

## **Career pathway**

Fire Department planning a cadet program to let young people explore the career.

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# Edinburgh Courier

#### **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

"Wise men speak because they have something to say; fools because they have to say something."

— Plato

#### WHAT'S UP?

#### Correction

The Great Harvest Food Pantry received \$22,785. The corrected number brings the total grants to \$98,000. This information was incorrect in the Jan. 4 Page 1 story about grants for food pantries.

#### Bingo fundraiser

The American Legion Unit 233 Auxiliary is selling tickets for its bingo fundraiser. The event will be Feb. 8 at the Legion, 500 Memorial Drive. Doors open at 5 p.m. and bingo starts at 6 p.m. It is an 18-and-older event. Prizes will be given out ranging from \$50 to \$300.

Cost is \$20 for 10 games, with additional games for purchase at the event for \$20. Daubers are \$1. Concessions will be available; no outside food or drinks allowed.

Only 125 tickets will be sold. To purchase, visit the post, call 812-350-6820 or contact an auxiliary member.

Proceeds benefit local scholarships and auxiliary efforts to support veterans, military members and their families.

#### **Christmas tree collection**

The town of Edinburgh will pick up live Christmas trees through Jan. 13. Leave them at the curb and they will be collected and taken to the yard waste facility for chipping.

Trees must be free of ornaments, lights, garland and tinsel and must not be bagged.

No artificial trees will be picked up

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## Bicentennial Blast

## Multiple county celebrations planned for 2023

#### By Ryan Trares DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

ith the calendar flipped to 2023, Johnson County is preparing for big, big year.

Two hundred years ago, the entire area was overgrown wilderness, with only rough roads leading through it. But as early settlers moved in, small communities coalesced. The county, and its seat of government, Franklin, were born in 1823. The first people made their homes in what is now Greenwood at the same time.

Each celebrates monumental 200th birthdays this year, which calls for a celebration like never before.

Bicentennial activities will unfold over the course of the coming year, as local officials have planned special events, commemorative swag and unique opportunities to properly recognize an important part of local history.

The county's string of bicentennials started in 2022, when Edinburgh celebrated 200 years. Activities lasted for months, from an opening-night kickoff to a community-wide weekend of concerts, parades, hot air balloons and other activities, to a holiday celebration themed, "Bicentennially Light."

A similar year-long extension of festivities is planned again, said David Pfeiffer,



Officials dedicated a unique art installation in Artcraft Alley in downtown Franklin in November, with 200 stars strung above the alley in recognition in important bicentennials planned for 2023. Above: The logo for Johnson County's bicentennial was designed by Addison Csikos, a 2022 graduate of Franklin College, who won the design contest.

## **OBITUARIES**

COLUMBUS

#### **R. David East**

R. David East, 76, a resident of Columbus, passed from this life at 4:26 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 29, 2022, at Our Hospice of South Central Indiana Inpatient Facility.

David was born in Scottsburg Jan. 23, 1946, the son of the late John R. and Dorothy Hitchcox East. On June 19, 1971. David married Penelope "Penny" Branam; she survives.

David began his teaching career as an art teacher at the Southside Junior High School in

Columbus. He then taught art at Edinburgh High School and later became the principal at Edinburgh, retiring in 2003. As an educator, David was very committed to his students and wanted each one of them to succeed in life. His dedication led to the highest graduation rates Edinburgh High School had ever seen and were among the top in the county. David also served as an adjunct professor of Art History at IUPUC.

EAST

David was an accomplished, well-known artist and he owned and operated two art studios in Nashville. He was a handyman who remodeled his home and built a studio and frame shop in his own backyard. David had a passion for all animals, even owning a horse at one time. He loved rivers and being on the water. This is one reason he and Penny enjoyed wintering on Lake Seminole in Florida. David will be remembered as being quick witted and always able to put others at ease through humor.

Surviving to cherish his memory are his wife of 51 years, Penelope; a daughter, Erin East of Bloomington; grandson, Rylan Eder of Bloomington; siblings, Mike (Charlotte) East of Seymour, Teresa (Stan) Stradley of Seymour and Pat East of Seymour; and many nieces, nephews and extended family. David was preceded in death by his parents.

In keeping with David's wishes, crema-

in the first game of the Johnson County Tourney.

5-6 p.m., 6-7 p.m. and 7-8 p.m.

75 years ago: Carroll Brownfield scores 14 points to lead the

70 years ago: Mrs. Nier and Miss Roe have organized a Teen

Edinburg Maroons to a 35-32 victory over Clark High School

Age Bowling League for Girls on Wednesdays evenings from

65 years ago: The Edinburg Lancers defeat Greenwood,

Tom Lynche's 15 points and Marshall Whited's 14 points.

