



FREE



Rich rewards

Middle school's Science Olympiad team wins grant in national contest.

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Edinburgh Courier

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"The caterpillar does all the work, but the butterfly gets all the publicity."

— George Carlin

WHAT'S UP?

Good Friday service

Edinburgh Ministerial Association is hosting the annual Good Friday Service at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Numerous local churches will be participating in the service, which is Friday at 3 p.m.

Dollars for Scholars

The Edinburgh Dollars for Scholars website is open until Friday 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.

Apply at www.edinburgh.dollarsforscholars.org.

Easter events

Edinburgh Parks and Recreation has Easter events planned for Saturday.

Breakfast and pictures with the Easter Bunny will be 9-11 a.m. at the John R. Drybread Community Center downtown. Registration for the breakfast is at the Parks & Rec. office, noon to 8 p.m. until Friday.

The parade will begin downtown at 3 p.m.

Anyone who would like to volunteer 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.

Farmers market

Applications for the Edinburgh Farmers Market are available at the John R Drybread Community Center, 100 E. Main Cross St. The market will run on Thursdays 4-7 p.m. starting June 2 through Sept. 28.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Edinburgh natives look to town's strengths, weaknesses to map out plans for the future

By Leeann Doerflein

DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Two seats are up for grabs on the Edinburgh Town Council, and four candidates are on the Republican primary ballot, including two current council members and two newcomers.

Incumbent Marshall Ryan Piercefield is seeking reelection, while Debra K. Buck, who joined the council via caucus in July 2019, is asking residents to elect her for a full term.

Newcomers Ryan Blaker, a county correction officer, and Maryann Gallagher-Little, a dispatcher, are also on the ballot.

Gallagher-Little missed the deadline to withdraw her candidacy but no longer wishes to run for the office, she said. She reconsidered due to a conflict of interest. She is married to Edinburgh Police Chief Doyne Little.

The candidates are competing for two at-large seats on the council.

The Daily Journal asked the candidates questions about their experience and vision for Edinburgh. Since Gallagher-Little no longer wants to be on the council, she declined the interview.

Why are you running for office/re-election?

Blaker: I grew up in Edinburgh and I'm wanting to do my part to make a difference and make things better for the youth of the town coming up and our citizens now. I would just like to improve things the best I can.

Buck: I'm a lifelong resident and for several years, I wondered why the town council made decisions the way they did. So, I decided to run in the caucus to have a part in the process. As a (council member), I was involved in placing three key leaders in the community: the new town manager, the new chief of police and the new fire chief. Additionally, I was very instrumental in restructuring the trash services to include monthly big trash pick-up. There

THE BLAKER FILE

Name: Ryan Blaker
Family: Wife, Kendra; one child
Occupation: Correction officer, Johnson County Sheriff's Office
Educational background: Edinburgh Community High School; Ivy Tech Community College
Political experience: Ran unsuccessfully for Edinburgh school board in 2020
Memberships: Edinburgh Public Library board member



THE BUCK FILE

Name: Debra K. Buck
Family: Two adult children
Occupation: Human resources at Sonoco Flexible Packaging
Educational background: Edinburgh Community High School; Indiana Wesleyan University
Political experience: Joined Edinburgh Town Council via caucus in July 2019
Memberships: Edinburgh Plan Commission member since 2021



THE PIERCEFIELD FILE

Name: Marshall Ryan Piercefield
Family: Wife, Brittany; two children
Occupation: Lieutenant at the Franklin Fire Department; owner and operator of Piercefield Contracting and Landscaping, LLC
Educational background: Edinburgh Community High School; Pelham Paramedic Science; various state of Indiana firefighting certifications
Political experience: Edinburgh Town Council member since 2019
Memberships: International Association of Firefighters Franklin Fire Local 3433; Indiana Volunteer Firefighters Association; Edinburgh Masonic Lodge



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OBITUARIES

GREENSBURG

Larry Milburn

Larry Milburn, 76, of Greensburg, passed away April 8, 2022, at Aspen Place Health Campus in Greensburg.

Larry was born March 16, 1946, in Greensburg, the son of Warren and Ethelene Boyd Milburn.

