

WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 10, 2022



FREE



Sports previews

See this week's athletic schedule and read what local sports reporters think is in store for this fall.

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Edinburgh Courier

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"Men are from Earth, women are from Earth. Deal with it."

— George Carlin

WHAT'S UP?

Turn the Town Purple

A community event to remember those who have died from overdose, as well as to provide resources and information about recovery from substance use disorder is set for Aug. 27, 6-10 p.m. at Irwin Park.

Organized by Recover Out Loud, activities include a kickball game between members of Recover Out Loud and Edinburgh first responders, live entertainment by Twisted Tiara and Jim Jam and the Scrim Scrams, food, a bounce house, games, resources, testimonials and more.

An overdose awareness walk through the town will be held at 7 p.m. and a ceremonial lantern release is scheduled for 10 p.m.

To get involved or to help sponsor the event, contact Misty Hogan at 463-201-6522.

Keys for Cancer drive

The Edinburgh Lions Club is conducting their annual Keys for Cancer drive. Unwanted keys will be collected outside the Edinburgh Lions Club, by Edinburgh Scout Troop 209 on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Calling all cooks

The Daily Journal's Southside Neighborhood Cookbook will be published Oct. 15 and is asking you to share your favorite recipes for publication.

Include your name, your hometown and a contact number in case we have questions.

Recipes can be sent via email to dj-recipes@dailyjournal.net or mailed to Daily Journal c/o Cookbook, PO Box 699, Franklin IN 46131 or brought to 30 S. Water St., second floor Ste. A, Franklin.

Please submit your recipes by Sept. 16.

NEWS

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DEADLINES

Display ads5 p.m. Wednesday
News9 a.m. Monday
Library drop boxnoon Wednesday

CIRCULATION 317-736-2777



Join the festival fun

The 2022 Edinburgh Fall Festival will be held Sept. 14-17 at various downtown sites. Many of the events will tie in with Edinburgh's yearlong bicentennial celebration.

Organizers are asking for participants or registration in the various contests held during the festival

Festival Prince and Princess

Registration will be conducted Aug. 15-26 for the Lions Club's Fall Festival Prince and Princess contest.

Registration forms will be available at the Edinburgh Wright-Hagemen Public Library and the John R. Drybread Community Center.

Registration is open to 3, 4 and 5-year-olds living in Edinburgh and surrounding areas. 5-year-olds may not turn 6 prior to Sept. 18. Only one child per family may register unless they are twins.

The first eight girls and eight boys to register will be accepted. The Lion's Club reserves the right to cancel the event if there is a lack of interest.

The 2022 Prince & Princess will be crowned on Sept. 17 following the Fall Festival Parade.

Each registered child will receive a ride bracelet and at the completion of contest, a \$50 Build-A-Bear gift card and an 8-by-10 framed picture.

Prince and Princess winners will receive a grand prize and the runners-up will receive a runner-up prize.

A gift card will be given for best decorated canister.

Information: Cathy Hamm, 812-343-4352

Parade

The Fall Festival Parade is set for Sept. 17. The 1.2 mile route starts at the ECHS Sports Complex through historic downtown and Main Cross Streets and ends at East

Side Elementary.

Top three floats win cash prizes of \$300, \$200 and \$100.

Forms are available at www.edinburgh.in.us or at the John R. Drybread Community Center.

Fall Festival queen

Registration is now open for the 66th Annual Fall Festival Queen Contest. The queen will be crowned Sept. 17.

Registration forms are available in the Edinburgh Community High School main office, the John R. Drybread Community Center or by contacting 317-661-0600.

To be a candidate, girls must be:

Between the ages of 13-19, single and never married

Enrolled in school or a recent high school graduate

A resident of Edinburgh, Johnson County or the surrounding area

Previous contestants can run again, but not previous queens. There will be a 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.

Past Festival queens are invited to join the parade. Call 317-661-0600 for details.

Red Cloud 5K Trot

The Inaugural Red Cloud 5K Trot will kick off at 8 a.m. Sept. 17 at the John R. Drybread Community Center. The route begins in downtown Edinburgh, goes through Timbergate golf course and returns to downtown.

Register through the community center facebook page. Deadline is Aug. 29 to register and receive a T-shirt.

