



Year **2022** in REVIEW

DAILY JOURNAL

DECEMBER 31, 2022



January

JANUARY 1-2

The Historic Artcraft Theatre was preparing to celebrate 100 years in downtown Franklin. When the Artcraft opened its doors in 1921, it was envisioned as a main draw to downtown Franklin. One hundred years later, that is still the case.



JANUARY 3

Amity Volunteer Fire Department hoped to buy a life-saving CPR machine. Amity fire was raising the \$14,000 needed to buy the machine.

JANUARY 4

A Trafalgar couple rang in the new year with a new son. At exactly midnight on New Year's Day, the county's first baby of the year was born at Franciscan Health Indianapolis.

JANUARY 5

The Indiana Department of Education released updated graduation rates and half of the six Johnson County public high schools experienced more than a 3% change in their rates.

JANUARY 6

Election season was off and running and Johnson County Clerk Trena McLaughlin and Sheriff Duane Burgess became the first candidates to file to be on the ballot in this year's elections.

JANUARY 7

Hospitals were filling up, JMH was closing in on having record numbers and health care workers were wondering what more they could do to emphasize the continued severity of COVID-19.

JANUARY 8-9

Local lawmakers capped off their first week of this year's session by discussing COVID-19 vaccine mandates, labor issues and marijuana legalization during a chamber luncheon.

JANUARY 10

Franklin College biology students will benefit from a donation of 29 acres of land worth \$1.8 million. The land, donated by Southpoint

Farm, LLC., is on Forest Road in Franklin, across the street from Interstate Warehousing.

JANUARY 11

Population was unequal as Johnson County's new County Council and Board of Commissioner districts approved the new district maps.

JANUARY 12

Franklin Community Middle School formed the first middle school Interact Club in the southern Indiana district, which includes Johnson County, said Greg Moore, a Franklin Rotary Club member who serves as an advisor for the club. Interact Club is a service club for students that has a partnership with Rotary International.

JANUARY 13

Amazon announced a 510,000-square-foot sorting center at Franklin's Interstate 65 exit.

JANUARY 14

The highly contagious omicron variant ushered in all-time high positivity rates and stretched the county's testing capacity thin, while hospitals continued to struggle.

JANUARY 15-16

The U.S. Supreme Court decision was a mixed bag for the Biden Administration's COVID-19 vaccine mandates. The nation's highest court found there is precedent for a healthcare vaccine mandate,

but not for a mandate requiring vaccine or testing for companies with 100 or more employees.

JANUARY 17

An Edinburg emergency medical technician was fired following an investigation into an alleged on-duty battery incident. Jeramy G. Goodnight, 42, of Columbus was charged with one count of official misconduct and one count of battery.

JANUARY 18

A former jail employee accused of having a relationship with an inmate is facing additional misconduct charges. Prosecutors added felony charges of official misconduct and sexual misconduct for Zachariah B. Johnson, 28, of North Vernon, after a second female inmate came forward with similar allegations. Johnson was charged in December 2021 with three counts of sexual misconduct, official misconduct, and trafficking with an inmate.

JANUARY 19

Local officials were facing some tough decisions about some big projects. City and town leaders were hitting pause, changing the way projects look or powering through them due to inflation, labor shortages and supply chain issues related to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic



DAILY JOURNAL FILE PHOTOS

Pictured from left: A historic photo of the Historic Artcraft Theatre unearthed for the 100th-anniversary celebration. // Johnson Memorial Health's emergency department waiting area is nearly empty on Dec. 29, as the hospital was overfull and on diversion.

JANUARY 20

Clark-Pleasant Community Schools announced plans to spend up to \$238 million on a project that would include major renovations to Whiteland Community High School's campus.

JANUARY 21

Community spread of COVID-19 across Indiana had reached a record high, and demand for tests has nearly depleted supplies at local health departments.

JANUARY 22-23

The Franklin City Council voted to pass on the full cost of trash services to residents for the first time in the city's history.

JANUARY 24

Franklin approved a \$6,300 tax break for a small business. Mooresville-based Overton Industries - Tube Forming Systems requested a five-year personal property tax abatement to purchase equipment worth \$247,068 for its Franklin facility. The company would hire one new employee to run the equipment.

JANUARY 25

Camp Atterbury ended work with Afghan refugees after nearly all the Afghan refugees housed there had been resettled.

JANUARY 26

Debate about land continued as a proposed apartment complex near the Indy South

Greenwood Airport was back before city officials for a second time.

JANUARY 27

The county health department said schools with mask mandates in place can ease contact tracing efforts amid the COVID-19 omicron surge.

JANUARY 28

If more health care workers didn't get vaccinated by Feb. 14, the county hospital would be forced to let go of about 170 employees. Johnson Memorial Health and Franciscan Health Indianapolis were preparing to implement a federal vaccine mandate for health care facilities that get care reimbursements from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

JANUARY 29-30

The tidbits accumulated over 200 years of history had bubbled up all over Edinburg. As local residents prepared for the town's bicentennial this year, they discovered an amazing amount of wild, wonderful facts that had otherwise been lost to time.

JANUARY 31

After years of discussions, Greenwood was inching closer to making a dreamed-of fire station a reality on the city's southeast side. The property is located at 1763 S. Graham Road, just east of the Interstate 65 and Worthsville Road interchange.

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February

FEBRUARY 1

Whiteland's outgoing town manager, Kevin McGinnis, retired after a year in office, and the town's new manager, Jim Lowhorn, assumed duties on this day.

FEBRUARY 2

Nearly a year to the day after the county's last winter storm, the first major storm of the year was on its way.

FEBRUARY 3

Early rain prevented effective road treatment ahead of winter blast and with a winter storm bearing down on the county, governments and schools had announced plans, changes and closures.

FEBRUARY 4

A proposed development in Whiteland would bring a multi-family housing development and several in-demand commercial spaces. Westfield-based Patch Development announced plans to bring a nearly 159-acre mixed-use development to the southwest corner of Whiteland and Graham roads.



DAILY JOURNAL FILE PHOTO

Joey Randolph shovels snow for his neighbors at Greenwood Oaks Townhomes on Feb. 4.

FEBRUARY 5-6

The county digs out after it was blanketed with as much as 6.5 inches of snow after Winter Storm Landon dropped rain, ice and snow between Wednesday and Friday morning.

FEBRUARY 7

Franklin College students will soon be able to pursue data science, a new major that will help facilitate entry into high-tech fields.

FEBRUARY 8

The Indiana Supreme Court appointed a Franklin attorney

to temporarily reside over a county court. Jeff Eggers will serve as a temporary judge of Johnson County Superior Court 3 following the resignation of Lance Hamner. Hamner resigned as judge and announced his intent to run for Johnson County prosecutor.

FEBRUARY 9

Construction began on a new rental home community on Franklin's eastside. The Links at Franklin, a luxury multi-family neighborhood of 167 homes on more than 30 acres, will be located off King

Street, Jefferson Street and Umbarger Lane.

FEBRUARY 10

Franklin couple Cory and Sarah Campbell announced plans to open a locally-sourced grocery store and meat market downtown.

FEBRUARY 11

The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute awarded the Edinburg Police Department a \$17,330 state grant to add in-car radars to patrol cars.

FEBRUARY 12-13

Former Franklin mayor, Joe McGuinness announced he was leaving his leadership position as INDOT chief with the state to join the private sector.

FEBRUARY 14

Health care officials were scrambling to do final counts of unvaccinated employees to comply with a federal mandate that went into effect this day. In Johnson County, most health care workers chose to get vaccinated, but others felt so strongly against taking the COVID-19 vaccine they forfeit their jobs.

ON THE COVER

Clockwise from top left: A Greenwood Street Department truck driver takes another pass on Smith Valley Road as snow continues to fall Thursday afternoon in Greenwood. // Shoppers evacuate from the Greenwood Park Mall following a mass shooting Sunday evening. // Exterior shot of the Johnson County Public Library's Clark Pleasant branch, which unofficially opened in March. // Children play at the Spray Park at Youngs Creek Park at the Youngs Creek Park grand opening. // The concession stand was popular at The Historic Artcraft Theatre on Sept. 10 during the Celebrating A Century event. // Whiteland quarterback Kevin Denham walks off the field dejected while Valparaiso's Ty Veen celebrates behind him at the end of the Class 5A state final. // A 4-Her shows her pig during the Born and Raised Gilt Show at the Johnson County 4-H and Agricultural Fair. // Center Grove's Nate Johnson, center, celebrates with teammates Ben Lowe (63) and Payton Hutchins (58) after beating Fort Wayne Carroll in the Class 6A state championship game. // Pro-abortion protesters hold up protest signs as they march on downtown Indianapolis in the wake of the overturn of Roe v. Wade. DAILY JOURNAL FILE PHOTOS; GARY BROCKMAN | FOR THE DAILY JOURNAL; SUBMITTED PHOTO

FEBRUARY 15

Local governments approved more than \$300 million worth of tax breaks last year.

