



FREE



## Basketball preview

See how the season will pan out for the boys varsity team.

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# Edinburgh Courier

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work."

— Thomas A. Edison

## WHAT'S UP?

### Correction

The American Legion Auxiliary sponsored a coloring contest and gave students awards at the Veterans Day event at Edinburgh Community High School. This was incorrect in the Nov. 16 Courier.

### Good Cheer Fund

The Christmas Season is fast approaching. The Edinburgh Good Cheer Fund will be in need of funds to help pay for cheer baskets and toys for children in need in Edinburgh. Anyone or group that would like to help with this may contact Nancy West, 812-343-4609, or mail a donation to Edinburgh Fellowship of Churches, P.O. Box 83, Edinburgh IN 46124. Donations can also be accepted at Horizon Bank & deposited in the Cheer Fund Acct. If you would like your donation to go to food baskets or toys, make a notation on your check or a note with cash.

### Christmas basket applications

Edinburgh residents in need of a Christmas Food Basket may apply at the John R. Drybread Community Center on the following dates and times:

Nov. 28: 9 a.m. to noon

Nov. 29: 1-4 p.m.

Dec. 1: 3-6 p.m.

Dec. 2: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

All application must be filled out at the above times and dates. Please bring proof of residency.

If you are unable to come at the above times due to a health condition, you may call 812-343-4352 during the times above and leave a message. Your call will be returned the same day.

## NEWS

Amy May, editor ..... 317-736-2726 or 812-379-5761

Editorial fax ..... 317-736-2766

Editorial email ..... courier@dailyjournal.net

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By Brian Blair  
THE REPUBLIC STAFF WRITER

**F**olk and bluegrass singer Allie Jean's lilting vocals never sound so heartfelt as when she is singing to her nearly 2-year-old son, Daniel. Sitting on the floor with her guitar and her boy, she

strums and begins to sing:

"You are my sunshine, my only sunshine ..."

The tyke watches her, fascinated, and then breaks into a mischievous grin. Truth be told, Daniel is more than his mother's sunshine. He is the inspiration for her forthcoming new children's folk album "Sing and Play All Day." The 16-song

**MEET ALLIE JEAN IN EDINBURGH**  
Allie Jean will host a show at the Edinburgh Pixy Theater on Nov. 26. Allie Jean's Sing & Play All Day Kids' Show begins at 2 p.m. Admission is a donation.

People can follow Allie Jean's progress toward her children's album release and notes about Daniel at [alliejeanmusic.com](http://alliejeanmusic.com).

recording marks a dramatic departure for the artist who has spent the past 10 years or more as an internationally touring, professional bluegrass artist with acts such as Frank and Allie Lee and also The Freight Hoppers.

Before that, the Columbus native and

## A MUSICAL BOND

# Son inspires musician mom to record a children's album



PHOTOS BY MIKE WOLANIN/THE REPUBLIC

Bluegrass singer Allie Jean and her son Daniel play music during an interview at The Republic in Columbus in July. Daniel has APERT Syndrome. Allie Jean has recorded a children's album with him to help kids raise awareness about kids with disabilities. Above: Daniel plays a toy xylophone.

current resident, known to most by her birth surname of Burbrink, also performed in this area with the Whipstitch Sallies, known to venture out of bluegrass even toward a pop tune or two occasionally.

"The basic reason for this album is because I had to start a whole new life (with Daniel's birth)," she said. "This is like a sing-along in the car."

And these are personally tweaked songs she has been crooning to Daniel since he was in the hospital neo-natal intensive care unit.

Recently, she released the first song and video from the effort. "Baby Dan Went to a Jam" is a light, happy takeoff of "Old McDonald Had a Farm." In the video, Daniel is shown tapping out a righteous rhythm on a toy drum.

For Daniel, music seems to serve to stimulate his senses, his curiosity, you name it. Mom is interested in all of that and more because Daniel was born with Apert Syndrome. The rare genetic disorder

SEE MUSIC, PAGE 6

## OBITUARIES

EDINBURGH

### Marilyn Burns

Marilyn Ann Burns, 73, of Edinburgh passed away Oct. 26, 2022 at her residence. She was born Nov. 22, 1949 in East Chicago, Illinois. She was the daughter Dr. Harold and Ellen Burns.