45-40, in the first round of the Johnson County Tourney behind

60 years ago: Mr. Seward and Mr. Crow have made a citizen-

tion was planned. A gathering of family and friends was held at Barkes, Weaver & Glick Funeral Home in Columbus. Inurnment was at the Garland Brook Mausoleum.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Alzheimer's Association, Greater Indiana Chapter, 50 East 91st Street, Suite 100, Indianapolis, Indiana 46140.

COLUMBUS

#### **Roxanne Hawkins**

Roxanne Jo Hawkins, 67, of Columbus, died on Jan. 3, 2023, at

**Columbus Regional** Hospital.

Roxanne was born Jan. 26, 1955, in Fort Lewis, Washington, the daughter of Norval and Mary (Fulton) Sweeney. She was preceded in death by her companion, Roger Dailev.

Roxanne graduated

from Columbus High School in 1973. She later received her bachelor's degree in education from Ball State University. She was a member of the Bible Church in Columbus. Roxanne loved her family and friends. She enjoyed reading and dancing. Roxanne will be remembered for being a very positive person and a committed woman of faith, that regularly attended Bible study. She will be greatly

missed by all who knew and loved her. The funeral will be at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2023, at Jewell Rittman Family Funeral Home with Pastor David Marvin officiating. Calling will be from 3 p.m. until service time at the funeral home. Burial will be at Garland Brook Mausoleum near her son. Nikolas.

Memorials may be made to the Epilepsy Foundation through the funeral home and to the family to help with final expenses.

Survivors include her father, Norval Sweeney, and his companion Vickie Smith; her sons, Dustin Kyle Hawkins of Edinburgh, and Ryan Joseph Hawkins of Crown Point; a sister, Jaci (Rick) Ratliff of Indianapolis; a brother, Douglas Sweeney of Indianapolis; grandchildren,

**GOOD OLD DAYS** 

#### Aubrey Claire Hawkins, Delanee Sue Hawkins and Stoan Nikolas Hawkins.

She was preceded in death by her mother, and son Nikolas Tyler Hawkins.

Services were entrusted to the Jewell-**Rittman Family Funeral Home.** www.jewellrittman.com

FRANKLIN

#### **James Sanders**

He was ready to meet his maker, we're just not sure "The Maker" is ready to meet him or can handle him.

James E. Sanders, 73 years young of Franklin, Indiana, passed away at Community South Hospital on Tuesday, January 3, 2023.

Talk about a Big Fire Cracker, he was born on July 4, 1949 to James and Marie (Beard) Sanders.

He enjoyed farming for many years while also working and retiring

from Arvins and then Ryobi. Jim was known for his witty sense of humor, going to auctions, watching his horses race at the track, and then slipping off to the casino. We anticipate the cigar companies are about to experience a hardship as a result of Jim's passing.

SANDERS

No spouse to list, he couldn't find one good enough to give the Sanders name to, but he does leave behind three daughters who spoiled him, Loretta (Terry) Bailey of Commiskey, Tina Sanders of Edinburgh and Fonda Sanders of Franklin; four grandchildren, Scott Bailey, Travis Bailey, Latosha Burton and Andrew Newby; seven great-grandchildren and his farm son, Charlie "Beaner" Holmes.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents and brothers, Dale and Richard Sanders.

A funeral service is set for Wednesday, Jan. 11 at 11 a.m. with visitation from 10 a.m. until the funeral hour at Jessen Funeral Home & Simple Cremation ~ Franklin Chapel. Jim will be laid to rest at Second Mt. Pleasant Cemetery in Franklin.

ship award plaque to hold the names of the Lions Club's Girl of the Month and the Exchange Club's Boy of the Month.

55 years ago: Johnson County Congressman William G. Bray signs a letter urging former Vice President Richard Nixon to seek the Republican presidential nomination.

50 years ago: Leon Cunningham scores 14 points and Randy Lawson adds 10, but the Lancers lose the 20th annual Freshman Basketball Tourney, 49-32, to the Indian Creek Braves.

FRANKLIN

#### **Dorothy Walker**

Dorothy Ruble Walker, a longtime resident of Columbus, passed away Jan. 06,

2023 in Franklin. She was born Sept. 20, 1929, in Belmont to Harley and Rachel Sturgeon. Her voungest sister, Lois (John) Stephens of Bloomington survives. She was preceded in death by her brothers Charles, Jimmy, and Cecil and her sister Mary Bay.



