



FREE



Big cats, clowns, the Big Top and more

Culpepper & Merriweather Circus will come to town next month.

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Edinburgh Courier

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"I always wanted to be somebody, but now I realize I should have been more specific."

— Lily Tomlin

WHAT'S UP?

Class reunion

The Edinburgh Community High School Class of 1968's 55th reunion will be held at the American Legion May 20 from noon to 2 p.m.

The alumni banquet will be held later that day.

Call or text Linda Piatt Medlen at 765-432-0682 to let us know if you are attending or if you have questions.

Good Friday service

The Edinburgh Fellowship of Churches will host its annual Community Good Friday Service at Edinburgh Nazarene Church on April 7 at 6 p.m. The church is at 716 S. Eisenhower Drive.

All are welcome to come and worship together as a community.

Fish fries

German Township Volunteer Fire Department's fish fry is set for April 1, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at 9428 Main St., Taylorsville. Menu includes fish, chicken strips and tenderloins for dine-in or carryout. Dessert donations are appreciated. Cash, credit and debit cards accepted.

Amity Fire Department's first fish fry of 2023 will be held on April 22, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the station on U.S. 31 north of Edinburgh. Food will be served carryout only. Cash, checks and credit/debit cards are accepted.

Dollars for Scholars

Edinburgh Dollars for Scholars website is open through April 15 for students to apply for a college scholarship for the 2023-2024 school year. Students must be a graduate of Edinburgh Community High School or an Edinburgh Community High School senior graduating in 2023.

Apply at www.edinburgh.dollarsforscholars.org.

NEWS

Amy May, editor 317-736-2726 or 812-379-5761
Editorial fax 317-736-2766
Editorial email courier@dailyjournal.net

ADVERTISING

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

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Community servant feted by town at birthday party

STORY AND PHOTOS BY KIM KING SMITH

Sw sweetheart, Christian lady, caring, community servant are all words shared by countless friends and admirers of Libby Burton. Burton was recently feted at a surprise 80th birthday party. The party was held at the Edinburgh Separate Baptist Church. Hosted by Burton's daughter, Katrina Liffich and family members. The party was attended by hundreds.

Elizabeth Ann Ajamy Burton grew up in Edinburgh and attended all 12 grades at Edinburgh Consolidated School Corporation. She was an honors student and her work ethic and determination continued throughout her life. At 19 years old, she married Clay Fairley Burton. The Burtons had two children: daughter, Katrina and son, Timothy Clay Burton, who was killed in a tragic accident at age 22.

"Prayers from my friends, got me through this," Burton said.

Burton's faith has always been constant. Attending church at the Edinburgh United Methodist Church with lifetime friend, Violet Lindsey, being baptized in the river and becoming very active at the Edinburgh Separate Baptist Church have all been an important part of her life. Her favorite hymn, according to church friend and breakfast buddy, Martha McGaha, is "Learning to Lean," which has lyrics that demonstrate her strength and faith. In addition, friend and ECHS concession coworker, Sheila Horton, shares that "Libby can be found humming that song when she is her

happiest and busiest. She doesn't even know she's doing it."

McGaha, Cindy Gadberry, Ron and Patty Hazelgrove all meet Monday through Saturday to eat breakfast with Burton at Red's Place. The restaurant camaraderie doesn't end there. The infamous Liar's Table shared no "lies" about Libby too. "Super Nice," "Sweetheart," "Polite" and "Good Lady" flowed from the table as endearments of Burton. The party was a priority for all of them.

As a community volunteer, it would be hard to surpass her. According to ECHS employee Sheila Horton, "Libby is eager to serve, never afraid to jump in and tackle the job!" Sherri Sweet, ECHS school treasurer explained, "Libby didn't miss one game this year volunteering in the concession stand. She volunteered for the nonprofits and the school."

Nonprofit concession member and Brandon Cravens Scholarship volunteer, Jason Squibb said, "She always wants to help."

Libby's love of Edinburgh schools began as a teaching aide at East Side Elementary. She tutored math. She then moved to the middle school at the encouragement of former Principal Gerry Brand. From there, she moved to the high school upon requests of former guidance counselor and longtime school board member Alice Taulman.

Her first position was ISS (In-School Suspension) and then later was promoted to secretary.

