



DAILY JOURNAL

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2007

Johnson County, Indiana

50 cents

WEATHER



Today

Skies: Rain, snow showers
 Temps: High 42; low 27

MAP, PAGE A8

WEB EXTRAS

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To have your information included in Free Time, e-mail freetime@thejournalnet.com or mail it to Free Time, Daily Journal, P.O. Box 699, Franklin, IN 46131.



DEATHS

Franklin

Marthagrace Hahn, 91
 Tom G. Jones, 72

Greenwood

Bernal Story, 95

Elsewhere

Joseph Elmer Bills, 73
 Connie Lou Frazier, 52
 Jack L. Powers, 77

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Head wound killed man found by road

Police: Arlington resident likely fell or was pushed from vehicle in Greenwood

By ANNIE GOELLER
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Police believe a man found dead on the side of a road in Greenwood early Saturday morning likely was thrown out of or fell from a vehicle.

Police have not yet ruled out a hit-and-run accident as the cause of death for Ross A. Sheridan, 21, Arlington. But investigators did

not find vehicle pieces on the ground or injuries to Sheridan consistent with being struck by a vehicle, Pitcher said.

Sheridan died at 3:25 a.m. after suffering a head injury. He was found on the side of Sheek Road, near Stout's RV and The Apartments of St. Andrews.

Police found blood spatter on the pavement where they believe Sheridan struck his head, caus-

ing the injury that killed him. The injury was too serious for Sheridan to have fallen and hit his head, Pitcher said.

He likely would have fallen out of a vehicle to have struck his head with enough force to cause the injury, he said.

An autopsy Saturday showed the cause of death was a closed head blunt force injury, Deputy Johnson County Coroner Joe Gruss said.

Sheridan also had an abrasion near his upper hip, but no other serious injuries.

Sheridan had been out with friends at a bar in Southport. Police believe the group had been drinking, Pitcher said.

Sheridan's father, Harry Sheridan, said his son left Friday evening to go out with a friend.

Around 3 a.m., Ross Sheridan left and his friends couldn't find

him, Pitcher said.

At 3:25 a.m., Jerry Smith, who lives in an apartment nearby, saw the body on his way back from picking up food.

Smith passed the area once on his way the restaurant, and noticed Sheridan on his way back. A red shirt the man was wearing caught his eye. He turned around

(SEE ROAD, BACK PAGE)

Tom G. Jones
 Oct. 21, 1934 — Feb. 24, 2007

Prominent southside lawyer dies after crash

Franklin attorney remembered for charm, love of law

A prominent Franklin attorney stood up for what he thought was right, always spoke his mind and thought constantly about the law, friends and family said.

Tom G. Jones understood people in a way that allowed him to connect to strangers and juries, and stood up for people in the courtroom even if it was unpopular. Jones was dedicated to clients and would fight ferociously in court, friends and colleagues said.

Jones, 72, died Saturday after a car accident in Greenwood.

He was an acclaimed defense lawyer in Johnson County for decades, working in personal injury and criminal cases. He served as the county commissioner's litigation attorney from 1998 to 2004. He ran for Indiana House of Representatives in 1986 but lost.

Described by friends and family as a tenacious, cantankerous man who had a great deal of charm, Jones was the type of person people respected but didn't always like.

"He was a silver-tongued individual," daughter Jennifer Auger said.

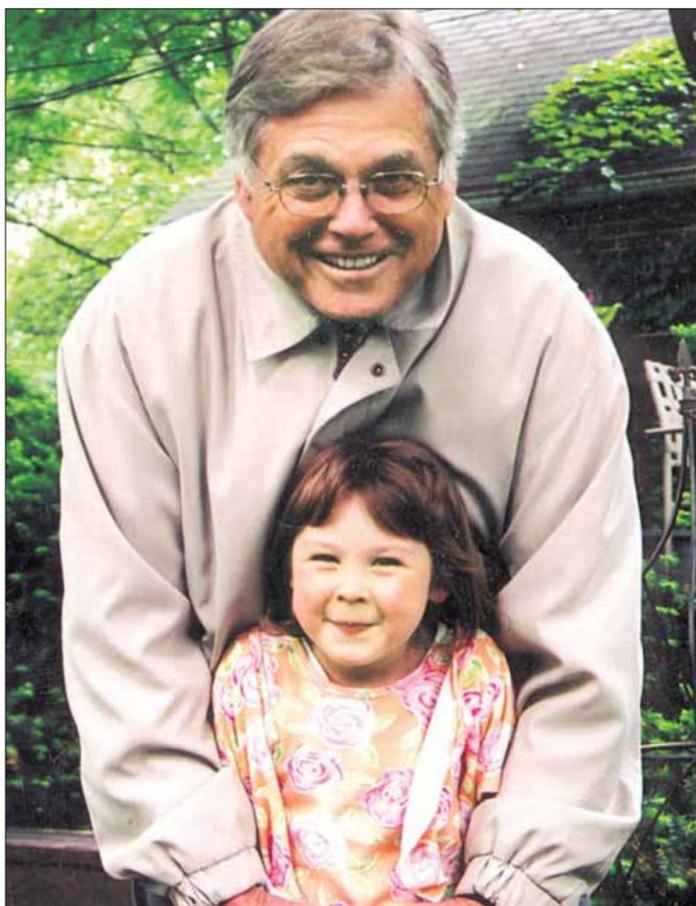
Jones was involved in nearly 50 murder cases, along with thousands of other cases as a defense lawyer, son-in-law and law partner Michael Auger said.