FEBRUARY 16

About 25 Johnson Memorial Health employees were suspended without pay and were likely to lose their jobs if they did not get a COVID-19 vaccination or apply for an exemption to a federal vaccine mandate.

FEBRUARY 17

The Franklin Plan Commission approved a plat for an up to eight-building logistics park on 275 acres at Graham Road and Paul Hand Boulevard. The



DAILY JOURNAL FILE PHOTO

Firefighters from multiple agencies responded to a plane crash Feb. 24 at the Franklin Flying Field south of Franklin. The pilot of the aircraft, an 83-year-old Brownsburg man, was flown to an Indianapolis hospital where he remains in serious condition.

property is bordered to the south by existing industrial buildings, and to the west

of existing housing and the Humane Society of Johnson County.

FEBRUARY 18

Concerns from local residents prompted Franklin schools to remove a book from its libraries, the first time it had done so this school year.

FEBRUARY 19-20

The Indiana Senate's Tax and Fiscal Policy Committee amended House Bill 1002, eliminating a business personal property tax holiday that could have cost Franklin and Greenwood millions of dollars.

FEBRUARY 21

Center Grove wrestlers, Hayden Watson and Drake Buchanan were crowned state champions.

FEBRUARY 22

A Brownsburg man was seriously injured in a plane crash at the north end of Franklin Flying Field, 3477 County Road 200 E., Franklin.

FEBRUARY 23

The Johnson County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved a redistricting proposal submitted by Commissioner Brian Baird on behalf of the county.

FEBRUARY 24

The Edinburg police and fire departments announced a partnership with the National Safe Haven Alliance, an organization that advocates for Safe Haven laws and provides resources to parents

experiencing an unplanned pregnancy through a national crisis hotline.

FEBRUARY 25

Greenwood Mayor Mark Myers, announced his plan to run for re-election next year during his 11th State of the City address.

FEBRUARY 26-27

The county's primary election ballot was set Feb. 25, and candidates for four county council races were final after a deadline extension.

FEBRUARY 28

Four people were hospitalized after an SUV crashed into the Cold Stone Creamery on Fry Road in Greenwood.

March



DAILY JOURNAL FILE PHOTOS



Pictured from left: Exterior shot of the Johnson County Public Library's Clark Pleasant branch, which unofficially opened in March. // A progress photo of the DriveHubler.com Amphitheater taken in March, when the project was 10 months behind schedule.

MARCH 1

Starting this year, students scrapped the pencils and scantrons in favor of an college prep SAT exam that's entirely digital.

MARCH 2

The victim took the stand in Johnson County Superior Court 2, testifying against Darius Birk, a Greenwood man who was charged with attempted murder in the shooting of his girlfriend in 2021.

MARCH 3

Racing legend Tony Stewart, a Columbus native and three-time NASCAR Cup Series champion listed his home at Hidden Hollow Ranch at 10285 W. Youth Camp Road in Columbus and it is believed to be one of the most expensive real estate listings in the state.

MARCH 4

The \$8.8 million, new 17,200 square foot Clark Pleasant Library opened to the public.

MARCH 5-6

Indiana lawmakers gave final approval to administrative steps Gov. Eric Holcomb said were necessary to end the statewide COVID-19 public health emergency while still protecting enhanced federal funding.

MARCH 7

The \$9 million Youngs Creek Park was 10 months behind schedule, city officials said. They were concerned about the pace of construction, as the park was set to open on May 20.

MARCH 8

Throughout the five-day trial for a Greenwood man charged with attempted murder, prosecutors and defense attorneys acknowledged the complicated nature of the case. In the end, the jury heard enough to find Darius Birk guilty of all four charges: attempted murder, aggravated battery, pointing a firearm at another and carrying a handgun without a license, closing out the week-long trial.

MARCH 9

The Johnson County Health Department's COVID-19 testing and vaccination clinic at Compass Park was scaling back as cases and hospitalizations were back in a lull. The clinic moved to the health department's office because the demand was low and events were resuming at Compass Park's event center.

MARCH 10

The 2022 session of the Indiana General Assembly adjourned after more than three months, and with it, dozens of new laws are set to become law.

MARCH 11

In his first in-person State of the City address since 2019, Mayor Steve Barnett said Franklin is excelling despite the pandemic.

MARCH 12-13

The county's death statistics demonstrate a growing need for a full-time coroner's office. About 1,020 people died last year in the county, a nearly 20.5% decrease from 2020, when 1,283 deaths were reported. The number of deaths reported in 2020 were the highest reported over a three-year period from 2019 to 2021.

MARCH 14

Johnson County Public Libraries announced a decision to eliminate fines. Library director Lisa Lintner consulted 80 different Indiana libraries that had adopted a fine-free system before making the move.

MARCH 15

Greenwood moved forward with plans for a roundabout near Greenwood schools. The city plans to build a \$2.3 million roundabout at the intersection of Averitt and Smith Valley Road, just west of Greenwood Community High School and Southwest Elementary School, in 2024.

MARCH 16

Millions in infrastructure projects were planned this year all over Franklin. The projects weren't just a wish

list. They were needed to improve traffic flow and public safety, Mayor Steve Barnett said of the projects.

MARCH 17

Clark-Pleasant schools approved plans for what could be the most expensive capital project in its history. The project to expand Whiteland Community High School will cost as much as \$235 million once inflation is factored in, according to a final proposal to the Clark-Pleasant school board.

MARCH 18

After two years of prolonged legal battles, former Franklin College President Thomas Minar pleaded "no contest" to child enticement and possession of child pornography charges.

MARCH 19-20

Center Grove schools announced plans to spend \$30 million to expand and renovate parts of both Center Grove High School and Sugar Grove Elementary School. The school board unanimously approved the project during its meeting.

MARCH 21

Franklin schools announced a forum ahead of this year's school board elections. A pair of school board seats were up for grabs this fall at Franklin schools and those seats are among more than a dozen available to local residents.

MARCH 22

Two bills passed by the Indiana General Assembly this year will have major impacts on local law enforcement. House Enrolled Act 1004 will allow local judges to again sentence people convicted of low-level felonies to state prisons by reversing part of Indiana's criminal justice reform bills from the mid-2010s.

MARCH 23

Johnson County officials must come up with \$390.4 million to pay for road improvements. Johnson County has a long list of road projects and the county has a funding shortfall.

MARCH 24

The Debtone and Center Grove Sound System both took home Grand National Champion awards this weekend for their performances. CG Singers placed as First Runner Up in the Concert Choir Division.

MARCH 25

Two fiber optic internet utilities were expanding this year in western Johnson County. Metronet began its expansion into Bargersville.

MARCH 26-27

Lance Hamner, a former county prosecutor and superior court judge for the last three decades was running for prosecutor again, challenging the incumbent who was selected via caucus in 2019.

MARCH 28

Virtual meetings became a norm during the coronavirus pandemic, and some local governments say they will continue to offer virtual options for the public to attend meetings.

MARCH 29

County officials were considering taking control of portions of three state roads after the Indiana Department of Transportation offered to relinquish control of portions of State Roads 44, 144 and 252 in exchange for about \$35 million in federal funding to widen Smith Valley Valley Road near Interstate 69.

MARCH 30

Johnson County's population has grown by more than 109% since the 1980s and that has come with challenges for the county's more than 49 combined watersheds — creeks, ditches, drainage ways and sub-surface tiles — all of which drain runoff from various areas of the county.

MARCH 31

Johnson County's Plan Commission denied Verizon Wireless 5G towers after more than 60 people filled the courthouse annex to voice their opposition, during a marathon six hour meeting.

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April

APRIL 1

During the fall semester at the University of Indianapolis there was an uptick of theft and violent crime incidents. That prompted campus officials to complete a comprehensive public safety study and make changes on campus.

APRIL 2-3

Prosecutor Joe Villanueva was running for his first full term in office.

APRIL 4

Voting in Johnson County started, as the Johnson County courthouse opened its doors for the first in-person voters of the 2022 election season.

APRIL 5

The average Edinburgh Municipal Water Utility customer will pay about \$10.31 more per month after the town council authorized a rate increase. The rate increase was made as Edinburgh aims to generate \$6.4 million for a new water plant, which town officials say has been due for an upgrade for more than five years.

APRIL 6

Two candidates for county prosecutor do not see eye to eye on the current office holder's jury trial wins.

APRIL 7

If the district's referendum doesn't pass, Edinburgh Community Schools could be forced to consolidate. Voters in Johnson County's Blue River Township and Bartholomew County's German Township were asked to raise their taxes in exchange for raising teacher



salaries and giving the school district a more secure future.

APRIL 8

Franklin Community High School senior Chance Utterback remembers his friend, Colton Leeper, who was killed in a car crash on Hurricane Road, as someone who would serve anyone who needed help. Leeper was killed in a car crash on Hurricane Road and Utterback helped to finish Colton's senior project.