Dorothy was blessed with the love of her first husband, James Ruble, for 51 years before his death in 2000. They shared a love of family, gardening, fishing and good food. Dorothy found love again with her second husband, Garnet Walker, who passed away in 2011 after a too brief but beautiful marriage. With both of them, she was a faithful member of the East Columbus United Methodist Church.

Dorothy's primary focus all her life was her family. She is survived by a son, Larry (Connie) Ruble of Edinburgh and a daughter, Pamela Ruble Guthrie of Franklin. Five grandchildren also survive, James Craig (Cara) Ruble of Greenwood, John Clayton (Tiffany) Ruble of Madison, Joseph Cory (Candace) Ruble of Columbus, Tricia Day of Lexington, Ky., and Danielle Alfred of Indianapolis. Also surviving are her 10 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

All her life, Dorothy took delight in cooking for her family and friends. Her other primary interests were watching birds, crocheting, and solving word and jigsaw puzzles.

Funeral services will be at 12 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2023 at Jewell-Rittman Family Funeral Home with Rev. Charles Aigner officiating. Calling will be from 10 a.m. until service time Wednesday at the funeral home. Entombment will be held at Garland Brook Cemetery Mausoleum.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the East Columbus United Methodist church or the cause of the donor's choice.

#### **Edinburgh** Courier

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n what was kind of a slim week after vacation, the JV boys earned a win, the sixth grade boys won their first game of their young season and the fifth grade boys put a pair of victories in the win column.

The girls varsity lead off the week's activities by playing host to the Speedway Sparkplugs on Wednesday evening. In this one, the girls were never able to get their offense in sync throughout the entire game and they fell to the visitors, 44-18, to slip to 6-11 on the season. Gracie Crawhorn led the Lancers with 11 points while Kenna Streeval scored four, Bella Turner two and Cloee Britton one.

Also playing at home on Wednesday, the fifth and sixth grade boys took on Indian Creek. Playing against the Braves sixth grade B team, the Lancer fifth graders prevailed, 25-19, to move to 1-1 on the season. Kendall Bennett led the way with 14 points, Mason Turner scored four, Carson Gentry three, Jamie Earls two and Caiden Cov two.

In the sixth grade game, the Lancers kept it close the entire way and lost a heartbreaker to the Braves, 29-26. Charlie Roberts topped the Edinburgh scoring with nine points, Kayden Talbott was close behind with eight, Mason Burton five and Landon Garris four.

These two squads were right back in action on Thursday evening, hosting Southwestern. The fifth graders defeated the Spartans with ease, 44-7. Kendall Bennett once again led his team by scoring 13 points, Carson Gentry had eight, Caiden Coy seven, Mason Turner six, Amir

## Brian Ingels Lancer Notebook

Petronilo four, Weston Burroughs two, Adan Stout two and Elijah Roberts two. The win took them to 2-1 on the year.

The sixth graders followed suit and easily disposed of Southwestern, 38-10 to improve to 1-2. Charlie Roberts led his team with 14 points, Mason Burton had seven, Kayden Talbott six, Blake Andis four, Bentley Roseberry three, Braden Burton two and Landon Garris two.

Thursday evening saw the middle school boys heading to Hope to play Hauser. The seventh graders kept things close in the night's opener but could never quite catch up, losing to the Jets, 37-24. Carson Siegelin led the Lancers with eight points. Brinnyn Moss scored six, Max Dodson five, Xander Pruitt three and Noah Parkhurst two. This loss dropped their season record to 4-6.

The eighth grade fell to 1-9 after a 37-17 loss to the Jets. Avden Swallows was Edinburgh's high scorer with nine points while Braden Cox. Jalen Burton. Matt Burton, and Carson Siegelin all had two points each.

After a rare Friday night off, the varsity and reserve boys travelled to Westport to play South Decatur in a Mid-Hoosier Conference contest. The Lancer JV started the evening off on a high note as they led the Cougars the whole way en route to a 51-24 win. Rylan Londeree led all scorers

Smith eight, Milas Burkman six, Caleb Murphy two, Tyler Branigin two and Samson Parkhurst two. In the varsity game, the Lancers fell

behind early and could never catch back up as they lost to South Decatur, 75-58. Jarrett Turner had the hot hand for Edinburgh scoring 18, Braylon Bryant had 13, Caleb Dewey nine, Austin Brockman seven, Keegan Smith five, Connor Ramey three, and Bailey Totten three. Their record stands at 7-4 and 1-3 in the MHC after the loss.

with 19 points, Bailey Totten added 12, Eli

#### On tap

#### Wednesdav

Boys MS basketball, at home vs. North Decatur. 6 p.m.

