



# THE MORGAN COUNTY Correspondent

The source for news from every corner of Morgan County

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## Trials set for 2026

Brian and Sonja Stafford  
in court Monday as  
they face more than  
100 combined charges

By Keith Rhoades  
MCC Chief Correspondent

MORGAN COUNTY — A double hearing was held Monday afternoon in Morgan County Superior Court II for Brian and Sonja Stafford.

Since the former husband and wife have been charged together and they had back to back hearings scheduled for Monday, Judge Brian H. Williams asked attorneys for both if they objected to holding one hearing. Neither attorney objected, so Williams combined both hearings into one.



BRIAN



SONJA

SEE TRIALS | PAGE A7

## A BURDEN OF HOPE



## Martinsville 'Cross Guy' walks the talk of faith nearly every day

By Jared Quigg  
MCC Reporter

MARTINSVILLE — No, that was not the Son of Man wheeling a cross down Morgan Street in the middle of a Monday afternoon, though he does look a little like the guy on the 'PRAY' billboards you've probably seen around town.

That was actually just Jordan Christopher Walker Kilgore — he always uses his full name — trying to spread kindness up and down the block.

Nearly every day, the people of Martinsville can find Kilgore walking the three miles from Fifth Street on the city's northeast side to the bridge over the White River on Ind. 39 bypass and back again, heaving over his shoulder a nearly 30-pound wooden cross that he originally found thrown in the trash.

Why does he do it? Martinsville is a proud faith-based community, but it might nevertheless be easy to dismiss Kilgore as something of a Jesus freak.

"People see me and they say, 'If this guy's out here being this crazy for Jesus, it *must* be real!'" Kilgore told *The Correspondent* during a recent sit-down.

The comment echoes a pretty famous dilemma some modern Christians have had with their faith. The writer C.S. Lewis articulated it like this — either Jesus really was the Messiah, or he was a raving lunatic, nothing more.

For Lewis, and presumably the people who make this comment to Kilgore, the latter option — Christ as a fraudulent madman — was too hard to stomach. Jesus must have been who he claimed to be.

SEE HOPE | PAGE A8

FROM TOP: From left to right: Patty Owens and Holly Jones chat with Jordan Christopher Walker Kilgore outside the Red Barn on Morgan Street during one of Kilgore's daily strolls last month. Just about every day, Kilgore walks for miles up and down the streets of Martinsville, carrying a cross and spreading the message of Jesus. // Kilgore smiles with his cross as he walks West Morgan Street. He started 'walking for the Lord' after he first saw someone else do it. (Stephen Crane photos / MCC)

## Lawsuit: AES is contaminating White River with toxins

Staff Report

MARTINSVILLE — The Hoosier Environmental Council, an Indianapolis-based nonprofit, is taking legal action against the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) and power company AES Indiana, the owner of the Eagle Valley Generating Station on

Blue Bluff Road north of Martinsville, according to a lawsuit filed March 20.

In the lawsuit, filed in the Morgan County Circuit Court, the HEC petitions for judicial review of IDEM's issuance of a pollution discharge permit to AES Indiana back in January.

SEE TOXINS | PAGE A8



For nearly 70 years, the Eagle Valley power plant on Blue Bluff Road north of Martinsville used coal to produce electricity. In 2018, the plant switched to natural gas, but according to a lawsuit recently filed, AES is allegedly polluting the nearby White River with toxic chemicals from the coal ash that was produced and stored on site. (AES courtesy photo)

## MSD facing possible legal action over former teacher

Staff Report

MARTINSVILLE — The Metropolitan School District of Martinsville was served a tort claim notice last week from Carmel-based law firm Wagner Reese on behalf of an alleged victim of a former district employee now accused of sexual misconduct with minors.

Brittany Fortinberry, 31, worked as a substitute teacher in Martinsville schools from Oct. 24, 2023, until Jan. 9, 2024, when she resigned. She later went on to briefly work as a teacher in Eminence late last summer.

In October of last year, Fortinberry was charged with two felonies and misdemeanors each, including two counts each of disseminating matter harmful to minors and harassment using a computer network.

She was then charged in February with five felonies, including three counts of sexual misconduct with a minor. Fortinberry was



FORTINBERRY

SEE MSD | PAGE A8



SINCE 1979, Family Owned and Operated!



Obituary

Phyllis Elizabeth Ann Bagwell, 90

MOORESVILLE — Phyllis Elizabeth Ann Bagwell, 90, of Mooresville, was granted eternal rest on Monday, March 24, 2025 at the Brownsburg Meadows. She is now free of the confinements of dementia which she has battled for over ten years. On May 21, 1934, she was born to Harold and Helen King in the city of St. John on the island of Newfoundland in Canada.

Phyllis dedicated her life caring for others. She cared for her family as a dedicated homemaker. Always putting the needs of others before her own, as mothers often do. She was blessed with a beautiful family marrying the love of her life, Dale Thomas Bagwell, on November 23rd, 1966. The two had enjoyed nearly 47 years of marriage before his passing on July 25, 2013.

Aside from her own family, she was also active in her church and community. Many will remember Phyllis from her charitable work. Her compassion, generosity, and kindness were central to the many benevolent activities she engaged in. She truly embodied what it meant to be a servant and follower of Jesus Christ. Never seeking glory for herself, she simply wanted to help those around her and give glory to her Heavenly Father. Phyllis never turned down an opportunity to assist others, which was one of her greatest passions. The best years of her life were defined by her service to the poor, elderly, and disabled. She could always be counted on to volunteer, no matter what the task.

She was a member of the Mooresville Church of God, President of the Women's Group, active leader with Churches in Mission, volunteer for Meals on Wheels, volunteer at the Senior Center, a volunteer at Camp Challenge, and more. In her spare time, she enjoyed gardening and looking for new recipes to cook. Always seeking to grow in her faith, she valued Bible study and prayer time.

Phyllis also enjoyed caring for her many grandchildren, whom she loved more than life itself. Parents never heard the word "no" when it came to watching the grandbabies! Other enjoyable activities for her included mending and sewing clothing, bargain shopping, watching the birds on her deck overlooking the lake with her husband Dale, and caring for the homes that Dale designed and built with his own



hands for her over their many years together. She also had a peculiar affinity for Canadian Geese, for some mysterious reason.

Friends and relatives, do not be sad at her passing. She suffers no more, and we are grateful. Phyllis would not want you to be sad on her account. Be happy for her as she enters her new world. She smiles.

Phyllis will forever be remembered by her family and friends including her children, Arthur Wood of Indianapolis; Arlana Wood of Indianapolis and Krystal (Howard) Simmons of Spotsylvania, Virginia; Stephen (Marcia) Bagwell of Indianapolis; sister, Emma Butler of Canada; daughter-in-law Sandra (Wood) Calvert; 7 grandchildren: Ashley Wood, Jimmy (Maggie) Farmer, Jeremy (Beth) Farmer, Megan Wood, Nelson Wood, Cassie (Max) Wood, Stephen J. Bagwell, 8 great grandchildren, and 2 great-great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Harold and Helen King; husband, Dale Bagwell; son, Max O. Wood Jr.; and brother, Jim King.

Family and friends are invited to visit on Wednesday, April 2nd from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon in the chapel at Carlisle - Branson Funeral Service & Crematory. Phyllis's Life Celebration® Service will immediately follow beginning at 12:00 noon at the funeral home. She will be laid to rest next to her husband Dale at Fairfield Cemetery in Camby following the service.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Phyllis's memory to Churches in Mission online at <https://churchesinmission.org/> or using the envelopes provided at the funeral home.

Visit [www.CarlisleBranson.com](http://www.CarlisleBranson.com) to share a favorite memory or to sign the online guest registry.



Obituary Notices

Toby Dolen, 80

MOORESVILLE — Toby Lee Dolen, 80, of Mooresville, died March 25, 2025. Arrangements by Carlisle-Branson Funeral Service and Crematory in Mooresville.

Matthew Upton, 51

MOORESVILLE — Matthew Jon Upton, 51, of Mooresville, died March 28, 2025. Arrangements by Carlisle-Branson Funeral Service and Crematory in Mooresville.

Ethil Ladyman, 88

MARTINSVILLE — Ethil Raymond Ladyman, 88, of Martinsville, died March 29, 2025. Arrangements by Costin Funeral Chapel in Martinsville.

Death Notices

Morgan County Health Department

Sandra Kay Lawyer, 79, Camby	Virginia Kay Hughey, 68, Camby
Joyce Ann Yoder, 86, Martinsville	Homer Bishop, 92, Martinsville
Majorie Lucille Ross, 98, Paragon	Victoria Jean Barnes, 77, Martinsville
Rhoda Claudine Lovewell, 87, Mooresville	Marilyn Rosenbaum, 88, Martinsville
William Donald Clark, 88, Mooresville	Kevin Thorsten Toms, 48, Martinsville
Evejean K. Hutton, 67, Martinsville	Angela Dawn Woods, 53, Martinsville
Elmer Lee Pollard, 89, Mooresville	Sherman Douglas Frazier, 73, Martinsville
Cena Elmerlene Sighting, 89, Mooresville	Judith A. Cross, 80, Martinsville
Leonard Udovich, 84, Martinsville	William Charles Christensen, 80, Camby

Work expected on Ind. 39 bypass thru October

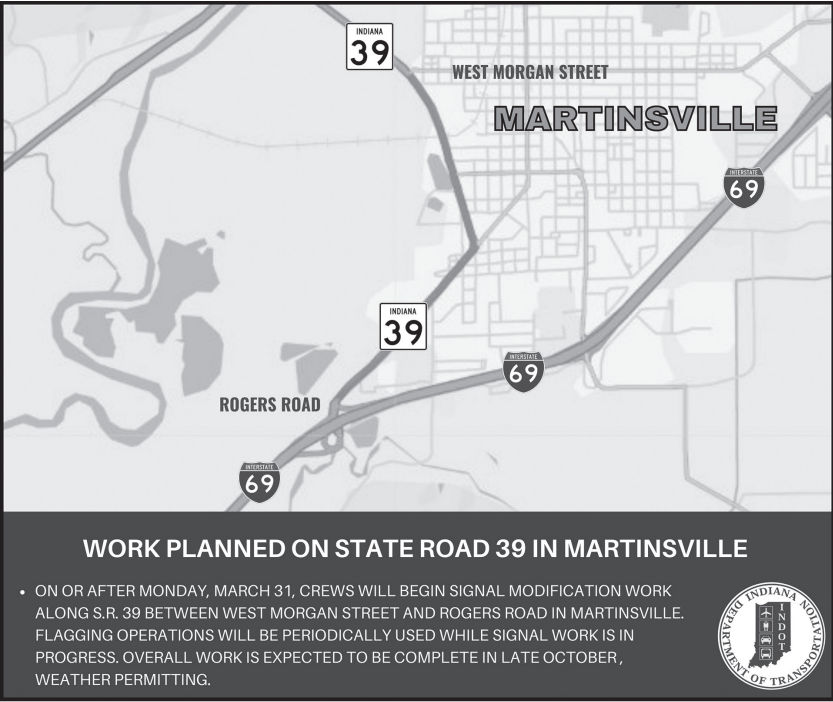
From INDOT

MARTINSVILLE — Indiana Department of Transportation contractor E&B Paving, Inc. is scheduled to begin signal modification work along the Ind. 39 bypass on or after Monday, March 31.

Work will take place on the bypass between Rogers Road and West Morgan Street, with flagging operations periodically used while signal work is in progress.

Pavement rehabilitation work will take place on the Ind. 39 bypass as part of the contract following the completion of signal modification work. INDOT will provide additional information as work progresses. Overall work on the bypass is expected to be complete in late October, weather permitting.

This work is part of a contract awarded E&B in February 2025. INDOT reminds drivers to slow down, use extra caution, and avoid



distractions when traveling in weather-dependent and schedules and near work zones. All work is are subject to change.

Ind. 42 to see closures thru July

From INDOT

LITTLE POINT— The Indiana Department of Transportation announces several short-term road closures on Ind. 42 in Morgan County, located west of Monrovia.

Beginning on or after Thursday, April 10, Ind. 42 will close several small stretches of roadway between Simpson Road and County Road

1100 W, located between Crown Center and Little Point. The purpose of the closures is to patch, resurface, and install structures in the area. The official detour around the closure will be Ind. 42 to Ind. 39 to Ind. 142, back to Ind. 42.

Work is anticipated to be complete by mid-July but is weather-dependent and subject to change. INDOT encourages driv-



ers to seek an alternate in and around all work route and use caution zones.

Marriage/Divorces

Marriage Licenses

Shelby Marie Waldrip, Monrovia; Hezekiah Matthew Pleake, Martinsville; Alexander Joseph Willett, Mooresville; Morgan Elise Walts, Indianapolis; Annabelle Louise Lundy, Coatesville; Christian Daniel Lee Clayton, Martinsville; Branka Bavic, Mooresville; Michael Merriman, Mooresville; Rubens Deniro Cabello Milano, Martins-

ville; Sylvia N. Summers, Martinsville; Courtney Renee Bertram, Mooresville; Edwin Joel Coriano, Flint, Mich. Anna Renee Thrasher, Mooresville; Hunter Braiden Miers, Mooresville

Divorces

Paola D. Sotelo vs. Deyson Tobar; Matthew Somers vs. Amber Somers; Brittany Hogan vs. Derek Hogan; Rebekah Inabnitt vs. Kaden Inabnitt

Mary LaBrecque vs. James LaBrecque; Bayleigh Blondell vs. Karena Noragon; Carrolle Parmelee vs. Linda D. Parmelee; James Connor Fields vs. Erin Lorraine Hays; Johnna Jones vs. Patrick Jones; Abigail Danielle Rodabaugh vs. Tyran Alan Rodabaugh; Melissa E. Lowery vs. Brian Lowery; Kelly Walker vs. Billy Walker Jr.

Jail Bookings

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

Richard Adams, 64, Greenwood, serving time – operating a vehicle while intoxicated.  
Kelsey Bryant Anthis, 40, Martinsville, serving time – probation violation.  
Lee Harley Davidson Bates, 31, Mooresville, false identity statement and hold for Indiana agencies.  
Caleb MacKenzie Bellner, 27, Mooresville, petition to revoke probation.  
Elijah Randy Brummett, 22, Mooresville, possession of marijuana.  
Jordan Dale Calhoun, 27, Martinsville, battery and domestic battery.  
Lillian Josephine Jessie Ann Cobb, 32, Indianapolis, driving while suspended.  
Megan Leann Cogdill, 43, Plainfield, possession of a controlled substance.  
Steven Cameron Eggers, 24, Martinsville, probation revocation.

Isaiah Flores, 21, Martinsville, domestic battery-simple assault, strangulation, strangulation, and criminal confinement.  
Jordan Edward Guffey, 29, Indianapolis, failure to appear.  
Hunter Lee Hampton, 27, Martinsville, resisting law enforcement-defendant uses a vehicle, operating a vehicle while intoxicated with a prior conviction, and operating a vehicle while intoxicated-endangerment.  
Mason Logan Hopper, 22, Plainfield, serving time – operating a vehicle while intoxicated with a prior conviction.  
Ivan Anthony Guerrero Juarez, 25, Indianapolis, serving time – probation violation.  
Sherman Partick Kramer, 44, homeless, wanted on Morgan County warrant.  
Ralph Edward McClusky Jr., 45, Gosport, serving time – domestic battery-moderate bodily injury.  
Mario Gabriel Modany, 20, Carmel, operating a vehicle with a blood alcohol content of .15 percent or more, forgery, leav-

ing the scene of a crash-injury crash, and operating a vehicle while intoxicated-endangerment.  
Stephen Tyler Nenedjian, 29, Martinsville, possession of paraphernalia.  
Braun Wade Price, 38, Brooklyn, operating a vehicle while intoxicated-endangerment and operating a vehicle while intoxicated.  
Daniel Lee Scott, 46, Camby, serving time – probation violation.  
Shirley Jeanette Scott, 45, Martinsville, false identity statement and possession of paraphernalia.  
Jarrod Lowell Shotts, 27, Martinsville, petition to revoke probation.  
Jason Harold Stull, 41, Shelbyville, possession of methamphetamine, possession of marijuana, and possession of paraphernalia.  
Crystal J. Thomas, 45, Indianapolis, resisting law enforcement-defendant uses a vehicle, public intoxication, and battery against a public safety

official with bodily injury.  
Ethan Andrew Patton, 35, Brooklyn, violation of pretrial release and possession of methamphetamine.  
Darren Heath Pemberton, 58, Gosport, bond forfeiture.  
James Justo Velasco, 50, Indianapolis, operating a vehicle, intoxicated and operating a vehicle while intoxicated-endangerment, and operating without ever obtaining a license.  
Joseph Scott Vibbert, 41, Spencer, possession of methamphetamine, possession of a schedule I substance, possession of marijuana, and dealing methamphetamine.  
Jacob Morgan Vinson, 24, Martinsville, serving time-possession of marijuana.  
Mary Diane Williams, 47, Indianapolis, operating a motorboat while intoxicated, possession of marijuana, and operating a vehicle while intoxicated-endangerment.  
Eli Shane Wright, 43, Martinsville, serving time – contempt of court-civil.

Court News

Morgan County Superior Court I Judge Dakota VanLeeuwen

Sawyer Flinn, 22, Mooresville, operating while intoxicated, endangering a person. Sentenced to 365 days in jail, suspended except for two days to serve (time served), 363 days probation, 90-day license suspension, fines, costs and restitution of \$1,175.

Aaron Grey, 47, Indianapolis, operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person. Sentenced to 365 days in jail, suspended except for 12 days to serve, 353 days probation, 90-day license suspension, fines and costs of \$790.

Mason Hopper, 22, Indianapolis, operating a vehicle with a schedule I or II controlled substance with prior conviction. Sentenced to 90 days in jail and 90 days home detention, 180-day license suspension, fines and costs of \$390.

Ralph E. McClusky Jr., 45, Gosport, domestic battery resulting in moderate bodily injury. Sentenced to 455 days in jail, suspended except for 90 days to serve, 365 days probation, fines and costs of \$240.

John Oliver, 35, Indianapolis, operating a vehicle with a schedule I or II and possession of marijuana. Sentenced to 180 days in jail, suspended except for eight days to serve (time served), 172 days probation, 90-day license suspension, fines and costs of \$990.

Ronald Rose, Mooresville, probation violation. Sentenced to 50 days in jail.

Chad Ziegler, 39, Martinsville, non support

of a dependent child. Sentenced to 288 days in jail, fines and costs waived as court finds defendant to be indigent.

Superior Court II Judge Brian H. Williams

Richard Adams, 64, Greenwood, operating while intoxicated. Sentenced to 365 days in jail, suspended except for 10 days to serve, 365 days probation, 180-day license suspension, fines and costs of \$390.