Fees: Adult Runner/Walker with shirt \$20, without shirt, \$10; child under 12 with shirt, \$12, without shirt, \$5.

Participants all receive a medal, keepsake runners bib and post-race refreshments. Free breakfast will be available one block east at Presbyterian Church.

The event honors Edinburgh's equestrian history. Red Cloud was a racehorse from Edinburgh

that held the world record as a trotter in the 1870s. He's buried on North Walnut Street.

Other events

If you would like your event to appear in the weekly Fall Festival listing in the Courier, email the details to courier@dailyjournal.net.

Info: Amy May, 317-736-2726



OBITUARIES

EDINBURGH

Dustin Jackson

Dustin Lee Jackson, 36, of Edinburgh, passed away Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2022. He was born Sept. 25, 1985 in Franklin to Tony Jackson and Kimberly (Curry) Jackson.

Dustin attended Southwestern High School.

He worked in construction and was a certified welder.

Dustin loved playing video games and listening to music. He also had a love for art, which could be seen with his many tattoos. His greatest joy came from spending time with his family.

Dustin is survived by his daughters, Kennedy Jackson and Delaney Jackson; son, Drake Jackson; brother, Brandon Jackson (Elizabeth); sister, Brooke Kramer (Adam); several nieces and nephews; and his paternal grandparents, Lester and Reva Jackson.

He is preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Allen and Rita Curry; aunt, Tammy Shelton; and his beloved brother dog, Silas.

Visitation will be Tuesday, August 9, 2022 from 10am until noon at Murphy-Parks Funeral Service, 703 S. Harrison Street, Shelbyville, IN 46176.

Funeral services were Murphy-Parks Funeral Service in Shelbyville with Pastor Rick Davis officiating.

Funeral Directors Greg Parks, Sheila Parks, Stuart Parks and Darin Schutt are honored to serve Dustin's family.

Online condolences may be shared at www.murphy-parks.com.

COLUMBUS

Bobby Rhude

Bobby Gail Rhude, 89 of Columbus, Indiana passed away July 29, 2022 at his residence. He was born Jan. 31, 1933. He was the son of Marion David and Edell

(Miller) Rhude. He married Leona M. (Crawford) Rhude and she preceded him in death.

He is survived by his children, Kris (Tim) Smiley of Columbus and Peggy Rhude of Austell, Georgia; grandchildren, Jayson (Ashley) Smiley, Elliott (Katie) "Slick" Smiley, Hannah Smiley, Tami Saner, Monica (Brian) Boccia, Justin Plessinger, Heather (Matt) Nash, Joseph Ault, and Angela Rhude; great-grandchildren, Jayley Smiley, Reyce Smiley, Jaden Smiley, Erika Birga, Dustin Saner, Brittany Saner, Brandon Saner, Wyatt Plessinger, Emily Nash, Joshua Nash, Isabella Nash, Angela Rhude and Anthony Rhude; and great-great-grandchildren, Oliver Rhude, Tyler Birga, Timothy Birga and Trinity Birga.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife; sons, Jay E. Rhude, Clifford Rhude and Robin Rhude; daughter, Connie Crawford; brothers, Ted Rhude, Dean Rhude and David Keith Rhude; and sisters, Fran Beddingfield, Donna Giles, Shirley Dyke, June Andrews and Betty Williams.

Bobby was an Edinburgh High School graduate. He served in the U.S. Navy and was a member of the American Legion and the VFW of Columbus. He retired after 25-plus years as a supervisor for IBEW. He owned and operated Bob's 66 Service Station in Edinburgh.

He enjoyed spending time with his best friend, Bandit, his dog. He was a magical gardener and enjoyed canning his produce. He was a clock collector, particularly Coo-Coo and Grandfather clocks, and enjoyed playing poker and bingo.

A funeral service was conducted by Chaplin Rick Clayton 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.



JACKSON



RHUDE

MARRIAGE LICENSE

Jordan Huffer and Ronald Ross Jr. both of Edinburgh

Edinburgh Courier

A weekly publication serving the greater Edinburgh area.

