

WEDNESDAY
JANUARY 25, 2023



FREE



Home value

Follow these tips to increase your home's curb appeal.

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Edinburgh Courier

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"If you can't explain it to a six year old, you don't understand it yourself."

— Albert Einstein

WHAT'S UP?

C4 open house

Columbus Area Career Connection will have an open house tonight, 5 to 7:15 p.m. at Columbus North High School. Enter at Door 15.

Incoming and current students and their parents are invited to learn more about the program, meet the instructors and other students.

Information: www.bcschools.org/c4 or 812-376-4240

Button bowl craft

Edinburgh Wright-Hageman Public Library's February craft is a DIY button bowl, which could be used as a candy dish or place to put your spare change. The free craft is for all ages.

Sign-ups will be taken Feb. 1-16. Call the library at 812-526-5487 or stop by the Circulation Desk.

Buttons, balloons and glue all supplied.

Zumba

Edinburgh Parks and Recreation will offer Zumba classes on Wednesdays through March 29. Classes start at 6:10 p.m. Participants are asked to arrive early to pay and sign a waiver. Cost is \$5 per class.

Yoga

Yoga classes are being offered twice a week in Edinburgh. Classes are \$5 and instructor is Sonia Aponte of Yahara Studio.

Beginner Yoga for ages 12 and older will be offered Wednesdays at 7:10 p.m. at Edinburgh Parks & Rec, 722 S. Eisenhower Drive.

Chair Yoga for 55 and older will be offered Thursdays at 11 a.m. at John Drybread Community Center, 100 E. Main Cross St.

NEWS

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ADVERTISING

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DEADLINES

Display ads 5 p.m. Wednesday
News 9 a.m. Monday
Library drop box noon Wednesday

CIRCULATION 317-736-2777

Are free books in the works?

Budget request would make education truly free

By Andy Bell-Baltaci
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

At Center Grove Community School Corporation, the families of students owe about \$500,000 in unpaid textbook fees.

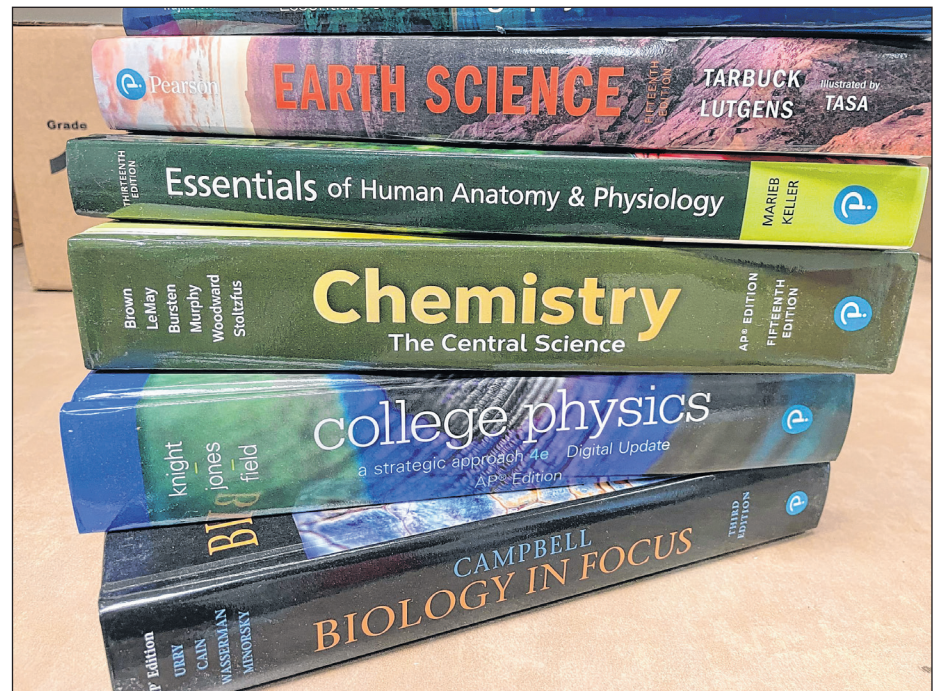
But if a proposal from Gov. Eric Holcomb comes to fruition, Indiana would join 43 other states in eliminating textbook fees for students. As Indiana legislators prepare the state's budget for 2024 and 2025, Holcomb has proposed allocating \$120 million more toward local schools to cover those costs.

