

DEFENSIVE ATTITUDE

Confident Colts prepare for Ravens

PAGE B1



SENATOR PROMISES FIGHT OVER IRAQ

New majority leader to push for winding down war.

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DAILY JOURNAL

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2007

Johnson County, Indiana

50 cents

WEATHER



Today

Skies: Partly sunny
Temps: High 41; low 22

MAP, PAGE A8

NEWS

Autopsy: Franklin minister died of heart attack

A Franklin minister died of a heart attack before his vehicle left the roadway, flipped and became submerged in a ditch Friday.

An autopsy revealed that the Rev. J. Wayne Markward, 71, died before his vehicle landed in Vandivier Ditch south of Franklin, Johnson County Coroner David Lutz said.

Markward was interim pastor at Union Christian Church near Franklin.

The accident occurred around 7:40 a.m. less than a mile from Markward's church on County Road 300S, west of Nineveh Road.

Markward was driving east in his Ford Escape when the accident occurred.

WEB EXTRAS

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National championship

To find out which college football team, either No. 1 Ohio State or No. 2 Florida, won Monday night's BCS national championship game, go to thejournalnet.com.



DEATHS

- Boggs town
- Brian D. Harrison, 47
- Edinburgh
- Lerow M. Denson, 84
- Franklin
- Donna J. Lewis, 58
- Esther L. Morris, 86
- Greenwood
- Stephen R. Lane, 69
- Indianapolis
- Mildred R. Hopkins, 83
- Daryl L. Spencer, 51
- Martinsville
- M. Christine Bailey, 89
- Dean Proffitt, 72
- Morgantown
- June T. Cook, 45

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Beltway bill open for debate

Some are worried how extension would change community



State Sen. Tom Wyss said the beltway would bring jobs to the area.

By ANNIE GOELLER
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Legislation that will be the first step toward approving a beltway through Johnson County is inked and ready for lawmakers to debate.

No one will say if it will be the only step to making the road a reality.

State Sen. Thomas J. Wyss, R-Fort Wayne, is author of the bill, which would allow a toll road to be built

through five counties neighboring Indianapolis.

Shortly after the legislation was written, a state representative canceled public meetings about the project, including one that was planned in Franklin.

Wyss and the governor's office don't know if they will schedule any meetings about the beltway.

The bill is a rewrite of part of the Major Moves legislation from 2006, striking out wording about allowing tolls to be collected along the Interstate 69 extension. It is packaged with legis-

lation about the Illiana Expressway, which Gov. Mitch Daniels has said would relieve congestion in northwest Indiana and near Chicago.

State lawmakers are being asked to approve a public-private partnership for the beltway, dubbed Indiana Commerce Connector, and allow tolls to be collected.

In exchange, tolls would not be collected on the new I-69, the bill proposes. That guarantee will prompt some

(SEE BILL, BACK PAGE)

IF YOU GO

A group of Morgan County landowners and an environmental group will conduct a meeting on the proposed Indiana Commerce Connector, a toll road that would go from Madison County to Hendricks County and cut through Johnson County. They have invited state legislators and officials.

When: 7 p.m. Thursday

Where: Martinsville High School auditorium, 1360 E. Gray St., Martinsville

Information: Call Brenda Buster at (765) 349-5920

INSIDE: Legislators open 2007 session with prayer; Daniels' full-day kindergarten plan may already be in trouble. Page A2

SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT TO STEP DOWN

Feeling not so super

Edinburgh chief cites personal reasons, frustration



STAFF PHOTO BY AIMEE SHATTO

Edinburgh Superintendent Rebecca Sager listens to 6-year-old Zach Giles solve a math problem during a class Monday at Eastside Elementary School. Sager announced Monday that she will leave her post in June.

By ANNIE GOELLER
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Proof that new programs in the county's smallest school district are helping students learn will come after the woman who started them leaves.

After five years as Edinburgh superintendent, Rebecca Sager will leave her position in June.

She announced her decision at the school board meeting Monday night.

Edinburgh is the smallest public school district in Johnson County with an enrollment of 871. Each year, enrollment in the district's three schools drops by

about 30. The schools also have the county's highest population, nearly 50 percent, of students who receive free and reduced-price lunches.

With concerns about consolidating the school district with another nearby because of falling enrollment, low test scores and a high dropout rate, Sager said her replacement will have to work with the community to improve student achievement.

Sager, 53, said she is frustrated at an inability to improve student achievement, but she said she isn't leaving the district because of a negative relationship with the school board or community.