Larry was a proud U.S. Army veteran, serving during the Vietnam War. He was a member of the American Legion Post 24, Past

Commander of VFW

Post 1987, as well as a previous member of St. John's Masonic Lodge #20. Larry was previously employed at Cummins Engine Co., retiring after 45 years of service. He was a caring and compassionate individual and was proud to be of service to all he met.

Larry is survived by his daughters Janna Milburn of Edinburgh and Johnna Milburn of Columbus; grandchildren Arianna Booker, Delani Milburn, Devyn Milburn, Addyson Chandler, Avery Chandler and Madelyn Chandler; great-grandchildren Kingston Booker and Alaya Booker; siblings Joyce (Kenny) Quicksall, Warren (Kathy) Milburn, and Danny (Joy) Milburn, all of Greensburg, as well as Marvin (Pat) Milburn of Tennessee. Special appreciation goes to Joyce and



MILBURN

Kenny Quicksall as well as Tracy Szostak for acting as Larry's caretakers these past few years.

He was preceded in death by his parents, as well as his wife, Vicky Milburn, in 2017.

The funeral was conducted at Jewell-Rittman Family Funeral Home with the Rev. Larry Canfield officiating. Military Rites were performed by the Bartholomew County Veterans Honor Guard. Burial was at Garland Brook Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Undiagnosed Disease Network through the funeral home.

You are invited to send a message to the family at www.jewellrittman.com.

EDINBURGH

Judy Simpson

Judy F. Simpson, 80, a life-long resident of Edinburgh, passed away April 7, 2022, at Community Hospital South in Indianapolis. She was born on Feb. 1, 1942, in Edinburgh. She was the daughter of Milton and Eva Burton. She married Robert "Bobby" Lewis Simpson on June 29, 1957, and he preceded her in death on May 8, 2016.

She is survived by her children, Jeff



SIMPSON

SEE OBITS, PAGE 7

ANNIVERSARY

Smith

Jackie and Phyllis Smith of Edinburgh will be celebrating their 45th wedding anniversary on April 16. Smith and his wife, the former Phyllis Pendleton, were married on April 16, 1977, at the Separate Baptist Church in Edinburgh by the Rev. Clifton Cowan.

Jackie is retired from the Town of Edinburgh and Phyllis is owner and operator of the Magic Mirror Beauty Salon in Edinburgh.



GOOD OLD DAYS

70 years ago: Ray Shelton announces that he will be building a new restaurant, named the Roto-Grill, at the junction of the new U.S. 31 and State Road 252.

65 years ago: Dickie Lee strikes out 14 batters and adds a double to lead Don Kehoe's Edinburg Lancers to a 4-0 victory over Whiteland at Irwin Park.

60 years ago: Don Truman slams a long home run and Dickie Talbert collects three hits as the Edinburg Lancers defeat Union Township by a score of 7-4.

55 years ago: The Edinburg Lions Club

announces that Carolyn Barnett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Barnett, has been named girl of the month for April.

50 years ago: Ivory Lemley announces that Thomas Miller and Wayne Larsen have been named as delegates to Hoosier Boys State by the Edinburg American Legion.

45 years ago: Edinburg Town Board president Doug Stacy announces he will be resigning from the board because he will be moving from Edinburg for a new job.

COMMUNITY CHATTER

Atterbury FWA open house

Atterbury Fish And Wildlife Area will host an open house today for participants to talk with staff about current projects and how to volunteer. The open house will be from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Atterbury Fish and Wildlife Area office at 7970 S. Rowe St., Edinburgh.

Volunteer opportunities include trash pickup, invasive species removal, painting and Adopt-A-Lake. Minors are welcome to attend when accompanied by an adult.

To learn more, visit in.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/properties/atterbury-fwa/.

Edinburgh Alumni Banquet

The Edinburgh Alumni Banquet will be held May 21 at the Edinburgh Community High School.

The Alumni Association will honor the 50-year class of 1972, the 25-year class of 1997 and the graduating class of 2022.

A social hour will be held in the high school gymnasium area for reminiscing, beginning at 5 p.m.

Dinner, provided by Edinburg Lion's Club, will be held in the cafeteria at 6 p.m.

