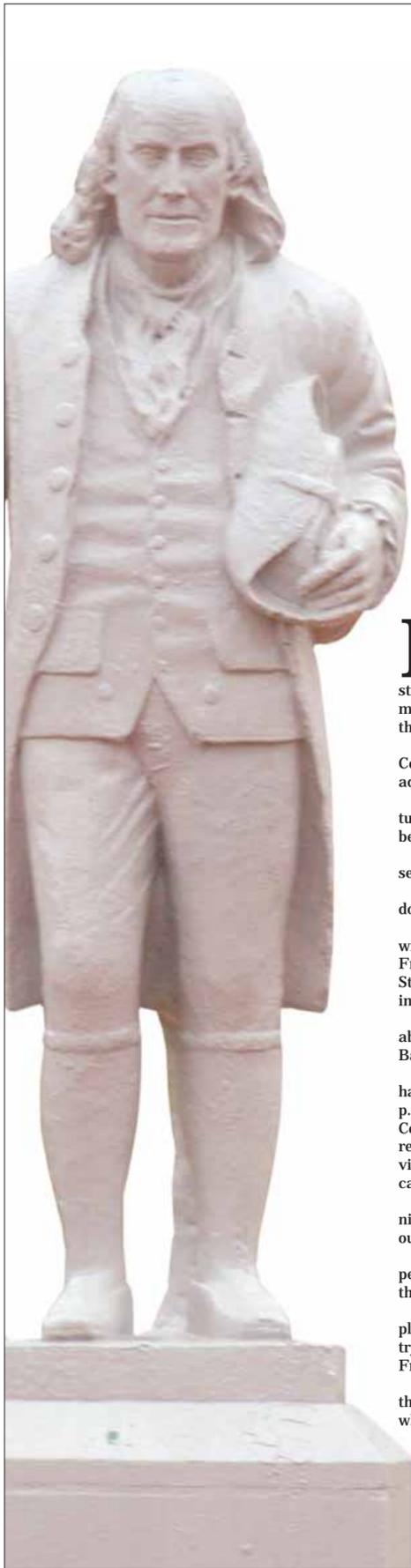


300th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



City, college plan parties

Kites, cakes, costumed characters among attractions on Tuesday

By MICHAEL W. HOSKINS
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER
mhoskins@thejournalnet.com

Every time lightning strikes, we think of him. History tells stories of him flying a kite in a storm and demonstrating that lightning is really electricity, inventing a more efficient wood stove, bifocals and the lightning rod, and being instrumental in creating the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

But his name is more than a history lesson for Johnson County, which has a city, schools, businesses and home addresses bearing his name.

Ben Franklin, who died in 1790 at age 84, would have turned 300 on Tuesday, and birthday celebrations are being thrown nationwide.

In Johnson County, visitors can travel to the county seat of Franklin and get a taste of the activities.

A Franklin impersonator will travel around the city's downtown and college campus during the day.

Franklin College will also host a birthday celebration with door prizes, including a \$100 bill (which has Franklin's face on it), and copies of his biography. Stations will be set up featuring Franklin's roles as an inventor and printer. Also, a harpist will perform.

"This is a historical time that we can help people learn about him," said Franklin College spokeswoman Deidra Baumgardner.

The Franklin Department of Parks and Recreation also has Franklin-related activities planned. From 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., visitors to the Franklin Cultural Arts and Recreation Center can talk with a colonial American printer; do Ben-related arts and crafts projects such as making a kite; view Franklin-related artifacts and indulge in birthday cake and punch.

"The kite really flies," said Pam Gibson, who is planning the activities. "I made one and immediately took it outside and it flew."

She said the activities will go on throughout the day so people can drop in any time and still experience everything.

Nationwide, hundreds of Ben-centric festivities are being planned to celebrate his birthday. Brewers across the country will be selling Poor Richard's Ale, a brew named after Franklin's publication Poor Richard's Almanac.

