EMINENCE'S SOPHIA SAUCERMAN TO PLAY BASKETBALL AT FRANKLIN

SPORTS | B1

THE MORGAN COUNTY
Correspondent

The source for news from every corner of Morgan County

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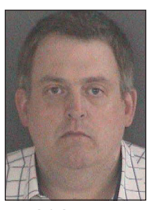
VOL. 3, ISSUE NO. 10 | THURSDAY, MARCH 06, 2025 | $2.00

Wisco pleads guilty

Sentencing on seven felony theft charges scheduled for April

By Keith Rhoades
MCC Chief Correspondent

MORGAN COUNTY — A former county attorney and Martinsville City Council member facing multiple felony counts including theft, counterfeiting, corrupt business influence, and official misconduct has agreed to a plea agreement that calls for him to repay around $164,000 to his clients.


WISCO

James Kent Wisco has agreed to plead guilty to seven counts of theft, all level six felonies.

In return, the state will dismiss 15 additional charges filed against him.

Wisco will repay the clients he took money from. One of

SEE WISCO | PAGE A7

SPREADING LIGHT



Local journeymen help electrify 197 homes in Guatemala

By Jared Quigg
MCC Reporter

PALMIRA, Guatemala — You might be reading this story under lamplight after a long day at work.

It might be dark outside, but there's no reason to say goodnight yet. If you want, you can probably get up out of your chair and walk to the refrigerator, grab some leftovers and heat them in the microwave for a late snack.

All of these simple, every day tasks are contingent upon electricity. And not everyone in the world has such luxury.

Without electricity, there is no light in the home except what emits naturally. There's no oven, refrigerator or microwave, which has several implications for human health and diets. There's certainly no internet connection, severely limiting the scope of the outside world.

This was the state of affairs up until very recently in the village of Palmira, high up in the mountains of Guatemala.



FROM TOP: Spencer resident and SCI REMC lineman Dakota Grimes works on an electrical pole high up in the mountains of Palmira, Guatemala. He and 15 other journeymen helped electrify 197 homes in Guatemala last month as part of the non-profit initiative Project Indiana. // Grimes poses for a selfie as he's working high up on an electric pole in Palmira. Project Indiana sends local electric cooperative linemen to Guatemala every two years to help spread light around the world. (Courtesy photos)

SEE LIGHT | PAGE A10

PAC: school board noncompliant

Newspaper takes legal action against Mooresville school board, alleging violations of Open Door Law

Staff Report

MORGAN COUNTY — The state's expert on public access laws issued a formal opinion last week that the Mooresville school board did not comply with state law when it appointed a new school board member last November.

The Morgan County Correspondent LLC newspaper (MCC) filed a formal complaint in December with Public Access Counselor Luke H. Britt — a state-level appointed position that "provides advice and assistance concerning Indiana's public access laws to members of the public and government officials and their employees." The PAC also offers formal advisory opinions in the case of disputes over Open Door Law and Access to Public Records Act.

In the case of the Mooresville school board, *The Correspondent* alleged two separate violations.

The first is that the board failed to solicit public comment — as required by law — on the final action taken by the board to appoint a new member to the school board following the passing of Dr. Bill Roberson.

"In total, the board spent fewer than two minutes to take final action to fill the board seat and failed to allow public comment on a topic of public business in violation of Open Door Law," the complaint states.

"Under the Open Door Law, the governing body of a school corporation must allow a member of the public who is physically present at a public meeting to provide oral public comment. …

"Here, the board did not allow — or even invite — the public to offer public comment on the topic of appointing a public official to fill the vacancy on the board."

SEE PAC | PAGE A8

Bray talks new governor, education, healthcare

The president pro tempore of the Indiana Senate visits with *The Correspondent* last week

By Jared Quigg
MCC Reporter

MORGAN COUNTY — Austerity is the order of the day for the state of Indiana.

The Indiana General Assembly has concluded the first half of the 2025 legislative session, the time when bills passed in the House of Representatives and the Senate are moved to the opposite chamber for review and possible amendments.


BRAY

After both chambers have agreed upon the same bill, it can go to the governor to be signed into law.

With the first half of this process now over, State Sen. Rod Bray, a Martinsville native and president pro tempore of the Senate, visited *The Correspondent* office last Thursday to discuss the bills the Senate had passed this cycle, and what they are looking forward to coming out of the House.

SEE BRAY | PAGE A9

Big Green Egg
The Ultimate Cooking Experience
Martinsville ACE
2064 Burton Ln.
STIHL
#1 IN AMERICA
SINCE 1979, Family Owned and Operated!

Obituary

Patricia Nelms, 87



MOORESVILLE – Patricia Marlene Nelms, 87, of Mooresville, died Friday, February 28, 2025 at the Franciscan Hospice House in Indianapolis. She was born July 10, 1937 in Quincy, IL to the late Frank A. and Ruth (Hanke) Kestner. She was baptized, August 29, 1937 by the Rev. William F. Beck in Zion Lutheran Church, Clayton, IL. She was confirmed in May of 1950 by the Rev. Herbert Hallerberg in Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Clayton, IL.

She married John Onger in 1955. She married Robert Nelms in 1978.

She graduated from Clayton High School, Clayton, IL. She was a homemaker, waitress and employed by the MO. Dept. of Revenue, Jefferson City, MO. She was a member of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Plainfield, IN. and a member of The Ruth Circle Ladies Group of the church.

She loved her family dearly, cooking, baking, animals and genealogy.

Survivors are a son, Michael (Jamie) Onger; a daughter, Janis Valdez; three stepchildren, Jackie (Jim) Buis, Robert Nelms, and Denny (Michelle) Nelms; two grandchildren, Jacqueline Seely and Brian Karst; seven step grandchildren; six great grandchildren; nine step great great grandchild; seven nephews and four nieces.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Robert Nelms; two brothers, Hubert and Duane Kestner; two sisters, Marjorie Zoller and Alberta Likes; step daughter-in-law, Linda Nelms; and stepson, Leonard Nelms.

Memorials may be given to St. Stephen's Lutheran Church or the charity of the donor's choice.

Family and friends are invited to a memorial service on Thursday, March 6th at 4:00 pm in the chapel at Carlisle – Branson Funeral Service & Crematory. Patricia earthly remains have been cremated.

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

CARLISLE BRANSON
FUNERAL SERVICE & CREMATORY

Obituary Notices

Derek Hall, 48
MOORESVILLE – Derek Hall, 48, of Mooresville (formerly of Monrovia), died Feb. 1, 2025. Arrangements by Light Memorial and Funeral Chapel in Monrovia.

Shirley Huffer, 96
MOORESVILLE – Shirley Fae Huffer, 96, of Mooresville, died Feb. 24, 2025. Arrangements by Carlisle-Branson Funeral Service and Crematory in Mooresville.

Robert Bailey, 84
MARTINSVILLE – Robert "Bob" Eugene Bailey, 84, of Martinsville, died Feb. 25, 2025. Arrangements by Costin Funeral Chapel in Martinsville.

William Gist, 68
GREENWOOD – William Gregory Gist, 68, of Greenwood, died Feb. 28, 2025. Arrangements by Carlisle-Branson Funeral Service and Crematory in Mooresville.

Virginia Carpenter, 81
MARTINSVILLE – Virginia Louise Carpenter, 81, of Martinsville, died March 2, 2025. Arrangements by Costin Funeral Chapel in Martinsville.

Robert Smith, 89
MOORESVILLE – Robert "Bob" Smith, 89, of Mooresville, died March 3, 2025. Arrangements by Carlisle-Branson Funeral Service and Crematory in Mooresville.

Death Notices

Morgan County Health Dept.
Marian Doris Poe, 95, Bedford
Russell Leroy Plummer, 77, Martinsville
Rick Lee Pell, 71, Mooresville
Paul Loren Fletcher, 86, Indianapolis
Gerald D. Peters, 89, Mooresville
Stuart Allen Boner, 89, Monrovia
James Arthur Pflum, 93, Mooresville
Zella C. Duncan, 76, Mooresville
J.C. Cox, 83, Paragon

New Arrival

Boden Henderson
Boden Scott Henderson was born Feb. 24, 2025, to mother Emma Weigel, of Clayton, and father Dustin Henderson, of Clayton.

Jail Bookings

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

Cheryl Margaret Adams, 44, Martinsville, visiting a common nuisance-controlled substances.drug paraphernalia.

Crystal Roxanne Adams, 42, Paragon, possession of cocaine and possession of paraphernalia.

Austin Levi Baker, 26, Martinsville, failure to appear.

Nicole Lynn Branaman, 39, Martinsville, possession of cocaine or narcotic drug, possession of paraphernalia, possession of hypodermic syringe or needle, and maintaining a common nuisance-controlled substances.

Luis Fernando Morales Castro, 27, Indianapolis, operating a vehicle while intoxicated-endangerment, possession of methamphetamine, operating a vehicle with a blood alcohol content of .15 percent or more, operating with a controlled substance in body, and operating without ever obtaining license.

Alicia Dawn Clemins, 25, Nashville, possession of methamphetamine, driving while suspended-prior, and possession of paraphernalia.

Lillian Josephine Jessieann Cobb, 32, Indianapolis, driving while suspended-prior.

Shelly Renee Cook, 42, Paragon, failure to appear and probation revocation.

Bradyn Michael Gordon Fair, 20, Martinsville, serving time – theft.

Clinton Everett Fowler II, 32, Morgantown, domestic battery-adult knowing presence of child less that 16 years of age and interfering with public safety.

Rebekah Lauren Gilmore, 31, Greenwood, operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated-endangerment.

Chase William Green, 22, New Whiteland, serving time – operating a vehicle while intoxicated-endangerment and possession of marijuana.

Tyler Criss Grounds, 28, Martinsville, strangulation and domestic battery-simple assault.

Cody Lee Hayes, 19, Martinsville, minor consume an alcohol beverage and public intoxication by alcohol.

John Ozzbourne Haynes, 27, homeless, theft.

Michael Mason Kikendall, 25, Shelbyville, serving time – resisting law enforcement with two or more prior unrelated convictions.

Robert Tyler Kuhns, 32, Martinsville, possession of cocaine, possession of paraphernalia, and possession of hypodermic syringe or needle.

Ryan Matthew Lawrence, 42, Homeless, two counts of resisting law enforcement-defendant uses a vehicle, possession of methamphetamine, possession of marijuana, possession of a synthetic drug, and criminal recklessness.

Evan Tyler Lyons, 20, Mooresville, serving time – probation violation.

Brittany Ann Mabe, 29, Morgantown, serving time – operating a vehicle while intoxicated-prior conviction.

Travis Dean McCarty, 51, Morgantown, home detention-unauthorized absence from home detention.

Joy Elizabeth Mitchell, 40, Gosport, contempt of court-civil.

Christopher David Mohr, 47, Monrovia, serving time – operating a vehicle with a blood alcohol content of .15 percent or more.

Brandon Israel Myers, 19, Mooresville, minor consumption of an alcoholic beverage.

Stephen Tyler Nenedjian, 29, Martinsville, two counts failure to appear.

James Matthew Ogles, 31, Trafalgar, serving time – operating a vehicle while intoxicated-endangerment.

Amanda Kay Porter, 41, Martinsville, wanted on Greene County warrant.

Joshua David Prather, 47, Paragon, operating a vehicle while intoxicated-endangerment and operating a vehicle while intoxicated with a prior conviction.

Wendy Marie Rather, 51, Indianapolis, arson, intimidation, animal offense-cruelty, and animal offense-intentionally beating an animal.

Steven George Reilich, 65, Indianapolis, serving time – operating a vehicle with a blood alcohol content of .15 percent or more.

James Robert Richards, 43, Indianapolis, serving time – operating a vehicle while intoxicated.

John Fredrick Schoolcraft, 53, Martinsville, domestic battery-simple assault, strangulation, and interfering with the reporting of a crime.

Joel Matthew Shaw, 43, Martinsville, battery-serious bodily injury-felony.

Sheryl Jane Stanton, 43, Boonville, serving time – possession of legend drug or precursor.

Ross Johnathan-Riley Thrasher, 40, Martinsville, possession of cocaine and bond forfeiture.

Damon Max Vanhook, 62, Camby, serving time – probation violation.

Christopher Lee Walker, 36, Indianapolis, possession of methamphetamine.

Zackery Duane White, 40, Morgantown, possession of a hypodermic syringe or needle, possession of marijuana, and possession of a controlled substance II, III, IV.

Kempis James Wilkerson, 22, Mooresville, serving time – operating a vehicle while intoxicated-endangerment.

Jose Ixcoy Zepet, 19, Indianapolis, operating a motor vehicle without ever receiving a license.

Adalberto Blanco Zurita, 36, Martinsville, operating a vehicle while intoxicated.

Former Martinsville, Eminence teacher charged with sex crimes

By Keith Rhoades
MCC Chief Correspondent


FORTINBERRY

MARTINSVILLE — A former schoolteacher is facing multiple charges after allegedly having sexual relations with her students.

Brittany M. Fortinberry, 31, Martinsville, is facing two separate cases, one filed in October 2024, and the second filed in February of this year.

In the 2024 case, she is charged with two counts of Dissemination of Matter Harmful to Minors, both F6 felonies, and two counts of Harassment using a computer network or other electronic communication to transmit, both class B misdemeanors.

She is charged in the February case with three counts of Sexual Misconduct with a minor-defendant has intercourse with or engages in other sexual incident, all F4 felonies, Dissemination of matter harmful to minors, an F6 felony, and Contributing to the delinquency of a minor-child under 18 years of age, an F5 felony.

According to the Martinsville school district, Fortinberry was hired on Oct. 24, 2023, and resigned on Jan. 9, 2024. She then went to work for the Eminence School District later that year.

It was at the Eminence district in August 2024 that she allegedly exchanged inappropriate emails with two male students who were acting as teacher assistants.

Fortinberry allegedly sent email pictures of sex toys she had in a drawer in her home. She also talked about having a "stripper pole" in her basement. Investigators later searched her home and found the drawers of sex toys and the stripper pole in the basement.

Fortinberry also allegedly told the boys after she left the Martinsville school district, she had a couple of internet websites such as OnlyFans and that she had made thousands of dollars from it.

The boys reported her to school authorities, and she was allowed to resign from her position.

Fortinberry was interviewed by Det. Sgt. Patrick Williams at the sheriff's office.

According to Williams, Fortinberry said she had lost around 150 pounds and that she had a troubled childhood. She allegedly told Williams that "having sex was her form of self-harm." She allegedly admitted to having sex with over 300 men before she turned 18.

She denied having inappropriate emails with the students, and she did not know how they got the information about her home. She said some information, such as the sex toys and stripper pole, had been on her internet accounts.

Williams submitted his report to the prosecutor who filed charges against her.

In the second case, Williams said a juvenile notified authorities that he and others juveniles had sexual relations in October 2023.

In his probable cause affidavit, Williams said his investigation turned up allegations that Fortinberry, in addition to having sexual relations with the boys, allegedly also gave them drugs in an attempt to help them perform.

The juvenile said there were maybe five to 10 boys involved with her.

Williams submitted his report to the prosecutor who filed additional charges against Fortinberry.

She is being held in jail on a $20,000 property/surety bond and $600 cash.

Her trial in both cases is set for June 25 in Morgan County Superior Court III.

Marriage/Divorces

Marriage Licenses
Tomas Puente Cajo, Martinsville; Lorena Guerrero, Martinsville

Jennifer Lynn Fugate, Martinsville; Michael Whitaker, Martinsville

Emma Grace Livingston, Greenwood; Jordan Thomas Cook, Martinsville

Lucas Breckenridge, Martinsville; Destiny Blakeslee, Martinsville

Keagan Mitchell Silcox, Paragon; Camrynn Alice Johnson, Martinsville

Troy Helton, Martinsville; Laurie Smith, Martinsville

Divorces
Breanna Marie Young vs. Joel Hagen Young

Tabitha Pike vs. Caleb Messmer

Amie Boritzki vs. Emil Bortizki (name as listed on report)

Amber Collis vs. Ryan Collis

Nicholas M. Fortinberry vs. Brittany M. Fortinberry

Elee Faye Contreras vs. Juan Manuel Leigh

Eric Richhart vs.. Megan Ratliff-Richhart

Sheriff 's Report

222 Inmates
173 Males
49 Females

16 Department of Correction inmates
16 Male
0 Female

51 F-6 felony inmates
34 Male
17 Female

26 Work Release
23 Male
3 Female

21 Jail Correction Workers
15 Male
6 Female

1,813 Law enforcement calls for service (YTD)

Court News

Morgan County Superior Court I
Judge Dakota VanLeeuwen

Jaden Ballard, 27, Martinsville, domestic battery resulting in injury to a person under 14 years of age. Sentenced to 1,368 days in Indiana Department of Corrections, fines and costs of $690.

Brandon Brown, 35, Euclid, Ohio, battery against a public safety official and resisting law enforcement. Sentenced to 528 days in jail (time served), fines and costs waived as court finds defendant to be indigent.

Shane Cooper, 32, Martinsville, possession of methamphetamine. Sentenced to 912 days in jail, suspended except for 68 days to serve (time served), 844 days probation, fines and costs of $790.

Amir Farokhi, 30, Fishers, intimidation. Sentenced to 250 days in jail (time served), fines, costs, and restitution of $3,956.

Justin Goss, 41, Paragon, criminal trespass. Sentenced to 198 days in jail (time served), fines and costs of $590.

Taryll Hall, 35, Indianapolis, causing serious bodily injury when operating a vehicle with a Schedule 1 or 2 controlled substance. Sentenced to two years in jail, suspended, two years probation, 365-day license suspension, fines and costs of $390.

George Sexton, 58, Morgantown, operating while intoxicated with prior conviction. Sentenced to 912 days in jail, suspended except for 184 days to serve in Morgan County Jail, 266 days home detention, and 462 days probation, fines and costs of $390.

Superior Court III
Judge Sara A. Dungan

Gillian Ault, 21, Plainfield, possession of methamphetamine. Sentenced to 545 days in jail, suspended except for 190 days to serve (time served), 365 days probation, fines and costs of $790.

Chase Green, 22, New Whiteland, operating while intoxicated endangering a person and possession of paraphernalia with prior conviction. Sentenced to 365 days in jail, suspended except for six days to serve, 359 days probation, 70-day license suspension, fines and costs of $390.

Michael Kikendall, 25, Shelbyville, resisting law enforcement. Sentenced to 365 days in jail, suspended except for 22 days to serve, 343 days probation, fines and costs of $190, handgun recovered at scene to be destroyed by sheriff's department.

Lai Mang, 45, Indianapolis, operating while intoxicated endangering a person. Sentenced to 365 days in jail, suspended except for four days to serve (time served), 365 days probation, 90-day license suspension, fines and costs of $790.

Martin R. Mills, 52, Paragon, operating while intoxicated-prior. Sentenced to 545 days in jail, suspended except for 180 days on home detention, 365 days probation, 180-day license suspension, fines and costs of $390.

Steven Reilich, 65, Indianapolis, operating with a blood alcohol content of .15 percent or more. Sentenced to 365 days in jail, suspended except for 30 days to serve, 335 days probation, 365-day license suspension, fines and costs of $390.

Ashley X. Romo, 21, Indianapolis, possession of cocaine. Sentenced to 365 days in jail, suspended except for eight days to serve, 357 days probation, fines and costs of $790.

Sheryl J. Stanton, 43, Booneville, unlawful possession or use of legend drugs and driving while suspended with prior conviction. Sentenced to 365 days in jail, suspended except for six days to serve, 365 days probation, fines and costs of $790.

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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Franciscan offers suicide prevention training March 12

From Tony Veneziano
Franciscan Health

MOORESVILLE — Franciscan Health, in collaboration with Churches in Mission, Hope House and Life Pointe Church, is offering a QPR: suicide prevention training in Mooresville in March.

The training is scheduled for Wednesday, March 12, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Life Pointe Church, 825 N. Indiana St. in Mooresville. The class is free to attend and dinner will be served.

QPR is an entry-level suicide prevention course that teaches how to identify suicidal ideation and how to persuade someone to seek help. Question, Persuade and Refer, or QPR, is a widely taught gatekeeper training course. Like CPR, QPR is an emergency system that can help someone in a crisis save lives.

Those who become a QPR-trained Gatekeeper will gain the ability to recognize signs of suicidal thoughts, provide hope and support and guide someone to life-saving assistance.

To register, please call Kelli Webb at (317) 220-2627.

Government Meetings

March 6
The Mooresville and Brown Township fire departments, along with Mooresville Town Council, will meet at 6 p.m. at the Government Center, 4 E. Harrison St., to discuss and hold a public hearing on a possible merger.

The Madison Township Advisory Board will meet at 7 p.m. at Station 32, 7047 E. Landersdale Road in Camby.

March 10
The Martinsville Board of Works will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the council chambers at 59 S. Jefferson St.

The Monroe-Gregg School Board will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the Administration Office, 135 S. Chestnut St.

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

The Mooresville Parks and Recreation District will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the library, 220 W. Harrison St.

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

March 11
The Mooresville School Board will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Education Center, 11 W. Carlisle St.

The Mooresville Redevelopment Commission will meet at 6 p.m. at the Government Center, 4 E. Harrison St.

