



THE MORGAN COUNTY

Correspondent

The source for news from every corner of Morgan County

MORGANCOUNTYCORRESPONDENT.COM | EST. 2023

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025

\$2.00

MSD to close four schools

Centerton, Poston Road, Green Township and Smith elementaries to close, making way for new elementary school

Staff Report

MARTINSVILLE — After more than a year of speculation, the Metropolitan School District of Martinsville (MSD) announced this week it's closing four current elementary schools to make way for a brand new elementary school coming to the district.

MSD Superintendent Eric Bowlen previously told *The Correspondent* that Centerton Elementary and Green Township Elementary would be the most logical choices for closure.

On Tuesday, the district confirmed that two more schools would close as well: Poston Road Elementary and Smith Fine Arts Academy.

Each school will close following the end of the 2026-2027 school year.

The four schools are closing in anticipation of the new elementary school currently under construction on Centennial Road, just south of the Henderson Ford exit of I-69 near River Valley Christian Church.

The construction and the closures are part of a consolidation effort for the district, which officials have said is needed due to the cost of maintaining old buildings — all of which were built before the 1960s — as well as declining enrollment in the district. The district has lost more than a thousand students over the last decade.

The new elementary school is part of a \$150 million bond project — \$95 million in bonds plus interest — that will also see the construction of a new natatorium for the high school along with smaller, miscellaneous projects.

SEE MSD | PAGE A7



Burglary suspect shot by officer

K9 dog injured during apprehension efforts

Staff Report

PATTON LAKE — A police dog and a burglary suspect are in stable condition after a police action shooting occurred on the 4200 block of Belt Lane near

SEE BURGLARY | PAGE A3



WINTER WONDERLAND



Staff Report

MOORESVILLE — The town of Mooresville came alive Saturday for the annual Victorian Christmas celebration, which took place at various locations throughout the town.

The main hub of activity was at the Indiana and Main streets in downtown, where vendors sold their wares, hot chocolate was served to keep folks warm, and performers traveled the streets to the delight of the crowd. And of course, Santa set up shop at the main intersection to ensure everybody's Christmas wishes were made and that nobody got on the naughty list.

But plenty of other locations got in on the fun, including the Mooresville Public Library, Newby Elementary, the Boys and Girls Club, Upper Room Church, Life Pointe Church, First Christian Church and the Mooresville Arts Partnership.

The day was jam-packed with musicians, train rides, handmade crafts, singers, a petting zoo, carriage rides, and so much more.

FROM TOP: Santa gets the inside scoop from his next set of visitors during Victorian Christmas in Mooresville last Saturday, where the town was a bustle of activity. // A barbershop quartet serenades Olaf just outside Eremos Coffee Co. on Main Street in downtown Mooresville. (Stephen Crane photos / MCC)

City says 'no' to townhomes

By Stephen Crane
MCC

MARTINSVILLE — Despite a favorable recommendation from the plan commission, the Martinsville City Council voted down plans for nearly two dozen new townhomes on South Main Street at its meeting Monday night.

The proposal would have combined six parcels — currently zoned both residential and commercial — into a larger, Residential 3-zoned development that spanned both sides of South

SEE TOWNHOMES | PAGE A7



A representative of Rooted Oaks Construction gives a brief presentation on the proposal to build 23 townhomes on South Main Street. The council ultimately voted down the project. (Stephen Crane photo / MCC)

Golf course rezone withdrawn

Owners pull the plug on effort to turn part of Camby golf course into housing

By Keith Rhoades
MCC Chief Correspondent

MORGAN COUNTY — The Morgan County Plan Commission made it official Monday night — members approved the withdrawal of a request to rezone about 200 acres of the Links at Heartland Crossing golf course in Camby for a housing subdivision.

The applicant, TLHC, LLC, had requested approval to rezone a large section of the golf course to build about 370 single-family homes.

The project was first proposed in the summer of 2024, when letters were sent to nearby homeowners about the planned development. Opposition quickly grew, leading to multiple public meetings hosted by the property owners, project developers and engineers, as they hoped to temper the discontent. But the opposition persisted.

The request was heard at the November plan commission meeting, which ran more than three hours as residents around the golf course objected to the rezoning. Due to a lack of board members at the meeting, the request did not get the necessary

SEE REZONE | PAGE A8

Wishing you Joyful Christmas Blessings
and a Prosperous New Year



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369 E. MORGAN ST., MARTINSVILLE







Obituary

Mike Cavanaugh, 69

MOORESVILLE — Mike Cavanaugh, 69, of Mooresville, died Dec. 5, 2025. Visitation is Friday, Dec. 12, 2025, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Carlisle-Branson Funeral Service and Cremato-

ry, 39 E. High St. in Mooresville. The funeral is Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025, at 11 a.m. at the funeral home. He will be laid to rest in White Lick Cemetery.

Death Notices

Morgan County Health Department
Christina Georgianna Lyons, 62, Bloomington
William Clinton Cauldwell, 87, Monrovia
Robert Morris Mount, 79, Plainfield
Virginia Ethel Dryden, 82, Indianapolis
Beatrice Russell, 94, Almo, Ky.
John William McWhirter, 70, Mooresville
Holly Beth Bull, 63, Martinsville
Carolyn E Galyean, 91, Centerville

Marlene Ritter, 82, Martinsville
George David Colvin Jr., 96, Monrovia
Douglas Frank Brandenburg, 79, Greenwood
Michael Lynn Elmore, 48, Monrovia
Linda Elaine Brown, 64, Monrovia
Timothy Cyril Cole, 74, Martinsville
Kathryn Ann Haney, 67, Mooresville
Gerald Ray Kaufman, 77, Camby

Jail Bookings

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

Paul Ray Anthis, 64, Martinsville, possession of methamphetamine.

Jacob Boyd Ashenfelter, 20, Indianapolis, child molesting.

Thomas Eugene Atkins Jr., 56, Martinsville, resisting law enforcement, disorderly conduct, and criminal trespass.

Debra Kay Blessing, 72, Mooresville, domestic battery and strangulation.

Cody Paul Bloomfield, 37, Pekin, failure to appear.

Christopher Allen Bradshaw, 40, Whiteland, theft, habitual traffic violator, operating a vehicle while intoxicated, resisting law enforcement-defendant uses a vehicle, and criminal recklessness.

Georgia Mae Cooney, 25, New Palestine, failure to appear.

Anthony Edward Durham, 48, Indianapolis, possession of marijuana and possession of paraphernalia.

Starkesha Marie Gibbs, 32, Bloomington, operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated.

Issac Gutulaitis, 18, New Palestine, resisting law enforcement-defendant uses a vehicle.

Charles Earl Hendrickson, 33, Camby, parole violation.

Joshua Perry Jones, 27, Beech Grove, domestic battery-simple assault, residential entry, disorderly conduct, and criminal mischief.

Kelly Grace Koehler, 39, Indianapolis, battery-serious bodily injury and residential entry.

Joe Williams Koons III, 45, Terre Haute, possession of methamphetamine and possession of paraphernalia.

Ryan David Lewman, 40, Monrovia, serving time – operating a vehicle with a blood alcohol content of .15 percent or more.

Jerry Howard Long Jr., 42, Monticello, failure

to appear.

Jeremiah Morgan Lott, 23, Martinsville, intimidation, pointing a firearm, and criminal recklessness with a deadly weapon.

Wyatt Joseph Miles McClure, 20, Paragon, possession of paraphernalia and intimidation.

Rishi Paluru, 20, South Windsor, Conn., operating a vehicle while intoxicated, possession of marijuana, and reckless driving.

Eric Dwayne Parks, 23, Indianapolis, child exploitation and possession of child pornography.

Mary Eileen Parson, 52, Martinsville, petition to revoke probation.

Tiffany Louise Pollom, 37, Indianapolis, held for Indiana agencies.

Dustin Michael Reinhold, 35, Bloomington, leaving the scene of a property damage crash.

James Richard Remster, 68, Martinsville, intimidation, disorderly conduct, and domestic battery.

Grant C. Roberts, 32, Mooresville, serving time-operating a vehicle while intoxicated.

Robert Gerald Smith, 25, Martinsville, possession of paraphernalia and possession of methamphetamine.

Katelyn Marie Spradlin, 27, Indianapolis, operating a vehicle while intoxicated, operating a vehicle while intoxicated-endangerment, and operating with a controlled substance in body.

Jase Bian Stafford, 27, Homeless, criminal trespass.

Daniel Craig Stikeleather, 26, Brownsburg, residential entry.

Joshua D. Tobolski, 47, Martinsville, operating while intoxicated-endangerment.

Ortiz Tadeo Valderrama, 56, Indianapolis, wanted on Boone County warrant.

Kaden Michael Warthen, 22, Martinsville, operating a vehicle while intoxicated and operating a vehicle while intoxicated-endangerment.

Court News

Morgan County Superior Court I Judge Dakota VanLeeuwen
Anna Briant, 52, Camby, possession of methamphetamine. Sentenced to 912 days in jail, suspended except for two days to serve (time served), 910 days probation, fines and costs of \$790.

Jason Elrod, 36, Buckhorn, Ky., theft. Sentenced to 74 days in jail (time served), fines and costs of \$590.

Jeremy Larkin, 41, Plainfield, operating with a schedule I or II controlled substance. Sentenced to 60 days in jail, suspended except for six days to serve, 365 days probation, 90-day license suspension, fines and costs of \$790.

Adam Redlin, Fishers, probation violation. Sentenced to 32 days in jail (time served), fines and costs of \$390.

Ava South, 19, Indianapolis, unlawful possession of a syringe and resisting law enforcement. Sentenced to 270 days in jail (time served), fines and costs waived as court finds defendant to be indigent.

Ava South, 19, Indianapolis, probation violation. Sentenced to 329 days in jail, fines and costs waived.

Superior Court II Judge Brian H. Williams
Carter Ballard, 19, Martinsville, intimidation. Sentenced to 150 days in jail, finds and costs of \$590.

Carter Ballard, 19, Martinsville, invasion of privacy, resisting law enforcement, minor consumption of alcohol. Sentenced to 365 days in jail, suspended, 365 days probation, fines and costs of \$590.

Tiffany A. Hacker, 36, Martinsville, possession of paraphernalia. Sentenced to eight days in jail, time served), fines and costs of \$590.

Hunter L. Hampton, 28, Martinsville, resisting law enforcement-defendant uses a vehicle, operating while intoxicated-endangerment, criminal mischief, disorderly conduct, and violation of driving conditions. Sentenced to 730 days in jail, fines and costs of \$390.

Hunter L. Hampton, 28, Martinsville, resisting law enforcement, intimidation, refusal to identify self, and public intoxication. Sentenced to 365 days in jail, suspended except for 30 days to serve, fines and costs of \$190. Sentenced to be served after serving 730 days in first case.

Jalen Hering, 24, Monrovia, domestic battery. Sentenced to 365 days in jail, suspended except for 90 days to serve, 275 days probation, fines and costs of \$640.

Marcus Massey, 32, Martinsville, possession of methamphetamine, possession of paraphernalia, and operating while intoxicated with prior conviction, Sentenced to

730 days in jail, suspended except for 180 days to serve (12 days jail-time served-168 days home detention,) 540 days probation, fines and costs of \$790.

Marcus Massey, 32, Martinsville, possession of methamphetamine and possession of paraphernalia. Sentenced to eight days in jail (time served), fines and costs of \$790.

James M. Stevens, 51, Martinsville, possession of methamphetamine and criminal trespass. Sentenced to 545 days in jail, suspended except for 182 days to serve (time served), 363 days probation, fines and costs of \$790.

Superior Court III Judge Sara A. Dungan
Paul Buel, 69, Nashville, operating while intoxicated-endangering a person. Sentenced to 365 days in jail, suspended except for four days to serve (time served), 361 days probation, 180-day license suspension, fines and costs of \$390.

Douglas Carter, 49, Franklin, possession of possession of methamphetamine. Sentenced to 730 days in jail, fines and costs of \$390.

Donald Ray Gray, 34, Martinsville, operating while intoxicated. Sentenced to 60 days in jail, suspended except for 10 days to serve in jail, 20 days home detention, 365 days probation, 90-day license suspension, fines and costs of \$390.

Robert McCarty, 35, Indianapolis, battery resulting in bodily injury. Sentenced to six days in jail (time served), fines and costs of \$290.

Christopher Pauszek, 43, Franklin, possession of marijuana and operating while intoxicated. Sentenced to 30 days in jail, 90-day license suspension, fines and costs of \$390.

Lucas A. Phillips, 33, Indianapolis, theft with prior. Sentenced to 365 days in jail, fines, costs, and restitution of \$989.

Beth Ramey, 61, Martinsville, operating a vehicle with a blood alcohol content of .15 percent or more. Sentenced to 365 days in jail, suspended except for four days to serve (time served), 361 days probation, 90-day license suspension, fines and costs of \$390.

Landon Reiersen, 20, New Palestine, resisting law enforcement. Sentenced to 365 days in jail, suspended except for two days to serve (time served), 363 days probation, fines and costs of \$190.

Cheyenne Sharp, 29, Martinsville, possession of methamphetamine. Sentenced to 730 days in jail, suspended except for 62 days to serve (time served), 668 days probation, fine and costs of \$790.

Cheyenne Sharp, 29, Martinsville, possession of paraphernalia. Sentenced to 180 days in jail, suspended, 180 days probation, fines and costs of \$590.

Obituary Notices

Harold Spinner
MOORESVILLE — Harold L. Spinner, 92, of Mooresville, died Nov. 25, 2025. Arrangements by Costin Funeral Chapel in Martinsville.

John McWhirter
MOORESVILLE — John William McWhirter, 70, of Mooresville, died Dec. 1, 2025. Arrangements by Carlisle-Branson Funeral Service and Crematory in Mooresville.

Wendy Braganza
GREENWOOD — Wendy Lea (Culp) Braganza, 55, of Greenwood (formerly of Martinsville), died Dec. 2, 2025. Arrangements by Neal and Summers Funeral and Cremation Center in Martinsville.

Timothy Cole
MARTINSVILLE — Timothy C. Cole, 74, of Martinsville, died Dec. 3, 2025. Arrangements by Neal and Summers Funeral and Cremation Center in Martinsville.

Dorothy Bemis
MARTINSVILLE — Dorothy Ann Bemis, 78, of Martinsville, died Dec. 3, 2025. Arrangements by Costin Funeral Chapel in Martinsville.

Rev. Peter Triller
MARTINSVILLE — Rev. Peter Arthur Triller, 75, of Martinsville, died Dec. 3, 2025. Arrangements by Costin Funeral Chapel in Martinsville.

Mary Smith
MARTINSVILLE — Mary Ruth “Ruthie” Smith, 21, of Martinsville, died Dec. 3, 2025. Arrangements by Neal and Summers Funeral and Cremation Center in Martinsville.

Euletta Irvin
WESTFIELD — Euletta Joce Irvin, 92, of Westfield (formerly of Martinsville), died Dec. 5, 2025. Arrangements by Neal and Summers Funeral and Cremation Center in Martinsville.

