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# DAILY JOURNAL

www.thejournalnet.com

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2006

Johnson County, Indiana

50 cents

**WEATHER**



**Today**  
Skies: Mostly cloudy, showers  
Temps: High 50; low 42  
MAP, PAGE A8

**SCHOOL NEWS**

**Planned protest fizzles**

Not one protestor showed up at the Franklin school board meeting Monday night to protest the demotion of the high school principal. A group calling itself BLT (Back Leighton Turner) was planning a protest but did not show up at the meeting, which had been moved to the Northwood Elementary cafeteria to accommodate a crowd. Mostly regular attendees of Franklin meetings were scattered in the bleachers and chairs of the room. Leonard Pogue Jr., a graduate of Franklin Community High School who now lives in Columbus, addressed the board during a time for public comment. He told the board Turner was a great leader with integrity and asked them how they planned to move forward. He was the only person who discussed the issue.

**ELECTION 2006**

**Filing deadline approaching**

Attention political hopefuls: The time to get your name on the ballot is coming to an end. The filing period for candidates wanting to run for public offices this year ends Friday. Candidates still can join the list of names until noon that day by filling out paperwork in the voter registration office, located in the lower level of the county courthouse. People wishing to file must include their name and residency and confirm that they live in the district they would represent and are registered voters. Candidates must also keep track of any political contributions. The primary election is May 2, and the general election is Nov. 7. Prominent positions on the ballot this year include sheriff, county prosecutor and state legislators.

**DEATHS**

- Franklin  
Betty Jane Clark, 88
- Gary Allen McCreary, 51
- Indianapolis  
Grady C. Scott, 76
- Bernard R. Ungerer, 97
- Wanda A. Whittemore, 76

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## Two arrested on prostitution charge

### Undercover officers visit parlor

By ANNIE GOELLER  
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER  
agoeller@thejournalnet.com

The blinds are drawn and the lights are off at a Center Grove area business where police said two women were performing sex acts for money. Both women were arrested after they reportedly fondled undercover Indianapolis Police Department detectives, police said. Johnson County Sheriff's Office detectives hope the arrests will



prompt Chinese Physical Therapy and Massage at 5329 Mount Pleasant North Drive to close for good. But the landlord of the strip (SEE ARRESTED, BACK PAGE)



Two women were arrested at this massage parlor in the Center Grove area Tuesday on charges of performing sex acts for money.

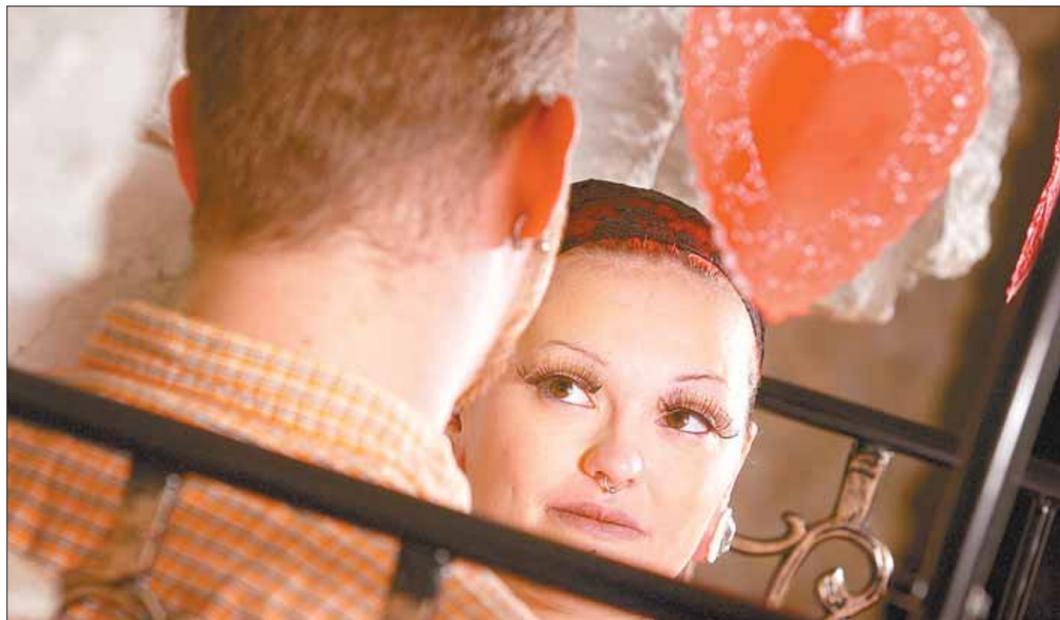
### Sheriff seeks massage business ordinance

By ANNIE GOELLER  
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER  
agoeller@thejournalnet.com