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

The Morgan County Fair Board will meet at 7 p.m. in the 4-H Building at the fairgrounds, 1749 Hospital Drive in Martinsville.

March 12
The Morgan County Soil and Water Conservation District board will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the Morgan County Administration Building, 180 S. Main St. in Martinsville.

March 17
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 the Government Center, 60 S. Marley Way.

- Morgantown (2nd Monday each month at the firehouse, 269 N. Highland St.
- Paragon (1st Monday each month at 7 p.m. at the town hall, 300 N. Main St.)
- Brooklyn (2nd Tuesday each month at 6 p.m. at Brooklyn Kids Park, 3277 E. Centenary Road)
- Bethany (4th Thursday each month at 7 p.m. at town hall, 7355 Bethany Park)



Calendar of Events

March 6
Community Lenten Lunch at St. Martin of Tours, Sexton Hall, 1720 East Harrison St. in Martinsville lunch begins at 11:30 a.m., devotional talk at 12:15 p.m., $5.00 per person. Hosted by St. Martin of Tours Catholic. All are Welcome.

Ladies Night at Cedar Creek, 3820 Leonard Road East of Martinsville from 5:30 to 9 p.m.

Morgan County GOP Elephant Wing Meet-up at Wings Etc, 285 Grand Valley Blvd in Martinsville from 6 to 8 p.m. All are welcome, Dutch Treat.

Thursday Euchre at Martinsville Senior Center from 6 to 9 p.m. $3 All are welcome.

March 7 -17
Leprechaun Hunt at Pioneer Park, 1101 N. Indianapolis Road in Mooresville. Hunt for hidden leprechauns, take a photo and share it on social media by tagging Mooresville Parks and Recreation. Leprechauns come with a little luck, finders get to keep.

March 7
Toddler Time at Morgan County Public Library, Main Branch 110 S. Jefferson St. in Martinsville, from 10:30 to 11 a.m., every Friday for children 1 to 2 yrs with caregivers, siblings outside the program's age range are welcome.

Friday Euchre at Martinsville Senior Center from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. $5 All are welcome

Music Bingo at Cedar Creek, 3820 Leonard Road East of Martinsville, from 6:30 to 10 p.m.

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

Karaoke Stars with Bobbi Delane at Hoosier Que/Foxcliff Golf Club, 1970 E. Mapleturn Road north of Martinsville at 7 p.m

March 8
Breakfast at VFW Post 1257, 1000 Josephine St. in Martinsville, from 8 to 11 a.m. Cost is $10 for adults, $7 for 6-12 yr olds. Open to the public.

Third House Session at Mooresville Gov Center, 4 E Harrison St Room 211 in Mooresville. From 8:30 to 10 a.m. Invited speakers: State Senator Rod Bray, and State Representatives Peggy Mayfield and Craig Haggard. Sponsored by the Mooresville Chamber.

Craft Along at Morgan County Public Library, Main Branch 110 S. Jefferson St. in Martinsville, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., teens and adults bring your current craft project.

Make Paper Flowers at Morgan County Public Library, Main Branch 110 S. Jefferson St. in Martinsville, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., K-5, under 7 needs adult helper. Registration appreciated.

Live Music at Cedar Creek, 3820 Leonard Road East of Martinsville at 4 p.m. featuring John Ryan

Bingo at the Eminence Fire Barn, 11612 Walters Road starting 5:30 p.m. $20 for meal and games. Meal only $5 2 Tacos, chips, salsa, dessert and drink.

Songwriter Showcase at Black Dog Brewing Company, 11230 Ind. 67 in Mooresville. Live music Featuring Russ Baum, Kim Renner, and Paul Burris, from 7 to 9 p.m.

March 9
Live Music at Cedar Creek, 3820 Leonard Road East of Martinsville at 2 p.m. featuring Jack McDivitt

March 10
Pioneer Pathfinders walk at Pioneer Park, 1101 N Indianapolis Road in Mooresville 9 to 10 a.m., meet at shelter #2.

Storytime at Morgan County Public Library, Main Branch 110 S. Jefferson St. in Martinsville from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. every Monday for children 3 to 5 yrs siblings outside the program's age range are welcome.

Free Hot Meal Monday's at First Christian Church, 89 S. Main St. in Martinsville from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Everyone Welcome.

PAL Parents of Addicted Loved Ones at The Haven Youth Center, 39 E. Jackson St. in Martinsville. Meets each Monday for education and support, 6:30 to 8 p.m. 317-494-8794

Recovery Ministry at Mt. Gilead Church, 6019 E. State Road 144 in Mooresville, Monday evenings, snacks and fellowship at 6:30 meeting from 7-8:30 p.m.

March 11
The Foxcliff Chess Club meets at Greeks Pizza, 10 E. Morgan St in Martinsville, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month from 6 to 9 p.m. All ages welcome, from beginner to advanced. Contact foxcliffchess@gmail.com for more information.

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

Martinsville Photography Club at the Morgan County Public Library, Main Branch 110 S. Jefferson St. in Martinsville from 7:00 to 8:15 p.m. Share photos, learn, exchange ideas and talk about photography with other hobby photographers.

March 12
Preschool Storytime with Ms. Emma at Waverly Branch of Morgan County Public Library, 9410 E State Road 144 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. every Wednesday.

Sawing and Piercing Skills class at Studio PH.D 96 E Morgan St. in Martinsville from 6 to 9 p.m. $60 per person all materials and needed tools are provided. Bring reading glasses and notebook; wear closed toe shoes and long pants. Register/info 317-459-3581

Morgan County Democratic Party monthly meeting at Keller Hall, First Presbyterian Church, 240 E Washington St at 6:30 p.m

Indiana Spirit of '45 Battle Buddy and Spouse Support Group at 75 East Washington St. in Martinsville at 6:30 p.m. All veterans and veteran spouses are welcome to attend.

March 13
Community Lenten Lunch at St. Martin of Tours, Sexton Hall, 1720 East Harrison St. in Martinsville lunch begins at 11:30 a.m., devotional talk at 12:15 p.m., $5.00 per person. Hosted by Prince of Peace Lutheran. All are Welcome.

Thursday Euchre at Martinsville Senior Center from 6 to 9 p.m. $3 All are welcome.

Morgan County Federation of Republican Women monthly meeting at the Martinsville Youth Center, 165 Morton Ave., at 6 p.m.

History of Martinsville Police Department with Rick Lang at Morgan County Public Library, Main Branch 110 S. Jefferson St. in Martinsville, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Knit Night at Morgan County Public Library, Main Branch, 110 S. Jefferson St. in Martinsville from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Bring your craft project, chat and craft with others.

The Morgan County Community Concerts Association presents Paolo Schianchi at the Martinsville High School Auditorium, 1360 East Gray St. at 7 p.m. Paolo Schianchi was able to master all existing variations of the guitar, from the Renaissance lute to electric guitars. A native of Parma, Italy, with four degrees in music and communications,

March 14
Toddler Time at Morgan County Public Library, Main Branch 110 S. Jefferson St. in Martinsville, from 10:30 to 11 a.m., every Friday for children 1 to 2 yrs with caregivers, siblings outside the program's age range are welcome.

Friday Euchre at Martinsville Senior Center from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. $5 All are welcome

Live Music at Cedar Creek, 3820 Leonard Road East of Martinsville, featuring Larry Brown at 6 p.m.

Second Friday Open Studio and Open Mic night, Art Sanctuary, 190 N. Sycamore St.in Martinsville, from 6 to 9 p.m. Tour working artists studios and enjoy local live music.

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

Murder Mystery Night at Morgan County Public Library for ages 13+, Main Branch 110 S. Jefferson St. in Martinsville from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Registration is required, character information will be emailed to participants in advance. Costumes are encouraged!

Karaoke Stars with Bobbi Delane at Hoosier Que/Foxcliff Golf Club, 1970 E. Mapleturn Road north of Martinsville at 7 p.m.

March 15
Morgan County GOP Monthly Breakfast at Brooklyn Christian Church, 7 S. Church St. at 8:30 a.m.

2025 Morgan County Gardenfest at Mooresville Christian Academy, 4271 Ind. 144 in Mooresville from 9 a.m to 3 p.m. $2. Dozens of garden related vendors, speakers and the pansy sale! Free seed and native tree give-a-ways.

LEGO Showcase at Morgan County Public Library, Main Branch 110 S. Jefferson St. in Martinsville from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. bring your MOC (my own creation) or a built set for others to see. All ages event, no registration required.

Writers Group at Morgan County Public Library, Main Branch 110 S. Jefferson St. in Martinsville, from 2 to 4 p.m., all ages and genres welcome.

March Mania at Senior Retreat 609 S. Lincoln St. in Martinsville. Free Take and Bake Pizza and a 2 liter from 3 to 5 p.m. MUST RSVP 317-999-8145, limit one per RSVP.

Live Music at Cedar Creek, 3820 Leonard Road East of Martinsville, featuring Michael McCartney at 4 p.m.

3rd Saturday Euchre at Monrovia Festival Building, 50 Walnut St., starting at 6 p.m. $5 to enter. You can bring your own partner but it's not necessary. 317-721-7806

Live Music at Trackside Bar and Grill, 2285 Ind 67 in Paragon featuring the Roosters Band starting at 8 p.m.

March 16
Live Music at Cedar Creek, 3820 Leonard Road East of Martinsville, featuring Elias Gomez at 2 p.m.

March 17
Pioneer Pathfinders walk at Pioneer Park, 1101 N Indianapolis Road in Mooresville 9 to 10 a.m., meet at shelter #2.

Storytime at Morgan County Public Library, Main Branch 110 S. Jefferson St. in Martinsville from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. every Monday for children 3 to 5 yrs siblings outside the program's age range are welcome.

Free Hot Meal Monday's at First Christian Church, 89 S. Main St. in Martinsville from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Everyone Welcome.

Crime Watch Meeting at Morgan County Public Library, Main Branch 110 S. Jefferson St. in Martinsville from 6 to 7:45 p.m.

PAL Parents of Addicted Loved Ones at The Haven Youth Center, 39 E. Jackson St. in Martinsville. Meets each Monday for education and support, 6:30 to 8 p.m. 317-494-8794

Recovery Ministry at Mt. Gilead Church, 6019 E. State Road 144 in Mooresville, Monday evenings, snacks and fellowship at 6:30 meeting from 7-8:30 p.m.

Main Branch Book Club at Morgan County Public Library, Main Branch 110 S. Jefferson St. in Martinsville from 7 to 8 p.m. 3rd Monday of the month. Discuss the book of the month with other readers.

March 18
Weekly live music at the Martinsville Senior Center, 1369 Blue Bluff Road, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Fun for the whole family.

March 19
Preschool Storytime with Ms. Emma at Waverly Branch of Morgan County Public Library, 9410 E State Road 144 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. every Wednesday.

Forging and Forming Skills class at Studio PH.D 96 E Morgan St. in Martinsville at 6 p.m. $60 per person all materials and needed tools are provided. Bring reading glasses and notebook; wear closed toe shoes and long pants. Register/info 317-459-3581

An evening with Chef Charles Bryant at Brickhouse on Main, 128 N. Main St. in Martinsville at 6:30 p.m. $25 per person or $35 per couple. Reserve in advance.

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MartinsvilleChamber.com
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State of the City Dinner
Tuesday, March 11, 2025
Martinsville High School Cafeteria

5:30 pm - Social Hour 6:30 pm - Dinner

Net proceeds benefit Rotary and Chamber community projects and Mayor Costin's charity of choice, Habitat for Humanity. The Outstanding Business, Outstanding Business Professional and Ruth Rusie Spirit of Service awards will also be presented.

Tickets available at the Chamber of Commerce office (765.342.8110) or from any Rotary member for just $35 each.



Mayor Kenny Costin

Dinner catered by Heavenly Helpings
Couple and group photos available, compliments of MWPImages

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Opinion

COMIC



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Join in the 250th birthday celebration of our nation

In 2026, our nation will celebrate its 250th anniversary of independence. In commemoration, the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) have planned numerous celebrations. Each county in Indiana is celebrating under the banner of Indiana America 250 IN.

As a DAR daughter, I'm chairing Morgan County's committee, and I need your help.

Representatives on the committee are needed from Eminence, Waverly and Monrovia. Martinsville, Mooresville, Morgantown, Hall, and Paragon are represented, but anyone who is interested in helping is welcome.

The organization will be planning events to be held in the county leading up to and including July 4, 2025, the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Events will be coordinated with other organizations in the county. The Ten O'Clock Line Chapter of the DAR will place an exhibit in the Morgan County History Center and Museum.

June 14, 2025, will be Indiana's official kick-off event at the Indiana War Memorial in Indianapolis. At the conclusion of the 2026 Semiquincentennial Celebration, a book will be published in remembrance of Indiana's participation.

America's Field Trip is a writing and art program for students in grades 3-12. The contest ends April 16, 2025. Any student interested in competing for the prizes: 1st place each grade level has to opportunity to take a field trip with a parent/guardian to such places as a National Park, the Statue of Liberty, Library of Congress, National Archives, etc. The topic for the contest is "What Does America Mean to Me?" Rules and instructions may be found at America250.org.

The America250.org website also provides the opportunity for nominating everyday people who have had an impact on their community. You may also share stories, hopes and dreams for the future of our country, "Your story is America's history." These stories will create a portrait of America as it is during its 250th year.

Another opportunity to honor our nation is the Indiana 250 license plate, which became available at the local BMV in January. Other Indiana 250 events can be viewed at America 250-Indiana.

If you are interested in helping plan Morgan County's celebration of our nation's birthday, please contact me at pdow@aol.com or 765-537-2010.

Patty Dow
Paragon

Vision and learning

We see with two eyes, but we see one image because our brain — both right and left hemispheres — blends the images from each eye into a single image.

However, according to the Optometric Vision Development and Rehabilitation Association, one out of every 10 children entering kindergarten has a vision problem severe enough to interfere with instruction.

My son had 20/20 vision, and yet he made six errors when asked to identify the letters and spaces that he saw in a single line of newspaper size font. His two eyes did not stay in sync as they traveled across the tiny print. His struggles during second and third grade were horrendous to witness. Once, he threatened suicide.

Thankfully, my son's emotional and behavioral problems disappeared as soon as he was removed from the public school his fourth-grade year. However, I had to figure out how to help him learn. The solution was simple, we increased the size of the font. By the end of his fourth-grade school year, he was reading on the sixth-grade level. Not only did he learn to read, but he learned to love reading, and he graduated from college more than a decade later.

The same curriculum which works for most students harms the students who have undiagnosed visual convergence delays. Imagine seeing the letters "act" as a young student and your teacher tells you the letters are "cat." All instruction that relies on visuals to build strong reading memory, mis-programs the student who can not see the letters in order.

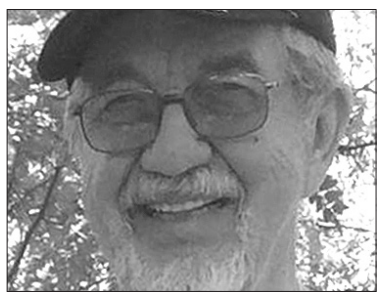
Spotting visual issues could be as simple as looking at the misspelled word bota. Or ask the child, "What do you see?" When teachers understand why the curriculum does not work for one student, they can adjust. With today's technology, increasing the size of the font is one click away.

One out of 10 children may not seem like many. However, the confused student in a classroom will challenge the teacher and affect every student in the room.

Every student can be understood, and taught the love of reading. Leave no child behind.

Theresa Minton
Greenwood

A day of fuzzy contentment



G2
GORDON GRINDSTAFF

The still rising sun that morning was only partially successful at leaving the dark behind as it tried and failed to break through the low-hanging clouds.

A very tall tree, now stripped of its summer coat of leaves, afforded me a small measure of protection against the light, cold, clinging drizzle as I stood on the lane between the barn and the house.

Frenchy and Dobbin, Uncle Bernard's draft horses, stood quietly in the barnyard watching the raindrops run down the log chains dangling from the tree branches. My Uncle Bernard and three other men poked and prodded the two hogs with their sticks, maneuvering them up against the barnyard fence on the other side of my tree, being careful not to get too close to the huge cauldron of steaming water perched over the open fire.

"Soo-eee, Soo-eee!" I heard the men say, and I wondered what that might mean.

But before I could give it any thought, a gunshot rang out, causing me to jump almost out of my skin. Another shot followed quickly, and both hogs dropped to the same ground where they had stood seconds before. The hogs had no more than hit the ground when a man stepped up, grabbed the hog's head by the ear and slit its throat, bringing forth the life-force from a still pumping heart.

Uncle Bernard grabbed one of the log chains and wrapped it around the hind legs of one of the hogs while another man attached the other end of the chain to a harness hanging between and behind Frenchy and Dobbin.

"Hah!" one of the men yelled, and the first hog was jerked into the air, swinging around from side to side, still draining from its head.

It was too much for my 8-year-old brain to process.

I heard one man yell, "Tell them women folk we want Fresh Side for dinner," as I took off running up the lane, headed for the farmhouse where my Aunt Lucine, my mom and her sisters sat patiently, awaiting delivery of the butchered hogs and the day-long processing of the meat.

By mid-afternoon, the sky had cleared, but the cold still produced a crisp snap in the air. My brother and I were feasting on hog-skin cracklins, the forerunner of today's pork rinds while the hog's tenderloin roasted in the wood-fired oven.

The women were busy making sausage and rendering lard from the hog fat. The Fresh Side the man had yelled about was ready for the skillet, waiting its turn while my Aunt Lucine's fried chicken was turning that golden brown.

This particular fried chicken was of special interest because to me, for the first time, it had been mine and my younger brother's job to round up a couple of fryers from their chicken pen and complete the almost impossible job of getting them under the washtub where my aunt dispatched them with a quick swing and a snap of the wrist. The awful smell of wet feathers dipped in boiling water was soon replaced by the aroma of chicken frying in a cast-iron pot half full of spattering hot lard.

Later on, with my belly full, I laid down next to the warmth of the wood-burning stove and took a nap — a childhood luxury that I began to enjoy again some 55 years later.

By mid-evening, the tasks were all done, and the women drug out the kerosene lamps so that a rousing game of Monopoly that had begun some days earlier could be continued. Even yet today, some 70 years later, I can remember the sense of contentment that encompassed all the folks in the house.

Interestingly enough, the memory of some parts of that day, such as the gunshots and the hogs swinging through the air, are still as sharp as a Normal Rockwell painting gracing the cover of the Saturday Evening Post. Other parts, such as the kerosene lanterns, are vague and blurry.

I remember Uncle Bernard's two enormous horses, but I don't remember their names. 'Dobbin' may have been one, but I made up the name 'Frenchy' for the other one just to give this piece a little international flavor.

For sure, I can still taste the crispy greasiness of the cracklins, but any memories of partaking in the 'Fresh Side' are gone. I remember with certainty having to walk to the outhouse perched on the hill a hundred yards or so behind the house, but the memory of hanging the meat from the hogs in the smokehouse is fuzzy at best.

I wanted to verify this stuff before it was put in print; I have one older cousin, but his memory is even fuzzier partly because his memories date back to Uncle Bernard's original farm that was taken over by the government when the Crane Ammunition depot was constructed. I ended up calling one of my classmates who grew up on a farm where butchering was a cold-weather chore, and he filled me in on the fuzzy parts.

Today, not only is my memory going away, my sense of focus is even worse. I had no idea this piece was going to be written when I sat down this morning to write a tale about the merits of buying and preparing thick-cut versus regular-cut -bacon (Note 1).

Somehow, I ended up in 1948 back on my Uncle Bernard's farm watching bacon being produced. Sorry.

One more thing of note about memories. A couple of years back, with the death of my oldest cousin on my father's side of the family, I inherited the title of the oldest surviving descendant of my paternal grandparents, Noble and Edna Kennedy Grindstaff. I don't know if it is my responsibility to know the answers to questions from my younger relatives about our ancestors of two generations ago, but I hope it's not.

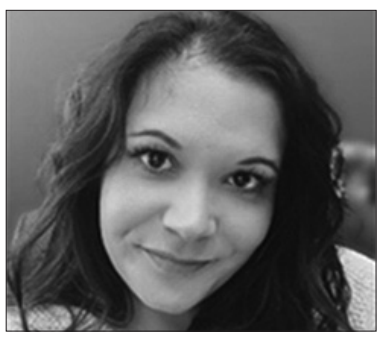
I am ill equipped to answer any of that stuff.

G2 note

1: I prefer the thick-cut bacon, and I like it baked rather than fried.

Gordon Grindstaff is a retired octogenarian residing in Central Indiana near Susie, his wife of 60 years. He's an avid gardener, self-proclaimed humorist, observer of the human condition and former traveling man. He also served as the longtime caregiver for Susie, who is living with vascular dementia. All of these traits provide a wide range of fodder for his writings. Gordon can be reached at gordon grindstaff@yahoo.com.

An invitation to the 'Women of Warriors'



VSO Corner
LINDSAY SMITH

I have the best job in the world! Provided by our generous county, I get paid, and am honored to advocate for and help make differences in the lives of our county's veterans and their families on a daily basis. For me, it's a dream. Nothing has touched this level for me since I served in the Navy myself.