The official home of the Franklin tercentenary (that's the fancy word for 300th anniversary) is Philadelphia, where Franklin made his home and fortune. There will

ON THE SCHEDULE

Meet Ben Franklin

Indianapolis actor Phil Tunnah will impersonate Ben Franklin on Tuesday, traveling around downtown Franklin and the college campus to hand out invitations to his 300th birthday party. Here is where you can see him during the day and have your picture taken with him:

10 a.m.: Don and Dona's

10:30 a.m.: Johnson County Courthouse lawn

11 a.m.: Benjamin's Coffeehouse

11:30 a.m.: Franklin City Hall

Noon: Franklin College Napolitan Student Center

1 p.m.: Dame Mall at Franklin College

1:45 p.m.: College classrooms

4 to 6 p.m.: Birthday party, student center

Franklin College

A birthday party at Franklin College from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday is free and open to the public. It will be in the Johnson Atrium of the Napolitan Student Center.

Franklin Parks and Recreation

9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Franklin Cultural Arts and Recreation Center, 396 Branigin Blvd.

Activities include a visit with a colonial American printer, crafts projects such as kite-making, displays of Benjamin Franklin-related artifacts from the Johnson County Museum of History, and cake and punch.

be special programs at the National Constitution Center, Franklin Institute, Academy of Music, Christ Church and University of Pennsylvania.

In Franklin's birthplace of Boston, the Museum of Science has a program planned.

Hundreds of communities, schools, and businesses bear his name or variations. Four Indiana schools have Benjamin Franklin in their names, and hundreds of variations exist nationwide from Franklin, Franklinville, Franklindale and Franklinton.

There are three Franklins along Interstate 65, but only Indiana's Franklin plans to mark the day. Neither Franklin, Ky., nor Franklin, Tenn., has anything scheduled.

In fact, when a city hall worker in Tennessee was told about the anniversary, she said, "His birthday's Tuesday? I didn't know anything about it. Whaddya know."

Franklin remains vital to society

Special course focuses on Ben's leadership style

By MICHAEL W. HOSKINS
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER
mhoskins@thejournalnet.com

One Franklin College student said Ben Franklin flew a kite and proved that lightning was electricity.

Another recalled he was involved in writing the Declaration of Independence and Constitution.

For the most part, that was the limit of their knowledge. Until now.

"He was so much more than that," said Ellis Hall, dean of students at Franklin College, who is teaching a special winter term course on Ben Franklin and his leadership. "This was a person who was more approachable, down to earth than other founding fathers."

The four-week course is teaching students about Franklin's leadership style and how his leadership can be applied to 21st century living.

The course is partly in celebration of the 300th anniversary of Franklin's birth, which is Tuesday.

Twenty students are enrolled in the class that meets for about two hours Tuesdays through Friday. Textbooks are biographies of Franklin.

Hall started thinking about teaching the class during the summer.

"I was thinking that we're called Franklin College and have his name in the community, wouldn't it be cool to do this?" he said. "Most people only know general historical information about him but don't know about him personally."

Hall described Benjamin Franklin as a classic example of a student of liberal arts, even though he never enrolled in college. His wide-ranging knowledge and interests gave him a broader perspective than his competitors. His shortcomings made him more approachable and human than others of the time, Hall said.

"Although he didn't accomplish all of his goals, he wrote down his shortcomings and learned from them," Hall said. "It's 18th century practical wisdom that can be used in the 21st century."

As an example, Hall said that Franklin saw that little actions by individuals could lead to great happiness for many. He brought together many individuals with books and resources to create a lending library that made those resources available to many.

Hall has not decided if he will teach the course in future semesters. If so, he wants to look into taking a class trip to Philadelphia and eventually to Paris or London, where Franklin often traveled.

Actor: 'A friend told me to go fly a kite, so I listened'

By MICHAEL W. HOSKINS
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER
mhoskins@thejournalnet.com

On Tuesday, an Indianapolis man will travel to Franklin to celebrate the 300th birthday of the city's namesake.

Actor Phil Tunnah will trade in his real identity for that of Benjamin Franklin, the famed inventor, writer and statesman.

Tunnah, 62, will be in a period costume, down to the shoes, handing out invitations for a birthday celebration that evening

at Franklin College. He will trek around downtown during the day, going into businesses and greeting people before heading back to the college campus.

Tuesday marks the day Franklin, who died in 1790, would have turned 300. Communities nationwide with links to the man are throwing birthday bashes in his honor, including the Johnson County city and college.

Tunnah is shaving his beard to take on the Ben Franklin persona, a role he has donned about

six times since the late 1980s.

He'll throw out famous sayings that Franklin used: "A stitch in time saves nine," and "A penny saved is a penny earned."

He'll also discuss Franklin's accomplishments in science and in the creation of the United States.

