

# SOUTHSIDE

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BRIEFS  
**LOCAL**

FRANKLIN  
**Police: Boy brought 3-inch knife to school**

A 12-year-old boy brought a knife to Custer Baker Middle School on Monday, which school officials confiscated after he showed it off on the bus.

No one was harmed or threatened, and the police made no arrests.

An assistant principal took away the 3-inch folding knife when alerted by a student.

The student showed four classmates the knife during the morning bus ride, according to a police report. He never unfolded the blade, Johnson County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Doug Cox said. One of the students notified the school administration after arriving at school.

Assistant principal David Beck confronted the boy and located the knife in his pants pocket.

The school administration notified the police and the student's parents.

The student was taken to Johnson County Sheriff's Office, where he was questioned with his mother present. He was released after an interview.

The student told police he forgot he had the knife in his book bag, Cox said.

The sheriff's office forwarded its report to the Johnson County Juvenile Court, a routine procedure. The student committed no crime and faces no criminal charges, Cox said.

The school is investigating the incident to determine what punishment would be appropriate, Principal Pam Millikan said. Carrying a knife on school grounds violates school policy and may result in suspension or expulsion, she said.

Students should always feel encouraged to come forward with such information, she said.

"We care about a safe school environment," Millikan said. "The kids here care about keeping the school safe, and we respond appropriately."

GREENWOOD

**Animal clinic seeking donations for shelter**

The Greenwood Animal Clinic will collect items for its annual Feed a Furry Friend Food (and Supply) Drive to benefit the Johnson County Animal Control Shelter.

Through Feb. 15, donations of non-clumping cat litter; cleaning supplies such as bleach, laundry detergent, paper towels and hand sanitizer refills; blankets; cloth towels and cat and dog food will be collected.

Donation boxes will be at Greenwood Animal Clinic, Auntie Leila's Pet Salon and Barkery, Ryan Creations Fine Jewelry, National City Bank at the corner of Main Street and Madison Avenue in Greenwood, Pet Supplies Plus, Site Line Inc., Greenwood Public Library and the Greater Greenwood Chamber of Commerce.

For more information, contact the animal clinic at 881-4300.

ON THE  
**RECORD**

**Police/fire**

**Jail bookings**

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

Leslie J. Tate, 45, 561 N. Beville Ave., Indianapolis; arrested on a charge of theft; released on \$3,000 bond.

Fausto V. Tapia, 51, 922 Dover Drive, Apt. 330, Greenwood; arrested on a warrant for failure to appear in court; released on \$100 bond.

Brian D. Pearson, 42, 1422 Cecil Ave., Indianapolis; arrested on a charge of robbery; held on \$8,000 bond.

Billie J. Frye, 35, 248 N. Main St., Apt. 4, Franklin; arrested on a charge of driving while suspended with a prior conviction; released on \$1,000 bond.

James R. Berry, 49, 6451 E. Southport Road, Indianapolis; arrested on a warrant for failure to appear in court; held without bond.

Gregory Charles Hauk, 37, 1099 S. Noble St., Shelbyville; arrested on a warrant for failure to appear in court; held on \$2,500 bond.

Betty Lou Mays, 49, 779 Main St., Whiteland; arrested on a warrant for failure to appear in court; released on \$2,500 bond.

Pamela Kay Watson, 35, 1199 Hospital Road, Lot 92, Franklin; arrested on a charge of theft or receiving stolen property; held on \$3,000 bond.

The following person recently was arrested on charges of driving while intoxicated and booked into jail:

Lena M. Cutter, 26, 7951 S. Nineveh Road, Nineveh; also arrested on a charge of driving while suspended with a prior conviction; held on \$3,000 bond.

# County hires park director, assistant

## Board selects former Boys and Girls Club leader for director's job, splits position's duties

BY CANDACE BEATY  
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Two people will direct the Johnson County Park Department because the job is too stressful for one person, park board members said.



JOHNSTON

Previously, the department had only a director, but now two employees will split the duties.

The park board has hired Chris Johnston as superintendent and Andrew Eggers as assistant.

The board learned from experience that the superintendent job probably was too stressful for one person to handle, board member Bob Swinehamer said.

