MOORESVILLE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR RETIRES | **FORMER ARTESIAN COACH CONNER RECEIVES JOHN WOODEN AWARD**

SPORTS | B1

MCC

THE MORGAN COUNTY Correspondent

The source for news from every corner of Morgan County

MORGANCOUNTYCORRESPONDENT.COM | EST. 2023

VOL. 3, ISSUE NO. 13 | THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2025 | $2.00

The new gold

Morgan County releases the results of long-awaited water study report

By Jared Quigg
MCC Reporter

MORGAN COUNTY — After two years of monitoring groundwater levels around Morgan County, the county finally released the results of its water study report last Friday.

The study, conducted by Bloomington-based environmental consulting firm INTERA and funded with federal money through the American Rescue Plan Act, sought to "understand the county's water resources and to ensure sustainable growth and development," according to a press release issued last Friday.

SEE WATER | PAGE A8



CHECKMATE

Martinsville High School hosts state chess championships Saturday

By Jared Quigg
MCC Reporter

MARTINSVILLE — It's gameday.

The parking lot at Martinsville High is packed this morning, and people from all corners of the state are exploring the building for the first time, donning their school's team on their chests, marveling at the wax figure of John R. Wooden and the rows of trophy cases in the hallway.

Concession stands selling hot dogs and popcorn have long lines throughout the building, and local businesses like Fables & Fairytales are getting in on all the out-of-town action.

More than 500 players from 123 teams are here for the tournament, all the way from Munster and Merrillville back down to Bloomington and Evansville. Along with the coaches and team family members, the high school is hosting close to 2,000 people.

In between rounds, some players can be found lounging around or practicing in the upper section of the gymnasium. The younger players can reliably be seen in any direction, chasing each other through the hallways wild and without care — until it's time for another match.



FROM TOP: Members of the Artesian Chess Club (seen on the right side of the photo) compete at the Scholastic Chess of Indiana state tournament on Saturday at Martinsville High School. Carter Dawson, Cameron Beesley, Carter Fultz and Parker Hayes were the county's representative players at a tournament that saw more than 500 players from every corner of the state visit Martinsville. // The fieldhouse at Martinsville High School was full of chess boards and serious competitors last Saturday. The teams ranged from kindergarteners to high school seniors, and hailed from about 100 different schools from throughout the state. (Jared Quigg photos / MCC)

Generally speaking, the whole place is loud and full of energy, exactly what you would expect on a Saturday morning gameday. The main action is taking place in the high school's fieldhouse, and all the way there, people are filing in and out, chattering, watching the children almost run into passersby at every turn.

SEE CHECKMATE | PAGE A8

Merger proposal voted down

Mooresville council wants to look at other options over the next year

By Lance Gideon
MCC Correspondent

MOORESVILLE — A round of applause by local residents could be heard at the Mooresville Government Center on last Thursday after members of the Mooresville Town Council unanimously voted to not proceed with a proposed fire territory with Brown Township that could have increased local property taxes by more than 30 percent.

SEE MERGER | PAGE A6



Another large crowd is gathered at the Mooresville Government Center last Thursday for the vote on the proposed fire territory that would have merged the Mooresville and Brown Township fire departments that could have added more than 30 percent to property taxes. The merger was ultimately voted down by the town council. (Lance Gideon photo / MCC)

Jim, Sharon Taylor named 'Mooresvillians of the Year'

Mooresville Chamber hosts annual dinner highlighting year-long efforts

By Merv Hendricks
MCC Correspondent

MOORESVILLE — Sharon Taylor devoted nearly five years to making a success of Mooresville's bicentennial observance. She also teaches fitness, tutors schoolchildren at the Boys and Girls Club of Morgan County and volunteers in a slew of community activities.

Her husband, Jim, a pastor of about 40 years' service, leads group studies at Charity Church in Indianapolis, officiates at weddings and funerals, and helped plan Mooresville 200.

Angie Turley leads Team Turley, a Mooresville-based branch of the Fairway Independent Mortgage Corp. (1 W. Main St.), supports other businesses and a wide range of community activities, and frequently honors police and firefighters, EMS, teachers and healthcare workers.

The Taylors and Turley took

SEE TAYLOR | PAGE A3



Obituaries

Sharie L. Turano, 69



MARTINSVILLE – Sharie L. Turano, 69, of Martinsville, passed away Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at Waldron Rehab and Healthcare.

She was born Tuesday, January 24, 1956, to the late Rudy and Dessie (Lyle) Gish in Indianapolis.

Sharie loved soaking up the sun while she was enjoying her outdoor hobbies. Although she loved being outdoors, she also loved to get all dressed up for any occasion.

She is survived by her sons, Seth Brinkmann (Tiffany) and Ben Brinkmann; brother, Ronald Gish; sister, Billie Lutane; grandchildren, Evah, Nora, and Nash.

Sharie is preceded in death by her parents, Rudy and Dessie.

There will be a Celebration of Life from 11:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Friday, March 28, 2025 at Eastview Christian Church.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Magdalene House, https://www.stabilityfirst.org/.

Costin Funeral Chapel, Inc.
Established 1923
539 East Washington Street Martinsville, Indiana 46151

John Wolfe Jr., 64



MOORESVILLE – John D. Wolfe Jr, 64, of Mooresville, passed away Thursday, March 20, 2025, after a long and courageous battle against Progressive Supranuclear Palsy while in the care of Life's Journey of Avon. He was born in Indianapolis on November 5, 1960, to the late John David Sr and Ellen Jenny (Nichols) Wolfe.

The oldest son of nine children, John grew up in Indianapolis and attended Ben Davis High School, graduating with the class of 1978. Learning the value of hard work at an early age, he got his first job at 15 with Mooresville Meat Packing. He later worked for DHL as a courier, until his illness forced him to retire in 2020.

When John was 16, he met a pretty, young girl named Patty Hickman, while cruising around in his Pinto. He informed her brothers that he was going to marry her one day, and a few years later they eloped on May 21, 1979, in Tennessee spending the next 45 years devoted to one another and raising their three beautiful daughters.

John enjoyed camping and loved to fish. A protective husband and father, he was a hands-on dad who coached his girls in basketball and softball. A jack of all trades, he educated the girls on how to be independent, which set the bar high for their future husbands. He was a people person who naturally drew friends in and enjoyed coin collecting and attending auctions. Strong, handsome, and loving to Patty, the couple supported each other 100% in their marriage and throughout this disease. John will be remembered for his strong love for his family and his words of affirmation to them such as "You're so beautiful" and "I love you so very, very much."

Along with his parents, John was preceded in death by his brother in laws, Fidel Gonzales and Don Parham.

He leaves behind his soulmate, Patricia A. Wolfe; daughters, Lindsey Wilson (Dave), Ashley Underhill (Nick), and Samantha Wolfe-Taylor (James). Four brothers Joe Wolfe (April), Kip Wolfe (Sandy), Tim Wolfe (Tina), and Rick Wolfe. Four sisters Brenda Gonzales, Pam Parham, Lela Lawson, and Diana Shrout (Terry); and eight amazing grandchildren, Kaitlyn, Owen, Camden, Wynnie, Lainey, Cali, Levi, and Charlee whom he absolutely adored.

Cremation Arrangements have been entrusted to Light Memorial & Funeral Chapel in Monrovia. John's family would like to acknowledge and thank Dr. who finally gave John his diagnosis. The two became exceptionally close throughout John's PSP journey. They would also like to thank Brighton Hospice for their tender, loving care for John.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donating in John's name to help find a cure for PSP. https://www.psp.org

Light Memorial & Funeral Chapel

Death Notices

Morgan County Health Department

Shirley Fae Huffer, 96, Mooresville
William R. Loveless, 90, Plainfield
Mary Ann McCord, 80, Camby
David Harvey Stroud, 66, Martinsville
Kenneth D. Bartlett, 91, Mount Vernon
Ralph Pemberton, 95, Mooresville
Pamela J. Staley, 76, Plainfield
Robert Eugene Bailey, 84, Martinsville
Irene Francis Medsker, 95, Mooresville
Gayle Patricia Gangl, 82, Franklin
Christopher Stewart, 76, Morgantown
Devon Anita Collins, 70, Camby
Angela Renee Thomas, 56, Mooresville
Orville Douglas Whitis, 61, Camby
Robert McAdoo Jr., 58, Mooresville
Della Anne Caywood, 84, Martinsville
Michelle Elaine Burns, 60, Martinsville
Joni D. Stanfield, 66, Monrovia
John Biddinger, 86, Mooresville
Richard Glenn Fox, 91, Mooresville
Anna Louise Eaton, 81, Mooresville
Sara Louise Bond, 94, Mooresville
Brenda Kay Bray, 66, Mooresville
Glenda Faye Deckard, 84, Martinsville
Wayne M. Poynter, 89, Mooresville
John T. Turner, 93, Mooresville
Helen Frances Firkins, 94, Indianapolis

Obituary Notices

Elmer Pollard, 89

MONROVIA – Elmer Pollard, 89, of Monrovia, died March 11, 2025. Arrangements by Light Memorial and Funeral Chapel in Monrovia.

Kenny Shupe, 86

MONROVIA – Kenny Shupe, 86, of Monrovia, died March 20, 2025. Arrangements by Light Memorial and Funeral Chapel in Monrovia.

Judith Raymer, 82

MARTINSVILLE – Judith "Judy" A. Raymer, 82, of Martinsville, died March 21, 2025. Arrangements by Costin Funeral Chapel in Martinsville.

Kenny Vaughn, 85

MONROVIA – Kenny Vaughn, 85, of Monrovia, died March 13, 2025. Arrangements by Light Memorial and Funeral Chapel in Monrovia.

Frances Bocook, 79

GREENWOOD – Frances Bocook, 79, of Greenwood, died March 20, 2025. Arrangements by Light Memorial and Funeral Chapel in Monrovia.

Barbara Golay, 94

MOORESVILLE – Barbara Joan Golay, 94, of Mooresville, died March 24, 2025. Arrangements by Carlisle-Branson Funeral Service and Crematory in Mooresville.

Jail Bookings

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

Dayton Michael Bain, 22, Mooresville, sexual battery and battery/bodily waste.

Danny Keith Barger, 49, Martinsville, writ of attachment.

Merit Otis Barnett Jr., 43, Martinsville, serving time – interfering with public safety.

Julian Bell, 23, Mooresville, disorderly conduct, minor consume and alcoholic beverage, battery-against public safety officer engaged in official duty, and resisting law enforcement causes bodily injury.

Jessica Ann Brashers, 36, Camby, wanted on Boone County warrant.

Leon Terry Brewer, 60, Camby, possession of methamphetamine, possession of paraphernalia, possession of marijuana, and assisting a criminal.

Richard Lee Bryant, 61, Indianapolis, failure to appear.

William Gordon Bunch, 47, Heltonville, battery.

Anthony Dale Childs, 33, Columbus, battery and disorderly conduct-fighting.

Evan Michael Cook, 26, Martinsville, petition to revoke probation.

Jamie B. Coon, 53, Mooresville, battery-body injury and disorderly conduct.

Dawn Marie Eddie, 49, Mooresville, possession of methamphetamine and driving while suspended-prior.

Mark Allen Flinchum, 35, Cloverdale, serving time – habitual traffic violator.

Daniel Garza, 65, Indianapolis, unlawful entry of motor vehicle.

Kevin Michael Grimm, 36, Mooresville, operating a vehicle with a blood alcohol content of .15 percent or more, operating a vehicle while intoxicated-endangerment, and operating a vehicle while intoxicated.

Tyler Alan Haemmerle, 40, Coatesville, bond forfeiture.

Justin K. Houk, 39, Lebanon, wanted on a Boone County warrant.

Richard Waylon Howe, 40, serving time – probation violation.

Yoni Joel Izaguirre, 29, Martinsville, serving time – operating a vehicle with a blood alcohol content of .15 percent or more.

Meredith Leigh Jenkins, 75, Indianapolis, operating a vehicle while intoxicated-endangerment.

Jaden M. Lindstrom, 18, Camby, serving time – juvenile arrest.

Anna L. Martin, 31, Martinsville, court-ordered return-theft.

Kayla Marie Martinez, 38, Monon, serving time – probation violation.

Brandon Mascoe, 34, Westfield, driving while suspended.

Bryce Lynn May, 38, Bloomington, serving time – theft and battery.

Antoinette Marie Paquette, 30, Brooklyn, habitual traffic violator.

Shane Andrew Richardson, 42, Martinsville, serving time – contempt of court-civil.

Marcos J. Rivera Lopez, 35, Indianapolis, violation of pretrial release.

Ronald Norman Rose III, 19, Mooresville, bond forfeiture.

Justin Ryan Shipley, 37, Martinsville, invasion of privacy and criminal mischief.

Joseph Sweatt, 44, Indianapolis, driving while suspended.

Isaiah Douglas Ware, 26, Indianapolis, domestic battery-simple assault and strangulation.

Jeannette Faye Whitaker, 56, Martinsville, battery, residential entry, and disorderly conduct.

Macalib Whitaker, 23, Martinsville, battery-bodily injury, residential entry, and disorderly conduct.

Michael Kody White, 27, Mooresville, criminal confinement, domestic battery-serious bodily injury, strangulation, obstruction of justice, domestic battery-simple assault, intimidation, interfering in the reporting of a crime, and disorderly conduct.

Michael Fredrick Wilson, 51, Martinsville, driving while suspended-prior and failure to appear.

INDOT warns of 'toll fee' scam

From INDOT

INDIANA — The Indiana Department of Transportation is aware of a tolling-related text message or "smishing" scam targeting Hoosiers statewide.

False messages appearing to come from INDOT or tolling service providers alert recipients of a "final notice" regarding unpaid tolls and mention additional fines, late fees, suspension of vehicle registration, vehicle impoundment, and further legal action, in addition to a link for payment.

"INDOT does not and will not notify drivers of unpaid tolls via text message," said INDOT Strategic Communications Director Natalie Garrett. "We urge members of the public to exercise extreme caution before opening suspicious links. The best thing to do is delete these messages."

Various "smishing" scams have been ongoing since the spring of 2024. The FBI issued a warning on April 12, 2024, citing more than 2,000 complaints of false text messages representing toll collection services.

The agency encourages victims of fraudulent messages to report them to its Internet Crime Complaint Center at ic3.gov, and to delete the texts.

Marriage/Divorces

Marriage Licenses

Elijah Blake Lewis, Avon; Abigail Marie Byrne, Mooresville
Christina Powel, Camby; James E. Stevens, Camby
Jennifer O'Neal, Martinsville; Mason Kutruff, Martinsville
Brandon Thomas Blinn, Mooresville; Torieonna Rosealee Alexas Buchanan, Mooresville
Destiny Leigh Graham, Martinsville; John Day, Martinsville
Alison Harper, Martinsville; Draven Gill, Greensburg
Logan Michael Stephens, Mooresville; Emerie Rose Carter, Mooresville
Connor Russell Yorn, Gosport; Alexis Paige Davis, Mooresville
Natashia Faith Nicole Stancombe, Mooresville; Bradley Edward Hayes. Mooresville
Haley Willey, Mooresville; Kevin Brewer, Mooresville
Odner Ciceron, Monrovia; Miriame Saint Jean, Monrovia
Joshua McDonald, Indianapolis; Andrea Jett, Martinsville

Divorces

Kyrah Bain vs. Cody William Bain
Louina Guillaume vs. Jean Will Alfred
Bobbi Elliott vs. Carl Elliott Jr.
Magdy Mohamed Elsayed Mohamed Ahmed vs. Cynthia Dianna Walker
Jonathan M. Wennen vs. Abbie M. M. Wennen
Faith Arteaga vs. Jorge Arteaga
Mark Sullivan vs. Lori Sullivan

Court News

Morgan County Superior Court I
Judge Dakota VanLeewen

Brienna M.Comer, 24, Michigan City, resisting law enforcement and false identity. Sentenced to 100 days in jail (time served), fines and costs of $190.

Ronda K. Hamilton, 54, Mooresville, operating a vehicle as a habitual traffic violator. Sentenced to 180 days in jail, fines and costs of $190.

Ronda K. Hamilton, 54, Mooresville, probation violation. Probation terminated unsuccessfully.

Alex Govanni Mil-Chapol, 24, Camby, operating while intoxicated endangering a person. Sentenced to 365 days in jail, suspended except for six days to serve (time served), 86 days home detention, 365 days probation, fines and costs of $190.

John Purcell, Gosport, probation violation. Sentenced to 1,077 days in the Indiana Department of Corrections.

Superior Court III
Judge Sara A. Dungan

Joshua Perry Cruse, 45, Martinsville, intimidation. Sentenced to 316 days in jail (time served), fines and costs waived as court finds defendant to be indigent.

Joshua Perry Cruse, 45, Martinsville, invasion of privacy. Sentenced to 365 days in jail, suspended, 365 days probation, fines and costs of $190.

Brian E. Hawes, 40, Mooresville, possession of methamphetamine. Sentenced to 910 days in jail, suspended except for 120 days to serve, 790 days probation, fines and costs of $790, firearm recovered as scene to be destroyed by Morgan County Sheriff's Office.

Tyler Smith, 36, Seymour, promoting professional gambling over the internet. Sentenced to 180 days on home detention, fines and costs of $190.

Carl L. Swango, 43, Martinsville, battery resulting in bodily injury to public safety official. Sentenced to 1,866 in jail, suspended except for 406 days in jail (time served), 1,460 days probation, fines and costs of $190.

Carl L. Swango, 43, Martinsville, possession of a narcotic drug. Sentenced to 545 days home detention, fines and costs of $390.

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.

Managing Editor
Stephen Crane
scrane@morgancountycorrespondent.com

Advertising Representative
Melissa Jones-Plunkett
ads@morgancountycorrespondent.com

Reporter
Jared Quigg
jquigg@morgancountycorrespondent.com

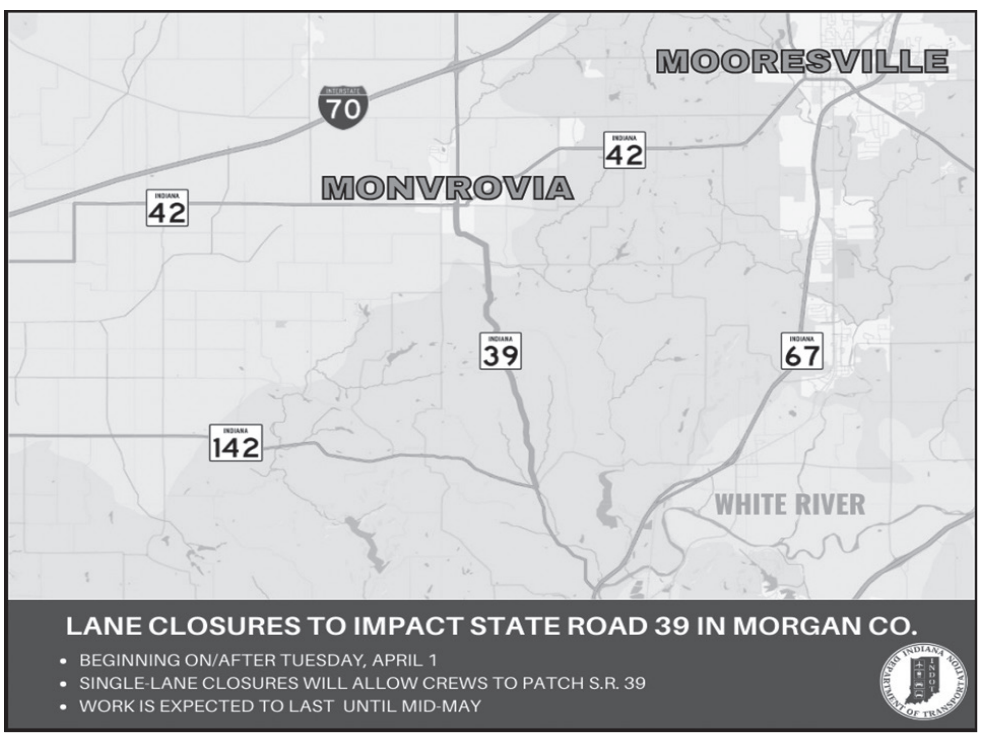
Office Manager
Kimberly Pond
office@morgancountycorrespondent.com

Office Hours
8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday

Phone Numbers
General Office 765-201-0302
Retail Advertising 765-201-0765
Classified Advertising 765-201-0302

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

The Morgan County Correspondent (USPS PE#25709)
Morgan County Correspondent (PE#25709) is published weekly by Morgan County Correspondent, LLC 109 E Morgan St. Martinsville, Indiana 46151.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Morgan County Correspondent 109 E. Morgan St. Martinsville, IN 46151-1544.
Periodicals postage paid at Martinsville, IN 46151.



New Arrivals

Paisleigh Daupert

Paisleigh Jolene Daupert was born March 7, 2025, to parents Alexis and Ethan Daupert, of Martinsville.