Tickets will go on sale April 15 and can be purchased, for \$12, at the Edinburg Wright-Hageman Public Library, Sherman's Barber Shop, or by contacting

Cathy Hamm at 812-343-4352.

An alumni gathering will be held at the Edinburg American Legion following the banquet.

Water main flushing

Edinburgh Municipal Utilities will flush water mains beginning April 18 at 7:30 a.m. and continue through May 1. Customers may experience some discoloration in their water during this operation. If this occurs at your residence or business, run a slow stream of cold water until the discoloration disappears. Usually five to 10 minutes will take care of the problem. If the discoloration persists, contact the Utility Office at 812-526-3514, option 1. Light-colored clothing should not be washed before 5 p.m. to help reduce the risk of staining.

Museum exhibit to open

The Johnson County Museum of History's newest featured exhibit, "Edinburgh: Johnson County's First Town," will showcase Edinburgh for its bicentennial celebration.

The opening event is 6-8 p.m. on April 21 and is free and open to the public.

The Johnson County Museum of History is at 135 N. Main St. in downtown Franklin. Information: 317-346-4500

The family of Brandon J. Hughes would like to express their thanks and appreciation to family, friends, co-workers, Brother Eli Johnson, and the entire Edinburgh community for food, flowers, thoughts and prayers. Your kindness is very much appreciated.

Track team takes second place finish in Indy Lutheran meet

It proved to be a rough week in Edinburgh activities but there was a bright spot and that was the performance of the boys' varsity track team in a five-team meet on the road on Tuesday the fifth.

Things started off on April 4 with the varsity softball team playing host to Franklin. It was a very evenly played contest through five innings as the Lancers trailed just 5-4 at that juncture. Franklin then touched the Lancers for five runs in the sixth and two more in the seventh as Edinburgh fell, 12-4.

MacKenzie Bieker took the loss even though only five of the runs scored against her were earned. She also fanned 12 Franklin hitters. Kyah Streeval paced the offense with three base hits including a double and a home run and knocked in two Edinburgh runs. Zaza Nelson had a hit and an RBI.

On April 5, the varsity track team went to Indy Lutheran to compete in a five team meet. They finished in a very respectable second place, distancing their nearest opponent by 50 points.

Scoring 74 points for the Lancers on the evening were Jackson Hartwell with a first in the 110-meter high hurdles, and second in the long jump and the 400-meter relay. Irving Luis-Orozco had second place finishes in the 110-meter highs and the 400-meter dash and a third in the 3200 relay. Enrique Callejas took second place finishes in the 300-meter hurdles, the 1600-meter relay and the 400-meter relay, and third in the 1600 relay. Blaze Jensen had a second in the 400-meter relay, a third in the high jump, fourth in the 200-meter dash and a



Brian Ingels

Lancer Notebook

fifth in the 100-meter dash. Braylon Bryant was second in both the 400 and 1600 relays and fourth in the 100-meter dash. Austin Brockman brought home a second in the 1600 meter relay. Brian Callejas had a second in the 1600 relay, was third in the 400-meter dash and also the 3200-meter relay. Connor Douglas had a third place finish in the discus. Travis Vidal took third in the shot put.

For the Lancer girls, Alanna Hobbs had a sixth-place finish in the 200 meter dash.

The Lancer baseball team competed in the Johnson County Tourney on April 5. They were unfortunate enough to have to meet the state's number one ranked 4A team, Center Grove. Ian Buchanan took the loss on the mound and also had Edinburgh's only base hit of the evening.

On Thursday, the baseball team dropped their first conference game of the year, 13-4 at the hands of visiting Hauser. Lancer starter Travis Jones struck out nine Jet batters en route to being saddled with the loss. The game was neck and neck through the first five innings as the two teams went into the sixth inning tied at four. The Jets then scored nine in the top half of the sixth to seal the win.

Riley Palmetter went two for three from the plate with a double and two RBIs while Jarrett Turner added the only other Edinburgh hit.

The varsity softball Lancers also played

host to Hauser on Thursday and were turned back by the Jets, 16-5, to lose their first MHC game of the season.

Contributing to the Edinburgh offense were Kyah Streeval who was three for three with a double, Gracie Crawhorn was two for three, MacKenzie Bieker was two for three with a home run, and Carly Cowan went one for three with a double.

