



THE MORGAN COUNTY Correspondent

The source for news from every corner of Morgan County

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\$2.00

Overdue upgrades

Martinsville Armory to get \$6.7M worth of improvements

By Stephen Crane
MCC

MARTINSVILLE — People may have noticed the fencing that's gone up around the National Guard Armory on Hospital Drive in Martinsville, along with heavy-duty machinery and construction supplies. All of it is part of a significant facelift the armory is getting this year.

Built in 1958, the National Guard Armory in Martinsville will be getting \$6.7 million worth of improvements in 2024, which is expected to add a wide range of enhancements to the facility.

"(The improvements) will help the unit there to better prepare for missions, whether they're responding to state emergencies or whether they're preparing to deploy overseas," said MSgt. Jeff Lowry, a public affairs specialist with the Indiana National Guard.

According to a statement from the facilities personnel of the Indiana National Guard, the multi-million dollar upgrades at the Martinsville Armory will add 4,600 square feet to the facility, while the "existing space will also be repurposed to better fit unit needs."

SEE UPGRADES | PAGE A8



Icy crystals blanket the pond at Jimmy Nash City Park in Martinsville on Monday. While a few sleds left their mark on the park hill, there was little activity on Monday as most were hunkered down out of the dangerously cold temperatures. (Stephen Crane photo / MCC)

COLD SNAP TO END SOON

By Stephen Crane
MCC

MORGAN COUNTY — Winter weather officially arrived last weekend when a cold front blew in and dropped temperatures to dangerously cold levels.

In Central Indiana, Lafayette saw the coldest temperatures in the region, when the thermometer hit -9 degrees Monday morning, according to Greg Melo, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Indianapolis.

In Morgan County, the temperatures reached -4, but the windchill "real feel" went as low as

-20, and possible as low as -25, according to Melo.

Residents reported frozen pipes and cars that wouldn't start. But no major traffic incidents were reported during the cold stretch.

Once the arctic air blew into the region, the winds died down and caused the frigid temperatures to persist.

"Really, it just settled across the area," Melo said Tuesday.

But all that's about to change, according to the NWS.

By Wednesday, Melo said the temperatures were expected to start a warming trend that

should last into next week. By today, temperatures were expected to be in the 20s, and "possibly into the 30s," according to Melo. But he cautioned that winds would accompany the warm-up.

"So it won't feel as warm as the temperatures say," he said.

But by next week, the 40s will return.

"We're going to have some pretty good southerly flow next week that's coming from the Gulf and southern states," Melo said.

But precipitation is expected to accompany the warm weather, so residents are encouraged to keep the umbrellas handy.

Elvis Stearman: The man, the myth, the legend

By Lance Camaron
MCC Contributor

MARTINSVILLE — Ladies and gentlemen, citizens of the great Morgan County, Indiana, allow me to introduce to you the very magnificent, Mr. Elvis Lea Stearman, Jr. — the city of Martinsville's ever vigilant night watchman and protector of the downtown business community. Elvis is here, there and everywhere at any given moment and at any hour of the day or night.

Dressed in his fluorescent yellow safety garb, Elvis investigates suspicious activity and during the evening, makes sure the doors are locked and secured on several of Martinsville's downtown businesses.

When it comes to sincerity and trustworthiness, Elvis gets high marks from everyone he encounters. He is very patriotic, and he is very proud of the fact that both of his grandfathers served in the U.S. Army during World War I.

SEE ELVIS | PAGE A8



Elvis Stearman pauses for a photo inside A to Z Auction House in downtown Martinsville, where Elvis helps keep an eye on things and regularly performs odd jobs and tasks for the owners. (Stephen Crane photo / MCC)

Morgan County Fair board has change of heart on eclipse camping

By Keith Rhoades
MCC Chief Correspondent

MORGAN COUNTY — Members of the Morgan County Fair board held their first meeting of 2024 on Jan. 9 at the fairgrounds.

It was the first meeting with new fair board president Eric Acker in charge.

After much discussion, board members decided not to have overnight camping on the fairgrounds during the April eclipse. The board had planned to offer three nights of camping during the event. Campers could choose one of three types of camping — under tents, in campers with no utility connections or in the fair's campsite that does have utility connections.

Board members learned that no one had called about the fair's

camping program since it was announced late last year. Board members were concerned that no one would take advantage of the camping, and the fair would be left with spending money for port-o-potties and trash dumpsters that would not be used.

The fair has rented two of the camping spots in their campground area for the April event.

Board members said they would allow people to park during the eclipse but would prohibit any camping on the fairgrounds. They felt the money spent on the eclipse would be better spent on fairground improvements.

Fair convention report

Several board members attended the annual Indiana Fair and Festival convention held earlier this

month in Indianapolis. The convention is a way that members can talk to board members from other counties about their fairs and festivals.

One item that was well attended dealt with fair security. For several years, the Indiana State Fair has had metal detectors set to make sure weapons do not get onto the fairgrounds. People park in the infield then go through a metal detection before entering the fairgrounds.

Several Indiana fairs said they are also using metal detectors to screen people before they enter their fairgrounds. People are allowed to park, but before they can enter the fairgrounds, they go through the detector.

Board members felt that with the way the local fair is laid out with

unlimited access, it would be impossible to use detectors here.

There were at least four fair boards at the convention looking to find a carnival for their fair. There are around a half dozen large carnivals left in Indiana that are operating. The COVID pandemic and problems with finding qualified workers have hurt the business and contributed to many carnivals going out of business.

There were meetings on the use of social media to promote fairs and festivals. There were meetings on the use of having "beer gardens" at fairs and festivals, which allow for alcohol sales and consumption in limited, designated areas.

Board members felt the convention had provided them with information that may be useful in the future.

Contracts set

As a new president, Acker brought two contract requests to the full board to be discussed. The board approved the contracts for the Antique Machinery Show, which will be held June 21 to 23 and the Crafty Bear Fair, which will be held later this year.

Long-term planning

The fair approved a contract with Walls and Son to paint parts of the 4-H building. The business had the lowest quote of the three businesses that submitted quotes.

The kitchen, entrance foyer into the auditorium, and walls in the auditorium will be painted. The tables in the kitchen will be refinished and the fans in the auditorium will be repaired. The cost for the work is around \$20,000.

SEE ECLIPSE | PAGE A8

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Obituaries

Linda Kirk, 84

MOORESVILLE — Linda M. Kirk, 84, of Mooresville, passed away on January 12, 2024 at Miller's Merry Manor in Mooresville.

Linda was born on April 20, 1939 in Georgetown, Illinois to the late Benjamin E. Spickard and Margaret L. (Carrigan) Spickard.

After graduating from Griffith High School in Northwest Indiana, she worked as a secretary for Purdue University and for Town & Country Interiors in DeMotte. She was united in marriage to Newell "Gene" Kirk on July 24, 1958. She enjoyed spending the summers at their lake cottage in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, where there were plenty of great memories made with family, spending time in nature, cooking, swimming, and fishing. She was very creative and was an avid oil painter, working with ceramics, knitting, crocheting, and collecting antiques. She will be remembered for her outgoing personality, who never knew a stranger as well as her caring, loving heart.

She is survived by her husband of 65 years, Gene Kirk; son Christopher T. Kirk (Shelia); daughter Lisa Kirk; grandchildren Emily, Ainsley, and Benjamin.

Family and friends will



gather to celebrate Linda's life on Sunday, January 21st from 12 to 2 p.m. at Carlisle Branson Funeral Service & Crematory, with services beginning at 2 p.m. Sunday in the funeral home. Burial will follow the services in White Lick Cemetery, Mooresville.

In keeping with Linda's love of nature and the outdoors, in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are encouraged to be made in her memory to the Nature Conservancy, 620 E. Ohio St., Indianapolis, IN 46202, <https://www.nature.org/en-us/> or to the donor's favorite charity.

Please visit www.CarlisleBranson.com to share a favorite memory or to sign the online guest registry.



'Sonny' Perry, 94

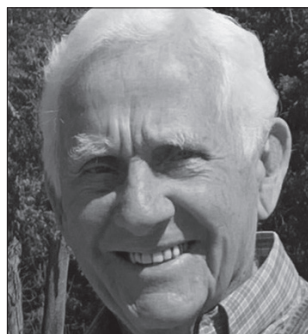
MOORESVILLE — Eugene Denny "Sonny" Perry, 94, lifelong Mooresville resident, passed away peacefully at home on January 13, 2024.

Sonny was born at home in Madison Township, Morgan County, on July 23, 1929, to the late Samuel Denny and Jessie Melissa (McQueen) Perry. He married the love of his life, Barbara Jean (McCoy) Perry, on October 20, 1951, and she preceded him in death on January 24, 2022.

Sonny grew up with six siblings in the Depression era, graduated from Mooresville High School in 1947, and proudly served in the United States Navy and was honorably discharged in 1949. Armed with an incredibly strong work ethic, an entrepreneurial spirit like no other, and a very wise and intelligent mind, Sonny founded Perry Acoustics in 1962, Perry Manufacturing in 1965, Sunco Construction in 1982, Sonny Scaffolding in 1985, Lock Box in 1994, KDH in 1994, Shae Co. in 2001, and TopLock in 2007. He held four United States patents that were all instrumental in various forms of efficiency and success for the businesses. Along the way, Sonny was always looking for the next person, employee, or associate to help boost up and achieve success also. He was a master woodworker and could build, envision, and create anything he put his mind to. Not one to sit still, he continued to work well into his 90s and had not "officially" retired. Sunco Construction celebrated 40 years last year, and he was proud to see his family continue the strong growth of the family business.

Sonny was a strong Christian man who always led with his faith. He was a longtime member of Mt. Gilead Church, where he served as a deacon for many years. He and Barb raised their family with their strong faith that has now spanned generations of Perrys. Sonny was an avid bowler and golfer, creating lasting memories with his best friend, Jack Abbott, in the bowling alley or golf course. He was passionate about IU basketball and not only followed regular season games for years, but never missed tournament play either.

Above all, Sonny was a fam-



ily man. Affectionately known as Pap at home and amongst his loving grandchildren and great grandchildren, Sonny's memory will be forever cherished by his loved ones, many friends, and his church family.

In addition to his parents and Barb, he was preceded in death by his siblings, Lenore Perry, Mary Wallace, Donald Perry, and Larry Perry.

Survivors include his daughters, Sandy (the late David) Lambert, Linda (Gary) Venable, and Joni (Bryant) Hopwood; sisters, Vivian (the late Dutch) Allender and Martha (Billy) Payton; grandchildren, Ryan (Carrie) Lambert, Adria Lambert; Suni (Kraig) Johnson, Dustin (Melissa) Venable; Kegahn (Shaena) Hopwood, Denton Hopwood, Hali (Cris) Mynatt, and Keleigh (Cory) Sims; great-grandchildren Maggie Lambert, Maci Johnson (Caleb) Propst, Nolan Johnson, Delaney Johnson, Brynn Sellers, Jaiden Sellers, Madison Sellers, Avery Sellers, Maddox Hopwood, Ryker Hopwood, Ziek Hopwood, Kynlee Hopwood, Kamri Hopwood, Remi Mynatt, Warren Mynatt, Lettie Mynatt, Peri Sims.

Sonny's Life Celebration* Visitation was Tuesday, January 16, 2024, from 4 to 8 p.m., at Mt. Gilead Church, 6019 East State Road 144, Mooresville. The funeral service began at 11 a.m., Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at the church. Burial followed at the Mooresville Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Mt. Gilead Church; envelopes will be provided. Carlisle-Branson Funeral Service & Crematory is serving the family. Visit www.CarlisleBranson.com to share a favorite memory or to sign the online guest registry.

Obituary Notices

Joseph Hagelskamp, 70
INDIANAPOLIS — Joseph S. "Joe" Hagelskamp, 70, of Indianapolis, died Jan. 10, 2024. Arrangements by Carlisle-Branson Funeral Service and Crematory in Mooresville.

Daniel Trusty, 58
MOORESVILLE — Daniel Stephen Trusty, 58, of Mooresville, died Jan. 11, 2024. Arrangements by Carlisle-Branson Funeral Service and Crematory in Mooresville.

Bryan Burgess, 40
MOORESVILLE — Bryan C. Burgess, 40, of Mooresville, died Jan. 11, 2024.

Arrangements by Carlisle-Branson Funeral Service and Crematory in Mooresville.

Emily Armstrong, 48
MOORESVILLE — Emily Sue Armstrong, 48, of Mooresville, died Jan. 13, 2024. Arrangements by Carlisle-Branson Funeral Service and Crematory in Mooresville.

Paul Stafford, Jr., 77
MARTINSVILLE — Paul Stafford, Jr., 77, of Martinsville, died Jan. 14, 2024. Arrangements by Carlisle-Branson Funeral Service and Crematory in Mooresville.

Death Notices

Moragn County Health Dept. Week ending Dec. 30
Violet May Tackett, 76, Martinsville
Craig Allen Spencer, 61, Martinsville
Roger Wayne Kinsler, 56, Camby
Matthew Wayne Anthis, 38, Martinsville
Clifford Joseph Edens, 69, Martinsville

Sandra Kay Elsbury, 76, Mooresville
Gary Marley, 80, Mooresville
Clarence Franklin Harrington, 85, Mooresville
Marvin Wayne O'Neal, 82, Martinsville
Ruth Margaret Rihm, 87, Mooresville
Zella Mae Clay, 80, Clayton
Kenneth D. Halcomb, 85, Mooresville

Birth Announcements

River Lily Thorpe
River Lily Thorpe was born Jan. 2, 2024, at Franciscan Health in Mooresville to mother Alexandra Condon, of Indianapolis, and father Nathan Thorpe, of Indianapolis.

mother Abigail McCammack, of Coatesville, and father Brandon Galvan, of Martinsville.

Marcus Alexander Galvan
Marcus Alexander Galvan was born Jan. 4, 2024, at Franciscan Health in Mooresville to

Holland Jo Pruitt
Holland Jo Pruitt was born Jan. 6, 2024, at Franciscan Health in Mooresville to mother Sarah Glover, of Plainfield, and father Adam Pruitt, of Plainfield.

Marriage/Divorces

Marriage Licenses Jan. 13
Dennis Bayne, Martinsville; Julie Ames, Martinsville
Jesse Straitt, Martinsville; Ashley Arney, Martinsville

Kayci Spandau vs. Benjamin A. Spandau
Kathryn Brewer vs. Obadiah Brewer
Xavier R. Ake vs. Taylor Grace Baugh
Mary Jane Gordon vs. Edward David Gordon

Divorces Jan. 13

MCC 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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For a complete employee email directory please view the "Contact Us" section at morgancounty correspondent.com

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Court News

Morgan County Superior Court I Judge Dakota VanLeeuwen Jan. 13
Jay Andrews, 36, Martinsville, operating while intoxicated endangering a person. Sentenced to 365 days in jail, suspended except for six days to serve, 359 days probation, 90-day license suspension, fines and costs of \$390.

license suspension, 542 days probation, fines and costs of \$1,080.

Morgan County Superior Court III Judge Sara A. Dungan
Timothy A. Brewer, 47, Indianapolis, burglary, attempted burglary, two counts criminal confinement, armed robbery, battery by means of deadly weapon, theft, two counts intimidation, and battery on a person less than 14 years old. Sentenced to 36 years in Indiana Department of Corrections, no-contact order remains in place, fines and costs waived as court finds defendant is indigent.

Jimmiee Bickers, Greenwood, probation violation. Sentenced to 314 days in Indiana Department of Corrections, fines and costs of \$10.

Lanny Campbell, 42, Indianapolis, possession of marijuana with prior conviction. Sentenced to 365 days in jail, suspended except for six days to serve, 359 days probation, fines and costs of \$790.

Angela R. Grave, 47, Mooresville, battery and operating while intoxicated-endangering. Sentenced to two years in jail, suspended except for 94 days to serve (time served), 636 days probation, 90-day license suspension, fines and costs of \$390.

Pamela Ham, Indianapolis, probation violation. Sentenced to 361 days in jail, fines and costs of \$1,200.

Karla D. Hacker, 43, Martinsville, possession of paraphernalia. Sentenced to 10 days in Hendricks County Jail, fines and costs of \$190.

Lovepreet Singh, Indianapolis, probation violation. Sentenced to 0 days in jail, fines and costs of \$60.

Morgan County Superior Court II Judge Brian H. Williams
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.

Matthew R. Hansel, 34, Martinsville, possession of methamphetamine. Sentenced to 545 days in jail, suspended except for 180 days to serve on home detention, 365 days probation, fines and costs of \$790.

Alexus R. Nicley, 25, Trafalgar, possession of legend drug and operating while impaired. Sentenced to 730 days in jail, suspended except for 188 days to serve (time served), 90-day

Deanna M. Jessee, 58, Maartinsville, possession of paraphernalia. Sentenced to two days in jail (time served), fines and costs of \$590.

Stephen Myles, 42, Bloomington, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to 14 days in jail, fines and costs of \$390.

Sheriff's Report

Jan. 16 251 Inmates 187 Males 64 Females	17 Female
35 Department of Correction inmates 30 Male 5 Female	20 Work release 18 Male 2 Female
32 F-6 felony inmates 15 Male	22 Jail Correction Workers 16 Male 6 Female
	396 Law enforcement calls for service (YTD)

Jail Bookings

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

Jan. 13
Jay C. Andrews, 36, Gosport, serving time-operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangerment.

croachment on an investigation.

Alan Eugen Fuller, 58, Martinsville, possession of paraphernalia and possession of hypodermic syringe or needle.

methamphetamine, possession of paraphernalia, and possession of marijuana.

Sharyle Annette Lewis, 57, Mooresville, serving time-possession of paraphernalia.

Jacob Alex Springer, 40, Bloomington, probation revocation.

Mercea Tafian, 61, Nineveh, serving time-operating a vehicle while intoxicated.

Yvonne Janel Thilhorn, 61, Martinsville, operating a vehicle while intoxicated-endangerment.

Jeri Lynn Thompson, 57, Bloomington, violation of pretrial release.

Darren Milles Wagner, 54, Martinsville, possession of methamphetamine.

Nicholas Robert Webb, 41, Spencer, writ of attachment.

Christopher Gordon Whitaker, 44, Bloomington, failure to appear.

John D. Wilson, 59, McKenzie, Tenn., failure to appear.

Jeremy Michael Andrus, 44, Mooresville, violation of pretrial release.

Joshua James Garrard, 37, Mooresville, serving time-failure to appear.

Destan Skyler Gilbert, 20, Indianapolis, possession of marijuana and obstruction of justice.

Stephen Myles, 42, Bloomington, possession of marijuana.

Chad Randall Lee Pedigo, 36, Indianapolis, serving time-operating a vehicle while intoxicated-endangerment.

Cory A. Pierce, 33, Evansville, serving time-operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangerment.

Rodney Keith Prater, 50, Martinsville, sentence-probation violation.

Jessey Roy Richardson, 39, Martinsville, possession of paraphernalia and possession of hypodermic syringe or needle.

Vincent Blundell, 68, Martinsville, habitual traffic violator-lifetime.

Cynthia Ann Blunk, 50, Martinsville, resisting law enforcement with vehicle, battery against public safety official engaged in official duty, and disorderly conduct.

