

Iraq

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

Sunni insurgency. Some say there's little point in boosting forces in the largely Shiite south, where most non-U.S. coalition troops are concentrated. As more countries draw down or pull out, it could create a security vacuum if radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr stirs up trouble.

Italy, once the third-largest partner with 3,000 troops in southern Iraq, brought the last of its soldiers home last month.

Now Britain, America's chief ally, hopes to cut its 7,000-member force in the southern city of Basra by several thousand in the first half of the year. Prime Minister Tony Blair is preparing to announce a withdrawal of about 2,600 soldiers, the Financial Times reported Friday.

"As for the future shape in the coalition, there continue to be coalition forces operating in Iraq," Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said. "The South Koreans, the Japanese, others have re-upped their forces again to continue operating in Iraq. There is a NATO training mission for officers in Iraq ... I think you'll continue to see that kind of international support."

Fact check: South Korea plans to halve its 2,300-member contingent in the northern city of Irbil by April and is under pressure from parliament to devise a plan for a complete withdrawal by 2008.

And Japan has not "re-upped" yet, though news reports Friday said the Japanese government was considering extending a special law that authorizes the deployment of its 600-member humanitarian mission for another year.

Japan's military involvement has been unpopular with the public. Some say it violates the nation's pacifist constitution and makes Japan a terrorist target.

"I feel like it's going to go in the same direction as the Vietnam War," said Yoshiyuki Nagashima, 57, who runs a trading company in Tokyo. "Japan should withdraw from Iraq."

Although Britain welcomed Bush's announcement that more U.S. troops would be deployed, it has ruled out sending in any additional forces. Australia, with 1,300 troops in and around Iraq, also is "unlikely" to chip in more, Prime Minister John Howard said this week.

Poland has extended the mission of its 900 troops through the end of 2007. But most of the other coalition members that have extended their commitments are small, mostly symbolic contributors. They include the Czech Republic, which has 100 military police in Iraq; Armenia, with 46 peacekeepers under Polish command, and the 40 Estonian infantry serving with U.S. forces in Baghdad.

Thefts

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

Also missing from the house were a revolver worth \$325 and a drawer from the hutch in the dining room. The homeowner was unsure what was in the drawer, the report said.

Televisions taken from the home included a 42-inch plasma worth \$6,000 and a 32-inch plasma worth \$3,000, the report said.

Since the homeowner was away during the initial investigation, it is unclear what other items could be missing, the report said. Investigators don't know what day the burglary happened.

On Thursday, a woman reported someone broke into her home on Berkshire Boulevard in Brockton Manor, a report said.

She reported seeing a white van in the area after a suspicious man came to the door a few weeks ago, the report said.

A neighbor also saw a man looking in windows while a white van followed him, the report said.

LOTTERY

Here are the winning numbers selected Friday in the Hoosier Lottery: Daily Three Midday: 4-6-0. Daily Three Evening: 0-4-0. Daily Four Midday: 2-7-6-4. Daily Four Evening: 6-0-3-2. Lucky Five Midday: 11-16-26-30-36. Lucky Five Evening: 3-5-12-20-32. Mix and Match: 25-37-40-42-43.

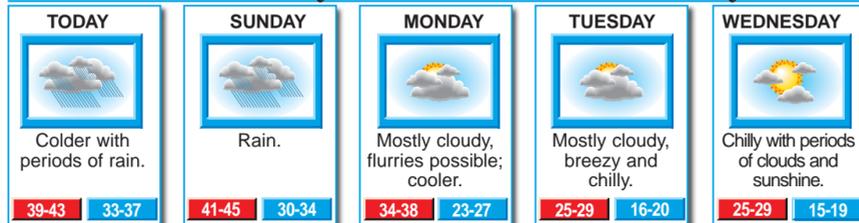
Here are the winning numbers selected Thursday in the Hoosier Lottery: Daily Three Evening: 8-2-7. Daily Four Evening: 8-7-0-3. Lucky Five Evening: 11-12-16-17-30. Hoosier Lotto jackpot: \$12 million. Powerball jackpot: \$155 million.

