

November

Nov. 1

Paula Suzanne Borges, 41, a Greenwood City Court employee, was arrested after she cashed cashier's checks and money orders that motorists mailed as payment for traffic tickets, pocketing about \$5,000 in cash. She was fired.

A six-member grand jury decided not to file charges against 51-year-old Jeffrey Fox of Greenwood whose wife, Sherry Fox, died of either a drug overdose or beating.

Nov. 2

Land that hunters and anglers used in southern Johnson County could become a railroad freight yard to transport military equipment. Military officials said they needed more land for Camp Atterbury to send tanks and equipment with soldiers headed to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Despite groundwater problems on the east-side property, Greenwood still planned to build a new fire station. It was unclear whether the project would be delayed past its August completion date.

Nov. 3

The Indiana Attorney General's Office moved its unclaimed property division from downtown Indianapolis to the South Park Business Center, located near the Main Street interchange of Interstate 65, in Greenwood.

Laundries debated whether to raise prices to cope with predicted utility bill hikes. Midwest energy prices were expected to increase as much as 71 percent for natural gas, 40 percent for propane and 11 percent for electricity.

Nov. 4

During the first month of the new food and beverage tax the six counties collected more than \$650,000. Half the money, nearly \$329,000, went to the state to help pay for a new Colts stadium and a convention center expansion.

Two years before Franklin high school teachers and students move into 400,000 square feet of new space, teachers perused catalogs to pick out new microscopes and even a dishwasher. The new \$103 million high school, set to open in fall 2007, needed to be furnished.

Nov. 5

Greenwood builder J. Greg Allen and Center Grove graduate Shawn Cannon began to plan a high-rise tower that will include a hotel, condominiums and places for people to eat and shop in downtown Indianapolis. The project will be on Pennsylvania Street across from Consecro Fieldhouse.

Pump watchers breathed a sigh of relief as area gas prices crept down to near \$2 per gallon. In some areas of Indianapolis, gas prices were less than \$2.

Nov. 7

The city of Franklin sued a Hillview Drive property owner after hearing complaints from neighbors for 18 years. Cleo Mills owned two properties next door to each other at 1110 and 1120 Hillview Drive in Franklin. Neighbors filed complaints with the city of Franklin and the county health department about trash, unlicensed vehicles and, more recently, rats they said infested the properties.

Nov. 8

Peyton Manning and the Colts broke through a psychological barrier by beating the New England Patriots in Foxborough, Mass., where Indianapolis had lost six straight overall.

A man convicted of repeatedly breaking into people's homes during the past decade was arrested. William A. Russell, 45, reportedly



DAILY JOURNAL FILE PHOTO

Franklin school officials decided against a plan to replace Webb Elementary School, which was suffering a major space crisis, as a speech class took up residence in an old locker room.

entered a Greenwood man's apartment in the 900 block of Wallington Circle, touched the man's feet and toes and left with \$52 cash from the purse of the man's girlfriend, a police report said. Russell, a Greenwood resident, had been convicted of breaking into people's homes in Johnson County nine times since 1994.

Nov. 9

Franklin Superintendent William Patterson told the school board he would ask to hold off on replacing Webb Elementary School and would not recommend building or leasing space for a new administration building.

Center Grove school board voted to approve sending students home 35 to 45 minutes early every Wednesday during the second semester to give teachers time for professional development.

Nov. 10

After years of waiting for improvements, Webb elementary staff and parents said they were disappointed and frustrated with the news that their school won't be replaced soon.

Two Whiteland high school students were suspected of selling and using prescription drugs, including Vicodin, Darvocet and Xanax.

Nov. 11

Police raided an apartment on the south side of Indianapolis looking for heroin that is making its way into the hands of Johnson County teenagers. Police took cash and more than 100 packages of heroin wrapped for sale.