Kaylin Shea Hood, 18, Centerpoint, criminal recklessness, criminal mischief, disorderly conduct, intimidation, and domestic battery-simple assault.

Bridgett Jean Ison, 43, Indianapolis, court ordered return.

Kristen Lee Brummett, 28, Mooresville, petition to revoke probation.

Lanny Brandon Campbell, 42, Indianapolis, serving time-possession of marijuana with prior conviction.

Jacob W. Cheek, 32, Mooresville, theft.

Joshua Adam Coburn, 42, Martinsville, leaving scene of accident-prior, operating a vehicle while intoxicated-endangerment, possession of a hypodermic syringe or needle, and operating a motorboat while intoxicated.

Logan Ray Collier, 23, Martinsville, two counts of disorderly conduct and intimidation.

Sara Seana Dachtler, 48, homeless, Martinsville, failure to appear.

Rachel E. Dobbins, 44, Camby, public intoxication by alcohol/drugs, criminal mischief, disorderly conduct, and battery.

Jonathan D. Fisher, 40, Indianapolis, failure to appear.

Daren Lee Follis, 61, Martinsville, disorderly conduct and en-

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Calendar of Events

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Jan. 18
Mooresville200 hosts Hope House Family Fun Night from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Life Pointe Church, 825 N Indiana St in Mooresville. Call or text Kelli Webb to sign up, 317-220-2627 free dinner and family activities.

Silent Book Club at The Peddler's Loft 166 E Morgan St in Martinsville, from 6 to 8 p.m. hosted by Fables and Fairy Tales.

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.

Jan. 19
The Carrie Clayburn Memorial Dinner fundraiser will take place at 5 p.m. in the Indian Creek High School cafeteria, 803 W. Indian Creek Drive in Trafalgar, all proceeds going to fund education scholarships. The pork chop dinner will be prepared and served by the FFA, as well as local churches and organizations.

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.

Jan. 20
Sally Hedges Wrapped Tree of Life Class at Ateliers/Sip n'Paint at 2655 Burton Lane in Martinsville at 1 p.m. Instruction and materials included, class fee \$40 per person. Call or text 765-792-0328 to reserve your spot.

80's in Aspen Ski Lodge Party at Cedar Creek Winery, 3820 Leonard Road, east of Martinsville from 7 to 10 p.m.

Live Music at Route 67 Bar & Grill, 600 S. Ind. 67 in Mooresville, featuring Rockin Horse Band at 9 p.m.

Jan. 23
Weekly live music at the Martinsville Senior Center, 1369

Blue Bluff Road, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Fun for the whole family.
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.

The VFW Post 1257, 1000 Josephine St. in Martinsville, will host its monthly steak and fish dinner starting at 6 p.m. Cost is \$14 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.

Jan. 27
Family friendly Snow Ball Dance at Brickhouse Main, 128 N. Main St. in Martinsville. 6-8 p.m. \$15 per person. Email brickhouseonmain128@gmail.com for reservations.

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 Route 67 Bar & Grill, 600 S. Ind. 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
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.

Government Meetings

Jan. 18
The Eminence Community School Corp. board will meet at 6 p.m. at the Jr.-Sr. High Media Center, 6760 Ind. 42 N.

The Morgan County Regional Sewer District will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Mooresville Public Library, 220 W. Harrison St.

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.

Jan. 22
The Martinsville Board of Works will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the council chambers at 59 S. Jefferson St.

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

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

Jefferson St.

Jan. 23
The Martinsville Board of Zoning Appeals will meet at 6 p.m. in the council chambers at 59 S. Jefferson 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.

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. 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 Dis-

trict 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.



TURN 'EM IN THURSDAY

PROBATION VIOLATION

JOSHUA COWART



PROBATION VIOLATION

MARGARITA RIVERA



PRETRIAL VIOLATION

MICHAEL SAME



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.

Work continues on Finish Line project

From INDOT
CENTRAL INDIANA — Work continues on the Interstate-69 Finish Line project, including interchanges on I-465 and I-69 itself.

Overnight single and double-lane restrictions are expected this week on eastbound and westbound I-465 near Bluff Road, the Indiana Railroad overpass, and Harding Street. Lane restrictions will occur overnight between 9 p.m. and 5 a.m. for existing pavement and bridge demolition work. Lane restrictions will take place one location at a time and are dependent upon weather.

Demolition work to remove existing pavement and bridge decks continues on I-465 between Bluff Road

and Harding Street. With this work comes extended periods of noise caused by breaking up existing concrete pavement and removing existing bridge decks to clear the path for new pavement and bridges along I-465. This work occurs at night, so local roads adjacent to the demolition sites can be closed while overhead work is underway. It is anticipated that demolition work will continue for the next couple of weeks until the existing bridge decks and pavement of I-465 between Bluff Road and Harding Street are fully removed.



As winter driving conditions persist, please drive safe and don't crowd the plow, especially in construction zones. INDOT's #YellowTrucks have many blind spots, which is why it's important to keep your distance when approaching one. Please plan your travels wisely and drive with caution, adjusting to the changing weather conditions. Check out 511in.org or download the free INDOT TrafficWise mobile app for road conditions near you. For more winter weather driving tips, visit indotwinterops.com. Stay informed, take it slow,

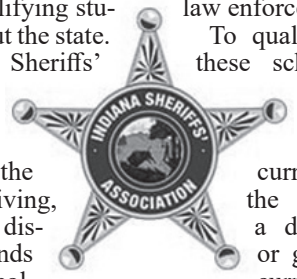
and be safe while traveling. Ind. 144 is now fully open to traffic following the conclusion of work activities taking place adjacent to the roadway. All construction barrels have been removed and all travel lanes are fully open to motorists. Major work at this location is now complete. Restrictions are expected to be removed at Smith Valley Road this week, weather permitting. Northbound Ind. 37 has a single-lane restriction beginning just north of Stotts Creek and continuing for two miles. This alignment will continue through spring. Additional restrictions will occur as needed for movement of equipment.

Scholarships available from sheriffs' assoc.

From Morgan County Sheriff's Office

MORGAN COUNTY — Morgan County Sheriff Richard Myers announced this week that the Indiana Sheriffs' Association will again be awarding college scholarships to qualified high school seniors or college students who are pursuing a degree in criminal justice studies. Approximately 40 schol-

arships worth \$750 will be awarded to qualifying students throughout the state. The Indiana Sheriffs' Association Scholarship Fund was established for the purpose of receiving, investing and dispensing of funds to provide college scholarships to the association, attend an Indiana college or university, major in a law enforce-



education and career in the law enforcement field. To qualify for one of these scholarships, the applicant must be an Indiana resident, be a current member of the association or a dependent child or grandchild of a current member of the association, attend an Indiana college or university, major in a law enforce-

ment field and enroll as a full-time student (12 hours). Applications needed to apply for the scholarships are available from your high school counselor or the sheriff's office. The scholarship application can also be downloaded from the Indiana Sheriffs' Association website at indianasheriffs.org. The applications must be completed and received by the Indiana Sheriffs Association on or before April 1.

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COMIC



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Finally, a trusted treatment for 'a fib'

Feeling tired and lacking ambition, I called my doctor for an appointment. He examined my chest with what looked to me to be a standard old icy stethoscope. His finding was that I had a fib to be dealt with.

I was really taken aback by that, as I thought the fib was in a secret, secure place in my brain, but that icy instrument was able to find it. That seems like a gross invasion of privacy to me. And no, I'm certainly not going to reveal what the fib was about to a newspaper editor.

Most of us don't want our fibs exposed, the exception being Donald Trump, who, I must admit, is making a lot of hay off his fibs.

Way back early in my life, a fib was responsible for getting my mouth washed out with soap. Later in life, if I told a fib, it would come back to haunt me, so fibbing was all but discontinued.

Something else I learned, the doctor could and did prescribe a pill that can cure a fib. So now, just like George Washington, I cannot tell a lie — so long as I take the pills.

Ken Hunt
Martinsville

A big 'thank you' to the city's street dept. staffers

As a longtime resident of Martinsville, I have been happily surprised by the great job our street department does to collect our trash, take away branches and tree limbs, and my favorite service — to come around and clean up all the leaves in the fall.

While other cities cut their services to the residents, our city has recognized the importance of keeping our streets clean with the yard-waste removal and fall leaf pickup.

I have many times been in the process of trimming my hedges when the helpful and courteous workers have driven by and immediately started hauling away the limbs and debris.

A big thank you is owed to these men and women who manage and organize all this work, and an even bigger thank you to those that do the hard labor of lifting and working in all weather conditions outdoors.

I am guessing there are many others like me who have not publicly acknowledged their hard work, and sometimes a letter to the editor can be more appreciated than a "thank you" shout as they drive by!

Elizabeth Bodi
Martinsville

New hire is a good one

I was very pleased when I learned our county commissioners hired Anne Cowgur as the new Morgan County Attorney.

In 2017, we hired Anne to be the attorney for the city of Martinsville after the previous attorney resigned. She came highly recommended by several elected officials, including other mayors. Her resume was quite impressive, and I felt fortunate to have her for the city.

When Anne first came in, we were dealing with a few issues that we needed to get a handle on. The biggest was an employee who was reportedly in personal possession of city property. We also found issues with some improper procedures we had been following. Things just needed relooked at.

Anne's knowledge of municipal law was instrumental in helping us get back on a better track. With Anne's guidance, we were able to get most of the city items returned. We then implemented several new written city policies, along with written procedures.

One of the biggest things municipalities deal with is that government law is ever changing and evolving. It's so important to have someone beside you who understands that and keeps up with the changes.

Since we weren't lawyers, we relied on Anne heavily. Doing the right thing for the city was equally important to her as it was to us, and that was refreshing.

In 2018, Anne helped our city get involved in the opioid litigation — something I was personally passionate about and still am. All of her connections and knowledge were instrumental, and Martinsville is now receiving money from that lawsuit that will help our law enforcement fight this epidemic.

I read a couple weeks ago they are getting ready to use some of the money for some body cams and other things, which I am excited about for them.

She really was one of my best hires, and continued to be retained by the city council even after my tenure.

I am looking forward to seeing what she will bring to our county. I know she will be a huge asset going forward.

Thanks to our commissioners for taking this step.

Shannon E. Kohl
Martinsville

Faux furs, faux pets

Brace yourself — this is my opinion.

Living in the country on a farm was more than corn, soybeans, wheat, hay and domesticated farm animals. When in season, we hunted wild animals like rabbits, squirrels, coyotes, raccoons, and deer. If there were muskrats in the creek causing problems, my dad would trap them. If the groundhogs were a nuisance in the fields, we shot them. Of course, we trapped pests like mice, rats, as well as got rid of barn swallows. We always had barn cats for the mice population. This may seem like cruelty to city folks, but they had to be dealt with because they were pests who destroyed property.

Recently, I saw a report on TV that many of the high-end stores are selling clothing with "faux fur." It could be merely a collar, a shawl, a jacket, or full-length faux fur coat. This allows animal lovers to have a fur coat that is both beautiful and warm without feeling sorry for the animal. Well, they just reported that some are not faux but real fur — from animals. Imagine that!

I laughed out loud at the thought of them being fooled. Many people who never braved a wilderness nor lived off the land have no clue as to the cycle of life in the country. All they know is their precious pets.

We ate all but the pests and some of the young raccoons. Though raccoons were vegetarian, they were still pests and destroyed crops and kittens. They liked to eat corn. So as a trade, my dad enjoyed the hunt and then sold the furs. Again, that is what farmers do. Yes, they turn a profit everywhere they can. Furthermore, recycling things was done long before recycling was a green thing.



Life on Turkeyneck Hill
PHYLLIS BEX

Keep your red paint in the can where it belongs, not on a fur coat that is being worn. That tells me that the people objecting to killing animals for their fur pelts, recognize a real coat from a fake. Not so fast. The faux fur industry is getting so good at perfecting it that even the animals can't tell a difference. (I just made that up.)

Speaking of pets, it is a multi-billion-dollar business. I should have gotten into that business long ago, but instead I chose insurance sales. I noticed there is pet insurance that people can purchase to cover the high costs of veterinarian bills for their ill pets. That is still an option.

It's wintertime, and I am in Florida. One thing I have truly noticed is all the pets these old people have in their possession. I live in a pet-free community. Well, that is a joke. It seems if they have an emotional support animal (ESA) certificate from their doctor, that is all it takes to walk through the pet-free regulation. However, what those of us who do not have a pet — or those allergic to pets, or those who do not want to deal with pets — must tolerate is pets.

What is amazing is how the ESA owners go to the store,

out to eat, to the beach, out on the town, and multiple places and leave their animal at home. Therefore, if they were truly not just a pet, but truly providing emotional support, shouldn't they have them with them all the time?

My beef is, why cause a fuss? Go find a place that is pet-friendly. Why rock the boat? Why falsify your real situation by getting a fake ESA? I can tell you why, some people are selfish and inconsiderate. Unfortunately, like a lot of situations in life, there are more people who look for loopholes rather than obey the rules. After all, I speed every time I am behind the wheel. So, who am I to cast the first stone?

I love pets, I just don't want any. We had plenty on the farm, like dogs and cats plus the livestock. I love other people's pets. Heck fire, even two of my daughters have dogs in their homes and I love them. When I visit friends who own animals, I greet them. They are a part of their family.

Unfortunately, my daughter had a precious Maltese dog who suffered with cancer and had to be put down. I went with her to the vet for last rites and cried as much as she did. They are truly part of the family. A few years of mourning and now she has another little Maltese. The other daughter has a Welsh Terrier, quite a comical dog.

Yes, farming on 450 acres with a lot of woods affords a wildlife refuge and hunting of many kinds. Our many cats and dogs were great pets, but they never traveled with us and always lived outdoors.

Phyllis (Dow) Bex grew up on a farm west of Paragon and now lives in Greenwood. She can be reached at pbex49@gmail.com.

'Fresh produce' is always good

Over the last few weeks, we ran a couple of letters to the editor from readers who were unhappy about the column that ran at the end of December by Todd Huff, the nationally syndicated radio talk show host who lives in Monrovia.

It seems Huff struck a chord with some, and I was happy to get those replies into print. It takes very real courage to put a name to a public opinion and put it out into the local "marketplace of ideas." And as I always tell those folks, their opinions are shared by others who may not be so inclined to write an LTE, so I laud them for their time, effort and courage.

By nature of his mission, Huff has strong opinions, and they are, of course, political. While his tagline may be "conservative, not bitter," such things are always in the eye of the beholder, and plenty of folks disagreed with his approach.

But given the angst that was expressed by some, I thought it timely to give a friendly reminder of who we are and why we do what we do — particularly when it comes to the role of an Opinion page in our local newspaper.

First things first, let me be the first to say that we are very much an apolitical newspaper, of course. As I half joke, I'm equally cynical of all sides! I learned long ago the failings of human nature transcend political parties, and nobody is immune — myself included.

But yes, in terms of news, we are very much neutral, with objectivity as the ongoing ideal to which we strive.

However, when it comes to the Opinion page, well, we're contending with opinions from community members, and that's a very different scenario entirely.

Truth be told, the Opinion page is my favorite part of the newspaper. It is the literal voice of the community, and I'm always eager to hear get that voice into print.



The Tight Wire
STEPHEN CRANE

I love the letters and columns. I love hearing from people in the community, even when they're writing to tell me I'm an idiot.

Many times, the opinions expressed on the Opinion page are political, with some less subtle than others. Huff is of that sort, clearly. He has strong opinions that push the marketplace of ideas forward.

The old adage that "there's no such thing as bad press" applies. His late-December column has prompted two letters to the editor — in addition to a couple of personal contacts expressing their thoughts "off the record" — pushing back on his approach. This is a good thing!

What's more, those letter writers represent many others who now feel "heard" by way of their like-minded counterparts, who had the courage to put pen to paper for all the community to read.

This is the marketplace in action we get to witness in real time — an overdue dynamic, in my humble opinion.

That's not to say I ran (or will run) Todd Huff just to make people angry. I don't necessarily share his approach nor the sum of his opinions, but he'll likely make it into print again. He brings a perspective that provides some food for thought, even if it proves distasteful and is quickly spit into the nearest napkin.

But make no mistake, running his column is neither an explicit nor implicit endorsement of his opinions by this newspaper. And the same goes for anything else that goes on the Opinion page. The thoughts and feelings expressed in every column or letter to the editor that makes it into print belong to the name on the byline — and that includes my own.

That said, when it comes to the Opinion page, as a general rule, I tend to err on the side of open dialogue and free expression, regardless of my personal opinions or my distaste for the word choice of some. So long as it doesn't tread close to libel or slander (and thankfully, we're given far more latitude when it comes to our politicians and public figures), then I'll likely get it into print.

That may be of little solace to those who read a column or letter and shake their heads in dismay at the "poor taste" they find themselves chewing on. In which case, I would humbly and eagerly invite them to submit something of their own that raises the discourse and brings a new perspective into the marketplace, which is always in need of "fresh produce" that sustains.

Last I checked, such nourishment was good for a little gastro-intestinal cleanse anyway, which is always welcomed at my age.

Hope that clears up a few things. But of course, my door, inbox and phone line are always open, so don't hesitate to reach out — even if it's to tell me I'm an idiot.

And as always, thanks for reading.

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

Letters to the editor policy

The Correspondent values the opinions of the public and encourages letters to the editor.

Letters are limited to 350 words in length and may be submitted via email to editor Stephen Crane at scrane@morgancountycorrespondent.com or by mail to the Correspondent, 109 E. Morgan St., Martinsville, IN 46151. Submissions must include a name and phone number to confirm authorship.

The Correspondent reserves the right to edit for length, taste and clarity. The newspaper may also refuse to publish, particularly in instances of libel or slander.