#### Thursday

Boys 5&6 basketball at Waldron, 5 p.m. Boys MS basketball, at home vs. Indian Creek,

6 p.m. Girls varsity basketball at Perry Meridian, 7 p.m. Saturday

Girls MS basketball at Crothersville, 11 a.m. Girls varsity basketball at Morristown, 12:30 Tuesday

Girls MS basketball at Indian Creek, 6 p.m. Girls varsity B basketball, at home vs. South

Decatur. 6 p.m.

## SCHOOL NOTEBOOK

#### Athlete of the week

Sophomore Rylan Londeree was named the Horizon Bank Student Athlete of the Week. Rylan led the junior

varsity team with 19 points in a big victory over South Decatur.



#### Scholarship

Johnson County high school seniors who intend to pursue a music career may be eligible for scholarship from a local music advocacy group. Franklin Matinee Musicale is offering a \$600 scholarship. Students must be planning to attend an accredited college or university.

Application forms and guidelines are available from your music instructor or guidance counselor.

Deadline for submission is Feb. 22. Applicants will need to perform at a recital on March 5 at 2 p.m. at Franklin College Custer Theater.

For further information, call Beverly Bonsett at 317-738-3875.

#### Calendar

Jan. 16: MLK Day Feb. 20: Presidents Day





4

1844

1836

## **Blast**

FROM PAGE 1

director of the Johnson County Museum of History.

"It really will be a fun, exciting year and I can't wait for it to get started," he said.

The goal is to make it as communityfocused as possible, tying all corners of the county together, Pfeiffer said. He referenced the impression Johnson County made in 2016 during the Indiana bicentennial.

"Most counties just focused on the county seat or wherever the torch would pass through, but we had the whole county out to celebrate when the torch arrived. I wanted to make sure we replicated that as best we could," he said.

The credit for founding the county, as well as Franklin, has historically been given to George King. King came to the area with two other men, Garrett Bergen and Simon Covert, in 1822 from Kentucky, looking to purchase land in the newly opened territory.

They found a tract located between Youngs Creek and Camp Creek, which was described as "wooded with beech, sugar tree and poplar timber," according to "Johnson County, Indiana, History" by Bev Hollanbeck.

On Dec. 31, 1822, King petitioned the Indiana legislature to form a county. The petition was approved, and it was proposed to name the new entity Johnson County, in honor of John Johnson, one of the first Indiana Supreme Court Justices.

Gov. William Hendricks appointed John Smiley to be the county's first sheriff, and instructed him to hold county elections on March 8, 1823.

March 8 will serve as the starting point for the bicentennial celebrations in 2023, as well.

A Bicentennial Kickoff at the Historic Artcraft Theatre will feature historic retrospectives and a presentation by Nicole Etcheson, a professor of history at Ball State University who will regale the audience with tales of Indiana pioneer life. Afterwards, luminarias will be lit outside the county courthouse.

Because the foundings of both Franklin and Johnson County are so closely tied together, a bicentennial celebration is planned to piggy-back on the Franklin Fall Festival and the county museum's Heritage Day for a larger, more robust event.

A formal bicentennial ball will tie a bow on the year in November, Pfeiffer said.

"We thought this would be a fun way to wrap up the celebrations," he said.

One aspect of the bicentennial celebration has already been unveiled. In late November, local officials dedicated a unique art installation in the downtown Franklin corridor known as Artcraft Alley.

Discover Downtown Franklin and Festival County Indiana worked together on the project to string 200 stars over the alley adjacent to the Artcraft Theatre, to infuse the space with a sense of whimsy and wonder. Backlighting shining on the fabricated stars was designed to radiate vibrant colors throughout the night.

In addition to commemorating the bicentennials, it was envisioned as a great Instagram-worthy photo spot for residents and visitors, and another asset as Franklin seeks to create a state cultural district in the downtown area, said Kenneth Kosky, executive director of Festival Country Indiana.