She attended Gavitt High School and graduating in June of 1967. She went on to study Elementary Education, receiving bachelor's and master's degrees from Arizona State University. She taught K-8 at Phoenix, Tempe and Mesa elementary schools and spent many years in the Sacaton Schools of the Gila River Indian Community, as well as the St. Peter Indian Mission in Arizona.

After retiring, she moved to Indiana where she worked as a substitute teacher in the Edinburgh schools. She helped run the Edinburgh Bed and Breakfast. She is survived by a niece, Ginger Burns of Michigan and her wards, Connor Scott and Rylie Scott of Edinburgh.

Marilyn's wishes were to be cremated with no service.



BURNS

He was a 1953 graduate of Nineveh High School.

Joe began his career at Morgan County REMC in 1953. He was drafted into the United States Army in 1955. After serving for two years in the military, he returned to the REMC. He was made a journeyman lineman in 1962 and working foreman in 1972. He oversaw line crews building and maintain lines.

He was a member of Nineveh Masonic Lodge No. 317.

Joe enjoyed spending time with his family, splitting wood and reading his Bible every day.

Survivors include his wife, Judith E. (Whetstine) Wilson Ramey of Nineveh; his three sons, Donald W. Ramey (Penny) of Edinburgh, Joseph D. Ramey Jr. (Dana) of Paragon and Gary M. Ramey (Beth Ann) of Martinsville; 24 grandchildren; 35 great-grandchildren; nine great-great-grandchildren; a brother Johnny Ramey (Betty Ball) of Martinsville; sisters Emily Wood (Jim) of Whiteland and Sara Bills (Charles) of Edinburgh; stepchildren Robert Wilson (Bonnie) of Cunningham, Steven Wilson (Michelle) of Bellefontaine, Ohio, Michael Wilson of Franklin, Cathy Matty of Franklin, Melissa Bourland (Scott) of Hope; 17 step-grandchildren; 37 step-great-grandchildren; and three step great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife JoAnn (Coffman) Ramey; a daughter Lori Ann (Ramey) Ash on June 15, 2008; sons James "Jamey" Ramey in December of 1980 and Bruce Robert "Bobby" Ramey in July of 1984; brothers Harold Ramey, Elmer Ramey, William Ramey, Jerry Ramey, David Ramey; sisters Martha Hedger and Betty Newman; and a stepson, Mark Wilson.

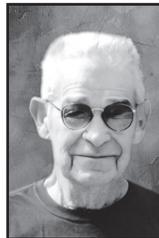
Pastor Brian Clark conducted a service at Swartz Family Community Mortuary and Memorial Center in Franklin. Burial was at Nineveh Cemetery with military honors being conducted by the United States Army Honor Guard.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.swartzmortuary.com](http://www.swartzmortuary.com).

NINEVEH

### Joseph Ramey

Joseph D. Ramey, 87, of Nineveh passed away Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2022, at his residence surrounded by his family. He was born April 11, 1935, in Whiteland to William and Mary (Covert) Ramey. He married JoAnn (Coffman) Ramey on May 26, 1960; she preceded him in death on Sept. 22, 2009. He later married Judith E. (Whetstine) Wilson Ramey on Oct. 1, 2010, at Franklin Memorial Christian Church; she survives.



RAMEY

## MARRIAGE LICENSES

Christin Duhamell of Indianapolis and Isaiah Litchfield of Edinburgh  
Kaley Michelle Stahl and Corey Samuel Gregory, both of Edinburgh.

### Edinburgh Courier

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## GOOD OLD DAYS

75 years ago: Judy Hadley with her dog and Linda Willard with her chick win the funniest costumed child with pet in the Edinburgh Women's Business Parade.

70 years ago: Officers for the Edinburgh Science Club are Ward Parker, president; Tom Schaffer, vice president; Ronnie Ireland, secretary; and Tinker Fisher, treasurer.

65 years ago: Loretta Terry, Jeurita Stinson and Carol Richards are elected as cheerleaders for the Edinburgh Junior High School basketball teams.

