

# OBITUARIES/NEWS

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## BROWN COUNTY

### Owen 'Mickey' Barger

Owen "Mickey" Barger, 64, died Monday, Jan. 9, 2006. He was a resident of Brown County and a former resident of Seymour.

Survivors include his wife, Donna; a daughter, Vanessa (Russell ID) Fox of Greenwood; a brother, Gary Barger of Morgantown; six sisters, Karen Davis of Seymour, Rose Risch, Judy Porter and Carol Ann Thompson, all of Franklin, Mary George of Nashville and Janice Hazelwood of Trafalgar. He was preceded in death by his parents, Allen and Lena (Owens) Barger.

The Rev. Brian Butler will conduct a private family service. Burial will follow at Riverview Cemetery in Seymour.

Memorial contributions may be made to Brown County Humane Society of Nashville, 128 State Road 135 South, Nashville, IN 47448.

## EDINBURGH

### Ryan Bowling

Ryan Bowling, 19, died Monday, Jan. 9, 2006, at his residence in Edinburg.

Survivors include his parents, Ricky A. Bowling of Edinburg and Linda Brown of Norfolk, Va.; and a sister, Keyla Bowling of Norfolk, Va.

A service will be conducted at 10 a.m. Friday at Eskew-Eaton Funeral Home, 302 E. Main Cross St. in Edinburg. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home. Burial will be at Rest Haven Cemetery in Edinburg.

Memorial contributions may be made to Riley Hospital for Children, 50 S. Meridian St., Suite 500, Indianapolis, IN 46204-3540; or Victory Junction Gang Camp, c/o Leah Ryan, 4500 Adam's Way, Randleman, NC 27317.

## BRANDON, Fla.

### Frances E. (Swiggett) Combs

Frances E. (Swiggett) Combs, 84, passed away Dec. 25, 2005, after a long illness. She was a resident of Brandon, Fla. She was a former resident of Franklin.



COMBS

She was born Jan. 30, 1921, in Franklin to the late Wilbur F. and Ethel (Logan) Swiggett.

She married Ziba R. Combs of Union Township on July 2, 1939. He survives. Other survivors include two sons, Stephen R. Combs of Boca Raton, Fla., and James R. Combs of Tampa, Fla.; three sisters, Ruth Archer of Columbia, S.C., Patricia (Don) Willis of Bargersville; and Charlotte (Dick) Morris of Franklin; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her brother, Wilbur "Bud" Swiggett Jr.

She was a 1939 graduate of Alva Neal High School.

She never met a stranger and devoted her life to being a good mother, grandmother and wife.

A service was conducted Dec. 29 at Hillsboro Memorial Funeral Home in Brandon, Fla. Interment was at Hillsboro Memorial Gardens.

## FRANKLIN

### David P. Kovach

David P. Kovach, 70, passed away Monday, Jan. 9, 2006, in Franklin. He was a resident of Franklin.

He was born April 1, 1935, in Kalamazoo, Mich., to the late Joseph A. and Helen R. (Cerkez) Kovach. He married Mary L. (Aungst) on Aug. 30, 1950, in Louisville, Ky. She survives. Other survivors include a daughter, Gwendolyn (Gus) Solis; two sons, Kevin Kovach and Charles (Val) Kovach; one brother, Andrew Kovach; and two sisters, Elizabeth Heller and Helen Campagna; and two grandchildren, Patrisha McKee and Nicole Kovach. He was preceded in passing by brothers Joseph, John, Michael and Charles Kovach; and sisters Mary, Julia and Sophia.

He attended St. Augustine High School in Kalamazoo, Mich.

David was a sales manager for Bonny MT Bridal in Brea, Calif., for 13 years, retiring in May 1997.

He was a member of St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, the National Pro-Life Alliance and the Heritage Foundation.

The Rev. Tom Schilessmann will conduct a Mass of Christian burial at 11 a.m. Thursday at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, 114 Lancelot Drive in Franklin. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. today at Flinn and Maguire Funeral Home, 2898 N. Morton St. in Franklin. A prayer service will be conducted at 7 tonight at the funeral home. Burial will be at Greenlawn Cemetery in Franklin.

