

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2010

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TODAY'S WEATHER

Sunny Mid-30s Upper 20s

Scrapbook: Wednesday's high: 35 Low: 16 Last Jan. 14: High: 28 Low: 2 Record since 1954: High: 65, 1932 Low: -9, 1957 Precipitation: Jan. 13: none (year-to-date, 1.72)

Inside: More weather, Page A2.



(Take a peek inside the C-T reporters' notebooks to keep up on the latest news and find out about the stories behind the stories.)

Students can apply for statehouse program: Rep. Joe Pearson, D-Hartford City, encourages students at least 13 years old to participate in the Indiana House Page Program.

Student pages tour the Indiana Statehouse, including the House and Senate chambers, the Indiana Supreme Court and the governor's office. They also observe the Indiana General Assembly in action on days when they are in session.

Pearson said in a press release that students are excused from a day of school for the program, and the program allows students to experience government first-hand.

To apply, visit www.in.gov/legislative/house_democrats/students_pages_2010.html. House Republicans and both parties of the Senate also have similar programs; visit www.in.gov for details.

— Maribeth Holtz

Federal voting money not yet to state: Jim Gavin, communications director for the Indiana Secretary of State office, said funding through the Help America Vote Act has not yet reached the state level.

Grant County is approved to receive some of the funding. Once it reaches the state office, the state will disperse it to local communities after state reviews, he said. Gavin did not have a time frame for when the money would arrive.

Grant County Clerk Mark Florence and other county officials say they hope to use the funds to purchase new voting machines.

— Maribeth Holtz

Mississinewa gets donations: Mississinewa Community Schools accepted four donations Monday night.

The high school's Fellowship of Christian Athletes organization received \$50 from New Hope Baptist Church and \$125 from Dr. Robert Bothwell.

Judy's Pools gave a \$300 corporate sponsorship for the high school's athletic fund, and Bowman's Topper Sales offered a \$600 corporate sponsorship for the athletic fund.

— AJ Colley

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Courthouse plans updated

Construction could start in March

BY MARIBETH HOLTZ mholtz@chronicle-tribune.com

Updated plans for remodeling the interior of the Grant County Courthouse were discussed Wednesday evening, and county officials hope costs come in less than expected.

The Grant County Council heard a presentation from Commissioner David Glickfield, who said while

commissioners still haven't approved plans for renovations of the historic building, he wanted to keep the council in the loop on plans.

Plans now call for the ground floor to remain much the same, except juvenile court would be located in the voters' registration area. The first floor would house the clerk and prosecutors offices. The second floor would hold Grant Circuit Court and Grant Superior Court 1. The third floor would hold Grant Superior Courts 2 and 3.

"The good news is, the cost continues to drop," he said. "The cost as it stands right now is \$1.286 million."

Glickfield said they're hopeful bids will be low, so the county can do the renovations with the current loan taken out for the project.

"These are projections," he said. "Until the bids come in, you just don't know what the cost might be.... I don't believe we're going to need any additional funding."

Glickfield said he would discuss the plans more next

week with the commissioners, and if they approve them, they will put the project out to bid. He said construction could begin in March, and he understands why people want the project to get moving because of departments displaced due to exterior renovations.

"It's a nightmare for us, who are in this building every day — for all of us," he said.

Glickfield has gone over the plans with judges Mark Spitzer and Jeffrey Todd, who he said are in agreement to them, but has not

been able to meet yet with judges Warren Haas and Randall Johnson.

The council Wednesday also discussed general county funding for 2010, as Auditor Mike Burton said the county budget was approved but with \$1.2 million extra.

The council questioned how there could be that much extra money, and wondered if the numbers were correct.

Council President Jim McWhirt said he wants the auditor's office to be sure

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Campus dedicates chapel



JEFF MOREHEAD / jmorehead@chronicle-tribune.com

IT'S A FULL HOUSE — Above: Students file in to find seats before the start of a dedication ceremony Wednesday at the new Indiana Wesleyan University Chapel-Auditorium. Below: Students sing All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name during the dedication ceremony.

Indiana Wesleyan University focuses on faith, not building

BY AJ COLLEY ajcolley@chronicle-tribune.com

ONLINE EXTRA

See video from Wednesday's dedication ceremony in a photo gallery at www.chronicle-tribune.com.

People tended to look up Wednesday morning as they entered the newly-unveiled chapel-auditorium at Indiana Wesleyan University.

The university dedicated its new chapel — the tallest building on campus, towering 70 feet — Wednesday as thousands of people gathered in the new facility.

"The day is finally here," IWU President Henry Smith said.

Smith asked the capacity crowd for a show of hands to see how many people were in the chapel-auditorium for the first time. The vast majority of people raised their hands.

The university president called it a magnificent structure.

But as guests marveled at the new building's size, stained-glass windows, jumbo screens and bells, university leaders turned their focus to their faith.

Most of all, Smith said, the university should thank God.

"Indiana Wesleyan is so blessed to have the facilities we have," he said.

Jim Lo, IWU's dean of the chapel, also said it's important to focus on the spiritual aspect, not just the structure. He relayed stories from the Bible about the dedication of a temple. Lo said Wednesday should be more than the dedication of the chapel-auditorium. He said it should also be a



rededication of the attendees' commitments to God. "I like the fact that this chapel-auditorium is taller than any other building on this campus," Lo said.

When asking the crowd for a sincere applause for their thanks for the building, the crowd roared with

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McMullen case ends in mistrial

Both sides express disappointment with outcome

BY MISHELE WRIGHT mdwright@chronicle-tribune.com

After a two-day trial, the attempted murder case against Ryan McMullen ended in a mistrial Wednesday in Grant Circuit Court.

After about four hours of deliberating, the 12 jurors said they couldn't agree on a verdict. McMullen was facing attempted murder, criminal recklessness with a deadly weapon and battery by means of a deadly weapon, all stemming from a shooting that occurred Sept. 19 at 34th and Adams streets. Edwin Elkins was shot three times during the incident.

A new trial date has been set for April 19.

McMullen's attorney, Robert Rittman, said he was disappointed

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Oak Hill eyes land purchase

School system seeking study of elementary schools

BY BRETT WALLACE and AJ COLLEY ajcolley@chronicle-tribune.com

Oak Hill United School Corp. could soon be acquiring land, as the school system puts out a call for companies to do a thorough study of its elementary school facilities, Superintendent Joel Martin said.

The issues were discussed at Tuesday night's board meeting, but have been tossed around by school leaders and board members for years.

"We're currently in the process of talking to a landowner about contract details to possibly get a purchase done here in the near future," Martin said.

Oak Hill is eyeing a chunk of land

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Word received that Taylor professor, student OK in Haiti

Worry remains over conditions to face in area

BY BRETT WALLACE bwallace@chronicle-tribune.com

UPLAND — Almost 21 tense hours after a massive earthquake devastated Haiti, word arrived early Wednesday afternoon that a missing Taylor University professor and student are

safe. Leon Amstutz of Upland and Jared King of Bellefontaine, Ohio, are spending the month in Haiti, working with Radio Lumiere, a Christian radio station in Carrefour, Haiti, near the quake's epi-



center. King is a sophomore studying engineering physics at the university, and Amstutz is a professor and an academic technology specialist, according to Taylor spokesman Jim Garringer. Alan Good, a World Gospel Mission volunteer from Elkhart, accompanied

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DESTRUCTION — In this photo provided by the U.S. Coast Guard, containers are toppled over in the port of Port-au-Prince, Haiti on Wednesday after an earthquake struck the region Tuesday.

The Associated Press