

WEDNESDAY
JULY 20, 2022



FREE

Students return to the classrooms July 28. See the calendar, fees, contact info and hear from the superintendent.

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Edinburgh Courier

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"We must all face the choice between what is right and what is easy."

— J.K. Rowling

WHAT'S UP?

Registration, open houses

Registration for Edinburgh Community High School/Middle School is July 20 (final day), 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. East Side Elementary will register students July 21, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

A deposit of \$35 for fees is recommended during registration. School lunch fees can also be paid at this time or online using MyPayment Plus.

Returning students can be registered through PowerSchool at ps.ecsc.k12.in.us. ECSC has transitioned to a new registration program called PowerSchool Forms. Registration can now be completed on an Android and Apple phone using the PowerSchool app.

If you have any questions regarding registration, call Bob Straugh at 812-526-2681.

Open houses are July 26.

High school/middle school, 5-6 p.m.; East Side, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

More information can be found at ecsc.k12.in.us.

Museum exhibit open

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

The Johnson County Museum of History is at 135 N. Main St. in downtown Franklin. Regular hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. Unless noted, admission and activities are free. Information: 317-346-4500, johnsoncountymuseum.org.

NEWS

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DEADLINES

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PRACTICE MAKES PROTECTION

Local schools, police learn from past mass shootings

By Andy Bell-Baltaci

DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

At Edinburgh Community High School, officers took turns playing the role of a shooter, simulating different scenarios during which an officer might have to confront a school shooter and firing rounds of non-lethal ammunition, if the shooter attacked an officer.

The drills were part of active threat training on July 9, which tries to place officers in situations that resemble previous school attacks and critique their reactions, said Doyne Little, Edinburgh police chief.

"Once we're in there, we're taught to find the threat and stop the threat. We go to the threat," Little said. "(Students) know if there is an active shooter situation you run, hide and then fight. If they can't get out of the building, get the door barricaded and hide themselves."

The drills resemble prior school shootings in order to make the drills realistic, Deputy Chief Hector Mercado said.

"They're scenarios that have happened with other departments," Mercado said. "The point of this is to train officers realistically, sometimes you'll have to engage an individual by yourself. The point is, as long as you're doing some of the right things, you might be able to talk that person down. Some of these scenarios teach officers to handle a barricaded subject or a hostage situation and it helps officers make split second decisions without command there. Seconds count, lives matter, officers have to be able to do all these things themselves. That's the point of practicing these drills."

During the most recent school year, there were 27 school shootings reported around the country. During the 2020-21



PHOTO BY ANDY BELL-BALTACI | DAILY JOURNAL

Edinburgh Police Department Officer Skylar Condra aims a weapon July 9 at Edinburgh Community High School during active threat training.

school year, there were 34 school shootings, a record, according to Education Week. The most recent school shooting happened in Uvalde, Texas, and the shooter killed 19 children.

Similar active shooter training occurred last month at Clark-Pleasant schools. Clark-Pleasant Police Chief Chad Pryce said the drills build confidence among officers so a situation like the one seen in Uvalde, where officers failed to apprehend the shooter while he killed students, doesn't happen locally. At the Clark-Pleasant training, 22 officers from Center Grove Police Department, Franklin Police Department and Franklin Township school police trained together, Pryce said.

"It's crawl-walk-run. It's a slow pace at the beginning and then there's a larger scenario. It helps build their confidence and knowledge base so they know what to

do and how and when to do it," Pryce said. "There are real-life scenarios at the end of training to accomplish what they want to accomplish."

At Clark-Pleasant, the 2018 Noblesville West Middle School shooting served as a wake-up call.

The school district quickly put a referendum on the ballot to increase school safety through a property tax hike, which won over the majority of voters in Clark and Pleasant townships. The successful referendum resulted in the creation of the Clark-Pleasant Police Department, which has seven full-time officers and safe visitor entries, meaning just one entry at each building isn't locked and that entry requires check in for visitors, Pryce said.