Nov. 12

A Greenwood man arrested Nov. 7 told police he felt invisible when he crept inside hundreds, perhaps thousands, of area homes at night without the residents' knowledge. The prosecutor charged William A. Russell, 45, with one count of burglary, a Class B felony which carries a maximum sentence of 20 years, and as a habitual offender, which can triple his sentence if he's convicted, after he was accused of breaking into another home.

U.S. Navy Seaman 1st Class J.K. Bingham, 80, of Franklin, came to Indian Creek High School for a Veterans Day ceremony that honored him and fellow Johnson County veterans who served in the nation's military.

Nov. 18

Building resumed at a Greenwood construction site near the airport after city officials told developers to stop working on the building because they feared it might be too high for its location. Federal officials determined the building was not a hazard to pilots.

A lobbying group planned to ask the state to let local governments rely more on new taxes and less on property taxes. New taxes could have included hotel, income, sales and food-and-beverage taxes. The Indiana Association of Cities and Towns wanted municipalities to use these new funding options and lower their property tax rates.

Nov. 19

Attendees at a local Medicare information meeting said packets being sent to homes of seniors weren't providing the comprehensive information they needed about the new prescription drug benefit.

Plans to build an east-west corridor in Johnson County moved forward with \$1 million for planning and mapping a route. The road would start at State Road 144 and State Road 37 and end at Interstate 74 in Shelby County.

Nov. 21

Gas prices dropped just in time for Thanksgiving. Motorists were glad to see county gas prices drop below \$2 for the first time in months.

Nov. 22

County commissioners planned to take over the search for a new animal shelter site and didn't know if they would again use members of the committee set up to find a new site for the facility.

Greenwood and Franklin mayors wanted to decide locally whether their communities needed a new restaurant tax. In May, the Franklin and Greenwood city councils learned they would not have a say in deciding whether their cities could adopt local food-and-beverage taxes.

Nov. 23

Bryan "Mitch" Goody was sentenced to 40 years in prison in the Nov. 9, 2004, crash that killed Indian Creek High School English teacher Kate Comiskey. Goody, 46, was given the maximum penalty for the felony: 20 years in prison for operating a vehicle under the influence of drugs causing death and 20 years for a habitual offender enhancement. With credit for good behavior and time already served counted toward his sentence, he could be released in about 19 years.

Rhoades True Value Hardware Store, a second-generation family business in downtown Franklin, planned to close its doors because of a lack of business.

Nov. 24

Greenwood police investigated the death of a newborn baby who was pronounced dead at 6:35 a.m. Nov. 22 at the Community Hospital South emergency room in Indianapolis. Police investigated whether the mother delayed taking the baby to the hospital, and if so, whether the delay contributed to the child's death.

Franklin educators began brainstorming ways to use Webb elementary if the school board decided to spend money on repairs instead of fully renovating the 40-year-old building.

Nov. 25

As Johnson Memorial Hospital in Franklin pondered how to serve its patients, more residents in the northern part of the county were choosing the facility for inpatient care.

Dec. 1

While Franklin school board members were still debating what to do with Webb Elementary School and how to pay for it, officials said that replacing it with a new elementary school wouldn't happen soon. The board began to focus on setting priorities for repairs and looking at costs.

A task force planned to propose a location for a new animal shelter that had twice been turned down by Franklin city officials. The proposed location was at Graham Road and Commerce Drive. Franklin Mayor Brenda Jones-Matthews approved of the location after changes to the proposal were made.

Dec. 2

The county planned a new route for an east-west corridor that would follow Whiteland Road, bypass Whiteland to the south and then head north to meet up with Shelby County Road 400N, which leads to Interstate 74.

Local developer Mike Duke wanted to add two buildings with a total of 48 apartments to City View Apartments on West Jefferson Street in Franklin. A decision on rezoning the property was delayed because city council members and the mayor wanted more specific information.

Dec. 3-4

Johnson County's steady growth made it third in the state for the number of animal complaints. Only Marion and Lake counties had more calls. Complaints are common in areas that experienced quick population growth.