Yvonne Wolfe
PARAGON — Yvonne N. Wolfe, 87, of Paragon, died Dec. 7, 2025. Arrangements by Neal and Summers Funeral and Cremation Center in Martinsville.

Jon Charles
MARTINSVILLE — Jon Edward Charles, 55 of Martinsville, died Dec. 8, 2025. Arrangements by Neal and Summers Funeral and Cremation Center in Martinsville.

Robert Walters
MOORESVILLE — Robert Walters, 85 of Mooresville, died Dec. 8, 2025. Arrangements by Neal and Summers Funeral and Cremation Center in Martinsville.

Josefa Boner
MARTINSVILLE — Josefa Boner, 91 of Martinsville, died Dec. 9, 2025. Arrangements by Neal and Summers Funeral and Cremation Center in Martinsville.

Government Meetings

Dec. 11
The Mooresville Police Commission will meet at 2 p.m. at the Government Center, 4 E. Harrison St.

Dec. 15
The Morgan County Commissioners will meet at 6:30 p.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.

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

Dec. 16
The Martinsville Park Board will meet at 6 p.m. in council chambers, 59 S. Jefferson St.
The Monrovia Town Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Government Center, 60 S. Marley Way.

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

Dec. 18
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.

Dec. 22
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.

Dec. 26
The Mooresville Library Board will hold a year-end meeting at 9 a.m. in the Bonita C. Marley Community Room at the library, 220 W. Harrison St.

Dec. 29
The Morgan County Board of Commissioners will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the administration building, 180 S. Main St. in Martinsville.

Jan. 12
The Monroe-Gregg School Board will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the administration office, 135 S. Chestnut St. in Monrovia.

The Morgan County Plan Commission will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the administration building,

180 S. Main St. in Martinsville.

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

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

Jan. 13
The Morgan County Park Board will meet at 4:30 p.m. at the History Museum, 127 S. Main St. in Martinsville.

The Martinsville Park Board will meet at 6 p.m. in the council chambers at 59 S. Jefferson St.

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

Jan. 20
The Martinsville Police Merit Board will meet at 6 p.m. in the PD training room, 110 W. Morgan St.

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

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

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

Jan. 27
The Martinsville Fire Merit Board will meet at 6 p.m. in the training room at the station, 160 W. Morgan St.

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

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

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

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

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



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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An officer with Brooklyn Police Department blocks the roadway on Belt Lane, just off Upper Patton near Wilbur – the site of an officer-involved shooting this afternoon. (Jared Quigg photo / MCC)

BURGLARY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

Patton Lake on Monday afternoon.

Two deputies responded around 1 p.m. to reports of a breaking-and-entering call. The owner of the home observed an individual on security cameras in his residence, and called the police.

One of the responding deputies found signs of forced entry and made contact with a male individual inside the home. Additional law enforcement responded, including K9 officer David Tolin and his dog, Bullet.

Deputies called for the person to exit the residence, but he refused to come out. Instead, he remained in the doorway yelling at officers, refusing to comply or show his hands.

So officers sent the K9 dog in, and the suspect attacked the dog with a set of 4-foot-long tree loppers, rendering it unconscious.

The suspect reportedly continued to strike Bullet until the two deputies

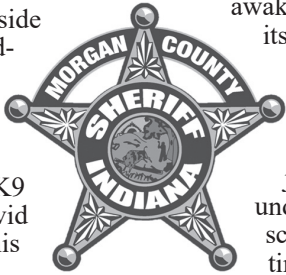
stopped him by “lethal and non-lethal methods of gunfire and bean bag rounds,” according to a release from Morgan County Sheriff Rich Myers.

The deputies then began employing emergency care for the suspect and Bullet. EMS was immediately called, and the suspect was transported by air to Methodist Hospital.

The dog was rushed to a veterinary clinic in Carmel, and according to most recent reports, it was awake and wagging its tail. Bullet is currently receiving treatment for his injuries and will undergo further scans, as of press-time.

The suspect’s name has not been released to the public, and officers are still confirming the man’s identity. Both the deputies involved in the incident have been placed on administrative leave, per protocol.

The matter is still under investigation by the Morgan County Major Crimes Taskforce, and the Morgan County Prosecutor’s Office will determine criminal charges if and when the time comes.



WANTED

PROBATION VIOLATION

CHARLES GUY

TURN ‘EM IN THURSDAY

PROBATION VIOLATION

BUCK LEE

MORGAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

PRETRIAL VIOLATION

DENNIS PAYNE JR

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.

Calendar of Events

Through December
Donations are currently being accepted at The Red Barn Food Pantry, 146 E. Morgan St. in Martinsville, drop-off from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays or by appointment at 765-342-9063. Blankets, hats and gloves are also needed at this time of year.

Morgan County Model Railroad Association HO train layout at KeyBank, 76 S Main St., Martinsville. 10' X 20' layout on display during bank lobby hours.

Dec.11-12
Martinsfest Holiday Concert at Martinsville High School, 1360 E Gray St. at 7 p.m. Tickets \$8 in advance or \$10 day of show.

Dec. 11
Thursday Euchre at Martinsville Senior Center from 6 to 9 p.m. \$3 All are welcome.

Blue Christmas Service at First Christian Church, 89 South Main St. in Martinsville or live on Martinsville Ministerial Alliance Facebook. Celebrate the light of the world even in the midst of our darkness.

Dec. 12
Tiny Tots at the Monrovia Branch of Morgan County Public Library, 145 S. Chestnut St. from 10:30 to 11 a.m. every Friday.

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

Cookies with Santa at Jimmy Nash City Park, 360 N Home Ave., family pavilion 6 to 7 p.m. Enjoy decorating a cookie with Santa. Free Event.

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.

Holiday Choir Concert at Monrovia High School 205 South Chestnut St. at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8, you can bring a canned food item and receive \$2 off your admission. Music presented by the Monrovia Middle and High School Choirs.

Taps on the Square at the 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

The Polar Express showing at MET 36 E Morgan St., Martinsville at 7:30 p.m. \$7 tickets available at martinsvilleshows.com

Dec. 13
Farmers' Holiday Market at Art Sanctuary, 190 N. Sycamore St., Martinsville from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. You'll find locally handcrafted gift ideas, locally produced meats, syrups, soaps, candles and so much more!

Inclusive Holiday Craft Event at League of Miracles 7101 E. Landersdale Rd, 10 a.m. to Noon. cookies, crafts, local author book signing. Spaces limited, register at leagueofmiracles.org/craft.

Santa, Mrs Claus and Rudolph at Old Town Park Waverly, Old SR 37 and Waverly Road from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The park will be transformed into the Christmas Town as depicted in the Original Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer. Special Holiday Presentation by the Waverly Elementary School Choir. Make a Christmas craft, meet the Tinsmaker, Blacksmiths and many others. Free all ages event.

Holiday Candy Cane Demonstrations at Martinsville Candy Kitchen 46 N Main St. Times vary, watch their facebook page for announcements. Every Saturday till Dec. 20th.

Dec. 14
Breakfast with Santa at Jimmy Nash City Park, 360 N Home Ave., family pavilion 9 to 11 a.m. \$10 per person, available at Jimmy Nash City Park facebook page.

Another Round playing at MET 36 E Morgan St., Martinsville at 2 p.m. \$45 tickets available at martinsvilleshows.com

Santa Paws at Jimmy Nash City Park, 360 N Home Ave. from 2 to 3 p.m. Get your dog's picture taken with Santa.

Dec. 15
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.

A Matter of Balance at Mooresville Senior Center 43005 E. St. Rd. IN-144 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Nov 3rd to Dec 22. Open to the community, free to attend. A Matter of Balance is a program designed to manage falls and increase activity levels. 317-999-8145, ext 1

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

Life Support Group for Women at 359 N. Elliott St., Martinsville (side entrance of Way of the Cross Church) from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Hosted by Arise Together. Call or text 317-430-9880 for more info. Meets every Monday.

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

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

Recovery at Mt. Gilead Church, 6019 E. SR 144 in Mooresville, weekly meeting from 7-8:30 p.m. A Faith-based support group that values the 12-steps and the principles from scripture. Anyone looking to recover from something is welcome to attend!

Dec. 16
Weekly live music at the Martinsville Senior Center, 1369 Blue Bluff Road, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Fun for the whole family.

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.

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.

Dec. 17
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.

Preschool Storytime at Monrovia Branch of Morgan County Public Library, 145 S. Chestnut St. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and again from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. every Wednesday.

BINGO at American Legion Post 230, 701 E. Morgan St., Martinsville. Doors open at 5 p.m. Early Bird 7p.m. Open to the public.

Jimmy Nash Book Club at Jimmy Nash City Park, 360 N Home Ave., Park office at 6 p.m. The December book is 'In a Holiday' by Christina Lauren.

Morgan County Democratic Women led Group monthly meeting at Keller Hall, First Presbyterian Church, 240 E Washington St at 6:30 p.m. Entrance is east of the main church, park on Washington St. or around the corner at BMO bank.

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

Dec. 18
Local author and newspaper

columnist Gordon Grindstaff will hold a book signing for his latest work, 'As Time Goes By,' from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Monrovia Branch of the Morgan County Public Library, 145 S. Chestnut St.

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

LEGO Club at Morgan County Public Library, 110 S Jefferson St in Martinsville from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Meets the third Thursday of each month.

Dec. 19-20
Martinsville High School Madrigal Dinner at Art Sanctuary, 190 N. Sycamore St. at 6 p.m.

Dec. 19
Tiny Tots at the Monrovia Branch of Morgan County Public Library, 145 S. Chestnut St. from 10:30 to 11 a.m. every Friday.

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

Local author and newspaper columnist Gordon Grindstaff will hold a book signing for his latest work, 'As Time Goes By,' from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Main Branch of the Morgan County Public Library, 110 S. Jefferson St. in Martinsville.

Live Music at Cedar Creek, 3820 Leonard Rd, Martinsville, featuring Larry Browning at 6 p.m.

Taps on the Square at the 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

A Christmas Story showing at MET 36 E Morgan St., Martinsville at 7:30 p.m. \$7 tickets available at martinsvilleshows.com

Dec. 20
Holiday Candy Cane Demonstrations at Martinsville Candy Kitchen 46 N Main St. Times vary, watch their facebook page for announcements. Every Saturday till Dec. 20th.

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

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

Christmas Vacation showing at MET 36 E Morgan St., Martinsville at 7:30 p.m. \$7 tickets available at martinsvilleshows.com

Dec. 21
Live Music at Cedar Creek, 3820 Leonard Rd, Martinsville, featuring Ellie Grayce Duo at 2 p.m.

Dec. 22
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.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Horizon Hillside Theatre, Tracey Rollison, 6155 Rinker Road, Mooresville, 3177093730, check our FB page and <https://horizonhillside theatreco.ludus.com/200463832> , hillsidetheatreco@gmail.com, help with shows

Martinsville Crime Watch, Betty Chamberlin or Debbie Osborn, 160 W Jackson St, 765-341-1364, MartinsvilleCrimeWatch@gmail.com, Come to a meeting at the Morgan County Library starting January 2025 third Monday

Morgan County Farmers Market Association, Rebecca Watkins, 460 S. Main St., Martinsville (317)701-8376, www.mcfarmers.org, info@mcfarmers.org, Help the market manager set up Saturday mornings from 7-8am or break down from 1-1:30pm, Go to our website and click the "Interested in volunteering." Link or email us.

A Senior Retreat Senior Services Inc, Susan Lowe, 609 S Lincoln St, Martinsville, 317-999-8145 x1, www.aseniorretreat.com, Play piano, sing, help with painting or crafts, assist with gardening tasks, lead a men's group, Contact Joni at mc@aseniorretreat.com or call 317-999-8145 x1

Peace Restored, Lisa Akers, 902 Indianapolis Rd., 3173615281, info@peacerestored.net, Light cleaning, administrative tasks, card writing, landscaping, building upkeep. Please visit our website and choose the "Get Involved" tab in the upper right-hand corner. Then click on "Volunteer" and complete the form

League of Miracles, Melissa Plunkett, 7101 E. Landersdale Rd., Camby, 317-864-8884 leagueofmiracles.org, leagueofmiraclesinc@gmail.com, Buddy, Concession stand, other, visit the website and choose the event you'd like to volunteer for or email, text or call

First Response Wellness Foundation, Zachary Bernstein, 2680 E Main St, Suite 305B, Plainfield, 765-346-6473, www.frwellnessfoundation.org, Zpbernstein@frwellnessfoundation.org, Volunteering at bingos, outreach events locally, marketing, volunteering at a large festival that we are planning in Mooresville Aug. 8-10th., Email directly for information.

CASA Volunteer: A Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) is a volunteer who advocates for the best interests of abused and neglected children. Volunteers give a voice in court that represents the child, who is often unable to speak for themselves. ☑ Be 21 years of age or older
☑ Have a minimum of a high school diploma or GED equivalent ☑ Successfully pass all criminal and child welfare background checks ☑ Provide personal and professional references
☑ Complete 30 hours of pre-service training and court observation
To volunteer contact 765-342-1082 or ccarter@morgancounty.in.gov

United Way of Central Indiana is looking for volunteers in Martinsville and Mooresville for its signature ReadUP program, a literacy initiative that sends volunteers into elementary schools to read with third graders to help them get on track with grade-level literacy. Registration is open for those interested in volunteering for the school year, and the program will begin in September. In Morgan County, United Way is looking for 60 volunteers to read with students at three schools: Newby Memorial Elementary School, Paragon Elementary School and Poston Road Elementary School.

To learn more or sign up, visit uwci.org/readup, Margaret Matray, 317-923-1466, margaret.matray@uwci.org

add your volunteer opportunities at tinyurl.com/mccvolun



COMIC



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Forgive me for my skepticism

I had to laugh (cynically) when I recently read of the Monrovia Town Council creating ordinances.

Due to my experiences with Mooresville and Brooklyn town councils, I have come to conclude that ordinances mean nothing unless they matter to members of the councils. If a resident calls attention to violations of these ordinances, the councils can choose to do nothing about them — and often do.

Even the procedures to deal with these violations are ignored and even changed to be dealt with by a “yet to be hired” ordinance officer. Stalling? Supposedly, this officer will have a better outcome in court.

I have had one of these town councils tell me that I was citing old and outdated ordinances, but upon careful inspection, I found them to be EXACTLY the same except for one chronological difference. It did not matter that I pointed this out. So forgive me when I laugh at town councils who create ordinances but do not enforce them.

Forgive me for not believing that town councils and planning commissions represent the people who elect them.

Most of all, forgive me for losing heart as town council members and their lawyers tell me they sympathize with my concerns and that they will do something and then they do nothing. Again and again, I am led along to believe in a hopeful outcome. It never comes.

I really do hate to think there are people who relish in wearing you down — and all the while smiling, knowing that you just wasted your breath or ink and paper. They keep you on the hook for infinity with promises, excuses, fake transparencies and stall tactics.