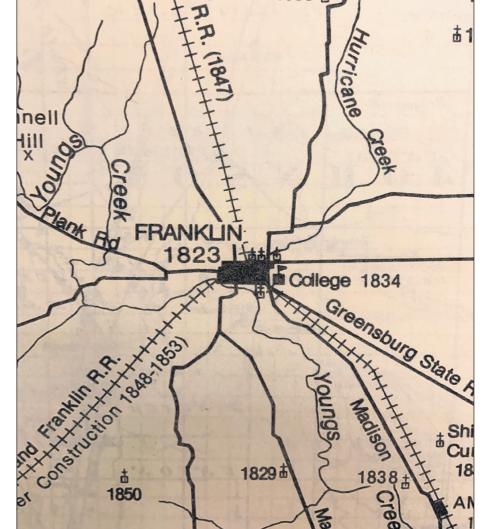
"Through our research, we found that other communities that had similar art installations, it really galvanizes the residents. It's a source of pride for them, while also being a major draw of tourism," Kosky said in a Daily Journal story on the installation in July.

At the Johnson County Museum of History, Pfeiffer and staff have planned a pair of exhibits celebrating 200 years, with Franklin's tentatively planned for April and a Johnson County exhibit set for early September.

Possibly the most ambitious project planned is the creation of a coffeetable book, "200 Years: The Bicentennial of Johnson County." Museum officials have been painstakingly assembling county history, photographs and other information exploring the past two centuries.

Only a limited number of books will be printed, and orders need to be taken in advance. In addition, those who order in advance will receive a special commemorative edition, Pfeiffer said. The book can be preordered online at mtpublishing.com in the "Coming Soon" section.

Organizers have also set up a Johnson County Bicentennial Facebook page, where people can learn about upcoming



A vintage map from around 1850 show rail lines and roads leading to Franklin, as well as the year the city was founded.

events and fun facts, Pfeiffer said. An official logo, designed by Franklin College graduate Addison Csikos, serves as the branding for the celebration.

"We'll be using that logo on our advertising and anniversary items," Pfeiffer said.

Franklin organizers are looking at adding bicentennial components to the city's current lineup of festivals throughout the year, as well as working with the county to celebrate during the Fall Festival, said Dana Monson, Franklin community development specialist, who is helping with the planning.

One unique aspect is special banners for the downtown lights that will be sold as commemorative items at the end of the year, Monson said.

#### **AT THE PARK**

#### Johnson County Park

2949 E. North St., Nineveh Hours: Monday through Friday: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturdays (April-October), 8 a.m. to noon

Info/register for programs: 812-526-6809

or jocopark@co.johnson.in.us

April 15: Scrambled Eggs adult Easter egg hunt, 10 a.m., at the Scout Building, 6600 S. Nature Trail Drive. Participants will hunt numbered eggs and win prizes. Event is for 18 and older only. \$10. Registration is required between March 17 and

April 7. Stop by office or call to register. May 13: Pours in the Park, noon to 4 p.m. craft beer event

June 30: Sparks in the Parks, fireworks and music, 7 p.m.

July 29: RecFest, noon to 9 p.m.at

Amphitheater. Celebrate Parks and Recreation Month with 5k fun run/walk, Jeep cruise-in, live music, inflatables, food and beer/wine.

Aug. 19: Car show, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 9: Touch-A-Truck, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

#### News

#### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2023 5

#### Edinburgh Courier

A group of Edinburgh firefighters pose for a photo after a recent training exercise.



## Fire cadet program in the works

#### By Andy Bell-Baltaci DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

His daughter died of an everdese when

His daughter died of an overdose when she was in her 20s.

Joe Sinclair has been a captain for the Edinburgh Fire Department for two years, and some of the most harrowing scenes he's come across don't involve flames, but people who have lost their lives to drug addiction, leaving families without loved ones. In 2022, 35 Edinburgh residents overdosed, many of them teenagers and young adults. That's why Sinclair is leading an effort to start the town's first fire cadet program.

"I'm not saying all of them are juveniles or younger people, but if we can make a difference in their lives, it's certainly worth a try," Sinclair said. "(My daughter) overdosed and I feel like if she was around the right people and doing the right things, she could've traveled the right path."

With the new program, Edinburgh will join fire departments around the county that have had cadet programs for years, including Franklin and Bargersville.

The Edinburgh fire cadet program will be open to teenagers 14 to 18 years old. Although they won't be able to enter burning buildings or medically attend to people, the teens will shadow firefighters as they extinguish blazes and respond to EMS calls by observing and assisting them with the equipment they need. They'll also learn CPR, help out in the firehouse and participate in community outreach, such as passing out meals to low-income residents, Sinclair said.

Town attorneys must look through certain paperwork, such as waivers and standard operating guidelines, before they give the town council the go-ahead to vote on it. Edinburgh's town council showed support for the program when it was first introduced in December, and town council member Ryan Piercefield said he doesn't foresee any issues with the program getting final approval.

