

WEDNESDAY  
DECEMBER 28, 2022



FREE



## Old school radio

Columbus native reviving Indy radio station,  
WNAP — The Buzzard.

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# Edinburgh Courier

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

“The trouble with having an open mind, of course, is that people will insist on coming along and trying to put things in it.”

— Terry Pratchett

## WHAT'S UP?

### Lancer cards

The Edinburgh Athletic Department is selling Lancer Discount Cards to raise money for athletics at Edinburgh Community Schools. The cost is \$10 and includes discounts for restaurants, services and retail items, along with one high school varsity regular season game (value \$6).

The Lancer Cards can be purchased at the John R. Drybread Community Center, the Edinburgh Utility Office, the Edinburgh Community School District Office and the high school office.

### Santa photos

Today is the last day to pick up Santa pictures at Edinburgh Parks and Rec. The building is open noon to 8 p.m.

Santa photos not picked up will be mailed.

### Cerabration of Lights

Cera Sports and Campground in Columbus will hold its Cerabration of Lights show daily through Dec. 30.

Cost is \$30 per vehicle.

The park is at 3989 S. 525 East.

Info: 812-377-5849, 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.

## NEWS

Amy May, editor ..... 317-736-2726 or 812-379-5761  
Editorial fax ..... 317-736-2766  
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## ADVERTISING

Cindy Warren ..... 317-736-2737  
Email ..... cwarren@dailyjournal.net  
Advertising fax ..... 317-736-2754

## DEADLINES

Display ads ..... 5 p.m. Wednesday  
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CIRCULATION 317-736-2777

# Season of giving

## Good Cheer volunteers deliver 900 baskets

By Andy Bell-Baltaci

DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

**F**or hundreds of Johnson County residents, an early Christmas gift came in the form of a surprise knock on a frosty December morning.

When Franklin resident Tammy Nash opened the door of her Knollwood Farms home Saturday, she found Sally Wells, a volunteer with a large basket of groceries. The groceries included eggs, milk, ham, bacon, pasta, cheese, rolls and other items. They were a much-needed gift, and one that hasn't been easy to come by this year, Nash said.

“It'll make a big difference because groceries have gone up so high. With my two kids and me being single, it's kind of hard,” she said. “Being old, I can't work as much because of my back. This is really a blessing.”

Nash is one resident from about 900 county households selected to receive Good Cheer Fund baskets, an annual tradition that dates back more than a century. Since the Franklin Evening Star and Austin Flinn, a local funeral home owner, founded the Good Cheer Fund in 1921, thousands of volunteers have helped feed tens of thousands of Johnson County residents who have fallen upon hard times.

People can apply for help and Good Cheer organizers also collect names from retirement communities and schools.

Much of the money is collected during the annual fund drive each holiday season and during the Jim Rhoades Hog Roast. Local schools also hold canned food drives leading up to the distribution. At Needham Elementary School, for example, classes competed against each other to see who



PHOTO BY ANDY BELL-BALTACI

Good Cheer Fund volunteers Samantha Klinge, left, and Scott Goodman pack a truck for food delivery at Johnson County REMC.

could collect the most food.

Overall, about \$50,000 in food was distributed Saturday, said Jake Sappenfield, chairman of the Good Cheer Fund.

Sally Wells, her husband Mike Wells, and their grandson Noah Wells were three of the about 250 volunteers who woke up before dawn to help distribute food to residents from as far south as Trafalgar and Edinburgh to as far north as County Line Road in Greenwood, Sappenfield said.

Sally Wells has volunteered with Good Cheer Fund for the last two decades and started taking her grandson with her to deliver food when he was five years old, she said.

“I started because I just really like helping the community,” Sally Wells said. “It has grown a lot because the need is much greater now for folks to get a basket and have that Christmas dinner.”

The donations helped people like Franklin resident Ashley Joyce have enough food for her three kids.

