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DEATHS

Aug. 3-10
Shirley J. Bramblett
1940-2020
Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, North Chapel, on Tuesday, August 11 at 1 pm. Burial followed at Van Buren Cemetery.

E. Lorene Miller
1936-2020
The family will receive visitors from 2:30 pm to 3 pm on Sunday, August 16, at College Wesleyan Church, Marion. Immediately following the time of visitation, a service to celebrate Miller's life will begin at 3 pm. Burial will take place at Grant Memorial Park.

David Lee Long
1938-2020
Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, Storey Chapel, on Wednesday, August 5 at 1 pm. Burial took place at Park Cemetery.

Victor "Vic" Herman Kendall
1934-2020
Funeral services were held at Converse Church of Christ, Converse, on Friday, August 7 at 10 am. Burial followed at Grant Memorial Park.

Matthew Lee Christman
1975-2020
Funeral services were held

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INDIANA QUIZ

"Bobbie, the Wonder Dog" visited Indiana, but he actually lived in Oregon. However, Indiana can claim several celebrity animals. Can you identify each one below?

1. Marlon Bundo
2. Arnold Ziffel
3. Dan Patch
4. Garfield

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Organization digs deep to bring healing to community

By Ed Breen

It has taken 90 years to get here, but Marion residents on Friday began cleaning up the mess they made on the Grant County Courthouse Square on August 7, 1930.

In the evening shadows of the day, about 200 people – a mix of age, race, gender and religion – took turns taking small scoops of soil from the earth around the building and co-mining them in a bucket to be sent to a memorial in Alabama.

All of this was part of an outreach to atone for Marion's most hideous moment, the day in 1930 when three young Black criminal suspects were beaten and dragged from the Grant County Jail. Two were hanged from a now-long-gone tree on the northeast corner of the Courthouse Square, from the limbs of a tree rooted no more than 50 feet from the spot where the soil was dug Friday.

It was the first major step to include Marion in the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Mont-

gomery, Ala., an institution and museum created three years ago to memorialize the 4,500 mostly African American victims of racial terror lynchings between 1877 and 1950.

The timing of Friday's ceremony sponsored by the Community Remembrance Project Coalition was not accidental. The group headed by Marion Black activists Torri Williams and Andrew Morrell was scheduled to coincide with the 90th anniversary of the lynching of Thomas Shipp and Abram Smith. The two teenagers and another youth, James Cameron, had been arrested in connection with the shooting death of a young Fairmont man and the sexual assault on his girlfriend in southeast Marion in 1930.

The details of the incident have been retold repeatedly and the photograph taken of the scene that night has perpetuated it in both the culture of the Marion community and in the national history of racially motivated terror.

While Africa Americans

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Torri Williams and Andrew Morrell scoop soil from a plot on the Grant County Courthouse Square Friday evening. Photo by Ed Breen.

Marion Community Schools re-open for 2020-21

By Sean Douglas

After nearly five turbulent months of quarantine and shutdowns around Grant County and the state of Indiana, Marion Community Schools, along with the other four school districts in the area, returned to school this past Wednesday ready to embark on a new, but vastly different academic year.

"We are very excited to have the students back," Marion Community Schools Superintendent Brad Lindsay said. "Our teachers and team really missed the students. It had been since early to mid-March since we had had them on campus. There was four months of planning, a lot of praying, and we believe God answered our prayers."

Of Marion's 3,600 students, 2,200 of them opted for onsite learning. According to Lindsay, all students



Marion students walking into school during the first week of the 2020-2021 school year.

Photo by Sean Douglas

and teachers have been following the guidelines, which include wearing masks in the building, adhering to social distancing measures, and consistently sanitizing in order to quell

the spread of the virus.

"Obviously, it's a brand-new experience," Lindsay said. "There was some uncertainty and anxiety, but our students want to be around other students. Our

teachers and coaches want to be around our students. Even though it's different than before COVID, it was closer to normalcy than the last four months have been. The students were very excited, they were very cooperative, and they are getting right to work.

"Our students were great. People are following protocols. They're wearing their masks. It's a spirit of cooperation."

Four staff members are currently quarantining in the early stages, but at this time, there have been no positive cases of COVID-19 amongst the student population.

Additionally, the blending of onsite and online learning continues to be a work in progress. To be expected, there were some issues with connectivity and effective communication, but Lind-

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Van Buren celebrated Popcorn Festival

By Sean Douglas

While most of the anticipated summer activities and attractions were cancelled this summer due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Van Buren had its annual Popcorn Festival this past weekend, as it has every year since 1973.

Van Buren, set just a few miles from Eastbrook High School, is home to the Weaver Popcorn Company, founded in 1928 by the Rev. Ira Weaver, eventually becoming the world's largest popcorn producer. In fact, Van Buren is known as the "Popcorn Capital of the World."

Forty-seven years ago, Van Buren had its first Popcorn Festival to celebrate the central role of popcorn to the town. Needless to say, it was a smashing suc-

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