CORRECTION

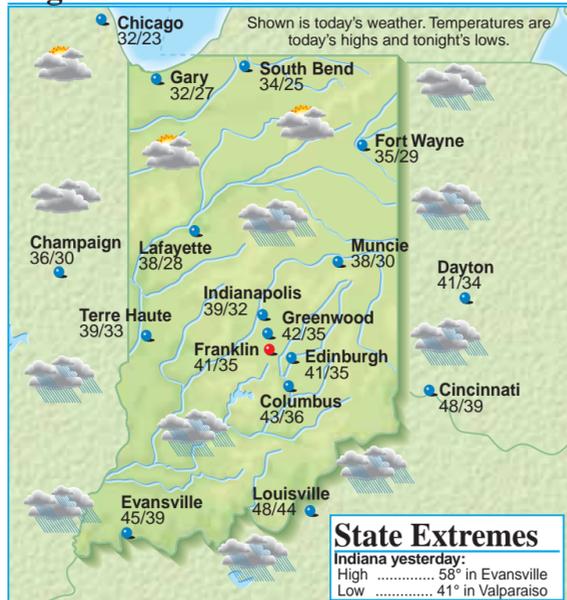
Franklin Mayor Brenda Jones-Matthews welcomes residents to join her walking laps at the Franklin Cultural Arts and Recreation Center from 6 to 7 a.m. Wednesdays and 7 to 8 p.m. Thursdays. This information was incorrect in Friday's Daily Journal.

WEATHER

AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Johnson County



Regional weather



Regional summary

Indianapolis/Greenwood: Cloudy and colder today with a little rain. A little rain tonight. Rain tomorrow; rain and ice at night. Monday: Colder with flurries. **Edinburgh/Franklin:** Cloudy and colder today with a little rain. Cloudy tonight with a touch of rain. Rain tomorrow. Monday: A chance for flurries.

Today in weather history

Temperatures soared to 70 degrees in central Pennsylvania on Jan. 13, 1932. In colder regions, the best chance of unseasonable warmth is from Jan. 7-10 and from Jan. 20-26.

Regional cities

City	Yest. Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W	City	Yest. Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W
Anderson	53/43/r	40/27/r	Indianapolis	55/43/r	43/31/r
Bloomington	57/50/r	44/31/r	Kokomo	55/45/r	38/26/i
Chicago	48/37/r	30/24/sf	Lafayette	54/46/r	38/28/i
Cincinnati	56/44/r	48/37/r	Louisville	59/52/r	51/41/r
Evansville	58/52/r	48/37/r	Muncie	52/43/r	41/25/r
Fort Wayne	52/40/r	35/27/i	South Bend	51/40/r	36/23/sn
Gary	52/41/r	34/26/sf	Terre Haute	55/47/r	41/32/r

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Beltway

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

officials, crowded the auditorium to discuss the proposed Indiana Commerce Connector.

"I fear that central Indiana will end up like Los Angeles, where endless highways make driving a lifestyle," Franklin resident Gary Moody said. "The proposed route threatens a lot of farmland."

Indianapolis keeps spreading out, and southern Johnson County will end up like northern Johnson County.

No one at the meeting spoke in favor of the proposal.

No representatives from the Indiana Department of Transportation attended the grassroots forum. An INDOT spokeswoman said the agency received no invitation.

The department announced Wednesday it would conduct what it termed "listening sessions" for interested communities. A schedule will be announced soon, spokeswoman Jamie Jorszak said.

Johnson County Council attorney Phil Wilson urged residents to take their concerns to their city and county councils and to pass resolutions against the beltway.

Wilson opposes a beltway, which he said would hurt the county financially.

"You influence local government more than you will ever influence a state senator or a state representative," he said. "They care about your vote."

Criticism of the beltway came from many different perspectives

Metal

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

couple of years, as the demand for copper, especially in China's booming economy, has risen dramatically.

Copper can be sold at scrap yards for \$2.50 to \$3 a pound, while aluminum can go for 60 to 70 cents a pound, Walsh said.

While the increase brings more business to Kurt Hight's Franklin company, it also means he has to be more careful whom he buys from, Hight, owner of Crossroads Recycling, said in July. He said he never buys brand new copper, which could have been stolen from a home under construction.