“I have two boys and a girl. It definitely helps because they eat quite a bit,” Joyce said. “When I see people giving, it means you should give to others, too. Someone is always going to return the favor. It won't always seem like it, but they will.”

With the Good Cheer Fund dating back

SEE CHEER, PAGE 5

## OBITUARIES

FRANKLIN

## Esther Gelfius

Esther Ann Piatt Gelfius, 96, of Franklin passed from this life Dec. 19, 2022 at Otterbein Senior Living in Franklin. She was born April 25, 1926 in Shelby County, Indiana. She was the daughter of Emerson and Myrtle (Prichard) Stilabower.

On Sept. 20, 1945, she married the love of her life, Donald Eugene Piatt. Together they raised three children. Following Don's death on Aug. 6, 1982, she married Al Gelfius on Dec. 24, 1983 and he preceded her in death on Jan. 21, 2010.

She is survived by her daughter, Linda Piatt Medlen (Mike Schrader) of Edinburgh; sons, Jerry (Vickie) Piatt of Galveston, Indiana and Cape Coral, Florida; and Ted (Nina) Piatt of Chapel Hill, North Carolina; and grandchildren, Estacia (Chad) Brandenburg, Jacob (Amanda) Medlen, Matthew Piatt, Bradley (Emily) Piatt, Nicholas (Maria) Piatt and Alex (Lauran) Piatt. She was also blessed with seven great-grandchildren.

Esther was preceded in death by her parents; first husband, Don; second husband, Al; son-in-law, Rex Medlen; and sisters and brothers-in-law, Dortha and Lawrence Wertz and Gwendolyn and Joseph Anderson.

Esther was raised in Edinburgh. She graduated from Edinburgh High School in 1943 and attended Indiana University. She was a member of Tri-Kappa and was active in the Presbyterian church.

She loved playing golf, being on the beach, and was an avid bridge player.

A funeral service was conducted at Eskew-Eaton Funeral Home in Edinburgh. Burial was at Rest Haven Cemetery in Edinburgh.

Memorial contributions may be made to Edinburgh Tri-Kappa or Edinburgh Presbyterian Church.



GELFIUS

GREENFIELD

## Lillian Kissel

Lillian Maud (Stucker) Kissel, 95, of Greenfield passed away Saturday, Dec. 10, 2022. She was born in Edinburgh on July 30, 1927 to Helen Margaret (Essex) and Ray Stucker. Lillian was a 1945 graduate of Fairland High School. She married Peter J. Kissel on September 2, 1949 at Brandywine Methodist Church in Shelby County.

She was a homemaker for her family and was most proud of raising four wonderful children. She loved having everyone over to her home for big family dinners. In her free time, Lillian enjoyed reading The Bible, sewing, cooking and taking walks. She was a member at Mohawk United Methodist Church for many years.

Lillian is survived by her loving children, Karen Whitesel (Glenn), Peter J. Kissel Jr. (Alma), Kandy Nemeth (Dave) and Kelly Saunders (Jim); grandchildren, Sandi Biddle, Russell Whitesel, Phillip Whitesel, Zachary Kissel, Grant Kissel, Jacob Kissel, Leah Freeman, Christopher Saunders, Andrew Heller; several great-grandchildren; and sister, Teresa Woods.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Helen and Ray; her husband, Peter; and her brothers, Lewis, Duane and Dale Stucker.

Memorial visitation will be held on Saturday, July 29, 2023, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Erlwein Mortuary & Crematory, 1484 W. U.S. 40, Greenfield, IN 46140. A memorial service will begin at 1 p.m. Urn burial will follow at New Palestine Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made by mail to Mohawk UMC, 2045 W. 400 N, Greenfield, IN 46140, or envelopes will be available at the mortuary. Friends may share a memory or condolence at [www.erlweinemortuary.com](http://www.erlweinemortuary.com).



KISSEL

## GOOD OLD DAYS

75 years ago: The Edinburg Maroons reserve basketball team defeats Nineveh, 31-17, and the Maroons varsity basketball team follows up with a 42-31 victory.

