

WEDNESDAY
MARCH 16, 2022



FREE



Bring on the Bunny

Town will host Breakfast with the Bunny and annual parade for Easter.

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Edinburgh Courier

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

“Marriage is not just spiritual communion; it is also remembering to take out the trash.”
— Joyce Brothers

WHAT'S UP?

Community yard sale

Edinburgh Parks & Recreations annual Spring Indoor Community Yard Sale is set for April 2, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the East Side Elementary School gym, 810 E. Main Cross St.

Booth space reservations will be taken until March 30. Cost is \$20 with a table; \$15 if you provide your own table.

Reserve space and pay at the parks department or by calling emailing or phoning Tracy Beier, 812-447-6076 or tbeier@edinburgh.in.us.

Rummage sale

Nineveh Senior Center, 3208 Rodeo Drive at Johnson County Park (next to horse park), will have its annual rummage sale Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Chili dogs, desserts and drinks will be for sale too.

Immunizations at Taylorsville

Indiana Immunization Coalition will have a community immunization clinic in Bartholomew County in April.

The clinic will be from 9 to 11 April 2 at Taylorsville Elementary School's cafeteria.

Those who attend should bring insurance cards as the organization will bill insurance carriers. There is no cost to those without insurance, except for the shingles vaccine, which often has a required co-pay.

To register online, visit patients.vaxcare.com/ registration and use the enrollment code IN 65942.

NEWS

Amy May, editor 317-736-2726 or 812-379-5761
Editorial fax 317-736-2766
Editorial email courier@dailyjournal.net

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BE READY FOR THE STORM

EMA encourages severe weather preparedness

By Noah Crenshaw
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Sixteen years ago, a tornado left a path of destruction through Johnson County. The F2 tornado packing winds from 113 to 157 mph touched down around 7:20 p.m. on March 31, 2006, east of Park Drive. The twister crossed Interstate 65 and caused damage to businesses and rural homes along several roads located between Main Street and County Line Road, including Combs Road and Graham Road, before entering extreme southeastern Marion County, passing south of Acton. It then entered Shelby County and was reported to be a strong tornado with a width of four-tenths of a mile near London, according to the National Weather Service.

“It sounded like a train and then trees were flying up everywhere. There was all kinds of stuff in the air,” Garrett Gieseking, a northeastern Johnson County resident, told the Daily Journal in 2006.

The 2006 tornado is just one example of the many times severe weather has impacted the county, and is one of the many reasons why local residents should have plans in place in case severe weather happens here, officials say.

This week is Indiana Severe Weather and Flood Preparedness Week, which runs from March 13-19, said Stephanie Sichtung, Johnson County Emergency Management Agency director. The agency works closely with public safety agencies to do the county's emergency planning for a variety of situations, both natural and man-made, and also advocates for the creation of emergency plans.

The state has already had its fair share of severe weather events this year, including two tornados. Several parts of the state have also experienced or are currently experiencing flooding, Mary Moran, direc-



DAILY JOURNAL FILE PHOTO

A gas pump sits on a car at a Shell gas station near Interstate 65 in Edinburgh after a tornado blew it over on June 3, 2008.

tor of emergency management and preparedness for the Indiana Department of Homeland Security said in a news release.

“It’s a common problem for much of our state this time of year. But just because it’s common, it doesn’t mean you shouldn’t prepare for potential flood waters,” Moran said.

Disasters not uncommon

Nearly 20 tornadoes have touched down in Johnson County since 1950, the first year the National Weather Service began keeping detailed records of all tornadoes.

Twisters have touched down throughout the county, with a F3 being the highest magnitude recorded locally, National Weather Service data shows.

Sichtung’s biggest concern is a devastating tornado like the EF5 that decimated Joplin, Missouri in 2011 impacting the county, especially in populated areas. The

Joplin tornado killed 158 people and injured more than 1,000, and caused catastrophic damage to the city of 50,000.

A twister like that is a scary thought, she said.

“I hope and pray it never happens here. ... You just have to be prepared for changing conditions,” Sichtung said.

But preparing for severe weather does not only mean preparing for tornadoes, but also for flooding — something the county has had more experience with. The tornadoes and flood of June 2008 flooded homes and businesses across the county, closed roads and destroyed bridges and dams. The flood caused more than \$100 million in damage across the county, according to Daily Journal archives.