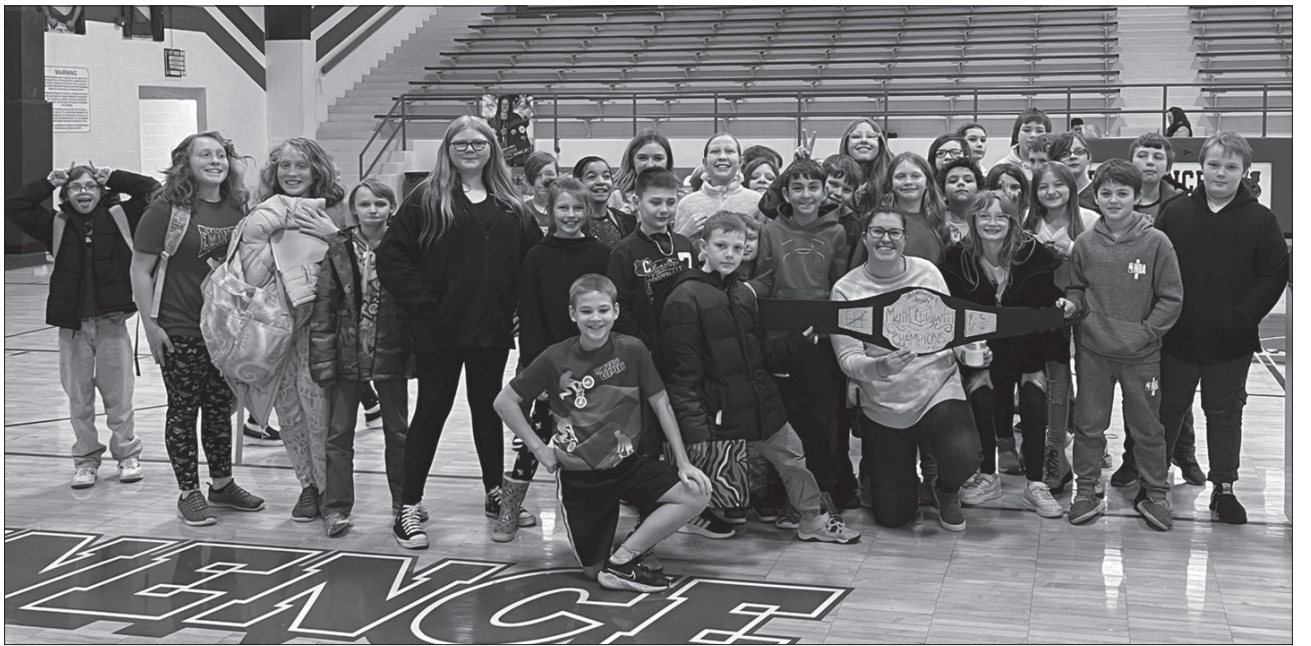
This page is a forum for a broad spectrum of opinions and to be considered separate from the news coverage of this publication. The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Correspondent, its owners or its staff.

WINTER HOMECOMING ON FRIDAY



The Mooresville High School Winter Homecoming Court includes (back row, from left) juniors and seniors Claire Newton, Rachel Harshman, Madyson Law, Arabella Brown and Vicktoria Zook, (front row, from left) freshmen and sophomores Emma Meece, Kaylen Bullock, Serenity Smith and Mya Doblado. Mooresville's Winter Homecoming is Friday, Jan. 19, when the Pioneers takes on Plainfield. The girls game begins at 6 p.m. The 10th annual Champions Together game (a partnership between IHSAA and Special Olympics) will take place after the girls game and the boys game will begin at about 7:45p.m.

TITLE BELT WINNERS



Teacher Bailey Cummings holds the Math Growth Championship Belt as she poses with her class after the students were awarded the title for showing improvement during the second quarter. (Eminence Community Schools courtesy photo)

FASHIONABLE FLIP-FLOPS



The fashion classes at Martinsville High School show off their handmade flip-flops, which students designed and marketed in conjunction with a company they were required to develop as part of the class. (MSD of Martinsville courtesy photo)

MILK IN A JAR



Miss Jordan's first-grade class at Centerton Elementary School gather with their butter jars as part of a lesson on learning how life in the 'olden days' differed from today. As part of the lesson, the students learned how to make butter in a jar, which they later enjoyed with some saltine crackers. (MSD of Martinsville courtesy photo)



ALL-A ALL-STARS

LEFT: Students at Centerton Elementary School are all smiles as they show off the keychains they received for being on the All-A Honor Roll in the second nine weeks of school. (MSD of Martinsville courtesy photo)

SOUND THE GONG

BELOW: These Bruins from Charles L. Smith Fine Arts Academy got to sound the gong recently for leveling up in Lexia – the online, reading-based curriculum used for elementary school students. (MSD of Martinsville courtesy photo)

PERFECT ATTENDANCE



'Pineapple Pete' stopped by South Elementary School of Communications to recognize all those students who had perfect attendance in the second nine-week period for the school year. (MSD of Martinsville courtesy photo)



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State lawmakers invite students to serve as pages

From Wade Cogsell
Indiana House Republicans

INDIANAPOLIS — Morgan County lawmakers invite Hoosier students to sign up and experience a day serving as a House page at the Indiana Statehouse during the 2024 legislative session. According to State Rep. Peggy Mayfield (R-Martinsville), Hoosier students in grades 6 through 12 can sign up to be a House page and assist state lawmakers and Statehouse staff with daily duties while having

the opportunity to tour the governor's office, the Supreme Court, and House and Senate chambers.

"During my time serving at the Statehouse, I've had the pleasure of meeting so many bright students seeking an up-close look at how Indiana laws are made. In fact, one student page eventually joined our Statehouse staff," Mayfield said. "I look forward to working with more young Hoosiers from our community during session."

State Rep. Craig Haggard (R-Mooresville) said



Haggard Mayfield

that student pages will receive an excused absence from school and that groups of students may participate together.

"Spending a day at the Statehouse is a great opportunity to learn more about Indiana's history and see government in action," Haggard said. "I encourage eligible students to apply to be a page before all available slots are filled."

Interested Hoosier students or parents can go to

indianahouserpublicans.com/pageprogram to fill out the online application and select a day to participate during the 2024 legislative session, which began Jan. 8 and must conclude by March 14. Individual page opportunities will be on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

To schedule a large group, please reach out to the page program by calling 317-232-9410 or emailing pageprogram@iga.in.gov. Large groups will be scheduled for Wednesdays only.

Students will be responsible for their own lunch along with transportation to and from the Statehouse located in downtown Indianapolis.

Republican leaders address 'State of the State'

By Schyler Altherr and Jaelyn Allen
TheStatehouseFile.com

INDIANAPOLIS — After Gov. Eric Holcomb's State of the State speech concluded Jan. 9 and the Democrats finished their retorts, Senate President Pro Tem Roderick Bray, (R-Martinsville) and House Speaker Todd Huston (R-Fishers) walked into the Senate Chamber room to discuss their support for the speech.

Among the achievements Holcomb touted were the investments that allowed for wider coverage of broadband internet. Sen. Greg Taylor (D-Indianapolis) said in his press conference afterward that a lack of credit was given to the Biden administration.

"We're grateful, frankly, to have some federal laws passed in this area," said Bray, also mentioning the work that Indiana specifically has done to support broadband connectivity.

Taylor mentioned in his dissenting remarks that another missing talking point of Holcomb's speech was legalizing cannabis.

"We are continuing to work on several bills and

having conversations surrounding the subject," Bray said.

Before Hoosiers get too excited over the idea, however, it is not a high priority and the chances are nil that legislation emerges this year.

"Will it pass this year? No," said Bray.

The Indiana General Assembly is planning to take a step forward when it comes to childcare, while Democrats worry that Republican action is missing the mark by not raising wages.

"If you raise the wages for those employees, you're going to raise the cost of childcare," Bray said.

Holcomb's speech also included talk of legislation that would implement standards to improve children's reading by the third grade.

"I look forward to those arguments ... because we're going to keep our focus on what's in the best interest of the student," Huston said.

Schyler Altherr and Jaelyn Allen are reporters for TheStatehouseFile.com, a news website powered by Franklin College journalism students.

USS INDIANAPOLIS CREW HONORED



State Sen. Rod Bray (far right) recognizes crewmembers from the USS Indianapolis (LCS 17) Jan. 9 on the Senate Floor at the Indiana Statehouse with Senate Concurrent Resolution 2, which highlights the naval ship and its ongoing military efforts. The ship is the fourth U.S. Navy vessel to be named after the state's capital city and was commissioned in Burns Harbor, Ind., on Oct. 26, 2019. The ship and its crew returned to the United States on Dec. 20, 2023 after a six-month deployment to the Persian Gulf. "It was an honor to be able to recognize the crew and their sacrifices on the Senate floor," Bray said in a statement. "And I thank them for their dedication to protecting our nation."



Senate President Pro Tem Roderick Bray (R-Martinsville) and House Speaker Todd Huston (R-Fishers) talk to reporters after Gov. Eric Holcomb's State of the State address Jan. 9. (Sanjida Tanim photo / TheStatehouseFile.com)

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City orgs team up for 'cold-weather plan'

Staff report

MARTINSVILLE — WellSpring and the Red Barn in Martinsville have stepped up to assist those who may not have adequate housing in the cold winter months, but help from the community is still needed in the effort.

According to WellSpring Executive Director Bob Goodrum, the non-profit organization located at 301 W. Harrison St. in Martinsville will open its doors to unsheltered single men on nights that are forecasted to be 32 degrees or lower — or 35 or lower with precipitation — to get them out of the weather and into a warm facility.

Patty Owens at the Red Barn Thrift Store and Food Pantry, 146 E. Morgan St., will provide a similar service for single women.

According to Goodrum, check-in at WellSpring will be on a first-come first-served basis from 3 to 5 p.m. daily on qualifying nights, and a hot dinner meal will be provided. In the morning, guests will depart with a continental breakfast.

As part of the effort, the organization is asking the community for dona-



Two local organizations, as well as the county's public health preparedness and response coordinator, have set up a plan to help those without shelter during the cold winter months. (Elvert Barnes courtesy photo)

Needed items

Water repellent gloves
New or gently used coats (XL or above)
Men's belts
Hand and feet warmers
Cases of bottled water
Toilet paper
Paper towels
Prayers

tions of Kroger/Walmart gift cards to help with the purchase of food and supplies. Community groups

and churches willing to prepare and deliver a hot hearty meal for 12 are also sought.

Steve Lyday, of the Morgan County Public Health Preparedness and Response coordinator, is assisting the effort with cots.

A shelter house and the pool house at Jimmy Nash City Park may be used for overflow, but at present, there are no volunteer chaperones, who would

be needed from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. to help make those locations a reality. Two men and two women would be needed in each location. Men willing to volunteer as chaperones at WellSpring are also sought, and the nonprofit is willing to accommodate availability by breaking the night into shifts.

Those interested in volunteering or providing meals can call Goodrum at 765-342-6661 ext. 304.

Mooreville park board moves ahead with BOT process

By Lance Gideon
MCC Correspondent

MOOREVILLE — The Mooreville Parks and Recreation District is continuing to work through its planned improvements for the years ahead.

During the Jan. 8 park board meeting, the board approved for the department to release a request for proposals and qualifications for the project.

"This is the first step in releasing information to collect data proposals from the certified firms that would be interested in participating as our bid operator," Mooreville Parks Superintendent Phil Cornelius said.

The parks have decided to go with the build-operate-transfer (BOT) procurement method for the improvements at Pioneer Park.

Town attorney Chou-ll Lee explained that once the board receives proposals back, a committee will review and score the proposals. Then the committee can either accept one or more, or decline all proposals it has received.

If the committee sends recommendations to the board, the board can then decide to go with one proposal or decline them all.

"Let's say you decide, 'Yes, we do want to move forward with these proposals; here is the person we're going to put out there,' then you get into the phase where you are going to negotiate a contract, essentially," Lee said.

According to Lee, the BOT procurement method for the project allows the parks "to negotiate a maximum-guaranteed price for that contract."

"So the risk is all on their end," Lee added.

He also noted if an agreement with the maximum-guaranteed price can't be met, the negotiations would not move forward.

Lee told the board that developers would make the assumption that the board will want to move forward with the project.

"But they understand you may not," Lee added.

Park board president Matt Saner asked Lee what the "point of no return" would be for the parks department with a company.

"When we sign that guaranteed-maximum price contract," Lee responded.

Lee was asked if any money would change hands before the contract is signed.

"No, this is all stuff that they are going to take in ... that's an at-risk part," Lee noted.

Park board member Mark Taylor explained one concern he had with the BOT method.

"It's like going to a car dealership and saying, 'OK, I want to buy a brand new car and I've only got this \$20,000 to spend,' and then knowing the price before you even go in there, 'OK, we'll charge you \$19,999,'" Taylor said. "It just seems like it's a different process."

"It is a different process," Lee explained. "It is a process that has become available to municipal entities just over the past few years."

He told the board the BOT was first available to school districts in Indiana before it was allowed for municipal governments.

"What we have found is that it has been a great way overall to design and get the project you're looking for, because you're doing all the scoping and estimating at the right time," Lee said.

The board approved releasing the request for proposals by a vote of 7-0.

Cornelius explained that he anticipates proposals would be ready to be brought back to the board at its February meeting.

In other business

The board selected to have Saner continue as its president in 2024, Taylor to serve as its vice president and Danny Shaw as its secretary.

It decided to table a decision on awarding its five-year master plan contract until a future meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Mooreville Parks Board is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 12.

Plan commission OKs plat requests

By Keith Rhoades
MCC Chief Correspondent

MORGAN COUNTY — The Morgan County Plan Commission held its first meeting of 2024 on Jan. 8.

All the requests dealt with platting requests. There was no opposition to any of the requests.

Edward Dwigans received approval for a two-lot minor plat at 3720 Ind. 252 in Washington Township.

Erik Wickens received approval to vacate two lots, No. 33 and 34, in the

Foxrun Subdivision in Washington Township and replat them into one lot. The lots are located at 1192 and 1222 E. Foxrun Drive.

Larry Martin received approval to subdivide a lot at 5342 E. Neff Lane in Madison Township into two lots.

Adam Stokes received permission to vacate lots five and six in the Acorn Ridge subdivision and replat them into one lot. The property is located at 3469 and 3481 Hancock Rode Road in Ashland Township.

Justin Cooper received permission

to vacate lots 21 and 22 in the Sand Creek Knoll subdivision and replat them into one lot. The property is located at 3134 and 3116 E. Indian Summer Lane in Washington Township.

Commission members re-elected Terry Brock as president of the plan commission, Melanie DePoy as vice chairman and Dustin Frye as secretary.

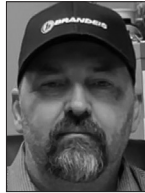
The next scheduled commission meeting is Feb. 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the county administration building, 180 S. Main St. in Martinsville.

Fisher appointed new highway superintendent

From Erin Pipkin
Compass Outreach Solutions

MORGAN COUNTY — County native Eddie Fisher has been promoted by the Morgan County Commissioners to lead the Morgan County Highway Department. Fisher has been with the department for more than three years as the District 3 supervisor.

As superintendent, Fisher is responsible for:



Fisher

- Overseeing daily operations of the county's roads, bridges and rights of way;
- Identifying and coordinating improvements to the county's infrastructure;
- Overseeing construction projects;
- Hiring and personnel matters of more than 30 de-

partment employees; Serving as team leader for the Morgan County Highway emergency response team.

"Eddie's broad range of experience and effective leadership in District 3 makes him the clear choice for this position," Commissioner Don Adams said. "He has the skills and knowledge to serve Morgan County well."

A lifelong resident of Morgan County, Fisher brings

experience as a wildland firefighter and heavy equipment operator at the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to this position.

"I joined the department in 2020 to provide stability for my family," Fisher said. "I am pleased with the opportunity to lead the department and county in a positive direction."

Fisher officially began his post on Jan. 1.

County fair seeks logo design

From Ellen Wilson-Pruitt
Morgan County Fair Board

MORGAN COUNTY — The Morgan County Fair will be celebrating 75 years at its present location, and to commemorate the occasion, the fair is sponsoring a contest to design a 75th anniversary logo.

This is open to anyone. Needed is a

logo suitable for T-shirts, key chains or commemorative buttons.

Entries are due to the fair office by March 1, with the winner to be announced at the Fair Board Meeting on March 12. Entries may be dropped off at the fair office, mailed to 1749 Hospital Drive, Martinsville, IN 46151, or emailed to morgancofair@att.net.



The winner will receive a prize of \$75.

EMA weather-spotter class coming next month

From Abby Worth
Morgan County EMA

MORGAN COUNTY — The Morgan County Emergency Management Agency is excited to announce that EMA is hosting a free Community Weather Spotter class in partnership with the National Weather Service (NWS).

This is being hosted at the Morgan County Public

Library's Main Branch in Martinsville, in the lower-level meeting room, at 6 p.m. on Feb. 27. It will last approximately two hours and does not require pre-registration.

The SKYWARN spotter training is a NWS program that teaches people about severe storm identification and associated hazards, how to stay safe

when conditions threaten, and how to report this critical severe weather information to the NWS and local emergency management officials as trained Skywarn Spotters.

Trained storm spotter reports help NWS meteorologists in their primary mission: the issuance of warnings for the protection of life and property.



Winter Resource Fair next week for Morgan County families

Staff report

MORGAN COUNTY — All Morgan County families are invited to attend a free Winter Resource Fair from noon to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 24, at Churches in Mission, 60 W. Pike St. in Martinsville.

A wide variety of agencies and organizations will be on hand to pro-

vide information and resources to assist with the ongoing wellness of families in the county.

"They'll have the opportunity to visit all the booths and find information on various resources for their households," said Susan Haynes, of Churches in Mission. "And we hope to have a great turnout."

The first 100 families who at-

tend will receive a free meal kit worth more than \$50, which is being sponsored by Duke Energy.

Others on hand include HealthNet, which will provide information on low-cost healthcare and insurance assistance.

South Central Community Action Program will highlight opportunities for utility and housing assistance.

Churches in Mission will have

information on free cooking classes and mental health services, in addition to food and clothing assistance information.

Tobacco-Free Morgan County will provide information on tobacco cessation, with free Quit Now resources.

The YMCA of Morgan County will provide information on childcare and healthy living.



Work One will highlight employment resources and job opportunities. And The Morgan County Substance Abuse Council will provide resources in substance-abuse prevention.

"All Morgan County families are welcome to attend," said Haynes.

UPGRADES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

Work will also take place to bring the facility up to current building-code requirements, in addition to updated restrooms, showers and mechanical systems.

But the Martinsville Armory is not the only one.

“Martinsville is just one piece of the larger puzzle,” said Lowry.

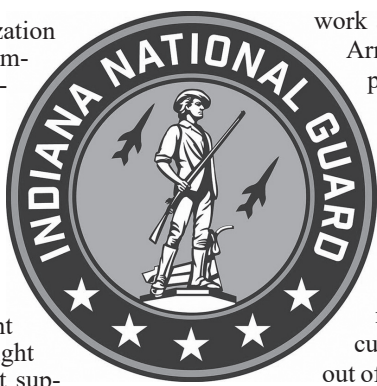
A partnership between state and federal agencies is pushing to upgrade National Guard facilities throughout the state, which is “a part of the 20-year modernization plan to provide state-of-the-art facilities for soldiers to conduct their daily duties and training,” according to the facilities personnel’s statement.

Like Martinsville’s 66-year-old armory, many of the National Guard’s existing facilities are getting older, with an average age of 57 years old. What’s more, they were typically designed for smaller units and had no air-conditioning installed, very limited administrative space and small restrooms and shower areas.

“As such, the current facilities do not meet the needs of today’s modern force,” according to statement from the facilities personnel. “And it is a priority to upgrade our facilities to today’s standards.”

Indiana National Guard leaders are also hoping the upgrades assist with another vital mission — recruitment.

“The modernization plan will help improve the facilities throughout the state, and hopefully, it will also help attract recruits,” said Lowry. “Without the right tools, without the right equipment and without the right facilities, we can’t support the state and nation.”



The Indiana National Guard contracted with Indy-based Brand



Industrial-sized bags of Quickcrete are stacked behind two mixers in the parking lot of the Indiana National Guard Armory in Martinsville as construction crews get started on dirt work as part of the facility’s upgrades. (Stephen Crane photo / MCC)

Construction Inc. to do the work at the Martinsville Armory, which is expected to be completed at the end of 2024.