Lateesha M. Emra, 29, Martinsville, resisting law enforcement. Sentenced to 270 days in jail, fines and costs of \$590.

Lateesha M. Emra, 29, Martinsville, probation violation. Sentenced to 240 days in jail, fines and costs of \$1,610, time to be served consecutively with previous case.

Gary Huff, 26, Indianapolis, battery by bodily waste and disorderly conduct. Sentenced to 500 days in jail (time served), fines and costs of \$590.

Yoni Izaguirre, 29, Martinsville, operating without ever receiving a driver's license. Sentence to 0 days in jail, fines and costs of \$590.

Yoni Izaguirre, 29, Martinsville, operating with a blood alcohol content of .15 percent or more and operating without ever receiving a driver's license. Sentenced to 365 days in jail, suspended except for six days to serve, 359 days probation, one-year license suspension, fines and costs of \$790.

Angela B. James, 52, Terre Haute, visiting a common nuisance. Sentenced to 180 days in

jail, suspended except for six days to serve (time served), 365 days probation, fines and costs of \$590.

Cory W. Lafary, 32, Martinsville, operating while intoxicated. Sentenced to six days in jail, 90-day license suspension, fines and costs of \$390.

Aretis Leslie, 32, Indianapolis, operating while intoxicated-endangering. Sentenced to 365 days in jail, suspended except for six days to serve (time served), 365 days probation, 180-day license suspension, fine and costs of \$390.

Wendy Mathews, 55, Mooresville, possession of methamphetamine. Sentenced to 910 days in jail, suspended except for six days to serve (time served), 904 days probation, fines and costs of \$790.

Leslie M. Smith, 38, Martinsville, possession of methamphetamine. Sentenced to 5,840 days in Indiana Department of Corrections, fines and costs of \$590.

Superior Court III Senior Judge G. Michael Witte

Lisa Eidson, 60, Mooresville, operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person. Sentenced to 60 days in jail, suspended except for four days to serve (time served), 365 days probation, 90-day license suspension, fines and costs of \$390.

Hans A. Hamblin, 39, Martinsville, operating while intoxicated endangering a person. Sentenced to 270 days in jail, fines and costs of \$390.



THE MORGAN COUNTY

# Correspondent

**How to Contact Us**

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

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# 'Cooking Matters' class on April 10

From Tony Veneziano  
Franciscan Health

MOORESVILLE — Franciscan Health, in conjunction with Life Pointe Church of the Nazarene, will be hosting a healthy in-class entitled “Cooking Matters” on Thursday, April 10, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Life Pointe Church of the Nazarene, 825 N. Indiana St. in Mooresville. The class highlights



healthy food swaps, tips for budget-friendly grocery shopping, proper cooking techniques, general nutrition tips and more. Participants will prepare and taste a new recipe made with healthy ingredients. Families are encouraged to attend this free event together. To register, contact Kelli Webb at [KWebb@ChurchesInMission.org](mailto:KWebb@ChurchesInMission.org) or call 317-220-2627.

## Government Meetings

**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.

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

**April 8**  
The Monrovia Plan Commission will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Government Center, 60 S. Marley Way.

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

**April 9**  
The Morgan County Soil and Water Conservation District board will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the Morgan County Administration Building, 180 S. Main St. in Martinsville.

**April 10**  
The Mooresville Plan Commission will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Government Center, 4 E. Harrison St.

**April 14**  
The Martinsville Board of Works will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the council chambers at 59 S. Jefferson St.

The Monrovia Public Works Committee will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Government Center, 60 S. Marley Way.

The Mooresville Parks and Recreation District will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the park office, 1101 Indianapolis Road.

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

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

**April 15**  
The Morgan County Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. in 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 16**  
The Harrison Township Fire District Board will meet at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall behind New Beginnings Community Church, 8657 Waverly Road in Waverly, for its quarterly business meeting.

**April 17**  
The Mooresville Police Commission will meet at 6 p.m. at the police station, 445 S. Indiana St.

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

healthy food swaps, tips for budget-friendly grocery shopping, proper cooking techniques, general nutrition tips and more. Participants will prepare and taste a new recipe made with healthy ingredients. Families are encouraged to attend this free event together. To register, contact Kelli Webb at [KWebb@ChurchesInMission.org](mailto:KWebb@ChurchesInMission.org) or call 317-220-2627.

**April 21**  
The Morgan County Commissioners will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the administration building, 180 S. Main St. in Martinsville.

The Monrovia Board of Zoning Appeals will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Government Center, 60 S. Marley Way.

**April 22**  
The Monrovia Town Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Government Center, 60 S. Marley Way.

**April 24**  
The Morgan County Board of Health will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the County Administration Building, 180 S. Main St. in Martinsville.

**April 28**  
The Morgan County Public Library Board will meet at 6 p.m. at the Main Branch, 110 S. Jefferson St. in Martinsville.

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

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

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

**May 1**  
The Mooresville Redevelopment Commission will meet at 6 p.m. at the Government Center, 4 E. Harrison St.

**May 5**  
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.

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

**May 6**  
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.

**May 12**  
The Monrovia Economic Development Commission will meet at 6 p.m. at the Government Center, 60 S. Marley Way.

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

• Morgantown (2nd Monday each month at the firehouse, 269 N. Highland St.

• Paragon (1st Monday each month at 7 p.m. at the town hall, 300 N. Main St.)

• Brooklyn (2nd Tuesday each month at 6 p.m. at Brooklyn Kids Park, 3277 E. Centenary Road)

• Bethany (4th Thursday each month at 7 p.m. at town hall, 7355 Bethany Park)

WANTED

PRETRIAL VIOLATION  
**DEVAN CRAIG**

TURN 'EM IN THURSDAY

PROBATION VIOLATION  
**CHAD MITCHELL**

MORGAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

PROBATION VIOLATION  
**BABATUNDE OSIWOGA**

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

# Mooresville alumni banquet coming April 12

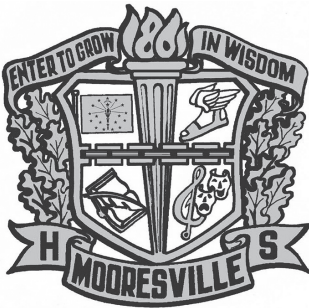
From Susan Haynes  
Mooresville Schools

MOORESVILLE — The Mooresville High School Alumni Association will hold its 59th Alumni Banquet at 6 p.m. on Saturday, April 12, in the MHS cafeteria. The afternoon includes several activities for alumni as well as members of the public, including an open house at the Academy Building museum on the Newby campus from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. From 4 to 6 p.m., MHS will be open for tours of the school, Alumni Room, Heritage Hall, Pioneer Pavilion and more. The MHS Open House will begin with a 4 p.m. dedication of the new MHS Alumni Veterans Wall, which will honor all alumni who went on to serve our country. The first 50 stars from veteran alumni, many who served during WWII and all who made the ultimate sacrifice, will be part of the first “class” of honored alumni.



The MHS Alumni Veterans Wall will be dedicated April 12 as part of the alumni activities leading up to the evening's banquet. (Courtesy photo)

The banquet will include tribute to the 50TH Reunion Class of '75, recognition of anniversary class groups, the presentation of a \$5,000 Alumni Scholarship for the child or grandchild of an MHS alumnus, and the evening will conclude with the presentation of Wall of Success and



Distinguished Alumnus honorees. Attendees should enter MHS through Door 30 behind the school. Additional information and Alumni RSVP information is available at [MooresvilleSchools.org/Alumni](http://MooresvilleSchools.org/Alumni) or Facebook.com/MooresvilleAlumni.

## Calendar of Events

**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

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

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

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

**April 5**  
Early Explorers Expo at Old Town Waverly Park, 8425 Main St. Martinsville from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free Activities and Giveaways for families and children of all ages. Sponsored by Morgan County Early Learning Coalition.

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**  
RSVP for MCLA Legacy of Leadership First Session at Brickhouse on Main, 128 North Main St. Martinsville 4-11-2025 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.Includes lunch \$60. 317-408-0455. Dr. Treg Hopkins, Strategic Decision Making in Complex Environments.

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

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

**April 11**  
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

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

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

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

**April 12**  
Register for Underwater Easter Egg Hunt at the YMCA of Morgan County, 2039 E. Morgan St. in Martinsville. The hunt is on April 13 at various times by age. \$5 per child, registration ends April 12th.

Morgan Co. Extension Homemakers Scholarship Benefit Indoor Yard Sale at the Morgan Co. Fairgrounds, 1749 Hospital Drive in Martinsville. 8 a.m to 3 p.m., lunch available. Help raise funds for graduating Morgan Co. High School students.

Weed Wrangle at Burkhart Creek Park, N Duckworth Rd, Paragon, from 9 a.m. to Noon. Garlic Mustard pull, hosted by Morgan County Native and Invasive Plant Partnership.

Easter Egg Hunt at Morgan County Sheriff's office 160 N Park Ave. in Martinsville at 10 a.m. Bring a basket for collecting eggs. Ages 2-12, Crafts, Prizes and K-9 Demonstration.

The Bunny of Seville with the Indianapolis Opera at Morgan County Public Library, Main Branch 110 S. Jefferson St. in Martinsville, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

The Footsteps of Jesus pop up event at The Venue, 183 N Jefferson St. in Martinsville from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Information, free resources, teaching, prayer, testimonies.

Writer's Group at Morgan County Public Library, Main Branch 110 S. Jefferson St. in Martinsville, from 2 to 4 p.m.

**April 14**  
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.

Family Craft Night at Morgan County Public Library, Main Branch 110 S. Jefferson St. in Martinsville, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. ages 5 and up, registration required.

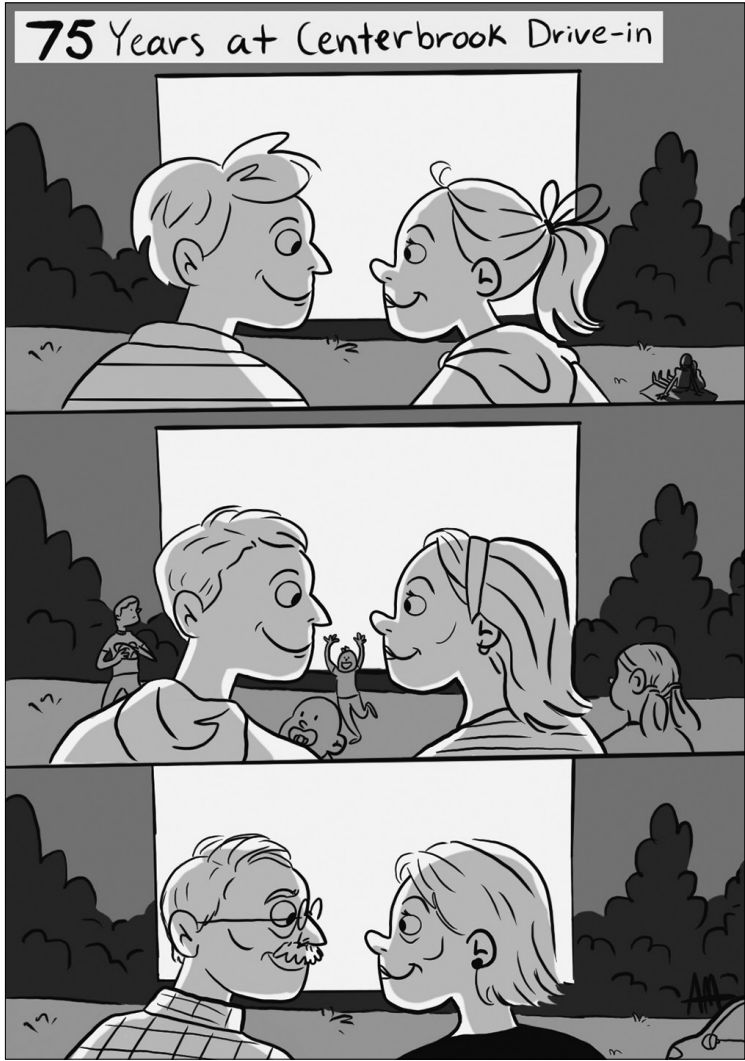
**April 15**  
Morgan County Schoolhouse Quilters Guild at First Church of the Nazarene, 1609 John R. Wooden Dr. in Martinsville. The 3rd Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. Visitors are welcome. Please use the entrance facing the High School Football Field.

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 16**  
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.

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

COMIC



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let your voices be heard: Save city hall

On April 14, the Martinsville City Council will meet and discuss two options for city hall. A previous workshop and council meeting have determined the two options — build a new one or remodel the existing building with an addition.

At the workshop, several local contractors and citizens spoke of the nostalgic, historic and monetary value of remodeling the existing building. At the council meeting on Jan. 27, the council seemed to like the new build option while the administration leaned toward the remodeling option.

But the biggest question is — what do citizens feel about the two options?

Next question — what is most cost-effective and efficient option? Cost should not be the only factor, but it should be the major one.

The difference in costs of a new building versus remodeling the existing building is \$2-3 million. Plus, it is not only the difference in the cost of the options but also the additional cost of the bonds.

Useable square footage in each option, meanwhile, is similar. Hopefully, on the 14th, the costs per square foot for each option will be discussed.

Also, as the costs are evaluated, the fact that our state government will be reducing property tax should be a concern in the decision.

While building for the future sounds forward-thinking, the population growth of the past 24 years reveals that Martinsville has grown very little — 1.4 percent. Since I-69 was finished, the population has been relatively flat. How Martinsville grows is yet to be determined.

The bottom line is the 1911 city hall building is a historic landmark that still looks good and is worth saving for decades to come. It makes no sense to build new, spend the extra money, and only gain a new building with the same amount of space.

If the future population increases substantially and more space is needed for city business, the building can be added onto again. It has solid bones.

However, once the building is gone, it's gone. Please, let your voice be heard. Attend the meeting(s), or call your council member (numbers are on the city website).

Let them know you want to save city hall.

Jim Burkhart  
Martinsville

Do you see the word games they play?

Tune into any of the local TV news broadcasts on any given day and you will invariably hear the word “gun violence” in every one. All of the local news outlets are consumed with advancing that narrative and painting all gun owners as part of Indy’s violence problem.

I have repeatedly protested local TV outlets regarding their intentional misrepresentation of the issue, and they all blew it off. Despite these efforts, every once in a while, the truth shines through.

Indianapolis does not have a gun violence problem — it has a gang problem.

Just this week Fox 59 featured a story about two juvenile suspects charged with gang activity.

What precisely was that “activity?” They were members of SUR 13 and openly selling illegal weapons and drugs on social media. They were also openly displaying photos of those weapons in an effort to intimidate competing gang members. Oh, and they, along with fellow gang members, were suspected of “multiple random gunfire incidents” around town.

So how exactly does obvious activity occurring on social media, right under the media’s noses, end up being labeled “gun violence,” if not intentionally?

It’s fascinating that when the local media reports on “random gunfire incidents,” they never refer to it as being “gang related.” Instead, they refer to it as examples of “gun violence.”

Why is that? Could it be because Indianapolis is, first and foremost, a tourist town and that would be bad for business?

A day after reality forced Fox 59 to report gang violence as actually being gang violence, WTHR engaged in the same slight of hand. They deceptively ran the headline, “Juvenile injured in far east Indianapolis shooting,” leaving readers to wonder, was it an accident, or perhaps a range trip gone wrong?

No. And again, they buried the headline, later admitting it was a “targeted shooting,” most likely by a gang member.

Now do you see the word games they play?

Also appearing on the same WTHR webpage was the headline, “IMPD implementing increased security strategy for busy sports weekend downtown.”

Really? Why? Who are they afraid might show up?

Question asked, and answered.

Mike Pflum  
Waverly

Bigheaded predictions

Do you realize that we are now one fourth of the way through 2025?

Spring has arrived, warm weather will be here soon, and I’m wondering if wearing compression socks — a staple of my wardrobe — with my Bermuda shorts will be considered a fashion faux pas.

Compression socks arrived in our home as I have gotten older. Even the concept of such a thing would never have entered my mind 75 years ago in the year 1950, when I found myself at the age of 10 standing in front of the magazine rack at Walker’s Drug Store in Loogootee.

There was a new entry — a magazine whose name I have forgotten. Perhaps it was “Popular” something or other, or it could have been something with “Science” in the title.

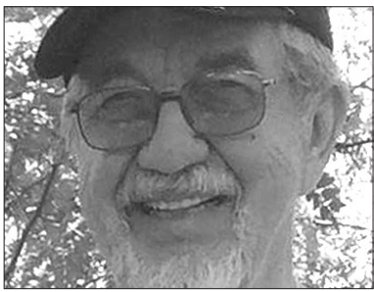
No matter what the name, it was the picture beneath the title that caught my eye — a rendering of an alien-looking person occupying the whole front cover. The head comprised at least half of the life form. There was no hair on this gigantic head, no long locks, no eyebrows, nothing to even give a clue as to the gender of whatever this thing was, and the body — a scrawny, almost stick-like figure — offered no answer either.

The arms and legs suffered from some sort of arrested development. The eyes were much bigger than normal while the mouth was only a tiny slash across the lower region of the face. The nose, strangely enough, appeared to be the right size. But it was the forehead that dominated the caricature.

My God, the forehead was enormous. In fact, the skinny neck could not support this oversize sphere, so it was propped up by a pillow.

Under the picture was a caption that read “Evolution at work.” I sat my cherry phosphate down and flipped through the pages looking for the story. A researcher with impeccable credentials had arrived at this picture after studying what the use of 1950s “modern conveniences” would do to our bodies over a long period of time. His research had revealed that by the year 2025, this bigheaded person was a close approximation of what we would all look like.

The bald heads would come about, he felt, because having central heat would cause all our hair follicles to dry up and blow away because we would no longer need hair to keep warm. The eyes would need to grow larger to accommodate the watching of the new television medium on those



G2  
GORDON GRINDSTAFF

tiny little screens. All our nutrition would arrive once a day in capsule form. So there would be no need for teeth, and a big mouth would serve no purpose since Dagwood sandwiches would be passé.

Machines would do all our work for us, and our muscles would go the way of the Dodo bird, resulting in a world full of 98-pound weaklings. Since we would do only mental work, our cerebral capabilities would expand, resulting in the need for a much larger cranium to hold the over-developed brain. That explained the ski-slope-sized forehead.

It was pretty scary stuff for an impressionable young man such as myself. Even though at the time, the year 2025 was 75 years away, needless to say, I got no sleep that night. I had no desire to join a legion of bigheaded people. I was too busy trying to look like Elvis.

Years passed and I forgot all about the bigheaded people. But then one day, I found myself in a men’s restroom where I had wandered to do my business when a small sign above the urinal stopped me in my tracks. “Hands Free Operation,” it read.