Multiple lawmakers are also drafting bills to eliminate those fees. Rep. Andrea Hunley, D-Indianapolis, is a former teacher and principal who authored Senate Bill 395, which would transfer the cost of curricular materials from families to the Indiana Department of Education, according to the Indiana General Assembly.

"I was a teacher and a principal. I have two children in school and it costs us almost \$600 in textbook fees, money that could be invested in our children in other ways (such as) athletics and clubs," Hunley said. "We can put this money back in Hoosiers' pockets and fulfill the promise we have for all Americans to give them a free public education. It's not free if you have to pay \$200 a year in textbook fees."

Rep. Ryan Hatfield, D-Evansville, has drafted similar legislation each year since he joined the legislature in 2017. Once textbook debt goes to collections, parents are responsible for attorney fees, which can be thousands of dollars in addition to the textbook costs, Hatfield said.

Although previous efforts have failed, the 2023 legislative session is the best chance to eliminate textbook fees because of not only Holcomb's support, but the



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Science textbooks used at Clark-Pleasant Community School Corp. Families at the school district owed \$74,475 in unpaid textbook fees during the 2021-22 school year.

state's estimated \$6 billion surplus in unspent tax dollars, he said.

"I'm ecstatic the governor decided in 2023 to make it a priority," Hatfield said. "Hopefully the legislature will hear his calls to pass legislation that will reduce this burden on Indiana families to ensure students, no matter their economic status, care able to get the best education possible."

Families would each save hundreds of dollars if textbook fees are eliminated. Center Grove High School students, for example, can owe up to \$800 in textbook fees if they are enrolled in multiple Advanced Placement, or AP classes, said

Jason Taylor, assistant superintendent for Center Grove schools.

While about 20% of Center Grove families qualify for free or reduced-price textbooks due to low income, other families are just above that line and struggle with the fees. Although school officials are able to set up payment plans with some families, other times they have to turn to the court system, he said.

"We work with families as much as we can. Unfortunately, sometimes we have to turn to collections if they haven't paid anything," Taylor said. "If parents don't have

SEE BOOKS, PAGE 6

OBITUARIES

EDINBURGH

Cindy Bechtel

Cindy L. Bechtel, 63 of Edinburgh, Indiana passed away Saturday, Jan. 14, 2023 at Community Hospital South in Indianapolis. She was born Aug. 12, 1959 in Lebanon. She was the daughter of John M. and Avis A. (Ward) Byram of Brownsburg, Indiana.

She is survived by her husband, Rick Bechtel, sons, Derek (Sarah) Bechtel, grandchildren, Zoe, Jentzen, Joel, of Indianapolis, Indiana and Brett (Jessica) Bechtel, grandchildren, Cooper and Valerie, of Greenfield, Indiana, and brother, Denny (Margi) Byram of Clinton, Indiana.

She was a member of Plainville Christian Church and Edinburgh Tri Kappa. She served on the Edinburgh Wright-Hageman Public Library Board for 16 years.

Cindy retired from Edinburgh Community School Corporation, where she was employed as guidance secretary.

She enjoyed spending time with her family, attending her grandchildren's sporting events, and reading.

A funeral service was conducted by the Rev. Jason Hyer at Edinburgh Methodist Church. Burial was at Rest Haven Cemetery in Edinburgh.

Memorial contributions may be made to Edinburgh's high school athletic department.

Arrangements were made by Eskew-Eaton Funeral Home in Edinburgh.

COLUMBUS

Mary Kathryn Day

Mary Kathryn Day, 99, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2023. Mary was born July 20, 1923 in Bartholomew County. She was the daughter of Terrell and Tressie Newsom.

Mrs. Day was a 2nd lieutenant veteran of World War II in the Army Nurse Corps. Following her honorable discharge from the United States Army, she was a registered nurse at the Bartholomew County Hospital recovery room for 20 years.

She graduated from Columbus High School in 1941, and then entered Methodist Hospital School of Nursing, graduating in 1944.

She married Henry F. Day on April 6, 1947. They shared 54 years together before he preceded her in death on March 10, 2001.

She was a member of Edinburgh Methodist Church, a former member of Edinburgh Tri Kappa and a Charter Member of the Military Women's Memorial at Arlington National



BECHTEL

Cemetery.