Anyone interested in joining the Indiana National Guard can contact the local recruiter — who’s currently working out of 60 On The Square co-work space at 60 W. Morgan St. in Martinsville — by calling 812-219-0761.



RIGHT: The Indiana National Guard Armory also serves as the recruiting office, but until the \$6.7 million improvements are completed, the local recruiter is working out of the 60 On The Square co-work space in downtown Martinsville. (Stephen Crane photo / MCC)

ELVIS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

He cares a lot about his community and friends, and helping people appears to be his main agenda.

Before preparing this article, this writer knew absolutely nothing about Elvis. Like many, I have seen him around town for decades, and every encounter I had was always positive.

But now, I am much better informed about this extraordinary individual, and I am anxious to share the information I have gathered with the readers of the Correspondent and allow Elvis to have the recognition he deserves.

Family and background

Elvis is 63 years old, and was born on Aug. 18, 1960, in Evansville.

Elvis’s parents, Elvis Lea Stearman, Sr. and Betty Jane Stearman, are both deceased. He had two brothers who died several years ago, and one sister who now resides in Kentucky. Elvis has a son who lives south of Mooresville.

When Elvis reflects back over the years when he was growing up, he has some sad memories. He recalls living in the “project area” of Evansville. He remembers his father working for the highway department as a night watchman, providing security for construction equipment and materials stored on construction sites. Elvis often brought meals and other requested items to his father and would walk three or four miles round trip to accomplish the task.

Elvis completed grades one through four of elementary school, attending Whites Elementary School and Lincoln Elementary School. He entered fifth grade but did not complete it.



From left: Patty Owens and Elvis Stearman share a hug outside the Red Barn Food Pantry and Thrift Store on East Morgan Street in Martinsville last week. Elvis is a mainstay at the Red Barn and Patty considers Elvis to be her ‘third son.’ (Stephen Crane photo / MCC)

When Elvis was born, he had cataracts on both eyes. He underwent surgery as a child, and thereafter, he was required to wear glasses with very thick lenses. Elvis’s classmates constantly made fun of his eyes and thick glasses and bullied him to the point where he would frequently run out of the school building and return home.

“People ran over me when I was growing up,” Elvis remarked during the interview.

But Elvis was determined to overcome these unpleasant childhood experiences. Elvis was a resident at Mulberry Center in Evansville, and later he entered a group home in Haubstadt, Ind., and worked in nearby Princeton, Ind.

In 1988, Elvis moved to a group home in Martinsville and worked at Morgan County Rehabilitation Center in Centerton.

Community contribution

Elvis presently spends most of his time helping the

owners of downtown businesses in Martinsville.

He often runs errands for Patty Owens, who operates the Red Barn Food Pantry and Thrift Store on East Morgan Street. He has known Patty since 1988 and quickly acknowledges that she is the most important person in his life. For her part, Patty often refers to Elvis as her “third (and favorite) son.”

Elvis helps Patty carry items into the store, and he helps out in the store. Elvis provides security at night and checks the door of her shop and all surrounding businesses to make sure the doors

are locked and the buildings are secure. Patty brags about Elvis’s honesty and dependability, and his loyalty to her over many years.

“I love Elvis,” she said. “He is family to me.”

Mary Ellen Waltz operates Steve’s Appliances, which was previously located at 134 E. Morgan St. but just recently moved to Burton Way.

But for years, Elvis was a daily staple at the appliance store, and Mary Ellen still brags about Elvis and his talents as a night watchman. On several occasions, Elvis called Mary Ellen in the evening to inform her that the

front door to her office was left unlocked, or the door to the service truck was unlocked. Elvis would take care of the situation and make sure the business was secure for the night.

Mary Ellen also believes Elvis has a gift for being able to see the “spirits” that appear at night in and around the downtown buildings. Mary Ellen believes the ghosts are always there, but Elvis has a special connection with the spirit world, and he is able to “see” the ghosts and photograph them. The photographs are rather impressive, and Elvis is eager to describe what he sees in and around the downtown buildings and nearby cemetery.

Jackie Blackwell owns and operates Come ‘N Git It Restaurant at the southwest corner of Morgan and Main streets in Martinsville. She became acquainted with Elvis in 2008. Elvis has volunteered his time to her business for the last 15 years by running errands, getting change, delivering marketing materials, cleaning antique pieces, loading and unloading various items, and making sure the building is locked at night.

“Elvis is the most upfront and honest person I have ever met,” Jackie said. “He is part of the family.”

Elvis also spends a lot of time at A to Z Auction House on East Morgan Street. He has become good friends with the owners, Dave and Stephanie Ricketts, since 2010. Elvis helps with the

auction business and moving business. On several occasions, Elvis has secured doors that were left open at night.

“Most of all, Elvis loves to make others feel good,” Stephanie said.

In addition to Elvis’s skills as a night watchman and spirit seer, Elvis has an extraordinary talent for finding special items and gifting them to the appropriate individuals, and at just the right time.

For example, many years ago the NEHI Bottling Co. produced soda pop in Martinsville. The rare NEHI soda pop bottle was inscribed with the words “Bottled in Martinsville, Indiana.” Elvis discovered one of these bottles and gave the bottle to a local “bottle collector,” who several months earlier had mentioned that he would like to have this rare item. The bottle collector was glad to add this bottle to his collection and Elvis was just as happy to give it to him.

All of the people in our community who have become acquainted with Elvis over the past several years say the same thing about Elvis. He is loyal to his friends and trustworthy in all of his transactions.

The verdict is in and judgment is entered declaring that Elvis is an important part of the Martinsville community. Elvis is helpful, kind and dependable at all times, and he is generous with all of his friends and new acquaintances.

Elvis is our man!

ECLIPSE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

After the auditorium walls are painted, sound “bats” will be positioned around the room in an attempt to help with acoustics and combat the problems with the PA system.

The fair had received a quote from a company to do the sound work in the auditorium. It was in excess of \$100,000. The fair has some sound bats they want to use

to see if that will solve the PA problem.

Other business

The fair will be looking for quotes to replace the doors on the 4-H building. The doors have been on the building for more than 25 years and do not meet current codes.

The fair needs to find a new groundskeeper. The fair was taking applications through mid January.

The next scheduled fair board meeting is Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. at the fair-s 4-H building.

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HAMBLIN, SANDERS ON TOP

Martinsville, Mooresville wrestlers compete at Mid-State tourney

By Melissa Dillon
MCC Correspondent

FRANKLIN — On Saturday, Franklin Community hosted the Mid-State Conference wrestling tournament for a long day of tough matches, but Morgan County wrestlers showed up and came out on top in a number of matches.

With a couple weeks left before the state tournaments start, it's a good test with some of the better schools in the state sitting in the Mid-State Conference.

Perry Meridian (1st, 261) and Franklin Community (2nd, 229) had a ton of representation in the championship matches and scored a bunch throughout the day. Martinsville, however, finished third with a team score of 153. Close behind was Plainfield (4th, 132), Decatur Central (5th, 110), Whiteland (6th, 105), Greenwood (7th, 100) and Mooresville (8th, 72.5).

"I was pretty happy about today," Martinsville first-year head coach Aaron Johnson said. "We were hoping to get first, but we know top three is still really good with my first year being here and my first year working with these kids. There are tough teams here. We knew we were going to have a dogfight with Perry and Franklin. It wasn't a bad day at all."

Martinsville had five wrestlers and Mooresville had one in the championship rounds.

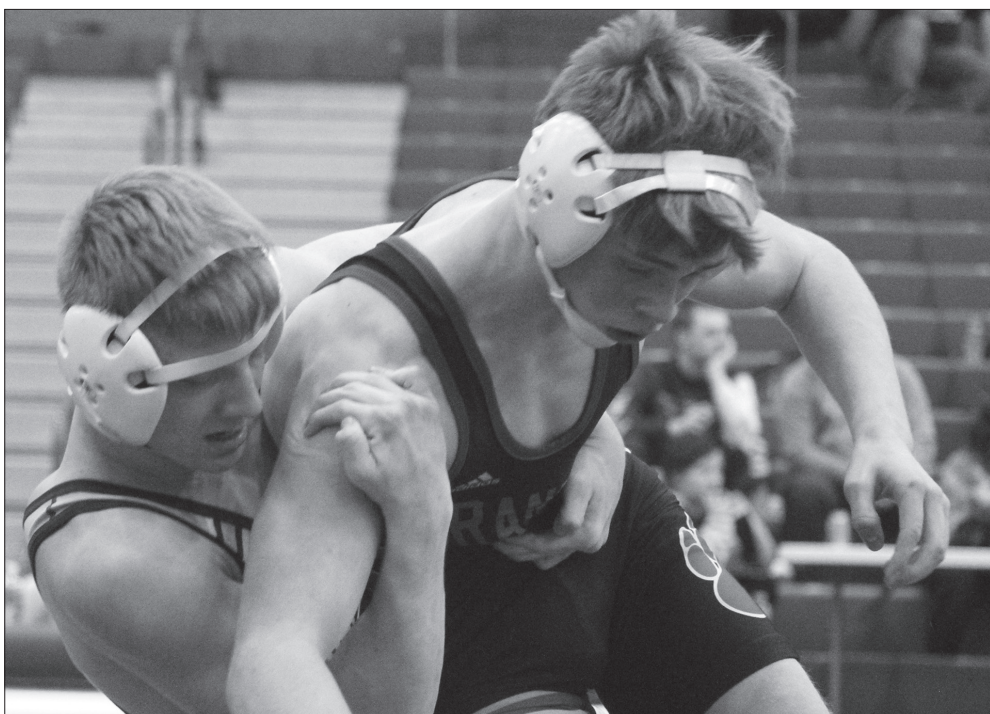
For Mooresville, Griffin Sanders was the champion at 150-pounds over Franklin's Cameron Sommers. He had a take-down in the first period to lead 2-0 and still held a 2-1 lead after two periods. In the third, he had another take down and an escape to win by decision, 7-1.

Evan Hamblin for Martinsville was the champion in the 157-pound match over Franklin's Corinthian Tonte. Hamblin was up 2-1 after the first period from a take down. Hamblin had control most of the second period, but neither could score. Hamblin had an escape in the third and another take down to win 5-1 by decision.

Also for Martinsville in the championships was Brennan Leonard, who finished second at 113 pounds. It was a close match



Martinsville's Evan Hamblin takes a shot in his match at 157-pounds during Saturday's Mid-State Conference wrestling tournament. Hamblin was awarded the champion after his 5-1 decision win over Corinthian Tonte of Franklin Community. (Nevaeh Dillon photo / MCC)



Mooresville's Griffin Sanders controls the action on his way to a championship at the Mid-State Conference in the 150-pound weight class during Saturday's tournament at Franklin. Sanders was smart in his match and won 7-1 over Cameron Sommers of Franklin Community. (Nevaeh Dillon photo / MCC)

until the end, with Leonard only down by two points before Perry Meridian's Hruai Lian caught him in a pin with five seconds to go in the match.

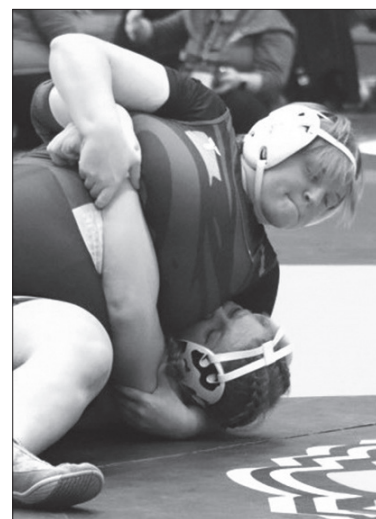
At 175 pounds, Martinsville's

Noah Sumner worked hard, but Perry Meridian's Seer Godwise came out the winner 14-5. Perry's Jaylen Young had Martinsville's Ezra Frederick at 190-pounds in a deep arm bar to end the first peri-

od with one second to go by a pin.

Dominick Mercer was the last of the Artesians in a championship round. He finished runner-up

SEE TOP | PAGE B2



Portia Weaver of Monrovia gains the upper hand on an opponent during Friday's state tournament. (Jason Hutchinson courtesy photo)

Area lady wrestlers grapple at state

By Steve Page
MCC Correspondent

KOKOMO — For area wrestlers, getting to state was a bit more exciting than competing in Friday's Indiana High School Girls Wrestling State Finals in Kokomo.

Along the way, Mooresville won regional and semi-state team championships. With only two competitors, Monrovia had outstanding results leading to state. Indian Creek, with three semi-state champs, wanted more.

Those three teams came away with two third-place finishes, one fourth and two fifths.

"I thought our girls competed hard and really capped off a great season for us," said Mooresville coach Dan Mikesell.

"I thought the girls wrestled really well," said Monrovia coach DJ Smith.

"It was a heartbreaking tournament," said Indian Creek coach Pat Dowty.

Mikesell noted that all things are relative, saying, "We improved

SEE GRAPPLE | PAGE B3



Pioneer boys get tough loss at home

By Melissa Dillon
MCC Correspondent

MOORESVILLE — The Mooresville boys basketball team had a close game with Columbus North at home last Friday.

The Pioneers were behind by just a couple buckets most of the game, but a big third quarter by the Bulldogs put Mooresville in

a hole. Columbus North walked away with the win, 63-51.

As a team, the Pioneers made just three three-pointers but had 15 shots from inside the perimeter. They made 12-for-17 from the foul line. In contrast, North made four three-pointers, 14 two-pointers and went 17-for-21 at the line.

Mooresville had three players in double digits, with sophomore

Chris Thompson leading the way with 16 points, all coming from two-point buckets. Juniors Brevon Burns and AJ DeFur each added 10. Each had a trey, and DeFur went 5-for-5 at the line. Senior Wilkinson Elma collected seven, junior Bradley Robbins Jr. with six, and senior Alec Dennis with two.

North had a short 14-13 lead after the first quarter and up 28-25 at

the half. DeFur scored eight points in the half, Robbins and Thompson each had six, Burns with three and Elma had two.

Mooresville came out at half-time fired up and hit a few shots in addition to some stops on defense. Thompson had a couple steals and a couple buckets to give the Pioneers a 32-28 lead.

SEE LOSS | PAGE B2

Mooresville junior Brevon Burns (1) drives to the basket and doesn't get a foul called during Friday's game at home against Columbus North. (Nevaeh Dillon photo / MCC)

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK MONROVIA HIGH SCHOOL

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JOSIE HAUSE

PORTIA WEAVER



GRADE: Senior
SPORT: Wrestling
REASON FOR AWARD: Josie was a Regional Champion and the Semi-State Champion in her weight class to qualify for the State Finals. Josie placed fourth in the state, which is her third top-four finish in the state in her career. She finished the season with a 28-5 record.



GRADE: Senior
SPORT: Wrestling
REASON FOR AWARD: Portia was a Regional Champion and the runner-up at the very competitive Mooresville semi-state to punch her ticket to this past weekend's State Finals. Portia went 2-2 at state to finish on the podium in seventh place. She finished the season with a 25-7 record.

Artesians, Pioneers earn fall honors

Artesian girls soccer coach gets top honor

By Steve Page
MCC Correspondent

MORGAN COUNTY — Student-athletes from Martinsville and Mooresville experienced many shining moments throughout the fall sports season.

Those efforts resulted in All-Conference honors in the Mid-State Conference.

At the top of the list were Martinsville's Barco siblings, Martin and Laura.

Martin was the MSC boys' cross country champion, racing to the finish at Decatur Central in 16:01. He wouldn't stop running until the IHSAA State Finals were concluded in Terre Haute.

Ditto for Laura, who took third in the MSC girls' cross country race with a time of 18:55.

Martinsville also fared well in boys soccer, tying for second with a record of 4-1-2 (11-6-2 overall). As a result, four Artesians earned All-Conference honors: the dual-sport Martin Barco, as well as Luke Gamble, Camden Wolff and Landon Heath.

Same for the Artesians in girls soccer, as they took second at 6-1 (12-6-1 overall), earning Jason Dilbone

SEE HONORS | PAGE B3

Mid-State All-Conference Boys tennis

Bailey Kelso, Mooresville
Gavin Clements, Martinsville
Patrick McGown, Martinsville

Girls golf AC

Lucy Guy, Mooresville

Boys cross country AC

Martin Barco, Martinsville
Tyler Gercak, Mooresville
Landon Willis, Martinsville

Girls cross country AC

Laura Barco, Martinsville

Boys soccer AC

Martin Barco, Martinsville
Luke Gamble, Martinsville
Camden Wolff, Martinsville
Landon Heath, Martinsville
Matt Coffey, Mooresville

Girls soccer AC

Madeline Moscrip, Martinsville
Olivia Phillips, Martinsville
Cassandra Berry, Martinsville
Layla Wolff, Martinsville
Lyla Jacobs, Mooresville
Kinsley Bechtold, Mooresville
Coach of the Year: Jason Dilbone, Martinsville

Volleyball AC

Randee Garringer, Mooresville
Courtney Burnam, Martinsville



Local athletics nonprofit to get some 'love' from WTHR

From Melissa Plunkett
League of Miracles

MORGAN COUNTY — While the nonprofit may be small, The League of Miracles is hoping for some huge "love" and a big boost to its ongoing efforts in serving those with disabilities.

The League of Miracles is a recreational and athletic program for kids and adults with disabilities located in Morgan County. Serving ages 5-80, the League hosts a variety of recreational sports, arts and social programs. Recently, the League has been chosen to be featured on Indy-based TV Channel 13 WTHR's "Send the Love" micro-giving fundraising program.

Beginning Jan. 22, people can tune into channel 13, WTHR, at 6 p.m. During the first night, WTHR will introduce The League of Miracles

and then continue with updates throughout that week. The TV station will ask viewers to text the word LOVE to 317-655-5740. Then the viewers will receive a text with a link to the League's donation page. One of the League's own local athletes and his mother will be featured as well.

The League encourages other local nonprofits to apply to be featured on the "Send the Love" program. According to WTHR's website, "If you have a suggestion for a nonprofit to be featured in our Send The Love campaign, please email SendTheLove@wthr.com.