The family requests, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to St. Vincent de Paul Society, P.O. Box

## Edinburg

### Ryan Bowling, 19

### Franklin

### David P. Kovach, 70

## Elsewhere

### Owen "Mickey" Barger, 64

### Frances E. Combs, 84

### Flora Esther Towne, 86

### Frieda Anna Woehler, 91

19133, Indianapolis, IN 46219; or Salvation Army, 325 Market Plaza, Greenwood, IN 46142.

## WALDRON

### Flora Esther Towne

Flora Esther Towne, 86, died Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2006, at Waldron Health Care in Waldron. She was a resident of Shelbyville.

She was born June 30, 1919, in Johnson County to the late Homer and Eva (Rairdon) Buchanan. Survivors include her grandchildren, Scott (Rhonda) Pierce of Canton, N.C., Tresa (Glenn) Wilder of St. Paul, Angela (Brian) Hocker of Greensburg, Bruce Towne of Shelbyville, Mark, Jon, Minda and Terri Lyn Towne, all of Michigan, Debbie Cochran of Illinois, Debbie Brown of Florida and John Weintraut of St. Paul; several great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a son, Lawrence Towne; a daughter, Sharon Lee Weintraut; and several brothers and sisters.

She was a factory worker for General Electric in Shelbyville until her retirement in 1979.

She was a member of American Legion Women's Auxiliary in Shelbyville.

Her grandson, Scott Pierce, will conduct a funeral service at 10 a.m. Thursday at Glenn E. George and Son Funeral Home, 437 Amos Road in Shelbyville. Friends may call from 5 to 7 p.m. today at the funeral home. Burial will be at a later date at Greenlawn Cemetery in Franklin.

## EVANSVILLE

### Frieda Anna Woehler

Frieda Anna Woehler died early Sunday morning, Jan. 8, 2006, at Westpark Rehabilitation Center in Evansville. Ralph R. Woehler, her husband, died at about the same time 10 years earlier. She was 91.

Albert and Anna Simon Schultze were her parents. Frieda's brothers were George, William and Albert (Abbie) Schultze.

A lifelong native of Evansville, Frieda was a member of Zion Evangelical United Church of Christ.

In lieu of floral tributes, memorial contributions may be made in her name to Zion Evangelical United Church of Christ, 415 N.W. Fifth St., Evansville, IN 47708-1325.

Those who survive her include a son, Ralph W. Woehler of Evansville; a daughter, Linda (Woehler) Roush and husband, Edward, of Franklin; two granddaughters, Erin Roush of Whiteland and Andrea (Roush) Martin and husband, Elgin, of Bloomington; six nieces and four nephews.

Services will be at 1 p.m. (local time) today at Alexander North Chapel, 4200 Stringtown Road in Evansville, officiated by the Revs. Robert B. Walker and John F. Schroeder, with burial at Sunset Memorial Park in Evansville. Friends may call from noon until service time today at Alexander North Chapel. Condolences may be made online at .

Arrangements are being handled by Alexander North Chapel in Evansville.

## Obituary policy

The Daily Journal will publish free death notices for Johnson County area residents, former residents and close relatives of area residents.

A free death notice contains basic information, including details about visitation and services, memorial contributions and some survivors.

Families who want to include more information or a photograph can purchase a custom obituary.

## ● Review

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

Evidence about the case will be presented to the six-member panel of county residents, and they will decide if charges should be filed, but not whether he is guilty, Hamner said. Possible charges include reckless homicide or, if alcohol was involved, operating while intoxicated resulting in death.

April Mulry, 29, was killed in the collision Sept. 10. She was a passenger in a vehicle struck by Slinger's vehicle at the intersection of County roads 575E and 600N.

Her husband, Brian Mulry, 34, was driving their vehicle, and their then 1-month-old daughter was also in the vehicle. They were not injured. April Mulry suffered head trauma and other injuries in the crash and died at Johnson Memorial Hospital.

Slinger and a 15-year-old passenger in his vehicle were also injured. He was ejected from the vehicle, and he and his passenger were taken to Methodist Hospital with internal injuries.

