

SOUTHSIDE

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ON THE RECORD

Police/fire

Franklin

Theft

Storage Express, 2158 Holiday Lane: A man reported Tuesday that someone broke into his storage shed and stole numerous items including a surround-sound system, tools, artwork, DVDs and computer software. The man told police that a new lock that did not belong to him had been placed on the shed and had to be cut off.

Criminal mischief

Franklin Community High School, 625 Grizzly Cub Drive: A student reported that someone crossed wires under the hood of his car while it was in the parking lot Monday. The crossed wires caused \$560 in damage to the car's computer. A video of the area showed two people near the vehicle at 11:22 a.m. Monday.

Property-damage accident

9:32 p.m. Monday — McDonald's parking lot, east of U.S. 31.

Greenwood

Burglary

600 block of Monte Vista Court: A resident reported that someone had broken into the home between 5:45 p.m. Tuesday and 1:34 a.m. Wednesday.

Thefts

1000 block of Bexley Run: A man reported at 6:40 a.m. Wednesday that someone broke a window out of his vehicle and stole a satellite radio unit.

1100 block of Stonegate Road: A man reported that his stepdaughter stole his car about 10:45 p.m. Tuesday.

Criminal mischief

700 block of Sable Creek Lane: A woman reported Tuesday that someone had spray painted her storage shed within the last two days.

Personal-injury accident

1:41 p.m. Monday — County Line Road and Madison Avenue: Betty J. Waite, 41, Martinsville; Jesse A. Matracia, 20, Indianapolis. A passenger in Waite's vehicle, Samantha Stroup, 33, Martinsville, complained of pain.

Property-damage accidents

5:05 p.m. Tuesday — 525 N. Madison Ave.
3:40 p.m. Tuesday — Apple Valley Road, south of Stonegate Road
11 a.m. Tuesday — Davis Drive and Meridian Street
7:02 a.m. Tuesday — Averitt Road and Pine Lake Drive
12:44 p.m. Sunday — Emerald Lakes Drive

Jail bookings

The following people recently were arrested and booked into the Johnson County jail:

Julie Mae Thrasher, 37, 4123 Beechwood Court, Franklin; arrested on a charge of criminal trespass; released on \$2,000 bond.

Bradley Lynn Kates, 22, 131 N. Brewer St., Greenwood; arrested on a Marion County warrant and a charge of driving while suspended with a prior conviction; held without bond.

Michael David Whitaker, 31, 4881 Oakleigh Parkway, Greenwood; arrested on charges of domestic battery and interference with reporting a crime; released on \$2,000 bond.

Christopher Lynn Rowland, 32, 409 N. Main St., Martinsville; arrested on a charge of burglary; released on \$8,000 bond.

Stephen A. Woods, 31, 127 N. 20th St., Goshen; arrested on a warrant for failure to appear in court; held without bond.

Joseph M. McCormick, 25, 517 N. Drexel Ave., Indianapolis; arrested on a charge of driving while suspended with a prior conviction; held on \$2,000 bond.

Christopher James Skinner, 20, 4799 Runyon Lake Drive, Greenwood; arrested on charges of possession of paraphernalia and possession, consumption or transportation of alcohol by a minor; held on \$8,000 bond.

Paul S. Reeder, 26, 2001 E. 17th St., Muncie; arrested on a charge of disorderly conduct; held on \$1,000 bond.

David Wayne Callon, 23, 1477 E. Hornetown Road, Morgantown; arrested on a warrant for failure to appear in court; held without bond.

Deborah Michelle Gardner, 23, 1064 N. Penn Drive, Indianapolis; arrested on a warrant for failure to appear in court and charges of auto theft or receiving stolen parts and possession of paraphernalia; held on \$4,300 bond.

The following people recently were arrested on charges of driving while intoxicated and booked into jail:

Terrie Lynn Barnes, 35, 2290 Hampton Drive, Franklin; held on \$1,000 bond.

Courtney Marie Phillips, 18, 972 High Meadow Court North, Greenwood; also arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana/hashish; held on \$2,000 bond.

Lindsey R. Jones, 24, 109 E. Chester St., Ellettsville; held on \$6,000 bond.

Births

Johnson Memorial Hospital

Andrea and Mark Fleming, Greenwood, boy, born Feb. 24.

St. Mary's Hospital, Evansville

Aaron and Jamie (Dougherty) Tapley, girl, born Feb. 22.

Care without borders

Award-winning nurse shares experiences at seminar

By LAUREN CONLON

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Don't throw away your ideas. Make a difference.

Don't believe everything you read or hear.

Find things out for yourself. Share.

Nobel Peace Prize recipient Mary Lightfine shared these bits of advice and her stories with students and community members Tuesday in the chapel at Franklin College.

Since 1992, Lightfine has lived and worked in dozens of countries. A former emergency room nurse, she decided to take her life in a different direction by joining Doctors Without Borders, the American affiliate of the French group Medicine Without Borders.

