

In Brief

Officer slightly injured in crash

An off-duty Lafayette Police sergeant was slightly injured in a two-car crash Wednesday morning.
 Lafayette police reports said Sgt. Neil Dale was off-duty, traveling southbound on County Road 500 East at 7:30 a.m. when his police cruiser was struck by a northbound Jeep Cherokee driven by Dianna Hitz, 37, of Lafayette.

Reports say Dale saw the Jeep sliding on slick pavement on the bridge over Interstate 65. Dale slowed nearly to a stop and drove his cruiser toward the railing. The Jeep hit him head on and rolled over in the crash.

Dale complained of general pain and was taken to St. Elizabeth Medical Center, where he was treated and released. Hitz and her 4-year-old daughter were not injured in the crash.

The child was properly restrained in a child seat and both Dale and Hitz were wearing seat belts. Airbags were set off in both vehicles.

County Road 500 East was closed for almost two hours while police investigated the crash.

Rape report being investigated

Lafayette police are investigating a rape that was reported Friday in the vicinity of Richle Brothers Tavern on Concord Road.

A 28-year-old Lafayette woman reported the rape at 3:13 p.m. Friday, according to Lafayette Police Detective Tim Payne. The rape took place earlier that morning. No other injuries were reported.

Information on the suspect is being withheld due to the ongoing investigation, Payne said.

Payne said he was not aware of any drugs or alcohol involved in the case.

Home deduction deadline nearing

The deadline is March 1 for most owners of mobile homes to file for homestead and mortgage deductions. However, owners older than 65 have until March 31.

The deductions apply only to those who have owned a mobile home since Jan. 15, 2003. March 1 is also the deadline for deductions given to the blind, the disabled and disabled veterans.

The deadline for deductions on real estate is May 10 and applies to those who have owned a title on property since March 1.

Deductions can be filed at the Tippecanoe County Auditor's office in the Tippecanoe County Office Building, 20 N. Third St. For more information, call 423-9207.

Health fair set for Feb. 26

St. Thomas Aquinas Church invites the Lafayette-West Lafayette community to Spring into Health.

The church, located at 835 State St., will sponsor its first health fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 26. St. Tom's Health Cabinet will offer screenings for cholesterol, osteoporosis, blood pressure, scoliosis and glaucoma for a small fee.

Several health professionals will be available to answer questions about medications, how to conduct a breast self-exam, and how to lead a healthier lifestyle.

Free parking is available in the Purdue University garage behind the church on University Street.

To learn more, contact parish nurse Barbara Strasburger via e-mail at hstrasbu@stthom.com or by calling 474-0782.

— Staff Reports

Correction

Police on Monday arrested a suspect wanted in an armed robbery that occurred Sunday outside the Village Pantry and 14th and Salem streets. A headline Wednesday on Page B1 was incorrect.

► To report an error, contact the author of the story or the editor of that section; or see Page A2 for telephone and fax numbers.

Plans approved to repave Ind. 225

Part of U.S. 231 will also get face-lift

By Dan Shaw
 dshaw@journalandcourier.com

The Tippecanoe County Technical Transportation Committee approved plans to repave Indiana 225 and a section of U.S. 231 with asphalt to begin within the next 18 months.

The committee on Wednesday voted to add the projects to the Tippecanoe County Area Plan Commission's Transportation Improvement Program, which assigns funding to road projects in the county for the next five years.

The repaving of U.S. 231 will begin at Indiana 28 and

proceed north to just south of Tippecanoe County Road 500 South. The Indiana Department of Transportation estimates the project will cost \$1.2 million — with \$960,000 coming from state funds and \$240,000 from federal funds.

INDOT also will repave Indiana 225 for its entire length from Indiana 25 to Indiana 43. The agency estimates the project to cost \$600,000, of which the federal government will pay \$480,000 and state government will pay \$120,000.

The agency has scheduled both projects for fiscal year

2006, which runs between July 1, 2005, and June 30, 2006.

Dris Abraham lives on Indiana 225 and drives it most weekdays to the Museum at Prophetstown, where he works as chief operations officer. He said he hasn't noticed much decaying of the road's surface and he suspects INDOT is undertaking the project merely to prevent any future problems.

"That's better than waiting until it gets terrible," he said. "I'd be tickled pink if they'd repave it, but I'm not unhappy" with its current condition.

Abraham said there's one problem the repaving will not solve, and that's the pe-

riodic flooding on its eastern end. Still, he obtained from blaming INDOT.