The varsity tennis team wasn't able to play through the rain and sleet and had to suspend their match versus Columbus East. The Lancers held a commanding lead on the Olympians when play was halted.

Lancer baseball was the only team to play on a cool Friday evening as they faced Hauser at Hope. The good guys drew first blood, going up 1-0 until the bottom of the second inning where the hosts plated a pair. It was a tight game the rest of the way but the Lancers fell to the Jets again, this time 7-2.

Lancer catcher Jarrett Turner had a pair of base hits including a double and an RBI while Ian Buchanan had Edinburgh's other hit. Gabe Bennett went the distance on the hill, allowing just five earned runs while striking out two.

Varsity golf, at home vs. Southwestern/Morristown, 4:30 p.m.

Varsity track & field, at home vs. Morristown/Southwestern, 5 p.m.

Varsity baseball at South Decatur, 5 p.m.

Varsity softball at South Decatur, 5 p.m.

Varsity softball, at home vs. South Decatur, 5 p.m.

Varsity baseball, at home vs. South Decatur, 5 p.m.

Varsity softball at Brown County, 10 a.m.

Varsity golf, at home vs. Hauser, 4:30 p.m.

Varsity tennis at Southwestern, 5 p.m.

Varsity golf, at home vs. Indian Creek/Greenwood 5 p.m.

Varsity tennis, at home vs. New Palestine, 4:30 p.m.

Varsity softball, at home vs. Columbus Christian, 5 p.m.

Varsity track & field at Franklin, 5 p.m.

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

On tap

Thursday

Varsity tennis at Hauser, 4:30 p.m.



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Edinburgh Middle School among five national contest winners

By Andy Bell-Baltaci
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Edinburgh Middle School's Science Olympiad team has just nine members, but for the team, quality over quantity has been the mantra.

Science Olympiad coach Brianne Hubbard started the team last fall, building off her experience participating in the Science Olympiad program when she was in school, Hubbard said in an email.

"I participated in the program every year from seventh through 12th grade and love the different events, the friendships I made and the ability the events gave myself and my teammates to use (science, technology, engineering and math) in a variety of different ways," Hubbard said. "Science Olympiad offers many different, ever-changing events that touch on different types of science and math, and are engaging and fun. Our team was building bridges and towers, making contraptions that would protect an egg when dropped from various heights and diving deep into individual studies such as astronomy and



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Edinburgh Middle School Science Olympiad team was one of five national winners of a \$3,000 grant as part of the Sparklight Dream Bigger contest.

chemistry."

Hubbard's experience inspired her to start the Science Olympiad team at Edinburgh Middle School, which learned last week that they had been selected as one of five national winners of the Sparklight Dream Bigger contest, which provides winners \$3,000 to expand their

Science Olympiad teams.

With the grant, the team will be able to purchase more equipment for events and go on more field trips to experience immersive scientific opportunities, Hubbard said.

"This is an absolute dream come true. The opportunities that winning this contest bring will pave the way for our team's success for years to come," she said. "Science Olympiad has many events each season, and they add additional events for state finals. There are events that require building materials — used to create bridges, planes, trebuchets, musical instruments, mousetrap vehicles and more. Sometimes there are specific or specialty items we need to use and we have to order them from shops that have them because they are more difficult to find."

The team's inaugural season included students competing in events such as bridge building, ornithology, disease detective, crime busters and green generation. Those events covered areas of study including life, personal and social science; earth and space science; physical science and chemistry; technology and engineer-

ing; and inquiry and nature of science, she said. In bridge building, for example, students are required to construct a bridge that can handle a heavy load of sand, Hubbard said.

"The bridge is weighed before the event starts," she said. "A chain with a block at the top is put down through the bridge and sits atop it. A bucket is attached to the chain, and sand is added in cupfuls by the student until the bridge breaks or the maximum amount of sand is added to the bucket. The winning team is the team that had the lightest bridge that held the biggest load of sand."

Another competition, ornithology, requires competitors to identify birds.

"Ornithology is all about the study of birds," Hubbard said. "The students who participate in this event will need to be able to identify birds, as well as their classification. They can be tested on different bird calls and have to be able to correctly identify which beaks/bills belong to which bird and what they are used for. They should be able to identify different bird eggs and name all the parts of the bird's anatomy."