Mrs. Day is survived by her daughter, Beverly (Joe) Clark; her sons, Mark (Cathy) Day and Rick (Vicki) Day; grandchildren, Seann (Rachel) Day, Samantha (Scott) Surfus, Shannon (Debbie) Day, Tracy (Jason) Smith, Jennifer (Chris) Madden, Kari Clark and Kolby (Trevor) Baty; great-grandchildren, Ryan, Adam, Megan, Lincoln, Lila, Hank, and Hallie; and step-great-grandchildren, Zach, Lexi, Madi and Dillon.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; brother, Parker Newsom; and sisters, Aileen Chitwood and Sarah Elizabeth.

A visitation was held at Hathaway-Myers Chapel on in Columbus. A graveside service was held at Garland Brook Cemetery with the Rev. Virgil Clotfelter officiating. Memorial donations may be made to Our Hospice of South Central Indiana.

To share a fond memory of Mrs. Day or leave a condolence for the family, visit www.Hathaway-Myers.com.

SHELBYVILLE

Charles Land

Charles B. "Charlie" Land, 72, of Shelbyville, passed away Monday, Jan. 16, 2023.

He was born Feb. 9, 1950 in Shelbyville to Clifford Land and Anna Mae (Swinford) Land.

Charlie graduated from Southwestern High School.

He worked at Lear in Edinburgh for 41 years before retiring as a foreman.

He had a love for the outdoors. He could often be found hunting or fishing in his free time. Charlie also loved spending time with his family. His grandchildren and great grandchildren brought him true joy.

He married Anna Hue (Rhoades) Land on Nov. 2, 1970 and she survives.

Charlie is survived by his daughters, Lori Land, Kristen (husband, Gary) Goforth; grandchildren, Shakara Graber, Brittany Priddy, Devon Drake, Niki Goforth, Brianna Goforth, Charlie Goforth; great grandchildren, Layla Osmon, Izzy Graber, Zachary Drake; sisters Barbara McDaniels, Gail Hendershot; nieces, Cindy Hendershot, Mary Garvin, Missy Bostic and Amy Wilson; nephews, Mike Hendereshot, James and David Land.

He was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Katrina Land; brother, Clifford Land Jr.; nephew, Albert D Hendershot Jr.; niece, Cathy Ann Walters.

Burial will be in Flat Rock Cemetery at a later date.

Funeral Directors, Greg Parks, Sheila Parks, Stuart Parks, and Darin Schutt are honored to serve Charlie's family. Online condolences may be shared at www.murphyarks.com.



LAND



DAY

GOOD OLD DAYS

75 years ago: Mrs. Cochran announces that Grant Brown, Wayne Waltz, Larry Downs and Shirley Rhude have not been absent or tardy for the first semester.

70 years ago: Eddie Johns on scores 19 points and Jim Giles adds 14 points to lead the Edinburg Maroons to a 54-45 victory over the Greenwood Woodmen.

65 years ago: Officers for the Edinburg Fellowship Club are Roscoe Prosser, president; Glenn Stillabower and Floyd Waltz, vice presidents; and Wallace Loucks, secretary/treasurer.

60 years ago: The Edinburg Planning Commission recommends that Campbell Street be closed from Holland Street to Kyle Street for an expansion of the David R. Webb Company.

55 years ago: Elvin Hayes scores 39 points, including the winning two free throws, to lead Houston to a 71-69 victory over UCLA in front of 52,693 fans in a game at the Astrodome.

50 years ago: Greg Pittman scores 15 points and grabs 12 rebounds to lead the Edinburg Lancer's eighth-grade basketball team to a 44-31 victory over the Hauser Jets.

SCHOOL NOTEBOOK

GED graduate

Edinburgh Adult Education would like to congratulate Athena Isgrigg on earning her HSE (GED).

Classes meet twice a week at Edinburgh High School. Potential students should contact Julie Redd at 317-392-2197.



ISGRIGG

College notes

Kendal Williams of Edinburgh was named to the dean's list at Indiana University - Kokomo

David A. Garrison of Edinburgh was named to the dean's list with highest honors at University of Tennessee-Martin

Scholarships

• 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.

• Students in high school or college who are planning to teach or work in school administration have until Jan. 31 to apply for three scholarships:

Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship

Earline S. Rogers Student

Teaching Scholarship for Minorities Student Teaching Scholarship for High-Need Fields

For more information on the scholarships visit: in.gov/che/

For questions about state financial aid, students can contact the Indiana Commission for Higher Education by phone at 888-528-4719 or via email at awards@che.in.gov.

Johnson County Community Foundation offers dozens of scholarships that benefit Johnson County students.

