



THE MORGAN COUNTY Correspondent

The source for news from every corner of Morgan County

MORGANCOUNTYCORRESPONDENT.COM | EST. 2023

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\$2.00

MSD case denied

High court sidesteps transgender debate in schools for now

By Stephen Crane
MCC

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) has opted not to hear an appeal from the Metropolitan School District of Martinsville (MSD), effectively ending its legal battle.

The local school district hoped to challenge a lower court ruling that said a transgender student in the school district must be allowed to use the restroom that aligns with the student's self-identified gender.

The SCOTUS announced Jan. 16 it would not hear the school district's challenge to the Seventh District Court of Appeals, which ruled in August 2023 that the district must accommodate the student's preferred gender.

SEE MSD | PAGE A6

DEATH NOTICES

- Larry Penna, 84
- Rheada Jo Randall, 68
- Leann Pryor, 61
- Pamela Danforth, 51
- Pamela Weidman, 65
- Deward Lee King, 90
- Janet Mitchell, 74
- Cherie Jo Klawun, 58
- Steven L. Verhines, 76
- Melanie Gay O'Neal, 63
- Dorothy Lucille Griffin, 98
- William Jo Lowhorn II
- Nicholas Adam Rike, 41
- Kimberly Joan Arthur, 57
- Dale Lucien Beam, 75
- Ralph Duane Bastin, 79
- David Alan Bailey, 66

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SHERIFF'S DEPUTY SHOT

Teen suspect found deceased



By Stephen Crane
and Keith Rhoades
MCC

CENTERTON — A sheriff's deputy is recovering after being shot Tuesday morning after responding to a call for a welfare check in the 7000 block of Beech Grove Road, just west of Centerton.

According to Indiana State Police public information officer Sgt. Kevin Getz, a call came in at around 7:30 a.m. for a welfare check — prompted by a troubling social media post reported by a friend.

Morgan County Sheriff's Office Deputy Mallory Schwab, along with another officer, responded to the call, and as they approached the house, one shot was fired, striking Schwab in the right shoulder that went through and through.

She was assisted to safety and treated on scene until EMS arrived to transport her to Methodist Hospital.

Morgan County and Johnson County SWAT Teams responded to the incident in an attempt to apprehend the 15-year-old male suspect. ISP was also on scene to assist with the investigation.

SEE DEPUTY | PAGE A8

Morgan County Sheriff's Office Deputy Mallory Schwab gives a thumbs-up from her bed at Methodist Hospital late Tuesday morning, assuring the public she was OK. (Morgan County Sheriff's Office courtesy photo)

Resident hopes officials help resurrect history

Historic log cabin currently stacked uncovered in a field

By Stephen Crane
MCC

MARTINSVILLE — The two-story log cabin that was rediscovered during the county's construction of its new parking lot in downtown Martinsville may find new life if local officials can find a solution.

At Monday night's Martinsville City Council meeting, local resident Curtis Tomak gave a presentation to the council, outlining the history of the home and his hopes for its future.

"The log house is one of Morgan County's very significant, historic structures," Tomak said. "It's a Martinsville house, and it belongs in Martinsville."

SEE HISTORY | PAGE A8

From left: Quinton Oxendine puts one hand in the air and another on the Bible held by his fiancé as mayor Kenny Costin swears him in as a probationary patrolman for the Martinsville Police Department. (Stephen Crane photo / MCC)



The multi-purpose building in the town park at Paragon is set to become a new Voting Center for this year's elections. (Keith Rhoades photo / MCC)

2024 election season heats up

By Keith Rhoades
MCC Chief Correspondent

MORGAN COUNTY — 2024 is shaping up to be a very busy year for the county's election office.

In addition to the presidential election and other national elections, there will be several state and local candidates for office, including a multitude of candidates for state delegates and precinct committeeman positions.

To date, all candidates who have filed have done so as Republicans.

As of 8 a.m. Jan. 22, these are the candidates who have filed for the May 7 primary election.

Locally, two commissioners will be on the ballot. District One incumbent Bryan Collier has filed for re-election. District 3

commissioner Don Adams has also filed for re-election.

Incumbent county treasurer Terry Dalton Clelland has filed for re-election, while former county auditor Dan Bastin has filed for the same office.

Anna Voyles has filed for the treasurer position, and Joe Crone has filed for a council at-large position. Incumbents Jason Maxwell, Vickie Klvetz and Kim Meridith have also filed for re-election for the council at-large positions.

Terry Brock has filed for re-election for county surveyor, and Mike Ellis has filed for re-election for county coroner.

In Morgantown, Jewel Blevins has filed for the Morgantown Town Council position.

SEE ELECTION | PAGE A8

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Obituary Notices

Larry Penna, 84
CLAYTON — Larry E. Penna, 84, of Clayton, died Jan. 15, 2024. Arrangements by Carlisle Branson Funeral Service and Crematory in Mooresville.

Rheada Jo Randall, 68
DANVILLE — Rheada Jo Randall, 68, of Danville, died Jan. 16, 2024. Arrangements by Carlisle-Branson Funeral Service and Crematory in Mooresville.

Leann Pryor, 61
MOORESVILLE — Leann Kay Pryor, 61, of Mooresville, died

Jan. 18, 2024. Arrangements by Carlisle-Branson Funeral Service and Crematory in Mooresville.

Pamela Danforth, 51
MOORESVILLE — Pamela "Suzie" Danforth, 51, of Mooresville, died Jan. 18, 2024. Arrangements by Carlisle-Branson Funeral Service and Crematory in Mooresville.

Pamela Weidman, 65
CAMBY — Pamela Weidman, 65, of Camby, died Jan. 19, 2024. Arrangements by Carlisle-Branson Funeral Service

and Crematory in Mooresville.

Deward Lee King, 90
MOORESVILLE — Deward Lee King, 90, of Mooresville died Jan. 22, 2024. Arrangements by Carlisle-Branson Funeral Service and Crematory in Mooresville.

Janet Mitchell, 74
MONROVIA — Janet L. Mitchell, 74, died Jan. 20, 2024. Arrangements by Light Memorial and Funeral Chapel in Monrovia.

Death Notices

Morgan County Health Dept. Week ending Jan. 13
Cherie Jo Klawun, 58, Mooresville
Steven L. Verhines, 76, Mooresville
Melanie Gay O'Neal, 63, Martinsville
Dorothy Lucille Griffin, 98, Martinsville

William Jo Lowhorn II, 18, Paragon
Nicholas Adam Rike, 41, Mooresville
Kimberly Joan Arthur, 57, Martinsville
Dale Lucien Beam, 75, Camby
Ralph Duane Bastin, 79, Mooresville
David Alan Bailey, 66, Martinsville

Food Inspections

December 2023 Food Inspection Report Martinsville Kroger
2 Non-critical
No. 1 Chinese
3 Critical
• Chemicals may not be stored directly next to food-related items.
• Repair drain on handwash sink.
• Date-label all potentially hazardous foods.

Circle K — South Ohio Street
No violations noted at time of inspection.

The Peddler's Loft Café
1 Critical
• Raw potentially hazardous foods may not be stored in a manner that may contaminate other foods.

Holiday Inn Express
No violations noted at time of inspection.

Best Western
1 Non-critical
1 Critical
• Label chemicals in working bottles.

La Herradura Grill & Bar
3 Non-critical
1 Critical
• Prep line cooler was holding foods at 46°F.
Reinspection No. 1
3 Non-critical
1 Critical
• Prep line cooler was holding foods at 44-46°F
Reinspection No. 2
All previous critical violations were corrected.

Mooresville Route 67 Bar & Grill
3 Non-critical
4 Critical
• The ice machine needed to be cleaned.
• Label chemicals in working bottles.
• Chemicals may not be stored directly next to food-related items.
• Hands must be washed according to procedure.

Kroger
6 Non-critical
1 Critical
• Out-of-date foods were found.

Franciscan Health Mooresville
1 Critical
• Chemicals may not be stored directly next to food-related items.

Quacky Shack
No violations noted at time of inspection.

McDonald's
1 Non-critical

Ralph & Ava's Kitchen & Bar
3 Non-critical
3 Critical
• Handwash sink must be maintained in working condition.
• Chemicals may not be stored with foods or food-related items.
• Raw potentially hazardous foods may not be stored in a manner that may contaminate other foods.

Smok'N Crew BBQ
1 Non-critical

El Rodeo #9 Mexican Restaurant
3 Non-critical
3 Critical
• Label chemicals in working bottles.
• Various meats found at 46-47°F.
• Open employee drinks in food prep area.
Reinspection
1 Non-critical
1 Critical
• Open employee drinks in the food prep area.

Dong's China Buffet
1 Critical
• Open employee drinks may not be kept on food prep surfaces.

Los Patios Mexican Restaurant #5
2 Non-critical
2 Critical
• A certified food handler manager is required for each food establishment.
• Chemicals may not be stored directly next to food or food-related items.

Rise and Shine
1 Non-critical
1 Critical
• Date-label all potentially hazardous foods.

Paragon Step Saver, Inc.
2 Non-critical
2 Critical
• The hand wash sink must be accessible at all times.
• Foods in pizza cooler were found at 47°F.

Marriage/Divorces

Marriages
Robert Komlanc, Camby; Bimbo Magaji, Camby
Gustav Tolnay, Mooresville; Lesa Cash, Mooresville
Shawn Ryan Hake, Monrovia; Victoria Lynn

Franklin, Mooresville

Divorces
Deanna Likens vs. William Kipper
Zane Fields vs. Coesette Fields

Jail Bookings

These are preliminary charges and do not represent a conviction. Suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Jan. 20
Adam Tristan Beaty, 37, Clayton, resisting law enforcement with vehicle, criminal recklessness, leaving scene of property damage accident, and criminal mischief.

Thomas Edward Behling III, 31, Indianapolis, possession of cocaine or narcotic drug and visiting a common nuisance.

Adam Patrick Brown, 52, Mooresville, operating a vehicle while intoxicated and leaving the scene of an accident-prior.

Amber Brummett-Fahey, 45, Indianapolis, wanted on out-of-county warrant.

Noah William Davenport, 24, Saginaw, Mich., sentence-probation violation.

Dustin Lee Duncan, 42, Indianapolis, hold for Marion County.

Randal Eugene Eggers, 24, Martinsville, petition to revoke probation.

Auburn Clair Elise, 31, Muncie, operating a vehicle while intoxicated and operating a vehicle while intoxicated-endangerment.

Steven Eugene Emberton, 40, Mooresville, possession of marijuana, operating a vehicle while intoxicated

with prior conviction, and possession of paraphernalia.

Jarius Da Shawn Evans, 20, Indianapolis, failure to appear.

Jessica Marie Ewan, 27, Martinsville, petition to revoke probation.

Riley Alan Gilliland, 34, Indianapolis, court-ordered return.

Matthew Robert Hansel, 34, Martinsville, unauthorized absence from home detention.

Christopher David Howe, 40, Cloverdale, sentence-probation violation.

Antwane D. Lashley, 43, Indianapolis, wanted on out-of-county warrant.

Diana Lynn Martin, 73, Bloomington, failure to appear.

William Wayne Massey, 26, Martinsville, petition to revoke probation.

Conner Michael Matthews, 20, Martinsville, minor consumes alcohol beverage, operating a vehicle while intoxicated, and criminal trespass.

Angela Lynn Montgomery, 50, Scottsville, Ky., possession of hypodermic syringe or needle and visiting a common nuisance.

Hunter Jacob Myers, 20, Mooresville, minor consumes alcoholic beverage, operating a vehicle while intoxicated,

and operating a vehicle with a blood alcohol content of 0.15 percent or more.

Jace Ronald Piper, 65, Morgantown, two counts of operating a vehicle while intoxicated and operating a vehicle while intoxicated-endangering.

Kendall Austin Redd, 28, Noblesville, serving time-criminal confinement.

Margarita Rivera, 52, Martinsville, petition to revoke probation.

Michael Eugene Same, 53, Martinsville, violation of pretrial release.

Alexus Jayd Schell, 28, Martinsville, failure to appear.

Ethan Shoultz, 19, Franklin, minor consumes an alcohol beverage.

Larry Lee Slack Jr., 53, Shelbyville, wanted on Shelby County warrant.

Sidney Tyair Smith, 28, Indianapolis, driving while suspended-conviction of criminal offense.

Jesse James Lee Strait, 28, Martinsville, resisting law enforcement with vehicle and battery-moderate bodily injury.

Mary Leona Tyree, 35, Camby, sentenced probation violation.

Natasha Nicole Young, 33, Indianapolis, court-ordered return.

Court News

Morgan County Superior Court II Judge Brian H. Williams Jan. 21
Donald M. James, 50, Martinsville, possession of methamphetamine. Sentenced to 545 days in jail, suspended except for four days to serve (time served), 541 days probation, fines and costs of \$790.

Alexus R. Nicley, 25, Trafalgar, possession of a legend drug and driving while intoxicated.

Sentenced to 730 days in jail, suspended except for 188 days to serve (time served), 542 days probation, 90-day license suspension, fines and costs of \$990.

Cory A. Pierce, 33, Morganfield, Ky., operating while intoxicated-endangering. Sentenced to 547 days in jail, suspended except for 40 days to serve, 507 days probation, 90-day license suspension, fines and costs of \$390.

Government Meetings

Jan. 25
The Bethany Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. at town hall, 7355 Bethany Park.

Jan. 30
The Martinsville Fire Merit Board will meet at 6 p.m. in the FD training room, 160 W. Morgan St.

Feb. 5
The Morgan County Drainage Board will meet at 8:30 a.m. in the administration building, 180 S. Main St. in Martinsville.

The Morgan County Commissioners will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the administration building, 180 S. Main St. in Martinsville.

The Mooresville Library Board will meet at 4 p.m. in the Bonita C. Marley Community Room at the library, 220 W. Harrison St.

The Morgan County Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the administration building, 180 S. Main St. in Martinsville.

The Paragon Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. at the town hall, 300 N. Main St.

Feb. 7
The Madison Township Advisory Board will meet at 7 p.m. in the Training Room behind Fire Station 32, 7047 E. Landersdale Road in Camby.

Feb. 12
The Morgan County Redevelopment Commission will meet at 8:30 a.m. at the administration building, 180 S. Main St. in Martinsville.

The Martinsville Board of Works will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the council chambers at 59 S. Jefferson St.

The Martinsville City Council will meet at 7 p.m. in the council chambers at 59 S. Jefferson St.

Feb. 13
The Martinsville Park Board will meet at 6 p.m. in Shelter House No. 4 at Jimmy Nash City Park,

360 N. Home Ave.

The Brooklyn Town Council will meet at 6 p.m. at Brooklyn Kids Park, 3277 E. Centenary Road.

The Monrovia Plan Commission will meet at 6:30 p.m. at town hall, 60 Marley Way.

Feb. 14
The Martinsville Redevelopment Commission will meet at 7:30 a.m. in the council chambers at 59 S. Jefferson St.

Feb. 15
The Metropolitan School District of Martinsville board will hold a regular meeting at 7 p.m. at the Central Education Center, 389 E. Jackson St.

Feb. 20
The Martinsville Police Merit Board will meet at 6 p.m. in the council chambers at 59 S. Jefferson St.

The Morgan County Commissioners will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the administration building, 180 S. Main St. in Martinsville.

The Monrovia Board of Zoning Appeals will meet at 6:30 p.m. at town hall, 60 Marley Way.

Feb. 21
The Martinsville Unsafe Building and Hearing Authority will meet at 7 p.m. in the council chambers at 59 S. Jefferson St.

Feb. 22
The Bethany Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. at town hall, 7355 Bethany Park.

Feb. 26
The Martinsville Board of Works will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the council chambers at 59 S. Jefferson St.

The Martinsville City Council will meet at 7 p.m. in the council chambers at 59 S. Jefferson St.

Feb. 27
The Martinsville Board of Zoning Appeals will meet at 6 p.m. in the council chambers at 59 S. Jefferson St.

The Martinsville Fire Merit Board will meet at 6 p.m. in the FD training room, 160 W. Morgan St.

The Monrovia Town Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Government Center, 60 Marley Way.

The Martinsville Planning Commission will meet at 7

p.m. in the council chambers at 59 S. Jefferson St.

March 4
The Morgan County Drainage Board will meet at 8:30 a.m. in the administration building, 180 S. Main St. in Martinsville.

The Morgan County Commissioners will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the administration building, 180 S. Main St. in Martinsville.

The Mooresville Library Board will meet at 4 p.m. in the Bonita C. Marley Community Room at the library, 220 W. Harrison St.

The Morgan County Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the

administration building, 180 S. Main St. in Martinsville.

The Paragon Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. at the town hall, 300 N. Main St.

March 11
The Morgan County Redevelopment Commission will meet at 8:30 a.m. at the administration building, 180 S. Main St. in Martinsville.

The Martinsville Board of Works will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the council chambers at 59 S. Jefferson St.

The Martinsville City Council will meet at 7 p.m. in the council chambers at 59 S. Jefferson St.

 **THE MORGAN COUNTY Correspondent**

How to Contact Us
The policy of this paper is to strive for accuracy! Like perfection, total accuracy may be unattainable; however it will remain our primary goal and we will not feel satisfied until it is within our grasp.

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Local Farm Bureau to offer scholarships

From Sarah Cleveland
Morgan County Farm Bureau



MORGAN COUNTY — Morgan County Farm Bureau will award two \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors that have the following qualifications:

- The applicant must be a Morgan County resident.
- The applicant must have six or more years of 4-H participation.
- The applicant's parent or grandparent has

been a Morgan County Farm Bureau member for two or more years.

Applications are due March 1.

Follow this link to apply: <https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/94407-Indiana-Farm-Bureau>.

4-H Adult Leaders talk 2024

From Jennifer Runnebohm
Morgan County 4-H

MORGAN COUNTY — The Morgan County 4-H Adult Leaders

met on Monday, Jan. 15, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in the Wilber Kendal Room at the fairgrounds.

President Kim Brennen called the meeting to order. Fair Board President Eric Acker spoke to the group about celebrating the 75th Anniversary for Morgan County Fair, which will be July 5-13. There will be a Logo/Design Contest that is open now till March 1. The winner will be selected on March 12 and the prize is \$75. Eric also spoke about having a Family Fun Zone area and is looking for sponsors for games.

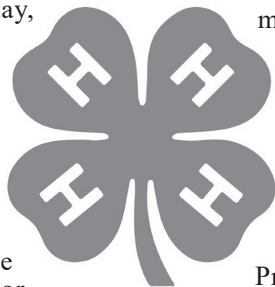
Vickie Stephany spoke about the Vietnam War Memorial that will be coming to the Morgan County Fairgrounds Aug. 15-18, 2024. Mini Member 4-H

Night will be Feb. 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sadler Room at the Extension Office working on a Mini Health Project.

Grades K-2 mini members and leaders are encouraged to attend.

The Morgan County Extension Office will be offering Projects of the Month. The next one will be offered on Saturday, Feb. 17, at 9 a.m. It will be 4-H Yeast/Bread Rolls Workshop for Grades 3-12 and is beneficial for members who are enrolled in FOODS Grades 7-9. It will be at the Fairgrounds Kitchen in the 4-H Building. Online registration at <https://in.4honline.com> as an "EVENT" and cost will be \$5 at the door.

The next Morgan County 4-H Adult Leaders Meeting will be on Monday, March 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the Wilber Kendal Room at the fairgrounds.



Calendar of Events

Jan. 25
Open Studio Time at Art Sanctuary of Indiana 190 N Sycamore St in Martinsville. 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. \$5.00 bring your supplies, no instruction/materials provided. 765-342-8422

Perler Bead Night at Morgan County Public Library 110 S. Jefferson in Martinsville 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Jan. 26
The annual Spaghetti Supper is from 4:30 to 7 p.m. in Sexton Hall at St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church, 1720 E. Harrison St. in Martinsville. The meal includes spaghetti and homemade meat sauce, salad, garlic bread, dessert and drink. Adults are \$6, and children 12 and under are \$3. The public is welcome, and carryouts are available.

SALT group (Seasoned Adults Living Triumphantly) 55+ Spirit of Life Church at 189 W. Indiana in Martinsville Dinner and a Movie starting at 5:30 p.m. Italian meal provided, bring a dessert or salad to share. 765-342-8123

The VFW Post 1257, 1000 Josephine St. in Martinsville, will host its monthly steak

and fish dinner starting at 6 p.m. Cost is \$15 for steak and \$12 for fish.