60 years ago: Edinburg School Librarian Mrs. Linke attends a District Library Workshop at Beech Grove Elementary School presented by the State Director of Libraries.

55 years ago: Edinburg Student Council Officers are Joel Sander, president; Jackie Smith, vice president; Melinda Temperly, secretary; and John Drybread, treasurer.

50 years ago: Edinburg football players Richard Jessup and Tom Miller are selected as members of the All Johnson County Defensive Team by the county coaches.

## COMMUNITY CHATTER

### Christmas bazaar

Beta Sigma Phi's 54th Annual Christmas Bazaar will be held 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Dec. 3 at East Side Elementary School. Admission is free.

The event features over 100 booths with handmade crafts, baked goodies, quality gifts and more. Door prizes are given every hour.

Booths are still available.

### Home decorating contest

Homeowners can participate in the holiday home decorating contest and a chance to win cash prizes on Dec. 9, 6-8 p.m.

Categories are Bicentennially Bright (the most merry and bright display) \$100; Historically Humble (traditional decorations) \$100; and Dashing Doorway (best holiday door or entrance) \$50.

Register your home by 4 p.m. Dec. 9 by emailing [jrdcc@edinburgh.in.us](mailto:jrdcc@edinburgh.in.us), calling 812-526-3539 or stopping by the John R. Drybread Community Center, 100 E. Main Cross St.

### Christmas festival

Edinburgh Holiday of Lights is set for Dec. 10, 4-10 p.m. at various downtown locations.

This year's theme is "Bicentennially Bright," Celebrating Edinburgh's 200th Anniversary.

Scheduled events:  
Bicentennially Bright Parade: 5:30 p.m. from East Side Elementary School through downtown

(To participate in the parade, register at Parks & Rec office or the community center. A cash prize will be awarded to the top entry.)

Community Chili Supper: 5-8 p.m. at Presbyterian Church  
Holiday Market: 5-9 p.m.  
(Vendor applications available)  
Carriage Rides: 6-10 p.m.  
Ornament crafts at 500 North: 5-8 p.m.  
Pictures with Santa: 6-8 p.m. inside John R. Drybread Community Center

The Pixy's Christmas Show with Night Owl Country Band: 7 p.m.

Downtown shops will be open late for holiday shopping.

### Cerabration of Lights

Cera Sports and Campground in Columbus will hold is Cerabration of Lights show Thursdays through Sundays, 6-10 p.m. Nov. 25-Dec. 11 and daly Dec. 12-30 (except Christmas day.) Cost is \$30 per vehicle. The park is at 3989 S. 525 East. Info: 812-377-5849, [ceraland.org](http://ceraland.org)

### 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.

Dec. 7: Craft class, Christmas decorations, 3-4 p.m.

Dec. 7: A special dinner and Christmas music provided by Church of the Lakes, 4-5 p.m.

Dec. 9: Monthly pitch-in luncheon and business meeting, noon-1:30 p.m. Annual Christmas luncheon and gift exchange. If you want to participate, bring a \$10 gift for a man if you are a man and a gift for a female if you are a female.

### 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](http://www.TheEdinburghPixy.com) or advance tickets for some shows at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com)

Dec. 10: Night Owl Country Band Christmas Show; Santa in lobby at 6 p.m.

# Girls win home game, lose tourney game

In the week before the Thanksgiving break, the varsity girls basketball team was able to pick up a win as were the seventh grade and the eighth grade boys teams.

Edinburgh's youngest Lancers played host to Indian Creek on Nov. 14. The sixth graders were up first and had a tough time of it against the little Braves, losing 31-9 to see their record slip to 5-4 on the season. Reese Smith led the team with three points, London Weddle scored two, Emily Mauer two, Lucy Buck one and Xayla Watt one.

In the second contest of the evening, the fifth graders played two quarters against the Indian Creek B team. This ended in a 14-4 deficit with Reese Smith scoring two, Gracie Burton one, and Xayla Watt one.