70 years ago: Mrs. Isabella Dennis and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pruitt are initiated into the Edinburg Eastern Star Chapter by the presiding Mrs. James Miller.

65 years ago: Gail O'Sullivan of Franklin announces that he has rented the former Wurtz Bakery and plans to sell rolls, donuts, cakes, pies and cookies.

60 years ago: Edinburg School officials announce that they have a record day at the Edinburg cafeteria as they served 475 Christmas turkey dinners.

55 years ago: Despite placing three players in double figures, Steve Baker's Edinburg Lancers lose to Southwestern, 74-62, in the Indian Creek Holiday Tourney.

50 years ago: Rick Finley's rebound basket was too late as time had run out and the Whiteland Warriors defeat the Edinburg Lancers, 69-67, in barn burner.

## SCHOOL NOTEBOOK

## College notes

Tristan Pappano of Edinburgh was named to the President's List at Trine University

## Athletes honored

Several Lancer players received honorable mention on the Daily Journal's All-County Football team.

Mason Calhoun and Jarrett Turner, offense; Keegan Smith and Isiaha Steinke, defense

## 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](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](mailto:bstraugh@ecsc.k12.in.us).

## Tickets to games

Edinburgh Community Schools athletic department has released game ticket and pass prices for the 2022-23 school year.

Single game prices:

All varsity events, \$6

Non-varsity events, \$5

Middle school events, \$5

East Side events, adults, \$4; students, \$1

## On My Way Pre-K

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

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

## 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](http://AskRose.org).

## Before- and after-school program

Edinburgh Parks & Rec offers a Before & After School Enrichment Program at its Rec Center for East Side Elementary School students. Activities start at 6 a.m. before school and run until 5:30 p.m. after school. Transportation to and from school is provided. Activities include homework time and help, snacks and fun.

Info: Elissa Day, B.A.S.E. coordinator, 812-526-3535, ext. 4, or [eday@edinburgh.in.us](mailto:eday@edinburgh.in.us)

## 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

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)

## MARRIAGE LICENSE

Sara Drybread and Ty Eaton, both of Edinburgh

## Edinburgh Courier

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## Girls place 4th of 8 in tourney

The varsity girls' Holiday Tourney concluded this past Thursday with the host Lancers finishing in fourth place out of the field of eight teams.

Playing in the tournament's opening game on Wednesday morning, the girls faced Knightstown.

The game was close throughout with the Lancers in the lead for most of the way. The Panthers did make a comeback late but Edinburgh was able to hold them off and ended up victorious by three points, 41-38.

Gracie Crawhorn led the team with 12 points closely followed by Kenna Streeval's 11, Bella Turner added 10, Lillie Goff four, Jada Sanders two and Cloee Britton two.

Later on Wednesday evening, the Lancers faced the Austin Eagles. Edinburgh had a slow scoring opening half but then caught fire in the final two quarters. Unfortunately, it wasn't enough and they fell to Austin, 59-35.

It was Kenna Streeval who paced the good guys in this one with 12 points, Gracie Crawhorn put in 11, Cloee Britton six, Bella Turner three, Jada Sanders two and Shyleigh Gobel one.

By virtue of their win against Knightstown, the girls were pitted against South Dearborn in the tourney's third place game on Thursday. Much like the previous game, they got off to a sluggish start and were never able to recover, falling to the Knights, 55-32, to finish the two days



Brian Ingels

### Lancer Notebook

in fourth place.

Senior Gracie Crawhorn regained her spot as Edinburgh's top scorer with 13 points, Bella Turner scored seven, Kenna Streeval seven, and Cloee Britton five.

The South Ripley Raiders were the eventual champs of the tournament by defeating Austin in the championship game in overtime. Southwestern came in fifth as they downed Hagerstown and Indy Lutheran top the seventh place spot by defeating Knightstown.