Taps on the Square takes place at 6:50 p.m. on the southwest corner of the courthouse square in Martinsville, paying tribute to all military service members and first responders who have passed.

Live Music at Hoosier Que, 1970 Maple Turn Rd north of Martinsville, featuring Karaoke Stars with Bobbi Delane at 7 p.m. This is a free show.

Jan. 27
Card Club at the Monrovia Branch of the Morgan County Public Library at 145 South Chestnut St in Monrovia 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. registration required 463-300-4085

Jigsaw Puzzle Race at Morgan County Public Library 110 South Jefferson St in Martinsville 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Registration is required 765-342-3451

Family friendly Snow Ball Dance at Brickhouse on Main 128 N Main in Martinsville. 6-8 p.m. \$15.00 per person. venmo: BHOM128 or email brickhouseonmain128@gmail.com to reserve your tickets.

Live Music at Hoosier Que, 1970 Maple Turn Rd north of Martinsville, featuring Scott Parkhurst at 7 p.m. This is a free, all ages show.

Mooresville200 hosts "Dance Through the Decades" from 7 to 10 p.m. at Jones Crossing Banquet and Event Center, 4161 E. Allison Road in Mooresville. Tickets are \$25. Visit mooresville200.com for more information.

Live Music at Trackside Bar & Grill 2285 SR 67 in Paragon featuring Michael McCartney at 8:00 p.m.

Live Music at Route 67 Bar & Grill, 600 S. SR 67 in Mooresville, featuring The Late Night Boomers at 9 p.m.

Jan. 30
Weekly live music at the Martinsville Senior Center, 1369 Blue Bluff Road, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Fun for the whole family.

Feb. 1
Story Time at Fables & Fairy Tales 38 N Main St in Martinsville How to Catch a Loverosaurus at 6:00 p.m. RSVP 765-913-4100

Learn to Crochet at the Morgan County Public Library 110

S Jefferson St in Martinsville 6:30-8:00 p.m. registration required 765-342-3451

The Foxcliff Chess Club will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Manor House, 4041 N. Foxcliff Drive north of Martinsville. All are invited, from beginner to advanced. For more information, contact foxcliffchess@gmail.com.

Feb. 2
Taps on the Square takes place at 6:50 p.m. on the southwest corner of the courthouse square in Martinsville, paying tribute to all military service members and first responders who have passed.

Feb. 3
Lunar New Year celebration with the Indiana Association of Chinese-Americans at Mooresville Public Library 220 West Harrison St in Mooresville, 12-1 p.m.

Morgan County Master Gardener Association community seed swap at Morgan County Public Library, Main Branch, 110 S Jefferson in Martinsville, 1 to 4 p.m. 765-342-1010

Mooresville's Secret Philanthropist Arthur C. Newby at Mooresville Public Library 220 West Harrison St in

Mooresville, 2-3 p.m.

Pints, Paws & Playlists Fest benefitting the Morgan County Humane Society at Cedar Creek Icehouse, 450 S Marion St in Martinsville at 6 p.m.

Predicting Eclipses at Mooresville Public Library, 220 W Harrison St in Mooresville 6 to 7 p.m.

Feb. 5
Community concert featuring Chris Funk the Wonderist at Monrovia High School auditorium, 205 South Chestnut St in Monrovia at 7 p.m.

Feb. 6
Weekly live music at the Martinsville Senior Center, 1369 Blue Bluff Road, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Fun for the whole family.

Feb. 9
Second Friday Open Studio and Open Mic night, Art Sanctuary, 190 N. Sycamore St. in Martinsville 6 to 9 p.m.

Taps on the Square takes place at 6:50 p.m. on the southwest corner of the courthouse square in Martinsville, paying tribute to all military service members and first responders who have passed.

WANTED

TURN 'EM IN THURSDAY

PROBATION VIOLATION AMBER HAYDEN 	FAILURE TO APPEAR JEREMY HELTON 	PROBATION VIOLATION TANA MCKINNEY
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If you have any information concerning a wanted person, please contact the Morgan County Sheriff's Office at 765-342-5544. Never attempt to follow or contact any fugitive. Instead, immediately dial 911 or contact your local law enforcement agency. All suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in the court of law.

'State of the City' coming in March

From the Greater Martinsville Chamber of Commerce

MARTINSVILLE — The Martinsville Rotary Club and the Greater Martinsville Chamber of Commerce will serve as co-hosts this year for the 2024 State of the City. This prestigious event is held annually in the spring to honor the city of Martinsville and the many individuals, businesses and organizations that contribute to the economic growth and development of our community.

Outstanding Business, Outstanding Business Professional, and Ruth Rusie Spirit of Service awards will be presented, and Mayor Kenny Costin's State of the City interview will be featured. Questions will be accepted at the entrance to the dinner.



The 2024 State of the City will be held March 12 in the Martinsville High School Cafeteria. (Greater Martinsville Chamber of Commerce courtesy photo)



This year's event is Tuesday, March 12, at the Martinsville High School Cafeteria, with the social hour beginning at 5:30 p.m. and

dinner at 6:30 p.m. Attendees will enjoy a delicious catered dinner, and as in the past, there will be a silent auction with a variety of donated items.

This is a great opportunity to network with local business and community leaders and to learn more

about all the good things happening in Martinsville.

Tickets are \$35 and will be available after Feb. 1 through the Martinsville Chamber office, by visiting 464 S. Main St. or calling 765-342-8110, or from any Martinsville Rotary member.



A LOFTY DONATION

Members of the Mooresville Fraternal Order of Eagles present a check for \$9,948 to representatives of Indy Honor Flights and the POW/MIA Council of Indianapolis on Jan. 18. (Josh Brown courtesy photo)

Your logo could be here

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Feb. 10
Local Valentine's Pop Up Market at Sara's Goodies 460 S. Main Street in Martinsville 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Love Local/Shop Local shop downtown Martinsville 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Zydeco's Samedi Gras & Valentine's Day Celebrations at Zydeco's Cajun 11 E. Main St in Mooresville at 2:00 p.m.

Mardi Gras Masquerade & Gumbo Cookoff at Cedar Creek Winery, 3820 Leonard Rd. east of Martinsville at 4p.m. event-satcedarcreek@gmail.com

Love Local Dinner Event at The Peddler's Loft Cafe 166 E Morgan St in Martinsville, seatings at 5:30 and 8 p.m. \$55 per couple, call 812-360-7611 for reservations.

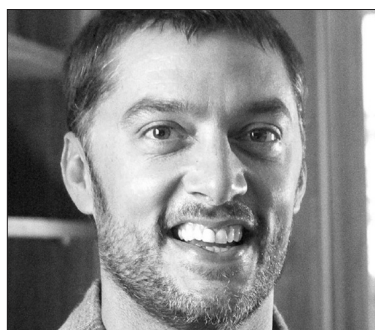
Feb. 13
Zydeco's Samedi Gras & Valentine's Day Celebrations at Zydeco's Cajun 11 E. Main St in Mooresville 6:00 to 9:30 p.m.

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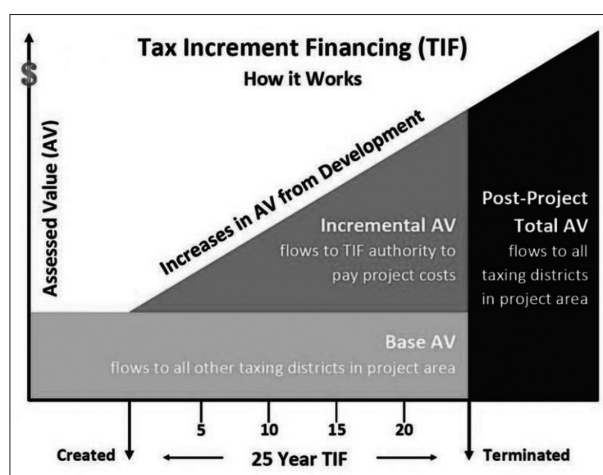
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A windfall by any other name



The Tight Wire

STEPHEN CRANE



This graph demonstrates the well intended theory behind TIF districts. In my experience, however, that dark black area on the far right isn't always likely to materialize as redevelopment commissions rarely let the districts expire. (Courtesy graphic)

TIF Districts ... You've probably heard the name before, and like most people, you're left scratching your head as to what they are and how they work.

The controversial government taxing method has gained momentum in recent decades, becoming a massive revenue stream for economic development folks in local governments across the country.

So what are TIF districts, and why should you care?

As the theory goes, TIF districts help make economic development improvements in a location using tax revenue from a capped tax rate. When a TIF district is formed, it caps the tax rate for all other taxing units within the area — including school districts, libraries and the like.

As the improvements are made within the district, assessments go up — and thus, tax revenue. The local redevelopment commissions then collect all the additional tax dollars, leaving the other taxing units limited to the capped rate.

The additional tax revenue (from improved assessed values) that follows those improvements is to be used to fund projects and/or pay off the loans for the initial projects.

When the TIF district theoretically expires — generally, in 20 to 25 years — the tax cap is intended to be go away, and the other taxing units are supposed to enjoy the new and improved tax revenue following the increased assessments due to the improvements.

In reality, however, local governments almost never let TIF districts expire, as they never run out of “wish list” projects, thereby justifying the “need” to renew the TIF district.

On occasion, TIF districts will “pass through” funds to those other taxing units to make up for the lost tax revenue, but this too is the exception to the rule. Most of the time, they're left to contend with the lower

tax rate and the lower revenue.

Locally, Mooresville, Martinsville and Morgan County all have redevelopment commissions that get the brunt of their funding from TIF districts — with 12 in total, between all three entities. Mooresville (the first to spearhead TIF usage decades ago) has two, Martinsville has five, and the county has five (as of FY 2021, the latest data available on Indiana Gateway, the state's go-to information source on local government finance).

As with so many government initiatives, the original goal of the funding strategy was “well intended” — that government investment (coupled with massive tax-cut “incentives” to the private sector) was needed to make improvements in “blighted” areas so that property values could increase, and by extension, the tax dollars the government receives.

But as with so many government initiatives, they're run by people, and thus, ripe for misuse. What we now find is that the original, narrow scope of TIF districts has since expanded at every turn.

The definition of “blighted” — once narrowly tailored to rundown, neglected areas of town — has now grown to include everything from shopping malls to farm land.

And the latest craze in TIF district land is now housing developments.

National law firm Baker Tilly — a favorite “financial advisor” for Mooresville, Martinsville and the county, among many others — specializes in all things government funding, and TIF districts are an area of expertise.

As the law firm explains on its website: “Housing TIF areas offer a revenue stream for local governments to finance public infrastructure and incentivize developers. By leveraging TIF revenue to fund important public infrastructure including roads,

sidewalks, and water and sewer lines in new neighborhoods, it lowers costs for developers and provides future homeowners the opportunity to purchase a more affordable new home.”

Any time I hear “revenue stream” and “government” in the same sentence, well, it gives me pause, and I proceed with caution. TIF districts are no different.

In theory, TIF districts should not be “making money.” They should be close to breaking even year in and year out, with enough revenue to pay off loans and fund new projects. But they shouldn't be sitting on a nest egg of money.

According to Indiana Gateway, the 12 TIF districts in Morgan County made nearly \$21 million in 2021. Meanwhile, they spent \$8 million. The county, for its part, brought in nearly \$1.6 million and spent nearly \$2 million. The municipalities, however, brought in \$19.3 million and spent \$6 million — a difference of more than \$13 million.

Opponents of TIF districts — which is a growing list — point to this trend as one reason of many why TIF districts should be revamped or go away altogether. In addition to the infrastructure alluded to in the housing TIF explanation, TIF districts have become a go-to fund that incentivizes government spending and projects, regardless of actual needs.

For example, the gateway signage in Mooresville — those towering obelisks, I mean, torches that welcome drivers on Ind. 67 — were all TIF funded. The Venue in Martinsville, with a top-notch stage and performance space, was TIF funded, as will the theater that's being refurbished on Morgan Street.

When it comes to the county, however, well, it's a bit tougher to get a good handle on things, since its redevelopment commission

Problems with TIFs

The University of Illinois-Chicago's Government Finance Research Center printed an article in 2021 by Greg LeRoy, of the economic development watchdog group, Good Jobs First, which laid out the growing problems with TIFs:

No. 1: The Intergovernmental Free Lunch: States give cities the power to create TIF districts even though the taxes that are diverted will typically also come at the expense of school districts, county governments, and other local taxing bodies — which usually lack any power to avoid such losses.

No. 2: The “Ravenous Increment” Problem: As a Chicago community group documented about 20 years ago, the property values in many of the city's neighborhoods that use tax increment financing TIF districts had been rising before the TIF district was designated. But when the TIF districts were created, the pre-existing growth that would otherwise have kept going to support schools and other public services became part of the “increment.” That diversion of naturally occurring revenue growth lasts 23 to 35 years.

No. 3: “Blight” Defined by Local Option: States often require that a TIF district be declared as “blighted.” Over time, this goal has been subverted, either by deregulation or litigation. Virginia allows a TIF anywhere it will “promote commerce and prosperity.” Missouri's highest court allowed an affluent St. Louis suburb to “blight” a shopping mall so that it could attract a Nordstrom store with a \$41 million TIF.

No. 4: “But For” that Blocks Public Accountability: Some states require a developer to certify that “but for” the TIF, the project would not occur. But this supposed anti-windfall safeguard is really no protection at all. The developer says, “trust me” and the public never really knows what factors drove the company's decision.

Based on research at Good Jobs First, I think the real purpose of this rule can be to disable criticism of public officials.

No. 5: Fueling Suburban Sprawl: Vacant or agricultural land, with its low base value, is attractive to developers and TIF-bond transactors because all the new improvements will count towards the increment. In Wisconsin, anti-sprawl advocates decry a TIF district in Baraboo that paved an apple orchard for a Walmart store. But the low assessed value of farmland meant a low base value and a resulting big increment. It was not unusual: a study co-authored by David Merriman at the University of Illinois Chicago found that over a 14-year period, 54% of the newly annexed land in the Badger State was TIFed: i.e., sprawling TIF districts on the fringes of city limits.

No. 6: Building Excess Retail Space: The use of TIF for retail can undermine local jobs and tax revenues. In the St. Louis metro area, the East-West Gateway Council issued a scathing study documenting \$2 billion in TIF for malls and big-box stores given by St. Louis suburbs. Meanwhile, in the central city and inner-ring suburbs, retail establishments closed, tens of thousands of workers were laid off and the suburbs got the transferred buying power. Feeble retail job growth meant a per-job subsidy of more than \$370,000.

When a TIF creates duplicate capacity like excessive retail space, it merely transfers jobs and revenue; it does not create net new growth. Consumers do not have more money with which to shop just because they have more places to shop. Yet TIFs have figured prominently in the aggressive subsidy strategies of a number of major retailers subsidizing the monopolization of U.S. retailing and all the problems associated with declining entrepreneurship and Main Street life.

No. 7: Poorly Disclosed Costs: Only a handful of states maintain rudimentary state-wide databases on TIF districts, and a new government accounting rule is failing to capture many TIF revenue diversions. Since 2017, under GASB Statement No. 77 on Tax Abatement Disclosures, most local government bodies have been required to report (in their Annual Comprehensive Financial Reports) how much revenue they lose to economic development “tax abatements.”

seemingly prefers to operate in executive session more often than not — despite the cautions of the Indiana Public Access Counselor that government entities “hold only a handful of them a year, if at all.” But that's a topic for another time.

Overall, TIF districts are all but intertwined with the operations — and projects — of local governments across the county, the state and the nation.

Whether you love them or hate them, TIF districts are here — and

it's vital that we keep an eye on those hefty slush funds, I mean, bank accounts.

It's our money being spent — by an appointed board, mind you, not an elected — and we deserve to have a seat, and voice, at the table every chance we get.

Stephen Crane is a Morgan County native, husband and father of four. Contact him at 765-201-0010 or at scrane@morgancountycorrespondent.com.

PARTY PERSPECTIVES

Q: TIF districts: Looked at as a boon to local economic development by proponents, who point to the many improvements enjoyed by the citizenry and projects that would otherwise go unrealized; opponents, however, often label them as a dangerous slush fund for local government while taking tax dollars from other local entities that could use the money. Still others contend TIF districts are well intended but ripe for abuse and wasteful spending by local officials. So what say you? What is your view of TIF districts, and their increasing use by local government entities?



Morgan County Democrats

NATALIE COFFIN

A: I count myself among those who believe that TIF districts are generally a good thing for rural communities such as ours, if they prove in the long run not to be detrimental to the needs of other taxpayer funded entities, and they are managed well.

I believe ultimately time will tell how the story plays out in Morgan County. The Morgan County Redevelopment Commission has more than met the mark over the last many years in preparing for these projects, holding public meetings, providing opportunities for citizens to have a voice, etc. There will always be a faction of people who believe that no taxpayer money should be used for projects such as these. There's not a lot you can do to change those minds.

But TIF districts, on their face, have all the elements of a good thing for small communities in desperate need of economic development projects, which would otherwise be impossible to attain.

Indiana law states that Indiana's TIF districts must pass the “but for” test, in that but for the money allocated from TIF, the money would simply not be available for said projects. TIF funds provide an avenue for development in otherwise blighted areas.

The potential problem is that tax revenue that is allocated for projects in the TIF districts is not going to other areas such as the school district.

In the 2019 Winter edition of the

Indiana School Board Association's, The Journal periodical, Sherri K. Flynn, MBA and Department Chair of Ivy Tech Community College Evansville Campus, gives a detailed and relatively easy to follow explanation of the potential problem.

In short, money allocated for schools can be capped for the life of the TIF project, so that school systems are not able to keep up with costs that increase year after year due to typical inflation. Money that would be given to schools is essentially “harvested” for the TIF projects.

Even still, in my opinion, the various TIF projects throughout Morgan County have been a positive thing for our communities. We have needed to step up our game for quite some time.

To me, it goes beyond political parties and affiliations and is more about what is good, overall, for a community. So long as the projects continue to be managed properly, and the funds are used for the intended purpose, I see no problem with TIF districts as a whole.

Natalie Coffin is chair of the Democratic Central Committee of Morgan County, JD student at Mitchell Hamline School of Law, musician, songwriter, auntie, and housemate to a German shepherd named Elza.



Morgan County Libertarians

DANNY LUNDY

A: Tax Increment Financing (TIF) has some good uses, but the poten-

tial for misuse is all too common.

The TIF concept is a government tool used to reinvigorate a neglected part of town or to implement infrastructure upgrades. Money is borrowed against the improved future value of the district to make these improvements. This “locks in” the tax revenue to the taxing entity for that district at the current level. This base levy is frozen until the TIF bond is repaid, or until the agreed upon contract expires. This often has the side effect of pushing additional future tax levy increases to the properties outside the district.

Any additional tax levy above that area's locked-in amount is diverted to the redevelopment commission in order to pay the loan. In theory, this is a good way to borrow the necessary money to improve the infrastructure and overall value of the district. When the additional TIF revenue pays off the bond, the newly improved property tax level is released back to the taxing entity. This allows those tax dollars to be used for things like school systems, police and fire services, while normalizing the tax burden that had previously been shifted away from the district.

Unfortunately, TIF is often used to give handouts to businesses so they relocate within the taxing district. This allows companies to shift the startup risk to taxpayers. The governing bodies can be allowed to pick winners and losers by helping company A, but not company B. When a deal falls through, as recently happened in Mooresville, it leaves taxpayers holding the bag.

TIF originated in California in the '50s, but they have recently begun severely limiting the use of TIF as many municipalities over-districted their towns and overspent, driving them to the brink of bankruptcy. It quickly became a government piggy bank used to fund a variety of frivolous projects. As citizens saw their taxes rise, those taxes were being diverted to TIF, drying up the revenue available for the towns to operate their basic services. This can be especially problematic in

Indiana, where we have constitutionally limited property tax rates.

TIF can be used to fund larger, much needed projects, which couldn't be financed any other way. To be used responsibly, however, the bonds related to those TIFs need to be paid off, not extended, and district revenues returned to general taxing units as soon as possible.

Danny Lundy is the chair of the Libertarian Party of Morgan County and lives in Mooresville.



Morgan County Republicans

CAROLE SNYDER

A: Tax Increment Financing, or TIF, is one of the few economic development tools we have as Hoosiers to attract jobs and capital investments to our communities.