The middle school boys were on the road on Monday, travelling to Seymour. Against the Owl seventh grade B team, the Lancers were victorious, 35-23. Carson Siegelin led his team with 14 points, Max Dodson put in eight, Noah Parkhurst six, Xander Pruitt four, Colton Burton two and Brinnyn Moss one.

The seventh graders moved to 2-0 with the victory.

The second game of the evening saw the eighth grade Lancers win by 10 over the Owl eighth grade B team, 33-23. Xavier Suns was Edinburgh's top scorer with a dozen points followed by Jaylan Burton with eight, Ayden Swallows seven, Matthew Burton four, and Caiden Miller two. This win evened their record at 1-1.

Edinburgh played host to this year's



Brian Ingels

## Lancer Notebook

Johnson County Girls Varsity Tourney with the Lancers meeting Whiteland in the opening game on Nov. 15.

The Lancers were out-manned from the start as the Warriors didn't let off the gas pedal until late, losing 71-30. Gracie Crawhorn's 16 points led the good guys, Cloee Britton had six, Kenna Streeval five, Lillie Goff two and Bella Turner one.

Playing at home on Tuesday as well, the fifth and sixth grade girls hosted Custer Baker Intermediate. Playing the visitors 6B squad, the fifth grade Lancers fell, 40-9 with Reese Smith scoring five, Averie Long two, and Gracie Burton two.

The sixth graders didn't fare much better as they fell to Custer Baker, 38-6. In this one, Lucy Buck had four points and Lilly Bruno two.

Back on the home court on Wednesday, the varsity girls played the Crothersville Tigers. The Lancers held a 10-point lead at the half but had to withstand a Tiger comeback in the final two periods to notch the win, 37-32.

This win bumped their season record to 3-3.

Gracie Crawhorn led the Lancers once again by scoring 15 but was closely followed by Kenna Streeval's 12. Lillie Goff put in four points, Jada Sanders three, Cloee Britton two and Bella Turner one.

Taking the long bus trip to Switzerland

County High School on Saturday wasn't kind to the Lancer varsity.

The girls were never to get their offense on track as they scored just 14 points in the 62-14 loss.

Gracie Crawhorn scored five, Bella Turner three, Jada Sanders three, Cloee Britton two, and Kenna Streeval one. Edinburgh dropped to 3-4 after this game.

## On tap

Saturday  
Boys JV & varsity basketball, at home vs. Indian Creek, 6 p.m.

Monday  
Boys MS basketball at Waldron, 6 p.m.

Tuesday  
Girls varsity basketball, at home vs. Oldenburg, 6:30 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.*

## SCHOOL NOTEBOOK

### Adult education

Edinburgh Adult Education would like to congratulate William Collins on earning his HSE (GED). Classes meet twice a week at Edinburgh High School. Potential students 16 and older should contact Julie Redd at 317-392-2197.



COLLINS

### Athletic honors

Gracie Crawhorn was named to the Republic's All Area Volleyball team. The senior led the Lancers with 235 kills, 101 blocks and 406 digs and added 28 aces. Kyah Streeval received honorable mention.

### Calendar

Through Nov. 25: Thanksgiving break  
Dec. 16: End of first semester  
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



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# Seize the day

## Turner looking to make the most of final season with Lancers

By Ryan O'Leary  
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Jarrett Turner's days of playing organized sports are likely numbered. Though he's been contacted by some college coaches, the Edinburgh senior says he's more likely to get on with his life after he graduates and focus on his education.

That doesn't mean he's in any hurry for this last ride to reach its end.

Turner, one of two returning all-conference starters for the Lancers, plans to savor every bit of this upcoming season with his classmates.

"It makes it way more meaningful, knowing that you could play your last organized basketball game," he said. "Already knowing what football felt like, I think basketball will take even more of a toll because it's my number one passion, my favorite sport."

Fortunately for Turner and the Lancers, the chances of extending the season deeper into March seem pretty decent. Last winter, Edinburgh won its first 11 games, finished atop the Mid-Hoosier Conference and won a Class A sectional title for the first time in four years.

Though three starters, all of whom stood 6-foot-4 or taller, graduated, Turner is back to help run the show from the point guard spot — and he has the luxury of having county player of the year Caleb Dewey back as his running mate. Some players who weren't getting big minutes in the past are going to be counted on to fill bigger roles, but coach Keith Witty is confident that they can do so.