"That's the biggest part of Clark-

OBITUARIES

INDIANAPOLIS

Janice Riley

Janice Kay Riley, 75, of Indianapolis passed away on June 24, 2022. She was born on Jan. 26, 1947 to Lawrence and Etta Miller. Survivors include daughter, Lisa Gates Kluesener; son, Robert Brent Gates and wife Sylvia; grandsons, Jordon Gates, Steven Kluesener, Nathan Kluesener; step-granddaughter Stephanie Smith; sister, Judy Corbridge; nieces and a nephew. She is also survived by her beloved dog, Bodacious!

Jan spent the first 19 years of her life in Edinburgh attending all 12 years of school there. After the class of 1965 went on their class trip to New York, Jan knew she wanted to see as much of the world as possible.

She has lived many places over the years, spending most of her working career in retail management and insurance sales. The last several years, she has lived in Florida enjoying the sunshine and the beautiful sunsets and entertaining family anytime they could visit.

However, as death grew imminent, Jan wanted to come home to "where it all started." So not only is she now at peace with her Heavenly Father, she is home in Edinburgh and was laid to rest at Rest Haven Cemetery on July 16, 2022.

A funeral service was conducted by



RILEY

Pastor Jim Hudson at Eskew-Eaton Funeral Home in Edinburgh.

EDINBURGH

Dennis Stillions

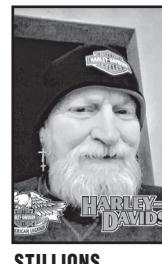
Dennis Richard Stillions, 70 of Edinburgh, passed away on July 14, 2022 at his residence. He was born March 7, 1952 in Bloomington. He was the son of Richard L. and Juanita (Waldrich) Stillions and they preceded him in death.

He is survived by his loving wife, Patricia Clark Stillions; children, Dennis Richard (Elizabeth) Stillions Jr. of Pasadena, Maryland, Ricky (Anna) Stillions of Burnsville, North Carolina, Denise Stillions of Montevideo, Minnesota, Joe Stillions of Phoenix, Arizona; grandchildren, Meghan, Matthew, Payton, Hunter, Jordan and La'Kayla; brother, Scott (Charlene) Stillions of Concord, North Carolina; sister, Renee (Ernie) Sluss of Orleans, Indiana; and several nieces.

Dennis was a U.S. Navy veteran. He served on the USS Saratoga off the coast of Vietnam. He enjoyed camping, mushroom hunting, fishing and riding his motorcycle with his wife.

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

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



STILLIONS

GOOD OLD DAYS

75 years ago: Edinburg's Clarence Ross announces that he has received word from Postmaster General Robert Hannegan that he has been named Postmaster for Edinburg.

70 years ago: The Edinburg Methodist Church congregation gives a reception for members and the public for their new minister, the Rev. Jerome Hyde, and Mrs. Hyde.

65 years ago: Edinburg swimming pool manager-lifeguard Richard Moomaw announces that attendance there was a season-high 321 swimmers at the pool.

60 years ago: Edinburg baseball boys: Rex Grindstaff, Bill Dunigan, Howard Burton, Bruce Colglazier and Ronnie Leohr work out with the Indianapolis Indians.

55 years ago: John Bowers clubs two extra base hits and Kevin Stubblefield added one as the Trojans defeat the Hawks, 21-10, in the Edinburg Little League.

50 years ago: Chief John Big Tree of the Seneca tribe, the model for the Indian head buffalo nickel, dies at the age of 102 on the Onondaga reservation.

Edinburgh Courier

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Tri Kappa seeking queen contestants for Fall Festival

informative meeting in August that all contestants must attend.

All contestants will participate in the Fall Festival Parade. The queen will receive a tiara and roses as well as \$500 and the runner up will receive \$300. All contestant will receive a gift from Tri Kappa. Participants can also use this experience as a community service project when filling out college and scholarship applications.

Proceeds are used for the charitable causes that Tri Kappa supports in the Edinburgh community such as RIF, scholarships, field trips, eye and dental care for children, and many more.

Master Gardeners offer help during Johnson County Fair

The booth will be open 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. through Friday, and 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday in Fitzpatrick Hall.

Though they can't guarantee they'll have an answer to every query brought their way, the gardeners will use the resources to try.