"I don't think it's the state's fault that the Wabash comes out of its banks," he said.

David Whitworth, program development engineer of INDOT's Crawfordsville district, said the repaving will raise Indiana 225 by several inches, which could prevent some flooding problems.

But the road would have to sit several feet higher to permanently end its flooding problems. He said INDOT has no immediate plans to undertake such a

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Rezoning OK'd for restaurant

By Max Showalter
 mshowalter@journalandcourier.com

Rezoning requests for one restaurant in West Lafayette and more than 570 single-family residential lots south of Lafayette were on the agenda for Wednesday night's Tippecanoe County Area Plan Commission meeting.

An amendment to the county's long-range transportation plan, calling for extensive changes in traffic patterns and parking locations on the Purdue University campus, also received consideration.

APC members voted unanimously to recommend rezoning the property at 200 W. State St. in West Lafayette from commercial to planned development.

The change will allow a Chipotle Mexican Grill restaurant to be built on the site that currently houses Lafayette Travel & Cruise and One Minute Tan.

"It will liven up the campus," said Jake Kazmierski, a Purdue University senior majoring in professional writing, who has dined at Chipotle restaurants in his hometown of Chicago. "My friends — that's like their favorite place to go. Whenever I'm there and they try to pick a good place to go, that's it."

The site plan for the project also includes changing one block of Chauncey Avenue from a two-way street to one-way, northbound, between State and South streets.

That drew opposition from the owners of Chauncey Hill

Annex, which houses seven businesses across Chauncey Avenue, directly east of the Chipotle site.

"This proposed change will prevent a number of their customers to have direct access to the businesses," said attorney Kevin Riley, who represented the Chauncey Hill Annex owners. "My clients stand to lose a substantial amount of revenue. The annex will be cut off from a substantial number of their customers who come from the north and west."

The recommendation to approve the rezoning will be considered by the West Lafayette City Council during their next regularly scheduled meeting, at 7:30 p.m. on March 7.

If the restaurant proceeds with its plans, the travel agency and tanning salon will be moving to new but underdeveloped locations.

Delaying development

Action on two rezoning requests from Mann Properties LLLP was tabled until the March 16 APC meeting after questions were raised about a potential plan to donate land to the Tippecanoe School Corp.

The Indianapolis-based development company is seeking the property at 450 South, east of Concord Road.

Nearly 125 acres of the property is proposed for development of 113 restricted single-family lots, while the remaining 113 acres would be earmarked for 459 smaller,

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Purdue University president Martin Jischke after making an announcement Wednesday of several gifts from local donors totaling more than \$1 million.

Giving 'opportunity'

Purdue accepts over \$1 million in pledges from alumni, businesses

By Phillip Fiorini
 pfiorini@journalandcourier.com

Purdue University graduate Jay Smith doesn't play as much golf as he would like. And now, the Lafayette insurance company executive is letting his philanthropy speak for his game, donating \$28,000 for athletic scholarships and the Spurgeon Indoor Golf Training Center.

"It was a tremendous gift to me as a student athlete on a two-year scholarship at Purdue," said Smith, who was named All-Big Ten in 1983 and the Purdue squads' top golfer that year. "This was an opportunity to pay back and give the next generation the same opportunity."

Smith, who is president of Lafayette-based MBAH Insurance Inc., and his wife, Rita, were joined by several local business and community leaders as Purdue an-

nounced four gifts totaling more than \$1 million for the \$1.5 billion Campaign for Purdue.

That brings the total raised by the Lafayette-West Lafayette community to \$28.3 million for the campaign, according to Purdue president Martin Jischke, who also said the overall campaign now exceeds \$1.1 billion.

"By every measure, this community is one of the most economically sound in the state, and also extremely generous," Jischke said in announcing the gifts at a breakfast with community executives at the Holiday Inn Select in downtown Lafayette.

"Together we have created a climate for education, economic development, research and the arts that is quite remarkable."

A look at the gifts:



The Tom Spurgeon Golf Training Center will be located along Cherry Lane near the Voinoff Pavilion as part of the Birk Boilemaker Golf Complex.

• FuturaGene Inc.: \$904,000. That money will go to Purdue's Department of Horticulture from the local biotechnology company, which is developing ways to grow crops in extremely unfavorable conditions.

• Gary and Connie Standiford family: \$50,000 challenge gift. The Tippecanoe County farmers will match dollar-for-dollar, up to \$50,000, gifts made to the Agricultural Alumni Association.