Both organizations provide medical care in areas of war and disaster.

In a dimmed room, Lightfine told stories of tragedy, laughter and inspiration. A slideshow projected viewers to another place and culture.

Her first assignment: Somalia.

In Somalia, Lightfine worked in a hospital with only 40 beds. Most of the supplies were stolen when war broke out.

People, sick or homeless, slept on the floor of the hospital on sheets of cardboard.

A photograph in the slideshow showed a human foot atop a mound of trash just outside the door of the hospital.

But Lightfine talked of life, not death. Along with other guest lecturers, Lightfine came to the campus during Religious Emphasis Week.

While her purpose in speaking was to promote volunteerism and opportunities available, she presented something more to the audience.

Lightfine shared the story of a 30-year-old, wrinkled and weak man who had taken shelter in the hospital. When war broke out, he couldn't return to his home country of Sudan.

He begged for medicine, but she would not give him any because he was not sick.



Mary Lightfine speaks at Franklin College on Tuesday about her experiences with Doctors Without Borders. Lightfine has volunteered in Somalia, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan.

She did not turn him away, though. With a bar of soap and 10 helping hands, she bathed the homeless Sudanese man.

After the filth was washed away and he was wrapped in a sheet, the man, who was once a professor of English in Somalia, took her hand and said, "Long life, Mary," a way of saying thank you.

Lightfine said that man made a difference in her life by demonstrating that by showing people care, anyone can change a life.

"Nothing is too simple to change the world, and one person can do it," Lightfine said.

In Somalia, Lightfine was shot at and was surrounded by the tragedy of war.

But that didn't stop her from continuing on her journey.

In Sri Lanka, she worked in a refugee camp of 30,000 with just one other nurse. Temperatures of 125 degrees did not keep

her from helping the nomadic tribes in southern Sudan.

And the threat of terror did not prevent her from going to Afghanistan after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

During her stay in Afghanistan, she said she found more welcoming people than she ever imagined.

The young men she stayed with treated her like royalty, and strangers welcomed Lightfine into their homes and shared what they had with her, without asking questions or making judgments.

In each of the countries, Lightfine learned the culture and dressed as a native.

She also helped people learn how to improve their lives.

It isn't just the Americans or the foreign volunteers who are helping the countries back to their feet, she said.

It is the local residents, who want to change their lives, making the difference.

Woman who faked kidnapping pleads guilty

Daily Journal staff reports

A Franklin woman has pleaded guilty to taking an employer's bank deposit to go on a gambling trip.

Martha Louise Ramirez, 36, pleaded guilty to a charge of theft on Monday.

Under the plea deal, Ramirez would pay more than \$10,000 to her former employer, Swifty Oil.

She also would pay about \$850 to the Franklin Police Department because officers searched for her for several days after she faked her abduction.

Johnson Circuit Judge Mark Loyd has not yet accepted the agreement. Sentencing has been set for March 16.

Ramirez took the money from Swifty Oil on U.S. 31 in Franklin and disappeared on April 3, according to Franklin police.



RAMIREZ

NEWS BRIEFS

Her boyfriend, Antonio DeJesus Soto, sent text messages to Ramirez's ex-husband that made him and Franklin police believe she had been abducted. Soto told police that Ramirez made up the kidnapping story because she didn't want her children to think she had abandoned them, according to Franklin police reports.

Ramirez called her family almost a week later to let them know she was in Phoenix, where a Franklin police detective went to meet her.

After talking to Ramirez and Soto, police believed that the theft and abduction story were planned a couple of days before she left Franklin.

In Soto's case, his attorneys filed a motion to ban evidence that was gathered after Franklin police did not read Soto his rights. County prosecutors and Soto's

attorneys agreed to not allow the evidence, and his case was dismissed in January.

FRANKLIN

Students suspended after beer found

Two Custer Baker Middle School students could be expelled after they brought alcohol to school Tuesday.

The boys, a 13- and a 14-year-old, poured beer in a sports drink bottle and shared it at the school, according to a police report.

One of the students brought the beer from home, the report said.

Principal Pam Millikan said the school is investigating what happened, which could lead to expulsions.

It was unclear how the boys were caught with the alcohol or how much they had consumed.

A small amount of alcohol was left in the bottle, according to the report. The boys were released to their parents, the report said.

TRAFALGAR

Woman honored for service to animals

A statewide animal welfare organization recently honored a Trafalgar woman with its volunteer of the year award.

Sandy Wiley of Trafalgar received the award from Indiana-PAW for the hundreds of hours she spent rescuing and fostering animals in the past year.

Wiley's volunteer acts includ-

ed attending Indiana-PAW community outreach events, fostering animals facing euthanasia at overcrowded shelters and transporting animals from shelters to rescue groups, according to a press release from the organization.

Indiana-PAW is a nonprofit, all-volunteer organization who uses education and advocacy to reduce the number of stray and abandoned animals who are euthanized in Indiana.

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