Colt Schmitt

Colt Matthew Schmitt was born March 17, 2025, to parents Jalen and Kwinten Schmitt, of Camby.

Aurora Brannin

Aurora René Brannin was born March 17, 2025, to mother Ashley Freeman, of Indianapolis, and father Dillien Brannin, of Indianapolis.

More charges brought against former teacher

Husband also faces felony intimidation charges for allegedly threatening victim

By Keith Rhoades
MCC Chief Correspondent

MORGAN COUNTY — A former schoolteacher is facing additional charges after alleging having sexual relations with her students.

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

Her husband, Nicholas Fortinberry, has also been charged in this case.

He has filed for divorce from his wife.

In the October 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.

The additional charges are the result of publicity Fortinberry received after she was initially charged. Several parents notified the sheriff's office about alleged misconduct that went on between Fortinberry and their sons.

In the February case, the state has filed the additional charges.

In addition to the original five counts, the state has added five counts of child molesting as level 1 felonies, one count of child molesting as a level 4 felony, eight counts of sexual misconduct with a minor, all level 4 felonies, four counts of contributing to the delinquency of a minor all level 5 felonies, five counts of dissemination of matter harmful to a minor all level six felonies, and one count of performing sexual conduct in the presence of a minor, a level six felony.

The new criminal counts allegedly occurred between Jan. 1, 2022 and Dec. 31, 2024.



BRITTNEY



NICHOLAS

The alleged victims were between 13 and 15 years of age and the alleged criminal acts occurred in her home.

The probable cause filed by Morgan County Det. Patrick Williams lists information he received from several of the teenage boys, all under 16 years of age, concerning alleged criminal activity that went on at the Fortinberry home.

The probable cause lists numerous alleged sex acts and drug use that went on in the home.

It is also alleged that Fortinberry gave the boys marijuana, psychedelic mushrooms, and alcohol at her home and had group sex with them. She allegedly sent the boys pictures and videos of her having sex with other men, using sex toys, and dancing around a stripper pole. She also allegedly violated one of her children with a toy.

Brittney Fortinberry will have an initial hearing on her new charges on Thursday, April 3, at 2:15 p.m. in Morgan County Superior Court III.

Husband charged

During the investigation of Brittney, Det. Williams was given information that her husband, Nicholas, knew about his wife's alleged illegal activities and had allegedly supplied her with the mushrooms he allegedly grew in their basement, as well as marijuana. He allegedly told at least one boy that if he told about his wife's actions, he would "slaughter him in front of his family."

Nicholas Fortinberry is charged with intimidation as a level six felony and failure to report (child abuse) as required by law.

There is a pretrial conference scheduled for April 28 at 1 p.m. in Superior Court III.

Nicholas has filed for divorce from Brittany. The case is pending in Superior Court II, The next hearing date for the divorce is April 28 at 10 a.m. in the magistrate's court.

Government Meetings

April 1
The Morgan County Native and Invasive Plant Partnership will meet at 6 p.m. at the administration building, 180 S. Main St. in Martinsville.

The Mooresville Town Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Government Center, 4 E. Harrison St.

April 3
The Mooresville Redevelopment Commission will meet at 6 p.m. at the Government Center, 4 E. Harrison St.

April 7
The Morgan County Drainage Board will meet at 8:30 a.m. in the administration building, 180 S. Main St. in Martinsville.

The Mooresville Library Board will hold a meeting at 9 a.m. in the Bonita C. Marley Community Room at the library, 220 W. Harrison St.

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

- 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 27
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 First Presbyterian. All are Welcome.

Dirt Diggers Garden Club meeting at Doris Daily Park, 815 South Mulberry St. in Martinsville at 1 p.m. for a work session. New members are always welcome.

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

Sew What?! Fiber Group at Waverly Branch of Morgan County Public Library, 9410 E State Road 144 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Bring your current project and join us.

March 28
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

Monthly Dinner at VFW Post 1257, 1000 Josephine St. in Martinsville, steak and fish dinner with potato and salad starting at 6 p.m. Cost is $20, $15 for fish.

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 29
Weed Wrangle at Jimmy Nash Park, 360 N. Home Ave. in Martinsville, from 9 a.m. to Noon. Garlic Mustard pull, hosted by Morgan County Native and Invasive Plant Partnership.

Field Day at Morgan County Public Library, Monrovia Branch 145 South Chestnut St. from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Assortment of challenges, come play outside!

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

March 30
Live Music at Cedar Creek, 3820 Leonard Road East of Martinsville, featuring Phil Pierle at 2 p.m.

March 31
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.

Mega Euchre at Martinsville Senior Center from 6 to 9 p.m. $10 All are welcome. Last Monday of every month.

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.

April 1
Dementia Caregiver Support Group at A Senior Retreat, 609 S Lincoln St., Martinsville, 2 to 3:30 p.m. FREE caregiving with RSVP 317-999-8145 x1. First Tuesday each month.

Native and Invasive Plant Partnership meeting at Morgan County Admin. Building, 180 S. Main St. in Martinsville, Lucille Sadler Meeting Room at 6.p.m.

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

April 2
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.

April 4
Music Bingo at Cedar Creek, 3820 Leonard Road East of Martinsville, from 6:30 to 10 p.m.

April 3
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 First Christian. All are Welcome.

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.

April 4
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

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

April 5
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.

Maple Syrup Day at Bradford Woods, 5040 Ind 67 North, Martinsville from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free pancake breakfast, silent auction, maple syrup and cinnamon rolls available for purchase. Visit the Syrup stations, see the syrup making process.

April 7
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.

YA for Adults Book Club at Morgan County Public Library, Main Branch 110 S. Jefferson St. in Martinsville from 7 to 8 p.m. Read and discuss Young Adult literature, meets the first Monday of every month.

Young Life of Morgan County Launch Party at The Brickhouse, 128 N. Main St in Martinsville. Live music and entertainment, $1 Pizza. Inviting all High School students in Morgan County. Parents are welcome too.

April 8
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.

April 9
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.

Martinsville Crime Watch meeting at Morgan County Public Library, Main Branch 110 S. Jefferson St. from 6 to 7:45 p.m. Speaker Major David Rogers, Morgan County Jail.

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.

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

April 10
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 First Methodist. All are Welcome.

TAYLOR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

home top honors at the Mooresville Chamber's annual banquet last Thursday evening — the Taylors as Mooresvillians of the Year and Turley as Business Person of the Year at what was the Chamber's 75th such event.

All three have served or are serving as Greater Mooresville Chamber of Commerce board members, and all drew praise from the chamber at the banquet.

Of Turley, the chamber's accolades stated: "Over the last several years, Angie has been a part of the very fabric that makes Mooresville the great town it is to live in. Her accomplishments and levels of involvement stack up as high as any previous winner of the award."

Noted for a "vibrant and expansive personality … she has had a profound impact on our community and we know she will continue to do so."

Of the Taylors, the chamber stated: "Yes, we are lucky to have a couple this year! As the Mooresvillian of the Year committee read through the many nominations of Jim and Sharon, we kept seeing the words 'dedicated, hard-working, friendly, community minded.' … Their tireless work that was accomplished during the Mooresville 200 Celebration is enough to earn this distinction, but it certainly does not stop there."



Jim and Sharon Taylor pause with their plaque after being named the Mooresvillians of the Year at the Mooresville Chamber of Commerce banquet last Thursday evening. They received the award for their many community contributions, but especially all the work they put into the town's bicentennial celebration last year. (MPWImages courtesy photo)



Team Turley owner, Angie Turley, is all smiles with 2025 chamber president Tiana McGhee last Thursday after being named the Business Person of the Year at the Mooresville Chamber of Commerce banquet. (MPWImages courtesy photo)

Chamber President Tiana McGhee presented the awards.

Turley and the Taylors said they were surprised and shocked to have received the honors.

"It's amazing," Turley said. "I'd be lost without my team [of nine employees] that lets me do everything that I do."

Every Friday, her team wears red as part of a program called American Defenders, that honors active-duty military and veterans. Her firm also champions Home for Heroes, which provides free appraisals and works to save money on mortgage processes for emergency responders and those in healthcare and education.

After visiting nearby towns, Jim Taylor told the audience of about 200 gathered at Jones Crossing Banquet and Event Center, "I always want to come back home. We love it here and we love all of you.

"I had thought it might happen 10 to 15 years from now, but certainly not tonight," he said. "I believe Sharon really deserved it for her work the last five years on Mooresville 200. I didn't expect co-Mooresvillian of the Year."

After months planning Mooresville 200 — a year-long celebration of the town's two centuries of history — "I loved it; it was fun to sit back and enjoy it." She said she is grateful for the volunteers who helped produce the events and for the community for taking part.

Since moving to Mooresville from Florida in 1989, Sharon Taylor said, "through the years, I always heard the Lord say, 'Stay. Don't leave. Stay.'"

Life-saving interventions from corporate sponsor

Representatives from the Indianapolis Airport Authority, which is the chamber dinner's corporate sponsor, offered advice on saving heart attack and cardiac arrest victims.

Fred Pervine, chief of the airport's fire department, led a demonstration of a machine called a LUCAS (Lund University Cardiopulmonary Assist System) device that provides mechanical chest compressions on a continuous basis and avoids rescuers' fatigue that occurs during manual CPR. The device costs about $20,000, but Pervine encouraged local officials to consider such a purchase.

About 70 AEDs — automated external defibrillators — are placed through the airport, over half of them inside the terminal. Those devices send electric shocks to the heart to restore normal rhythm.

Pervine encouraged local fire departments and ambulance services to use AEDs to treat heart patients quickly. They cost $200-$300. The chief offered to help local emergency responders establish use of AEDs where they are not already in use. "The life you save may be a loved one, may be a friend when time is of the essence," he said.

Chamber leadership

Outgoing president
Susan Lowe, awarded a president's plaque

2025 president
Tiana McGhee

Outgoing board members
Dan Carmichael (Mooresville Christian Academy), Andy Hendricks (A-1 Window Cleaning) and Jeannie Aydt (1 Better Onscreen Advertising)

2025 board members
Lynne Walters (Bliss Glass), Johnnie Robbins (WCBK), Jack Klemeyer (Grow Your Business Consulting), Tabatha Sutton (PDS Connect), Keith Parker (C2IT Consulting), Sharon Taylor (Boys & Girls Club of Morgan County), Bobi Culver (Mayfield Insurance), Elias Maqueda (Indianapolis Airport Authority) and Chrystal Rogers (Dave Rogers Modifications).

Executive director
Mindy Taylor

Opinion

Protecting families starts with having smart safeguards



Guest Column
SHANNON KOHL

Too many families in Indiana have lost loved ones to opioids, often after an innocent beginning — a routine prescription following surgery or injury. The opioid epidemic doesn't discriminate. It can start in a doctor's office, a recovery room or a medicine cabinet at home. And once it takes hold, it's often too late.

I lost my 33-year-old son to opioid addiction. His struggle was heartbreaking, and his death has left a permanent hole in our family. But sadly, my story is not unique — that's why I'm speaking out.

Indiana has made progress in fighting the opioid crisis, but our work is far from over. Right now, some lawmakers are considering a proposal — Senate Bill 480 — that would weaken a critical tool in preventing opioid misuse before it starts: prior authorization. This safeguard requires healthcare providers to consider whether opioids are truly necessary before prescribing them.

It's a simple but effective measure. Prior authorization ensures that safer, non-addictive alternatives — like physical therapy or non-opioid medications — are considered first. It prevents unnecessary prescriptions that too often become the first step toward addiction.

Every day, I work with families and children — some of whom have seen addiction tear their lives apart. I've watched young people lose parents to overdoses. I've seen bright futures dimmed by the consequences of opioid abuse. And I know that once addiction takes root, the road back is long and painful — if it comes at all.

More than 80% of patients receive opioid prescriptions after low-risk procedures, even when safer options exist. Many don't need them — but they take them anyway, because they trust what they're being prescribed. And sometimes, that one prescription sets off a chain reaction that leads to addiction.

Prior authorization helps ensure that opioids are only used when medically necessary, rather than as a first option. If SB 480 passes, it will strip away one of the few remaining checks we have to prevent addiction before it starts.

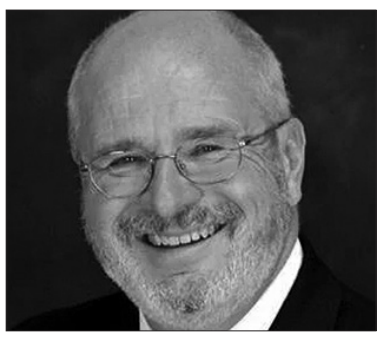
If Indiana is serious about fighting the opioid crisis, we cannot afford to weaken prior authorization. We need every safeguard possible to protect families like mine from experiencing the unimaginable loss of a loved one.

I urge lawmakers to take a step back and consider the real, human cost of this decision. If even one life can be saved — if one family can be spared the pain of losing a son or daughter — then keeping prior authorization in place is worth it.

Indiana's families, businesses, and communities deserve policies that protect us from addiction — not ones that make it easier for opioids to flood our homes and hospitals. Let's get this right.

Shannon Kohl is the former mayor of Martinsville.

Tough enough to be kind



The Statehouse File
JOHN KRULL

The morning former U.S. Sen. Birch Bayh (D-Indiana) died, I talked with former U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Indiana) by phone.

I'd called Lugar to see if he'd be willing to talk about Bayh over the air on a radio show I hosted at the time.

Lugar couldn't make the scheduling work — he had a speech to give at the same time my show ran — but he agreed to record some comments.

What Lugar said about Bayh was gracious. He said Bayh was one of the great senators not just in Indiana's history, but in America's history. Lugar lauded Bayh for being the only lawmaker in U.S. history to author two constitutional amendments and for being the father of Title IX.

He said Bayh was a giant.

The thing that seems remarkable about Lugar's praise now is that the two men had a history. They ran against each for the U.S. Senate seat Bayh held in 1974.

That was an election year fraught with free-flowing partisan rage and resentments. The Watergate scandal had reached its climax with the resignation of President Richard Nixon and the subsequent pardon by his successor, President Gerald Ford.

Americans felt hurt.

Betrayed.

Angry.

Bayh and Lugar could have given free rein to that anger when they campaigned against each other.

But they didn't.

That's because they respected each other.

And they respected their country.

They knew that, once the votes were counted, we all would have to find ways to live together. They also knew that responsible leadership involved helping find ways to do that rather than seeking out wedge issues to drive us farther and farther apart by making us angrier and angrier.

At the end of that interview on the day Birch Bayh died, Dick Lugar lingered on the phone with me for a moment.

"You know, John," Lugar said, his voice wistful, "in all the years Birch and I knew each other, we never exchanged a cross word."

That phone call was the last time I ever spoke with Dick Lugar.

Somehow, it always seemed fitting that our last conversation was about greatness, about respect — and about the ways a shared love of country can triumph over many lesser political differences.

A little more than six weeks later, Lugar died, too, taking with him, it sometimes seems, some fundamental part of the American spirit with him.

I've been thinking about that phone call with him — and about his kindness, courtesy and generosity.

About how Dick Lugar was a great man who also was a decent man.

But it wasn't just Lugar.

I find myself thinking also about a far more distant chat I had with the man Lugar lauded, Birch Bayh.

That talk came during the waning days of the 1990 Indiana secretary of state race. Then Indianapolis Mayor Bill Hudnut, a Republican, was on his way to losing that campaign, a bitter pill for a man who'd won four straight mayoral elections in Indiana's largest city.

Bayh's response to Hudnut's impending loss was compassionate.

Bayh said that almost all political careers end in defeat. What mattered, he said, speaking softly, were not the wins and losses, but the people one helped along the way—the ways that a leader encouraged people to make their communities, their states and their country better, kinder places.

Bayh lost his last campaign to office. It hurt him, he said, because no one likes to lose.

But he added that, as time went on, he thought more about the good he'd been able to do when he was in office than he did about that final sting of defeat.

He hoped, he concluded, that Bill Hudnut would come to take satisfaction in the people he'd helped when he had the chance, rather than linger on any loss at the ballot box.

Birch Bayh and Richard Lugar were Indiana's two U.S. senators from 1977 to 1981. Reasonable people can and do argue about which one of them was the finest senator in the state's history, but there's no serious dispute about who belongs in the top two.

They were very different men, but they were alike in at least two important ways.

They were both tough enough to be kind.

And strong enough to be generous.

At one point, they helped us find the best in ourselves.

Maybe remembering them can help us find it once again.

John Krull is director of Franklin College's Pulliam School of Journalism and publisher of TheStatehouseFile.com, a news website powered by Franklin College journalism students. The views expressed are those of the author only and should not be attributed to Franklin College.

States of denial

Government transparency is spotty in the states — and worsening



Sunshine Week
MEGAN RHYNE

As the director of the Virginia Coalition for Open Government — a 29-year-old nonpartisan, nonprofit devoted to helping the public navigate the ins and outs of access to state and local government records and meetings — I'm often asked which state has the best open records or open meetings law.

It's a fool's gambit to give a conclusive answer.

The words on the page of any given state law may look fine. But those words can be stretched to the point of breaking by some local government, school district or state agency. Meanwhile, just one city over, or at another agency even within the same building, those words may be applied within both the letter and the spirit of the law.

State by state. Locality by locality. It's going to be different.

Nonetheless, regardless of the strengths or weaknesses of each state's laws, there are a few challenges every state faces.

To start at the very top, the constant drama that characterizes our national political scenes sucks the oxygen out of state transparency efforts. Coalition leaders like me can wave flags, blow whistles, or yell at the top of our lungs, but we are all too often drowned out by the din of partisan rancor at the federal level.

So, there's an overarching climate state open-government advocates must overcome. But there are specific statewide threats we are all dealing with right now.

The cost of obtaining public records varies by state, with charges for materials like paper and flash drives widely allowed. However, states differ on fees for search, review or redaction time. No perfect fee statute exists, though, because provisions are often manipulated.

The sad reality is that fees are used as a deterrent: If we charge enough, they will go away. This interferes with journalists' ability to get records they need for reporting, and it means people of limited means are priced out of their ability to hold their government accountable.

High fees are often justified by governmental bodies by what they see as a legion of "vexatious requesters." These are people who bombard public bodies with records requests just to throw sand in the gears of government operations. Some states have already put limits on how many requests someone can file or under what circumstances, and many other states are trying.

Disappointingly, there are bad actors, but what is driving many of these governmental bodies across the country to paint requestors as vexatious is the sheer amount of records that are generated even for a relatively simple request. We are all drowning in email. We use email for everything, we attach things, we "CC" everyone or "reply all," we create long email chains that quote and requote the previous message. Even for a narrow period of time or for a limited number of email inboxes, the number of potentially responsive records that must be combed through is immense.

Two vexatious issues plaguing public meetings in every state are public comment periods and electronic meetings. Comment periods — with their limited public forum First Amendment implications — are often not even a part of a state's open meetings law, but we've all seen videos of the vitriol spewed by speakers on the one hand to citizens being manhandled out of a meeting on the other. State open-government coalitions spend a lot of their time explaining what their law and the constitution say about public comment periods.

During COVID, we all learned that meetings could be rigged up to ensure the public got to observe and participate in virtual meetings. After COVID, it seems that many governmental bodies forgot. While members of councils, commissions and boards fight for their own right to participate remotely, they have balked at suggestions that they give the public that same right to observe and/or participate via Zoom or some alternative platform.

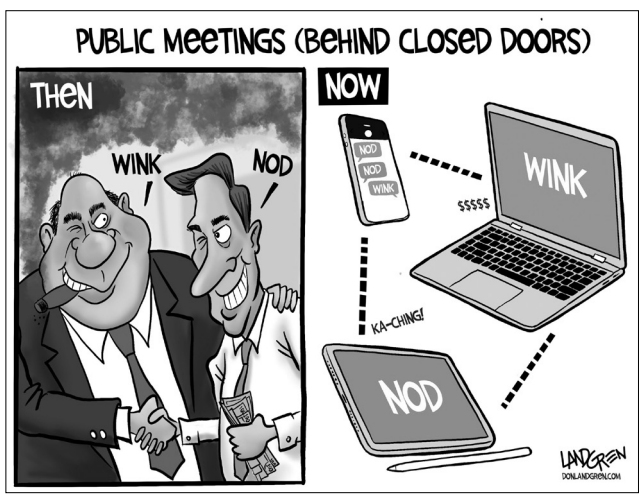
Some of these challenges are intentional obstacles thrown in the way of the media and the public to prevent them from knowing too much. But some are the product of inadequate training. Even states with mandated training struggle with scofflaws and high turnover. Training, too often, also comes from sources that encourage a presumed-closed mindset instead of a presumed-open one.

There are plenty of other areas we all struggle with right now: police accountability, economic development, disappearing messaging apps, lack of enforcement mechanisms, underutilization of technology, and on and on and on.

If state open-government coalition leaders have one thing to be thankful for it's that they will always have work to do.

Megan Rhyne has been the executive director of the Virginia Coalition for Open Government since 2008 and worked with the organization for 10 years prior to that. She is also the part-time administrator for the National Freedom of Information Coalition. She can be reached at mrhyne@nfoic.org.