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT ROBERSON@roberson@thejournalnet.com

State Sen. Greg Walker told residents at the beltway information meeting Thursday evening at Martinsville High School that he was there to get information and to hear what they had to say about the proposed toll road.

"A beltway would remove a big swath of land from the tax rolls, and that's going to result in increased cost of local government services."

Phil Wilson
Johnson County Council attorney

Thursday.

Some questioned the environmental impact of a new highway. Some worried emergency-response times of police and fire departments would lag.

Others were concerned that removing land from the tax base would spike homeowners' property taxes throughout affected counties.

The proximity of a major highway also would decrease the assessed value of nearby homes, shifting the tax burden onto fewer people, they said.

Some farmers, possibly facing eminent-domain property seizures under the current proposed route, vowed not to leave their land.

"I'm not eager to be involved in that kind of thing," he said.

Thieves, often looking to support a drug habit, have stripped vacant houses in South Bend of almost all their metal, often leaving them unlivable and sometimes flooded. They have stolen copper pipes, aluminum siding, gutters, air conditioners and wires from the homes and businesses, which causes their value to drop significantly.

In one case, the thieves, called scrappers by some police officers, cut through the dry wall to reach the pipes.

Greenwood police investigated at least 12 thefts of copper piping and wire last year, including two break-ins to a fire station that was under construction on Graham Road on the city's east

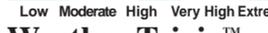
Sun and moon

Sunrise today 8:04 a.m.
 Sunset tonight 5:42 p.m.
 Moonrise today 2:58 a.m.
 Moonset today 12:52 p.m.

Jan 18 Jan 25 Feb 2 Feb 10

AccuWeather UV Index™

Highest Today in Johnson County
Values indicate the exposure to the sun's ultraviolet rays.



Low Moderate High Very High Extreme

Weather Trivia™

What is the lowest temperature ever recorded in Death Valley?

59!

Wind Chill Today

How cold it feels based on temperature and wind speed.

8 a.m. 37° Noon 35° 4 p.m. 34°

Heating Degree Days

Index of energy consumption indicating how many degrees the average temperature was below 65 degrees for the day with negative values counting as zero

Yesterday 14
Month to date 299
Normal month to date 457

Weekly temperatures



Sa Su M T W Th F

Last week's Normal high Normal low

River stages

Fid: flood stage. Stage: in feet at 7 a.m.

Friday. Chg: change in previous 24 hours.

Station Fld Stage Chg

White River Mooresville 9 8.60 -0.12

White River (East Fork) Edinburg 12 5.58 -0.03

AccuWeather.com

Almanac

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2007 Statistics for Indianapolis through 5 p.m. yesterday.

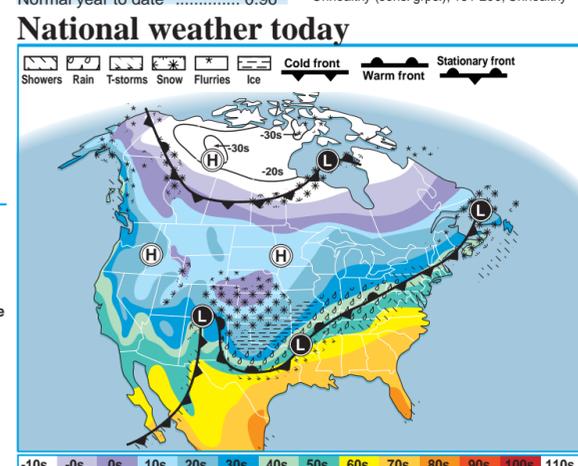
Temperature
 High 55°
 Low 47°
 Normal high 34°
 Normal low 18°
 Record high 69° in 1890
 Record low -19° in 1918

Precipitation
 24 hrs. ending 5 p.m. yest. 0.07"
 Month to date 1.19"
 Normal month to date 0.96"
 Year to date 1.19"
 Normal year to date 0.96"