"We may not know everything that people bring in, we can take it to the Extension office and get help from them," Sisson said.

Sign-up sheets also will be available for people who would like to sign up for master gardener classes and the Johnson County Garden Club.

AT THE PARKS

Edinburgh Parks & Recreation

722 Eisenhower Drive

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

Info/to register: Tracy Beier at 812-526-3535, ext. 3, or tbeier@edinburgh.in.us

- A fall league is being offered for all boys and girls ages 3-18.

Registrations will be taken until Aug. 6.

Games begin the week of Aug. 22,

T-ball is ages 3-4, one game a week. \$30

Midgets is ages 5-6, one game a week.

\$30

8U-12U for boys and girls 6-12 yrs old, one double header a week. \$40

HS division for boys and girls ages 13 and over, one double header a week. \$40

Individuals will be placed on a team. Outside teams can register as a whole as

well (\$375). No "A" travel teams are allowed to participate.

- Text EPARKS to 36000 to receive texts about scheduled events, programs, rainouts and cancellations.

Johnson County Park

2949 E. North St., Nineveh

Hours: Monday through Friday: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturdays (April-October), 8 a.m. to noon

Aug. 13: Movie in the Park

Aug. 20: Car show

Sept. 24: Movie in the Park

Indiana Live Steamers offers public rides noon to 4 p.m. the third Saturday of the month May through October (except August.) \$4 per person.

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

COMMUNITY CHATTER

Aquatic center

The Edinburgh Aquatic Center, 220 Harrell Drive, will remain open until July 31.

Adult swim is 10 a.m. to noon Tuesdays through Fridays; free family swimming is 5-6 p.m. daily.

Due to staff shortages, hours for the final week of operation are:

July 25-29: Adult swim only, 10 a.m. to noon

July 30-31: Public swimming, noon to 6 p.m. Free family swimming, 5-6 p.m.

General admission for in-town residents is \$2 for ages 4-17 and \$3 for adults. Out-of-town residents is \$4 for kids and \$5 for adults. Admission for 60 and older and military is \$2. All children 3 years or younger are admitted free. A swim diaper must be worn even if the child is potty-trained.

Aqua Zumba classes are conducted at 6:45 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Cost is \$5 per class.

Free Fishing Days

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources' final free fishing day is Sept. 24. On free fishing days, Hoosiers can fish without a license.

The program applies to all public waters in Indiana. You can find public places to fish at on.IN.gov/where2fish.

Farmers market

The Edinburgh Farmers Market runs on Thursdays 4-7 p.m. through Sept. 28 at the John R Drybread Community Center, 100 E. Main Cross St.

Applications for vendors are available at the center.

Pizza at Legion

The American Legion Auxiliary sells freshly 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.

Nineveh Senior Center

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

July 27: Craft event: decorating cups, 3-4 p.m.

July 27: Dinner will be provided by Church of the Lakes, 4-5 p.m. All are invited for a meal of soup and sandwiches and fellowship with them and other members here.

Aug. 2: Computer Class, 6-7 p.m. LaDonna Elmore from Nineveh Christian Church will teach how to use the computer, the smart TV or the DVD player, surf the internet or use email.

Aug. 12: Shanghai and euchre, 9-11 a.m. Aug. 12: Phone Class, 10 a.m. to noon. Class is about 20 minutes long. Bring phone and questions.

Aug. 12: Pitch-in luncheon and members meeting, noon to 1:30 p.m. Blood pressure checks by Tiffany Creech of Franklin Meadows.

Aug. 15: Box lunches will be provided by Franklin Meadows, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Aug. 15: Bingo with prizes, 1-3 p.m. Free coffee provided, pop and water for sale.

Aug. 20: Ice Cream Social at Johnson County Park car show, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be homemade ice cream, homemade cobblers, brownies and pies.

Aug. 24: Craft event, 3-4 p.m.

Regular activities:

- Mondays: Shanghai, 9 a.m.-noon; ping pong, 9:30-11:30 a.m. (See John if interested)

- Wednesdays, euchre, 4:30 p.m.
- Thursdays, bid euchre, 6 p.m.

