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Commission for Higher Education, and the Indiana State Board of Education, this needs-based, competitive grant was opened up to all schools in Indiana.



Using the awarded grant funds, and in partnership with local organizations and individuals, Marion Community Schools will create a network of wi-fi hotspots throughout the city to which students can connect with their school-issued devices.

“This will allow students access to our wi-fi network, which is filtered for safe Internet access,” said Chief Technology and Academic Officer Scott Hoeksema. “In a global economy increasingly built on technology skills and connectivity, this grant will help us provide future-ready learning for all of our students.”

Through this grant, Marion Community Schools will also provide

support for students and families to help successfully navigate remote learning.

Marion Community Schools believe the network to support education will be a life-changer for

their families. It will provide students with the skills to tackle any problems and challenges head on.

“Equity, inclusion, and opportunity is the vision we have for all of our Marion Giants,” Marion Community Schools Superintendent Brad Lindsay said. “This GEERS grant will help us put this vision into action for the benefit of all of our students.”

The GEERS program encouraged public-private partnerships, and Marion Community Schools is thankful to St. Paul Parish for partnering with them for the grant. A portion of the \$1.1 million will be allocated to St. Paul to improve their own connectivity for their staff and students.

FOREVER DIFFERENT



BUT AT LEAST THEY'RE BACK!!!

Court — continued from page 1

sustaining, but that still would be my goal if I were continuing as judge.”

McVicker said he believes Marion City Court has always provided a valuable service to the city, and he has considered it a privilege to serve as the judge of his hometown city court. He hopes the court will

continue.

“It is a high-volume court,” McVicker said. “Every misdemeanor in Grant County, with the exception of OWIs (operating while intoxicated) along with ordinance violations and infractions are filed in either Marion or Gas City municipal courts.”

In 2019, 1,745 cases – 925 misdemeanors, 620 infractions and 100 ordinance violations – were filed in Marion City Court, according to City Clerk Kathi Kiley. During the first six months of 2020, 1,045 cases have been filed.

“Those numbers are increasing every year,”

McVicker said.

McVicker agrees with Cain that a committee should be appointed to study the issue in depth.

“I understand why the city doesn’t want to be in the court business. I get it,” McVicker said. “But if we are going to make decisions such as this, it needs to be

studied in depth by the various community entities that will be affected. It must be a well-informed decision.”

Cain said she would approach the discussion with an open mind. “The more we study it, we may realize that phasing out Marion City Court may not be the

right decision to make.”

If the city court were to close, responsibility for the court’s current caseload likely would shift to county government. One possibility would be the appointment of a magistrate who would work under the jurisdiction of one of the four county courts.

Family Service Society, Inc.



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