### On tap

The only thing on the schedule for the coming week is today's finish of the boys Holiday Tourney. Games kick off at 2 this afternoon with the tourney's seventh place game followed by the fifth place game at 4 p.m., the third place contest at 6 p.m. and the championship match-up will tip at 8 this evening.

*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.*

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## TRI KAPPA DONATION



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Edinburgh Delta Sigma Chapter of Kappa donated \$5,258 to Edinburgh Community High School/Middle School for new drink stations and two public address systems. Tri Kappa members, from left, Janet Totten and Sherri Sweet presented the check to Principal Kevin Rockey. These funds were made possible from proceeds raised from the efforts of the Tri Kappa Fall Festival Queen contestants this year.



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# STARS & STRIPES

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## OLD SCHOOL JAMS

### THE RETURN OF THE BUZZARD



# Columbus grad key in reviving staple of 1970s radio

By Mark Webber  
THE REPUBLIC STAFF WRITER

If you were a baby boomer raised locally, you likely remember a popular Indianapolis-based rock radio station called WNAP in the late 1960s and 1970s. Well, that same station — also known as the Buzzard — is back.

With studios in Muncie, WNAP (91.7 FM locally) is striving to bring back some of what made the original station popular: rock, oldies and personalities, a spokesman said.

The 6,300-watt radio station is licensed to Morristown, just north of the Bartholomew-Shelby County line. However, a broadcast translator station in Edinburgh boosts the signal, bringing it clearly into the Edinburgh and Columbus area. The station is also available on the internet at Y365.com.

#### Long-time fans

While others were involved, the return of the Buzzard is largely the work of 1979 Columbus East High School graduate Marty Hensley, who now works with five radio stations with studios headquartered in Muncie.

Besides Hensley, another avid fan of the original WNAP is Columbus native Ron Gates, who retired in 2014 as a high-level executive from a company that owned or managed 53 radio stations. Gates, who returned to his hometown, also recalls that Hensley has maintained a strong enthusiasm for radio broadcasting for as long as he can remember.

"When Marty was a young kid, he wanted to get into radio so badly," Gates said. "You have to respect somebody who has maintained their love of what they did as a young teenager."

After starting his career with White River Broadcasting in Columbus, Hensley moved on to the Indianapolis market where he worked at stations that included The Buzzard. As for Gates, he appreciated the original WNAP format so much that he tried to replicate it at a Minnesota radio station that was among many he managed.

#### What's playing?

Here is a small sampling of songs you might hear among WNAP's 5,000-song playlist. The station can be heard locally at 91.7 FM.

"For Ladies Only" by Steppenwolf  
"I Can't Drive 55" by Sammy Hagar  
"Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood" by The Animals  
"Golden Country" by REO Speedwagon  
"Carpet Man" by The Fifth Dimension  
"Love Stinks" by the J. Geils Band  
"Girl" by The Beatles  
"My Maria" by B.W. Stevenson  
"Hollywood Nights" by Bob Seger  
"Handbags and Glad Rags" by Rod Stewart  
"Jennifer Juniper" by Donovan

Renowned annual events included the WNAP Raft Races in July, which attracted tens of thousands of young people to see fearless (or intoxicated) young people navigate floatables of their own design down the White River. But most patrons recall the

highlight was a huge party featuring a large outdoor rock show in Broad Ripple Park.

Many also thought WNAP was the "cool" station because they worked with Sunshine Promotions to present concerts by chart-topping rock groups.

#### The fall

So when did the "Wrath of the Buzzard" start to fade away? Television documentaries and books have been developed about the so-called "Naptown Rock Radio Wars" that provide in-depth answers to that question.

But Gates recalls that when a programmer decided to add disco music on WNAP playlists, the move was detested by listeners and announcers alike. According to a music history website, rock purists considered disco over-produced, rhythm-heavy and trite. They also felt disco nightclubs promoted a lifestyle of hedonism, money and the emphasis of appearance over substance.