She is leaving her \$93,464-per-year position for personal reasons and plans

to move to southern Indiana this summer. Sager is the second superintendent to leave a Johnson County school in the past year. Candace Milhon-Baer left Center Grove last month.

Sager hasn't gotten a new job yet but is thinking about becoming an elementary school principal or an assistant superintendent.

She said she likely wouldn't accept another position as a superintendent. "My ideal job is one where I can feel productive, feel I am making a difference and enjoy the process of teaching and learning," she said.

(SEE SUPER, PAGE A5)

"My ideal job is one where I can feel productive, feel I am making a difference."

Rebecca Sager

Edinburgh superintendent who will leave the school district in June

Johnson County library project faces taxing issues

New Franklin branch may be too costly

By JOSEPH S. PETE
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A new, expanded Franklin library, long desired by officials who say the current branch lacks enough space, may cost too much to run day-to-day.

For years, library officials had planned to start building a new library, four times as large as the existing branch, after the construction of the new Trafalgar library is finished.

Following that would come an expansion at the busiest library in the county system, in the Center Grove area.

More space for Johnson County libraries depends on tax revenue that may not materialize for years. A state agency oversee-

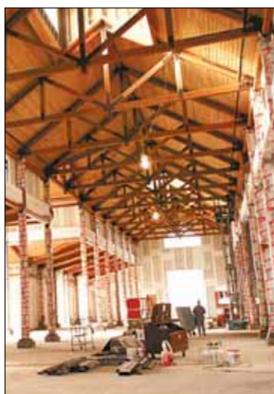
BY THE NUMBERS

Here's a look at the number of visits to Johnson County Public Library branches in recent years:

Year	Franklin	Trafalgar	White River
2000	150,859	13,144	173,046
2001	170,464	15,944	191,205
2002	183,315	19,655	212,844
2003	132,309	20,134	209,531
2004	146,354	20,931	221,268
2005	150,033	19,859	224,383

ing local government financing has warned library officials their budget may decrease this year, postponing the Franklin project. A proposed 90,000-square-foot

(SEE FRANKLIN, BACK PAGE)



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT ROBERSON

A 20,000-square-foot library in Trafalgar is under construction and will be one of the largest buildings ever constructed in the town. Officials expect the building to be finished by late July.

Barn-like Trafalgar structure designed to celebrate area's agricultural heritage

By JOSEPH S. PETE
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Late this summer, residents of Trafalgar can start using a library nearly as large as the branch in Franklin.

The \$4.6 million building, designed to resemble a barn and celebrate the area's agricultural heritage, is 20 times larger than the current Trafalgar library. Except for schools, the 20,000-square-foot library is one of the largest buildings ever constructed in the town.

The branch is necessary because of an anticipated growing population in the area, the county library director said.

Officials expect construction to end on schedule by late July. During the next month, the shelves will be filled, and furniture and equipment will be moved in.

The current library is less than a mile away in downtown Trafalgar, occupying a 19th-century bank building leased from the town for \$1 a year. Town officials have not decided what to do with the building when the library moves out.

The project cost \$5.1 million, including land acquisition and other expenses. County property taxpayers, except those in Greenwood and Edinburgh, which have

(SEE TRAFALGAR, BACK PAGE)

Lawn ruts irk many in CG

3 Indianapolis teens arrested on mischief charges

By TRACI MOYER
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Residents in four Center Grove subdivisions awoke Sunday to find ruts in their lawns.

About a dozen homeowners face landscaping repairs after a vehicle drove on their lawns during the night, police said.

Total damage is estimated at more than \$3,600.

Three 16-year-olds from Indianapolis have been arrested on charges of criminal mischief, Johnson County Sheriff's Maj. Steve Byerly said.

The teenagers drove a Jeep through yards in Willow Lakes East, Eagles Landing, Eldorado II and Brockton Manor late Saturday and early Sunday, Byerly said.

A resident reported a red Jeep driving through lawns about 1:50 a.m. Sunday, according to the police report.

Police found the Jeep 20 minutes later on State Road 135, Byerly said.

The boys told deputies they were going to visit a girl in the Willow Lakes East subdivision when they started driving in the lawns.

This is the third time someone has driven through Brian Benham's yard.

"It's just disappointing for people like me who have to pay the price for parents that don't know what their kids are out doing," he said. "Kids can be kids, but at

(SEE LAWN, BACK PAGE)