"We've had guys that have kind of been in

waiting, some guys that are now seniors that have had to wait their time because they were behind some other guys," he said. "They've kind of been chomping at the bit, ready to get their chance at some varsity action."

The coach is similarly confident that Turner — who averaged 9.8 points and 2.5 assists on a balanced Lancers team as a junior — will be able to shoulder a bit more responsibility, both on and off the court.

"The biggest thing for Jarrett this year is to lead us a little bit more," Witty said. "Last year, our seniors did a good job at leading us, and Caleb does a good job in his own way of leading us, but we need Jarrett to fill that other void, to really step in and be a vocal leader, a hustle kind of leader."

One thing that should help Turner fill that role is motivation.

Edinburgh has never won two consecutive conference or sectional championships; this year's team would like to be the first in school history to accomplish both of those things.

Additionally, there's the matter of how last season ended — with a bitter 38-37 loss to eventual Class A state champ North Daviess.

"We know how close it is, so that just made us want to work harder in the summer," Turner said. "Especially with

several teams going up to 2A, 3A, we know now that we have a chance to do big things. "It really motivates us, especially this being our last year. As a junior, it hurt losing last year, but now as a senior, it's over if we lose. So really that makes us work even harder, not wanting it to be our last go-around — to be able to play in the championship as our last game."

### SCOUTING THE LANCERS

**Coach:** Keith Witty

**Last season:** 22-4, won sectional championship; lost to North Daviess in Class A regional semifinal

**Key returnees:** Braylon Bryant, Caleb Dewey, Keegan Smith and Jarrett Turner, seniors; Connor Ramey, sophomore

**Top newcomers:** Austin Brockman, junior; Jackson Hartwell, sophomore

**Outlook:** The Lancers, who have gone 40-10 over the last two seasons, lost some size and experience to graduation but remain hopeful that there's enough talent still in town to sustain that same level of success. Dewey was the Daily Journal's Player of the Year last winter, and he and Turner are both returning all-conference selections. Filling in around them will be players such as Bryant and Smith, who played lesser roles last winter but are eager to take on more of the workload. Edinburgh won't be quite as big across the board, so look for Witty's group to perhaps pick up the pace a bit more and capitalize on their talent and athleticism. After taking eventual state champion North Daviess to the wire in a 38-37 regional loss, the Lancers feel like they're close to scaling the top of the ladder; if some new supporting players can step up around Dewey and Turner, perhaps they can take advantage of what looks like a more open path to Class A glory.



Jarrett Turner, right, and his Edinburgh teammates are looking to follow up last season's sectional title run with another successful winter.

DAILY JOURNAL FILE PHOTO



## Town budgets focus on inflation, public safety

By Emily Ketterer  
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

**I**nflation was at the top of many town officials' minds when approving their budgets for 2023.

The towns of Johnson County, for the most part, saw increases in next year's budgets, whether for inflation or for increasing funding for public safety services. Bargersville, Edinburgh, New Whiteland, Trafalgar and Whiteland all approved their respective town operating budgets in mid-to-late October.

Two towns, New Whiteland and Edinburgh, however, saw some shortfalls for 2023, and had to make up for it.

Additionally, none of the towns accounted for the additional revenue in their budgets from the county's new .2% Economic Development Income Tax increase passed in September. Officials say they have not decided what to do with it, and did not include the money in the 2023 budgets.

Public safety was a priority for the town of Edinburgh for 2023, said Scott Finley, clerk-treasurer.

In the late summer, the Edinburgh Police Department asked the town council

to consider adding another officer to the department, as it was getting difficult to cover all shifts with the current amount of officers, and still allow them to take time off.

For 2023, Edinburgh budgeted to add two new police officers, adding just over \$142,000 to the overall police budget. The fire department budget also increased by over \$59,000.

Edinburgh had about a \$300,000 deficit for 2023, as its total budget decreased from \$8.1 million this year to \$7.8 million for next year. With the deficit, though, Finley said the town was fortunate to have a good operating balance to support it.