Published by: Daily Journal
P.O. Box 699, Franklin, IN 46131

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GOOD OLD DAYS

70 years ago: Mr. and Mrs. Ita Smitha, owners of the new cafe named the Rotogrill on the intersection of U.S. 31 and State Road 252, open their business.

65 years ago: Ralph Lemley is named commander of the Edinburg American Legion replacing Jakie Knicely, who resigned due to outside duties.

60 years ago: Several students from the newly annexed area of Bartholomew County, including Green Acres and Cuba, attend their first day of school in Edinburg.

55 years ago: Allen Pendleton's two hits and Bill Cundiff's home run power the Hawks to a 14-5 victory over the Pirates in the Edinburg Little League Championship.

50 years ago: Robert L. Dalmbert, William R. Rogerson and Roscoe Ferguson open the Bob-O-Link package liquor store, located on U.S. 31 south of the IGA store.

45 years ago: Jerry Lee Burton will undergo a bone marrow transplant from his sister, Violetta Pruitt, for polyarteritis nodosa in a research center in Seattle, Washington.

COMMUNITY CHATTER

10-mile garage sale

The 10-mile-long garage sale is celebrating its 17th year. It will be held in conjunction with the Marietta Fish Fry on Aug. 26-27, beginning at 8 a.m. rain or shine.

The fish fry begins Friday evening and continues all day Saturday. Saturday is the main day for yard sales, but some sales may begin Friday.

To get to the sales from Edinburg, take State Road 252 east to County Line Road and turn left at the last road before the Shell station. The intersection will be marked with a large sign, and white arrows will point out the route.

Another route is to take U.S. 31 to Arthur's Roto Grill and turn east. Or use a GPS to 7478 W. 600S, Edinburg, for a starting point.

Homes along the road, as well as Greensburg Road, Marietta and Mount Auburn, will have garage sales.

Information: Stephanie, 317-378-0870

Nineveh rummage sale

The Nineveh Senior Center, 3208 Rodeo Drive, Johnson County Park (next to horse park), will have its annual rummage sale fundraiser and ham and bean dinner Sept. 23-24.

Friday hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturday hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Event includes the rummage sale, ham and beans, chili, hot dogs, plenty of homemade desserts and drinks for purchase.

Job Corps open house

Atterbury Job Corps Center will hold an open house Aug. 26, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Parents, prospective students and families are invited to explore the campus and learn what the program offers.

Information: 812-314-6250 or
AtterburyAdmissions@jobcorps.org

Halloween festival

Edinburg Halloween Festival 2022 will take place Oct. 28 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Edinburg Community High School.

Sponsored by Edinburg Parks and Recreation, the event includes trick or treating with area organizations and free hotdogs, walking tacos and drinks.

More details will be announced later.

Regular residential trick-or-treating will take place on Oct. 31, so families can participate in both events.

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.

Museum exhibit open

The Johnson County Museum of History's newest featured exhibit, "Edinburg: Johnson County's First Town," showcases Edinburg 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. Information: 317-346-4500, johnsoncountymuseum.org.

Farmers market

The Edinburg 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.

The Edinburg 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

Aug. 13: Magician Jordan Rooks, \$15

Aug. 20: Kevin Stonerock

Aug. 25: Recover Out Loud movie night
"The Addict's Wake," 6:30 p.m. Free.

SCHOOL NOTEBOOK

Before- and after-school sign-ups

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.

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.

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.

Homework help

Students struggling with math or science homework can get help from the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology's AskRose homework line. Rose-Hulman students are available 7-10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday during the school year to help students in Grades 6-12 review math and science concepts. Connections can be made at 877-ASK-ROSE (877-275-7673) or AskRose.org.

Board of school trustees

Members of the Edinburgh Community School Board are Cathy Hamm, Daniel Teter, Curtis Rooks, Alice Taulman and David Bauman.

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

Calendar

Sept. 5: Labor Day

Sept. 30: End of first nine weeks.

Oct. 3-14: Fall break

AT THE PARKS

Edinburgh Parks & Recreation

722 Eisenhower Drive

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

Info/to register: 812-526-3535, ext. 3, or parks.recreation@edinburgh.in.us

• Text EPARKS to 36000 to receive texts about scheduled events, programs, rain-outs 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, 8:30 p.m.