SEE BURTON, PAGE 4



Libby Burton was thrown a surprise party at Edinburgh Separate Baptist Church. More than 100 people attended. Below: Guests and family enjoy the party.



OBITUARIES

SHELBYVILLE

Arthur Burton

Arthur Allen Burton, 42, of Shelbyville passed away Monday, March 20, 2023 at his home.

He was born April 24, 1980 in Columbus, the son of Richard Burton and Laura Brightwell. On June 30, 2017 he married Kristi Lee (Cooper) Burton, and she survives.

In addition to Kristi, Arthur is survived by his children, McKayla Williams and significant other, Evan Bryant, and Abigail Burton, both of Columbus, Madyson Burton, Logan Cooper, and Summer Farmer, fiancée, Bryce Kirstein, all of Shelbyville, and Austin Cooper and wife, Holly, of New York; brother, Michael Burton of Columbus; sisters, Tausha Greathouse and husband, Albert, of Paris Crossing, Hannah Wells of Seymour, Kristyn Plummer and fiancée, Michael Cool, of Edinburg, and Nicole Ellington of Columbus; grandchildren, Hayden, Ella and one on the way, Hunter; father-in-law, Gary Cooper and wife, Melissa, of Shelbyville; mother-in-law, Jeanetta Gose of Franklin; and grandmother-in-law, Clara Moore and husband, Don, of Cleveland, Oklahoma; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Arthur was preceded in death by his father.

He enlisted in the Indiana Army National Guard on April 23, 2001. Arthur was assigned to the 1438th Composite Truck Company in Franklin, and deployed in 2013 to Afghanistan. Arthur was employed at NOK Freudenberg as a press operator. He enjoyed traveling with his wife and riding 4-wheelers and ATVs. Arthur loved to spend time with his family. He also leaves behind his best buddy, Rudy.

Freeman Family Funeral Homes and Crematory in Shelbyville handled arrangements. Interment was at Miller Cemetery in Shelby County.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Shelbyville-Shelby County Animal Shelter, 705 Hale Road, Shelbyville, Indiana 46176.

Online condolences may be shared with Arthur's family at www.freemanfamilyfuneralhomes.com.

EDINBURGH

Zachary Taylor

Zachary "Ted" Taylor, 68, of Edinburg passed away March 23, 2023 at his residence. He was born July 25, 1954 in

Franklin. He was the son of Howard Taylor of Columbus, Indiana and Jane A. (Deer) Taylor.

He is survived by his father, daughter, Danielle Sneed of Edinburg; grandson, Dakota (Allie) Sneed of Edinburg; sister, Mari Jane Taylor of Columbus; and niece, Samantha Morris of Columbus.

He was preceded in death by his mother and grandparents, Raymond and Alta Deer and Ira and Mary Taylor.

Ted was a member of a Moose Lodge in Indianapolis. He was self-employed and worked mainly in concrete. He enjoyed working out, reading, all sports, cooking and being outdoors.

A funeral service was conducted by the Rev. Eli Johnson at Who-So-Ever-Will Community Church in Edinburg. Burial was at Rest Haven Cemetery in Edinburg. Arrangements were made by Eskew-Eaton Funeral Home in Edinburg.

MITCHELL

Waneta Weddle

10/24/1928 - 3/17/2023
Waneta I. (McQueen) Weddle, 94, of Mitchell, passed away on Friday, March 17, 2023 at her residence.

Born Oct. 24, 1928, in Columbus, she was the daughter of William and Carmen (Steele) McQueen.

Waneta graduated from Edinburg High School. She is a member of the First Apostolic Church, Mitchell.

She married Robert Weddle in Jan. 16, 1949; and he survives.

She was a homemaker and enjoyed birds, flowers, music, and her grandchildren. Waneta was very active in her church entertaining and supporting missionaries from all over the world.

Surviving are her husband, Robert; children, Robert "Jr." (Anita) Weddle, Joseph Weddle, Martha Jane (Charles) Reed, Floyd (Vicki Hall) Weddle, and Keith Ray (Lisa) Weddle; 12 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; sister, Helen Nelson; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; son, Douglas Ray Weddle; five brothers; and three sisters.

The funeral service was conducted at the First Apostolic Church in Mitchell with the Rev. Robert Burton officiating. Burial was in Forest Hill Cemetery in Shelbyville.