After the flood, the county, along with its cities and towns worked to mitigate

SEE WEATHER, PAGE 6

OBITUARIES

EDINBURGH

Kevin Bailey

Kevin C. Bailey, 56, of Edinburgh passed away March 10, 2022, at Community Hospital South in Indianapolis. He was born July 22, 1965 in Franklin. He was the son of Thelma Bailey.

He is survived by his mother; daughters, Tiffanie Spurlin of Shelbyville and Heather (Cody) Pflaidner of Shelbyville; granddaughters, Lezlie Stoner, Leah Smothers, Brooklyn Heagy, Martha Heagy, Riley Pflaidner, and one on the way; grandson, Aidan Pflaidner; and sister, Shelley Bailey of Edinburgh.

He was preceded in death by his brothers, Duwayne Lynn Bailey, Richard Lee Bailey and Shawn Anthony Bailey.

Kevin graduated from Southwestern High School. He formerly was employed at Arvin's in Columbus as a welder. He enjoyed gardening, working on cars and watching SciFi.

A funeral service was conducted by the Rev. Terry England at Eskew-Eaton Funeral Home in Edinburgh. Burial was at Spearsville Church of Christ Cemetery in Spearsville.

EDINBURGH

Clayton Smith

Clayton Smith, 88, of Edinburgh went home to be with his Lord and Savior on March 5, 2022, at Greenwood Healthcare Center in Greenwood. He was born Oct. 12,

1933, Jamestown, Tennessee. He was the son of Sam and Myrtie (Beaty) Smith. He married Doris Jean (Sneed) Smith on Nov. 30, 1996, and she preceded him in death on Jan. 1, 2022.

He is survived by his children, Mike Smith of Chattanooga, Tenn., Scott Smith of Dayton, Tenn., Carolyn Burton of Atlanta, Ga., Elizabeth (Mike) Harmon of Edinburgh, David Eugene Burton of Edinburgh, Amanda (Jim) Gaskins of Nashville, and Victoria (Terry) Hebert of Indianapolis; grandchildren, Emily, Chadwick, Shannon, Josh, Tessa, Kyle, Melissa, Scott, Sarah, Derek, Brock, Tyler, Chris, River, and Alisa; and several great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife; daughter, Karen Smith; and siblings, Delphia Daniels, Hewey and Otis Smith, Delia Layne, Rosie Beaty, Clovis Smith, Velma Knotts, Stella, Clive, Josephine, Cluey, Calvin Smith.

Clayton served in the U.S. Army and was a member of the American Legion Post 233 in Edinburgh. He retired from Polyloom Chemical Co. He was an avid gardener, liked bluegrass music, tinkering with cars and was proud of being a veteran.

A funeral service was conducted by the Rev. Randy Denton at Who-So-Ever-Will Community Church in Edinburgh. Burial was at Rest Haven Cemetery in Edinburgh.

Arrangements were made by Eskew-Eaton Funeral Home in Edinburgh, Indiana.



BAILEY



SMITH

GOOD OLD DAYS

70 years ago: County Health Nurse Mary Browning announces that the third and final round of immunizations for school children in Edinburg will be April 3.

65 years ago: Coach Don Holloway's Edinburg Lancers, led by Bill Depp's scoring and rebounding school records, finish the season with an 18-4 record.

60 years ago: Karen Henderson, Patty Lamphere, Diana Breeding and Donna Knicely are named Girls State representatives by the American Legion Auxiliary.

45 years ago: The Edinburgh Lions Club announces that Edinburgh Community High School senior Lou Ann Sarver has been chosen as girl of the month.

30 years ago: Anita Caldwell is honored as the leading scorer, leading rebounder and steals leader for the Edinburgh varsity girls basketball team.

10 years ago: Edinburgh boys basketball team's quest for a state championship comes to an end as they lose to Loogootee, 61-50, in the semistate championship.

COMMUNITY CHATTER

Boy Scouts

There will be a troop meeting for Boy Scout Troop 209 at 6-7 p.m. on March 22 at the John R. Drybread Community Center. Information: 812-344-9086

Pizza at Legion

The American Legion Auxiliary sells fresh made pizzas with a variety of toppings 5-8 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of every month at Post 233 in Edinburgh.

