



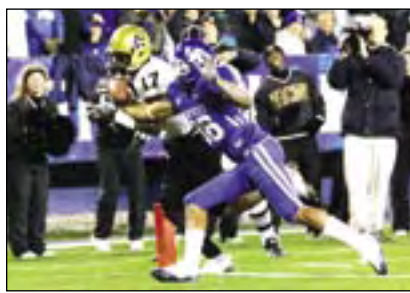
Partial clearing, breezy, cool; High 48



LEADERS OF THE PACK

Daviess County boys capture 8th state cross country title; Elizabeth Miller, Justin House, Landon Taylor, Aaron Poore place in top 10/B1

Lifestyle: If you want to take Obama tour, better pack globe/G1



VANQUISHED BY VANDY

Wildcats' fourth-quarter comeback bid falls short as Kentucky loses to Vanderbilt, 31-24/B1

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DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT

'A Bold Move'

Planners unveil proposal to revive city's core

By Owen Covington

Gateway Planning Group laid out an \$80 million package of projects designed to boost private investment in downtown and make the city's core once again a vibrant part of the community.

The downtown package includes a mixed-use indoor events center, completion of planned improvements to Smothers Park and a new "market square plaza" connecting the county courthouse to the riverfront.



Scott Polikov Gateway Planning Group president

Now city and county officials will begin mulling over how to proceed with the plan and how to pay for it.

"You have an opportunity to reinvigorate this downtown," said Scott Polikov, president of the Fort Worth-based Gateway Planning Group.

"Conservatively, we believe this is the minimum threshold of projects to be packaged up and take advantage of what's already been invested downtown."

Polikov and his team offered up this newest, more-refined and specific version of the plan to a crowd of more than 150 in Jones Gymnasium at Kentucky Wesleyan College as part of the We the People Town Meeting anniversary.

Along with figuring a price tag for the package of projects, Gateway staff is offering a look at the options local government has to finance the investment,



This artist's rendering of downtown Owensboro was presented during the We the People presentation Saturday at Kentucky Wesleyan College

'We've got a whole generation and a half that have never known activity downtown. I look forward to changing that.'

— Kimberly Johnson

including possible increases in the occupational and insurance premium tax rates.

Owensboro Mayor Tom Watson described the plan as "a bold move" and said investment now will mean more revenue for local government in the future.

"We have to have some courage to increase our revenue opportunities," Watson said. "It's bold, and it's very, very doable. The timing is right."

Daviess County Judge-Executive Reid Haire said whether and how the city and county move forward will be dependent in large part on the support in the community at large.

"It would be important to me to get feedback from the community if it is interested enough to be willing to pay for it," Haire said after a separate briefing on the plan for city and county elected officials.

Developing the plan

Work on the downtown master plan began this spring as a joint venture between the city, county and business organizations.

Planners with the Gateway group spent a week in Owensboro

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Gary Emord-Netzley, Messenger-Inquirer

Jim Zabek, left, a resident of Owensboro for almost 30 years, voices his support for the downtown development plan while Virginia Marx, a member of the We the People Leadership Council, holds a microphone during a question-and-answer session Saturday in the Jones Gymnasium on the Kentucky Wesleyan College campus.

Highlights of Master Plan

■ A 60,000-square-foot mixed-use indoor events center.

■ A \$4.8 million market square plaza between Second Street and Veterans Boulevard.

■ Proposed improvements to downtown streets, including making Second Street a two-way street.

■ A new parking structure with 500 spaces at a cost of \$7.5 million.

■ A \$5 million arts academy.

FINANCIAL CRISIS

Leaders take modest steps to fight economic meltdown



Associated Press

President George W. Bush speaks about the Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy in Washington on Saturday.

Safeguards suggested, but no actions taken

By Jennifer Loven

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — World leaders battling a dire and deepening economic crisis vowed Saturday to cooperate more closely, keep a sharper eye out for red-flag problems and give bigger roles to fast-rising nations — but they kicked many hard details down the road for their next summit after President-elect Barack Obama takes office.

Perhaps as important as the modest concrete steps they took, the leaders of the planet's richest

nations — and some of the fastest-developing — made clear their recognition of the world's increasingly interconnected financial architecture and the responsibilities that go along with it.

"There shall be no blind spots," German Chancellor Angela Merkel declared. "There is here a great common will to ensure that such a crisis is not repeated."

Underscoring how bad things have gotten this time, President George W. Bush, the summit host, said he had agreed to the recent \$700 billion rescue plan for U.S. financial institutions only

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Wind-driven fires devastating Southern California/A3



Overseas gift collection becomes regional push

By Beth Wilberding

Messenger-Inquirer

A shoe box and a few inexpensive treats might make the holidays brighter for a child living in another country.

Grace Chapel Church of God in Philpot is once again a drop-off center for Operation Christmas Child, a ministry of Samaritan's Purse that sends shoe boxes filled with treats and toiletries to children around the world.

"It's just an awesome thing," said Lena Fulkerson, who coordinates the local Operation Christmas Child with her husband, Joe.

The National Collection Week for Operation Christmas Child begins Monday and runs until Nov. 24. This year, Grace Chapel Church of God has recruited several area churches to be relay stations for Operation Christmas

Child. Residents are asked to fill shoe boxes on their own and drop them off at Grace Chapel or one of the relay centers: Owensboro Christian Church, Livermore United Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church of Henderson, Hawesville United Methodist Church and Grace Fellowship Ministries in Madisonville.

"People can take shoe boxes to them if it's closer for them to go there than all the way to Philpot," Lena Fulkerson said. "We're just trying to make it easier on everybody this year."

Standard-size shoe boxes or a small plastic container should be selected, and people can wrap the box if they want. The lid should be wrapped separately.

Donors then choose to fill the

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