"They kind of gave the market over to Q95 (WFBQ 94.7 FM) without really realizing they were doing it," Gates said.

When disco emerged on the Buzzard, WFBQ saw its chance. They responded by first eliminating automated programming and hiring high-quality announcers who provided an edge and attitude, Gates said. It was the 1983 arrival of morning show hosts Bob Kevoian and Tom Griswold that allowed Q95 to become the top classic rock station in Indianapolis.

"And they've remained pretty steady ever since," Gates said.

"The Buzzard" faded off the radio in 1986. There was an effort in 1994 to revive the station at 91.7 FM with syndicated radio host Howard Stern, but Hensley said that incarnation was unsuccessful and went off the air in 2000. For a time, WNAP was a now-defunct radio station that used to serve Norristown, Pennsylvania (population 34,324). But eventually, Hensley was able to purchase the



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Marty Hensley, a longtime radio pro and a 1979 Columbus East High School graduate, is among those who've brought 1970s Indiana radio staple WNAP back to life.

call letters and bring them back home to Indiana.

### Delicate matters

Hensley should be commended for doing many things the right way in his efforts to gain a following, Gates said.

"But Marty has a remarkably hard challenge ahead of him with the restraints that he has," he added.

Gates is largely referring to the fact that Hensley is also a Christian minister and the station is affiliated with his ministry, New Beginnings Movement, Inc.

"For a long time, we did gospel, but with K-Love (WKLW 101.9 FM) coming into the market to play Christian Contemporary music, they did an awful lot of things that we couldn't do," Hensley said. "We also learned that only about 10% of people who go to a church listen to Christian radio."

A church-affiliated classic rock and oldies station may sound like an odd combination. But despite what many think, there is surprisingly little obscenity in that type of format, Gates said. That's largely because much of the music had radio-friendly versions when they came out, Gates said.

Hensley says he and others consider songs on a case-by-case basis. But the minister said he will not permit a song that takes the Lord's name in vain. And it should go without saying that the Rolling Stones' "Sympathy For The Devil" will remain off the pastor's playlists.

The other challenge is financial. Much

like public radio, funding for WNAP relies on sponsorships and individual donations, rather than playing commercials. That means the station will face more financial restraints than conventional broadcasters. Hensley said he refuses to use his ministry to persuade companies to provide sponsorships.

### Doing it right

What the new WNAP is doing right is recruiting announcers like Bob Hawkins and Rhonda Bennett, who volunteer their DJ services out of a love of radio. To help promote the brand, each announcer has a radio name that includes "Buzzer" in it.

If you think the station is serving up heaping portions of nostalgia, Hensley probably wouldn't argue with you.

"Mainly, what we try to do is use the music we play to try to bring back memories of when folks were kids," Hensley said. "A lot of people say when they hear our station, it makes them think of what they were doing when the song came out. The nice thing is that there is no other station doing what we are doing."

With a 5,000-song playlist, the new WNAP is also more likely than commercial stations to play a song you have not heard in several years. Many hired radio consultants recommend limiting playlists of commercial stations to perhaps 300 well-tested songs that show widespread appeal in listener surveys.

Well-tested songs usually exclude deep album cuts, but Hensley says the new WNAP gives a number of those songs airplay, as well as progressive rock and rhythm and blues.

Will live programs return?

Both Hensley and Gates say they believe the best way to attract new listeners is to recruit talented and entertaining announcers, rather than hire people who read information off cards.

Showcasing talent is more difficult these days with many stations using voice-tracking software, which requires a disc jockey to prerecord the parts when they speak on the radio, Gates said. Voice-tracking gives the listener the illusion of a person doing a live shift, but in reality, it allows a DJ to record a three-hour shift in less than a half-hour.

While Gates understands voice-tracking increases productivity, radio stations will eventually have to rely on entertaining announcers to lure listeners away from digital services such as Spotify or Youtube Music.

