

BIN LADEN SPEAKS

Terrorist leader warns of attacks in United States; offers vague truce.

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KORN'S NEW DIRECTION

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COLLEGE STUDENTS LACK SKILLS

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DAILY JOURNAL

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 2006

Johnson County, Indiana

50 cents

WEATHER



Today

Skies: Cloudy, chance of rain
Temps: High 54; low 35

MAP, PAGE A10

COMING UP



Hail to Geena Davis

Actress Geena Davis of ABC's Golden Globe-winning "Commander in Chief" dishes about living her dream life: hot career, hot husband, cool kids.

USA WEEKEND

SCHOOL NEWS

No remonstrance filed; building plan can proceed

No taxpayer filed a petition to stop the latest Franklin schools building project.

Tuesday's deadline to officially protest the project came and went with no filing of a remonstrance against plans to spend as much as \$33 million to turn the existing high school into a middle school. Some community members had threatened to protest the project, but after meeting with school officials they said they were happy with a compromise that included putting off building a new Webb Elementary and trying to hold costs down on the renovation of the high school.

A remonstrance would have delayed the project by setting off a race between supporters and foes to gain the most signatures on petitions. Now the school board will begin to study design plans and more detailed cost estimates for the project.

The renovated high school will become a middle school for seventh- and eighth-graders. Fifth- and sixth-graders will attend an intermediate school at what is now Custer Baker Middle School.

A new high school is being built and will open in fall 2007.

DEATHS

- Greenwood
Alvin L. "Buck" Melton, 77
- Morgantown
Tommy H. Sizemore Sr., 55
- Indianapolis
Ryan E. Stamper, 25
- Elsewhere
Michael G. Ross, 58

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Gunman robs couple in Franklin

Two masked men burst into apartment, flee with wallet, cell phone

By ANNIE GOELLER
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A man and his fiancée were robbed at gunpoint in a Franklin apartment Wednesday night, police said.

Police are looking for the two

men who robbed the couple.

Detectives believe the men headed north on foot from the apartment in the 2000 block of Cedar Lane, said Sgt. Pete Ketchum, a detective with the Franklin Police Department.

They took the man's wallet and his cell phone. Police did not want

to release how much money was in the victim's wallet, he said.

They did not take anything from the woman, he said.

The couple, both 18, heard a sound at the door around 7 p.m. The man opened the door, and two men in ski masks pushed into the apartment, Ketchum said.

One robber held a gun to the man's head, and the other took his wallet and cell phone. Both men then left the apartment on foot, according to the police report.

No one was injured.

Police brought a police dog to the apartment to try to locate the

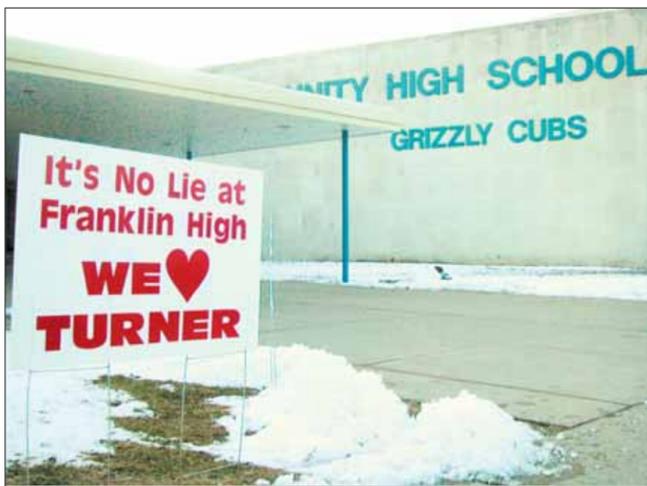
men, but they were able to track them for only a few hundred feet north of the apartment, Ketchum said.

The robber with the gun is described as 6 feet tall, about 160 pounds and wearing a gray hooded

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WHODUNIT?

Signs critical of Franklin principal's demotion planted overnight along U.S. 31 near school



STAFF PHOTO BY ANNIE GOELLER/agoeller@thejournalnet.com

Signs supporting Franklin high school principal Leighton Turner, who was recently demoted by the school board, were planted around the city late Wednesday or early Thursday. Among other locations, signs were placed in front of the high school (above), in front of the Daily Journal (top right), and across U.S. 31 from Northwood Elementary (below right).



STAFF PHOTO BY MATT OOLEY/mooley@thejournalnet.com



STAFF PHOTO BY ANNIE GOELLER

Turner: 'I'm honored ... and have absolutely no idea who did it'

By ANNIE GOELLER
AND JO ELLEN WERKING WEEDMAN
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITERS

The identity of those responsible for a smattering of signs posted around Franklin supporting a soon-to-be-demoted high school principal appears to be a mystery.