Memorial contributions may be made to the First Apostolic Church Missions Fund. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.ochs-tetrick.net.

FRANKLIN

Robert Wilham

Robert Eugene "Gene" Wilham, 91, of Franklin, passed away peacefully on Friday, March 17, 2023 surrounded by his loving and caring family at Homeview Nursing Home in Franklin. He was a resident of Franklin.

Gene was born on Sept. 18, 1931 in Franklin, to Ralph Paul and Mabel (Hudson) Wilham. He was an only child.

Gene is survived by sons, Jeff A. (Deena) Wilham of Franklin, Terry Wilham of Greenwood, and Steve Wilham of Franklin; daughter, Debby Wilham of Franklin; daughter-in-law, Mary Jane (Pile) Wilham of Edinburg; grandchildren, Jeff R. (Samantha) Wilham of Franklin, Jennifer C. "Jacey" Wilham of Franklin, Chris (Shelby) Wilham of Indianapolis and Jessica (Connor) Columbia of Columbus; great-grandchildren, Devin R. Wilham of Franklin, Isabella Columbia and Jackson Columbia of Columbus. Gene is preceded in passing by his parents; son, Bobby Wilham and daughter-in-law, Debbie Wilham.

Gene was a 1949 graduate of Franklin High School. He had owned and managed Land O' Nod Motel in Franklin before retiring. In Gene's younger years, he helped out at his parents' grocery store, Wilham's Grocery on the corner of Hamilton and Young Street in Franklin.

Gene had been a member of Grace United Methodist Church. He also was a former member of REACT, call #KEV3070, call name Little Jack Horner. He also volunteered with the Amity Fire Department. Gene was an avid fan of the Indianapolis Colts and Indiana Pacers. Gene also loved bowling and his time spent at Hi-Way Lanes in Franklin. He also never met a stray animal he didn't like. He was always leaving food out for them.

A service was officiated by the Rev. Dr. Jenothy Irvine at Flinn and Maguire Funeral Home in Franklin. Burial was at Greenlawn Cemetery in Franklin with military honors being conducted.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Humane Society of Johnson County, 3827 N. Graham Road, Franklin, IN 46131.

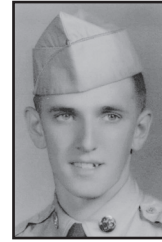
Expressions of caring may be received to the family at www.flinnmaguire.net.



BURTON



TAYLOR



WILHAM



WEDDLE

GOOD OLD DAYS

75 years ago: Darlene Graham, of Mrs. Tittsworth's class, brought a puppet theater and puppets to school and will perform a puppet show for the other children.

70 years ago: The Edinburg Lions Club reorganized the Youth Foundation for a Boys Club at their meeting and elected Don States as temporary chairman.

65 years ago: Edinburg eighth grader Paula Lawson wins the Edinburg Grade School spelling contest and will compete in the Johnson County spelling contest.

60 years ago: Boyd Gill of Franklin is the guest speaker as the Edinburg Exchange Club honors Tom Prithard for being named Exchangeite boy of the month.

55 years ago: Aaron Smith scores 28 points to lead coach Lewis "Bo" Mallard's Gary Roosevelt Panthers to the state championship over Shortridge by a 68-60 score.

50 years ago: Franklin High School's drive to become state basketball champs ends as New Albany beats them, 77-76, in overtime. Don McGlokin led Franklin with 21 points.

RESTAURANT INSPECTION

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.

Best Western

11780 N. U.S. 31, Edinburg

Feb. 27

Critical violations: 1

Refrigerated, ready-to-eat, potentially hazardous food prepared and held in a retail food establishment for more than 24 hours shall be clearly marked to indicate the date or day by which the food shall be consumed on the premises. Cut potatoes in a container in the fridge were not date labeled.

Noncritical violations: 5

Edinburg Courier

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Girls open season at invitational softball game in Ohio

Edinburgh's spring sports season kicked-off this past Saturday with the varsity softball team playing in an invitational tournament in southwest Ohio.

Game one of the Papa John's Season Opening Tourney hosted by Batavia High School had the Lancers facing Hilltop High School. Hilltop scored first with a run in the top half of the second inning. The Lancers answered with a run of their own in the bottom of that inning. In the bottom of the fourth inning, Edinburgh starting pitcher MacKenzie Bieker made her mark on the offensive side of the game when she stepped to the plate with teammates Alix Streeval and Gracie Crawhorn on the bases. Bieker smacked a line drive home run and the score after the fourth inning stood at 4-1. The Lancers were able to hold Hilltop scoreless the rest of the way to notch a 4-1 win.