Students need to fill out the common form and the Matching Criteria Quiz that can be found at jccf.org/apply-for-a-scholarship.

Applicants will also need to submit additional information specific to each scholarship being pursued. There are a few scholarships, such as the Lilly Endowment Scholarship, that use unique applications, and JCCF provides a separate link for each one on their website.

Scholarship applications are open now and due by 5 p.m. Feb. 20.

For more information, students can talk to their guidance counselor or contact Stephanie Fox at jccf@jccf.org.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

David Williams of Edinburgh and Jordan Nusbaumer of Indianapolis

Varsity, reserve and Little Lancers all pick up wins last week

Both the fifth and sixth grade boys basketball teams picked up a win last week and the boys varsity and reserve both swept the weekend, winning their Friday and Saturday night games.

Playing at home on Jan. 17, the varsity girls faced South Decatur in an MHC match-up. The Lancers got off to a strong start, holding a five point lead at the end of the opening quarter. They weren't able to keep it up however as their offense cooled on a 56-30 loss at the hands of the Cougars. Gracie Crowthorn led the Lancers by scoring 19 points, Jada Sanders followed with four, Bella Turner three, Shyleigh Gobel two, and Kenna Streeval two. The girls fell to 6-14 overall and 0-3 in the conference.

At home as well on that Tuesday, the middle school girls faced Indian Creek. The seventh grade dropped to 1-1 on the season with a 22-11 loss. Chloe Hancock led her team with seven points while Faith Smith and Lilly Davis each added two. In the evening's night cap, the eighth graders couldn't keep up with the young Braves and lost, 30-16, dropping to 0-2. Mia Denton was Edinburgh's top scorer with 11 points, Madison Britton had two, Chloe Hancock two, and Faith Smith one.

It was a double-win night for Edinburgh's fifth and sixth grade boys on Wednesday at Trafalgar. The fifth graders had to take the Braves to overtime but prevailed in the extra period, winning 29-26. Kendall Bennett scored 11 to lead the Lancers, Caiden Coy had seven, Mason Turner six, Carson Gentry three, and Elijah Roberts two. Edinburgh's sixth grade team didn't need the extra time to



Brian Ingels

Lancer Notebook

defeat Indian Creek, winning 29-26. Charlie Roberts was the good guys' top scorer with seven points. Right behind were Landon Garris with six, Kayden Talbott six, Braden Burton three, Blake Andis two, and Mason Burton two. The fifth grade improved to 4-2 with their victory and the sixth grade bumped up to 2-4.

Facing Southwestern in Marietta for the opening game of a boys-girls doubleheader on Friday evening, the Lancer girls again got off to a nice start, leading at the end of one period and holding a 19-15 lead at the half. Unfortunately, the Spartans were able to chip away at that margin throughout the second half and downed the Lancers, 44-40. Senior Gracie Crowthorn led the way with 18 points, freshman Kenna Streeval knocked down 11, Lillie Goff scored seven and Bella Turner four.

Game two of the night saw the Lancers scoring early and often on Southwestern, winning this MHC contest, 64-39. Caleb Dewey led all scorers with 21 points, Connor Ramey added 14, Jarrett Turner 12, Austin Brockman eight, Devyn Milburn three, Braylon Bryant two, Keegan Smith two and Rylan Londeree two.

Taking on the Spartan JV in the field-house that night, the Lancer reserves held on for a three point win, 43-40 over the hosts. Rylan Londeree scored 12 to lead the Lancers, Bailey Totten put in seven, Lucas Seegers also had seven, Milas

Burkman six, Caleb Murphy five, Eli Smith five and Tyler Branigin one.

Back on the home court on Saturday evening, the Lancer boys played host to the Golden Eagles from Cambridge City Lincoln. Possessing a slim, two point lead at the half, the Lancer JV was able stay ahead in the final two periods and came away with a nice victory, 36-31. Bailey Totten was Edinburgh's high scorer on this night with 11 points, Rylan Londeree had nine, Lucas Seegers six, Eli Smith five, Caleb Murphy five and Milas Burkman two.

The varsity game saw the Lancers out-gunned in the first quarter as the Golden Eagles came out with a 23 point offensive effort and led Edinburgh 23-10 at the end of the quarter. The Lancers then mounted an extraordinary comeback, scoring 27 points in the second period to knot the score at 37 at halftime. Edinburgh was then able to keep the visitors at bay during the final two quarters and pulled away for a 77-64 victory. Caleb Dewey led the scoring attack for Edinburgh again with 28 points, Connor Ramey poured in 16, Jarrett Turner 12, Jackson Hartwell 10, Braylon Bryant five, Austin Brockman four, and Keegan Smith two.