In addition to my role as Republican Party Chair, I also serve as the President of the Morgan County Redevelopment Commission.

Here's my top takeaways on the value of TIF:

- For a TIF Allocation Area to be created or expanded, it must meet the “but for” test. It requires a finding of fact, supported by evidence, that the adoption of the allocation will result in new property taxes in the area that would not have been generated but for the adoption of the allocation area.

- Once the “but for test” is met and a TIF Allocation Area is created, a base assessment date is established. Once that is set, no tax

increment is realized by the redevelopment commission until there are improvements made to the property. It's an “eat what you kill” situation. If we don't draw new business or capital investments, there's no tax increment created. The underlying taxing units receive the same taxes they would have received otherwise.

- There's a lot of misconceptions that TIF revenues and pass-throughs are a 1:1 situation. That's simply not the case. If a redevelopment commission would pass through some of the assessed value the TIF Allocation Area captures, it simply lowers the tax rate nominally. That doesn't equate to more tax dollars generated in most scenarios outside of nominal increases to cumulative funds.

TIF is incredibly convoluted and confusing. A redevelopment commission can take the lead on behalf of the county to assist in funding-needed infrastructure, such as roads and public utilities, for economic development projects. This helps by not burdening the other taxing units throughout the county. We've been able to make significant improvements to Waverly Town Park, including the Greenway Trail, and have built the Waverly Wastewater Treatment Plant. Another area we are working on is Westpoint Business Park, north of Monrovia, where the commission just amended the plans to ensure additional phases of development are possible in addition to the existing IMsf building.

It is imperative we, as redevelopment commissioners, are cognizant of the projects we support and are good stewards of the TIF revenues we receive. If not for the creation of TIFs, the projects redevelopment commissions are supporting wouldn't be made possible.

Carole Snyder is chairman of the Morgan County Republican Party. She lives in Monrovia with her husband, and is the mother of two amazing adult daughters.

Mooresville nonprofit gets a little help from Santa

Staff report

BROWNSBURG — Mooresville couple Otis and Deanna Pugh started Heroes Wildlife Adventures (HWA) back in 2018 as a way to support veterans and first responders. Last year, they became an official 501c3 nonprofit, continuing their two-fold mission: to provide outdoor hunting and fishing events for retired disabled veterans and first responders, and to provide service dogs at no cost.

HWA takes several groups out West to the Rocky Mountains every year without cost to them.

“The outdoor experience, enhanced by the camaraderie with other disabled vets and first responders, has been a turning point in some participants’ lives,” said Otis, a retired veteran himself.

But service dogs are an equally important part of



From left: Rick ‘Santa’ Whitesides, Megan Myers, Otis Pugh, Deanna Pugh and K9 Draven pause for a photo with the donation check recently presented to Mooresville-based nonprofit, HWA. (Deanna Pugh courtesy photo)

HWA’s mission, too.

Otis says that Draven, his service dog, has been

a therapeutic and integral part of his recovery from PTSD. Experiencing the

firsthand impact of a service dog, the Pughs now provide service dogs to disabled veterans at no cost through HWA.

Seven dogs were matched with veterans in 2023 and the goal for 2024 is to increase that number to 10.

The dogs are temperament tested by Deanna, who is an AKC evaluator. The dog is then matched with a veteran and professionally trained to meet the specific needs of the vet. “Having a service dog often means a soldier can adjust to life after their service,” Otis said. “We believe making that possible is one of the best ways we can support veterans. We understand firsthand the difference it can make for not just the soldier, but their family as well.”

When Brownsburg residents Rick and Elaine Whitesides caught wind of HWA’s mission, they

teamed up with Pet Supplies Plus Brownsburg to benefit the nonprofit through the annual Claus for Paws Pictures with Santa event.

With his white beard and impish smile, Rick has long been nicknamed Santa. During the holiday season, he embraces the obvious and brings Santa to real life. His pockets are full of candy canes, which he distributes throughout December everywhere he goes.

“Being Santa is fun and creates a bit of magic during the holidays,” Rick said. “Charging a small fee for a picture with Santa makes it possible for us to also help a charity make a difference in our communities. We appreciate that Pet Supplies Plus partners with us. This event is a great way to end every year.”

Pet Supplies Plus Brownsburg hosted the event for the second year

in the store at 931 N. Green St. in Brownsburg.

“The bond between a pet and its owner is very special,” said Pet Supplies Plus Brownsburg store team lead, Megan Myers. “Pictures with Santa is fun and creates memories that last a lifetime. We are happy to host this event and bring joy to our customers over the holiday season as well as support the efforts of Heroes Wildlife Adventures for military veterans and first responders.”

More than 50 dogs, cats, children, and adults had pictures taken for a donation of \$10, for a total of \$510. All proceeds from the event were recently donated to HWA.

For more information about HWA, email heroeswildlifeadventures@yahoo.com or visit heroeswildlifeadventures.org.

A way to remember our Vietnam vets

MARTINSVILLE — When The Wall That Heals comes to Martinsville from Aug. 15 to the 18, part of the exhibit will focus on the Vietnam Veterans from the Morgan County area.

This is part of the “In Memory Program,” which aims to recognize the Vietnam Veterans that did not die in direct combat but later died as a result of their service. This can be many years later. This is not only those with Agent Orange exposure or effects from PTSD, but any health conditions that were related to their service during the Vietnam era.

It is a rather simple process. You need to complete the application form and submit it along with just a couple of standard documents, such as a DD-214 and death certificate along with photos of the veteran.



FOUNDERS OF THE WALL

Ideally, they would like a Vietnam era photo as well as a photo that is more recent.

Complete details and application may be found at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund website at www.vvmf.org. For easy access, you may go directly to the In Memory section by going to <https://www.vvmf.org/In-Memory-Program/>.

This is the perfect chance to remember your veteran.

The deadline for submitting your application for the Morgan County area veterans is one month prior to the Aug. 15 exhibit.

A CHAT WITH THE CHIEFS



From left: Crime Watch members Betty Chamberlin and Paula DeWeese, Martinsville Police Chief Rick Lang, Crime Watch members Debbie Osborn and Mike Cook, and Martinsville Deputy Chief Austin Combs pause for a photo during the Meet the Chiefs event, held Jan. 17 at First Christian Church in Martinsville. (Betty Chamberlin courtesy photo)



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For additional information or to enroll your child for the fall please call 765-342-4483.

Officials 'beam' at progress

Staff report

MARTINSVILLE — The county's new judicial center is taking shape in downtown Martinsville, and local officials and contractors gathered at the site Monday to commemorate the progress by signing an I-beam that will be used in construction.

The county's \$72 million four-phase plan at the county seat calls for a newly constructed judicial center, a new parking lot and two remodels to existing structures.

First, a new parking lot has been constructed one block west of the administration building on South Main Street.

Second, a new three-story judicial building is under construction west of the administration building. That building will house the county's circuit court, three superior courts and magistrate's court.

Third, after the judicial building is complete, the courthouse will be remodeled to house the various county offices and departments.

And finally, the current administration building will be remodeled to provide space for the various court offices.



From left: Dan Lawson of contractor Meyer Najem, engineer Elliott Allen of DLZ, county commissioner Kenny Hale, Bryan Mitton of Meyer Najem, Will Tiebout of Meyer Najem, county councilman Brian Culp, Caleb Partin of Meyer Najem, deputy probation director Miranda Beauchamp, county judge Dakota VanLeeuwen, county councilman Jason Maxwell, county councilwoman Kim Merideth, county commissioner Bryan Collier, county administrator Josh Messmer, county councilman Chip Keller, architect Eric Ratts of DLZ, and county commissioner Don Adams pause for a photo with the signed I-beam on Monday afternoon. (Jared Quigg photo / MCC)



FAR LEFT: From left: Meyer Narem contractor Bryan Mitton looks on as county councilman Jason Maxwell, county judge Dakota VanLeeuwen and county councilman Brian Culp put their signatures on the I-beam Monday afternoon. (Jared Quigg photo / MCC)

LEFT: The commemorative I-beam is loaded with signatures from local elected officials, judicial personnel, public officials and contractors on Monday. (Jared Quigg photo / MCC)

MSD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

Later that month, the school board voted to appeal that court's decision, hoping the Supreme Court of the United States would settle the matter.

"The MSD of Martinsville School Board of Trustees chose to appeal the Seventh Circuit ruling because there is disagreement among federal courts around the country on whether federal law mandates certain actions or whether school boards have discretion to enact policies addressing who may use what facilities," school board member and former board president Jacque Deckard said last fall in an emailed statement.

But the SCOTUS will not be settling the issue, and last week's decision means the end of the road for MSD's legal options.

On the heels of the court's decision last week, MSD superintendent Eric Bowlen said in a prepared statement he was "deeply disappointed" by the decision that leaves "school districts across the country in disarray."

"As the education system continues to evolve rapidly, local school boards must be empowered to navigate sensitive emerging issues with discretion to serve the best

interests of students," he said in his statement.

Case history

The case against the school district goes back to December 2021, when a lawsuit was filed by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and Indiana Legal Services on behalf of a then seventh-grade student at John R. Wooden Middle School — who was born a female but identifies as a male — and the student's mother.

According to the complaint, the middle school failed to accommodate the student's male gender identity by not allowing the student to use the boys restroom, join the boys soccer team or address the student using male pronouns.

The suit claims the school violated Title IX, which prohibits sex-based discrimination in education and was enacted in 1972, spearheaded by U.S. Sen. Birch Bayh of Indiana.

At the time, Bayh explained the legislation was put forth to fight against "the continuation of corrosive and unjustified discrimination against women in the American educational system."

In recent years, however, proponents of the transgender movement have used Title IX to argue that transgender students should be covered under those same protections based on their identified gender, not necessarily their biological sex.

The school district, however, argued that Title IX is, in fact, based on a biological understanding — or "the genetic sense" — of two genders due to the common understanding and application at the time Title IX was made into law.

What's more, the school district contended that "school boards — locally elected representatives of our communities — should be afforded discretion in making these decisions," it stated in its August 2023 resolution.

The 2021 suit also claimed the school district violated the Equal Protections Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. First ratified in 1868 on the heels of the Civil War and traditionally used to prevent racial discrimination, the Equal Protections Clause is now often used in gender-based cases.

On April 29, 2022, the

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana issued its preliminary injunction, ruling in favor of the student and the student's mother while denying the school district's defense and ordering the district to allow the student "use of the male restrooms and ... treat him as a male student in all respects."

In August 2023, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit denied MSD's appeal, maintaining the District Court's decision.

Last week's SCOTUS decision, in effect, does the same.

Local reaction

The ACLU of Indiana, which helped initiate the lawsuit, cheered the Supreme Court's announcement it wouldn't weigh in on the case, thereby letting the lower court rulings stand.

"This case is about the fundamental right of every student to a safe and inclusive learning environment, and the freedom of transgender youth to be themselves," the organization said in an online statement. "We're thankful the court allowed this momentous victory for the transgender youth of Indiana to stand."

But opponents of the lower court rulings decried the court's unwillingness to hear the case and clear up

the confusion in the lower courts.

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita came out in staunch support of MSD throughout the court proceedings, and his office was not pleased by last week's decision.

"The Supreme Court did not take a necessary opportunity to provide clarity, particularly with such a split among the appellate courts on this issue," according to a statement issued by the AG's office. "It makes little sense for SCOTUS not to resolve the difference in federal cases."

In his statement, Bowlen echoed the sentiment, disappointed the SCOTUS didn't settle the contradictory rulings in the lower courts.

"Federal courts are hopelessly in conflict over how to decide these issues, and the District hoped that the Supreme Court would have resolved this important conflict," Bowlen said. "The district will now consult closely with legal counsel to determine appropriate next steps that are both in compliance with the law and what is best for our students and community."

When reached by phone, MSD school board president Matt Hankins declined to comment on behalf of the locally elected board — a board that has guided

the district and made the decisions throughout the case's journey through the court system, including the decision to appeal in the Seventh District and later, the Supreme Court. He, instead, deferred to Bowlen's prepared statement.

"The superintendent's statement represents the communication from the board and superintendent on behalf of the Metropolitan School District of Martinsville," Hankins said.

But Martinsville resident Shelley Campbell, who attended the school board meeting last Thursday, offered a comment of her own, giving a word of encouragement to the board.

"Myself and a lot of people are standing behind the school as it pertains to the transgender issue," Campbell said. "(I'm) praying for the school and I like the stance MSD is taking."

The stance MSD has taken, however, is the wrong one in the eye of the courts, and until the SCOTUS decides to weigh in on the issue, transgender students must be accommodated according to their self-identified gender.

And if the SCOTUS does decide to take up the transgender issue in the future, it would be with different litigants — and MSD would not be one of them.

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Mooresville set to honor Sammy Davis with street

By Lance Gideon
MCC Correspondent

MOORESVILLE — The town of Mooresville will honor one of its most famous former residents in February when Monroe Street is dedicated in honor of Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Sammy L. Davis.

During its Jan. 16 meeting, the Mooresville Town Council voted to dedicate Monroe Street as the Sammy L. Davis Medal of Honor Way.

Davis is a 1966 graduate of Mooresville High School and was presented the Congressional Medal of Honor by President Lyndon B. Johnson on Nov. 19, 1968, for “conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty.”

Addresses for residents who live along Monroe Street will not change, but signs honoring Davis will be installed along the street.

As part of Mooresville’s 200th birthday, the town will also celebrate Feb. 21 as Sammy L. Davis Day.

The council unanimously voted to dedicate Monroe Street in honor of Davis and to declare Feb. 21 as Sammy L. Davis Day, 4-0, with



Mooresville resident Shane Williams and Public Works Superintendent Dave Moore hold up a sign after the Jan. 16 Mooresville Town Council meeting, declaring Monroe Street as ‘Sammy L. Davis Medal of Honor Way.’ (Lance Gideon photo / MCC)

town council president Tom Warthen absent from the meeting and vice president Greg Swinney serving as chair.

At the end of the meeting, Mooresville resident and former town councilman Shane Williams spoke about the tributes to Davis.

According to Williams, former town councilman Mark Mathis started working on honoring Davis several years ago.

Williams also noted locals participating in the Mooresville 200 organization have been volunteering to put on a bicentennial celebration for the town.

He also thanked Moores-

ville Public Works Superintendent Dave Moore for his involvement with the signs that will be placed along Monroe Street.

“Sammy and his wife will be here on (Feb.) 21st, they have confirmed,” Williams said. “There is already an agenda prepared with the school system, the VFW and the Mooresville 200 committee. He’ll be here about 10:30 in the morning at the Newby Dome, and we will have a street naming celebration to which all of the council will be invited.”

There will also be a reception at the Mooresville VFW that day.

Board and commission appointments

During the meeting, the council took time to make various appointments to boards and commissions within the town like the Mooresville Redevelopment Commission, Park Board and Plan Commission.

Most of the appointments went through with little fanfare, as everybody was reappointed to the same positions, with the exception of redevelopment. Swinney was appointed, replacing former councilman Williams.

However, the council was unable to vote to re-install Fred Settle onto the Mooresville Police Commission.

Councilman Jeff Cook made the motion to reappoint Settle to the commission, but nobody offered a second, thereby killing the motion.

Councilman Josh Brown said he would be abstaining from the vote, but offered no explanation.

According to Cook, Settle had gone to Martinsville earlier that day to get sworn in for another term on the commission.

“He was told to go to

Martinsville to get sworn in, and that’s what he did,” Cook said.

“You see, I didn’t know that,” Brown responded.

“Again, it goes back to what I’m saying (with) behind the scenes stuff,” Cook said.

According to Mooresville Clerk-Treasurer Diana Wamsley, a board member serves until they are replaced.

“I believe Thursday (Jan. 18) night is the police commission meeting, and because I didn’t know – he has to be sworn in before that meeting or he wouldn’t be able to attend,” Wamsley said. “So that’s why he was sent down to Martinsville, is because if he was, you know, put back on the commission, he would have to have been sworn in.”

Swinney said the appointment of Settle could be brought up at its next meeting, when Warthen was in attendance.

During the council comments portion of the meeting, Cook brought up the Settle appointment again.

“I thought after the last meeting, I thought the shenanigans on this board was going to be over with,” Cook said. “And obviously it’s not. You guys are continuing to do what you do. We’ve had a police commissioner that served us for

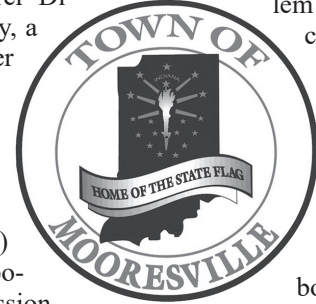
nine years, not one problem with him, no complaints, the chief wants him back. He submitted a letter that wasn’t included in our packets. Nobody else has put in for police commission.”

According to Cook, Settle flew in from Florida in order to get sworn in for another term.

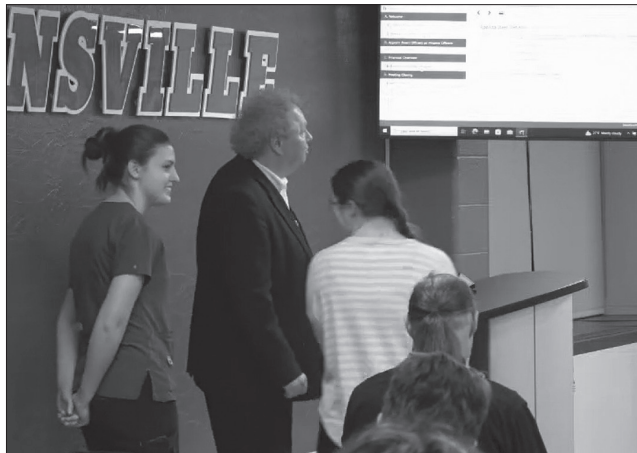
“I’ve got a serious problem with that,” Cook said. “The way we treat people here is awful.”

Swinney noted that the council would get things straightened out at its next meeting.

The next meeting of the Mooresville Town Council is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 6, at the Mooresville Government Center, 4 E. Harrison St.



Lilly Scholars honored at MSD school board meeting



Martinsville High School Principal Jeff Bell introduces Lilly Scholarship winners Sarah Miller and Campbell Cox during the school board meeting Thursday night. (MSD of Martinsville screenshot)

By Jared Quigg
MCC reporter

MARTINSVILLE — The Metropolitan School District of Martinsville (MSD) School Board recognized the two 2023 Lilly Scholars — who both happen to be from Martinsville High School — at its meeting Thursday evening.

Sarah Miller and Campbell Cox were the winning students from Morgan County, and both were present at the meeting, along with family members.

Miller, still dressed in her Grand Valley rehab fa-

cility work scrubs, came to the meeting on her dinner break. She said at the meeting she plans to use the Lilly Scholarship to study premed at Purdue University.

Cox said she is still undecided about where she will attend college, as she’s been accepted into both DePauw University and Franklin College. But she is leaning toward the former because it has a farm and an orchestra.

“Martinsville High School is very fortunate and proud,” MHS Principal Jeff Bell said. “The Lilly Scholarship in Indiana is one of the biggest and most prestigious scholarships awarded.”

The Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program provides full tuition, required fees and a book stipend for four years, and recipients have the opportunity to attend any public or private four-year college or university in Indiana.

There were 93 applicants in Morgan County, and Miller and Cox were selected from seven finalists.

In other news

• An hour before the regular session, the board held an executive session to discuss potential litigation, personnel and real estate.

• Before the regular sessions, the Board of Finance held a brief meeting in which MSD Superintendent Eric Bowlen delivered an overview of the district’s finances.

As of Dec. 31, 2023, the district had deposits of \$4.65 million in Citizens Bank, \$2.088 million in KeyBank, \$2.056 million in BMO Harris, \$2.052 million in Lake City Bank, and \$100,000 in a Citizens Bank CD. The district earned about \$185,000 in total interest last year.

• The Board approved salvaging various items from the MHS Vocational Department, including two iron stands, a chop saw, and a metal table, amongst other things. It also approved auctioning off eight skids of surplus items including

paper towels, toilet paper, disposable gloves and out of date wipes.

• The board is allowing Poston Road and Paragon elementary schools to accept \$2,500 and \$3,000 grants, respectively, from United Way. These grants will be used for literacy initiatives such as purchasing books.