COMICS







FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

The freedom of the press is one of the great bulwarks of liberty, and can never be restrained but by despotic governments.

— George Mason

Youth center celebrates 27th anniversary

From Rev. Linda Presley
Haven Youth Center

MARTINSVILLE — The Haven Youth Center, located at 39 E Jackson St. in Martinsville, is celebrating 27 years of service to Martinsville Middle School youth during the month of March.

The Haven provides a free after-school and summer program for Morgan County youth. The generosity of many individuals, community organizations, churches, and grants through the Kendrick Foundation and the Morgan County Substance Abuse Council have made these programs for youth possible.

Paid qualified staff and volunteers provide a safe place for youth to be themselves, have fun with friends, eat nutritious snacks, get help with homework, learn new skills, and provide community service.

Registration for the 2025 Summer program will begin in April. It will be open to youth entering fifth through eighth grades.

Each of the eight weeks, beginning June 2, will have a different theme around "Fun, Food and Friends," and each week includes a free field trip.

Visit the Haven Youth Center Facebook page for more information or email lpresley@thehavenyouthcenter.org.



Cake and ice cream is on hand as student participants at the Haven Youth Center gather 'round to celebrate the center's 27th anniversary earlier this month. (Haven Youth Center courtesy photo)

MCA MARCH HONORS



Mooresville Christian Academy seventh-grader Laston Blaschke holds up his certificate last week after being named MCA's Student of the Month for March. According to his nominator, Laston 'has such a positive attitude and is a hard worker. He is always volunteering to help teachers and at events without asking for anything in return.' (Danielle Ashton courtesy photos)



Mooresville Christian Academy preschool teacher Jamie Stout is honored as the MCA Teacher of the Month last week. She was chosen 'because she is always going above and beyond for her students, co-workers, and own children. ... She genuinely loves her job and her students. She does whatever is necessary to encourage and help make better any person or situation.



From left: State Sen. Rod Bray, Gabriella Davis, Maxwell Harris, Cassidy Wright, DAR member Jacquelyn Burke, Ella Jackson, Sophia Saucerman, Samantha Resler, Christina Li and State Rep. Craig Haggard gather for a photo during a reception in Martinsville on March 16. (Jacquelyn Burke courtesy photo)

Local seniors honored by DAR

From Jacquelyn Burke
DAR Ten O'Clock Line

MORGAN COUNTY — The Martinsville Chapter of the Ten O'Clock Line Daughters of the American Revolution recently honored seniors from area high schools as the prestigious winners of the local Good Citizen Awards.

A reception was held March 16 at the SCI REMC Community Room, where State Sen. Rodric Bray and State Rep. Craig Haggard presented the winners with certificates, gifts and patriotic acknowledgements for their achievements.

Only one senior is selected from each of the seven area high schools. These young persons were chosen by their various high schools for qualities of a DAR Good Citizen — Dependability, Service, Leadership and Patriotism. We are proud of their success.

In addition, Christina Li, a senior at Tabernacle Christian School, was honored as the DAR District Essay Contest winner.

DAR Good Citizen Winners 2025

Gabriella Davis, Mooresville High School
Sophia Saucerman, Eminence High School
Ella Jackson, Brown County High School
Maxwell Harris, Monrovia High School
Cassidy Wright, Mooresville Christian Academy
Christina Li, Tabernacle Christian School
Samantha Resler, Martinsville High School

Allen named county's Libertarian chair

From the LPMC

MOORESVILLE — At its annual convention on March 11, the Libertarian Party of Morgan County elected Eric Allen as the new chairman of the party.

Originally from North Carolina, Allen has been an Indiana resident since 2013, and a member of the Libertarian Party of Indiana since 2020. He served as outreach director from 2020-2023, then as vice chairman.

"I am extremely excited to take this leadership position with the most dedicated political party in Morgan County," said Allen in a written statement. "We are in a great position to give Morgan County voters better options for better government, which we have always represented over the entrenched one-party regime."



ALLEN

Danny Lundy, who held the chairmanship since 2019, was elected as the new treasurer. Antonia Cover was elected as the party's new secretary.



Ready to expand your business?

When you get a commercial loan with Home Bank, you get a helping hand from real people who want you to achieve your business goals. Our expert lenders are happy to answer any questions you have along the way. Contact Wade today at **homebanksb.com/wade** to set up a meeting!

Wade Phelps
VP/Regional President
Commercial Loan Officer

HomeBank SB
Celebrating 135 years

Member FDIC
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER
NMLS# 446350

REMEMBERING RONLI



The gravesite of Ronli Ratliff at White Lick Cemetery west of Mooresville is decorated with portraits, balloons and fresh flowers on March 14 in honor of her birthday. Ratliff was killed in April 2004, found in a burning home on Dayhuff Road. Her case remains unsolved, but her aunt, Kimberly Sink, along with other family members continue to seek justice in the case. Anyone with information concerning Ratliff's murder is asked to call the Morgan County Sheriff's Office at 765-342-1080. To remain anonymous and possibly be eligible for a reward, call Crime Stoppers of Central Indiana at 317-262-8477. (Kimberly Sink courtesy photo)

AG WEEK AT THE STATEHOUSE



From left: State Rep. Craig Haggard (R-Mooresville), Morgan County Farm Bureau Inc. rep Patrick Maxwell, MCFB rep John Phillips, Indiana State Treasurer Daniel Elliott, Morgan County Commissioner Don Adams and wife Lynn Adams gather for a photo in the rotunda of the Indiana Statehouse on March 12 during the Indiana Farm Bureau's legislative breakfast. Ag Week was celebrated March 9-15, and Morgan County Farm Bureau Inc. representatives used last Wednesday as an opportunity to visit with legislators, including Haggard, Elliott, State Rep. Peggy Mayfield (R-Martinsville) and State Sen. Rodric Bray (R-Martinsville). They discussed property taxes and water with lawmakers, among other ag-related topics. (Treasurer Daniel Elliott courtesy photo)

The harbinger of spring is here!

She wore her yellow sunbonnet.
She wore her greenest gown.
She turned to the south wind,
And curtsied up and down.
— AA Milne, from Daffodowndilly



Grandma Theresa Cullison enjoys a recent 'Paint Along' class with her grandkids in the Kodey B Studio, which is offering new kids classes this summer. (Courtesy photo)



Art Cart
NANCY MAXWELL

Arrive the daffodil, that harbinger of spring that marks an ancient foundation, long after all signs of human habitation are gone.

Daffodil bulbs can survive over a century, flowering for many decades. Named for a young male dandy in Greek mythology, tricked into falling in love with his own reflection, the drooping yellow petals are thought to represent Narcissus leaning over a pool of water to see his own reflection. Narcissus, the botanical name from the Greek work narco, refers to the overall toxicity of the plant — a characteristic that keeps deer and rodents from eating them, allowing them to thrive and multiply.

Known to have traveled with the Romans throughout their empire, they made their way to Britain and were introduced to the North American continent from there. We enjoy their sunny presence as we leave winter grays behind and welcome Spring.

The Helen Link Daffodil Field, adjacent to the Goethe Link Observatory, 8403 Observatory Road just north of Centerton, will open soon — the last weekend in March and weekends throughout April — to enjoy the daffodils. Members of the Indiana Daffodil Society and Morgan County Master Gardeners are on hand to answer questions. Please park in the parking lot, not along the road edge.

An informative and easy read book that discusses human world migration through the history of plant migration is "The Botany of Desire," by Michael Pollan. Fascinating, if you are a plant person.

Kodey B Studios at Art Sanctuary has published her Summer Art Class Schedule for youth. Brush, paint and play with eight weeks of classes, meeting on Tuesdays and Thursdays, in June and July, opt for the 6-8-year-old group, or the 9-11-year-old group. All supplies are included, and a discount is given for students signing up for the entire set. Class size is limited so reserve your spot early!

For additional information and registration, contact Kodey.lw@gmail.com@kodeybstudio. Kodey, experienced art educator and art therapist, also offers "Wine and Canvas" and "Paint Along With Me" groups for large and small groups. Girlfriends' night out, Grandma and the kids, birthday paint parties? Let Kodey plan a memorable event.

April 5 is Maple Syrup Day at Bradford Woods from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. A fun day for the family following the maple syrup journey from tree to table, Maple Syrup Day includes a free pancake breakfast with an option to purchase cinnamon rolls. A silent auction fundraiser will be ongoing that day. To donate items or be a sponsor, email Nicholas at nyhunter@iu.edu.

Enrollment is also now open for Bradford Woods Climbing Club. Sessions are scheduled for April 8, 15, 23, 30 and May 6, with an overnight climbing experience on May 9-10. Summer camp registration for both day and overnight camps are also open at bradfordwoods.iu.edu.

Centerbrook Drive-In is now open at weekends with prices that have not changed in almost 10 years — what a deal!

Cedar Creek Winery hosts Ben Tatum on March 29 and Phil Pierle on March 30. The next Music Bingo at Cedar Creek is April 4.

The Mabel B Annis Student Show continues at the Brown County Art Gallery in Nashville through April 13. Several Martinsville High School students have pieces in this outstanding show. BCAG is always free and family friendly, with free parking; enjoy the historic collections, work by Nancy Noel, the current Artist Association work, the Bill Zimmerman Bird art collection, Gustave Bauman print room and the Annis Student Show at one easy stop! Perfect day trip for Spring Break!

Keep me posted at artcartmartinsville@gmail.com or nancy.maxwell@me.com.

Martinsville talks problem properties

By Keith Rhoades
MCC Chief Correspondent

MARTINSVILLE — The Martinsville Unsafe Building Authority met last Wednesday, March 19, for a short meeting.

The authority voted to send a registered letter to the owner of a home on South Marion Street that has significant damage to it. There is a large hole in the roof, and several of the windows have been broken. The city has been trying to work with the owner on the property for some time but has not had any meaningful response.

The authority's attorney will send the letter requesting the owner come to the next scheduled meeting. If they do not get a response, the authority could vote to have the building demolished.

The owner of a home on West Douglas Street met with the authority. She told the group her mother passed away a couple of months ago, and she was now the owner of the property.

She told the authority she was working to repair the home, but it was taking time. She was also unhappy the city was complaining about trash in her yard. She said there were other homes in the area that had as much if not more trash on their property, and the city had not done anything about.

She was told by authority member Tom Gray the authority is only concerned about making sure buildings on the property are secure and safe. He said they are not concerned about trash in the yards.

Another authority member said the city had lost their former code enforcement officer but had hired a new person who would be working in the city within two weeks. The authority will give the owner another month to get the home secured.

The authority discussed several buildings in Martinsville that may need their attention. The city's building inspector is working with the owners to fix any problems.

The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, April 16, at 7 p.m. at city hall, 59 S. Jefferson St.

MERGER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

Because the town council voted against the proposal, the Brown Township Board did not take a vote on the territory.

The March 20 meeting was considered a "public meeting" as opposed to a "public hearing." This means there would be no testimony taken from the public during the meeting while the council and board discussed the proposal.

At the beginning of the meeting, attorney Jeff Bellamy explained what would need to be done during the meeting and how that would determine the future of the proposed fire territory.

Bellamy explained that both the town council and township board would need to vote in favor of moving forward with the proposal in order for it to move forward. That means the Brown Township Board members, Billy Snyder and Eric Roberts, would have to unanimously vote in favor of the territory. The board currently only has two members after Steve Oschman moved out of the township in early January.

The town council would need three out of the five votes in favor of the proposal to move forward.

"If one or the other does not have enough (votes), we're done for the year," Bellamy said.

After Bellamy's presentation, members of the council and board offered comments before taking an official vote.

Brown Township comments

Roberts thanked everyone who came out to the meetings and the efforts by town and township officials. He noted that while the township has some of the lowest property tax rates in the state, the county has one of the highest income tax rates in Indiana.

"I'd like a little more effort on the county's part getting some of that money that should be coming to us, back to us," Roberts said. "I'm greatly in support of a territory from the standpoint of the fact that I hope some day, as a citizen of the town of Mooresville and a taxpayer in Brown Township, that when I need a firefighter or an ambulance to show up to my house, I can only hope and pray that there is one that comes to my house — and that it's not in Brooklyn or it's not in Monrovia or coming up out of Martinsville."

Snyder said he was "100 percent in favor of this marriage."

"However, I did not want it increased at what the budget proposed," Snyder said. "I think it needs to be renegotiated … and maybe get this marriage started."

Township trustee Mark Harris, who had no vote in the matter, said there is some urgency in finding solutions for fire protection for Mooresville and Brown Township.

"But, are we going to make it through another year?" Harris asked. "We'll make it through another year. You will still receive the best quality care services that we can possibly give you from Brown Township Fire and EMS."

Council comments

Mooresville Town Councilman Jeff Cook said he appreciated the communications he's received from the public.

Cook said there are other options available that should be looked into regarding fire and EMS protection in Mooresville and Brown Township.

"I think we can be more transparent," Cook said. "By transparent, I mean there are other options available. Whether they're more expensive (or) less expensive, or what that case may be, I don't know — a lot of you guys don't know. I need to educate myself. You guys need to educate yourself. We can do that by continuing talks with public meetings for the rest of this year."

Cook said he believes the other options include opting the town and township into county EMS or a fire district.

Councilman Kirk Witt said there needed to be some change in fire protection in Mooresville and Brown Township, but not at the potential property tax rate increase.

"I think we can wait until next year to try to get it — use the year to try to get something worked out because I can't, I just can't approve that much money for our citizens and our business owners that I've talked to and everybody that's here."

Town councilman Josh Brown said he would like to see what other options are available for fire protection in the town and township.

Councilman Greg Swinney said he believes there needs to be a year-long process and asked those present to continue to be involved in that process.

"We do need to do more for (the firefighters), and I think if we put our heads together I think we can do that," Swinney said.

Town council president Tom Warthen said the state sets how the town can collect its funds and how those funds can be used.

"We played by the rules; that's the way the state has us to do it," Warthen said. "We don't have a way to build the Mooresville Fire Department with the levies that we have. They don't have a way to build the Brown Township fire departments with the way they have it. Something will have to be done."

Ultimately, Cook made the motion to not proceed with the fire territory, with Brown seconding that motion. Warthen then took a roll call vote with all five members of the council voting to not proceed with the proposed territory.

Amigos, part two



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.



(Courtesy photo)

After a few laps, Elise said, "And the rest of the story?"

Rob panted — too many Bismarks lately — and nodded toward the pool steps. They climbed out and selected chairs. After a quick toweling, he struggled into a T-shirt as she slipped on a cover-up.

"I'll get some water," she said.

"I drank mine!" His tone was a mix of worry and belligerence.

She grinned over her shoulder. "Sparkling water, friend."

She returned with a tray holding two chilled bottles of San Pellegrino, tumblers of ice, and slices of lime.

"I see you added more than a roof over the pool."

She smiled and said, "When Charles left, I dedicated this home to how I can serve others on their healing journey. That's why I had the pool enclosed and added a mother-in-law quarters to this end of the house. Someone can stay here in complete privacy."

"Well done, but I don't have the bandwidth to help anyone else right now."

"How could you? Karen first got diagnosed when your girls were, what, 12?"

"Around that, yeah. She fought for 17 years before it finally took her."

"How are the girls now? Her brave battle affected them, too. Do you suppose it impacted their career choices?"

"I can't see it any other way. They seem to be okay, but neither one got married. I think our history kept them from risking marriage and having families."

He took a deep drink of the sparkling water and looked at her.

"My family of origin essentially dictated my career choice. I've never been happy in engineering. I keep wondering if choosing my passion would have made a difference in our lives."

She startled. "What would you have done instead?"

"I wanted to be in some kind of ministry. Hospital chaplain came to mind after all the time we spent there. I love studying everything about ministry — spiritual, emotional, practical."

"And I can see you doing that! Why did you go into engineering?"

"Expectations. Family history, only son, open doors. My heart was never in it, but I earned a good living so I stuffed the dissatisfaction."

"And stuffed your soul, too."

His smile was rueful. "Yeah. What about you? Before kids, we four amigos had amazing adventures in our 20s, but your focus on building your practice was intense. Do you have any regrets?"

"Not serious ones. I had enough freedom to be wife and mom and still have a successful career. But pediatrics is demanding. I let it take time and focus from Charles and the boys, as you know."

He grimaced. "Looking back, I see things I wish I'd done differently."

"Don't we all. But your girls are beautiful and talented. Karen confided more than once how glad she was to be home with them. Before kids, she was the leader of our amigos group. No regrets there."

He laughed, but the smile faded too soon.

She grasped his hand.

"I have veggie lasagna in the freezer. Go shower and we can share lunch."

Steaming lasagna, a crisp salad, and two more bottles of chilled San Pellegrino sat on the table when he returned from his shower. They said grace and began to eat. Occasional laughter punctuated the easy conversation of two old friends.

She observed, waited, then saw her opening.

"Rob, I know you've been taking online courses. Are they about a chaplaincy?"

His head snapped back, but he nodded.

"How many more before you can get a position as chaplain?"

"One class left for my master's, practical stuff, and finding a position."

"Was this a way to stuff grief or process it?"

He sighed. "Both. Karen's been gone for two years, but it feels like yesterday."

"And the house? It's empty most of the time. Are you ready to let it go?"

Quick anger flared in his eyes. "The question is not letting go. The bank is taking it."

"Come on, Chaplain Rob. You've studied trauma. Can you let go of the house?"

He closed his eyes, bowed his head.

"Because if you can, I have an idea."

He groaned. "Not sure I want to hear this. How did you keep going when Charles left?"

"Raising the boys kept me on track to some extent. Of course, I had to grieve his choice to leave. I found a new me emerging from the wreckage. Once the boys were grown, the house was empty, and I nearly sold it."

He raised his eyebrows and pointed to the pool.

She nodded. "Water. In all its forms. Life source. That's why I had the pool enclosed and the extra rooms added. Water has brought healing to me. Now I can offer others the same, including you.

"Rob, what would you think of living in the mother-in-law quarters for a season while you secure a chaplaincy?"

He gasped, mock horror. "Living in sin? What would a hospital board think?"

She laughed and shoved the San Pellegrino toward him.

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

Spring rendezvous at the riverbank

From Lisa MacPhee
Morgan County SWCD



Participants at Saturday's annual River Cleanup gather for a photo before dispersing to four different public access sites along the White River – including Three Rivers, Paragon, Henderson Ford and Waverly – to pick up trash along the riverbank. More than 80 people participated Saturday. (Lisa MacPhee courtesy photo)

WHITE RIVER — Last Saturday morning was crisp but sunny. More than 85 participants of all ages showed up to for the annual spring cleanup of the banks of the White River at four separate locations in the county.

The cleanup is a family affair, and several kids were there for an opportunity to learn about caring and giving back. Little ones were bundled up, and friends joined one another on the hunt to fill their buckets!

While the county looks for more ways to provide recreational access to the river, the Morgan County Partnership for Water Quality (PWQ) has been organizing cleanups along the river for almost 15 years. The partnership is comprised of the MS4 (stormwater) areas within the county, which includes the MS4s of Brooklyn, Martinsville, Mooresville, Tri-County, and Morgan County itself. They work together to educate and inform the public of the importance of clean stormwater practices, pollution prevention, and other issues affecting the counties' stormwater systems.

Many participants are repeat volunteers and look forward to the opportunity to gather along the riverbanks and work together to clean it up every year. Much of the trash collected gets stuck in vegetation when the river breaches its banks after heavy rain. However, a shocking amount of trash is left behind by folks who are at the access sites, in fact, to fish or hike along the river.

The PWQ has adopted the access sites because of this trend. There are four public access sites located in Morgan County — Old Town Waverly Park, Henderson Ford Road, Three Rivers south of Bradford Woods, and Paragon. All these sites have a small parking area and a boat ramp, except for Three Rivers, but none of them has trash receptacles. There is a carry-in and carry-out policy at all sites, like other park areas.

Over the years, the amount of debris and trash collected from the four different sites varies and is dependent on the amount of illegal littering and the amount of flooding that has occurred over the year. This year, the group was pleased that there were only around 10 cubic yards of debris and around 35 tires collected at the four sites.

Volunteers were rewarded for their hard work with event T-shirts, lunch at Mr. Gatti's Pizza, and a sense of accomplishment! Sponsorships and partners make this event a success! The Partnership for Water Quality would like to thank Jackson Junk, Big O Tires in Mooresville, Peine Engineering, Morgan County Recycling, and Morgan County Soil and Water Conservation District for all their support.

If you are interested in this or other outdoor volunteer opportunities throughout the county, join the Morgan County SWCD mailing list at www.MorganCountySWCD.org or give the office a call at 765-349-2060. There are a lot of ways to help!

Range request shot down by county BZA

By Keith Rhoades
MCC Chief Correspondent

MORGAN COUNTY — Around a dozen property owners signed up to speak Monday night against a request from Charles Dean Collier to operate a firearms training facility on his property located at 56000 Herbemont Road east of Eminence.