Now what in the Sam Hill does that mean, I wondered? A little red light on the wall started blinking at me, and all sorts of possibilities, including such things as little robot arms, went running through my mind.

I stood there debating about what to do, girding my loins, so to speak. Nothing ventured, nothing gained, I told myself. I stepped up to the urinal, the little red light began blinking faster and I closed my eyes, not wanting to see those little robot hands coming at me. Not a good idea as it turned out. You really should keep your eyes open in those situations. As I walked out of the restroom, I recalled the story of bigheaded people. Maybe this “hands free” business was where we were heading.

Recently at the big box store, I walked by a display of whirring robot vacuum cleaners scurrying



A ‘hands free operation’ urinal isn’t quite the predicted future of 75 years ago, but still a bit confounding. (Gordon Grindstaff courtesy photo)

around a fenced off area. Once again, I remembered that long ago bigheaded person on the cover of that magazine in Walker’s Drug Store.

Here we are, 75 years later, and according to that magazine, we should all be resembling some refugee from a Star Wars fan club convention by now. But in reality, we haven’t changed much since the 1950’s.

I still have my hair, most of it anyway. My eyes are the same size they were when I first read that story because that tiny TV screen has grown to be the size of a city bus. It’s also safe to say that we’re not running around with big heads crammed full of intelligence. That never happened, and a few minutes of daytime television was enough to convince me it never will. That being said, the writer had no idea that we would one day have pocket-sized boxes that would not only capture images but would also provide easy access to most of the world’s knowledge and a good part of the world’s idiocy as well.

I guess you could say that all those teenage years when I stood in front of the bathroom mirror measuring my forehead were a waste of time.

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

Is it really happening?

Say it ain’t so! Has spring finally sprung? A resounding yes, as the daffodils abound!

I love daffodils. Not only are they the first to usher in the new year of lush greenery, but they’re a hardy sort.

I love Magnolia trees, too, and this year, we’ve been treated to gorgeous explosions of white, pink and magenta at every turn. And even better, they’ve been hanging around for days on end. Oftentimes, they bloom just before another hard frost, leaving the flowers brown and withered. And of course, Monday night’s sub-freezing temperatures brought their display to an untimely end.

But daffodils, on the other hand, are made to withstand about anything Mother Nature can throw at them — and in Indiana in spring, that can range from sweltering heat to a freezing ice storm.

The other beauty of daffodils is that they come in so many different varieties, with one for every liking. I’m partial to the white petals with the deep peach corona. We have some with light peach at our house — along with about a dozen other variations — but I like the darker of the two.

Dad used to make Easter cor-sages out of daffodils for Mom, as well as an old lady at church who was a longtime missionary and never married.

They are, indeed, the first signs of spring and an apt symbol of resurrection.

By the time this hits newsstands and mailboxes, the redbuds will be nearing their bloom. They will usher in explosions of pink in most every corner of the county, I imagine.

I personally have a love-hate relationship with redbuds. For one week a year, they’re my



The Tight Wire  
STEPHEN CRANE

favorite, followed by 51 weeks of arch-nemesis status. They grow like weeds, and are hard to kill. But their leaves are shaped like hearts, so my daughters adore them ... what’re you gonna do?

Last weekend did bring another of spring’s annual arrivals — the thunderstorms. Weather people love to hype a potential storm — and no doubt, we’ve seen our fair share of tornadoes, so better safe than sorry, I suppose — but many times, it brings little more than a strong wind, rain, lightning flashes and rolling thunder. My absolute favorite — sheltering in place not required, and covered front porch preferred.

There’s nothing like a strong display of Mother Nature to remind us of our true lot in life — tiny ants on an anthill.

On Saturday afternoon, I spent a little time at a buddy’s house helping drop a troublesome tree that was leaning toward his chicken coop. The wind was blowing in the right direction, so figured we’d take advantage. Between the wind and a wedge, we came out unscathed — as did the chicken coop — despite the hand wringing of nearby observers.

But that’s my favorite part of spring — doing stuff outside. I like accomplishing tasks and making

the house a homestead.

Mom grew up in the Pacific Northwest, where four seasons were not a thing. Maybe two seasons, at best — warm and rainy, or cold and rainy. When Dad dragged her back here to the Midwest, well, the four seasons quickly grew on her, and she’s now an adoring fan.

Of course, I grew up here, so that’s all I know. But as I’ve gotten older, my appreciation for each season’s unique contribution only grows.

I don’t have a favorite, necessarily, but I am partial to the transitions from one to the next. And spring is one of the best, following a cold and dreary winter filled with browns and grays.

All the clichés hold true — rebirth, renewal, rejuvenation. The earth reawakens, and in Morgan County, that means lush greenery of every shade.

By mid summer, I’m beating back the jungle, but spring eases the transition with a rolling bloom as each plant, shrub and tree buds in its own time — with walnuts bringing up the caboose.

Soon enough, we’ll all be sweltering, so get out and enjoy the temperate days as they grow in frequency, and enjoy the cool, overcast days, too.

All of them are a recipe for another of spring’s sacred treasures — those golden spires of succulence. Arguably the best part of the season for many.

I could write an entire column on that topic, but of course, trade secrets tie my tongue.

Another sure sign of spring in the Hoosier State.

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

# With spring comes new life – and activities

April may get its name from the Latin word *aperia*, which means “to open.” As trees begin to bud and flower, daffodils, forsythia and magnolia bloom and our gardens awaken in April, this seems logical.

A busy month, starting off with April Fools’ Day (1st), then the religious holidays of Passover (12th), Good Friday (18th) and Easter (20th). Easter, a movable holiday, is always celebrated on the first Sunday after the Spring Equinox (March 21st).

Roxanne the Rock Snake has reappeared from under the leaves and detritus of the Art Sanctuary Garden; you are invited to add a painted rock section anytime as we grow her around the perimeter.

Aside from all the anticipated beauty of flora, new calves, goats and other spring babies on area farms, our schedules seem to open up — and just as quickly fill up — this time of year. Soccer and baseball teams are visible everywhere as the gear up for Saturday games, dog walkers, kids on bikes and lines of cross-country runners are making their rounds, and folks clearing the winter debris from gardens.

With Spring Break finished, schools will be planning end-of-year concerts, celebrations and programs before summer camps, music and art camps, swim lessons and vacation plans will fill the calendar.

The Morgan County Farmers Market opening is just a month away, with a great line-up of weekly musical performances on the schedule. If you are inter-



**Art Cart**  
NANCY MAXWELL

ested in a booth at either the Martinsville or Mooresville market, contact the organizers through Facebook.

The Martinsville School District Annual Art Show opens April 11 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Art Sanctuary, with awards at 6:30 p.m. Artwork from all schools in the MSD is included in this wonderful show. The event is free, parking is free, and refreshments will be served. The show will also be open Saturday and Sunday from noon to 2 p.m.

Information on summer art classes for both youth and adult will be available that evening as well as Youth Scholarship information.

Art Sanctuary currently has studio space available, including one small main level space available. With 24/7 secure access and parking, studio space in this downtown community of artists is a great opportunity.

The downtown plant beds around the courthouse will not be getting their usual April spruce-up; they are slated for removal and redevelopment as part of the



Roxanne the Rock Snake has crawled out from beneath the winter layers of leaves, ready to grow even longer this year in the Art Sanctuary Garden. So feel free to paint a rock and help her out. (Stephen Crane photo / MCC)

remodeling of the courthouse square. These beds have been faithfully tended by volunteers, both individuals and groups, over the years as a project of Rediscover Martinsville.

Many people have spent time planting, weeding, and mulching. John R. Wooden Jr. National Honor Society, Morgan County Sertoma, Maxwell Fine Arts, Community Choir, MHS Class of 1972, Maxwell’s Framing and Art Gallery, as well as numerous individuals including Mary Ann Frame, Glen & Ruth Russell and Sue Purpura, to name just a few,

are to be thanked for years of volunteer efforts.

Change and growing pains are always hard. The downtown square and necessary traffic disruptions are already bringing on the moans, groans and “what ifs?” but our downtown is steadily improving, attracting new businesses and tourist traffic. And like it or not, that is a necessity for small-town survival. The prospect of a downtown theatre adds another layer of possibilities.

Our area parks and green spaces are growing with the new plaza and fountains planned for

the judicial center, a skatepark on the south side of town, additions of sculpture and mural projects coming our way. We have much to be proud of and much to look forward to in the next couple years.

*Get out, stretch the kinks out of those winter-stiff muscles, and keep me posted at [artcartmartinsville@gmail.com](mailto:artcartmartinsville@gmail.com) or [nancy.maxwell@me.com](mailto:nancy.maxwell@me.com). And as an FYI, I have been shut out of Facebook (again!), so that contact will not work temporarily.*

POEM

## Goldfinch in a Redbud

April warmth invited my Redbud to bloom;  
Winter has taken leave for it to Spring leaf.  
It graces my days with its rose madder boon,  
A greeting though annual approaching disbelief;  
I must go lay on my back and for a while look up.

The beauty has enticed a welcome guest,  
A newly molted goldfinch to add its festive bling.  
And as if it understands my viewing bequest,  
Its chattering brings a welcome Spring ring;  
I must return before fading and look up for a while.

—Don  
Adams, On  
Bethel Pond



## Encroachment

Honeysuckle, the invasive kind that takes over entire fields. Or my favorite flowers. One of many uninvited plants I love to hate.

It’s time to clean out the winter detritus. I wait as long as possible to encourage the beneficial creatures. Somehow, they overwinter in the dead leaves and other fallen biomass.

I’m also trying to catch the early honeysuckle growth before it gets ahead of me. I do appreciate the “fence” it creates around my backyard, but it is only a semblance of a fence, unreliable at best, threatening at worst.

This invasive species is not native to Indiana. True eradication requires digging up the proliferating root systems when the ground is soft or chopping it in the fall and following up with herbicide treatment.

For a few years, I failed to stay ahead of it, and the spring bulbs along the edges of the yard have retreated into the “woods” (translation: honeysuckle invasion). The honeysuckle took its opportunity and spread.

And isn’t that true of many things? Disorder encroaches if we let it. Life requires maintenance, whether or not I’m ready or willing.

Dandelions, non-native but not considered invasive in Indiana, are another weed I loved to hate. I

learned to hate them for their prodigious white seed puffs, but my kids always loved the cheerful yellow blooms. Stubby bouquets in grubby little hands, bracelets around tiny wrists, and golden tiaras on small heads.

We all benefited from yardwork. I got exercise, my yard got maintenance, and the kids got to be kids.

For a time, I included weedkiller products as part of yard maintenance to prevent those wretched puffballs. Then I learned how harmful weedkillers are to bees and other necessary insects.

A new maintenance: learning to care about something greater than my desire for a homogenous, green lawn.

No question maintenance is essential in every

part of life, yet definitions (what kind, how often) evolve just as we change. And isn’t change essential to living? Take a look at how your photos change over the course of your life.

How fascinating that we can consign an entire life to a single picture or statue. Encyclopedic information about someone’s life formerly included only one photo to illustrate that person. How inadequate.

By the way, how do on-screen good guys chase down bad guys from a single photo? Rarely do the captured bad guys look like that single photo.

Last night, I viewed on



**Authors Who Serve**  
RACHEL HILLS

### Authors Who Serve

All writers are invited to join our Mooresville-based writing group. Please email [Rachel@AuthorsWhoServe.com](mailto:Rachel@AuthorsWhoServe.com) for more information.

screen an actress I couldn’t name. Something called forth recognition despite the dramatic change in her appearance. Dredging up her name, I realized the last time I saw her on screen, she was at least 30 years younger.

Some actors/actresses attempt to fight the appearance of aging while others embrace it. I appreciate the latter as their acting seems to reflect the wisdom they gained in their embrace of aging.

Yet another type of maintenance: aging wisely and as gracefully as possible. Just as simple picking up after one’s self is a type of maintenance, caring for one’s season of life is necessary upkeep and takes many forms.

Relationships, vehicles, finances, emotions, yards, careers, home repair, physical health, the inner life — all require maintenance and attention.

Does all this maintenance grow wearisome? Yes, at times. Am I happy afterward I did it? Bigger yes. Then comes the call for rest. Now that I’ve done the necessary, I want to set aside responsibility and rest, but not so long that distraction overshadows and invades.

Will I engage distraction?

Or will I heed the call of spring weather, awakening both the honeysuckle and the attention necessary to contain the encroaching invader.

Maybe both. I can always listen to an audiobook while I attack honeysuckle.

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



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**240 N. Jefferson St. Martinsville**

# Revere’s ride: ‘Two Lights’ commemoration coming April 18

By **Patty Dow**  
Morgan County History Museum

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow commemorated Paul Revere’s Ride in an 1860 poem published in *The Atlantic Monthly*. He was inspired when he visited the Old North Church tower on April 5, 1860. The poem was not historically accurate “having been manipulated for poetic effect,” according to David Hackett Fischer, author of “Paul Revere’s Ride.”

Longfellow often used poems to create American legends, and with Revere, it was a warning that the American Union was in danger of disintegrating, with America on the verge of the Civil War.

Revere gave details of his ride in a letter written to Dr. Jeremy Belknap of the Massachusetts Historical Society in 1798. Revere shared that “on ... the 18th, it was observed that a number of (British) soldiers were marching towards the bottom of (Boston) Common.”

Dr. Joseph Warren sent for Revere and informed him that the British were preparing to march on Concord to seize gunpowder stored by the colonists. Warren wanted Revere to warn revolutionary leaders Samuel Adams and John Hancock, who were hiding in Lexington amid fears the British wanted to arrest them.



# Property owner gets variance for appliance store

By Keith Rhoades  
MCC Chief Correspondent

MARTINSVILLE — During their meeting last Tuesday night, March 25, the Martinsville Board of Zoning Appeals welcomed Marianne Schell to the board.

Schell takes the place of one of two board members who resigned at the February meeting. There is one position still open on the board.

The board granted a land-use

variance for US Mobariz Trucking LLC, Indianapolis, to use the building at 1007 Blue Bluff Road for the sale of household appliances. The building is zoned Industrial-1 for light industrial. The property has had

multiple uses over the years.

The board tabled a decision on a request from Robert Rollins for a reduced side yard setback on property located on 1580 Josephine St. The property is part of a larger lot that currently is vacant.

Rollins said he planned to build a double on the land. The board

had questions about how the building would be positioned on the lot and where the parking for the apartments would be located.

The board tabled a decision on his request until the April 22 meeting.

*The board will meet at 6 p.m. at city hall, 59 S. Jefferson St.*



Local 7-year-old Winston has been battling spinal cancer for years, and on April 27, American Legion Post 103 will be hosting 'Family Day' to raise funds both for Winston and the Boys and Girls Club of Morgan County. (Courtesy photo)

## American Legion to host 'Family Day' for two good causes

From Tammy Snell-Stover  
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 103

MOORESVILLE — On April 27, American Legion Post 103 and its entities are pulling together to benefit our community and a brave young man named Winston, who is battling cancer.

Our local Morgan County Boys' and Girls' Club, located in Mooresville, and Winston will be the recipients of a Legion Family Day held from 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, April 27. All are welcome.

Winston is a local 7-year-old boy who loves video games and playing with his two sisters. After three years of being misdiagnosed, Winston was diagnosed with spinal cancer. He underwent a failed eight-hour surgery that the family had to endure. Winston began chemotherapy, but the tumor continued to grow. Despite further treatments and shunt surgery, Winston's cancer is incurable. The goal

is to manage the cancer and keep it stable.

Our Morgan County Boys and Girls Club is an authentic contributor to our local children. They promote the "STEM" (science, technology, engineering, and math) education system. Since last year, the club has grown to 308 children's members. The Boys and Girls Club is open everyday from 3 to 7 p.m., and when school is out for breaks, they still open their doors.

Our American Legion family — American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, and American Legion Riders — is first and foremost for our veterans, their families and our community. Your participation will not only help our community but the future of our community.

Hope to see folks there on April 27 for a fun-filled afternoon for all ages and for two good causes.

### TRIALS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

Two areas were covered in the hearing.

One, the defense had complained the state was slow in forwarding information — otherwise known as discovery — about the case to them.

The state said it wanted to wait until the judge ruled on a protective-order request concerning that information. The state asked the defense to be barred from releasing "protective" information, such as medical histories, to those outside the attorney's offices. Since there are two defendants, there are two separate attorney groups involved in the cases. That information is not to leave the attorney's office.

Judge Williams granted that request.

### Trial dates

The second item was to set a trial date for both suspects.

After much discussion, Brian's trial is set for Jan 6., 2026, and Sonja's trial is set for March 2, 2026.

Both those dates could change as both cases progress.

There is a hearing scheduled for May to hear motions about the possibility of dismissing some or all of both Staffords' charges.

The former couple is facing more than 110 combined charges for child molesting, child neglect, domestic battery, obstruction of justice, and promoting human trafficking.

The couple, who divorced last fall, have been living in different locations. At the time charges were filed, investigators had identified 11 possible victims in a case that began in 2011.

Now Morgan County Prosecutor Steve Sonngea has said the total had grown to more than 30 possible victims and may have begun as far back as the mid 1990s.

### Charges filed

Brian Stafford, 60, now living in New Castle, is charged with 59 felony counts. The alleged charges begin in May of 2011 and end in May of 2024.

Brian Stafford's charges include:

- Child molesting — one Level 1 and seven Level 4 felonies, and two Class C felonies
- Performance harmful to a minor — five Class D misdemeanors and Six Level 6 felonies
- Neglect of a dependent — seven Class D misdemeanors and 11 Level 6 felonies
- Promotion of human trafficking — eight class B misdemeanors and 11 Level 4 felonies
- Performing sexual conduct in presence of a minor — a Level 6 felony

Sonja, 60, has 58 felony charges and four misdemeanor charges filed against her. Her address is listed as being on Edgewater Circle in Plainfield. Stafford said that is a mailing address and she is currently living in a room of a home on Goat Hollow.

Her charges include:

- Promotion of human trafficking — eight Class B misdemeanors and 11 Level 4 felonies
- Obstruction of Justice — eight Level 5 felonies
- Strangulation — two Level 6 felonies
- Domestic battery on a person less than 14 years of age — one Level 6
- Neglect of a dependent — one Level 5 and 15 level 6 felonies, and eight Class D misdemeanors
- Neglect of a dependent with serious bodily injury — two Level 5 felonies
- Intimidation — one Class C misdemeanor
- Battery resulting in serious bodily injury — one Level 5 felony
- Domestic battery — Four Class A misdemeanors

## THE CITY OF Martinsville INDIANA

### Monrovia Town Council largely takes care of internal business at March meeting

By Jared Quigg  
MCC Reporter

MONROVIA — It took more than two hours, but the Monrovia Town Council was able to approve several actions at its March 25 meeting that will usher in some changes at the government center.

