveny, a member of a detainee's legal defense team, said a group of more than five men who identified themselves as guards had recounted hitting prisoners. The conversation allegedly took place at a bar inside the base.

"The evidence did not support any of the allegations of mistreatment or harassment," the Miami-based Southern Command, which oversees Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in southeastern Cuba, said in a statement.

THE WAR IN IRAQ

U.S. helicopter crashes, killing all 7 on board



A U.S. Army CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter flies over Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone on Wednesday. A Sea Knight helicopter similar to this one went down northwest of Iraq's capital city earlier Wednesday, killing all seven on board.

Fifth American aircraft lost in less than three weeks

By ROBERT H. REID
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq

A U.S. Marine transport helicopter crashed in flames Wednesday in a field northwest of Baghdad, killing all seven people aboard, the U.S. military said. It was the fifth U.S. aircraft lost in less than three weeks and the latest sign of growing problems with aviation in Iraq.

A U.S. military statement gave no reason for the crash of the CH-46 Sea Knight, which went down near Fallujah in Anbar province, about 20 miles from Baghdad. However, at the Pentagon, three Marine Corps officials said the troop-transport helicopter was in flames when it went down, with the pilot appearing to attempt a hasty landing but losing control as the aircraft descended.

They said witnesses in nearby Marine aircraft saw the flames but saw no sign that it involved hostile fire.

An Iraqi air force officer, however, said the helicopter was downed by an anti-aircraft missile. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to release information.

An Iraqi farmer who lives about a half mile from the crash site said he heard a missile fired moments before

"The helicopter was flying and passed over us, then we heard the firing of a missile. The helicopter then turned into a ball of fire. It flew in a circle twice and then went down."

Mohammed al-Janabi

A farmer who works on land northwest of Baghdad, Iraq

the crash, which took place in an insurgent-infested region.

"The helicopter was flying and passed over us, then we heard the firing of a missile," said Mohammed al-Janabi, a man who farms land northwest of Baghdad. "The helicopter then turned into a ball of fire. It flew in a circle twice and then went down."

Associated Press Television video showed the flaming wreckage lying in a field in front of a cluster of mud homes. A dense plume of black smoke rose over the remains.

The Marine officials suspected the fire was caused by a mechanical problem, the officials said.

They spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation was ongoing.

In a statement posted on an extrem-

ist Web site, an al-Qaida-linked group, the Islamic State in Iraq, claimed it shot down the helicopter, which it described as a Chinook, an Army helicopter which resembles a Sea Knight.

Critics have long urged the military to replace the CH-46, which was introduced in 1964 at the start of the Vietnam War. In 2001, retired Col. Frank Jensen wrote in Defense News that the Marines should replace the CH-46 but cannot because of budget limitations.

Regardless of the cause, the latest crash adds urgency to a U.S. military review of flight operations in Iraq, including whether insurgents have perfected skills in attacking U.S. planes.

The latest crash occurred five days after a U.S. Army Apache helicopter went down in a hail of gunfire north of Baghdad. Three other helicopters — two from the Army and one operated by an American security firm — also have crashed since Jan. 20. A total of 20 Americans were killed in those four crashes.

The military did not say whether all seven killed in Wednesday's crash were Americans, but it was likely that they were.

The first four aircraft that crashed were all believed to have been shot down, the military has said.

Gates: U.S. will find out soon if Iraqi government is making progress

By ANNE FLAHERTY
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

Defense Secretary Robert Gates told a House panel Wednesday that the United States should know in a few months if the Iraqi government is making progress toward peace and whether the United States "is going to have to look at other alternatives and consequences."

In stark contrast to his predecessor, Donald Rumsfeld, Gates also said there was no doubt the Army and Marine Corps needed to be larger if they are to deal with future wars and give troops enough rest between combat tours.

"We need the full range of military capabilities," including ground combat forces to battle large armies and nimble special operations troops to scout out terrorist threats, Gates told the House Armed Services Committee.

"We don't know what's going to develop in places like Russia and China, in North Korea, in Iran and elsewhere," he said.

Gates testified alongside Marine



Defense Secretary Robert Gates, right, huddles with Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Peter Pace on Capitol Hill in Washington on Wednesday.

Corps Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as the House was gearing up for its first full-fledged debate on the Iraq war since the Nov. 7 elections. House Democrats plan next week to bring to the floor a measure that would flatly oppose President Bush's decision to send 21,500 more troops to Iraq.

Pace and Gates said they did not think debate in Congress would hurt the morale of troops in combat, undercutting an assertion by many congressional Republicans that members opposing the war were undermining the fighting forces there.

"As long as this Congress continues to do what it has done, which is to provide the resources for the mission, the dialogue will be the dialogue, and the troops will feel supported," Pace said.

Gates added that troops understand members of Congress want to find the best way to win the war.

"I think they're sophisticated enough to understand that that's what the debate's really about," he said.

Earlier in the hearing, Rep. Duncan Hunter, the top Republican on the panel, said he would oppose any resolution on Iraq.

"I do not think you can send a message that is going to raise the morale of the troops while at the same time sending a message that we don't support the mission," the Californian said.

Gates has said U.S. forces might be able to start leaving Iraq before the end of the year.