• The board determined that board member Luke Jackson will continue as the board’s non-voting representative for the Martinsville Redevelopment Commission.

• Board member Dan Conway was appointed as the Legislative Indiana School Boards Association Representative.

• Jamie Heacock was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Morgan County Public Library.

The next school board meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Feb. 15 at Central Education Center, 389 E. Jackson St. in Martinsville.

County BZA has short meeting

By Keith Rhoades
MCC Chief Correspondent

MORGAN COUNTY — The only item on the agenda of the January meeting of the Morgan County Board of Zoning Appeals was tabled until the February meeting due to the illness of the applicant.

Eric and Laura Johnson had requested a special exception to operate a home-based business in an Agricultural Zoned district in the 9400 block of North Staton Drive in Madison Township.

The board did vote to keep the same officers in 2024 they had last year. John Chappelow was

re-elected chairman, Bill Rumbaugh was re-elected vice-chairman, and Jason Maxwell was re-elected secretary.

The next scheduled board meeting is Monday, Feb. 26, at 6:30 p.m. at the county administration building, 180 S. Main St. in Martinsville.

County makes \$4M in interest last year

By Keith Rhoades
MCC Chief Correspondent

MORGAN COUNTY — Due to the holiday on Monday, the Morgan County Commissioners met Jan. 16 at the county administration building.

Commissioners received a financial report from county treasurer Terry Clelland that showed that due to the increased interest rates, the county received more than \$4 million in 2023 from funds that had been invested in financial institutions.

The financial statement showed that at the beginning of 2023, the county had a total of around \$102 million in all their accounts. Those accounts include the general fund, all highway funds, riverboat funds, Local Income Tax funds, and emergency medical services funds.

During the year, the county received around

\$230 million and spent around \$232,650,000 leaving them a balance on Dec. 31 of around \$99 million.

The county had a payroll of around \$20 million last year for nearly 500 employees who were on the payroll during the year.

The commissioners also reviewed the county’s investment policy.

Purdue agreement

The commissioners approved the contract with Purdue University for the extension office. The contract calls for the county to pay Purdue around \$128,000 for 2024 for the extension service. That service includes 4-H Youth Development, natural resources, and health and human sciences.

Other business

• The commissioners approved allowing the Martinsville Youth Development Center to apply for a grant to develop an unused

area of their building on Morton Avenue.

• The commissioners approved the updated version of the county’s Title VI Implementation Plan.

• The commissioners approved applying for a Community Crossing Grant, which will be used for highway paving.

• They received a copy of the updated technical design specifications for all new county roads. The commissioners will review those specifications and vote on them at a later meeting.

• The commissioners approved a request to allow a county highway employee to have a take-home vehicle as the employee will be on 24-hour call to respond to problems.

The next scheduled commissioner meeting is Monday, Feb. 6, at 9:30 a.m. at the administration building, 180 S. Main St. in Martinsville.

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City to get new trash hauler

By Stephen Crane
MCC

MARTINSVILLE — At its meeting Monday night, the Martinsville Board of Works approved a new five-year contract for trash services that is expected to save the city 22 percent over its previous hauler. But the savings will not be enough to cover the city's ongoing deficit in sanitation, and rates will have to go up for residents.

The city's current four-year contract is with Waste Management, and it expires March 31. "So we started review-

ing proposals last summer," city superintendent Mac Dunn reported Monday night.

The city looked at a wide range of options, from privatizing sanitation to hauling garbage directly to landfills to having a company haul it away, which is the current model.

"The most cost-effective is us collecting it and having someone haul it for us," Dunn said.

The city met with four companies for pricing and hauling options, including Waste Management. "The clear winner, hands down, was Rump-

ke," Dunn said, later adding that the company is "a family-owned company and been in business many many years."

"I don't have any objections to it," BOW member John Lillywhite said. "Unless we're going to build our own landfill, I don't think we're in a position to do any different."

The board voted unanimously, 3-0, to enter into contract with Rumpke to haul the city's trash from the transfer station to the company's landfill.

In other business

- The board approved a contract with V3 Compa-

nies Ltd. for \$18,600 to do a topographical survey of about 10 acres of land the city owns on Southview Drive on the city's southeast side.

The properties were acquired by the city following the flood of 2008, and city officials hope to make the property into a city park, including a skate park.

But due to the flood plain, the city will need to get approval from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). "We need to have our ducks in a row, and this is one step in doing that," said planning and engi-

neering director Gary Oakes.

- The board approved the purchase of six new vehicles for the police department as part of its rotation plan in the amount of \$303,630.
- After tabling the adjustment request at its last meeting, the board voted to forgive one month of sewer fees and charge for the other three after Chili's on Birk Road failed to fix a water leak for months.

The city notified the restaurant of the leak two times in September, but the leak wasn't fixed until near the end of the year.

The business requested that the city forgive \$32,846 in sewer charges. Instead, the board agreed to forgive for September, in the amount of about \$3,300. The business will still be on the hook for nearly \$30,000 in excessive sewer fees.

- The BOW approved the installation of a bollard near the entrance of the alley adjacent to 159 N. Main St. in order to protect the building from increased truck traffic.

The next meeting of the BOW will be at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 12 in the council chambers, 59 S. Jefferson St. in Martinsville.

ELECTION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

And in Monrovia, Kevin Collier has filed for the Monrovia Town Council at-large position. Carol Youngblood has filed for the Monrovia Town Council District 1 position.

Election-related deadlines

Candidates — except for school board candidates — have until noon on Feb. 9 to file for the May 7 primary. School board candidates begin filing on May 21, with a deadline for filing for school boards on June 20.

Those wishing to vote in the May primary have until midnight April 8 to register.

Vote center change

On Friday afternoon, members of the county election board traveled to Paragon to check on a new location for the vote center.

Board members met with the town's clerk treasurer to look at the multi-purpose building in the town's park. The building has both air conditioning and heat, so it can be used year round.

Board members felt it could be used and clerk Tammy Parker will work up a lease agreement for the county and the town.

Federal
U.S. President
U.S. Senator
U.S. Congressman (4th District)

State
State Senator (District 37)
State Representative (Districts 57 and 60)

County
Three county council at-large seats
Two county commissioner seats (District 1 and 3)
County coroner
County recorder
County treasurer
Precinct committeeman
Party delegates

School boards

- Eminence (two positions)
- Monroe-Gregg (three positions)
- Mooresville Consolidated (two positions)
- MSD of Martinsville (three positions)
- Nineveh-Hensley-Jackson (three positions)



ABOVE: Johnson County Sheriff Duane Burgess addresses media near the scene of the incident Tuesday.



DEPUTY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

Law enforcement attempted to make contact with the suspect by cell phone. When that failed, they detonated a tear-gas canister, followed by a robot and drone. When they were still unable to establish contact, officers entered the residence and discovered the suspect deceased in a bedroom from what they thought to be a gunshot wound.

Morgan County Sheriff Rich Myers, who held a press conference at the sheriff's office Tuesday afternoon, specified that no officers discharged their weapons during the entire incident.



SCHWAB

After serving several years with Martinsville Police Department, Schwab began serving with the MCSO earlier this month.

By Tuesday afternoon, she had been released from the hospital and returned home with her family.

ISP is continuing its investigation of the incident.

LEFT: From left: Indiana State Police Sgt. Kevin Getz stands by as Morgan County Sheriff Rich Myers addresses media during a press conference Tuesday afternoon following the shooting incident near Centerton earlier that morning. (Photos by Keith Rhoades / MCC)

HISTORY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

According to Tomak's research, the log home was built in 1902 at the bequest of Edmund Brown, one of the founders and owners of the Old Hickory Furniture Co. — a widely known company that started in Martinsville back in 1898 and specialized in well crafted chairs and furniture produced from local hardwoods.

According to Tomak, the company did build log homes, but very few. And to his knowledge, the home discovered in 2022 is "likely the only one still in existence anywhere."

In 2022, during construction of the new parking lot for the county's

THE CITY OF Martinsville INDIANA

upcoming judicial center, contractors were razing the buildings and homes in the area. The brick house on Jackson Street was found to have a completely intact log home under the brick façade.

The county agreed to dismantle it and store it in a county-owned field outside the city, but it has not been moved since.

"The logs have now been out in the field, unprotected for 15 months," Tomak said Monday.

He would like to see the log home get rebuilt with modern updates and be used for any number of purposes, whether "a visitors center, meetings,

events, offices, historic exhibits, as well as a one-of-a-kind historic attraction for Martinsville and Morgan County."

But Tomak's vision requires time, energy and perhaps most importantly, money.

"I tried to get private funding but haven't been successful," he told the council.

Instead, he's hoping the county might pay the \$150,000 to \$200,000 required to get it moved and reconstructed, since they own it and moved it. And he's hoping the city might find a place for its reconstruction.

"Too many of Morgan County's historic resources have already been lost," Tomak said. "And I'd think the log house

would make a great addition to the city of Martinsville."

City officials were reluctant to make any commitments quite yet, but they did agree to meet with county officials and see what might be done to save the cabin.

Mayor Kenny Costin, councilwoman Suzie Lipps, councilman Phil Deckard II and councilman John Badger are expected to hold a meeting with county officials and Tomak to see if there's an amenable solution.

"We need to all be in a room and talk about this," Costin said.

In other news

- The council agree to hold a workshop on the need to increase sanitation fees for city residents.

While the city voted to go with a cheaper trash hauler, "we still have issues with our sanitation rate," clerk-treasurer Ben Merida said Monday.

The city has been backfilling its losses in sanitation with money from the general fund, but that option is no longer available.

"My recommendation would be, whatever we want to do rate wise, we probably want to address it sooner rather than later," Merida said, hoping to avoid a temporary loan — that would need to be paid back within the year — to maintain trash service for residents.

The council tentatively agreed to talk about it before one of its regular meetings Feb. 12.

- The clerk's office will be holding training on claims and hopes three council members will attend. Any more than that would constitute a quorum and be prohibited.
- Merida reported that the city made nearly \$280,000 in interest last year, a record for the city. The increase was due to a statewide program, called Trust Indiana, that is meant to help municipalities with their investments.
- Councilman Ben Mahan was reappointed to serve on the Morgan County Economic Development Corp. board.

The next meeting of the Martinsville City Council will be at 7 p.m. on Feb. 12 in the council chambers, 59 S. Jefferson St.

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Martinsville swim team seniors Ian Bain, Grace Albertson, Cami England, Kasey Etter and Sophie Linthicum take a moment for a photo with family during Senior Night last Thursday. (MSD of Martinsville courtesy photo)



Mooresville senior Rachel Harshman makes her way around a defender to put a bucket up for the tying score at the end of the fourth quarter during last Friday's home Mid-State Conference game with Plainfield. (Melissa Dillon photo / MCC)

ARTIE SENIOR NIGHT

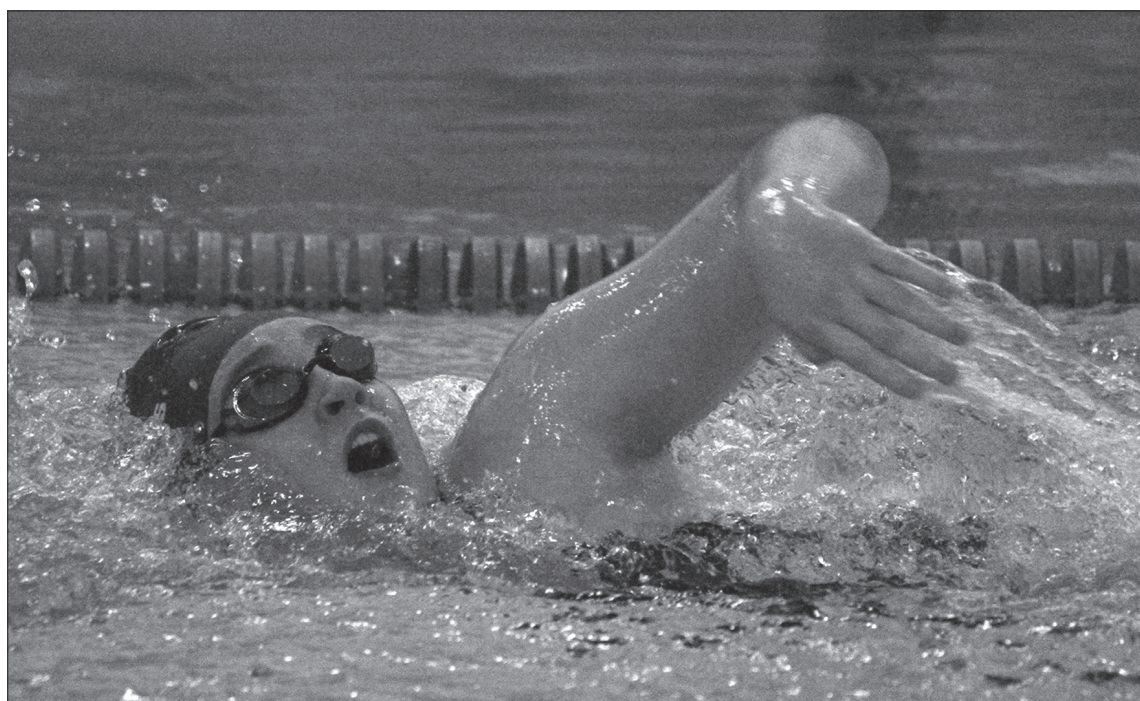
By Melissa Dillon
MCC Correspondent

MARTINSVILLE — It was a fun night for the Martinsville swimming and diving teams. The teams celebrated their seniors with a ceremony at the beginning of the meet against Covenant Christian last Thursday. The evening ended up with both coaches in full coaching gear, minus the shoes, taking a lap in the pool.

"Carla is a really great coach, and Miss Moore, we are glad that she is back again," senior Kasey Etter said. "It's been a lot of fun trying new events and improving throughout the whole season. My goal is always to drop time. I hope to keep improving for sectionals."

Etter won the 50-yard freestyle (28.34) and the 100-yard backstroke (1:13.55), helping the Martinsville girls win 96-48. The boys scored 52 points but had no competition as Covenant Christian doesn't have a boys team.

Kiley Etter won the 200-yard freestyle (2:31.40) and took third in the 100-yard backstroke (1:31.60), Cami England finished third in the 200-yard freestyle



Martinsville senior Cami England swims the 200-yard freestyle during Thursday's home meet and senior night. (Melissa Dillon photo / MCC)

(3:07.62), Bri Henselmeier took second in the 200-yard individual medley (2:38.75) and then won the 100-yard breaststroke (1:22.57),

and Grace Albertson finished fifth in the 50-yard freestyle (44.19). Ivy Lara won the 100-yard butterfly (1:18.67) and took sec-

ond in the 100-yard breaststroke (1:34.21), Katie MacPhee took fourth in the 100-yard backstroke

SEE SENIOR | PAGE B3

OT win for Lady Pioneers

By Melissa Dillon
MCC Correspondent

MOORESVILLE — The Mooresville girls basketball team is now 17-4 on the season after last Friday's home game with Plainfield. The Pioneers won 53-47 in overtime. With that, Mooresville improves to 5-1 in the Mid-State Conference and now in second place.

"We didn't play very well out there in the third quarter and Plainfield did," Mooresville coach Mark Hurt said. "We got down, but the girls really dug down deep and laid it out on the line. I thought we had a really nice fourth quarter and that carried us over into overtime and we played well in overtime as well."

Coach Hurt played to the call of the whistle. Senior Rachel Harshman was effective under the basket in not just her shots and post work, but the fact that over half

SEE PIONEERS | PAGE B2

Mooresville's Micah Bullock maintains the pike position in a dive on her way to a second-place finish for the Pioneers with a score of 371.05. (Melissa Dillon photo / MCC)



Pioneer swimmers take their eighth title

By Melissa Dillon
MCC Correspondent

MOORESVILLE — Mooresville diving coach Corey Ervin looked like he was dressed to play a round of golf, complete with the Pioneer blue and yellow plaid pants, yellow jacket and Irish golf hat and shoes. But of course, since it was about 2 degrees outside, he decided to run a diving competition instead.

The Pioneer diving competition had its ninth annual event on Saturday at Mooresville, hosting more than 30 divers from sever-

al schools around the state. Ervin's three girls had the lead until the finals but ended up taking second, third and fourth place to earn the team win for Mooresville, making it the eighth year the Pioneers have won the team title.

"They've had a pretty consistent season," Ervin said. "They're still pretty young. There's a sophomore leading a couple of freshmen. One thing that they're trying to do that they're not getting enough of is competition. There just haven't been that many divers out there over-

all. They had to learn how to compete against each other, so they're still trying to learn on how to compete against others. They continue to progress every day, ... and they keep feeding that motivation and working harder."

Micah Bullock finished the day in second place with a score of 371.05. Mackenzie Pierson took third place with a 358.25, and Tatum Humphrey landed in fourth place at 343.35. The girls winner went to Perry Meridian's Addison Berry with a 383.80.

Locally, Liliana Huston represented Martinsville and scored a 281.55 for 12th place.

The winner for the boys was Drew Guthrie of Plainfield who scored a 406.50.

The invitational also had some special awards for the event. Pierson won the Best Dive Award with a single highest scoring dive. Humphrey won the Best Rip 201B.

With sectionals around the corner, the Pioneers use this invitational as a good preparation for the coming weeks.

SEE SWIM | PAGE B2

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK MOORESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

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AJ DEFUR

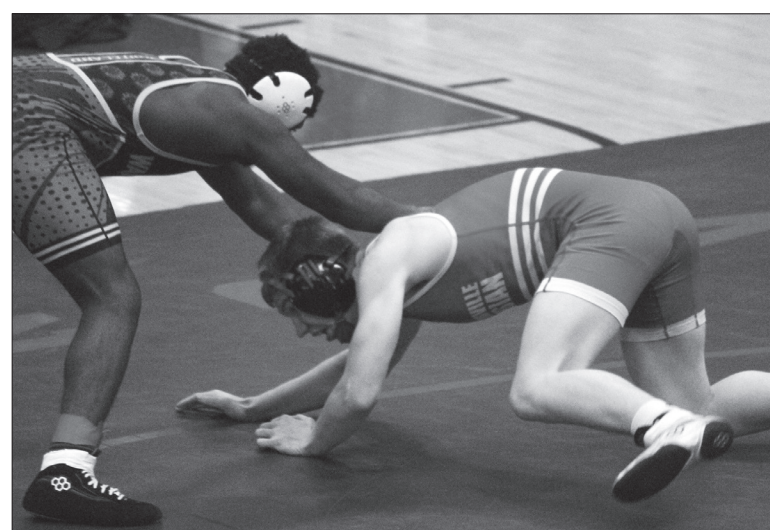


GRADE: Junior
SPORT: Boys basketball
REASON FOR AWARD: AJ DeFur has had a great season so far. He has been a consistent shooter in each game. While we have struggled on the season, DeFur has done a great job keeping his teammates focused on the goal.

KAYDIE EPLEY



GRADE: Freshman
SPORT: Girls wrestling
REASON FOR AWARD: Kaydie Epley placed 5th at the IHSGW State Finals last week. She has been a great addition to the team this season. It is very exciting to see the sport of girls wrestling grow! Kaydie is a prime example of a great contributor to the sport!



Martinsville's Morgan Harris competes in the 165-pound weight class during last Thursday's home wrestling meet with Whiteland. (Melissa Dillon photo / MCC)

Artesian wrestlers get win

By Melissa Dillon
MCC Correspondent

MARTINSVILLE — Martinsville's wrestling team is having a great season under first-year coach Aaron Johnson. Last Thursday, the Artesians had a Mid-State Conference win at home over Whiteland with a team score of 49-26.

Grayson Spurling started the night in the 285-pound match. He won by a pin in the first period at 1:54. Dalen Lane, at 106-pounds, did the same but a little bit quicker, getting a pin at 52 seconds. Brennan Leonard also got a pin at 113 pounds, giving Martinsville an 18-0

lead to start the night. Colton Randle competed at 120 pounds and lost by a pin in the second period (1:26). Nathan Crawford picked him up at 126 pounds as he won by a pin in the second period (1:20).

Danny Corbott got caught quickly at 132 pounds in the first period (:50). Tate Fredrick was pinned in the second period (:37) to put Whiteland within reach as a team.

Jonathon Fuller, at 144 pounds, beat his opponent 7-0 to get three points for the Artesians, but Christian Koons fell 9-1 in his fight at 150 pounds.

