

SOUTHSIDE

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Franklin students get head start

District starting path to college in middle school

By Sarah Lipps

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Franklin students are getting a reality check about how much not having a college degree or other post-secondary education can cost them.

District educators want students to understand that they need more education after high school in order to achieve a quality standard of living.

But they don't think they should be the ones to tell them.

The district has hired a consultant to teach students about the cost of living, strategies for creating winning college admissions applications, how to write essays and how to plan their high school careers in a way that will get them accepted at a college. Consultants also will take students on trips to two Indiana colleges.

Parents also have access to the consultants, who provide services to help them plan financially for their child's education.

Services from Murray & Associates will cost Franklin \$5,000 to \$10,000 a year, but that is much less than hiring additional guidance counselors for the high



MILLEMAN

school and middle school, high school Principal Jon Milleman said.

A \$7,500 grant from the Johnson County Community Foundation already pays for the families of all students in the county to have access to some of the consultants' services, such as creating financial reports for families and critiquing students' admissions essays. And the consultants have done some workshops on college costs at Whiteland and Center Grove high schools.

But Franklin is paying the additional cost for the group to come into the schools and provide a series of workshops for Grades 7 to 12 on the cost of living after graduation.

Next semester, eighth-graders will spend time looking at the entrance essays of past college freshmen.

They will see what kinds of community service work and other experiences the students will need to plan to have during high school so they can write the kinds of essays that will make them stand out to college entrance boards and scholarship committees.

The idea is that the consultants will continue working with the students and their families for six years to keep them motivated

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Pam Millikan

Custer Baker Middle School principal on helping middle school and high school students make decisions about the future

and focused on entering and paying for college.

Executive director Dave Murray says his service complements what the counselors at Custer Baker Middle School and the high school provide.

"And when parents see a gray-haired, old admissions counselor talking about getting into college, they tend to listen," he said.

Franklin administrators and counselors hope the former director of admissions for DePauw University in Greencastle will use his perspective as a college entrance professional to give the district's students an edge in getting into college and a motivation to pursue higher education.

"We hope that with a push in Grades 7 to 12 we can get more kids to choose additional education and see that you earn a lifetime of better quality living," middle school Principal Pam Millikan said.

Part of that will mean convincing students at an early age that they can afford to go to college.

Administrators at the middle school are recruiting students to join the 21st Century Scholars college tuition program.

About 270 students in Grades 7 and 8 at the middle school qualify for 21st Century Scholars, which provides free or greatly reduced cost for post-secondary educations to those with finan-

cial need. So far, about 83 students have signed up.

Students must sign up by June of their eighth-grade year to qualify.

Program participants must adhere to behavioral codes, such as not drinking or doing drugs, throughout high school and college.

Millikan said the district's goal is for 100 percent of the school's eligible students to be 21st Century Scholars. If they take part in the program, then finances will not be an excuse for not continuing their education, she said.

A convocation with Murray in March will show the seventh-graders how furthering their educations will make a difference in how much money they are likely to make as adults. Administrators hope this will motivate the students to stay on a track toward college.

By the time a student whose family has been working with Murray & Associates gets to college, there are no surprises, Murray said. The teen has been accepted to a school that he or she had been planning to apply to for years and the parents know exactly how much it is going to cost, he said.

"Our clients don't have delinquent bills at the bursar offices of any of those colleges. They know exactly where the money is coming from to pay their bills," Murray said.

The consultants primarily will work with students and parents at the middle school and high school, but any parent in the school district can call the company and talk to a consultant for free, Milleman said.

Hit-and-run driver turns himself in

The Republic (Columbus)

The driver of the vehicle that hit and killed a 14-year-old Columbus boy late Saturday turned himself in to police Sunday afternoon.

Aaron Lechuga, 31, of Columbus, was arrested about 6 p.m. Sunday on charges of leaving the scene of a fatal accident and operating a vehicle without ever obtaining a driver's license.

Columbus Police Department Sgt. Jimmy Howell said Lechuga turned himself in at the Bartholomew County jail and was taken to the police department. Howell said he admitted to being the driver in the accident.