Crawhorn's two hits and Bieker's home run were the only base hits collected by the Lancers but it proved to be more than enough. Bieker had the only three RBIs for Edinburgh. She was also the game's winning pitcher, allowing just three hits in her seven inning complete game while striking out 15.

That win placed the good guys into the day's championship game versus host Batavia. The two teams traded runs in the first inning but the Bulldogs exploded for seven in the second stanza as they went on to a 16-4 decision against the Lancers.

Mackenzie Bieker suffered the hard luck



Brian Ingels

Lancer Notebook

loss in this one, giving up five runs on just two hits. Frosh Kenna Streeval paced the Lancer offense with three hits. Another freshman, Gracie Barrett, had two runs batted in and Alix Streeval and Bieker added one each.

On tap

- Wednesday**
Winter Sports Awards Program in high school cafeteria, 6 p.m.
- Thursday**
Varsity baseball at Brown County, 5 p.m.
Varsity softball at Whiteland, 5:30 p.m.
- Friday**
Varsity tennis at Madison, 5:15 p.m.
- Saturday**
Varsity golf, Edinburgh Invitational at Timbergate, 10 a.m.
- Monday**
Varsity tennis Home vs Shelbyville, 4:30 p.m.
Varsity softball @ Franklin, 5:30 p.m.
- Tuesday**
Varsity tennis at Columbus East, 5 p.m.
Varsity track & field, at home vs. Indy Lutheran/Genesis Home School, 5 p.m.
Varsity softball, at home vs. Oldenburg, 5 p.m.
Varsity baseball, at home vs. Whiteland, Round 1 of Johnson County Tourney, 5:30 p.m.

Brian Ingels is a retired Edinburgh Community High School teacher. Send comments to Edinburgh Courier, P.O. Box 699, Franklin IN, 46131, courier@dailyjournal.net

SPORTS PREVIEW

Baseball

Coach: Jason Schoettmer

Last season: 6-16, lost to Indianapolis Lutheran in Class A sectional final

Key returnees: Jarrett Turner, senior; Gabe Bennett, junior; Milas Burkman and Jaden Detling, sophomores

Top newcomer: Jared Myers, sophomore

Outlook: The Lancers picked up some momentum at the end of last season with a surprise run to the sectional title game,

but graduation cut into that roster and leaves first-year coach Schoettmer with an extremely young group. Bennett, who's coming off of an offseason knee injury, and Turner will provide some veteran leadership, but Edinburgh will be leaning heavily on its six sophomores and six freshmen. Schoettmer — who coached several of these players in youth leagues — isn't expecting much in the way of immediate results but has very high hopes for the future if he can keep this group together.

SCHOOL NOTEBOOK

Athlete of the week

Junior MacKenzie Bieker was named the Horizon Bank Student Athlete of the Week. MacKenzie was the winning pitcher in the Lancers first game on Saturday vs. Hilltop, 4-1. She also had a 3-run homer to put the Lady Lancers in front for good.



BIEKER

Caleb Dewey was named honorable mention in the small-school category.

Dewey was also honored by Hoosier Basketball Magazine as one of the Class of 2023 Top 60 Senior Boys and invited to their workout.

GED classes

High School Equivalency (GED) classes meet twice a week at Edinburgh Community High School.

Contact Julie Redd, 317-392-2197, to learn more about the program.

Calendar

April 7: Good Friday (snow makeup day if needed)

May 29: Memorial Day

May 31: Last student day



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STARS & STRIPES

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Volunteer Fire Dept.
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Information (812) 526-5858

Credit and debit cards accepted as well as cash
Dessert donations are greatly appreciated.



The circus is coming to town

Edinburgh Parks & Recreation is hosting the Culpepper & Merriweather Circus on April 29.

The circus will set up behind the Aquatic Center, 220 Harrell Drive, for two 90-minute shows: 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

The authentic one-ring circus has been featured on the A&E special "Under the Big Top," Nick News' "On the Road with Circus Kids," and OETA's "Big Top Town."

