

# THE NEWS HERALD

Grant County Life

50 cents

Volume 52, Number 24

A Hometown Media, Inc. Publication.

July 29-Aug. 4, 2020

## DEATHS

### Death Notices for Week of July 20-27

#### Guy Herbert Mills 1925-2020

Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, Storey Chapel, on Saturday, July 25 at 1 pm. Burial took place at Marion National Cemetery.

#### Russell Alvin Goff 1929-2020

Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, Storey Chapel, on Monday, July 27, at 1 pm.

#### Norfleet Richardson 1946-2020

Funeral services were held at Greater Second Baptist Church, Marion, on Monday, July 27 at 1 pm. Burial took place at Grant Memorial Park.

#### Edwin Gary 1942-2020

Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, Storey Chapel, on Tuesday, July 28 at 2 pm. Burial took place at

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## Marion students opting for online classes

Photo: Dr. Brad Lindsay

Nearly 30 percent of Marion students to begin 2020-2021 year online

By Sean Douglas

With the COVID-19 pandemic still at the forefront of happenings around the country, all five Grant County schools will be utilizing online instruction this fall in the hopes of keeping families safe and further preventing the spread of the deadly virus.

Last week, it was announced that of Marion's 3,600 students, 1,045 of them will receive instruc-



Dr. Brad Lindsay

tion via the Giant Online Academy, according to Marion Community Schools Superintendent, Dr. Brad

Lindsay.

For those students electing remote instruction through using the Giant Online Academy, each will be provided with a school iPad, Marion will be using Google Classroom exclusively for their off-site instruction. Marion teachers will be able to connect with their students, and students will be able to connect with their peers while learning from the safety of their own home.

Remote instruction will be synchronized with onsite instruction as much as possible, and students will continue to have exposure to

grade level curriculum based on MCS curriculum maps and Indiana Academic standards. Teachers will also provide weekly feedback and give their students ways in which to improve their performance.

"It's going to be a mix depending on grade level," Marion Chief Technology Officer Scott Hoeksma said. "For the high school kids, it will be similar to what we did this past spring. They will be able to join Google Meet sessions with their teachers and with their classmates. (Teachers) will be teaching to the kids onsite as well as everybody

who joins that Google Meet."

While the plan is to have off-site students follow their usual schedule as if they were in the building, MCS officials understand that some may not have the best internet connection, so there will be some flexibility in order to help every student succeed.

"We are working with a connectivity issue with some of our families, so teachers will also be recording the meetings or lessons, allowing kids to work at a time that works for them,"

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## Officials cancel Mississinewa 1812

By Sean Douglas

For months, Mississinewa Battlefield Society officials held out hope that they would be able to hold their annual event this coming fall.

But with the alarming spike in COVID-19 cases throughout the country, they made the difficult decision to cancel Mississinewa 1812, originally scheduled for October 9-11.

"It is with great sorrow that we announce that Mississinewa 1812, which was scheduled to take place has been cancelled," the Mississinewa Battlefield Society released in a statement

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A reenactment participant paddles down the river during the Mississinewa 1812 event. Officials have called off the event due to spike in COVID-19 cases throughout the country. Photo by Joe Slacian

## Continued tension between Marion Mayor Jess Alumbaugh and city council

By Ed Breen

The stage seems to be set for a collision between Mayor Jess Alumbaugh and some members of the Marion City Council. The intersection will be the meeting of the council at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 4, in the council chambers in the municipal building at Third and Branson streets.

Technically, the mayor and three of his key staff members will be responding to subpoenas drafted by the council's newly hired lawyer, Martin Harker, two weeks ago.

Realistically, the mayor, Chief of Staff Mike Flynn, City Attorney Tom Hunt and Controller Julie Flores will be doing exactly what they said they would do three weeks ago: Come before the council to answer questions relating to the payment of legal fees and other expenses in connection with the city's legal pursuit of the failed redevelopment plan for the "Old YMCA" under the administration of former Mayor Wayne Seybold.

Thus far, the litigation has cost about \$1.6 million without resolution. Some

members of the nine-member City Council have been vocal in their insistence that the administration explain the source of the money used to pay the bills, mainly those from the Indianapolis law firm of Ice Miller.

The purpose of the spending was pursuit of a lawsuit seeking both damages and information about the disbursement of more than \$2 million in bond money in 2009 on the never-completed renovation and repurposing of the former Marion YMCA building on W. Third Street.

Mayor Alumbaugh had campaigned in his first elec-

tion bid in 2015 on a platform of pursuing questionable activity during the Seybold years, particularly about the Old YMCA project.

The legal action came to a halt last fall when Grant Superior Court Judge Warren Haas ruled that the city had not filed its lawsuit prior to the expiration of the statute of limitations. That decision is currently on appeal by the city to the Indiana Supreme Court.

While several city council members have long questioned the lawsuit and its costs, the council has be-

come more aggressive in the weeks since it hired Marion lawyer Martin Harker to provide legal guidance.

He has directed the council, under the leadership of President Deborah Cain, to draft specific questions for the mayor and his staff and instructed them to appear before the council to answer the inquiries.

The opposition to the mayor was organized in a series of council meetings, several of which may have been in violation of the Indiana Open Door Law.

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## INDIANA QUIZ

### True or False

1. Indiana is the smallest state west of the Appalachian Mountains.
2. The first state capital, Corydon, is in Harrison County.
3. The Indiana House and Senate combined have a total of 200 elected members.
4. The highest point in Indiana is in Wayne County.
5. The state flag contains 21 stars.

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