Marion dermatologist retires from practice

See story on Page 3

Surgeon General has Indiana ties

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THE NEWS HERALD

Grant County Life

50 cents

INDIANA QUIZ

1. What is the official state tree of Indiana?

2. What type of tree is mentioned in the official state song of Indiana?

3. Legend has it that the signers of the first state constitution enjoyed the shade of what type of tree in Corydon?

THE NEWS HERALD
Postal information

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County has new Central Dispatch director

By Sean Douglas

Marion Central Dispatch has a new face at the helm.

Boasting over two decades of work in the areas of dispatch in the states of Indiana and Michigan, Michael Clayton was hired three weeks ago to be the Central Dispatch director, bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience to Grant County.

Clayton, a Berrien Spring, Michigan native, has been working in the dispatch field since 1999.

Clayton developed an interest in dispatching while in high school, taking his EMT and beginning part-time with the ambulance

Michael Clayton

service in nearby Benton Harbor. From the moment he started, he could not get enough, and with the help of several colleagues, he quickly made his way into full time dispatching.

"When I got on the ambulance, I actually would hang out with the dispatchers…that let me do some simple things in the radio room. They took me under their wing and really taught me how dispatchers are supposed to properly go and how the system is supposed to work. From there, I was hooked. Next thing I knew, I got certified as an EMD."

Clayton got his start as an EMS Dispatcher, but eventually worked his way into doing police and fire dispatch in Benton Harbor, where he served for 10 years.

In 2009, Clayton moved south to St. Joseph's County, Indiana, where he worked with the St. Joseph County Fire Dispatch for another eight years. From 2017 to March 2020, Clayton served as the lead communication officer at Notre Dame before heading further south to Marion three weeks ago.

Any time that there is a major life event, like taking a new job, change, and ad-

See Dispatch, Page 2

Important dates set for 2020 primary election

By Alan Miller

Psst! Don't look now, but the 2020 Grant County primary election is sneaking up on you. Voters need to divert their attention from intense coverage of the COVID-19 outbreak, at least for a moment, and jot down a few dates so that the election doesn't sneak right by them.

Although Gov. Eric Holcomb has delayed the primary election until June 2,

your first opportunity to cast a ballot will be May 26 when early voting will begin in the basement of the Grant County Courthouse.

Early in-person voting historically has been allowed for 28 days in advance of an election but will be limited to six days this year. Hours for early voting at the courthouse will be from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., May 26-29; from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., May 30, and from 8 a.m. to noon on June 1.

Nancy Bryant, Grant County election deputy, said her office is in the

process of acquiring supplies and developing a plan to protect voters who come to the courthouse.

"It has been quite a challenge finding some of these items that we need to purchase, but we now have a plan in place," Bryant said. "First, we will mark off 6-foot spaces on the floor. We have gloves and masks for the workers and hand sanitizers for both workers and voters. After each voter, we will wipe down the voting

machines, booths and pens."

Given concerns about the virus, Secretary of State Connie Lawson has applied for $7.9 million in federal funds to buy masks, gloves and other supplies to be distributed at election offices and polling places throughout the state.

In addition to delaying the primary election for a month, the governor's order also removed all restrictions for requesting an absentee ballot. Previously, at least in theory, voters had to give a specific reason for requesting an absentee ballot.

This year, however, anyone can request an absentee ballot application by calling the Voter Registration Office at 765-664-9880 or the Election Office at 765-668-

7458. Applications also can be found on the county's website, grantcounty.net, or at indianavoters.com.

"The deadline to request a mailed ballot is May 21," Bryant said. "We print the absentee ballots here in the office, so we can continually print them as needed. People do not need to worry about us running out of the ballots."

Absentee ballots must be received by the county by noon on Election Day.

State party officials expect record numbers of Hoosiers to vote by mail, at least in the primary election, which could slow the process of tabulating votes on June 2.

See Primary, Page 2

County seeks volunteers to make masks

The Grant County community is in need of anyone willing to make and donate cloth masks for Marion General Hospital and essential employees in local businesses.

The United Way is accepting donations of mask at its office, 215 S. Adams St., Marion. Call 765-662-9811 to let officials know when drop off will occur and they will get them to those in need.

It is preferred to have masks that tie so that they can be fitted to a boarder range of individuals.

Examples of how to make masks can be found at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html