I, and others, know what you are doing, and it is not ethical. It is lazy, incompetent and deceitful. Seems we have to put up with it until election time.

Forgive me for lumping the town council members who do want to do what is right along with the ones who do not.

Unfortunately, there are not enough of the good ones to offset the bad ones.

Cathy Van Hal
Mooresville

The Democrat ‘experts’ have lost all credibility

The Correspondent recently published a guest column that accused Indiana Republicans of “rigging” elections if they followed through on re-drawing the state’s legislative districts. It was signed by 12 Democrat VIPs.

I had to laugh out loud. It reminded me of that other letter, published by Democrats a while back, stating Hunter Biden’s laptop was a Russian hoax. That letter was signed by 51 intelligence “experts.” It was eventually proven to be all lies, of course, intended to help “rig” the 2020 election for Biden.

Democrats might as well tear this page out of their playbook and throw it away. Their conniving letters have lost all credibility, no matter how many names are tacked on.

I remember, when I was little more than knee-high, an old uncle pointed out that it was possible to fool some of the people all of the time.

I’m happy to say that the number of people fooled by Democrat politicians gets smaller every day.

Bruce Doughty
Mooresville

Christmas memories, real and imagined

Some years back, my wife Susie and I were at our daughter’s home helping to trim her family’s Christmas tree.

Susie, in her kerchief, was unwrapping ornaments while I, in my cap, checked my Facebook page, just like we did in the old days. It was a mostly festive, if chaotic, scene — untangling lights and finding the right places to insert the artificial limbs in the artificial trunk of the artificial tree.

This particular year’s occasion was just a bit gloomy as well because somewhere in the past 12 months, a well-meaning second-grade classmate had moved our granddaughter, Riley Marie, along on her path to adulthood with the dreaded revelation that ... that ... Santa ... well, you know. Still, the atmosphere was more relaxed now that we could discuss Christmas and presents without letting the cat out of the bag, as it were.

Personally, I was a bit upset when I heard the news because I was planning to once again perform my famous seasonal act of sneaking outside to bang on the window while shouting “Ho, ho, ho!”

I had been doing this since our own children were little, and this act of Santa peeking in the window to see if the kids were being good always left a lasting impression on any children in attendance — or so I thought.

“Riley Marie,” I asked, “what’s your favorite memory of Christmas?”

I figured for sure it would be the family favorite, window-peeking Santa impersonations.

She thought for a minute, finally saying, “I’m not sure,” and went on with her ornament hanging.

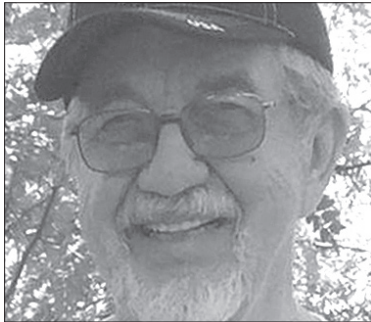
I quickly sneaked out the back door and went around to the front of the house to scratch at the window and shout “Ho Ho Ho” to help her remember. It didn’t. When I got back in the house, all I got was that look of disdain that all-knowing 7- or 8-year-olds are masters at producing.

“What about you, Grandpa? What’s your favorite memory?”

“Oh, Gosh. I don’t know.”

I had several, but I doubted that I could pick out a favorite.

My earliest memories came from 1946 or ‘47, a time period right after my dad died when my sister and brother and I waited on Christmas Eve for our mom to finish her shift at the Diamond Café so we could all get ready to go to midnight Mass. I know my memory of those cold walks to St. John’s in Loogootee, Ind., are all tinged with a Hallmark-ish flavor, but I swear to God, I have never experi-



G2
GORDON GRINDSTAFF

enced such calm and quiet as those Christmas Eves when we hurried our way to the church, sometimes in the snow and sometimes not (Note 1).

During that same time period, my older cousin, a recently discharged WWII sailor named Bob Cissell, brought my 5-year-old brother and me a set of toy soldiers that greatly augmented a pretty lean Christmas.

There were the times as a little kid that my friends and I stood around the bonfire on the town square freezing in the cold, waiting for the fire truck to deliver Santa Claus to the middle of Loogootee. Then, when Santa Claus got there, I remember sitting on his lap and wondering why he sounded exactly like Lonnie, the man who delivered coal to our house.

There was the year — 1948, I think — when my 6-year-old brother and I walked out into the countryside armed with a butcher knife and an axe, looking for a Christmas tree to cut down. It was only through the grace of God we didn’t find one.

That could have also been the year when I spent my days playing with a broomstick horse that oddly enough, I called Diamond, but not because I had named him after the café. That Christmas, I became convinced that sending God enough prayers would cause Santa Claus to bring me a real horse similar to Black Diamond, the black stallion that Lash Larue rode across the screen on Saturday afternoon at the Ritz Theatre. Neither God nor Santa delivered, but I don’t remember being terribly disappointed.

During my paper route days, there were the Christmases when I rode my bike out of my way to the Goodwill Cemetery to spend a moment with my dad before visiting customers, hoping they would have tucked a “little extra something” in with their subscription money. Many of them did. I was always eager to arrive at the big white house built on the tallest hill in town where a nice gentleman

that I never met and knew only as Mr. Brooks lived. The envelope that his wife handed me really brightened my day.

As an adult, my favorite memory was when my 8-year-old son Joe and I spent the better part of Christmas Eve chasing down the blue light specials in the toy department at K-Mart to get presents for his brothers and sister. The knowing look in Joe’s eyes on Christmas morning when those same toys were left under the tree by Santa left me with a feeling of melancholy. How did I not realize he would figure it out? I guess I had hoped he was too young to make the connection.

A person accumulates a lot of memories as they age, and as I sat there poring over mine, watching the people closest to my heart work on that Christmas tree, I was ready to spill my guts and tell Riley Marie all of the thoughts running through my head

But then I realized I didn’t have the words that would allow this young, sheltered, iPad-toting, 21st century girl to comprehend any of those events.

Toy soldiers, the potbelly stove, the coal pile, shivering in the outhouse, walking to church in the dark and cold — I’m not even sure myself anymore that those incidents of my childhood were genuine.

And you know what, since my brother and sister died within a year of one another some years back, I don’t have anybody left to help me remember.

Have a Merry Christmas.

G2 note

Note 1: Drinking hot chocolate and opening our presents the following morning in the glow of our coal-fired, potbellied stove are also part of that memory. But that almost 80-year-old recollection seems impossible to me today sitting here in my warm little office in my comfortable chair staring at a computer monitor and typing away on a wireless, electronic keyboard.

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

CFMC Favorites for 2025

I clearly remember when Oprah Winfrey made her television debut back in September of 1986. That was a big deal in our house, and my mom required a television in our kitchen so she could watch this phenomenal woman while preparing dinner.

This time of year, I still love to see Oprah’s List of Favorites. This got me thinking about my favorite things the Community Foundation of Morgan County (CFMC) has accomplished this year so here is my list of CFMC Favorites for 2025:

Morgan County Giving Circles — I cannot think of anything more inspiring and meaningful than starting 100+ Women Who Care and Guys Who Give.

As I write this, the final meetings for both groups are a few days away so membership and correlating grant dollars are still in progress!

100+ Women started with 80 members in March and is now 115 women strong. They have granted more than \$80,000 in 2025 to three winning nonprofits!

The 66 members of Guys Who Give granted more than \$53,000 to their three winners.

These grants are possible only because people committed to get involved. The personal connections and the good we are doing cannot be underscored enough. This is how we get things done, together.

Scholarship Workshops — In 2025, we took a hard look at our scholarship processes, met with four surrounding counties to compare practices, and overhauled our operations, including the offering of scholarship workshops to Morgan County students.

The first workshop was held at Martinsville High School on July 23. Uncertain of turn out, we hoped for eight to 10 students. As I entered the crowded Senior Success Center, I counted 29 students!

Next, we hosted 40 students at



CFMC Community Chat
KIM COLE

Mooresville High School, and the final workshop at Monrovia High School included 50 students in their spacious auditorium, bringing the total to nearly 120 Morgan County students served!

A hidden gem resulting from these workshops — better applications than we have seen in years. A longtime member of our scholarship committee who himself was a Lilly Scholar in 2004 stated that he noticed immediately that the candidates and the applications were a notch up. We were committed to raising the level of service to our students and in turn the bar was raised. I’m proud of that!

Morgan County Farmers & Hunters Feeding The Hungry — Inspired by the increased number of needy families currently relying on Churches in Mission, we implemented this program after discovering a national program formed in 1997 after a Maryland man helped a woman load a road kill deer into her vehicle to help feed her children.

With help from Monroe County’s Farmers and Hunters the Hungry (FHFH), Churches in Mission has received more than 1,000 pounds of venison since Thanksgiving!

Hunters are now making donations to Owens Butcher Shop in Mooresville. Playing to our strengths with a viable asset like Morgan County

farmers and hunters seems like a natural solution to this growing problem. Once again, coming together with the community to solve local problems. It doesn’t get better than that.

CFMC new office — In August of this year, CFMC moved back to the square thanks to the generous renovation of 88 N. Main St. by Craig Fenneman of the Artesian Group.

Since my time at the foundation, we occupied shared, secure office space on Morgan Street. This was not ideal for our fund holders, or anyone interested in popping by for a visit. Decorated with paintings and sculptures from local artists (all for sale), this gorgeous space is what you would expect from an Artesian Group property — quaint and historic with its classic brick walls. I am thrilled to display the OPEN flag daily and plant our flower boxes for the current season.

I encourage all of you to stop by and see our new space, shop the local art, and learn about what the Foundation is doing for Morgan County. Our new office certainly feels like progress!

GIFT XIII — Without a doubt, my favorite CFMC Favorite for 2025 is the completion of Lilly Endowment’s GIFT XIII.

This was the first time in our nearly 26-year history that the Community Foundation met the required donation goal, and Morgan County earned \$1 million from Lilly Endowment for the accomplishment. Simply put, we did it, together.

From the giving circles, the scholarship workshops, farmers and hunters donating deer and livestock, to GIFT VIII, all of these wins are only because of the connection of people caring about others. Thank you, Morgan County, for coming together and making 2025 an incredible year.

Kim Cole is the president of the Community Foundation of Morgan County.

Letters to the editor policy

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

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

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

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

Never too late

Candy Pearlman gazed in the mirror at the scar, faded now to a white line but still visible. Then her gaze turned to her left hand.

Six months ago, Jerry proposed with a large emerald-cut sapphire, and tomorrow, he would add a wedding band that would nestle a trilliant diamond on each side of the sapphire.

She had thought her children were happy for her, following Jerry’s loving entry into her life after all the years trying to survive. Over the last few weeks, her youngest had become more vocal in her complaints. Alli suddenly doubted Jerry. But she was the only one of her children who wasn’t married. Having a spouse and children had long been her heart’s unfulfilled desire. Candy wondered if jealousy played a part.

Surely not. She treasured her relationship with Alli, years of turbulence and tension replaced now with deep friendship. They shared everything, from podcast recommendations to inner struggles. This occurred primarily via text or phone since Alli was an hour away, but Candy cherished at last being allowed into Alli’s heart.

Which made her current complaints about Jerry so strange. She had expected Alli to share Candy’s joy in marrying a trustworthy man. But Alli had always loved Christmas. Maybe having the wedding on Christmas Eve had triggered her caustic remark, “Jerry knows how to ruin Christmas!”

In the past, Christmas represented a perfect storm of high expectations and deep disappointments, regulated by Candy’s first husband. The family never knew whether to expect rage or merriment. He no longer played a role in their lives.

Somehow, Alli in her mid-20s had retained the starry-eyed wonder of a child gazing at Christmas lights and snow. Candy hated hindering this miracle by getting married on Dec. 24, but the date had been set for months.



Authors Who Serve
RACHEL HILLS

Candy treasured the part each of her children played in the wedding preparations. Jerry’s children, living farther away, had not participated, and Candy sympathized. While her own marriage had been turbulent, Jerry had loved his first wife well. His kids had grown up in stability before she died and carried this security into their own families. While they loved Jerry deeply, they remained somewhat distant from Candy’s family, as if they could deny Jerry’s remarriage.

Her phone buzzed, and she looked at the screen. Jerry.

She said “Hello,” knowing he would hear the smile in her voice.

“Hi, darlin’. Just wondered if you need me to bring back anything.”

How she loved his thoughtfulness. Her heart sang each time she experienced it, unwilling to take this consistent care for granted. “Just you!”

She marveled again at this second chance following her disastrous first marriage. “All right. I’ll be home as soon as I fill up.”

He had come for breakfast, then driven her car in for an oil change. Now he would stop by the gas station so she wouldn’t have to fill her tank. Such thoughtfulness was still new to her. After so many years of holding her life together, the contrast never failed to prompt gratitude.

Her phone vibrated again, and she saw Alli’s face on her screen.

“The bridge on my violin broke!”

Candy was tempted to respond with “Hello to you, too” but resisted, recalling

the search last time for a reputable luthier to fit a new bridge.

“What about a spare? I thought you were going to get two.”

“I didn’t have the money then. And there’s no time now.”

Candy thought of the string quartet Alli often played with and asked if she could borrow an instrument.

“No, everyone I know is out of town.”

“Okay, we’ll figure out something,” Candy said as she ended the call.

She knew how much Alli had rehearsed to provide the ceremony with the aching beauty Candy experienced in her playing.

Jerry’s cheerful whistling preceded him into the kitchen.

When he saw Candy’s expression, he said, “What’s wrong?”

She explained and watched his face shift to fix-it mode.

Instead, he reached for her hand and said, “What can I do?”

“You think the others can play without a violinist?”

Candy knew this was no solution.

When Jerry began to talk about his second son, Candy feared another long story when she heard, “Anyway, we paid for an extremely nice violin. I doubt he’s played in years and may have sold it. Would you like me to find out? It may not be too late for him to bring it.”

By the time the last of the adult children arrived, the act of bringing the violin seemed to have bridged the gap between the two sets of siblings. Alli replaced the strings and acclimated to the violin.

The next day, flawless violin accompanied Jerry slipping the wedding band on Candy’s finger. The perfect fit yielded a flash of insight. Jerry didn’t see the white line on her cheek but the love in her eyes.

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

Holidays are in full swing



Art Cart
NANCY MAXWELL

A little snow, slip-sliding on the ice, twinkly downtown lights and the big, beautiful tree at The Venue are great to get into the holiday spirit.

If you are enjoying those frosty designs in businesses’ windows around the courthouse, they are the creative artwork of Maya Mras. Thank you, Maya, for adding beauty to the downtown this holiday season!

A word of advice to our area businesses — better get on her list early for next year, as her window “to-do” list will undoubtedly be a longer one in 2026!

Another talented local artist adding beauty to our Christmas season is Donna Mason. Mason, a resident artist at Art Sanctuary, has created a unique, limited-edition ornament featuring a view of downtown. Sales benefit WellSpring shelter. They make great Christmas gifts and are available at Sterling Butterfly, which also features other unique artwork, crafts, home grown and homemade products, including pottery, paintings, and owner Pam Hurst’s jewelry designs.