Some featured acts include a new 2023 performance Big Cats by Trey Key, aerialist Simone on the trapeze, 10th generation Loyal Bareback Horse Riders, the Perez Daredevil Duo on the tightrope and Wheel of Destiny, Elizabeth Ayala's foot juggling and hair hang and circus clown Leo Action.

People are invited to visit the site at 9:30 a.m. to watch the tent raising, tour the grounds and get a behind-the-scenes look at the show to learn about life on the road and animal care.

At 1 p.m., the midway opens. Guests can enjoy pony rides, moon bounce, giant slide, face painting and concessions, and purchase tickets for one of the two shows.

Tickets are \$13 for adults, \$8 for children 2-12 and senior citizens over 65 if purchased in advance at Edinburgh Parks & Recreation, 722 S. Eisenhower, or the John R. Drybread Community Center 100 E. Main Cross St. A higher portion of advance ticket sales goes back to Edinburgh Parks as the show sponsor.

Box office tickets can be purchased one hour before the show and are \$16 for adults, \$9 for kids/seniors.

For more information on the Culpepper & Merriweather Circus, visit cmcircus.com.



Kids invited to make a poppy poster

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 233 is inviting local students in Grades 2-12 to compete in the annual

Poppy Poster Contest. The competition gives participants the opportunity to present their best artwork devoted to the theme of remembering veterans, with a special emphasis on the Flanders Field poppy. On May 26, American Legion Auxiliary posts around the world will distribute the iconic red poppies that symbolize the sacrifices made by those who paid the ultimate price for freedom.

They also serve as a reminder to support those who made it home. National Poppy Day is the Friday before Memorial Day each year.

Contest entries must be presented on an 11-by-14-inch poster board, and must contain the words "American Legion Auxiliary," as well as a graphic depiction of the Flanders Field poppy. A full list of contest rules is available at www.legion-aux.org/national-poppy-poster-contest. Entries must be completed and turned in to Kami Ervin by May 1. Contact 812-344-6069 to arrange for pickup.

Contest entries are divided into divisions based on grade and location. There will be prizes for the first three places in each division. Local winners will move on to compete at the state level, and winners from that contest will proceed to the national competition.



Above left: Burton poses with her siblings and daughter. Above right: Burton and daughter, Katrina Liffick. Left: Burton with her daughter and grandsons, Josh and Christopher Liffick.

Burton

FROM PAGE 1

She retired after 35 years of service.

Former ECHS student Emilee Owens describes Burton as "selfless." Selfless is defined as "concerned more with the needs and wishes of others than with one's own." Burton volunteers, cooks, preps and cleans up for hundreds of funeral dinners served at churches in Edinburgh. She shops for the annual Edinburgh United Methodist Cheer Fund, has tutored many students in

math and reading, volunteers at her church and ladies group, is a member of Kappa Kappa Kappa philanthropic sorority, attends almost all ECHS sports events and even volunteers as a fan bus chaperone.

Burton is a constant. When there is a community event, she is there. If records were taken, Burton has probably been invited and attended more social events than anyone else in Edinburgh. Former ECHS student and Red's Place employee Devon Hadley Goins, sums it up: "We all love her."

NINEVEH SENIOR CENTER

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

April 4: Computer class, 6-7 p.m. Bring your phone, laptop, iPad or use center's computer.

April 11 and 13: New chair exercise class, 9:30-10:30 a.m. RSVP to Char Roller so they know many chairs to set up. This class will be for six weeks and then a week and, if successful, will resume the next week. This class will meet every Tuesday and Thursday, same time and place.

April 14: Monthly pitch-in luncheon and business meeting, noon-1:30 p.m. Jay-C will provide fried chicken. Meeting includes door prize and mystery speaker.

April 17: Pizza party, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

April 17: Bingo with prizes, 1-3 p.m.

April 20: Craft class, 3-4 p.m.

April 20: Dinner, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

April 21: Food box distribution, 9-11 a.m.

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

Regular activities:

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

- Tuesdays: Chair exercise class, 9:30 a.m.

- Wednesdays, euchre, 5:30 p.m.

- Thursdays, Chair exercise class, 9:30 a.m.; bid euchre, 6 p.m.

New members are welcome. Membership is \$25 per year. Call Janet Wolfe, 812-376-3671, to join.