In our daily duties at the Morgan County Veterans Service Office, we come into contact with all sorts of people and issues that require us to lend a hand, an empathetic heart and sometimes a shoulder to cry on. It has not been lost on me that we are privileged to serve the small population of our society who befit the phrase — "All gave some and some gave all."

Early on in my years of service to this county, I had an epiphany of sorts. I realized in my daily interactions with veterans and their families that there was an often-overlooked sector of those who have served our country by faithfully serving and caring for their veterans — spouses, widows or surviving spouses and significant others. These beloved ladies have particularly bore the brunt of the effects of military service on their veterans and know firsthand the struggles that come with it.

Some have loved and prayed while their veteran was still serving and away, holding down the homefront. Some care for them now, as their veterans battle diseases and conditions caused by service. And some may just now be delving into what it means to love a veteran and all of those previously mentioned effects, which will now have a part in their lives as well.

What I noticed is that some of these spouses and widows have stifled emotions and voices and strong feelings about what their veteran has suffered through … of what they themselves suffer through daily. And they don't necessarily have an outlet for those emotions. Many have friends, but unless those friends know firsthand what it is to care for or love a veteran, perhaps it is not an easy sounding board to vent their frustrations on to them.

I decided what I believe these women would benefit from (because as of yet, as I said, the ones in our office have all been female) is a connection in the dark.

I thought, "Let's bring these women together, to fellowship with each other in a comforting, inviting atmosphere that inspires creativity and camaraderie in the hopes of forging friendships and bonds that help them get through whatever they are going through."

That is exactly what we believe we have done here with our newest initiative through our Morgan County Veterans Service Office. The events are held quarterly and are open invitation to any spouses, significant others and widows/surviving spouses of veterans. We call them Women of Warriors, because that is exactly what they are, and they are themselves warrior women, as they've shouldered battles of their own over the years.

Our events consist of a Craft Night Out (a play on the phrase "Girls Night Out") and consist of meeting at one of several fellowship halls in Morgan County VFW and American Legion locations where we lead a craft, serve refreshments, desserts and food, and let everyone mingle and interact while they work on their crafts together. It is something to look forward to with every change of the season. We encourage them to exchange contact information in case anyone really enjoys another's company, and we look forward to hosting these lovely ladies of our veterans each time we meet.

While our office plans to engage in several upcoming initiatives for our county veterans and families in the near future, we are pleased to announce this one and invite anyone who knows of a Women of a Warrior to encourage her to join us each quarter. You can reach out to us at vsoassist@morgancounty.in.gov or 765-349-5505 to nominate someone, and we would be happy to send her a personal invitation to our next event. Or you can pass along the following info for our latest event coming up and maybe even join her if she's nervous to go alone.

And if there are any out there who are loving men to their female veterans and would like to join us, you would be lovingly welcomed to our events, and we'd gladly change the name to make it more inviting for you. Come craft with us, socialize with us and enjoy an evening or afternoon to get out and fellowship with like-minded, supportive people who understand you.

Our next event is Friday, March 14, at 5:30 p.m. at VFW Post 1111, 411 S. Indiana St. in Mooresville. Please RSVP to our office by March 7 by emailing vsoassist@morgancounty.in.gov or calling 765-349-5505.

Lindsay Smith is the veteran service officer for Morgan County. She is a U.S. Navy veteran.



With mayor Kenny Costin to her right along with chamber representatives, family, friends and supporters, Pam Hurst (center right) is all smiles after cutting the proverbial red ribbon last month for her new studio space – Studio PhD. (Sterling Butterfly courtesy photo)

Hurst celebrates new studio

Staff Report

MARTINSVILLE — Pam Hurst will be celebrating 11 years as a retail store in downtown Martinsville this Friday and Saturday. But last month, she had another reason to celebrate as she officially opened her new teaching studio — Studio PhD.

Hurst's store — The Sterling Butterfly, 96 E. Morgan St. — has specialized in handmade jewelry and local wares for years, and her new studio space, which is located above her retail space, will expand her offerings with six work stations intended to teach community members the fine art of jewelry-making.



Pam Hurst's new teaching studio will allow community members the opportunity to learn a wide range of jewelry-making skills. (Sterling Butterfly courtesy photo)

The teaching studio came about through a $20,000 Elevate Grant, which was awarded last year and made possible by the work of Bonnie Arnold at Home Bank, who helped guide Hurst through the application process.

Library to expand home delivery services

From Amy Lawrence
MCPL

MORGAN COUNTY — Having trouble making it to the library? Let the library come to you!

The Morgan County Public Library (MCPL) is excited to announce that it will be expanding its Home Delivery Services. This service is now available for all individuals in the MCPL service area who are unable to visit the library in person.

This free service is available for both short- or long-term use to provide books, videos and other library resources to homes, apartments and residential facilities. Specific items can be requested, or a librarian can help select items based on your interest. Deliveries are made every other Wednesday.

Complete an application at any Morgan County Library location or visit morgancountylibrary.info to be connected to outreach staff.



From left: State Sen. Rodric Bray (R-Martinsville) and Elijah Roberson pause for a photo at the Indiana Statehouse, where Roberson has been serving as an intern during this year's legislative session. (Courtesy photo)

Martinsville grad gains experience

From Molly Swigart
Indiana Senate Republicans

STATEHOUSE — Elijah Roberson is serving as an intern for the Indiana Senate Majority Caucus during the 2025 legislative session, said Senate President Pro Tempore Rodric Bray (R-Martinsville).

Roberson, a resident of Martinsville, is the son of Dean and Lise Roberson. Elijah graduated from Martinsville High School and is a graduate of Franklin College with a degree in public relations.

"I've known Elijah's family for a long time, and he even paged for me in the Senate in 2018," Bray said. "It's great to see him grow and develop and take that next big step by becoming an intern here in the Statehouse."

As a press secretary intern, Eljah tracks legislation and media coverage, writes news releases and op-eds, creates e-communication and social media strategies, and works with members of the media.

"I am excited to work in the communications department of the Indiana Senate," Elijah said. "This internship has already given me a lot of good experience, and I am excited to make a lot of connections as I begin my professional career."

Senate Majority interns work through the duration of the legislative session, which is scheduled to end by April 29.

Bray welcomes local students to Statehouse

The following local students served as Senate pages in January and February.

- Alex Alcala, from Mooresville, attends Mooresville Christian Academy
- Laynie Cole, from Martinsville, attends Martinsville High School
- Ezra Harkins, from Mooresville, is a homeschooled student
- Brynn Harper, from Martinsville, attends Martinsville High School
- Hudson Mechenich, from Martinsville, is a homeschooled student
- Simon Messmer, from Mooresville, is a homeschooled student
- Adrienne Schwab, from Martinsville, attends Martinsville High School
- Layla Wolff, from Martinsville, attends Martinsville High School

Pages spend a day at the Statehouse touring the historic building, observing debates from the Senate floor and interacting with their state senator.

Students in grades six through 12 participate in the page program on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays during the legislative session. Groups serve on Wednesdays.

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Planning ahead

MSD of Martinsville cuts the ribbon on career center at John R. Wooden

By Jared Quigg
MCC Reporter





FROM TOP: Christy Rogers of Paxton-Patterson, surrounded by MSD of Martinsville board members and administrators, cuts the ribbon on John R. Wooden's Paxton-Patterson Career Center. The center offers eighth-graders the opportunity to begin learning hands-on trades that would normally be taught only to high school students. // Martinsville Mayor Kenny Costin looks on as two students, Arianna Inlow and Ava Armstrong, draw fake blood from the arm of a mannequin. Nursing is one of 19 different modules the students can choose to participate in. (Jared Quigg photos / MCC)

MARTINSVILLE — The mayor smiles approvingly as he watches over the shoulders of the two young nursing assistants. One of them has a syringe and is drawing blood from the man lying on the table.

Well, it's not *really* blood, and it's not *really* a man on the table. They aren't even *really* nurses — *yet*.

Mayor Kenny Costin is one of many community leaders who have come Feb. 25 to see the Paxton-Patterson Career Center at John R. Wooden Middle School, where students like the 13-year-olds Arianna Inlow and Ava Armstrong begin to really think about their futures.

The center, the first of its kind for middle schoolers in the state of Indiana, had its ribbon-cutting last Tuesday. In attendance were superintendents from neighboring school districts like Mooresville and Plainfield, city officials like Costin and local business leaders interested in what the future of Martinsville has been up to.

Available to eighth-grade Artesians at the career center are 19 hands-on modules, including cosmetology, robotics, home maintenance fundamentals, criminalistics and more. While technology teacher Kenja Fraley oversees the center, the students are really learning independently and with partners, mastering the fundamentals of many career paths using their chromebooks.

"This will be a game-changer in education," Fraley said. "This is where a lot of the students who are not high-end testers thrive."

That point was stressed by several representatives of the MSD of Martinsville. Before members of the community were permitted to tour the center and interact with students, district superintendent Eric Bowlen, among others, spoke about the need for schools to offer something to students who are not on the path to college but still need to make a living.

Bowlen said since the early 2000s, schools had been trying to get every student to earn a college degree, but the career center was an initiative by the district to return to a time when it was understood that not every student was meant for the university path.



STATE CHAMPS — AGAIN

Members of the Martinsville High School Academic Decathlon team are all smiles with their trophy, plaque and plenty of medals after winning the state championship on Feb. 22. The school has won the state title a record 23 times – including the last nine in a row. The next closest school is Bloomington High School South with six. Martinsville will now head to nationals. (Martinsville High School courtesy photo)

MCA MONTHLY AWARDS



Mooresville Christian Academy 10th-grader Elizabeth Russel holds up her certificate after being named the MCA Student of the Month for February. According to her nominee, she is a vital member of the school's student council, spearheading projects for teachers and chapel services. 'She takes everything seriously and considers how to make MCA a better place.' (Stephen Crane photo / MCC)



Ms. Vester holds up her certificate after being named Mooresville Christian Academy's Teacher of the Month for February. In addition to being the gym teacher, Ms. Vester is the 'Voice of MCA,' doing the school's daily announcements, as well as the prayer and pledge. She loves the students and has committed 30 years to MCA. According to one nominator, "She is an amazing teacher and loved by all!" She is retiring this year. (Stephen Crane photo / MCC)

ELLIOTT VISITS WITH HOMESCHOOLERS



Indiana State Treasurer Daniel Elliott, of Martinsville, pauses for a photo inside his Statehouse office with a group of Morgan County homeschool students who stopped by Feb. 20 during a field trip. (Courtesy photo)





Monrovia appoints new town manager

Maryanne Taylor, acting town manager for months, officially voted into the role

By Jared Quigg
MCC Reporter

MONROVIA — After more than half a year without a town manager, the Monrovia Town Council has finally filled the vacancy left behind by Danny Chenault last July.

For several months, Monrovia's plan administrator, Maryanne Taylor, had been tasked by the council with fulfilling Chenault's old duties, but she still remained a part-time employee of the town.


TAYLOR

No longer.

At its Feb. 25 meeting last week, the council unanimously voted to make Taylor the official town manager. Her appointment is a reversal for the council, and earns councilman Philip Fowler some vindication — as he suggested Taylor for the job months ago, but the other members of the council said Taylor was not qualified for the position.

The council has recently held multiple executive sessions to interview candidates for the job, which, for smaller towns like Monrovia, is essentially the top day-to-day administrative position. Despite these closed-door meetings, the council was unable to find anyone to its liking, and has finally put the matter to rest by choosing Taylor.

Questions still linger regarding her appointment, however, notably what her salary will be. Before Chenault resigned as town manager, he told the council that replacing him would require a $50,000 salary and additional benefits. At the time of the meeting, Taylor's salary was not finalized by the council, despite her taking on the role effective immediately.

Monrovia Clerk Treasurer Ricky Cardoza told The Correspondent after the meeting that he believed Taylor's salary would be "around" what Chenault recommended before his departure.

Another unanswered question revolves around the plan administrator position. Taylor asked the council if she would be permitted to advertise a job opening for a new plan administrator now that she had been promoted to town manager, and council president Tammy Everett told her she could not.

For the time being, Taylor will continue to act as both town manager and plan administrator until the council can find money in the budget to pay for both positions.

In other news

• The council approved hiring someone to clean the government center five hours each week. The worker would be paid $15 an hour for an annual total of $3,900. The council had quotes from three other cleaning services, but decided against them because each option was significantly more expensive than hiring someone to work five hours a week.

• A consideration to repair or replace the sidewalks around the government center was tabled once again until next month.

• A resolution for the town to accept a donation of property from Citizens Bank — which includes a baseball field and concession stand — was tabled until next month. Council vice president Carol Youngblood said she wants a written agreement from the bank before the town takes full responsibility for the property that sits just south of the bank location.

• At the council's last regular meeting, Chris Mills of the Monroe Township Fire District complained about the high number of false alarm calls — 70 — the district responded to in the last year. He said at the February meeting that false alarm calls are currently at 11 for the year, the bulk of which come from the Homestead neighborhood. Mills said false alarm calls were down in February.

• The government center will be closed from March 17-21 while Taylor and Cardoza receive training at the ILMCT Institute in Plainfield. The two will spend the week learning about topics related to being a municipal clerk and clerk treasurer, respectively.

• The council gave town marshal Matt Wright permission to purchase a new Chevy Tahoe and replace the town's 2012 Dodge Charger. Wright wanted to purchase two Tahoes, but the town's financial advisors told Everett that to do so would not be financially sound.

The next regular meeting of the Monrovia town council will take place Tuesday, March 25 at 6:30 p.m. at the Government Center, 60 S. Marley Way.

Monrovia TC establishes wastewater service area

Council also debated purchasing a new police vehicle

By Jared Quigg
MCC Reporter

MONROVIA — The Monrovia town council voted 4-0 at a special meeting on Monday — with councilman Loren Moore absent — to approve an ordinance establishing a wastewater service area for the town of Monrovia.

The move is the first step in the process for the town to establish such an area. Now that the ordinance has been passed, the town will petition the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission for approval.

Upon approval by the IURC, the town of Monrovia will have exclusive authority and license to furnish and regulate the wastewater service as well as act as the exclusive provider of wastewater utility service within the corporate boundaries of the town. If the town receives approval by the IURC, no other utilities will be permitted to provide wastewater service within the town limits.

Police vehicle debate

The council spent a significant amount of time at its regular February meeting explaining to town marshal Matt Wright why the town could not afford to replace two police cars at once, instead opting to replace one older vehicle.

Wright had more to say this week.

At the time of the meeting, the police department's 2016 Ford Explorer was in the shop receiving timing belt and water pump repairs, costing the department nearly $2,700. Wright said the vehicle has needed several repairs recently, and requested permission to sell it and buy a new one despite the Explorer having less than 100,000 miles.

Council president Tammy Everett grew aggravated, telling Wright her opinion on buying a second vehicle had not changed from less than a week ago when she first told him no.

"All I'm asking is that we be given some peace about this until budget talks," Everett said. "Matt, what I really want to get across to you is that I want to support you 100 percent, but every meeting, we have this discussion."

"We can't do anything to make the problem go away," she continued. "I'm not willing to do anything."

County political parties elect new officers

Staff Report

MORGAN COUNTY — Carole Snyder will remain the chair of the Morgan County Republican Party following a narrow win over State Rep. Peggy Mayfield during last Saturday's Reorganization Day elections.

In the first round of votes, no Republican candidate initially received the 40 votes required to be elected party chair in the three-way race between Snyder, Mayfield and Jay Hart, who came in a distant third following the first round's count of 38-31-10.

So both Snyder and Mayfield moved on to compete head-to-head in a second vote. Following the second vote, Snyder — who previously defeated Dean Mayfield in October 2022 to become party chair, following Daniel Elliott's early departure to serve as Indiana State Treasurer — eked out enough votes to triumph over Peggy Mayfield, 42-37.


BOLDEN


DIANNA JENNINGS


JULIE JENNINGS


THRAWLEY

The other Republicans elected to officer positions on Saturday include Jonathan Collier as vice chair, Tina Turner as secretary, and Ben Merida as treasurer.

The Morgan County Democrats also held officer elections on the same day.


From left: The Morgan County GOP's newly elected officers include treasurer Ben Merida, vice chair Jonathan Collier, chair Carole Snyder and secretary Tina Turner. (Morgan County Republicans courtesy photo)

Melvin Bolden, Jr. was elected to succeed Tom Wallace as chair of the party, while Dianna Jennings took over as vice chair, Julie Jennings as secretary and Diane Thrawley as treasurer.

WISCO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

those clients is Morgan County, which will receive around $11,000 from its former attorney.

He will be sentenced April 25 at 9 a.m. in Morgan Superior Court II in front of special judge Steven David.

In addition to repaying his clients, Wisco is facing a maximum sentence of 10 years on the total sentence with a cap of four years to be served.

Where he serves his time will be up to the judge. He could be sentenced to the department of corrections, home detention or probation.

As part of the plea agreement, Wisco will be banned for life from entering the gaming areas at all Indiana casinos and will take steps to be placed on the exclusion list for those casinos. Wisco will also be prohibited from mobile and online sport wagering.

He will submit to a drug and alcohol assessment and a mental health evaluation, and he will follow any and all recommendations of those assessments.

If Wisco is successful in repaying his clients and does not commit any violations while on probation, he may petition the court to have the felony convictions reduced to class A misdemeanor.

If the judge suspended all or part of his sentence, Wisco will have to comply with all conditions set out in his plea.

Past history

The case began after authorities began receiving complaints from clients of Wisco who alleged he had not paid them the funds they received from court cases.

Due to Wisco being a city council member and the county attorney at the time, the Indiana State Police was requested to conduct an investigation into those complaints.

After the investigation was complete, the state filed charges against Wisco.

According to a press release sent out by ISP, Wisco faced 22 charges, including 13 Level 6 felony counts of theft, seven Level 6 felony counts of counterfeiting, one Level 5 felony count of corrupt business influence and one Level 6 felony count of official misconduct.

Due to Wisco's previous positions, a special prosecutor was requested to oversee the ISP investigation, according to Morgan County Prosecutor Steve Sonnega.

All county judges recused themselves from hearing the case so a judge from outside the county was appointed to preside over Wisco's case.

Cases filed and pending

The criminal charges were not the only cases filed against Wisco, however.

The company holding the mortgage on Wisco's home on East Harrison Street in Martinsville has filed to foreclose on him.

The company alleged Wisco has not paid on his home for nearly a year and still owes around $210,000 on it.

According to court records, Wisco paid the company, and the suit was dismissed.

Discover Card has filed suit against Wisco for an unpaid account. Discover is alleging he owes around $15,000 on the account. That case has also been closed.

According to MyCase, there are also three disciplinary cases filed against Wisco with the Indiana Supreme Court. According to records, the notices were sent to Wisco's office on Morgan Street, which has since been closed and the building sold. According to the information in the three cases, Wisco is supposed to show cause why he should not be suspended from the practice of law.

A noticed filed in November showed that actions against Wisco have been stayed as his law license is now indefinitely suspended. Should he ask to have his license reinstated, the matter could be reopened by the state.

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Brooklyn council proceeds with rate-hike plans

By Keith Rhoades
MCC Chief Correspondent



The meeting room at Kids Park in Brooklyn is standing room only last week for the special meeting held by the Brooklyn Town Council to discuss the problems with the town's wastewater infrastructure. (Keith Rhoades photo / MCC)

BROOKLYN — The Brooklyn Town Council held a special meeting last Wednesday night, Feb. 26, to discuss possible problems with their planned sanitary sewer update.

At issue is a mandate from the state to fix the town's wastewater system.

Both the sewer plant and sewer lines are badly in need of repair or replacement. The estimated cost of the work is around $18 million. The work will be done in two stages — the sewer plant update followed by the sewer line work.

The work must be done or the town could face major fines and other sanctions from the state.

The preliminary increase in the sewer rates is around 168 percent from the current rate, with another increase slated for August that amounts to a 238-percent increase from the current.

Board president Kristi Dunigan did not allow public comment during the meeting, which angered some of the 40 to 50 people who attended the meeting.

The problem facing the town is that half the funds the town receives from the sewer system comes from the mobile home park.

Currently, the park pays the town around $40 per month for each of the estimated 494 mobile homes connected to the system.

Both the mobile home park and Brooklyn residents' sewer rate will increase.

The concern for the town council is that unlike residents of the town, the residents of the mobile home park can move. The residents of the town have fixed locations where they live, so they cannot move their homes out of town.

If a home becomes vacant, the sewer fees will accumulate until a new resident moves in.

Brooklyn sewer fee schedule

Rate per month (metered)	Current	Phase I (immediate)	Phase II (August)
First 3,000 gallons	$8.77	$22.98	$29.62
Next 5,000	$8.06	$21.12	$27.22
Next 10,000	$7.36	$19.28	$24.85
Next 12,000	$6.55	$17.16	$22.12
Flat rate (nonmetered)	$42.42	$111.14	$143.25

For the mobile home park, the monthly fee per trailer stops if the mobile home is moved from the park.

The town has "fixed costs" associated with the sewer system — the daily operational cost and the cost to repay the bond the town needs to do the work.

The concern expressed was that if a number of residents move their mobile homes from the park, it could affect the town's ability to operate the system and repay the bond.

There was discussion on delaying the second part of the project, only fixing the plant, and not to do the sewer line work in an effort to try and lower the increase.