Prices are \$8 for a 7-inch, \$12 for a 12-inch and \$15 for a 14-inch.

Pizzas can be carried out or eaten at the Legion. Call 812-526-9001 to place an order.

Free tax help available

United Way of Bartholomew County is offering free tax assistance through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistant program.

The program offers free tax filings to Bartholomew County residents who make \$64,000 or less, persons with disabilities, elderly and limited English-speaking taxpayers who need assistance preparing their own tax returns. IRS-certified volunteers provide confidential and secure basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals.

Income tax assistance appointments will be conducted through mid-April at Nexus Park. Reservations for a tax appointment will be taken on a first-come, first serve basis. Appointments can be made by call-

ing 812-375-2216 anytime between 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Assistance is available by appointment only. Spanish speakers may make an appointment by calling Su Casa at 812-375-9370.

Information: uwbarthco.org/taxes

Food pantry

The Edinburgh Food Pantry and Edinburgh Ministerial Association has two distributions a month: the first Saturday and the third Thursday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Odd Fellows building, 110 E. Main Cross St. Patrons are now allowed inside to go through the shelves and pick the foods they could use most, with shopping adjusted for family size. Check the Edinburgh Drybread Community Center on Facebook for updates and other information.

The Edinburgh Pixy Theatre

111 S. Walnut St. Unless noted, shows are at 7 p.m. and admission is \$10.

Information/purchase tickets: 812-526-6513, www.TheEdinburghPixy.com or advance tickets for some shows at www.brownpapertickets.com

April 8: Happy Place Comedy with Mark Armstrong

April 10: Palm Sunday concert, Night Owl Country Band and friends, 3 p.m.

April 30: Addison Johnson (country)

May 7: Happy Place Comedy with Jeffrey Bodart

SCHOOL NOTEBOOK

Past yearbooks now online

You can view yearbooks from 1920 and up on ECSC's website. Go to the alumni page at https://www.ecsc.k12.in.us/about_us/alumni

The alumni plan to continue to add more yearbooks as they get them. If you have a yearbook that is not on the site, please send an email to bstraugh@ecsc.k12.in.us.

Scholarships

The Edinburgh Dollars for Scholars website is open through April 15 for students to apply for a college scholarship for the 2022-2023 school year. Students must be a graduate of Edinburgh Community High School or an ECHS senior graduating in 2022.

To apply, go to www.edinburgh.dollarsforscholars.org.

The Johnson Memorial Hospital Foundation provides scholarships to financially assist Johnson County students pursuing health care careers. The four scholarships available include the Freda P. and Millard R. Montgomery Registered Nursing Scholarship, Katie Robards Memorial Scholarship, Johnson Memorial

Hospital Guild High School Health-Related Scholarship and the Johnson Memorial Hospital Guild Continuing Education Health Field Scholarship. Applications are available at johnsonmemorialfoundation.org/scholarships. Deadline for all applications is April 2. Information: 317-346-3703 or foundationmail@johnsonmemorial.org.

GED classes

High School Equivalency (GED) classes meet twice a week at Edinburgh Community High School.

Contact Julie Redd, 317-392-2197, to learn more about the program.

On My Way Pre-K

On My Way Pre-K provides children from low-income families with free access to high-quality pre-K, to help prepare them for success in kindergarten and beyond. Child must have turned 4 before Aug. 1 and income guidelines apply.

For more information and to apply, visit OnMyWayPreK.org. Families may also call 800-299-1627 for assistance from an early learning referral specialist or for other questions

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STRUGGLING WITH RENT?

Follow advice to stay in your home when hard times hit

BY STATEPOINT | PHOTO BY ADOBE STOCK

Millions of Americans who have faced income loss and illness as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic are struggling to meet basic expenses, including rent. Recent statistics show that more than 15 million people nationwide live in households that are behind on their rental payments. With federal rental protection ended, these individuals and families are at risk of eviction, according to the Aspen Institute.

"The economic fallout from the pandemic is causing housing instability for far too many renters, including people of color disproportionately affected by this crisis," says Eileen Fitzgerald, head of housing affordability philanthropy with Wells Fargo.

Struggling to pay rent?