Information: Vern Huddleson, 812-343-4229, www.ninevehseniorcenter.org

GRAND OPENING



SUBMITTED PHOTO

On March 24, Town of Edinburgh officials joined O'Reilly Auto Parts for their grand opening at 15882 Eisenhower Drive. Store manager Tim Jessie cut the ribbon and presented Captain Joe Sinclair with a donation to Edinburgh Fire Department.

Toyota begins Make-A-Wish campaign

Toyota Material Handling has kicked off its annual Make-A-Wish Campaign, the fund-raising efforts that are used to grant wishes to Indiana children through the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

This year's goal is to raise \$7,500 from Toyota associates, and if the goal is met, Toyota Material Handling will match the \$7,500, according to company officials.

This year's events include:

Cornhole tournament, 1 p.m. April 11, Toyota's T-Rex Center, 6125 Inwood Drive, which will include music, food, raffles and prizes, \$40 per team, registration is needed by April 7, visit toyotamawcornhole.eventbrite.com.

Toyota Material Handling Fifth Annual Golf Scramble to benefit Make-A-Wish, 1 p.m. shotgun start May 13, Hillview Country Club, Franklin, \$400 for a foursome, includes driving range, cart, T-shirt, raffle ticket and dinner, register at toyotamaw2023hillview.eventbrite.com/.

Toyota Material Handling Fifth Annual Golf Scramble to benefit Make-A-Wish, 8 a.m. shotgun start June 10, Timbergate Golf Course, 151 St. Andrews Ave., Edinburgh, \$400 for a foursome, includes driving range, cart, T-shirt, raffle ticket and lunch, register at toyotamaw2023timbergate.eventbrite.com/.

Individuals may also donate to Toyota Material Handling's page on the Make-A-Wish Foundation site for Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana

LIONS CLUB



SUBMITTED PHOTO

On March 23, District F Trustee Beverly Coombs presented updates on the Lions Cancer Control Fund of Indiana and their newest partnership with Riley Hospital. Edinburgh Lions Club collects keys throughout the year that are recycled for cash to help fund research and treatment. Edinburgh and surrounding area residents can drop off unwanted keys at the Community Center, 100 E Main Cross St., to be donated. For more info visit lionscancercontrol.org



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NEWS ROUNDUP

DAILY JOURNAL AND REPUBLIC STAFF REPORTS

Bryant trial delayed

A change of plea hearing in Bartholomew Circuit Court for an Edinburgh man accused of murder in the shooting death of his stepfather was continued after prosecutors requested a delay.

Damion Bryant, 20, is accused of killing his 49-year-old stepfather, Wayne E. McGeorge Jr., last Thanksgiving, according to court records.

During a scheduled change of plea hearing Monday, chief deputy prosecutor Kimberly Sexton-Yeager requested additional time. She told Judge Kelly Benjamin the state is still interviewing witnesses and examining evidence.

But Bryant's court-appointed public defender, Chris Monroe, objected to the delay.

Monroe told the court he has not yet received an autopsy report on the victim. Sexton-Yeager said those documents had just arrived at her office late last week, and that she would provide them to Monroe later that day.

The defense also said they have not received the required lists of exhibits or witnesses from the prosecution as well, Monroe said.

The judge has scheduled a pre-trial conference for April 3 at 1:30 p.m. During the conference, the judge and attorneys are expected to evaluate what is necessary to move the case to trial, as well as establish dates for certain tasks to be completed.

Bryant's trial remains tentatively set for April 11 at 8:30 a.m.

The shooting took place during the early evening of Nov. 24 inside a home in the Talberton Addition, southwest of Edinburgh. According to a probable cause affidavit, Bryant grabbed a .308 Winchester rifle while upstairs in his bedroom after being told by his younger siblings that McGeorge was fighting with their mother, Angela.

Registration deadline nears

Hoosier voters have until April 3 to submit their voter registration for the May 2 primary election.

The deadline applies to unregistered voters, voters who want to transfer their registration and may also apply to residents who didn't cast their ballots in the previous two federal elections, Johnson County Clerk Trena McLaughlin said.

The last two federal elections include the 2022 congressional election and the 2020 presidential election.

"If they haven't voted in the last two federal elections, they should contact our office and we can check if they're registered," she said.

Voters can also check the status of their registration on indianavoters.in.gov.