Although the new WNAP is gaining listeners, Gates says it's important to remember the listeners are different.

"People change over time," Gates said. "Now, instead of talking to a 17-year-old (with a rebellious attitude), WNAP is talking to a 50, 60 or 70-year-old who understands there can be positive things about life. You have to talk to them that way."



Baskets of food sit at a Johnson County REMC ready to distribute Saturday for the annual Good Cheer Fund.

PHOTO BY ANDY BELL-BALTACI

## Cheer

FROM PAGE 1

so long, several volunteers are part of families who have taken part in Good Cheer Fund packing and delivery for generations. That's the case with 65-year-old Jack McMahon, who has been a Good Cheer volunteer since he was five years old.

His father started volunteering in the 1940s and it has become a family tradition, with his daughter and a grandson also joining in, he said.

"It's overwhelming. Last year we took (food) to a family and the lady said she prayed for a month she'd get a food basket," McMahon said. "It's a big help for

people to provide for their families and provide for Christmas."

The Johnson County REMC is the largest distribution center for Good Cheer baskets. About 550 of the 900 baskets were loaded onto volunteer vehicles from the warehouse floor. Centers in Greenwood and Edinburgh had about 200 and 150 baskets, respectively, said Alyssa Klinge, a 22-year volunteer from Franklin.

All the hard work to get the food out to people in need pays off, Klinge said.

"I've seen houses with three canned goods in their cabinet. I've seen kids get overly excited because of one box of mac and cheese in a basket. There are a lot of hugs, a lot of tears and 'God bless you's,'" Klinge said. "My Christmas doesn't fully start until this happens."



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# Communities rally to ensure Every Kid Eats

By Andy Bell-Baltaci  
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

When they saw families struggling with the price of school meals, they decided they needed to help.

Center Grove area resident Suzanne Fortenberry doesn't have children, but said she could empathize with families facing a financial burden as the holiday season approached. So around Thanksgiving, she teamed up with Center Grove parent Nicole Kemp to create the Every Kid Eats initiative. The goal: to try and pay off at least some of the school meal debt accrued by Johnson County families.

"We don't touch any of the money. We just give the link for people to donate \$5, \$10, \$20, whatever they can. Together, we can put a dent in the debt," Fortenberry said. "Kids can't pay off debt so it's to give families a little relief during the holiday season."

The "Every Kid Eats-Johnson County Indiana" Facebook page had 339 members as of Thursday. Soon after the page formed, the offerings started pouring in as members saw links to the school district's meal debt donation page. At Center Grove, half of the \$6,500 debt faced by somewhere between 650 and 700 students districtwide was erased, said Shannon Maples, the

school district's food service director.

"Suzanne Fortenberry contacted me after she created the Facebook group 'Every Kid Eats' and said many community members were already on board to help with negative balances on accounts for students," Maples said. "Our goal was to reach \$3,200 and we met that goal within two weeks."

While the school district will always give students food no matter how much debt they've accrued, the 50% discount for each family's school meal debt will help them when previously they might not have been able to pay, she said.

"There's definitely a need in Johnson County. As we know, food insecurity can happen in rich or poor communities; it doesn't discriminate," Maples said. "These are real-life people suffering problems and dilemmas with inflation rates out of control. This was a way to help families in need."

Kemp said she understood the importance of giving back because she used to be in a similar position.

"I was a single mom at one point, and I remember not being able to pay book rental every year. Trying to pay it all seemed like so much," Kemp said. "I saw this as a way to free up families and give them confidence in their finances."

The movement didn't stop with Center Grove, however. Members of the Facebook

group are now raising money to eliminate some of the about \$12,000 in school meal debt students are facing at Clark-Pleasant Community School Corporation.

While the fundraising drive isn't over yet, donors gave \$340 to pay off meal debt at Clark-Pleasant last weekend, according to a post on the Facebook page. The donations will help families struggling to make ends meet as prices rise, said Kim Combs, food service director at Clark-Pleasant schools.

