



DAILY JOURNAL

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2007

Johnson County, Indiana

50 cents

WEATHER



Today  
Skies: Mostly cloudy, rain  
Temps: High 53; low 36

MAP, PAGE A10

NEWS

10,000th patron of 2006 crowned King of Artcraft

A king was crowned in Franklin last month. The Historic Artcraft Theatre welcomed its 10,000th patron for 2006 by crowning a King of the Artcraft on Dec. 29. Patrick Roberts, a Franklin College junior, was this year's royalty. Roberts was unaware he had purchased the 10,000th ticket until an announcement during the theater's "pre-show." The theater presented the new king with a robe, crown and bejeweled popcorn bucket scepter. Roberts also received a full-season movie pass.

Illinois firm purchases Greenwood company

A Greenwood-based manufacturer of medical cases and tray organizing systems has been acquired by an Illinois company. Advantis Medical Inc., which employs 115 people at its manufacturing plant, has been acquired by RoundTable HealthCare Partners, a private equity firm, of Lake Forest, Ill. Financial terms were not disclosed.

FREE TIME

Publicize your events

The Daily Journal wants to know about and publicize your events and activities. We will work to get it into a section of the newspaper and Web site called Free Time. E-mail the information to [freetime@thejournalnet.com](mailto:freetime@thejournalnet.com) or mail it to Free Time, Daily Journal, P.O. Box 699, Franklin, IN 46131.



DEATHS

- Edinburgh  
Marvin L. Petty, 76
- Greenwood  
Thomas James Kerr, 59
- Daniel Lee Shonkwiler, 56
- Indianapolis  
Mary P. Rollings, 73
- New Whiteland  
Edward P. Snapp, 77
- Elsewhere  
Mary Alice Brittan Sutter, 94

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Mayor wants revitalization



Mayor Brenda Jones-Matthews wants to put businesses in the vacant buildings of downtown Franklin.

Improving downtown Franklin, physical fitness, job growth top priority list

By JOSEPH S. PETE  
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Franklin's mayor wants a tree-lined downtown to be a bustling destination for residents to shop, stroll and socialize. Downtown revitalization ranks as the city's top priority for 2007, Mayor Brenda

INSIDE

Franklin mayor outlines city's 2007 priorities and 2006 accomplishments. Back Page

Jones-Matthews said in her State of the City address Thursday. Any major overhaul projects would depend mostly on outside funds, as

she listed the city's foremost accomplishment last year as not having to lay off workers because of a funding shortfall.

She's concerned about bringing businesses to vacant buildings around the downtown and correcting the perception that the area is fading. Jones-Matthews is even willing to personally show the

vacant 15,000-square-foot Hazelett building on the square to potential buyers.

Jones-Matthews obtained a key from the Indianapolis realty agents and invited any interested parties to call her office for a tour.

The historic red-brick building east of the courthouse, described by the mayor as the "elephant in the

room," formerly housed Discount Fabrics. The building has been empty since 2000.

The city seeks both a buyer for the property and a \$675,000 grant for beautification efforts along Jefferson Street. The city council has pledged \$75,000 in matching

(SEE MAYOR, BACK PAGE)

JAPANESE STUDENTS VISIT

Konnichi wa, sister



Franklin Mayor Brenda Jones-Matthews, left, talks to Japanese students Thursday afternoon at city hall. They arrived Thursday from Franklin's sister city, Kuji, Japan. The group of 10 students ranges in age from 14 to 18. The students have never been to the U.S.

Group from Japan to spend weekend in partner city

By TRACI MOYER  
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Franklin Mayor Brenda Jones-Matthews had been waiting several months to practice her Japanese on more than a dozen special guests. The foreign visitors are from Franklin's sister city, Kuji, Japan. The group includes 10 students, ranging in age from 14 to 18, and their three chaperones.

"The students have never been to the United States," said Greg Moore, who is on the welcoming committee for the Japanese visitors. "Their visit is an educational and cultural exchange for them." When the students arrived, they took turns nervously introducing themselves in English to Franklin students as they chewed on an assortment of oversized cookies. Local high school and middle school students also were nervous about their introductions, until a Franklin student said she enjoyed play-



A tour guide takes students from both Kuji, Japan, and Franklin through the Johnson County Courthouse on Thursday.

ing video games.