To register, voters need to be at least 18 years old by the general election, which will take place Nov. 7. Voters need to be U.S. citizens, not currently be in prison after being convicted of a crime and live in the precinct they're registering to vote in. Voters can provide proof of their residence with a valid Indiana driver's license or state identification card. First-time Indiana voters may also need to provide a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or government document to prove their address, according to the Indiana County Voter Registration Application.

Residents can go online to register at indianavoters.in.gov by 11:59 p.m. April 3 to be eligible to vote in the May election, with early voting starting April 17. They can also register in person at the county's voter registration office, located in the Johnson County Courthouse, by 4:30 p.m. April 3, the same time mail-in applications must arrive at the courthouse. Mail-in applications can be sent to the Johnson County Voter Registration Office, 5 E. Jefferson St., Franklin. Residents can also register to vote at any license branch, but should check with the voter registration office to make sure their application went through, McLaughlin said.

Only Johnson County residents who live within municipal boundaries can vote this year, as there are no federal, state or county seats up for grabs. Candidates are running for office in Franklin, Greenwood, Bargersville, Edinburgh, Whiteland, New Whiteland, Trafalgar and Prince's Lakes for positions including mayor, city and town council, clerk-treasurer, city judge and city clerk.

Registration has increased since the last city and town elections in 2019. There were 69,332 Johnson County voters registered for the primary election in 2019. That number has since grown to 80,904. Including residents of unincorporated areas not eligible to vote this year, there are 116,622 registered voters in Johnson County, First Deputy Clerk Amy Briggs said in an email.

Johnson County's population stood at 161,765 during the last official census in 2020, while the population of the county's cities and towns totaled 111,508.

The number of people requesting mail-in ballots has also increased. There were 14 absentee ballots mailed out on the first

day of mailing in 2019, compared to 37 mailed out Wednesday. The uptick in registered voters is likely because of population increases, McLaughlin said.

"Our cities and towns have more people moving in," she said. "Housing additions are going up everywhere and more people are registered to vote because more residents are moving to this county."

People with further questions about voter registration, early voting and voting centers can call 317-346-4466.

Guardman accused of uploading child porn at Atterbury

A member of the Indiana National Guard is facing a child exploitation charge after police accused him of uploading child pornography while at Camp Atterbury.

Michael A. Pellom, 22, of Plainfield, is charged with child exploitation, a Level 4 felony. A warrant was issued for Pellom's arrest and he was booked into the Johnson County jail last Wednesday afternoon.

Pellom is an active member of the Indiana National Guard, which officials confirmed Friday morning. His alleged actions are "not in keeping with" the Army Core Values and the Indiana National Guard, officials said in a statement.

Last October, an Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Detective assigned to the Indiana Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force received a cyber tip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. The cyber tip came from Kik, an encrypted messaging app. The tip provided evidence a user uploaded five files of child pornography in mid-August 2022, according to a probable cause affidavit filed in Johnson County Superior Court 2 Monday.

Earlywood to close

At the end of its 50th year in 2024, Earlywood Educational Services will no longer be assisting students.

Earlywood's board, consisting of Executive Director Angela Balsley and superintendents from six school districts in Johnson, Bartholomew and Shelby counties, voted unanimously to dissolve the service center, citing concerns about maintenance issues that stem from the building's architecture.

The school in Franklin is not part of any particular school district, but has assisted special education students from the area, including Edinburgh. While just 20 to 25 students were receiving services in the Earlywood building itself, thousands of students with Individualized Education Plans, or IEPs, receive assistance from Earlywood employees at their school buildings in areas such as physical thera-

py, occupational therapy, speech pathology, visual impairment and mental and behavioral health, Balsley said.

Earlywood operates its in-house offerings through a program called New Connections, which provides students with emotional, behavioral and academic help. Franklin Community School Corporation has 1,034 special education students, 11 of whom receive assistance at the Earlywood building itself, Superintendent David Clendening said.

"The building is set up for kids that have struggled in their home school and that becomes the least restrictive environment for educational services," Clendening said.

The building itself has a unique architectural design, with landscaping going up its slanted walls. The design, originally meant to prevent damage from tornadoes, has led to maintenance issues and leaks.

The cost to rebuild the exterior of the structure is too much to justify keeping the building open, Balsley said.