"Jumanji" popcorn provided

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 jocopark@co.johnson.in.us

ATHLETIC SCHEDULE

On Tap

Thursday

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

Varsity & JV volleyball at Indian Creek, scrimmage, 5:30 p.m.

Friday

Varsity football, at home vs. Indy Crimson Knights, scrimmage, 7 p.m.

Saturday

Varsity & JV volleyball at Morristown Classic, 9 a.m.

Varsity golf at Columbus East Invitational, 1:30 p.m.

Monday

Varsity golf at Triton Central, 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday

Varsity tennis at Southwestern, 5 p.m.

Varsity & JV volleyball at Jac-Cen-Del, 6 p.m.

SPORTS PREVIEWS

Boys cross country

Coach: Amy Schilling

Last season: Did not score as a team

Key returnees: Ethan Campbell, junior; Brian Callejas, sophomore

Top newcomers: Carson Cheek, senior; Irving Luis-Orozco, sophomore

Outlook: "We are still looking to talk more students into participating to have a full team," Schilling said. "We are just looking at improving times meet by meet and running as hard as we can individually. I believe Irving could really do well once he learns to pace himself and when to push."

Boys tennis

Coach: Pete Khensouri

Last season: 8-8, lost to Columbus North in first round of sectional

Key returnees: Max Blandford, senior; Austin Brockman, junior; Milas Burkman, sophomore

Top newcomers: Teddy Crawhorn, Braylon Lenkner and Bailey Totten, freshmen

Outlook: The upcoming season will be the third in a row with Blandford as the Lancers No. 1 singles player. He was 8-5 last fall, while Brockman, who was 10-4 at the third singles spot, is expected to move up to No. 2 singles. "We have a pretty young team, and it hasn't jelled together

yet," Khensouri said. "We're hoping by midseason that we're showing signs of progress."

Girls cross country

Coach: Amy Schilling

Last season: Did not score as a team

Key returnee: Alanna Hobbs, junior

Top newcomer: Shyleigh Goble, sophomore

Boys cross country

Volleyball

Coach: Kristi Allen

Last season: 9-21,

lost to Waldron in Class A sectional opener

Key returnees: Gracie

Crawhorn, senior; MacKenzie

Bieker, Zoe Sida, Kyah Streeval

and Jessica Walsh, juniors; Mia

Dodson, sophomore

Top newcomer: Kenna Streeval, freshman

Outlook: The Lancers have nearly everyone back from last season, including top hitters in Crawhorn, Sida, Walsh and Bieker and an established setter in Kyah Streeval, whose younger sister Kenna steps in at libero. Allen, an assistant a year ago, believes the team is in a solid place and should be able to improve its record if it can develop greater consistency. With a more experienced squad, that should be doable.



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Gardening can be a fun and teachable activity for kids

BY FAMILY FEATURES | PHOTO BY UNSPLASH

This year, as you tackle the garden tasks, find ways to get the youngest family members in on the action, too.

Not only is gardening an activity you can enjoy together, there are numerous ways to incorporate age-appropriate, teachable moments from counting and colors to responsible care of living things.

Creating a positive first experience with gardening can start with this simple advice:

JUNIOR GARDEN

Dedicate a spot for a junior garden, which allows you to instill a sense of pride and ownership in the little gardener while protecting your own garden areas from ambitious young hands.

PROVIDE TOOLS

Provide appropriate tools in child sizes. Just as you would teach a child the finer points of baseball using a bat and glove, demonstrate the joys of gardening with tools such as a rake, hoe and trowel, all of which can be found in sizes more manageable for little helpers.

LET THEM CHOOSE

Let the kids choose what to plant. Whether flowers or food plants, allow children to make their own decisions (within reason) about what they would like to grow. This can help them engage in the magic of watching items they

selected emerge from the ground and grow into their finished forms.

ENTICE THE SENSES

Encourage exposure to unfamiliar plants that entice the senses with appealing smells and flavors. Herbs such as chives, mint and basil are good choices, or consider edible flowers such as pansies or violets.

SET AN EXAMPLE

Set an example for your child to imitate by giving regular and proper care to your own garden.