He led several multimillion-dollar

INSIDE

Read Tom G. Jones' complete obituary.

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Tom G. Jones stands with his granddaughter, Maggie Auger. Jones, a prominent Franklin lawyer, died Saturday morning after a car crash in Greenwood.

(SEE LAWYER, BACK PAGE)

Causes of death, Greenwood car accident still under investigation

A prominent Franklin attorney died after a car accident in Greenwood on Saturday morning.

Tom G. Jones, 72, was driving west on Main Street near Monticello Drive when his car collided head-on with an east-bound sport utility vehicle at 8:47 a.m., Greenwood Police Chief Joe Pitcher said.

He died at Wishard Memorial Hospital, according to a hospital spokesman.

Greenwood resident Thomas W. Hicks, 70, the driver of the SUV, was taken to Wishard

on Saturday, treated and released, a hospital spokesman said.

Police are investigating the cause of the accident, Pitcher said.

A witness driving behind Hicks said Jones's vehicle suddenly came into the east-bound lane, hitting Hicks' SUV, according to a police report.

Hicks told police that Jones' car was suddenly in his lane and he could not avoid the accident, the report said.

Neither vehicle left skid marks on the

pavement, and Jones was found unconscious after the accident, according to the report.

Jones' cause of death was not available Sunday afternoon, a coroner with the Marion County Coroner's Office said. Officials expect to have the cause of death available today.

Jones was well known in central Indiana as a hard-nosed, tough and colorful attorney. He had served as the litigation attorney for the county commissioners.

STORIES BY CANDACE BEATY ■ SUBMITTED PHOTO

Group aims to assist autistic kids in school

By CANDACE BEATY
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Six-year-old Jack Abbott screams when he gets near a movie theater. His mother, Amanda Cooper, understands. She just wishes others would.

Jack is autistic and is sensitive to the darkness and noise inside the theater. He is one of about 260 autistic children in Johnson County schools, parents in a local support group said.

To help those schools assist their students, the Johnson County

Autism Support Group has awarded more than \$8,000 in grants. Their hope is the schools will teach others about the disorder and provide services to kids with autism.

The developmental disorder affects each child differently. Many children have sensory sensitivity, which makes them sensitive to noises, light or darkness.

Other traits include resistance to change, acting as if they cannot hear even though they can, avoiding eye contact and a need for more personal space.

(SEE AUTISTIC, PAGE A5)



STAFF PHOTO BY JOSHUA MARSHALL

Beca Lee, Sheila Benham, Andria Bilsland and Amanda Cooper, from left, are members of the Johnson County Autism Support Group. The organization gave grants to help schools assist autistic students.

INSIDE

The Johnson County Autism Support Group awarded more than \$8,000 in grants to area schools and educators. Find out who got the grants and how you can help the group raise money.

Page A5

Columbus lost leadership when headquarters left city

By BORIS LADWIG
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Columbus missed the prestige when it lost the headquarters of a Fortune 500 company.

COMING SOON

Columbus-based Arvin Inc. merged with Troy, Mich.-based Meritor Automotive Inc. in 2000. The merged company is based in Troy.

The community also "lost millions of dollars in corporate philanthropy (and) lost the community leadership of countless Arvin volunteer workers," said

Brooke E. Tuttle, former president of Columbus Economic Development Board.

Former Arvin CEO James K. Baker, for example, won the 1982 Community Service Award for his "emphasis on community development and deep-seated concern for the individual citizen."

He also was president of the Foundation for Youth, where he led a successful building expansion program.

Even after the merger, the Columbus community felt Arvin-Meritor's philanthropy.

In October 2002, the company

(SEE ARVIN, BACK PAGE)



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Spc. James Armstrong, an Indian Creek High School graduate, prepares welding equipment near the U.S.-Mexican border.

Soldier works on the border

Indian Creek grad puts skills to work

By SARAH LIPPS
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An Indian Creek graduate is using skills he learned in agriculture class as he serves in the military along the Mexican border.

Spc. James Armstrong learned to cut metal with a torch in Joseph Park's agriculture class, he said.

The techniques he learned have come in handy over the past few weeks as he has been making repairs to the fence along the national border in California, near the city of Tacate.

He has been there for about three weeks and will stay for six more. The mission is to help repair fencework and roads and the culverts that drain water from the mountainous area. His work, along with that of other Hoosier soldiers, will help border police secure the area.

Armstrong is part of a Hoosier National Guard unit that was called out the day before the Super Bowl to take part in the assignment, which is called Operation Jump Start.

The 24-year-old Bargersville resident said he likes being in the warm weather, but the work is sometimes frustrating.

Often he wakes up in his barracks at nearby Coronado Island

(SEE BORDER, BACK PAGE)