The ideal partners are small-to-medium-sized 501c3 nonprofits

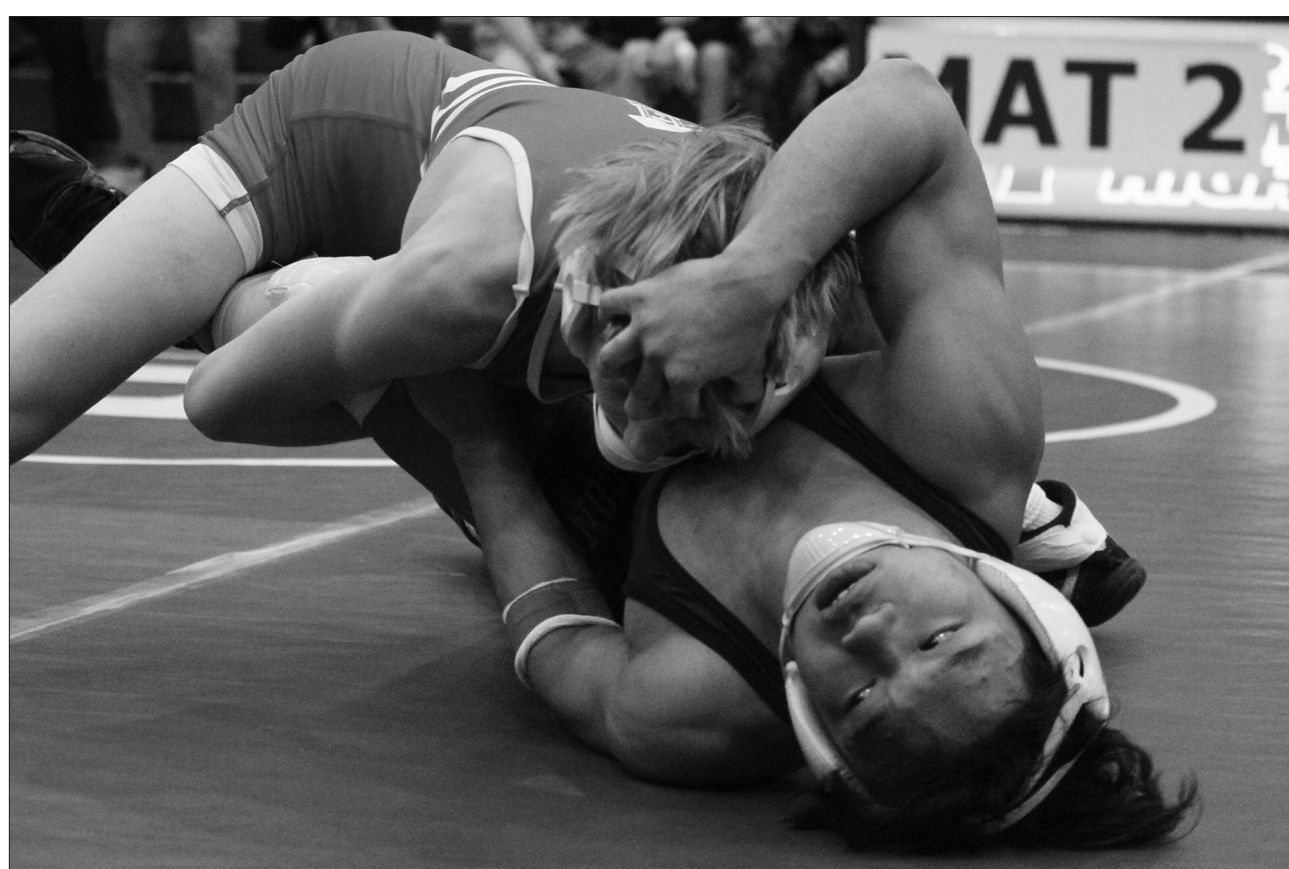
in good standing, located in central Indiana. The nonprofit needs to have a donation portal that can take \$5 donations and be able to report totals to us. There is a strong preference to feature independent nonprofits that are not a chapter of a larger, national organization. Each organization is vetted before being featured on Send The Love."

The League loves its athletes, its families, our county and Central Indiana. And it's grateful to all those willing to be a part of the Miracle.

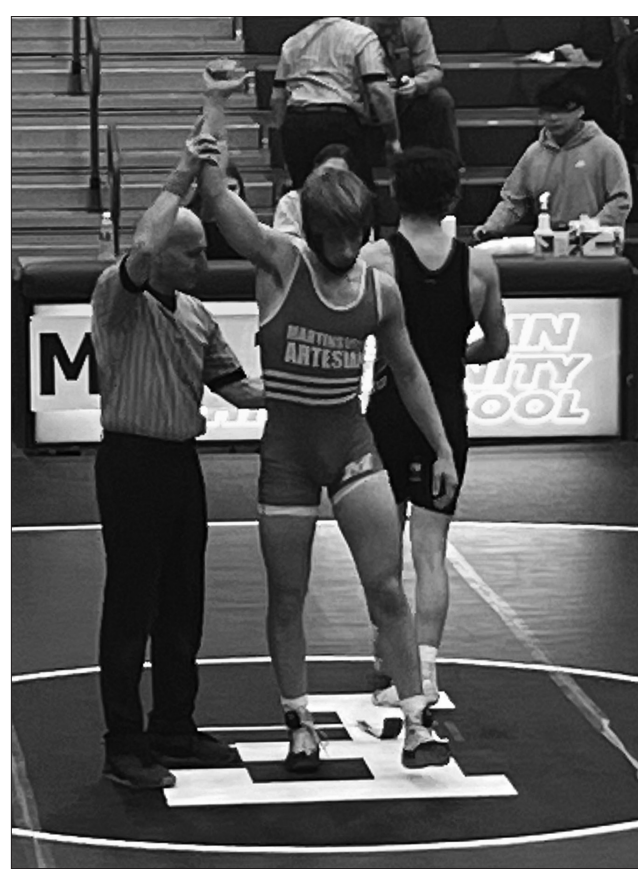
To learn more about the League of Miracles, visit leagueofmiracles.org.



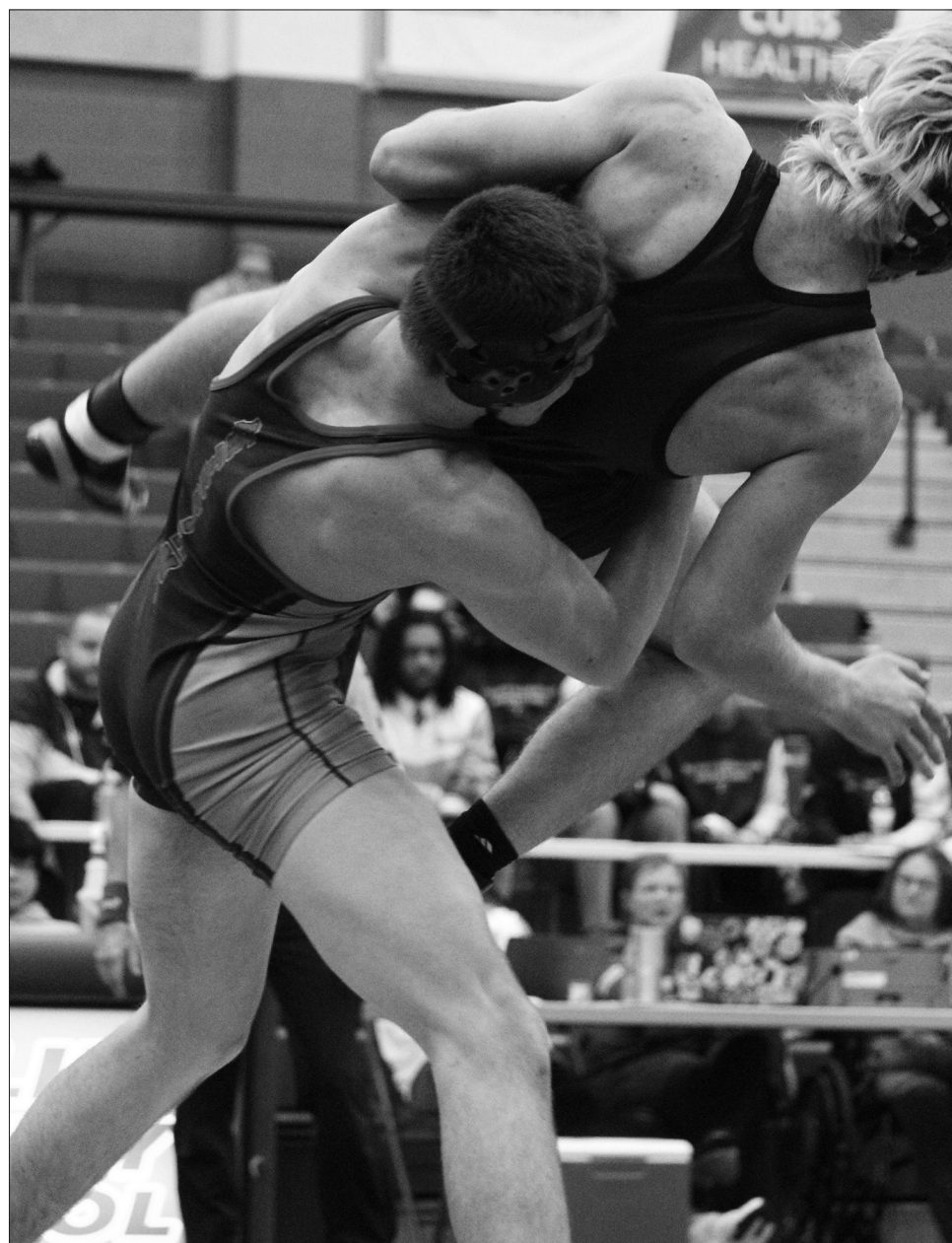
Carter and his mom, Pam, are all smiles at the 2023 Annual Gala. Carter can be found at nearly every single event the League hosts, and his mom is always right there to help Carter and the other athletes as well. (League of Miracles courtesy photo)



Martinsville's Brennan Leonard (top) wrestles in the Mid-State Conference championship match at 113-pounds. Leonard has control and had a close match. He got caught in a pin with five seconds left to earn second place in the tournament on Saturday. (Nevaeh Dillon photo / MCC)



The ref raises Martinsville wrestler Evan Hamblin's arm in victory after he defeated his Franklin opponent to take the championship Saturday. (Corey Hamblin courtesy photo)



Martinsville's Noah Sumner picks up his opponent and throws him on the mat during Saturday's Mid-State Conference championship match at 175-pounds. Sumner finished second in the tournament. (Nevaeh Dillon photo / MCC)

TOP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

at 215-pounds as he lost 6-3 to Franklin's Kellen Felleure. Mercer was down 5-0 to start the last period, but he couldn't maneuver a big enough comeback.

"Brennan ended up being runner-up. He had a hard fought match," coach Jones said. "Evan was a champion at 157. It was a great match. Noah Sumner was at 175 and came up a little short but had a phenomenal match. Ezra Frederick as well at 190. Dominick Mercer had a tough road at the end there, but taking a second place was phenomenal."

Also for Martinsville was Dalen Lane at 106 pounds in fourth place. Nathan Crawford competed at 126-pounds and finished fifth after he defeated Whiteland's Kai Beasley 10-6 in his final match. Corben White also won his last one of the day by fall at 132-pounds over Perry's Dylan Merilus to take third.

Tate Fredrick took sixth at 138-pounds, as did Christian Koons at 150. Grayson Spurling won his last match over Greenwood's Carson Andreas at 285-pounds to take fifth.

"I want to say a lot about our wrestle-back kids," coach Jones said. "We had Spurling just get a pin here in the heavyweight division, and he's a 190-pounder. It was pretty awesome here



Martinsville wrestler Evan Hamblin stands atop the podium after taking the Mid-State Conference tourney championship on Saturday. (Corey Hamblin courtesy photo)

that he got to do that and take the fifth."

Also for the Pioneers was Logan Wilson at 113-pounds. He won 10-0 over Franklin's Jayden Jewell for fifth place. Leo Lawrence also took fifth at 138-pounds after he won 9-0 over Martinsville's Fredrick. Derek Mayo won his fifth place round at 144-pounds over Decatur's David Falola. Steele Lynn took fourth at 157-pounds. At 165, Corbin Scott won his last match to take fifth with a 10-3 decision over Whiteland's Carnell Baker. Journey Thompson took sixth at 175-pounds.

LOSS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

The tide turned quickly as North had a couple steals of their own and some long buckets to go back up by seven. The game got a little more physical and stayed close until there were three minutes left in the game. North was up 51-47. Mooresville rushed a couple shots and Elma got his fifth foul.

The Bulldogs made their foul shots in the Pioneers efforts to stop time and hope to get the ball back. Thompson (6) and Burns (3) were the only ones to score in the nine-point fourth quarter as North tallied 17 points in the final period.

Mooresville is 5-9 as of the weekend and 1-2 in the Mid-State Conference. The Pioneers have had just two games since the New Year, North was up 51-47. Mooresville rushed a couple shots and Elma got his fifth foul.

then to Columbus North last Friday, 63-51.

Mooresville gets back to a busy schedule with postseason just a month away. The Pioneers played at Columbus East on Tuesday after press time, and then they'll be back home against Plainfield on Friday and again on Saturday against Parke Heritage.

The Quakers are currently leading the conference with a 3-0 record (10-4) overall.



RIGHT: Mooresville sophomore Chris Thompson (5) drives to the basket for two points during Friday's game at home against Columbus North. // FAR RIGHT: Mooresville senior Wilkinson Elma (3) blocks a shot during Friday's game at home against Columbus North. (Photos by Nevaeh Dillon photo / MCC)



Mooresville wrestlers and coaches celebrate a successful season by showing off their regional and semi-state championship hardware following Friday's state meet. (Jason Hutchinson courtesy photo)



Mooresville's Kaydie Epley looks for thoughts from her coaches as she competes in Friday's IHSGW finals in Kokomo. (Jason Hutchinson courtesy photo)



Indian Creek's Libby Dowty wraps up a state finals opponent. (Jason Hutchinson courtesy photo)



Monrovia's Josie Hause looks to win a battle of hands as she works her way through Friday's IHSGW state finals in Kokomo. (Jason Hutchinson courtesy photo)

How they fared

100 pounds

Kaydie Epley, Mooresville, pinned Madison Henderson, Blackford, 1:54; fell to Hamilton Height's Kendall Moe in quarterfinals; pinned Angelina Clay, Lakeland, in 4:58 of wrestlebacks; won by 3-2 decision over Kirsten Cortez, Lake Central, to take fifth.

105

Libby Dowty, Indian Creek, pinned Ariana Sierra of Frankfort in 2:55; pinned Colen Truelove of Columbus North in 1:52; fell to Heather Crull of Northeastern in semifinals; pinned Joanna Cantu of Hobart in 1:54 to take third. Cadence Williams of Mooresville fell to Heather Crull of Northeastern in opening round.

110

Khloe Nedelsky, Mooresville, fell in first round to Senniah Henderson of Lafayette Jefferson.

120

Phoebe Dowty of Indian Creek pinned Emma Raatz of Evansville North in 47 seconds; pinned Kylie Benoit of HACE in 31 seconds; fell 6-0 to Naima Ghaffar of Northwood in quarterfinals; pinned Delaney Koebecke of Rensselaer Central in 3:45 to take third.

125

Mattingly Hutchison of Mooresville fell in first round to Angel Smith of Plymouth.

130

Madison Whitted, Mooresville, pinned Marcy Zagal of Logansport in 1:45; fell to top-rated Ella Gahl of Northfield in quarterfinals; decisioned Joslyn Barnett of Attica 8-2 in wrestlebacks; fell to Seitzinger of Indian Creek to finish sixth. Hannah Seitzinger of Indian Creek pinned Michelle Perez-Ahuall of Lafayette Jefferson in 30 seconds; fell to eventual runnerup Aubrey Troutner in quarterfinals; pinned Ezra Wagner of New Palestine in 1:28; pinned Whitted of Mooresville in 3:19 to take fifth.

135

Nevaeh Hultgren, Mooresville, fell to Alexis Spaulding of Columbia City in first round.

145

Alejandro Hernandez, Decatur Central, fell to Olivia Bohde of New Haven in the first round.

155

Josie Hause, Monrovia, pinned Kelly Bussard of New Haven in 2:52; pinned Leah Soots of Southport in 3:16; fell to eventual champion Mallory Winner of Jay County in the semifinals; fell to Grace Hiroms of Rochester Community to finish fourth.

235

Portia Weaver, Monrovia, pinned Rebekah Owsley, Lakeland in 20 seconds; fell to Eva Stokes of Harrison (West Lafayette) in the quarterfinals; fell to Cammie Ritchie Mt. Vernon in the wrestlebacks; pinned Ayrica Dehart of Edgewood in 1:27 to take seventh.

GRAPPLE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

from last year; we had two eighth-place finishers last year, and this year, we had a fifth and a sixth.”

“Not bad for a young team. “Getting five freshman and one sophomore to the state finals was incredible,” Mikesell said.

Kadie Epley took fifth at 100 pounds and Madison Whitted was sixth at 130.

“Kaydie Epley had a great day,” Mikesell said. “She had three wins and one loss, which was to the nationally ranked, eventual state champ. She really wrestles with a lot of heart and determination.

“Maddy Whitted also wrestled well. She was in total control of her fifth-place match and just made a small mistake and got out of position in the third period. She improved so much since this time last year. I’m really proud of her hard work in the offseason; it showed the past three weeks what it takes to get to an elite level of competition.

“It’s a process to build a state championship team, and I firmly believe we are well on our way.”

Bulldogs battle

Josie Hause finished fourth at 155 pounds for Monrovia and Portia Weaver placed seventh at 235.

“Josie had a really tough draw, but battled hard for a fourth-place finish,” Smith said of his semi-state champion. “Josie was dealing with the flu all week and didn’t really get

a chance to practice, so she showed a lot of will to just go out there and compete the way that she did.

“We’re extremely proud of Portia. Not many second-year wrestlers get to stand on the state podium. Our goal was top four, but she gave us full effort, and were very proud of her accomplishments.”

Braves disappointed

Indian Creek’s Libby Dowty placed third at 105 pounds, Phoebe Dowty was third at 120 and Hannah Seitzinger fifth at 135.

“Hannah and Phoebe both had their sights set on bringing home state titles, and anything short of that would be tough to swallow,” the Braves coach said. “Both of them worked their butts off, and they had terrific seasons. I couldn’t be more proud.

“They inspired a movement at IC, and there are many girls grateful for them and their bravery. Libby knew she had a tough girl in the semis; (Heather) Crull is a Fargo national champ and a world team member, but Libby wrestled her great.”

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THE MORGAN COUNTY Correspondent

HONORS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

Coach of the Year honors. Four Arties were named All-Conference: Madeline Moscrip, Olivia Phillips, Cassandra Berry and Layla Wolff.

Mooresville had its moments as well.

With Lucy Guy tying for second in the conference tournament at Foxcliff in Martinsville with a score of 78, the Pioneers took third with a team total of 379 strokes.

Other Pioneers fared well as well. Earning All-Conference honors were Bailey Kelso in boys’ tennis, Tyler Gercak, fourth at 16:40 in boys’ cross country; Matt Coffey in boys’ soccer; Lyla Jacobs and Kinsley Bechtold in girls’ soccer, and Rande Garringer in volleyball.



