

# JOHNSON COUNTY

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## Bill would put faith on the road

ON THE RECORD

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SPECIAL TO THE DAILY JOURNAL

### INDIANAPOLIS

License plates with the phrase "In God We Trust" could be available for Indiana motorists if a bill makes it through the Indiana General Assembly.

Rep. Woody Burton, R-Greenwood, said his bill would give motorists the option to choose the nondenominational plate, but the plate wouldn't show religious symbols or raise money for any special group.

The bill would require Bureau of Motor Vehicles branches to stock the plates.

There would be no premium charged for the plates, although the BMV charges a \$15 adminis-

trative fee for all special recognition plates.

Burton's proposal was approved by the Committee on Road and Transportation on Thursday.

An identical bill died in the Indiana Senate last year because of concerns with the number of special interest plates in the state.

Currently, the state offers 55 varieties of special plates.

A representative from the Jewish Community Relations Council said the bill could potentially cross the line separating church and state.

"The plate does not address every faith or community tradition," Lindsey Mintz said. "Will the voluntary plate be constitutional? Possibly.

"Our concerns are with the line between government and religion potentially being crossed. (Burton) made it clear money would not be raised for special interest groups, one of our concerns."

Burton said that the license

plate would adhere to separation between church and state because it would not allow a specific denomination to be on it.

"The founders were not a specific religion and based the country's idea not on those of Britain and France," Burton said. "We are able to worship when we want and how we want. It's like people trying to take 'In God We Trust' off the dollar bill. We need to stand up and say no."

Another bill would protect people who say "I'm sorry" from having a court hold them as responsible for an incident as a result.

The House Judiciary Committee conducted a hearing Thursday on House Bill 1112, which is sponsored by Rep. Ralph Foley, R-Martinsville.

Currently, people cannot offer an apology or show of sympathy without risking it being used as an admission of fault.

"As a grandfather, I teach my grandson or granddaughter that

when they bob someone they need to tell them they're sorry," Foley said.

"We are trying to teach our children civility and try to teach civility in our schools, but legally we freeze because insurance companies say 'you can't say you're sorry' due to the liability.

"I'm not trying to turn this into radical legislation. It's just, in my few years of practice, I heard countless times, 'Well, if only Phyllis said she's sorry,' or, 'If only someone had sent a sympathy card when someone ran over Aunt Meredith.'"

The bill does not apply to criminal cases but to tort cases, including medical malpractice and vehicle accidents.

However, the bill is not without opposition.

"This bill, as it's currently worded, is a one-size-fits-all approach that will be very problematic," said Warren Mathies, legislative director of the Indiana Trial Lawyers Association.

### Police/fire

#### Franklin Burglaries

• 400 block of East Jefferson Street: A woman reported that between 4 and 6 p.m. Wednesday someone broke into her home through the basement window. A box of nails, a nail gun, a briefcase, an extension cord and a ladder were missing.

• 70 block of Highland Avenue: A man reported at 5:14 p.m. Wednesday that someone broke into his home by breaking a window next to the front door. The only item missing was a bottle of medication.

#### Greenwood Burglary

• Family Video, 1000 N. Madison Ave.: A man reported at 2:57 a.m. Thursday that while dropping a video off at the store he noticed the front door's glass was shattered. The manager was notified and noted that several videos and games were taken along with an unknown amount of cash from a register.

#### Theft

• C.P. Morgan, 247 Legacy Drive: A man reported at 1:08 p.m. Wednesday that someone took \$800 worth of building supplies and appliances.

#### Jail bookings

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

Kevin Brandon Hooten, 41, 591 Shadybrook Heights, Greenwood; arrested on an Ohio County warrant; held without bond.

Roger Dale Hodson, 23, 4658 S. County Road 550E, Franklin; arrested on a charge of bond forfeiture and probation revocation; held without bond.

Ross A. Eggers, 48, 125½ Brewer St., Greenwood; arrested on a charge of failure to appear in court; held on \$1,000 bond.

Glen A. Richard, 40, 152 Belaire Drive, New Whiteland; arrested on a charge of battery; released on \$1,000 bond.

Denise L. Jones, 28, 1201 Westminster Row, Apt. 709, Greenwood; arrested on a charge of failure to appear in court; held without bond.

Jennifer E. Fitch, 33, 2803 Traditions Court, Franklin; arrested on a charge of failure to appear in court; released on \$2,500 bond.

Brian T. Abshier, 31, 211 S. State Road 135, Apt. 15, Trafalgar; arrested on a charge of failure to respond to a summons; released on \$1,000 bond.

Grant Gaylord Pearson, 29, 5314 Bancroft Lane, Greenwood; arrested on a charge of driving while suspended with a previous conviction; released on \$1,000 bond.

Luis Albarado, 18, 1609 Franklin Place, Franklin; arrested on a charge of driving without ever receiving a license; held on \$1,000 bond.

Regina R. Cosby, 33, 215 N. Kyle St., Edinburg; arrested on charges of possession of marijuana/hashish, possession of a controlled substance and possession of paraphernalia; released on \$5,000 bond.

Carlos Melendez, 26, 2683 Cheri Glen Way, Indianapolis; arrested on a charge of public intoxication; held on \$1,000 bond.

Joshua Dean Henson, 23, 21 Meadow Creek Boulevard, Whiteland; arrested on a charge of bond forfeiture; held without bond.