DAILY JOURNAL READERS' GUIDE

MAIN PHONE NUMBER
736-7101

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday

ADDRESS
2575 N. Morton St. (U.S. 31)
P.O. Box 699
Franklin, IN 46131

DELIVERY, BILLING QUESTIONS
736-2777; (888) 736-7101
6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday,
7 a.m. to noon Saturday.
Subscribers should call if they have
not received a newspaper by 7 a.m.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING
736-2700; (888) 736-7101
8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday-Friday
Fax: 736-2754

STORY IDEAS, NEWS TIPS
736-2712
After 5 p.m.: 736-2723
Fax: 736-2766
newstips@thejournalnet.com

SPORTS

Send sports scores, stories and
suggestions to:
rmorwick@thejournalnet.com

ADVERTISING
736-27868 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday
Fax: 736-2713

POSTMASTER

Send address changes to:
Daily Journal, P.O. Box 699,
Franklin, IN 46131
Periodical Class Postage
Paid at Franklin, IN
Daily Journal (USPS 565-520)

VOLUME

Volume 44, No. 176

BACK ISSUES, DIGITAL PHOTOS

Copies of the Daily Journal are
available for six months. Digital
files of photos published in the
newspaper are available on CDs.
Please call 736-7101.

COPYRIGHT

© The Daily Journal, 2007
All rights reserved.

ABOUT THE DAILY JOURNAL

The Daily Journal is an award-winning newspaper published daily except Sundays and Christmas at 2575 N. Morton St., Franklin, IN 46131.

Founded in 1963, the Daily Journal is owned by Home News Enterprises L.L.C. and is one of Indiana's most widely recognized and honored community newspapers.

The Daily Journal is committed to responsible reporting, professional business practices and dedicated community service.

The newspaper is a member of the Associated Press, Hoosier State Press Association, Inland Press Association and Certified Audit of Circulations.

TO SUBSCRIBE

Subscription rates are listed below.
To subscribe, call 736-2777.

Single copy
Monday-Friday \$.50
Weekend issue \$ 1.00

Home delivery
Month \$ 10.40
Year \$ 118.80

Mail delivery
4 months \$ 49.00
8 months \$ 98.00
12 months \$ 147.00

Student
1 semester \$ 47.00
2 semesters \$ 96.00

Military
4 months \$ 42.00
8 months \$ 80.00
12 months \$ 113.00

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

P.O. Box 699
Franklin, IN 46131
letters@thejournalnet.com

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Publisher
Jeffrey W. Owen 736-2744
jowen@thejournalnet.com

Editor
Scarlett Syse 736-2749
syse@thejournalnet.com

Assistant managing editor
Michele Holtkamp-Frye 736-2774
mholtkamp@thejournalnet.com

Assistant managing editor
Jennifer L. Gaskin 736-2721
jgaskin@thejournalnet.com

Circulation director
Mike Warren 736-2711
mwarren@thejournalnet.com

Delivery manager
Bruce Powell 736-2702
bpowell@thejournalnet.com

Advertising director

Christina Cosner 736-2750
ccosner@thejournalnet.com

Administrative manager
Linda Wirey 736-2751
lwirey@thejournalnet.com

Information technology manager
Kathy McDermott 736-2782
kmcdermott@thejournalnet.com

PAYMENTS

Payments can be made by cash,
check, MasterCard or Visa. Readers
also can sign up for E-Z Pay plan and
have their monthly subscriptions
deducted automatically from their
checking accounts, Visa or
MasterCard. Direct questions about
payments to 736-7101.

WEB SITES

www.thejournalnet.com
www.djclassifieds.com

Governor's
full-day 'K'
plan clears
Senate panelDaniels has proposed
phasing in program
over three-year spanBy DEANNA MARTIN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS

The governor's plan to make full-day kindergarten available to all Indiana students within three years, starting with the state's neediest children this year, cleared a Senate committee Wednesday.

Teachers and school officials told the Senate Education Committee that full-day kindergarten programs give students a lasting advantage over those who attend class for half a day.

Marisa Graham, who teaches full-day kindergarten at Erskine Elementary School in Anderson, said every student should have the chance to go to all-day programs.

"Full-day kindergarten makes an amazing difference," she said. "My children are reading and writing already this year. You walk just next door and they don't even know their letters or letter sounds. It makes that much of a difference."

Gov. Mitch Daniels has proposed phasing in full-day kindergarten over three years.

The plan would cost about \$145 million in the next two-year budget cycle, but the price tag would grow to \$260 million a year by the time the program was fully implemented.

Bill on local
taxing powers
advances to
full house

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS

House Democrats turned back GOP attempts to change a bill that would give local governments new taxing powers and moved the legislation to the full chamber Wednesday.

Republicans on the budget-writing House Ways and Means Committee offered at least a dozen amendments to the bill, but all failed mostly along straight party-line votes. The bill was then endorsed 16-9, with Rep. Larry Buell of Indianapolis casting the only Republican yes vote.

House Democrats say the bill would provide significant property tax relief to homeowners and give local governments more flexibility in raising revenue. But most Republicans criticized the bill for providing no tax relief this year, when a variety of factors is expected to increase property taxes on homeowners by an average of 15 percent statewide.

They also said that although it might provide some property tax relief starting in 2008, it also would allow local governments to spend more money than currently authorized.

"This is not a bipartisan bill unfortunately," said Rep. Jeff Espich, R-Uniondale.

Democrats control the House 51-49.