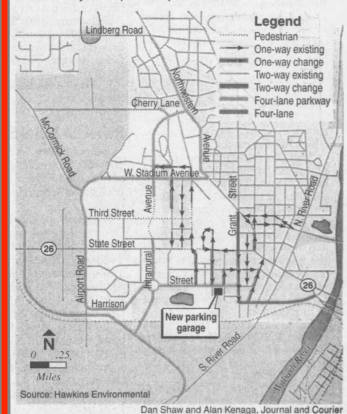
• Spurgeon: \$28,000. Of that, \$20,000 will be used to fund the center in honor of former resident Ralph "Buffy" Mayrstein, who is now MBAH's chairman. The Smiths also made a \$10,000 personal gift to the center.

• Led by chief executive Bruno Ruggiero, FuturaGene graduated last month from the Purdue Research Park incubator system, where it started operations four years

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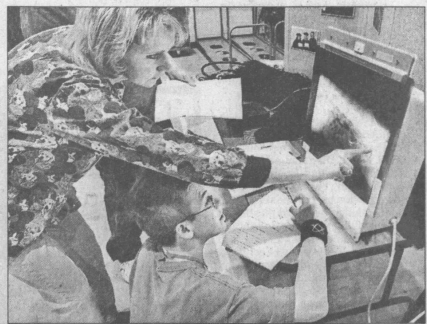
Purdue plan passes first test

A series of changes to traffic patterns around the Purdue campus received approval by the Tippecanoe County Area Plan Commission Wednesday night. If county, city and town units of government also give their approval, the changes will be added to the county's transportation plan for 2025.



Source: Hawkins Environmental
 Dan Shaw and Alan Kenaga, Journal and Courier

A career possibility



Veterinary technician Beth Clever points out fish hooks swallowed by a dog as Denise Akire, 14, looks at an X-ray of the dog's abdomen during Lafayette School Corp.'s annual career day for eighth-grade students at Tecumseh Middle School on Wednesday. Clever, who is with the Purdue University Veterinary Teaching Hospital, was speaking to students about a career as a veterinary technician. Students from Tecumseh and Sunnyside middle schools took part in the event with area professionals.

Daylight-saving bill clears panel

By Mike Smith
 The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — A bill that would mandate that all of Indiana observe daylight-saving time advanced to the full House on a party-line committee vote Wednesday, and some Republican supporters said Democrats were making it a partisan issue and could kill its chances of clearing that chamber.

Republicans control the House 52-48, but Republican Rep. Jerry Torr of Carmel, the bill's author, said doubted he could get 51 GOP votes to pass the bill and send it to the Senate. That means he would need at least some Democrat votes, and he suggested that partisan politics may prevent that.

All six Republicans present during Monday's meeting of the House Commerce Committee endorsed the bill, and all five Democrats — including a co-sponsor of the legislation — voted against it. They offered various reasons for doing so, including concerns about time zones, and some specifically denied it was about session politics.

But Torr noted that Rep. Caro-

lene Mayes, D-Indianapolis, had co-sponsored the bill, and said two others committee Democrats had earlier supported the bill. Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels is a strong proponent of the legislation, and made daylight-saving time a campaign issue, saying statewide observance of changing clocks twice a year would boost commerce.

Regardless, it marks the first time since 1995 that such a bill made it to the full floor of either chamber in the General Assembly. It failed to clear the House that year, and similar efforts to mandate daylight-saving time statewide have died numerous times over the past three decades.

Daylight-saving time has been a polarizing issue in the General Assembly for years, but traditionally not a partisan one. Many lawmakers are torn over the issue because they say their constituents are evenly divided about it, and passionate about their beliefs.

But tensions among House Democrats, out of power for the first time in eight years, have been rising in recent days. Among other

things, they claim that some bills being pushed by the governor and Republicans who control the House and Senate are powergrabs, and some say they have been treated unfairly in committee.

House Minority Leader Patrick Bauer suggested that because of that, some House Democrats who may support statewide observance of daylight-saving are now "weighing their options" about backing the bill.

"Sometimes if you don't negotiate with people and talk with people, they may not want to participate in other things you want," Bauer said.

Currently, 82 of Indiana's 92 counties are in the Eastern time zone, but 77 do not observe daylight-saving time. Five counties in southeastern Indiana are in the Eastern zone and do observe it. Five counties in the northwest corner and five in the southwestern corner are in the Central time zone and observe daylight time.

Torr's bill does not seek changes in time zones, something the federal government would have to approve.