Fitzgerald offers four actions to take:

1. Talk to your landlord. If you can't pay rent on time, see if your landlord can work out a payment plan, accept a partial payment or push the due date back a few days.

2. Seek emergency assistance. Those unable to pay rent or utilities may be able to access rental assistance through the U.S. Department of Treasury's Emergency Rental Assistance Program. To find assistance in your area, visit home.treasury.gov and search "rental assistance."

3. Get legal help. If you're worried about eviction, talk with a lawyer experienced in eviction processes in your state. Many organizations offer free or low-cost legal counsel to fight eviction. To find links to trusted legal assistance in your area, visit americanbar.org and search for "free legal help."

4. Contact a housing counselor. Housing counselors don't just work with homeowners. They can help renters in need of assistance, too. During the pandemic, housing counselors have helped renters access emergency rental assistance, understand options for rental relief and eviction protection, as well as have advised on debt management and other money matters.

Find a housing counselor by visiting hud.gov/findacounselor.

Help for renters

As part of its efforts to help people stay in their homes, Wells Fargo is supporting initiatives nationwide that mitigate evictions.

In 2021, Wells Fargo gave a \$4 million grant to The National Foundation for Credit Counseling and the Housing Partnership Network to launch the Renter Advantage program. Renter Advantage enables credit counselors and nonprofit rental property owners to work directly with renters to preserve their housing status and stabilize their financial situation. Through the program, credit counselors provide renters in need of assistance with trusted guidance, including enrolling them in plans to address sustainable rent repayment, debt management and improving long-term financial health.

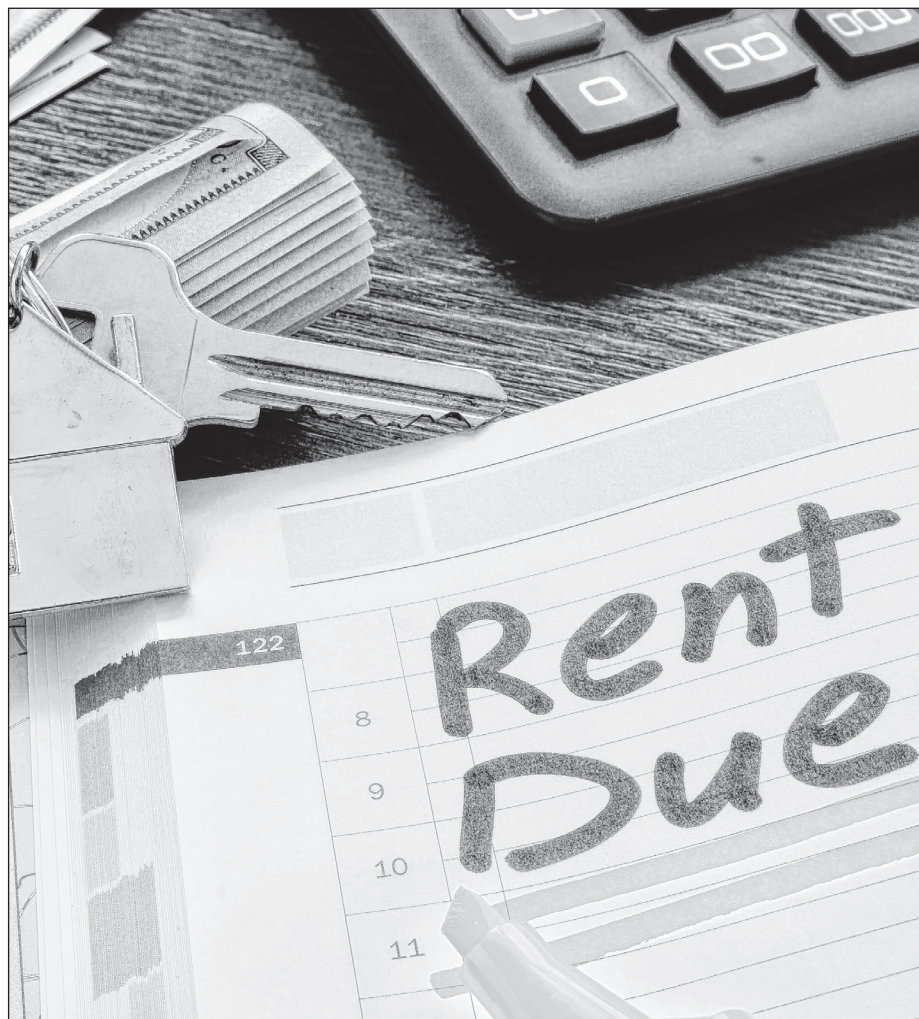
Legal representation can make all the difference. A Harvard study shows that two-thirds of tenants with legal representation are more likely to avoid an eviction judgment and remain in their home.

