

HOUSE PASSES ANTI-TERROR LEGISLATION

Democrats working to keep campaign promises.

PAGE A2



JOHNSON COUNTY TOURNAMENT ACTION

PAGE B1

DAILY JOURNAL

www.thejournalnet.com

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2007

Johnson County, Indiana

50 cents

WEATHER



Today
Skies: Mostly sunny
Temps: High 44; low 27

MAP, PAGE A8

NEWS

Apple chief exec unveils long-awaited mobile phone

SAN FRANCISCO — Apple Computer CEO Steve Jobs on Tuesday announced the iPod maker's long-awaited leap into the mobile phone business and renamed the company Apple Inc., reflecting its increased focus on consumer electronics.



The iPhone (above), which will start at \$499 when it launches in June, is controlled by touch, plays music, surfs the Internet and runs the Macintosh computer operating system. Jobs said it will reinvent wireless communications and leapfrog past the current generation of smart phones.

"Every once in a while a revolutionary product comes along that changes everything," he said during his keynote address at the annual Macworld Conference and Expo. "It's very fortunate if you can work on just one of these in your career. ... Apple's been very fortunate in that it's introduced a few of these."

He said the company's name change is meant to reflect Apple's transformation from a computer manufacturer to a full-fledged consumer electronics company. During his speech, Jobs also unveiled a TV set-top box that allows people to send video from their computers and announced the number of songs sold on its iTunes Music Store has topped 2 billion. Apple shares jumped more than 8 percent on the announcements.

DEATHS

- Franklin
Rachel Michelle Cole, 31
- Greenwood
Helen R. Sutton, 80
- Morgantown
June T. Cook, 45
- New Whiteland
Wilma McKee, 72
- Indianapolis
Diane O. Bowen, 71
- Annette Lewis Walling, 84
- Elswhere
Earl Thomas Logsdon, 93
Howard D. Williams, 89

INDEX

- Accent.....A6-A7
- Classified.....B5-B7
- Comics.....B4
- Editorials.....A4
- Obituaries.....A5
- Police, fire.....A3
- Sports.....B1-B3, B8
- Southside.....A3
- TV listings.....A7
- Weather.....A8

CALL US

Main switchboard
736-7101
Delivery: 736-2777,
(888) 736-7101
Advertising: 736-2700
News tips: 736-2712



6 01442 20050 0

Questions may stall beltway plan

SHARING VIEWS

Find contact information for your local legislators in the Communities section.
thejournalnet.com

INSIDE

Additional coverage of the state legislative session.
Page A2

State legislators want more information before they support bill

By ANNIE GOELLER
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER
agoeller@thejournalnet.com

State Sen. Greg Walker is concerned about the governor's justification for building a beltway around Indianapolis, the type of jobs the road would bring and whether the state should take land from property owners.

He calls the toll road that would pass through Johnson County the No. 1 issue among his constituents and said he must

have more information before supporting the project.

"I can't vote to support something if I don't know anything about it," he said. Other legislators joined Walker in that pledge.

But whether their holdout for information will make a difference when the bill comes up for a vote is unknown. Lawmakers said they hadn't contacted the governor's office or the Indiana Department of Transportation for answers, and they hoped to learn more during hearings.

Two local legislators, Sen. Richard Bray and Rep. Ralph Foley, who each represents part of the county where the beltway could be located, said they would likely support the toll road because of the economic development benefits the governor is promising.

The day after a Fort Wayne state senator proposed a bill allowing the 75-mile toll road to be privately built and maintained, legislators who represent part of the county want to know about the project, such as



State Sen. Greg Walker is worried about taking land from property owners.

(SEE BELTWAY, BACK PAGE)

HOME BUILDING IN JOHNSON COUNTY

Home-growth surge slows



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT ROBERSON/sroberson@thejournalnet.com

A home is under construction in the Center Grove area. Although home construction declined by more than 25 percent in Johnson County last year, it fared better than the rest of central Indiana. Builders focused more on selling off houses as demand tapered off.

Slowdown here not as bad as rest of central Indiana

By JOSEPH S. PETE
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER
jpete@thejournalnet.com

Fewer houses were built in Johnson County last year, in a slowdown builders attribute to oversupply.

From County Line Road to the southern townships, home construction declined by more than 25 percent across the county in 2006 from the previous year, planners report.

The county fared better than the rest of central Indiana. Marion and the eight surrounding counties posted a decline of 36 percent through November 2006.

Center Grove and Greenwood continued to grow south, but more slowly than in recent years. Builders scaled back on

new construction to focus on selling off houses as demand waned.

Home building in Franklin dropped 41 percent, to the lowest level since 1992. Builders doing business in the city said the demand for new houses dried up last year.