The IHSAA held its sectional pairing draw on Sunday for the girls basketball tournament. The Lancer girls will face Morristown in the sectional's third game

at Southwestern on Wednesday Feb. 1 at 7:30 p.m. The Spartan hosted sectional will kick off on Jan. 31 with Waldron playing Jac-Cen-Del in game one at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday will have Oldenburg Academy meeting South Decatur at 6 p.m. with the Lancers playing after. The semi-finals will go on Feb. 3 with host Southwestern playing the winner of the Waldron/Jac-Cen-Del game at 6 p.m. and the winner of Oldenburg/South Decatur facing the Edinburgh/Morristown winner in the night's second game. The tourney's championship game will be at 7:30 on Saturday evening, Feb. 4.

On tap

Thursday

Boys 5&6 basketball at Southwestern, 5 p.m.
Girls Var basketball at North Decatur, 6:30 p.m.
Girls MS basketball, at home vs. St. Bartholomew, 6 p.m.

Friday

Boys JV & varsity basketball, at home vs. Morristown, 6 p.m.

Saturday

Boys basketball, Sixth Grade County Tourney at Indian Creek, 9 a.m.
Boys MS basketball, MHC at North Decatur, 9 a.m.
Boys JV & varsity basketball at Henryville, 6 p.m.

Monday

Boys MS basketball Home vs Brown County 5:30
Girls MS basketball at Brown County, 6 p.m.



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High-ROI upgrades improve your home's curb appeal

BY FAMILY FEATURES

Your home's exterior can say a lot about you and your family while also making a first impression on guests (and potential buyers). Because of the impact curb appeal has on the amount prospective buyers are willing to spend on a home, it's important for homeowners to look beyond simply choosing the right siding color and consider different siding materials and profiles, adding accents like stone veneer and researching other exterior upgrades that can both increase beauty and deliver performance over time.

In fact, exterior remodeling projects typically top the list of projects that add the most resale value to homes. According to Remodeling's 2022 Cost vs. Value Report, nine of the top 10 projects delivering the best return on cost were exterior renovations.

If you're looking to sell or just want to increase the overall value of your home, consider these high-ROI exterior upgrades from the experts at Westlake Royal Building Products that can improve aesthetics and increase resale value.

Front Door

If replacing the front door isn't necessary, adding a fresh coat of paint is a simple way to refresh your home's exterior. You can take your "dated" door and make it mod-

ern again with a bold, on-trend color. Take it one step further by adding artistic house numbers, a new light fixture or a door knocker in an unexpected shape for inexpensive pops of style.

Vinyl Siding

Updating your home's exterior with vinyl siding yields a 67.2% return upon sale, according to the report. When considering new siding, look for high-quality, low-maintenance materials. Depending on where you live, insulated vinyl siding can add additional protection against the elements, as well as increased energy efficiency. While function is important, don't be afraid to make bold choices with color, texture, different profiles and contrasting trim to make a true statement with your home's exterior.

For example, Westlake Royal Building Products offers a wide range of vinyl siding options in the latest shades, including adding five on-trend colors to its Royal Siding and Exterior Portfolio lines. Inspired by colors found in nature, the gray, blue-gray, brown and green tones reflect the latest trends in modern exterior home design. Both lines feature patented color protection technology to resist fading, which is especially important for darker shades.

Shutters

Adding or replacing shutters is another easy way to add

a bit of flair and can be a key finishing touch in creating the perfect exterior. With the potential to play beautifully alongside windows and siding as well architectural style and surrounding landscaping, it's important to make thoughtful choices and install them properly to ensure they look and function as designed.

Composite Decking

Another exterior remodeling project with a high ROI (62.1%), according to the report, is replacing your home's existing wood deck with composite decking. An option like Zuri Premium Decking combines the natural beauty and warmth of exotic hardwood with the durability and low-maintenance requirements of PVC (cellular polyvinyl chloride), which resists stains, scratches, fading and moisture, for a deck that will last for years with minimal upkeep.