Fifth grader Cole Schoettmer followed his older brother onto the team and was the only student on the team in his grade, Schoettmer said in an email.

During competition events, Schoettmer most enjoyed events involving building and those involving minerals, he said.

"I liked using the power tools in the woodshop. My mousetrap car was in the top 10, number eight, at the state competition," Schoettmer said. "I like building stuff and cars. The Rocks and Minerals event was good because I like crystals."

Schoettmer, who hopes to win an event at the state competition next year, is hopeful about the future of the Science Olympiad team after it won the grant, he said.

"It is awesome that we won," Schoettmer said. "Now we can build our team and continue next year."



The place for great starts

Thanks to the dedicated staff, wonderful patients and supportive community we work in, Johnson Memorial Health's Maternity Department has been recognized as a 2022 PRC Excellence in Healthcare Award recipient. This national award recognizes healthcare organizations that achieve excellence throughout the year by creating amazing patient experiences. We are grateful for everyone who makes JMH a better place to work, a better place to practice medicine and a better place for patients to be treated.



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SCHOOL NOTEBOOK

Athlete of the week

Jackson Hartwell was named the Horizon Bank Student Athlete of the Week. Jackson competed in a five-team track meet at Lutheran High School and won the high hurdles, finished second in the long jump and ran on the 400-meter relay team that finished second.



HARTWELL

FAFSA extends filing deadline

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education has extended the filing deadline for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid to April 18.

Students must file the federal form to be eligible for most financial aid. State financial aid programs including the 21st Century Scholarship and Workforce Ready Grant require students to have a current FAFSA on file to maintain their scholarships.

For more information: 317-715-9007.

Upcoming referendum could decide the fate of local schools

By Andy Bell-Baltaci
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

If the district's referendum doesn't pass, Edinburgh Community Schools could be forced to consolidate.

This primary election, voters in Johnson County's Blue River Township and Bartholomew County's German Township are being asked to raise their own taxes in exchange for raising teacher salaries and giving the school district a more secure future, said Ron Ross, superintendent.

The school district has proposed a tax increase of about 40%, from about \$1.06 for every \$100 of assessed value to about \$1.45.

District residents with a home valued at the district median of \$96,800 would pay about \$120 more per year, and those with a home valued at \$200,000 would pay about \$381 more. Considered on a monthly basis, that's \$9.97 a month or \$31.77 a month for a \$200,000 home. The figures are estimates from Baker Tilley U.S., LLP, a Chicago-based public accounting and consulting firm that is working with the district on the referendum project.



ROSS

The need for a referendum comes as the district is in the midst of declining student population, which is down almost 10% since the 2015-16 school year. That has resulted in about \$600,000 fewer state dollars, which is the equivalent of 10 first-year teacher salaries and benefits, Ross said in February, when the district's school board unanimously approved putting the referendum on the ballot.

The revenue loss has affected teacher salaries. State law now requires all Indiana full-time teachers to be paid at least \$40,000 a year, Edinburgh schools would not have been able to meet that requirement without additional financial assistance it received from the state of Indiana to boost salaries, Ross said. Some Edinburgh teachers had been making several thousand dollars below the new state minimum before this year, according to salary data from Indiana Gateway.

The tax increase would allow the district to do more to make teacher salaries more competitive, Ross said.

"We also have been unable to give raises for so many years in a row that the salary scale has become compacted," he said. "This means that teachers who have different years of experience are making the same amount of money. Our overall intention is to become more competitive with our staff salaries and work to resolve the salary compaction issue."

The referendum would also raise salaries for non-teaching staff, go toward pur-

chasing additional school buses and hiring more bus drivers. Money would also go toward increasing security at building entrances, upgrading security cameras and adding stop arm cameras to school buses, Ross said.

The bussing issue is another key need. Right now, the district cannot bus all of its students to school, so parents outside the bus route have to drive their kids to school, Ross said.

Ahead of the election, school officials held two community meetings, made calls to registered voters and distributed yard signs and mailers. Community members formed a political action committee, "Vote Yes for ECSC," and administrators added information about the referendum and its possible impact to the Edinburgh schools website. So far, there is reason to be optimistic, he said.