Along with being a part of Edinburgh town council, Piercefield has served the Franklin Fire Department for 20 years and is currently a lieutenant.

"It's a young man's industry and if we can get these youth into it early, it's a pathway to a great career. I started off as a fireman in Edinburgh. It's a great place to start as a cadet, or in my case, as a volunteer," Piercefield said. "If we can keep one kid from going down the wrong path by being in public service, that's a success."

Sam Kirchoff, a member of the Edinburgh Fire Department since October, was a fire cadet with the Madison Township Fire Department in Morgan County from 2018 to 2019 while he was in high school. Cadets should be mentally prepared to see gruesome elements that face firefighters on EMS calls, such as broken limbs, victims of suicide and drug overdoses, and other situations involving death and gore. Still, it's a good way for people thinking about a career in firefighting to determine not only if it's the right career for them, but what can happen to people if they become hooked on drugs, Kirchoff said.

"(It's important) having kids realize what some of the problems in the town are," he said. "We have an opioid crisis, a drug problem in town and friends might be thinking about getting into drugs and opioids. They can see firsthand what happens when you do that type of stuff."

The fire department's goal is to start the program in the coming months, with students serving as cadets after school, on weekends and during the summer, Sinclair said.

"It's about knowing the system and the culture of firefighting so they can have a better understanding of the firefighting field itself," he said.



The American Legion Post 233 donated \$3,000 to KIC-IT Kids in Crisis Intervention Team. The organization, based in Franklin, provides a network of support for Johnson County homeless youth ages 15-25 to help break the cycle of homelessness and promote independence. The Youth Center that they have established provides laundry facilities, showers, computer workstations, a food and hygiene pantry and a kitchen, in addiPHOTO BY KAMI ERVIN

tion to a safe space for clients to meet with staff and utilize resources. They also offer monthly Youth Action Nights, providing meals, activities and skill development to help promote independence and personal development. To find out how you can help or volunteer, visit kic-it.org Pictured from left are Commander James

Burton, KIC-IT Executive Director Katie Schwarz and Legion Officer Matt Vandercook.



## Working together for you.

We think that's the key to better health care for you and your family. And that's why the providers and specialists at Johnson Memorial Health and Mayo Clinic are joining forces. Working together to give you access to the finest medical knowledge, right here at home.



MAYO CLINIC CARE NETWORK Member

Great care starts here.

#### **NEWS ROUNDUP**

DAILY JOURNAL AND REPUBLIC STAFF REPORTS

#### NTSB releases plane crash report

The National Transportation Safety Board has listed pilot error as the cause of a 2020 plane crash in Florida that injured seven people from Columbus.

NTSB investigators determined the cause of the accident in Palm Beach County was the pilot's inadequate preflight inspection in which a flight control abnormality was not detected and the pilot's "failure to expediently abort the takeoff" which resulted in the co-pilot performing a delayed aborted takeoff and runway overrun.

Seven members of a local family were injured but survived when their plane went off a runway at the North Palm Beach County airport, flipping into a pond and becoming partially submerged, according to first responders.

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office identified the seven on the plane as (ages reported in 2020) Joseph Allen, 70, who owned the plane, Diana Allen, 70, both of Edinburgh, and another Joseph Allen, 36, Angela Allen, 38, and children, Abram McCarthy, 12, Logan Allen, 4, and Heidi Allen, 2, all of Columbus. Two other people who helped rescue them were also injured.

The plane crash happened at 11:15 a.m. on Oct. 8, 2020, while the twin-engine Cessna 414 was taking off from the North Palm Beach County General Aviation Airport, according to the Federal Aviation Administration.

The FAA entry about the crash said that

the 50-year-old twin-engine Cessna 414, a seven-seater, "failed to climb during takeoff and ran off (the) departure end of (the) runway."

The NTSB in its analysis said the pilot initiated the takeoff of the Cessna but the plane remained on the runway past the point at which takeoff should have occurred. The co-pilot said the pilot attempted to pull back on the control yoke but it would not move, and the co-pilot's attempt to pull back on the yoke was also unsuccessful. The co-pilot then aborted the takeoff by reducing the throttle to idle and braking, with the airplane overrunning the runway into a marshy terrain where it stopped partially submerged in water, according to the analysis.

The NTSB said the co-pilot's decision to take control of the plane and abort the takeoff likely mitigated the potential for more severe injury.

## State has new site to view student achievement data

Johnson County parents, education professionals and students can now see information about their schools with a new dashboard.