Martinsville girls soccer coach Jason Dilbone was named Coach of the Year for the Mid-State Conference. (MSD of Martinsville courtesy photo)

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

Sale Date	Sale Price	Property Address	Seller 1 Name	Seller 1 City	Seller 1 State	Buyer 1 Name	Buyer 1 City	Buyer 1 State
11/15/2023	\$302,555	10911 N LONGBRANCH ST	D R HORTON-INDIANA LLC	INDIANAPOLIS	IN	GLELE OSCARE	MONROVIA	IN
11/14/2023	\$40,000	7181 S R 42	AJ EQUITIES LLC	MOORESVILLE	IN	GIBSON PATRICIA ANN	MARTINSVILLE	IN
11/14/2023	\$278,000	949 S SYCAMORE ST	BOLIN TRAVIS D & KYLIE J	MARTINSVILLE	IN	TERRELL SCOTT	MARTINSVILLE	IN
11/13/2023	\$305,000	6541 E DAISY HILL CT	COMBS KELLIE	CAMBY	IN	JOHNSON MICHELLE ANN & JOHNSON ZACHARY	CAMBY	IN
11/13/2023	\$640,000	2600 S CONSERVATION CLUB RD	SUMMERS JOHN M & LEISA M	MORGANTOWN	IN	AKERS BRAD & POLLY	GREENFIELD	IN
11/13/2023	\$275,000	2979 W TAPESTRY DR	D R HORTON-INDIANA LLC	INDIANAPOLIS	IN	CLERVEL JUNISE	MONROVIA	IN
11/13/2023	\$400,000	5229-5239 E S R 144	NEILSON ROBERT K	MOORESVILLE	IN	NELMS DOUGLAS W	MOORESVILLE	IN
11/13/2023	\$114,000	290 W SUMNER AVE	WOLF RYAN	MARTINSVILLE	IN	SHEEKS ROBERT	MARTINSVILLE	IN
11/13/2023	\$73,966	290 W SUMNER AVE	WELLS MARK ALLEN & BRANDY NICOLE	MOORESVILLE	IN	WOLF RYAN	MARTINSVILLE	IN
11/13/2023	\$389,500	13911 N BLUFF CREEK CT	MCLEAN TROY E & THERESA D	CAMBY	IN	STAGE RUSSELL & KELLIE	CAMBY	IN
11/13/2023	\$170,000	269 S MARION ST	DAVIS WILLIAM I & PATRICIA A	MARTINSVILLE	IN	MOORE ALEXIS & JORDYN	MARTINSVILLE	IN
11/13/2023	\$180,000	259 S JEFFERSON ST	MACE DUSTIN JAMES & MACE JAMES	MARTINSVILLE	IN	PHILLIPS AUSTIN	MARTINSVILLE	IN
11/10/2023	\$61,285	13847 N CALCOT CT	ENCLAVE AT HEARTLAND LLC (THE)	INDIANAPOLIS	IN	NVR INC D/B/A RYAN HOMES	INDIANAPOLIS	IN
11/10/2023	\$61,285	13851 N RISING SUN CIRCLE EAST	ENCLAVE AT HEARTLAND LLC (THE)	INDIANAPOLIS	IN	NVR INC D/B/A RYAN HOMES	INDIANAPOLIS	IN
11/10/2023	\$83,018	7093 E BEAN BLOSSOM DR	ENCLAVE AT HEARTLAND LLC (THE)	INDIANAPOLIS	IN	NVR INC D/B/A RYAN HOMES	INDIANAPOLIS	IN
11/10/2023	\$200,000	13023 N ALLMAN WEST ST	HUNTER NAOMI RUTH	MOORESVILLE	IN	SCOTT RYLIE D	MOORESVILLE	IN
11/9/2023	\$320,000	537 BRIDGESTONE DR	MILLS MICHELLE R & BRYAN	MOORESVILLE	IN	SMITH DEBORAH A	MOORESVILLE	IN
11/9/2023	\$241,500	12925 N JOHN CHARLES CT	NGUYEN JOSEPH	GREENWOOD	IN	SILVA DESSREE DEL CARMEN PARRA	CAMBY	IN
11/9/2023	\$250,000	231 PINEVIEW DR	BALLARD GEORGE M & LINDA T	MOORESVILLE	IN	CIPRIANO KATIE & DAVID	MOORESVILLE	IN
11/9/2023	\$250,000	1960 CENTER VALLEY RD	THURSTON PATRICIA RUVS TRST	MARTINSVILLE	IN	CATHALA MAXWELL ALEXANDRE & MICHAELA MARIE	MONROVIA	IN
11/8/2023	\$725,000	3880 N BERKSHIRE LN	TERRELL SCOTT M & TERESA	MARTINSVILLE	IN	NICOL GEOFFREY PETER & STEPHANIE KAY	NOBLESVILLE	IN
11/8/2023	\$143,000	489 E HARRISON ST	HUBBARD DIANE LYNN	PARAGON	IN	HUBBARD JERRY P & HUBBARD ZACHERIA DAVID	PARAGON	IN
11/8/2023	\$267,000	677 SUGAR MAPLE LN	MEIER ALEXANDRA M	MOORESVILLE	IN	BLUME MARY ELIZABETH & MAMOCHA BRIAN JAMES	MOORESVILLE	IN
11/8/2023	\$244,900	8098 N MAPLE DR	CHAILLAUX JACQUELINE	MOORESVILLE	IN	ZAMBRANO ERNESTO	MORENO VALLEY	CA
11/8/2023	\$405,000	8440 LOCUST DR	WILLIAMS STEPHEN PATRICK & JENNIFER ANNE	MARTINSVILLE	IN	ARMSTRONG EVE & PATRICK	MARTINSVILLE	IN
11/8/2023	\$365,000	11763 N EVERETT RD	COUCH CALEB D	MARTINSVILLE	IN	JONES COURTLAND & HAYWARD BETHANY	MONROVIA	IN
11/7/2023	\$22,000	103 GRASSYFORK LN	SCHWAB WILLIAM A & KAREN S	MARTINSVILLE	IN	LOPOSSA BRANDON J	ELLETTSVILLE	IN
11/7/2023	\$300,000	5701 N BLAZING STAR LN	HAYDEN KENNETH E & CECILIA R	MOORESVILLE	IN	OHLER MISTIE ANN	INDIANAPOLIS	IN
11/7/2023	\$255,000	8509 N BRIARHOPPER RD	CATHALA MAXWELL A	MONROVIA	IN	MECHLING DANIEL & MECHLING MEGAN	MONROVIA	IN
11/7/2023	\$245,000	145 BRIDGEMOR LN	PITCHER SHIRLEY A REVOC TRST	MOORESVILLE	IN	STAHL SHIRLEY	MOORESVILLE	IN
11/7/2023	\$188,000	1503 E FOXCLIFF DRIVE SOUTH	BEASLEY ALLEN & SHIRLEY A	MARTINSVILLE	IN	TERRELL TERESA	MARTINSVILLE	IN
11/7/2023	\$175,000	220 GOODNIGHT RD	RIVERS JERRY A	INDIANAPOLIS	IN	STEINHAUS LLC	INDIANAPOLIS	IN
11/6/2023	\$215,000	1430 ELM ST	VIC SPINA CUSTOM HOMES INC	MARTINSVILLE	IN	SPINA LAUREN	MARTINSVILLE	IN
11/6/2023	\$345,000	3408 WILBUR RD	STAHL SHIRLEY L	MARTINSVILLE	IN	PETREE LEVI & LAPOINT JULIE	MARTINSVILLE	IN
11/6/2023	\$323,325	13853 N AVERY LN	NVR INC D/B/A RYAN HOMES	INDIANAPOLIS	IN	FELDER GREGORY & DONNA	CAMBY	IN
11/3/2023	\$300,000	3049 W PATCHWORK DR	D R HORTON-INDIANA LLC	INDIANAPOLIS	IN	MILONGO MARCEL BADIBANGA & MILONGO JONATHAN KAZADI	MONROVIA	IN
11/3/2023	\$775,000	3208 GOSHAWK LN	WHITMORE NATHAN R & JENNIFER L	MARTINSVILLE	IN	BOULTON MATTHEW & BOULTON LARA	BROWNSBURG	IN
11/3/2023	\$450,000	4091 N FOXCLIFF DRIVE EAST	GARTLAND MAUREEN	MARTINSVILLE	IN	SKIRVIN KATHARINE & DAVID M	MARTINSVILLE	IN
11/3/2023	\$66,429	2645 S GAYLE DR	HICKEY ROGER & TODD BURNS TIC	MORGANTOWN	IN	FULLER RICHARD & LINDA	BEAVERCREEK	OH
11/3/2023	\$120,000	111 N INDIANA ST	HARDY TIMOTHY G & GEMMA R	MOORESVILLE	IN	HARDY ELIJAH G	MOORESVILLE	IN
11/3/2023	\$245,000	13 W WASHINGTON ST	BOWMAN MARY LEE REVOC LIV TRST	MOORESVILLE	IN	BROWN JAMES JR & SONYA	MOORESVILLE	IN
11/3/2023	\$189,000	755 MORNINGSTAR DR	YOUNG DUSTIN W & YOUNG NATALIE R JTRS	MOORESVILLE	IN	PACKINGHAM TINA M & RUSSELL DALE JR	MONROVIA	IN
11/3/2023	\$75,000	S LINGLE RD	JONES JOHN W	INDIANAPOLIS	IN	SAMPLE DOUGLAS	PARAGON	IN
11/3/2023	\$61,285	13885 N RISING SUN CIRCLE EAST	ENCLAVE AT HEARTLAND LLC (THE)	INDIANAPOLIS	IN	NVR INC D/B/A RYAN HOMES	INDIANAPOLIS	IN
11/3/2023	\$52,000	7122 E RISING SUN CIRCLE NORTH	ENCLAVE AT HEARTLAND LLC (THE)	INDIANAPOLIS	IN	NVR INC D/B/A RYAN HOMES	INDIANAPOLIS	IN
11/3/2023	\$800	240 E HARRISON ST	BIBLE INVESTMENT LLC	MOORESVILLE	IN	OSBORN DANIEL & MITCHELL SAMANTHA	NINEVEH	IN
11/3/2023	\$1	N OXFORD CT	FOXCLIFF ESTATES COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC	AVON	IN	SHUMWAY DAVID & EILEEN	MARTINSVILLE	IN
11/3/2023	\$261,000	6220 E AYRSHIRE CIR	HERNANDEZ KATHARINE & SKIRVIN DAVID II	CAMBY	IN	SHOUP AUSTIN	CAMBY	IN
11/3/2023	\$197,000	214 BISHOP AVE	BROWN JAMES WALTON JR & SONYA MICHELLE	MOORESVILLE	IN	VILLARREAL YULEIMA Y	MOORESVILLE	IN
11/2/2023	\$250,000	1419 WIGWAM LN	BAKER RONALD E II & BRITTANY K	MARTINSVILLE	IN	CALLIS JENNIFER & JEFFREY	MARTINSVILLE	IN
11/2/2023	\$42,000	939 E WARREN ST	SMITH JIMMY L REVOC LIV TRST	MARTINSVILLE	IN	JASON RAYMOND CONSTRUCTION LLC	MARTINSVILLE	IN
11/2/2023	\$452,000	3560 WHITE TAIL RUN	HUNTER GEORGE F	MOORESVILLE	IN	ROBLES VICTOR R & FABIOLA	GARDENA	CA
11/2/2023	\$195,000	119 MAGNOLIA ST	CALLIS JENNIFER L F/K/A JENNIFER L HOLLOWAY	MARTINSVILLE	IN	COX LUCAS J & POTTORFF SHARRAL ANN & POTTORFF MICHAEL V	MARTINSVILLE	IN
11/1/2023	\$294,000	13310 N WHITE CLOUD CT	DAVIS RONDALL E & NANCY J	CAMBY	IN	PEREZ RAMONA & AQUINO EDGAR BENJAMIN	CAMBY	IN
11/1/2023	\$550,000	2265 SUNDERLAND DR	HAWES THOMAS C & WRIGHT VICKI L	MARTINSVILLE	IN	FREDERICK ROBERT RYAN & MORGAN MICHELLE	MARTINSVILLE	IN
11/1/2023	\$315,000	2835 N COUNTRY CLUB RD	GREEN ROBERT	MARTINSVILLE	IN	BORNEMAN J RALPH REVOC TRST	BOYERTOWN	PA
11/1/2023	\$130,000	1259 S MULBERRY ST	MARTIN MICHAEL D & PAULA S	MARTINSVILLE	IN	TICHENOR BENJAMIN	MARTINSVILLE	IN
11/1/2023	\$180,000	4980 WILBUR RD	FAIR BRANDY M	MARTINSVILLE	IN	CZERWIECKI STEVEN & CZERWIECKI CYNTHIA	MARTINSVILLE	IN
10/31/2023	\$365,000	818 S TALL OAKS DRIVE EAST	STRINGER DAVID E	MORGANTOWN	IN	DENTON DEA E & LESLIE R	MORGANTOWN	IN
10/31/2023	\$275,000	2969 W PATCHWORK DR	D R HORTON-INDIANA LLC	INDIANAPOLIS	IN	STUART DONALD A & STUART KELLY J	MARTINSVILLE	IN
10/31/2023	\$400,000	590 MORTON AVE	G R CHAPLIN INC	BLOOMINGTON	IN	590 PROPERTIES LLC	BLOOMINGTON	IN
10/31/2023	\$341,810	13846 N AVERY LN	NVR INC D/B/A RYAN HOMES	INDIANAPOLIS	IN	FRITZ RACHEL	CAMBY	IN
10/31/2023	\$369,850	4792 E SUMMERFIELD DR	PYATT BUILDERS LLC	CARMEL	IN	ADEYANU AZEEZ OLAITAN	CAMBY	IN
10/31/2023	\$382,475	4812 E SUMMERFIELD DR	PYATT BUILDERS LLC	CARMEL	IN	ISSA KAMANGILA SUEDI & BUNYEMU PENDEZA	CAMBY	IN
10/31/2023	\$170,000	440 S OHIO ST	RIFFE MARY R	MARTINSVILLE	IN	STRAIN-SCHEIWE KIMBERLY E	MARTINSVILLE	IN
10/31/2023	\$414,146	9084 E GAYLE DR	DAVIS BUILDING GROUP LLC	INDIANAPOLIS	IN	GORHAM WILLIAM T & ANGELA M	MORGANTOWN	IN
10/30/2023	\$325,000	2967 W PATCHWORK DR	D R HORTON-INDIANA LLC	INDIANAPOLIS	IN	BRADFORD JOSHUA T & CORCORAN MYAH	MONROVIA	IN
10/30/2023	\$82,866	E S R 144	SMITH KEVIN C & TONIA D	MOORESVILLE	IN	DAVISON MAURICE E & LINDA F	CAMBY	IN
10/30/2023	\$96,000	N KITCHEN RD	PROCRRAFT LLC	MOORESVILLE	IN	SCOBEE KEVIN MICHAEL	MOORESVILLE	IN
10/30/2023	\$229,000	102 WINTERBERRY LN	FISHER KENNETH L	CAMBY	IN	510 SFR IN OPERATIONS I LLC	INDIANAPOLIS	IN
10/30/2023	\$267,000	233 CREEKVIEW CIR	ELLIS MAXWELL QUINN & BRYANA MARIE	MOORESVILLE	IN	HILTON MICHAEL PATRICK	BLOOMINGTON	IN
10/30/2023	\$368,975	13767 N GEORGE CT	PYATT BUILDERS LLC	CARMEL	IN	LAWAL SAHEED AKINDELE	CAMBY	IN
10/30/2023	\$580,000	5155 W BIG HURRICANE RD	SLONE CHAD A & KERRI M	INDIANAPOLIS	IN	KILBOURN STEPHEN & RIDDELL ELEANOR	MARTINSVILLE	IN
10/27/2023	\$15,000	280 E PERRY ST	ESTATE OF MICHAEL O JACKSON	PARAGON	IN	IZCUP INVESTMENTS LLC	MARTINSVILLE	IN
10/27/2023	\$525,000	6342 E LYNN DR	DONOVAN PATRICK J	PENDLETON	IN	CREEK MICHAEL	MOORESVILLE	IN
10/27/2023	\$96,000	N KITCHEN RD	BECKER OKSOD	GREENWOOD	IN	GONTERMAN TIMOTHY & MELISSA	GREENWOOD	IN
10/27/2023	\$67,500	13343 N MILLER DR	HOLTSCLAW SCOTT & DAWN	CAMBY	IN	BKL HOMES LLC	PLAINFIELD	IN
10/27/2023	\$265,000	6325 E MARIAH HILL LN	LUTTRELL VIRGIL D II	CAMBY	IN	SHABLUM CLIFFORD D JR	CAMBY	IN
10/27/2023	\$450,000	7261 BEREAN RD	HAM DANIEL	MARTINSVILLE	IN	KENNEDY COURTNEY & HAMPTON SCOTT	MARTINSVILLE	IN
10/27/2023	\$115,000	E SPRING LAKE RD	HOLMES GARY & JENNIFER	WHITELAND	IN	DE TRANSPORTATION LLC	INDIANAPOLIS	IN
10/27/2023	\$493,500	7270 E PATRICIA DR	COOPER DARREN L & ANNETTE SWEENEY	CAMBY	IN	MILLER MITCHELL & ELWART OLIVIA	CAMBY	IN
10/27/2023	\$405,000	5395 E TURTLE RIDGE LN	RIDENER DAVID W	MARTINSVILLE	IN	BARKER MATHEW S & BARKER DAVID S	MARTINSVILLE	IN
10/27/2023	\$305,970	2960 W PATCHWORK DR	D R HORTON-INDIANA LLC	INDIANAPOLIS	IN	HERTENSTEIN TYLER E	FRANKLIN	IN
10/27/2023	\$324,850	13835 N CALCOT CT	NVR INC D/B/A RYAN HOMES	INDIANAPOLIS	IN	PIERRE NEHEMIE & PROVENCE RACINE STEVE	CAMBY	IN
10/27/2023	\$83,018	7051 E BEAN BLOSSOM DR	ENCLAVE AT HEARTLAND LLC (THE)	INDIANAPOLIS	IN	NVR INC D/B/A RYAN HOMES	INDIANAPOLIS	IN
10/27/2023	\$225,000	1210 S MARION ST	BRUMMETT HORACE LEE & KAREN	MARTINSVILLE	IN	STIDD CALEB	MARTINSVILLE	IN
10/27/2023	\$127,000	320 MORTON ST	BRYANT ADAM W	MORGANTOWN	IN	WILLIAMS TROY E	MORGANTOWN	IN
10/26/2023	\$380,000	2378 S ALTA VISTA CT	PROGRESSIVE SOLUTIONS GROUP LLC	GREENWOOD	IN	LESSARD DAVID RAYMOND & LESSARD KAREN JEAN JOINT REVOC TRST	GREENWOOD	IN
10/26/2023	\$41,568	2378 S ALTA VISTA CT	ESTATE OF LEIGH T MILHALLIS	MARTINSVILLE	IN	PROGRESSIVE SOLUTIONS GROUP	GREENWOOD	IN
10/26/2023	\$140,000	985-989 S OHIO ST	BURGER TINA	MARTINSVILLE	IN	GUY INSURANCE AGENCY INC	MARTINSVILLE	IN
10/26/2023	\$149,000	1330 JOSEPHINE ST	HAMMACK RICHARD L	MARTINSVILLE	IN	GUY INSURANCE AGENCY INC	MARTINSVILLE	IN
10/26/2023	\$250,000	6483 E WALTON DR	LAVIOLETTE REAL ESTATE GROUP LLC	ZIONSVILLE	IN	HOLMES SHARON L	CAMBY	IN
10/26/2023	\$68,431	2378 S ALTA VISTA CT	CAHILL TONI M 25% INT ETAL	MARTINSVILLE	IN	PROGRESSIVE SOLUTIONS GROUP LLC	GREENWOOD	IN
10/26/2023	\$250,000		MINK JUSTIN L & MINK TAYLOR	CAMBY	IN	LUCAS WILLIAM T & ALEXANDER CHRISTINA M	MARTINSVILLE	IN
10/26/2023	\$246,100	294 N LIBERTY BLVD	WILLIAMS RENTAL PROPERTIES LLC	MOORESVILLE	IN	DAVIS BUILDING GROUP LLC	INDIANAPOLIS	IN
10/26/2023	\$245,000	3601 GODSEY RD	HAVERBUSCH COURTNEY E	MARTINSVILLE	IN	ARVIN FAITH B	MARTINSVILLE	IN
10/26/2023	\$135,000	500 E COLUMBUS ST	CECIL DARRELL & CHERYL	MARTINSVILLE	IN	SHUMWAY DAVID & EILEEN	INDIANAPOLIS	IN
10/25/2023	\$309,900	2889 W PATCHWORK DR	D R HORTON-INDIANA LLC	INDIANAPOLIS	IN	WOLF NICKOLAS	MONROVIA	IN
10/25/2023	\$257,900	310 N BORDER ST	SHAFFER LADONNA	PARAGON	IN	GODWIN RYAN & JESSICA	PARAGON	IN
10/25/2023	\$397,425	303 N BUR OAK DR	PYATT BUILDERS LLC	CARMEL	IN	VAIL CHRISTOPHER & BUCHANAN KAYLA	MOORESVILLE	IN
10/25/2023	\$345,000	130 BORING PL	LUCAS WILLIAM T	MARTINSVILLE	IN	HOLT MICHAEL GUY & SALLY ANN	INDIANAPOLIS	IN
10/25/2023	\$6,000	6605 HALL SCHOOL RD	FITZGERALD LARRY M	INDIANAPOLIS	IN	MARTMER PAYGE & RYAN	MARTINSVILLE	IN
10/25/2023	\$255,000	299 N SMITH LN	PEREZ RAUL RAMOS & SHERYL	PARAGON	IN	GENTRY TIMOTHY & MAY RHONDA	PARAGON	IN
10/25/2023	\$220,000	5730 POFF RD	ALEXANDER LESTER SCOTT	MARTINSVILLE	IN	GORE BETH & GDE MARISSA	MARTINSVILLE	IN
10/24/2023	\$275,500	881 LINCOLN HEIGHTS DR	SWARTZENTRUBER JESSE W & SARAH	MARTINSVILLE	IN	HARMON RICHARD & HARMON BRENDA	MOORESVILLE	IN
10/24/2023	\$335,500	3230 N COUNTRY CLUB RD	GRISE HOME & PROPERTY GROUP LLC	INDIANAPOLIS	IN	LEONARDI THOMAS M & CYNTHIA K	MARTINSVILLE	IN
10/24/2023	\$580,000	5159 E WATSON RD	BAKER STEPHEN R	MOORESVILLE	IN	FRUAR DONALD W	BROWNSBURG	IN
10/24/2023	\$296,000	681 WHITE ASH TRL	HARMON RICHARD W & BRENDA K	MOORESVILLE	IN	ROGERS JAMES P	MOORESVILLE	IN
10/24/2023	\$650,000	285 W COUNTY LINE RD	BLACKWELL MARGARET A	MOORESVILLE	IN	BLACKWELL ANGELA L	MOORESVILLE	IN
10/24/2023	\$267,500	104 KARRINGTON BLVD	VAIL PAUL D ETAL	MOORESVILLE	IN	KIENINGER DONALD D	INDIANAPOLIS	IN
10/24/2023	\$325,000	5675 POFF RD	WITTE MARTIN & SHANNON K JTRS	MOORESVILLE	IN	SKILES JOSEPH	MARTINSVILLE	IN
10/24/2023	\$325,000	POFF RD	WITTE MARTIN & SHANNON K JTRS	MOORESVILLE	IN	SKILES DONALD C LIV TRST	INDIANAPOLIS	IN
10/24/2023	\$239,000	1060 SHELTON RD	KINMAN VALERIE A & FISH MELISSA D	BROWNSBURG	IN	NONFIACIUS TREVOR	MARTINSVILLE	IN
10/24/2023	\$60,000	BILLS BLVD	MARTINSVILLE GW HOLDINGS LLC	BLOOMINGTON	IN	HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF MORGAN COUNTY INC	MARTINSVILLE	IN
10/23/2023	\$80,000	239 W COLUMBUS ST	WELLS FARGO BANK NA	FORT MILL	SC	ZEMPEL MELODY RUTH	MARTINSVILLE	IN
10/23/2023	\$219,000	6201 E AYRSHIRE CIR	PATRICIA WARREN	CAMBY	IN	OP SPE PHXI LLC	CHANDLER	AZ
10/23/2023	\$218,000	1489 S OHIO ST	WILSON MARK E & CHERI M	MARTINSVILLE	IN	SHIV RESIDENCE 19 LLC	GREENWOOD	IN
10/23/2023	\$345,000	8329 E ASH DR	HARDEN JANE N	MORGANTOWN	IN	SOTELO SAMUEL & JAMIE LYNN	MORGANTOWN	IN
10/20/2023								