The YMCA is celebrating a long wished for ramp into the pool, making pool accessibility a reality for more people. Donations, sponsorship and a grant from the Community Foundation of Morgan County’s “Guys That Give” program and the women’s counterpart, “100 Women Who Care,” takes advantage of the power of numbers. Donation dollars are pooled to make a larger project or program possible.

Churches in Mission, Stability First, Habitat For Humanity, Hero Wildlife Adventures, Desert Rose, and the YMCA. Two more worthwhile nonprofit organizations will be selected this week. Get the details on this exciting grant program at the CFMC office or online at cfmonline.com.

Enjoy the talent of our MSD music students tonight



Downtown Martinsville will be abuzz with activity this weekend as the annual Cookie Stroll takes over the sidewalks and shops throughout the historic district, including Art Sanctuary. (Courtesy photo)

and tomorrow night at the annual Martinselfest Holiday Concert beginning at 7 p.m. at the Martinsville High School Auditorium. High school students from the bands, orchestras and choirs will perform some of your favorite holiday music. Tickets are \$8 in advance or \$10 day of the show.

Stop by Jimmy Nash City Park to enjoy the holiday light show and kids are invited to decorate a Christmas cookie on Dec. 12 in Shelter House No. 1 from 6 to 7 p.m. At 7:30 Martinsville Entertainment Theater (The MET), presents the classic holiday movie, “The Polar Express,” in this new theatre space for just \$5 per ticket.

Second Friday Open Studio Night at Art Sanctuary is also tomorrow, Dec. 12, from 6 to 9 p.m. Studios will be open, and artists will be on hand with unique art and gift items. The annual painting sale is now through Dec. 31 at Nancy Maxwell Fine Art, Studio 001A/B, with many framed paintings 25-percent off, and Sock Monkeys two for \$45. Magnets and bookmarks are also on sale through Dec. 31.

Studios will also be open on Saturday, Dec. 13, during Cookie Stroll. Cookie Passports (tickets) sell out exceedingly early; even without a passport, downtown is a hoppin’ place on Saturday! Special gift deals, make-it-

take-it options for kids, visit with Santa and holiday music, are available to all.

The Annual Holiday Farmer’s Market will be located in the Lower Gallery at Art Sanctuary also on Saturday. Students of Studio J2 will perform excerpts from The Nutcracker Ballet at The MET on Saturday at 2 p.m. and again at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are also now available for the Annual MHS Madrigal Dinner at Art Sanctuary on Dec. 19-20 at 6 p.m. Contact Martinsville High School for ticket information.

Families can enjoy working together on a variety of activities on Saturday, Dec. 20, for the Candy Cane Hunt at the YMCA; call 765-342-6688 for more information.

Book clubs abound in Morgan County, including several age, time and interest level groups organized by Fables and Fairy Tales; stop by or visit their Facebook page for all their offerings. The Morgan County Library Main Branch hosts a daytime book club with a book of the month discussed every third Thursday of each month at 2 p.m. Get a copy of the book at the circulation desk or a meeting.

Take a deep breath, slow down, enjoy the holiday chaos and keep me posted at artcartmartinsville@gmail.com, nancy.maxwell@me.com or 765-318-0972.



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POEM

Early Winter Weather

Winter wasted no time pushing autumn aside this year;
November night snows with ice did surprisingly appear;
It sparkled white magic viewing from my kitchen window;
Delighted to be inside — not outside had I been so,
For those whose trucks had scraped their night away,
Making my travel safer — a silent gratitude was my only repay.

Leading to safer travel for deputies tending those in need,
Aiding and helping others so they might proceed,
Along with ambulances and medics should their skills be advised,
Or firemen’s trucks loaded with brave life-saving skills undisguised,
Also for deliveries of mail or Amazon Prime that day,
On byways safer — with silent gratitude, my only repay.

All because a man got up early or stayed up late,
Scraping his route of road miles, the snow to negate,
Proving Frost’s thoughts concerning the actions of men,
We work together whether near or apart — again and again;
Our beholdin’ conduct always felt each day,
For improving our living — silent gratitude, our only repay.

— Don Adams, on Bethel Pond, December 2025

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240 N. Jefferson St. Martinsville

Town tackles the sewage stink

By Lance Gideon
MCC Correspondent

MOORESVILLE — As many residents of Mooresville know, there has been a strong odor coming from the town’s wastewater treatment plant in recent weeks. That smell not only got the attention of area residents and visitors, but also the Indiana Department of Environmental Management last month. IDEM released a report noting an “unsatisfactory rating” of the town’s wastewater treatment plant. The report went on to note the issue “appears to be due to ongoing high strength industrial wastestreams.”

During the Mooresville Town Council’s Dec. 2 meeting, treatment plant superintendent Calvin Boultee gave an update on the issues at the facility. “The plant is back in compliance and running well,” Boultee said on Dec. 2. “We have aggressively taken control of pre-treatment.” Boultee introduced Ryan Smith from the HNTB engineering firm to explain some of the work that has taken place in recent weeks. According to Smith, the plant had a high amount of ammonia “come through” on Sept. 5, which is about three times the normal amount. This increase in ammonia

killed bugs that are part of the treatment process. On Oct. 17, the plant’s pH levels dropped, which also led to more of the bugs being killed. “All of the microbiology died off,” Smith said. “Dealt with a lot of sludge issues, which is where they had to send sludge to the holding tanks — which is where a lot of the smell came from.” On Nov. 12, Smith said, there was an influx in the raw biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), which is “the amount of pollutants coming through.” “Since then, everything has settled down,” Smith said. Boultee said he would be working with IDEM,

HNTB and the council to update ordinances in the town regarding pretreatment options so the town can control some of the industrial waste coming into its treatment facility. Smith added that some of the BOD readings the town has found recently are three to four times more than what the town’s facility can handle. “So it’s going to (mean) having some difficult conversations later on down the road with some of these industries,” Smith said. Town attorney Chou-il Lee told the council that his firm is working on what the new ordinance would look like to expand the town’s pretreatment efforts.

“But what you currently have on the books does allow for some enforcement as well,” Lee said. Penalties, according to Lee, include a \$2,500 fine per occurrence and any expenses the plant has to get it back to normal operation standards. **In other business** • The council voted to table a decision to rezone a property located at 51 E. High St. from R1 to B3. The town’s plan commission had sent the rezone request to the council with no recommendation. • It tabled an agreement with Debbie Luzier to help make amendments to the

town’s unified development ordinance. • The council gave Mooresville parks superintendent Phil Cornelius a consensus opinion that the town is interested in moving forward with the purchase of property adjacent to Pioneer Park located at 1225 Indianapolis Road. • It also held a public hearing to discuss an additional appropriation for the town’s parks. The council then approved the ordinance for the appropriation. *The next regular meeting of the Mooresville Town Council is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 16, at the Mooresville Government Center, 4 E. Harrison St.*

Monroe-Gregg board buys bleachers, buses

By Jared Quigg
MCC Reporter

MONROVIA — The Monroe-Gregg School Board held its final meeting of the year Monday night, where it took care of routine business as well as made some high-dollar purchases. New bleachers for Monrovia High School caused the most chafing, as district superintendent Trent Provo suggested the board sign a contract with the Lee Company to install bleachers for

\$529,238.58. Provo said this was necessary because he believes the current bleachers are becoming unsafe. He and multiple board members agreed, and they expressed surprise that replacing the bleachers was not one of the items recommended by architectural firm Schmidt & Associates in its recent district-wide facility study. Board member Jack Elliott called the price tag a “bitter pill to swallow,” but ultimately he and three other board members voted

to approve the contract. Board member Tom Kennedy voted against the motion. The board also agreed to purchase two new buses going into the new year. The board approved buying a new 78-passenger bus for a total of \$164,567, along with a new 14-passenger white activity bus for \$99,712. The total cost of the two buses is \$264,279. **In other news** • The board began the meeting by recognizing the final stu-

dents of the month for the 2025 calendar year. Abigail Grismore and Addilyn Kinton were chosen from Monrovia Elementary; eighth-grader Charlotte Arthur was selected from the middle school; and senior Avery Wolfe was honored from Monrovia High. Each student received a plaque and a restaurant gift card provided by Midway Auction for their accomplishment. • The board approved hiring Morgantown Police Officer Jared

Smith to be the district’s safety director. Smith will not have any police powers while working inside the school, as an agreement could not be reached with Morgantown to allow Smith to act as anything other than a civilian. His hiring is effective as of Jan. 1, and he will be paid \$58,000 for 195 days of service. The next meeting of the Monroe-Gregg school board will take place on Monday, Jan. 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the Administration Office, 135 S. Chestnut St.



MSD Superintendent Eric Bowlen addresses the crowd at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new elementary school back in September. (MSD of Martinsville courtesy photo)

MSD
CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

The district has stressed repeatedly that the construction is a “tax-neutral” project, meaning Martinsville residents will not be impacted

by a tax increase to fund the project. The new school — the name of which will be announced later this school year — will be open in time for the 2027-2028 school year and be led by principal Jill Vican, who currently leads Poston

Road, along with assistant principal Stephanie Manley, currently the principal at Centerton. “As a board, it is our responsibility to plan not just for today’s students, but for generations to come,” said MSD board president Heath-

er Staggs in the press release. “This project reflects that long-term initiative and commitment to ensure the District remains a place where education thrives.” It is not yet clear what will become of the four elementary schools once they close.

Bowlen has previously stated the district intends to keep “at least some” of the current elementary properties, though the buildings will be repurposed to both cost less and provide some service to the community.



VULCAN **MANLEY**

TOWNHOMES
CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

Street. The combined lots would make way for 23, three-story townhomes. At the Nov. 24 meeting, the council heard the proposal on first reading, with some members expressing reservations and nearby residents echoing the concerns they had previously voiced at the plan commission meeting earlier in the month. On Monday, the developer’s representative gave a brief presentation on the project, citing the improved safety and drainage the project would give the area. He also touted the hope that the townhomes would “attract younger, more professional individuals” to the area. But the council was unconvinced. “I could see this in downtown Indianapolis,” councilwoman Ann Miller said. “I could see this in Bloomington.” But given the proposed loca-

tion in an older, well established neighborhood, council members didn’t feel it was the right project, particularly in light of the nearby residents’ opposition. “I just don’t think the best interest of the city of Martinsville and the residents are being considered,” said councilwoman Susie Lipps. “We have to listen to constituents.” Miller made a motion “not to approve” the project, which was seconded by Lipps. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0, with Phil Deckard I absent. **New taxes approved** The council unanimously approved a new wheel tax and excise surtax that will tack on \$25 or \$40 when vehicles are registered each year. The cost will be based on the size and weight of the vehicles, with larger vehicles getting the larger of the two fees. City attorney Dale Coffey, who was absent at the last meeting, explained the new fee structure is “not necessarily a new tax,” as it

was his understanding it will “allow the city to take a share that’s already been allocated to the county.” The money collected through the tax will be used for road maintenance within the city limits. A resident later asked if the new tax would apply to golf carts and side-by-sides. Coffey said it would only apply to plated vehicles, which worried the resident as that could increase the number of golf carts and side-by-sides on city streets. **Annexation** A proposed housing development on the city’s northeast side would need to be annexed into the city limits in order for the city to provide infrastructure services, and that’s just what happened Monday night. The annexation proposal was for a 69-acre residential development with 155 single-family homes that sits just north of Ind. 252 and just south of Faith Church off Ind. 44. The land is contiguous to the

city limits, and the city already ran water and sewer infrastructure underneath I-69 three years ago, according to mayor Kenny Costin. The council discussed the possible main entrance location, with a number of members expressing reservations about any possible entrance onto Ind. 252. “Have you guys driven that to know how dangerous that is?” asked Lipps. According to the Indy-based Forestar Group representative, the developer is in talks with Faith Church about possibly acquiring land to access Ind. 44 as the main entrance instead. Coffey ultimately piped up, saying that while these questions will be addressed, that was not the question before the council on Monday. “You’re being asked to expand the boundaries of the city of Martinsville,” he said, adding that “these other questions will be in a different arena on a different day.” Once annexed, the housing

project would need to go through the plan commission before seeking final approval from the city. The council voted, 5-1, with Lipps opposed citing “too many variables,” to approve the annexation. **In other business** • The council unanimously approved the salary ordinance for appointed officials and city employees. The municipal judge had argued at the Nov. 24 meeting that her court clerk needed a possible title change and a dollar raise, just as the other employees of the city were getting. Councilman Phil Deckard II said Monday the ordinance needed approved, but an amendment will be made to get the increase after the new year, with “retroactive” pay for the court clerk. • The council approved \$3 million in claims. *The next council meeting will be Dec. 29 at 7 p.m. in council chambers, 59 S. Jefferson St.*



JINGLE BELL ROCK SPECTACULAR

FROM TOP: A horse-drawn carriage makes its way along Morgan Street in downtown Martinsville as part of the Bobby Helms Jingle Bell Rock Christmas Spectacular last Sunday. // A temporary ice rink gives young and old the opportunity to test their skills at sliding – and falling – on North Jefferson Street in downtown Martinsville as part of the Bobby Helms Jingle Bell Rock Christmas Spectacular last Sunday. // Elsa and Anna, from Disney's 'Frozen' movie series, greets a pint-sized fan during the Bobby Helms Jingle Bell Rock Christmas Spectacular last Sunday. (Keith Rhoades photos / MCC)

REZONE
CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

five votes for approval of a motion. So it was rescheduled for the December meeting.

On Nov. 25, the applicant sent the plan commission a letter requesting permission to withdraw their request for rezoning. Due to the request being advertised, the commission had to hold a meeting to formally approve the request being withdrawn.

Commission member Kenny Hale made

a motion to allow the petition to be withdrawn and member Brian Patrick seconded it. The vote was 8-0 to approve the withdrawal.

County plan director Laura Parker said if the applicant wants to refile a request for rezoning, they must wait three months, then start from the beginning by readvertising the request.

The next scheduled commission meeting is Jan. 12, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the county administration building, 180 S. Main St. in Martinsville.

Joy to the World!

The Catholic Parishes of Morgan County
Invite you to our Christmas Masses

St. Martin of Tours Church
1709 East Harrison Street
Martinsville, Indiana 46151

Wednesday, December 24th Christmas Eve Mass at 5:00 pm
Thursday, December 25th Christmas Day Mass at 10:00 am

St. Thomas More Church
1200 North Indiana Street
Mooresville, Indiana 46158

Wednesday, December 24th Christmas Eve Mass at 5:30pm and Midnight
Thursday, December 25th Christmas Day Mass at 9:30am

Partner With Us to Feed Morgan County
A Call to Hunters & Farmers

Our neighbors are facing a growing food crisis, and together, we can make a difference. The Community Foundation of Morgan County (CFMC) is supporting local food pantries to fight hunger and keep food on the tables of families right here in our county. We're asking for partnerships with local farmers, hunters, and meat processors to help meet the urgent need for protein donations.