Edinburgh's total general spending fund — which pays for primary town operations such as salaries, police, fire and the pool — saw a decrease of about \$300,000. Finley said that was able to decrease because of capital projects funded in 2022 that are not recurring costs, such as the town hall construction project.

Inflation was also a concern for next year, as it is with every budget. The town usually makes adjustments for inflation every year as the year goes on, but 2023 is expected to be worse than usual with the current high rates, Finley said.

## VETERANS DINNER



Edinburgh American Legion Post 233 hosted a Veterans Day dinner provided by the American Legion Auxiliary on Nov. 13. From left, Auxiliary members Colleen Fivecoat, Tamara Graham and Judi Thompson serve dinner.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



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# Johnson County school districts finalize budget proposals

By Andy Bell-Baltaci  
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

With an increase in home values and additional students in Johnson County schools, local school districts will have more money to work with in 2023.

Center Grove Community School Corporation, with the largest student population of 9,434, likewise has the most money to work with, as school officials submitted a \$110.6 million budget for approval by the Department of Local Government Finance. Edinburgh Community School Corporation, with just 879 students, will have a much more modest amount to work with, sending an \$11.4 million budget to the DLGF for approval.

The figures come from Indiana Gateway, the state's budget reporting website.

School boards approved the proposed budgets for Fiscal Year 2023 in October. The DLGF will review the budgets, make final adjustments and approve them in December. The DLGF always adjusts budgets downward, so schools will often propose a larger budget than they need, as the department can't approve more money than what is asked for, said Tim Edsell, superintendent for Indian Creek schools.

## Education fund

The six school districts divide money into four separate funds. The education fund mostly covers the salaries of teachers and other building-level employees, such as instructional assistants, principals and assistant principals. Money for the education fund comes from the state tuition formula, which awards schools funds based

on how many students they have and other factors, including the percentage of those students receiving free and reduced-price lunch.

The proposed education budgets range from Edinburgh's \$6.5 million to Center Grove's \$60.2 million. The six school districts all have the education fund as the largest fund in their budget, taking up close to or more than half of the total amount, according to state data.

Indian Creek schools submitted a \$28.5 million education fund, more than 50% greater than its \$19.1 million proposal last year, although the approved figure will likely be far lower, perhaps around \$17 million once the DLGF sends it back, Edsell said.

"For education, we have an increase where we're making projections and trying to be competitive by increasing salaries for all our employee groups. We've had an increase in enrollment, but also because of special education services and mental health, that's why we projected a higher amount in there," he said.

Greenwood Community School Corporation, with a proposed \$31.2 million education fund, boasts the highest starting teacher salaries at \$48,014 a year. The school district's proposed education budget increased slightly, from \$29.9 million to \$31.2 million despite the student population staying roughly the same, said Todd Pritchett, assistant superintendent.

"Even though our student number did not increase the dollar amount per students did," he said. "We've added a few staff members based on class size in certain buildings. That's the dollars we utilize for raises for teachers and support staff as well."

her guitar strings, and has done the same with her banjo.

"The purpose (of the album) is not just entertainment, but also bonding with your child by learning to play music together," she said.

As Daniel is learning, so is former classroom teacher Mom in a different way. She recently performed at a folk gathering called WoodSongs Old-Time Radio Hour, an internationally syndicated radio/TV program based in Lexington, Kentucky. It marked her first concert segment as a solo artist — and her first solo appearance on banjo, which gave her the jitters because of a potential audience of some 2 million people, but she ultimately labeled it "a banjo good time." She included "You Are My Sunshine," which of course can trigger a touch of emotion as she thinks of her little, precious one.

## Operations fund

Local property taxes fund both the operations and debt service fund, with increases in assessed home values increasing the amount brought in by schools. The majority of the operations budget covers salaries for district-level administrators, such as the superintendent, assistant superintendents and finance directors, as well as non-educational employees, including: bus drivers, food service workers and custodial staff. A portion of the operations budget also covers minor construction projects, such as spot repairs for cracks and leaks, and parking lot resurfacing, school officials for local districts said.