Column Wraps

Give your front porch an instant facelift by wrapping your existing columns with PVC wraps. This is an easy way to achieve a cleaner and more modern, updated look. Resistant to moisture, PVC column wraps prevent issues found in traditional wood columns, such as warping, rotting and insect damage. Available in a variety of ready-to-install styles, they can also be painted to complement your home's exterior color palette.



PHOTO BY MIKE WOLANIN/THE REPUBLIC

A view the traffic pattern change caused by bridge work continues on the I-65 bridge over State Road 46 in Columbus.

More support for Gateway Arch

By Mark Webber
THE REPUBLIC STAFF WRITER

The Indiana Department of Transportation is installing permanent supplemental hanger systems on the I-65 Gateway Arch Bridge over State Road 46 as a precautionary measure after some corrosion was found during recent inspections.

Motorists who travel through the major intersection on Columbus' west side have noticed supports under the bridge and new traffic patterns to the entry and exit ramps on State Road 46 since the work began.

Permanent supplemental hanger systems will be put in place early this year, said Natalie Garrett, strategic communications director at INDOT. After that work is completed, temporary structures will be removed and the interchange operations will be restored back to its original configuration either late this winter or in early spring, she said.

"This work is being done as a precautionary measure due to corrosion found during recent cable inspections," Garrett said. "The hangers will provide additional support for the I-65 bridge over State Road 46."

INDOT worked on the 1995 project when construction began on what was named the Columbus Front Door Project, with the centerpiece of the project being the unique Gateway Arch bridge over State Road 46, which is known as Jonathan Moore Pike in

Columbus. The project included a \$23 million investment in the new interstate interchange at the state highway.

The 292-foot long Gateway Arch Bridge was publicly touted as a federal demonstration and signature-type structure designed to reflect the uniqueness of the community to visitors. The bridge took 16 months to complete, replacing an existing four-span conventional steel girder bridge.

The current work to add a supplemental hanger system began about six weeks ago, when overnight lane closures went into effect at the same interchange shortly after Thanksgiving. In early December, there were daytime lane and ramp restrictions, as well as posted overweight truck restriction.

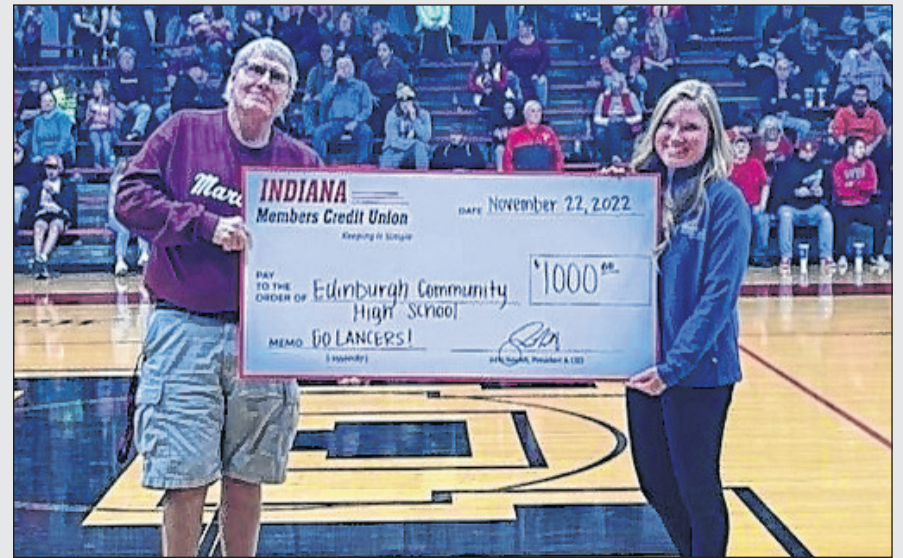
Garrett said with the temporary supports and weight limits in place, there is no danger for vehicles crossing the bridge on I-65 or traveling through the intersection underneath the structure as the work continues.

The bridge receives routine yearly inspections by state officials, with traffic lanes being closed while the evaluations are completed.

One of the reasons that there is not concern about the bridge is that it is not in a coastal environment, where bridges suffer corrosion-induced damage from sea salt and humidity. Bridges in south central Indiana can be weakened by ice-melting salt, fatigue stress corrosion and damage from accidents, but usually to a lesser

SEE BRIDGE, PAGE 6

ATHLETIC DONATION



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Indiana Members Credit Union presented a check for \$1,000 to Edinburg Community High School as part of an ongoing school spirit debit card program. The partnership allows Edinburg Lancers fans the opportunity to show their school spirit and support the athletic program by signing up for an Edinburg Lancers themed debit card. Every time the card is used as a signature based transaction, Edinburg athletics benefits. Since beginning the program in 2020, Edinburg Community High School has earned \$2,000 through this IMCU giveback program. Amber Coryell, business development officer with IMCU, presented the check to David Walden, ECSC athletic director, at the boys varsity basketball game on Nov. 22.