SEE ARTESIAN | PAGE B2

Pioneers have big crowd for conference game

By Melissa Dillon
MCC Correspondent

MOORESVILLE — The Mooresville boys basketball team played in front of a full house on Friday night for a Mid-State Conference matchup with Plainfield. The Pioneers kept it close until the second half, when the Quakers pulled away with some big shots on their end and defensive stops on the Pioneers' side of the court. Plainfield walked away with the 61-42 win over the Pioneers.

Plainfield made six 3-pointers in its efforts, as well as 13 2-pointers. The Quakers also made 17-for-19 at the foul line and had two players in double-digits. Mooresville went 11-for-17 at the line and had 11 2-pointers and three 3-pointers.

Mooresville sophomore Tyrone Elmore led the Pioneers with 13 points. Junior AJ Defur added nine points, junior Brevon Burns finished the night with eight,



Mooresville junior Bradley Robbins Jr. takes a shot over his defender during last Friday's home game against Plainfield. (Addison Dillon photo / MCC)



Mooresville junior Jayce Nielsen drives through traffic to find an open basket during last Friday's home game with Plainfield. (Addison Dillon photo / MCC)

with Franklin Community with a 4-0 conference record. Mooresville is 1-3 in the conference.

Plainfield senior Eli Ellis led with 19 points, and fellow senior Collin Schidt added 17. The duo was damaging all over the floor for the Pioneers.

Mooresville had a 7-6 lead after the first quarter. Defur had five points and Burns with two. Plainfield had a big second quarter with Ellis hitting three 3-pointers to help his team score 23 points to take a 29-19 lead. The Quakers kept at it, scoring 19 more in the third for a 48-37 lead after three. After a potential momentum changing run in the third, the Pioneers were silent in the fourth, scoring only five points while the Quakers kept trucking along and added 13 more to their total.

Mooresville turned around and defeated Parke Heritage on Saturday night by a score of 53-37.

The team travels to Whiteland on Friday night.

sophomore Christopher Thompson-Moore had five points, junior Jayce Nielsen with four, junior

Bradley Robbins Jr. with two and senior Wilkinson Elma with one. Plainfield is now tied

PIONEERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

of the time she got the ball, she drew a foul on a Quaker defender. Harshman went 14-for-16 in free throw shooting for the night, which in the end, proved to be the difference.

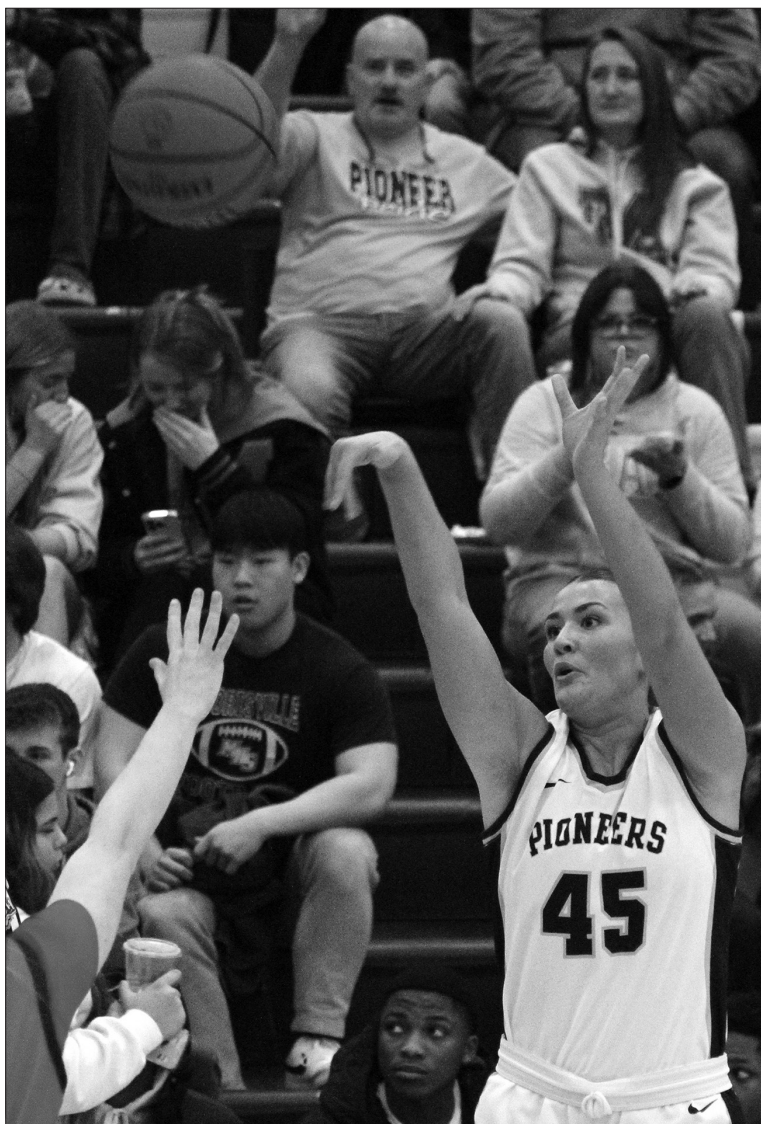
Harshman finished with 26 points with six 2-pointers added to her singles. Seniors Sydney Hardy and Kayln Bunch each had seven, junior Ava Shafer added six, sophomore Lyla Jacobs and senior Emma McGinley had three and junior Randee Garringer with one.

Both teams were tied at 19 points at halftime. Plainfield had a run to lead by 12 points before coach Hurt called a timeout and challenged his team to pick up the speed and pressure on defense. They did just that and started chipping away at the lead. Bunch had a bucket at the buzzer for a 35-27 ball game.

McGinley hit a 3-pointer before fouling out with less than two minutes to go. The Pioneers grabbed an offensive rebound and dished it out to Harshman for the shot and the foul. On the made free throw, the game was 43-41 with 49 seconds to go.

Harshman later had another two-point bucket and the Pioneers went straight into full court defense. Plainfield lost the ball out of bounds two times in a row. With little time, coach Hurt called a timeout and drew up an out-of-bounds play with all the girls on the free throw line. On the throw-in to Harshman, she found her way around a post defender and hit the layup to put the game to overtime.

"That's what Rachel does,"



Mooresville senior Kalyn Bunch takes a 3-point shot during Friday's home Mid-State Conference game with Plainfield. (Melissa Dillon photo / MCC)

coach Hurt said. "She hit a big shot for us at the end of regulation and tied it up. You also have to give Emma McGinley and Ava Shafer credit, I thought they hit two key 3-pointers there in the

fourth quarter to bring us within reach."

Harshman made a couple foul shots to give Mooresville its first lead of the half while in overtime. Shafer hit a three over a defender



Mooresville senior Emma McGinley passes to a teammate during Friday's home Mid-State Conference game with Plainfield. (Melissa Dillon photo / MCC)

on her heels, 50-47. The Pioneers kept looking for Harshman under the basket. She hit three of her last four shots to take the win, 53-47.

"Plainfield is a rivalry, and we were both tied for second place in

the conference coming in here," coach Hurt said. "It's a really good win for us. We still have some work to do. ... And we'll go over to Whiteland on Friday for our last conference game."



Mooresville's Mackenzie Pierson rotates during a dive. She finished third in the Pioneer diving competition on Saturday with a score of 358.25. (Melissa Dillon photo / MCC)

SWIM

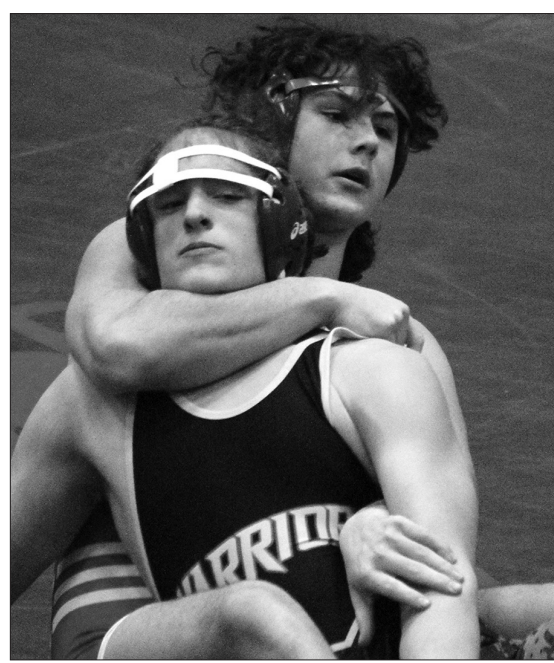
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"Sectionals this year, the top four get out of sectionals, and there are six girls," he said. "It's going to be a toss up. Anybody that shows up that day that has the right skills and consistency has

a shot. It only takes one screw up for them to be taken out of the equation. They're young, and I think they're hungry enough. They'll get out there and all do well. I'm looking for them to get better every day. I think at least two of them have a shot of moving on. It will be tough. They'll have to fight for it."



ABOVE: Martinsville's Ezra Frederick takes down his opponent from Whiteland in the 190-pound weight class during last Thursday's home meet. (Melissa Dillon photo / MCC)



LEFT: Martinsville's Dominic Mercer has control of the match at 215 pounds during last Thursday's home meet with Whiteland. (Melissa Dillon photo / MCC)

ARTESIAN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

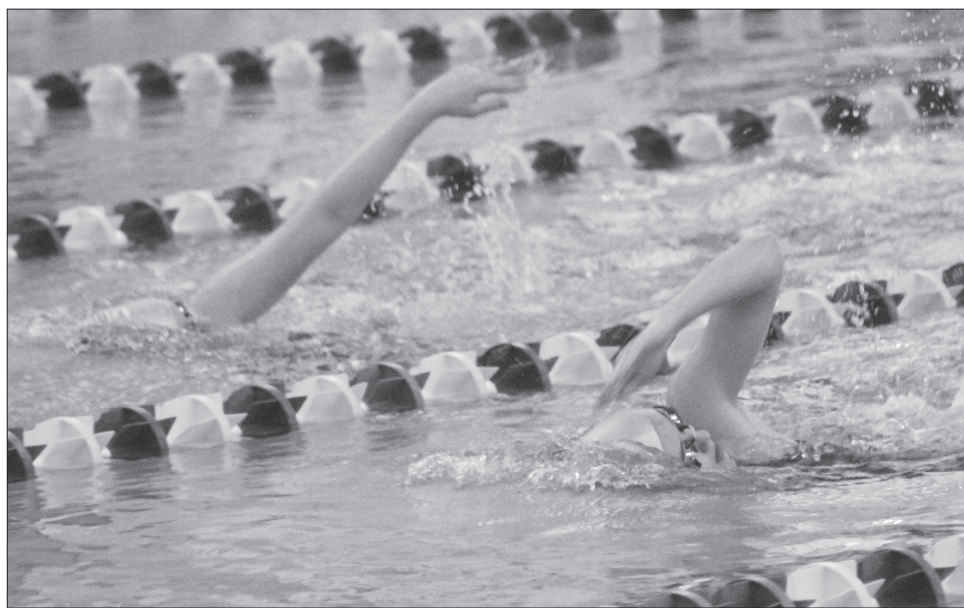
Evan Hamblin won his match at 157 pounds by 13-4. Morgan Harris also went the distance in his match at 165 pounds before he lost 17-7.

Noah Sumner struggled to move his opponent around at 175 pounds before he saw an opening and quickly got him in a headlock for a quick pin in the

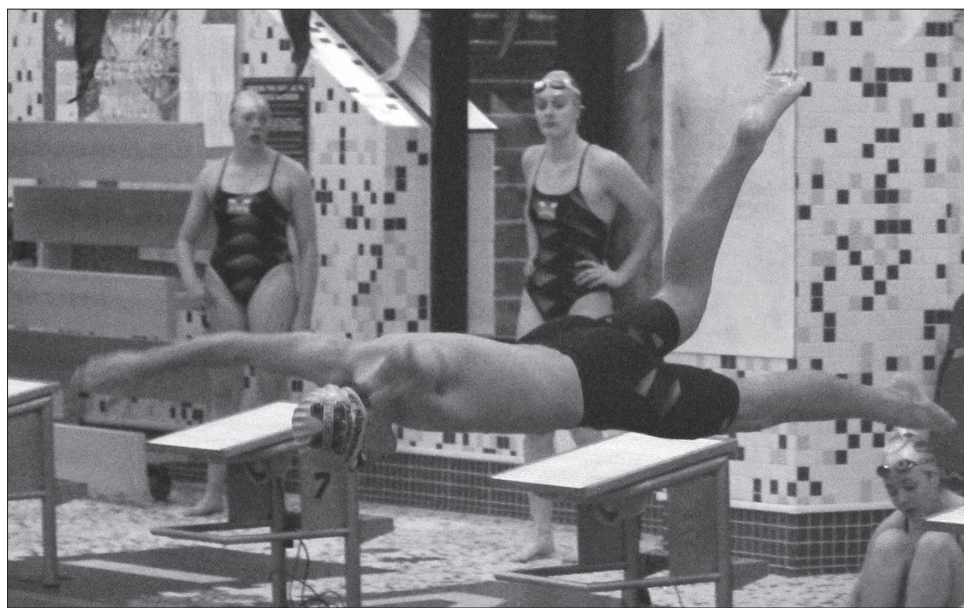
second period (:26).

At 190 pounds, Ezra Fredrick took care of business and won with a pin at 1:20 in the first period. In the last match of the night, Dominick Mercer scored 10 points before pinning his opponent in the second period (1:11).

Next up for the Artesians is Sectionals on Saturday to start the long postseason tournament. The tournament begins at 9 a.m. at Mooresville.



From left: Mooresville's Harlie Wilkins and Bella Mong stayed neck and neck during the entire 500-yard freestyle event during the Jan. 16 home meet. (Nevaeh Dillon photo / MCC)



Mooresville's Diesel Molin starts the last leg of the 400-yard freestyle relay during the Jan. 16 home meet. (Nevaeh Dillon photo / MCC)

County swim rivalry goes to Pioneers

By Melissa Dillon
MCC Correspondent

MOORESVILLE — The Mooresville girls and boys swimming and diving teams took care of business during the Jan. 16 home meet with Martinsville. The girls won by a score of 112-64 and the boys by 100-39.

There were a couple school records broken, which has been the trend of the season. Overall, the Pioneers had good races as the season winds down.

For the girls, Lylah Theriac won the 50-yard freestyle (24.87) and then won the 100-yard freestyle (53.60), Bella Mong won the 500-yard freestyle (7:49.03), and Harlie Wilkins took second (8:20.89) and fourth in the 100-yard backstroke (1:26.03), Marissa Lewis took second in the 200-yard freestyle (2:27.27) and third in the 100-yard freestyle (1:06.39).

Ellisyn Gillum finished



Mooresville's Marissa Lewis swims her way to third in the 100-yard freestyle during the Jan. 16 home meet. (Nevaeh Dillon photo / MCC)

fourth in the 200-yard freestyle (2:43.75), Kaitlyn Reed finished second in the 200-yard individual medley (3:07.27) and second in the 100-yard breaststroke (1:35.73), and Bella Brown took fourth in the 200-yard individual medley (3:10.87). Morgan Gainey took second in the 50-yard freestyle (27.39) and third in the 100-yard backstroke (1:19.41), Aleah Marine took second in the 100-yard

butterfly (1:30.01) and third in the 100-yard breaststroke (1:42.45) and Danielle Gilman finished third in the 100-yard butterfly (1:32.50) and won the 100-yard breaststroke (1:34.31).

Gilman, Theriac, Gainey and Marine took first in the 200-yard medley relay (2:13.29). Gainey, Gilman, Theriac and Lewis won the 200-yard freestyle relay (1:53.16). Lewis, Gillum, Marine and Reed took sec-



Mooresville's Aiden Neidlinger swims the 100-yard breaststroke during the Jan. 16 home meet. (Nevaeh Dillon photo / MCC)

ond in the 400-yard freestyle relay (4:47.40).

In the diving competition, Micah Bullock won it all, scoring 237.7 points. Tatum Humphrey was a close second with 212.4 points and Mackenzie Pierson finished third at 208.95.

Diesel Molin won the 100-yard freestyle for the boys with a 50.26 and he finished second in the 100-

yard breaststroke (1:08.29).

Luke Merkle won the 200-yard freestyle (2:18.58) and Samuel Bellner finished second (2:21.53), Daniel Enkhorn finished second in the 200-yard individual medley (2:33.87) and second in the 100-yard butterfly (1:11.89) and Aiden Neidlinger finished third in the 200-yard individual

medley (2:43.20) and third

in the 100-yard breaststroke (1:40.19).

Ethan Wondolkowski won the 50-yard freestyle (27.72) and then won the 500-yard freestyle (6:15.18), Grant Fox took third in the 100-yard butterfly (1:13.62) and second in the 100-yard backstroke (1:10.61), Owen Lawson finished second in the 50-yard freestyle (28.32), Jacob Gainey finished fourth in the 100-yard freestyle (1:00.11) and first in the 100-yard backstroke (1:09.79) and Samuel Bellner took second in the 500-yard freestyle (6:37.23).

Neidlinger, Molin, Gainey and Fox won the 200-yard medley relay (1:56.69). Gainey, Wondolkowski, Bellner and Enkhorn won the 200-yard freestyle relay (1:46.50). Enkhorn, Lawson, Merkle and Wondolkowski won the 400-yard freestyle relay (4:03.67).

SENIOR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

(1:38.98) and Sophie Linthicum won the 100-yard freestyle (1:07.12) and the 500-yard freestyle (6:31.71).

"I dropped some time in my events, but so far, it's been OK," Linthicum said. "I like the energy this year — it's been a lot of fun."

Liliana Huston won the diving competition with 181.55 points. Kendall Garrison finished second at 140.90 and Cora Chaplin took third at 132.80. Garrison swam the 100-yard breaststroke and took third (1:45.59).

Kasey Etter, Henselmeier, Lara and Linthicum won the 200-yard medley relay (2:13.53). Kasey Etter, Henselmeier, Lara and Linthicum won the 200-yard freestyle relay (2:01.30).

Ian Bain and Colin Bain competed in a 50-yard freestyle race for fun. Ian won with a time of 24.18 and Colin swam a 29.92.

"My senior season is going pretty well so far," Ian Bain said. "I obviously wanted to win Mid-State but I ended up getting second. We were both really close, so I think I could catch him if I trained well for it. This has been a fun season — definitely one of the top seasons. One of the reasons why he (brother Colin) swam this year was because I said, 'Hey, let's swim together,' and he kind of popped on."

Jamison Crabb won the 100-yard freestyle (58.34) and Colin Bain took second with a 1:10.93. Crabb won the 500-yard freestyle (6:13.76) and Logan Elliott finished second at 7:03.45. Elliott swam the 100-yard backstroke

in 1:16.57. Crabb, Elliott and the Bains finished the 200-yard medley relay with a 2:05.94. They swam the 200-yard freestyle relay with a 1:58.91.

The Artesians also traveled to Mooresville to compete the Tuesday before. The girls lost 112-64 and the boys 100-39.