Harvard researchers also found an estimated 90% of landlords have legal representation, while only 10% of tenants do, putting tenants at a significant disadvantage. This is why Wells Fargo has provided more than \$8 million in grants to legal assistance organizations helping keep people housed.

People of color, particularly Black and Hispanic tenants, represent 80% of people at risk of eviction, according to the Aspen Institute. Wells Fargo grants are helping close the housing equity gap.

"As the pandemic continues to take its toll on Americans' physical and economic health, connecting people at risk of eviction with resources and options is critical," says Fitzgerald.

"Having a safe, affordable place to call home helps lay the foundation for wellness, dignity and economic opportunity."





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MHC HONORS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The annual winter Mid-Hoosier Conference banquet was held in Morristown on March 9. Jarrett Turner, Caleb Dewey and Travis Jones were All-Conference while ECHS Coach Keith Witty was presented with Coach of the Year.



BY COREY STOLZENBACH/FOR THE DAILY JOURNAL

Edinburgh senior Travis Jones goes to the basket against North Daviess' Logan Wilson during Saturday's regional semifinal.

Season ends for boys with 22-4 record; awards program set

Playing in a packed Loogootee arena with a huge and loud Lancer contingent, the Sectional champ Edinburg Lancer varsity basketball team delivered the excitement, but unfortunately fell one point short, 38-37, in their attempt to move on to Saturday evening's regional championship game.

Having fallen to the North Daviess Cougars at home in late February, the Lancers came out from the start showing that they had fine-tuned their defense in preparation for the rematch. They held the Cougars to just five points in the game's opening quarter, owning a 9-5 lead at the break. This continued through the second period and Edinburg took a 17-14 lead to the halftime locker room. The third quarter played evenly on the offensive side but the Cougar defense, who had smothered junior Caleb Dewey, the Lancers' leading scorer, from the start, kept the focus on Dewey but also played to shut down Landen Burton who paced Edinburg with eight first half points.

Ever the play-maker, Dewey, along with the rest of the Lancers, made the adjustment to look for Edinburg big man Travis Jones in the post. The Cougars had no answer for Jones underneath and he scored nine of his game-high 20 points in that third period. He continued his dominance as he put in seven more points early in the fourth.

Edinburg built their lead to as many as five points a few times with the last time being with just under five minutes left to play. North Daviess then went on a 7-0 run to take one of their few leads in the



Brian Ingels

Lancer Notebook

game at the five minute mark. Free throws then took center stage, first with Dewey calmly knocking down four to tie it with four minutes left and then the Cougars netted four of their own to go back ahead, this time by four points with five seconds remaining.

Jones got the ball and nailed a long three-pointer but the lights came on on the backboard as the ball went through the net, leaving the Lancers with the heart breaking loss.

To go along with Jones' 20 points, Burton had eight, Dewey six and Jarrett Turner three. The Lancers finish the season with a stellar 22-4 record. This was quite the accomplishment after going 6-18 two years ago and improving to 18-6 last season.

North Daviess went on to defeat Borden Saturday night, who had knocked-off Springs Valley in the morning's second game. They will meet Jac-Cen-Del in the first game of the Seymour semi-state this coming Saturday morning.

Upcoming, the Lancer Winter Sports Awards program is slated for March 24 at 6 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.

Brian Ingels is an industrial arts teacher at Edinburg Community High School. Send comments to Edinburg Courier, P.O. Box 699, Franklin, IN 46131, courier@dailyjournal.net.



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SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Above: The Easter Bunny greets onlookers during the 2021 parade. Right: Edinburgh Parks and Recreation's map of this year's parade route.



Town plans parade, breakfast, bunny to celebrate Easter

Edinburgh Parks and Recreation has Easter events planned for April 16. Breakfast and pictures with the Easter Bunny will be 9-11 a.m. at the John R. Drybread Community Center downtown.