The county sheriff wants to require any massage parlor to get a permit to open from a county office, and he wants the authority to shut down businesses that don't comply. Two women were arrested Monday on a charge of prostitution during an undercover operation at a massage parlor in the Center Grove area. Now, Sheriff Terry McLaughlin will ask the

county commissioners to enact a local ordinance that would require such businesses to get a permit before they open. Marion County, Franklin and Greenwood all have similar ordinances. McLaughlin didn't know what office would issue the permit. In Greenwood, the police department issues permits for massage parlors, Greenwood Police Chief Joe Pitcher said. The business, Chinese Physical (SEE MESSAGE, BACK PAGE)

## gettin' HITCHED



Top: Jermel and Penny Jackson exchange rings at the Johnson County courthouse Tuesday, one of 10 couples married there on Valentine's Day. Above: Bethanie Hall of Greenwood and Joshua Zellars of Franklin exchange vows. Find more photos on the Web at www.thejournalnet.com.

## Couples celebrate holiday with courthouse weddings

STORY BY ANNIE GOELLER ■ PHOTOS BY MATT OOLEY

An early rising couple married after two years together. Another, together only for a month, decked themselves out in NASCAR gear, a common interest for the two. A deputy clerk got a break from the usual daily grind with 20 "I do's" and 10 wedding kisses Tuesday. The day started at 9 a.m. with the first marriage, and the parade of happy couples ended about 4 p.m. Judy Simpson is used to the rush of couples on Valentine's Day and has seen it every year for nearly a decade. Simpson, Johnson County deputy clerk, performs about three weddings a week and has seen many happy couples in her seven years at the clerk's office. She tells them that too. "I treat all people the same and tell them the truth," she said. If she thinks a couple is going to last for years to come, she tells them that, she said. One her favorite duties in her job as deputy clerk is performing the weddings, Simpson said. (SEE HITCHED, BACK PAGE)



Above: Ron Robson of Beech Grove and Denise Powell of Whiteland pose after their wedding. Left: Jermel and Penny Jackson fill out paperwork prior to their wedding ceremony. Besides being Valentine's Day, Tuesday was also Jermel Jackson's birthday.

## Pot use before fatality alleged

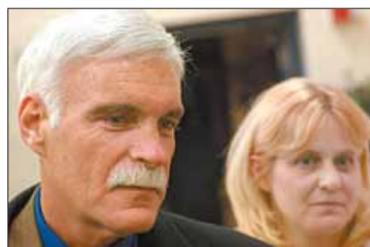
### Franklin man faces charges in crash

By PAIGE E. WASSEL  
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER  
pwassel@thejournalnet.com

A Franklin man was smoking marijuana minutes before he ran a stop sign and was involved in a car crash that resulted in a woman's death, a passenger in his car told police. Will E. Slinger, 19, has been charged with causing a death while operating a motor vehicle with marijuana in his system and operating a motor vehicle with a controlled substance in his system. April Mulry of Franklin died in an accident that involved Slinger on Sept. 10. The Johnson County Prosecutor's Office filed the charges Tuesday. Slinger was issued a court-ordered driving suspension in 2004 for failing to pay a ticket and received a speeding ticket in November. His driver's license has been suspended, said Adam Garrett, spokesman for the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles. The prosecutor's office originally expected to convene a grand jury to determine what, if any, charges should be filed against Slinger, Johnson County Prosecutor Lance Hamner said. Grand juries can help the prosecutor's office review evidence that may not be available to police, Chief Deputy Prosecutor Brad Cooper said. For example, they can call witnesses to testify who might not be willing to talk to police, Cooper said. But since then, a witness confirmed that Slinger was using marijuana around the time of the crash, according to the police affidavit. A toxicologist will help pinpoint when Slinger may have used the drug, since he could have had marijuana in his body weeks before the accident, Cooper said. (SEE FATALITY, BACK PAGE)



SLINGER



Steve Byerly and his wife Kay speak to reporters after Monday's Franklin school board meeting.

## Franklin schools sued over suspensions

By JO ELLEN WERKING WEEDMAN  
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER  
jweedman@thejournalnet.com

Two Franklin high school students and their parents are suing their principal and school district for the way the students say they were treated after being accused of stealing a bottle of wine and drinking it on a school-sponsored trip.

Tara Hight and Andrea Parsley, both 17, said their due process rights were violated when Franklin Principal Leighton Turner did not give them details about any evidence he collected about the incident nor allow them to respond to specific accusations. They were told to sign a form waiving their rights to due process, admit guilt and accept a 10-day suspension, or face expulsion, according to the lawsuit.

The girls did not sign the forms, were suspended for 10 days and now face expulsion from school for one year. Hight and Parsley filed a lawsuit in federal court Jan. 25 during their suspension asking that they be allowed to return to school. A judge ruled that Turner did give the (SEE SCHOOLS, BACK PAGE)