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NEWS ROUNDUP

DAILY JOURNAL AND REPUBLIC STAFF REPORTS

Columbus Arni's closes its doors, 'casualty of the pandemic'

For decades, a Lafayette-based restaurant chain has enticed diners here with their well-known mantra "Meet You At Arni's."

But if you want to meet now, it can't be in Columbus.

After 30 years of serving Bartholomew County diners, Arni's Restaurant at 2765 Brentwood Drive is now permanently closed.

"We love Columbus, the customers who supported us for many years and our long-term employees," said Kurt Cohen, co-owner of the restaurant chain. "But this location has been a battle. I guess you could say it's another casualty of COVID."

Cohen, son of restaurant chain founder Arnold "Arni" Cohen (1932-2002) said the Brentwood location was still struggling to find employees as the result of the pandemic. While he said the remaining 18 Arni's restaurants were able to recover, the Columbus location was unable to bounce back in the aftermath of the pandemic.

Last Wednesday, the lobby, kitchen and dining area was filled with stacked items like cooking equipment, dining accessories office supplies and computers. After each item was inventoried, they were loaded onto large trucks outside.

Other problems cited by Cohen included a sharp drop in business, insufficient parking, and a location that essentially hides the restaurant from the sight of motorists along National Road.

"When the restaurant was opened, this place had been selected by a person who obtained the franchise," Cohen said. "When we took it over, I saw it was a lousy location. Across the board, all of our loca-

tions are in a much better position."

While Cohen said his company has been looking for a new site in Columbus with better visibility, "I can't find a location that make sense for us."

But if such a place could be secured, Cohen said he'd love to reopen in Columbus. He specifically mentioned commercial sites along Jonathan Moore Pike.

In 1965, Arni Cohen opened his first restaurant in a former Pizza King on Lafayette's north side. Besides expanding his restaurant chain to include locations throughout central and southern Indiana, Arni Cohen was also involved in a number of philanthropic causes and served on the West Lafayette City Council.

If the Columbus location had attracted a stable clientele, the current owners would have liked to have done more for the community, Kurt Cohen said

Man 'guilty but mentally ill' in Edinburgh robbery

A Greenwood man will serve less than a year in jail after pleading guilty but mentally ill for his role in a 2021 Edinburgh gun sale-turned-armed robbery.

Damien Blaze Morical-Jones, 22, pleaded guilty but mentally ill to theft, a Level 6 felony, before Johnson County Circuit Court Judge Andrew Roesener on Dec. 15. He was sentenced the same day to one year in jail, with a majority of the sentence — 237 days — suspended to probation, according to the sentencing order.

He also received a jail credit of 64 days, meaning he will ultimately spend 64 days in jail, online court records show.

Morical-Jones and another man, Stormy

Lee Neville, 23, went to an apartment on the 600 block of South Pleasant Street in Edinburgh in January 2021. The victim told police that Neville had said he would trade him a Targa .25 caliber pistol for the victim's Smith & Wesson .45 caliber pistol and cash, according to a probable cause affidavit.

Shortly after Morical-Jones and Neville arrived at the apartment, the victim left to get money and the gun while Neville filled out a receipt for the deal, which had since turned into a transaction. Once the victim handed Morical-Jones the money, Neville took the victim's gun, pointed it at his head and asked him to leave, refusing to return the weapon or pay for it, the affidavit says.

The victim then left and went to a friend's house to call the police. Later, an officer went to the apartment and while they were waiting for backup, two men matching the descriptions of Morical-Jones and Neville exited the apartment. The officer told the men to stop and when officers later searched them, they did not find any guns on them, according to the affidavit.

Morical-Jones and Neville told police they were staying overnight with a friend in the apartment and that they did not live there, which was later confirmed by the apartment owner. Officers later searched the apartment and found a safe, which the apartment owner said belonged to a former partner. They did not know how to access it.

Police then spoke with the victim, who confirmed that Morical-Jones and Neville were the ones who robbed him.

Neville was sentenced to nine years in prison last year for his role in the robbery.