By a 4-0 vote, the Morgan County Board of Zoning Appeals denied his request.

Collier had purchased the property in October of last year. He is a certified instructor for both concealed carry and home defense fundamentals, as well as an authorized range safety officer.

Collier told board members he wanted to conduct firearms safety classes using .22 cal handguns. There would be no long weapons used on his range.

His classes would be eight hours in length with five hours of classroom training and three hours on the range. He would have a maximum of six students in each class and an additional range safety officer present.

Collier planned to construct a backstop for the range. He planned to buy and sell weapons on his property.

There were four people who spoke in favor of Collier's request.

Remonstrators speak

One of the remonstrators summed up the feeling of the group, "Don't destroy our peace."

Those that spoke told the board they had lived in the area for years, and they were concerned about the safety of their children and grandchildren.

One person told about the shooting that occurred several years ago when a gunsmith was test firing a handgun. The bullet traveled some distance before going through a wall of a home, hitting the owner and killing him.

There were concerns about property values and traffic concerns.

Several residents said the findings of fact, required by law, had not been met and therefore the request should be denied.

There were also concerns about the safety of farm animals in the area.

Before the board voted, Collier made one final statement.

He said there had been the remains of a shooting range on the property when he purchased it. He said the previous owner had been shooting on his property. He said other residents are shooting weapons, and he did not feel his use of weapons, under his control, would pose a danger to others.

During their deliberations, the board decided Collier had not met all the findings of fact that are required by law. They voted to deny his request.

In other business

The board voted to approve Linda Fuller's request for a variance of development standards to install a septic system on an adjoining lot. Fuller purchased two lots at 2645 and 2651 South Gayle Drive. She planned to build her home on one lot but due to the layout of the property, she would have to install her septic system on the second lot. The property is located in Jackson Township.

The next board of zoning appeals meeting is April 28 at 6:30 p.m. at the administration building, 180 S. Main St. in Martinsville.

Reserve officers to get body cameras and tasers

By Stephen Crane
MCC

MARTINSVILLE — Martinsville Police Chief Rick Lang has been working on getting his department accredited by adopting policies and best practices, which ensures consistency across the department and minimizes potential missteps by individual officers .

As part of the process, chief Rick Lang has implemented a number of new standard operating procedures (SOPs) through Lexipol — a national company that helps educate, implement and certify officers of a department.

In addition, Lang has had in-car and body cameras purchased and installed for all his officers, along with issued Tasers.

At Monday night's board of works and safety (BOW) meeting, Lang asked for additional cameras and Tasers — this time, for reserve officers.

"This is due to accreditation standards we're going to have to meet for the reserves," Lang explained. "We didn't buy those before when we outfitted the regular officers on the street."

The BOW approved the request, which includes 14 new body cameras, 10 Tasers and supplemental equipment like holsters and charging cables. The cost is $47,880 a year for nine years, for a total of $434,658.

According to clerk-treasurer Ben Merida, the department has the money in its budget, and it will come out of its local option income tax money.

In other business

• The BOW approved $17,000 for HWC Engineering to do a capital improvement plan at the city's wastewater treatment plant.

"This is a 5-to-10-year 'look ahead,'" said planning and engineering director Gary Oakes.

• A contract for generator maintenance was tabled after confusion arose about the cost for annual payments. The city has 14 generators at its various facilities, with a few more being added soon.

The next BOW meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. on April 14 in council chambers, 59 S. Jefferson St.

City council

• In a very short meeting, the council approved an amendment to the fee schedule it passed last fall. But the amendment was needed after a table was left off the original ordinance.

• The council approved claims totaling $2.16 million.

The next council meeting will be at 7 p.m. on April 14 in council chambers, 59 S. Jefferson St.

MSD superintendent: 'We really need your help'

Bowlen, school board call on parents to assist in combatting recent rise in threats

By Jared Quigg
MCC Reporter

MARTINSVILLE — The Metropolitan School District of Martinsville is asking for help.

At last week's regular monthly meeting of the MSD of Martinsville school board, district superintendent Eric Bowlen pleaded with parents to take further action in ensuring their children were not making violent threats — intended as jokes or otherwise — against the school district.

"Back when I was a kid, you might make a comment to a buddy — 'I'm gonna kill you,'" Bowlen said. "That's not the same today. It's unacceptable to say, 'I'm gonna go to the school, and I'm gonna shoot it up.'"

Bowlen called on parents to emphasize this message to their children, and to encourage them to be respectful on social media.

The superintendent's comments come on the heels of a challenging week for the district. The district notified families of three separate incidents in which students made threats against their classmates last week, all of which occurred on March 17 and 18.

The first incident on March 17 involved a student at Martinsville High School who had a BB gun in their boot, an act that is against the student code of conduct. The district received a tip about this student, and the MSD police department took the student into custody.

On the same day, the district notified families of students on bus 57 that a student said he was going to bring a gun to school the next day. The district said in its message to parents that the student who made the threat would not be allowed to ride the bus March 18 and was being investigated by the district's police department.

The third incident last week was perhaps the most substantial, as it delayed secondary school dismissal for the day. The district's police department received an FBI tip at the end of the day about a threat made by a high school student on social media. Bowlen said at the meeting that the district's police responded to the threat within four minutes, and the students involved in the social media threat had been detained.

"The district will seek the most severe consequences for those involved in this behavior, both legally and through the school's discipline policies," reads the district's message to parents.

The March 18 message to parents also said the police department determined the threat made against the school was part of a personal dispute, and was not actually a planned attack against the school.

School districts throughout the country have been on high alert in recent decades with the widespread rise in mass shootings at schools.

Morgan County, in particular, has had many recent incidents involving students who have talked about shooting up their schools, but actually had no intention of doing so. The threats themselves — whether made in jest, or actually intended — have alarmed district administrators tasked with making sure students are safe.

"Please talk to your children," Bowlen said. "We really need your help."

In other news

• The board gave approval to reconvening an Environmental Club and a Key Club at Martinsville High School. The latter was described by principal Jeff Bell as the "high school version" of the Kiwanis Club.

• Students from Martinsville High School's chapter of Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) were honored at the meeting. DECA serves to prepare students for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management.

Later in the evening, the board approved MHS's DECA to travel to Orland, Fla. for the DECA National Competition April 25.

The next meeting of the MSD of Martinsville school board will take place Thursday, April 17 at 7 p.m. at the Central Education Center, 389 East Jackson Street.

Council paves the way for housing, commercial development

By Lance Gideon
MCC Correspondent

MOORESVILLE — The Mooresville Town Council voted to rezone two parcels of land to allow for multiple uses on the land.

One of the parcels of land was zoned B3 while the other was zoned PUD-Commercial.

Both parcels were rezoned to PUD-E for mixed use.

"It's all going to be, both parcels, part of the same project," local engineer Ross Holloway said. "And it would be called Hopkins Town Center regardless of what I've got at the top of the page."

Holloway said there would be "patio homes," townhomes and rental units.

He also added there are plans to have restaurants and office buildings.

In February, the Mooresville Plan Commission asked Holloway to have a traffic study completed in the area. At that February meeting, the plan commission offered a favorable recommendation on the rezone requests, pending the completion of the traffic study.

According to Holloway, there is no significant traffic impact from the development on Bridge Street.

"However, having said that, there was a recommendation that INDOT might want to look at the timing for the traffic signal there to improve the flow," Holloway said.

Councilman Josh Brown, who also serves on the plan commission, asked if the developers had reached out to the Ford dealership about potential traffic.

Holloway noted that Ford Drive, which runs between the dealership and Bridge Street, is a private street owned by the dealership.

He said developers of Hopkins Town Center would be willing to put up signage to notify motorists that Ford Drive is not a public roadway.

According to Holloway, utilities are already present at the site, but there are some stormwater concerns.

The council unanimously voted to approve both rezone requests.

With the approvals, Holloway said the developers will have to go to the Mooresville Plan Commission with detailed plans for the proposal.

Tax abatements

The council also voted in favor of three confirmatory resolutions for tax abatements, one for Innovation Park 67 and two for Sun Polymers.

The council had previously approved declaratory resolutions for the three tax abatement requests.

Before the votes, the council held public hearings for all three resolutions in which no member of the public spoke.

In other business

• The council voted to approve a request from the Daughters of the American Revolution to allow banners of local veterans be installed on street lights along High Street.

• It voted to write off bad wastewater debt totaling more than $6,400.

• Park superintendent Phil Cornelius told the council that the parks department has released its virtual recreation guide — "Mooresville Connect."

He also told the council that Koorsen Fire and Security would be meeting to map out the final timeline for the town's camera and security project.

• Cornelius also announced that the parks' annual Easter Egg hunt would take place at 10 a.m. on April 19 at the baseball diamonds at Pioneer Park.

• Fire chief Matt Dalton told the council that new carpet for the fire station has been installed and that the department has offered two conditional employment offers. One offer has been rescinded while the other candidate would be starting soon.

The next regular meeting of the Mooresville Town Council is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 1, at the Mooresville Government Center, 4 E. Harrison St.

CHECKMATE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1



Middle school students are locked in fierce competition at the Scholastic Chess of Indiana state tournament Saturday at Martinsville High School. The game of chess, always popular worldwide, has grown even more in recent years as many people sought safe things to do inside during the COVID-19 pandemic. (Jared Quigg / MCC Reporter)

In the tunnel leading into the fieldhouse, large portraits of the Martinsville players hang gloriously for all the rival schools to see. The athletes in the pictures — Carter Dawson, Cameron Beesley, Carter Fultz and Parker Hayes — are all in uniform and wearing their battle faces, clearly intending to strike fear into the hearts of their opponents.

Something shifts when the door into the fieldhouse opens, and the raucousness outside ceases. All is quiet in here, and no one speaks above a whisper.

Fans of the tournament — the parents — lack a trusty press pass, and watch the action behind glass. Down on the field are countless rows of tables, with players sitting across from their opponents and only a 64-squared checkered board and a notepad between them.

"Keep your eyes forward and watch your own game," an older gentleman acting as a sort of referee announces to the high school teams before the second of five rounds begins for the day. "Don't even watch your friend's game."

Fair games are of utmost concern today, and even the slightest notion of teammates sending each other signals or help of any kind is intolerable. While the event of the day was very much a team tournament, every move — take, blunder or checkmate — is your own, and no help is allowed.

It's very serious stuff, no matter the age or skill level — last year, a Romanian grandmaster was disqualified from an event after being accused of cheating by using a phone tucked inside a bathroom stall between moves.

The borderline paranoia in the room might make the event seem testy, but this element is only a small part of the whole.

After 40 minutes of head scratching and chin stroking and deep contemplation, the players always smile and shake hands, no matter how crushing it is to be on the receiving end of one of the most brutal compound words in the English language — checkmate.

White pawn to e4

Chess is one of the most popular games in the world.

It has been played by millions and millions of people for hundreds of years, and despite the creation of better and better computers in recent decades, the game has still not been "solved" — there is no definitive strategy for beating any given opponent.

While the game is massively popular — evidenced by the massive turnout Martinsville High School had at the Scholastic Chess of Indiana state tournament on Saturday — it is widely seen (sometimes dismissed, even) as a game only for "smart people."

In other words, it's for nerds.

Two of the Martinsville players confirmed this when asked by *The Correspondent* about what their classmates think of chess.

"Yeah, they think it's pretty stupid," junior Cameron Beesley says sarcastically, really meaning that most of his peers did not play the game or think anything of it.

"They think if you play chess, you're pretty smart," junior Carter Fultz said, sounding, however, as if the word 'smart' didn't carry much weight.

The 2020 COVID-19 pandemic only made the game of chess more popular, with people everywhere desperate for things to do indoors. In October of that year, more than 60 million people watched Netflix's *The Queen's Gambit* in its first 28 days. Between 2020 and 2022, Chess.com saw monthly visitors surge from 8 million to 17 million.

And though the game is more popular than ever, its impact has not been so widespread here in Morgan County. While a city like Carmel brought a whopping five teams to compete in the K-12 tournament on Saturday, the Artesian Chess Club was the only team representing Morgan County at the event.

Artesian Head Coach Bill Pilat spoke about the struggles of trying to even form clubs throughout Martinsville, particularly with younger students, and especially with girls — 75 percent of the club is made up of boys. Pilat compared his difficulties attracting girls to the chess club with the district's push in general for girls to pursue STEM careers.

Pilat also said it was challenging to find four kids who go to the same elementary school to join the club and form a team. Bell Intermediate Academy was able to successfully form a team of four, but they did not qualify for Saturday's tournament.

Nevertheless, the fact that Martinsville was able to host such a large and successful chess tournament will be encouraging for the future of Artesian chess. Who knows — maybe someday soon Martinsville will field just as many teams as Carmel.

Castling

The home team is sitting around a table in a private room at the end of a successful second match. The Artesians dominated their opponents, winning three of four matches in a decisive manner, and now sit playing euchre and watching March Madness until they can begin round 3.

The boys give an impression of being almost familial with each other, effortlessly trading jokes and occasionally sitting in comfortable silence. They've played chess together for years now, and while they are the only team from the county at the tournament, they exude a relaxed comradery. They even mock the nervousness or self-seriousness of their competitors.

"Did you see how much your guy was shaking?" Carter Dawson asks Beesley, both of them laughing.

"My guy crossed his arms and didn't say a word the entire time," laughed Fultz.

The Artie boys in this room love the game of chess. They play it almost daily, either with each other or online. Chess.com has a very popular daily puzzle feature, and all of them try to solve it each day. And though the big trophies of Saturday's tourney ultimately went to schools like Carmel and Bloomington South, the Artesian team knows the game in and out, talking casually about chess theory and famous players.

Dawson, the team's only senior and captain, said his go-to opening is the London System, requiring the strategic positioning of pawns, bishops and knights in the center of the board, making attacks on the king difficult from practically any direction.

Parker Hayes, the team's only freshman, said if he's using the black pieces, he pretty much just copies his opponent's moves.

The Arties are a quick bunch, answering each question with the seriousness it deserves.

Why do you think your classmates aren't interested in chess?

"The game itself, and how the pieces move, isn't hard, but people can't get past the game looking hard," Fultz said.

"Yeah," Dawson says, "And if you want to get really good, you have to waste your life."

Would you say you guys are good at chess?

"We're probably right in the middle," Hayes says.

"Yeah, we compare to Carmel's E team," Dawson jokes.

I assume you guys love the game — what would you say you love about it?

"Yeah, it's pretty good," Beesley deadpans, and all his friends laugh.

"Winning a chess match makes you feel like you're smarter than the other guy," Dawson says.

The team captain would have that feeling three out of five times on Saturday, while the others would have it once apiece.

None of the boys have any plans to "waste" their lives and get really good at the game, but it's obvious chess will be a lifelong passion for each of them. They will eventually go their separate ways — Dawson in only a couple months — but those 32 pieces and 64 squares will bond them forever.

That, and those massive posters of themselves posing like varsity athletes — they confirmed they get to take those home with them when the tournament is over.

WATER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

Morgan County Administrator Josh Messmer further elaborated that the study — one of only two of its kind conducted by counties in the entire state — was undertaken with a "protectionist mindset," as local officials wanted to evaluate just how much water the county had at its disposal in order to sustainably manage its use.

And now that the study has been released, how much water does the county have?

The answer is quite a lot.

"Morgan County as a whole has abundant water resources, supported largely by the White River running the entirety of the county, flowing southwest from the northeastern corner to the southwestern corner," the study reads.

"(The Outwash/Alluvial Aquifer systems) supply the majority of water use in the county," the study continues. "The aquifer is comprised of thick glacial outwash sands and gravels capped by recent alluvial (river) deposits."

Messmer said the county has a large capacity for water usage, a resource he said was "more precious than gold." That will be encouraging for local officials seeking to stimulate economic growth — and with this much water, a lot of gold could follow.

Areas of concern

Stanley Diamond, an associate supervisor with Morgan County Soil and Water Conservation District, was loosely involved with the water study and gave his preliminary thoughts on it to *The Correspondent* this week.

After his initial reading, Diamond said he was overall pleased with the study, and thought it would be a very useful tool for both local members of the public and potential business owners who may want to come to Morgan County.

Diamond did, however, have several concerns.

"This study is a neon sign blinking for citizens and others to come and use the water," Diamond said. "That can be both beneficial, and possibly detrimental as well."

"I've seen large private companies take advantage of local government leaders in the past," Diamond continued. "Their primary interest is to their shareholders and not to our communities."

Diamond expressed potential concerns that large companies, including possibly the owners of additional data centers, would see the results of the water study and use them to benefit themselves at the expense of local citizens.

Additionally, Diamond had reservations about the minimal information about contamination and environmental considerations contained within the study. He said he intended to help protect the county's resources from exploitation, and hoped that government officials would use the knowledge within the study to enforce regulations to protect the county's abundant water supply, rather than allow private entities to simply use it as they see fit.

While Diamond was mostly critical on a preliminary level about what the county left out of the study, there were some areas of concerns for the county regarding what the study did find.

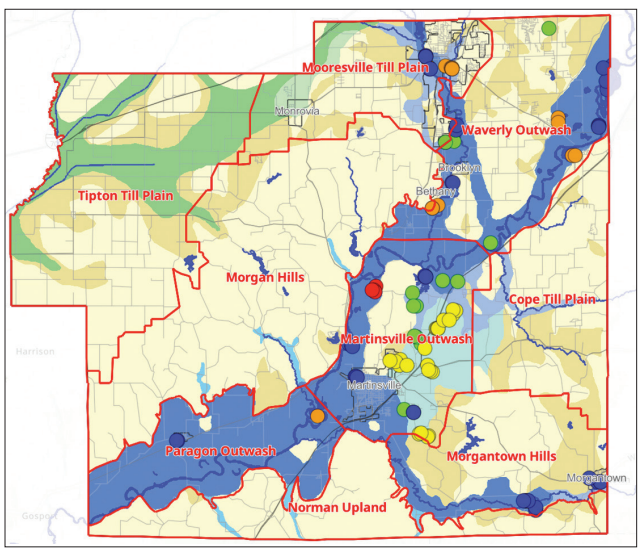
"Morgan County water availability is dependent on upstream discharges," the study reads. "In particular, the Bellmont and Southport WWTPs outfalls in Indianapolis support flows in the White River during dry periods."

Messmer said the county was somewhat worried about the possibility of anything happening to water sources up north that could negatively impact the water supply here.

Moreover, while the study itself is available online to anyone in the public, Messmer said it was mainly meant to be used by scientists and other professionals, and the language of the study often reflects that aim.

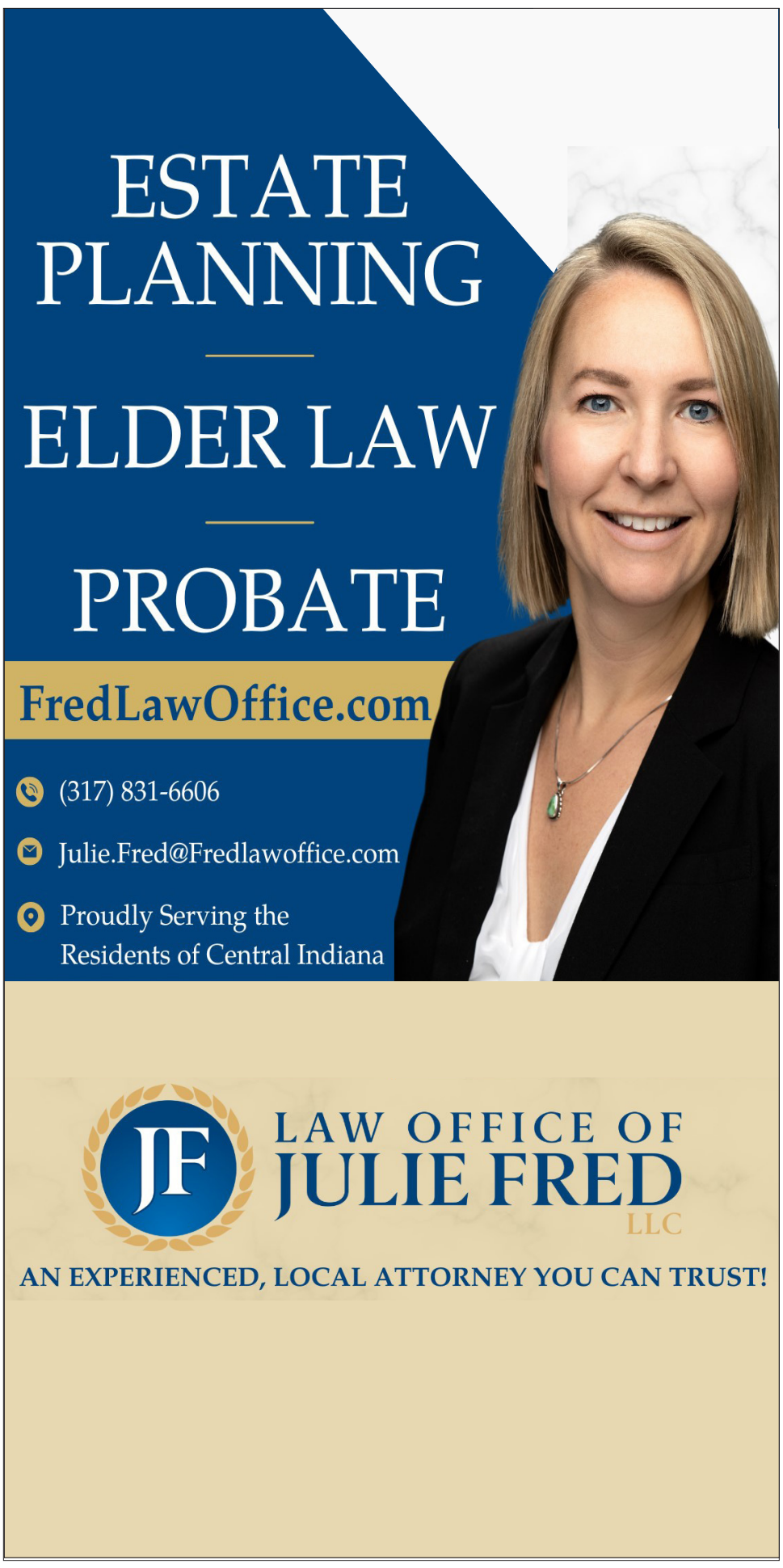
At any rate, the county intends to continue gathering information about the county's water supply, and the water study report will be used in the future to inform both local and state ordinances.