Slow cooker cookin'

With kale and Parmesan

This is an easy soup to assemble. It's quite tasty, too! There's nothing better than a warm bowl of soup on a blustery cold day.

If you're fixing this on a weekend, why not slice up some apples and make a fresh apple pie for dessert, and top it off with ice cream. Yummy! Enjoy!



Shelley's Sweet Spot
SHELLEY SUTER



CHICKEN GNOCCHI SOUP

INGREDIENTS

- 1-2 pounds of boneless skinless chicken breasts (save some time and use precooked rotisserie chicken)
- 1 large onion, diced
- 2 medium carrots, grated or finely diced
- 3 celery stalks, grated or finely diced
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- 2 tsp dried basil
- 1 tsp dried parsley
- 2 tsp olive oil
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 tsp black pepper
- 1 tsp kosher salt
- 5 cups chicken broth (or you can use water and bouillon)
- 3 Tbsp cornstarch
- 2 cups half and half
- 3 oz bacon bits

- 1lb gnocchi
- 4 kale leaves, roughly chopped
- 1/2 cup Parmesan

INSTRUCTIONS

- Place chicken in the bottom of the slow cooker.
- In a microwave safe bowl, combine the onion, carrot, celery, garlic, oregano, basil, parsley and olive oil. Microwave on high for 5 minutes, stirring halfway through. Add concoction to the slow cooker.
- Add in the bay leaf, pepper, salt, and chicken broth. Cover and cook on LOW for 4 hours, or until chicken is tender. Alternately, you can also cook on HIGH for about 2-3 hours. (I do feel that chicken turns out better in the slow cooker when cooked on low though.)

- Remove chicken and place on a cutting board. Turn the slow cooker to high. Mix 3 tbsp of cornstarch with an equal amount of water and stir together until smooth. Stir into the slow cooker and keep the lid off. Go back to the chicken and slice it into bite-size pieces or shred it. Add the chicken back into the slow cooker.
- Warm the half and half (or else it will curdle) and add it into the slow cooker. I always just stick mine in the microwave for a couple of minutes.
- Add the bacon bits, gnocchi and kale into the slow cooker and give a little stir. Let it cook on high for 10 minutes.
- Ladle into serving bowls and top each serving with a tablespoon of Parmesan cheese.



COLUMN & PUZZLES

Keep your speech 'down to earth' not in the clouds

"You must fill the pulpit before you can fill the church," according to a wise old adage.

The first task of a successful clergyman is to deliver interesting sermons that are dramatic and narrative in nature, so the parishioners eagerly sit on the edge of the pews to avoid missing a single word.

CASE E-202: Doug C., aged 37, is a clergyman.

"I want you to send Doug some of your psychological bulletins," his mother-in-law wrote to me.

"He is a brilliant young man but can't seem to unbend among those who have had less education than himself.

"He doesn't know how to talk the 'language of the people,' but is stiff and for-



The Worry Clinic
DR. GEORGE W. CRANE

mal and, I'm sorry to admit, rather boring. He puts his congregation to sleep.

"Besides, he isn't sociable. In the foyer after services, he stands a round looking stiff and formal.

"He worries over his dilemma and wants to do the best for his people, but he just doesn't seem to

know how. For 10 years, he has made no advancement, but is still stationed at small churches.

"His wife has helped him a great deal to overcome his shyness, but she can't be his spokesman. I've been reading your column here at Miami, and think you would do him a lot of good if you'd mail him a set of your bulletins appropriate for clergyman."

Harry's mother-in-law is a sensible woman, and has probably analyzed her son-in-law's chief faults.

There are still too many pastors like him — intelligent young men, with excellent college education or seminary training, they try to make preaching a formal, scholarly affair.

To them, a good sermon consists of 30 minutes of

dry, heave statements of theology. Their sermons, thus, have scarcely any more human interest value than a 30-minute recitation of various theorems of geometry.

The secret of an interesting speech or sermon is to document each abstract statement with a narrative or story that clearly explains it so that any fifth-grader can get the point.

Moreover, people are perennially interested in stories, so the narratives will keep them awake.

Pick your text or main theme. Then dig up a series of stories that will illustrate and amplify your thesis, while also moving the thought along toward its proper climax.

A 30-minute sermon of topnotch caliber should

contain at least six or eight narratives. I recently outlined a sermon by Dr. Roy L. Smith that was one of the best I have ever heard in all my life. It contained 12 narrative stories.

If you wish to obtain maximum emotional effect for a speech or sermon, come down the "home stretch" in rhythm. In other words, recite an appropriate bit of poetry in your discourse.

Be sure to select verse that will contain the idea that is the proper climax for your planned speech. Verse helps engender a greater emotional response from an audience, for our emotions are psychologically conditioned to verse more than to prose.

Some expository talks, like a mathematics teach-

er's lecture on geometry, don't lend themselves to an emotional climax, but a religious talk, or an anniversary address on Lincoln, Jefferson or Washington, is appropriate for this emotional climax.

Making an effective speech is not as difficult as some pastors seem to think. They can render it relatively simple if they will only follow the anecdotal formula that Jesus gave us — in which parables and stories were a mainstay.

Dr. George W. Crane, based out of Hillsboro, Ind., was a syndicated columnist for more than 60 years in newspapers across the country, offering psychological advice to everyday people.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: THE GRAMMYS

ACROSS

- 1. Moonshine maker

- 6. *Artist with most 2024 Grammy nominations
- 9. Not his
- 13. "Roots" author
- 14. That guy

- 15. Full of emotion (2 words)
- 16. Relating to #3 Down
- 17. Tarzan's mom, e.g.
- 18. Caribbean island destination
- 19. *The Recording ____, voting organization
- 21. *"What Was I Made For?" movie
- 23. *"A Boy Named ____," 1970 Grammy winner
- 24. Prickle on a wire
- 25. Drench
- 28. Waiter's handout
- 30. *Grammy-nominated Lauper song, "True ____"
- 35. Amusement destination
- 37. Rachel Renee Russell's "____ Diaries"
- 39. Extend subscription
- 40. South Korean boy band
- 41. Type of wrap
- 43. Italian wine region
- 44. Forearm length unit
- 46. Honey-producing facility
- 47. Saw incision
- 48. Nauseant
- 50. Fancy marbles used as shooters
- 52. U.S. Marine Corps gift recipient
- 53. EU currency
- 55. Aglet on a shoelace, e.g.
- 57. *.com Arena
- 60. *Miley Cyrus' Song of the Year nominee and popular romantic gift
- 64. Texas cook-off dish
- 65. *"In the ____ Tonight," by Grammy-winner Phil Collins
- 67. Send, as payment
- 68. Safe place
- 69. Bird word
- 70. Leave out
- 71. Bookkeeping entry
- 72. Refrigerator sound
- 73. Scatter

- 2. Baby powder ingredient
- 3. Pelvic parts
- 4. Shows the way
- 5. Aristotle's school
- 6. One-horse carriage
- 7. Mailing "code"
- 8. Single-cell protozoan
- 9. *Grammy-winner, ____ Alpert
- 10. *Purse for the red carpet
- 11. Bumpkin
- 12. Pampering place
- 15. Bar ____, ME
- 20. Rewards, in the olden days
- 22. Pendulum's path
- 24. Cantina staple
- 25. *Ice ____, Best New Artist nominee
- 26. Wooden ship caulking
- 27. Space exploration mission
- 29. *Grammy host for the fourth time
- 31. Plumbing problem
- 32. Early stages of illness

- 33. Reminiscent of the past
- 34. *"Anti-Hero" performer
- 36. Not purl
- 38. Pacific Islanders' herbal drink
- 42. Handrail post
- 45. Neckwear decoration
- 49. Use scissors
- 51. Soft palate vibrations
- 54. House pest
- 56. Resided
- 57. Social media conversation
- 58. Bank of Paris
- 59. Big Bang's original matter
- 60. Word on a gift tag
- 61. Arabian bigwig
- 62. Fair attraction
- 63. Hot pot
- 64. Denoted by symbol X
- 66. Debtor's letters

CROSSWORD

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Elohim: Our Mighty God

By Mickey Elliott
Weekday Religious Education

In the heart of every man and woman is a longing to know and understand God beyond our limited understanding, to see what our physical eyes cannot see.

As we see creation and all that God has made, we know He is indeed entirely wonderful and unknowable. We will never, this side of eternity, understand all He does and the “why” of some things.

We can search for and explore His character through the Scriptures and the testimony of those who have experienced His unconditional love and how their lives have been transformed.

We can know God as a trusted friend. We can find hope and courage, and also know He is our protector and healer, while providing so much more. He has been called by many names in the Bible.

Let us explore them and their meaning.

In Proverbs 18:10, we read “The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run into it and is safe.”

Do you ever feel afraid? Where do you hide when your past causes you to feel lost and undone?



When your energy has gone, and weakness and hopelessness overcome you? When your mind is filled with fear for your children, family or finances? Do you run to the one who created you and has a plan for your life?

God stands with his arms open to hold you close, encourage you, and assure you of his power and love. The burning goal of Paul’s life and the cry of his heart was “that I may know Him,” Philippians 3:10.

Knowing your God means everything. It is the difference between rest and turmoil. It is the difference between victory and defeat. Why don’t

we seek his face? Why do we hesitate to run into the arms of our gracious God? I wonder if we really do not know him.

Possibly we have not spent time in His word, seeking His face, desiring to know him. As we search the names of the Lord God, let us truly seek to know Him and to have an intimate relationship with our creator.

Elohim is the name for God, as creator, in Genesis 1:11 — “In the beginning, God (Elohim) created the heavens and the earth.” It is the primary word translated “God” in the Old Testament.

God is called by many names in the Scripture.

they be thrones, or dominion, or principalities or powers. All things are created by him, and for him.”

David wrote in Psalm 139:13-15, “For thou did form my inward parts; Thou did weave me in my mother’s womb. I will give thanks to thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; wonderful are thy works, and my soul knows it well. My frame was not hidden from thee, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought.”

Have you ever thought of yourself being fearfully and wonderfully made? You were formed by a loving, caring Elohim — your Heavenly Father.

We recently experienced a precious woman of God who entered her heavenly home recently, Melanie O’Neal. This beautiful, radiant, delightful woman knew her God had a divine plan for her life. She had a beautiful voice and sang praises to our God. She loved her Savior and used every opportunity to give glory and honor to her God.

Today, she is dancing before the throne of her God Elohim. She awaits her husband and lovely daughter Rose. She will share eternity with the lives she has touched through the

years. She is a beautiful expression of God’s love and faithfulness.

Each one of us was created for His glory and for His pleasure. Your life is to be lived in such a way as to reflect Him, to show the world the character of God, His love, His peace, His mercy, His gentleness, as we live for him and accomplish his divine will in each of our lives.

I encourage you to go before God and evaluate the course of your life. Are you fulfilling the purpose of your Creator. What do you need to change?

Elohim loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life. Have a daily walk with Him and ask Him to help you walk in the center of His will for your life. Let us build the Kingdom of God together giving Him praise, honor and glory.

We will continue to search and grow from the names of our God in the next few weeks. God Bless you all with a wonderful week and the joy of knowing and serving our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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

National champions

Mooresville Bible Bowl team wins top title at national competition

From Stacy Helton

MOBERLY, Mo. — A Bible Bowl team from Mt. Gilead Church in Mooresville defeated teams from all over the country to clinch the title of National Champions at the 2023 Bible Bowl Fall Nationals tournament last month.

Bible Bowl is a Jeopardy-style quiz game in which teams of three or four players compete based on their knowledge of a particular book of the Bible. This season’s text was Exodus.

The team traveled to Central Christian College of the Bible in Moberly, Mo., the first weekend of December, where 40 teams from 10

states competed to determine this season’s national champion. Mt. Gilead fielded four teams and 15 players to the national competition, guided by teen (grades 6-12) coaches Dennis Faulkner and Marla O’Dell.

Team 1 from Mt. Gilead ultimately took the title, and its members include senior Quinn Helton, senior Ben Gaunt, eighth-grader Grady Helton and eighth-grader Abel Daniel.

Team 4 finished in 10th place, and its members — all in their first year — include Ezra Harkins, Waylan Dorsett, Abraham Daniel and Jonathan Hill.

Several players also com-

peted in individual categories, including Maggie McKinney, Abel Daniel and Quinn Helton, who all achieved 90 percent or better — Gold Level — in their Individual Achievement Test. Abel also finished in fourth place in the Quote Bee, and Quinn was a finalist in the Individual Tournament.

The 2024 season is getting ready to kick off Jan. 24, so anyone interested in joining Bible Bowl can contact Mt. Gilead at 317-831-1900 for more information, or visit mgchurch.org. Bible Bowl is open to any children and teens, from second to 12th grade, regardless of church attendance.



Mt. Gilead’s Team 1 members are all smiles after winning the national championship last month, including (from left) Ben Gaunt, Quinn Helton, Grady Helton and Abel Daniel. (Stacy Helton courtesy photo)

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@gsb-cindy.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 • popchurch-cms@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 •

INFORMATION
Get your church added to the directory by visiting tinyurl.com/mcccchurch.

Sponsor the directory. Contact ads@morgancountycorrespondent.com or 317-989-6045.

parishoffice@stmtours.org • Rev. Stephen Giannini • 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@sbcglobal.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@ccrtc.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 • anniev@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 • mcoff252@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 • whitakerbaptistvbs@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 Fall • 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 • firstccmooreville.org • office@firstccmooreville.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 Liebrandt • 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 • lpccommunity.com • medens@lpccommunity.org • Pastor Jeff Thomas • Sunday service with kids programming at 10:30 a.m.

Mooresville Friends Church • 50 N. Monroe St., Mooresville • 317-831-2800 • mooresvillefriends.net • mooresvillefriends@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 • nlwc-church.com • info@nlwc-church.com • Pastor Michael Linville II • Sunday service at 10:30 a.m.

Mooresville Free Methodist Church • 20 Star Lane, Mooresville • 317-831-3874 • mooresvillefmcchurch.org • mooresvillefmc.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 • mooresvillefumc.org • info@mooresvillefumc.org • Rev. Dr. Amber Karkosky • Traditional Sunday service at 8:30 a.m., contemporary at 9:45 a.m.