First, after being previously tabled at several meetings, the council approved a contract with All Around Concrete to make sidewalk repairs around the Government Center. The repairs will cost \$3,950, and will "only repair what is needed," rather than tear out and replace the current sidewalk as some of the other companies under consideration would have done.

In other old business, the council finalized recently-appointed town manager Maryanne Taylor's salary in line with the recommendations made by previous town manager Danny Chenault before his departure over the summer of 2024. Taylor will receive a base salary of \$49,600 along with \$7,400 stipend for healthcare, totaling \$57,000 in compensation for the position.

Also under old business was an update on a previously approved measure to hire a janitor to clean the Government Center for five hours a week. Taylor said she believed she had found someone for the job. The employee will be paid \$15 an hour for an annual total of \$3,900.

A considerable amount of time was spent discussing bids from lawn care companies seeking to provide services around the government center. The bids had been sealed before the meeting, and several members on the council discovered that they personally knew the bidders up for consideration at the meeting.

Council president Tammy Everett and councilman Philip Fowler hesitated to choose among people they knew, and councilman Ryan Marsh abstained from the vote altogether.

After much deliberation, the council elected to approve Edward's for the town's lawn care, as they were the lowest bidder.

### In other news

- The council voted to implement a plan commission recommendation to rezone 155 W. Main St. from Commercial to R4 Residential.
- Taylor's recommendation that the council purchase an onsite box for shredding documents at the Government Center was tabled until the council's

## 'Domino effect': How may the Indiana Dunes be affected by recent staff cuts?

By Kate Farr

Ball State Daily News

INDIANA DUNES — Nevada Silsby-Inman's love for national parks began with her late mother, a former Monrovia councilmember who was born and raised in Maine.

Summers at Acadia National Park in southern Maine were a tradition for her family, cementing the destination as where her childhood unfolded in the scent of the park's evergreen trees and the sound of waves crashing on the shore of Sand Beach.

The yearly treks to the national park — nestled in the mid-section of Maine's Mount Desert Island near where Silsby-Inman's grandparents lived — started when she was a toddler.

"We would usually lounge on the beach for hours, drive up to Cadillac Mountain[s] summit and hike through the evergreen woods doing ranger programs," Silsby-Inman said via email.

But for the second-year public history major at Ball State University who hails from Monrovia, one hike remains a poignant memory more than two years later. The Silsby-Inman family made a journey back to Maine in the dead of winter rather than June, as they always had, to hike to the familiar summit of Cadillac Mountain.

Lacing up their hiking boots and starting their expedition in the early morning hours of New Year's Day, the family's hike marked several firsts for Silsby-Inman: her first winter spent in Maine, her first hike from sea level to the mountain's summit and her first time returning to Acadia since her mother's passing in October 2022.

Silsby-Inman said the park's rocky coastline, steep summits and sandy beaches were the same backdrop of her mother's teenage summers. With her younger brother and father in tow, the freezing first morning of the new year was spent scaling up the tallest mountain on the eastern seaboard.

"We were unprepared for Maine winter, especially while hiking up a mountain," she said. "But it was so beautiful and so worth it."

With icicles clinging to the mountain's exposed rock faces and the frozen ocean air stinging their skin, the family reached Cadillac's summit and took in the panoramic view at its peak. Silsby-Inman said reaching the summit was a "feeling so out of body" — a break from the grief that had been ever-present in the months following her mother's death.

Over the past few years, Silsby-Inman has volun-

teered at the Indiana Dunes National Park and Zion National Park, driven by her goal of building a career with the U.S. National Parks Service (NPS).

But as she packed her bags for her weeklong volunteer trip to the Dunes this past spring break, she received the news that hundreds of national parks employees were being fired across the country.

"My first thought was, 'These rangers and employees are good people,'" Silsby-Inman said. "They have helped raise me nearly every summer since age five."

In late February, nearly 1,000 National Park Service employees were fired following government-wide reductions spearheaded by President Donald Trump's administration and the newly created Department of Government Efficiency, currently captained by senior adviser and billionaire businessman Elon Musk.

In the early months of the new presidential administration, agency leaders were urged to plan for "large-scale reductions in force," according to the Associated Press (AP). With upwards of a thousand NPS workers removed from their posts, concerns over how the United States' 433 national parks, historic landmarks and other protected sites will be managed have been heard from all corners of the country.

While the Trump administration partially backtracked on its elimination efforts and vowed to restore the jobs of dozens of employees let go from their NPS positions, only an estimated 50 NPS positions are currently undergoing restoration. Some of the Hoosiers who helped maintain the Indiana Dunes National Park and other protected sites are still without jobs.

Over the past month, Betsy Maher, the executive director of the Indiana-based nonprofit Save the Dunes, has been in contact with multiple sources, who confirmed four employees were "abruptly fired" from the Dunes around Feb. 14. Additionally, a Denver-based employee — an individual who lived locally and was assigned to several regional projects — was also let go.

Maher added that the five individuals were impacted by probationary firings, meaning their positions had "less protection" due to being hired only within the last year.

Because these individuals were federal employees, Maher said information on the number of people fired and their positions had to be obtained from outside organizations. She said that of those fired, one individual managed

wildfires — a "regular occurrence" for the Dunes — and worked on fires regionally for the NPS. Another employee allegedly worked in the maintenance and restoration department.

The restoration efforts of Indiana's only national park, which preserve a biological diversity that ranks the Dunes as the fourth most biodiverse national park, are just one piece of the puzzle in maintaining the park's 15,000 acres and numerous complexes.

"Rangers do all they do out of love, and it's hard to watch them lose what they have worked so hard for as someone wanting to do the same," Silsby-Inman said, adding that with an "understaffed and underappreciated park" like the Indiana Dunes, the outcome could be "extremely damaging."

The Ball State Daily News (DN) contacted Indiana Dunes National Park and was put in contact with Bruce Rowe, the park's education and public information officer.

Rowe requested an email compiling a short summary of the initial request, additional questions and contact information for the publication before forwarding the email to the NPS Office of Communications.

"All media requests on the government restructuring must be sent to our Washington Communications Office for response," Rowe said via email.

The DN's initial media request asked for a statement providing the total number of park employees fired from the Indiana Dunes following the government-wide federal firings and if the Indiana Dunes would restore those positions and hire more seasonal workers as a result of the president's avowal to restore NPS jobs and employ additional seasonal workers.

In an email statement, the NPS said the federal agency is "hiring seasonal workers to continue enhancing the visitor experience" as the parks "embrace new opportunities for optimization and innovation in workforce management."

The statement goes on to state that the NPS is "working closely" with the Office of Personnel Management to "ensure [it is] prioritizing fiscal responsibility for the American people," adding that NPS teams are "dedicated to staffing to meet the evolving needs of [national parks] visitors."

After a follow-up request from the DN, emphasizing the request for a confirmation of how many NPS workers were fired from the Dunes and if those jobs would be restored, the response email from the NPS stated the agency had "nothing more" to add.

Maher said that while she

understands the need of "doing less with more," the national parks and their services aren't areas with "a lot of fat to trim."

"You may experience less staff at visitor centers to answer questions, longer lines getting into the park and [affected] positions that collect the fees when you enter the park," she said. "... It has a domino effect."

According to NPR, a Maryland federal judge ordered the Trump administration to temporarily reinstate thousands of unlawfully fired federal employees across 18 agencies March 14, hours after a similar ruling in San Francisco. Although temporary, restoring the positions of fired NPS workers and recruiting seasonal staff may take time. Maher warned the firings, along with a "freezing" of the seasonal hiring positions, could still impact the visitor experience as the park approaches its peak visitation season in the spring and summer.

"If there's an emergency and someone needs first aid, unstocked things, trash receptacles, those kinds of things are the nuts and bolts of the park," Maher said. "The park has already seen a decline in [staffing] budget by 20 percent while the visitation has increased by 16 percent."

Growing up in Chicago's southwest suburbs, just a car ride along Lake Michigan's shoreline from the Dunes, Maher said the park has been a part of her entire life. Now, in her role with the environmental advocacy nonprofit, she continues to work to "protect and advocate for the perpetual health and vitality" of the national park.

In light of the recent firings, Maher hopes discussing the Dunes will raise awareness of the topic and encourage more volunteers and visitors to visit the park.

A Facebook post from Save the Dunes urged Hoosiers to call state representatives to voice their concerns. The organization provided a script and included a link from the Indiana government website, where interested Hoosiers can find and contact their congressional legislators.

"It's important the community understands what the impacts are going to be for their experiences and the parks they care about," Maher said.

Beyond contacting local politicians, Silsby-Inman said speaking out is a "good step in the right direction."

"We as the American public need to be advocating hard for our parks and their protectors," Silsby-Inman said. "There needs to be a united public front of people who are vocal about how much the parks mean to them. Help them."

Contact Kate Farr via email at [kate.farr@bsu.edu](mailto:kate.farr@bsu.edu).

# End of Watch for K9 Kimber

Staff Report

MARTINSVILLE — The Martinsville Police Department suffered a loss last week, as police dog K9 Kimber passed away March 26 after a sudden illness that was untreatable.

Kimber, handled by Martinsville Officer Michelle Weaver, specialized in narcotics detection and community relations. Kimber was a fan-favorite in the community, particularly for children, bringing much joy during her frequent visits to local schools and the Morgan County Fair.

“This loss is deeply felt not only by Officer Weaver and her family but also by the officers who worked alongside Kimber every day,” said Martinsville Police Deputy Austin Combs in a press release. “We ask that you keep Officer Weaver, her family, and all of our officers in your thoughts and prayers as they navigate this incredibly difficult time.”

Kimber was put to sleep last Wednesday, surrounded by family and close friends. She received an official police escort to the vet’s office, with officers from the Morgan County Sheriff’s office and Indiana State Police joining Martinsville PD for a procession.

Members of the public paid their respects to Kimber from March 28-



Martinsville Police vehicles are joined by the Indiana State Police and patrol vehicles from the Morgan County Sheriff’s Office March 26 as police dog Kimber was taken to the vet to be put to sleep. Kimber had been with the Martinsville Police Department for five years. (Courtesy photo)



31 at a memorial for the dog outside the police station. Community members placed flowers, dog toys and other tokens of remembrance on K9 Kimber’s police vehicle.

“Officer Weaver expresses her deep appreciation for the community’s support during this difficult time and looks forward to connecting with everyone who has been a part of this shared moment of remembrance,” said Martinsville Sgt. Darren Johnson in a statement.



ABOVE: Kimber poses with her handler, Martinsville Officer Michelle Weaver. Weaver and her family were with Kimber at the vet March 26 as she was put to sleep after a sudden illness. (Courtesy photo)

LEFT: A memorial for K9 Kimber is set up outside the Martinsville Police Headquarters last weekend. Members of the public paid their respects to Kimber by signing a banner and leaving flowers, dog toys and other items. (Stephen Crane photo / MCC)



Shannon Kohl gathers with kids at the Boys and Girls Club of Morgan County on Monday, the first official day in her new position. (B&G Club courtesy photo)

## Kohl named as new B&G leader

Staff Report

MORGAN COUNTY — The Boys and Girls Club of Morgan County has officially announced that Shannon Kohl has been hired as the organization’s new CEO and executive director.

“Shannon has a heart for the youth in our communi-

ty,” the organization said in a statement. “On behalf of our kids, teens, staff and board, we look forward to Shannon’s leadership and great futures for more young people.”

Kohl is the former mayor of the city of Martinsville and former city council member. Her first day was Monday.

MSD

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charged with 24 additional felonies last month, with the allegations including five counts of child molesting and eight counts of sexual misconduct with a minor, amongst other charges.

According to the probable cause affidavit, at least 10 male victims between 13- and 16-years-old have accused Fortinberry of engaging in sexual activity with them, among other alleged crimes.

On March 26, personal injury and sexual abuse law firm Wagner Reese issued a press release alleging that the MSD of Martinsville “negligently hired and re-

tained sexual predator Brit-tany Fortinberry.”

The tort claim notice was sent to district superintendent Eric Bowlen, MSD school board president Heather Staggs and Martinsville High School principal Jeff Bell.

The notice claims that the 13-year-old — identified as David Doe — was “mis-treated, sexually assaulted and molested by Brittany Fortinberry” on several occasions. The notice claims Doe is suffering from emotional distress and trauma as a result of the assaults, and is demanding the district pay Doe damages amounting to \$700,000 per sexual assault.

Attorney Jason Reese is representing the 13-year-old boy.

HOPE

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Kilgore, of course, does not claim to *be* Jesus or anything; he is simply a devout Christian with a message of hope.

‘And they left their nets’

The first Christians were some of the lowliest, most despised members of society.

Tax collectors, prostitutes, fisherman, foreigners — it was these, destitute and out-cast, who the Gospels say were the first to declare Jesus as Lord.

Kilgore is not unlike those early disciples.

He was born in California, but spent most of his upbringing here in Martinsville. While he grew up in the Christian faith — baptized at 4, enrolled in Christian schools — Kilgore was certainly not always “crazy for Jesus.”

As he describes it, Kilgore ran his name in the “dirt” in his early adult years, getting in trouble with law enforcement over theft and drug-related incidents. He eventually left the county altogether, swearing to never come back.

But a few years ago, he did come back, and all it took was \$16 an hour and a place to stay with a friend in Foxcliff.

Things took a turn quickly. Kilgore lost his job, and he fell out with his roommates, leaving him homeless and alone.

Kilgore doesn’t speak bitterly of this point in his life by any means. In fact, he says this was the time when he was the most “free,” unburdened by rent or bills or any of the other things weighing down most people.

“You can sleep anywhere when you’re homeless,” Kilgore said. “Once — until they run you off.”

Kilgore was eventually able to get an apartment, through government assistance and landscaping jobs he does on the side. He hopes to one day turn that venture into a business, something he plans to call “Acts of Kindness Landscaping,” but he also worries that would eat up time he could have instead spent walking the streets with his cross.

Again, why *does* he do that?

One day, when Kilgore was broke and at his lowest, he



Kilgore carrying his cross through downtown Martinsville. He aspires to give people hope during these troubled times in the world. (Stephen Crane photo / MCC)

sat by a window and prayed to God for help. Eventually, Kilgore looked up and saw a man outside carrying a cross over his shoulder and walking down the street.

This was Kilgore’s Damascus moment, and he leapt to his feet with excitement and chased the man down the street, itching to catch up with him. Kilgore asked the man what so many people would later ask him — why?

“I walk for the Lord,” the man replied.

They walked across town together. The man explained to Kilgore that he would walk until someone stopped and offered him a ride. However, he would only accept the ride on two conditions: the man demanded to be blindfolded during the journey, and dropped off wherever the driver saw fit to leave him.

Kilgore would see this mysterious man, this first “Cross Guy,” a few more times, but before long, he lost contact with him entirely. A few weeks after their first encounter, Kilgore found the man’s cross in a dumpster, when he took it as his own.

The story almost sounds unbelievable, but Kilgore tells it without a trace of deceit or mythmaking. At any rate, it’s Kilgore’s story — he, too, now walks for the Lord, after someone first showed him the way.

‘Remember me’

“Blessed are ye,” said Jesus in his Sermon on the Mount, “when men shall revile you,

and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.”

It’s hard to imagine, now that Christianity is the most popular religion in the world, that it was once common for Christians to face oppression because of their beliefs. Many of the early Christians were beaten, jailed and killed because of their faith in Jesus. They must have known this would happen to them, of course — Jesus said it would. Nevertheless, it was surely difficult to have been a Christian in those days, believing in the face of such backlash.

It’s much easier to be a believer today, particularly in America. Everywhere you look, the Christian faith is dominant. Prayers are said before government meetings, time is set aside in schools for children to have religious lessons, churches can be found in every corner of the county.

And yet, Kilgore is “crazy” for carrying a cross around all day. He said all he wants to do is spread the message of Jesus — something Jesus explicitly said to do from every mountaintop — but he remains something of an outcast.

At one point in his interview with *The Correspondent*, Kilgore was asked to consider a hypothetical — what if none of it was true? What if, as C.S. Lewis expounded, Jesus was not who he said he was, and the whole religion is a wash? Would he regret spending so much of his time and energy on a myth?

“No,” Kilgore said with

a smile. “I still did good and brought people hope. And I helped spread a positive message — every guy that sees me is questioning, or acknowledging (their faith).”

His method of spreading the message seems to have had some success. People walk up to him all the time, telling him he was just the sign they were looking for. Others, Kilgore said, have told him that he literally saved their lives.

“It’s the end of the world, man,” Kilgore said. “You’re a reporter, bro, you can see it. People need some hope now more than ever.”

And so, even if none of it is true, there is hope. It was the hope Kilgore needed when he saw his own cross guy, the hope he needed when he felt there could not possibly be redemption for him.

The Gospels say Jesus was crucified with two other men, both criminals. One of the men joined the crowd in mocking Jesus, but the other asked him to “remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.”

“Verily I say unto thee,” Jesus replied, “Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.”

That is why many people pray. That is why many go to church, and volunteer for charities, and read about miracles that happened 2,000 years ago.

And it’s why Kilgore carries his cross for miles and miles each day. He does it for hope.

TOXINS

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“IDEM issued a water pollution permit that allows a power plant to discharge untreated wastewater laden with neurotoxins, carcinogens, and poisons from its leaching coal ash waste ponds into a stretch of the West Fork of the White River upstream of the City of Martinsville’s municipal wells that supply the city’s drinking water,” the lawsuit reads.

“IDEM did so in violation of federal and state clean water laws and the federal rule that governs

the proper disposal of coal ash to protect human health and the environment from precisely this sort of toxic risk.”

The Eagle Valley site is a natural gas powerplant, but was previously a coal-fired power plant from 1949 to 2016. In 2018, AES Indiana (formerly Indianapolis Power and Light) determined that arsenic, lithium, molybdenum and other potentially harmful chemicals commonly present in coal combustion residuals were present in the



groundwater at the site in levels above the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s drinking water standards. These potentially dangerous contaminants are concentrated into several coal ash ponds on the property.

Federal regulations required the company to draw up and put into action a plan to close the coal ash ponds and a post-closure plan to manage the waste for the next 30 years.

After several years, AES Indiana

was finally granted approval from IDEM for its plan to close three of its five pond sites — A, B and C. Ponds D and E are not included under the IDEM-approved plan.

Under the accepted plan, AES Indiana will continue to use their onsite production wells to pump up the contaminated water from under the coal ash ponds for use inside the Eagle Valley Generating Station.

The groundwater used in the gas generators is purified and the contaminants are removed, so as to not damage the equipment used in the plant. But the bulk of the water is untreated and used in cooling towers at the site.