Proposed operations budgets ranged from \$2.6 million at Edinburgh schools to \$23.6 million at Center Grove schools. While five school districts increased their proposed operations budget from the 2022 to 2023 fiscal years, the fund at Clark-Pleasant Community School Corporation actually decreased, from \$24 million to \$22 million, according to state data.

New solar farms at Ray Crowe Elementary School and Clark-Pleasant Middle Schools are helping save the school district money officials would have spent from the operations fund on utilities. School bus purchases moved from operation to debt covered by the debt service fund, further decreasing the amount needed for operations, said Austin Fruits, finance director.

## Debt service fund

The debt service fund is consists of debt from various major projects school leaders have decided need funding. These projects may include the construction of new school buildings or major renovation proj-

ects to add or replace classrooms at existing buildings. That debt is usually paid over decades, with school leaders replacing debt that's been paid off with new debt in order not to raise the property tax rate.

Edinburgh schools have the least amount of debt listed at \$1.3 million, while Center Grove schools have the most at \$26.8 million, an increase of almost \$4 million from last year. The extra debt is due to renovation projects at multiple schools, said Jason Taylor, Center Grove's assistant superintendent.

"We've got additions going on at both middle schools to increase capacity, and we began early stages to expand the high school and Sugar Grove Elementary School," Taylor said.

## Additional funds

A fourth, and final fund for some school districts is the rainy day fund. The fund is money reserved for emergencies or unexpected expenses. Of the four districts that listed a rainy day fund in their budgets, Edinburgh schools had the least with \$62,931, while Indian Creek schools had the most with \$4.3 million, according to state data.

A fifth fund, the referendum fund, exists for three districts: Franklin Community School Corporation, Clark Pleasant schools and Edinburgh schools. Voters who live within those school districts' boundaries approved property tax increases to fund various school improvements, such as teacher salary increases, school security measures and mental health services.

Clark-Pleasant and Franklin's referendum budgets both increased due to rising

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## Music

FROM PAGE 1

is marked by features such as a fused skull (already surgically adjusted), webbed fingers and toes and other challenges. More surgeries for Daniel were scheduled to release the fingers and toes with the help of skin grafts.

For now, though, he has determinedly begun to try to walk unaided without his walker. And when Mom launches into the musical line of "if you're happy and you know it, clap your hands," a beaming Daniel quickly responds with happy claps that Jean hopes to have recorded on the tune.

He loves her music enough that he reaches out a time or two to pluck a few of

"I had tears in my eyes," she said. "I was struggling to hold it together."

Yet, she keeps the mood light and cheery during her chat by launching into another breezy tune every five or 10 minutes to keep Daniel captivated as he taps on a toy keyboard and more. In fact, he taps almost in proper time — a seemingly small happening but a big victory, as Mom sees it — as she sings:

"The wheels on the bus go round and round

Round and round ... "

At home, Daniel also is attracted to a real piano keyboard that he likes to plink. On her website of alliejeanmusic.com and her Facebook page of Allie Jean Music, followers and friends are cheering Daniel on, and doing the same for Mom. Among those affirming her is local bluegrass veteran and former internationally touring

musician Roger Banister, who knows a thing or two about musicianship. He calls Allie Jean "incredibly talented," and loves the idea of her forthcoming package of tunes.

"Like Allie, her children's release is complete positive energy using all style elements," Banister said. "Her approach to children's music and her song for Daniel is simply delightful."

She wants Daniel's life, her nurturing and even the record to encourage open discussions about disabilities "and questions asked in kindness."

Clearly, the former teacher is still an educator, and welcomes that role with her instruments instead of chalk.

"Yes, that's exactly how I see it," she said. "Absolutely."

## AT THE LIBRARY

The following events are scheduled at the Edinburgh Wright-Hageman Public Library, 119 W. Main Cross St.  
Info: 812-526-5487, [www.edinburgh.lib.in.us](http://www.edinburgh.lib.in.us)

### Toy drive

The 8th Day Riders are conducting their annual toy drive for children in the Edinburgh community. The library has a collection box to leave a toy.

### Library craft

The library will offer Fairy in a Jar or Dino in a Jar Nightlights as its November Crafting at Home kit.