The process of permanently closing Earlywood started with the vote and will continue through the end of the 2023-24 school year. That period of time is necessary for schools to transition services in-house and consider hiring some of the 78 employees from Earlywood, such as speech pathologists, school psychologists, occupational therapists, coordinators, special education teachers, social workers and mental health therapists, many of whom already spend much of their day in those school districts' buildings assisting students, Balsley said.

Man arrested on drug charges

An Edinburgh man wanted on a warrant was arrested on a drug possession charge after police saw him leaving a Columbus gas station early Friday morning.

Shortly after midnight, CPD officers observed Coy A. Miller, 23, of Edinburgh, leaving a gas station in the 3300 block of West Jonathan Moore Pike. The officers confirmed a local warrant for Miller's arrest and made contact with him outside of the gas station, said Lt. Matt Harris, Columbus Police Department spokesman.

Miller was placed under arrest and officers reportedly located fentanyl inside Miller's pants pockets while searching him incident to arrest, Harris said.

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



BRYANT



MILLER

WHERE TO VOTE EARLY

Here is a look at when and where you can cast your ballot early in southern Johnson County. Early voting runs from April 17 to May 1:

Johnson County Courthouse, 5 E. Jefferson St., Franklin
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. April 17-21 and April 24-28
8 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 22 and 29 (Saturdays)
8:30 a.m. to noon May 1
Trafalgar Public Library, 424 S. Tower St., Trafalgar
8 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 22 and 29 (Saturdays)
10 a.m. to 6 p.m. April 26-28
John R. Drybread Community Center, 100 E. Main Cross St., Edinburgh
8 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 22 and 29 (Saturdays)
10 a.m. to 6 p.m. April 26-28

WHERE TO VOTE ON ELECTION DAY

Here is a look at approved Johnson County Election Day vote centers in southern Johnson County. Election Day is May 2, and voters can vote from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.:

Trafalgar Public Library, 424 S. Tower St., Trafalgar
Princes Lakes Town Hall, 14 E. Lakeview Drive, Nineveh
John R. Drybread Community Center, 100 E. Main Cross St., Edinburgh
Scott Hall, Johnson County Fairgrounds, 250 Fairground St., Franklin

At the library

The following events are scheduled at the Edinburgh Wright-Hageman Public Library, 119 W. Main Cross St.

Info: 812-526-5487, www.edinburgh.lib.in.us
At-home craft

April's Crafting at Home kit will be DIY 3D Mugs with polymer clay. This is an all-ages craft, however, there is a step where the mugs will need to be placed in the oven, so adult supervision will be required. Each kit will include a white ceramic mug, ceramic glue and wee polymer clay books to attach to your mug. Sign-ups will be taken until April 13 at 6 p.m. To register, call or visit the circulation desk. Kits will be available for pickup on April 17.

Vera Bradley bingo

The Edinburgh Delta Sigma Chapter of Tri Kappa is hosting its annual Vera Bradley Bingo on April 11 at 6 p.m. in the Edinburgh Community High School cafeteria.

Tickets are \$25. Call Kami Ervin, 812-344-6069, to purchase. There is a maximum of eight tickets per person (one table).

Checks payable to Tri Kappa or cash will be accepted.

Additional games, intermission games, raffle basket tickets and refreshments can be purchased at the event.

Info: Kami Ervin, 812-344-6069

COMMUNITY CHATTER**Free spay/neuter**

The Humane Society of Johnson County is offering free spay/neuter for Edinburgh dogs and cats after receiving a grant.

There are no income requirements for the service, which will be continued as long as the grant lasts. Pet owners must have an Edinburgh address.

A low-cost spay/neuter clinic in Brownsburg will perform the procedures. Residents can call the clinic at 317-675-0072 to make an appointment.

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.

Spring Market

Crystal Springs Farms, 3620 Hurricane Road, Franklin, will host a Spring Market April 15, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Handmade and homegrown items from local vendors will be available.

Zumba

Edinburgh Parks and Recreation offers 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 held twice a week in Edinburgh. Classes are \$5 and instructor is Sonia Aponte of Yahara Studio.

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

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

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.

April 1: Bomar & Ritter (folk and pop)
April 22: Rye Davis and Branden Martin (country)

May 13: Mike Milligan and Steam Shovel (blues, soul, rock)

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