APRIL 9-10

Construction was set to start on Bargersville's long-awaited Kephart Park. The 19-acre plot of land located west of the Morningside subdivision on County Road 144 has been planned as a park since 2015. The park project was estimated to cost about \$9 million and take place over four phases.

APRIL 11

Franklin Community Schools has seen declining enrollment in recent years, but that seems



poised to change with about 1,750 single-family homes and 525 multifamily apartment units that are set to be built within Franklin's school district boundaries in the coming years.

APRIL 12

Brent Waltz, 48, of Greenwood a former Indiana State Senator and Johnson County council member pled guilty to violating federal campaign finance laws and making false statements to federal investigators. Waltz faces up to 10 years in prison.

APRIL 13

The Johnson County Council approved more than \$3.7 million in spending on subdivision street repairs, fiber internet expansion and fire trucks in White River Township. The bulk of the money, \$2.5 million, is for the street repairs and fiber expansion, which are being funded with American Rescue Plan Act dollars.

APRIL 14

The arrest of a Greenwood child care provider had parents wondering what they should look for when researching child care providers.

APRIL 15

The Ivy Tech Community College system announced plans to add a total of 600

seats to nursing programs across the state by 2025 — including 20 new openings at the Columbus campus for students seeking an associate's degree.

APRIL 16-17

The 32 Franklin Community High School students in the high school's percussion band were headed to Dayton, Ohio, to compete in the Winter Guard International World Championships. All but three of the students will be making the trip for the first time, as the COVID-19 pandemic canceled competitions in 2020 and 2021.

APRIL 18

Two Johnson County college students were selected as Indianapolis 500 Festival Princesses for the race's 106th running. Lexi Giddens, a Franklin College junior and Whiteland Community High School graduate, and Blanca Osorio Ortega, a junior at the University of Indianapolis and Greenwood Community High School graduate, made the cut from among hundreds of applicants from around the state to serve on the court.

APRIL 19

At Center Grove High School's Innovation Center, students worked on the final tune-ups



DAILY JOURNAL FILE PHOTO

Clockwise from top left: The exterior of the Greenwood Fieldhouse is seen. The grand opening of the fieldhouse was on May 6 at 11 a.m. // Joe Villanueva, a Republican candidate for Johnson County Prosecutor, sits during an interview on Mar. 1 at the Daily Journal in Franklin. // Construction of an addition to the Johnson County jail is seen in December 2020. Almost all of the \$23.1 million project has been completed.

for their robots, ahead of the student's trip to Houston for the FIRST Championship in robotics. The 49 students traveled to Texas to the world championship.

APRIL 20

A Franklin College graduate pledged a \$3.9 million estate gift, the richest in the college's history. The money was an estate gift from 1971 graduate Eleanor Ackley.

APRIL 21

Johnson County Museum of History opened an exhibit in conjunction with Edinburgh's bicentennial celebration.

APRIL 22

At the site of the former Greenwood Middle School fieldhouse, a new 65,000 square foot community recreation facility was set to open in less than two weeks. The Greenwood Fieldhouse, is a \$9 million redevelopment project the city undertook to give the remaining building at the middle school property new life.

APRIL 23-24

Edinburgh community was taking action to prevent opioid overdose deaths.

APRIL 25

Students of Leadership Johnson County's Youth Leadership Academy finished work a community service project to beautify the Johnson County Animal Shelter in Franklin.

APRIL 26

A local internet provider, JCFiber, a subsidiary of JCREMC, expansion plans were boosted by two grant opportunities totaling more than \$1.3 million.

APRIL 27

Officials with the Indiana State Board of Animal Health confirmed that the flock of 41 chickens, ducks and peafowl in the Bargersville area tested positive for the highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza.

APRIL 28

The multi-million expansion of the Johnson County jail was nearly complete, with only one project outstanding before the main work is officially done. The \$23.1 million project added 264 additional beds, a new intake area, an expanded medical center and more to the Johnson County Justice Center.

APRIL 29

Franklin Community Schools announced plans to partner with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Johnson County for the district's Cub Care program.

APRIL 30

Johnson County Board of Commissioners decided to not approve a state road relinquishment agreement that had been heavily discussed.

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May

MAY 2

Students in Franklin Community High School's percussion band and Center Grove High School's robotics team were part of history. Franklin's percussion band finished fourth in its class during the Winter Guard International World Championships, the best an Indiana school finished in its class. Center Grove's robotics team made it to the Championship Division finals in the FIRST Championship, a world championship in Houston, also the best finish for an Indiana school.

MAY 3

Today was the day to make your voice heard. From 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. voters cast ballots to select candidates in multiple contested races at the local, state and federal level.

MAY 4

A former county prosecutor and superior court judge ousted the incumbent prosecutor, advancing to the November general election. Lance Hamner has won the



DAILY JOURNAL FILE PHOTO

Johnson County Prosecutor-elect Lance Hamner campaigns at the White River Township library on primary day.

Republican nomination for Johnson County Prosecutor with 58% of the vote.

MAY 5

Voter turnout was lower for this year's primary than in recent history. Of Johnson County's 115,213 registered voters, a total of 14,072 cast

ballots in the Democratic and Republican primaries, representing a 12.2% turnout.

MAY 6

City officials say land use is appropriate but neighbors disagreed as several variances were approved to pave the way for an apartment complex

at Franklin's I-65 gateway. The complex will have 163 units.

MAY 7-8

Duke Energy, one of Johnson County's largest electric utilities was seeking regulatory approval to raise its rates through the summer due to rising fuel costs.

MAY 9

The local 4-H and agriculture class was taking precautions as the recent outbreak of avian flu reached Johnson County. The Johnson County 4-H fair's poultry show was in limbo.

MAY 10

Residents of a White River Township subdivision Willow Lakes expressed their concerns about crumbling concrete streets in their neighborhood during a county commissioner meeting. Residents of the neighborhood built in the 1980s and 90s, have repeatedly said the concrete streets in their neighborhoods are falling apart and are getting worse.

MAY 11

A former Franklin schools employee pled guilty to child seduction after a former student came forward with information about an inappropriate relationship from eight years ago. James "Eli" Betts, 43, of Franklin, pled guilty to one count of child seduction by a child care worker as a Level 5 felony.

MAY 12

The Indiana Department of Transportation is working on several projects in Johnson County this summer. As part of the \$6.2 million project, 5.8 miles of U.S. 31 will be resurfaced from the Young's Creek Bridge in Franklin to just north of the intersection with State Road 252 south of Amity. The Young's Creek bridge will also be rehabilitated as part of the project. Construction was expected to start in summer.

MAY 13

The Johnson County Council was leaving all options on the table to fund \$390 million in road work over the next five years. At their meeting council members discussed a potential increase of the county's wheel tax and vehicle excise tax.

MAY 14-15

The Greenwood Police have released body camera and security camera footage from the pursuit that ended in the shooting death of a Greenwood resident in late March. The footage shows the circumstances surrounding the fatal shots that were fired at Monica W. Vaught, 49, in the Greenwood Justice Center parking lot.

MAY 16

Greenwood's plans to build a roundabout at the intersection of Averitt Road and Smith Valley Road



SUBMITTED PHOTO; DAILY JOURNAL FILE PHOTOS

Clockwise from left: Camp Atterbury's chapel was damaged by a brief EF-0 tornado that touched down at the base on May 21. Winds reached a maximum speed of 84 mph. // Sponsors and city of Franklin officials cut the ribbon the DriveHubler.com Amphitheater at the Youngs Creek Park grand opening. // From left, Indiana American Water officials, Franklin councilman Josh Prine and Mayor Steve Barnett prepare to cut the ribbon on the Spray Park at Youngs Creek Park at the Youngs Creek Park grand opening.

was facing criticism from neighbors.

MAY 17

Men from all around Indiana thought they were meeting up with a 14-year-old in Greenwood, but were instead met by police. The Johnson County Sheriff's Office organized a three-day child solicitation roundup that resulted in 11 arrests. JCISO collaborated with the Marion County Sheriff's Office and Franklin Police for the sting.

MAY 18

The League of Women Voters, a century-old national organization dedicated to protecting and expanding voting rights, was recruiting for a local chapter in Johnson County.

MAY 19

KYB Americas is taking part in a federal pledge to reduce

carbon emissions by 50% by 2030. The company and its Franklin headquarters are already well on their way to reducing emissions by that level with several projects completed or soon to be underway.

MAY 20

A Greenwood masseuse was sentenced to two days in jail after she pleaded guilty to touching an undercover officer inappropriately and offering to do more for money. Yaqin Zhao, 60, of Carmel, pleaded guilty to a single charge of prostitution, a Class A misdemeanor in Johnson County Superior Court 3.

MAY 21-22

Franklin's Youngs Creek Park officially opened on May 20. The \$9 million park was designed with large greenspaces to absorb floodwaters and amenities

built to withstand flooding. Those amenities include an amphitheater, playground, pickleball courts, trails, plazas built to accommodate food trucks and farmer's market vendors and the city's first splash pad.

MAY 23

Severe weather cut a path of damage across Johnson County.