The lifelong Indianapolis man has been acting for about 45 years, performing in dozens of roles and locations such as Beef and Boards Dinner Theatre, Indiana Repertory Theatre and Phoenix Theatre in Indianapolis.

He has taken on Shakespearean and founding father roles, as well as Santa Claus during holiday seasons.

But Franklin is one of his favorite roles, he said.

"A friend once told me to go fly a kite, so I listened," Tunnah said. "This is where it got me."

Franklin College brought him on to impersonate Franklin at the rededication of the Old Main building following a fire in 1985.

He also has taken on the role for a firefighters' convention in Indianapolis, symbolic of

Franklin's creation of the first organized fire brigade in 1736.

"I wanted to remind them of their beginnings, where they came from," Tunnah said.

He hopes the presentation will help teach people the significance of living and going to school in a place that bears Franklin's name.

"People have a legacy to fulfill," Tunnah said. "Sure, none of the students will probably listen or care, but it would be important to him if he were alive today."

FRANKLIN'S WORDS TO THE WISE

"God helps them that help themselves."

"Lost time is never found again."

"Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise."

"He that lives on hope will die fasting."

"There are no pains without gains."

"Diligence is the mother of good luck."

"One today is worth two tomorrows."

"Little strokes fell great oaks."

DAILY JOURNAL READERS' GUIDE

MAIN PHONE NUMBER

736-7101

8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday

ADDRESS

2575 N. Morton St. (U.S. 31)
P.O. Box 699
Franklin, IN 46131

DELIVERY, BILLING QUESTIONS

736-2777; (888) 736-7101

6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday-Friday,
7 a.m. to noon Saturday.

Subscribers should call if they have not received a newspaper by 7 a.m.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

736-2700; (888) 736-7101

8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday-Friday

Fax: 736-2754

STORY IDEAS, NEWS TIPS

736-2712

After 5 p.m.: 736-2723

Fax: 736-2766

newstips@thejournalnet.com

SPORTS

Send sports scores, stories and suggestions to:
rmorwick@thejournalnet.com

ADVERTISING

736-2786

8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday

Fax: 736-2713

POSTMASTER

Send address changes to:
Daily Journal, P.O. Box 699,
Franklin, IN 46131

Periodical Class Postage
Paid at Franklin, IN

Daily Journal (USPS 565-520)

VOLUME

Volume 43, No. 155

BACK ISSUES, DIGITAL PHOTOS

Copies of the Daily Journal are available for six months. Digital files of photos published in the newspaper are available on CDs. Please call 736-7101.

COPYRIGHT

© The Daily Journal, 2005
All rights reserved.

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.

TO SUBSCRIBE

Subscription rates are listed below. To subscribe, call 736-2777.

Single copy

Monday-Friday \$.50
Weekend issue \$ 1.00

Home delivery

Month \$ 10.40
Year \$ 118.80

Mail delivery

4 months \$ 49.00
8 months \$ 98.00
12 months \$ 147.00

Student

1 semester \$ 47.00
2 semesters \$ 96.00

Military

4 months \$ 42.00
8 months \$ 80.00
12 months \$ 113.00

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

P.O. Box 699
Franklin, IN 46131
letters@thejournalnet.com

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Publisher

Jeffrey W. Owen 736-2744
jowen@thejournalnet.com

Editor

Scarlett Syse 736-2749
syse@thejournalnet.com

Assistant managing editor

Michele Holtkamp-Frye 736-2774
mholtkamp@thejournalnet.com

Assistant managing editor

Jennifer L. Gaskin 736-2721
jgaskin@thejournalnet.com

Circulation director

Mike Warren 736-2711
mwarren@thejournalnet.com

Delivery manager

Bruce Powell 736-2702
bpowell@thejournalnet.com

Advertising director

Christina Cosner 736-2750
ccosner@thejournalnet.com

Administrative manager

Linda Wirey 736-2751
lwirey@thejournalnet.com

Information technology manager

Kathy McDermott 736-2782
kmcdermott@thejournalnet.com

PAYMENTS

Payments can be made by cash, check, MasterCard or Visa. Readers also can sign up for E-Z Pay plan and have their monthly subscriptions deducted automatically from their checking accounts, Visa or MasterCard. Direct questions about payments to 736-7101.

WEB SITES

www.thejournalnet.com
www.djclassifieds.com