Registrations will be taken through April 15 for the breakfast at the Parks & Rec. office (noon-8 p.m. Monday through Saturday.)

The parade will begin downtown at 3 p.m. and follow Main Cross Street, around East Side Elementary School, through the town and back up 252. There are several parking lots and empty spaces along the route to gather.

Anyone who would like to volunteer to help at the breakfast, donate candy or pre-filled Easter eggs or has a golf cart and

would like to participate in the parade, contact Event Coordinator Tracy Beier at tbeier@edinburgh.in.us or 812-447-6076.



Mother Earth

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IN-35101037

Weather

FROM PAGE 1

future flooding issues. The county is more prepared now, but it could always happen again, she said.

Prepare for the unknown

There are a variety of things county residents can do to prepare for disasters.

MAKING A DISASTER KIT

During severe emergencies, it could take up to three days for help to arrive. Making a disaster kit can help support your family during that time, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security says.

Your kit should include the following, at minimum:

Food and water — You should have a three day supply, and it should include one gallon of water per person a day.

Battery-operated all-hazards radio — These radios can receive more than 60 types of emergency alerts.

Flashlight
Extra batteries for radio and flashlight

First aid kit
Extra clothing, sturdy shoes, rain gear, blankets and personal hygiene items

List of emergency phone numbers

Important documents — You should have copies of photo IDs, social security cards, insurance and banking information.

Cash — Any cash you keep should be small bills, because power outages can limit the ability to use ATMs and credit cards.

Special items — These items should include baby formula, insulin, life-sustaining medication and pet supplies.

Source: Indiana Department of Homeland Security

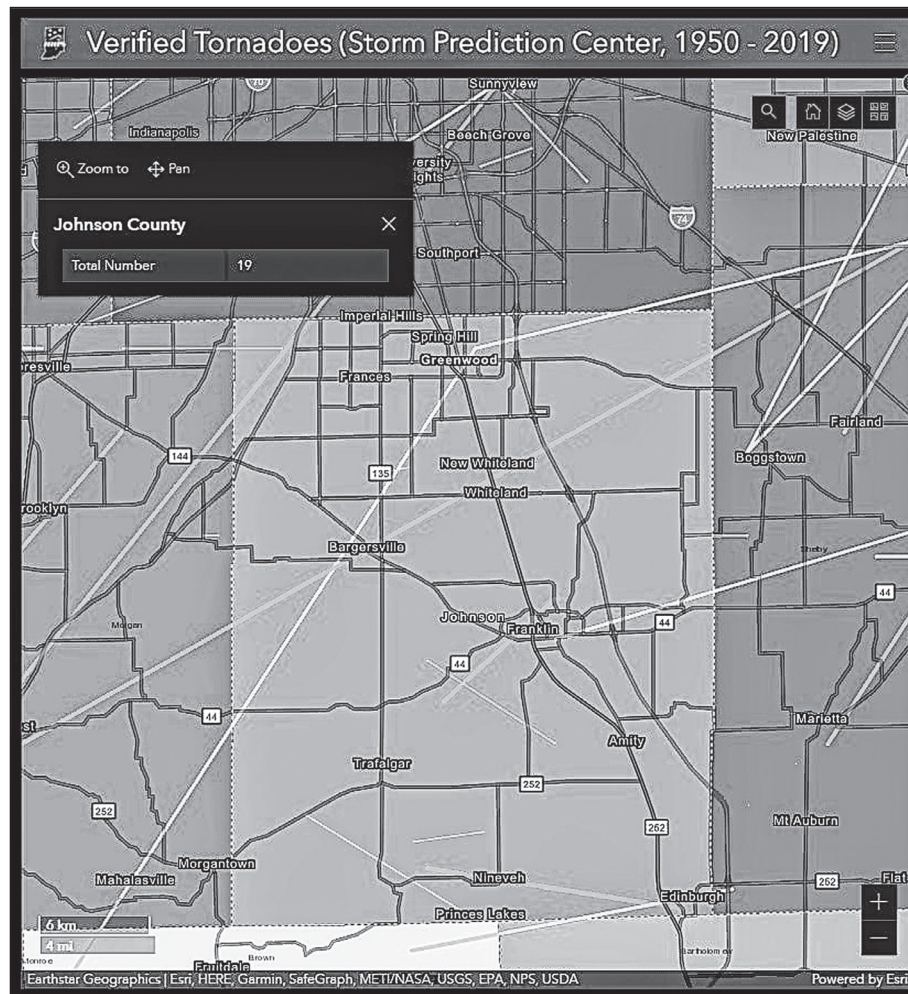
Having disaster kits and plans set up ahead of time is important, as disasters can happen at any time, and because no one should rely solely on emergency management for aid, Sighting said.