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

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

July 30: Lloyd Wood Night and Friends (country, impersonations, comedy)

Aug. 13: Magician Jordan Rooks, \$15

Aug. 20: Kevin Stonerock

Sept. 16: Katherine Nagy & Tim Wright and Friends (country)

Nov. 13: Fairy Tale Theater musical, 2:30 p.m. Freewill donation

Free meals at library

Two Shirts Kitchen, sponsored by Edinburgh Church of the Nazarene, is an opportunity for individuals, couples, friends and families to enjoy a warm meal at no cost. All are welcome regardless of income. The monthly meals are usually served the last Thursday of the month, 6-7:30 p.m., in the community room at Edinburgh Wright-Hageman Public Library.

Meals are carryout only at this time. Go to the back door by the community room.

Recycling in Edinburgh

The Edinburgh Recycling Depot is at the Transfer Station, 701 W. River Road. Hours are Tuesdays and Fridays, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturdays, 8-11 a.m. Closed on holidays.

Accepted items are flattened cardboard, clean plastic bottles and jugs, clean food and beverage cans, and mixed paper, newspapers, magazines and paperboard. Wet paper or cardboard or dirty items will not be accepted.

The site does not accept electronics, large quantities of cardboard, glass of any kind, plastic bags or items from businesses. Some of these items can be taken to Johnson County Recycling at 900 Arvin Road, Ste. A, Franklin.

Recycling in Franklin

The Johnson County Recycling Service Center is at 900 Arvin Road, Ste. A, Franklin. It is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and the second and fourth Saturdays of each month from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Information about the Recycling Service

Center (including electronics recycling and all other items accepted), can be found at jcrd.org or by calling 317-738-2546.

The Johnson County Tox Box is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 1051 Hospital Road, Franklin. Household cleaning supplies, yard and pool chemicals, automotive fluids, oil-based paint (latex paint not accepted) and stain can be brought to Tox Box. The Tox Box is for county residents only. Items from businesses, contractors or small-quantity generators not accepted.

Unused medicine

A medication drop-off site is in the Edinburgh Police Department lobby, 200 S. Main St. Leave expired or unused prescription and over-the-counter drugs in original containers, if possible. No questions asked.

Food pantries

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. Face masks are required inside the pantry. Check the Edinburgh Drybread Community Center on Facebook for updates and other information.

"Blessing boxes" are also available at the Edinburgh Aquatic Center and the Edinburgh Wright-Hageman Public Library. The boxes provide basic nonperishable items. Anyone who has a need is free to take from the box, and people are invited to contribute items to the box.

A "Blessing House" self-serve food pantry is located at the German Township Fire Department, 9428 Main St., in Taylorsville. People who need help may come by any time and select from the nonperishable food. Anyone wishing to contribute may leave food donations inside the pantry. For more information, visit blessinghouseministry.org/donate/.

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WHO SO EVER WILL

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BACK TO SCHOOL

MESSAGE FROM THE LEADER



Ron Ross
Superintendent

Greetings, Lancer families,
The Edinburgh Community School Board, administration, faculty and staff are excited to celebrate the start of the 2022-2023 school year with our students and families. The first day of school will be on Thursday, July 28, 2022. This is my second year as the superintendent at Edinburgh Community Schools. It was an honor to meet so many of you over the course of the last year and I look forward to meeting many more of you this coming school year.

Every start to the school year is exciting! We are hopeful that Covid is behind, and we can truly get back to normal.

People often ask me why educators are so busy in the summer. We are diligently preparing for the fall. Our administrators, teachers and staff have worked throughout the summer to prepare for the school year ahead. If our hard work is any indica-

tion of the type of school year we will have, I know it is going to be a momentous year.

Although Covid appears to be behind us, we are still required to have protocols in place. They are the least restrictive requirements that we are required to have in place. You can find them on our webpage if you would like to review them. We will continue to thoroughly clean our buildings and disinfect commonly touched surfaces.

Last year we welcomed back many of the activities and traditions that had been limited or eliminated due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This year we are hopeful to welcome back any and all traditions that have been limited or eliminated over the past couple of years.