Lechuga reportedly borrowed a

friend's vehicle and returned it to the owner late Saturday night, according to Lt. Matt Myers, public information officer for police department.

"(The owner) said (Lechuga) returned the car and said the vehicle had been in an accident, gave his keys back, and they hadn't seen him since," Myers said.

Police searched Saturday night for the vehicle that was driving northbound on U.S. 31 near County Road 50N about 8:20 p.m., struck David Justin Hines and left the scene.

Officers originally were dispatched on a report that a boy was walking in and out of traffic on the east side of U.S. 31.

Before police arrived, a second dispatch came that the boy was hit by a northbound vehicle.

Witnesses at the scene said they stopped to help but found Hines bleeding heavily and gasping for air. He was pronounced dead on arrival at Columbus Regional Hospital.

Coroner Larry Fisher said blood and urine toxicology test results are expected by today.

U.S. 31 between Base Road and 10th Street was closed for more than two hours while police investigated the accident.

Police Sgt. Troy Love was driving in the area of the accident late Saturday and located a 1996 Ford Contour, parked near the scene at a construction company,

with a broken windshield and damage to the passenger side, Myers said.

"The evidence we found at the scene, pieces of the vehicle scattered on the road, were consistent with the vehicle found at (the construction company)," he said.

Myers said investigators spoke with several of Lechuga's friends, who supported the registered owner's statement that he was in possession of the vehicle Saturday. Police were unable to locate the driver until he turned himself in.

"The family naturally has a lot of questions, and helping them find some closure is our main concern," Myers said.

BRIEFS

LOCAL

EDINBURGH

Store to host humane society adoption event

The Petsense Factory Outlet Store at the Edinburg Premium Outlets and the Humane Society of Johnson County will host an adoption event and distribute information about the society and its programs.

The event will take place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Jan. 13.

GREENWOOD

Events planned for library's anniversary

The Greenwood Public Library will celebrate its 90th Anniversary in 2007 with special events throughout the year.

January kicks off "Celebrating Greenwood" with a special visit by Philip Gulley, a nationally recognized Indiana author, at 10 a.m. Jan. 20.

Gulley is the Quaker author of the Harmony series of books about people living in a small town.

Tickets are \$15 for members of the Friends of the Greenwood Public Library and \$20 for non-members. They can be purchased at the adult reference desk.

For more information go to www.greenwood.lib.in.us or call 881-1953.

JOHNSON COUNTY

Library program provided for all ages

The Johnson County Public Library will provide a "Book Buffet for All You Can Read" during the month of February.

The free event is for all ages. Registration is in Franklin, White River, Clark Pleasant and Trafalgar.

Read for 15 minutes a day, or visit the library four times during the month of February. Readers will receive prizes and be treated to a Winter Reading Party at their nearest Johnson County Public Library Branch.

Registration begins Feb. 1. Parties will be from 5 to 7 p.m. at Trafalgar; 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at White River; 4 to 5 p.m. at Franklin, all on March 1, and 3:30 to 6 p.m. March 2 at Clark Pleasant Branch.

FRANKLIN

Actor to perform at MLK day event

A convocation to celebrate Martin Luther King Day will feature actor Barry Scott, who will present "Ain't Got Long to Stay Here" at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 15 in the Branigin Room at the Napolitan Student Center.

Scott will take on the persona of several different people with varying viewpoints on the civil rights movement.

Scott first visited Franklin College in 2004 during Black History Month. His delivery of The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s speeches and his own story proved to be inspirational. This will be his fourth visit to the college in as many years.

This event is free and open to the public.

For more information contact Franklin College at 738-8185.

INDIANAPOLIS

Law firm accepting scholarship applications

The law firm of Bose McKinney & Evans LLP is accepting applications for the 16th annual William M. Evans Scholarship award.

The \$2,000 scholarship will be awarded to an Indiana special education student who is pursuing post-secondary education in 2007-08 by attending a university, college, junior college or vocational training program. The scholarship will be awarded on the basis of personal achievement, future goals and financial need.

Candidates must be Indiana residents who are currently

enrolled in the senior class of an Indiana public high school and classified as special education students.