One of the first things people should do is create a disaster kit with supplies to last up to three days. Three days' worth of supplies could help you ride out the aftermath of a disaster if it takes a while for first responders to get to you, she said.

The kits should also be inside your

home, and not left in your vehicle, because there's a chance your vehicle may be gone once the storm has passed.

"You may have what's left of your house,



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A screenshot from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security's Tornado Map shows the verified paths of tornadoes that have passed through Johnson County from 1950 to 2019.

but your vehicles may be gone so you can't get out," Sighting said.

Businesses need to have a plan, too, because not only do they have workers, they may also have customers who will need shelter when a disaster strikes. Several businesses in the past have said if a disaster strikes, they planned to contact emergency management for help. There's only so much the agency can do, and first responders may not be able to get there for a while, she said.

"You have to shelter in place until we can get those responders out there," Sighting said.

Everyone should also have evacuation plans prepared no matter what disaster may strike. The plans should include how to get out, where to go and how to stay in contact with family if there's no cell phone service, she said.

When it comes to flooding, drivers should keep the phrase "Turn Around Don't Drown" in mind. Cars can float in two feet of water, and just two inches of water can move a car off the road. If you see standing water, you should take another route to avoid it, according to the Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

Know where to turn

One crucial part of preparation is to have multiple ways to receive emergency alerts.

If a tornado touches down, outdoor warning sirens will sound across most of the county, but not everywhere has sirens. Most municipalities, including Edinburgh, have sirens and the areas covered by the fire departments in Amity and White River Township have sirens as well. The cities, towns and fire protection districts purchased the sirens for their areas, Sighting said.

The county does not own any sirens, meaning any areas outside of these do not have any sort of outdoor warning system, she said.

Even if you are in an area with outdoor sirens, you should still have other ways to get emergency alerts, such as a weather radio. The outdoor sirens are meant for when people are outdoors, not necessarily when they are inside, Sighting said.

"You may hear it raining and storming, but by the time you hear what some say is that train coming through, it may be too late," she said. "(A weather radio) will give you enough warning with those alerts to at least get your family members in an inside room in your home to seek shelter."

There are also no public shelters in the county for residents to go to when a tornado approaches. Officials do not want people on the road when a tornado comes, especially at night, Sighting said.

"My biggest fear is that people will try to run from and get caught at night," she said. "The deadliest ones are at night."

People are better off taking shelter in interior rooms in their homes or below ground than trying to outrun a twister, Sighting said.

After a tornado strikes, you should try to stay put because there could be debris and downed power lines around you. You should wait for first responders to clear a path for you as they know the area, she said.

Regardless, it's not a matter of if it will happen, but when. Emergency management has tried to mitigate everything as best they can, but it is still crucial for people to be prepared, Sighting said.

JAIL BOOKINGS

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

Shelly Yvette Bruner, 57, 8932 S. Edinburgh Road, Edinburgh; arrested on a charge of possession of methamphetamine; released on \$2,400 bond.

Kyle I. Pacek, 33, 8490 W. County Road 1000 S., Edinburgh; arrested on warrants for failure to appear in court; bond informa-

tion unavailable.

Ronald Wesley Streeval, 44, 108 N. Grant St., Apt. D, Edinburgh; arrested on a warrant for failure to appear in court; held on \$500 bond.

Michael Gene Adair Jr., 46, 7914 S. County Road 650 E., Edinburgh; arrested on charges of possession of cocaine or narcotic drug and possession of hypodermic syringe or needle; held on \$2,400 bond.

SENIOR CENTER

The Nineveh Senior Center, 3208 Rodeo Drive, Johnson County Park (next to horse park), for people 50 and older.

March 21, 23: Bingo with prizes, 1-3 p.m. Free coffee.

