

ACCENT

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THIS WEEKEND'S BEST BETS

Benefit concert

What: Show featuring local artists to benefit Greenwood junior Michael Archer

When: 7 to 9 tonight

Where: Mount Pleasant Christian Church, 381 N. Bluff Road, Greenwood
Admission: \$5 or \$15 per family
Information: 881-6727

Scrapbook cropping

What: Crop and get tips on organization and time-management

When: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday

Where: Franklin Parks and Recreation Department, 396 Branigin Blvd.
Cost: \$25 for Franklin residents, \$27 for nonresidents

Information: 736-3689 or franklinparks.org

Discover scuba diving

What: Trial dives for people at least 10 years old; anyone younger than 18 must have a parent/guardian with them

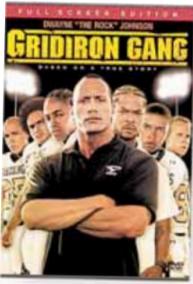
When: 1, 2, 3 and 4 p.m. Saturday

Where: Franklin Community High School pool, 625 Grizzly Cub Drive
Cost: Free

Registration: Required by calling 346-1198

WEB EXTRA: Find more events and activities at www.thejournalnet.com.

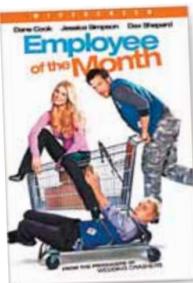
TAKE IT HOME ON DVD



'Gridiron Gang'

Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson's the man this time in Hollywood's ceaseless parade of feel-good sports tales that are based on true stories, playing a probation officer who teams with a colleague (Xzibit) to convert a gang of juvenile delinquents into a high school football squad.

DVD extras include deleted scenes and featurettes on The Rock and the football training the actors underwent.

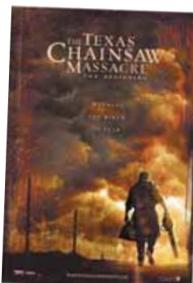


'Employee of the Month'

It's amiable slackers vs. insufferable super-workers in this lame on-the-job comedy starring Dane Cook, Jessica Simpson and Dax Shepard.

Cook plays a laid-back employee at a Costco-style warehouse store, where a smarmy rival (Shepard) has an endless streak of employee-of-the-month awards. When rumors circulate that a new cashier (Simpson) will date only top employees, slacker boy sets out to win the employee-of-the-month crown.

Along with behind-the-scenes featurettes, the DVD has deleted scenes and two commentary tracks.



'Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Beginning'

Those wondering how chainsaw-wielding madman Leatherface came to be now have an answer in another needless prequel of gore.

Setting up the action for the 2003 remake of Tobe Hooper's original low-budget shocker, this new installment spills the beans on abandoned baby Leatherface's adoption by a twisted cannibal clan, his upbringing as a self-mutilator and animal torturer and emergence as a full-blooded psycho killer.

Among the extras are deleted scenes and commentary from director Jonathan Liebesman.



Records of visits to countries including Austria and China are stamped in the passports of Rich and Karen Gotshall of Franklin. More area residents have been applying for passports because of a change in travel laws that will be enforced beginning Tuesday, officials say.

Have passport will travel, hopefully

Changing laws lead to longer wait for needed documents

By ANNETTE JONES
DAILY JOURNAL FEATURES EDITOR
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The rush is on for air travelers who need passports for spring-break trips. And the eight-week backlog for the documents is bound to have some would-be travelers waiting anxiously.

Changing travel-document laws are behind the bustle, and government workers are handling large increases in passport requests.

U.S. tourists had been able to fly to and from Mexico, the Caribbean and Canada without official travel documents.

But on Tuesday, the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative goes into effect, meaning anyone who travels by air between countries in the Western Hemisphere must have a passport.

An exception for U.S. citizens is travel between U.S. territories, including the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Guam.

Travelers can still drive to Mexico or Canada, but passports will be needed to cross into those countries by land as early as Jan. 1.

The Greenwood Post Office, 407 W. Smith Valley Road, has had a run on passport applications since the change was announced in November.

Before the initiative, the office had six to eight requests a day. Since November, the office has been getting 35 to 40 passport applications a day.

"Every passport-application office is experiencing the same thing," said Virginia Thompson, Greenwood Post Office postmaster.



A sign at the Greenwood Post Office lets customers know they can apply for a passport at the office. Passport laws for travel in the Western Hemisphere will change Tuesday.

Because more people are applying for passports, applicants may wait as long as two months before receiving their documents, Thompson said. The process usually takes four to six weeks.