The Indiana Department of Education published its Indiana Graduates Prepared to Succeed dashboard, or Indiana GPS, in December. The dashboard has a myriad of features comparing individual schools and school districts to the state average for 20 indicators. The dashboard can be found at indianagps.doe.in.gov/.

The dashboard is still developing. Student achievement statistics for students in pre-K through second grade.

With no statewide accountability exam in those grades, it takes longer for that data to be compiled in an easy-to-understand way, said Ron Sandlin, the IDOE's senior director of school performance and transformation.

Indiana GPS centers around five characteristics regarding student success: academic mastery, career and postsecondary readiness, credentials and experiences, communication and collaboration, work ethic and civic, financial and digital literacy. The database is a follow up to the INview dashboard, which similarly compares school and school district data to the state average. INview has information for each school and district spread on a plethora of different pages instead of a single page like Indiana GPS does. While INview is an important source of education data, the GPS dashboard is more easily digestible, Sandlin said.

At Edinburgh Community High School, 90.3% of graduates were employed or enrolled in college one year after their expected graduation date, while the state average is 84.9%. There is room for improvement in sixth-grade math, with 16.1% of students meeting individual growth targets on the ILEARN exam, compared to the state average of 34.1%.

## Atterbury, other bases damaged during Operation Allies Welcome

Military bases that housed tens of thousands of Afghan refugees in the U.S. incurred almost \$260 million in damages that in some cases rendered buildings unusable for troops until significant repairs to walls and plumbing are made, the Pentagon's inspector general found.

Over the last two weeks of August 2021, the U.S. Air Force managed the largest humanitarian evacuation in its history, airlifting 120,000 people from Afghanistan in just 17 days. The bulk of those passengers were Afghans fleeing Taliban rule. After processing, many of the refugees were flown to eight military bases in the U.S., where many were housed for months as they awaited visa processing and resettlement; the last Afghan refugee left military housing in February.

The refugees were housed at Fort Bliss, Texas; Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey; Fort McCoy, Wisconsin; Camp Atterbury, Indiana; Fort Pickett, Fort Lee, and Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia; and Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico.

The sheer volume of people in the temporary housing left those barracks and buildings with significant wear and tear, the inspector general found.

Training for the Indiana National Guard was relocated from Camp Atterbury to Fort Campbell, Kentucky, due to damages. The facilities need to be restored "to a condition that enables them to conduct trainings, prepare for future events, and return to normal base operations," the IG found.

For example, of the \$260 million in approved restoration costs, the Defense Department approved about \$16 million for Camp Atterbury "to replace mattresses and furniture and repair floors, doors, windows, plumbing, fire alarm systems and landscaping."

## Indiana DOR releases changes for upcoming tax filing season

#### SUBMITTED ARTICLE

The Indiana Department of Revenue (DOR) wants individuals to be aware of several tax changes as the 2023 tax filing season approaches. In addition, DOR wants to remind low-income Hoosiers who received Social Security income in 2022 and who meet other eligibility criteria that they will need to file a tax return to claim the \$200 Automatic Taxpayer Refund.

Major changes for this upcoming individual income tax filing season include: Earned Income Credit rate change

The earned income credit (EIC) is a tax credit for certain people who work and have earned income under a threshold set by the IRS. The Indiana income tax credit rate is increasing from 9% to 10% of the federal EIC. There are some differences

between the Indiana and the federal cred-

it, most notably for married individuals filing jointly and individuals with three or more qualifying children. Refer to IRS Publication 596 or State Publication 359, Indiana Earned Income Credit 2022, for more information.

**Adoption credits** 

Indiana's adoption tax credit increases to 20% of the federal adoption credit (up from 10%) or \$2,500 (up from \$1,000), whichever is less. If the credit is claimed for multiple eligible children, the credit and limitation is computed separately for each child.

No more than \$2,500 in credits may be claimed for each eligible child if credits are claimed over multiple years.

Credits for tax years 2022 and later are refundable.

Parents who claimed the federal adoption credit for 2015 through 2021 may claim a non-refundable credit for the year(s) they claimed a federal credit.

#### New Schedule IN-W

Hoosiers with more than one wage statement, such as a W-2 or Form 1099, will need to list all wage statements on a new form, Schedule IN-W. DOR-certified software vendors should include this form in their products. Paper filers will need to include the new form, along with other required forms and schedules, with their tax return.