Local Farmers. Local Hunters. Local Processors. Local Solutions. Together, we feed Morgan County.

The Need Is Urgent-
From Churches In Mission- Our largest food pantry in Morgan County

- From January–October 2025, Churches in Mission filled 7,422 food orders for 1,781 households, including:
- 1,750 children and 617 seniors.
- October was our largest month ever, with 1,235 food orders filled.
- Since COVID, food assistance requests have tripled.
- On November 3rd alone, Churches in Mission filled 150 food orders, including 15 new households seeking help for the first time.
- With SNAP benefits reduced, families are struggling more than ever.
- The meat from one deer can provide 160 meals.

For more information please contact:
Kim Cole, President
765.813.0003 x104
kcole@cfmconline.org

How you can help:

Hunters and Farmers:

- Donate meat directly to OWENS BUTCHER BLOCK 10463 North Kitchen Rd Mooresville, IN
- Processor will notify CFMC.
- CFMC will provide you with a charitable donation letter.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF MORGAN COUNTY

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Kristen (Bodine) Lovell is introduced as part of the starting line up before the start of the state championship game in 1997. (Courtesy screenshot)



April Traylor-Percy hits the hardwood at Market Square Arena as she's announced in the starting lineup for the Lady Artesians before the state championship game in 1997. (Courtesy screenshot)

Eels defeat Eagles

Eminence sit at 2-1 after defeating Martinsville Tabernacle Christian

By Melissa Dillon
MCC Correspondent

EMINENCE — The Eminence boys basketball team hosted Martinsville Tabernacle Christian at home on Friday evening.

Both teams were fairly equal in the first quarter, but the Eels found the gas pedal in the second quarter and never let up, cruising to a 52-22 win.

Eminence freshman Eli Jones had a solid night with five three-pointers on the way to his 19-point total. Senior James Jeffries added 10 points. Junior Keon Gregory had nine points, senior Johnathan Myers with five and junior Luke Finney with three. Freshmen Rylee Dillon and Cullen Mowery added two points.

For Tabernacle Christian, junior Talan Badger led with seven points. Sophomore Mason Blackman scored six points, senior Isaac Tomlin four, sophomore Levi Baugh and freshman David Decker had two points, and sophomore Ray Hernandez and junior Ian Baugh each had one.

The game was tied 5-5 after the first quarter. Both teams struggled to find the net and turned the ball over several times. Eminence found some rhythm in the second quarter, outscoring the Eagles 13-4 for an 18-9 lead at the half-time break.

Eminence then had a 23-point third quarter to put the Eagles in a hole. Jones hit a couple treys, and Eminence drew many fouls to earn seven points from the foul line. Jeffries also had a couple fastbreaks and put up two quick buckets. The Eels scored 11 more in the fourth.

SEE HOF | PAGE B3

SEE EELS | PAGE B2

HOF BOUND

Two former Artesian state champs to be inducted into Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame

Staff Report

MARTINSVILLE — There's two more reasons to be proud to be an Artesian this week after two former Arties were announced as future inductees to the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame.

Kristen (Bodine) Lovell and April Traylor-Percy, former teammates and 1998 Martinsville High School grads, will be honored by the Hall of Fame on April 25.

Next year's ceremony will mark the 24th class of women inducted into the Hall of Fame. Lovell and Traylor-Percy will be inducted alongside 10 other women at a celebration banquet in New Castle.

Lovell — then Bodine — was an Artesian from 1995 to 1998, making the Junior All-

Star team in 1997, and wrapping up her senior year as an Indiana All-Star. She helped lead Martinsville to two state championships and the team's first IHSA Class 4A crown and Tournament of Champions trophy in 1998.

The 5'10" guard totaled 1,562 points, 484 rebounds, 452 assists and 373 steals in 95 games over four seasons. The Lady Arties went 89-9 while she was on the team, and the team went 26-1 and 29-0 in her last two seasons, respectively.

Lovell went on to study and play basketball at Butler and at Indiana University, where she found further success on and off the court. During her senior year at IU, she was named the team's MVP.



LOVELL



TRAYLOR-PERCY

Lovell graduated with a degree in business and telecommunications from IU in 2003, and earned a masters degree in educational administration from Ball State in 2023. She currently acts as the dean of students at Franklin Central Junior High School in Indianapolis.

Traylor-Percy was the other star of those dominant Arties squads of the late '90s, helping to propel the team to state titles in 1997 and 1998. The 5'10" guard began her high school career at Eminence High School, where she helped the Eels win two sectionals before playing her final two years in Martinsville.

Two Pioneers pin MSC titles

Arties also compete in Mid-State Conference girls wrestling tourney

By Steve Page
MCC Correspondent

MARTINSVILLE — The girls wrestling coaches at Mooresville and Martinsville were in accord about one subject following last Friday's Mid-State Conference tournament at

John R. Wooden Gymnasium.

"We're getting better every day," said Artesian coach Aaron Johnson. "There's a lot that we worked on that is showing up on the mat. We want to be our best for the sectionals."

"I'm proud of them," said Mooresville coach Dan Mikesell. "We'll just have to get back and look at the video and see what we need to do better. Now, we'll aim for sectionals."

Of course, everything is relative.

Martinsville has just four wrestlers.

Mooresville has a host of grapplers, except for the two upper weights.

Two Pioneers won two championships, and three others finished second as Mooresville totaled 192.5 points and finished fourth among the eight teams.

Whiteland took the title with 280 points to 204 for Franklin and

200 for Perry Meridian.

Mooresville produced champions in Kaydie Epley at 115 pounds and Cadence Williams at 135.

"Very proud of their accomplishments," Mikesell said. "I thought Cadence handled the pressure really well. She also was battling some respiratory virus and really showed a lot of grit with her toughness."

SEE PIONEERS | PAGE B2



Martinsville senior Kaitlyn Spurgeon looks for an opening in her first-round match with Perry Meridian's Ruth Van during last Friday's Mid-State Conference tournament in John R. Wooden Gymnasium. (Steve Page photo / MCC)

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK EMINENCE JUNIOR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

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ELI JONES

JAY YOUNGBLOOD



GRADE: Freshman
SPORT: Basketball
REASON FOR AWARD: Eli is a starting point, who put up 15 points against International to go along with 19 points and 6 assists against Tabernacle.



GRADE: Junior
Sport: Basketball
Reason for award: Jay put up 12 points against Tabernacle, 20 points against North Daviess and 18 against Clay City.

Artesians off to shaky start

By Dave Rinehart
MCC Correspondent

GREENWOOD — Martinsville head coach Jackson Williams was hired in the early summer to lead the Martinsville boys basketball team. There's been summer training, workouts and tryouts in preparing for this upcoming season for the Artesians.

After a couple postponed games against the Edgewood Mustangs, Martinsville finally got a chance to hit the hardwood, making the roadtrip to play the Greenwood Woodmen last Friday in a Mid-State Conference game.

Greenwood beat MHS last year at John R. Wooden Gymnasium 84-73 in a game in which now senior Grady Gardner scored 36 points.

Greenwood coach Keith Witly remembered that number and wanted to keep it low.

He told his team that "Grady going to do what Grady does," and that's score. So his team tried to make everything hard for Grady.

After a 6-0 start for the Woodsmen, the Artesians didn't roll over, but it took almost 3 minutes for the Artesians to get on the scoreboard thanks to a three-pointer by 6'2" sophomore Lucas Toloday. Soon

after, 6'3" senior Alex Stout added a bucket of his own, and the 6'2" Gardner finished the quarter "doing what Grady does." He added two field goals and a three-pointer to tie the game at 12 apiece.

The second quarter never saw the lead get over five points for the home team and included a couple more ties, at 19 all and 21 all. Stout had a strong quarter with 5 points, including one bucket from an offensive rebound and a put back.

Greenwood had an 8-0 run that gave them the 29-21 lead with under a minute to go before the half. Toloday knocked down two free throws to put the Artesians within six, 29-23 at the half.

The third quarter, however, was all Woodmen. They started on an 11-2 run and also added an 8-0 run, putting up 21 in the quarter to the Artesians' 7. They started the fourth quarter with a 50-30 lead.

The fourth quarter saw the Artesians knock down a few threes — including two by Dodson and one by Gardner — as part of a 15 - 3 run that got them within 8 points at 53-45. But Greenwood responded with a 12-2 run for the final score of 65-47 for their third victory of the season and their first conference win.

SEE ARTESIANS | PAGE B3

HOMETOWN CHAMP



Indiana University freshman and Martinsville High School grad Hunter Stroud cradles the Big Ten Championship trophy last Saturday after the No. 2 ranked Hoosiers upset No. 1 ranked Ohio State, 13-10, at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. The former Artie wide receiver signed with IU back in March after finishing a stellar career in Martinsville. Stroud finished with 1,418 receiving yards during his senior year, a school record and the third highest in the state, and he holds other Martinsville records in career receptions (198), career touchdown receptions (28) and career receiving yards (2,672). (Courtesy photo)

MCA ATHLETE OF THE MONTH



Mooresville Christian Academy sophomore basketball standout Olivia Mattingly is all smiles with her certificate after being named MCAs Athlete of the Month for November after scoring 23 points against Hauser. (Stephen Crane photo / MCC)

Lady Eels fly over Eagles

By Melissa Dillon
MCC Correspondent

EMINENCE — Last Friday night, the Eminence girls basketball team played at home against Martinsville Tabernacle Christian. It was a close game all night, but the Eels had the edge at the end, winning 48-39.

Eminence had an 11-8 lead after the first quarter. The Eels had a big second quarter outscoring

the Eagles 16-5 that proved to be the biggest difference in the game. Eminence had a 21-point second half to maintain control of the game while allowing 24 points. Tabernacle had a nice push in the fourth quarter with 14 points, but ran out of time for a comeback.



Junior Khloe Kirk led the field with 14 points. Junior Jay Youngblood finished with 12 points. Freshman Chloe Smith added nine points and had the only three-pointer for the Eels. Senior Abby Dittmore scored six points, sophomore Emma

Webb had four, and freshman Kylee Craig had three. Tabernacle's scoring came from just three players. Senior Liz Southerland scored 24 points for the Eagles. Senior Lacy Southerland added 10 points and seventh-grader Abby Bertelsen had three points. The Eagles starting lineup included both Lacy and Liz Southerland, Bertelsen, junior Si Weber and freshman Reagan Sichting. Eminence had two games on

Saturday. The Eels fell to North Daviess 56-35 and then to Clay City 50-41, to drop to 5-3 on the season. They played MTI School of Knowledge on Wednesday, after press time. The Lady Eels travel to North Central on Saturday for a 6 p.m. game. They'll then host Seven Oaks Classical on Tuesday, also at 6 p.m.

PIONEERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

"Kaydie wrestled really well and smart. She's seen that opponent several times this past offseason, so she had to adjust to the girl's strategy against her, and I was happy with her effort. She won the positions she needed to and was able to score when it counted."

The coach felt badly for his runnersup. "Bridget dominated 5:50 of that match," he said of Martin, who built a 9-0 lead over Greenwood's Violet Roell in the 105-pound finale, only to get pinned at the end. "She wanted that conference championship. We'll make sure she's the sectional champ."

Pioneer freshman Khloe Weber reached the finals of the 120-pound class, but was outscored by Whiteland's unbeaten Mikayla Perkins.

"She just ran into a very good wrestler," Mikesell noted.

The coach talked freely about his other wrestlers.

"Annabell Sipos (145) wrestled well. In the finals, she wrestled a girl who placed at state. She just needed to get that takedown. She's making strides, has good determination.

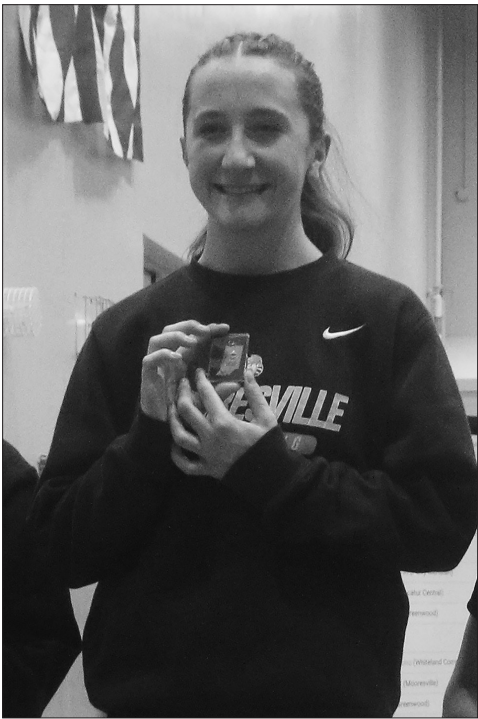
"Riley Blackwell (170) wrestled well. She got caught in a headlock by another state wrestler. "Leyah Johnson (110) is a first-year wrestler. She's athletic and super coachable.

"Alibell (Coughlan, 140) bounced back after a tough one. Any time you lose, and you bounce back and you take third — bouncing back is tough after a loss. Alibell did a good job. She's coming into her own. Mattingly Hutchison (125) lost to the Perry Meridian girl, then had to wrestle her again. She beat that girl by 10 points. Nevaeh Hultgren (130) is competing in the deepest weight class. She bounced back from her loss and came back and got a pin for fifth place. "Evie Welker weighed in at 100 and won her first match of the season. At 155, Brienna Barnes had a tough match."

Johnson likes the way his small Artesian team is battling.

"We have four; two who are brand new," he noted. "We have a junior who is continuing to work. We have a senior, Kaitlyn Spurgeon (110), who is getting better every day. We want to be our best for the sectionals."

Mooresville and Martinsville will be



Mooresville junior Kaydie Epley stands atop the podium as champion of the Mid-State Conference's 115-pound class. (Steve Page photo / MCC)



Cadence Williams, a Mooresville junior, takes her place atop the podium after winning Friday's Mid-State Conference 135-pound championship. (Steve Page photo / MCC)

joined by Monrovia and others at the Ben Davis sectional, set for 9 a.m. Jan. 3, at Lynhurst 7th and 8th Grade Center, 2805 S. Lynhurst Dr.



Eminence senior James Jeffries gets the 'and-1' on a strong drive in the second half of last Friday's home game against Martinsville Tabernacle Christian. (Melissa Dillon photo / MCC)



EELS
CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

Tabernacle's second half wasn't quite as impressive. The Eagles scored five points in the third with three from Badger and two from Tomlin. Baugh had four points, Decker with two and Badger with two free throws.

Next up for Eminence is at Washington Catholic on Friday, and the Eagles take a long break until Mooresville Christian Academy on Jan. 6.

Martinsville Tabernacle Christian junior Talan Badger (3) passes the ball over two Eminence defenders, freshman Eli Jones (1) and junior Luke Finney (24), during last Friday's game at Eminence. (Melissa Dillon photo / MCC)

Martinsville wrestlers compete on the mat



Martinsville junior Christian Koons looks for control as he wrestles to victory in the 150-pound class. (Dave Rinehart photo / MCC)

By Dave Rinehart
MCC Correspondent

MARTINSVILLE — The Martinsville girls and boys wrestling teams competed against the coed team from Speedway last Thursday on the mat at the Martinsville Fieldhouse.