The kits include a glass jar, tissue paper, a fairy or dinosaur silhouette, a battery operated tea light and Mod Podge.

This is a free, all ages craft. Today is the deadline to

sign up. Kits will be available for pick up on Nov. 28.

To sign up for any craft, contact the library during the registration dates at 812-526-5487 or in person at the Circulation Desk.

### Send a letter to Santa

Beginning Nov. 28, the library will officially begin accepting letters to Santa. This annual event is marked by the giant mailbox inside the library.

There's no age to old or young to submit. Simply place your letter to Santa in the giant mailbox before Dec. 16 and get a guaranteed response from St. Nick.

All letters must include a return address so Santa can write back. You can write a letter at home on your own paper and drop it in the mailbox or you can use one of the library's pre-printed letters.

## IN GOOD HEALTH

The coronavirus vaccine is available by appointment at [ourshot.in.gov](http://ourshot.in.gov) or by calling 211. Seniors or caregivers having difficulty registering online or getting through to 211 can call Indiana's Area Agencies on Aging for help at 317-254-5465 or 800-432-2422.

- ASSIST is a Franklin-based nonprofit program that provides services for people (age 5 and over) affected by sexual, domestic and physical violence at any point in their life. For an appointment, call 317-739-4456.

- Beginning Again: eight-week grief support group, helps adults cope with the loss of a loved one. Our Hospice of South Central Indiana, 2626 E. 17th St., Columbus. Dates and times vary. Info: 812-314-8042.

- Claim Aid Counselors are available to help Johnson County residents through the Health Insurance Marketplace application process or to enroll in the Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP 2.0). 317-346-3736 or email [bill-question@johnsonmemorial.org](mailto:bill-question@johnsonmemorial.org) for information.

- Connect2Help 2-1-1 helpline: Free, assists with housing, parenting, transportation, education, health care, employment and more. Call 211 or 317-926-4357.

- Great Expectations free childbirth education class at Johnson Memorial Hospital is held four times a year. Register at [JohnsonMemorial.org](http://JohnsonMemorial.org).

- Grief Share, meets Mondays, 6:30-8:30

p.m. at The Crossing, 8728 S. Nineveh Road, Nineveh.

- Indiana Tobacco Quitline: free phone-based counseling service to help smokers quit. If enrolled in the QNI program, you get a two-week supply of nicotine replacement therapy gum or patches, while supplies last. 1-800-QUIT-NOW (800-784-8669).

- Recover Out Loud (addiction support): An open meeting is held 6-7 p.m. Tuesdays at the Edinburgh Parks and Recreation building, 722 S. Eisenhower Drive. Info: [recoveroutloudinc.org](http://recoveroutloudinc.org)

- Tara Treatment Center Inc. Alcoholics Anonymous J.J. Memorial Group, 7-8 p.m. Fridays. 812-526-2611

## Budgets

FROM PAGE 6

home values. Clark-Pleasant, which had a referendum property tax increase of 10 cents for every \$100 of assessed value for mental health services and school safety, including a school police department, had its fund increase from \$2.1 million to \$2.3 million.

Franklin schools, which had a referendum of 23 cents for every \$100 of assessed value, will have almost \$7 million to work within 2023 to increase teacher salaries and mental health services for students, compared to \$4.5 million last year. The increased amount is due to a greater number of homes in the district, along with 18% higher assessed value since last year, said Tina Gross, the district's chief financial officer.

"Like any other industry, we're competing for teachers and labor force," Gross said. "Pay raises help the effort to recruit and retain people."

Edinburgh voters approved a referendum of 40 cents for every \$100 in assessed value in May for teacher salary increases. That money will start going to the schools next year, and will amount to \$693,359 in 2023, according to state data.

## JAIL BOOKINGS

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

Austin Jerod Lee Wilson, 28, Edinburgh; arrested on a charge of probation violation; held without bond.

Devan Patrick Evans, 31, Edinburgh; arrested on a warrant for failure to appear in court; held without bond.

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

Brandy M. Brown, 44, Edinburgh, arrested on a Bartholomew County warrant; \$10,000 bond.

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