But that work will still have to be done at some point, and if delayed, will only cost more in the future, according to the council.

And if the work was not done now, the town will remain out of compliance with the order to fix the system.

While the public was not supposed to talk, several people did tell the council the cost to move a mobile home was expensive, and most people could not afford to do it.

After discussing the matter, the council decided to continue with the current plan and do the work on both the plant and the sewer lines.

10-acre housing development gets initial OK

By Keith Rhoades
MCC Chief Correspondent

MARTINSVILLE — The Martinsville Plan Commission has given preliminary plat approval to a project by Habitat for Humanity of Morgan County for a multi-use development on Artesian Way.

Commission members met last Tuesday night, Feb. 25, at Martinsville City Hall.

The project is a cooperative effort between Habitat, Wellspring, and T&H Investments.

According to the plans provided to the commission, the development will be located on around 10.5 acres of property along Artesian Way. There will be 34 town homes, six Habitat homes, a daycare, playground, and a clubhouse.

There will be a total of 138 parking spaces for the development.

No time frame was given for the start of the project or when it would be finished. The commission still has to give final approval to the plans before work can begin.

In other business, commission members said their committee to redo the city's sign ordinance has met and is working to come up with a finished project.

An earlier version of the ordinance was rejected by the city council.

Commission members hope the new ordinance will be finished by their March 25 meeting. That meeting will begin at 7 p.m. and be held at city hall, 59 S. Jefferson St.

Commissioners take care of nuts and bolts

By Keith Rhoades
MCC Chief Correspondent

MORGAN COUNTY — The Morgan County Commissioners met Monday morning for their first of two scheduled meetings this month.

They awarded Milestone a contract for replacement of Bridge 68 on Ballinger Road. The cost for the work is around $1,128,000. E and B paving also bid on the job. Their bid was around $30,000 more than Milestone's bid.

The commissioners signed a grant that will allow the Martinsville Youth and Development Center to apply for funding for the center. The money will come from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs. The total amount of the grant is around $600,000.

The commissioners signed Memorandum of Understandings between the county health department and the county's ambulance service and TouchPhrase Development LLC, to help improve the health of county residents.

They approved applying for an $850,000 grant from the Indiana Department of Corrections for the county's Adult Community Corrections program.

The commissioners approved a contract with Malcon Indiana to help the county obtain fuel tax refunds.

They approved an agreement with Fuel Systems Specialists of Bloomington to remove the old fuel tanks at the county highway garage and replace them with new tanks that meet new regulations. The total cost of the work is around $544,280, but a grant from the state for around $180,000 and work by the county will help lower the cost to the county to around $277,000.

The commissioners discussed a contract with a company that will help track jail inmates' medical records. They hope to have the contract finalized later this month or in April.

Finally, the commissioners approved a request from Joe Disney and Brad Roe to use the courthouse square on Thursday nights for their weekly cruise-ins. The cruise-ins will begin on April 3 and go until the courthouse is closed off for construction, which will be around mid July.

The next scheduled commissioner meeting is March 17 at 6:30 p.m. at the county administration building, 180 S. Main St. in Martinsville.



New signage, including a 'now hiring' message, is on display at Church's Texas Chicken, which opened on Monday on Mooresville's south side. (Merv Hendricks photo / MCC)



Work on the new Starbucks location in the Southbridge Crossing retail center — where Route 67 Bar and Grill once operated — is in full swing. (Merv Hendricks photo / MCC)

New eats and future treats

Church's Chicken opens Monday, work continues on future Starbucks

By Merv Hendricks
MCC Correspondent

MOORESVILLE — Six months after a Kentucky Fried Chicken closed at 366 S. Indiana St., Church's Texas Chicken opened in the same building on Monday.

Store manager Karen Torres said the staff, numbering nearly 40, had trained for the last three or four days before the opening.

Torres — with a background of work with Wendy's, McDonald's and Burger King — said in mid-afternoon Monday that the first day had been "great." Another manager was heard to tell a customer, with a smile, "We've managed to keep our heads above water."

About 10 workers were in the kitchen Monday afternoon with another shift of at least that size coming on at 4 p.m.

Torres said it have been relatively easy to find employees through personal contacts and a "Now Hiring" banner that been displayed on the south side of the building.

Angie Champsaur, director of public relations and earned media, said Monday, "We are thrilled to open our new location in Mooresville, Ind., today. … We look forward to being part of the community and invite everyone to enjoy our legendary fried chicken and homestyle sides."

The KFC Mooresville store opened on Sept. 15, 2022, but in less than two years later, it had closed.

Church's Fried Chicken To-Go was founded in 1952 in San Antonio, Texas, by George W. Church Sr., according to a Wikipedia listing.

Church's operates more than 1,500 restaurants in 22 countries. Internationally, it is known as Texas Chicken, according to information Champsaur provided.

The company has been owned by High Bluff Capital Partners and FS Investments since 2021.

Starbucks work

Meanwhile, a few blocks south just off Indiana Street, work has begun on a new Starbucks coffee shop in the Southbridge Crossing shopping area.

Starbucks will replace the northernmost part of space formerly occupied by Route 67 Bar and Grill.

On Monday, workers had broken up sidewalks and some asphalt to prepare for new surfaces. Workers could be seen inside the building, which has been boarded up for months.

A spokesperson for Versatile Construction Co. Inc., Whiteland, said last month that work had been delayed a few days by winter weather, but would move forward when weather cleared, as it has. The work is expected to take "a couple months," the spokesperson said.

The area behind the building — where a drive-thru lane and an ordering station will be built — was abuzz with activity on Monday, as ground was being cleared and leveled.

Starbucks will handle the interior in its style, and the outside will look like a "typical" Starbucks building in respect to such things as colors and signage, the Versatile spokesperson said. A passthrough window for orders will be located on the north end of the building.

PAC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

The second violation argued in the newspaper's complaint is that the board decided on the appointment in executive session, which is also not allowed by law.

"The record makes clear that the board convened in public session after the executive session and swiftly voted to appoint Deon Brimmage to the vacant board seat," the complaint contends. "The board held no discussion — substantive or otherwise — at the public meeting on the topic of appointing a new school board member.

"Instead, the board voted immediately and unanimously to appoint one of five unknown applicants to fill the board vacancy.

"It is thus evident from the events of the public meeting that the board met in executive session to review candidates for the open board seat, deliberate as to which candidate to appoint to that board seat, and decide which candidate to appoint."

In its response to the complaint, the Mooresville Consolidated School District insisted it did no wrong.

Britt's advisory opinion

PAC Britt addressed each complaint in his formal opinion, starting with the allegation that the Mooresville school board made its decision to appoint a new member behind closed doors.

In doing so, Britt laid out the legal framework for the state's Open Door Law: "The official action of public agencies be conducted and taken openly … in order that the people may be fully informed."

"Implicit in that goal is that the Open Door Law requires some discussion … before a decision is made," Britt wrote.

And when it comes to an appointment of this sort — involving a person who is representing the public in what would typically be an elected position — the need for discussion is particularly important.

"To suggest that the significant exercise of appointing a representative on a school board merely requires hasty, obligatory vote is not consistent with the theme of the access laws," Britt wrote in his opinion.

"Any final action concerning items of significance needs to be accompanied by robust discussion of the underlying subject matter," Britt stated. "The appointment of a public official is one of those."

Britt said the board should have "at the very least" given a summary of the chosen candidate's qualifications and why he was chosen before a vote was taken.

Instead, no public discussion took place, and the vote was made.

"There may not have been formal yays and nays in the executive session. … it would be naïve for the public access counselor to come to any other conclusion that the subsequent vote was an inevitability," Britt wrote.

In terms of the complaint related to the lack of public comment, Britt also sided with the newspaper.

Per Indiana Code, school districts must "invite public comment before final action takes place," Britt wrote.

The newspaper alleged that no invitation took place, while the school district pointed to a sign-up sheet that was on the premises for the meeting, which no one signed.

"The law is clear that a public comment forum must take place at a school board meeting. … And while it may be a performative exercise when no one signs up to speak, it should at least be name checked during the meeting itself, even if it ends up being lip service.

"But here, the rushed nature of the agenda item and the vote — less than two minutes according to *The Correspondent* — is indicative of the desire to open and close the topic with as little fuss as possible."

Despite the school board's sign-up sheet, Britt concluded that they did not meet the legal standards.

"In this case, I find fidelity to the statutory intent lacking," he wrote.

Britt's overall conclusion

In the conclusion of his formal opinion, Britt reiterates his stance.

"Based on the foregoing, it is the opinion of this office that the vote to appoint a new board member to be a foregone conclusion after an executive session based on the information provided.

"What is more, I encourage the board to be more mindful of the public comment considerations in future meetings.

"The board did not carry the burden of compliance with the Open Door Law in either of these matters."

Civil suit

In a separate but related matter, *The Correspondent* also initiated a civil suit against the Board of Education of the Mooresville Consolidated School District (MCSC) alleging the board has violated Indiana's Open Door Law in appointing a new board member.

The suit was filed in December after the board voted to appoint Brimmage to the vacant board position.

According to the suit, the board allegedly violated state law because it A. "failed to allow the public to comment on final action as required by the Open Door Law," and B. allegedly "took prohibited final action during an executive session."

The school issued a reply to the suit by denying it had violated the law in the appointment of Brimmage to the board.

The Correspondent is primarily asking the judge to void the decision, to declare the school board violated Open Door Law, and to cover attorney fees.

While the case was filed in Morgan County Superior Court III, it has been transferred into Morgan County Circuit Court.

No hearing date has been set for the case.

Judicial center takes shape



Drywall work continues on the first floor, where probation and the clerk's office will ultimately be located. (Keith Rhoades photo / MCC)



A worker continues brick work on the south side of the new judicial center last week. (Keith Rhoades photo / MCC)



The detention on the first floor allows inmates to be held until they're taken to court. (Keith Rhoades photo / MCC)





One of the four jury rooms – two on each floor – will allow the jury a place to deliberate during trials. (Keith Rhoades photo / MCC)



ABOVE: A couple workers on scissor lifts do ceiling work in the main hallway going into the new judicial center. All public access to the building will go through the main hallway, where the windows face east. (Keith Rhoades photo / MCC)

LEFT: Work crews continue interior work on the second floor of the new judicial center. (Keith Rhoades photo / MCC)

By Keith Rhoades
MCC Chief Correspondent

MORGAN COUNTY — It's still a diamond in the rough, but if all goes as planned, it will be shining by the July 2 dedication.

The new, three-story judicial building is nearing completion.

Located on the west side of the county administration building on South Main Street in Martinsville, the new structure will be home to the county's four courts — Circuit, Superior I, II and III and the Magistrate. (This court will have two locations, one on the second floor and another on the third floor.)

The county's probation department and clerk's office will be on the first floor.

Visitors will walk down a long hallway to get to the security checkpoint.

Once through, they will continue around the building to either the clerk's office or probation department.

If they have a court hearing, they will take an elevator up to the appropriate floor.

According to Meyer Najem project manager Will Tiebout, the set up for the second and third floors is basically the same — two courts and their supporting areas, a magistrate court, and a detention area for inmates.

For inmates making their court appearance, there will be a sally port on the west side of the building where the transport van will pull in to load and unload its passengers. There is a secure area on each floor for inmates to wait until they go to court. There is a secure elevator for them to use closed off to the public. The building is designed not to have inmates and the public mix in the hallways.

Unlike the current courthouse, the new building has interview rooms for attorneys and their clients to meet. The jury, once seated, is kept away from both inmates and the public. Each jury room is large with restrooms, a kitchen area, and space for each jury member to relax during deliberations.

And unlike the current courtrooms being used, the new courtrooms will be large, with space between the parties involved in the case and the public.

At this time, it is projected the building will be completed by the planned July 2 ribbon-cutting ceremony.

During the second and third week of July, the courts will begin moving into their new home.

Once they have moved, work will begin on a complete remodeling of the courthouse on the square. Once finished, the county offices in the administration building will be moved into the remodeled courthouse.

After those offices are moved, the current administration building will be remodeled for the prosecutor's office and Title IVD offices.

The total cost for all four projects, (the new parking lot on the west side of the building was the first project) is around $72.5 million.

BRAY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

The interview with Bray covered a variety of topics, from education and healthcare to Bray's relationship with newly elected Gov. Mike Braun. The overriding theme throughout the interview was the state's plan to significantly reduce spending — the only disagreements between the ruling Republicans seem to be about just how much to cut.



State Sen. Rodric Bray (R-Martinsville) discusses Statehouse happenings during a visit to *The Correspondent* office last Thursday. (Stephen Crane photo / MCC)

Property tax cuts

One of Braun's highest priorities on the campaign trail was his promise to Hoosiers that he would significantly cut their property taxes. The Senate answered with Senate Bill 1, something of a compromise between Braun's plan and local government bodies throughout the state, which have expressed concern at how much their budgets would be impacted by a massive property tax cut.

SB 1 has caused controversy within the Indiana Republican Party, with Braun saying the bill does not go far enough to provide relief to Hoosiers. He has even threatened to veto the bill if it was not amended to his specifications.

Bray told *The Correspondent* that his biggest disagreements with the new administration — with whom he's working after eight years with Gov. Eric Holcomb — are over how much property taxes should be cut in the state going forward.

Bray explained that SB 1 would save Hoosiers $1.4 billion in property taxes over the next three years. By contrast, Braun's plan would have saved taxpayers $1.6 billion over the same time period.

A key difference between SB 1 and Braun's plan is the speed of the cuts. Braun would have cut $1.1 billion in the very first year, while SB 1 will cut $300 million in the first year and $800 million in the second.

SB 1, along with other senate bills that will affect property taxes, have been met with some opposition throughout the state, particularly by school districts and local government agencies. SB 9, for example, alters the calculation the state uses to determine the maximum property tax levy growth quotient; Mooresville Superintendent Jake Allen spoke out against the bill at the end of January, arguing that it would negatively impact the school district's already limited budget.

Bray said he had many fruitful discussions with Allen recently, and tried to assure him the senate was attempting to balance property tax relief with the need for high quality public education.

"There's a big difference in perspective between Braun and the senate (on property tax cuts)," Bray said. "Education was going to lose $535 million under Braun's plan."

Nevertheless, property tax relief for Hoosiers will come at a cost, and the only question now is how big that cost will be.

"There is room for our school districts to tighten their belts, and they will be expected to," Bray said.

Healthcare

In another reduction of state spending, SB 2 will place several curbs on Medicaid in Indiana.

State lawmakers have said the number of people on the program skyrocketed during the COVID-19 pandemic, and current enrollment is close to 700,000.

Bray, along with the other Republicans in the senate, want to limit enrollment on the state's second largest spending item behind education. SB 2 would cap the number of people on Medicaid to 500,000 — meaning nearly 200,000 people currently on Medicaid would lose their coverage.

The bill would also reintroduce work requirements for the program, which had previously been halted during the Covid pandemic.

Bray argued that many of the people who enrolled in Medicaid during the pandemic truly needed it, but have since recovered from 2020's economic downturn. He said those who recovered should move on either to other government healthcare programs or private insurance.

"There's always a concern that people who need Medicaid will get cut off," Bray said. "But Indiana has not done a good job of getting people (who no longer need Medicaid) off, and this bill attempts to remedy that."

In other healthcare news, Bray touted the advancement of SB 475, which would ban hospitals from requiring medical professionals to sign noncompete agreements.

Bray lamented the current practice of requiring doctors to sign such agreements, noting how Indiana loses many good doctors to other states because of them. SB 475 seeks to prevent these losses.

House bills

When the second half of the legislative session begins, the Indiana Senate will review and possibly amend actions taken by the Indiana House of Representatives. Bray talked about a handful of bills coming to the Senate that will impact residents in Morgan County and throughout the state.

One thing the Indiana House did during the first half of the session was eliminate income restrictions on families who wanted to use school vouchers. The income limit was previously $220,000 for a family of four.

Bray was asked about why these income caps on vouchers — which wealthy families didn't need to worry about anyway — were removed but constituent desires for lowering the age eligibility for On My Way Pre-K to 3 years old were ignored.

On My Way Pre-K is a state program that awards vouchers to qualifying families so they can send their 4-year-olds to preschool. However, some Hoosier parents would like to see vouchers go even younger, allowing families to receive grants so their 3-year-olds could also begin preschool.

Bray cited the significant costs — in the "hundreds of millions of dollars" — that every added year of education entails, but he didn't rule out a future option.

"It's entirely possible (the age limit) will be lowered in the future," Bray added.

Among other bills passed by the House that Bray will see in the second half of the session is HB 1005, a bill that aims to increase housing supply in the state of Indiana.

Bray said Indiana has a severe housing shortage, causing costs to skyrocket. HB 1005 would add $25 million to the "Residential Housing Infrastructure Assistance Revolving Fund," which would provide communities with loans to expand access to residential housing.

Because it's a budget year, the General Assembly is expected to wrap up the 2025 session by the end of April.

LIGHT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

The people there live in very simple houses, cooking fresh food over open fires. By all accounts, the villagers were not unhappy, but in a practical sense, Palmira represents the uneven development of the globe. To the Morgan County residents reading this on their laptops inside their electrified homes, it is as if the villagers in Palmira are living in a different century altogether.

Over the course of 17 days — from Jan. 29 through Feb. 15 — these same villagers traveled centuries forward in time. During that time, 16 Indiana electric cooperative line workers — including two local residents from the South Central Indiana REMC — journeyed to Guatemala and electrified 197 homes in Palmira, utterly transforming the lives of the people who live there forever.

Electrifying Palmira was part of Project Indiana, an international initiative to bring electricity to developing areas in Guatemala. The nonprofit began its work in Guatemala in 2012, and has sent crews of electric cooperative workers to the Central American country every two years to assist underdeveloped areas in receiving power.

On the first day the line workers arrived in Palmira, five trucks pulled in with them. Inside were stoves and refrigerators, gifted to the villagers for free, allowing the people there to significantly diversify their diets and improve their health.

The people who received electricity as part of this trip are both young and old. For the youngest villagers, they will grow up in a world much closer to that of your own children here in Morgan County, never knowing what came before.

For the oldest, electricity will be a radical change. One woman in Palmira is 105 years old, having lived more than a century without ever knowing electricity.

With initiatives like Project Indiana, it's hard to imagine anyone ever living that long in the dark ever again.



ABOVE: The Project Indiana crew pose for a photo at the Indianapolis Airport before departing to Guatemala. For Grimes – and he was surely not alone – the trip marked the first real journey he had taken abroad. (Courtesy photo)



Grimes and a fellow linemen work on installing electricity for 197 homes in Palmira. The plan was to power 109 homes, but the work was done so quickly that even more people had their lives changed by Project Indiana. (Courtesy photo)



Martinsville resident and SCI REMC lineman Cody Campbell poses for a photo working on a power line in Palmira, Guatemala. Campbell and Grimes were the Morgan County workers represented on this year's trip to Guatemala. (Courtesy photo)



Campbell (left) and Grimes (right) pose for a photo with a Guatemalan on their recent trip. Grimes described the villagers in Palmira as a very happy people, grateful for all they have in this world. (Courtesy photo)

From Morgan County to Central America

Two linemen from SCI REMC — Dakota Grimes and Cody Campbell — made the journey to Guatemala to take part in this life changing effort.

The Correspondent was able to catch up with Grimes after his return home. The Spencer resident has worked in Martinsville for 10 years, and aside from a brief vacation to a Caribbean resort years ago, had never really been abroad.

The first day of the trip was mostly time spent traveling to Guatemala City, and from there, an 8-hour truck ride to Palmira.

"I can't even describe the mountains," Grimes said. "You can see hundreds of miles into the distance. You can even see into Mexico."

Grimes described being treated like a celebrity upon his arrival in Palmira, with the villagers expressing so much joy and gratitude for the service the linemen were there to provide.

Project Indiana's crew tried to earn that status, too. The plan coming in was to electrify 109 homes — but the team worked so quickly, they were able to electrify 88 more homes before departing.

It is important to note that Project Indiana was not simply an act of electrifying a village only to quickly leave; the linemen also spent a great deal of time educating the villagers and giving them the tools required to maintain the infrastructure after the Americans had left. Because of this, Palmira should now be on the road to self-sufficiency.