For more information on these stories, go to www.dailyjournal.net or www.therepublic.com.



MORICAL-JONES

RESTAURANT INSPECTIONS

The information below was compiled from reports of the health departments of Bartholomew and Johnson counties. Critical violations may expose customers to illnesses and typically must be corrected immediately or within days. Noncritical violations, if not corrected, could lead to critical violations or make critical violations more likely to occur.

Ruby Tuesday

3715 Marketplace Drive, Edinburgh
Dec. 8

Critical violations: None

Noncritical violations: 7

Hickory Hills BBQ

1602 N. US 31, Edinburgh
Dec. 21

Critical violations: None

Noncritical violations: 1

JAIL BOOKINGS

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

Zackery Payne, 18, Edinburgh; arrested on charges of domestic battery and disorderly conduct; \$2,000 bond.

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

Lucretia A. Blaker, 41, Edinburgh, arrested on a charge of theft; \$7,500 bond.

Jordan D. Burton, 35, Edinburgh, arrested on charges of possession of cocaine or narcotic drug, possession of paraphernalia, possession of hypodermic syringe or needle, resisting law enforcement and a Bartholomew County warrant; \$132,500 bond.

Bridge

FROM PAGE 5

degree, said C. Michael Walton, a civil engineering professor who serves on the executive committee for the Transportation Research Board at the National Academy of Sciences. However, the main reason for the work is that I-65 has seen exponential growth in traffic volume over the past few years, with nearly 40% of that traffic being freight haulers, according to the American Association of State Highway and Transportation officials.

While the truck weight limit was at one time 50,000 pounds, it's at 80,000 pounds on most U.S. highways — with some states allowing even heavier vehicles.

"Between 20 and 30% (of trucks) are overloaded on our highway system in general, and 10 percent of those are more than double the legal load," Walton said. "They've (the bridges) reached their design life much earlier because of the increased traffic and loads."

Columbus and its partners had a ribbon cutting ceremony Sept. 30, 2020 to officially open a new \$35 million overpass project at State Road 46 and State Road 11.

The Front Door Project in its entirety had a price tag of \$48 million, according to project records.

Books

FROM PAGE 1

to pay these fees to send students to school, I think it would have a huge impact."

School officials from other local districts did not provide fee estimates for high school students, as they vary widely based on the number of AP and dual credit courses students take. Elementary and middle school students also accrue textbook fees because they rent Chromebooks.

At Greenwood Community School Corporation, for example, families of students between third and eighth grade pay more than \$100 in fees. At Clark-Pleasant

Community School Corporation, where families owed \$74,475 in past due textbook fees last school year, those fees range in kindergarten through eighth grade from \$131 to \$205, according to school officials.

If legislators can include the cost of textbooks in the state budget, it will provide much-needed relief to families, Clark-Pleasant schools Superintendent Patrick Spray said in an email.

"This is a very positive stance from the governor and will be well received by parents," he said. "The state will need to be sure to put enough appropriations behind this bill so that districts will be able to continue to have quality instructional materials and supplies."

At Edinburgh Community School Corporation, the average textbook rental

fee for a school year is \$171, while at Indian Creek schools, students pay between \$128 and \$197 a year from kindergarten through eighth grade, school leaders said.

While most students' families pay their textbook fees, it's time for Indiana to join other states in covering those costs, said Tim Edsell, superintendent at Indian Creek schools.

"I think it's a good initiative for Gov. Holcomb to request this pursuit of legislators to consider eliminating textbook fees for public schools," he said. "We are one of seven states that still charge textbook rental fees. I believe this will be well received by families in our district and throughout the state."

COMMUNITY CHATTER

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 8 p.m.

Spring Clean Out & Crafts sale

Edinburgh Parks and Recreation's Spring Clean Out & Crafts Sale is set for April 1, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at East Side Elementary School. Handmade and homemade craft vendors and people wanting to sell clothing and household 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

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 available at school office, community center

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 evidence-based 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)

AT THE PARKS

Edinburgh Parks & Recreation

722 Eisenhower Drive

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

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

- Signups are being taken for youth baseball, softball and T-ball until March 4 at Parks and Rec.

Practices will begin the week of April 3 and games will begin the week of April 24; tournament week is June 19-26. All players will be drafted to teams by the coaches.

Cost is \$35 for T-ball and midgets; \$45 for 8-12U baseball and softball; and \$75 for Babe Ruth and middle school.

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.

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