The two water streams — the one for generation inside the plant, and the other untreated cooling water — are in the end recombined and dumped into the White River, an act that has greatly alarmed the environmentalists on the HEC.

Of particular concern are the risks to human health and the local environment posed by the presence of contaminants in the White River. Some of the contaminants dumped into the river have been linked to cancer.

For reasons still not definitively proven, Morgan County has the highest cancer rates in the state of Indiana.

SEASON OPENER

Monrovia softball kicks off busy season against Shelbyville Monday evening

By Melissa Dillon  
MCC Correspondent

MONROVIA — The Monrovia softball team opened up its 2025 season on a 40-degree night at home against Shelbyville on Monday evening.

The Bulldogs had a cold start, but had some good plays and showed some promise in hitting. Shelbyville won 20-1 in five innings.

“Coming back from Spring Break, we were a little rough around the edges,” Monrovia head coach Roni Fough said. “We were a little rusty, but they started to pick it back up. It was compounding on mistakes and errors and letting them build on each other rather than moving on and moving forward.”

Monrovia faced tough pitching from starting sophomore Gracie Crafton who threw three innings allowing three hits, one earned run, two walks and four strikeouts.

“We had a couple that put the ball in play,” Fough said. “Harper Fair had a really good hit, as well as Cam (Wolfe) and Ty (Secuskie) were able to get the bat on the ball. We were also able to get some newer hitters in an at bat.”

After a quiet first inning offensively, Wolfe, a starting freshman in the four-hole spot, hit a slow grounder to shortstop and beat the throw. She was later thrown out at second on a double play from Shelbyville. Sophomore Harper Fair hit a double to right field and then scored on a single from senior Tylynn Secuskie.

That tallied the three total hits for the Bulldogs for the night. Wolfe went 1-for-2, Secuskie 1-for-1 with an RBI, and



Monrovia freshman Harlow Toole gets her varsity debut in Monday's home game with Shelbyville. (Melissa Dillon photo / MCC)

Fair went 1-for-2 and scored a run. Sophomore Jocelyn Donitzen also got on base with two walks.

Secuskie started in the circle for Monrovia, allowing 10 hits in three innings. She had 10 runs with four earned, one strikeout and two walks. Junior Avery Wolfe pitched in the fourth inning and immediately forced two weak hits for easy outs. Monrovia had a couple errors that eventually grew into five unearned runs. Avery Wolfe allowed one hit and three walks.

Freshman Harlow Toole finished the game pitching in the fifth inning, allowing two hits, five runs with two earned, three strikeouts and two walks.

“We’re excited to see what she does for us,” Fough said. “It was her first time on the field. We were able to get those shakes and bugs off.”

Monrovia allowed five runs in each of the first, third, fourth and fifth inning. The second inning, the Bulldogs were able to put three outs together. The first out came from a hard line drive to Camryn Wolfe at shortstop. Secuskie walked and allowed a single. Camryn Wolfe caught a pop fly then snagged a grounder



Monrovia sophomore Sophia Ward gets under a high pop fly in Monday's home game against Shelbyville. (Melissa Dillon photo / MCC)



Monrovia senior Tylynn Secuskie starts in the circle in the Bulldogs' opener against Shelbyville on Monday. (Melissa Dillon photo / MCC)

up the middle and threw to her sister, Avery Wolfe, at first base for the third out.

“I have a couple transfers, and Camryn Wolfe is going to be a great newcomer to watch grow on this field,” Fough said.

SEE MONROVIA | PAGE B2

USAC comes back

Paragon's regular season begins Friday with USAC partnership

By Steve Page  
MCC Correspondent

SPEEDWAY — Paragon Speedway and the United States Auto Club.

It has been decades since those two entities have gone together in the same sentence.

But now, the 3/8-mile clay oval southwest of Martinsville will play host to the racecars from the Speedway-based United States Auto Club.

And not just once. Three times, beginning with Friday's regular-season opener.

USAC's National Sprint Car Series will join cars from the Midwest Mini Sprint Association for Friday's show.

“We got to sit down with them and hash it out, finally,” said Cory Helton, who co-promotes Paragon with his father, Darrell. “We put some bad blood to the side. We'll try to work with them a little more.”

Cory Helton and Josh Cunningham, Paragon's director of competition, joined the people from USAC for last Friday's USAC Fan Fest at the group's headquarters adjacent to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. The event included visits with drivers, games for children, prize giveaways, snacks, beverages and the USAC apparel trailer. Admission was free, but donations to RaceAid were accepted to assist members of the USAC racing community in need.



SEE USAC | PAGE B2



Pioneers work out in the batting cages during a preseason practice. (Steve Page photo / MCC)

New Pioneers ready to go

By Steve Page  
MCC Correspondent

MOORESVILLE — Gone are the 11 seniors who led Mooresville's baseball team to within an umpire's call of winning the 2024 Class 4A baseball championship.

So gloom and doom and a rebuilding year on tap, right?

Not if you ask the man who would know — Pioneer coach Eric McGaha.

“I'm excited about getting back to teaching kids the skills,” McGaha said following a preseason practice on

a recent warm, sunny day. “They're very coachable. It will be fun to see them grow and develop together.”

There are just two seniors this season: Kaden Bruhn, who didn't play a lot last season, and Orion Lucas, who moves up from the junior varsity.

“Our two seniors are outstanding kids,” McGaha said. “They're going to help us along.”

There's more.

“Denny, Delp and DeVaughan are doing a good job leading us — the three D's,” McGaha said of juniors Tyler Denny, Hudson DeVaughan and Liam Delp. “We've got Hudson DeVaughan going to Alabama or in the draft. They're giving us all they've got. I couldn't be



SEE PIONEERS | PAGE B2

Artesian's Reynolds to be a Knight

By Melissa Dillon  
MCC Correspondent

MARTINSVILLE — Martinsville senior quarterback AJ Reynolds signed his letter of intent to continue his collegiate career at Marian University last month in front of family, friends, teammates and coaches.

Reynolds took his time picking the right school, although the decision wasn't difficult.

“The campus was pretty cool, and the coaches loved me, and I already have a connection with them,” Reynolds said. “I know a couple guys there already like David Brennar. I talked to him when I visited. I didn't care how close I was to home, but obviously, it's nice to be close to home.”

“I'm pretty excited. It's a great feeling to be able to play college football.”

Marian University is situated just outside downtown Indianapolis and has a recent history of being very successful at NAIA football.

“Big time for him,” coach Brian Dugger said. “He's going to go to Marian and have a great career there. Marian is a football school, and they've had a lot of success there.”

“They've sent people to the NFL. They've sent kids through the transfer portal to SEC ball. They've competed for national championships at the NAIA level.”

“I think it's a good fit for him. They really wanted him. They've been recruiting him since last summer. They were hoping he'd fall through the Division I cracks and land him and he did. They're very excited.”

“I know Mom and Dad are alumni, so that's kind of cool. I'm real excited for him. He's had a great career, and he's going to go off and have a better one.”

Reynolds had a record-breaking senior season at Martinsville last fall and was a big part of the Artesians' 12-2 season, earning Mid-State Conference, Sectional and Regional championships along the way.

He was the driving force and

playmaker in the comeback of the century on Sept. 13 against Decatur Central. The Artesians won 39-38 after being down 35-0 midway through the third quarter.

“He got here and had to learn about playing quarterback and running an offense,” coach said. “You got to see the development of that, and after about week five or six last year when we really started to take off, and then this year, he just ran the show. When we needed a comeback, he wanted the ball.”

“Like big comebacks from being down 35 points against Decatur Central don't happen unless he just takes over the game. He statistically had the greatest career in Martinsville football history, which says something considering Earl Haniford was here and put up some great numbers in four years. Statistically speaking, he had the most touchdowns, the most yards and you add in the rushing stuff he did as well. It was an unbelievable year for him.”

Reynolds finished the season



Martinsville senior quarterback AJ Reynolds is all smiles after signing his letter of intent to play football at Marian University last month in front of family, friends, coaches and teammates. Reynolds had a huge senior year and looks to improve his game at the next level. (Melissa Dillon photo / MCC)

with five places in the record books at Martinsville football. He had the most touchdown passes in a season (38), most passing yards in a season (3,105), fourth-most career

touchdown passes (52), fourth-most career pass completions (344) and fifth-most passing yards in a game (405).

SEE REYNOLDS | PAGE B2

MONROVIA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

Monrovia officially started its season on Monday, but its second game isn’t until April 8 at home against Tri-West. The Bulldogs hit the ground running with only a day or two off each week through the end of May.

“We have four seniors, Kylei Parker, Bailee Campbell, Carlye Parks and Tyllynn Secuskie,” Fough said. “Kylei will help us in the running game. She came back. She didn’t want to play or be on the field, but she enjoys being with the girls and running. Ty is my starting pitcher from last year. She was a little rough tonight on the wet field, but she’ll get it back together.”



Monrovia sophomore Jocelyn Donitzen blocks a low pitch in Monday's home game with Shelbyville. (Melissa Dillon photo / MCC)



During a preseason bunting contest, this batter puts down a bunt while a runner races to the plate. (Steve Page photo / MCC)

PIONEERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

happier with how hard they’re working.

“We have a newcomer in Connor Cruz, the quarterback. Brody McGaha — this is his chance to listen to his coaches,” the coach said of his son. “I already like him. He has the ability to be athletic.”

McGaha had penciled a lineup in the dugout for a recent practice. The batting order called for Delp at shortstop, Denny in center field, Nate Dailey in the outfield, Koooper Shmidt at third base, Spencer Boisvert catching, DeVaughan pitching, Connor Cruz pitching, Grant Martin at first base and left-handed pitching; Bruhn, pitching right-handed, and Archer Query at second base and available as a right-handed pitcher.

“We have returning starters,” McGaha said. “Delp plays second base and can slide over to play short. We have a lot of young players who get along very well. They have really good attitudes. They’re eager to do well.”

McGaha is eager to see them do well. “It’s a nice opportunity to coach this group,” he said. “They’re excited to put their stamp on this program.”

Last year’s seniors left quite a stamp of their own.

Mooresville won all 14 of its Mid-State games, then played all the way to the Class 4A title tilt at Victory Field. There, after catcher Hogan Denny threw all of his allowable number of pitches, they lost 2-1 to Lake Central in the 12th inning. That came when, with a 3-2 count on the batter, two outs and the bases loaded, the home plate



Mooresville baseball senior Orion Lucas is one of two playing for the Pioneers this year. Fellow senior Kaden Bruhn is not pictured. Steve Page photo / MCC)

umpire decided that a pitch down the middle of the plate was a ball, and that was it. Mooresville finished its unforgettable season with a 33-4 record.

Now, it’s early in the new season. But McGaha already sees what he likes with his new team.

“We’ve got to throw quality strikes,” he said. “Defensively, make the routine plays. We’ve got to put the ball in play with two strikes.

“I’m excited. I really like this team. I like the kids.”

USAC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

“Paragon has been talking with USAC for a while,” noted USAC media relations manager Richie Murray. “We’ve had a lot of races together over the years. Now, they’re back.”

The two entities will be together twice more this season — June 4 and Sept. 26.

“We ended up getting a Speedweek midget race,” said Cory Helton. “Lawrenceburg backed out, so we took it. It’s great to be part of that week.”

USAC’s Midget Week runs from June 3-8, with Paragon hosting the midgets on June 4. The rest of that schedule includes Circle City Raceway on Troy Avenue, on Indy’s southeast side on June 3, Lincoln Park Speedway in Putnamville on June 5, Bloomington Speedway on June 6, Tri-State Speedway in Haubstadt on June 7, and Kokomo Speedway on June 8.

Paragon will also host the USAC Sprint Cars on Sept. 26.

“We’ve been working at it,” said Cunningham. “It’s good to be here. We had a good race last week. Now, we’re getting ready for next week.”

He was referring to the No Way Out 40, the track’s yearly preseason event. Race officials moved it up a day to March 14 to avoid the rains that followed on the original race date, March 15.

The Sept. 26 USAC Sprint Car race, the Fall Brawl, will pay \$6,000 to win. On the next day, the Midwest Thunder sprint cars will race for a \$5,000 purse.

Those are all part of the 22-event season Paragon has scheduled. Many of those vary, but all are based on the 410 non-winged sprint cars.

Track officials are doing their best to make everything amenable to



A sprint car is on display in the United States Auto Club lobby in Speedway last Friday. (Steve Page photo / MCC)



A visitor to the USAC Fan Fest last Friday checks out the gear in the official gear trailer in Speedway. (Steve Page photo / MCC)



From left: Josh Cunningham, Paragon Speedway's director of competition, and co-promoter Cory Helton pause for pictures at the USAC office in Speedway last Friday. (Steve Page photo / MCC)

competitors and fans alike.

“We put in 80 truckloads of clay yesterday,” Cory Helton noted. “We got it packed in. That should make for some better racing.”

Beginning Friday.

USAC rules will make it a busy night.

“If 28-40 cars are in attendance during an event on a track under a half mile in length, four (4)

heat races will be held with the top-five (5) finishers transferring out of each heat,” the rules say.

“If 27 cars or less are in attendance during an

event on a track under a half mile in length, three (3) heat races will be held with the top-six (6) finishers transferring out of each heat.”

Each heat race will be eight laps.

If there are enough cars, there will be a C Main, with the top four finishers advancing to the 12-lap semi main. The 30-lap main event follows.

USAC Season Schedule

April 4: USAC sprint cars, Midwest Mini Sprint Association.  
April 12: Midwest Thunder 410s – 410 sprint cars, bombers, UMP super stocks, UMP hornets.  
April 19: Marvin O’Neal Memorial – Northern All Star Late Models, bombers, modifieds, 305 Race-savers, IMCA RaceSaver sprint cars.  
April 26: Ticket to Tulsa Night 1 – 410 sprint, bombers, UMP super stocks, UMP hornets.  
May 10: Amati 68: 34 laps, \$6,800 to win; Ticket to Tulsa Night 2 – 410 sprints, bombers, UMP super stocks, UMP hornets.  
May 17: Boss Sprints – Boss Buckeye Outlaw Sprint Series, modifieds, UMP super stocks, 305 Race-savers, IMCA RaceSaver sprint cars.  
May 24: Fan Appreciation Night, Ticket to Tulsa Night 3 – 410 sprints, bombers, UMP super stocks, UMP hornets, 305 Racesavers, IMCA RaceSaver sprint cars.  
May 31: Ticket to Tulsa Night 4 – 410 sprints, bombers,

USSA Mel Kenyon Midget Series, UMP super stocks, UMP hornets.  
June 4: USAC Midget Week, 410 sprint cars.  
June 14: Roy Caruthers Memorial, Ticket to Tulsa Night 5 – 410 sprint cars, modifieds, Midwest Throwback Sprint Cars, UMP hornets.  
June 21: POWRI 410 Outlaw winged sprints, 410 sprints, bombers, UMP super stocks, UMP hornets.  
June 28: Fireworks Extravaganza, Roller Randy Hornets, Ticket to Tulsa Night 6 – 410 sprints, bombers, UMP super stocks, UMP hornets.  
July 12: Johnson Memorial, Ticket to Tulsa Night 7 – 410 sprints, bombers, modifieds, USAC Speed2 Eastern Midgets.  
July 19: Midwest Thunder 410s, Leon Gentry Memorial – 410 sprints, bombers, UMP super stocks, 305 Racesavers, IMCA RaceSaver sprint cars.  
Aug. 9: Midwest Thunder 410s, Allen Barr Memorial Hornet Rumble – 410 sprints, modifieds, UMP hornets, 305 Racesavers, IMCA RaceSaver sprint cars.

Aug. 16: All-Star Circuit of Champions, Bailly Hicks Memorial – Bombers, UMP super stocks, UMP hornets, All-Star Circuit of Champions sprint cars.  
Aug. 23: Ticket to Tulsa Night 8, MMSA – 410 sprints, bombers, modifieds, Midwest Mini Sprint Association.  
Sept. 6: BOSS Sprint Heroes and Hornets Race for St. Jude – BOSS Buckeye Outlaw Sprint Series, bombers, UMP super stocks, UMP hornets.  
Sept. 20: Open Wheel Extravaganza, Ticket to Tulsa Night 9 – 410 sprints, All Star TQ Midgets, Midwest Throwback Sprint Cars, 305 Racesavers, IMCA RaceSaver sprint cars.  
Sept. 26: USAC Sprints Fall Brawl – USAC National Sprint Cars, UMP super stocks.  
Sept. 27: Belle Sheppard Birthday Bash – 410 sprints, bombers.  
Oct. 4: Paragon Classic/ Champions Night, Ticket to Tulsa Finale – 410 sprints, bombers, modifieds, UMP super stocks, UMP hornets.

REYNOLDS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

Reynolds is the son of Jim and Crystal Reynolds and is undecided on his major at Marian. He said he’s going to pursue general studies and figure it out after the first year.

“I want to thank Mom, Dad and God — can’t do anything without them,” he said at last month’s signing.

“We both went to Marian,” Crystal Reynolds said. “It’s awesome. We’re pretty proud that he chose Marian. We both enjoyed our time there and both athletes

there as well. We love the school. It’s 30-40 minutes from Martinsville. It’s real close.

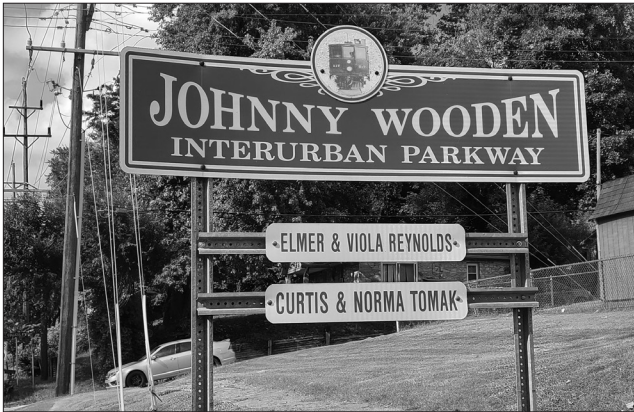
“AJ, his first word was ‘ball’. Most kid’s first word is usually ‘mama’ or ‘dada’, but AJ’s first word was ‘ball’. He was 6 years old when he looked at me and said, ‘Mommy, I was born to play football.’ He has believed it with his whole heart ever since. He’s been a quarterback since then. He’s always had such a great arm.

“He was 2 years old when he threw a rock and shattered my dining room door.”