Applications are available through the offices of all Indiana directors of special education or through Bose McKinney & Evans' Web site, www.boselaw.com/groups/scholarship.shtml. The postmark deadline for application materials is March 16.

For more information, contact the office of your local director of special education or call 571-0051.

JOHNSON COUNTY

Vendors needed for spring craft fair

The Johnson County Extension Homemakers organization is seeking vendors for its 2007 Spring Craft Fair, which will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 3 in Scott Hall on the Johnson County Fairgrounds in Franklin.

Booth rental fees are \$35 for an approximately 8- by 10-foot booth and \$40 for an approximately 10- by 10-foot booth.

The fair features items such as ceramics, handicrafts, folk art, wood items, candles and embellished clothing.

Information: Johnson County Extension Office at 736-3724.

ON THE RECORD

Police/fire

Greenwood Thefts

• 1100 block of Standish Drive: A man reported at 5:09 p.m. Friday that someone stole a CD player and speakers worth \$530 out of his car.

• 1700 block of Farm Meadow Drive: A man reported between 10 p.m. Thursday and morning Friday someone stole a digital music player, satellite radio, pair of glasses and pair of sunglasses from his vehicle.

• 1300 block of Averitt Road: A man reported at 10:16 a.m. Sunday that someone stole stereo equipment out of his vehicle.

• Shoplifting
• Kohl's, 550 Fry Road: A loss-prevention officer reported at 2:04 p.m. Friday a man put on a pair of new shoes and left the store without paying for them. Police arrested him on a charge of theft.

• J.C. Penney, 1251 U.S. 31 North: A loss-prevention officer saw two women steal merchandise worth \$429.40. The women were issued summons to appear in city court.

• Von Maur, 1251 U.S. 31 North: A loss-prevention officer reported at 4:33 p.m. Saturday two girls stole items from the store. The two girls were stopped and the items were recovered.

• Criminal mischief
• 40 block of Winterwood Drive: A woman reported at 1:50 p.m. Saturday that someone had damaged her Christmas decorations overnight.

• 600 block of VanDyke Way: A man reported at 11:04 a.m. Saturday that someone smashed his mailbox. Another woman reported at 10:51 a.m. Saturday someone broke the base of her mailbox. Another woman also reported hearing noises outside at 2:50 a.m. Saturday and that someone pulled her mailbox out of the ground.

• 2400 block of Long Leaf Drive: A man reported at 1:36 p.m. Saturday that someone damaged his mailbox overnight.

• 250 block of North Brewer Street: A man reported that someone damaged an inflatable holiday decoration.

• 560 block of Alton Drive: A woman reported at 12:51 p.m. Saturday that someone smeared animal feces on her vehicle.

• 1600 block of Oakmere Way: Someone reported at 10:05 a.m. Saturday that someone pulled the mailbox out of the ground at a home and placed it on the porch.

• 500 block of Winding Trail: A man reported at 10:25 a.m. Saturday that someone unscrewed his mailbox post.

• 800 block of Kings Mill Road: A man reported at 11:17 a.m. Sunday that someone slashed a tire on his vehicle, scratched both sides of the vehicle and broke a mirror.

• 300 block of Southbridge Circle: A woman reported at 3:33 a.m. Monday that someone slashed the tires on her vehicle and a relative's vehicle.

• 1500 block of Timber Village Drive: A man reported at 1:34 p.m. Sunday that someone broke the passenger side window of his vehicle.

Attempted crime

Walgreen's, 700 U.S. 31 South: An employee reported at 8:05 a.m. Sunday that a man attempted to rob the store. The man did not steal any money.

Personal-injury accident

331 p.m. Friday — Main Street and Howard Road; Elizabeth Atwood, 74, Greenwood; complained of neck pain.

Property-damage accidents

• 7:12 p.m. Friday — 1133 N. Emerson Avenue
• 12:51 p.m. Sunday — Yorktown and Smith Valley roads

Johnson County Thefts

• 2900 block of East County Road 500N: A man reported that between noon Dec. 26 and 10:30 p.m. Thursday someone stole his car from the Scott's Trucking Service parking lot.