"We feel very good about where we are," Ross said. "The vast majority of people that we have spoken to are in support of the referendum. We have had several people pledge their support and request a yard sign. We will have over 100 yard signs in the ground this week. We have been making calls and sending mailers. We will be canvassing the community in the coming weeks. Our outreach efforts in general have been very well received. We will be increasing our efforts between now and May 3."

If the referendum doesn't pass, the school district will not be able to keep sal-

aries competitive, which will result in staff members leaving. Edinburgh schools will continue not being able to bus all its students, and that, combined with the loss of qualified staff members, will result in a continued decrease in student enrollment, loss of money from the state, and in half a decade, possible closure of Edinburgh schools, Ross said.

"The school provides a sense of unity and community pride. Our athletic events are packed at every home event with faithful Lancer fans. The loss of our school means no more Friday night lights. We will lose local control of our school district and a voice in what happens to our students. If Edinburgh loses its school, the town will suffer as a result. People will relocate closer to where their students attend school. They will no longer frequent the local businesses, churches (and) parks. Property values will plummet."

If more than half of voters approve the measure, however, none of that will happen, Ross said.

"Approving our referendum ensures that we retain local control of our schools, avoid consolidation, protect our community and property values, and ensure that the school and its programs remain a central source for community unity and pride," Ross said.

The referendum is on the ballot for voters from Blue River and German townships, regardless of whether they chose a Republican or Democrat ballot.

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US 31 Across from CVS

Election

FROM PAGE 1

are many more projects in the funnel that I would like to see come to fruition. I will continue to provide the most efficient and transparent guidance on working with the team to make Edinburgh the best community possible.

Piercefield: I kind of wanted to see a vision for the town and try to direct that vision. My family has always been here. I love Edinburgh. It is my community and I wanted to have input on the future of (it). It seems like if you don't have new and fresh ideas, things can kind of go stagnant. I'm really proud of the direction we have gone. We are really looking into the future ... it is not just me, it is the vision of the shared board. That's why I'm running again, so we can continue that positive movement. We are looking at new homes. We've done amazing things with public safety in the police and fire departments. We are a really unique entity because we carry so many different departments for the town.

How would you make your decisions if elected/re-elected to this office?

Blaker: I would honestly take the citizen's opinions in mind. The people who vote for me, I work for them obviously. I would factor in what I'm hearing from them. I would look into those and make the best decision overall for the community.

Buck: You always have to do your research and have as much background information as you can before making a decision. For me to cast my decision, I look to the other members and try to determine why they're making that decision. I also talk to town employees and residents about how they feel.

Piercefield: There's nothing done on a whim, and that's true. One thing I had to learn pretty quickly is there isn't a true black and white decision. Everything - and this might sound a little bit cliché - is a little bit methodical and it has to run through the legal process. I like to research things. I'm not a spur of the moment person. My wife gets on me a lot about it. I beat that horse to death. When you're making a decision, it doesn't just affect the next five minutes, it could be the next five years or the next 50 years.

What are three strengths of Edinburgh?

Blaker: A lot of improvements in infrastructure and roads. I would like to continue to improve on that. There was a long time when there wasn't a whole lot done



Where to vote

Here is a look at when and where you can cast your ballot early. Early voting runs from through May 2:

- Johnson County Courthouse, 5 E. Jefferson St., Franklin

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday

8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 23 and April 30

(Saturdays)

8:30 a.m. to noon May 2

- John R. Drybread Community Center, 100 E. Main Cross St., Edinburgh

8 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 23 and April 30

10 a.m. to 7 p.m. April 25-29

For Bartholomew County residents, NexusPark (former JC Penney store), 2252 25th St. and Bartholomew County Governmental Office Building, 440 Third St. are early voting locations.

Here is a look at approved Johnson and Bartholomew County Election Day vote centers. Election Day is May 3, and voters can vote from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.:

- John R. Drybread Community Center, 100 E. Main Cross St., Edinburgh

- Amity Volunteer Fire Department, 3247 S. County Road 550 E., Franklin

- Trafalgar Public Library, 424 S. Tower St., Trafalgar

- Princes Lakes Town Hall, 14 E. Lakeview Drive, Nineveh

- German Township Fire Station, 9428 Main St. in Taylorsville

with that, but it has improved. Our local police department is pretty good and I'd like to help build and improve on that. Our town parks department also does a good job with the events they put on throughout the year.