*For those interested in viewing the report, visit the Morgan County website — morgancounty.in.gov — and type **"water study"** into the search bar.*



One of the many maps produced as part of the water study details the various geographic areas that comprise Morgan County, including the central outwashes that comprise the White River valley. (Courtesy map)





WELL EARNED

Retirement arrives for longtime Mooresville Athletic Director

By Steve Page
MCC Correspondent

MOORESVILLE — For 28 years, nothing has kept Mike Mossbrucker from being an athletic director.

Coaches and administrators have come and gone. Even Mossbrucker has come and gone, leaving Mooresville High School to spend five years as athletic director at his alma mater, Bloomington North, then back to Mooresville.

And now?

Family.

"I felt like I'm getting to a point where I need to see my grandkids more. They live in Colorado," said the 66-year-old AD.

"My wife (Terri) and I wanted to do some things, and it gets to a point where we can move around, and we can still move around pretty well," Mossbrucker said. "I don't want to get to a spot where we can't move around, and we can't do anything. So that plays into it for me, for sure."

So with that in mind, Mossbrucker announced his retirement last fall. That decision becomes official Friday, his last day as an athletic director — just in time for him to be named the Athletic Director of the Year for the state of Indiana mere days ago.

"It's hard to walk away from a job I love," he said. "I love the people, the community. I feel like I contribute, but all good things come to an end, as people say.

"I feel I was at an age where I want to move on. Probably the thing I'm retiring to the most is family and spending more time with them. Just having the flexibility to go a little more freely than I can now. We're really excited about that."

His wife, Terri Mossbrucker, recently retired after 30 years as a Member Solutions Manager for Elements Financial.





FROM TOP: Mike Mossbrucker sits at his desk shortly before retiring as Mooresville's athletic director. // Mooresville wrestler Madison Whitted joins athletic director Mike Mossbrucker after being named the Most Outstanding Wrestler on the girls' side of the 2024 Holiday Classic Tournament. (Steve Page photos / MCC)

It has been quite the career, beginning when Mossbrucker was a youth.

"It's really good to think back to when I was a young kid," Mossbrucker recalled. "I remember my first coach — junior league football. He went to play for Indiana. My middle school coaches and high school coaches, how they got to me, taught me how to be good. The people you run across in your life. That's the good stuff.

"That's the stuff people pour into you. Terry Thompson (coach) was a guy who took interest in me as a person, got me a job in the summer. He was a big influence. I'm just really lucky."

SEE MOSSBRUCKER | PAGE B2

Legacy award winner

Former Artesian coach honored for winning ways with Wooden award

From Pat McKee
Indiana Basketball Coaches Assoc.

MARTINSVILLE — A former coach at Martinsville was recently named as one of two former successful high school basketball coaches to be recognized as the Indiana honorees for 2024-25 in the John Wooden Legacy Coaching Award program this year.

Presented by the National High School Basketball Coaches Association, Jan Conner, retired former coach at Martinsville, Warren Central, Benton Central and Lafayette Jefferson, was named the 2024-25 winners from the Hoosier state as nominated by the Indiana Basketball Coaches Association. The other was Bill Patrick, retired former coach at Sidney, South Whitley, Whitko and Tippecanoe Valley.



CONNER

The two former coaches were among 46 honorees from 23 states selected in coordination with the Wooden Family.

The award recognizes scholastic basketball coaches from around the nation who are educators and have achieved excellence on the floor, in the classroom and in the community that further embody the characteristics and legacy of the late John Wooden. The criteria for the award are rooted in the ideals of education, longevity, character, service and excellence.

Conner, 72, is honored after compiling a 481-100 record with 18 conference titles, 17 sectional crowns,

SEE CONNER | PAGE B3

Softball Pioneers look to new senior leadership



By Steve Page
MCC Correspondent

MOORESVILLE — This will be a different year for Mooresville's softball team.

Not good or bad different, just different.

"We graduated a lot of seniors the last two years," noted coach Traci Ball. "It's part of the game. It was easy the past few years, with all those seniors. This year, we're working a little more on fundamentals."

It's not like the Pioneers are starting over.

Six seniors return from last year's team that went 12-2 in the Mid-State Conference, just a game behind Plainfield, and 23-8 overall. The Pioneers also won their first two games in the Center Grove sectional before falling to the Trojans in the championship game.



BALL

This year's seniors are Faith Boles, Reagan Bauer, Sophie Culp, Cierra Cramer, Maddie Pierini and Avery Owens.

"We've got a lot of kinks to work out," Ball continued. "We have spots available. They'll just have to take it and play at a different level."

They look like a pretty strong group, according to their coach.

"Reagan Bauer (10-5, 2.29 ERA. 94.2 IP, 130 K, 21 BB) has the experience we need," Ball said

SEE PIONEERS | PAGE B2

From left: Mooresville's softball seniors include Faith Boles, Reagan Bauer, Sophie Culp, Cierra Cramer and Maddie Pierini. Avery Owens is not pictured. (Steve Page photo / MCC)

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK
MOORESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

SPONSORED BY: Citizens Bank Member FDIC

KAYDIE EPLEY



GRADE: Sophomore
SPORT: Track
REASON FOR AWARD: Mooresville High School is proud to recognize Kaydie Epley as our Athlete of the Week for her record-breaking indoor track performance. Kaydie put on a dominant display in the 60-meter hurdles, shattering the previous school record with an impressive time of 10.03 seconds. This incredible feat eclipsed the 10.66-second record set in 2019, cementing Kaydie's place in school history and setting the tone for an exciting season ahead. Congratulations, Kaydie, on making history and earning this well-deserved honor as Mooresville High School's Athlete of the Week!

BREVON BURNS



GRADE: Senior
SPORT: Basketball
REASON FOR AWARD: Mooresville High School is proud to recognize Brevon Burns as our Male Athlete of the Week for his outstanding performance on the court. The senior basketball star played a pivotal role in leading the Pioneers to a historic Sectional Championship victory – the program's first in 27 years!
Burns showcased his scoring prowess and elite athleticism throughout the sectional tournament, delivering 12 points in each game to help secure back-to-back wins.
Way to go, Brevon!



Martinsville senior Maddox Dilley is all smiles March 13 after signing his letter of intent to play football at DePauw University after a successful senior season as an Artesian. Dilley was a huge voice for the Artesians this season and is looking forward to playing at the collegiate level. (Melissa Dillon photo / MCC)

Maddox Dilley to follow father's footsteps

Artesian senior signs letter of intent to play football at DePauw

By Melissa Dillon
MCC Correspondent

MARTINSVILLE — When Martinsville senior Maddox Dilley was in fourth grade, not so long ago, he was tasked with an assignment to create a presentation to talk about his future plans. Of the three things, he's already marked off the first one as he signed his letter of intent to play football at DePauw University in Greencastle.

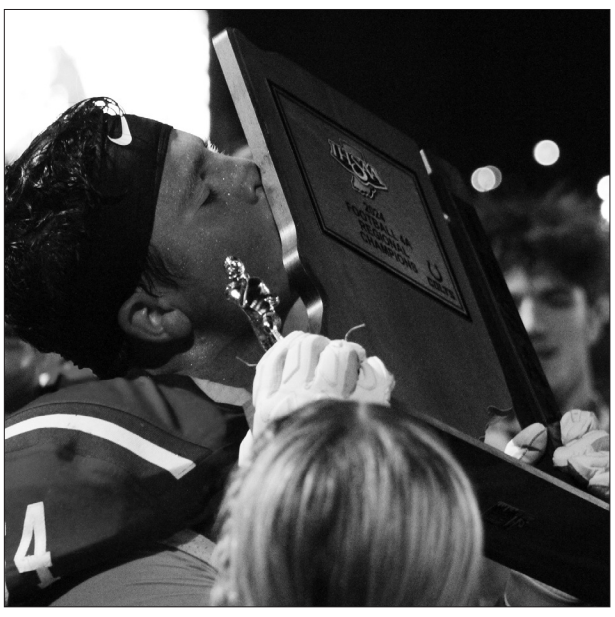
"We are super excited for him," father Nate Dilley said. "We were just talking last night that he made a little PowerPoint in 2017, in fourth grade. And he

SEE DILLEY | PAGE B2

MCA ATHLETE OF THE MONTH



Mooresville Christian Academy junior Harrison Craney is all smiles after being named the MCA Athlete of the Month for March. The MCA boys basketball team was the state champ for the ICSAA Tournament, and Harrison was instrumental in helping the team win. According to his nominator, Harrison 'ALWAYS helps players up from the floor during a game – doesn't matter if they are on his team or the opposing team. It may be a small gesture, but it exudes the love of Christ.' (Danielle Ashton courtesy photo)



Martinsville senior Maddox Dilley kisses the IHSAA Class 4A Regional Championship trophy after last season's win over Evansville Reitz. (Nevaeh Dillon photo / MCC)



Artesian captains Noah Sumner (88), Lucas Dewey (8), AJ Reynolds (4) and Maddox Dilley (64) go out to the coin toss before the Oct. 18 home game against Plainfield last season. (Nevaeh Dillon photo / MCC)

DILLEY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

was talking about future plans and he said he wanted to go to DePauw University to play football, get married and play in the NFL. That was his fourth-grade self."

And his high school senior self is singing the same tune.

"I just committed to DePauw University," Maddox said. "It is a very nice school academically and has a 93-percent rate of getting a job after you graduate. They are a great football school. They were one of top three D3 schools in the country and ranked No. 8 in the nation last year.

"They've been amazing in the recruiting process, and that's where my dad went, so it was meant to be. There's five former Artesians there, and it's a great group of guys that went down there — and I can't wait."

Maddox had an important role on the offensive line for Martinsville and played a big part of the Artesians' 12-2 season with Mid-State Conference, Sectional and Regional championships. The Artesians pulled off the biggest comeback in history against Decatur Central last season to win 39-38 after being down by 35 points halfway through the third quarter. Maddox was a huge part of the Artesians' energy in the comeback.

"He is the guy that shows up everyday and works hard, and the other kids see that," coach Brian Dugger said. "They follow him naturally. He led us all offseason in December and January in the weight room, and that carried on onto the field.

"He was voted team captain, and that was a pretty easy decision there. He was the guy rallying the troops all the time and getting everybody going. Replacing him in that aspect is going to be really tough."

Maddox is the son of Nate and Darby Dilley, and he plans to study finance while he is at DePauw with hopes of becoming a financial advisor.

"I definitely want to thank my parents for supporting me my whole journey," he said. "My dad, he's been coaching me since I was 6 years old in MJFL, and he's been my mentor my whole life and my O-line coach. He's a big part of making this decision."

"I went to school there and played football there, so it's a little extra bonus," Nate said. "He's been a good student, and he's worked hard. He's gotten so much better as a football player, and I think that'll only continue to grow the next four years."

Maddox's voice and energy will surely be missed next season, and he leaves behind a big set of shoes to fill.

"The Dilley family has been a big part of this whole program since I've been here," Dugger added. "Next year will be the first year not having a Dilley. He's been our anchor and obviously our best team leader last year. He was the guy who held everybody accountable. He's a great human being and a great kid. He's an even better person.

"He's going to have a great career at DePauw. I know Dad's happy he's going to DePauw. He'll join some other Artesians and have a great season."

MOSSBRUCKER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

Mossbrucker was pretty good as a wrestler, too, winning the 155-pound state championship in 1976, then helping Bloomington North win the 1977 team title. Mossbrucker then wrestled at Indiana University.

Beginnings

"I actually started as an elementary PE teacher. I did that for three years, and I came to the high school, taught health and U.S. history and PE. Denny Pelly, our football coach, left, so I became our economics teacher. Don (Pope, athletic director) retired, and I applied for the job and glad I have it."

"I coached wrestling and was an assistant football coach and coached baseball. There was a time when I coached three sports. Then we started having kids, and I wanted to get my master's degree. I had to give something up, so I gave up baseball. I was an assistant football coach and head wrestling coach. I gave those up when I became an athletic director. I don't know how you do both. That's a lot.



MOSSBRUCKER

"I love my coaching experience. When I announced my retirement, I had some of my former athletes reach out to me, saying the influence I had on their life. That makes you feel good. They don't realize what kind of an impact they had on me, trying to coach young men as a young man, trying to do it the right way: teach people how to be good students, good citizens.

"I like that there has to be some structure to what's going on. I thought this would be a good fit for me. So I applied, and apparently the people on the committee liked me. So I've been on the job ever since.

"Don (Pope) stepped into the office as an administrative assistant. I've had the good fortune of having him to help me in the early stages of my career. I had a good time with that. He was good to me; he helped me get started.

"There are others who have been helpful to me along the way – Charlie Muston at Plainfield, Don Lipps at Martinsville, Butch Zike at Whiteland, Noel Heminger at Franklin, Chris Stella at Ben Davis. I've been really lucky that people have taken an interest in me and helped me."

Over the years, Mossbrucker has compiled many memories.

"I'd have a hard time nailing any one thing down," he said. "We've had some great teams; my kids playing here, getting to watch them play and grow. The girls basketball teams, baseball teams, softball teams, great efforts in the individual sports."

His boys, Trent and Kyle, are key ingredients in their father's desire to retire.

"Kyle lives in Colorado Springs," Mossbrucker said. "He went there to coach football at Colorado State Pueblo. He now works in medical supplies sales. His children are Silas, 5, and Sutton, 1.

"Trent is at Louisville, working for Jeff Brohm. His title is recruiting coordinator right now. They're doing great. Trent is getting married in May (to Lindy Riley)."

It's the people

"The people really mean a lot to me," Mossbrucker said. "You like winning, and you like all the accomplishments. But the people are what you really can't replace. With sport, you make those connections."

That included his staff — office manager Marsha Green, assistant athletic director Matt Bosworth, and his assistant, Jake Wallman, as well as athletic trainer Fred LaPlante. Bosworth now succeeds Mossbrucker, and Wallman has succeeded Bosworth.

"Marsha's been good to me for a long time — keeps us all straight," Mossbrucker said, smiling. "Matt and Jake have done a good job. You hope they see your vision and help you with our vision, along with the superintendents and principals that we've had. I just can't say enough about all those people."

His recent induction into the Monroe County Hall of Fame prompted Mossbrucker to reflect.

"The thing that kind of stood out for me was you kind of start taking inventory of what you did to get there. I started taking inventory of people in my life who came along that put me in a position where I could be successful. The experiences, training and knowledge. Loving me when it was going well, kicking me when I needed a good kick in the fanny."

It all worked.

He earned numerous awards, including induction into the Mooresville High School Hall of Fame in 2012. He was the Indiana Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (IIAAA) District IV Athletic Director of the year and served as the group's president. He has directed Mooresville's Holiday Classic wrestling tournament and was inducted into the Wrestling Coaches Hall of Fame.

And now?

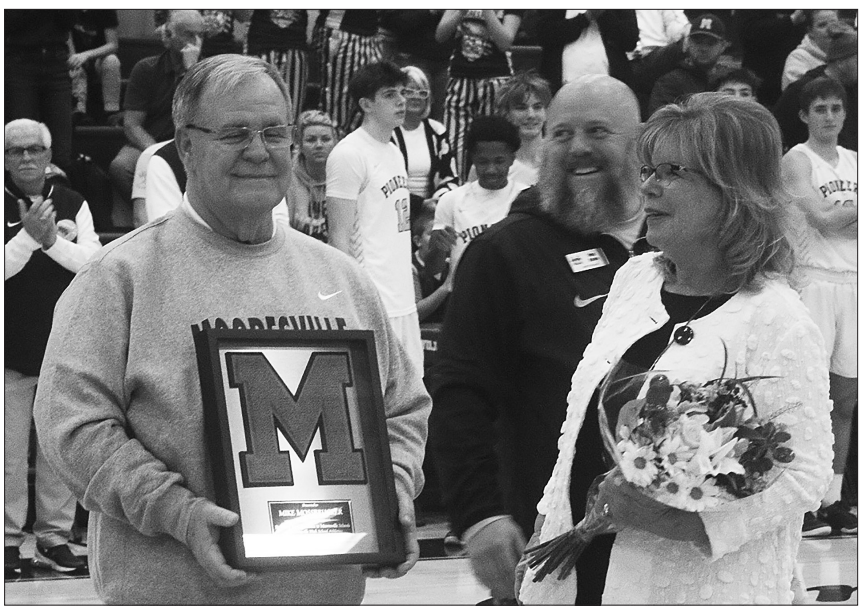
"I like working the events; like being around the people. I like the coaches; I know the officials. I've enjoyed interacting with those from other schools, the officials, the athletic directors at other schools. That will be a tough void to fill."

But he will fill it with other events and people.

"I don't have any hobbies; I play golf, but I'm not very good at it, so I can't say I'm retiring to play golf. I'll probably play a little more, but I like working in my yard, I like fixing things, so I'll be a little more available for that.

"I'm involved with the state athletic directors' association. I'll probably stay with that. I'm involved at the national level with some things, and I'll continue to be involved with that. That will take a little time, keep me in touch with high school athletics.

"But past that, I don't really have a plan. I love my job right now, but I'm not going to retire so I can get another job."



Mike Mossbrucker and his wife, Terri, join Mooresville High School Principal Wes Upton after the longtime Mooresville athletic director was recently awarded his own commemorative 'M' for all his years of service. (Steve Page photo / MCC)



Mooresville coach Traci Ball meets with her players following a preseason practice on the Pioneer diamond. Steve Page photo / MCC)



The runner racing to third finds herself outnumbered by infielders during a recent preseason practice on the Pioneers' diamond. (Steve Page photo / MCC)

Pioneers' schedule

April 1: at Indian Creek, 5:30 p.m.
April 2: vs. Southport, 6 p.m.
April 4 vs. Center Grove, 5:30 p.m.
April 8: at Martinsville, 6 p.m.
April 9: vs. Martinsville, 6 p.m.
April 12: at Braves Bash tournament, West Vigo, 9 a.m.
April 15: at Decatur Central, 5:30 p.m.
April 16: vs. Decatur Central, 6 p.m.
April 18: vs. Monrovia, 5:30 p.m.
April 19: vs. Bloomington South, 10 a.m.
April 22: at Perry Meridian, 5:30 p.m.
April 23: vs. Perry Meridian, 6 p.m.
April 24: vs. Brownsburg, 6 p.m.
April 29: vs. Franklin Community, 6 p.m.
April 30: at Franklin Community, 6 p.m.
May 5: at Bloomington North, 5:30 p.m.
May 6: at Greenwood, 6 p.m.
May 7: vs. Greenwood, 6 p.m.
May 9: at Carmel, 6 p.m.
May 10: at Shelbyville, 11 a.m.
May 13: at Plainfield, 6 p.m.
May 14: vs. Plainfield, 6 p.m.
May 17: at Westfield, 11 a.m.
May 20 at Whiteland, 6 p.m.
May 21: vs. Whiteland, 6 p.m.
May 23: vs. Terre Haute North, 6 p.m.
May 26-31: Mooresville sectional, TBD

PIONEERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

of her No. 1 pitcher. "She's a three-year varsity starter.

"Aubrey Todd (3-0, 1.93 ERA, 25 IP), a junior, is our No. 2. I think she will be better for us this year. She has gotten stronger and better. She's a lot more mature and confident. Aubrey will play third and move to shortstop when she's not pitching."

Ditto for players all over the diamond.

"Our No. 1 catcher is Maddie Pierini (.354)," Ball said. "She will be full time back there. She's going to be a good leader and good at handling our pitchers.

"Cierra Cramer (.349, 8 doubles, 1 triple, 1 home run) is in her third year of the varsity. She played third last year; we've moved her over to second base. She's good at it.