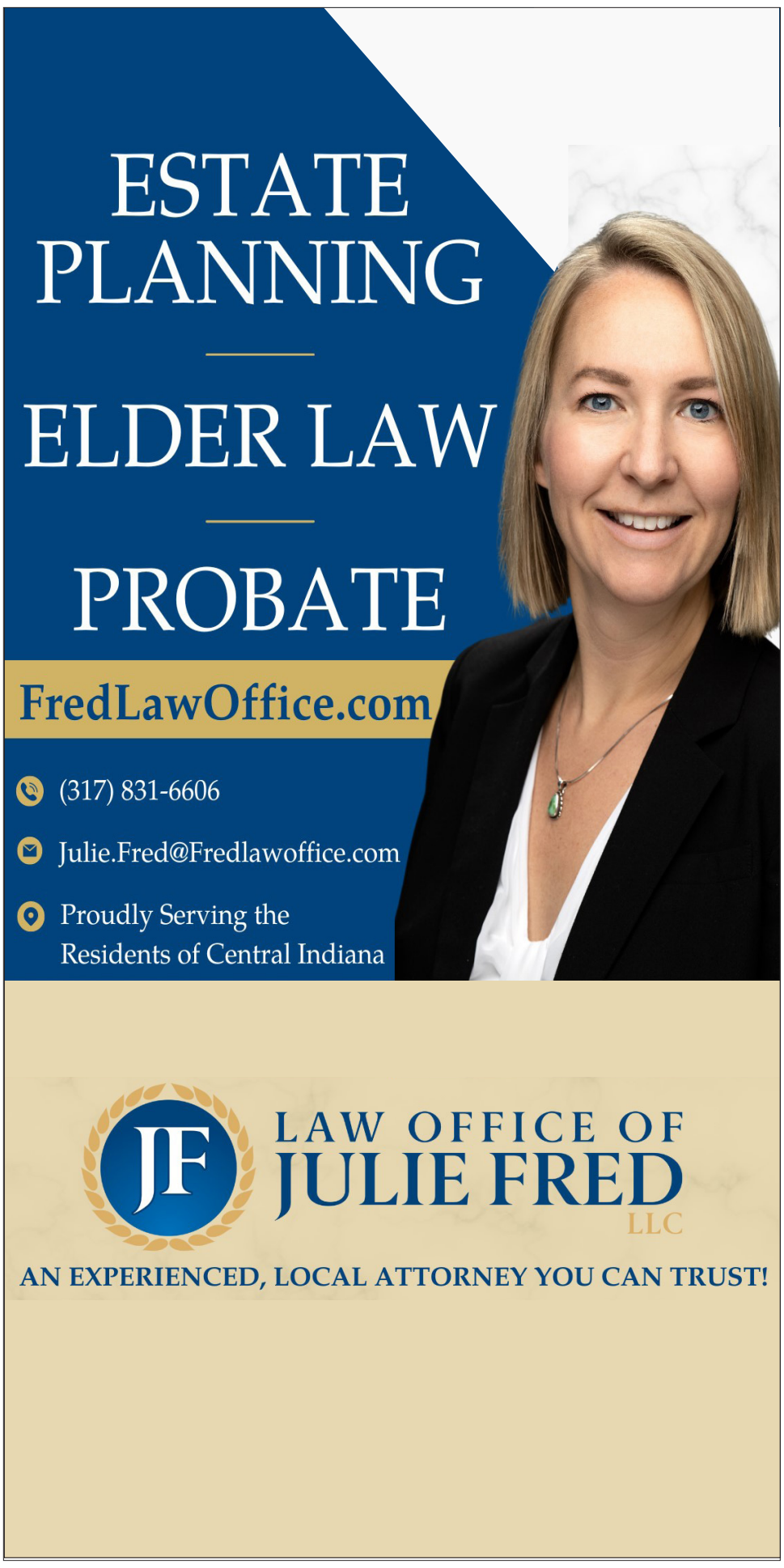
And while Palmira's natives were certainly grateful to receive Project Indiana's charity, Grimes stressed that the villagers had already cemented a sense of joy in their community despite having lacked modern technology for so long.

"It makes you appreciate the world we grew up in," Grimes said. "Those people are very happy with a lot less. It was a very humbling experience for me. I think maybe I took things for granted before."

Grimes said he hopes to make the trip again in the future, taking another chance to spread light across the globe. It's a fairly simple act for him — he does it everyday here in Morgan County — but the effect it has is revolutionary.



Grimes and his fellow linemen pose for a photo with residents of Palmira. The villagers, young and old, had never had electricity until the Project Indiana team arrived. (Courtesy photo)







A STANDOUT ATHLETE

Eminence's Sophia Saucerman to play basketball at Franklin

By Melissa Dillon
MCC Correspondent

EMINENCE — Senior Sophia Saucerman has been a special athlete for the Eminence Eels in her last four years. Eminence did something special for her and had her sign her letter of intent to play basketball at Franklin College during halftime of the Feb. 22 boys basketball game.

Saucerman was given love from the crowd and paparazzi afterwards.

The feeling wasn't much different than any other night at Eminence as she talked about how much the Eel Tank feels like home and family.

"I've been playing since I was really little," she said. "I've known most of these girls since I was in first or second grade. I think the coaches really helped us build on what we started on in middle school. That's when it really starts and when you really start playing with all these girls. You get here and get to translate it to the tournament."

Saucerman felt the same feeling of home when she went on a visit to Franklin College and that was a big part of why she chose the school for her next step.

"I love the campus and how close-knit things are there," she said. "It's very similar to how things are here. I like the town, I like the coach, and I like the

SEE SAUCERMAN | PAGE B2



FROM TOP: Surrounded by her family, Eminence senior Sophia Saucerman gives two thumbs up after signing her letter of intent to play basketball at Franklin College during halftime of the boys' Feb. 22 home game. (Nevaeh Dillon photo / MCC) // Eminence senior Sophia Saucerman led her team to a 20-6 record this year, going 9-0 in the Greater Indianapolis Conference. She averaged 19.1 points per game. (Eminence courtesy photo)



Mooresville junior Diesel Molin had another standout year, earning two sectional titles on his way to the state finals last weekend. (Courtesy photo)

Molin swims at State

Staff Report

INDIANAPOLIS — Mooresville junior Diesel Molin earned two IHSAA Sectional Titles late last month in the tough Franklin pool after swimming a 21.55 in the 50-yard freestyle and then a 46.82 in the 100-yard freestyle. Both events are cutthroat and extremely difficult to advance at any point in the tournament.

With the titles, Molin earned himself swims at the IU Natatorium in Indianapolis for the State Finals last weekend. The preliminaries were on Friday with the finals on Saturday.

In the 50-yard freestyle, there were 33 swimmers competing for the top 16 times to advance to Saturday. Only 2.39 seconds were the difference between first place and 33rd place. Unfortunately, Molin fell just short of the top 16 with a swim of 21.51 to land in 19th place. The winner went to Bloomington North senior James Stewart

SEE MOLIN | PAGE B2

Basketball sectional action kicks off this week

Staff Report

MORGAN COUNTY — Mother Nature may be teasing with some warmer weather, but there's still some basketball left to be played before our Morgan County athletes get back outdoors for spring sports.

In case you were wrapped up in the return of IndyCar or the Academy Awards this past weekend, here are the results from your hometown teams' most recent games.

Artesian basketball

The Martinsville boys finished a lackluster season last week, losing their seventh game in a row to Northview, 64-41. The team finished 5-17 on the year — including 1-6 in the conference — with their last win of the season having been exactly one month ago.

Tomorrow, the Arties will face off at Bloomington South against the winner of the matchup between Bloomington South and Bloomington North as part of the IHSAA 4A Boys Basketball State Tournament. The game will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Pioneer basketball

Like the Arties, the Pioneers also ended the regular season last week on a loss to Bedford North Lawrence, 81-61. Mooresville finishes just above .500, at 12-11 for the season, and 4-3 in the conference.

The Pioneer boys will play at Decatur Central tomorrow at 8 p.m. — against the winner of the first round matchup between Perry Meridian and Center Grove — as part of the IHSAA Class 4A Boys Basketball State Tournament.

Bulldog basketball

Like the Artesians, the Monrovia Bulldogs also had a tough February.

After a Feb. 1 victory against Irvington Preparatory Academy, the Bulldogs subsequently dropped seven games in a row to finish the season 6-16, including 0-7 in the conference.

The Bulldogs will play at Park Tudor tomorrow at 6 p.m. against the winner of the Covenant Christian and University game as part of the IHSAA Class 2A Boys Basketball State Tournament.

Eels basketball

Eminence started sectional play this week, going up against the 18-7 Indianapolis Metropolitan on Tuesday as part of the IHSAA Class 1A Boys Basketball State Tournament, after press-time.

The winner of that game will face Greenwood Christian Academy at 6 p.m. Friday at Indianapolis Lutheran High School.

The Eels finished the regular season at 6-16, going 1-7 in conference play.

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK
EMINENCE HIGH SCHOOL

SPONSORED BY: Citizens Bank Member FDIC

AYDEN BIELER



GRADE: Senior
SPORT: Basketball
REASON FOR AWARD: Ayden finished up his senior regular season at home Feb. 22 vs. Cloverdale having 7 points and defending Cloverdale's best player and holding him under his regular season average of points per game. Ayden has grown so much throughout his senior season. Congratulations, Ayden!

LUKE FINNEY



GRADE: Sophomore
SPORT: Basketball
REASON FOR AWARD: Luke played a great game Feb. 22 vs Cloverdale with 19 points and many assists. Luke has grown so much this basketball season since his freshman year was cut short due to injury. We are proud of the commitment and desire of Luke through his sophomore season.



Purdue sophomore Bode Gillkerson clears the bar during the indoor Big 10 Championships last weekend on his way to a fourth-place finish. (Purdue Track and Field courtesy photo)

Monrovia native does well at Big 10 Championships

Staff Report

INDIANAPOLIS — Monrovia native and former Plainfield track standout Bode Gilkerson had a strong showing at the Big 10 Indoor Championships last weekend, where he took fourth place in the high jump.

Gilkerson, a sophomore, competes for the Purdue Track and Field team and specializes in the high jump.



GILKERSON

He's had a strong season thus far, taking first in the Midwest Classic Invitational on Jan. 31-Feb. 1, clearing a height of 6'8.75". He

SEE GILKERSON | PAGE B2

State cheer champs

Staff Report

INDIANAPOLIS — Two different teams from the Martinsville Madness competitive cheer group recently took first place at the Champion Force Cheerleading Competition in Indianapolis.

Martinsville Madness D1 team — ages 4-6 years old — and D2 team — ages 7-8 — grabbed top honors during the competition.

An affiliate of Champion Force Cheerleading — which specializes in a cost-effective program for beginner to intermediate competitive cheerleading — Martinsville Madness operates out of the Martinsville Youth Center for the last three years, and currently, 43 athletes take part from ages 4 to 18.

Additional athletes are currently being accepted, and further information can be found on the "Champion Force of Martinsville" Facebook page.





ABOVE: Members of the Martinsville Madness D1 team, along with coaches, show off their medals after taking first place last month at the cheerleading competition in Indianapolis. (Hope Long courtesy photo)

LEFT: The D2 Martinsville Madness team is all smiles after taking first place at the state competition last month. (Hope Long courtesy photo)

MCA ATHLETE OF THE MONTH



Mooresville Christian Academy junior Emeri Goodman is all smiles after being named the MCA Athlete of the Month for February for her hard work on the girls basketball team. According to her nominator, Emeri is one of the hardest workers on the team and is a game changer for defense. (Stephen Crane photo / MCC)

SAUCERMAN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

team. They are a close family. That's how it is here — you know everybody. I like how the team chemistry is there. Everybody wants to be there and wants to be there playing."

According to Maxpreps.com, Saucerman's statistics were off the charts for the Eminence girls' basketball team. She started making a big impact as a freshman averaging 6.9 points per game and 6.4 rebounds a game. As a sophomore, she significantly upped her game using her size to her advantage and working on her technique with defenders close by all game. She averaged 12 points per game and 8.2 rebounds a game.

In her junior season, Saucerman averaged 14.3 points per game and 6 rebounds a game and then made an even bigger impact her senior year with 19.1 points per game and two rebounds a game.

Saucerman led her team to a 20-6 record this season and a 9-0 Greater Indianapolis Conference Title. As a junior, the Eels were 19-8 with a conference title and an IHSAA Class A championship. The Eels won sectionals in her sophomore season as well.

Along with her teammates and coaches, Saucerman wanted to thank her family for all their support.

"I started playing travel softball," she said. "I thought that's what I wanted to do. They spent a whole bunch of money and time on that. Then they supported me when I switched to basketball. I appreciate them for everything."

She also played softball and ran cross country for the Eels during high school.

Right now, Saucerman is undecided on her major of choice, but she is interested in biology and environmental science.





UP TOP: Sophia Saucerman serves up another pitch last season as the lead pitcher for the Lady Eels. (File photo)

LEFT: Sophia Saucerman (left) has been on the cross country team throughout her high school career. (File photo)



ABOVE: Purdue sophomore Bode stands on the podium in a tie for fourth place following a strong performance at the Big 10 Championships last weekend. // BELOW: Purdue sophomore Bode Gilkerson is happy with his performance after a high jump last weekend at the Big 10 Championships. (Purdue Track and Field courtesy photos)

GILKERSON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

also took first in the 2024 Blue Demon Holiday Invite back in December, clearing 6'10.25".

At the indoor Big 10 Championships, he cleared 7'1" to tie for fourth place and hit his personal best by a half-inch.





MOLIN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

with a 20.08 with second place at a 20.09 from Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory senior Jake Tarara.

There were 32 swimmers competing in the 100-yard freestyle with nearly the same amount of time separating the field. Molin found himself just shy of the top 16 in the event as well, swimming a 47.42 for 19th place. Tarara won the event with a 43.93.

Molin had an impressive junior season, breaking records and winning multiple events. He looks to have an excellent senior season.

Some recent wins for Molin came against Plainfield in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:08.08 in January. He was the Mid-State Conference champion in both the 100-yard freestyle (47.71) and the 100-yard backstroke (52.49) on January 11th.

Before Christmas, in the Mooresville Invitational, he took first in the 50-yard freestyle (22.12) and the 100-yard backstroke (54.42). Against Indian Creek, Molin took first in both the 200-yard freestyle (1:53.23) and the 100-yard freestyle (50.77). He also placed first in the 100-yard freestyle (50.35) in the PCA Invitational at the beginning of the season.

Molin was the only boy swimmer to make it to the state finals this season, but the program is on the rise and the future looks good for the Pioneers.

Junior Diesel Molin glides through the water during one of his two freestyle events last Friday at the state finals. (Avery Boes photo / Wagon Trails)

Meat on the bone of the HAM radio



History Musings
ELLEN WILSON-PRUITT

With single-digit temperatures and snow still fresh in our memory, it seems a bit fanciful to be thinking about severe thunderstorm events, but as we roll into March, weather systems begin to ramp up with collisions of warm and cold fronts.

If you have lived in the Ohio Valley for any length of time, you most certainly have stories and memories of severe weather occurrences.

Today, we benefit from the technology of weather forecasting, which has saved an untold number of lives from this and community warning systems. The aftermath of a severe weather event usually results in chaos and confusion.

People, of course, wish to verify their friends and loved ones are safe as well as requesting emergency services if necessary. We are cocky enough in this day in age to think cell phones are the end-all in communication, but here is a dose of reality for you.

Usually during a severe weather event, cell phone towers go down or get bombarded with usage and stall.

This brings us to my topic today — Amateur Radio, or HAM radio, as it is usually referred to. The term "ham radio" comes from the informal term "ham," which was used as a derogatory term for amateur radio operators. The term was originally used by professional radio operators to describe operators with poor Morse code skills (this would be me). The term was used to mock amateur radio operators who were considered a nuisance by professional radio operators. The amateur radio community later reclaimed the term as a label of pride.

HAM radio operators are licensed by the FCC to operate on certain designated air bands. This is where the first part of science comes into the equation.

Radio waves transmit in different frequencies. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) divides the radio spectrum into 12 bands — i.e. bandwidths. These bands include TV, commercial radio, police and emergency band, maritime and amateur radio, as well as citizens band or CB.

Rather than get into all the technical talk about bandwidths etc., all this information and band charts are easily located online. Unauthorized transmission over a frequency is prohibited and monitored by the Federal Communications Commission.

Even with today's plethora of wireless communication, HAM radio still has an important role. In the event of an emergency when other types of communications are down or stalled, an amateur radio station can be set up in the field and transmit valuable information to emergency agencies. Not that very long ago, when the tornado hit Martinsville, many of the cell towers were clogged or non-functioning, but emergency HAM radio still transmitted.

Every year across the country, "Field Day" is an event where area HAM radio operators set up a transmitting station and begin making contacts across the U.S. and transmit continuously for 24 hours. This is a rehearsal in case the need would arise. It is sponsored by the ARRL, which is the national association for amateur radio. It is a contest where the club collects points for voice contacts, code contacts and packet radio (wireless computer communication).

I grew up in a HAM household. My dad was one, and some of my earliest memories were hearing "CQ" going out over the ways. In HAM jargon, "CQ" is the general call to make contact with another operator who may be on that frequency. My dad received his license when he was in communications in the Air Force. He even used his HAM radio to call my mom when he was stationed in Japan.

When I was growing up, they didn't have the compact handheld two-meter radios as they do now. Most transmissions were by home-based units.

My dad had converted our closed-in porch into his "radio room." When I was a little girl, I would sit out there and play while K9CLH (my dad's call sign) was on the air waves.

At that time in Morgan County, they had a HAM radio club. They would hold family picnics, and everyone would get together and socialize. It was great because there were several kids, and we Paragonites got to make acquaintances with some Martinsville kids.

When I went to junior high, I already knew a few kids who were HAM kids. If you grew up a HAM kid, you know. My best friend's dad was a HAM, and after we became friends through china painting, we began to share stories about growing up over the bandwidths.

Her dad continued his amateur radio passion when he moved to a senior living center. They allowed him to set up a "rig" in the attic of the home. This was all well and good until he apparently had a fuse go out, and he didn't have a replacement on hand. Well, a little bit of foil and MacGuyver's your uncle. The resulting smoke later prompted the home establishment to pull the plug on transmissions.

When I was growing up, the Heathkit was a popular electronics product. They sold everything from stereos to HAM radios. The essence was that you received all the components in a kit, but you had to build it yourself. This included circuit boards and transistors, which had to be soldered and what is now a dinosaur — the radio tube.

I can remember helping my dad build a radio. He had all the transistors stuck into a block of Styrofoam organized by stripes. If you are not familiar, transistors are codes by a sequence of colored stripes. I served as the surgical nurse of audio surgery. My artistic talents must have been nurtured as the electronic surgeon called for a white, yellow and orange transistor.

My dad also had a mobile unit in the car. The antenna looked like a basketball hoop mounted on the back bumper; the green Biscayne with that eye-catching hoop on the back. This type of antenna is actually called a loop, but in Indiana, it resembles the Hoosier pastime.

Now let's be clear. Ham radio and CB (or citizens band) radio are not the same thing. Anyone can transmit on a CB radio, and that is not necessarily a good thing. No license or regulations or protocol is enforced on citizens band.

Back in the day, calling a HAM a CB operator could be grounds for a fight. That's akin to asking a guy if his wife had been crosseyed all her life.

There was an old timer in Paragon who was a big CB'er. It seemed like every time my mom went to the post office in Paragon, he would be there. He would see Old Hoopie (the name we lovingly called the green Chevy) with the imposing antenna and he would stick his head in the car window and say, "You got a CB in there?"

It would make my mom so mad. I became abhorrent to CB just from that old codger.

When my dad got his first two-meter handheld radio, he became active in the local weather net. I could really see the value of this service. The area operators would report weather conditions during severe weather, and then this information was shared with emergency and law enforcement.

A two-meter band radio works through a repeater, which picks up the signal and boosts in on. We have a repeater here in Morgan County. It is out at Wilbur, which is one of the highest points in the county. I could really see the value of this service.

Many years later, the Amateur Radio Club reformed or reorganized from the original of the '60s and '70s.

I read that they were having classes to study for a HAM radio license. I thought that if I wanted to do this, I had better do it before my gray cells began to die off. There were several weeks of classes. There was a lot to learn. From my dad's days in the service, he was slick at sending and receiving code (Morse Code). I myself struggled. You have to have a focused attention, and I would be doing OK, and then all at once, "squirrel!" and I missed it.

There used to be six classifications of licenses. These were Novice, Technician, General, Conditional, Advanced and Amateur Extra. You have to take a special test through each level. Your call sign designated at which level you received your license.

The number in a HAM radio call sign designates which area of the US you were living when you received your license. In this area of the Midwest, we are in region 9, so my call sign N9UME says that I lived in the Midwest when I got my license. Novice class began in 1951 and was stopped in 2000. The novice call sign began with two letters with the second letter being an N. The Advanced classifications consisted of three letters and one regional number.

Today, the FCC has only three classes, which are Technician, General and Extra. Each class has different privileges as in the bands in which you may transmit; the higher the classification, the more bands that are available to you.

In order to obtain a license, you must pass a 35-question exam administered by an FCC volunteer examiner. You must take a different test for each classification as you advance. Yours truly passed her Technician class, and she was satisfied with being an underachiever and staying at that class.

Unlike the ramshackle conversations that could be heard on CB radio, the HAM frequencies are a totally different thing. A HAM operator must always identify yourself at regulated periods while operating on HAM frequencies by giving your call sign. This must be done every 10 minutes and at the end a communication; and if a conversation last less than 10 minutes, then just at the end of the communication. Giving your call sign on the air allows the regulatory agency to identify you, as well as assist others who hear you, especially in interference situations. It's somewhat like being asked by a law enforcement officer to produce your driver's license after being pulled over. It's all about identity. No foul language or anything offensive.

These are the same rules for broadcast stations, business or even public safety users. If you are reported for infractions to the FCC, you could lose your license unlike CB … take that breaker, breaker.

I took my weather spotters class through the local amateur radio club and received my spotter's certification number. This number was to be used to identify yourself when calling in severe weather. When we have severe weather, you will often hear them say that a funnel cloud was reported by amateur radio.