Our wonderful team of educators have worked to develop plans to identify students who need extra support and provide additional assistance as needed. It is our belief that students learn best in a

classroom receiving in-person instruction from their teachers and support staff. Covid has changed our world and we realize that some families may have needs that require students to attend virtually. We have plans in place to support these students and families on a case-by-case basis but are going to require some in-person check-ins for accountability purposes.

Please visit our webpage for additional information: <https://www.ecsc.k12.in.us/>

We value and appreciate the meaningful relationships that we have with our students, families, and the Edinburgh community. We are looking forward to strengthening and expanding those relationships during the upcoming school year to provide the best opportunities for our students!

We are so excited for the new school year! We cannot wait to see everyone this fall!

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Administration

Superintendent of schools: Ron Ross,
RRoss@ecsc.k12.in.us

Business Manager: Tammy Lewis
Deputy Treasurer: Carrie Brown
Director of Facilities and Maintenance,

Transportation: Gary Hill

Athletic Director: David Walden

Buildings

Administration Office
202 S. Keeley St.

Edinburgh, IN 46124

Phone: 812-526-2681

Fax: 812-526-0271

Principal: Kevin Rockey,
krockey@ecsc.k12.in.us

Assistant principal: Cory Sevier,
csevier@ecsc.k12.in.us

Website

www.ecsc.k12.in.us

School hours

Elementary: 8 a.m. to 2:40 p.m. (All-day kindergarten and Grades 1-5)

Middle and high school: 8:05 a.m. to 3:12 p.m.

Book fees

Kindergarten: \$148

First grade: \$166

Second grade: \$159.50

Third grade: \$157.50

Fourth grade: \$154

Fifth grade: \$160

Essential Skills: \$100-\$180

Sixth grade to 12th grade: book rental is based on classes taken.

(A \$35 deposit for book fees is required at registration.)

(SEE SCHOOL, PAGE 6)



500 Memorial Drive
Edinburgh, IN



STARS & STRIPES PROGRESSIVE RAFFLE
JACKPOT Next Drawing July 22nd for \$6,672.50



Tickets must be purchased prior to drawing at 9pm
Masks are optional for all members and their guests.

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Friday July 22nd • 11am til 2pm

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July 24th • Noon till 7pm

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Practice

FROM PAGE 1

Pleasant being proactive, creating the police department," Pryce said. "From there with the chief of police, making them the school safety specialist puts me in a position to organize, plan and train anyone who might be involved in school safety, beyond just the police department. It's all part of the referendum, we have two full-time employees monitor cameras throughout the day."

Those cameras have about 1,400 angles and views of Clark-Pleasant schools, he said.

Center Grove schools, which has had a police department since 2007 and has six officers, opened its emergency operations center in January. The center includes offices, K9 kennels, a security camera monitoring room and space for sheriff's office deputies. The center is one of the most recent security efforts at the school district, said Bill Long, assistant superintendent of operations.

"At the Emergency Operations Center, we can monitor over 700 cameras, and we control access to all our buildings," Long said. "We screen guests when they come in and all our classrooms can lock down remotely."

In the wake of a school shooting in Uvalde, Franklin schools presented on its safety plans during its June school board meeting.

During the presentation, operations director Jeff Sewell discussed the school district's relationship with local law enforcement. Unlike at Center Grove and Clark-Pleasant schools, Franklin schools does not have its own police department.

"The tragedy in Texas prompted questions about our safety structures. The foundation of our philosophy is school is a safe space for kids to grow and reach their



potential. It takes a community effort and diligence to do that," Sewell said. "We collaborate closely with the Franklin Police Department and the Johnson County Sheriff's Department, which provide police powers to our school resource officers. That partnership remains strong and we have a great partnership with the 911 center, and 24/7 monitoring of our anonymous reporting line. There are timely responses if anything of emergency nature comes through."

The school district is also working on replacing exterior doors, adding security cameras and participating in multi-district disciplinary exercises, such as the active threat training at Edinburgh.

Indian Creek schools started its school resource officer program three years ago, and the school district has added exterior cameras to cover more of campus, said Tim Edsell, superintendent.