MAY 24

The National Weather Service preliminarily confirmed a tornado struck Camp Atterbury and officials said straight-line winds were likely responsible for damage reported in other parts of the county. An EF-0 tornado with estimated peak winds of 84 mph briefly touched down around 3:48 p.m. Saturday at Camp Atterbury. EF-0 tornadoes have winds between 65 to 85 mph, and



this twister's path was less than a mile long.

MAY 25

Hundreds of activists filled the Indiana Statehouse to support transgender youth as Indiana lawmakers voted to override the governor's veto to ban transgender girls in Indiana from participating in girls sports.

MAY 26

The Johnson County Museum was distributing mementos from The Leaning Tree that meant so much to generations of Johnson County residents.

MAY 27

New home permits were down across central Indiana, including Johnson County, and experts say inflation and supply chain issues are the likely reason why.

MAY 28-29

COVID-19 cases were rising

across the state and nation, but locally, health officials have only seen a trickle of people hospitalized with the virus. At Johnson Memorial Hospital, doctors have seen a steady trickle of COVID-19 patients needing to be hospitalized since March.

MAY 30

With Edinburgh in the midst of a worsening drug problem, officials were considering adding a K9 to the police department for the first time since the 1980s.

MAY 31

State officials and lawmakers say they're not inclined to push for a gas tax suspension as many prices remain over \$4.50 a gallon. Indiana's average pump price hit \$4.57 for a gallon of regular gasoline, up from \$4.09 a month ago and up from \$2.97 around this time last year.

June

JUNE 1

Property tax bills arrived in mailboxes in late April, and many homeowners likely saw a big leap in their home's assessed value for the 2022 fiscal year. The total residential property assessed value in Johnson County increased by 20% for 2022.

JUNE 2

Johnson County continued to grow in 2021, adding more than 2,100 people, pushing the population to 164,298, estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau show. Indiana added 20,341 residents in 2021, pushing the state's total population to almost 6.81 million.

JUNE 3

Farmers market season is here and Johnson County boasts five options to buy fresh, local produce and artisan products. The Bargersville, Franklin, Greenwood were open this day, while Whiteland's and Edinburgh's farmers market opened later this month.

JUNE 4-5

Discover Downtown Franklin's annual event Strawberries on the Square traditionally takes place the weekend before Memorial Day, however, rain and storms were in the forecast, so organizers rescheduled. The event did not take place on the courthouse square this year. Instead, was a few blocks east at Youngs Creek Park and the DriveHubler.com Amphitheater.

JUNE 6

Graduates of Whiteland and Edinburgh highs tossed their caps this weekend to mark the end of high school over the weekend.

JUNE 7

County officials were weighing the idea of using federal relief money to give all county employees a one-time stipend for inflationary relief. The proposal would allocate \$1.7



From top: A young volunteer puts whipped cream on a strawberry shortcake during Strawberries on the Square. // Edinburgh residents and out-of-towners gathered to celebrate the town's 200-year history during the Bicentennial Birthday Bash in June. DAILY JOURNAL FILE PHOTOS



million for these payments from the \$31 million pool of money the county received from the federal American Rescue Plan Act. The \$1.7 million allocation would provide full-time county employees a \$2,500 stipend and part-time employees with a \$1,500 stipend.

JUNE 8

Almost three years after his arrest for sex crimes, former Franklin College president Thomas Minar received a sentence of six years in prison and six years of extended supervision.

JUNE 9

A longtime community volunteer and former educator Gary Kiesel is this year's recipient of the city of Franklin's Marty and Carolyn

Williams Volunteer of the Year Award. Mayor Steve Barnett and Carolyn Williams presented the award to Kiesel at the Franklin City Council meeting.

JUNE 10

Gov. Eric Holcomb proposed a plan to return \$1 billion to Hoosier taxpayers to combat the effects of inflation. The money would come from state reserves, following higher-than-expected revenue performance this fiscal year. Each taxpayer received an additional \$225 on top of the \$125 tax refund that Hoosiers received from the state's automatic taxpayer refund.

JUNE 11-12

If all goes according to the plan, the former Amphenol site could be fully cleaned up in two to three years. The

Environmental Protection Agency presented the final site remediation plan for the Amphenol/Franklin Power Products site in front of a few dozen people at Franklin City Hall.

JUNE 13

Edinburgh residents of past and present gathered over the weekend to celebrate 200 years of memories and community for Johnson County's oldest town. Edinburgh, situated at the southern tip of the county, was the first settlement in Johnson County two centuries ago in March 1822.

JUNE 14

My Super Taqueria's move up into a restaurant is a dream come true for the owners. Robert Villarreal, owner of My Super Taqueria, always dreamt of owning a business, now he's grown his food truck into a restaurant in downtown Franklin.

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JUNE 15

Edinburgh officials broke ground on the new Edinburgh Fire Station 41. Friends and family members came out to show their support towards the firefighters in the next step of opening a new station, on County Road 900 North. The town's fire operations will be relocated to this property from the current location at 203 S. Walnut St. The project is expected to cost \$3.5 million dollars.

JUNE 16

The parents of a Clark-Pleasant Middle School student filed a legal claim against the school district and Superintendent Patrick Spray amid ongoing racial and sexual orientation-based bullying.

JUNE 17

Johnson County Sales Pavilion closed after 67 years. The Sales Pavilion has brought farmers from across the state since 1955 to buy animals.

JUNE 18-19

Franklin Mayor Steve Barnett announced plans to seek another term in the 2023 municipal election. He said there are too many big projects going on to step away just yet.

JUNE 20

A Greenwood police officer resigned his position and pleaded guilty to operating a vehicle while intoxicated in February. Jason "Jake" York, a veteran officer with the Greenwood Police Department, pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of operating a vehicle while intoxicated in Franklin City Court.



JUNE 21

Festival Country, the county's convention, visitors and tourism commission, had seen significantly higher hotel revenue for the first four months of the year,

compared to 2021. Festival Country runs the county visitor's center in Franklin, and conducts marketing campaigns and promotes local businesses, attractions and festivals across Johnson County.

JUNE 22

Another proposal to rezone just over 154 acres on Greenwood's southeast side for commercial and industrial use failed in a split city council vote.

DAILY JOURNAL FILE PHOTOS

From top: Pro-abortion protestors hold up protest signs as they march on downtown Indianapolis in the wake of the overturn of Roe v. Wade. // From left, owner Rick Teverbaugh, auctioneer Wade Findley and clerk Katie Ness oversee the sale of donkeys during the final sale at the Johnson County Sales Pavilion.

Greenwood City Council failed to approve the rezoning of about 154.4 acres of land located on the southeast corner of Worthsville Road and County Road 250 East/Collins Road. The vote came after well over 60 area residents came out to oppose the rezoning of part of Kelsay Farms.

JUNE 23

After 31 years in education and eight years as Greenwood Community

High School Principal, Todd Garrison announced his retirement.

JUNE 24

The city of Greenwood officials announced plans to buy, demolish and redevelop a building that was damaged during the 2021 grain elevator fire.

JUNE 25-26

Indiana lawmakers were expecting action to tighten the state's abortion law following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade.

JUNE 27

People marched, cheered, yelled and prayed at pro-life and pro-choice rallies at the Indiana Statehouse. They were encouraging lawmakers to take action in the wake of the Roe v. Wade decision.

JUNE 28

The more than 400-acre Mohr Logistics Park project in Whiteland was speeding ahead and expected to be mostly built out within the next year. Mohr Capital, a real estate development company, is investing about \$350 million to build the 475-acre industrial park at the Whiteland Road exit of Interstate 65.

JUNE 29

As inflation was gripping Johnson County, more and more people were seeking help in the face of food insecurity. Local food pantry leaders say they were being stressed beyond anything they've experienced before.

JUNE 30

Edinburgh officials established a police K9 fund to purchase the town's first K9 since the 1980s.

July

Pictured from top: People walk around the fair grounds at the Johnson County 4-H and Agricultural Fair. // An Amazon employee packages items for delivery at the company's SIN9 facility in Greenwood. DAILY JOURNAL FILE PHOTOS



JULY 1

More than 170 bills were signed into law by Gov. Eric Holcomb from this year's legislative session and most of them went into effect on this day.

JULY 6

As local ballots were made official, it was apparent most local races in Johnson County would be uncontested during the November general election.

JULY 2-3

Franklin Family Aquatic Center and Freedom Springs in Greenwood were almost fully staffed, but at Edinburgh Aquatic Center, lifeguards and the pool manager were working longer hours to pick up the slack amid a national life guard shortage.

JULY 7

Local restaurant owners have been faced with the challenges as inflation rises. Owners say they're constantly running into supply chain problems and dealing with ever-increasing prices.

JULY 4

Coffeehouse Five was brewing up change. The Johnson County coffeehouse chain announced plans for a new location in Bargersville and launched a reusable cup program.

JULY 8

A global supply chain distributor announced an expansion to Whiteland, with plans to bring up to 400 jobs. DHL Supply Chain plans to bring operations to a nearly 980,000-square foot building in the Whiteland Exchange Business Park.

