

TAKE FIVE

A guide to people, issues and activities in your community.



DID YOU KNOW?

LOVE'S IN THE AIR: In honor of Valentine's Day on Tuesday, here are a couple of Johnson County love stories:

The first wedding in Franklin was in 1825. Thomas Williams officiated.

The groom had no money, so he split rails to pay off the debt. The bride worked in the kitchen.

Hoosier poet James Whitcomb Riley once courted a girl in Nineveh. The Greenfield native visited his sweetheart, Clara Louise Botsford, at her grandparents' home near Nineveh.

But the pair never married. Riley remained a bachelor his entire life and died in 1916 at the Lockerbie Street residence in Indianapolis that he called home.

COURTHOUSE CROWD: The county clerk's office is ready for an onslaught of couples hoping for a happily ever after.

Twenty-two singles will flock to the courthouse Tuesday, Valentine's Day. Then 11 married couples will frolic back out with an easy-to-remember anniversary.

So far, the clerk is officiating 11 weddings on Valentine's Day, about one every half-hour with a break for lunch.

Some procrastinating couples still might try to schedule Tuesday as their wedding day, Johnson County Clerk Jill Jackson said.

In light of the busy wedding day, Franklin florist J.P. Parker Co. is donating roses to the couples.

Joyce Long came to the door with a smile as big as Mount Pleasant Christian Church itself. Up the stairs and around a few corners, we settled into her office. The sun broke through the curtainless window. Long, 51, works as marketing coordinator for the Center Grove area church of almost 3,000 members.

Surrounded by art, books and a calendar with a photograph of two hands molding wet clay, Long talked about her home in Hunters Pointe, where her family has lived for 19 years, and her life. Sounds of guitar chords crept under the door and became the soundtrack for the interview.



KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR: JOYCE LONG

Something you've always wanted to do?

Go to Europe. To have my daughter take my husband and myself over there and be our guide in Ireland.

Favorite grocery store aisle?

Dairy. I love ice cream, yogurt, cheese, the list goes on.

Weirdest thing in your purse?

I carry scissors. I always carry scissors. You can do so much with scissors. Except at the airport.

Recent purchase?

A new pair of walking/trail shoes that I'm breaking in on those early morning walks around the neighborhood with my friends Cathie Geiger and Phyllis Smith. They are, by the way, fluorescent lime green trimmed in reddish-orange.

A perfect day?

Lots of sunshine, a good book and being with people I love.

What inspires you?

Jesus Christ and the Bible

Least favorite condiment?

I like them all, actually. I like condiments. Skip the main course. But probably regular mustard.

One thing you have in your current home from your childhood?

I have the piggy bank that my dad used to save money for my college. My college fund.

Your childhood ambition?

That's funny. I wanted to be a detective because I grew up on Bobsey Twins and Nancy Drew, but after I read the book "Christy" by Catherine Marshall, I wanted to be an English teacher, which I became.

My life is:

Blessed.

What frightens you?

I don't like snakes. Or bugs, for that matter. A big bug in the house? Yuck.

Favorite time of day?

The morning. Because I feel refreshed in the morning. The time after my walk.

What is something most people wouldn't know about you?

I love to write. I get energy from writing about God's word.

Interview by Lauren Conlon
Photograph by Matt Ooley



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NOTEBOOK

LEIGHTON BRIGADE: The Franklin school board will meet in the roomy Northwood Elementary School cafeteria Monday night just in case a crowd turns out to talk about the recent demotion of Franklin's high school principal.

A mysterious group calling itself BLT (for Back Leighton Turner) has talked of a protest and bringing people to ask the school board not to reassign Turner to assistant principal July 1.

Whether the protest is still on is unclear, and Superintendent William Patterson said no one has requested the item be placed on Monday's agenda.

The school board does have two different times during the meeting when the public can address the board. The time before the meeting is only for comments on agenda items. At the end of the meeting, members of the public can speak to the board about anything.

The meeting starts at 7 p.m. Northwood Elementary is at 965 Grizzly Cub Drive, just north of the high school along U.S. 31.

WANT TO HELP?

BUILD A HOME: Here's your family's opportunity to participate in a mission project without leaving the county.

Join community volunteers to construct panels that will be used to build home for victims of Hurricane Katrina. Preparatory work will begin at 1 p.m. Friday, with the first construction session at 6 p.m.

At 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. Feb 18, hammers will swing again during the two-day marathon of panel-building at Scott Hall at the Johnson County Fairgrounds in Franklin.

Tools and previous experience in construction are not necessary. Even if you can't swing a hammer, you can offer a helping hand.

Information: 535-4822

WHAT YOU MISSED

If you didn't read the Daily Journal during the week, you missed a lot.

SMOKING BAN: Want to take a puff in Greenwood? You soon may need to check if it is legal. Greenwood city officials took action on a smoking ban. Will a ban be considered in other parts of the county?

ALL-DAY KINDERGARTEN: Center Grove officials say all-day school boosted learning and achievement for their youngest students. A lack of funding may put the program in jeopardy.

BUSINESS YES, APARTMENTS NO: Residents in the Clark-Pleasant area are concerned about businesses and houses proposed for land southwest of Whiteland Road and U.S. 31. The developer plans to make changes.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW THIS WEEK

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Tuesday

Stay out of the doghouse

It's Valentine's Day, so don't forget to spoil your sweetie. If you waited until the last minute, here's one idea to help you out:

Big Band Valentine's Day celebration

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Where: Scottish Rite Ballroom, 650 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis

Cost: \$25 for adults and \$15 for students at the door

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Thursday

Story Fest 2006

Time: 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Location: Center Grove Middle School Central, 4900 Stones Crossing Road

What you need to know: Bring your elementary school student to hear 20 middle school kids read favorite children's book. Clifford the Big Red Dog will visit, and professional storyteller Celestine Bloomfield will tell stories at the free event. No advanced registration is required.

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Friday

Bring on the cookies

After getting Girl Scout cookie deliveries on Thursday, nearly 2,000 Girl Scouts from Johnson County will be fanning out to bring the boxes of Thin Mints, Tagalongs and Samoas to your door.

Cost: \$3 per box



Got an event for our calendar? Call 736-2720 or send it to freetime@thejournalnet.com

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VOLUME

Volume 43, No. 179

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ABOUT THE DAILY JOURNAL

The Daily Journal is an award-winning newspaper published daily except Sundays and Christmas at 2575 N. Morton St., Franklin, IN 46131.

Founded in 1963, the Daily Journal is owned by Home News Enterprises L.L.C. and is one of Indiana's most widely recognized and honored community newspapers.

The Daily Journal is committed to responsible reporting, professional business practices and dedicated community service.

The newspaper is a member of the Associated Press, Hoosier State Press Association, Inland Press Association and Certified Audit of Circulations.

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