



Scattered storms; high 85

CMA AWARDS

Kenny Chesney leads pack with seven nominations/A6



POWERFUL WEAPON

Kicker Tim Masthay 'just booming the ball' for Wildcats/B1

BIG BANG

Huge atom smasher passes first test/A4

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DOWNTOWN OWENSBORO MASTER PLAN



An artist's rendering shows what Veterans Boulevard could look like after Owensboro's riverfront development project and other work in the downtown area. Illustration by Gateway Planning Group, Inc./Don Oelfke

THE 9/11 ATTACKS: SEVEN YEARS LATER U.S. sees setbacks, progress against al-Qaida
Attacks prompted the war on terror

By Jonathan S. Landay and Saeed Shah
McClatchy Newspapers

Seven years after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, al-Qaida and its allies are gaining ground across the region where the plot was hatched, staging their most lethal attacks yet against NATO forces and posing a growing threat to the U.S.-backed governments in Afghanistan and nuclear-armed Pakistan.

While there have been no new strikes on the U.S. homeland, the Islamic insurrection inspired by Osama bin Laden has claimed thousands of casualties and displaced tens of thousands of people and shows no sign of slackening in the face of history's most powerful military alliance.

The insurgency now stretches from Afghanistan's border with Iran through the southern half of the country. The Taliban are now able to interdict three of the four major highways that connect Kabul, the capital, to the rest of the country.

"I am not convinced we are winning it in Afghanistan," Adm. Michael Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, conceded Tuesday.

Experts inside and outside the U.S. government agreed that a key reason for the resurgence is a growing popular sympathy for the militants because of over-reliance on the use of force, especially airpower, by NATO has killed hundreds of civilians.

On Wednesday, Pakistan's military chief, Gen. Ashfaq Kayani, warned that cross-border U.S. missile strikes and commando raids will no longer be tolerated. "The sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country will be defended at all cost," he said.

Mullen said he is examining a new, more comprehensive strategy for the region," an acknowledgement that the current approach lacks coordinated reconstruction and humanitarian programs.

"We cannot kill our way to victory," said Mullen, who warned that the United States and its allies "are running out of time."

See **Al-Qaida/Page A2**

Group unveils designs

Community sees first drafts, but funding not yet in place

By Owen Covington
Messenger-Inquirer

Members of the community got a glimpse Wednesday of the first drafts of a grand scheme for downtown Owensboro designed to marry the current riverfront development project with a renewed city core.

That city core could be home to an outdoor stadium taking up four city blocks, a new hotel and convention center and a pedestrian-friendly waterfront district that combines residential, retail and office space.

The Gateway Planning Group, which unveiled the ideas at the RiverPark Center, was hired by local government and

"This is about what we want and what we need. The implementation piece is coming in November. That's when we'll marry some firm numbers with the design. ... This is not 'pie in the sky' stuff."

— Nick Brake

president of the Greater Owensboro Economic Development Corp.

members of the business and economic development communities to complete a master plan that includes potential designs for how downtown should develop along with an implementation plan to encourage and guide that development.

This week has been about the design,

with the work on how to pay for the projects and encourage development to come later, said Nick Brake, president of the Greater Owensboro Economic Development Corp., which is helping fund the initiative.

That doesn't mean the design isn't

rooted in reality, Brake said.

"This is about what we want and what we need," Brake said. "The implementation piece is coming in November. That's when we'll marry some firm numbers with the design. ... This is not 'pie in the sky' stuff."

The Gateway group spelled out two development scenarios, both of which are centered around an outdoor events center coupled with a downtown hotel and convention center.

But what set the two scenarios apart is where these catalyst projects will be located, with the sites determined by

See **Designs/Page A2**

Environmentalists urge curbside recycling

They plan to petition Daviess Fiscal Court

By James Mayse
Messenger-Inquirer

An environmental group organized after last year's "We The People" town meeting will petition Daviess Fiscal Court to consider starting a curbside recycling program.

Environmental Impact Council members plan to speak at the

Sept. 18 Fiscal Court meeting at the county courthouse. Jon Cambron, co-chairman of the group, said the group wants county officials to solicit proposals from companies that would like to offer a countywide curbside recycling program.

The recommendation comes after months of study by the

council members.

"What we've done is collect data (from) different cities and counties around Kentucky that are doing recycling," Cambron said. The group also met with representatives from companies interested in providing a curbside program.

"There are multiple cities, both large and small, that are doing it," Cambron said.

During the "We The People"

event last November, 75 percent of the 600 participants said expanding recycling opportunities in the county was the community's top environmental priority.

Cambron said when examining recycling programs in other communities, the group considered factors such as the cost to residents for the program and whether curbside recycling was profitable to the company provid-

ing the service.

"Bowling Green, being a similar sized city ... (the provider is) making an excellent profit and providing a kickback to the county," Cambron said. In Bowling Green's case, the company providing the service makes a profit from selling recycled items and through a mandatory recycling fee charged to residents.

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WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY-OWENSBORO CAMPUS

Earthwork for campus almost finished

County funding project

By James Mayse
Messenger-Inquirer

Site work for the Western Kentucky University-Owensboro campus is nearly complete, and county officials hope construction crews will be ready to start work on the first campus building this fall.

The plan is to have the first county-financed building ready

for classes by January 2010. But county officials said when future campus buildings will be constructed is largely up to the state.

Daviess Fiscal Court is paying to construct the first administration/classroom building for the Western campus, which is across from Owensboro Community & Technical College on U.S. 231.

See **Campus/Page A2**



John Dunham, Messenger-Inquirer

Daviess County inmates Matt Bolen, left, and Jerry Fugate wait as a gravel base is poured for drainage pipe Wednesday by Bob Root of the Daviess County landfill. The men were working at the Western Kentucky University-Owensboro campus parking lot across from Owensboro Community and Technical College on U.S. 231.

Ex-Big E owner files suit on insurance claim

Blaze damaged hotel

By Owen Covington
Messenger-Inquirer

The former owner of the Executive Inn Rivermont is suing its insurance company, claiming it was never paid under its policy for business lost after a September 2006

fire at the hotel.

Minnesota/Owensboro Executive Inn filed the lawsuit against Philadelphia Indemnity Insurance Co. last week in Daviess Circuit Court and is seeking unspecified damages.

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