The superintendent position opened Oct. 5 when director Tim

"He leads by example."

Bob Swinehamer  
Johnson County park board member on hiring former Boys and Girls Club leader Chris Johnston as park director

Davis resigned as the board was voting on whether to fire him.

A grand jury will investigate Davis in the coming weeks for allegations of ghost employment, theft and misuse of funds in his role as superintendent.

Eggers is the department's first assistant superintendent, but it's not a new position, Swinehamer said.

The job was established last year but was never filled, he said.

Johnston will start Feb. 26. He was director of the Franklin Boys and Girls Club for 16 years. The organization's

board asked him to step down late last year, effective in March.

He was to become the club's athletic director and assistant director.

Johnston will be paid \$57,000 a year plus health and retirement benefits. The salary was approved last year, Swinehamer said.

Both Johnston and Eggers will receive county vehicles, which they can drive home since they are on call for duties at the parks, Swinehamer said.

The county did not have to buy another car to accommodate hiring two people, he said.

The board chose Johnston because he grew up in Johnson County, had worked in the county and was impressive in the interview, Swinehamer said.

Also, he showed loyalty in his previous position by staying for 16 years, he said.

"He leads by example," Swinehamer said.

Johnston's duties will include coordinating park activities such as horse shows and concerts, supervising cleaning of park facilities, supervising and directing staff and managing all park operations, according to the position description.

He will be responsible for Johnson County Park, Hoosier Horse Park and Whispering Pines Golf Course in the southern part of the county and wheelchair-accessible Independence Park in the Center Grove area.

The board doesn't expect the superintendent to spend every day at the park during the busy summer season, Swinehamer said.

A total of 28 people applied for the superintendent position, and eight applied for the assistant position, Swinehamer said.

The board interviewed three candidates for each position Jan. 26 and then voted Thursday to hire the men, Swinehamer said.

Eggers started Monday. He recently earned a degree in outdoor recreation and resource management from Indiana University.

He will be paid \$30,000 a year plus benefits.

His duties include promoting park facilities and programs; designing, planning and organizing recreational programs; assisting with scout and school group activities; recruiting and training volunteers; and developing the park's brochures and Web site.

Eggers is the son of county attorney Jeff Eggers, but that was not a factor in his hiring, Swinehamer said.

The board was aware of the relationship, but Andrew Eggers was chosen because he was sharp and the best candidate, Swinehamer said.

Swinehamer also said the board hopes to see new ideas from the new employees.

# Commissioners pledge funds to help secure Franklin grant

BY JOSEPH S. PETE  
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More money has been committed to revamping downtown Franklin.

On Monday, county commissioners pledged taxpayer money toward a \$500,000 downtown revitalization grant the city wants for new sidewalks, curbs, benches and trees along Jefferson Street.

No funds have been spent or set aside, but the board promised \$18,642.18 for the revitalization project. The county wouldn't spend any money unless the grant is approved.

Commissioners weren't sure where the matching funds will

come from if the grant is approved.

The city has now arranged more than \$90,000 in matching funds toward the grant, which it plans to use to improve infrastructure and give the downtown a more historic feel with antique-style streetlights and wrought-iron trash receptacles.

In January, the Franklin City Council pledged \$75,000 toward the grant in matching funds in order to be more competitive. The grant requires only 10 percent, or \$50,000.

The county has offices downtown and a vested interest in the beautification effort, Franklin city planner Krista Linke said.

The money is needed for long-time city plans to lure commerce back downtown and away from U.S. 31. The city lacks the money to pay for such improvements itself, Franklin Mayor Brenda Jones-Matthews said.

Franklin's downtown area should be restored to its former popularity, Jones-Matthews said. She reminisced about when police had to direct traffic around the courthouse square.

The city applied for the grant for the past two years but didn't get any money. This year's application could have a better chance of getting approved with more diverse sources of matching funds, Linke said.

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<i>Butcher's</i> <b>Honey Roasted Turkey Breast.....</b>	<b>\$4.49/lb.</b>
<i>Eggs</i> <b>Co-Jack Cheese .....</b>	<b>\$3.99/lb.</b>

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**ST. FRANCIS**

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