Franklin police determined that only one car was involved in an incident along U.S. 31 that killed Edward J. Madsen, 38, of Fairland on Nov. 25. Based on statements from five witnesses, police originally thought Madsen was hit by a white vehicle traveling north before being struck by a second vehicle. But accident reconstructionists determined that the white pickup driven by a 17-year-old Morgantown boy didn't have any damage that showed it had struck Madsen, and the damage to a Chevrolet Tahoe driven by Whiteland resident Michael Proctor was consistent with hitting Madsen.

Dec. 5

The Whiteland Fire Department wanted to make sure someone would always be on call to answer the telephone and dispatch an ambulance or fire engine. Whiteland Fire Chief Larry Kephart wanted to see four or five firefighters be paid and on call all day and night to make sure residents get help quickly.

Lord's Locker in Trafalgar conducted its annual Christmas Giveaway, a program which began in 1998. More than 60 volunteers helped give away 2,973 gifts to parents who can't afford presents provide Christmas presents.

Dec. 6

The new owner of a Forest Lawn Memory Gardens began enforcing rules about what can be placed at graves that have been in place since 1957 but were rarely followed. As a result, at least eight families complained that their loved ones' memories were being disrespected because of items the cemetery removed.

A movie about magic, a witch and a lion was the latest way some Johnson County churches were trying to start more discussion about religion. Churches eagerly awaited the Dec. 9 release of "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," based on the fantasy books by C.S. Lewis.

Dec. 7

Johnson County Commissioner Jim Rhoades died from a heart attack. The 52-year-old was one of the county's most colorful public officials. He had served on the Franklin City Council, county council and county board of commissioners.

Dec. 8

David Alexander Voght, 38, Greenwood, shot himself in



DAILY JOURNAL FILE PHOTO

Shooting suspect David Voght shot and killed himself inside a black Toyota Camry after a collision with a Bartholomew County sheriff's deputy in Taylorsville. About two hours earlier, Voght shot a Johnson County sheriff's deputy in the shoulder in White River Township.

the head after several police cars chased him from Interstate 65 into Taylorsville in Bartholomew County. Voght shot a Johnson County sheriff's deputy in the shoulder about two hours earlier in White River Township.

Dec. 9

The first snow storm of the season blanketed the county. In Franklin, snow started drifting down around 1:30 p.m. and coated the ground less than an hour later.

A sheriff's deputy who was shot had four bullet fragments in his right shoulder. David Alexander Voght, 38, Greenwood, shot nine rounds at Edwards' patrol car Wednesday morning, about two hours before he killed himself. Six bullets hit the patrol car, and three struck a nearby home.

Dec. 10-11

Up to 200 people planned to get jobs at the Lear Corp. plant in Edinburg. The plant was awarded a contract from General Motors Corp. to produce interior door panels for full-size sport utility vehicles.

It was decided that an Indianapolis man sentenced to eight years in prison for starting a paint truck fire in 2003 would get a new sentence. The Indiana Court of Appeals ruled that a Marion County judge must reconsider the penalty for Tommy McElroy. A three-judge panel decided that Superior Court Judge Tanya Walton Pratt improperly relied on victims' testimony about trauma to lengthen McElroy's sentence for two counts of reckless homicide and one count of criminal recklessness.

Dec. 12

Retailers were making a list and checking it more than twice to keep track of every item a customer returns to their stores. This was in effort to crack down on return and exchange fraud or abuse by consumers.

Dec. 13

Pacers forward Ron Artest requested to be traded from the Indiana Pacers, and local fans were mixed in their reaction to Artest's demand.

Access Coordination Team services provided families with free services that may not have been met through the usual network of social services, such as doctor's appointments or food and clothing assistance. In July 2005, the group joined the regional nonprofit group Children's Bureau Inc., which serves abused and neglected children and works to prevent child abuse.