"Our (school resource officers) know our buildings incredibly well and they're able to make quick, effective decisions and we have a lot of faith and trust in them," he said.

One of the most important ways to prevent a school shooting, however, is to catch the warning signs in students, Long said.

"We've partnered with Community Health and have mental health counselors in our buildings. We train staff on how to be aware of students. We have a suicide checklist that our counselors have been trained on to figure out how kids are threatening to hurt themselves or others," Long said. "We've added additional social workers throughout our school corporation and a director of mental health and counseling."

Indian Creek schools are funding these programs from general fund budget because the community didn't pass a referendum to pay for mental health services.

SCHOOL NOTEBOOK

College notes

Ainsley Ross of Edinburgh was named to the dean's list at Rochester Institute of Technology.

Angie Aguilar, Lillian Jordyn Beatty, Shelbi Callahan, Marissa Christine Davis, Grace Elizabeth Kindred and Hannah Marie Pace, all of Edinburgh, were named to the dean's list for the spring 2022 semester at IUPUC.

Athletic physicals

This year's second round of free athletic physicals is being offered today from 1



PHOTOS BY ANDY BELL-BALTACI | DAILY JOURNAL

Above: From left, Edinburgh Police Department Officer Ian Tressler and Officer Phillip Hayes aim their weapons during active threat training at Edinburgh Community High School. **At left:** A weapon used during the training fires "simmunition," a nonlethal ammunition used for drills.

Ready to move your career to the next level?

Walk in Wednesday for an interview with JMH.

Wednesdays, 8am - 3pm

Stop by the info desk in the Main Entrance rotunda, corner of West Jefferson Street and Drake Road. No appointment necessary; please bring a current resume.

View current openings at JohnsonMemorial.org/careers or scan this code:



JM
JOHNSON
MEMORIAL
HEALTH

N.3510856



School

FROM PAGE 4

Meal prices

School will return to meals being paid based on household income as the USDA stopped free meals as of June 30.

East Side Student Breakfast \$1.50, Student Lunch \$3.00

Middle/High School Student Breakfast \$1.55, Student Lunch \$3.10.

After-school care

Edinburgh Parks & Rec offers a Before & After School Enrichment Program at its Rec Center for East Side Elementary School students. Registration is now open to all students entering kindergarten through fifth grade at East Side. Spaces are limited for this program. The program provides students with a safe and fun learning environment with snacks and homework time. Transportation is provided to and from the school.

The costs: (Prices are per child)

For A.M. or P.M. only:

Registration: \$60

Weekly fee: \$35

Total cost due at sign up: \$95

For A.M. and P.M.:

Registration: \$100

Weekly fee: \$50

Total cost due at sign up: \$150

Information: Elissa Day, 812-526-3535.

Registration

Registration for all three schools can be done online on the school website: www.ecsc.k12.in.us.

Open houses

Open houses are July 26; middle/high school, 5-6 p.m., elementary, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Board of school trustees

Daniel Teter, president

Cathy Hamm, vice-president

David Bauman, secretary

Curtis Rooks, member

Alice Taulman, member

Board meetings are the third Monday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Administrative Office, 202 S. Keeley St., Edinburgh

Calendar

2022

July 26-27: Teacher professional development/orientation

July 28: First student day

Sept. 5: Labor Day

Sept. 30: End of first nine weeks.

Oct. 3-14: Fall break

Nov. 23-25: Thanksgiving break

Dec. 16: End of first semester

2023

Jan. 3: Teacher records day, half day

Jan. 4: Second semester begins

Jan. 16: MLK Day (snow makeup day if needed)

Feb. 20: Presidents Day

March 10: End of third nine weeks

March 13-17: Spring break (snow makeup days if needed)

March 20-24: Spring break, protected days

March 27: Students resume classes

April 7: Good Friday (snow makeup day if needed)

May 29: Memorial Day

May 31: Last student day

June 1: Teacher records day

June 3: Graduation

Johnson County Council proposes .2% tax increase for road projects

By Emily Ketterer

DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

People who live and work in Johnson County could soon be paying more in income taxes to help overcome a major shortfall in road funding.