One of my biggest thrills was to call in my one and only funnel cloud. We were living out on the farm at Eminence, and it was the perfect place to spot bad weather. It was flat, and you could see for miles.

The storm systems often enter Morgan County from the west, so that area can be the first to see action. It was the year that the storms came through during Memorial Day Weekend when they had to empty the Speedway for a tornado.

The storm began to gather up, and I told Leslie, "Let's get in the car and go out and see what is going on."

I'm in Reed Timmer zone now. As we drive along 142, I look north toward Hall, and I see one funnel and then a second small one drops down next to it. I call it in on my phone and make my first sighting. Checked that off the bucket list! This storm continued onto Mooresville, Camby and onto Speedway.

The state of Indiana appreciates the importance of Amateur Radio. We can get our call sign as a vanity license plate. It makes it easy to have my call sign as my plate number. I have the same one all the time, and it is easy to remember when they announce a plate number that is going to be towed if not moved. The vanity license plate has many contractions and apparently my plate N9UME really tends to give people pause to try and figure out the meaning.

One day, I came out of the Martinsville Post Office, and this man was standing behind my car looking at my bumper. With that terror of a traffic cluster there, I knew he had hit the rear of my car.

As I stepped off the curb, he says, "I have been waiting here to ask you what your license plate means."

I told him it was just my HAM radio call sign. He bristled up and said he thought it meant SOMETHING. I almost apologized to him that it wasn't pornographic as I'm sure he was imagining.

When my dad passed away, he was still an active HAM licensee, which he had for nearly 60 years. When a HAM passes away, it is said that his "key goes silent" — the instrument with which you send Morse code.

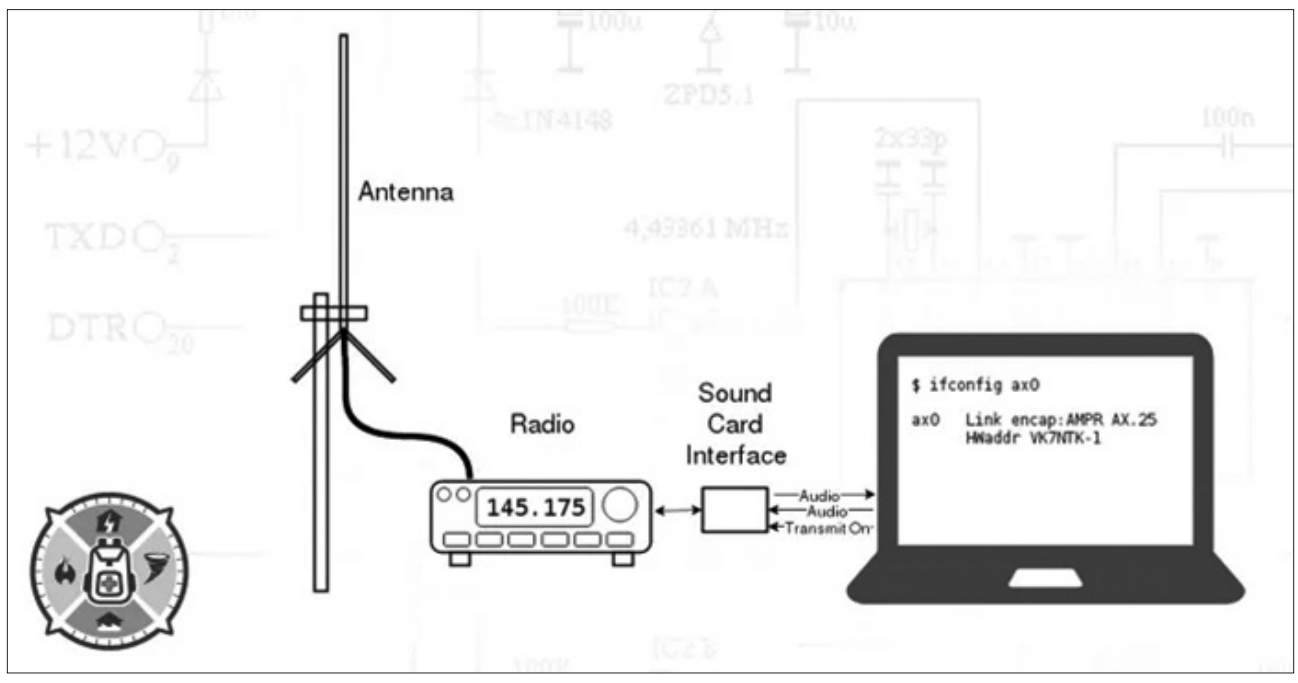
The season of severe weather is nothing to make light of. We are fortunate to have all types of technology and forecasting tools available to help keep us safe, but there is no way to hold back Mother Nature, and amateur radio serves an important role not only during but in the aftermath, serving the public in important times of need.

If you are interested in learning more about Amateur Radio, there is a club in Bloomington. They have meetings, offer license classes and testing for licensing. You can find all the information at www.bloomingtonradio.club.

If you have any thoughts you wish to share about this or any of the History Musings articles feel free to send me an email at his torymusingsmcc@gmail.com.

As the ghost of that green Chevy with the loop antenna crosses the sky, this is N9UME sending you "73" in code for best regards.

I could send you an "88," but that signifies love and kisses — and it is way past Valentine's Day.



The basic elements of a HAM radio operator start with the antennae, as well as a radio and audio receiver and transmitter. (Courtesy image)



A HAM radio setup during field day includes the Morse Code 'key', along with a list of operators contacted during the 48-hour annual event. (Courtesy photo)



The Heathkit was a popular electronics product when I was growing up, and they sold everything from stereos to HAM radios. The essence was that you received all the components in a kit, but you had to build it yourself. (Courtesy photo)

Blondie Brownies



Shelley's Sweet Spot
SHELLEY SUTER

Blondie brownies are delicious and more like a rich cookie bar. It's made with vanilla instead of chocolate. They're over-the-top yummy and so easy to make!

Feel free to add mini chocolate chips or white chocolate chips for some added sweetness.

They're delicious served with ice cream or leave plain!

The best thing about this recipe is you'll probably have most of the ingredients in your cupboard.

And a helpful hint, it's better to let them cool completely before trying to slice them.



BLONDIE BROWNIES

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup butter melted
- 1¼ cup brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 tsp vanilla
- ½ tsp salt
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 2 cups flour
- ½ cup add-ins like chocolate or white chocolate chips.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Preheat oven to 350°.
- Line a 9-by-13-inch pan with tin foil, spray with nonstick spray, and set aside.
- Combine the melted butter and brown sugar in a medium-sized bowl.
- Add in the eggs and vanilla, and mix well.
- Add in the salt, baking powder and flour. Mix until just combined.
- Stir in any add-ins you prefer.
- Pour the batter into the prepared 9x13 pan. Spread to cover the bottom of the pan.
- Bake at 350° for 20-25 minutes or until barely golden brown.
- Don't over bake the brownies!
- Remove from the oven and cool completely.
- Pull the blondies out of the pan using the aluminum foil once completely cool. Slice and serve.

COLUMN & PUZZLES

Peace comes through action, not mere words



The Worry Clinic
DR. GEORGE W. CRANE

MARCH 1975 — Do you agree with the "sissy" attitude of the preacher who watched his wife be brutally raped and murdered but still urged no punishment for the "poor, benighted man?"

CASE C-692: Jason L., aged 33, is a football coach.

"Dr. Crane," he began, "I am active in the Christian Athlete Association.

"But I consider myself a 'Nehemiah Christian.'

"By that, I mean I am dedicated to help build up a better society but also am ready to defend our wonderful America against any who will try to destroy us.

"You will recall that biblical Nehemiah led a return to Jerusalem.

"But when the surrounding people plotted to prevent his work, he equipped his comrades with a trowel in one hand but a sword in the other.

"In brief, although he was peaceful in his aims, he was not going to meekly submit to coercion or bullying by the enemy tribes.

"You recently mentioned the California preacher who, while tied hand and foot, then watched an intruder brutally assault the clergyman's wife, raping her repeatedly and then stabbing her to death.

"Yet this clergyman was later reported to have urged no punishment for the sadist! Imagine!

"Well, Dr. Crane, I couldn't belong to such a weakling's church!

"That preacher must be sick in his mind, for no normal man would ever make such a stupid remark."

Morality test

Christ was no maudlin sentimentalist nor peacenik!

Although he preached "turn the other cheek" regarding personal insults, he didn't advocate that we ignore the age-old rule of morality, which civilized men have adhered to since Hammurabi, namely:

"That which does the most good, for the most people, for the longest period of time, is right, just and moral."

Jesus resorted to physical violence when he drove the desecrators out of the Temple with a whip, as he meanwhile overturned their tables and scattered their illicit money.

Christ also praised the policemen and military members via the seventh Beatitude, which says: "Blessed are the peacemakers."

Peacemakers are not peaceniks, army deserters, draft dodgers nor those who idly witness crimes without going to the rescue of the abused, assaulted and raped victims.

Nor are "peacemakers" those who meekly "wish" for peace but haven't the courage to help produce it!

Although Moses was highly regarded for being so "meek," he also killed an Egyptian for whiplashing one of his Hebrew countrymen who was a slave!

If you apply that moral yardstick mentioned above, does it do the most good for the most people for the longest period of time to coddler criminals, rapists and murderers?

What about the mild "slap on the wrist" nowadays given to parolees and recidivists, who commit additional crimes and murders while on bond?

Or those who cleverly evade capital punishment via the plea of insanity (like Speck, who killed eight Chicago nurses, one at a time)?

Jesus didn't preach that everybody would get to heaven, for he warned that two would be in the field but only one would be taken and two would be in the house but one would be left for hell.

Thus, it is high time preachers got a little more virility into their sermons, so let's urge more athletes and fighters to go into the pulpit!

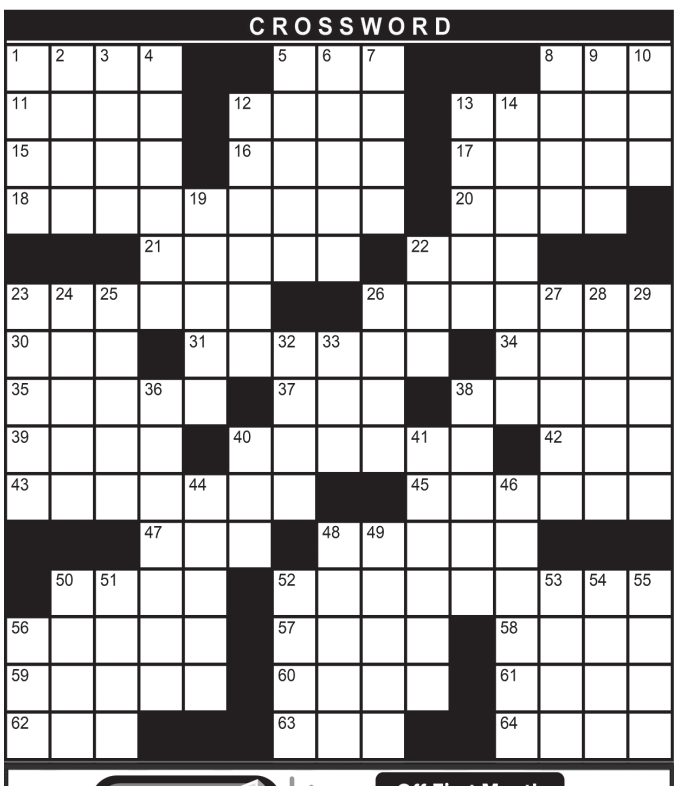
Dr. George W. Crane, based out of Hillsboro, Ind., was a syndicated columnist for more than 60 years in newspapers across the country, offering psychological advice to everyday people.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
THEME: MARCH MADNESS

ACROSS
1. Giant Himalayan
5. *M in MAC
8. Bathtub libation
11. Joie de vivre
12. Do like fly fisherman
13. East side of Jersey
15. Tucked in
16. Diva's solo
17. Length of a forearm
18. *____ Sunday
20. Osiris' wife
21. Freshwater fish
22. Stir fry pan
23. Victorian era overcoat
26. Smallest
30. *Like attending band at the NCAA Tournament
31. Kaa of "The Jungle Book"
34. Great Lake
35. Prep mushrooms for steak, e.g.
37. Cooking fat
38. Bible song
39. Second to last word in some fairytales
40. False
42. Dip oreo into milk, e.g.
43. Tiresome
45. Hoariest
47. NBC's sketch comedy show
48. Misrepresent
50. South American monkey
52. *2025 NCAA Championship game venue
56. Renaissance fiddle
57. "To ___ and to hold"
58. ___-friendly
59. Founding Father Thomas ___
60. Damien's prediction
61. Reunion group
62. Bancroft to Hoffman in "The Graduate"
63. Agreement word
64. Ages and ages

DOWN
1. Nay opposers
2. River in Bohemia
3. 1.3 ounces, in Asia
4. Owes money (2 words)
5. Angelina Jolie's 2024 singing role
6. "Kick the bucket," e.g.
7. *____ Smith, coach of 2 champs and 11 Final Four teams
8. Mongolian desert
9. Fleur-de-lis
10. *Cut down at end of last game
12. Like rheumy eyes
13. Descendant
14. *2024 winners
19. Thin pancake
22. *____ and move on
23. *Cinderella's victory
24. Furlough
25. Spew, past tense
26. Cough syrup balsam
27. Use other end of pencil?
28. Farm structures
29. Dangle a carrot
32. *____-up or evenly matched game
33. Step on it
36. *2024 Most Outstanding Player Newton
38. Paralyzing disease, for short
40. Afghan monetary unit
41. Neolithic tomb
44. "Riunite ___ ___, that's nice"
46. Figure out
48. Scapegoat's due
49. Roof overhang
50. Salty drop
51. Avian wader
52. Sailor call
53. Capital of Norway
54. Statistics calculation
55. Sea eagles
56. Dashboard acronym

CROSSWORD

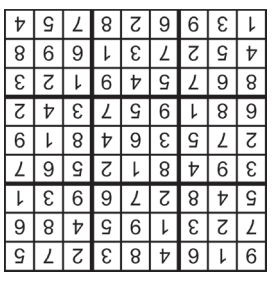




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ANSWERS:





SUDOKU



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7		3		9		4		
	4				6	9		
				1	2			7
		5				8		
6			9	5				
		7	5				2	
		2		3		6		8
					8		5	

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

We are called to be disciples

By Mickey Elliott
Weekday Religious Education



After Jesus was in the wilderness and experienced temptation, he went to Nazareth, the town where he grew up.

They would not accept him as the Son of God. They only recognized him as the son of Joseph not the Christ. They ran him out of town. They would not consider the healing and the following he had in other towns. He left Nazareth and went to Galilee, and after praying all night, he began choosing his disciples.

A disciple refers to any student, pupil or follower of a leader or teacher — one who would emulate his life and pass on his teachings.

Jesus needed men who would make a total commitment to his cause. Jesus knew it was important for his disciples to truly know him. Spending time with him over a long period would expose them to his true nature and great love for his Father and mankind. They would truly see what God is like.

Jesus came to show us God incarnate, how very much He loved his creation and his eternal plan for them. They spent three years under his leadership. They witnessed his love, compassion, wisdom, understanding, and even anger for the abuse of God's temple and deception by those who were to represent God to the people.

They saw him heal the sick and restore life to the lifeless. His calmness and sense of security in all circumstances was a true witness of his faith; he was fearless, gentle, loving, forgiving and completely selfless.

They watched him experience rejection and persecution, even death on the cross. He taught them to be servants.

Matthew 20:26 says, "Whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant."

Luke 9:23 says, "If anyone wants to become my followers, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily and follow me."

Jesus had to teach them by example the power of the Holy Spirit of God that would encourage, guide, counsel and empower them to accomplish God's plan and purpose for those who believe and trust in Him. These men, with the exception of one, emulated and laid down their lives through experiencing persecution, rejection and their personal desires for their faith in this humble, pure, loving, sacrificial Son of God, who was a true reflection of the Father.

I would like to introduce you to the 12 men Jesus chose to follow him and carry on the gospel:

• **Andrew** was from Bethsaida. He had a fishing business with his brother, Peter. Andrew was also a disciple of John the Baptist.

• **Simon Peter** was a fisherman. We know he lived in Capernaum and that he was married. Peter was always putting his foot in his mouth. You know some of us have that same problem.

• **James the Greater** and his brother John were the sons of Zebedee. Jesus gave them the name "Sons of Thunder." They had a fishing business with Simon Peter.

• **Thaddaeus** is believed to be the son of James the Greater and the grandson of Zebedee. He was a missionary.

• **Thomas** was by trade a fisherman. In Thomas, we see a person who had doubts and questions, and had a habit of looking at things pessimistically.

• **Matthew** was a custom officer, or tax collector. All tax collectors had the reputation of thieves. They were thought to be only loyal to Rome.

• **Judas** was a Judean. He was the only apostle who was not a Galilean. Judas was the group's treasurer. Judas betrayed Jesus then hung himself.

• **Simon the Zealot** was called a Zealot because of his association with a party of political extremists by that name.

• **Bartholomew** learned of Jesus through Philip. His initial reaction was skepticism. But when he met Jesus, his conversion was almost immediate.

• **John** was the brother of James and the son of Zebedee. He was a fisherman by trade, partner in business with his brother James and with Peter and Andrew. John was given the distinction of being the disciple Jesus loved. Jesus entrusted him with the responsibility of taking care of his mother.

• **Philip** was from Bethsaida. After Philip was called, he found Nathaniel and urged him to come and see Jesus.

• **James the Less** was a native of Capernaum. Other information about James is confusing and uncertain because he is one of two disciples named James and because Jesus had a brother named James. It is James the brother of Jesus who wrote the book of James in the Bible.

Jesus is calling you today to be His follower. Disciples first must know Him by reading His Word and through prayer, and then to follow him by obeying his word and applying it to your life.

Then he is to begin teaching others how to follow Christ. Jesus gives us promises. He promises the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us just like it did when Jeus was choosing his disciples. If we put Him first above everything and everyone else, he will restore 100 fold what we had lost.

We will suffer persecution for our faith, and others may make fun of us and maybe don't want to be our friend because we want to do what is right.

We have the promise of eternal life and His presence with us to overcome in all this life our problems and fears, knowing we can trust God to take care of all things and work them for good in our lies. This is His command to His followers:

Matthew 28: 19-20 — "Go ye therefore and teach all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, even unto the end of the world."

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

Church Directory

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

Centennial Christian Church • 1510 Centennial Road, Martinsville • martinsvilleccc@gmail.com • Interim Pastor Keenan Steinway • Sunday service at 10:30 a.m.

Good Shepherd Baptist Church • 1150 State Road 144, Mooresville • 317-831-1279 • gsbcindy.com • info@gsbcindy.com • Pastor Brandon Sichting • 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 • popchurchlcms@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., Sunday Youth Group at 6 p.m., Monday Bible Studies 6:30 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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 • mccoffice@ccrtc.com • Pastor Richard Dickison • Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church • 240 E. Washington St., Martinsville • 765-342-3282 • fpcmartinsivlle.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 • Sunday at 9:30 and 11 a.m.

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

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

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

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

Your Church's Name Here
BE THE FEATURED CHURCH OF THE MONTH
Contact
ads@morgancountycorrespondent.com
765-201-0765
SHARE YOUR MESSAGE

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 • mcotf252@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 Faull • 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 • firstccmooresville.org • office@firstccmooresville.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 service at 9 a.m., Sunday School at 10:15 a.m. and contemporary service at 6:30 p.m.

Life Pointe Community Church • 825 N. Indiana St., Mooresville • 317-831-0659 • lpcommunity.com • medens@lpcommunity.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 • nlcw-church.com • info@nlcw-church.com • Pastor Michael Linville II • Sunday service at 10:30 a.m.

Mooresville Free Methodist Church • 20 Star Lane, Mooresville • 317-831-3874 • mooresvillefmchurch.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 • Rev. Dr. Amber Karkosky-Litten • Blended Sunday worship at 9:15 a.m.

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

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

Eminence Baptist Church • Intersection of Ind. 42 and 142 • 812-829-6358 • "First Baptist Church of Eminence Indiana" on Facebook • Pastor Billy G. Williams • Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., worship at 10:30 a.m., Tuesday Bible study at 6 p.m. (carry-in dinner at 5:30 p.m.)

New Life Baptist Church – Brooklyn • 8020 N. Old State Road 67, Mooresville • 317-831-5857 • pastor@nlbc-mooresville.com • Sunday school at 10 a.m., service at 11 a.m., evening service at 6 p.m., Wednesday services at 7 p.m.

Five Points Baptist Church • 5596 E. Ind. 144, Mooresville • 317-831-5090 • fivepointsbaptist.net • Pastor Tony Gearlds • Sunday service at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday at 6 p.m.

Martinsville First Evangelical Methodist Church • 60 W. Douglas St., Martinsville • martinsville1stemc@gmail.com • Pastor Travis Fleener • Sunday school at 9:30 a.m., service at 10:40 p.m., evening service at 6 p.m., Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Samaria Baptist Church • 10851 Baseline Road, Paragon • Interim Pastor Tim Cooper • tamerahick@sbcglobal.net • Sunday school at 9:30 a.m., service at 10:30 a.m.