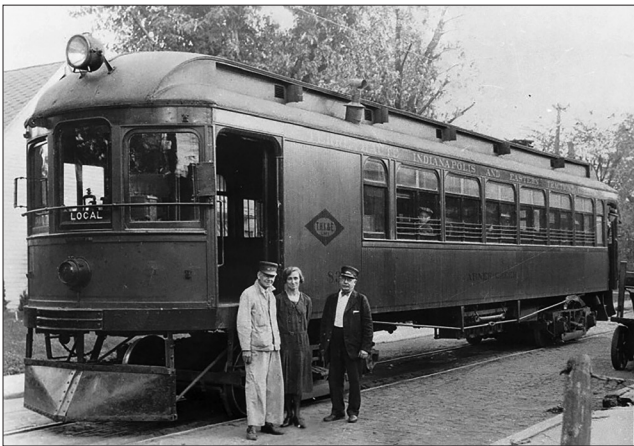


RIGHT: Martinsville senior AJ Reynolds passes over his line to a receiver during the Oct. 18 home game against Plainfield. // FAR RIGHT: Martinsville senior AJ Reynolds (4) leads the run through the banner before Homecoming last October. (Nevah Dillon photos / MCC)

# All aboard the Interurban



The Johnny Wooden Interurban Parkway that now runs Blue Bluff Road marks the Interurban line Johnny rode to school from the family home in Centerton. (Courtesy photo)



One of T.H.I.&E.'s railcars makes a stop at one of its many stations during its run in the early 20th century. (Courtesy photo)

*Indiana has the greatest group of electric railway lines in the world, and Indianapolis is the largest interurban railway center in the United States. This is a distinction of which every Hoosier should justly be proud.* — Indianapolis Star, Nov. 4, 1912



**History Musings**  
ELLEN WILSON-PRUITT

Today, all the talk is about electric transportation, but at the turn of the last century, the electric trolley opened up communities and a host of opportunities to the populous.

Morgan County played a key role in making that statement fact. Currently the Indiana Historical Society is holding an exhibit called, “The Electric Railway: Indiana’s Interurbans.”

The introduction of this mode of transportation changed the lives and landscape of Indiana. Second only to Ohio in rail mileage, Indiana boasted more than 1,800 miles of interurban rail lines.

The first line in Indiana opened in 1898 and ran from Anderson to Alexandria. We need to remember in 1898, the main means of transportation was by horse-drawn carriages and wagons. The roads were unpaved, and with that came all the challenges.

We complain about potholes today, but can you imagine in a long, wet spring what condition the roads were like? Thinking about traveling from Martinsville to Indianapolis would have been considered a long arduous journey and not just a day trip.

But with the new electric transport, people could now go from rough rides in all kinds of weather to riding in comfort in a fraction of time. The passenger car on an interurban was smaller than one of a conventional railway. The motorman sat in the front of the car making sure the trolley remained on the electric line. By 1904, Indianapolis had opened the Traction Terminal, which was widely acclaimed to be the largest and most impressive interurban station in the world. The interurban was popular enough to be featured often on postcards of the area.

By 1911, these trolley lines had expanded to the countryside, so now people in the more rural areas had access to dependable transportation.

Have you ever wondered why Blue Bluff Road is named the Johnny Wooden Interurban Parkway? In Johnny’s day, there were, of course, small community schools for the lower grades, but if you wished to attend high school, you had to travel by some means to a larger town.

Early in his high school days, Wooden’s family was still living at Centerton. It was just a short walk from his home to the interurban line, which he then rode to Martinsville to attend high school. During this time, Martinsville was booming

with multiple sanitariums where people from all over the country came to “take the waters.” Interurban transportation was a great asset to these establishments.

The sanitariums such as the Highland and The Martinsville Sanitarium located in the north end of town were right on the line and passengers could simply disembark the car and walk right to the sanitarium. Bethany Park was a busy destination at this time as well, and they benefited greatly from being right along the line.

Prior to 1930, there were five different companies operating lines in Indiana. With the exception of one, the rest all radiated from Indianapolis. In the case of Morgan County, Martinsville was the end of the Terre Haute Indianapolis and Eastern Line. The others operating in Indiana were the Union Traction Co., Interstate Public Service, Indiana Service Corp., and Northern Indiana Power. In eastern Indiana, one line made connection with the Cincinnati and Lake Erie, which ran along U.S. 40 into Ohio.

The Terre Haute, Indianapolis and Eastern Traction Co. — or the T.H.I.&E., which serviced Morgan County — was the second-largest interurban electric railway in Indiana during the peak period for interurban travel of the 1920s.

This system included more than 400 miles of track and radiated east, northwest, west, and southwest from Indianapolis.

The T.H.I.&E. was formed March 1, 1907, by financiers from four predecessor rail companies. The end result was a line that not only serviced urban points but also traveled through farmlands and even into the coalmining region around Brazil. The line from Indianapolis to Crawfordsville was nicknamed the “Ben Hur Route” in honor of Crawfordsville author Lew Wallace’s famous novel.

These lines not only transported passengers but also freight in a network of 25 interurban lines to points throughout Michigan, Ohio, northern Kentucky, into Chicago as well as Indiana, and from connections in Ohio into Pennsylvania. There were, of course, still steam railways operating in these areas, and the interurban could help facilitate handling of the freight from steam rail into smaller towns and areas for distribution.

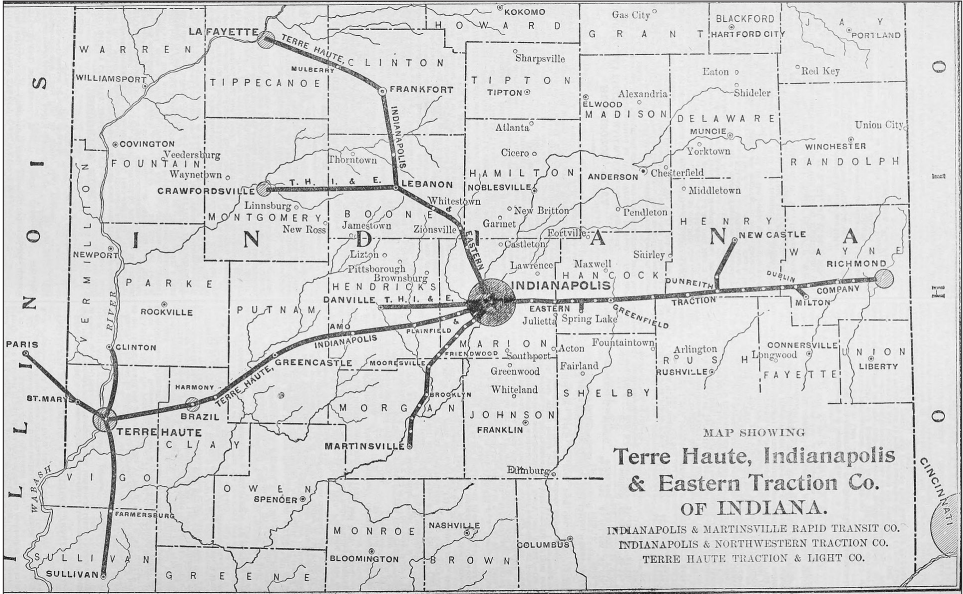
The Martinsville branch of the T.H.I.&E. was built in



This old postcard depicts the Interurban station in Martinsville on North Main Street. (Courtesy image)



The Interurban railcar runs up the track alongside Highland Sanitarium in Martinsville in this era-specific postcard. (Courtesy image)



This map shows the various lines of the Terre Haute, Indianapolis & Eastern Traction Co. (T.H.I.&E.) of Indiana, with the Martinsville line playing a key role. (Courtesy map)



The Traction Co.’s station was located where the downtown bus station is located on West Market Street in Indianapolis. (Courtesy image)

1902-03. It was first planned to extend to Bloomington, but the terrain of hills from here to Bloomington and finances forced those plans to be abandoned.

There was an announcement upon its opening in The Daily Reporter that the “first car leaves the new Terminal Station at Illinois and Market Street in Indianapolis at 5:30 a.m. and continue every hour thereafter on the 20-minute mark until 6:30 p.m. The 7:30 p.m. car runs only to Mooresville and the 8:30 car runs to Martinsville, and the next and last car leaves at 11:30 p.m. running to Martinsville.”

You can see with the frequency of runs that the interurban service not only afforded patrons opportunities for traveling to shop and conduct business, but it also allowed people to have jobs outside the immediate area. The schedule was modified when special events such as the Chautauqua were held in town, not to mention when basketball tournaments were in season — not only being used by spectators but out-of-town teams even riding on the line.

The end of the line — or for

those in Morgan County, the starting point — began at the station on North Main Street then moving along Blue Bluff Road and past where the IPL plant is today. The rail then moved on to Centerton, Bethany Park, Brooklyn and to Mooresville. Mooresville was considered the halfway point on route to the big smoke of Naptown. For the last leg, which followed along present and Old State Rd. 67, points serviced were West Newton, Friendswood, Camby, Valley Mills and Maywood finally coming into the station that was located where the downtown bus station is located on West Market Street in Indianapolis.

The cars were divided into baggage, smoker and general passenger sections, with a seating capacity of about 65. It was said at times it carried as many as 110 to 155 people. The stock cars and flat cars were used to move freight.

All was not always roses on the rail line though. In August of 1913, the interurban union employees went on strike. Things became a bit aggressive in late August when electrical poles were sawed off about a mile north

of Mooresville halting service.

At that time, the service had been running fewer cars having to rely on skeleton crews. This not only impaired passenger travel but also interrupted delivery of goods as well. The Star newspaper was not delivered the day after the pole-cutting incident. Fellow union members from other lines began to go out in sympathy of their brethren of T.H.I.&E. At one point, a rock was even thrown at a passing car in Mooresville. The strike finally ended the first part of November 1913.

The strike came on the heels of the devastation of the 1913 flood, which occurred on March 25, 1913. Post-flood damage was so extensive that no car returned to Martinsville until April 27. The service did not resume its normal schedule until July 1. The flood losses and the strike wielded quite a financial blow to an already struggling company. Employees of the line were not the only ones who caused a ruckus over financial woes. In the early fall of 1911 the T.H.I.&E. had a rate increase. A meeting was organized and held in the Morgan County courthouse to reach out to the Vandalia Rail Co. to see if they would entertain offering a passenger service. The community of Mooresville was upset because the fares for short hauls from Mooresville to Friendswood had increased from 5 cents to a whopping 10 cents.

Those power poles were the lifeline of the operation. Snow and ice could cause the line to go off schedule when ice would accumulate on the lines or the car might not be able to negotiate an incline because of snow or ice



The book, ‘Electric Indiana: The Rise and Fall of the World’s Greatest Interurban Railway Center, 1893-1941 (Railroads Past and Present)’ by Carlos Arnold Schwantes, provides the history of all of the lines operated in Indiana. (Courtesy image)

on the tracks. A powerhouse was located at Maywood and provided electricity for the Mooresville area as well as the cars traveling from Indianapolis to Martinsville from 1902 to 1912. A powerhouse was then built at West 10th Street in Indianapolis, and the line was then supplied from substations.

The frequency of cars moving through the area itself created some hazards. There were no crossing safety arms or warnings in place so accidents happened. Even with warning whistles on the train, there were dangerous encounters.

By the summer of 1917 there had been 10 deaths at two of the Centerton crossings, with four deaths in one occurrence in 1912, not to mention the numbers of injuries over the years. A serious accident in 1927 at a crossing on Emerson Avenue in Indianapolis occurred when a truck carrying a group of people traveling to a barn dance was struck, killing 16 and injuring 19.

The T.H.I.&E. was probably the most financially weak of the various lines operating in Indiana. Even during the prosperous 1920s, the line operated at a deficit. If not for the offset by the sale of the power from its coal-generated power plants, it would have entered into bankruptcy before it did. The stock market crash in 1929 claimed many a business especially those on a weak financial footing.

The company went into Receivership in April 1930, with the last interurban car leaving Martinsville on Oct. 31, 1930.

If the service could have hung on, I see having been used a lot during World War II. By the 1930s, the condition of roads had improved, and the automobile was being the more common mode of transportation — thus ended the availability of electric railway to Morgan County.

If this article has spurred your interest, I suggest you visit the exhibit currently on display at the Indiana Historical Society in Indianapolis.

The book, “Electric Indiana: The Rise and Fall of the World’s Greatest Interurban Railway Center, 1893-1941 (Railroads Past and Present)” by Carlos Arnold Schwantes, provides the history of all of the lines operated in Indiana.

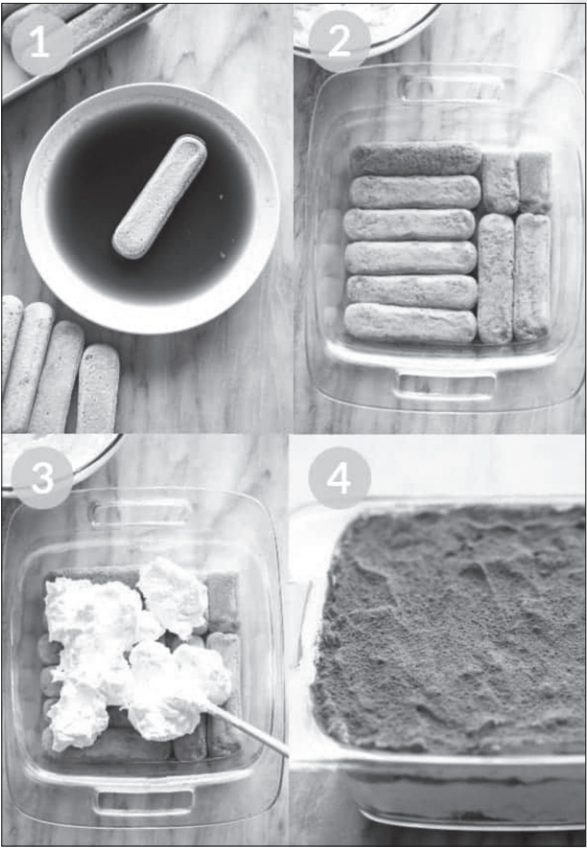
I always welcome your comments and encourage you to share them with me at historymusingsmcc@gmail.com.

# SUPER EASY TIRAMISU

This is a creamy, delicious and very easy tiramisu recipe made with coffee-soaked ladyfingers, sweet and creamy mascarpone, with cocoa powder dusted on top.



Shelley's Sweet Spot  
SHELLEY SUTER



## SUPER EASY TIRAMISU

YOU'LL NEED

- 8-by-8-inch dish
- Hand mixer

INGREDIENTS

- 1½ cups heavy whipping cream
- 8 ounce container mascarpone cheese at room temperature
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1½ cups cold espresso, prepared
- 3 Tablespoons coffee flavored liqueur, optional (Kahlua or DaVinci brands)
- 1 package ladyfingers, Savoiardi brand can be found in the cookie aisle at your local grocery store, or online
- Cocoa powder for dusting the top

INSTRUCTIONS

- Add whipping cream to a mixing bowl and beat on medium speed with electric mixers (or use a stand mixer).
- Slowly add sugar and vanilla and continue to beat until stiff peaks.
- Add mascarpone cheese and fold in until combined. Set aside.
- Add coffee and liqueur to a shallow bowl. Dip the ladyfingers in the coffee — don't soak them ... just quickly dip them on both sides to get them wet — and lay them in a single layer on

the bottom of an 8-by-8-inch or similar-sized pan.

- Smooth half of the mascarpone mixture over the top.
- Add another layer of dipped lady fingers.
- Smooth remaining mascarpone cream over the top.
- Dust cocoa powder generously over the top (I use a fine mesh strainer to do this). Refrigerate for at least 3-4 hours or up to overnight before serving.

will last in the refrigerator three or four days.

NOTES

**Alcohol:** Tiramisu can be made with or without alcohol. This recipe calls for coffee-flavored liqueur because I like that it enhances the coffee flavor, but other options are marsala wine or brandy.

**Make Ahead Instructions:** Tiramisu is even better when made in advance, allowing the flavors to blend! It will keep in the refrigerator for 2 to 3 days.

**Freezing Instructions:** Make completely, but don't dust with cocoa powder. Cover tightly with plastic wrap and then tinfoil, and freeze for up to 3 months. Thaw in the refrigerator overnight and dust with cocoa powder a few hours before serving.

COLUMN & PUZZLES

# Easy steps can be taken to alleviate ‘germ phobia’

APRIL 1975 — Amy's phobia is not uncommon. But it can be explained in two ways.

But don't grow neurotic about a child's unwashed hands, for very little germ infection can resist the acid in our gastric juices. Not the Cuban incident below!

**CASE C-679:** Amy T., aged 29, has a phobia.

"Dr. Crane," her worried husband began, "Amy has become neurotic over dread of becoming infected with germs.

"She washes her hands 'til they are raw.

"And shuns dining at restaurants lest the silverware or dishes aren't sterile.

"Now she even rubs our upholstered furniture with a sponge dipped in Lysol or rubbing alcohol.

"And seems terrified that I might bring venereal germs into our home when I come back from the office.

"How can a person get cured of this germ phobia?"

**Microphobia**

"Microphobia" is the name given to Amy's abnormal



The Worry Clinic  
DR. GEORGE W. CRANE

dread of germs.

To a degree, moreover, it is praiseworthy and necessary in physicians, dental surgeons and their nurses.

For contaminated fingers, instruments and even hypodermic needles can introduce germs under the skin or into raw flesh.

But Amy's extreme terror of infection can be reduced in two ways.

First, she should realize that germs that enter by mouth are usually killed by the hydrochloric acid in our gastric juice.

Not only are venereal diseases but tuberculosis and typhoid germs are generally destroyed, especially if we

eat protein meals. For protein makes the stomach secrete an extra amount of acid.

During the Spanish-American War, two regiments of American soldiers had marched all afternoon across Cuba without food and water, arriving at a river campsite at dusk.

The colonel of one regiment let his men drink all the water they wished from the river, while the cooks prepared their pork and beans for supper.

But the other colonel, though the soldiers grumbled angrily, refused to let them drink from the river 'til they had eaten.

Alas, the river was contaminated with typhoid germs.

And of those soldiers who had eaten before drinking the river water, only four or five soldiers contracted typhoid.

But in the other regiment, several hundred took down with typhoid, because they drank on an empty stomach. Why?

Well, an empty stomach lets water go right on through into the intestines within a few minutes.

So those typhoid germs didn't stay in the empty stomachs long enough to get killed by gastric juice.

Besides, the soldiers who ate first then had full stomachs, which absorbed the river water and held it mixed in their food for several hours.

And the protein supper also caused an extra shower of hydrochloric acid, so the typhoid germs meanwhile were exposed to far more acid.

If, therefore, you must drink from possibly contaminated wells or lakes and rivers, be sure you eat heartily FIRST!

Before pasteurization of milk occurred, many people go tuberculosis of the intestines from infected milk.