Geoffery Dean Lefell, 22, 3420 E. 96th St., Indianapolis; wanted on a Monroe County warrant; held without bond.

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

Adam G. Benham, 25, 409 Maple Court, Bargersville; held on \$1,000 bond.

Joshua D. Peele, 31, 1402 Sandy Bay Drive, Apt. D, Greenwood; released on \$1,000 bond.

### Births

#### Johnson Memorial Hospital

Thomas and Pamela Becher, Franklin, boy born Jan. 3.

Tony Moorehead and Melissa Stout, Franklin, boy born Jan. 3.

### Minutes

#### Greenwood City council

Monday, the council:

• Voted 7-0 to adopt a fiscal plan for annexation of 92 acres southwest of County Road 700N and County Road 125W.

• Approved unanimously allowing the police department to fund two patrolman positions.

• Voted unanimously against a rezoning request for less than an acre of property at 801 N. Madison Ave.

• Ruled 6-0 in favor of a tax abatement request for BD Development LLC. Council member Jessie Reed abstained.

## Prior arrests land man back in jail

Daily Journal staff report

A Greenwood man accused of using a clock with a hidden camera inside to snap photos of a nude woman had been convicted of dealing cocaine and bank robbery in the 1990s, the county prosecutor said.

Will Lenzy, 57, of 720 Woodale Terrace, Apt. 16, was arrested in October on charges of voyeurism and harassment.

The man, who was a personal trainer at Bally Total Fitness, is accused of giving a Greenwood woman he knew from the gym a clock with a video camera inside and recording more than 400 images of her, police said.

Lenzy helped her move furniture and gave her the clock as a gift, which he then used to record images of the woman in her bedroom and bathroom during the next four months, police said.

The 41-year-old woman contacted the city's police department Sept. 30 about harassing e-mails and letters she received.

Lenzy was arrested in October and released on a standard \$3,000 bond, Johnson County Prosecutor Lance Hamner said.

The prosecutor's office asked that his bond be increased to \$150,000 because of his record.

He was convicted of dealing cocaine or narcotics in Marion County in 1998 and was sentenced to nine years of court supervision, according to the Indiana Department of Correction.

### NEWS BRIEFS

Lenzy also has a conviction for bank robbery, Hamner said. Details were not available.

On Wednesday, Lenzy came to court for an initial hearing and was arrested on the higher bond amount.

His attorney filed a motion asking that the bond be reduced, and Lenzy has a new hearing Thursday in Superior Court 3.

He is being held in the Johnson County jail until then, Hamner said.

JOHNSON COUNTY

#### North Vernon resident pleads guilty to break-in

A man who asked a 14-year-old relative to look out for police while he stole money from a Waverly restaurant pleaded guilty to the crime Thursday.

David Eugene Fields, 35, of North Vernon was given a seven-year sentence for the class C felony.

With credit for good time served, he may be in prison for 1½ years and serve four years on probation.

The young relative and Fields' neighbor were to honk a car horn at any sign of trouble during the June 8, 2004, burglary, according to police documents.

Fields stole a laptop computer, about \$1,500 in cash and paperwork from Pancho & Lefty's Res-

taurant, at state roads 37 and 144.

Police said the trio used the routine to complete four burglaries in three counties.

Fields asked for a shorter sentence and no probation time in a plea deal he negotiated mostly by himself with the Johnson County Prosecutor's Office.

Johnson County Superior Court 2 Judge Cynthia Emkes said that while she struggled whether to accept the plea agreement, she couldn't approve a shorter sentence based on Fields' criminal history.

She also said that she thought the crime was particularly upsetting because the young relative involved. Emkes hoped that Fields would use the opportunity to express to the teenager how wrong the burglary was, she said.

Fields also asked to serve his sentence concurrently with a Morgan County sentence for other burglaries, but Emkes denied the request.

He still has a criminal case pending in Jennings County.

As part of the plea deal, Fields will also pay \$3,485.53 in restitution to the restaurant for the theft of cash, personal property and damage to the building. That amount may be reduced later.

GREENWOOD

#### Smoke from fire drives residents to balconies

A fire at a Greenwood apartment Wednesday night forced 11 people out of their homes for more

than two hours and caused more than \$75,000 in damage.

The fire began in Westminster Apartments at 9:45 p.m.

Neighbors called to report smoke coming from one of the units.

The smoke was so thick that it filled up the hallways between apartments, said Lt. Tom Kite, spokesman for the Greenwood Fire Department.

Residents at 890 Parliament Place had to leave their apartments through their balconies. Firefighters used a ladder to help residents of second- and third-story apartments get out of the smoky building. No one was injured, Kite said.

No one was home at Apartment 604, where the fire started. The damage in the apartment amounted to between \$75,000 and \$80,000, but residents will likely be able to move back in when the damage is repaired, he said.

Investigators are studying how the fire started, but don't see anything suspicious so far, he said.

Firefighters had the fire under control within 15 minutes, but it took about two hours to air the building out and to investigate the fire before residents were allowed back inside, he said.

Temperatures Wednesday night were in the 30s, according to the National Weather Service.

The fire did not cause any structural damage. But the smoke that filled the hallways made it difficult for neighbors to escape. They did the right thing by waiting to be rescued, Kite said.

## Open House

for  
**Andrew White**

who is leaving July 17th for the army.

**Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup> 2006**  
**2 - 5 pm**

Countryview Mobile Home Park Clubhouse  
1199 Hospital Rd., Franklin

**Call 412-2022 for info.**

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