Community Church of Mooresville • 61 W Harrison St, Mooresville • 317-831-7554 • www.ccmooresville.com • elders.ccom@gmail.com • Randy Weddle • Sunday service at 11:15 a.m.

Paragon Bible Baptist Church • 269 W. Union St. • paragonbiblebaptist@gmail.com • Sunday services at 10:40 a.m. and 6 p.m., Wednesday Bible Study at 6:30 p.m.

Abounding Worship Center • 1795 Centerton Road, Martinsville • 317-831-1084 • Pastor Ken Hayden • Sunday service at 10:30 a.m., Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Martinsville Baptist Tabernacle • 2189 Burton Lane, Martinsville • 765-342-0501 • mbttcm.org/mbt • info@mbttcm.org • Pastor David Zempel • Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., services at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Holy Trinity Reformed Church • 7542 E. Landersdale Road, Camby • 912-978-0279 • reformedholytrinity.org • reformedholytrinity@gmail.com • Pastor James Brown Jr. • Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., worship at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday prayer at 7 p.m.

Life Line Baptist Church • 13387 N Slideoff Road, Camby • 317-856-1112 • lifelinebaptist.net • pastor@lifelinebaptist.net • Tim Lindsey, II • Sunday School at 9.30 a.m., worship at 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Wednesdays at 6.30 p.m.

First Christian Church of Morgantown • 2717 S. Morgantown Road in Morgantown • 812-597-0336 • fccmorgantown.org • shelley@fccmorgantown.org • Senior Pastor Burt Brock • Sunday service at 9 a.m. in person and on FB live

Gasburg Baptist Church • 11564 N. Gasburg Road • 3179962112 • Gasburgbaptistchurch.com • Info@gasburgbaptistchurch.com • Interim Pastor Mike Vauters • Sunday service at 10:15 a.m.

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF HEARING
ON PROPOSED FIRE PROTECTION TERRITORY EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT FUND FOR THE ADAMS AND ASHLAND (A&A) FIRE PROTECTION TERRITORY

Notice is hereby given to the taxpayers of the Adams Township and Ashland Township both of Morgan County, Indiana, that the Adams Township Board and Ashland Township Board will consider at the Eminence Junior & Senior High School located at 6760 State Road 42 North, Eminence, Indiana, 46125 on March 13, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. the establishment of a Fire Protection Territory Equipment Replacement Fund on behalf of the Adams and Ashland (A&A) Fire Protection Territory under the provisions of Indiana Code IC 36-8-19-8.5 for the purposes as follows: ***For all uses as set out in IC 36-8-19-8.5.***

The establishment of an Equipment Replacement Fund is occurring in connection with the creation of the Adams and Ashland (A&A) Fire Protection Territory. The Provider Unit in the Territory shall be Ashland Township. The Participating Units in the Territory shall be Adams Township and Ashland Township.

The tax will be levied on all taxable real and personal property within the taxing district and will not exceed $0.0333 per $100 of assessed valuation. The proposed fund will be levied beginning with taxes due and payable in the year 2026. Taxpayers appearing at such hearing shall have the right to be heard thereon. The proposed tax rate for the Equipment Replacement Fund is subject to certification by the Department of Local Government Finance. Within 30 days after the date of adoption of the Equipment Replacement Fund by the Adams Township Board and the Ashland Township Board, Adams Township and Ashland Township will publish a Notice of Adoption.

Twenty-five (25) or more taxpayers with taxable property located in Adams Township or Ashland Township in Morgan County, Indiana may file a petition with the Morgan County Auditor no later than noon 30 days after the publication of this Notice setting forth their objections to the proposed fire protection territory equipment replacement fund. Upon the filing of the petition, the County Auditor shall immediately certify the same to the Department of Local Government Finance, at which point the Department will fix a date for and conduct a public hearing on the proposed fire protection territory equipment replacement fund before issuing its approval, disapproval, or modification thereof.
Dated: February 14, 2025

Adams Township Board
Ashland Township Board

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
MADISON TOWNSHIP OF MORGAN COUNTY, INDIANA
FIRE STATION 31 REMODEL PROJECT

Notice is hereby given that Madison Township of Morgan County, Indiana, a political subdivision (the "Township") will receive sealed bids for the **MADISON TOWNSHIP OF MORGAN COUNTY, INDIANA FIRE STATION 31 REMODEL PROJECT.** Bids will be received at the Madison Township Trustee's Office, 7047 E. Landersdale Rd., Camby, IN 46113, **until 4:00 p.m. EST on or before, March 20, 2025** and as soon as practicable thereafter on the same date, the Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud in the Conference Room of the Township Offices. Any Bid received after the designated time will be returned to the Bidder unopened. The Bid should be clearly marked **"BID ENCLOSED: FIRE STATION 31 REMODEL PROJECT"** on the outside of the envelope, and as otherwise set forth in the Bid Documents.

In general, the work for the Project (the "Work") Will consist of Modifying existing wall between vehicle bays and the living area per state requirements Electrical work shall consist of rewiring the living areas with new wiring and outlets, switches and necessary lighting to include but not limited to exit signs emergency lighting etc.. All walls shall be patched and painted. The living quarters shall be renovated to provide 4 bunk rooms. Please bid this project all as set forth in the Bid Documents for the Project which are available at Madison Township Trustee's Office, 7047 E. Landersdale Rd., Camby, IN 46113, or may be obtained digitally from Trustee Larry Ellis at lellis@mtfd.us.

Bidders shall assure that they have obtained complete sets of Bid Documents and shall assume the risk of any errors or omissions in bids prepared in reliance on incomplete sets of drawings and Bid Documents.

Bids must be submitted on the forms found in the Bid Documents, must contain the names of every person or company interested therein, and shall be accompanied by:
(1) Revised Form No. 96 as prescribed by the Indiana State Board of Accounts and as required in the Instruction to Bidders, including a financial statement, a statement of experience, a proposed plan or plans for performing the Work and the equipment the Bidder has available for the performance of the Work;
(2) Bid Bond in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the total Bid amount, including alternates with a satisfactory corporate surety or by a certified check in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the amount of the total Bid. The Bid Bond or certified check shall be evidence of good faith that the successful Bidder will execute within fifteen (15) calendar days from the acceptance of the Bid, the Agreement as included in the Bid Documents. The Bid Bond or certified check shall be made payable to the Township.
(3) A Non-Collusion Affidavit complying with the requirements of Ind. Code § 36-1-2-4.

Township reserves the right to hold any or all Bids for a period of not more than sixty (60) days after the date on which the Bids are opened and, for such sixty (60) day period, all such Bids shall be in full force and effect. Any Bid may be withdrawn prior to the scheduled closing time for the receipt of Bids but no Bidder shall withdraw a Bid within the sixty (60) day period after the opening of the Bids. All bid security of unsuccessful bidders will be returned by the Township upon selection of the successful Bidder and execution of the Agreement, and provision of the required Performance Bond and Payment Bond.

In the event that the total amount of the contract awarded to the successful Contractor is $300,000 or more, the successful Contractor must be qualified under either Ind. Code § 4-13.6-4 or Ind. Code § 8-23-10 before doing any work on the Project.

Pursuant to Ind. Code § 5-22-17-6, Township reserves the right to specify in the contract with the successful
bidder one or both of the following:
1. Early performance of the contract will result in increased compensation;
2. Completion of the contract after the termination or designated completion date(s) will result in a deduction from the compensation.

A Performance Bond and Payment Bond with good and sufficient surety, acceptable to the Township, shall be required in an amount equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the Contract Price, conditioned upon the faithful performance of the Agreement. The surety of the Bonds may not be released until one (1) year after the Township's final settlement with the Contractor. Retainage will be as required by Ind. Code § 36-1-12 et seq.

All out-of-state entities must have a certificate of authority to do business in the State. Application forms may be obtained by contacting the Secretary of State, State of Indiana, Statehouse, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.

Township reserves the right to (1) cancel this solicitation pursuant to Ind. Code § 5-22-18-2 and/or (2) reject any offers, in whole or in part as specified in the solicitation when Township determines in accordance with applicable Indiana laws including but not limited to Ind. Code § 36-1-12-4, that such action is in the best interests of the Township. Township reserves the right to delay the opening of the Bids pursuant to Ind. Code § 36-1-12-4. To the extent permitted by applicable law, the Township reserves the right to waive any of the terms, conditions or provisions contained in this Notice to Bidders or the Bid Documents or any informality, irregularity or omission in the bid process or in any Bid which waiver is deemed in the Township's discretion to be to the advantage of the Township and which does not afford any Bidder a material competitive advantage over other Bidders. Except as specifically otherwise provided herein and as allowed by applicable Indiana law, a contract for the Project shall be awarded in accordance with this Notice to Bidders, Ind. Code § 5-16-13 et seq. and Ind. Code § 36-1-12 et seq., to the lowest responsible and responsive Bidder whose bid does not exceed the funds available for the Project. The Township shall have the right to accept any Alternates in any order or combination or accept on the basis of the Base Bid alone, unless otherwise specifically provided in the Bidding Documents and to determine the lowest responsible and responsive Bidder on the basis of the sum of the Base Bid and Alternates accepted.

Notice of Public Hearing
City of Martinsville Board of Zoning Appeals

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the City of Martinsville BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS at City Hall, 59 South Jefferson St., Martinsville, Indiana on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. local time upon the application of US Mobariz Trucking LLC for a use variance to allow the retail sale of household appliances on property zoned I-1 (light industrial) on property located at 1007 Blue Bluff Road, Martinsville, Indiana. The legal description of the property is:

A part of the Southeast quarter of the Northwest quarter of Section 33, Township 12 North, Range 1 East, Morgan County, Indiana, more particularly described as follows, to-wit:

From the northeast corner of the aforesaid quarter-quarter section, traverse on and along the east line of the quarter-quarter section (with an assumed bearing of South 00 degrees 00 minutes East), 535.22 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING for this description; thence continue on said East line, 345.52 feet; thence traverse South 88 degrees 04 minutes West, 216.76 feet to the center of Blue Bluff Road; thence traverse on and along said center line North 05 degrees 38 minutes East, 366.96 feet; thence traverse South 86 degrees 05 minutes East, 181.06 feet back to the point of beginning. Containing in all 1.62 acres, more or less.

The complete application and file for this application is available for public inspection fifteen (15) days prior to the hearing date, during regular working hours, at the Martinsville City Hall, 59 South Jefferson St., Martinsville, Indiana.

Interested persons appearing in favor of or in opposition to the application will be heard thereon by the Board.

This notice has been prepared by US Mobariz Trucking LLC.
Dated this: March 10, 2025

Notice of Public Hearing
City of Martinsville Board of Zoning Appeals

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the City of Martinsville BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS at City Hall, 59 South Jefferson St., Martinsville, Indiana on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. local time upon the application of development standard variance for a reduced side yard setback from 10 feet to 6 feet, 2 inches on the property located at 1580 Josephine Street, Martinsville, IN 46151, being more particularly described as follows, to-wit: Lot 28 John E. Miles Subdivision.

The complete application and file for this application is available for public inspection fifteen (15) days prior to the hearing date, during regular working hours, at the Martinsville City Hall, 59 South Jefferson St., Martinsville, Indiana.

Interested persons appearing in favor of or in opposition to the application will be heard thereon by the Board.

This notice has been prepared by Robert Rollins.
Dated this: February 17, 2025

Notice To Taxpayers of Hearing
on Proposed Cumulative Special Fire Cumulative Fund

Notice is hereby given to the taxpayers of Monroe Township Fire District, Morgan County Indiana, that the Monroe Township Fire District Board will consider at 450 S. Chestnut St., Monrovia at 7:30 o'clock pm on March 19, 2025, the establishment of a Cumulative Firefighting Fund under the provisions of Indiana Code 36-8-14 for the purpose of all uses set out in and provision of the Indiana Code.

The tax will be levied on all taxable real and personal property within the taxing district and will not exceed $0.0333 per $100 of assessed valuation. The proposed fund will be levied beginning with taxes due and payable in the year 2026. Taxpayers appearing at such hearing shall have the right to be heard thereon. The proposed tax rate for the Cumulative Firefighting Fund is subject to certification by the Department of Local Government Finance.

Within 30 days after the date of the adoption of the cumulative fund by the Monroe Township Fire District Board, the Monroe Township Fire District will publish a Notice of Adoption.

Upon publication of the Notice of Adoption, 25 or more taxpayers in the taxing district may file a petition with the County Auditor not later than noon 30 days after the publication of the Notice of Adoption setting forth their objections to the proposed fund.

Dated this 6th and 13th day of March, 2025.

Notice of Intent

Watson Gravel, Inc. dba Gosport Stone LLC (with corporate offices at P.O. Box 277 in Ross, OH 45061) is submitting an NOI letter for our facility (located at 4000 State Road 67 South in Gosport, Indiana 47433) to notify the Indiana Department of Environmental Management of our intent to comply with the requirements under 327 IAC 15-6 to discharge storm water exposed to industrial activities. Run-off from the facility will discharge to an unnamed tributary of Limestone Creek. Questions or comments should be directed to Mr. Ron Watson at the above-mentioned Watson Gravel, Inc. corporate address.

Monroe Township, Morgan County, Indiana
Cash & Investments Combined Statement - 2024

CERTIFICATION		Local Fund Number	Local Fund Name	Beg Cash & Inv Bal Jan. 1, 2024	Receipts	Disbursements	End Cash & Inv Bal Dec. 31, 2024
State of Indiana	Governmental Activities	2	Township	$205,478.41	$34,427.80	$26,050.50	$213,855.71
SS:		3	Township Assistance	$234,683.94	$10,701.72	$344.79	$245,040.87
Morgan County			Total All Funds	$440,162.35	$45,129.52	$26,395.29	$458,896.58

I, Michael Gene Marsh, Trustee of MONROE TOWNSHIP, Morgan County, Indiana, do solemnly affirm under the penalty of perjury that the preceding report contains the information required by Indiana code 36-6-4-13, and is, true and correct; that the amounts with which I am charged in this report are all of the amounts received by me; and that the various items of expenditures credited have been fully paid in the amounts stated; that such payments were made without express or implied agreement that any portion thereof shall be retained by or repaid to me or to any other person. A complete abstract that contains the statements required under Indiana Code 36-6-4-13(a)(5) and (a)(6) is available for inspection in the county auditor's office.

I further affirm that a complete and detailed annual report, together with all accompanying vouchers showing the names of persons having been paid money by the township, have been filed as required by law in the office of the County Auditor, and that copies of such annual report are in custody of the Township Board and the State Board of Accounts. Said report is subject to inspection by any taxpayer of the township.

Michael Gene Marsh (sign)
MONROE TOWNSHIP Trustee

Telephone: 317-996-2920

Date this report was to be published: _____

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, the Chairman of the Township Board of MONROE TOWNSHIP at its annual meeting, this 18th day of Feb, 2025.

James Kaiser (sign)
MONROE Township Board Chairman

OPTION 1

This report was received, accepted, and approved by the Township Board at its annual meeting, this 18th day of Feb, 2025.

James Kaiser Township Board:
(sign)
(sign)
(sign)

Mooresville Public Library, Morgan County, Indiana
Cash & Investments Combined Statement - 2024

	Local Fund Number	Local Fund Name	Beg Cash & Inv Bal Jan. 1, 2024	Receipts	Disbursements	End Cash & Inv Bal Dec. 31, 2024
Governmental Activities	100	Operating Fund	$1,219,194.66	$962,712.04	$835,928.16	$1,345,978.54
	150	Teen Librarian	$71,366.69	$0.00	$0.00	$71,366.69
	200	Gifts & Memorials	$115,722.52	$5,093.75	$3,449.61	$117,366.66
	202	Collection Agency Fund	$214.54	$0.00	$0.00	$214.54
	226	Public Copier/Printer	$55,500.67	$6,625.30	$480.82	$61,645.15
	255	Cyrus Whetzel Fund	$9,977.46	$19.44	$0.00	$9,996.90
	256	Elsie Perce Fund	$1,206.77	$0.00	$0.00	$1,206.77
	260	State Technology Fund Grant	$2,086.74	$10,103.78	$6,336.00	$5,854.52
	265	Cook Endowment	$141,343.37	$42,590.68	$16,459.66	$167,474.39
	267	Marian Adams Memorial	$4,292.00	$0.00	$0.00	$4,292.00
	269	Youth Project Fund	$3,301.65	$0.00	$0.00	$3,301.65
	301	Fund 80 Lease Rental	$244,728.19	$475,893.36	$626,708.25	$93,913.30
	302	2024 G.O. Bond	$5,615,485.06	$238,319.23	$395,913.88	$5,457,890.41
	400	LIRF	$51,137.30	$206.42	$51,299.40	$44.32
	421	Rainy Day	$309,980.69	$33,812.04	$9,470.40	$334,322.33
	800	PLAC	$65.00	$260.00	$325.00	$0.00
	801	Evergreen Indiana Fund	$2,764.38	$959.42	$496.28	$3,227.52
	802	Payroll Fund	$3,054.78	$0.00	$455.00	$2,599.78
		Total All Funds	**$7,851,422.47**	**$1,776,595.46**	**$1,947,322.46**	**$7,680,695.47**

Mooresville Civil Town, Morgan County, Indiana
Cash & Investments Combined Statement - 2024

	Local Fund Number	Local Fund Name	Beg Cash & Inv Bal Jan. 1, 2024	Receipts	Disbursements	End Cash & Inv Bal Dec. 31, 2024
Governmental Activities	1101	GENERAL FUND	$4,472,492.70	$7,116,059.50	$5,675,683.40	$5,912,868.80
	2201	MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY	$662,875.39	$1,171,888.48	$1,160,242.49	$674,521.38
	2202	LOCAL ROAD AND STREET	$732,722.43	$177,056.64	$481,299.97	$428,479.10
	2203	MVH RESTRICTED	$77,521.71	$196,817.03	$200,000.00	$74,338.74
	2204	PARK AND RECREATION - OPERATING	$578,766.78	$1,131,111.80	$1,216,614.49	$493,264.09
	2209	LIT - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (FORMERLY CEDIT)	$648,035.16	$659,887.00	$748,666.39	$559,255.77
	2211	PARK NONREVERTING OPERATING	$744,102.56	$805,704.75	$792,303.63	$757,503.68
	2218	PLANNING AND ZONING	$591,482.29	$54,673.50	$9,782.60	$636,373.19
	2228	LLEPCE	$44,995.87	$4,592.00	$4,695.58	$44,892.29
	2234	UNSAFE BUILDING	$19,015.08	$220.15	$0.00	$19,235.23
	2235	RIVERBOAT	$315,067.20	$53,896.18	$152,651.35	$216,312.03
	2236	RAINY DAY	$1,531,592.58	$0.00	$350,000.00	$1,181,592.58
	2240	LIT - PUBLIC SAFETY	$955,528.50	$1,035,168.05	$1,059,860.04	$930,836.51
	2256	OPIOID SETTLEMENT UNRESTRICTED	$241,684.30	$10,128.19	$21,498.10	$230,314.39
	2257	OPIOID SETTLEMENT RESTRICTED	$31,947.91	$39,482.98	$0.00	$71,430.89
	2300	BABY BOX DONATIONS	$3,283.49	$0.00	$200.00	$3,083.49
	2301	TOWN IMPROVEMENT DONATION	$324.18	$0.00	$0.00	$324.18
	2302	PARK DONATIONS	$61,391.69	$22,658.77	$42,592.51	$41,457.95
	2303	POLICE DONATION	$19,842.04	$4,301.00	$6,230.34	$17,912.70
	2304	K9 DONATION FUND	$6,706.44	$1.00	$0.00	$6,707.44
	2305	MOORESVILLE CHILDREN'S FUND	$31,849.15	$5,099.00	$5,802.87	$31,145.28
	2306	FIRE DONATION	$15,615.34	$1,700.00	$1,453.79	$15,861.55
	2307	NON-REV CPR DONATION FUND	$7,393.45	$2,237.00	$1,467.85	$8,162.60
	2308	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT USE	$13,035.72	$0.00	$0.00	$13,035.72
	2402	STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUND (ARPA)	$2,018,226.46	$0.00	$35,776.70	$1,982,449.76
	2405	OPERATION PULL OVER (CHIRP)	$0.00	$4,424.52	$4,424.52	$0.00
	2406	CRIMINAL JUSTICE REIMBRSM	$2,924.38	$0.00	$0.00	$2,924.38
	2407	VEST GRANT	-$5,490.65	$5,490.65	$1,064.75	-$1,064.75
	2412	KENDRICK FINANCIAL GRANT	$13.32	$0.00	$0.00	$13.32
	2413	IPEP GRANT 2022 - POLICE	$97.12	$0.00	$0.00	$97.12
	2417	DNR GRANT	-$3,738.08	$10,000.00	$6,261.92	$0.00
	2500	BURGLAR ALARM PERMITS	$44,135.78	$3,695.00	$2,193.52	$45,637.26
	2501	EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES	$12,883.08	$8,100.00	$6,000.00	$14,983.08
	2503	MOORESVILLE POLICE DRUG FUND	$1,747.30	$956.93	$1,701.90	$1,002.33
	2504	PACE TEAM DRUG FUND	$10,807.21	$300.00	$3,406.98	$7,700.23

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
CAUSE NO.: **55D01-2501-ES-19**

In the Circuit/Superior Court of MORGAN County, Indiana.
Notice is hereby given that **Connie Payton** was, on **February 10th, 2025**, appointed Personal Representative of the estate of **Beverly Ruth Foster,** deceased, who died on the 17th day of January 2025.
All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within or nine (9) months after the Decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated at Martinsville, Indiana, this 11th day of February, 2025.