"We're still seeing who's best at third base. Maddie Hutchins (sophomore) can play third base. We need her to play, so she'll play varsity and JV.

"We'll have someone new at first. Avery played first last year. Olivia Turner, a sophomore, will be at first base.

"In the outfield, Avery Owens (.314) was our starting left fielder last year. It all depends on who is pitching. Our left fielder will be (sophomore) Tatum Humphrey (.300). She's an amazing outfielder. She's confident. Sophie Culp (.293) can play left field or right field. Faith Boles will also be in the outfield sometimes. Lexi Turner (junior) is an outfielder with a good arm. She can also play shortstop."

Ball looks forward to an aggressive attack.

"We've got some good hitting," she noted. "Not just home-run hitters, but people who can move base runners. We have speed; 10 of the 12 are really fast. We're going to rely on speed to create havoc a little bit.

"I'm hopeful, I'm confident. The girls are hard-working, and they're good listeners. They're learning we're pushing them harder than they've been pushed. We want to take advantage of runs when we get them."

That will start April 1, when the Pioneers travel to Indian Creek at 5:30 p.m. They host Southport on April 2 and Center Grove on April 4. They begin Mid-State Conference play at 6 p.m. April 8 at Martinsville, then host the Artesians at the same time April 9.

Looking ahead, the Pioneers will host Class 4A Sectional 12, which also includes Center Grove, Decatur Central, Franklin Central, Perry Meridian and Southport.



Former Martinsville girls basketball coach Jan Conner is interviewed following the Artesians' 1997 state championship win – the last year for the state's non-class basketball tournament. (IHSAA courtesy screenshot)





ABOVE: Jan Conner shows off her plaque after being inducted into the Indiana State University Athletic Hall of Fame in September 2000. // LEFT: Jan Conner coaches in the huddle during the 1990 Indiana All-Star girls game. She was head coach at Benton Central at the time. (Courtesy photos)



Jan Conner hugs Artesian basketball player April Traylor after the team won the state championship in 1997. They went on to do the same the next year. (IHSAA Courtesy screenshot)



Jan Conner joins John R. Wooden for a photo in 1997 at the Columbia Club in Indianapolis. (Courtesy photo)

CONNOR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

nine regional trophies, four semi-state titles and two state championships at Martinsville in 26 seasons as an Indiana varsity girls' basketball coach.

Her total includes a 30-6 mark with one sectional title in two seasons at Warren Central, a 292-43 record with 12 sectionals, seven regionals and two semi-states in 15 seasons at Benton Central, a 115-27 ledger with three sectionals, two regionals, two semi-states and two state titles in six seasons at Martinsville and a 44-24 slate with one sectional crown in three seasons at Lafayette Jefferson.

Notably, Conner's teams at Martinsville won Indiana's last non-class state tournament at 26-1 in 1997, the state's first Class 4A title (and Tournament of Champions event) at 29-0 in 1998, claimed an Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame Classic championship in December 1997 and had a 55-game winning streak from November 1996 until November 1998. Over her coaching career, her teams posted 10 20-win seasons and six undefeated regular seasons — 1977-78, 1980-81, 1983-84, 1984-85, 1987-88 and 1997-98.

In addition, Conner served as a floor coach for USA Basketball in North Team Trials for the U.S. Olympic Festival in 1989 and 1995. She also coached at international camps in Africa in 1985 and in Norway in 1994.

Conner is a 1970 graduate of Benton Central, where no school-based girls' basketball was offered when she attended high school. However, she was a 13-time state champion in Girls' Athletic Association track & field and held one-time state records in the high jump (5 feet, 2 inches), hurdles (7.2 seconds), shot put (42 feet, 6 inches) and softball throw (232 feet, 0 inches). She also was in student government and won a VFW Voice of Democracy state contest as a senior, ultimately meeting President Richard M. Nixon when she went to Washington, D.C., for the national competition.

She turned down a chance to play basketball with the All-American Redheads barnstorming team in 1970, instead going to Indiana State University on at track scholarship. There, she was named the Indiana Track & Field Athlete of the Year in 1971 after excelling in the javelin, discus and shot put and competing in the USA Track & Field Nationals.

But her true love was basketball, so she moved to that sport for three seasons at ISU. She helped the Sycamores to a 4-9 record in 1971-72. She averaged 9.1 points, led the team with 7.6 rebounds and was named team MVP in 1972-73 in a 16-7 campaign that included a berth in the AIAW Nationals. She then tallied 10.9 points and 7.2 rebounds in 1973-74 as the team went 15-5 and reached the AIAW Midwest Region quarterfinals.

Conner earned her bachelor's degree in health and physical education from Indiana State in 1975 and earned a master's degree in health and physical education from Purdue University in 1982. She spent the spring of 1975 coaching track while a student-teacher at West Lafayette. She coached basketball and track from 1975-77 at Warren Central and followed by coaching basketball and track at Benton Central from 1977-92. She took a three-year detour to coach NCAA Division II women's basketball at Northeast Missouri State (now Truman State University) from 1992-95, then returned to Indiana to coach at Martinsville from 1995-2001. After five years out of coaching, she completed her coaching career from 2006-09 at Lafayette Jefferson.

She coached seven Indiana All-Stars including three Martinsville student athletes — Mackenzie Curless (1996), Kristen Bodine (1998) and April Traylor (1998) — as well as numerous additional All-State caliber players.

Conner received multiple coaching awards over the years. They include four Hoosier Conference Coach of the Year awards (1983, 1985, 1988, 1989), 1985 IBCA District 1 Coach of the Year, 1989 ICGSA Coach of the Year, 1989 Huntington Tipoff Club Coach of the Year, two IndyStar Metro West Coach of the Year accolades (1997, 1998), 1997 IndyStar Suburban Coach of the Year, 1998 Conference Indiana Coach of the Year, 1998 IndyStar Super Team Coach of the Year and a 1998 honor as a WBCA high school district Coach of the Year.

She also served as an assistant coach for the 1985 Indiana All-Stars, head coach for the 1990 Indiana All-Stars, a West coach in the 1996 HBCA East/West All-Star Classic, South head coach for the 1996 and 1998 North/South Indiana All-Star Classic events and head coach for the White Team in 1998 Nike/WBCA All-America Game presented by The Phoenix. And she served on ICGSA and IBCA boards for various periods while also establishing the first statewide girls' basketball poll.

Conner was inducted into the ISU Athletics Hall of Fame in 2000 and was part of the inaugural women's class into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in 2002.

Greg Wooden, grandson of John Wooden, wrote a letter to each winner of the Wooden Legacy Coaching Award in that stated:

"Our family cannot express how excited we are that you are receiving the NHSBCA Wooden Legacy Coaching Award. My grandfather, John R. Wooden, devoted his life to making an impact in the lives of others through the game of basketball. His passion was teaching, and there was no group that he was more passionate about that subject than coaches.

"The fact that you are receiving this award is a testament to a long-standing commitment you have made as a teacher/coach within your community. You are receiving this award because you embody many traits that my grandfather felt were vital to success.

"I know that if my grandfather were here today, he would feel that it was an honor to meet you and congratulate you on your success. In his memory, our family wants to do that for him. We appreciate you, and the commitment you have made to success. We could not be more thrilled that the NHSBCA has incorporated this award and could not be happier that you are its recipient in its inaugural year."

John Wooden, namesake of the award, was a Morgan County native, Martinsville High School graduate and Purdue University graduate. He was a three-time basketball All-State selection in high school, leading the Artesians to a state title as a junior in 1927 and to state runner-up finishes as a sophomore and senior in 1926 and 1928. He became a three-time All-America player at Purdue, helping the Boilermakers be named the Helms Athletic Foundation national champion in 1932.

Wooden later guided UCLA to a record 10 NCAA men's national championships with a 620-147 mark after previously coaching at South Bend Central High School and Indiana State University. His 29-year college coaching record, including two seasons at Indiana State, was 664-162. His 11-year high school coaching record, including two seasons at Dayton (Ky.), was 218-42.

The National High School Basketball Coaches Association is a network of coaches' associations from all 50 states and the District of Columbia, with a member from each state on its board of directors. The NHSBCA is the national voice for high school basketball coaches, working to foster high standards of professionalism and to support coaches.

NHSBCA JOHN WOODEN LEGACY COACHING AWARD Winners from Indiana

2021-22: Gene Miller (Washington boys) and Donna Sullivan (Seymour girls)

2022-23: Jack Butcher (Loogootee boys) and Cinda Rice Brown (Rushville girls)

2023-24: J.R. Holmes (Bloomington South boys) and Donna Cheatham (Scottsburg and Southwestern [Hanover] girls).

2024-25: Bill Patrick (Sidney/South Whitley/Whitko/Tippecanoe Valley boys) and Jan Conner (Martinsville/Warren Central/Benton Central/Lafayette Jefferson girls)



Macadamia cookies with white chocolate chips



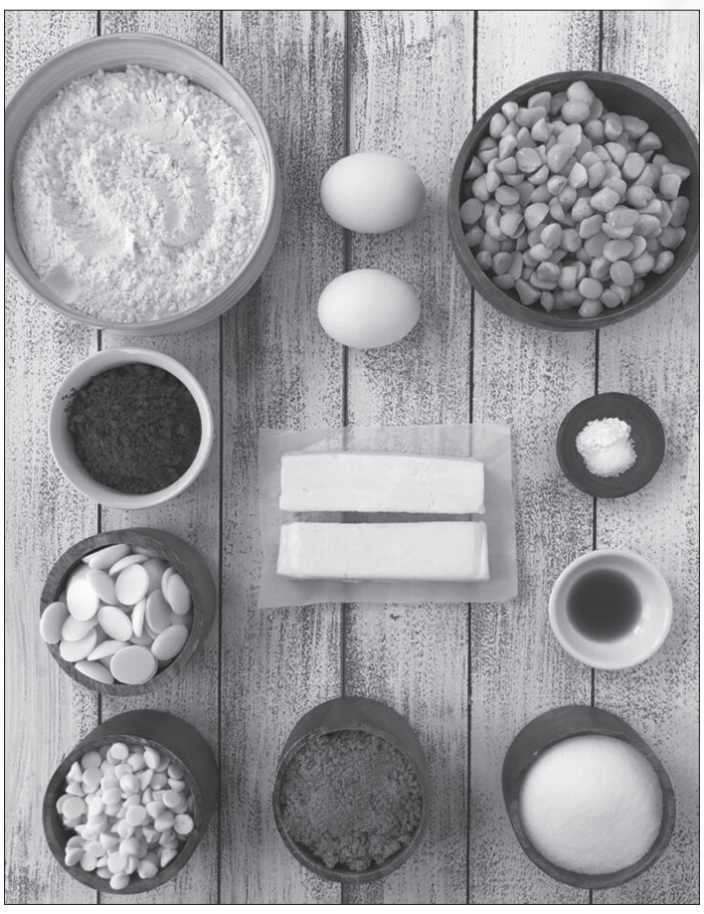
Shelley's Sweet Spot
SHELLEY SUTER

Indulge in these Macadamia White Chocolate Chip Cookies, enjoying the delightful combo of creamy chocolate and nutty bits with every bite!

These cookies are great for a special dessert or to take along to a get-together. They would be great to serve for a party or shower.

They are simply delicious!





MACADAMIA COOKIES WITH WHITE CHOCOLATE CHIPS

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup unsalted butter, softened
- ¾ cup brown sugar, packed
- ¼ cup granulated sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2¼ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup white chocolate chips
- 1 cup macadamia nuts, chopped

INSTRUCTIONS

- Preheat your oven to 350° and line baking sheets with parchment paper.
- In a large mixing bowl, beat the softened butter, brown sugar, and granulated sugar together until light and fluffy, about 2-3 minutes.
- Beat in the eggs one at a time, mixing well after each addition. Then, stir in the vanilla extract until combined.
- In a separate bowl, whisk together the flour, baking soda, and salt. Gradually add the dry mixture to the wet ingredients, mixing until just combined.
- Gently fold in the white chocolate chips and chopped macadamia nuts until evenly distributed throughout the dough.
- Use a cookie scoop or tablespoon to drop dough onto the prepared baking sheets, spacing them about 2 inches apart.
- Bake in the preheated oven for 10-12 minutes, or until the edges are lightly golden and the centers are still soft.
- Remove from the oven and allow the cookies to cool on the baking sheets for about 5 minutes before transferring them to a wire rack to cool completely.

COLUMN & PUZZLES

Scientific discovery isn't limited to medical professionals



The Worry Clinic
DR. GEORGE W. CRANE

MARCH 1975 — Dr. Zee thinks you laymen have no right to deal with medical matters! Apparently, he has the mistaken notion that medical doctors hold a monopoly on scientific thinking. So see how I answered him!

CASE C-686: Dr. Zee was an official of our Chicago Medical Society.

"Dr. Crane," he remonstrated at a luncheon, "I think you are wrong in revealing many of the background medical facts to the lay public.

"The layman has no business dabbling in medical matters but should leave all such things to us M.D.s, for we are trained scientists!"

Idea monopoly?

To which I most vigorously disagreed!

And rather caustically told Dr. Zee that many of our most valuable medicines were developed by laymen.

So I reminded him that when we medics couldn't treat swollen legs and ankles, due to decompensated harts, who discovered the cure?

A simple herb woman in England who picked a dozen leaves of garden weeds and other plants!

Then she concocted a tea and gave some to those ivalided men with legs as large as telephone poles.

Soon the swelling went down, and the men were back at work.

But a smart young fellow helped her and decided just ONE of those dozen herbs probably was producing the cure, so he tried them, one at a time.

And when he had made tea out of foxglove, he hit pay dirt.

For that's where we get digitalis, which is the greatest heart medicine now prescribed for inflamed, fast-beating hearts.

Such a rapid pulse doesn't let the heart keep up the circulation properly, so fluid oozes out of the blood vessels (dropsy) and produces those enlarged legs.

Curare, which South American Indians used to tip their arrows and darts, is now a mainstay of psychiatry in shock therapy.

Quinine, the great aid in malaria, was also developed by South American Indians from the bark of the cinchone tree.

And the most widely used medicine in the world, namely aspirin, was discovered about 400 B.C. by the ancient Greeks, who made a tea out of willow bark.

Piria was the researcher who identified the main ingredient of modern aspirin, namely salicylic acid.

But it was too irritating to the stomach and intestines 'til Adolphe Kolbe found that acetic acid (vinegar) would produce a less irritating drug called acetylsalicylic acid (modern aspirin).

Even Dr. Jenner, who started the prevention and contagious diseases via vaccination and inoculation, learned about smallpox vaccination from British milkmaids!

Morphine was derived from poppies long before medicine had evolved beyond the voodoo stage!

And our whole idea of modern tranquilizers came from the natives of India, who had long used the roots of Rauwolfia shrubs to reduce tension and high blood pressure.

Except for Dr. Fleming's discovery of penicillin, Dr. Banting's isolation of insulin from the pancreas, plus Dr. Andrew C. Ivey's extraction of anti-cancer hormones from horse blood, very few phenomenal discoveries have actually been added to medical lore in this century by M.D. scientists.

Besides, there is no monopoly on logic, so every thinking person can be a scientist if he analyzes methodically the cause and effect relations in any field of human activity.

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.

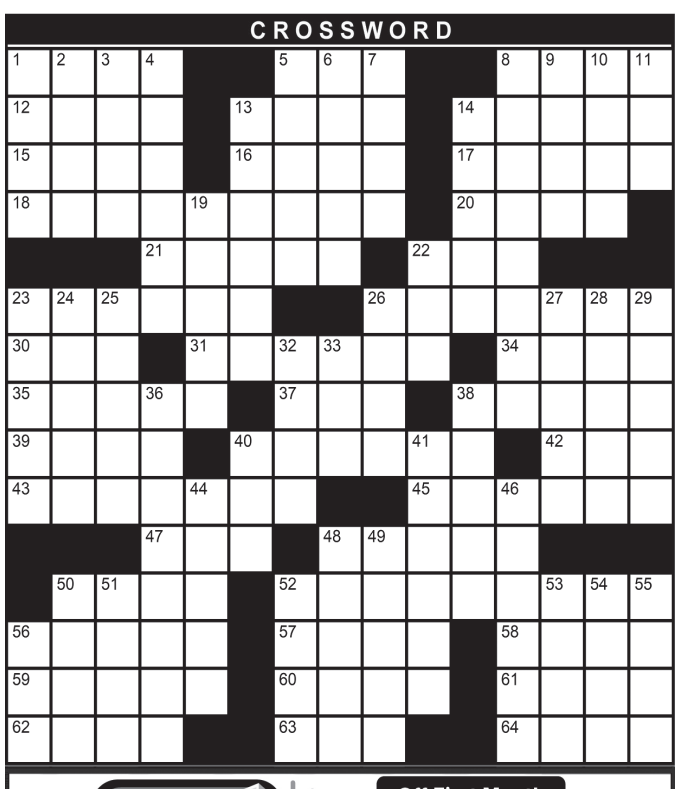
STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
THEME: FROMER RULERS

ACROSS

1. London native, e.g.
5. Major news network, acr.
8. Elect democratically
12. Dharma teacher
13. *Henry ____, a serial husband
14. Mosaic artist
15. Cracked open
16. Between ids and super-egos
17. More unfriendly
18. *Babylonian ruler, code creator
20. Minute bit
21. Cavern or cave
22. Not amateur
23. Sapodilla tree gum
26. *Akhenaton or Tutankhamun
30. Be bedridden
31. a.k.a. crown vetch
34. *Viracocha, the eighth Sapa ____ of Kingdom of Cusco
35. Like some peppers
37. ____-been
38. Trots and canters
39. And others, for short
40. Shred of clothing
42. Aptitude test, acr.
43. a.k.a. sodium carbonate
45. In ignoble manner
47. One behind plate, for short
48. Patrick Swayze/Demi Moore movie
50. George Lucas' warrior-monk
52. *Egypt's famous queen
56. Capital of Tunisia
57. Military status
58. "High" time
59. River in India
60. Rainbows, e.g.
61. Al Capone, e.g.
62. Difficult situation
63. Striped stinger
64. Biblical paradise

DOWN

1. Ho-hum
2. Indian royal
3. Mosque V.I.P.
4. Plane road
5. "Sometimes a cigar is just a ____"
6. She turned to stone
7. Not yet final, legally speaking
8. *Second-longest reining British monarch
9. Spaghetti aglio and ____
10. Do like bees?
11. Go wrong
13. Top of a mountain, e.g.
14. #8 Down's headdress, e.g.
19. Untwist a rope
22. Third degree
23. Lawyers' loads
24. Informed of latest trends (2 words)
25. Homeric epic
26. Exterminator's target
27. Liquorice flavor
28. Based on number 8
29. Rash
32. *Mohammad Reza ____ Pahlavi
33. Get calories
36. *Robert Graves' "I, ____"
38. Comprehend
40. Medicinal amt.
41. Kindle editions
44. Not quite right
46. Posture
48. Unfriendly stare
49. From this time
50. Equinox month
51. Concludes
52. Underwater hermit
53. Arnold Lobel's "Frog and ____"
54. Tug-of-War equipment
55. Soon, to a bard
56. Burton of gothic horror genre





© StatePoint Media

ANSWERS:



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

SUDOKU



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

© StatePoint Media

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.

March 1945 — World War II at 80 (Part 2)



The firebombing of Tokyo in March 1945 devastated the city, causing the death of up to 100,000 Japanese citizens. (Library of Congress / Public Domain photo)

Firebombs on Tokyo, progress in the Philippines, survival of the USS Franklin

By Ronald P. May
MCC Contributor

TOKYO, Japan — In the Pacific theater, the month of March saw wide-scale death and destruction to the city of Tokyo.

During the evenings of March 9-10, formations of 334 U.S. B-29 Super Fortress bombers flew from the Mariana Islands to Tokyo and dropped 1,665 tons of incendiary cluster bombs over the city.

The shells contained napalm, a jelly-like petroleum that burned with intense heat and spread quickly.

The aerial attack was code-named *Operation Meetinghouse.*

The bombs produced an inferno that consumed 16 square miles of the city and caused the deaths of up to 100,000 Japanese citizens.

The operation became the most destructive aerial bombing campaign in history.

Bridgeport, Ind., native George Gladden, witnessed the fiery spectacle from one of the B-29 bombers in the raid.



GLADDEN

A radio operator assigned to the 20th Air Force, Gladden and his crew had been making conventional bomb runs over Tokyo since November 1944.

On March 9-10, the 20th Air Force, now aided with the protection of P-51 fighters taking off from Iwo Jima's airfields, switched to low elevation bombing with napalm.

"As far as you can see, the whole town was on fire," Gladden recalled in an interview.

Gladden returned home after 35 missions and lived a long life as a famer in Clayton, dying at the age of 94 in 2017.

Luzon, Philippines: Herbert Weaver

The war raged on in Luzon as Allied Forces moved north to catch the retreating Japanese.