ENJOY THE BOUNTY

Remember to bring the lesson full circle by enjoying the bounty of your garden together, whether it's a small hand-cut bouquet or a meal featuring your child's fresh-grown produce.



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Former queens invited to parade

The Edinburgh Fall Festival has chosen a queen since 1956. All past queens are invited to participate in this year's parade. Call 317-661-0600 for details.

- 1956 Wilma Burton
- 1957 Julie Hickey Richards
- 1958 Josephine Sanders Boyle
- 1959 Millie Baker. X
- 1960 Joyce Breeding
- 1961 Karlyn Thure
- 1962 Karen Henderson
- 1963 Mary Jane Marthin
- 1964 Melinda Long Burton
- 1965 Pat Kail
- 1966 Melinda Temperly Ward
- 1967 Jacklyn Landis
- 1968 Susan Richards Shepherd
- 1969 Norma Howard Hughes
- 1970 Ruth Roupp Belles
- 1971 Sheila Simpson
- 1972 Demesia Burton Harrison
- 1973 Pam Stapleton
- 1974 Regina Crawhorn
- 1975 Patricia Harmon Richardson
- 1976 Jeanine Cowan
- 1977 Phyllis Turner Burton
- 1978 Kim Seals Dellinger
- 1979 Phyllis Simpson Wisner
- 1980 Karen Taylor
- 1981 Teresa Bailey Conrad
- 1982 Sharon Wheat
- 1983 Lisa Burton
- 1984 Stacy Starnes Sterling
- 1985 Tammy Merchant



- 1986 Becky Rooks Harper
- 1987 Mary Beth Roush Bloomfield
- 1988 Stacey Campbell
- 1989 Misty Burris Hogan
- 1990 Christy Burton Mckitrick
- 1991 Anita Caldwell Hancock
- 1992 Andie Simpson
- 1993 Denisea Burton Nelson
- 1994 Jennifer Turner-Vincent
- 1995 Elizabeth Mayer Burton
- 1996 Kylie Kellams Poff
- 1997 Alicia Crawhorn Streeval
- 1998 Amanda Riddle
- 1999 Tammy Reid
- 2000 Angela Kelsay
- 2001 Jessica Burton Wallace
- 2002 Heather Swallows Angel
- 2003 Ashley Stillabower
- 2004 Kristy Cyrus
- 2005 Erica England Williams
- 2006 Emilee Owens
- 2007 Julia Ritter
- 2008 No queen contest held
- 2009 Crystal Rooks Boknecht
- 2010 Kyndra Hancock Biehle
- 2011 Aubrie Ritter
- 2012 Sydney Schlotter
- 2013 Madelyn Lucas
- 2014 Abigail Scrogam
- 2015 Maddy Gravelin
- 2016 Brittany Owens
- 2017 Lili Ervin
- 2018 Aaliyah Schmidt
- 2019 Jadya Burton
- 2020 Quarantine Queen Tracy Beier
- 2021 Serenity Duncan

SOFTBALL HONORS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Alix Streeval, Angel Carman, Jasmine Hester and Katie Hardman received varsity awards in softball. Carly Cowan received the Most Improved award. Pictured: Zaza Nelson, Mental Attitude Award; Alice Streeval; Kyah Streeval, Defensive Player of the Year/Captain; Gracie Crawhorn, Offensive Player of the Year; and MacKenzie Bieker, Most Valuable Player.

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'NOTHING CAN EVER PREPARE YOU'

Dispatchers detail handling calls, police response during mall shooting

By Noah Crenshaw
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

When the first calls about a shooting at the Greenwood Park Mall came into the Johnson County Emergency Communications Center on July 17, dispatchers were only just beginning their shift.

The B-shift, which is typically from 5:30 p.m. to 5:30 a.m., started as it typically does. Philip Hayes, B-shift night supervisor, came in early, around 4:40 p.m. as he usually does. Hayes, who's worked for 911 on and off since 2010, relieved the other shift supervisor. The two exchanged notes and then Hayes sat down, logged into his station and set the schedule for the night.

Six other dispatchers, and one trainee, came in. It was only about 25 minutes into the new shift before the first 911 calls came in, Hayes said.