The prosecutor's office plans to handle the incidents separately, Hamner said.

Police reports from Monday's arrest were sent to the prosecutor's office Tuesday morning. Sheriff Terry McLaughlin told detectives to forward the information immediately to show the prosecutor's office that Slinger was displaying a pattern in his driving, he said.

He hopes the office will be able to either suspend Slinger's license or give him restrictions so another incident won't happen. Jail time is possible for the charges Slinger was arrested for Monday night, McLaughlin said.

Slinger's driving record shows his license is active, but a suspension was pending and could be issued by the end of this month. He was issued a court-imposed suspension in 2004 for failing to pay a ticket and was given a speeding ticket in November, said Adam Garrett, spokesman for the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

## ● Collision

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

After police arrived, Slinger appeared upset and told an officer he was going to be in a lot of trouble since he was in a crash that killed a woman last year, according to the report.

In the Sept. 10 crash, 29-year-old April Mulry was killed when the vehicle she was riding in was struck by Slinger's vehicle at county roads 575E and 600N. Her husband and 1-month-old child were also riding in the vehicle but were not injured.

Charges have not been filed in that collision.

Johnson County Sheriff Terry McLaughlin sent Monday night's report to the Johnson County Prosecutor's Office for consideration as a pattern of Slinger's driving, he said.

Slinger was issued a court-imposed suspension in 2004 for failing to pay a ticket and was given a speeding ticket in November, said Adam Garrett, spokesman for the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

Monday night, the officer reported Slinger's breath smelled of alcohol, according to the report. Slinger registered a blood alcohol level of .15 on a Breathalyzer.

A 17-year-old passenger in Slinger's car told police that the two stole two bottles of wine from grocery stores and drank one bottle, according to the report.

The girl also told police she had hidden two marijuana pipes inside her body and had to have one removed at Johnson Memorial Hospital in Franklin.

She was arrested on charges of assisting a criminal, public intoxication, possession of alcohol by a minor, reckless possession of paraphernalia and possession of marijuana/hashish.

She was released to her parents from the hospital. Her charges will be sent to the juvenile court, McLaughlin said.

Slinger, 764 Shoreview Drive, was arrested on charges of possession of alcohol by a minor, reckless possession of paraphernalia, reckless driving, theft and two charges of operating while intoxicated.

He is being held in Johnson County jail on \$16,000 bond. He declined a request for an interview.

# Greenwood woman charged with driving wrong way on U.S. 31

Daily Journal staff report

A Greenwood woman traveling the wrong direction on U.S. 31 in Whiteland on Tuesday morning was arrested on charges of driving under the influence of alcohol and carrying drugs in her car and purse, according to a police report.

A Whiteland police officer noticed a vehicle traveling north in the southbound lane of U.S. 31 near County Road 400 North about 5:15 a.m., according to the report.

When the officer stopped the vehicle, Brandi N. Abbott, 32, showed a blood alcohol level of .17 on a breath test, the report said. The level to be considered driving drunk is .08.

Red and white pills and a blue glass smoking pipe with used and unused plant material were found in the car, according to police.

A bag of white powder, containing some cocaine, a plastic straw, several white pills and plant material believed to be marijuana were

found in Abbott's purse when it was searched at the Johnson County jail, the report said.

Abbott, 1665 Haystack Court, Apt. A, was arrested on charges of possession of marijuana/hashish, possession of cocaine, narcotics or methamphetamine, possession of a controlled substance, possession of paraphernalia, driving under the influence, operating a vehicle while intoxicated and reckless driving. She was being held at the jail on \$11,000 bond.

## ● Greed

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

color they wanted or asked why they didn't get more, parents were left wondering if their kids get the spirit of Christmas at all.

Helping children, who are somewhat egocentric by nature, learn to celebrate Christmas without being greedy is a tension some parents are resolving to navigate better in the coming year.

Some mothers say that kids, like all humans, can be selfish, but it's up to parents to teach them how to give and be thankful. "It's part of how kids are; but children are not born socialized, and it's our job to teach them right and wrong," said Melody Shook, a Franklin mother of three.