Paragon High School graduate Herbert Weaver was numbered among the American forces there.

Weaver was a technical sergeant in the Army's 38th Division, 152nd Infantry Regiment in the Luzon campaign.

He was a likeable guy who cared for those serving under him.

A Feb. 2, 1945, article in Martinsville's *Daily Reporter* shared that Weaver and some other sergeants arranged a 1944 Christmas Day "gift" to the privates in their unit.

The sergeants offered to perform the K.P. duty normally done by the privates.

The article stated, "The privates were happy at being relieved of kitchen duty, and the sergeants were happy, too, for they got more than their share of turkey and trimmings."

Perhaps it was his kind disposition that also got the attention of famous war correspondent Ernie Pyle.

According to a July 11, 1944, article in the *Daily Reporter*, both Pyle and Weaver were on the island of Oahu earlier in 1944.

Pyle suggested to battalion leaders that Weaver be awarded the Expert Infantryman's Badge.

The suggestion worked, and he received the honor on July 1, 1944.

Although an infantryman, on March 11, 1945, Weaver and several others from his unit boarded a cargo plane to drop supplies to their battalion fighting in the mountains of Luzon.

Weaver went on the flight to help direct the pilot to the locations of the patrol units needing the supplies.

The plane, flying low to spot the units on the ground, failed to clear the peak of a mountain and crashed into it.

Weaver and the others on board died in the mishap.

Weaver was later buried in the Manila American Cemetery, where his body remains today.

Cebu, Philippines: Emmett Davis

Meanwhile, 356 miles south of Manila, Allied forces invaded the southern Philippine Island of Cebu on March 26 where, after four weeks of combat, they defeated the Japanese stronghold.

Emmett Davis, from Oolitic in Lawrence County, was serving there as a battery clerk with the 221st Field Artillery Battalion, part of the Americal (23rd Infantry) Division.

Some 5,000 men landed on enemy mine-laden Talisay Beach and proceeded to Cebu City where enemy forces engaged them.



DAVIS

Davis's 221st Field Artillery Battalion pummeled the Japanese units holding out in the heavily entrenched hills north of the city.

The fighting, during which U.S. forces destroyed 85 enemy pillboxes, lasted into June before the combat operations concluded.

Davis moved to Martinsville after the war and served as a postal carrier for 38 years.

He was a former commander of the American Legion Post in Martinsville.

He died in 2007 at the age of 81.

USS Franklin: Floyd 'Bud' Smith



SMITH

One of the most dramatic and heroic events of the Pacific campaign took place on March 19, 1945, on board the aircraft carrier *USS Franklin*, named for Benjamin Franklin.

Nicknamed "Big Ben," she was commissioned in January 1944.

Gunners Mate 3rd Class Floyd E. "Bud" Smith was one of her maiden crewmen.

Smith, a Martinsville native, graduated from high school in 1942.

On March 18, 1945, the *Franklin* was 60 miles off the coast of Japan launching her dive-bombers, which pummeled the coastal islands.

Smith had spent all day and night loading bombs onto the Hellcat torpedo bombers.

On the morning of March 19, a Japanese dive-bomber snuck through the anti-aircraft defenses and released two 500-pound bombs, which struck the *Franklin.*



The attack on the USS Franklin in March 1945 causes her to list heavily to one side as another ship pulls alongside to extract the crew. (National Archives / Public Domain photo)

The explosions from the bombs' impact set ablaze the bombs in the carrier's hold and ignited the 200,000 gallons of aviation fuel needed for her dive bombers.

A blazing fire engulfed the ship and planes on her deck, searing her frame and nearly sinking her.

Smith escaped death that morning by choosing to sleep in rather than go to the galley for breakfast with his friends.

Everyone in the galley died in the explosion.

Roused by the thunderous impact which rocked his ship, Smith hurried up to the deck to his assigned gun, now obscured by heavy smoke, and spent the next 48 hours defending the lame duck ship from further attacks.

Later that day, the gunners on *Franklin* shot down a Japanese bomber that came to sink her.

The attack caused the deaths of 807 of the 2,600 officers and enlisted crew on board.

The *USS Santa Fe* pulled up to the side of the burning *Franklin* and took on sailors wishing to evacuate the ship.

Smith, along with 700 other men, decided to stay on their ship and continue their efforts to save her.

The damage to the Franklin was so extensive that Admiral Davison recommended that the crew abandon and scuttle the ship.

Capt. Leslie Gehres, the ship's skipper, refused to do so.

Instead, he called on the surviving crew of 704 men to save their ship.

Miraculously, the men successfully doused the fires, patched the gaping holes, and nursed the wounded ship 12,000 miles back to the Brooklyn Naval Yards in New York City.

Smith married Delores Grant from Brooklyn, N.Y., in August 1945. He was discharged two months later.

He and his wife lived in Brooklyn, N.Y., where he served for over 30 years as a superintendent for apartment buildings before returning to Indiana.

Smith died in 2009 at the age of 86.

Although the *Franklin h*ad the highest number of deaths for any surviving U.S. warship, the perseverance of Smith and the crew of the *Franklin* testified to the unbreakable spirit of U.S. forces.

Next time: April 1945

Learn more about Ronald P. May and his books at https://ronaldpmay.com or contact him by email at ron@ronaldpmay.com. Check out his videos on YouTube at: World War II History & Stories with Ron May.



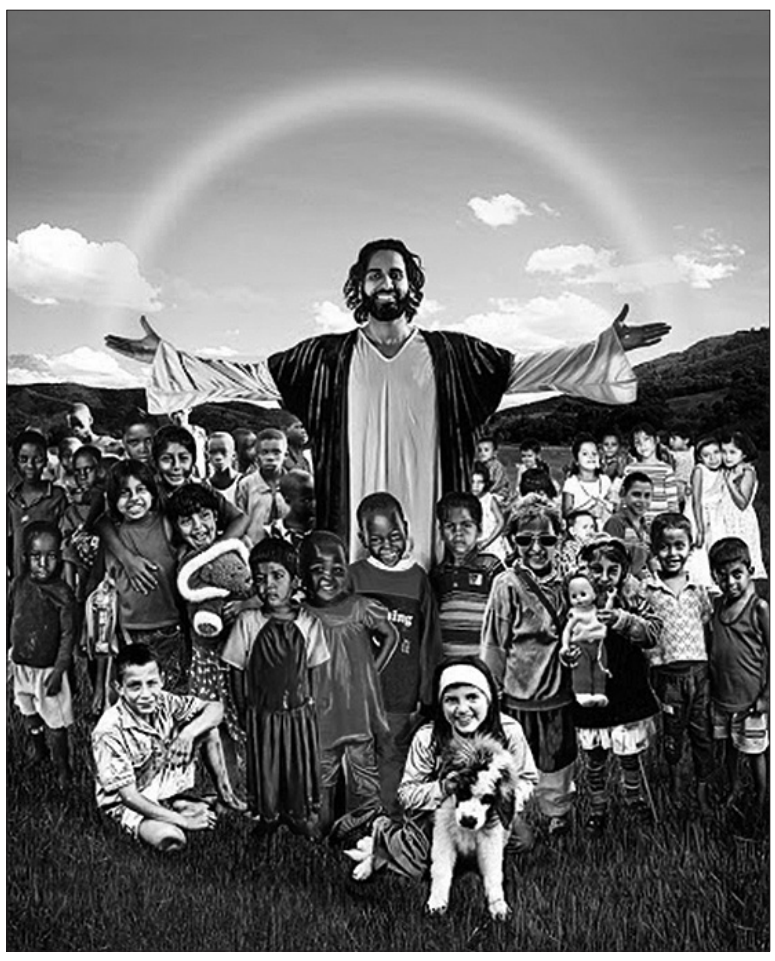
B-29 Super Fortress bombers drop firebombs on Japan in 1945 (National Museum of the Air Force / Public Domain photo)



A 155mm howitzer belonging to the 221st Field Artillery fires at a pillbox 1,200 yards away (Combined Arms Research Library / Public Domain photo

Children are a precious treasure

By Mickey Elliott
Weekday Religious Education



In the Gospels, we discover how much Jesus loves the children. He is kind, gentle, and passionate about protecting them.

In Mark 10:13-16, it says, "And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them, and his disciples rebuked those that brought them.

"But Jesus saw it, and was much displeased and said to them, 'Suffer the little children to come to me and forbid them not; for of such is the Kingdom of God.

"'Verily, I say unto you, whoever shall not receive the Kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.'

"And Jesus took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them."

We see in these words his love and compassion. He always had time for the children. He calls us to be humble like them and trust His love and blessings. As small children we did not worry about tomorrow. We took one day at a time and found joy and laughter.

In Matthew 18:6, Jesus said, "Whoever shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it was better for him that a millstone was hanged about his neck, and that he was drowned in the depth of the sea."

Jesus is very concerned about the children. He protects them and tenderly watches over them. When it comes to temptation, we are all responsible for our own behavior. Jesus wants us to understand the danger of being the vehicle through which temptation comes. If your behavior leads innocent children astray, it is better to be tossed in the sea than face the judgment of Christ.

One day, as we walked back to school after our Weekday class, a young boy said that he felt invisible in his family. He felt no one noticed him or talked to him. Of course, I prayed with him.

One little girl shared that her parents did not have time to talk to her or answer her questions. Several students confessed that grown-ups do not have time for them. I tried to explain that grown-ups are sometimes so busy that they don't realize that this is happening.

In the Gospel, we see God's tender heart for the children. Take time for the children in your life, and encourage them with love and prayers.

God reminds us in Psalm 127:3-5, "Children are a heritage from the Lord. Children a reward from him like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their enemies in the gate."

We have a skit we use in our Weekday Spring programs and as a teaching tool called "Jesus and the Children," taken from Matthew 19: 13-14.

This skit was written by one of our teachers, Mary Lee Wesner, and it describes what the day mentioned in Matthew 19 might have been for the children.

Jesus was teaching when some little children were brought to Him that He might touch them and pray.

The children's mother said, "You children be good now, and we will see Jesus soon." You can imagine what the children might be saying, "Are we there? I want to get close to him and touch him. Do you think he will hold my hand?"

The mother respond, "Jesus is a kind man, and I am sure he will talk to you. Maybe he will even tell you a story."

The children respond with, "Oh good, let's hurry! I can see him now. He makes me so happy."

They finally arrive, and as they get close to Jesus, his disciples say, "Who are you? What do you want? Jesus is busy talking to some important people. Go away. These are just children, so Jesus does not have time for them."

This displeased Jesus so much he reached out and touched the disciple's shoulder and in a firm strong voice said, "Let the children come to me and do not forbid them, for of such belongs the Kingdom of God."

All the children want to play the part of Jesus. You see, He is very special to them. He is the main man — the Hero in Weekday Religious Education, and hopefully becoming the Hero in their lives.

Are you too busy for children in your life? If amid so many distractions you realize you have been neglecting them, may I suggest that you stop reorganizing and prioritize your time.

I read a story the other day of a child trying to talk to her mother while they were at lunch, but Mom was so busy with her cell phone, she was not paying attention to her daughter.

The lady watching could tell by the look on the child's little face she was disappointed and wanted her mother to talk and pay attention to her.

Maybe the questions and words your child speaks seem unimportant in the scheme of things. But you are missing the golden opportunity to see your child's heart and help him or her build good thought patterns that will leave a memory that will help your child make good choices in life. They learn from us — how to think through their thoughts if we take time to help them find a way through the positive and negative thoughts they daily experience. These are precious moments, so take advantage of them.

Believe me, when I say they make a difference, so don't let them pass by. Or someday, you'll regret that you could have made a difference in the life of a child for eternity. Jesus was available for the children. They need your touch, eye contact, words, and even your discipline in love. Make sure nothing stands in your way of providing the emotional, intellectual, and spiritual needs of the children you influence.

Put that crazy cell phone away and have a little bonding time with the true treasures in your life.

Remember our children are the future of America and our legacy of love.

God bless you as you seek God's divine direction with your life and the lives of your children. Spring break is here, so enjoy those precious children God has so graciously given you.

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.

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.

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

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

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.

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.

Mt. Pleasant Christian Church of Hall • 5830 W. Hurt Road • Pastor Randy Weddle • mpccpastor.randy@yahoo.com • Sundays at 10 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study at 6:30 p.m.



LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF INDIANA
SS:
COUNTY OF MORGAN
IN THE MORGAN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT
CASE NO: **55C01-2503-MI-000512**

IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF:
Messiah Rachaelle Brown-Vuich
Petitioner

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Messiah Rachaelle Brown-Vuich, Morgan County, Indiana, hereby gives notice that she has filed a petition in the Morgan Circuit Court that her name be changed to Messiah Finne Nova and that said petition will be heard by the Court on May 9, 2025 at 8:45 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.

STATE OF INDIANA
SS:
COUNTY OF MORGAN
IN THE MORGAN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT
CASE NO: **55C01-2502-MI-000479**

IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF:
Jakobi Nikholis Hicks
Minor
Danielle Hall
Petitioner

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Danielle Hall, Morgan County, Indiana, hereby gives notice that she has filed a petition in the Morgan Circuit Court for name change of a minor, and that said petition will be heard by the Court on May 9, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. Any person has the right to appear at the hearing and file an objection.

/s/
Judicial Officer

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: **55C01-2503-MI-000580**

IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF:
Justin Alexander Griffith
Petitioner

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Justin Alexander Griffith, Morgan County, Indiana, hereby gives notice that he has filed a petition in the Morgan Circuit Court requesting that their name be changed to Alex Griffith, and that said petition will be heard by the Court on May 13, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. Any person has the right to appear at the hearing and file an objection.

Dated at Martinsville, Indiana, this **10th day of March, 2025.**

/s/ Tammy J. Parker
Clerk of the Superior Court
of Morgan County, Indiana

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
COUNTY OF MORGAN
IN THE MORGAN SUPERIOR COURT
CAUSE NO. **55D02-2411-MF-002386**

Data Mortgage Inc., DBA Essex Mortgage
Plaintiff,
vs.
Farron B. Featherstone., et al
Defendants

NOTICE OF SUIT

The state of Indiana to the Defendants above named, and any other person who may be concerned: You are notified that you have been sued in the Court above named. The nature of the suit against you is a Amended Complaint on Note and for Foreclosure of Mortgage on the following described real estate:

Lot Number Two (2) in Twin Oaks Lake Subdivision, a Subdivision in Jackson Township, as per plat thereof, recorded in Deed Record 163, page 564, in the Office of the Recorder of Morgan County, Indiana.

More commonly known as: 722 S Tall Oaks Drive E, Morgantown, IN 46160

Parcel No.: 055-14-02-435-009-000

This Summons by Publication is specifically directed to the following named Defendant whose whereabouts are known to me:

Farron B. Featherstone
722 S Tall Oaks Drive E,
Morgantown, IN 46160

Tracy L. Featherstone
722 S Tall Oaks Drive E,
Morgantown, IN 46160

United States of America Acting by and through its Agency
Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
c/o U.S. Attorney General,
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

This Summons by Publication is also specifically directed to the following named Defendants whose whereabouts are unknown to me:

Onemain Financial Services, Inc

In addition to the above named Defendant being served by the Summons, there may be other Defendants who have an interest in this lawsuit.

If you have a claim for relief against the Plaintiff arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it your written answer. You must answer the Amended Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, on or before the 3rd day of May, 2025 (the same being within thirty (30) days after the third Notice of Suit), and if you fail to do so, a judgment will be entered against you for what the Plaintiff has demanded.

WOOD & LAMPING, LLP
By: /s/ Daniel A. Cox
Daniel A. Cox

ATTEST:
/s/ Tammy Parker
Clerk of the Morgan County Superior Court

Daniel A. Cox (28426-15)
Attorney for Plaintiff
Wood & Lamping, LLP
600 Vine Street, Suite 2500
Cincinnati, OH 45202
Voice: (513) 852-6000
Email: foreclosure@woodlamping.com

STATE OF INDIANA
SS:
COUNTY OF MORGAN
IN THE MORGAN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT
CASE NO: **55C01-2503-MI-000621**

IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF:
Schuyler Ann Massey
Minor
Amanda Nendjian
Petitioner

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Amanda Nendjian, Morgan County, Indiana, hereby gives notice that she has filed a petition in the Morgan Circuit Court for name change of a minor, and that said petition will be heard by the Court on May 27, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. Any person has the right to appear at the hearing and file an objection.

/s/
Tammy Parker

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.

AMENDED
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT No. 2 OF MORGAN COUNTY, INDIANA
IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ESTATE
OF HUGH LUNCOLN NUTTER, DECEASED
CAUSE NO.: **55D02-2503-EU-000040**

Notice is hereby given that on the **12TH day of March, 2025,** LaDeana Kay Compton was appointed Executrix of the estate of Hugh Lincoln Nutter, deceased, who died on the 15th day of February 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 **12th day of March, 2025.**

/s/ Tammy J. Parker
Clerk of the Superior Court No. 2
of Morgan County, Indiana

Attorneys:
Roger T. Coffin 3591-55
Coffin & Coffin

To the owners of the within described real estate and all interested parties

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of Superior Court of Morgan County, Indiana, in Cause No. 55D02-2310-MF-001767 wherein The Huntington National Bank was plaintiff, and Casey A. Lindaas a/k/a Casey Ann Lindaas, The Administrator of Small Business Administration, an agency of the government of the United States of America and Service Finance Company, LLC were Defendants, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on the **12th day of May, 2025, at the hour of 2:00 pm** or as soon thereafter as is possible, at The Morgan County Sheriff's Office, 160 N. Park Ave., Martinsville, IN 46151, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Morgan County, Indiana.

A part of the west half of the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 29, township 13 north, range 2 west, Morgan County, Indiana, described as follows, to wit: beginning at the southwest corner of the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of said section 29, thence east 231 feet; thence north 973 feet parallel with the west line of said quarter quarter to the centerline of the lake ditch; thence southwesterly with the centerline of said ditch to the west line of said quarter quarter, thence south 773 feet with said west line to the point of beginning, containing 4.62 acres, more or less.

More commonly known as 12340 McClure Rd., Martinsville, in 46151
Parcel no. 09-17-60-254-020.000-010
Township Adams

Together with rents, issues, income, and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisement laws.

"Subject to all liens, encumbrances and easements of record not otherwise extinguished in the proceedings known as cause 55D02-2310-MF-001767 in Superior Court of The County of Morgan, Indiana."

Plaintiff Attorney
Jerry n. Higgins, MSSW, JD 26712-22
Marsha A. Dailey, 25539-88
Derek A. Harvey, Jr., 36172-53
Ulrich, Sassano, Deighton, Delaney & Higgins Co., LPA
4834 Richmond Rd., suite 201, Cleveland, OH 44128
Phone 216-360-7200
Fax 216-360-7210
jnhiggins@carlisle-law.com
mdailey@carlisle-law.com
Dharvey@carlisle-law.com

Sheriff of Morgan County, Richard W. Myers
Morgan County Sheriff Department
160 N. Park Ave., Martinsville, IN 46151

The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the street address published herein.

SERVICE DIRECTED TO:
SHERIFF
Casey a. Lindaas a/k/a Casey Ann Lindaas – 140 W Pike St., Martinsville, IN 46151

CERTIFIED MAIL
The Administrator of Small Business Administration, an Agency of The Government of the United States of America
Any officer or managing agent - 801 Tom Martin Dr., Suite 120, Birmingham, AL 35211
The Administrator of Small Business Administration, an Agency of The Government of the United States of America
Isabella Casillas Guzman, Administrator - 409 3rd St., SW, Washington, DC 20416
The Administrator of Small Business Administration, an Agency of The Government of the United States of America
Merrick B. Garland, US Attorney General - 950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20530
The Administrator of Small Business Administration, an Agency of The Government of the United States of America
Stacy Poynter, District Director - 5726 Professional Cir., Suite 100, Indianapolis, IN 46241
The Administrator of Small Business Administration, an Agency of The Government of the United States of America
Therese Meers, General Counsel - 409 3rd St. SW, Washington, DC 20416
Service Finance Company, LLC - Corporation service Company, registered agent
135 N. Pennsylvania St., suite 1610, Indianapolis, IN 46204

NOTICE

Ulrich, Sassano, Deighton, Delaney and Higgins Co., IPA is a debt collector. This is an attempt to collect a debt, and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
CAUSE NO.: **55D02-2503-EU-000050**
STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MORGAN

IN THE MORGAN SUPERIOR COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
CAUSE NUMBER: **55D02-2503-EU-000050**

IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ESTATE OF
DAVID L. BAUER, DECEASED.

Notice is hereby given that on the **20th day of March, 2025,** Constance Lynn Brady was appointed personal representative of the Estate of **David L. Bauer,** deceased, who died on March 11, 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 **20th day of March, 2025.**

/s/ Tammy J. Parker
Clerk of the Morgan Superior Court

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

Hearing Notice

Notice is hereby given that I have, as the owner (or with the owner's consent) of the property commonly described as the address of 350 bridge street, Mooresville, IN, 46158, and legally described by the attached legal description, have filed a petition before the Town of Mooresville Plan Commission, which petition requests a Zone Map Change included for te said property in order to: comply with town ordinances, meet the needs of prospective tenants, and ensure non-invasive, attractive businesses for the community's sake.