The connection between the students was instantaneous. Then, in a moment, all of the students were able to span a language and culture barrier with smiles and laughter.

Franklin and Kuji have been sister cities since Oct. 5, 1960. Kuji is a coastal city of about 40,000 people, 325 miles northeast of Tokyo on the main island of Honshu. Mayors in Franklin and

Kuji have fostered the relationship between their geographically similar communities through letters and visits. The cities have celebrated holidays together, exchanged gifts and hosted guests during visits in recent years.

On Thursday, when the mayor finally had the opportunity to practice her Japanese, she decided against it.

"I hate to mess up someone

else's language," Jones-Matthews said.

The mayor and 24 others took a two-month class on Japanese language and culture at the Franklin Sylvan Learning Center. The mayor plans to take another Japanese class to become more fluent.

"We deal with a lot of Japanese (business leaders), so I thought it would be good for me," Jones-Matthews said.

Strengthening existing relationships and creating new ones with Japanese communities and governmental officials have become more important with various Japanese businesses locating in the Johnson County area, she said.

Being familiar with the language will help Jones-Matthews talk to student Kengo Takidai during his visit. Takidai is interested in discussing how to manage money, city development and city landscaping, according to a biography he provided for the trip.

Jones-Matthews has planned

(SEE JAPANESE, BACK PAGE)

"Their visit is an educational and cultural exchange for them."

Welcoming committee member Greg Moore  
On the Japanese students spending time in Franklin

Developer looking at Trafalgar sites for ranch to help kids

By CANDACE BEATY  
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A ranch for youth with troubled backgrounds or learning disabilities could end up in Johnson County.

Children would live at the ranch, which would include a school and horse therapy center to teach responsibility and change attitudes.

Developers for Tekoa Ranch first wanted to locate in Brown County, but public dis-

approval and rejection from county commissioners pushed the project out of the county.

The managing partner for the project, Steve Rosenbaum of Fishers, said he is now looking in Johnson, Marion, Madison, Owen and Monroe counties for land for the ranch.

The ranch would house up to 120 children ages 6 to 18, he said.

The total investment for land purchase, construction and start-up money would be \$13 million to \$20 million,

Rosenbaum said.

The two other investors are James and Diana Tiffany of Indianapolis. Rosenbaum would not provide contact information for the Tiffanys and said it was unnecessary to speak with them about the project.

They came to Rosenbaum with the project idea about 18 months ago, he said.

He and the other investors have backgrounds in real estate development, Rosenbaum said.

More investors are expected to back the project, he said.

Investors spoke with schools and juvenile court personnel in developing the plan.

Children who need more supervision than foster care provides could stay at the ranch, he said. Those with mild emotional and psychological disturbances, substance abuse issues, aggressive behavior, a history of sexual abuse or mild learning disabilities would qualify, according to a pamphlet for the project.

(SEE RANCH, BACK PAGE)

Sketch to aid in search of suspect

Police release fliers after Greenwood robbery attempt

By CANDACE BEATY  
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A computer-generated sketch could help police find a man they say tried to rob a woman while she was opening a Greenwood business last week. About 800 fliers with the sketch and description have been distributed. Greenwood Police Chief Joe Pitcher said.

The suspect is described as a white man, 25 to 30 years old, 6-foot-1 to 6-foot-2, with a thin mustache and a piercing on his left ear that creates a larger hole in the lobe, according to the police flier.

The man followed the secretary of ReMax Select Realtors on North Emerson Avenue into the building at 7:45 a.m. Jan. 4 and demanded money from her, a news release from the Greenwood Police Department said.

When she said she didn't have any money, the man hit her on the mouth and fled the building, the news release said.

The computer-generated picture was created with the victim's help, Pitcher said.

The victim looked through choices of facial, hair, eyes, noses and head shapes to find the features that best matched the suspect, Pitcher said.

The police department uses the

(SEE SKETCH, BACK PAGE)



SUBMITTED ILLUSTRATION

About 800 fliers of this computer-generated sketch have been distributed to help police find a man who police say tried to rob a woman at a Greenwood business last week.