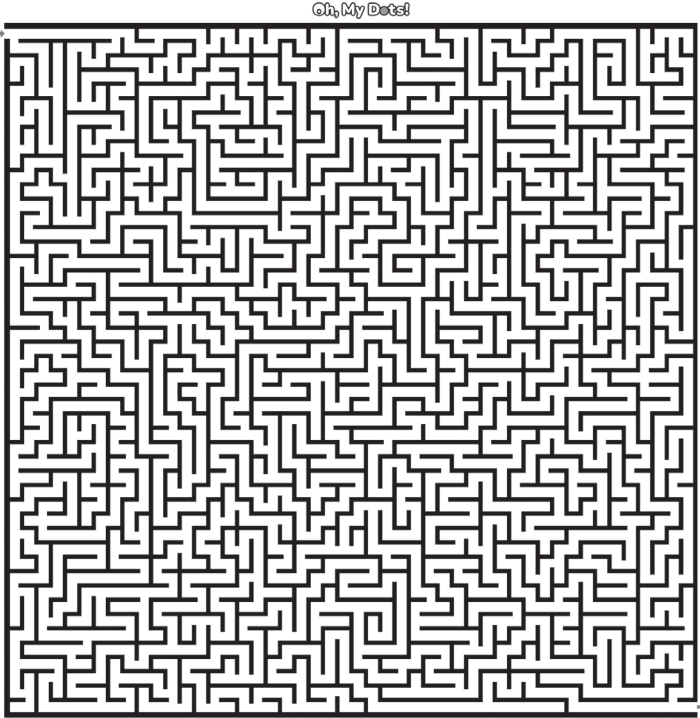
But that was partly because they drank warm milk on an empty stomach or some of the curds

encased TB germs and let them slip on through before the gastric juice dissolves such curds.

Many germs can cause problems if rubbed into your eyes, or they can enter a split lip or cut finger, but not

through whole skin!

*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.*

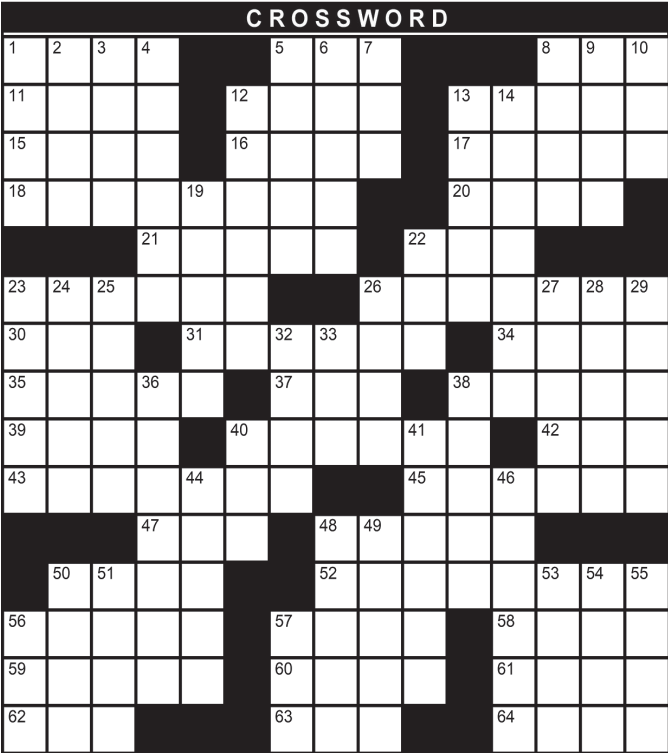


STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: DESSERTS

ACROSS

1. Like some champagnes



5. Undergarment  
8. Dashboard acronym  
11. Poison ivy woe  
12. Took to court

13. Milan's La \_\_\_\_  
15. Afresh  
16. Globes and such  
17. SNL's forté  
18. \*Ladyfingers+coffee liqueur  
20. Grammy of sports  
21. Jeweler's unit  
22. \*Like walnuts on ice cream  
23. \*Thin Mint or Carmel deLite  
26. \*Apple dip  
30. Nelson Mandela's org.  
31. Profoundness, pl.  
34. Frost-covered  
35. Ticket leftovers  
37. Pathet \_\_\_\_  
38. Lazybones  
39. Samoan money  
40. A in AU, Alabama  
42. Heidi Samuel \_\_\_\_ Klum  
43. Contaminant punch  
45. Flammable anesthetics  
47. a.k.a. acid  
48. Military group  
50. Jezebel's deity  
52. \*Espresso+gelato  
56. Forgo  
57. Palo \_\_\_\_, CA  
58. Sacred image  
59. Southern cuisine pods  
60. Show the guns  
61. Small stream  
62. "The Star-Spangled Banner" author  
63. Toni Morrison's "\_\_\_\_ Baby"  
64. Adeline or Addison, for short

DOWN

1. Troublesome child  
2. Jasmine of "Aladdin" e.g.  
3. Olympic cast-out  
4. Snack  
5. Anatomical sac  
6. Overthrow by argument  
7. Marketing creations

8. Wild onion  
9. Clever tactic  
10. Spanish sea  
12. Evening party  
13. See-through  
14. \*Eggs+milk+sugar  
19. Old \_\_\_\_, or unpopped popcorn kernels  
22. Be, singular past tense  
23. Uses a fishing reel  
24. Like beer at a kegger (2 words)  
25. Round openings  
26. Cabbage, in France  
27. "The House at Pooh Corner" author  
28. African chieftain  
29. Ancient Greeks' harps  
32. Socket counterpart  
33. Bar bill  
36. \*Filo dough+nuts+honey  
38. Book opener  
40. Uniting conjunction  
41. Robin Hood in Disney's

- "Robin Hood" (2 words)  
44. Keys  
46. Mecca to Medina exodus  
48. Type of lily  
49. Happily ever when?  
50. \*Make Alaska  
51. Gossamer  
53. Vinegar or lemon juice, to a chef  
54. Communicated  
55. James Bond's "For Your Eyes \_\_\_\_"  
56. Asian cuisine pan  
57. Astern

ANSWERS:



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.

SWITCH & GET

\$25

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# Be a beacon of God’s love

**By Mickey Elliott**  
Weekday Religious Education

I am reminded of a story I once read, called “One Person Can Make a Difference.” Let me share it with you:

*One morning just before dawn, a man woke early so he could watch the sunrise over the ocean. As he walked along the beach, he came across a young girl who seemed to be doing something peculiar. She was picking up starfish and throwing them into the sea, one after another. He asked her what she was doing.*

*The tide washes up all these starfish and they cannot get back by themselves, she said. “They will die in the sun if I don’t throw them back into the water.”*

*The man looked up and down the beach at the thousands of starfish.*

*He could not help telling her, “But there are too many starfish to save before sunrise. Why bother? You won’t make much of a difference.”*

*She paused for a moment, then picked up another starfish and threw it as far as her slender arm could manage.*

*With a satisfied grin, she turned to the man and simply said, “I made a difference to that one.”*

*The man stood in silence, considering the girl’s youthful wisdom. Then with a smile of his own, he reached down for a starfish, and tossed it into the sea.*

I hope this story speaks to your



heart as it has mine. I was introduced to it through the CASA (court-appointed special advocates) program here in Morgan County. I was a CASA for 20 years here in the county. During those years, I learned so much about the many children in this and other counties that need intervention and families desperately in need of guidance and direction. They need the new beginning this program provides to those willing to give of themselves. I saw many lives changed, and many children placed in safe, secure environments with love and hope. I saw many families restored and given help and direction. God has given and is still giving men and women who want to make a difference an opportunity.

Like these starfish, these children and families need a second chance and hope for the future. The CASA door is open for men and women to become advocates to the courts for children and families in need of a new beginning. The opportunity is available here in Morgan County and other counties in our state. I mention this because I was so blessed with the lives that were touched and transformed because someone cared and became involved in their lives, helping them pick up the pieces and find ways to be free to love and care for their families. There are many ways we can serve and help these children and families, such as serving in social services, serving in children’s ministry through your church and other ministries like Weekday Religious Education, or maybe a Bible Club during the summer in your backyard. God is calling us to make a difference in these children’s lives and to see families unified. God is calling us and giving us the wisdom and direction we need to touch the lives of those who have lost their way. We can make a difference. I still receive letters from those I had the privilege of serving, thanking me for my part in helping them. Jesus was all about helping people have faith, courage and love. He was a great teacher, always ready to heal, cleanse, forgive and make a difference in the lives of those in need. He healed the sick, and he forgave their sins and led them to a relationship with him that would release the power of the Holy Spirit to work in our lives. It was not an easy ministry for Jesus, and it won’t be easy for us. But we can be sure He will walk beside us and guide us every step of the way, just as God was always beside him. One lesson we teach in Week-day is found in Mark 2: 1-12. One day, Jesus entered Capernaum. The people heard that he had come. They gathered in such a large number that there was not enough room left, not even outside the door, as he preached the Word to them. Some men came bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof of the house above Jesus by digging through it then lowered the mat the man was lying on.

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

Some of the teachers of the law were thinking, “Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

Jesus knew what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, “Which is easier to say to this man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take up your mat and walk’?”

Jesus wanted them to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.

So, he said to the man, “I tell you take up your mat and go home.” The man took up his mat and walked out as they all watched.

God still heals and He still transforms lives. We see the love of these four men who carried their friend to Jesus. They were even taking him through the roof to prove they were determined to see their friend healed whatever the cost or work involved. Jesus saw their great faith and healed their friend. God has called us to make a difference to be used to help others — to give of ourselves, our time, and work to be Jesus’ hands and feet in the world to help those who have lost their way. Choose to make a difference. Let Jesus’ love shine through you as you encourage your neighbors, serve your church, community and family. Let your faith be a beacon to a world in need.

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 • gsbccindy.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 • river-valleychristianchurch.com • kevinable@rivervalley-christianchurch.com • Kevin Able • Sunday worship at 10 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study at 6:30 p.m., Thursday adult bible study at 10 a.m.

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

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

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

**St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church** • 1720 E. Harrison St., Martinsville • 765-342-6379 • stmtours.org • parishoffice@stmtours.org • Rev. Stephen Giannini • Saturday confession at 3 p.m., Mass at 4 p.m.; Sunday Mass at 10 a.m.; Tuesday and Thursday Mass at 8:10 a.m. Check website for Holy Days of Obligation.

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

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

### INFORMATION

Get your church added to the directory by visiting [tinyurl.com/mccchurch](http://tinyurl.com/mccchurch).

Sponsor the directory. Contact [ads@morgancountycorrespondent.com](mailto:ads@morgancountycorrespondent.com) or 317-989-6045.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Grace Church Camby** • 4172 E. Allison Road, Camby • 317-831-0798 • discovergrace.net • info@discovergrace.net • 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 • mcof252@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 • mlnazarene.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@eastview-christianchurch.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 • firstc-mooresville.org • office@firstcmmooresville.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 Liebhardt • 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 • mooresvillefmcchurch.org • mooresvillefmc.pastor@gmail.com • Pastor Jon Stemerick • Sunday service at 10 a.m. with doughnuts and coffee at 9:30 a.m., Wednesday prayer meeting at 6:30 p.m.

**Mooresville First United Methodist** • 900 Indianapolis Road, Mooresville • 317-831-3376 • Mooresville-FUMC.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 • martinsville1stem@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 • reformedholylifeline.org • reformedholylifeline@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.





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MASSES**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 12 AT 4:00PM  
SUNDAY, APRIL 13 AT 10:00AM**

**ST. MARTIN OF TOURS CATHOLIC CHURCH  
1709 E. HARRISON ST, MARTINSVILLE**

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF MORGAN COUNTY OF TAX RATES CHARGED																																
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE TAX DUPLICATES FOR COUNTY, TOWNSHIPS, SCHOOLS, LIBRARIES, CORPORATIONS, FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS AND CONSERVANCIES OF MORGAN COUNTY FOR THE YEAR 2024 PAYABLE IN 2025 ARE NOW IN THE HANDS OF THE COUNTY TREASURER, WHO IS READY TO RECEIVE THE TAXES CHARGED THEREON. DUE JANUARY 1, 2025, FIRST INSTALLMENT DELINQUENT AFTER MAY 12, 2025, SECOND INSTALLMENT DELINQUENT AFTER NOVEMBER 10, 2025. THE FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWS THE RATE OF TAXATION ON EACH \$100.00 OF TAXABLE REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY. DAN BASTIN, TREASURER, MORGAN COUNTY																																
For 2024 Payable in 2025	ADAMS TWP. TAXING DISTRICT (001)	ASHLAND TWP. TAXING DISTRICT (002)	BAKER TWP. TAXING DISTRICT (003)	BROWN TWP. TAXING DISTRICT (004)	MOORESVILLE TAXING DISTRICT (005)	CLAY TWP. TAXING DISTRICT (006)	BETHANY TAXING DISTRICT (007)	BROOKLYN TAXING DISTRICT (008)	BROOKLYNBROWN TAXING DISTRICT (026)	GREEN TWP. TAXING DISTRICT (009)	GREGG TWP. TAXING DISTRICT (010)	HARRISON TWP. TAXING DISTRICT (011)	JACKSON TWP. TAXING DISTRICT (012)	MORGANTOWN TAXING DISTRICT (013)	JEFFERSON TWP. TAXING DISTRICT (014)	MADISON TWP. TAXING DISTRICT (015)	MONROE TWP. TAXING DISTRICT (016)	MOIROVA TAXING DISTRICT (022)	RAY TWP. TAXING DISTRICT (018)	PARAGON TAXING DISTRICT (019)	WASHINGTON TWP. TAXING DISTRICT (020)	MARTINSVILLE TAXING DISTRICT (021)	MARTINSVILLE MTE TAXING DISTRICT (023)	HART LAKE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT	WILDWOOD DAM CONSERVANCY DISTRICT	UPPER WILLOWOOD SHORES CONSERVANCY DISTRICT	LAKE EDGEWOOD CONSERVANCY DISTRICT	TRI-COUNTY CONSERVANCY DISTRICT	TALL OAKS LAKE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT	LAKE DETOUR CONSERVANCY DISTRICT		
	0.1916 0.0100 0.0100 0.0150 0.0333 0.0770 0.1184 0.4453	0.1916 0.0100 0.0100 0.0150 0.0333 0.0770 0.1184 0.4453	0.1916 0.0100 0.0150 0.0333 0.0770 0.1184 0.4453	0.1916 0.0100 0.0150 0.0333 0.0770 0.1184 0.3683	0.1916 0.0100 0.0150 0.0333 0.0770 0.1184 0.3683	0.1916 0.0100 0.0150 0.0333 0.0770 0.1184 0.4453	0.1916 0.0100 0.0150 0.0333 0.0770 0.1184 0.4453	0.1916 0.0100 0.0150 0.0333 0.0770 0.1184 0.4453	0.1916 0.0100 0.0150 0.0333 0.0770 0.1184 0.4453	0.1916 0.0100 0.0150 0.0333 0.0770 0.1184 0.4453	0.1916 0.0100 0.0150 0.0333 0.0770 0.1184 0.4453	0.1916 0.0100 0.0150 0.0333 0.0770 0.1184 0.4453	0.1916 0.0100 0.0150 0.0333 0.0770 0.1184 0.4453	0.1916 0.0100 0.0150 0.0333 0.0770 0.1184 0.4453	0.1916 0.0100 0.0150 0.0333 0.0770 0.1184 0.4453	0.1916 0.0100 0.0150 0.0333 0.0770 0.1184 0.4453	0.1916 0.0100 0.0150 0.0333 0.0770 0.1184 0.4453	0.1916 0.0100 0.0150 0.0333 0.0770 0.1184 0.4453	0.1916 0.0100 0.0150 0.0333 0.0770 0.1184 0.4453	0.1916 0.0100 0.0150 0.0333 0.0770 0.1184 0.4453	0.1916 0.0100 0.0150 0.0333 0.0770 0.1184 0.4453	0.1916 0.0100 0.0150 0.0333 0.0770 0.1184 0.4453	0.1916 0.0100 0.0150 0.0333 0.0770 0.1184 0.4453	0.1916 0.0100 0.0150 0.0333 0.0770 0.1184 0.4453	0.1916 0.0100 0.0150 0.0333 0.0770 0.1184 0.4453	0.1916 0.0100 0.0150 0.0333 0.0770 0.1184 0.4453	0.1916 0.0100 0.0150 0.0333 0.0770 0.1184 0.4453	0.1916 0.0100 0.0150 0.0333 0.0770 0.1184 0.4453	0.1916 0.0100 0.0150 0.0333 0.0770 0.1184 0.4453	0.1916 0.0100 0.0150 0.0333 0.0770 0.1184 0.4453	0.1916 0.0100 0.0150 0.0333 0.0770 0.1184 0.4453	0.1916 0.0100 0.0150 0.0333 0.0770 0.1184 0.4453
	0.0080 0.0024 0.0229	0.0089 0.0000 0.0255	0.0259 0.0000 0.0034	0.0359 0.0095 0.1701	0.0359 0.0095 0.1701	0.0136 0.0020 0.0203	0.0136 0.0020 0.0203	0.0136 0.0020 0.0203	0.0359 0.0095 0.1701	0.0042 0.0029 0.0639	0.0000 0.0000 0.0577	0.0090 0.0000 0.0000	0.0267 0.0000 0.0000	0.0267 0.0000 0.0000	0.0062 0.0003 0.0202	0.0067 0.0037 0.1480	0.0018 0.0000 0.0000	0.0018 0.0000 0.0000	0.0000 0.0045 0.0235	0.0000 0.0045 0.0000	0.0000 0.0045 0.0000	0.0095 0.0080 0.0093	0.0095 0.0080 0.0093	0.0095 0.0080 0.0093	0.0095 0.0080 0.0093	0.0095 0.0080 0.0093	0.0095 0.0080 0.0093	0.0095 0.0080 0.0093	0.0095 0.0080 0.0093	0.0095 0.0080 0.0093		
	0.0313	0.0324	0.0406	0.3332	0.0454	0.0480	0.0156	0.0156	0.0454	0.0994	0.0695	0.0090	0.3159	0.3159	0.0571	0.2100	0.0018	0.0018	0.0018	0.0045	0.0045	0.1258	0.0175	0.0175	0.0175	0.0175	0.0175	0.0175	0.0175	0.0175	0.0175	
	0.1451	0.1451	0.3999	0.4048	0.4048	0.3999	0.3999	0.3999	0.4048	0.3999	0.7091	0.4048	0.5550	0.5550	0.3999	0.4048	0.7091	0.7091	0.3999	0.3999	0.3999	0.3999	0.3999	0.3999	0.3999	0.3999	0.3999	0.3999	0.3999	0.3999	0.3999	
	0.4556 0.3200	0.4556 0.3200	0.3921 0.3200	0.3826 0.3200	0.3826 0.3200	0.3921 0.3200	0.3921 0.3200	0.3921 0.3200	0.3826 0.3200	0.3921 0.3200	0.3609 0.3200	0.3826 0.3200	0.3350 0.3200	0.3350 0.3200	0.3921 0.3200	0.3826 0.3200	0.3609 0.3200	0.3609 0.3200	0.3609 0.3200	0.3921 0.3200	0.3921 0.3200	0.3921 0.3200	0.3921 0.3200	0.3921 0.3200	0.3921 0.3200	0.3921 0.3200	0.3921 0.3200	0.3921 0.3200	0.3921 0.3200	0.3921 0.3200	0.3921 0.3200	
	0.9207	0.9207	0.7920	0.7874	0.7874	0.7920	0.7920	0.7920	0.7874	0.7920	1.0700	0.7874	0.8900	0.8900	0.7920	0.7874	1.0700	1.0700	0.7920	0.7920	0.7920	0.7920	0.7920	0.7920	0.7920	0.7920	0.7920	0.7920	0.7920	0.7920	0.7920	
	0.0300 0.0048	0.0300 0.0048	0.0300 0.0048	0.0335 0.0501	0.0335 0.0501	0.0300 0.0048	0.0300 0.0048	0.0300 0.0048	0.0335 0.0501	0.0300 0.0048	0.0300 0.0048	0.0300 0.0048	0.0300 0.0048	0.0300 0.0048	0.0300 0.0048	0.0300 0.0048	0.0300 0.0048	0.0300 0.0048	0.0300 0.0048	0.0300 0.0048	0.0300 0.0048	0.0300 0.0048	0.0300 0.0048	0.0300 0.0048	0.0300 0.0048	0.0300 0.0048	0.0300 0.0048	0.0300 0.0048	0.0300 0.0048	0.0300 0.0048	0.0300 0.0048	
	0.0348	0.0348	0.0348	0.0836	0.0836	0.0348	0.0348	0.0348	0.0836	0.0348	0.0348	0.0348	0.0348	0.0348	0.0348	0.0348	0.0348	0.0348	0.0348	0.0348	0.0348	0.0348	0.0348	0.0348	0.0348	0.0348	0.0348	0.0348	0.0348	0.0348	0.0348	