Buck: Public safety. We grew the police and fire departments. We continue to support the improvement of our infrastructure. We are implementing a new fire station, new water plant and street improvements. We continue to support the revitalization of our downtown area. We also own all of our utilities so there's never a long response time to get those fixed when they go down.

Piercefield: We are very self-dependent.

We aren't relying on other agencies or private organizations to get things done. The other thing that is great to me is the community. The town has always been able to really get together and get things done, and that's what I like about the town employees. If one department is in dire straights - like the fire department if they're having a fire or the water department if they're having a leak - everyone will come together and help. The small town has its downfalls, but it has a lot of positives and that's one of them. We have a vision to grow. That is a huge strength.

What are three weaknesses of Edinburgh, and what ideas do you have to tackle those?

Blaker: I'd like to improve the downtown area. I know it has improved a little bit, but I'd like to work with local businesses and see what the council can do to help them and bring even more people downtown. We could bring in more activities for the youth in Edinburgh. The parks department does a great job, but those events are only certain times of the year. It would be good to have more to do in town. Also, with the police department, I'd like to try to help by working on getting them a K9 unit. I know it has been looked at in the past, but it hasn't been done. If I'm elected, if the people of the town have any more weaknesses in mind, I'd try to address those.

Buck: We are landlocked. We need to bring more homes to the community, and we need to get more kids in town so we can bring up the school population. We need to bring in more housing at the golf course and try to get affordable housing elsewhere. We also need to revitalize downtown so people want to come and spend their money here. We are getting ready to enhance the fire department and other town projects. That's going to be something that takes up a lot of time going forward. Edinburgh is making a lot of progress and Dan Cartwright is doing a great job as town manager. I am happy to be part of the team that chose him.

Piercefield: Being a small town can be, at times, a bit of a weakness. We don't always have everything we would like to offer as a big community. It hurts us with regard to being able to bring in new businesses. Funding is a problem everywhere. If the sky was the limit and we had an open checkbook, there would be a lot of things I would like to do differently. I would like to be able to pay our employees more. Everyone, from our linemen to our public safety employees, deserves more. Going hand in hand with that is (lack of) workforce. We have a lot of openings right

now in Edinburgh, which didn't used to occur. Since we are a public sector employer, the private sector beats us out.

Edinburgh's population shrunk in the last 10 years and business growth is slower here than other communities along Interstate 65. Is that something you'd like to see change?

Blaker: It is kind of tricky. I'm not in charge of any of that yet, but as far as I know, there isn't a whole lot of area for housing - the housing is pretty much set. I know the golf course has new developments ... but the houses are kind of expensive. As of right now, I don't know where you would put more housing in the town, honestly. As for the businesses toward Taylorsville, there are a few coming in there. I would look to see what other options we have to grow there. I would like (housing and business) to grow, but I wouldn't want to rush into things and take it slow. I don't want it to take away from people living in the town right now. It is something I would look into on a case-by-case basis as it comes up.

Buck: Commercial growth would help out tremendously and go hand in hand with housing. With us being landlocked, we need to find out where those houses can go. The council is looking at options for that now, and Dan is going to help out tremendously. I would like to see more manufacturing near I-65. For downtown, I would like to see mom-and-pop shops, though we have just about all the buildings downtown filled now. We know the need for housing has skyrocketed. We would need housing that a family of four or six can come in and live comfortably. We want to see more families coming into the community.

Piercefield: We are trying to foster the industrial park now, but the problem is our tax rates are higher (than in Bartholomew County, which is a shared taxing district). It is hard to convince anybody to build here when there is a higher tax rate. My vision is to try and build more homes to bring people to the community. We are looking at some property now to bring in some subdivisions ... to bring in more homes and lower our taxes, and bring in more workforce for those potential factories and warehouses like Franklin, Whiteland, Greenwood and Indianapolis have obtained. They kind of have to run hand in hand. We have to get the homes to get the businesses and the tax rate down. We have to get more houses to lower our taxes and bring in business. But we also need to bring in more kids for our school system.