• 4600 block of Ridgemere Circle: A man reported on Tuesday that someone stole a laptop computer and a heated car seat cover out of his garage.

• 3000 block of San Jose Drive: A man reported at 5:16 a.m. Friday that someone rolled his truck off the driveway into the yard across the street. The stereo and dash were missing from the vehicle.

Another vehicle at the residence was missing a stereo.

• 400 block of West Smith Valley Road: A woman reported that between noon Friday and noon Saturday someone stole mail out of a mailbox and damaged another mailbox.

Criminal mischief

• 3700 block of Copperleaf Drive: Two people reported at 1:38 a.m. Thursday that someone set off fireworks inside their mailboxes.

• 3400 block of West Smith Valley Road: A man reported at 8:48 p.m. Wednesday that someone drove through his property, leaving ruts in the yard.

• 1400 block of Griffith Road: A man reported at 1:11 a.m. Friday that three mailboxes on his block were damaged.

• 4200 block of Country Lane: A woman reported that between 5 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Thursday someone broke a window on her car.

• 3600 block of West County Road 700S: Residents reported someone drove through their yard, leaving large ruts.

• Fraud
• 6100 block of Witt Court: A woman reported that between Nov. 11 and Dec. 5, someone used a gas station credit card she lost to purchase \$88.11 of fuel.

• 1091 Hospital Road: A woman reported that on Dec. 11 someone used her credit card to purchase three airline tickets for \$3,309.

• 4400 block of Silver Hill Road: A woman reported that she lost her credit card Thursday and someone used it the same day for about \$1,000 of purchases.

Personal-injury accident

2:04 p.m. Tuesday — State Road 44 and County Road 100N: Samantha R. Robertson, 20, New Albany, received abrasions.

Property-damage accident

12:13 p.m. Wednesday — State Road 135N and County Road 800N

Jail bookings

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

William Joshua Woodcock, 24, 206 N. 21st St., Terre Haute; arrested on a charge of harassment; released on \$1,000 bond.

Jimmy K. Hall, 23, 251 South St., Greenwood; arrested on a charge of driving while suspended; released on \$1,000 bond.

Michael W. Allen, 18, 328 Southlane Drive, New Whiteland; arrested on charges of criminal conversion, reckless possession of paraphernalia and possession, consumption or transportation of alcohol by a minor; held on \$6,000 bond.

The following people recently were arrested on charges of driving while intoxicated and booked into jail:

Jose Pedro Policarpo-Ortiz, 22, 34th Street, Indianapolis; also arrested on a charge of driving without ever receiving a license; held on \$2,000 bond.

Richard William Ellis, 20, 47 Highland Ave., Franklin; also arrested on charges of possession of marijuana/hashish, possession, consumption or transportation of alcohol by a minor; held on \$8,000 bond.

Jordan D. Burton, 18, 706 S. Walnut St., Edinburg; also arrested on charges of public intoxication and possession, consumption or transportation of alcohol by a minor; held on \$6,000 bond.

Eric Mazie Johnson, 33, 418 W. 41st St., Indianapolis; also arrested on a charge of driving without ever receiving a license; held on \$4,000 bond.

Tony Dewayne Steenbergen, 24, 515 E. Orange St., Indianapolis; held on \$1,000 bond.

Quiton Lavaughn Jones, 23, 1128 Westminster Row, Apt. 1328, Greenwood; also arrested on a charge of operating while intoxicated with previous conviction; held on \$4,000 bond.

Michael A. Esposito, 24, 11708 U.S. 421 North, Monticello; held on \$1,000 bond.

Births

Johnson Memorial Hospital

Malinda and Ron Conway of Trafalgar, boy born Dec. 29.

Mark and Rachel Osburn of Morgantown, boy born Dec. 29.

Scott W. and Amy L. Owens of Franklin, girl born Dec. 29.

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3 convenient locations:

Johnson County Fairgrounds, enter by Wendy's
Center Grove High School, near tennis courts & baseball diamond
Indian Creek Intermediate School, NW corner of teacher's parking lot

For more information,
call the Johnson County Solid Waste District
at 738-2546