Upland -

Indiana History **Answers**

- 1. Tulip poplar tree
- 2. Peony
- 3. Limestone
- 4. Crossroads of Amer-

Since 1957, when Marion Creech, Leonard Flannery, and George Shively founded what was then known as Marion Independent FCU, Afena has made it their mission to "encourage savings, promote sound financial decisions, and educate our members to help them achieve their goals."

With the opening of

their new location in Upland, Afena is not only expanding their product and growing their business, but they are also establishing a new customer base in order to form new, profitable relationships that work for both parties.

"We were wanting to expand in Grant County, and we looked at a few different loca-

tions, and Upland really stuck out as having a need," Afena Vice President of Marketing Shelby Schuh said, "There is not a financial institution currently in town where you can walk in, cash your checks, and do your banking.

So, we felt like it was a

natural fit."

When looking for a place to open a new branch, Afena wanted to be in a place where they could tap into various markets and provide a local branch where people could conduct their financial transactions without the hindrance of an out-of-town commute.

With various local businesses, together with Taylor University just a stone's throw away, it was a perfect fit.

"We hope that Taylor students will utilize the credit union, obviously, but we also really were interested in providing a place for local businesses to be able to do their banking," Schuh said. "We thought about all the people who had to drive to a neighboring town, like Gas City, to do their [banking.] That was one of the biggest reasons why we came here."

The branch was originally scheduled to open in May, but production was halted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The logistics of planning a grand opening and...wanting to make sure that we are here to meet the needs of the town and doing it in a safe way has been a line that are [still] walking," Schuh said. "We are just staying flexible and responsive to the situation and being as cautious as possible."

However, Afena took everything in stride, and together with both the Upland and Grant County Chambers of Commerce, they made their dream of opening another branch into a reality.

"It's been fantastic to work with the Chambers," Schuh said. "They've both

been super helpful in promoting the event, getting the ribbon cutting going, and supporting us as we open this business. We are looking forward to working with them in the future."

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With the branch now officially open for business, Schuh and the rest of her team at Afena are looking forward to serving the Upland community for years to come.

"The secret of our success at Afena is that we treat every member not like a credit score or a number in their bank account – we want to listen to their whole story," Schuh concluded. "We have a very holistic approach, from the way we do our loan reviews to the way that we do our banking, and we've really carved out a niche for ourselves in Grant County by serving the needs of the community members in that

way. "We are looking forward to bringing that service to Upland."

Park Avenue Barber Shop



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> Don L. Hurd, Publisher president @hoosiermediagroup.com

Alan Miller, Reporter

Sean Douglas, Sports Editor sports@newsherald.org

Accounting and Legal Ads - Julie Loehmer, accounting@thepaperofwabash.com Sales - Arlene Long, along@thepaperofwabash.com

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Deaths

at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, August 5, at the funeral home with Pastor Andrew Morrell officiating. Entombment will take place at Gardens of Memory in Marion.

Connie M. Daugherty 1942-2020

Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, North Chapel, on Saturday, August 1 at 1 p.m. Burial will take place at Grant Memorial Park.

Vernice Lorena Elliott 1930-2020

Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, North Chapel, on Thursday, July 30 at 7 p.m. A graveside service took place on Friday, July 31 at 10 am at Grant Memorial Park.

Gloria D. Fones 1938-2020

The family will host a private farewell visitation followed by a burial at Jefferson Cemetery in Upland.

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tery, Sweetser. Stanley R. Smith

1932-2020 Funeral services were held at College Weslevan Church on Monday, August 3 at 3 p.m. Burial took place at Grant Memorial Park.

Richard Paul Gamble 1970-2020

Funeral services were held at Converse Church of Christ on Saturday, August 1 at 1 p.m. Burial followed at Converse Cemetery.

Sharon Sue Branscum 1949-2020

Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, North Chapel, on Tuesday, August 4 at 1 p.m. Burial took place at Estates of Serenity.

Norman G. Smith 1946-2020

Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, North Chapel, on Monday, August 3 at 12 p.m. Burial took place at Maple Grove Ceme-

Marcia K. Jordan

1947-2020 Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, North Chapel, on Tuesday, August 4 at 12 p.m. Burial took place at Grant Memorial

Grace H. Hosier

Park.

1944-2020 Funeral services were held at Armes-Hunt Funeral Home. Fairmount, on Monday, August 3 at 12 p.m. Burial took place at Grant Memorial Park.

John Arthur "Little John" Fernung 1986-2020

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Doris L. Way 1962-2020

Funeral services were held at Raven-Choate Funeral Home on Monday, August 3 at 6 p.m. Cremation will take place following the service