LEGAL NOTICES

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  
IN THE MORGAN SUPERIOR COURT  
COUNTY OF MORGAN

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 judgement 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](mailto: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 LINCOLN 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 aka 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 sheriffs 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 appraisal 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  
[inhiggins@carlisle-law.com](mailto:inhiggins@carlisle-law.com)  
[mdailey@carlisle-law.com](mailto:mdailey@carlisle-law.com)  
[Dharvey@carlisle-law.com](mailto:Dharvey@carlisle-law.com)

Sheriff of Morgan County, Richard W. Myers  
Morgan County Sheriff Department  
160 N. Park Ave., Martinsville, in 46151  
The sheriffs department does not warrant the accuracy of the street address published herein.  
Service directed to:  
Sheriff  
Casey a. Lindaas aka 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

STATE OF INDIANA  
SS:  
COUNTY OF MORGAN  
IN THE MORGAN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT  
CASE NO: **55C01-2503-MI-000719**

IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF:  
Ryan Patrick Sexton  
Petitioner

**NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME**  
Ryan Patrick Sexton, Morgan County, Indiana, hereby gives notice that he has filed a petition in the Morgan Circuit Court requesting that their name be changed to Ryan Patrick Brooks, and that said petition will be heard by the Court on June 16, 2025 at 8:15 a.m. Any person has the right to appear at the hearing and file an objection.  
Dated at Martinsville, Indiana, this **25th 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 PROBATE DIVISION  
CAUSE NO.: **55D01-2503-EU-000047**  
IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ESTATE OF Becky M. Moore, DECEASED

**NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION**  
Notice is hereby given that on the **20TH day of March, 2025**, Colleen Coppin and Tyler Gartland were appointed Co-Personal Representative of the estate of Becky M. Moore, deceased, who died on the 27th day of November 2024.  
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 **26th day of March, 2025.**

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

Attorneys:  
Bridgett M McDaniel  
Williams Barrett & Wilkowski, LLP

PUBLIC NOTICES

**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.

**NOTICE OF ADOPTION**  
To the taxpayers of Monroe Township Fire District, Morgan County, Indiana. You are hereby notified that on the 19th of March 2025, the Monroe Township Fire District Board, Morgan County, Indiana, pursuant to notice heretofore given, and under and by virtue of IC36-8-14 duly adopted a plan whereby a Cumulative Firefighting Fund was established to provide for the following:  
For all uses as set out in IC 36-8-14  
The fund will be provided for by a property tax rate of \$0.0333 per one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of taxable real and personal property within the taxing unit beginning in 2025 payable 2026 and thereafter, continuing until reduced or rescinded.  
25 or more taxpayers in the taxing unit who will be affected by the tax rate and corresponding levy may file a petition with the Morgan County Auditor not later than noon 30 days after the publication of this Notice setting forth their objections to the proposed cumulative fund. Upon the filing of the petition, the County Au-

ditor shall immediately certify the same to the Department of Local Government Finance, at which point the Department will fix a date for and conduct a public hearing on the proposed cumulative fund before issuing its approval, disapproval, or modification thereof.  
Dated this 3rd day of April 2025.  
Monroe Township Fire District Board

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
The Redevelopment Commission of the City of Martinsville will open bids received for the new City parking lot on the SE corner of Morgan Street at Wayne Street. The property has been cleared of the previous three (3) homes, and trees on the site. A complete copy of the plans and specifications can be viewed at the Director of Planning and Engineering's Office located at 59 S. Jefferson Street, Martinsville, IN 46151 between the hours of 8-12 and 1-4 M-F.  
The Redevelopment Commission's meeting will be held in the Council Chambers, City Hall (59 S. Jefferson Street, Martinsville, IN 46151) at 7:30 o'clock a.m., on the 9th day of April, 2025.

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**  
Notice is hereby given that the City of Martinsville, IN herein referred to as the Owner, will receive sealed bids for the 2025 Sidewalk and Curb Project Phase IV located in the City of Martinsville, IN, Morgan County, Indiana.  
Sealed bids are invited and may be forwarded by mail, other courier service

or in person to the City of Martinsville, Attn: Mac Dunn, 59 S. Jefferson Street, Martinsville, IN 46151 until 4:00pm on May 12, 2025. Bids received after such hour will be returned unopened. Bids will be opened and publicly read aloud at this time. Bids will then be taken under advisement for review by the owner and engineer.

The contract will consist of the following:  
2025 Sidewalk and Curb Project Phase IV and related work items associated with sidewalk, curb, and various street improvements throughout the City of Martinsville, IN.  
Complete sets of bidding documents may be viewed at City Hall, 59 S. Jefferson Street, Martinsville, IN 46151. Electronic bidding documents are available per request at [mdunn@martinsville.in.gov](mailto:mdunn@martinsville.in.gov) or hard copies can be picked up at City Hall, 59 S. Jefferson Street, Martinsville, IN 46151.  
Each bid must be enclosed in a sealed envelope bearing the title of the Project, and the name and address of Bidder. All bids must be submitted on the bid forms as identified in the Contract Documents.  
Each bid shall be accompanied by a certified check or acceptable bidder's bond made payable to the Owner, in a sum of not less than five percent (5%) of the total amount of the bid, which check or bond will be held by the Owner as evidence that the bidder will, if awarded the contract, enter into the same with the Owner upon notification from him to do so within ten (10) days of said notification.  
Approved performance and payment bonds guaranteeing faithful and proper

performance of the work and materials, to be executed by an acceptable surety company, will be required of the Contractor at the time he executes his contract. The bond will be in the amount of 100% of the Contract Price and must be in full force and effect throughout the term of the Construction Contract plus a period of twelve (12) months from the date of substantial completion.  
The Owner reserves the right to reject any bid, or all bids, or to accept any bid or bids, or to make such combination of bids as may seem desirable, and to waive any and all informalities in bidding. Any bid may be withdrawn prior to the above scheduled time for the opening of bids or authorized postponement thereof. Any bid received after the time and date specified shall not be considered. No bid may be withdrawn after the scheduled closing time for receipt of bids for at least sixty (60) days.  
The Owner may make such investigations as deemed necessary to determine the ability of the Bidder to perform the work and the Bidder shall furnish to the Owner all such information and data for this purpose as the Owner may request. The Owner reserves the right to reject any bid if the evidence submitted by, or investigation of, such Bidder fails to satisfy the Owner that such Bidder is properly qualified to carry out the obligations of the Agreement and to complete the work contemplated therein.  
Bids shall be properly and completely executed on bid forms included in the Contract Documents. Bids shall include all information requested by Indiana Form 96 (Revised 2013) included in the Contract Documents.

If project is \$150,000 or more - State of Indiana requirement as of 7/2018, Bidder is required to submit with bid a written plan for an employee drug testing program that complies with IC 4-13-18-5 and IC 4-13-18-6.  
Each Bidder is responsible for inspecting the Project site(s) and for reading and being thoroughly familiar with the Contract Documents and Specifications. The failure or omission of any Bidder to do any of the foregoing shall in no way relieve any Bidder from any obligation with respect to its Bid.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
The Morgan County Emergency Management Agency, 1050 Lincoln Hill Rd, Martinsville, IN 46151, in conjunction with Indiana Department of Homeland Security, has applied for Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the 2024 Morgan County Outdoor Warning Siren Project. The objective of this program is to fund mitigation measures that reduce the risk of loss of life and property from future hazard events or disasters.  
According to the National Weather Service (NWS), Morgan County, Indiana, has been seriously impacted by 23 reported tornadoes since 1950 which in total have resulted in 47 injuries - one of which occurred most recently in 2023. Bearing this in mind, Morgan County EMA leaned heavily on the Stakeholders Preparedness Review (SPR), the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (MHMP), data from the IDHS arcGIS dashboard, and of course, the data from NWS to consider mitigation gaps and solutions. The MHMP confirmed a gap and high

priority need for outdoor warning sirens for communities which currently do not have one. Google earth and the RAPT tool also confirmed that these communities contain both outdoor work/activities and underserved populations which may not have access to other means of notification. Thus, Morgan County EMA developed the outdoor warning sirens project to address the areas throughout the county that would not otherwise receive early warning notification for tornadoes.

Should this grant be awarded, the BRIC grant will fund three tornado sirens in the following locations:

1. Near Low Gap and Mahalasville Rds
2. At Letterman and Lewisville Rds
3. Along SR 67 between Martinsville and Paragon

Under the National Environmental Policy Act, EO 1988 and EO 1990, public notice is required of any federal actions that may affect floodplains or wetlands. Under the National Historic Preservation Act, public notice is also required for some projects which have the potential to affect historic properties. All necessary permits and approvals will be obtained prior to construction and completion of the project.  
Public participation is encouraged. Those interested are invited to comment within 30 days by e-mail to [fema-r5-environmental@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:fema-r5-environmental@fema.dhs.gov) or by mail to:

Duane Castaldi, Regional Environmental Officer  
FEMA Region V  
536 South Clark Street, 6th Floor  
Chicago, IL 60605

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.

**Ad Listings**

**GREGG TOWNSHIP**  
OPEN POSITION  
A position is open on the Gregg Township Advisory Board. Must be a resident of Gregg Township to apply. Contact Carole Snyder at 317-410-0375 by April 8, 2025

**MARTINSVILLE**  
YARD SALE  
Indoor Yard Sale, Saturday, April 12 8am-3pm at the Morgan County Fairgrounds, 1749 Hospital Drive. Booth space available. 317-682-7062. Call A benefit for the Morgan County Extension Homemakers Scholarship Program. Lunch available.

**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**

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# Turning a corner after pandemic

Morgan County 4-H is on the rebound 5 years on from COVID-19 pandemic

By Jared Quigg  
MCC Reporter

MORGAN COUNTY — Five years ago, when the world shut down and everyone sheltered inside their homes, many of the recreational activities we were accustomed to enjoying were closed off to us.

We took our meals, watched movies, went to work and school, exercised — all from home, away from others. It was a difficult time for everyone. Restaurants shuttered, athletes performed in empty stadiums and test scores dropped significantly.

The pandemic touched just about everyone in some way, not least of all Indiana 4-H.

For more than 100 years, children and teens have taken what they’ve learned from 4-H and used it to become great communicators, leaders



Vehicles line the Merchant Building at the Morgan County Fairgrounds last October as the Morgan County 4-H Junior Leaders host their annual Trunk or Treat. (Stephen Crane photo / MCC)

and volunteers within their communities. And while the pandemic certainly put a dent in Indiana 4-H’s numbers, five years on and 4-H

educator Rena Sheldon this week. “We lost quite a few members in 2020. During Covid, we all got lazy. People weren’t committing time to anything at all.”

Sheldon said Morgan County 4-H has made great efforts to recruit new members over the past few years, with the local chapter consisting of about 450 members. These efforts have included starting a brand new club at Mooresville Christian Academy, and a variety of initiatives designed to both serve those in the community and attract new members.

The junior leaders — those between 7th and 12th grade — also organized a number of events last year, including a successful Trunk-or-Treat event, a pet parade and a showmanship round robin, to name a few. Sheldon said events like these have gone a long way in getting

young children interested in being involved with 4-H.

Morgan County 4-H will put on such events again this year, along with a host of others.

Near the end of this month, on April 26, 4-H members will host a vaccination clinic for dogs and cats at the fairgrounds from 8 a.m. until noon. Sheldon expects around 200 animals will receive vaccinations and other care at this event.

In the evening of April 26, there will be a feed auction, with all the proceeds going to the 4-H Council.

“This is a great program for our kids,” Sheldon said. “Our goal is to produce responsible adults when they graduate from this program. 4-H really builds their ownership of the community they live in.”



# SWCD honors local conservation efforts

By Lisa MacPhee  
Morgan County SWCD

MORGAN COUNTY — The Morgan County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) recently held its annual meeting and awards banquet.

Besides conducting the official business of electing a supervisor and presenting annual reports, SWCD recognized several individuals and businesses for their efforts in conservation right here in Morgan County. SWCD also recognized the Morgan County 4-H Junior Leaders and the Martinsville FFA for their year’s achievements and outstanding service at the annual meeting.

A short documentary was shared about the amazing work being done in the Big Pine watershed in Northern Indiana, called “Land Values”, produced by Indiana Humanities before the night was concluded.

If you would like to know more about the programs available or how you can help locally to conserve and improve natural resources, reach out to the Morgan County SWCD through their website: [www.MorganCountySWCD.org](http://www.MorganCountySWCD.org).



The Pryor family is given the Indiana River Friendly Farmer award for their work improving habitat in the West Fork Clear Creek watershed. (SWCD courtesy photo)



Tim and Lisa Surber are honored by SWCD’s David Mow with the Friends of Conservation Award for their help raising awareness about conservation through Martinsville Neighbors magazine. (SWCD courtesy photo)

**Indiana River Friendly Farmer**

The Pryor family has cared for their land for more than 30 years. Through the help of the Natural Resource Conservation Services Environmental Quality Incentives Program, they have recently completed their third year of invasive brush management and are currently completing forest stand improvement on 12.7 acres.

They are improving forest and native plant species, and providing better habitat in the West Fork Clear Creek watershed.

**Indiana River Friendly Farmer**

The Peine Farm has been in the family since 1969. The Peines appreciate the recreational benefits and wildlife habitat that healthy ecosystems can provide. One hundred and ninety-seven acres of the farm is in a conservation easement, and they are working hard to improve and

add more to the easement in hopes of protecting it for future generations.

Work includes controlling invasive plant species, improving timber areas, minimal tillage systems and cover crop usage on agricultural land. Tree plantings, native grassland, and pollinator habitats can be found throughout the property. The Peines host field days, tours, and even university research projects on the farm.

All this work has improved the water quality of the streams passing through the farm and downstream into Lamb’s Creek.

**Environmental Educator of the Year**

Christa Mathews currently teaches science classes at John R. Wooden Middle School in Martinsville and believes that “the more students learn about our Earth, hopefully the more they will appreciate it as well as see it as their responsibility to help take care of it for themselves and future generations.”



The Morgan County 4-H Junior Leaders and the Martinsville FFA are recognized for their year’s achievements and outstanding service at the annual meeting. (SWCD courtesy photo)

Christa frequently gets her students outdoors and makes sure they receive environmental education as a part of their science curriculum. Through a summer program with the SWCD, she provided students with the opportunity to learn more about water testing and healthy streams and facilitated the creation of a challenge course trail at Burkhart Creek Park through JR Wooden Middle Schools Day of Caring.

Christa Mathews is dedicated to our community, the



The Peine family has nearly 200 acres of their farm in a conservation easement amid their ongoing conservation efforts, earning them an Indiana River Friendly Farmer award. (SWCD courtesy photo)



Greene Crop Consulting, Inc., a crop consulting firm in Franklin, is honored with the Friends of Conservation Award for its efforts to help reduce sediment in Morgan and Owen counties’ waterways. (SWCD courtesy photo)



John R. Wooden Middle School science teacher Christa Mathews (left) is honored by SWCD’s Lisa MacPhee with the Environmental Educator of the Year award. (SWCD courtesy photo)



Josh Griffin (left) is honored as the Conservationist of the Year by SWCD’s Doug Peine at the awards banquet recently. (SWCD courtesy photo)

has assisted his neighbors in improving around 300 to 400 acres of land in his personal time. He has encouraged them to plant pollinator, native grasslands, and wetland habitats. He has also assisted them with timber stand improvements and prescribed burns to manage habitat.

He is dedicated to conservation across the state and right here in Morgan County.

**Friends of Conservation Award**

Tim and Lisa Surber are the dedicated publishers of the Martinsville Neighbors Magazine.

Since 2023, the magazine has promoted conservation education in the community by allowing the SWCD to submit monthly conservation-related articles to them.

This way of reaching out to community members has been invaluable to the district!

Martinsville Neighbors Magazine is an asset to the community and local conservation.

**Friends of Conservation**

Greene Crop Consulting, Inc. is an independent crop consulting firm in Franklin. In 2020, they partnered with the Owen and Morgan County SWCD on a Clean Water Indiana Grant. The grant provided support for farmers wishing to transition into conservation farming practices to achieve success.

For three years, Greene Crop Consulting, Inc. provided amazing customer service, soil testing, field scouting, expert advice, and conservation-based recommendations to the participants in the program. They put together detailed reports, researched what to do with specific concerns, assisted with field days, and relayed good data to the participating farmers and to the SWCD for the purpose of grant reporting.

Their partnership resulted in a reduction of 6,995 tons of sediment in Morgan and Owen County waterways. That is almost 70 train cars of sediment!



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