"I think it will help families with two working parents, who maybe don't have the best paying job and are struggling with increased prices," she said. "Food, utilities, everything has gone up. Their budgets are stretched too tight and maybe this will help them in the interim."

While Kemp and Fortenberry have their sights set on decreasing school meal debt across Johnson County, they are now in the process of finalizing a partnership with Greenwood Community School Corp. to pay off some of the \$11,466 in debt spread across 381 students, Fortenberry said in a Facebook post confirmed by Terry Terhune, superintendent of Greenwood schools.

The Energy Spot, a health food restaurant with a location in the Center Grove area, raised \$1,500 to remove school lunch debt at North Grove Elementary School, and although the donation was separate

from the Every Kid Eats initiative, Fortenberry and Kemp are trying to spread the word to get more businesses involved. Their search has already yielded one successful partnership: Bargersville Wellness, a barber shop, salon, spa and yoga studio.

Between Jan. 17 and Feb. 7, 40% of sales from add-on services and 5% of all product sales will go toward paying off school meal debt. Add-on services include: nose waxes, hair treatments, lip waxes and conditioning treatments. The proceeds will primarily help pay off debt at Center Grove, Clark-Pleasant and Greenwood schools, but clients who have children at other school districts, such as Franklin, Indian Creek and Edinburgh schools, can specify they want their money to go to those schools instead, said Blythe Potter, co-owner of Bargersville Wellness.

"Some people's kids rely on school for breakfast and lunch and their parents rely on schools for daycare because they have to work," Potter said. "Whether you have children or not, you should care about our children in the community and take care of the community."

The donations have shown the generosity of Johnson County residents, Fortenberry said.

"I'm proud of everyone who has donated and shared to try and make a difference in these families' lives," she said.

## JAIL BOOKINGS

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

Michael James Baker Jr., 32, Edinburgh; arrested on a charge of probation violation; held without bond.

Charles Edward Cooper, 51, Edinburgh; arrested on an out of county warrant; held without bond.

Dawn Renee Pinnick II, 51, Edinburgh; arrested on a warrant for failure to appear in court; held without bond.

Christopher Shane Starnes, 52, Edinburgh; arrested on a charge of resisting law enforcement using a vehicle; \$1,200 bond.

Marcella L. Schneider, 51, Edinburgh; arrested on a charge of contempt; released on \$500 bond.

Angel S. Miller, 31, Edinburgh; arrested on an out of county warrant; held without bond.

Robert Duain Coffey, 31, Edinburgh; arrested on a warrant for failure to appear in court; released on \$350 bond.

Steven Ray Smith, 47, Edinburgh; arrested on charges of invasion of privacy, possession of stolen property and unauthorized entry of a vehicle; bond information unavailable.

## Columbus water to be tested for toxic 'forever chemicals'

By Andy East  
THE REPUBLIC STAFF WRITER

Environmental regulators are planning to test Columbus' drinking water for long-lasting and highly toxic chemicals linked to cancer and other illnesses.

Indiana Department of Environmental Management officials informed Columbus City Utilities last week about the state regulator's plans to test Columbus' water for a class of chemicals called PFAS sometime during roughly the first half of next year, said IDEM spokesman Barry Sneed. The testing is part of an effort to examine the prevalence of the chemicals in public water systems across the state and the efficacy of drinking water treatment, state officials said earlier.

PFAS, or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, are a cluster of industrial chemicals associated with a variety of serious health conditions and have been used in products ranging from cookware to carpets and firefighting foams and consumer products since

the 1940s, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Research suggests exposure to certain levels of PFAS can lead to reproductive effects in humans, developmental delays, increased risks for certain cancers, elevated cholesterol levels and weaken the immune system, according to the EPA.