/s/ Tammy J. Parker, Clerk
Morgan County Courts
10 E. Washington Street
Martinsville, IN 46151

Attorneys:
Beth Sullivan-Summers
9274 North Romine Rd.
Mooresville, IN 46158-6331
Telephone: 317-753-3863

STATE OF INDIANA
SS:
COUNTY OF MORGAN
IN THE MORGAN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT
CASE NO: **55C01-2502-MI-000458**

IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF:
Joseph R Deemer Jr
Petitioner

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Joseph Richard Deemer Jr, Morgan County, Indiana, hereby gives notice that he has filed a petition in the Morgan Circuit Court that his name be changed to Joey Rosetti Deemer..

The Petition is scheduled for hearing in the Morgan County Circuit Court on **May 5, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.,** which is more than thirty (30) days after the third notice of publication. Any person has the right to appear at the hearing and to file written objections on or before the hearing date.

Date: 2/24/2025
/s/ Tammy J. Parker
Clerk, Morgan County Court

Hearing will be held via Zoom. Parties may appear in person if they wish. If appearing via Zoom, please provide the Court with a good email address to send the Zoom information to on the day of the hearing.

STATE OF INDIANA
SS:
COUNTY OF MORGAN
IN THE MORGAN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT
CASE NO: **55C01-2502-MI-000496**

IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF:
Elise Paye Rossi
Petitioner

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Notice is given that I have filed a Petition for a Change of Name in the Morgan County Court and that said petition will be heard by the Court on May 5, 2025 at 11:15 a.m. Any person has the right to appear at the hearing and file an objection.

/s/ Tammy J. Parker
Clerk, Morgan County Court

Hearing will be held via Zoom. Parties may appear in person if they wish. If appearing via Zoom, please provide the Court with a good email address to send the Zoom information to on the day of the hearing.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
Notice is hereby given that the City of Martinsville herein referred to as the Owner, will receive sealed bids for, a new parking lot located in the City of Martinsville, Morgan County, Indiana.
Sealed bids are invited and may be forwarded by mail, other courier services or in person to the City of Martinsville, Attn: Gary Oakes, 59 S. Jefferson Street, Martinsville, IN 46151 until 4:00 pm on March 24, 2025. Bids received after such hour will be returned unopened. Bids will be opened and publicly read aloud at Martinsville City Hall, 59 S. Jefferson Street, Martinsville, IN 46151 on March 24, 2025, at 6:30 pm. Bids will then be taken under advisement for review by the owner and engineer.
The contract will consist of the following:
Construction of a new City parking lot on the SE corner of Morgan St. & Wayne Street
Complete sets of bidding documents may be viewed at City Hall, 59 S. Jefferson Street, Martinsville, IN 46151. Electronic bidding documents are available per request at goakes@martinsville.in.gov or hard copies can be picked up at City Hall, 59 S. Jefferson Street, Martinsville, IN 46151.
Each bid must be enclosed in a sealed envelope bearing the title of the Project and the name and address of Bidder. All bids must be submitted on the bid forms as identified in the Contract Documents.
Each bid shall be accompanied by a certified check or acceptable bidder's bond made payable to the Owner, in a sum of not less than five percent (5%) of the total amount of the bid, which check or bond will be held by the Owner as evidence that the bidder will, if awarded the contract, enter into the same with the Owner upon notification from him to do so within ten (10) days of said notification.
Approved performance and payment bonds guaranteeing faithful and proper performance of the work and materials, to be executed by an acceptable surety company, will be required of the Contractor at the time he executes his contract. The bond will be in the amount of 100% of the Contract Price and must be in full force and effect throughout the term of the Construction Contract plus a period of twelve (12) months from the date of substantial completion.
The Owner reserves the right to reject any bid, or all bids, or to accept any bid or bids, or to make such combination of bids as may seem desirable, and to waive any and all informalities in bidding. Any bid may be withdrawn prior to the above scheduled time for the opening of bids or authorized postponement thereof. Any bid received after the time and date specified shall not be considered. No bid may be withdrawn after the scheduled closing time for receipt of bids for at least sixty (60) days.
The Owner may make such investigations as deemed necessary to determine the ability of the Bidder to perform the work and the Bidder shall furnish to the Owner all such information and data for this purpose as the Owner may request. The Owner reserves the right to reject any bid if the evidence submitted by, or investigation of, such Bidder fails to satisfy the Owner that such Bidder is properly qualified to carry out the obligations of the Agreement and to complete the work contemplated therein.
Bids shall be properly and completely executed on bid forms included in the Contract Documents. Bids shall include all information requested by Indiana Form 96 (Revised 2013) included in the Contract Documents.
If project is $150,000 or more - State of Indiana requirement as of 7/2018, Bidder is required to submit with bid a written plan for an employee drug testing program that complies with IC 4-13-18-5 and IC 4-13-18-6.
Each Bidder is responsible for inspecting the Project site(s) and for reading and being thoroughly familiar with the Contract Documents and Specifications. The failure or omission of any Bidder to do any of the foregoing shall in no way relieve any Bidder from any obligation with respect to its Bid.

Food Inspection Report

Please note: The following are all routine inspections, except those marked as R/I, which are re-inspections required because of violations cited on routine inspections. (NC = noncritical, C = critical)

JANUARY
MARTINSVILLE
Taco Bell #3001024
3NC

Burger King #845
5NC

Chili's Bar & Grill
1C, 4NC
• Sanitizer in buckets tested at 0 ppm.

Wings, Etc.
2C, 2NC
• Chemicals may not be stored directly above or next to food-related items.
• Sanitizer buckets and bottles tested at 0ppm.

Gather Around BBQ
4NC

Martinsville Texas Corral
4C, 4NC
• Chemicals in working bottles must be labeled.
• Hand wash sinks must be accessible at all times.
• Raw potentially hazardous foods may not be stored in a manner that may contaminate other foods.
• Expired foods were found.

Papa John's Pizza
2C, 2NC
Rodent activity was observed.
Food contact items were stored on rusting shelves.

Casey's General Store #2221
4NC

Kroger J-907
2C, 5NC
• Raw potentially hazardous foods may not be stored in a manner that may contaminate other foods.
• Sanitizer tested at 0 ppm.

A Senior Retreat
No violations noted at time of inspection.

Morgan County Jail
5NC

Starbuck's Coffee #9398
2NC

Walmart Supercenter #1356
5NC

Mr. Gatti's Pizza
1C, 5NC
• The ice scoop was stored in a rusty ice scoop holder.

MOORESVILLE
Palm Cafeteria dba Steak N Shake
1C, 2NC
• Raw potentially hazardous foods may not be stored in a manner that may contaminate other foods.

Indy King Gyros
4C, 6NC
• Various meats were found holding at 97-120°F on the warming table; tzatziki sauce was found at 73°F.
• Date-mark all potentially hazardous foods.
• Chemicals may not be stored above or directly next to food or food-related items.
• Unapproved pesticides may not be used in food establishments.

Burger King #841
No violations noted at time of inspection.

The Grumpy Ice Cream
1C, 1NC
• The ice machine needed to be cleaned.

Casey's General Store #2280
1NC

Kroger J-921
3C, 6NC
• Chemicals may not be stored directly next to food-related items.
• The raw chicken cart in the deli was cracked and uncleanable.
• Raw potentially hazardous foods may not be stored in a manner that may contaminate other foods.

Marco's Pizza
2C, 5NC
• Chemicals may not be stored directly next to food-related items.
• Sanitizer at 3-bay sink measured at 0 ppm.

Papa John's Pizza #1487
1C, 4NC
• Wire air-drying shelf needs to be repaired/replaced.

Dairy Queen
1C
• Tape was found on interior of ice scoop holder.

Wendy's #105
1C, 2NC
• Sanitizer is required in wiping cloth buckets.

The House of the Master LLC
1C, 2NC
• The interior of the ice machine needed to be cleaned.

BROOKLYN
Brooklyn Dairyland
1C, 3NC
• Pizza screens stored on cardboard- store on a cleanable surface.

MORGANTOWN
Mis Dos Abuelos Mexican Restaurant
2C, 1NC
• All food contact containers must be made of food-safe materials.
• All pesticides must be approved for use in food establishments.

Brewed Awakenings Café
1C, 3NC
• Out-of-date foods were found.

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

ICAN

INDIANA CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK

ADVERTISERS: You can place a 25-word classified ad in more than 140 newspapers across the state for as little as $340.00 with one order and paying with one check through ICAN, Indiana Classified Advertising Network. For Information contact the classified department of your local newspaper or call ICAN direct at Hoosier State Press Association, (317) 803-4772.

FOR SALE - SERVICES & MISCELLANEOUS

Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just $20/month. For more information, call 1-855-572-5165

Prepare for power outages with Briggs & Stratton® PowerProtect(TM) standby generators - the most powerful home standby generators available. Industry-leading comprehensive warranty - 7 years ($849 value.) Proudly made in the U.S.A. Call Briggs & Stratton 1-877-798-0270.

DIRECTV- All your entertainment. Nothing on your roof! Sign up for Directv and get your first three months of Max, Paramount+, Showtime, Starz, MGM+ and Cinemax included. Choice package $84.99/mo. Some restrictions apply. Call DIRECTV 1-888-885-8931

FreedomCare. Let your loved ones care for you and get paid! Paid by Medicaid. Choose family or friends as your paid caregiver. Check your eligibility today! Call FreedomCare now! 1-844-563-4012

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and $1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-855-743-1911

New windows from Window Nation. Special money saving offer - zero down, zero payments, zero interest for TWO years AND buy 2 windows and get 2 FREE! Offer is valid for select models. Labor not included. Other restrictions apply. Call Window Nation today! 866-553-0725

Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waiving ALL installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. (Offer ends 3/30/25.) Call 1-866-937-1159

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-877-361-4260

Call LeafGuard and say goodbye to gutter cleaning for good. No cleaning. No leaking. No water damage. No more ladder accidents. Get LeafGuard today and be protected for life. FREE estimate. Financing available. 20% off total purchase (Restrictions may apply.) Call 1-866-641-9158

Do you know what's in your water? Leaf Home Water Solutions offers FREE water testing and whole home water treatment systems that can be installed in as little one day. 15% off your entire purchase. Plus 10% senior & military discounts. Restrictions apply. Schedule your FREE test today. Call 1-855-966-4836

Acculevel. Your foundation repair and basement waterproofing experts. Whether basement, crawl space or concrete slab we'll guide you on the right path to a healthy home. Act now! Up to $600 off. Restrictions apply. Call for a free consultation. 1-877-229-0197

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HEALTH/MEDICAL/INSURANCE

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A little luck to start the month



Art Cart
NANCY MAXWELL

The shamrock is one of the most recognized symbols. It conjures up all things Irish, including leprechauns, pots of gold, and good luck.

The word shamrock comes from the Irish word seamrog, meaning young clover. Historically, the shamrock is associated with St. Patrick, Ireland's patron saint, and it is said he used the clover in the fifth century to explain the Christian concept of the Trinity — the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, united as one. During the 18th century the shamrock transitioned to a badge of defiance during Ireland's struggles for independence. March 17th (461 CE) is the death date of St. Patrick. Worldwide the shamrock is a symbol of good luck.

The annual Indiana Plein Air Painters Association (IPAPA) meeting is this Saturday, March 9, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Glendale Public Library. Reply to IPAPA@INPAINTERS.ORG to be included in the lunch count. If you are new to plein air painting, joining IPAPA is a great resource for paint-out dates and locations, and painting pointers.

Indiana has a prolific history in plein-air painting, starting with the early Brown County Artists and the Richmond Group. Plein-air painting events are on the calendar every weekend somewhere in Indiana.

Painting outdoors, in whatever weather conditions are happening at the moment, sharpens observation skills, forces quick decision-making, and is just a wonderful challenge. Painting out with like-minded artists just adds to the fun!

The Martinsville Chess Club meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from 6 to 8 p.m. at Greeks Pizzeria on the Martinsville Square. Chess players of all ages and skill levels are welcome. BYOB (Bring your own board). No dues will be collected in 2025.

Morgan County Master Gardeners will host the 2025 GardenFest on March 15 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Mooresville Christian Academy, 4271 Ind. 144. Admission is $2. There will be garden vendors, free tree and seed giveaway, expert speakers on gardening topics, and of course, the annual special — the Pansy Sale. This is the 29th Annual Pansy Sale.

On Saturday March 22, from 9 a.m. to noon, the Morgan County Partnership for Water Quality will meet for a White River Clean-Up. Meet up at Three Rivers State Recreation Area, 4715 N. Ind. 67, just south of Bradford Woods.

Groups will work on clean-up at four sites: Three Rivers, Henderson Ford, Old Town Waverly Park, and the Paragon Public Access Site. For more information and to register, contact SWCD@MORGANCOUNTY.IN.GOV.

Art Sanctuary currently has one small main floor studio available and anticipates one or two larger studios will be available soon. Very reasonable rent includes 24/7 access, free parking, utilities, and Wi-Fi. Artists must be actively producing artwork, be open to the public a minimum number of hours each week, and be juried in by a resident artist board. Contact Ron Stanhouse, rstanhouse@aol.com for details and a building tour.

The Morgan County Extension Homemakers are now accepting vendor applications for their Annual Indoor Yard Sale, which will be held Saturday, April 12, at the Fairgrounds 4-H Building. Call or text Cindy Saferight at 317-682-7062 for vendor application.

It is not too soon to make plans for the 2025 Porcelain School of Indiana, held every year at the Morgan County Fairgrounds. This year's dates are Sept. 7-11, with several beautiful project options, Iris, Still Life with Wine Bottle and Grapes, a Snow Leopard on a Vase or Tile, Design Your Own Floral, San Do Portrait, Ocean Jewels on a Seahorse Tray, and a Watercolor Class will be among the offerings.

Some scholarship dollars are available, and a class specifically for beginners is planned. Complete information can be found at www.porcelainartschool.com Registration can be made by contacting CJ Laster at 614-582-7732 or cj@rllaster.com.

This week's wish list for the Morgan County Humane Society includes dry cat and dog food, unscented bleach, laundry detergent, wet and dry kitten food and creamy peanut butter. Pick up an extra package when you buy one for yourself.

Keep me posted at artcartmartinsville@gmail.com or nancy.maxwell@me.com.

Take me home, country roads



On That Note
BILLY OWENS

"Sunshine on my shoulders makes me happy …"
— John Denver

With spring right around the corner, we can almost feel the warm sunshine and sounds of nature outside our windows calling to us. They're letting us know it's time to start putting away those winter coats and hats and bringing out those lightweight jackets, and eventually, short sleeves and shorts. Before we know it, it will be time to start rolling down those windows in the car and playing the radio just a little louder.

Sunshine and good music has a way of making us all feel a little bit better. Like the John Denver song says, "Sunshine on my Shoulders make me happy."

Speaking of John Denver, I was at the historic Depot Theatre in Martinsville, located at 210 N. Marion St., a couple of Sundays ago for a tribute to the music of John Denver. Local musician Aaron Grubb performed to two sold-out shows on Feb. 23.

Aaron played all the classics and some of the songs that meant the most to him growing up. He had people singing, clapping along, and some even crying. Aaron kept the audience's attention between songs with great stories of John Denver and also stories from Aaron's own childhood and what got him inspired to become a musician — including a great tale about the first 12-string guitar he got and why it meant so much to him.

The night was full of reminiscing and stories, and you could just see the look on people's faces during the show and afterwards and know how much they really enjoyed it. Aaron greeted everyone after the show and thanked them for coming. It was like a reunion so to speak, a room full of friends and family just having fun and enjoying time together.



Local musician Aaron Grubb belts out another John Denver tune on Feb. 23 during one of his two concerts at the historic Depot Theatre in Martinsville. (Billy Owens courtesy photo)

Aaron had a lot of friends help during the show, including one friend who actually sat backstage and made sure all of his seven guitars were ready and in tune for each guitar change. Another friend took hours of video, while yet another captured audio and handled the sound. Aaron's longtime friend Chris Kinnick accompanied him on his saxophone.

When Aaron came to me with the idea of the John Denver show, I was on board immediately. Denver's music, like few other artists, has stood the test of time and is still getting radio play decades later.

Even if you are younger and probably think you don't know who John Denver is, I guarantee you would recognize several of his songs. The classic Denver tune "Country Roads" was just featured on a commercial during the Super Bowl this year and because of that, it found its way back to the Billboards top music charts and even climbed to No. 5 in country digital songs sales chart.

On that note, I'll leave you with this — don't be afraid to explore new music, but don't forget about classic music. Those are the artists that laid the foundation for all the music you listen to today.

And as always, support local musicians when you can! Those guys and gals are the ones playing for almost free sometimes just because they love entertaining us and bringing us music.

Billy Owens is a Martinsville native, husband, father of three, online content creator, and music enthusiast.



MINI MASTERPIECES

Tiny easels filled with tiny canvases blanket the counter last week at the Main Branch of the Morgan County Public Library in Martinsville, where the miniature art show was on display. The Tiny Art Show included dozens and dozens of paintings, most about 2 inches by 2 inches, from local artists young and old. A few mini Lego creations are also in the exhibit to showcase a different type of medium as well. (Stephen Crane photo / MCC)

What you accept …



Authors Who Serve
RACHEL HILLS

Authors Who Serve
All writers are invited to join our Mooresville-based writing group. Please email Rachel@AuthorsWhoServe.com for more information.

Lauren pulled into a small gap in traffic, loving the responsiveness of her Mini Cooper. The kids had taken too long to eat, delaying clean up, and she wondered if she could make up the time without getting a speeding ticket.

She hated being late, but having kids seemed to dictate time management. When her daughter came 10 months after the wedding, Lauren had held onto her college car despite Zach's wishes for a "family vehicle." With the arrival of the twins, he had insisted on the SUV.

She insisted on both. She didn't hate the larger vehicle, but the Mini was fun to drive, erasing 11 years of responsibility. For a moment anyway. And they could afford it.

She loved being Mom to their kids, but time with them required a level of energy that often left her drained. Zach's extroverted personality made sales the perfect job for him. He didn't see how her part-time job as therapist depleted her of energy for the kids.

These evenings out with college friends were fresh air.

As she looked at the time on her phone, a social media notification popped up. She checked traffic and opened the app. Another reference to running shoes. Ever since she mentioned that brand to her gym buddy, she began to see notifications. They even showed up as suggestions in her Amazon searches.

Ugh. She voiced her disgust at the invasion of her privacy as she turned into the restaurant parking lot.

Of course, her friends' cars were already parked. She looked for the table and hurried to join them. Ah, a Bloody Mary waited before her empty chair.

Warmth flowed over her at the sight. Lately, Zach seemed to forget the little things but not her friends.

For a couple hours, Lauren enjoyed chatting with her friends. They laughed and gasped at all the right places.

When she mentioned the unwelcome notification on her drive there, Lauren's oldest friend exclaimed, "I know! My sister called to tell me about her cruise, and suddenly, all the cruise lines show up on my social media."

Lauren walked out of the restaurant to the pinging of new notifications. She needed to order groceries online after she got home and didn't want to think what purchase suggestions would show up in her browser after tonight's conversation.

The presence of listening devices everywhere — Siri, Alexa, Google Assistant — made her tired.

She truly hoped the conspiracists were wrong about "big brother" checking on people. Who would believe internet searches on best suicide method or hidden cameras were part of prep for therapy clients who threatened suicide or struggled with a jealous spouse spying on them.

The best part of getting out for these evenings was not having to put the kids to bed. As much as she loved evening talk times before bidding sleepy eyes good night, she sometimes needed time away.

She sighed as the garage door opened and she parked the Mini. She would not accept guilt for feeling relief. In fact, she would celebrate the occasional off-duty bedtimes as keeping some measure of her identity, just as she'd kept the Mini.

And there they were when she opened the laptop. New "suggestions" appeared with each item she placed in the grocery order. What could she do about this intrusion? She'd heard of people blocking their phones from eavesdropping but had no idea how it worked.

Zach would likely scoff and call her concerns paranoia. Maybe they were. But what about First Amendment rights to privacy?

Maybe she should go back to a dumb phone. Or maybe she was stressing over nothing.

Three children. Didn't their children count for something? Did she want her children growing up under the shadow of every word they said being recorded and dissected?

And cameras. She had fought hard to keep cameras out of the home. She and Zach might miss some critical moment, but at what cost? How would their children define trust — whether they got caught on camera or whether they had integrity?

She decided integrity was the crux of her struggle. She had no control over big brother, but she could make choices for how she lived. She felt a fierce gladness they had no cameras inside the home. She could investigate how to turn off the listening apps in her phone.

And she could maintain a healthy sense of integrity in every life choice. She had come close to parking in a handicap spot close to the door tonight because she was late. Who checked on those anyway?

Maybe the Mini eroded her integrity, and she should trade it in.

Nah, driving the sporty little car reminded her of life outside the domestic front. And besides, it was made before cars had built-in GPS devices.

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

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