Nobody seemed to know anything late Thursday afternoon about the signs supporting Franklin principal Leighton Turner: Not school board members; not administrators; not community members who keep up with the happenings of the district; not the long-time secretary at the high school who knows just about everybody and everything.

Not even the man the signs praise. "I'm honored and pleased and have absolutely no idea who did it," Turner said.

At least five signs with messages of support for Turner were placed on school and business properties late Wednesday night or early Thursday morning.

Two signs were posted at the high school's entrance, two along Morton Street near the high school, and one landed in

HAVE A CLUE?

If you have information that could help solve the mystery of who placed the signs supporting Leighton Turner, please call 736-2712 or send an e-mail to newstips@thejournalnet.com.



the front yard of the Daily Journal between midnight and 6 a.m. Thursday. Different messages were on the signs, declaring "It's no lie at Franklin High We Love Turner;" "Our kids are better learners with Leighton Turner;" "Franklin High IS Leighton Turner;" and "Wake up!!! We want Leighton."

Earlier this month, at the recommendation of Superintendent William Patterson, the school board voted 5-0 to reassign Turner to an assistant principal position.

After five years as the school principal, Turner will become an assistant principal at the high school on July 1.

Some teachers and students voiced concern about the decision at the school board's meeting Jan. 9.

Turner put his secretary on a mission to

find out who is responsible for the signs.

Franklin administrative assistant Steve Bennett took a phone call Wednesday at the high school from a woman who wanted information about putting signs on school property.

She would not identify herself but told Bennett that a group of parents, students and teachers was forming to support Turner.

Bennett told her he couldn't give her permission to put any signs in the high school yard, but when he arrived at work Thursday, two signs were posted near the building's entrance.

"It's a mystery," Bennett said. "I've not heard a word about who it could be."

Patterson, school board members John Wales and Doug Bullington, teachers union president Jane Cragen and a handful of teachers at the high school said they were clueless about the signs.

Teachers said they were glad to see a show of support for their principal.

English teacher Janet Kirby said she didn't see the signs until her preparation period mid-afternoon.

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Detailed property tax bills sought

Legislator proposes revising tax forms

By JASON MICHAEL WHITE
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Property tax bills that show only a total amount due could get an overhaul as part of a state proposal to give homeowners a bit of a tax break.

The new bills would show homeowners who was responsible for increases in property taxes: the school board for approving a building project, the library for building a new branch, the county for hiring more sheriff's deputies or the city council for paying police officers and firefighters more.

And everyone would receive a statement, even if the bank pays your property tax bill and collects the money as part of your monthly mortgage payment. Eight of every 10 homeowners don't receive a property tax bill now, according to State Rep. Jeffrey Espich, R-Uniondale.

Even residents who get a bill may not see a breakdown of how much they pay the county, city, school, fire-protection district or library.

"That's terrible policy," Espich said.

Johnson County property tax bills, however, do show how much is paid to each taxing body. For example, a taxpayer can see how much they pay for county tax,

(SEE BILLS, BACK PAGE)

Dilemma on movie violence

Christian-themed films not always G-rated

By PAIGE E. WASSEL
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Since "The Passion of the Christ" was released in 2004, a handful of films with stories linked to Christianity have been introduced in theaters, offering churches a tool for outreach in the community.

On the heels of C.S. Lewis' "The Chronicles of Narnia" hitting the big screen last month, "End of the Spear" was released nationwide today. The movie recounts how five American missionaries were killed in Ecuador in the 1950s.

Churchgoers find inviting people to the movies to be a non-threatening way to open discussions about faith and sometimes easier than inviting them to attend a church service.

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INTO THE REAL WORLD

Part of an occasional series

Chef-to-be: Training not a piece of cake

By ANNIE GOELLER
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Clothes pile up on the floor, and her dreams are filled with men in funny hats yelling at her.

For a few moments, Amelia Reames wanted to leave it all behind and go back to a familiar life, where her bed is comfortable and people smile instead of grumble at her.

Reames quickly learned that life at Johnson & Wales University in Providence, R.I., was dif-

ferent from home.

The 19-year-old Center Grove High School graduate recently finished her first trimester at the culinary arts school and is still stinging from difficult classes and gruff professors.

She said that more than once she wished she could be back home in her own bed, but she said she never seriously considered leaving the college.

A degree from the competitive school will open doors for her across the world, she said, so her focus is on earning even better

grades and adjusting her schedule to make that possible.

That might mean giving up volleyball, a sport she played all through high school.

Practices are exhausting, and the schedule doesn't leave her much time to rest and finish homework. Reames hasn't made a decision, but she said she thinks that quitting volleyball, at least for now, might be best.

Her first months in college have flown by, she said, even though at

(SEE TRAINING, BACK PAGE)



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT ROBERSON/sroberson@thejournalnet.com

Amelia Reames, a Center Grove grad, works at her father's law office in Greenwood during a break from the culinary arts school she attends in Rhode Island.