JULY 5

It's official — Johnson County has a League of Women Voters chapter. The local league chapter was affirmed, a payoff from months of work by a group of local women.

JULY 9-10

Indiana lawmakers were set to return to the Statehouse to draft new abortion laws for the state.

JULY 11

Edinburgh Community High School held an active threat



training, which tries to place officers in situations that resemble previous school attacks and critique their reactions.

1.4%. A tax increase is one step in a long solution meet the county's road funding shortfall.

JULY 12

Amazon's Prime Day was here and the company's Greenwood mini-fulfillment center was ready for the two-day shopping extravaganza.

JULY 14

Local flower shops and wholesalers were trying to adjust to the busy schedule of events and the demand for flowers amid the shortage, which stems from drought, unrest and after effects of the pandemic

JULY 13

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

JULY 15

Rides, food, prizes and more! The Johnson County 4-H and Agricultural Fair returned with a packed schedule with many returning and new events for the whole family.

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JULY 16-17

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

JULY 18

Four people, including the shooter, are dead and two people were in the hospital following a mass shooting at the Greenwood Park Mall over the weekend.

JULY 19

Police released the names of those who were killed during a shooting at the Greenwood Park Mall, including the suspect. The victims were identified as Victor Gomez, 30, and husband and wife Pedro Pineda, 56, and Rosa Mirian Rivera de Pineda, 37. The shooting suspect was identified as Jonathan Douglas Sapiro, 20, of Greenwood.

JULY 20

The preliminary autopsy results show the Greenwood Park Mall mass shooting suspect was shot eight times by a man police called an armed bystander. He was shot by Elisjsha Dicken, 22, of Seymour, who police called a good Samaritan.

JULY 21

Police released emotional 911 audio recordings and radio traffic calls from the Greenwood Park Mall mass shooting. The recordings from the shooting at the mall that left four dead, including the shooter, and two injured, show not only how chaotic and traumatic that day was,



but also how first responders responded to the shooting.

JULY 22

The Greenwood City Council approved a rezoning request for a potential apartment complex just east of

Greenwood's airport despite traffic concerns from nearby residents.

JULY 23-24

As House Enrolled Act 1130 and Senate Enrolled Act 83 have taken effect,

From top: First responders from Johnson, Marion and Bartholomew counties responded to a mass shooting at the Greenwood Park Mall on July 17. // Amy and David Daugherty hold hands and pray during the prayer vigil for the victims of the Greenwood Park Mall shooting. More than 100 people from different religious communities in Greenwood and the south-side of Indianapolis gathered at the Greenwood Amphitheater July 22 for the vigil. DAILY JOURNAL FILE PHOTOS

some school districts have had to alter their school board public comment policies. Both bills guarantee members of the public an opportunity to speak at school board meetings.

JULY 25

Former Edinburgh Town Manager Dan Cartwright got a new gig as Bargersville's incoming town manager.

Bargersville officials announced that Cartwright will take the helm as town manager starting Aug. 1. He replaced Julie Young, the former Bargersville town manager who resigned.

JULY 26

Megan Murray stood in front of the crowd at the Johnson County Fair's livestock auction, presenting the

crossbred steer that she had spent months working with. The fact that the Trafalgar resident was even at the fair this year was astounding. Murray and two of her friends had been seriously injured in a car accident in August 2021.

JULY 27

At Westwood Elementary School, about 200 families received backpacks full of school supplies, something that families said they needed more than ever this year. The event was part of the annual Fast Track school supply giveaway hosted by United Way of Johnson County.

JULY 28

People hoping to join a school board in Johnson County could now file for election.

JULY 29

The school board for Greenwood Community School Corporation approved a contract for Michael Gasaway to replace long-time principal Todd Garrison, who retired in this summer after 31 years in education and eight years as principal.

JULY 30-31

A former Franklin schools employee James "Eli" Betts, 43, of Franklin, was sentenced to six years on one count of child seduction by a child care worker, a Level 5 felony, in Johnson County Superior Court 2. He will spend 2.5 years of his sentence in prison, and 3.5 years will be suspended to probation.

August



AUGUST 1

Indiana Senate narrowly passed a near-total abortion ban during a rare weekend session, sending the bill to the House after a contentious week of arguments over whether to allow exceptions for rape and incest.

AUGUST 2

Local firearm trainers say they have noticed new interest from people wanting to own and learn how to use a gun in the last couple of weeks. Interest has peaked in the wake of Indiana's constitutional carry law going into effect July 1, which allows citizens in the state to carry a firearm without a permit, and the July 17 mass shooting at the Greenwood Park Mall where an armed bystander took down the gunman.

AUGUST 3

People who turned out for the public hearing on the U.S. 31 project were concerned about the impact the project will have on Franklin. Local residents and business leaders gathered to give input on an over \$42 million project that would bring an entirely new streetscape and multi-use paths to the five-mile stretch of U.S. 31 in Franklin.

AUGUST 4

Police in Prince's Lakes had added safety cameras to town entrances in a measure officials say is both proactive and reactive. The cameras will provide officers with real-time data to capture the make, model, color and license plate from the rear of vehicles as they enter and exit the town.

AUGUST 5

Trafalgar residents would see a roughly 43% total increase

in their sewer bills if the town council approved a rate increase to pay for a large sewer system update and expansion project.

AUGUST 6-7

The Knuckle Sandwich plans to reopen at a new location on State Road 135 and Whiteland Road in Bargersville. The original Knuckle Sandwich building, was forced to close to make room for the Interstate 69 expansion.

AUGUST 8

Construction will begin soon on the final roundabout in a series of five on Franklin's truck bypass. Dave O'Mara Contractor, Inc. will close the intersection of Graham Road and Commerce Drive to construct a new roundabout.

AUGUST 9

Johnson County police arrested more than 30 people on narcotics charges during a drug roundup.

AUGUST 10

The Johnson County Council passed a local income tax increase to fund a deficit in road funding by a vote of 6-1, with council member Melinda Griesemer voting against it.

AUGUST 11

Republican state lawmakers representing parts of Johnson County voted mostly in favor of a near-total abortion ban, though they were divided at times as the ban made its way through the Indiana Statehouse.

AUGUST 12

Whiteland residents and brothers Brad and Jeff Goedeker purchased Rascal's Fun Zone and laid out their plans to renovate the beloved attraction of around 25 years.



Clockwise from top left: Franklin residents speak with Trent Newport of Crossroads Engineers during the August public hearing on the U.S. 31 project at the Franklin Community Middle School Auditorium. // The Curly Dog is a staple sandwich in Edinburgh that is back after decades of hiatus. // Brad (back right) and Jeff (back left) Goedeker pose for a photo with their families in front of Rascal's Fun Zone in Whiteland after they officially took ownership of the family entertainment center in August. DAILY JOURNAL FILE PHOTOS



AUGUST 13-14

The famous Edinburgh food Curly Dog, made a permanent return at Hickory Hillz BBQ with the original recipe. Hickory Hillz owner Chad Smock saw an opportunity to bring back the Curly Dog in all of its original glory, located in the original Curly Dog Drive-In building on U.S. 31.

AUGUST 15

The Johnson County Board of Commissioners and the Johnson County Council gave the OK to dole out \$1.7 million in a tiered stipend system to all full-time and part-time employees.

AUGUST 16

Two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, local health officials are prepared for the ebb and

flow of cases caused by new variants. Cases of COVID-19 are on the rise in Johnson County, as are hospitalizations. Though the situation is still manageable and only a fraction of what the county has faced at other points of the pandemic, officials are guarded about what this recent surge could become.

AUGUST 17

Residents packed Trafalgar Town Hall as the town council voted to approve a 43% increase in sewer bills, along with a doubling of sewer connection fees for new homes. With the growth in the town, including a subdivision approved for 210 homes, the sewer is at risk of running over capacity. The town has grown by about 67% in the past two decades.

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AUGUST 18

A former Indiana State Senator and Johnson County Council member, Darryl Brent Waltz, 48, of Greenwood, was sentenced to 10 months in prison for violating federal campaign finance laws and making false statements to federal investigators in a case he says was politically motivated.

AUGUST 19

A Bargersville residence fire in the 6600 block of Travis Road that sent the homeowner to the hospital in critical condition was under investigation.

AUGUST 20-21

Construction on Greenwood's planned sports park was progressing. A 40-acre plot of land northwest of the Worthsville Road and Interstate 65 interchange will be the site of a \$10M sports park that will include eight baseball/softball diamonds and a multi-use playing field, along with a splash pad and a playground.

AUGUST 22

Whiteland Community High School added the county's first Punjabi class in recognition of the county's growing population of people from the Punjab region of India and Pakistan.

AUGUST 23

Cyber threats are not only growing every day, but it is constantly changing, said Justin Kinney, a security analyst with JPtheGeek, a Greenwood-based managed IT services provider. The company shared cyber security tips to keep companies safe.