Dec. 14

Lt. Tom Kite, a Greenwood firefighter, and Joe Ault, a Franklin City Council member, were the first two people to apply for the vacant commissioner seat, Republican Party chairman Doug Lechner said. The District 2 position became vacant when commissioner Jim Rhoades died. A Republican caucus to select a new commissioner was scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Jan. 5. The caucus would be Johnson County's seventh in about a year and a half.

The Franklin school board voted that Webb Elementary School would get a few repairs and remain an elementary school for at least five more years. The board accepted Superintendent William Patterson's recommendation to work on nine items in the building, including fixing a leaky roof, installing handicap-accessible restrooms and repairing the heating and cooling system.

Dec. 15

Students statewide improved slightly on the math portion of the ISTEP-Plus exam, but reading scores on the standardized test stayed about the same as 2004 scores. Johnson County schools followed the same trend, with most scores changing by only a few percentage points.

A committee reviewed plans to build more than 20 new restaurants and shops along a six-acre stretch of State Road 135 in White River Township in the next three years. Seven buildings that contained three to five businesses each were planned for property at the northwest corner of State Road 135 and Stones Crossing Road.

Dec. 16

An explosion of development continued at Emerson Avenue and County Line Road in Greenwood, following seven years of no activity on vacant farmland.

Some residents concerned about seeing \$300 heating bills turned to another way to heat their homes, wood and pellet burning stoves. How much money customers would save on heating bills varied depending on if they combined the stove with a furnace, how well insulated their home was and how warm they wanted to keep their house.

Dec. 17-18

Kelly A. Pitman, a Cumberland woman arrested in a series of church burglaries, was sentenced to 15 years in prison, home detention and probation and also must repay \$325 to Temple Baptist Church in Franklin. Pitman, 26, pleaded guilty to seven counts of burglary, a Class B felony. She will serve 15 years in prison for the charges minus the 175 days she has already served.

New businesses were closing in around Greenwood Municipal Airport, where an average of about 25 planes come and go daily, and the airport was seeking more hangar space and fuel. However, any new building around the airport had to meet federal safety guidelines and limited the airport's ability to expand.

Dec. 19

Three people died after two separate car accidents. Center Grove High School junior Megan Elizabeth Williams, 17, and Keith Grossman, a 22-year-old Huntington man, both suffered head injuries and died at the scene of the accident on State Road 37; and Charles R. Hogan, 44, was driving southbound on County Road 725W, only a few hundred yards from his home, when his truck went off the road and hit a tree. He

Brad Rateike, 24, talked about his return to Indiana after more than a year as a Peace Corps volunteer in Uzbekistan, a country of about 26 million north of Afghanistan. In his new job as a communications assistant at the governor's office, he had to get used to speaking English again, instead of Uzbek, a language he spent three months learning.

Nov. 26

Retailers have called the day after Thanksgiving Black Friday because sales often determined whether a business has a financially profitable year, or goes from being in the red to in the black. Cars started streaming in two hours before the Greenwood mall officially opened at 7 a.m. Even though there were an estimated 100,000 people in the city on Friday, police reported an unexpectedly calm day.

Angelcare Health and Nursing Center in Franklin was faced with losing Medicaid funds used to pay for residents' care if it didn't change several practices that could have posed a health or safety danger to some of the residents. If the facility lost its government funding for Medicaid and Medicare patients, the program would have had to stop paying in late December for residents admitted to the facility before Nov. 12.

Nov. 28

Franklin police continued to investigate a fatal hit-and-run accident that killed Edward Madsen, 38, of Fairland. A white vehicle that reportedly struck Madsen on U.S. 31 North near Commerce Drive fled the scene. Madsen was then thrown into the right hand lane of U.S. 31 North and struck by another vehicle.

The Oaken Barrel, a Greenwood brewery, wanted to double the amount of ale and amber it could make and distribute for Hoosiers statewide. The local brewing expansion came as craft beer brewers grabbed a larger share of the market as more people shifted from big-name brews to handcrafted ales, ambers and stouts.