New seasons, new choices

So much is about the choices we make. As I look at letting go of the home I've enjoyed for more than two decades, my emotions over this choice are mixed. I will move to a new home, but this home has been a place of peace and making good memories after the two preceding decades of turmoil.



Authors Who Serve
RACHEL HILLS

I'm grateful for having had this safe haven and previously unknown luxuries — like a central vacuum. I'd not encountered a central vac before owning this home, but I've loved it and plan to install a central vac in my new home if it lacks one.

Previously unknown luxuries are easy to adapt to. Several years ago, my priorities for a car were AC and cruise control. Since then, I've come to love having a remote start and a heated seat to such an extent that I would have serious reservations about buying a car without them. My daughter just bought a car with a heated steering wheel! I would never.

Or would I? A few decades ago, having a "car phone" was a luxury, taking up a lot of space in the car and the budget. That luxury was one I never truly considered. Then, I entered a season when my kids were young and I drove mostly country roads. I determined having a cell phone was no longer a luxury but essential, even though it meant carrying an extra 10 pounds in my purse and an extra strain on my budget.

I made the choice. That was a different season. Now I think nothing of carrying a cell phone, either for its substantially lighter weight or the additional space it takes in my budget. In fact, I tend to think of it as a necessity. But that's a choice. Maybe I could reinstate my landline and get along without a cell phone.

Likely not. Maybe a cell phone isn't a luxury any more. Maybe values and definitions of what's important change over time.

This home has been a refuge and a joy and a launch pad. I came here from a dark season of my life and raised four children to become adults who continue to make me proud.

Grandkids visit and chase each other around the circle. Three years ago, I said goodbye to a dear pet of 17 years and still miss him. I planted trees outside and upgraded my home on the inside. In this home, I learned a new career and am finally supporting myself with work I love instead of slogging through each day.

I love my home, but now it's time to make the choice of engaging with the next season. I'll carry with me the things that truly matter, good memories and relationships with family and friends, but I'll also carry gratitude and humility. I am finding the bells and whistles don't count as highly as they used to, and the deeper things like relationships carry more importance than ever. I want to explore what new luxuries I may find in the new season. Perhaps I'll discover a new place to serve or a new friend.

Values change. Choices matter.

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



Ski lodges, soups and sock penguins

Art Cart
BY NANCY MAXWELL

The snow may be missing, but don't let that stop you from putting on your new sweater and join the fun at Cedar Creek Winery with their 80's in Aspen Ski Lodge Party on Saturday. Bring your friends, gather around the fire, and enjoy the party.

Frosty winter weather is tough on all and it shows in our rough, dry skin. Check out the Bee Soft lotion bars at Hunter's Honey Farm. Available in vanilla, lavender, or blueberry-thyme, these push up lotion bars will work wonders on your skin!

January is officially National Soup Month; there is plenty of time to make the restaurant rounds for great soups in Morgan County. I am a homemade soup fan, with lentil and vegetable being at the top of my at home list.

For eating out, Awnie's Italian Cuisine, Blueberry Hill Pancakes, Bynum's Steakhouse, Come 'N Git It Diner, Green Hill Diner, Farm House Brew, Indy's Family Restaurant, Mis Amigos, Morgan's Corner Café, Ralph & Ava's, The Peddler's Loft, The House, and Zydeco's, among others, all feature soup on their menus. With these many options, it might be hard to decide.

Morgan County History Museum is closed for the month of January. After resetting and rearranging their displays, they will reopen in February with their regular hours.

Kids grades K-5 are invited to the Morgan County Public Library's Main Branch on Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to make Sock Penguins. Supplies are provided, and there is no cost; pre-registration is required at the library front desk or online. Children under age 7 will need an adult helper. Being a major fan of sock monkeys, I think this looks to be a lot of fun!

Do you like jigsaw puzzles? Sign up for a jigsaw race against the clock at the library on Jan. 27. Compete against other teams to complete your group's puzzle first. Registration is required and space is limited so get signed up at <http://morgancounty.librarycalendar.com/event/jigsaw-puzzle-race-6110>.



If you can't get to the ski slopes, bring the ski slopes to you on Saturday at Cedar Creek. (Courtesy illustration)

You can see what is new in books, eBooks, and audio books weekly at http://wowlibrary.org/nu.aspx?fbp=5109-523***.

With wintry weather really upon us now, WellSpring Community Service Center has updated its wish list with some winter weather needs; check out their Facebook page to contribute. Blankets — clean, gently used or new — are always needed in the community. They can be taken to Red Barn or Churches in Mission.

Clean used blankets for pets can be donated to Morgan County Humane Society. Pet food, paper towels, cleaning supplies, cut down box lids (for litter trays) kitty litter, and newspapers are always welcome donations.

At my studio, Nancy Maxwell Fine Art at Art Sanctuary, my "Green Dot Dozen" animal shelter fundraiser was a success in 2023 so it will continue in 2024. Select an original painting with prices of \$150-\$200 and \$50 of that will be split between Morgan County Humane Society and Community Cats Outreach. This is a wonderful way to add to your own art collection



With winter months come dry skin, but Hunter's Honey Farm has the answer. (Courtesy photo)

or find a special gift for someone. A selection of original pen and inks, all for sale for \$100, also result in a donation to a local food pantry. Looking for a new job? The Oscar Meyer Weiner Mobile is hiring! Applications for 12 "hotdogger" openings, a one-year, full-time paid gig behind the wheel of the Weinermobile are being accepted through Jan. 31. Check their Facebook page for application details. And good luck!

Keep me posted at artcart

martinsville@gmail.com.

Dorene Page, Mika Power, and Kody Williams at Art Sanctuary are all accepting new students for individual and small group art classes. Contact them at Art Sanctuary. Watch for "Fresh Flower Fridays," a still life set up with flowers will start again last Friday of the month, 9-noon, in Maxwell Fine Art Studio. Bring your supplies, hone your skills, have a cup of coffee and visit with other artists. No cost but a small donation (\$3?) to help with flower and coffee fund will be appreciated!

POEM

A winter woods walk

The January day was sunny with a skiff of snow, And I was restless with a wondering mood to go, So clutching my walking stick and donning warm winter boots, Off to a woods for a wandering — a "what's there" pursuit, Curiosity never failing to find knowledge to grow.

The first lesson came from the limbs of trees, They were not drab grayish brown one first sees, But a mystic mixture of amber and smatters of maroons, Providing a pleasing pallet of various chromatic festoons, Curiosity never failing to find knowledge to grow.

And in the undergrowth, a wealth of interesting cover, Broom sage and winter creeper, even a hawk feather to flutter, Plus dried grasses, providing guardians to hinder erosion, Preservation for our children's woods, loving devotion, Curiosity never failing to find knowledge to grow.

And then there were the live inhabiting creatures, From tiny field mice who left crooked snow trail features, To several frisky squirrels whirling chasing each the other, If it wasn't winter, you would think it was summer. Curiosity never failing to find knowledge to grow.

Finally a downed log — a bench for my rest, To appreciate the beauty and joy of my quest, Including promises to return — when I can, Conserve it for others who came after I began, Curiosity never failing to find knowledge to grow.

— Don Adams, *On Bethel Pond*

Indirect discourse

Date and time: Friday, June 3, 1932, 9:34 p.m.
Location: Manhattan, New York, Ledgerton Place, Apartment 301



Authors Who Serve
WILLIAM BAKER

He is 33, dashing, blond, brawny, quick. He opens the apartment door, hangs his hat, and calls "Darling?" "On the balcony."

She is 31, elegant, auburn, slight, and replies through a tumbler. He joins her.

"A beautiful night, dear. What are you drinking?" "I forget. Have some."

She peers at courtyard below. "Only a drop remains, I'm afraid."

He sets the bottle down. "Should you be drinking with the medication from Dr. Alting? His warning not to mix them still stands, I think."

"Maybe," she says. "You're home late. How is your lovely secretary?"

He sighs. "You mustn't say that, darling, there is no one. I

work in a busy office full of people. I am never anywhere but work and home."

She lifts his protest to the vacant night. "The evening is so dark." He steps close behind. "So quiet."

"Not a soul in the building save us. I like it this way," she says.

He says, "I spoke with the superintendent. Construction is complete on other units; we will have neighbors soon and a doorman."

He takes her empty glass to the patio table. "Too bad," she says. "It is nice being the first

but a relief to have others, don't you think, love?" he says.

"The first, with the most money," she says. "What difference does it make?"

"Darling!" he cries. "We will have a grand time of it. Parties and friends, you'll see, just the thing for you."

She turns to the balcony railing again. "What difference does it make?"

He caresses her shoulder. "But haven't we been happy this year, my little one? No financial struggles, no fighting your parents. The wretched, ghastly people — the only good thing they did is die and leave it to you."

"A bank account and a new apartment in Manhattan is not atonement, not a cure for a lifetime of..."

"No, my darling, of course not," he says.

She looks at the emptiness beyond. "The nightmare has returned, every night."

"Oh my love!" he says. She says, "I step out. Out

there. You come home late, hang your hat, and think I am visiting friends. Next morning they find me in the courtyard."

"My darling, it's only a dream. Have you told Dr. Alting? What does he say?"

"He gives me pills and says don't drink," she says. "How much better for you to endure me no longer."

"No, dearest, please don't say it," he says. "You will be free." It is her proposal. "You promised."

He lays a gentle hand on her shoulder, a loving hand to her waist and a fervent whisper in her ear.

"My dearest! How can I go on without you?" "Yes, how?"

She sighs relief and leans back to him resigned. He lifts his dearest over the rail and releases her.

William Baker is a Monrovia resident who lives and writes on the far outskirts of town. He can sometimes be spotted at local coffee shops writing on his laptop and talking to himself.

Classifieds

Announcements

MORGAN COUNTY CORRESPONDENT ACCEPTANCE POLICY

Any advertising, print or mail job or promotional product offered by a person to an employee or agent of the newspaper is subject to final acceptance by the Publisher at any time prior

to publication or distribution. The Publisher reserves the right to refund any money paid, to reject any offer to advertise or to cancel any advertisement, print, mail or promotional job. Abbreviations, copy and entire ads are subject to final approval of the Publisher or his agent and the newspaper reserves the right to revise or reject advertisement or any portion thereof which is deemed objectionable or op-

posed to public policy or the policy of this newspaper. The right to classify ads is also reserved.

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Sunny studio apartment with great location on historic square.

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Call 765-201-0302 to place your ad or email office@morgancountycorrespondent.com.

Please include your name and phone number in the email.

The house that shaving cream built

By Ellen Wilson-Pruitt
Morgan County History
Center and Museum

The big business of brushless shaving cream has a Morgan County connection. Well, two names come into the conversation, and those are Frank Shields and Barbasol.

Frank Shields was from Seymour and attended Franklin College and MIT. He was a chemist and worked at GE and even formed a company, which made special glue that was used for airplanes during World War I.

He really came into fame when he invented Barbasol shaving cream in 1918. This was an innovation, as this shaving cream did not have to be worked into lather. The original formula was not in an aerosol as we know today. It was a cream in a tube. It became the largest-selling shaving cream in the U.S. The packaging mimicked a barber pole. The Barbasol manufacturing plant in Indianapolis also produced other products besides the famous shaving cream.

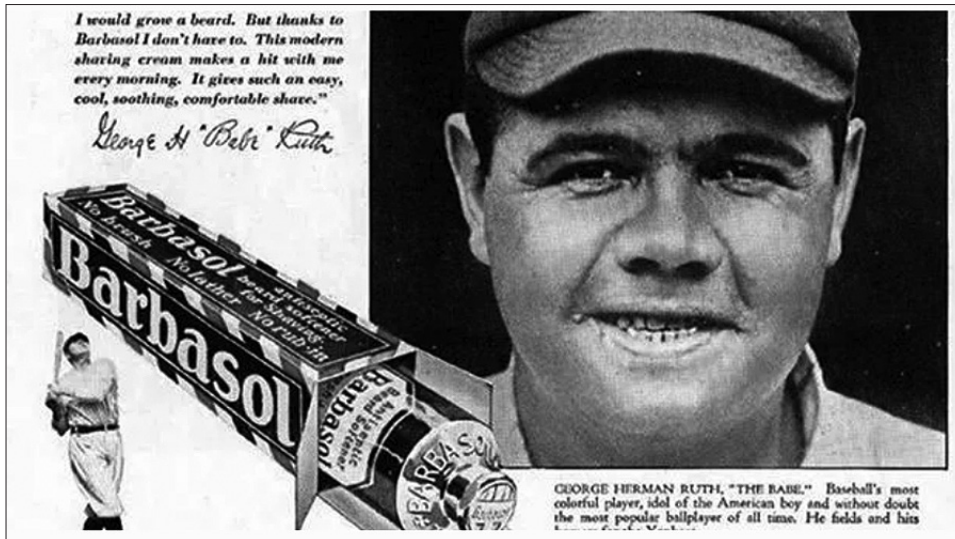
The company used print advertising during the 1920s and '30s that some considered being rather risqué for the time period. These ads pictured men and women in somewhat provocative situations.

Several famous personalities also served as spokespersons for the company. Actor Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., baseball players Babe Ruth and Rogers Hornsby, as well as football legend Knute Rockne, touted the merits of a Barbasol shave. Barbasol was one of the early sponsors of a car in the Indy 500. In 1938, their sponsored car was painted like a tube of the cream.

The shaving cream was the standard issue for soldiers during WWII. At this time, the plant was operating day and night and employed 800 people. As a show of patriotism, the company sold large tubes of shaving cream in PX store for no profit. The introduction of the aerosol can in the 1950s prompted a change from a thick cream to a soft, fluffy foam, much like is found today. The company was purchased in



Frank Shields' spacious estate now serves as the Manor House and clubhouse at Foxcliff North. (Lisa Fox Smith courtesy photo)



Barbasol Frank Shields - Frank Shields came to fame in 1918 with the invention of shaving cream. (Courtesy photo)

1962 by Pfizer.

Frank Shields purchased over 700 acres in Washington Township in Morgan County, and he built his permanent residence Foxcliff



(Courtesy illustrations)

in 1934-1935. The structure constructed was three stories including 9 bedrooms, 11 bathrooms and five fireplaces. The home included



a spiral limestone staircase spanning three stories.

Shields died in 1946 and willed the estate to the state of Indiana to be utilized as the governor's summer residence. The state declined the gift as the residence was located outside of Marion County and the cost required maintaining the vast estate. The property was restored

to the estate as per the will's direction. Arthur Vandenberg purchased the property in 1948 and resided there until it was sold to a development company in 1968. The structure has since served as the Foxcliff Clubhouse for decades.

And to think, all this came about because of shaving cream.



The Ratts family held a reunion in August 1927 at Mt. Olive Church.

The Ratts family helped build community – and church was at the center

By Patty Dow
Morgan County History
Center and Museum

On Feb. 15, 1812, Henry T. Ratts of Rowan County, N.C., made payment in full at Jeffersonville Land Office, Ind., for the southwest and southeast quarters of section 6, township 1, north of the basis line in range four, east of the second principal meridian in Washington County. These credit volume patents began the investment in Indiana by the Ratts family under the Harrison Land Act.

Henry and wife Barbara Winkler came to Washington County in 1823. Children Godfrey, Henry T., Mary Margaret, Rinehart, Elizabeth, Polly, Jacob, Francis, Andrew, and Barbara accompanied them. Henry continued to invest in Washington County land during his lifetime.

Godfrey served as Justice of the Peace in 1826, 1833, 1839. Henry served 1831-33 as a county commissioner. Jacob was a prosperous merchant in Salem, elder in the Christian Church, Republican, and a member of the Grand Army of the Republic — a fraternal organization for Union soldiers.

Rhinehart and wife Susanah served as deacons for the Blue River Separate Baptist Church, which was renamed the Church of Christ in 1836. Rhinehart Ratts Schoolhouse was one



Olive Christian Church is still in use today, just outside Paragon, and many members of the Ratts family are buried in a nearby cemetery. (Courtesy photo)

of the early schools. Henry and Barbara were Lutheran parishioners. (History of Lawrence, Orange, Washington Counties Indiana, Goodspeed Bros. & Co. Publishers, 1884)

Henry purchased over 200 acres in land grant parcels in Morgan County on April 15, 1825. Upon his death in 1833, he willed over 800 acres of Washington County property to his wife and children.

Son Henry T. received

his inheritance of 160 acres in Morgan County where he was living. He and wife, Rebecca Goss, had four sons and two daughters at the time of his father's death. During his lifetime Henry T. Jr. purchased nearly 1,100 Morgan County acres of public lands through the Bureau of Land Management. Three more daughters and two sons were born.

On Sept. 2, 1859, a congregation met and the Church of God at Mt. Olivet

was formed. William Denny, William Warthen and Henry's son Ephraim Ratts were appointed as overseers for the church. The original members were John, Sarah, James J., Pheobe and Charlton Shuler, Nancy J., Elizabeth L., Mary, Serelda, and William Denny, David B. Dow, Sarah, Henry Jr., Mary A., and Ephraim Ratts, William J., Sarah, William, Linny, Isaac B., James, and Susan Warthen, Leonard, Mary, Katherine,

and John Hedrick, George, Charlotte, Absolem, and Kathrine Hanes, and Louisa J. Letterman. Ephraim Ratts donated land for the purpose of a cemetery and church location. An abstract of the deed refers to the church as a Christian church.

In a 1966, the Daily Reporter article Myrtle Ratts wrote that "a log church was erected and benches were made of split logs, wooden pegs for legs and without backs. A large stone fireplace furnished their heat and its glow helped the candles to light their room. The congregation met in homes prior to the erection of the building. Baptisms were held in Burkhart Creek, which was reached by going down the road south for a few rods then going through the forest on horseback, in wagons and walking near William Shuler's home."

Myrtle reported that in 1880, the log church was torn down and a brick one begun in its place. A brick schoolhouse being built across the road north of the church at the same time was finished and used by the congregation for services and funerals until the church, which was under construction for three years, was completed. The school is listed as Olive School No. 8 on the 1897 county map. Jesse Lambert laid the brick, which was made at kilns in the neighborhood. John Glover and Kindred Shuler

did the woodwork. Henry Ratts, son of Ephraim Ratts hewed the large beams and others did volunteer work.

In July 1898, 39 years after the organization, members instituted a homecoming. This homecoming served its purpose as a reunion for more than half a century. In May 1960 when the church fund had reached \$10,000 and the old structure had been razed, excavation was started for a new church. Steered by an appointed building committee a new and beautiful edifice was completed in early fall at the cost of \$12,518.21. Pews for the entire church and furnishings for the sanctuary were purchased by individuals and groups and donated as memorial tributes to loved ones at a cost of \$2,000.30.

During the construction of the new building, services for the congregation were held in the former Wakeland School building.

For years, the Ratts Reunion was celebrated at Mt. Olive Church, located on Olive Church Road, north-west of Paragon. Henry T. and Rebecca Goss Ratts and many of their family are buried in Ratts Cemetery, located on their original farm. Henry and Rebecca's descendants continue to farm some of Henry's acreage and to support education and churches in their communities, just as their German ancestors did.