The chemicals are sometimes called "forever chemicals" because they don't break down naturally in the environment — or do so slowly — and can remain in a person's blood indefinitely. U.S. manufacturers have voluntarily phased out compounds such as PFAS, though there still are a limited number of ongoing uses for them.

While participation in IDEM's PFAS testing program is voluntary, it is "highly likely" that Columbus City Utilities will participate, said city utilities director Roger Kelso.

"It's hard for me to give you an absolute commitment to it until I see what the constraints (are) and what their testing plan looks like, but I'd say it's highly likely that we will do it," Kelso said.

IDEM officials said the testing is not mandatory because PFAS are not yet a regulated

contaminant in the Safe Drinking Water Act. The act is where IDEM gets its regulatory authority for the monitoring requirements.

However, in a separate effort to test for the chemicals, the EPA plans to conduct mandatory PFAS testing in Columbus in July 2024 and January 2025, said Angie Bowling, compliance officer at Columbus City Utilities.

Though Columbus City Utilities does not currently test for PFAS, officials believe that it is unlikely that the chemicals will be detected in Columbus' water.

The utility's most recent water quality report shows that Columbus' drinking water met all state and federal standards last year. PFAS are not a required item for the city to test for, Kelso said last summer.

PFAS were detected in untreated water at the Edinburgh Water Utility but not in finished drinking water. IDEM also tested the water supply at Camp Atterbury and did not detect PFAS. But contractors in a separate testing effort detected PFAS in the groundwater near a storage site on the north side of the base, though "it does not impact the Camp Atterbury water supply," officials said earlier this year.

## COMMUNITY CHATTER

### 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)

- 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. Meals are carryout only at this time. Go to the south door of the library.

- The library has switched to its winter hours. Until March 1, hours will be Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Computers will shut off 45 minutes before closing.

### Hunter education

A free Indiana Hunter Education Course is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 20 and Saturday, Jan. 21 at the Dubois County 4-H Fairgrounds, which is located at 4157 S. State Road 162, Huntingburg.

Classes will run from 6 to 9 p.m. Jan. 20, and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 21. Participants must attend both days to complete the course. Completion is required for anyone born after Dec. 31, 1986, to purchase an

Indiana hunting license.

All instruction will be by DNR conservation officers and certified Indiana volunteer hunters. The course will cover ethics, safety, laws, survival, and safe handling practices for archery, black powder, and firearms.

Advance registration is required for the course and can be completed at [passitoindiana.com](http://passitoindiana.com). There is a 150-student limit. This course is being sponsored by the Dubois County Shooting Sports Instructor Council.

Information: Patoka Lake, 812-685-2447

### 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)

Wednesdays: Happy Place Comedy Open Mic Comedy Night, 6 p.m. Win prizes or earn paid spots, meet new comics.

April 15: Wyatt Massingille (country)

April 22: Martin Branden and Rye Davis (country)

### Johnson County Museum

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](http://johnsoncountymuseum.org).

Through Dec. 30: Dec-A-Tree features themed Christmas trees from 30 nonprofits. Vote on favorite.

### 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.

### 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.

## SENIOR CENTER

### Nineveh Senior Center

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

Dec. 31: New Year's Eve party, 7 p.m.

Jan. 13: Blood pressure checks, 11:30 a.m. to noon.

Jan. 13: Monthly pitch-in luncheon and business meeting, noon-1:30 p.m. New officers and board members will be installed.

Jan. 16: Bingo with prizes, 1-3 p.m. Free coffee provided, pop and water for sale.

Jan. 16: Pizza provided by Compass Park of Franklin, 11:30-12:30 p.m.

Jan. 20: Food box distribution, 9-11 a.m.

Low-income Johnson County residents over 60 can call 317-739-9999 to get qualified for the food box program.

Jan. 25: Craft class, 3-4 p.m.

Jan. 25: Dinner provided by Church of the Lakes, 4-5 p.m.

Regular activities:

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

- Wednesdays, euchre, 5:30 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](http://www.ninevehseniorcenter.org)

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