March 30: Craft class, 3-4 p.m. Elyssa Everling, from the Trafalgar Library will lead a class on making wreaths from book pages.

March 30: Recycle Day, bring old metal, com-

puters, any electronics, washers, dryers, refrigerators, stoves, etc. Talk to Janet Bartram about bringing the large items due to limited storage space.

New members are welcome. Membership is \$15 per year. Call Janet Wolfe, 812-376-3671, to join.

Information: Jon Myers, 812-343-4229, www.ninevehseniorcenter.org

NEWS ROUNDUP

DAILY JOURNAL AND REPUBLIC STAFF REPORTS

Two companies bringing jobs

Two manufacturers in German Township have announced their intentions to expand operations that could create nearly 40 new jobs.

But the announcement made by Drug Plastics Closures, Inc., 2875 W. County Road 800N, Edinburgh, remains tentative, CEO Rick Niesecker said. A manufacturer of plastic packaging for health care products, Drug Plastics Closures is considering both Edinburgh and another facility in the Phoenix, Arizona area for the expansion, Niesecker told the Bartholomew County Commissioners.

"But I can tell you if we get approval (for tax abatements from the Bartholomew County Council), that would be sufficient in my mind to tip the scales in favor of Bartholomew County and Edinburgh," Niesecker said through a Zoom conferencing call.

A tax abatement essentially means increased property taxes created by the new development are gradually phased in over a period of time.

Niesecker's company is also expected to receive state incentives through the Indiana Economic Development Corp., Greater Columbus Economic Development

Corp. President Jason Hester said.

If Edinburgh gets the facility, the company will construct a new 60,000-square-foot facility that will connect two existing buildings, Hester said. The expansion would result in the creation of 35 new jobs.

The other company seeking a tax abatement from the council is located just a few blocks southwest from Drug Plastics Closures.

Tsune America LLC, 12550 N. Presidential Way, wants to build an 18,000-square-foot facility in a vacant lot next to its current building, Hester said. A manufacturer of circular saws, Tsune plans on investing \$3 million into developing the real estate, with an additional \$1 million spent on new equipment. Like Drug Plastics Closures, Tsune is seeking a 10-year abatement on real property and a five year abatement on property.

If the company receives the abatement and the expansion is made, Tsune plans to hire four new employees, as well as retain 31 workers already on their payroll, said Hester, along with Tsune Managing Partner Mike Riebl.

Both companies are in tax increment financing (TIF) districts. In such areas, the amount of allocations from new industrial developments to various taxing units (schools, law enforcement, fire departments, etc.) are essentially frozen.

Any increased tax revenue collected as a result of an increase in property values then go into a fund to be used for a wide range of purposes within the district.

Project getting 2nd life

A 13-lot commercial development that was put on hold after a 2018 approval is back.

A major subdivision preliminary plat being called Driftwood Center, Section Two — located west of U.S. 31 and south of County Road 800N — has been approved for a second time by the Bartholomew County Plan Commission.

Developer Mark Pratt said the intended use of the more than 65 acres is for future commercial development. The land is located on the other side of the highway across from Indiana Premium Outlets. Pratt, who owns Breeden Commercial Realtors, said he's reviving the project because he has some interested buyers.

The entrance to the development will be Fivecoat Drive, a 50-foot wide street running parallel with the highway. Drawings show Fivecoat Drive extending south to Hartman Drive, with a cul-de-sac on the north side.

Three years ago, more than 20 revisions were requested by the city/county planning staff. One year later, the commission's approval expired when a final plat

was not filed.

The latest plan contains fewer revisions. But one change that sparked much discussion at the commission meeting involved decisions made by the Indiana Department of Transportation on how to move northbound vehicles leaving Driftwood Center.

When the initial 2018 approval was given, Breeden Commercial Realtors was told left turns would not be allowed for cars and trucks exiting the property, and that small median openings north and south of Presidential Way would need to be closed.

A planning staff report states the developers would bear the responsibility of design and construction of median and crossover modifications at Presidential Way, which must be changed from four lanes to two lanes. However, the documents also suggest these changes could be done with pavement markings, striping out the existing left turn lane, the report states.

Another recommendation states that left hand turns on to U.S. 31 from the development would only be allowed at Hartman Drive, as well as at a traffic light that will be installed within a few years at County Road 800N.

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