AUGUST 24

Franklin company Jenrista broke ground on \$4 million mixed-use project on a quarter-acre site at 150 S. Main St. to include a retail space and a private parking garage on the ground floor with luxury condos upstairs.

AUGUST 25

The former Bargersville Flea Market site could get new life in the next few years. Bargersville town officials published a request for proposals for the 11-acre site just north of the intersection of County Road 144 and State Road 135.

AUGUST 26

Police preliminarily charged an 18-year-old with murder following the shooting death of a Whiteland Community High School student in Greenwood's Summerfield Village subdivision. Greenwood police believe the 16-year-old student was shot while he waiting for the school bus. The victim's grandmother identified the student Temario Kendall Stokes, Jr., 16. Police arrested Tyrique Sevin Radford El, 18, of Greenwood on a murder charge.

AUGUST 27-28

The suspect and the 16-year-old killed at a bus stop in Greenwood knew each other in some capacity and had a "minor conflict," police said. Greenwood Police say Radford El shot Stokes multiple times while Stokes was waiting for the school bus near his home.

AUGUST 29

Johnson County school board races in the most populous districts have a crowded field of candidates after a year of parent-packed and sometimes raucous meetings. A few members have opted not to return, but many more are stepping forward to run for office.

AUGUST 30

One adult and four juveniles from Indianapolis were arrested following a series of car break-ins that occurred early morning in the Knollwood Farms subdivision.

AUGUST 31

Tourism brought over \$341 million into the Johnson County economy last year, according to a new study commissioned by the county tourism agency.



SEPTEMBER 1

Tyrique Sevin Radford El, 18, was formally charged with murder after the fatal shooting of Temario Kendall Stokes Jr., 16. After speaking with Stokes' parents after the shooting, detectives learned that he, and his younger sibling, had an issue with another juvenile regarding a dirt bike that was stolen from Stokes a few weeks prior to the shooting, the affidavit said.

SEPTEMBER 2

Johnson County could be in a new "extreme heat belt" in 30 years if climate change continues on the current course, a study from The First Street Foundation says.

SEPTEMBER 3-4

The Historic Artcraft Theatre celebrated 100 years with a gala and street party.

SEPTEMBER 5

Private companies are buying up single-family homes across the country, state and Johnson County — a move some experts say is adding pressure to an already tight housing market.

SEPTEMBER 6

Apartments in Johnson County are often priced well above fair-market rates and local experts have seen it first-hand.

SEPTEMBER 7

A concerned citizens group, Indiana First Action, has expressed concerns about how Johnson County residents voted in 2020, but election officials say the county's systems are secure.

SEPTEMBER 8

The I-69 project is about 70% done in Johnson County. The interchange on County Line Road opened earlier this summer, concrete bridge beams have been put into place at a future Smith Valley Road interchange and traffic signals have been removed from the intersection of State Road 37 and State Road 144, Indiana Department of Transportation officials say.

SEPTEMBER 9

An apartment complex proposal east of Interstate 65 in Greenwood was green-lit by the city council despite opposition from nearby residents. The Greenwood City Council voted 6-3 to approve rezoning approximately 30 acres of land on the northwest corner of Main Street and Five Points Road.

SEPTEMBER 10-11

With July's shooting at the Greenwood Park Mall in the back of people's minds, people have expressed concerned about safety and security at events and festivals across Johnson County. Local police said they do not see any additional threats and believe that events across the county will continue to be safe.



DAILY JOURNAL FILE PHOTOS

Pictured from top: The ticket booth remained busy Sept. 10 at The Historic Artcraft Theatre during the Celebrating A Century event. // The Red Carpet Inn and Fanta Suites, 1117 E. Main St., is seen Sept. 16. City and county health department officials have expressed concerns about the conditions of the hotel.

SEPTEMBER 12

Lovers of knitting and Cajun food can get their fix in Franklin at two newly opened businesses. The Knitting Otter, a new yarn and knitting supplies shop located at 111 E. Monroe St., in Franklin opened Sept. 1. Just a few blocks away, a new Cajun and Creole restaurant, Roux-Ga-Roux's, opened its kitchen and dining room on Sept. 2 inside The Mint cocktail lounge at 40 N. Water St.

SEPTEMBER 13

Updated recipes for the two COVID-19 vaccines were approved this month, and area doctors encourage people to consider taking the shot. The vaccine provides better protection against the highly contagious omicron variant.

SEPTEMBER 14

Some county roads in Trafalgar are taking a hit because of a prolonged bridge project on State Road 135. County Road 350 West near the road closure has taken the most damage because of the high traffic volume.

SEPTEMBER 15

United Way kicked off its annual campaign with a day of service at Johnson County nonprofits. In the span of a couple of hours, a year of work was accomplished.

SEPTEMBER 16

Teachers from three Johnson County school districts reached the top 25 for Indiana's Teacher of the Year. Local finalists were Franklin Community High School geography teacher Craig Harvey, Greenwood Community High School journalism teacher Denise Green and Walnut Grove Elementary School second grade teacher Rachel Cline.

SEPTEMBER 17-18

A worn sign, a camper, and a van with an open window and a flat tire greeted guests at The Red Carpet Inn and Fanta Suites. What's inside

was even more disturbing to Johnson County and Greenwood officials. With increasing police calls to the hotel and news that the hotel's manager died of an accidental overdose on the property, concerns were mounting. Those concerns lead to a multi-agency inspection which found numerous serious health and safety violations.

SEPTEMBER 19

Schools receive thousands of dollars in state money this school year from the Indiana Secured School Safety Grants. The Franklin and Center Grove school districts got \$100,000 from the matching grant. Clark-Pleasant received \$60,000, Greenwood Community schools received \$52,318 and Indian Creek schools got \$24,000, according to the grant award list.

SEPTEMBER 20

Bargersville Police have two firsts: the department's first K-9 officer and what is assumed to be the first Tesla customized for K-9 police work.

SEPTEMBER 21

Edinburgh police's first K-9 in nearly 40 years began patrolling the streets after a donation was made in honor of a fallen police officer.

SEPTEMBER 22

Beech Grove man Casey Sage, 35, was sentenced to eight years in federal prison after pleading guilty to arson of the Beech Grove Amtrak facility and arson of a Greenwood apartment complex that receive federal assistance.

SEPTEMBER 23

An Indiana judge blocked the state's abortion ban from being enforced, putting the new law on hold as abortion clinic operators argue that it violates the state constitution.

SEPTEMBER 24-25

The Daily Journal was named the best daily newspaper in the state. The paper

staff was awarded the Blue Ribbon at an annual competition among all Indiana newspapers to honor journalistic excellence. The newsroom came out on top in a group of three finalists for the award, which is the highest accolade given by the Hoosier State Press Association and is awarded to the daily newspaper that best serves its readers, regardless of circulation size.

SEPTEMBER 26

The Whiteland Town Council's election district maps are expected to remain largely the same following the once-in-a-decade redistricting process.

SEPTEMBER 27

Construction projects hit several major Johnson County roadways this summer, and the end of many of those projects is in sight. In Greenwood, most of the high-traffic-area work was on Main and Madison streets downtown, where drivers have used detours for the past few months as workers inched closer to completing wider brick sidewalks and a connected trail from Madison Avenue to Old City Park.

SEPTEMBER 28

Leaders at Franklin Community Schools will look to expand Union Elementary School in the coming years. The Franklin school board approved Indianapolis-based architecture firm Schmidt Associates as the lead architect for future projects after the group presented renderings for a possible expansion of Union Elementary.

SEPTEMBER 29

Four candidates hope to snag one seat representing Pleasant Township on the Clark-Pleasant Community School Corp. School Board.


SEPTEMBER 30

State utility regulators approved Duke Energy's request to raise its rates, the second increase in the last five months.

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October

OCTOBER 1-2

The city of Greenwood filed a notice to forcibly close a troubled hotel near the city's Main Street Interstate 65 interchange. The Red Carpet Inn and Fanta Suites, 1117 E. Main St., was served a notice by city officials announcing the city's intent to revoke the hotel's certificate of occupancy, and ordering the property to be vacated in 10 days.

OCTOBER 3

The Greenwood City Council could approve a nearly \$64.4 million proposed budget later this month. The proposed budget was introduced during the course of two city council meetings in September. The bulk of the budget — about \$62 million — is the city's operating budget.

OCTOBER 4

Two candidates are on the ballot vying to be trustee for White River Township. Incumbent Mark Messick, a Republican who has held the office since 2010, will face Democrat Suzanne Fortenberry in November's general election.

OCTOBER 5

Mike Pruitt, deputy chief of the Bargersville Community Fire Department, shared what he saw while deployed with Indiana Task Force 1 for nearly a week in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian.

OCTOBER 6

The owners of The Red Carpet Inn and Fanta Suites have formally filed an appeal of the city's decision to effectively close the hotel. The owners requested to appeal the city's decision to revoke the hotel's certificate of occupancy and the property vacation order before the city's plan commission, said Kenneth Seal.