"I heard the 911s ringing and looked just a pinch to the left at my phone screen and it was red — the whole screen. I was like, 'This is gonna be bad,'" Hayes said.

During a 30-minute period from 5:45 p.m. to 6:15 p.m., Johnson County 911 received about 98 calls. During the same time period a week prior, there were three total 911 calls made.

Johnson County dispatchers answered 65 of the calls, and 33 were automatically rolled over to Bartholomew County dispatchers. Bartholomew County dispatchers ultimately answered about 50 calls from Johnson County Sunday night.

The first 911 call Hayes took was from an employee at Blondie's Cookies, who said a person had been shot in the food court.

By the time the employees had a chance to call, the shooter was already down, Hayes said. It was only 15 seconds from the time the shooter opened fire until he was fatally shot by the armed bystander, Elisjscha Dicken, a 22-year-old from Seymour.

On the line with employees, Hayes began to ask specific questions about what they heard, if anybody was injured, how many people were with them, and if they were barricaded in a safe area.

Then Hayes told them to stay put until they saw an officer who could direct them somewhere else, he said.

"And then I just went on to the next call, the next call, the next call, the next call," Hayes said.

When dispatcher Amber Mercado



PHOTO BY NOAH CRENSHAW

Philip Hayes, B-shift night supervisor for Johnson County 911, works at his desk at the Johnson County Emergency Communications in Franklin. Hayes is also a reserve officer with Edinburgh Police Dept.

arrived for her shift, she was expecting a normal night monitoring Greenwood police's radio traffic, she said.

"I remember thinking like, oh, you know, maybe a bad accident or something, but never an active shooter," Mercado said. "Nothing can ever prepare you for that moment."

Mercado, a dispatcher with five years of experience, tried her best to navigate what other dispatchers were typing in the call notes. At one point very early on, she tried to answer one phone call to try to help, but once she realized it was an active shooter, she had to focus on radio traffic.

"My main focus was on my officers' safety, and just putting out the call and the description and where the shooter was last seen," she said. "Just trying to do that as quickly as possible so that way the officers were prepared when they showed up on scene."

At the moment, Mercado did not have time to pause. Officers' lives were in her hands, she said.

She pulled up a map of the mall, and using call notes, she relayed police information on the gunman's description and the location of victims and witnesses.

"I had an idea of where the food court was and where they were going to be entering, and I was just marking it off as they went and just trying to keep track of all that, so I didn't have a moment to pause," Mercado said. "I did not want any of my officers going in there blindsided so I gave them as much information that we had coming in as quickly as possible."

Every call Hayes took was different. Both employees and non-employees called and some were calm, others were not.

"I had heard that they had already gone through some training back in June for an active shooter mass incident, so it seems like it paid off. It seems like they retained a lot of that information," Hayes said.

Later, once the calls began winding down, dispatchers moved to delegating and listening to radio traffic because they had an abundance of officers on the county's radio channels. They split the traffic into separate channels when needed. At this point, it was about keeping track of resources, Hayes said.

However, Hayes did take another 911 call, this time regarding one of the reported injured — the 12-year-old girl who was hit by a bullet fragment as she was running to

the door. The girl made it all the way home before she found out she had shrapnel in her back. He had taken the call from her sister, he said.

"I thought, 'Oh, she's at the mall.' I was like, 'We got officers there,' and she's like, 'No, no. She's shot; she's here at the house.' And I was just kind of baffled," Hayes said.

Hayes treated it like any other medical call, asking for the girl's address and condition. She was later taken to the hospital where the fragment was removed.

They broke down the situation into simple pieces by following the basic dispatching principles: taking the call, getting information and going to the next call. All of the dispatchers Hayes was supervising were doing the same thing, he said.

"It kept as much chaos from spilling out from the dispatch center out onto the street," Hayes said.

Johnson County's mobile incident command getting to the scene as quickly as they did also helped, Hayes said. The vehicle was parked at the fairgrounds for the county fair, but once word of the shooting came in, it was packed up and sent to the mall, said Heath Brant, 911 director.

Mobile Command took over the main radio channel, allowing dispatchers to work quickly to answer calls, Hayes said. Dispatchers have trained for incidents like this, but for Hayes, he had an additional training on his mind. Hayes is a reserve officer for the Edinburgh Police Department and took part in an active threat training the department had earlier in July at the high school.