Humidity
 Yesterday's average 90%
 Today's average 91%

Air quality
Indianapolis Source: IAPC
 Yesterday 60
 0-50, Good; 51-100, Moderate; 101-151, Unhealthy (sens. grps.); 151-200, Unhealthy

National weather today



Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

National cities

City	Yest. Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W	City	Yest. Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W
Albany, NY	45/33/r	38/24/c	Houston	81/68/c	76/41/t
Atlanta	64/44/c	70/52/pc	Jacksonville	78/49/pc	78/55/pc
Atlantic City	53/36/c	50/42/r	Kansas City	31/14/sn	23/16/sn
Baltimore	53/36/sh	50/45/r	Las Vegas	46/35/pc	44/26/pc
Boston	52/36/pc	39/32/c	Los Angeles	59/47/pc	63/38/pc
Buffalo	48/36/r	37/26/c	Louisville	59/52/r	51/41/r
Burlington, VT	39/31/c	35/20/c	Memphis	67/57/sh	62/45/t
Champaign	54/42/r	36/25/i	Miami	79/70/pc	80/70/pc
Charleston, SC	75/46/pc	78/56/pc	Milwaukee	41/35/sn	31/22/sf
Cheyenne	0/-8/sn	10/-9/sf	Minneapolis	15/14/c	16/7/c
Chicago	48/37/r	30/24/sf	Nashville	63/56/sh	66/51/c
Cleveland	54/40/r	38/30/r	New Orleans	74/61/c	76/63/pc
Columbia, SC	71/38/pc	76/53/pc	New York	52/39/c	41/37/r
Columbus, GA	73/49/c	74/52/pc	Philadelphia	51/34/c	46/41/r
Dallas	70/53/t	32/30/i	Phoenix	60/50/pc	53/36/s
Denver	7/-1/sn	9/1/sf	St. Louis	59/34/r	32/28/i
Des Moines	22/10/sn	20/15/sn	Salt Lake City	20/11/sf	16/5/pc
Detroit	54/40/r	34/24/c	San Francisco	46/37/s	55/39/s
El Paso	65/45/sh	57/28/pc	Seattle	30/19/pc	39/27/pc
Fairbanks	13/4/c	7/-4/pc	Tampa	79/57/pc	80/62/pc
Honolulu	80/71/s	82/69/s	Washington, DC	52/39/sh	54/45/r

Weather (w): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

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WHAT THE STATE IS PROPOSING

Gov. Mitch Daniels is proposing what he calls the Indiana Commerce Connector, a toll road that would link six interstates through Johnson, Hendricks, Morgan, Shelby, Hancock and Madison counties.

Making the beltway a toll road would help pay for the extension of Interstate 69, state officials have said.

State officials also said the 75-mile road around parts of Indianapolis would ease traffic congestion around the north, east and south sides of Indianapolis and on I-69 in Hamilton County and create jobs.

Officials have not provided data indicating either outcome.

Officials also have said initial studies are under way to examine the impact of the road on the economy, environment, traffic patterns and other areas.

Here is what state officials are saying about the project:

"Make no mistake, a toll is a tax," said Sandra McCarsy, representing the Marion County Alliance of Neighborhood Associations. "We need more study and debate. That this is not being brought before the public for discussion is a threat to democracy."

Many, including Johnson County Council member Charles Canary, questioned why the proposal wasn't unveiled until after November's election.

Canary said he's investigated state claims that the toll road will spur economic development.

"They're not going to give you jobs," he said. "They're not going to increase your tax money. I'm looking at what the county's going to get, and it's not there. I don't expect a red cent."

Taxes may rise with a tax base reduced by miles of state-owned land, Canary said. He feared the

county government may have to cut services because of a revenue shortfall.

Canary, who said he's not speaking for the council, joined many others in expressing skepticism about the state's promise of economic development.

A toll road, they feared, may bring only low-paying jobs related to the trucking industry, such as shipping positions in distribution warehouses.

Newly elected state Sen. Greg Walker, whose district includes part of Johnson County, came to hear public opinion. He was the only legislator who attended.

He remains undecided on the toll road but said the state needs to look toward growth more than a decade down the road.

Walker clarified that he wasn't speaking in defense of the beltway; he was just introducing points for consideration.