The Johnson County Council is considering a .2% Economic Development Income Tax (EDIT), which would increase what those who work within the county pay in taxes on their adjusted gross income from 1.2% to 1.4%.

A tax increase is one step in a long solution meet the county's road funding shortfall. A funding needs report compiled by the Johnson County Highway Department in March found the county needed to come up with about \$390 million to pay for necessary road improvements over the next several years.

From Interstate 69 major access roads to aging concrete streets in subdivisions, Johnson County has a long list of road projects and not enough funds to get them done, according to the report and Luke Mastin, highway supervisor.

The report from March had concluded that the county is at a crossroads for road and bridge project funding and it needs an additional funding source.

If approved, a .2% EDIT would give the county \$4 million in additional revenue each year starting in 2023 to put toward road projects. For an individual who makes \$35,000 per year, for example, they would pay an additional nearly \$6 in local income taxes with the new tax.

This type of tax falls under the umbrella of local income taxes, also known as LITs, that were created by the state legislature to allow counties to adjust income taxes to create revenue streams for local governments. An EDIT can be used to fund economic development projects, including capital projects like road construction.

Because of caps on property taxes, most counties in Indiana have taken advantage of EDIT as another stream of revenue. Seventy-three counties have imposed an EDIT.

However, the \$4 million that would come in each year still would not be enough to fund all the road projects needed in Johnson County, officials say. Funding will still have to be pulled from other revenue streams.

The council also plans to repurpose a portion of the revenue from the LIT passed in 2019 to fund the Johnson County Jail expansion to free up money to pay for road projects. The Jail LIT, as it is referred to by county officials, was passed in 2019 and increased income taxes in the county by .2% as well. The revenue from that tax is being used to pay off the debt for the jail construction — which will be paid off in 2025 — as well as jail operating expenses and other criminal-justice related expenses.

A current plan on the table includes passing the .2%

EDIT increase, and moving 50% of the jail operating expenses to jail LIT. Those expenses are currently being funded by county's general fund; that will free up over \$3.6 million in the general fund in 2023 and over \$4 million after 2025 when the jail expansion is paid off.

The council also plans to pull \$1.5 million this year and next year from its rainy day fund to get some road projects started.

That still would not fund every need, but would allow for construction of what have been deemed "priority projects." Those projects mostly include reconstructing access roads to I-69, particularly Smith Valley Road.

Officials plan to add travel lanes on Smith Valley Road and State Road 144 — a high-priority project expected to cost \$55 million.

Other priorities include reconstructing and possibly widening Morgantown Road, extending Mullinx Road north of Smith Valley Road to connect to Bluff Road, and creating a new road between Stones Crossing and Olive Branch roads, according to the report.

Smith Valley Road already will not be complete by the time the I-69 overpass there opens in 2024, Mastin said. It is a priority to get that started as soon as possible because of the increased traffic flow expected.

The EDIT doesn't just benefit the county, it would also be dispersed among the cities and towns in the county. Greenwood and Franklin would take in around \$2 million each year from the tax, while the towns of Edinburgh and Bargersville would bring in \$335,000 and \$370,000, respectively. New Whiteland would bring in \$149,000, Whiteland \$138,000, Trafalgar \$56,000 and Prince's Lakes \$55,000.

The .2% EDIT tax increase passed the council on first reading by a vote of 6-1 last Monday evening, with council member Melinda Griesemer voting against it.

Griesemer said she did not think now was the time to increase taxes when people are grappling with inflation and other financial hardships as a fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Indicators are showing that we're still going into where the next few years we're going to be facing some hard times," Griesemer said. "We're not out of the woods with the whole downfall of COVID."

Council member Jim Ison said he and the rest of the council recognize the concern that people are generally paying more for everyday items now. However, the county needs to act on this funding problem, he said.

"If not now when? If not us, who?" Ison said. "The county infrastructure is failing and it is way overdue."

The tax increase proposal will come before the council again for a final vote at its next meeting at 6 p.m. Aug. 8. A public hearing where residents can share their thoughts on the proposal is also scheduled for that meeting.