City planner Joe Csiskos said developers haven't been interested in building houses in Franklin in recent years.

Custom homes continued to sell, but many builders said first-time buyers disappeared.

Some builders and planners blame the figures on buyers frightened away by the much-reported slump in the national housing market. Others see the decline as a temporary setback after a record boom. They said unprecedented growth can't go on forever.

Home building declined throughout the Midwest, even as interest rates crept back down. Some builders said stagnant job growth in the greater Indianapolis area thinned the number of potential homebuyers.

Building in many subdivisions in Center Grove and elsewhere stalled over the year.

Many larger builders, such as Indianapolis-based C.P. Morgan, build only when a buyer is lined up. The company builds out its subdivisions, such as Homecoming in Greenwood and Heritage in Franklin, according to demand.

A lack of demand caused home construction in Center Grove to slow to a

(SEE SLOWDOWN, BACK PAGE)

Unfinished projects leave area prime for continued construction

By JOSEPH S. PETE
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER
jpete@thejournalnet.com

The pace of new home construction slowed across Johnson County last year, but proposals from area builders and developers indicate that large subdivisions are still being planned for the area.

Though they differ on market forecasts, builders agree the county remains

poised for long-term growth.

More than 6,000 homes should be built in Johnson County over the next five years, the National Association of Home Builders estimates. But its market research suggests demand for new houses might remain stagnant for another year.

Developers still plan many large-scale residential projects.

Duke Homes wants to build 2,000 homes around a golf course in The Abbey, just

west of Bargersville.

Riverwalk, proposed for State Road 37 and Olive Branch Road, would bring another 763 homes to the Center Grove area.

Home building fell 26 percent across the county last year, compared to the previous year. In Center Grove, new home construction hit at least a 14-year

(SEE PROJECTS, BACK PAGE)

INSIDE: Find the number of building permits issued for single-family homes in recent years. **Back Page**

Center Grove takes steps toward high school renovation, expansion

Board hires construction company to generate estimates, create plan to oversee day-to-day operations

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

A plan to renovate and expand Center Grove High School is beginning to take form.

The school board took a major step toward construction Monday when members voted unanimously to hire Hunt Construction Co. to develop cost estimates, create

a plan for phasing construction and oversee the day-to-day operations of the project.

Other companies would be hired to perform the actual construction work.

The firm will be paid \$1.4 million as long as the renovation and expansion project costs \$40 million or less.

This month and next, board members and the public will

begin learning how big Center Grove High School could become, how much the building expansion will cost and the impact on property tax bills.

The first hint at the space that's needed came this week when the school's architectural firm showed officials that the existing building is too small for the current student population. About 23 percent more square

feet are needed just to meet current student needs, a report from InterDesign architectural firm said.

Architects have talked to teachers and administrators and identified areas of the school that they think must be renovated or what additions are needed.

For example, math classrooms need to be larger to meet state standards. The foreign language

program needs another classroom, and the music department needs another choir room.

The additional space would also include 7,400 square feet for an alternative education program, 2,600 square feet to the guidance offices for another counselor and social worker, and almost 1,000 square feet for a

(SEE BOARD, PAGE A5)

PTO mom sentenced to 1 year in prison

By TRACI MOYER
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER
tmoyer@thejournalnet.com

A former treasurer for a Center Grove parent-teacher organization has been sentenced to a year in prison after pleading guilty to 10 counts of theft.



ZELLMAN

Kelli Zellman, 29, who most recently listed an Indianapolis address, was sentenced to prison and one year of probation for taking \$40,000 from the West Grove Elementary School group. Johnson Circuit Judge Mark Loyd also ordered her to repay the stolen money.

With good behavior, Zellman could be released from prison in six months.

The theft has prompted the organization to make changes to prevent money from being misused again, said Amy Capuano, co-vice president of the group.

Checks written by the organization must now have two or three signatures from members and the treasurer. Some other officer positions are filled by two people.

The group also purchased an insurance policy that would reimburse it in case of theft.

The theft caused the organization to delay or abandon plans to rebuild a school playground, fund a scholarship and provide classroom supplies, Allison Dixon, co-vice president of the group, testified.

Zellman admitted to writing more than 60 checks ranging from \$80 to \$1,300 to herself between July 2004 and August 2005, when the thefts were discovered.

She also kept money from various fund-raisers, including \$2,000 from the Santa Shop, \$392 from the Spirit Sales cash box and \$2,000 from the Spring Frolic, according to court documents.

The check and cash withdrawals Zellman made totaled \$30,002.10, according to the court records.

When Zellman was arrested, she gave detectives almost \$9,529

(SEE PRISON, PAGE A5)