First year Coach Nathan Everroad said he would like to give props to all the girls on the Artesian team. 2025 marks just the second year for girls wrestling as a varsity sport in Indiana. He's just super excited for these girls — some of whom have never

wrestled before.

“They are doing great and getting better every single time they wrestle,” Everroad said.

There are just four girls on the varsity roster at the present time, led by senior Kaitlyn Spurgeon. She's in the 115 lb class and got the only win for the Artesians against the Sparkplugs as she pinned her opponent in the third period of their match. Other team members include junior Angel Dycus, sophomore Saylor Collins and freshman Ainsley McCary.

On the boys side, Speedway got the win, 41-26.

Coach Everroad said last year's team had a lot of seniors, but this year has a very young team. Several freshmen and sophomores are starting this year.

“We're working, we're building,” Everroad said. “I'm extremely excited about where this team is and where the future of Martinsville Wrestling is going!”

Senior Colman Dittmore picked up the first win of the evening as he pinned his opponent in the first period of the 190 lb class.

The Artes took four more wins as the match finished.

Leading off in the 144 class,



Martinsville sophomore Lucas Engleson gets instruction from coach Nathan Everroad during last Thursday's match. (Dave Rinehart photo / MCC)

freshman Benson Parker won by a technical fall in the third period.

Junior Christian Koons also won in the third period by a major decision in the 150 lb class.

A couple seniors, Jon Fuller and Morgan Harris, wrapped up the winning for Martinsville by beat-

ing their Sparkplug opponent with pins in their first periods.

Coach Everroad is super excited that Martinsville supports wrestling and he said, “It just shows that Martinsville is a wrestling town!”

Senior Night is Tuesday, Dec. 18, at Martinsville High School.

Martinsville girls pick up conference win against Greenwood

A strong second half puts the game away

By Dave Rinehart
MCC Correspondent

GREENWOOD — Martinsville girls basketball coach Dave Nuckles said last Friday's 60-23 road victory over Greenwood was a, “Great conference win!”

He went on to say the first half wasn't quite what we really wanted, but the Artesians came out in the second half and “put it to them” and “put the game away pretty quickly!”

It was a game the Artesians led from beginning to end.

Senior Ruby Murrell led the charge early, scoring 8 points in the first quarter. Junior Addie Curless and Freshman Sadie Thacker had 5 points each, and sophomore Hayley Stephenson hit the first of her two 3's on the evening.

The Artesians had an eight point lead after eight minutes of play, 21-13.

Ruby Murrell continued her strong play into the second quarter, scoring seven more points. Curless added a field goal, junior Raleigh Smith received a great pass from Murrell for her

first FG and junior Audrey Haenlein hit one of two free throws to finish up a 6 - 0 run.

Martinsville finished up the first half with a 33-17 advantage over Greenwood.

In the third quarter it was Murrell and Curless leading with 5 and 4 points, respectively. Thacker and sophomore Braxton Conner added two three pointers.

The Artesians put the Lady Woodmen away, outscoring their 16-2 in the third for 49-19 lead.

Martinsville continued playing good defense into the final period, holding Greenwood to four points while scoring eleven more by five different players.

Murrell had another FG as she matched Greenwood's output, scoring 23 points. Schweitzer, Smith, Haenlein had two-point FG's, and Stephenson hit her second three pointer.

Coach Nuckles was pleased that eight players scored. He said the coaching staff has been preaching, “Share the basketball.”

Murrell led the way with 23 points and 7 rebounds, while Curless also was in double figures with 11 points and 8 rebounds.



ABOVE: Martinsville coach Dave Nuckles gathers his team during a timeout last Friday at Greenwood. (Dave Rinehart photo / MCC)

Coach Nuckles said the 60-23 victory was a much needed win because of the upcoming teams on the schedule as the 2025 part of the season is wrapping up. The Lady Artes will next play at Whiteland on Saturday, followed by home games against Center Grove, Plainfield and Monrovia.



RIGHT: Martinsville junior Audrey Haenlein puts up another free throw during the game at Greenwood last Friday. (Dave Rinehart photo / MCC)

HOFF

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

Like Lovell, Traylor-Percy was a 1997 junior All-Star and a 1998 All-Star. Her high school accolades also included being a two-time AP first-team All-State player, MVP of the 1997 State Finals, 1998 IndyStar Super Team co-Player of the Year and a four-time all-conference pick.

Traylor-Percy found continued basketball success at Florida State, where she earned a degree in sports administration. In 2001, she set a Florida State record for scoring 30 points in an NCAA Tournament game. She currently holds the record for tenth highest FSU scorer.

Traylor-Percy went on to earn a teaching certification from Miami Dade College in 2004, and has worked as a teacher and coach for the past 21 years.



ARTESIANS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

Martinsville had three players scoring in double figures, including Gardner with 19, Stout with 11 and Dodson with 10.

Martinsville fell, 68-56, to Columbus North last Saturday night at John R. Wooden Gymnasium to fall to 0-2.

Gardner dropped 25 points in the game to lead all scorers. Stout added 14 and senior Ty Stroud had 12.

The Artesians are back home Friday night at 7:30 p.m. as they take on a very good and undefeated 4-0 Plainfield ball club. They'll then travel to Indian Creek on Saturday with a 7:30 p.m. tipoff. Next Tuesday, they'll play at Edgewood.

The Artesians huddle up around coach Jackson Williams during a timeout last Friday at Greenwood. (Dave Rinehart photo / MCC)

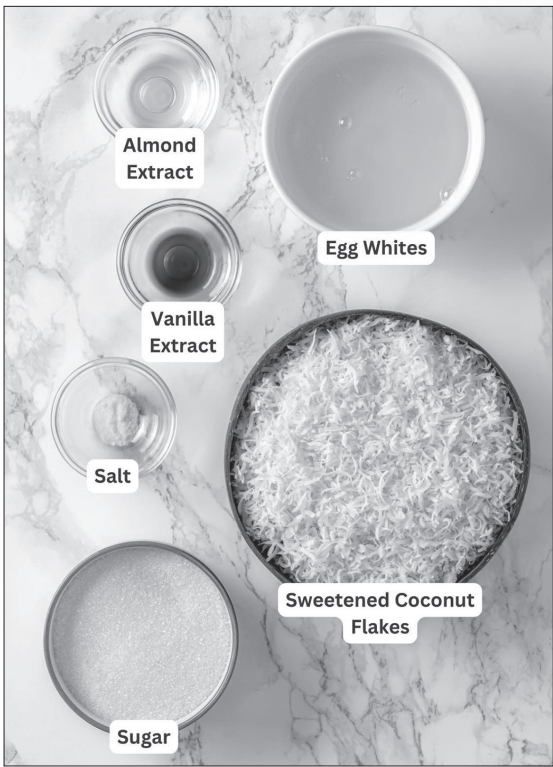
EASY COCONUT MACAROONS

These easy home-made coconut macaroons are so simple to make and taste delicious! This coconut macaroon recipe has only six ingredients, making it a super easy, gluten-free dessert!

This is my favorite Christmas cookie. They always disappear quickly from the cookie plate. They are super easy to make, and they’re delicious. They’re hard to resist. I’ve made these also and added a chocolate Hershey kiss in the middle of the cookie. They are yummy. Enjoy!



Shelley's Sweet Spot
SHELLEY SUTER



COCONUT MACAROONS

INGREDIENTS:

- 4 egg whites
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- Dash of salt, around ⅛-¼ tsp
- ½ tsp almond extract
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 4 cups sweetened coconut, shredded

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Preheat oven 350 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
- In a large bowl, add egg whites, sugar, salt, almond extract and vanilla extract.
- With a hand mixer, beat egg white mixture until thick and frothy, about 2-3 minutes.
- Add coconut to egg white mixture, and stir until combined.
- With a small cookie scoop or two spoons, scoop the macaroons into 1-inch balls, and place on the baking sheet, 1 to 2 inches apart.
- Bake for about 20-25 minutes, or until the macaroons are golden brown.

COLUMN & PUZZLES

The ‘experts’ are often used as political pawns, too

MAY 1976 — Dr. Marina and her husband should alert all loyal Americans to the way Russia controls its medical profession and then uses physicians to brainwash religious and political dissenters!

CASE G-696: Russian psychiatrist, Dr. Marina Fainberg, tells about the political domination of physicians by the Soviets. Her exiled Soviet husband, a talented writer, also exposed this regimentation of doctors when he addressed a Copenhagen audience recently. “From 7 to 10 percent of patients in Soviet mental hospitals and clinics,” he stated, “were actually political prisoners!



The Worry Clinic
DR. GEORGE W. CRANE

“Or people being persecuted for their religious beliefs!” And Dr. Marina described psychiatry as conducted in the Soviet Union as “a profession of shame.” Our own American Professor John S. Resheta Jr., of the University of Washington, examined the

document issued by our Senate subcommittee on the abuse of psychiatry for political repression in the Soviet Union. “With the connivance of unethical psychiatrists,” he writes, “political dissidents can be incarcerated without a public trail ... and cannot challenge the findings of mental illness.” Then Prof. Resheta warns: “Dissidents can be given debilitating drugs under the guise of ‘therapy.’” Truth serum is one such drug that even our American police are deprived of using on known criminals and murderers. But rabbis, priests and preachers in Russia can be tortured by drugs until their brainwashed minds reveal the hideouts of their church

congregations. “Oh, but Dr. Crane,” millions of Pollyanna American may protest, “surely such unethical conduct of physicians couldn’t occur here in our United States!” “For we are the Land of the Free, with no dictator to regiment our doctors.” That’s a delightful notion that deludes millions. Don’t you newspaper readers remember how Bobby Kennedy arbitrarily ordered Gen. E.A. Walker put into a mental hospital, without benefit of psychiatric tests, just because of their political differences? Maybe you also recall how a group of more than 1,000 psychiatrists publicly declared presidential hopeful Barry Goldwater was “psychologically unfit

to be President of the United States.” Many offered a diagnosis of “paranoid schizophrenia” as the basis for their judgment. They had not examined Goldwater or given him any medical tests to warrant such a bizarre claim! Instead, they were merely trying to sabotage one of our national statesmen by this nefarious Russian technique. Remember, bureaucrats have been granted the right to concoct regulations that violate Constitutional guarantees, for Congress abdicated its powers by creating various bureaus and then letting them make their own rules of the game. The bureaucrats are now so independent that neither

a Democratic nor Republican president can dislodge them. The late esteemed newspaper publisher, Eugene C. Pulliam, showed that President Nixon couldn’t touch more than 20 out of a bureau with several thousand bureaucrats. The only way Congress can control the bureaucrats is by “cutting off their water,” via refusing to OK appropriations for their salaries! *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 MEDIA
THEME: AT A BAR

ACROSS

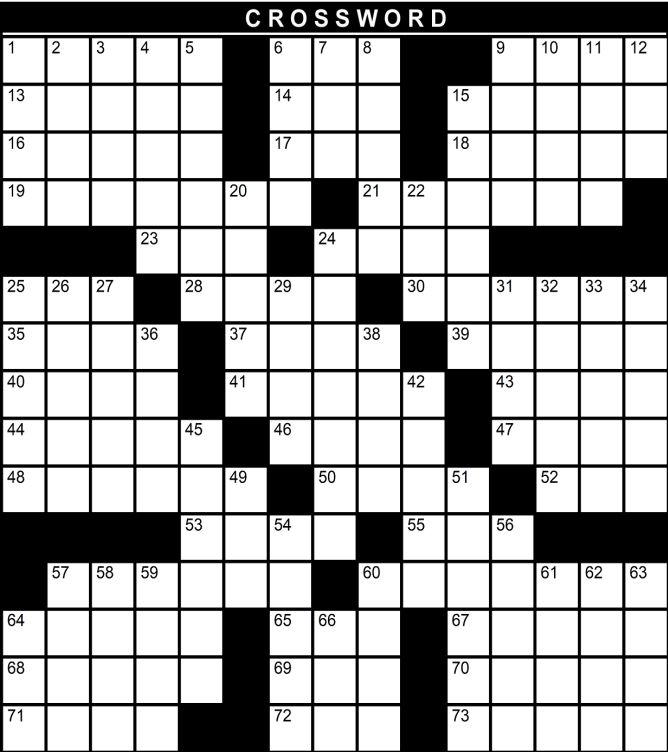
1. Slovenly ones

6. To do this is human?
9. Not flip
13. Mistress or lover, arch.
14. Precedes de Rivoli

15. Lift a hefty load
16. Sheep-like
17. Invoice qty.
18. Republic on Arabian Peninsula
19. Aromatic additives
21. *Beer with Bloody Mary, e.g.
23. Major Uziel Gal-designed gun
24. Clarified butter
25. Although, for short
28. Distressed cry
30. Bamboozled
35. What a willow did?
37. J in B. J. King
39. Raspberry drupelets
40. Pelvic bones
41. Birch family tree
43. Banned apple spray
44. Impolite dinner sound
46. Left, Latin prefix
47. Dissenting clique
48. a.k.a. chickadee
50. Four seasons
52. Abode for #1 Down
53. Do, re or mi
55. Buddy Holly's "Peggy ____"
57. *Measuring tool at a bar
60. *Not shaken
64. Dough or cabbage
65. "Gross!"
67. Lacking guile
68. "The Day the World ____ Still"
69. Intelligence org.
70. Ruhr's industrial center
71. Job for a body shop
72. Finish
73. Condemn

7. *Liquor in Hurricane and Painkiller
8. *Verb related to hangover
9. Fine print add-ons
10. Feeble
11. Above and beyond
12. Mightier than sword
15. Shenzi of "The Lion King"
20. *Spanish dry red wine
22. "For ____ a Jolly Good Fellow"
24. Seductive stare (2 words)
25. *Citrus peel
26. Greeting
27. Laudanum ingredient
29. *Same as rail at a bar
31. South American wood sorrels
32. Trickeries
33. Roleplay
34. "Like martini with olive brine
36. Queen of Hearts' pastry
38. Campbell of "Scream" fame
42. Cook in the oven
45. Sent a modern message
49. Ballerina's support

51. Decayed or disintegrated
54. Cease-fire
56. Use other end of pencil
57. Burlap fiber
58. Desktop picture
59. Small cave
60. Herring's cousin
61. Microprocessor design, acr.
62. "____ and anon"
63. Controvert
64. Psychedelic drug
66. *Liquor in Tom Collins and Gimlet



SWITCH & GET

\$25

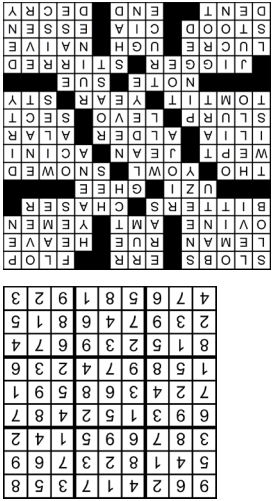
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The darkness of nursery rhymes and fairytales



History Musings
ELLEN WILSON-PRUITT

The Christmas holiday season is all about children.