Obits

FROM PAGE 2

(Rhonda) Simpson of Edinburgh, Pamela (Jim) Burton of Edinburgh, Phyllis (Sam) Wiser of Franklin and Greg (Jhaunna) Simpson of Edinburgh; 10 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and sisters, Mable Shiller of Edinburgh, Linda (Bob) Meadows of Columbus and Sheila (Pick) Hadley of Edinburgh.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; four grandchildren; one great-grandchild; brothers, Leonard Burton, Milton Burton Jr. and David "Chatter" Burton; and sisters, Anna Lee Burton, Sally Mae Burton and Alice A. Tungett.

Judy was an Edinburgh High School graduate. She was a member of Who-So-Ever-Will Community Church and a lifetime member of the Double-Y Saddle Club.

She retired from the Johnson County Clerk's Office and was owner of Simpson's Body Shop in Edinburgh.

Judy's most favorite thing to do was spending time with her children and grandchildren, eating out, the Euchre Club, was an avid bowler and church activities.

A funeral service will be conducted by the Rev. Ralph Foster at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, April 13, 2022 at Who-So-

Ever-Will Community Church in Edinburgh. Calling will be from 10:00 a.m. until time of service. Burial will be at Rest Haven Cemetery in Edinburgh.

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

GREENWOOD

Robert Slevin

Robert Dale Slevin 86 of Greenwood passed away Thursday April 7, 2022, at Greenwood Health and Living Community. He was born Feb. 4, 1936, in Shelbyville to Walter and Clarilla (Snapp) Slevin. He married Roberta R. (Adams) Slevin on March 20, 1954, in Franklin. She preceded him in death on July 11, 1994. He later married Carolyn (Clark) Slevin on Sept. 2, 1995, in Morgantown. She preceded him in death on Feb. 28, 2018.

He was a 1954 graduate of Boggstown High School in Shelby County.

He had been a farmer with the Guy McFarland and Sons family in Southport and Franklin for 45 years.

Robert was a member of Fairhaven Christian Church in Franklin.



SLEVIN

He enjoyed hunting, fishing, slow pitch softball in his younger years and gardening.

Survivors include his children Holly Geddes (Les) of Brownsburg, Laurel Jensen of Warsaw, Bill Slevin (Paulette) of Greenwood, Dennis Slevin (Dianna) of White Lake, Mich. and Darryl Slevin (Sue) of Bargersville; a brother, Gene Slevin (Mary) of Edinburgh; a sister Donna Warner of Shelbyville; stepsons Greg Johnson of Trafalgar and Steve Johnson (Julia) of Martinsville; 20 grandchildren, 32 great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Roberta R. (Adams) Slevin, his second wife Carolyn (Clark) Slevin, and a sister Dora Ballinger.

Pastor Brian Clark will conduct a service on Wednesday April 13, 2022, at 10:30 a.m. at Swartz Family Community Mortuary and Memorial Center, 300 South U.S. 31 (Morton Street) in Franklin and will be live-streamed at www.swartzmortuary.com. Burial will be at Forest Lawn Memory Gardens in Greenwood.

Memorial contributions may be made to Fairhaven Christian Church 1476 W. County Road 300 South, Franklin, IN 46131.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.swartzmortuary.com.

AT THE PARKS

Edinburgh Parks & Recreation

722 Eisenhower Drive

Hours: Monday through Saturday, noon-8 p.m.

• The summer Youth Club will be conducted June 1-July 22. The club is for children ages 4-12. Activities include swimming, field trips, crafts, breakfast and snacks. Cost is a \$100 registration fee and \$25 per week per child. Hours are 9 a.m. to noon on Mondays and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays. Signups will be taken through May 14. Contact Elissa Day, 812-526-3535, 317-833-8637 or eday@edinburgh.in.us for information or an online registration form.

Johnson County Park

2949 E. North St., Nineveh

May 14: JoCo Pours in the Park, noon to 4 p.m.

June 16-19: Johnson County Antique Machinery Association annual show

Info/register for programs: 812-526-6809 or jocopark@co.johnson.in.us

Edinburgh Courier

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