OCTOBER 7

A decision on rezoning nearly 186 acres on Greenwood's eastside has been delayed after the developer failed to show up to a city council meeting. The Greenwood City Council voted 7-2 to postpone a decision to rezone 185.97 acres of agricultural land for an age-restricted single-family home development located east of Five Points Road and County Line Road.

OCTOBER 8-9

Andrice Tucker returned to his roots at Central Nine after working in the automotive industry for 14 years. The automotive teacher's efforts were rewarded with a \$50,000 check from Harbor Freight to put toward his classroom.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS; DAILY JOURNAL FILE PHOTO

Clockwise from left: Mike Pruitt, deputy chief of the Bargersville Community Fire Department, takes a picture in front of boats damaged by Hurricane Ian in Fort Myers Beach, Florida. Pruitt was deployed to Louisiana to serve as both a safety officer and as a public information officer for Indiana Task Force 1 search and rescue teams responding in the aftermath of the hurricane. // Brett Binninger-Schwartz on "Hell's Kitchen." Binninger-Schwartz as a Whiteland Community High School graduate, and he is competing on the 21st season of the reality cooking competition. // Voters line up to cast their ballots at the White River library branch for early voting.

OCTOBER 10

Two candidates were vying to be the U.S. Representative for Indiana's Sixth Congressional District. Incumbent Rep. Greg Pence, a Republican was running for his third term in office, and faced Democrat Cynthia "Cinde" Wirth in November's general election.

OCTOBER 11

Indiana voters could begin casting their ballots for the general election on Oct. 12.

OCTOBER 12

Six candidates were squaring off during this general election to fill three seats on the White River Township Board.

OCTOBER 13

With minutes to go before the opening of early voting in Johnson County, a line of four people waited patiently for their opportunity. They were driven by civic duty; though none of the contested races on this year's ballot ignited much passion, they wanted to make their voices heard. Casting their ballots first seemed like the best way to do that.

OCTOBER 14

Separate fatal accidents reported in Johnson County have claimed three lives in the course of 20 hours. The series of accidents began at 2:44 p.m. in rural Franklin and ended at 11:30 a.m. near the County Line Road exit on Interstate 65 in Greenwood.

OCTOBER 15-16

At 24, Brett Binninger-Schwartz found himself

cooking in the heat of "Hell's Kitchen." The Whiteland Community High School graduate was among the latest group of chefs to compete on the reality Fox Network TV show, "Hell's Kitchen" this season.

OCTOBER 17

A new multi-use trail adds to the city of Greenwood's expansive trail inventory. The Northeast Loop Trail, a 10-foot-wide, multi-use asphalt trail located around the perimeter of Northeast Park was nearing completion.

OCTOBER 18

Franklin Union Needham, or FUN, Township was named the Township of the Year at a statewide conference last month. The Indiana Township Association, or ITA, named the township Indiana Township of the Year. Both the high level of service the township offers residents and township officials' leadership in being the first in the state to merge, played into the award.

OCTOBER 19

Five candidates for local school boards were endorsed by Purple for Parents. Local school board candidates were defending their decision to accept endorsements from the right-leaning group that gave endorsements to school board candidates across the state, including Franklin candidate Matt Cree, Clark-Pleasant candidates Linda Polesel and Beatrice Dunn, and Center Grove candidates Derek Payne and Bill Collins.

OCTOBER 20

The Johnson County council adopted a \$40 million general spending budget for 2023, including raises for all county employees and adjustments for inflation. The Johnson County general fund budget is up roughly 4% from this year's \$38.3 million budget approved in 2021.

OCTOBER 21

The Greenwood City Council OK'd a \$64.4 million budget for 2023, new council districts and a new school safety grant program. Council members voted unanimously to approve tax rates, department appropriation and salaries for appointed officers and employees for the city, along with issuing bonds to provide funds to pay for certain capital expenses.

OCTOBER 22-23

About 150 teachers crowded into the Center Grove administrative building, in a show of solidarity during a school board meeting after a majority of United Teachers Association of Center Grove members. They came to protest the proposed contract agreement for the 2022-23 school year.

OCTOBER 24

Flu season arrived, and RSV and COVID-19 were coming along for the ride. All three viruses have similar symptoms, including fever, runny nose and congestion. Normal flu season was expected earlier than



normal, the first flu death of the 2022-23 flu season was reported by state health officials last week.

OCTOBER 25

Disagreement continues over the Greenwood public safety staffing. During several portions of a city council meeting, council member Brad Pendleton voiced concerns about staffing at the police and fire departments. Pendleton's comments eventually led to a rebuke from Mayor Mark Myers.

OCTOBER 26

The occupants of a troubled Red Carpet Inn and Fanta Suites in Greenwood have less than 48 hours to vacate the premises, officials decided.

OCTOBER 27

The White River Township Fire Department began recruiting for the largest hiring blitz in the department's history. The department announced plans to hire 22 new employees - 18 full-time

firefighters and four civilian medics.

OCTOBER 28

A Greenwood man facing high-level child molestation and rape charges made a move to withdraw his guilty plea. Marthan Christian Lewis, 27, made a verbal motion to withdraw the guilty plea before Johnson County Circuit Court Judge Andy Roesener. He had previously pled guilty to child molesting, a Level 1 felony, and rape, a Level 3 felony, in June.

OCTOBER 29-30

Trafalgar's police officers are some of the lowest-paid in the county, and the town council was weighing options for raising their salaries for 2023.

OCTOBER 31

Expanded early voting prompted a rush to the polls. As of noon Oct. 29, more than 1,100 Johnson County residents had already cast their ballots at the county's five early voting centers.

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November

NOVEMBER 1

Carrie Umbarger, a day shift charge nurse in Johnson Memorial Health's Maternity Care Center, was the hospital's first recipient of the DAISY Award, an international recognition program that celebrates the skillful, compassionate care nurses provide to patients and families every day.

NOVEMBER 2

Janis Cooper, the longtime lead baker at the Apple Works, had her last day at the southern Johnson County orchard. Cooper retired from the Apple Works after 28 years, and friends and co-workers stopped in throughout the day to thank her for her work.

NOVEMBER 3

Plans for a 158-unit townhome complex and commercial space are in the works near the Whiteland Road and U.S. 31 intersection in Whiteland. The empty land



DAILY JOURNAL FILE PHOTO

Janis Cooper, the longtime lead baker at the Apple Works, had her last day at the southern Johnson County orchard on Oct. 31. Cooper retired from the Apple Works after 28 years, and friends and co-workers stopped in throughout the day to thank her for her work.

sits just south of Whiteland Road, behind Brew House Liquors, between U.S. 31 and Maple Street in Whiteland.

NOVEMBER 4

A Trafalgar mother is speaking out about the settlement of a wrongful death lawsuit filed

against the Greenwood Police Department after her son died in 2016. Charles Todero, 30, died on June 11, 2016, about two weeks after being stunned with a taser 16 times in three minutes by police during an incident. Todero's family filed a lawsuit in federal

court in May 2017 saying the department violated Todero's civil rights.

NOVEMBER 5-6

Twenty men were arrested by Johnson County law enforcement during a three-day child sex sting operation, Sheriff Duane Burgess announced. The operation was a collaboration between the Johnson County Sheriff's Office and the Franklin Police Department. It was the fourth operation of its kind to take place in Johnson County over the last 2.5 years.

NOVEMBER 7

As Johnson County grows, its public services need to keep up with it, many departments are outgrowing their current spaces. The county health department and coroner's office are two departments long in need of their own buildings. That need could soon be answered, as plans for new county building have been drawn up.

NOVEMBER 8

Today was the day for voters to make their voices heard. From 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Johnson County voters cast ballots to select candidates in multiple contested races at the local, state and federal level.

NOVEMBER 9

Trust in the process - most Johnson County voters said their votes are being accurately counted despite conspiracy theories and national reports of concern.

NOVEMBER 10

A new Franklin Fire Department chief and deputy chief will bring a vision for growth to the office starting Jan. 1. Current chief Matt Culp is stepping back to his previous rank of captain to spend more time with his family. Culp's current deputy chief Joshua Snyder will step into the chief job, while firefighter Preston Stark becomes deputy chief.

NOVEMBER 11

With the opening of Kephart Park on the horizon, Bargersville town officials are moving through the process of interviewing and hiring the town's first-ever parks and recreation director.

NOVEMBER 12-13

The controversial U.S. 31 project is being updated in response to feedback from Franklin residents, education officials and business leaders. The INDOT project will mostly remove the ability to cut directly across U.S. 31, which state officials say has been the source of many accidents within the corridor.

NOVEMBER 14

Indy South Greenwood Airport has been named Aviation Indiana's 2022 Airport of the Year,



DAILY JOURNAL FILE PHOTOS

Clockwise from top: The Center Grove Trojans receive the state championship trophy for the third year in a row after defeating Fort Wayne Carroll in the Class 6A final. // Whiteland's coach Darrin Fisher consoles senior Jakarrey Oliver after the Class 5A state loss to Valparaiso.



officials announced. Greenwood's airport houses many businesses and organizations. The facility sees nearly 28,000 aircraft operations annually, which has more than \$15 million in economic effects on the area.