It begins with the birth of a special child in a stable in a far off land and progresses to the celebration of that birth in the various traditions that have evolved into our culture of today. Growing up as little ones, we were read and taught nursery rhymes and stories. Often, our first books were those of Mother Goose and fairytales.

The Brothers Grimm held true to their family name. Their German tales of “Hansel and Gretel,” “Snow White” and “The Glass Coffin” will keep you out of the forest for the rest of your life. “Now children, I am going to read you a Grimm fairytale entitled, ‘The Girl Without Hands.’ It certainly beats playing UNO any day.”

We think of these stories and rhymes as childish folly, but actually, if we really look at the story being told or the meaning or history behind them, we get a far darker picture.

For instance, take the tale of the “Three Little Pigs.” As we all know, the story of the three little pigs involves a straw house, a stick house, and a brick house. Mean old Mr. Wolf huffs and puffs and blows down the first two houses but can’t manage to blow down the third house.

The moral of the story is that hard work and care for planning lead to lasting success while shortcuts may leave you vulnerable. The story has an important lesson to impart, but if I were a wolf, I would file some legal action on defamation.

Mr. Wolf is a common evil persona in more than one of these tales.

Take, for instance, “Little Red Riding Hood.” Red is traveling through the ominous forest carrying a basket of goodies to take to Grandma.

Well, as I read it, first of all, Little Red is a bit of a conniving gal. She is taking Grandma some fried chicken to make sure that she is moved to the top of the list in Granny’s will. What wolf can resist the smell of 11 herbs and spices wafting through the forest? I can see using this one to preach “stranger danger” to the kids.

The rhyme “Baa, Baa, Black Sheep” seems void of any ominous connotations, but it was actually about the Great Custom, a tax on wool that was introduced in 1275.

Because of the use of the color “black” and the word “master” has led some to retroactively assign a racial message to it. The political correctness era of today caused some schools to ban it from being repeated in classrooms. Others that chose to keep the rhyme simply replaced the word black for something deemed less offensive — and thus came about “Baa, Baa, Rainbow Sheep.” I heard what you just said after reading that!

If you are a student of world history, you probably already know the rhyme “Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary” is about Queen Mary I of England.

Mary was a fierce believer in Catholicism. She gained the moniker of Bloody Mary for the execution of hundreds of Protestants during her reign from 1553-1558.

The line referring to silver bells and cockleshells are not referring to flowers she is cultivating but actual devices used in torture. These instruments were attached to male genitals. How about that mental picture, boys and girls? What we believed as children to be a simple rhyme of a conversation between two Master Gardeners becomes totally different.

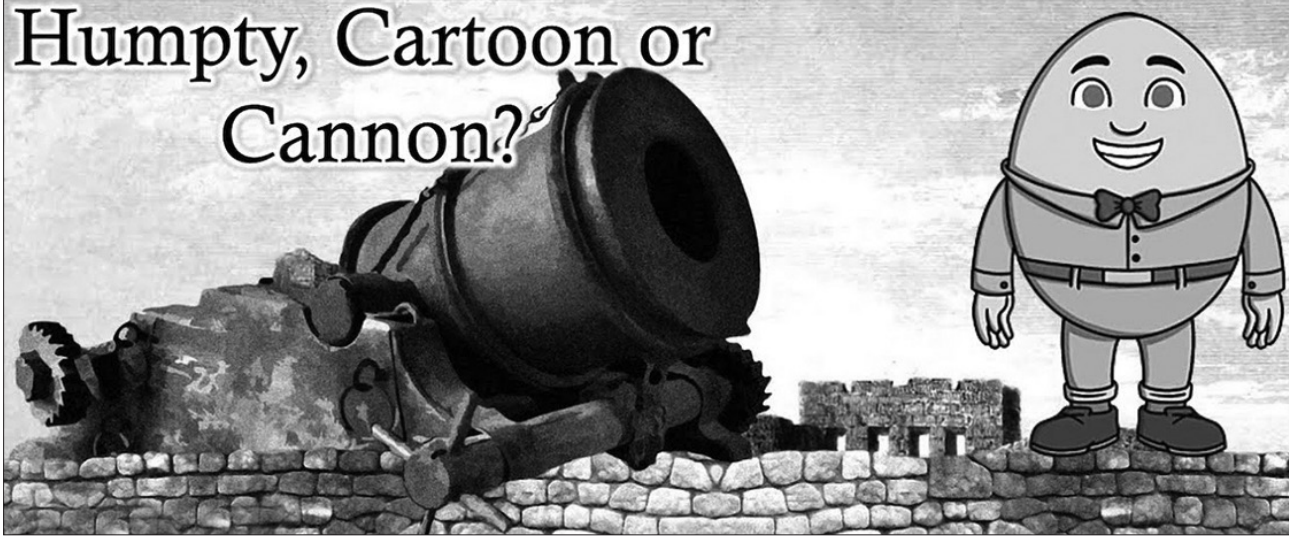
Bloody Mary got a lot of



‘Grandma, you look a little peaked!’ (Courtesy illustration)



Let us dance around and sing about the Black Death! (Courtesy illustration)



(Courtesy illustration)

airtime for her exploits to expunge Martin Luther’s converts. The simple rhyme about some vision challenged rodents is not what we innocently believed.

“Three Blind Mice” is believed to be a group of Protestant bishops — Hugh Latimer, Nicholas Radley and The Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer — who (unsuccessfully) conspired to overthrow the queen and were burned at the stake for their heresy.

Critics suggest that the blindness in the title refers to their religious beliefs. I smell something burning, children.

These rhymes were even put into song.

How many of us have joined hands and danced around in a circle, singing “Here We go Round the Mulberry Bush?” The song seems placid enough, but it is believed that the song refers to England’s 420-year-old Wakefield Prison where the female prisoners would exercise around a mulberry tree.

Not exactly what we had in mind out on the playground of our youth.

That brings us to another childhood circle dance. This one has a bit of conflicting opinions as to its origin. Since most of these nursery rhymes are more than two centuries old, there are differing theories.

One of the most debated of these is the infamous “Ring Around the Rosie.” The first and most popular theory of its meaning is in reference to the 1665 Great Plague of London.

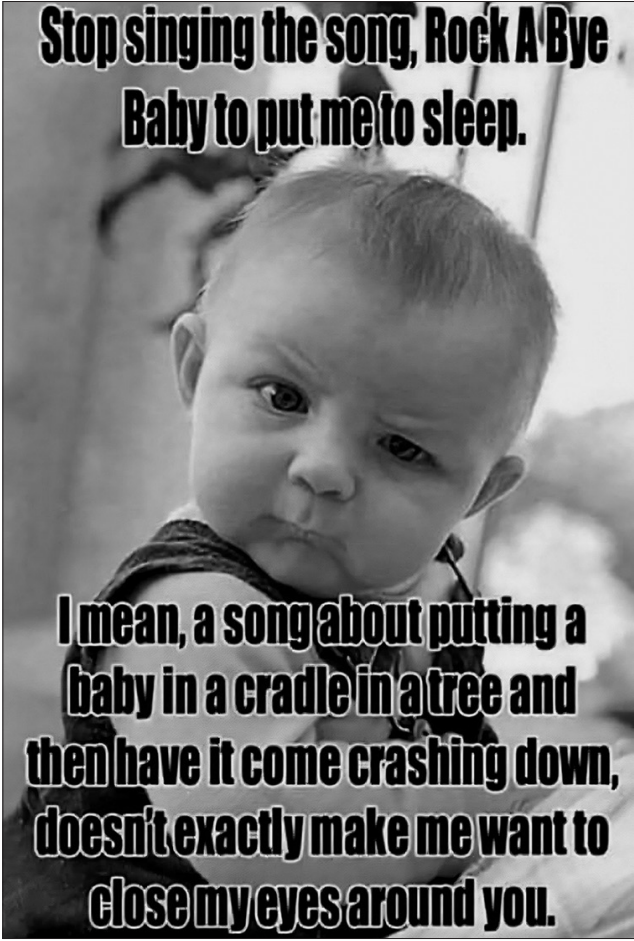
“The rosie” is the rash that covered the afflicted, the smell from which they attempted to cover up with “a pocket full of posies.” The plague killed nearly 15 percent of the country’s population, which makes the final verse — “Ashes! Ashes! We all fall down!” — rather self-explanatory.

Another less adopted version is the religious ban on dancing for Protestants in the 19th century in Britain and the United States. In this way, the children could play and be allowed to “dance” in a fashion. I myself subscribe to the more macabre plague version.

Whether you sang it as “Itsy Bisty” or as “Eency Weency Spider,” one of the first songs sung to a child is not simply about the challenges of being an arachnid. Some believe its origins to come from Cockney England and in reference to a drunk trying his best to navigate his way homeward.

That’s right, let’s gather all the toddlers together and sing a song about an old drunken bum.

And let’s not forget old “Humpty Dumpty.” Mr.



(Courtesy illustration)

Dumpty was actually a gigantic cannon used by the Royalists during the English Civil War in 1648. The cannon was placed at the top of the St. Mary-at-the-Walls church tower until the enemy blew up the building and old Humpty came tumbling down.

Continuing the topic of girth, we have “Georgie Porgie.” It is well accepted that this little ditty is about Prince Regent George IV of Britain. He was ridiculed often in print for his hefty weight and his reputation for over indulgence in all manners of lust after food

and women. It is reputed that he produced many an illegitimate branch on the royal family tree. Hence the pudding, pie and making the girls cry.

Oh my, in today’s political climate, many a catchy nursery rhyme could end up becoming part of the library for future generations.

In thinking about possible nursery rhyme subjects of today, the term “Weasel” just “popped” in my head. The popular song we sang had nothing to do with a rodent or sleazy politician. Over the centuries terms and slang have changed.

Once upon a time, people called a winter coat a “weasel.” The act of pawning something was known as “popping.” So the song “Pop Goes the Weasel” is about pawning a bare necessity in order to make ends meet — just the type of comforting song for the kiddos.

Finally, as we put the little ones to bed, we often sing a soft soothing lullaby such as “Rock-a-bye-baby.”

Well just in the lyrics, we have a bit of mild violence. Perhaps my fear of heights began while in my crib my subconscious banked the memory of “when the bow breaks” and the cradle falls ... well baby, you are in a world of hurt.

The song actually refers to the Glorious Revolution in England. The baby in question is believed to be the son of King James II, who was believed to have been another man’s child smuggled in the room to assure a Roman Catholic heir. It is supposed that the “wind” in the song may the Protestant forces coming in from the Netherlands with the precarious cradle being the House of Stuart. The earliest recorded version of the words to this song in print contained the footnote: “This may serve as a warning to the Proud and Ambitious, who climb so high that they generally fall at last”.

Stephen King or Edgar Allan Poe couldn’t imagine such horrors as the early story tellers have seen fit to implant in our infant minds.

After writing this, I think about the scene of the family gathered around listening to Dad reading “Twas the Night Before Christmas.”

For me, what was once a festive tale of the power of belief now has turned instead into a story of home invasion? Perhaps we would be better off just reading the world news to the kids before putting them to bed. A good government rebel coup is always slumber inspiring, I think.

The idea of dreaming of sugarplums is definitely overrated.

If this article inspired you to recite your favorite nursery rhymes, let me know at historymusing smcc@gmail.com.

Children’s Thanksgiving prayers

By Mickey Elliott
Weekday Religious Education

The Weekday students wrote many beautiful prayers of thanks to God late last month as Thanksgiving approached, and I thought you would enjoy reading them.

God is so good to us, we encouraged the students to include Him in their Thanksgiving celebration.

Enjoy reading some of the hearts of our third- and fourth-graders.

*Dear God,
Thank you for all the good things you have given me. Thank you for my family and the food. Thank you that my family has enough money to buy what we need. Thank you for Jesus dying on the cross for our sins, and thank you for helping me with things I need help with.
In Jesus’ name, amen*

*Dear God,
Thank you for giving me a safe neighborhood to live in North Kitchen Road, which is a wonderful place to live. Also, if animals can go to heaven, please let Dexter in. If you do, please take care of him. And if Nana went to heaven, take care of her, too. Both Nana and Dexter were special to me. I love you so much.
In Jesus’ name, amen*

*Dear God,
Thank you for the food we eat, my happy family is a blessing and for a strong and happy house. Please help people in need. Thank you for my amazing friends and teachers. Thank you for letting me come here and for letting me and my family be safe and joyful. Thank you for all the awesome moments and memories. Thanks for all the animals and*



*living creatures around my friends and family.
In Jesus’ name, amen*

*Dear God,
Thank you for this day, and thank you for all our blessings in our lives. Thank you that we have a free country. I am thankful for my family and my friends and for having a church to go to. I am thankful for my parents and my sister.
In Jesus’ name, amen*

*Dear God,
Thank you for our animals, our pets, our food, sisters, brothers and parents. You’ve been so kind and gracious for letting us go to church. Thank you for our homes and for our friends, school, and for your*

*sacrifice of your one and only son and for letting me be good at showing kindness to others. Also, for letting me be good at Bible Bowl and having a great community and learning your Word.
In Jesus’ name, amen*

*Dear God,
Thank you for the food that you lay on my plate every night. I am so thankful for all the family you gave me. I am also thankful for the people that fight with their lives for us. Thank you for the evil that me and you have overcome with good.
In Jesus’ name, amen*

*Dear God,
I hope everybody in this room has a great Thanksgiving. I thank*

*God for this day. You are the best God. We love you. I hope you have a great Thanksgiving. God you are the best ever: You made everything in the world.
In Jesus’ name, amen*

*Dear God,
Thank you for the food on my table. Thank you also for my parents and my friends. I am very grateful for my cat. Thank you for giving me the family I had before they passed. Thank you for everything I have and everything I will have. Thank you for my school and my home. I pray for everyone who is out there because, even though I may not know them, they are in my heart. And I am most thankful for me in this world.
In Jesus’ name, amen*

*Dear God,
Thank you, God, for this day. Thank you for Mrs. Elliott and the boys and girls and babies, food, toys, family, friend, and our heart. And the houses that we have. Thank you for our cars, clothing that we wear.
In Jesus’ name, amen*

*Dear God,
Thank you for letting all of these amazing people on the planet. Thank you for the stuff you give, did, and do. Thank you for the friends that helped. I should thank you sometimes you can’t save lives, but you definitely try. You are amazing at everything you do. I love you, and please stay with people who are sick or injured. I love you, God.
In Jesus’ name, amen*

*Dear God,
Thank you for the house you gave our family. You give me and my friends the life we have. Also, for the love you show me and the graceful, majestic, love you have shown me. I love you, and you love me.
In Jesus’ name, amen*

I hope you enjoyed these prayers. I wish I had room to show them all. These are third- and fourth-grade students. Precious children. Thank you for letting us walk with them as we help them know this wonderful God we serve. Praying God will bless you all with His peace, love and joy.