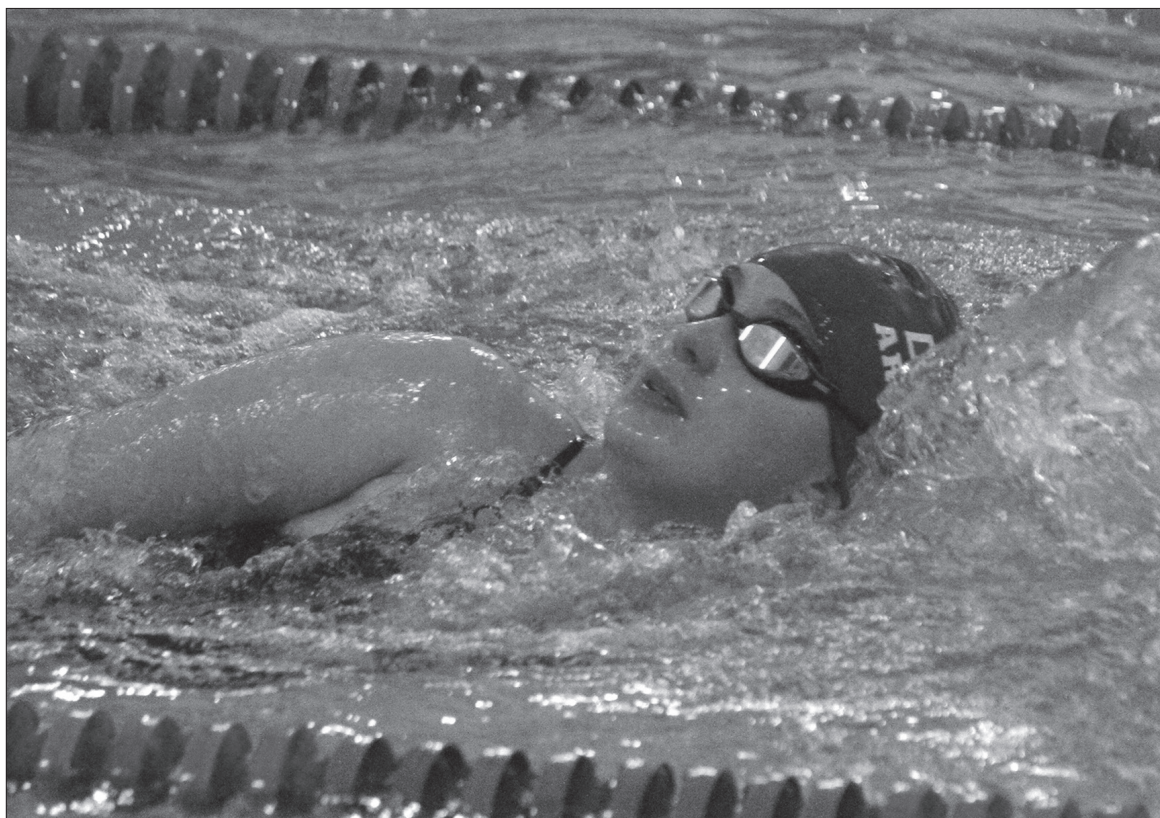
In the girls' races, Kasey Etter won the 200-yard freestyle (2:20.90) and won the 100-yard backstroke (1:13.50).

Lara finished third in the 200-yard freestyle (2:38.83), Kiley Etter won the 200-yard individual medley (2:55.07), Linthicum took third in the 50-yard freestyle (28.99) and second in the 100-yard freestyle (1:04.54) and Henselmeier won the 100-yard butterfly (1:23.21) and finished second in the 100-yard backstroke (1:15.53).

Lara, Kasey Etter, Henselmeier and Linthicum took second in the 200-yard medley relay (2:22.29) and England, Henselmeier and the Etters won the 400-yard freestyle relay (4:47.37).

Huston took fourth in diving with a 172.90. Chaplin finished fifth at 153.30 and Garrison sixth at 136.

Crabb won the 200-yard individual medley (2:29.17), Colin Bain finished third in the 50-yard freestyle (29.63) and then won the 100-yard butterfly (1:10.05), Ian Bain took second in the 100-yard freestyle (52.00) and then won the 100-yard breaststroke (1:05.37). Elliott took third in the 100-yard backstroke (1:14.51). Elliott, Crabb and the Bains took second in the 200-yard medley relay (2:06.31). They then took third in the 200-yard free relay (1:53.55).



TOP RIGHT: Martinsville senior Grace Albertson swims the 50-yard freestyle during Thursday's home meet and senior night. (Melissa Dillon photo / MCC)



BOTTOM RIGHT: Martinsville brothers senior Ian Bain (right) and Colin Bain face off in the 50-yard freestyle during Thursday's home meet and senior night. (Melissa Dillon photo / MCC)

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El Roi – the God who sees

By Mickey Elliott
Weekday Religious Education

In the Hebrew Bible, in the book of Genesis, Hagar called the divine God, “El Roi,” which is translated to “The God Who sees” and the modifier indicating a quality of God.

Our God is Elohim (creator) and El Roi (the God who sees). In the 16th chapter of Genesis, a young slave girl is pregnant, frightened and alone in the desert. She ran away from her master, Abraham, the father of the child she is carrying and his wife Sarah, who was so concerned she could not have a child, she talked to Abraham into fathering a child by her maid, Hagar, an Egyptian. Hagar felt she was being abused by Sarah and ran away into the desert.

It was in this situation this young woman was converted to the true and living God. God met with her in the desert. She learned that day that El Roi was watching over her and had a plan for her life.

El Roi told her she would have a son and that He would bless her and her son. El Roi (God) instructed her to return to her master. In



Genesis 16:13-14, Hagar gave the name El Roi to the Lord God who spoke to her — “You are the God who sees me.”

Hagar returned to her master. She was not alone the presence of El Roi, and His promises were in her heart to give her strength and courage to face each day with hope and confidence in the living God. In time, she gave birth to a son as God had promised and she named him Ishmael.

Time passed and Sarah had a child. Conflict began and Sarah insisted Hagar leave with her Ishmael. She left with Ishmael into

the desert, again alone and feeling God had not kept his promise. In Genesis 21:14-20, El Roi appeared again to Hagar as an angel of God. She was told not to be afraid, that God would make her son a great nation. Then God opened her eyes to a well of water and promised to be with her and her son as he grew and formed this nation.

Through the years she had trusted El Roi. She knew He had permitted her situation, but began questioning His promises. She need not have feared, for God once again was faithful to keep His promises.

We must remember our

God is sovereign and permits circumstances that are difficult. We do not understand, but God’s plan and purpose will be used for good, if we will trust Him. He does not forsake those who trust in His name (Psalm 9:10).

Does this mean no more trials? No, I am sorry, but it does mean you will have strength to cope and endure, even seeing how God uses them for good. We cannot control the choices others make, but we can experience the results. Our choices touch the lives of others in a positive or negative way. God will not force us to make good choices, but we must not forget our choices influence the lives of those around us.

He does promise to enable us to cope and even find peace amid them. The promises God made to Hagar and Ishmael so many years before were very difficult, and the years stretched into such a long difficult experience, but never so long or difficult that it destroyed the power of God and His promises to Hagar. He saw her pain and remembered His promises.

Remember, when you fail for a time to find God’s help

or to receive answers, hold on to His promises. Know He is God “El Roi” who sees you. Open your eyes to his power and ask Him to increase your faith, even and especially when His promises seem impossible to fulfill. He is faithful.

God sees the small sacrifices we make that no one else sees. He alone truly knows our heart. I am reminded many years ago when I began my walk with Jesus. I wanted to give financially to Wheeler Mission in Indianapolis. I visited and saw the many needs of the homeless and families with great needs. Financially, we were strapped. My husband worked two jobs and I worked outside the home. Money was very tight; but we were doing well to pay our bills.

I decided to give to this mission, and in doing so, I would need to give up some personal things in my life that I enjoyed. So, I gave up coffee and donuts for breakfast at work in the mornings. I took my lunch everyday or fasted. No more Pepsi breaks, and I did not stop on the way home to enjoy an ice cream bar.

This was between me and my El Roi; even my husband was not aware of what I was doing. Soon I began to fill up my mission jar with change every day. I was so excited and my relationship with my Jesus became so much sweeter. Taking that jar of change to my Missionary Meeting was such a blessing. I was so thankful I was able to help the mission provide food and clothing for those in such need.

God blessed me abundantly in my spirit and attitude. It was by far more enjoyable than the coffee, donuts, lunch and Pepsi and dream cycle was. It put a smile on my face and a song in my heart. Jesus has taught me so many things since we began my journey with this precious friend and Savior. He is so faithful. He is the God who sees and provides for us. A God who keeps His promises.

God bless and keep you warm and encourage your faith daily as you walk with Him.

Contact us at Morgan County Schools of Weekday Religious Education, P.O. Box 1285, Martinsville, IN 46151.

Church Directory

Trinity Worship Center • 200 Lenoil Road, Martinsville • 765-342-7600 • twcmartinsville.com • businessoffice@twcmartinsville.com • Pastor Jeffrey Gott • Sundays at 10:30 a.m., Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Alaska Christian Church • 7230 Lewisville Road, Quincy • 317-383-6300 • Facebook: Alaska Christian Church • alaskaorgan@gmail.com • Pastor Kevin Short • Sunday blended worship 11 a.m., as well as kids worship/nursery

Centennial Christian Church • 1510 Centennial Road, Martinsville • martinsvilleccc@gmail.com • Pastor Skip Rote • Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., service at 10:30 a.m.

Good Shepherd Baptist Church • 1150 State Road 144, Mooresville • 317-831-1279 • gsbccindy.com • info@gsbcindy.com • Pastor Brandon Sighting • Sunday School at 9:15 a.m., morning worship at 10:30 a.m., evening worship at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday Bible Study at 11 a.m., small groups at 7 p.m.

Prince of Peace Lutheran • 3496 E. Morgan St., Martinsville • 765-342-2004 • popmartinsville.org • popchurchlms@hotmail.com • Pastor Nathan Janssen • Sundays at 9 a.m., Wednesdays at noon

River Valley Christian Church • 4295 Egbert Road, Martinsville • 765-349-2700 or 765-318-2741 • rivervalleychristianchurch.com • kevinable@rivervalleychristianchurch.com • Kevin Able • Sunday worship at 10 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study at 6:30 p.m., Thursday adult bible study at 10 a.m.

Spirit of Life Church • 189 W. Indiana St., Martinsville • 765-342-8123 • slcmartinsville.org • slcstudentministries@gmail.com • Pastor Kenny Collier • Sunday Service with Kids Classes at 10 a.m., Youth Group on Sundays 6-8 p.m., Monday Bible Studies 6:30 p.m.

Zion's Hill Baptist Church • 5050 Turkey Track Road, Martinsville • 765-349-3862 • zionshillbc.com • church.zionshill@gmail.com • Pastor Warner Swopes • Sunday service 9:30 a.m., Sunday School/Connection Groups follow service.

Morgan Street Church of Christ • 540 E. Morgan St., Martinsville • 765-342-6027 • morganstreetchurchofchrist.com • davidknoy@att.net • Pastor Robert Hawkins • Sunday Bible study 9:30 a.m., Sunday service at 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.

St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church • 1720 E. Harrison St., Martinsville • 765-342-6379 • stmtours.org • parishoffice@stmtours.org • Rev. Stephen Giannini •

INFORMATION

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Saturday confession at 3 p.m., Mass at 4 p.m.; Sunday Mass at 10 a.m.; Tuesday and Thursday Mass at 8:10 a.m. Check website for Holy Days of Obligation.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church • 1109 E. Morgan St., Martinsville • 765-342-1682 • stmarysmartinsville.com • stmarys1109@gmail.com • Rev. Todd Kissam • Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

First Methodist Church of Martinsville • 3150 Myra Lane, Martinsville • 765-342-3558 • fmcmartinsville.org • office@fmcmartinsville.org • Pastor David Ballinger • Sunday service at 9 a.m.

First Baptist Church • 1109 E. Columbus St., Martinsville • 765-342-3616 • firstbaptistmartinsville.org • fbcmart@sbccglobal.net • Pastor John Maples • Sunday service at 9:30 a.m.

Paragon Christian Church • 290 Main St., Paragon • 765-537-2683 • Facebook: Paragon Christian • paragon.christian.church@gmail.com • Pastor Luke Jackson • Sunday service at 10 a.m.

Life of Love MC • 265 Morton Ave., Martinsville • 765-341-9466 • lol-mc.com • lolmc@gmail.com • Jason and Shelly Abney • Sunday prayer at 10 a.m., service at 11 a.m., Wednesday service at 7 p.m.

Gospel Lighthouse Assembly • 340 Hoosier St., Morgantown • 865-253-4109 • f.criswell112@att.net • Rev. Frank Criswell • Sunday at 10 a.m., Wednesday at 6 p.m.

Monrovia Christian Church • 710 Gordon Road, Monrovia • 317-996-2812 • monroviacc.org • mccooffice@ccrct.com • Pastor Richard Dickson • Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church • 240 E. Washington St., Martinsville • 765-342-3282 • fpcmartinsville.org • office@fpcmartinsville.org • Rev. John Erickson • Sunday at 10 a.m.

Hoosier Harvest Church • 4085 Leonard Road, Martinsville • 765-349-0552 • hhchurch.com • Susie@hhchurch.com • Pastor Chris Page • Sunday at 10 a.m.

Grace Church Camby • 4172 E. Allison Road, Camby

• 317-831-0798 • discovergrace.net • info@discovergrace.net • Pastor Marty Longcor • Sunday at 9:30 and 11 a.m.

Zion's Hill Baptist Church • 5050 Turkey Track Road, Martinsville • 765-349-3862 • zionshillbc.com • church.zionshill@gmail.com • Pastor Warner Swopes • Sunday at 9:30 a.m. followed by Sunday School.

New View Community Church (nondenom) • 4265 Wilbur Road, Martinsville • newviewcc.com • info@newviewcc.com • Pastor Brian Fleener • Sunday School at 9:45 a.m., service at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday at 6 p.m.

Olive Christian Church • 1967 N. Olive Church Road, Paragon • 765-537-2415 • Facebook.com/olivechristianchurch.in • Pastor Kurt Berger • Sunday service at 9:30 a.m., Sunday School at 11 a.m.

Hynsdale Christian Church • 1067 Old St. Rd. 67, Martinsville • annievv@peoplepc.com • Pastor Susan Hanscom • Sunday service at 10 a.m.

Church of Christ • 800 S. Crawford St., Martinsville • martinsvillecoc.org • churchofchristelders@gmail.com • Sundays at 10 a.m., Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Martinsville Church of the Firstborn • 2032 Ind. 252, Martinsville • 765-342-4565 • mcoft252@gmail.com • Pastor Max Piercefield • Sunday service and children's church at 10 a.m.

Whitaker Baptist Church • 3490 S. Lingle Road, Paragon • 812-879-4498 • whitakerbaptistvbbs@gmail.com • Pastor Charles Tinsley • Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., service at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday Bible study at 7 p.m.

M1 Church of the Nazarene • 1609 John R. Wooden Drive, Martinsville • 765-342-2269 • m1nazarene.org • Pastor Jeff Floyd • Sunday School at 9 a.m., service at 10 a.m., Wednesday youth/kids at 6:30 p.m., Bible study at 7 p.m.

Mt. Gilead Church • 6019 E. Ind. 144, Mooresville • 317-831-1900 • mgchurch.org • Senior Minister Jeff Faulk • Sunday services at 9 and 10:30 a.m.

Brooklyn Christian Church • 7 S. Church St., Brooklyn • 317-840-8789 • Pastor Doug Burns • dburnsnavy@gmail.com • Sunday service at 10:40 a.m.

Eastview Christian Church • 2745 Old Morgantown Road, Martinsville • 765-342-4483 • ecc@eastviewchristianchurch.org • eastviewchristianchurch.org • Senior minister Nathan Crowe • Sunday school at 9 a.m., service at 10 a.m.

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) • 525

N. Indiana St., Mooresville • 317-831-2777 • firstccmoorville.org • office@firstccmoorville.org • Pastor Glenda Survance • Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

Faith Missionary Church • 1895 St. Rd. 44, Martinsville • 765-342-2228 • myfaithchurch.org • info@myfaithchurch.org • Pastor Matt Tucker • Sundays at 10 a.m. with nursery and children's services.

First Christian Church of Martinsville (Disciples of Christ) • 89 S. Main St., Martinsville • 765-342-3461 • fccmartinsville.org • Facebook: First Christian Church of Martinsville, Indiana • Rev. Roxie McNelly • Sunday service at 9:30 a.m. (previous week's sermon on 102.3 WCBK at 9:30 a.m.); discipleship classes at 10:30 a.m.

Liberty Christian Church • 2010 Liberty Church Road, Martinsville • 765-342-8519 • office@lccmartinsville.com • lccmartinsville.com • Pastor Dewayne Lieb-randt • Sunday School at 9 a.m., service at 10:15 a.m. and contemporary at 6:30 p.m., deaf service first and third Sundays.

Life Pointe Community Church • 825 N. Indiana St., Mooresville • 317-831-0659 • lpcommunity.com • medens@lpcommunity.com • Pastor Jeff Thomas • Sunday service with kids programming at 10:30 a.m.

Mooresville Friends Church • 50 N. Monroe St., Mooresville • 317-831-2800 • moorvillefriends.net • moorvillefriends@att.net • Pastor Stan Banker, Presiding Clerk of Meeting John Heshelman • Sunday service at 10:30 a.m.

New Life Community Wesleyan Church • 4356 E. Ind. 144, Mooresville • 317-372-7757 • nlcw-church.com • info@nlcw-church.com • Pastor Michael Linville II • Sunday service at 10:30 a.m.

Mooresville Free Methodist Church • 20 Star Lane, Mooresville • 317-831-3874 • moorvillefmcchurch.org • moorvillefmc.pastor@gmail.com • Pastor Jon Stemerick • Sunday service at 10 a.m. with doughnuts and coffee at 9:30 a.m., Wednesday prayer meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Mooresville First United Methodist • 900 Indianapolis Road, Mooresville • 317-831-3376 • moorvillefumc.org • info@moorvillefumc.org • Rev. Dr. Amber Karkosky • Traditional Sunday service at 8:30 a.m., contemporary at 9:45 a.m.

Pleasant Grove Christian Church • 6605 Maple Grove Road, Martinsville • 765-342-6277 • Pastor Jim Land • Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., service at 10:30 a.m.

St. Thomas More Church • 1200 N. Indiana St., Mooresville • 317-831-4142 • stm-church.org • pweb-ber@stm-church.org • Father Jude Meril Sahayam • Saturday at 5:30 p.m., Sunday at 10:45 a.m.

Classifieds

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January 1944 – World War II at 80

By Ronald P. May
MCC Contributor

ANZIO, Italy — In January 1944, combat operations in World War II had been ongoing for two years for Americans and almost four years for Europeans.

Late in 1942, U.S. forces landed in North Africa and helped the British defeat the German tank forces there in 1943.

U.S. and British armies then spring boarded from North Africa into Sicily in July 1943 and reached the boot of mainland Italy in September, all the while engaging enemy German forces.

At the start of 1944, U.S. and British forces of the Allied VI Corps made another bold amphibious landing on Italian shoreline. This one was near the western coastal cities of Anzio and Nettuno, located 35 miles south of Rome.

The date for the landing was Jan. 22, 1944. And the codename was Operation Shingle.

The goal of the operation was to break the stalemate in southern Italy between German and Allied forces by flanking the enemy and piercing their Gustav Line of defense before moving on to Rome.

This worthy effort, however, bogged down quickly with the defensive resistance of the German forces, which kept the Allies pinned down to the beachhead for the next four months.

Meanwhile, Allied operations in the South Pacific were making progress at the start of 1944.

Japan had reached its zenith of territorial expansion two years earlier in 1942.

Allied advances against Japanese naval and air forces had begun with a stalemate in the Coral Sea in 1942, followed by a victory at Midway Island in 1942. Guadalcanal was brought under Allied control by February 1943 and Tarawa, in the Gilbert Island chain, fell in November 1943.

At end of 1943, the Allies began pressing northwesterly from Guadalcanal into Japan's southern empire. The island of Bougainville was in their path. It had been occupied by Japanese forces since 1942.

Bougainville was less than 1,000 miles north of Australia and less than 600 miles east of Papua New Guinea.

The 3rd Marine Division landed on Bougainville in November 1943. Army Divisions arrived on the island in January 1944 to relieve the Marines.

A local soldier

Carl Hawkins was one of the Army infantrymen arriving there.

Born in 1923 in Trafalgar, Hawkins was trained as a combat infantryman and truck driver and assigned to the 132nd Infantry Regiment in the Americal Division.

In January 1944, the 132nd arrived on the island of Bou-

gainville for operation Cherry Blossom. Their mission was to hold and extend the perimeter against the Japanese forces.

The operation was ultimately a success, but Hawkins was injured during combat. While in his foxhole, he was hit in the back of the head with shrapnel or a bullet fragment. He turned around and was then hit again, this time on the side of his mouth.

He was sent to a hospital in the Philippines and, following his recovery, returned to combat. But a nasty scar marred his upper lip. He grew a moustache to hide it.

It was a moustache that he would wear for the rest of his life.

After two years of service abroad, which included combat duty in the Solomon Islands and the Philippines, Hawkins returned to the U.S. in November 1945. The Purple Heart recipient received his honorable discharge and came back to Indiana.