Nov. 29

A 17-year-old Morgantown boy came to Franklin police with his mother after he heard media reports that a white vehicle had struck a Fairland man on U.S. 31. The teen said he drove the vehicle seen by witnesses, but he said he didn't hit Edward J. Madsen, 38. Police kept the boy's vehicle for evidence.

Colts extended their unbeaten record to 11-0 with a win against the Pittsburgh Steelers. Besides the fact that they stayed unbeaten, the win was significant because it came against an opponent that was also regarded as a Super Bowl contender.

Nov. 30

Scott E. Romans, 45, of Indianapolis, was killed on Interstate 65 near Edinburg when a truck ran over him and severed his leg. Romans was an employee of Interstate Towing, and his wrecker was parked on the side of the highway at the 77-mile marker.

Unlike most teens going to school in Johnson County, Libby Lapp, a Whiteland Community High School senior, was schooled on three continents during her four years of high school. Her parents, Roger II and Gina, worked for the U.S. government in West Africa. She went to a boarding school in Switzerland her sophomore year and spent her junior year in a suburb of Phoenix. Of the places she had lived, Lapp liked Indiana the best and plans to stay here after high school to go to college.

suffered a skull fracture and died at the scene.

The Colts saw their hopes of a perfect season dashed with a 26-17 loss against visiting San Diego. The defeat bore no postseason impact for a team that had sewn up home-field advantage throughout the playoffs with its last win.

Dec. 20

Greenwood City Council member Jessie Reed asked the city attorney to draft a no-smoking ordinance that would prohibit people from lighting up tobacco products in public places, including restaurants.

Former Brown County Commissioner Jim Crane and Indianapolis Power and Light employee Anthony Work asked to be considered for a seat on the board of commissioners. The new applicants brought the total candidates for the seat to five.

Dec. 21

Two women who police suspect stole from public offices in Johnson County were charged with theft. Paula "Suzanne" Borges, 41, was accused of taking more than \$10,000 from mailed-in traffic tickets at Greenwood City Court; and Jennifer Lasley, 26, was accused of taking \$500 from the county surveyor's office. If convicted, each woman could face up to three years in prison.

Melissa Henson, the state tax commissioner, denied Franklin's request to collect as much as \$2.5 million in additional property taxes and raise the city tax rate by as much as 33 percent. Her reason: Franklin still had money in its accounts, and the city's budget had no errors needing to be corrected by additional property tax money.

Dec. 22

Talk across the United States said that Christians were upset about some of their fellow Americans refusing to recognize Christmas as a religious holiday. But at issue was whether a few stories about upset churchgoers were being blown out of proportion, or if Christians really were getting frustrated at the politically correct movement to label Christmas time as "the holidays."

Whiteland teenagers who once contemplated dropping out of school were ordering graduation caps and gowns, applying for college or jobs that require a high school diploma and making plans for what they'll do next. After one semester, eight students have earned enough credits to graduate, and 24 more are enrolled at the Clark-Pleasant Academy. A graduation ceremony will be conducted in May.

Dec. 23

Colts players and coaches were stunned and saddened by the death of James Dungy, the 18-year-old son of Colts coach Tony Dungy. The teenager was found dead of an apparent suicide at a Tampa, Fla., apartment.

More than 300 soldiers left Camp Atterbury, a military base near Edinburg to take a break from training to chow down on holiday food, sleep in and spend time with their families. For some soldiers, this was a second break since visiting family last month for Thanksgiving. Other soldiers, such as Capt. Jack Criverton, were returning home for the first time in more than a year.

Dec. 24-25

Franklin 11-year-old Alexa "Lexi" Shank again was fighting leukemia. Shank got a stem cell transplant in May, but doctors in early December told her family the cancer she had been fighting for two years was back.

Dec. 26

A pilot program at Center Grove Elementary School had kindergartners in school three times as long as many of their peers. Parents of children in the full-day kindergarten class paid \$300 per month to send their children to the test program, the first of its kind in Johnson County.