Often the best lesson is the example parents set, moms said.

At Shook's house, the focus is on celebrating the birth of Jesus, she said.

She and her children, ages 5, 4 and 2, spent days baking cookies and making soup to give away.

As Shook bought small crocks and cooked the soups for her neighbors with the help of her children, her oldest daughter asked: "Are we going to get presents in return?" and "Why are we taking gifts and not getting any?"

Those kinds of questions are natural for children to ask, Shook said.

"I tried to explain to her the special feeling you get inside when you give somebody something," she said. "We talk about how God's greatest gift to us was

## TEACHING TIPS

If you've resolved to make Christmas less about presents next year, here are some ideas to get you started:

- Ask your children to select extra groceries to place in food boxes for the needy.
- Donate a turkey to a homeless shelter.
- Visit a nursing home to sing carols.
- Ask your children to help you wrap presents for those outside the family so they can learn you believe in giving to others.

• Invite people who are away from their families to share your holiday meal and traditions.

• Encourage your children to call Grandma and Grandpa just to say, "I love you."

• Adopt someone into your family who doesn't have any family.

• Visit children in the hospital.

• Make sure your children send out thank-you cards for gifts, parties, long-distance calls and small acts of kindness.

• Choose the name of a child from a gift tree (perhaps a child close in age to your children) and ask your children to shop for a gift for that child.

• Before your holiday dinner, hold hands and have each person tell something for which they are thankful.

• Read the Christmas story together to recall the true meaning of Christmas.

SOURCE: Parenthood.com

Jesus and how he wants us to have a spirit of giving."

Other parents said making their kids aware of how little other children have helps put Christmas in perspective.

By sponsoring a child in another country or donating some of their allowance to ministries that give children toys, clothes and food, children are made aware that others need what they likely have too much of, parents said.

## ● Role

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

In a document titled "Reasons for substantive reform at Franklin Community High School," Patterson outlined for teachers and the school board some of his concerns with the school.

He noted that only 14 percent of Franklin students score high enough to get college credit on advance-placement exams. The state average is 54 percent.

Franklin students also score lower on SAT exams than their peers across the state, and about 62 percent of Franklin graduates are pursuing college, as opposed to 71 percent of statewide.

But Patterson has been most vocal about the high school's drop out rate. He said according to data kept by the district, only 78 percent of the class of 2005 graduated from high school.

"We can't afford for a number of reasons to have our kids not graduating and not going to some kind of higher education," Patterson said. "The information is so clear that anyone who lacks a

## DROPOUT RATE

Superintendent William Patterson has been vocal about the need to reduce the number of Franklin students who drop out of high school. In fact, he is calculating the dropout rate differently from the state.

Many Hoosier educators say state numbers are inflated and that they actually lose more kids than reflected on the data they're required to report.

Franklin will count expelled students, dropouts, students who do not return to school in the fall and those who leave high school to become home-schooled (unless a valid and successful high school program is documented) as students who do not graduate.

Using this information, Patterson said the graduation rate for the class of 2005 was 78.7 percent. The board approved a goal Monday that calls for that rate to be 90 percent by 2011.

high school diploma will have a hard time supporting themselves and a family."

The board also recently approved goals recommended by Turner that include opening an alternative school and increasing the high school's graduation rate to 90 percent by 2011.

Many teachers and staff members at the high school have supported Turner, but Patterson said he is not worried that the staff

won't get on board with a new leader.

"Mr. Turner has assured me that a new person will have his full support," Patterson said. "He will not allow staff to use him to go around the principal."

No job description exists for the high school principal or many other positions in the district. Creating descriptions and a way to evaluate employees has been a focus of Patterson's tenure.

Some of the items included on a job description for a new principal will be:

- Lead a staff through significant school improvement
- Analyze and improve curriculum
- Plan and implement short- and long-range goals
- Use data effectively to make informed decisions

The job description will also call for someone with a background in organizational change and high school curriculum.

He also wants someone who can bring teachers and staff to consensus.

"Some of the things we're talking about with require some real collaboration and open-mindedness to do," Patterson said.

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