NOVEMBER 15

Inflation 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.

NOVEMBER 16

During a contentious public hearing that led to the owners of Red Carpet Inn being escorted out by police, the Greenwood Plan Commission unanimously voted to affirm an Oct. 24 order that required all occupants, with the exception of workers conducting repairs, to vacate the Red Carpet Inn and Fanta Suites.

NOVEMBER 17

As part of a three-hour training session, representatives from local businesses and organizations learned what they can do to prepare for an active shooter. Aspire Johnson County, the county's chamber of commerce, held the first of two active shooter and workplace violence training sessions in the large group instruction room at Franklin Community High School.

NOVEMBER 18

Court officials were considering updating Johnson County's court rules, including raising and lowering minimum cash bail amounts and removing surety bonds.

NOVEMBER 19-20

Tensions erupted between Center Grove teachers and the school board during a meeting, when the board voted 3-1 to approve administrative pay raises despite not having reached an agreement on teacher contracts with the district's teachers association.

NOVEMBER 21

An "overheated" housing market has cooled down in Johnson County and across the state. Compared to the unprecedented last two years in the market, home sales are balancing out, but not crashing.

NOVEMBER 22

The Johnson County Thanksgiving Banquet was back again this year as a drive-through event. People came to the county fairgrounds from to pick up a Thanksgiving meal, assembled by an army of volunteers and brought car side.

NOVEMBER 23

Grassy Creek Elementary School fourth-grade math teacher Angela Fowler received \$25,000 as part of the 2022 Milken Educator Award. Just one teacher from each state receives the award each year.

NOVEMBER 24

Franklin's Blue Crew won it's second Zone banner. The banner is given each year to

the student section that goes above and beyond to support its school's athletic teams. For Franklin, that included skydiving, videos and painstaking efforts to travel to road football games as far as Terre Haute.

NOVEMBER 25

Community South unveiled a \$2.4 million project that features updated private rooms for greater patient comfort, a revamped heating, ventilation and air conditioning system and an open-concept nurses station

NOVEMBER 26-27

Center Grove Football won the school's third straight state crown. Coach Eric Moore's program made its fourth consecutive visit, leaving with its third Class 6A state championship trophy in as many years after defeating Fort Wayne Carroll, 35-9.

NOVEMBER 28

Whiteland Football fell in the Class 5A final, despite the best efforts of players, coaches and the thousands of loud and proud diehards making the drive downtown. Whiteland came up short against Valparaiso, 35-31.

NOVEMBER 29

The Franklin Lions Club continued it's annual mission to give children the gift of sight. Club members set up their eyeglasses trees at the Johnson County Courthouse and the West Annex. The annual effort brings in between 250 and 400 pairs of glasses.

NOVEMBER 30

Red Carpet Inn failed to comply with the order to vacate and make repairs. Employees continue to reside in the Red Carpet Inn and Fanta Suites while the hotel continues to be a health hazard, officials found following an inspection.

December

DECEMBER 1

The return of Franklin's buffer zone to Johnson County planning jurisdiction cleared one of its first hurdles. In a unanimous vote with two members absent, the Johnson County Advisory Plan Commission issued a favorable recommendation for the return of Franklin's buffer zone to the county during their regular meeting. The buffer zone has been in place since around 1965, but in recent weeks city and county officials agreed the zone is no longer needed.

DECEMBER 2

A Franklin man is facing child pornography charges after police received a cyber tip that he had nude images of children on online accounts registered to him. Gary M. Smith, 58, is charged with two counts of possession of child pornography as a Level 5 felony and one count of possession of child pornography as a Level 6 felony.

DECEMBER 3-4

A \$16 million dollar renovation project to rehabilitate Franklin Cove Apartments is scheduled, but residents don't have a clear answer when it will start. Residents know they will have to leave for the construction project, but the company has not been clear about when they will have to leave.

DECEMBER 5

As the owner of Red Carpet Inn and Fanta Suites was preparing to have his day in court, he is contesting Greenwood officials' claims about the hotel. Greenwood city officials are suing the owners of the troubled hotel, 1117 E. Main St., in civil court in order to force compliance with previous orders to vacate and repair the property.

DECEMBER 6

"Say no to rezone" signs were up around Bargersville encouraging residents to



SUBMITTED PHOTO; DAILY JOURNAL FILE PHOTO

Clockwise from left: Jake Cole, a Needham resident, in his Santa Claus finery. Cole, whose primary job is as a customer delivery supervisor for Duke Energy, has started appearing as Santa at events and parties, using the money he makes to support community efforts. // INDOT Commissioner Mike Smith, left and Jermaine Hannon, administrator for the Federal Highway Administration's Indiana division unveil the shield for Interstate 69 on the State Road 144 southbound on-ramp on Dec. 16.

protest a new 36 custom home development. A group of Bargersville-area residents put up the signs after they heard the 40-acre development is planned on land known as the Fulmer property.

DECEMBER 7

Flu activity was picking up across the state and Johnson Memorial Hospital staff are seeing it first-hand.

DECEMBER 8

The new ATM-like machine at Johnson County Public Library's Franklin branch doesn't dispense cash, but does it dispense legal help. The library's Legal Help Kiosk gives free information some residents may find helpful, especially those facing eviction.

DECEMBER 9

A ransomware attack on a national email platform provider took down the town of New Whiteland's email system late last week. Rackspace Technology, one of the largest cloud and email hosting providers in the U.S.,

announced a ransomware attack caused a massive outage among millions of its customers.

DECEMBER 10-11

A Trafalgar town council member is under fire for engaging in business practices other council members say violate town codes. Council member Jeff Eisenmenger is a longtime business owner and realtor in Trafalgar, owning several residential and commercial properties in the area. Eisenmenger recently has faced criticism from at least three council members and many residents on several alleged violations of town codes.

DECEMBER 12

Johnson County and five communities received more than \$4.4 million in state grant funding to accelerate local road projects. The county, Bargersville, Edinburgh, Greenwood, Prince's Lakes and Whiteland were awarded the grants from the state Community Crossings Matching Grant Program.

DECEMBER 13

Johnson County Recycling District plans for a new Franklin site and an expansion of Shale Creek Brewing were approved by Franklin's Board of Zoning Appeals.

DECEMBER 14

After almost a year of delays for supply chain issues, the \$4 million Greenwood Public Library renovation is nearly complete.

DECEMBER 15

The Salvation Army's Red Kettle campaign donations locally were a bit behind compared to last year, said Todd Poindexter, director of the program in Johnson County. The annual fundraiser helps millions nationwide around the holidays, including many people locally in Johnson County.

DECEMBER 16

Bargersville police are investigating after the body of Angel Luna, 19, of Indianapolis, was located near a pond in the area of State Road 135 and Clary Boulevard



South Drive, according to the Johnson County Coroner's Office.

DECEMBER 17-18

Embattled Trafalgar Council Member Jeff Eisenmenger says he believes he has a target on his back, despite admitting that he is violating town zoning codes. Eisenmenger has been accused by at least three other members of the town council of violating zoning codes by allowing people to live in commercial buildings.

DECEMBER 19

Just in time for holiday travel, Interstate 69 is officially open to the west edge of Johnson County. The exit for State Road 144 in Bargersville officially opened during the ceremony. The remaining Johnson County exit will open sometime in 2023, along with mainline construction from State Road 144 to Fairview Road and mainline preparation work in Marion County.

DECEMBER 20

A former Johnson County judge has been arrested on drunk driving charges after police say his blood alcohol level was allegedly over three times the legal limit. Jeffrey C. Eggers, 66, of Franklin, was charged with two counts of operating a vehicle while intoxicated, both misdemeanors in Johnson County Superior Court 3.

DECEMBER 21

A "significant" storm system was expected in Central Indiana starting Dec. 22

through Christmas Eve morning. Wind gusts of 55 mph, wind chills of minus 30 degrees, difficult travel conditions and accumulating and blowing snow were expected, according to a Winter Storm Watch issued by the National Weather Service.

DECEMBER 22

Five months after the mass shooting at the Greenwood Park Mall, police say they are still unable to determine the gunman's motive. Officials from the Greenwood Police Department and the FBI provided an update on their investigation into the July 17 shooting during a joint press conference at the Greenwood City Center.

DECEMBER 23

Union Elementary School plans to name its media center after John Spiker, who taught at Union Elementary School from 1968 to 2013. Earlier this month he passed away, leaving behind droves of former students and colleagues.

DECEMBER 24-25

'Tis the season for Jake Cole to moonlight as Santa. The Needham resident and Duke Energy customer delivery supervisor went to the "Harvard of Santa schools" to learn from the best. Now, he's putting his talents to good use and raising money for important causes. Cole is a part-time professional Santa Claus who makes regular appearances at Franklin's Toodleydoo Toys and the historic French Lick Resort.