Contact us at Morgan County Schools of Weekday Religious Education, P.O. Box 1285, Martinsville, IN 46151. Or visit our website at wremorgancounty.schools.org.

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 • martinsvillecccc@gmail.com • Interim Pastor Keenan Steinway • Sunday service at 10:30 a.m.

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

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

River Valley Christian Church • 4295 Egbert Road, Martinsville • 765-349-2700 or 765-318-2741 • rivervalleychristianchurch.com • kevinable@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 • morganstreetchurchof-christ.com • davidknoy@att.net • Preacher Robert Hawkins • Sunday Bible study 9:30 a.m., Wednesday service at 6 p.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 Chris Klingenfus • Sunday service at 9 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

INFORMATION

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

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

First 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 • newviewwcc.com • info@newviewwcc.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 • churchof-christelders@gmail.com • Sundays at 10 a.m., Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

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

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

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

Mt. Gilead Church • 6019 E. Ind. 144, Mooresville • 317-831-1900 • mgchurch.org • Senior Minister Jeff Fauli • 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@firstccmooresville.org • Pastor Glenda Survance • Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

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

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

Liberty Christian Church • 2010 Liberty Church Road, Martinsville • 765-342-8519 • officelccmartinsville@gmail.com • lccmartinsville.org • Pastor Dewayne Liebrandt • Sunday service at 9 a.m., Sunday School at 10:15 a.m. and contemporary service at 6:30 p.m.

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

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

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

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

Mooresville First United Methodist • 900 Indianapolis Road, Mooresville • 317-831-3376 • MooresvilleFUMC.org • Rev. Dr. Amber Karkosky-Litten • Blended Sunday worship at 9:15 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Paragon Bible Baptist Church • 269 W. Union St. • paragonbiblebaptist@gmail.com • Sunday morning service 11 a.m., Sunday afternoon 4:30 p.m., Wednesday Bible study 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 • reformedholyltrinity.org • reformedholyltrinity@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

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.

Eminence Christian Church • 6597 North Forest Street • 765-528-2312 • eminencechristianchurch.org • Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., service at 10:30 a.m.

Gasburg Baptist Church • 11564 N Gasburg Road, Mooresville • 317-996-2112 • gasburgbaptistchurch.com • Info@gasburgbaptistchurch.com • Pastor Chris Thorne • Sunday service at 10:15 a.m. • info@gasburg-baptistchurch.com

Waverly Park Global Methodist • 8525 N. Main St., Martinsville • 317-422-1514 • wvanhorn317@embarq-mail.com • Pastor Bill Vanhorn • Sunday 9:30 a.m.

Banta Global Methodist • 6594 N. Banta Road, Bargersville • 317-422-1514 • wvanhorn317@embarqmail.com • Pastor Bill Vanhorn • Sunday 10:45 a.m.

West Union Friends Meeting • 2038 W. Ind. 42, Monrovia • 317-446-1904 • halee146@aol.com • Sunday service at 10 a.m.

Corinth Baptist Church • 4875 Plano Road, Martinsville • 765-528-2388 • Pastor Jeff Brewer • Sunday School at 9:45 a.m., service at 10:30 a.m.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 24, 6:30 pm

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF MORGAN

MORGAN SUPERIOR COURT NO. 3
CAUSE NO. 55D03-2511-PL-002782

HENRY PIKE, AND
SHERRY PIKE,

PLAINTIFFS.

VS.

WARREN D. GASKINS, AND BETTY S. GASKINS, AND BRANDON D. OLNICK AND DANIELLE N. OLNICK, AND DAVID RAMIREZ AND MAGDALENA RAMIREZ, AND STEPHEN D. SMITH AND ALICE F. SMITH, AND RYAN G. GRAVENS AND NICKY M. CRAVENS, AND BEN-JAMIN J. MAYES AND KATELYNN P. SUTTON, AND DANA E. NEITZEL AND ROBYN R.B. NEITZEL, AND ANY AND ALL OTHER UNKNOWN DEFENDANTS, AND THE WORLD.

DEFENDANTS.

SERVICE OF SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

This service is directed to the unknown Defendants who may claim any interest in real estate described as follows:
Part of the East Half of the Southwest Quarter of Section 4, Township 13 North, Range 2 East, Morgan County, Indiana, described as follows:

Commencing at an iron pipe, found at the intersection of county roads, which marks the northeast corner of the above captioned East Half of the Southwest Quarter; thence South no degrees 07 minutes 15 seconds East (assumed bearing of the east line of the East Half of the Southwest Quarter), with said east line and in the county road, 859.96 feet to the southeast corner of the twenty-six and one-half (26.5) acre parcel described in Instrument Number 20112274 and the **POINT OF BEGINNING** of the parcel

herein described; thence continuing South no degrees 07 minutes 15 seconds East, with said east line and in the county road, 29.04 feet to the northeast corner of Parcel Number One (1) in an un-platted division of parcels known as "Kitchen Woods Estates", the original survey of which is recorded in Survey Record 6 Page 51 in the Office of the Recorder of Morgan County (for reference, an iron pipe was found North 23 degrees 51 minutes East, 0.39 feet); thence South 88 degrees 23 minutes 45 seconds West, with the north line of said "Kitchen Woods Estates", 1344.30 feet to an iron pin with cap engraved "Holloway S0530" on the west line of the East Half, said iron pin marking the northwest corner of Parcel Number Eight (8) in "Kitchen Woods Estates"; thence North no degrees 04 minutes 08 seconds East, with the west line of the East Half of the Southwest Quarter, a distance of 26.23 feet to the southeast corner of the aforesaid 26.5 acre parcel described in Instrument Number 20112274; thence North 88 degrees 16 minutes 31 seconds East, with the south line of said 6.5 acre parcel, a distance of 1344.29 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Containing 0.853 acres, more or less, and subject to the right-of-way for the county road on the east side of the parcel, and to any other rights-of-way, easements or restrictions of record or observable.
You are notified that you have been named as a Defendant in the referenced matter. The nature of the suit is a Complaint to Quiet Title and for Adverse Possession to real estate which is described above and is located in Mooresville, Morgan County, Indiana 46158.
If you claim any interest in the property described, you need to respond to this cause in the Morgan Superior Court No. 3 within thirty (30) days of the last day of publication of this Notice. Should you fail to respond, within that timeframe, default judgment will be entered for the relief requested by the Plaintiffs in the lawsuit. A complete copy of the Complaint may be examined in the Morgan Superior Court No. 3 under the above cause number.

Dale S. Coffey, #18582-55
BOREN, OLIVER & COFFEY, LLP

59 North Jefferson Street
Martinsville, Indiana 46151
Telephone: 765-342-0147
Telefax: 765-342-7322
Email: dalecoffey@boclawyers.com

Erin Jessup, Petitioner

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Notice is hereby given that Petitioner, Erin Jessup, as a self-represented litigant, filed a Verified for Change of Name on _____ to change the name of Maddox Tyler Jessup to Miller Cruz Tallent.
The Petition is scheduled for hearing in the Morgan Circuit Court on February 13, 2026 at 9:30 a.m., which is more than thirty (30) days after the third notice of publication. Any person has the right to appear at the hearing and to file written objections on or before the hearing date..

November 20, 2025
Date

/s/ Tammy Parker
Clerk, Morgan Court

State of Indiana
County of Morgan

IN THE MORGAN COUNTY COURT
CAUSE NO.: **55C01-2511-MI-002873**
**IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF: Maddox Tyler Jessup, Minor
Erin Jessup, Petitioner**

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Notice is hereby given that Petitioner, Erin Jessup, as a self-represented litigant, filed a Verified for Change of Name on _____ to change the name of Maddox Tyler Jessup to Maddox Nicolas Tallent.
The Petition is scheduled for hearing in the Morgan Circuit Court on February 13, 2026 at 9:30 a.m., which is more than thirty (30) days after the third notice of publication. Any person has the right to appear at the hearing and to file written objections on or before the hearing date..

November 20, 2025
Date

/s/ Tammy Parker
Clerk, Morgan Court

State of Indiana
County of Morgan

IN THE MORGAN COUNTY COURT
CAUSE NO.: **55C01-2511-MI-002874**
IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF: Miller Cruz Jessup, Minor

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Miguel Angel Saavedra Gallegos, whose mailing address is: _____ and if different, my residence address is: _____ has filed a petition in the MORGAN County, Indiana, hereby gives notice that _____ has filed a petition in the _____ court requesting that his name be changed to _____.
Notice is further given that the hearing will be held on said Petition on March 9, 2026 at 10:30 am
/s/ Miguel Saavedra
/s/ Judicial Officer
12/11/2025
Date

PUBLIC NOTICES

ORDER

Date: 12/5/25
Homeowner: Rose Marie Gaskins
Mortgage Company: N/A
Address: 3068 W. Hinshaw Road
Pursuant to **IC 36-7-9-5(a)(7)** and **Monrovia ordinances 151.01-151.08:**
You are being notified that your property is in violation of the Indiana Unsafe Building Code.
Specifically:
• Multiple piles of debris scattered throughout the premises.
• The structure is severely damaged by fire and is unsafe for entry.
• The foundation shows signs of deterioration, compromising structural integrity.
• The center support beam is unsound, further increasing the risk of collapse.
• The building and surrounding area are unsafe for entry or pedestrian access.

You are hereby ordered to perform the following work immediately: Complete demolition and removal of the remaining residential structure and all related structures on the property along with removal of all property, junk, trash, debris and remnants from the property.

You have until 1/5/26 to complete the repairs

A hearing is required, and will be held on January 13th, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the Monrovia Government Center in front of the Monrovia Plan Commission, you are entitled to appear at the hearing with or without legal counsel, present evidence, cross-examine opposing witnesses, and present arguments.

Failure to comply with this order, and if the Monrovia Plan Commission finds that there has been a willful failure to comply, the Monrovia Plan Commission can impose a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000). The Monrovia Plan Commission may impose one (1) or more additional civil penalties in an amount not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per civil penalty. An additional civil penalty may be imposed if the hearing authority finds that:

(1) significant work on the premises to comply with the affirmed order has not been accomplished; and

(2) the premises have a negative effect on property values or the quality of life of the surrounding area or the premises require the provision of services by local government in excess of the services required by ordinary properties.

George Edward Menzel Jr
Building Inspector
Town of Monrovia, Indiana
townmanager@monrovia.in.gov: 317-996-6114 ext 1

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given to the taxpayers of Martinsville Civil City, Morgan County, Indiana, that the proper legal officers will consider Salary Ordinance 2025-1900 at the Council Chambers, City Hall (59 S. Jefferson Street, Martinsville, IN 46151) at 6:00 o'clock p.m., on the 16th day of December 2025 at the Park Board Meeting.
Taxpayers appearing at the meeting shall have a right to be heard.
Dated: December 3, 2025
Benjamin K Merida – Clerk Treasurer

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF PROPOSED ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE TAXPAYERS OF MORGAN COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT THE MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL AT THEIR REGULAR MEETING PLACE AT 5:00 P.M. MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2025, WILL CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS IN EXCESS OF THE BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2025. **GENERAL FUND (1000)** \$1,500.00, 1000.21100.00000.0275 JURY ADMINISTRATOR SUPPLIES, \$1,000.00, 1000.36100.00000.0275 JURY ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACTUAL SERVICES. **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FUND (1151)** \$110,000.00, 1151.49002.00000.0000 AMBULANCE LEASE PURCHASE **RAINY DAY FUND (1186)** \$271,848.00, 1186.44191.00000.0068 ADMIN BLDG BOILER REPLACEMENT. TAXPAYERS APPEARING AT THE MEETING SHALL HAVE A RIGHT TO BE HEARD. APPROPRIATIONS, AS FINALLY MADE WILL BE REFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE. THE BOARD WILL MAKE A WRITTEN DETERMINATION AS TO THE SUFFICIENCY OF FUNDS TO SUPPORT THE APPROPRIATIONS MADE WITHIN (15) DAYS OF RECEIPT OF A CERTIFIED COPY OF THE ACTION TAKEN.
PUBLISH: DECEMBER 11, 2025 LINDA PRUITT MORGAN COUNTY CORRESPONDENT
MORGAN COUNTY AUDITOR

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.

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CLASSIFIEDS



American Holly is a popular adornment during the Christmas holiday due to its sturdy, brightly colored foliage and berries. (Courtesy photo)

Have a holly jolly Christmas

American Holly is a native tree or shrub that is mainly found in the southeastern parts of the United States.

It can also be found growing wild in Indiana, but there is some controversy over whether it is native here.

It does grow in some parts of Morgan County, but it prefers neutral to acidic soils, just like blueberry plants. Most of the native soil in Morgan County, however, tends to be alkaline because of the limestone parent material from which it was formed, and it needs amending for these plants to thrive. If the soil is too alkaline, the holly will have yellow leaves and struggle to survive. It prefers soil that stays moist, but not wet, and well-drained sandy soil.

The plants can grow to a height of 15 to 30 feet, with some old reports of 100 feet! They are usually found as an understory shrub in woodlands and survive in both sun and shade, though they prefer partial shade with several hours of daytime sun. Even when sunlight is not a limiting factor, they may never grow very tall in poor soil conditions.

This shrub is dioecious — like persimmon, spicebush and sassafras — meaning that each plant is either male or female and cannot reproduce (or produce berries) on its own. You need male and female shrubs in your planting



Conservation Matters
DAVID MOW

for the female plants to be pollinated and produce berries.

Several nurseries allow you to order male and female plants separately, so that you can have both in your plantings. It is generally recommended that you have at least one male plant for every five female plants for adequate pollination.

If you are unsure if the plants you are planting are male or female, I suggest planting several to ensure you get a mixture of both. It can take four to seven years for them to flower and allow you to determine their sex.

It is often used in Christmas floral arrangements because of the festive green leaves and the bright red berries that the plant displays during a season when other native plants are dormant. The two colors are a striking contrast to one another, and its evergreen leaves and sturdy stems offer lasting color, texture and durability that outlasts many other cut flowers in an arrangement,

wreath or garland.

That's also why American Holly is, in general, deer-resistant. The deer prefer not to eat their tough, dark green, leathery leaves, though several insects will feed on the leaves, including Henry's Elfin butterfly. The dense foliage, however, provides excellent nesting habitat and protective cover for various songbirds. The firm, bright-red berries are consumed by white-tail deer and 18 different species of birds, including Mockingbird, Cardinal and Cedar Waxwing. This is an important source of nutrition for wildlife during the colder season, which in turn helps spread the plant's seeds by way of endozoochory — berry ingestion that leads to seed deposits elsewhere.

It is important to note that all parts of the plant contain saponin, which is toxic to humans and pets. Ingestion can cause gastrointestinal symptoms, nausea, drooling and lethargy, especially in large quantities. Care should be taken when using the plant in seasonal decorations to prevent consumption by pets and children who may find the berries attractive.

David Mow is the invasive species specialist for the Morgan County Soil and Water Conservation District. He is a local Master Gardener and member of Indiana Native Plant & Wildflower Society.



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