This Petition, file # 25-151, will come for hearing at 6:30pm at the Mooresville Town Hall, 4 E. Harrison St., Mooresville, IN, on April 10th, 2025. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if anyone wishes to attend the public hearing on the above referenced matter ad is in need of reasonable accomodation in order to hear, present evidence, or participate in the proceedings at the public hearing on this matter, please contact the Administrator so accommodation can be made. The petition and file on this matter are available for examination in the Mooresville Clerk Treasurer's Office. Comments regarding this petition may be submitted at any time. Information to be considered by the PC members in advance of the meeting must be recevied one week prior to the haring and must be sent to: tbennett@mooresville.in.gov or dropped off in the Clerk Treasurer's Office at the Town of Mooresville Government Center.

Legal Land Description:

INST. #200503323

Out Lot Number One (1) In Bolton's Addition (Revised) to the Town of Mooresville, as per plat thereof recorded in Deed Record 68, page 204 and Revised in Deed Record 75, page 200 and Deed Record 87, page 392 in the Office of the Recorder of Morgan County, Indiana. ALSO, Lots Number Eight (8), Nine (9), Ten (10) and Eleven (11) and vacated alley lying immediately North of said Lots, all In Bolton's Addition (Revised) to the Town of Mooresville, as per plat thereof recorded in Deed Record 68, page 204 and Revised in Deed Record 75, page 200 and Deed Record 87, page 392 In the Office of the Recorder of Morgan County, Indiana. ALSO, a part of the Southeast Quarter of Section 25, and a part of the Northeast Quarter of Section 36, all In Township 14 North, Range 1 East, described as follows to-wit: Commencing at a point where the South line of the Indianapolis and Vincennes Railroad Company's Right-of-Way intersects the West line of the Indianapolis and Mooresville Public Highway, thence with said West line of said Highway South to a point distant and at right angles from said South line of said Railroad Company's Right-of-Way 30 feet, the same being due North of the Northeast corner of Lot 55 In Bolton's Addition to the Town of Mooresville, thence running Southwesterly parallel with said Railroad Company's South line and distant 30 feet therefrom a distance of 334 feet; thence at right angles with said last line Northwesterly a distance of 14 feet, thence Southwesterly parallel with said Railroad Company's South line and 16 feet distant therefrom a distance of 113 feet 9 inches; thence at right angles therewith Southeasterly a distance of 14 feet; thence Southwesterly parallel with said Railroad Company's South line and distant therefrom 30 feet a distance of 359 feet to the South line of Bridge Street in said Town of Mooresville; thence West with said South line of Bridge Street to the South line of said Railroad Company's Right-of-Way; thence Northeasterly with the South line of said Ran road Company's Right-of-Way to the Place of Beginning. EXCEPT the following: Beginning 239.0 feet North of the Southwest corner of Lot Number 8 In Bolton's Addition (Revised) and on the East line of said Lot extended North, being also on the West line of a 14 foot alley as platted and now vacated (Cause No. 15121 in 1927); run thence Westerly and parallel to the North lines of Lot Nos. 8, 9 & 10 in said Addition a distance of 180.95 feet to the Southeast right-of-way line of the Indianapolis and Vincennes Railroad (now Penn-Central) (Said right-of-way line being 45.0 feet at a right angle from the centerline of the existing rails); run thence Northeasterly on and along said right-of-way line a distance of 314.0 feet, more or less, to an Iron Pipe that is 138.7 feet Southwest of an Iron Pipe that is 86.96feet North of the Northeast comer of Lot No. 55 in said Addition and on the East line of said Lot extended North; deflect 160 degrees and 58 minutes right and run thence Southwesterly a distance of 92.00 feet to a point on the West line of said 14 foot alley extended North; run thence South on said West line a distance of 145.2 feet to the Place of Beginning. ALSO EXCEPT the following: Beginning 239.0 feet North of the Southeast comer of Lot Number 8 in Bolton's Addition (Revised) and on the East line of said Lot extended North, being also on the West line of a 14 foot alley as platted and now vacated (Cause No. 15121 in 1927); run thence Westerly and parallel to the North lines of Lots Nos. 8, 9 & 10 In said addition a distance of 180.95 feet to the Southeast right-of-way line of the Indianapolis and Vincennes Railroad (now Penn-Central) (Said right-of-way line being 45.0 feet at a right angle from the centerline of the existing rails); run thence Southwesterly on and along said right-of-way line a distance of 34.38 feet; run thence Easterly and parallel to the North line of this described real estate a distance of 204.55 feet; run thence Northerly a distance of 25 feet to the Place of Beginning. ALSO EXCEPT the following: Part of the abandoned right-of-way of the Indianapolis and Martinsville Rapid Transit Company which lies North of Bolton's Addition to the Town of Mooresville, Morgan County, Indiana, bounded and described as follows, to-wit: Beginning 43.48 feet North of the Northeast comer of Lot 55 in Bolton's Addition to the Town of Mooresville, the same being 161 .48 feet North of the Northeast corner of Lot 1 in the same Addition, and 521.48 feet North of the North line of Bridge Street; continue thence North on the East line of Lot 55 extended a distance of 43.48 feet to the South and East right-of-way line of the Indianapolis and Vincennes Railroad; run thence Southwesterly on an angle of 43 degrees and 38 minutes from the East line of Lot 55 extended North, and also on the South and East right-of-way line of said Railroad a distance of 138.7 feet to an iron pin that Is 4 feet Southeast of the East rail of the existing Railroad track that runs to the Steel Protection and Chemical Co., deflect 19 degrees and 02 minutes left and run Southwesterly a distance of 92 feet to the Intersection of the West line of a 14 foot alley which lies on the West side of Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, & 7 In said Addition and the South and East right-of-way line of the Indianapolis and Martinsville Rapid Transit Co., run thence Northeasterly on said right-of-way line parallel to and 30 feet from the South and East line of said Railroad and parallel to and 30 feet from the Northwest side of Lot 55 in said Addition a distance of 193.82 feet to the Place of Beginning, being a part of the Southeast Quarter of Section 25, Township 14 North, Range 1 East.

Notice to taxpayers of proposed additional appropriation

Notice is hereby given to the taxpayers of Morgan County, Indiana, that the Morgan County Council at their regular meeting place at 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 7, 2025, will consider the following additional appropriations in excess of the budget for the year 2025. **Local health dept trust acct (1206)** $10,000, 1206. 36100.00000.0000contractual services, $5,000, 1206.40000.00000.0000 equipment,**93.354 crisis coag covid-19 (8953)** $20,000 8953.11505.00000.0000 full time nurse, $145,000, 8953.36100.00000.0000 contractual services, **clerk record perpetuation fund (1119)** $8,311.50, 1119.12100.00000.0000 part-time, $688.50, 1119.16510.00000.0000 fica, **emergency medical services fund (1151)** $125,033, 1151.15625.00000.0000 emt full-time, $217,595 1151.15630.000000.0000 ems paramedic full-time, $38,374, 1151.16500.00000.0000 perf, $26,211, 1151.16510.00000.0000 fica **Monroe Township Ems station fund (4801)** $200,000, 4801.44050.00000.0000 Monroe township Ems station.

Taxpayers appearing at the meeting shall have a right to be heard. Appropriations, as finally made will be referred to the department of local government finance. The board will make a written determination as to the sufficiency of funds to support the appropriations made within (15) days of receipt of a certified copy of the action taken.

Publish: March 27, 2025
Morgan County Correspondent

Linda Pruitt
Morgan County Auditor

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the Depositors of the Home Bank SB of Martinsville, Indiana, will be held in the office of Home Bank SB, 59 W. Washington Street, Martinsville, Indiana, on the 25th day of April 2025, at 11:00 a.m. The purpose of said meeting shall be for:

1. The election of three Directors for a term of three years.
2. The transaction of any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

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.

EVENT

WAVERLY

EVENT
Military Collectors Show, April 12, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Masonic Hall, 8310 Waverly Road in Waverly. 317-400-1681.

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.

TAKE OUT A CLASSIFIED AD AND LET THE WORLD KNOW!

Only $20 for the first 30 words and $15 for every 30 words thereafter.

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

Please include your name and phone number in the email.

FOR SALE - SERVICES & MISCELLANEOUS

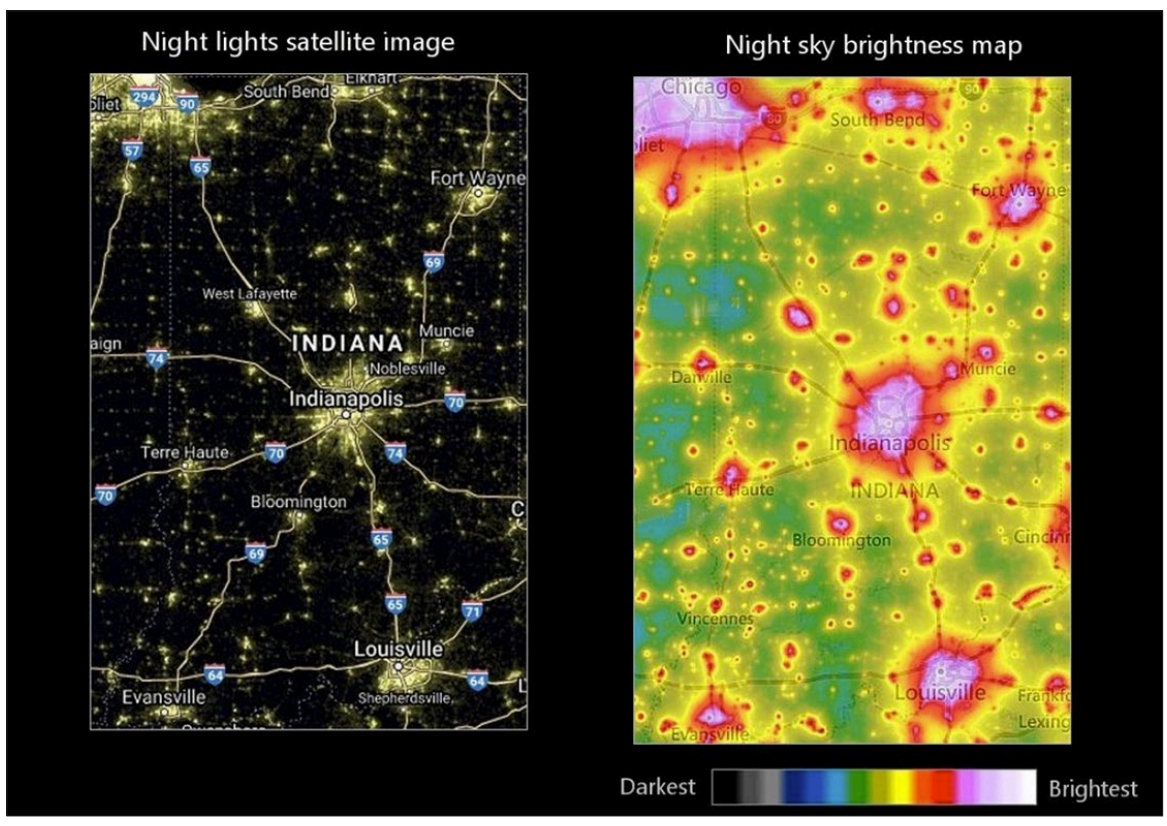
Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just $20/month. For more information, call 1-855-572-5165

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.

‘Lights out’ for birds



This warbler was killed after colliding with a building. (The Ecologist courtesy photo)



Light pollution can play a significant role in impeding the natural routes of migratory birds, leading to the National Audubon Society's Lights Out campaign. (Go-Astronomy.com courtesy map)

Residents are urged to help reduce bird fatalities during migration

By Laurie Sachtleben
MCC Contributor

MORGAN COUNTY — The simple act of turning off or dimming your outdoor lights at night can help protect migrating birds by reducing deadly light pollution, avian experts say.

Every spring and fall, billions of birds migrate through North America to find resources such as food and nesting sites. Morgan County, located within the Mississippi Flyway, sees a wide range of migratory birds, from songbirds to waterfowl to cranes and egrets. Spring migration already is under way and will last through mid- to late May.

Dangers abound

Migration is the most dangerous time in a bird's life, notes the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's website. If you're a bird on the move, you're vulnerable, the site says, adding, "You spend a lot of energy flying over large expanses of land, continents even, constantly searching for safe habitats to rest and refuel, all while trying to avoid hitting structures, bad weather, and predators along the way."

Hitting structures such as buildings and wind turbines kills up to 988 million birds annually, estimates the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. This threat is especially severe at night, when many birds travel using dark skies, celestial cues and Earth's magnetic field to navigate. Bright artificial lights can draw the birds off course or into a maze of dangerous reflective surfaces, including wet pavement. When migrants are exhausted and disoriented, they can hit windows, fall prey to free-roaming cats or struggle to find food.

Not just a ‘city’ problem

Light pollution is not just a "city" problem for migratory birds, noted Whitney Yoerger, communications and outreach manager for Indiana Audubon.

In places like Morgan County, Yoerger said, nighttime lighting is more common — and brighter — than ever before.

"LED lighting, though efficient, has greatly enhanced illumination across urban and rural environments," she said, adding that interference with birds' natural navigation can happen even in non-urban settings.

Statistics confirm that disoriented birds can collide with buildings in cities, in suburbs and in rural areas.

"While many associate bird collisions with skyscrapers, less than 1 percent of collisions occur at high-rise buildings," said Yoerger, citing a 2014 Smithsonian study. "Forty-four percent of collisions occur at low-rise structures and residential homes. This makes it especially important to address light pollution outside of urban areas."

‘Lights Out’ guidelines

The National Audubon Society's Lights Out campaign suggests ways to reduce deadly light pollution. More than 40 U.S. cities, including Indianapolis, have their own Lights Out initiatives. Here are some guidelines from Audubon and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology:

• During critical migration periods, turn off non-essential lights from 11 p.m. until 6 a.m. In particular, turn off decorative landscape lighting.

• Extinguish outdoor floodlights and can lights, especially if they point up.

• If you can't turn off a light, at least dim it or down-shield it.

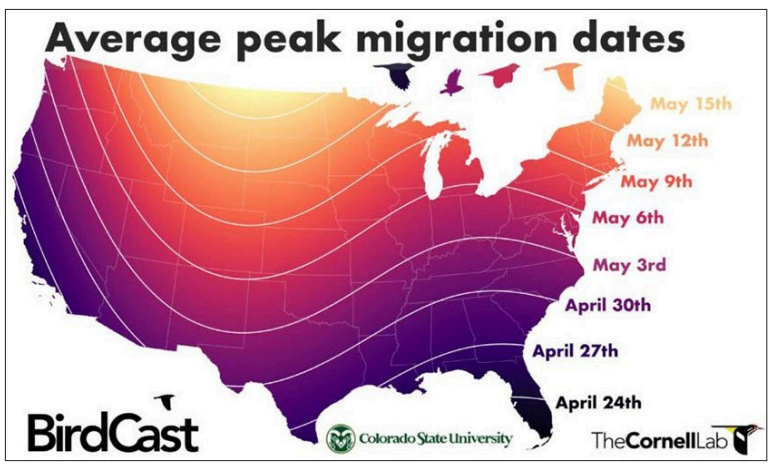
• Reduce atrium lighting, which creates a double hazard of light plus glass, wherever possible.

• Install automatic motion controls on outdoor lights wherever possible.

• When installing new lighting, avoid over-lighting with the newest, brightest technology.

Finally, citizens are invited to learn more about avian ecology. Through a project called Echoes of the Night Sky, Indiana Audubon is working to increase awareness of the state's importance as a migratory flyway.

For more information, go to indianaaudubon.org/nfcs.



Huge numbers of birds are passing over Morgan County during the spring migration, with peak migration expected in early to mid-May. (BirdCast courtesy map)

Morgan County migratory bird facts

- With its mix of forested areas, open fields and wetlands, Morgan County is attractive to migrating birds. Here are some facts on avian visitors to our community.
- Peak spring migration is between early and mid-May. Fall migration typically occurs from late September through mid-November
- On a single night of peak spring migration, an astonishing 3.3 million birds may pass through Morgan County. (Source: BirdCast, a migration analysis and forecasting initiative led by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology)
- Species that are likely to migrate through the county include Wood Thrushes, Great Crested Flycatchers, Scarlet Tanagers, Sandhill Cranes and several types of herons.
- More than 80 percent of migrating birds on the Mississippi Flyway, which includes Morgan County, travel at night. Songbirds in particular are night travelers. (Source: DarkSky International)

One shot with two points of interest



Critter Cam
CLARK HADLEY

I had never seen an eagle scratch its head before, and since I had been waiting for this eagle to do something interesting for quite a while, I fired off a burst of shots when it started to scratch its head.

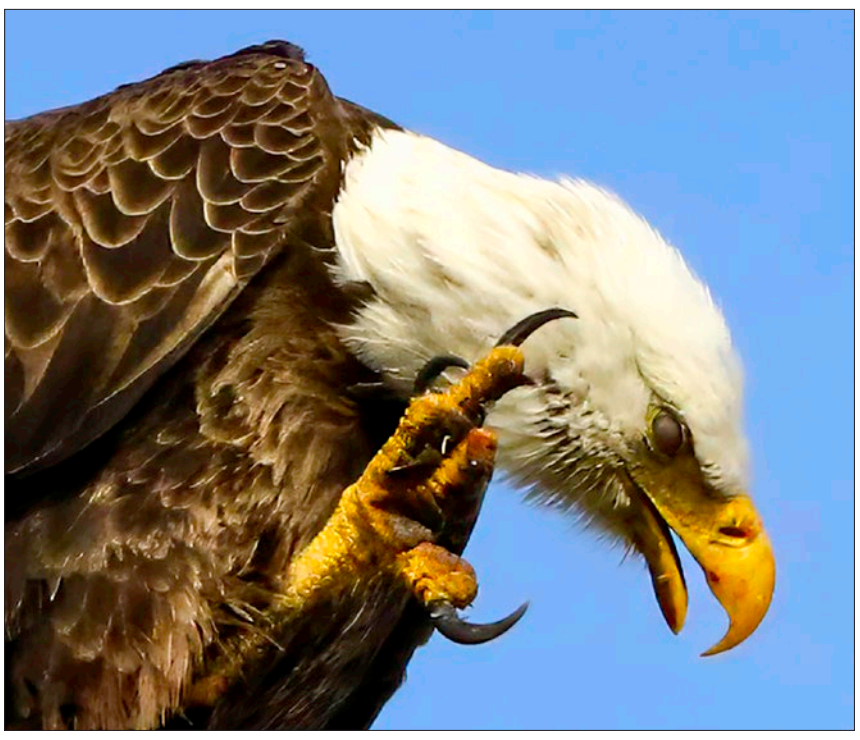
It wasn't until I looked at the results on my computer screen that I noticed something unusual.

Eagles and other birds of prey have exceptional vision with large eyes. Normally, those large eyes have yellow irises and large, round, black pupils.

But in this photo, I could only see a dull, completely brown eye. The reason is that birds, and many other animals, have a nictitating membrane that is used to cover and protect the eye when necessary. Normally, this membrane is transparent.

I can understand the eagle's reflex to deploy its membrane while scratching its head with its talons, but I'm at a loss to explain why it doesn't appear to be transparent.

My patience rewarded me with two unusual things in one shot.



You can see the brown membrane covering this eagle's eye as it scratches its head, but for whatever reason, the membrane doesn't appear transparent. (Clark Hadley photo)

Clark Hadley is a professional *retired Martinsville teacher and* amateur *photographer who lives in Mooresville.*

Bass tournament coming in May

From MCSO

LAKE MONROE — The Indiana Sheriffs' Association and Morgan County Sheriff Richard Myers would like to announce the 14th annual Indiana Sheriffs' Association Sheriff Robert "Buck" Stogsdill Open Bass Tournament to be held May 17.

The Open Bass Tournament is named after Sheriff "Buck" Stogsdill, former Brown County Sheriff who passed away in 2011.

This year's event will take place at the Lake Monroe Cutright Ramp on May 17 with takeoff at 7 a.m. The registration fee per team is $125, and this includes BIG BASS! There will be a huge raffle that includes food and drinks for all participants at the weigh-in. There will be coffee and donuts at the shelter house in the morning.

The ISA was first established in 1930 and in 1977 was incorporated as a nonprofit organization comprised of the 92 county sheriffs, their deputies and correctional staff. The association was formed to aid the sheriff's offices, thereby enabling them to improve the delivery of law enforcement and correctional services to the citizens of the state.

All proceeds benefit the ISA's Line of Duty Death Benefit, Youth Leadership Camps and Scholarship Programs.

For tournament information, contact tournament director Shawn Harden at 317-833-5588. Visit indiansheriffs.org or the Indiana Sheriffs' Association Facebook page for more.