Automatic taxpayer refunds

Hoosiers may claim a \$200 Automatic Taxpayer Refund as a tax credit if they were not eligible for last year's initial Automatic Taxpayer Refund; received Social Security benefits in 2022; and are not claimed as a dependent on someone else's tax return. To receive the \$200 refund, they must file an Indiana resident tax return by Dec. 31, 2023, and claim the \$200 ATR as a refundable tax credit. Hoosiers who do not normally file a tax return due to their income will need to file a tax return to claim the ATR as a credit.

Information on how to claim the \$200 ATR as a credit will be included in the 2022 tax year instruction booklets and included in DOR-certified tax software products. Eligible Hoosiers can claim the \$200 ATR using Form IT-40 or IT-40PNR (for partyear residents).

Those who qualify to use Form SC-40 may be able to claim both the Unified Tax Credit for the Elderly and the ATR if they meet specific age and income requirements. Refer to the information on the back of Form SC-40 for more information.

Indiana Individual Income Tax forms for 2022 are now available on DOR's website. DOR will start accepting Indiana Individual Income Tax returns in January 2023 in concert with the IRS. DOR reminds customers not to file their state tax returns before tax filing season opens and they have gathered all necessary documentation.

## **COMMUNITY CHATTER**

#### Take-home craft

The Edinburgh Wright-Hageman Public Library's craft for January is making a starburst mirror with recycled magazines. It is for all ages but parents might need to help small children since a mirror is used. Signups will be taken at the circulation desk or by phone until Jan. 19 at 6 p.m. The free kits includes all supplies and will be available for pickup Jan. 23. Info: 812-526-5487, www.edinburgh.lib.in.us

#### **Father-Daughter Dance**

The annual Father-Daughter Dance will be held Feb. 10 at 6 p.m. at Who So Ever Will Community Church.

Cost is \$10 per couple, \$5 for each additional daughter.

Registration must be done by Feb. 7 at the Park and Recreation Office Monday through Saturday Noon to 8pm.

#### Spring Clean Out & Crafts sale

Edinburgh Parks and Recreation's Spring Clean Out & Crafts Sale is set for April 1, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at East Side Elementary School. Craft vendors and people wanting to sell yard sale items in an indoor space can reserve a 10-by-10 foot booth at Parks and Rec, 722 S. Eisenhower Drive. Cost is \$20, plus \$5 if you want a table provided.

Information: 812-526-3535

#### **Bluegrass** Jamboree

The Columbus Bluegrass Jamboree will be held Jan. 14, beginning with an Open Jam at 4 p.m. (bring your instrument) and various group performances starting at 5 p.m. This free event is open to the public and will be held at Donner Center, corner of 22nd and Sycamore streets.

The Jamboree will feature bluegrass and gospel bluegrass by various bands including High Sierra, Rocky Branch, Mountain Liberty Way, and Hi-Way 46. Donations are welcome.

The Jamboree is sponsored by Columbus Parks and Recreation and Lincoln-Central Neighborhood Family Center.

For more information, call 812-614-0955 or 812-376-0714 or visit columbusbluegrassjamboree.com.

#### Craft fair

Hoosier Handmade Craft Fair and Spring Market will be April 1, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Johnson County fairgrounds. Fair features work from more than 120 local artisans selling items such as leatherwork, pottery, jewelry, wood carvings, candles, goat milk products and home decor.

Event also includes Easter bunny from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., scavenger hunts for kids, music and local food trucks. Free admission and parking.

#### 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.

#### Free program to offer mental health support

The National Alliance on Mental Illness and NAMI South Central Indiana have announced a free, eight-session educational program for family, friends and significant others of adults with mental health conditions.

The NAMI Family-to-Family program provides information about anxiety. depressive disorders, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and other mental health conditions, according to the alliance. Other topics covered include communication, problem solving, treatment and recovery.

The program will take place at The Commons from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on eight Mondays beginning Feb. 6 and continuing through March 27.

The course is designed to increase understanding and advocacy skills while helping participants maintain their own well-being. The program is taught by trained family members who have a loved one with a mental health condition.

NAMI Family-to-Family is an evidencebased program. For information on the research base for the program, visit nami. org/research.

#### The Edinburgh Pixy Theatre

111 S. Walnut St. Unless noted, shows are at 7 p.m. and admission is \$10. Information/purchase tickets: 812-526-6513, www.TheEdinburghPixy.com or advance tickets for some shows at www.brownpapertickets.com

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

March 18: Allie Jean's album release show (sing and play for kids, all day) 2, p.m. Free, donations accepted

March 25: Night Owl Country Band April 22: Martin Branden and Rye Davis (country)

#### Nineveh Senior Center

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

Information: Jon Myers, 812-343-4229, www.ninevehseniorcenter.org





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