A passport costs \$97 per person. For an extra \$60, applicants can receive one in three weeks.

U.S. travelers on cruise ships currently are exempt from the passport-law change if they leave and return to the United States by sea. However, cruise-takers are advised to get a passport in case an emergency requires them to fly home.

The people who struggle with the new law are those who didn't react soon enough when it was announced last year, Thompson said.

Her advice: "Get your passport as soon as possible, even if you just think you may be traveling."

Ruth and Pete Georgescu of Indianapolis are going to Alaska in August, but they were applying for passports Thursday at the Greenwood Post Office.

"We're coming back through Vancouver, so we'll need a passport," Pete Georgescu said.

The date for the passport mandate

has changed three times, adding to people's confusion about who needs a passport and when, said Kathy Nikou, manager at Greenwood Travel and Cruise on U.S. 31 North.

"We advise everyone who does any traveling to get a passport," Nikou said.

Some post offices, public libraries, government offices and clerks of courts handle passport applications. Visit iafdb.travel.state.gov for a list of nearby facilities.

Applicants must apply in person if they are applying for a passport for the first time, if their passport has expired, if their previous passport was issued when they were younger than 16, or if their passport was lost or stolen.

Applicants need two identical photographs of themselves (some facilities, including the Greenwood Post Office, will take your photo); proof of U.S. citizenship, such as a certified birth certificate; and a valid form of photo identification, such as a driver's license.

Passport renewal application forms can be downloaded online at travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html.

PASSPORT HOW-TO

Application process

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What you need

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form of photo identification, such as a driver's license

Where to apply

Some post offices, public libraries, government offices and clerks of courts handle passport applications.

Application locations

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Renewal applications

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Mike Redmond

Selling Old Spice to MySpace generation

I read the other day that Proctor and Gamble — you know, that soapsuds outfit down in Cincinnati — is hoping to make Old Spice aftershave cool again.

This, of course, caused me to choke on my raisin bran. Old Spice cool ... again? When was it cool the first time? The last time Old Spice was cool, it was called New Spice.

That's not to say it isn't very nice aftershave. In fact, among drug store aftershaves, it has always been one of my favorites, for sentimental and not-so-sentimental reasons.

The sentimental reason is that my dad wore Old Spice. I can still remember the way it drifted out of the bathroom when he finished shaving, or way it smelled on his cheek when it came into our room to tuck us in and kiss us goodnight.

A whiff of Old Spice reminds me of those times when I felt safe and secure because Dad was around, wearing the aftershave from that white bottle, the one I got him every Christmas. And birthday. And Father's Day.

Now, the non-sentimental reason goes back to the days when I was constantly looking for an edge in the keen competition for female companionship.

And while there were some women who preferred fancy-shmancy colognes — you know, the kind you find in a department store instead of the grooming aids/pet supplies aisle — I met quite a few who loved Old Spice, because that's what their dads wore, and it conjured up feelings of safety and security for them, too. Which I evidently did nothing to threaten, judging by the number of handshakes and pecks on the cheek I got at the ends of dates.

But back to Old Spice being cool, so they can sell it to young men 12 to 21. This never would have worked during my teen years. Old Spice was for dads.

We young men had Hai Karate. Now there was aftershave: exotic, pungent, redolent of what we presumed was the mysterious scent of the east, and did I mention pungent?

I entered a room three minutes before the wearer. Carelessly applied, Hai Karate could not only cause your face to erupt in little blue flames, it could take the color out of your shirt.

What am I saying? Splashed onto the sink, it could eat right through the porcelain.

Those preferring something more continental could go for English Leather. I used it for a while, influenced by my older cousin Nate, who said English Leather was guaranteed to have a hypnotic effect on girls. I later determined that Nate was confusing hypnosis with watering eyes.

But back to Old Spice. They think they can make it cool? Good luck.

Really, I hope it works. I would like nothing better than for Old Spice to be hip, because I have a bottle in the bathroom right now, just waiting to be something other than nostalgic.

I've got some Aqua Velva in there, too, because, as the jingle goes, there's something about an Aqua Velva man, and I for one intend to find out what it is.

No Hai Karate, though. They stopped making it. Besides, I learned my lesson about that stuff when I got it in the spray bottle and got carried away one morning.

Boy, did that change my mind about Hai Karate. It was three months before my eyebrows grew back.

Mike Redmond is the author of "Six of One, Half-Dozen of Another" and "The Night the Wheels Fell Off." Send comments to letters@thejournalnet.com.