Hayes, his assistant supervisor and chief technology officer, all of who are on the communication center's Tactical Dispatching Team, have also gone to a National Emergency Number Association (NENA) training for incident command and mass casualty incidents.

Hayes credits Dicken for making the situation less dangerous and dispatchers' jobs easier. Since the gunman was neutralized so quickly, the situation had fewer unknowns, he said.

As officers were searching the mall in teams, they had no way to know if the gunman had a partner or something else planned. However, as more time passed, it more it seemed like the gunman was by himself, Hayes said.

Dicken shooting the gunman was a major reason why the incident wasn't worse, Hayes said.

"(If) it would have been the time

RECYCLING

Local residents can have their documents shredded and recycle electronics at an upcoming event.

Johnson County Recycling District and Shares, Inc. will host a document shredding and electronics collection event 9 a.m. to noon on Aug. 20 at 900 Arvin Road, in Franklin.

The event is free and open to Johnson County residents and businesses. Documents will be collected in locked containers and shredded off-site at Shares, Inc. in Shelbyville. Electronics will also be accepted, except for TVs and monitors.

The Johnson County Tox Box will also be open for residential use, 9 a.m. to noon by appointment only. Visit website, JCRD.org to set up your appointment time. Tox Box is located at 1051 Hospital Road, Franklin.

The following items will be taken free of charge at the Tox Box: household cleaning supplies, yard and pool chemicals, automotive fluids, poisons, aerosol cans, adhesives, oil-based paint and stain. No latex paint, batteries, or light bulbs will be accepted. Open for Johnson County residents only.

Information: 317-738-2546 or visit jcrd.org

Dispatchers

FROM PAGE 6

between him coming out of the bathroom and him meeting up with the face of an officer, that number probably would have been quadrupled (the number) that he would have been able to kill," he said.

Mercado did not process what happened until the day after when she was at home. In the moments after the shooting, she had an officer on the scene and was communicating with him. During this, more officers showed up, and once radio traffic came in that the gunman was down and they had his location, she switched gears.

"I just remember taking a deep breath and

was like, 'OK, now my focus needs to go to what stores have what victims and relaying that to the officers,' and that was a vital role (where) I had to come in and really communicate with my officers," she said.

When she did process it, it was a lot mentally and emotionally, she said. Mercado says she still doesn't know if she has fully processed what happened.

"Knowing that all my officers went home safe was very crucial, but your heart just sinks knowing that there were victims," she said.

Mercado said on her first day back to work since the shooting, she thanked the dispatchers who were working with her. She would have not been able to give any information to officers without their help.

NINEVEH SENIOR CENTER

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

Aug. 12: Shanghai and euchre, 9-11 a.m.

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: pizza luncheon provided by Compass Park, 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. 19: Commodity Supplemental Food Program, 10 a.m. to noon. The Center will distribute food boxes for those who have signed up and have been qualified. If you are interested, call 317-739-9999 to get an appointment to determine if you qualify for this program. You need to be a Johnson County resident, over 60 years of age and low income. SHIPP will be there to answer questions about Medicare savings program.

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. 31: Craft, 3-4 p.m. Decoupage boxes

Aug. 31: Dinner provided by Church of

the Lakes, 4-5 p.m.

Aug. 31: Caterpillar and United Way facility tour, 1-1:30 p.m.

Sept. 6: Computer class, 6-7 p.m.

Sept. 9: Shanghai and euchre, 9-11 a.m.

Sept. 9: Phone class, 10 a.m. to noon.

Sept. 9: Pitch-in luncheon and members meeting, noon to 1:30 p.m. Blood pressure checks by Tiffany Creech of Franklin Meadows. Speaker is Nicole Neulieb from Structured Family Care Program.

Sept. 19: Bingo with prizes, 1-3 p.m. Free coffee provided, pop and water for sale.

Sept. 19: Pizza Luncheon provided by Astral of Franklin; and lunch and learn.

Sept. 21: Derby Dinner theater trip

Sept. 23-24: Rummage sale, ham and bean dinner and chili fundraiser

Sept. 28: Craft, 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

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