While getting discharged, Hawkins met Ruth Esther Hacker from Morgantown, who was working at Camp Atterbury as a cook and nurse's aide. The couple dated for 10 months and were then married in October 1946.

Their daughter Virginia Jean was born a short time later. She was their only child.

Hawkins worked as a mechanic for International Harvester in Indianapolis before buying into Standard Oil and operating a service station in Paragon for 30 years, retiring at the age of 60.

In retirement, and following his wife's death, he moved to Florida and enjoyed 10 years in the warmth and sunshine.

Hawkins' daughter moved her father to Martinsville in 1993 to be close to her after he suffered an aneurysm.

Carl W. Hawkins died in 2003.

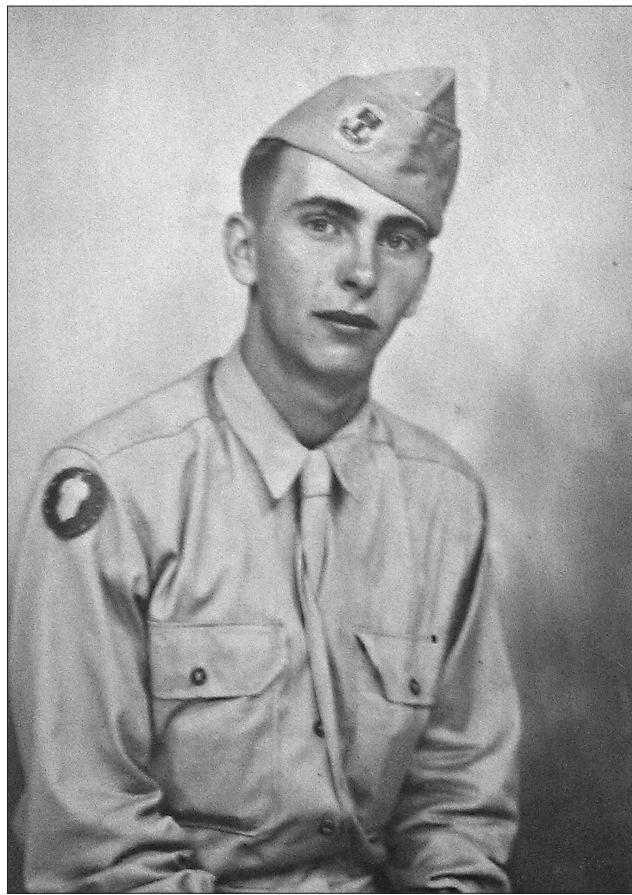
Normandy preparations

England was also busy in January 1944. The massive amphibious landing at Normandy was only six months away.

General Eisenhower, who was appointed the Supreme Allied Commander by President Roosevelt a month earlier, was in England finalizing the plans for Operation Overlord with the other members of the Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Forces.

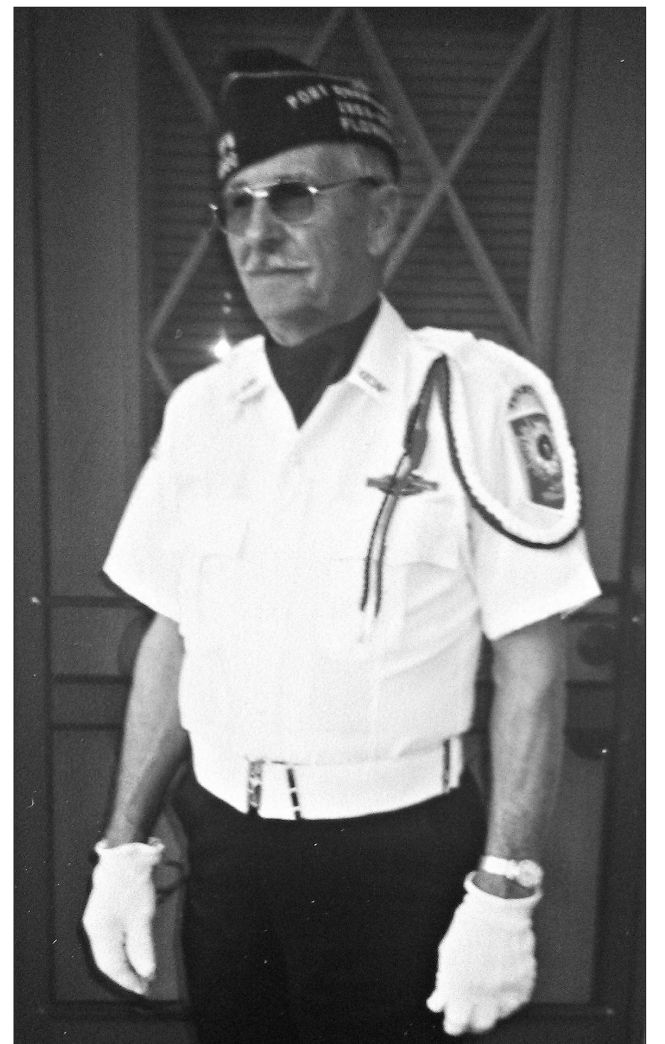
That same month, British midget submarines crossed the English Channel and secretly landed at the Normandy Beaches. The mission was to gather sand samples that were tested to determine if the chosen beaches would support the weight of tanks and other vehicles that the Allies intended to offload during the invasion.

Preparations for the Normandy invasion were also taking place from the air in early 1944 as British and U.S. aircraft began secret drops of weapons and supplies to resis-



ABOVE: Morgan County resident Carl Hawkins in his service uniform. Hawkins was wounded in combat before making his return back home. (Virginia Holsapple courtesy photo)

RIGHT: Carl stands in his VFW uniform back in 1992 at the age of 70. (Virginia Holsapple courtesy photo)



Troops and equipment come ashore on U.S. Fifth Army beachhead near Anzio on Jan. 22, 1944. (National Archives public domain photo)

tance groups in the occupied countries of France and Holland for their fight against the Germans.

Next Time: "February 1944"

Freelance writer Ronald P. May, author, historian, and public speaker on World War II, begins a new article series today: World War II at 80. Each article will review the most significant events that took place in that month of the war 80 years ago, as well as feature a story from a Morgan County veteran who was there. Learn more about May's books at <https://ronaldpmay.com> or contact him at ron@ronaldpmay.com. View his videos at his YouTube channel: World War II History & Stories with Ron May.



U.S. soldiers help clear the Pacific island of Bougainville, after relieving the U.S. Marines who had been fending off Japanese for two months. (National Archives and Records Administration)

Morgan County's jails over the years

By Ellen Wilson Pruitt
Morgan County History
Center and Museum

When thinking about the early days of any new settlement in a wilderness area, there are many elements that we take for granted in our lives today that had to be established for safety and to allow the fledgling area to flourish. One of those things is law enforcement. Not all of the early pioneers were God-fearing and mindful of the rights of their neighbors. "Keeping the peace" was a necessity.

The former Morgan County Jail, located just west of the courthouse square in Martinsville, is a building that could tell many stories since its construction in the 1800s.

This wasn't the first jail in Morgan County, but in December of 1890, this was the fifth correctional facility to be utilized by Morgan County and considered to be a state-of-the-art jail at the time. The first jail was a small log structure built in 1824, which was destroyed



The old Morgan County Jail and Sheriff's Residence — as seen in this 2011 photo — was in need of some repair work but still structurally sound. Its original construction was completed in 1890, and it was used as the county jail for more than 100 years. It has since been refurbished and repurposed, now serving as senior living apartments. But many of the bars on the windows remain in place as homage to its former purpose. (Earl Leatherberry courtesy photo)

by fire in 1826. A brick jail was constructed where the courthouse now stands. A third log structure was then built 10 years later in the northeasterly portion of the town. The fourth jail was housed inside the Morgan County Courthouse, start-

ing between 1857 and 1859. During renovation of the courthouse, the original jail cell was discovered within the walls of the Treasurer's Office. It was decided to separate the correctional facility from the courthouse and the current remaining

structure was completed in December of 1890. It was also built to hold 40 inmates. It was listed on the National Historic Register in 1996. John Dillinger's first crime of robbing a grocery in Mooresville placed him

in the jail in 1925 or 1926, awaiting trial for which he was found guilty and then sent to prison. This is a jail that Dillinger did not escape from.

The jail also held the convicted murderer Steven Judy. He waved all appeals and when he was executed in 1981, he was the first person executed in Indiana in more than 20 years. The jail also contained a residence for the Morgan County Sheriff. It continued to be used until the new jail was built in the 1990s.

The former jail now has been converted into senior apartments, allowing the outside integrity of the building to remain — complete with steel bars on certain windows — but still be functional today, as opposed to being demolished.

Flaherty and Collins (the same group that converted the Martinsville Sanitarium building into apartments) refurbished it, which now includes five apartments. Safety requirements dictated that the original cell-

block at the rear of the building be sealed off and remain unused. It still remains attached as a reminder of the building original history.

The building holds a protective covenant by Indiana Landmarks to make sure the exterior of the building is kept to its 1880 Italianate architectural integrity.

Now don't worry if you are contemplating a brush with the law in the near future. Sheriff Rich Myers has accommodations at the new Morgan County B&B (Bars and Bunk).

The late Randy Manley compiled a history of the Morgan County Sheriff's Dept. and it makes for interesting and well worth reading. It can be found at in.gov/sheriffs/morgan/files/history-sheriffs-office.pdf.

We are grateful to all those peace officers who have gone through those jailhouse doors over the years and for those who continue to keep Morgan County safe and in order.

MSD OF MARTINSVILLE HONOR ROLL — SECOND QUARTER (K-8)

ALL-A HONOR ROLL

Wren Andrews
 Braxton Kirk
 Maverick Richey
 Makynleigh Sanders
 Aelynn Simpson
 David Warner II
 Carter Heare
 Elliott Hogan
 Layne Kaufman
 Rainey McGowen
 Beckham Ralph
 Elsie Ribley
 Ashlyn Walters
 Jackson Clark
 Emberleigh Dunbar
 Markus Pasborg
 Tucker Perry
 Everett Burgess
 Greylen Byers
 Adleigh Dunbar
 Sadie Harriman
 John Konen
 Nolan Neff
 Sofia Parrish
 Irelynn Simpson
 Anaston Wood
 Beau Allison
 Cooper Carson
 Will Walker
 Alec Chamberlain
 Levi Craven
 Avery Jette
 Jeremiah Mings
 Morgan Sighting
 Addison Jette
 Kayseigh Whitehead
 Ava Armstrong
 Ahelis Carpenter
 Cora Collins
 Owen Cox
 Amelia Cragen
 Zachary Crismore
 Lucas Ford
 Hudsyn Gardner
 Thomas Jackson
 Cooper Jones
 Quincy Jordan
 Devin Latham
 Ezekiel Lopez
 Sterling Macowan
 Kadence Miller
 Taitum Miller
 Charlotte Peine
 Deegan Pierson
 Barrett Rainwater
 Abigail Shinkle
 Alexandra Silliman
 Allysun Smith
 Quinn Thatcher
 Tommy Thompson
 Ronald Tucker
 Finley Waterman
 Ayyah Wrightsman
 Kendyll Anderson
 Oliver Badger-Bridewell
 Cyrus Bailey
 Zander Beresford
 Triton Brummett
 Owen Chamberlain
 Maxwell Dillon
 Hailey Edwards
 Kendal Etter
 Hailey Goss
 Levi Goss-Mattos
 Emma Hargis
 Parker Hayes
 Mar. Hedrick
 Cash Holbrook
 Lennox Jordan
 Avery Kocher
 Aubrey Lawson
 Corbi. Littell
 Ayla Oakley
 Blake Pieper
 Nathin Plummer
 Nathaniel Robbins
 Vincent Rush
 Braxton Simpson
 Charles Smith
 Hayley Stephenson
 Lucas Toloday
 Izabelle Wolf
 Abram Wolff
 Emma Drummond
 Ashtyn Ennis
 Hadley Howe
 Olivia Jones
 Amelia Kingen
 Hope leitzman
 Callum Mcdougal
 Blair Peterson
 Forest Peterson
 Cole Patton
 Jordyn Pope
 Drew Porterfield
 Ivy Ritter
 Wyatt Rouse
 Truly Scott
 Leo Smith
 Keiyan Wrightsman
 Korah Conway
 Luke Cromwell
 Taylor Manley
 Bryson Middleton
 Jude Scheve
 Alexia Burchfield
 Aaren Cross
 Laney Ferguson
 Landon Huff
 Nolan Porterfield
 Jackson Van Winkle
 McKenna Watson
 Briella Woods
 Khristian Conway
 Knox Gardner
 Madison Howe
 Noah Lechtenberg
 Spenser Manley
 Cutler Taylor
 Jasper Woodford
 Callan Bennett
 Mirra Blankenship
 Norie Brown
 Linus Bryson
 Kaitlyn Chambon
 Brantlee Cooper
 Leiona Fair
 Bean Feedback
 Hudson Fisher
 Reid Fleck
 Emmy Fulford
 Thomas Haney
 Neriah Higgins
 Braelynn Holtsclaw
 Ruby Hudlow



Marina Knoy
 Emma Martin
 Landon Martin
 Cyprus McDaniel
 Alice Mundell
 Thomas Otero
 Christina Owens
 Meadow Phillips
 Skyley Rains-Goode
 Hudson Rice
 A.J. Robinson
 Quinn Rose
 Lucas Ruddell
 Sawyer Short
 Jaxen Thompson
 Avery Thrasher
 Journee Thrasher
 Bethany Wangler
 Vivian Armstrong
 Paxon Brown
 Hunter Ennis
 Eliza Fields
 Taylor Hittel
 Ava Hodges
 Bella Hodges
 Cooper Hodges
 Paisley Holland
 Olivia Jewart
 Gabby Lopez
 Hannah Martin
 Chloe Miller
 Tucker Sullivan
 Leah Way
 Lakelyn Demott
 Aubree Mitchell
 Eli McGlone
 Ian Chamberlain
 Kaydence Engle
 Max Foley
 Cora Hayden
 Addy Huff
 Ben Lawson
 Caleb Peterson
 Natalie Waggoner
 Gwen Stromberger
 Addy Ferguson
 Olivia Spencer
 Kinley Henderson
 Sophia Ennis
 River Kerfoot
 Layla Blackburn
 AJ Fraker
 Trinity Bowling
 Sophie McAdams
 Aubree Whaley
 Lindsay Flanary
 Isabella Lambert
 Troy Wiggins
 Jherika St. John
 Andrew Goocey
 Coen Alderson
 Michael Alonso
 Oren Barrett
 Charolette Bennett
 Everly Bennett
 Sophia Bennett
 Jolene Blackburn
 Thayne Boswell
 Adrian Britt
 Luna Britton
 Gareth Bryant
 Keaton Coffman
 Kendall Colip
 Elenor Crabb
 Everly Deaner
 Willow Demott
 Lincoln Dougherty
 Hudson Ferguson
 Hendrix Ferran
 Braden Flanery
 Jude Gilpin
 Dierks Griffith
 Owen Hacker
 Joseph Hall
 Weston Hamm
 Jaekob Hatton
 John Hobbs
 Lucy Holden
 Dex Jennings
 Elliana Jewart
 Sydney Ksenak
 Maverick Lauck
 Rikki Mccartney-Moore
 Gwen McElroy
 Sadi Mitchell
 Roslaie Newman
 Cole Patton
 Marleigh Payne
 Madison Pearson
 Kylee Pollard
 William Purkey
 Raelynn Quakenbush
 Ryder Reed
 Jason Rike
 Lillian Robbins
 Huxley Savage
 Ellaina Schott
 Sebastian Sterling
 Andrew Stogsdill
 Vera Tharp
 Waylon Tyler
 Hunter Watkins
 Oaklynn Weaver
 Montana Western
 Charlee Windell
 Bentlee Zike
 Abigail Schmidt
 Addy Petter
 Alexandria Chamberlain
 Alison Cromwell
 Amelia Blondell
 Bowyn Mathers
 Carson Smith
 Cashton Rooker
 Colson Haley
 Dalen Schoolcraft
 Dean Murray
 Gracie Menard
 Grayson Craven
 Harper Yarnell
 Harper Yearly
 Henry Horton
 Isaac Cook
 Jacob Willard
 Emma Fulford
 James McDaniel
 Jamil Orozco
 Autumn Holland
 Jayden Culp

Johnathan McDaniel
 Jordan Miller
 Kylee Akers
 Tyler Hostetter
 Layla Meeks
 Maylee Rooker
 McKaiye Inabnit
 Nova-Jade Snoddy
 Payne Harper
 Peyton Harden
 Quinn Massey
 Remi Ennis
 Ricky Parmerlee
 Sawyer Love
 Sophia Allard-Hyatt
 Stevie Hobbs
 Teresa Alexander
 Wren Witty
 Grayson Bunton
 Renlee Callis
 Madilyn Dowler
 Frankie Eisenmenger
 Harrison Hipp
 Corbin Iwema
 Bowen Kunkler
 Willow Lambert
 Cricket Napier
 Mattilyn Randolph-Justus
 Ryder Robertson
 Betty Runnebohm
 Cambrie Schoening
 Reid Sims
 Lahna Summeier
 Carter Newiman
 Ferran, Hadley
 Braylen Garrett
 Cara Garrett
 Charleigh Hall
 Stevie Kirk
 Gunner McGuire
 Andrew Myers-Stover
 Weston Nenedjian
 Zo Sangl
 Ciriah Stephy
 Sawyer Strange
 Lucas Wessel
 Tate Wiggins
 Owen Armstrong
 Jackson Cashman
 Kensley Ennis
 John Lambert
 Eva Price
 Chris Zama
 Jayde Garrett
 Dominic Lawson
 Aubree Long
 Tytis Thompson
 Evan Waggoner
 Blakely Wolff
 Brantley Myers
 Tatum Caze
 Olivia Deputy
 Harrison Hipp
 Cali Lawson
 Jysen Myers
 Jennifer Sung
 Collin Young
 Jacob Carmichael
 Beau Craven
 Caroline Hall
 Colton Jeffries
 Jordyn Long
 Rhett Sullivan
 Greyson Ferguson
 Caitlin Gibson
 Mason Long
 Letty Massey
 Alysha Patel
 Ayden Vandagriff
 Theo Higgins
 Addaline Sexton
 Colton Massy
 Ava Rynard
 Nash Brinkman
 Alina Patel
 Lukas Whitaker
 Kash Hensley
 Parker Holloway
 Andromeda Moore
 Serenity Morgan
 Ellee Noel
 Elizabeth Troxal
 Jaylyn Zike
 Lydia Harden
 Bentley Abner
 Logan Atherton
 Clara Gibson
 Audrey Lindsay

A-B HONOR ROLL

Jameson Holloway
 Ava Jones
 Silas Shaw
 Alexia Crane
 Braxton Finch
 Alaynah Gregory
 Jace Myers
 Cash Arthur
 Brantlee Austin
 Liam Best
 Gracelynn Coons
 Micah Duvall
 Layla Flores
 Colton Humphries
 Emilia O'Mullane
 Easton Patrick
 Alanna Baker
 Aubree Bruno
 Samuel Duvall
 Ezra Gedrich
 Tesirae Lane
 Levi Morris
 Windy Rike
 Emmet Teeters
 Brennick Bell
 Carter Dove
 Cameron Gedrich
 Kayleigh Heare
 Oliver Janneck
 Alexander Bigham
 Hailey Dove
 Jayce Ferran
 Robert Gregory
 Branson Hopkins
 Wren Jeter
 Westin Kent
 Hunter Ketcham
 Brendan Lybarger
 Hayden Mount
 Lenore Shively
 Abigail Bruno
 Lily Hopkins
 Liam O'Mullane
 Hayden Parrison
 Autumn Rike
 Cutler Wright