NEWS ROUNDUP

DAILY JOURNAL AND REPUBLIC STAFF REPORTS

Shooting Range looking for vendor

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is soliciting expressions of interest from anyone who wishes to be considered for operating concessions at the Atterbury Shooting Range Complex at the Atterbury Fish & Wildlife Area in southern Johnson County. The concession agreement is for a four-year term, from Jan. 1, 2023 to Dec. 31, 2026, according to DNR.

The request is not a invitation to bid nor is it a request for proposals under the Indiana Procurement Code, officials said.

Those who are interested in operating the concession stand are requested to submit a proposal to DNR. The proposal has to be submitted no later than 3 p.m. on Aug. 26 by mail or in person at the Atterbury Fish & Wildlife Area office, 7970 S. Rowe St., Edinburgh.

To learn more, contact property manager Ray Shepard at Atterbury Fish & Wildlife. To contact Atterbury Fish & Wildlife, call 812-526-2051.

ILEARN remain below pre-pandemic levels

While schools saw slight improvements in ILEARN test results this year, student proficiency still lags behind pre-pandemic levels.

The ILEARN test was given to Hoosier students in 2019, when the state moved away from ISTEP+ in favor of the new test. The testing focuses on math and English Language Arts, or ELA, sections for third

through eighth grade. Students also take science and social studies tests at some grade levels.

Edinburgh schools had the lowest proficiency level of any county school district, and the only school district with scores lower than the state average. This year, just 28.6% of students met standards in ELA and 29.5% of students were proficient in math, while 18.1% reached the cutoff score in both sections. All three categories were more than 10% lower than they were on the 2019 exam, according to the data.

Edinburgh administrators are committed to raising scores. They have monthly meetings to discuss academic progress, said Ron Ross, superintendent of Edinburgh schools.

"We are disappointed in the results, but student achievement data never tells the full story," he said in an email. "This is particularly true when you consider what our students and staff have been through since March of 2020. The learning loss over that time is difficult to measure, but it is undeniably present. Edinburgh Community Schools are focusing on growth more than ever before."

Toxic chemicals found at Atterbury

Camp Atterbury has confirmed that contractors have detected toxic "forever chemicals" linked to cancer, low birth weight and an array of other health problems in the groundwater on the training base near Edinburgh.

The camp joins a growing list of military bases across the country that have been contaminated with compounds known as PFAS, which are a class of human-made compounds that have been used in countless consumer and industrial products.

JAIL BOOKINGS

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

Aaron Michael Chandler, 29, Edinburgh; arrested on charges of domestic battery with a deadly weapon and domestic battery knowing in the presence of a child; held without bond.

Reba K. Garrette, 27, Edinburgh; arrested on a charge of probation violation; held without bond.

Justin Cole Underwood, 29, Edinburgh; released on \$500 bond.

Michael Gene Adair Jr., 46, Edinburgh; arrested on a charge of bond forfeiture; held without bond.

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

Charles A. Denton, Jr., 32, Edinburgh, arrested on a Bartholomew County warrant; \$60,000 bond.

RESTAURANT INSPECTIONS

The information below was compiled from reports of the health departments of Bartholomew and Johnson counties. Critical violations may expose customers to illnesses and typically must be corrected immediately or within days. Noncritical violations, if not corrected, could lead to critical violations or make critical violations more likely to occur.

Comfort Inn

11711 North U.S. 31, Edinburgh
June 23

Critical violations: 1

Automatic ware-washing machine not being operated. Only 2-bay sink provided in for food service/ware-washing area. One bay of 2-bay sink dedicated to handwashing sink, leaving only one bay of sink for ware-washing. All equipment must be washed, rinsed and sanitized using alternative ware-washing method described in Section 270 until such time as the automatic ware-washing machine is operational or additional sinks installed.

Hilton Garden Inn

12210 N. Executive Drive, Edinburgh
June 30

Critical violations: None

Noncritical violations: 4

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In

Worship

Alone My Soul Waits

62 Once God has spoken twice have I heard it that power belongs to thee, O steadfast love.

63 A Psalm of David, when he was in the Wilderness of Judah.

64 Hear my con-

65 Praise is due to thee, O God, in Zion;

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