Lillian Kocher
 Trista Lane
 Olivia McCoy
 Hannah Murphy
 Jackson Secret
 Mia Sims
 Sean Abner
 Corban Alexander
 Alexa Allard-Gorham
 Sara Allen
 Tyson Allen
 Henry Barco
 Tailor Brewer
 Brody Brown
 Loren Broyer
 Hannah Cleveland
 Lydia Copley
 Alice Crabtree
 Colt Cragen
 Julia Crone
 Liberty Crosley
 Autumn D'souza
 Adama Diallo
 Nevaeh Dow
 Faith Dubose
 Elsie Fitzsimmons
 Cheyenne Flannery
 Dwayne Fleener
 Hailey Frieztzsche
 Isabella George
 Annika Gray
 Sammie Griffith
 Regan Hacker
 Matilyn Hayes
 Isaiiah Hernandez
 Landon Hittel
 John Hubbard
 Jett Hutton
 Presley Hyde
 Amira Jandreau
 Deagan Leitzman
 Raegan Long
 Taylor Love
 Lily Mcdonald
 Catherine Mcgown
 Rylee Mills
 Waylon Milsho
 Atticus Morgan
 Jaxon Nail
 Blane O'neal
 James Parker
 Makenzie Perry
 Jaxon Phelps
 Piper Phelps
 Elias Phillips
 Colton Presley
 Piper Price
 Kole Pullen
 Kingston Ralph
 Pippa Ralph
 Kingstun Reyna
 Ella Richhart
 Catherine Rivera
 Morgan Robinson
 Madison Shipley
 Colton Smith
 Hudson Sparks
 Cassidi Sweeney
 Addiyl Tarr
 Scott Thacker
 Eli Thompson
 Emmy Valbert
 Baize Vedder
 Jaxon Walls
 Bentley Westbrook
 Kylee Wingle
 Madison Wood
 Lola Woolridge
 Karrie Yutmeyer
 Ava Zimmer
 Brynlee Acuff
 Jersey Andrews
 Makenzie Belcher
 Parker Bentley
 Kayden Bertelsen
 Abbie Brattain
 Gunnar Bryant
 Luke Canova
 Andre Carr
 Eli Carson
 Anaya Chambers
 Ronin Conway
 Ellie Crawford
 Owen Crowe
 Audrey Culp
 Tyler Darling
 Liam Daugherty
 Owen Davis
 Alexis Dawson
 Leightyn Dawson
 Presley Drake
 Kiera Duncan
 Guy Edgerton
 Jackson Edwards
 Lucas Engelsen
 Eden Ennis
 Isaiiah Fleener
 Cecily Fluhr-Walker
 Parisa Fluhr-Walker
 Wyatt Fulford
 Kassius Garner
 Israel Gillespie
 Dustin Grindstaff
 Urijah Hamblen
 Owen Hansen
 Jacobi Hatton
 Brie Hayden
 Jude Hiles
 Quinten Hintz
 Carly Holbrook
 Chloe Houchin
 Lincoln Hovious
 Deaglan Hugart
 Madison Hyatt
 Olivia Ingram
 Michaela Kinison
 Joseph Lessard
 Aiden Long
 Owen Long
 Aniston Luther
 Berkeley Mappes
 Evan MCGauley
 Christian Mercer
 Julian Millis
 Landon Mills
 Matt Moore
 Wyatt Niese
 Jiya Patel
 Dane Payton
 Allison Pettit
 Peyton Phillips
 Jude Polley
 Ella Rader
 Jude Ralph
 Saraphina Rood
 Clinton Sanders

Richard Scheve
 Janet Scott
 Brayden Silcox
 Caleb Sliger
 Jacob Snowden
 Jackson Snyder
 Adalyn Sparks
 Cooper Stantz
 Addison Starnes
 Rebecca Sung
 Gage Tackett
 Addie Tuttle
 Mary Vest-Patton
 Logan Whaley
 Maci Whan
 Olivia White
 Henry Wolff
 Clayton Wood
 Jazlyn Wood
 Katherine Woods
 Bella Baker
 Braelynn Benskin
 Zoey Brown
 Samantha Clarkson
 Chris Collier
 Evan Dent
 Logan Donahue
 Titus Drake
 Ellie Duncan
 Trubie Dunscombe
 Mary Green
 Kannon Hardin
 Jasek Hedges
 Ady Herman
 Natalie Hernandez
 Cole Herrington
 Parker Herrington
 Donnika Hicks
 Madisun Holland
 James Houchin
 Jaidan Howard
 Addie Jackson
 Levi Jackson
 Holden Knoy
 Ellie Lahрман
 Arayah Leitzman
 Zaylee Littrell
 Amelia Love
 Elias McCartney
 Leon Merrell
 Zakaiya Mitchell
 Joey Nash
 Garreth Owens
 Greyson Perry
 Liam Perry
 Emery Ruddell
 Finnley Sample
 Mavrik Sanders
 Gavin Sciscoe-Walker
 Amy Schnurpel
 Emma Smith
 Liam Smith
 Piper Stroup
 Hannah Tomlin
 Malakai Williams
 Ashton Wilson
 Tinley Wingle
 Andrew Higginbotham
 Stella Livingston
 Kenner Mckinney
 Violet Leitzman
 Charley Togers
 Sebastian Bonifacius
 Aurora Burgi-Tackett
 Mason Cecil
 Abel Ennis
 Dallas Goode
 Gunner Huntington
 Vanna Locander
 Isaac Lopez
 Daisy Wirey
 Nola Garrison
 Collin Goodner
 Hailey Goodwin
 Cole Hatter
 Kal-el Hepworth
 Ervie Hickman
 Carter Mckinney
 Morgan Miles
 Anders Yurisich
 Kylee Anderson
 Nyx Carver
 Parker Eldridge
 Easton Ennis
 Colton Garrett
 Lizzy Goodner
 Rosaleigh Hickman
 Addison Higginbotham
 Sophia Higginbotham
 Sky Kerfoot
 Naomi Liebrandt
 Bentley Middleton
 Mikala Pope
 Everly Scott
 Andrew Burnett
 Kayden Bratton
 Havannah Horton
 Gianna Khotxay
 Harper Floyd
 Jordan Gausson
 Lillian Lauck
 Giovanni White
 Avery Grounds
 Brayson Derringer
 Avery Long
 Alexa Mikesell
 Alex Roembke
 Calvin Tuttle
 Nate Wieneke
 Charlotte Ayers
 Leila Miller
 Elizabeth Dehaven
 Klairah Inabnitt
 Kyndal Moore
 Nate Westbrock
 Gabe Higgins
 Ethan Jackson
 Matthew VanWinkle
 Colten Phillips
 Josie Robbins
 Bella Merrifield
 Eli Miller
 Lian Nail
 William Benge
 Lynell Christie
 Ryleigh Price
 Harrison Selberg
 Lian Mallory
 Raelynn Thompson
 Eli Fleck
 Wyatt Gibbs
 Brynlee Graves
 Michael Myers
 Brantlee Ball
 Jake Breen
 Eli Chamberlin

Gabriel Delgado
 Kensley Freed
 Mavus Gardner
 Silas Geer
 Colton Jackson
 Greye Losh
 Taytum Lovett
 Bryson Presley
 David Allen
 Karter Hamilton
 Keagan McKinney
 Chloe Patton
 Elijah Pettit
 Miles Polley
 Zach Rush
 Brandon Sanders
 Jayden Silcox
 Jordie Spaulding
 Lucy Stafford
 Levi Summer
 Tripp Whitaker
 Verra Witt
 Makayla Atherton
 Coltyn Dawson
 Elijah Cook
 Colton Deaner
 Khloe Ogletree
 Willow Soltis
 Corbin Wilson
 Heaven Rice
 Callon Richards
 Landen Spina
 Faith Simpson
 Brayden Chase
 Addison Denney
 Alex Wonderlick
 Maylee Perry
 Max Bailey
 Brody Breen
 Kynzie Cecil
 Aden Cross
 Emerson Ferguson
 Bayja Harper
 Hannah Ooley
 Heavenly Reveles
 Joshua Bennett
 Aubrey Britt
 Peyton Chastain
 Christopher Jolly
 Elijah Miller
 Quincy Norris
 Brookelynn Davis
 Woodrow Gamble
 Olivia Guerrero
 Travis Jugg
 Henry Scott
 Khloe Earlywine
 Micaela Forler
 Gabriel Mello
 Rylee Nuetzman
 Paige Dearlove
 Logan Forler
 Elieigh Musgrave
 Aiden Prichard
 Graycin Ryan
 Quorra Thacker
 Jaycob Williams
 Christian Zawadzki
 Mason Ashbrook
 Gracie Bentley
 Violet Leitzman
 Addison Bailey
 Jordan Garrett
 Charlie Lemons
 Anthony Kenworthy
 Savannah Andrew
 Cooper Baker
 Jessica Barker
 Kason Barnhorst
 Flora Bell
 Eva Bloomfield
 Averie Bowling
 Madilynn Brandlein
 Gabriella Britton
 Lyle Britton
 Colton Camp
 Elizabeth Carpenter
 Jax Carpenter
 Briar Christianson
 Cayson Cramer
 Mackenzie Cramer
 Whitney Deaner
 Ellianne Dickerson
 Everleigh Dickerson
 Novalee Dodd
 Keegan Esteb
 Makenna Esteb
 Ellie Feaster
 Brystal Ferguson
 Frankie Ferran
 Violet Forler
 Bryce Fredrick
 Aurora Fuhrman
 Bryson Gebhart
 Coppoe Glunk
 Kaitlyn Gornall
 Finley Goss
 Bristol Graves
 Asher Grounds
 Jett Hall
 Gabriella Hammans
 Jolynn Hanlon
 Charlie Hansen
 Emerson Hanson
 Julia Henderson
 Rylan Jones
 Alexis Keck
 Isla Kuznarsky
 Julian Ladish
 Alivia Lamar
 Lon Lane
 Leelain Ledford
 Lauren Lynch
 Thomas Martin
 Milley Mason
 Lizabeth Maxwell
 Layne McCary
 Ava McKee
 Dixilynn Mercer
 Landon Miles
 Jaxson Nesta
 Sydney O'neal
 Jayden Petty
 Harper Pollard
 Emerson Purkey
 Emma Quakenbush
 Cora Runyan
 Oliver Schank
 Roan Shaw
 Blain Shipley
 Finlee Sparks
 Cash Steinway
 Albert Storm
 Cerenity Strait
 Lucas Vandeventer
 Caleb Vire

Luna Walker
 Elaine Waltz
 Cole Wiggins
 Aliyah Williams
 Braedon Wolfe-Sanchez
 Gracen Worland
 Maxwell Lowe
 Archer Perry
 Adalyn Bledsoe
 Patrick Brewer
 Theo Christophel
 Dawysn Harmon
 Waylon Jackson
 Barrett Schoening
 Jasper Smith-Beshears
 Kasen Beiswanger
 Claire Dowler
 Adelynn Jo Knox
 Avery Sims
 Ella Mae Sullivan
 Abby Way
 Olivia Gruell-Newman
 Avery Henson
 Rion Lambert
 Chance McNeil
 Everett Parson
 Noah Wonderlick
 Charleigh Bow
 Sophia Bowman
 Peyton Deputy
 David Griswold
 Samson Kirk
 Andrew Sang
 Ben Silliman
 Jana VanLandingham
 Eliza Carmichael
 Hailee Couch
 Aubree Gruell
 Rose Hamilton
 Malcolm Lowe
 Sawyer Rinehart
 Matilda Runnebohm
 Walls, Maeleigh
 Nora Brinkman
 Levi Cramer
 Gavin Folck
 Delylah Lane
 Katie Mason
 Easton Mappes
 Abigail Maxwell
 Makenzie Peeden
 Taylor Selburg
 Owen Callis
 Remington Donica
 Alejandra Guerrero
 Anakin Lakin
 Paislee Morris
 Camille Ortiz
 Justice Esmsinger
 Colton Lane
 Joshua Owens
 Marissa Owens
 Ahziah Reed
 Harper Reed
 Mason Engle
 Nicolas Gano
 Everett Lee
 Savannah Norris
 Valentina Vargas-Gonzalez
 Joshua Zike
 Mason Anderson
 Sophia Beatty
 Emery Harwell
 Joleen Troxal
 Karter Bratton
 Creasey Brumley
 Trenton Dow
 Oliver Hatton
 Elton Miller
 Lincoln Bunnell
 Kyler Byers
 Sophia Castro
 Davinie Deckard
 Zaiya Grimes
 Isabella Lauck
 Jaxson Nunn
 Amelia Parsons
 Brianna Richardson
 Layla Sloan
 Theo Barr
 Jazzimae Daron
 Meric Fellow
 Brylee Lessard
 Emily Meadows
 Jacob Molloy
 Emma Norris
 Lucy Norris
 Maddison Parrott
 Emmett Sigler
 Kaylee Todd
 Pasleigh Anderson
 Rayden Helmick
 Lincoln Hunter
 Saidee Pierson
 Celeste Young
 Sawyer Hunter
 Eli Lakin
 Connor Love
 Liam Sparks
 Abigail Wilburn
 Zoey Anderson
 Dean Callis
 Bryce Cramer
 Bryson Ehrie
 Prudence Helmick
 Noah Illy
 Karter Molloy
 Ambralynn Morgan
 Athary Patel
 Darsh Patel
 Talon Rynard
 Levin Smith
 Loki Stropes
 Noah Atherton
 Diana Banks
 Ryland Byrum
 Sofia Cerna
 Amilya Cunningham
 Braelynn Ehrie
 Makynzie Fleener
 Arias Grimes
 Lily Herd
 Rhoswyn Herd
 Lilly Owen
 Madeleine Parsons
 Magnolia Rapp
 Ophelia Ronchetti
 Logan Tallent
 Irie Truax
 Bentley Tumey
 Branch Waite

Winter is in full swing, but signs of spring are budding

The weather is cold and challenging us all, but the calendar events are heating up. So lace up those wool shoestrings and get out there!

The Denominational Garden Club of Morgan County meets today, at 1 p.m. at the Main Library; this is short notice, maybe too late of notice to make the meeting, but it is encouraging that discussions and plans for gardens have begun. Soon mailboxes will be blessed with seeds, garden and nursery catalogs! Information about the Garden Club is available on their Facebook page.

Another sign that winter is fleeting; the Morgan County Fair will be celebrating its 75th year at its present location. A 75th Anniversary Logo contest is open to all. The logo should be suitable for T-shirts, advertising, commemorative buttons, etc. Entries are due to the Fair Office by March 1. They may be mailed to 1749 Hospital Drive, Martinsville, IN 46151, or emailed to morgancofair@att.net. The winner will receive \$75.

Tomorrow is Fresh Flower Friday at Maxwell Fine Arts Studio. Bring drawing materials, paints, pens, papers, and work from a still life set-up with fresh flowers. Enjoy a cup of coffee and conversation

Art Cart

BY NANCY MAXWELL

with other artists. This is a free event, but a \$2 or \$3 donation is accepted toward flowers and drinks.

Are you a jigsaw puzzle fan? Did you spend quiet pandemic evenings at home putting puzzles together? Our dining room table is frequently occupied by an "in-progress" jigsaw puzzle; the current one features donuts with Christmas-themed icing decoration. Gather a team of two or three people and stop by the main library branch to race against the clock putting a jigsaw puzzle together.

Poston Road Elementary's Cultural Festival is on Thursday, Feb. 1, from 5 to 7 p.m., open to all, invites children to "travel around the world" with a \$7 passport for visiting different classrooms displaying customs, costumes, and traditions of various countries. Play a game, make a craft, and listen to music from around the world. Snacks and artwork will be available for purchase in the multi-purpose room.

Mark your calendars for the inaugural Pints, Paws, & Playlists Festival on Feb. 3. This collaborative event between Cedar Creek in Martinsville and Black Dog Brewery Co.

Poston Road Elementary will be hosting its annual Cultural Fest on Feb. 1. This is a fun night that takes participants 'around the world.' (MSD of Martinsville courtesy graphic)

in Mooresville is to benefit Morgan County Humane Society. Brought to the you by Perfect Parties Tents & Events of Bloomington, this event will take place at 450 S. Marion St. in Martinsville; doors open at 6

p.m., with music bingo kicking off at 7 p.m. with Black Dog owner Jeremy serving as emcee. Bingo cards are \$5 each, and all proceeds go directly to MCHS. Extra donation dollars and gift cards are appreciated

Morgan County native Joe Cox is a well known 'rockhound' who just opened a new rock shop in Bloomington. (Camp Creek Stoneworks courtesy graphic)

and will get you extra Bingo cards. This family friendly evening will feature food truck options, prizes, wine, beer and spirits.

Plans are well underway for "The Wall That Heals" coming to the Morgan County Fairgrounds on Aug. 15-18. The replica being hosted at the fairgrounds is 75 percent of the size of the permanent memorial in Washington, D.C. This smaller version travels the country and is sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. Local volunteers will be helping with the project for set up, security, open and closing programs and twenty-four open hours during the time it is hear. The committee is compiling a list of veterans who served in the Vietnam conflict but died after the wall memorial was created.

Camp Creek Stoneworks, featuring fine rock and mineral

specimens, fossils, hand-crafted finished stone, hand cut pendants, lapidary rough, live lapidary demos and an active workshop is now open in Bloomington with regular business hours. Stoneworks, 421 E. 3rd St., Suite 1, Bloomington, is owned and operated by well-known rockhound and Morgan County resident Joe Cox. He can be reached at campcreekstoneworks@gmail.com or 812-964-4049.

Valentine's Day is just around the corner. Downtown merchants will be open on Feb. 10 with special items priced right for gift giving. A Valentine's Pop Up at The Main Connection will feature vendors with jewelry, soaps, candles, crochet and knit items, custom woodwork, and of course yummy baked goodies by Sara.

Shop small, shop local and keep me posted at artcartmartinsville@gmail.com.

A little child shall lead them

"Mom, do you remember this?" asked 24-year-old Bryce, holding out an object.

Morgan Peterson, in the middle of packing, flashed back 14 years. That day she had hurried to her car, irritated at the board member who droned on, making her return home late. She didn't want to risk losing Amelia, the best babysitter she'd found for three active kids. They weren't bad kids, just inquisitive and always busy.

Their zest for life had proven too much for several babysitters. In theory, at 12, 10 and 8, they could stay home by themselves after school, but she liked having oversight from a babysitter, especially one as good as Amelia. She seemed to enjoy them, and even managed to



Authors Who Serve
RACHEL HILLS

get food started for the evening meals.

Morgan needed to keep Amelia happy, but getting home at 6:15 wasn't the way to do it. She pulled into the garage and took a deep breath before walking up the steps to the mudroom. She stopped at the door, staring.

No doorknob. At least the door wasn't latched. Where was the missing doorknob?

She pushed it open and walked into the kitchen, calling her kids. As she waited for footsteps to thunder down the stairs, she noticed the pantry door lacked a doorknob. What was with the doorknobs? And why didn't she smell taco meat? No pans on the stove, no bowls of grated cheese or lettuce on the counter.

The house was too quiet. As she approached the stairs, she noticed the doors of the coat closet, home office, and powder room lacked doorknobs. She considered getting out her phone to dial 911. Instead, she climbed the stairs quietly.

In the playroom at the top of the stairs, she found Amelia and all three children wearing guilty expressions.

Then her gaze fell to the floor, dotted with piles of doorknobs.

Apparently, all the doorknobs in the house. "What is this?" Morgan tried to keep her voice calm. "Why are these doorknobs not on the doors?"

How were they going to get to the school on time for the program tonight if dinner wasn't ready? She had told Amelia tonight's schedule and expected to come home to kids who had already eaten.

Bryce spoke up. "I did it, Mom."

"Why?" Morgan normally enjoyed her son's engineering mind, but tonight, she resented it. She didn't need the extra chaos, especially today.

He looked at the floor. "Just because."

Morgan glanced at Amelia but simply said, "Everyone, get your shoes on. We'll grab fast food on the way to school."

Amelia stood. "I'm so sorry, Mrs. Peterson. I..." "We'll talk another time, Amelia. Thank you, but we have to go."

Morgan looked toward Amelia's car in the drive, holding back the angry words.

That weekend, Morgan could laugh at the missing doorknobs and helped Bryce replace them. They ended with an extra one. Bryce shared how he rummaged through all their tools and hardware supplies. In the search for screws to replace missing ones, he found a glass doorknob and wanted to

use it on his own door.

It was not compatible.

"Do you remember your great grandfather? This doorknob was from the house he built. That's why it won't work."

"He built their house?"

Morgan shared stories of her grandfather and his engineering mind with Bryce that day.

Now she looked up from the moving box into the face of the adult Bryce, holding the old doorknob, and recalled how she'd been prevented by a busy schedule from raging at him for playing with doorknobs, for exploring what he was designed to do, and breathed another prayer of thanks.

Rachel Hills is a Mooresville resident whose play-ground includes the power of story and the joy of seeing.

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-The Morgan County Correspondent Staff-