

# THE NEWS HERALD

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## DEATHS

Week of Oct. 20-26

**Loa Marlene Cole**  
**1936-2020**

Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, Storey Chapel, on Tuesday, October 20 at 1 pm. Burial followed at Riverside Cemetery.

**Jesse Williams, Jr.**  
**1942-2020**

Funeral services were held at Greater Second Baptist Church, Marion, on Saturday, October 24 at 11 am. Burial followed at Grant Memorial Park.

**Ronald Wayne Sapp**  
**1933-2020**

Funeral services were held at Eastview Wesleyan Church, Gas City, on Saturday, October 24 at 12 pm. Burial followed at Riverside Cemetery.

**Vanessa L. Blessing**  
**1961-2020**

Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, Storey Chapel, on Tuesday, October 27 at 1 pm. Burial followed at Grant Memorial Park.

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## INDIANA QUIZ

Test your knowledge about "Hoosier President" Benjamin Harrison. True or False?

1. Benjamin Harrison served in the Civil War.
2. He served as Governor of Indiana.
3. He was a United States Senator from Indiana.
4. He was the first President to have electricity in the White House.
5. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Answers on page 6



# Mayor vetoes recent ordinances

By Sean Douglas

For the first time in his five-year tenure as the City of Marion's Mayor, Jess Alumbaugh announced on Friday at City Hall that he would be vetoing three recent General Ordinances adopted by the Marion Common Council back on October 13, continuing what has been months of strife and discord between the two governing bodies.

Alumbaugh stated that he, as the Mayor of Marion, is the authorized representative to distribute the CARES Act Funds, and that these ordinances "attempt to distribute the City's share of CARES Act Coronavirus Relief funds in a way

that are illegal" and "violate the separation of powers doctrine set forth in the Indiana Code."

The ordinances put forth by the Marion Common Council provide for across-the-board salary increases for maintenance employees and all members of the fire and police departments. However, Alumbaugh stated that according to the United States Treasury department and the Indiana Finance Authority, reimbursement is only for employees who are substantially dedicated to specific, identifiable COVID-19 related mitigation or COVID emergency and response activity.

A recent IFA guidance of Sep-

tember 25 stated that "across-the-board for employees working during the state emergency would not be considered eligible." Therefore, according to Alumbaugh, Marion's firefighters, police force, and maintenance workers cannot receive hazard pay.

Alumbaugh continued, saying that the Council's attempt to increase the compensation of selected employees set in 2019 for 2020 is a clear violation of the Indiana Code. The Council is not authorized to increase the 2020 budget after-the-fact. Additionally, no public hearing was conducted before the Council acted on October 13, as required by

Indiana Law.

The ordinances ask for city controller, Julie Flores, to pay these increases "from any source available, including remaining funds from 2020...or by additional appropriation in 2021." This mandate, according to Alumbaugh, is a violation of the Indiana Code which says that before a council may appropriate more money than provided in the budget, the council must publish notice in the newspaper of the additional appropriation 10 days before a public hearing, and after the hearing, the council is

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Westminster Preschool officials christened their second location on Thursday evening. The new location plans to open in early November. Photo by Sean Douglas

# Preschool celebrates opening 2nd site

By Sean Douglas

After 50 years of service in the Marion community, Westminster Preschool celebrated the grand opening of their second location on the grounds of Lakeview Wesleyan Church with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday afternoon.

While the school is not officially open yet, the new location passed all state guidelines and will begin operations once it receives its registration. Danielle Svantner, Executive Director of Westminster Preschool, hopes that they will be fully operational by the second week of November,

giving the staff time to train and acclimate to their new surroundings.

Since its inception, Westminster Preschool provides a Christian atmosphere that supports children's growth and development as lifelong learners in a safe and caring environment. The school focuses on six main learning centers: literacy, creative arts and music, blocks and building, discovery, math, cognitive thinking, and dramatic play.

Additionally, Westminster is a play-based program, geared toward hands-on activities, while at the same time allowing children to learn and play at their own

pace.

"We pride ourselves on our social-emotional curriculum and taking the time to get to know our families and our kids," Svantner said. "Academics are important, and I want my kids to go to kindergarten, with those skills, but self-regulation management and character building and learning love for Jesus is so much more important to us."

"We have an amazing staff. At least half of our teachers have degrees or are working on their degrees in early childhood specifically. "This isn't a watered-down elementary school - it's a

developmentally appropriate preschool for this age group that celebrates young children instead of pushing them into things they aren't ready for."

With the success of Westminster Preschool, evident by increasing class sizes since its inception, talks of opening a second location had been ongoing for a while, and this year, the school finally acted on their vision.

"By the grace of God, we have always been full over there," Svantner said. "We have been looking for a larger space, so we were looking at building or creat-

ing a different avenue, and this came about. A north and a south location just makes sense. We have a really good growth mindset, and we have an amazing team that has worked really well together to make this happen."

Along with their normal curriculum, Westminster will be adding American Sign Language and Spanish, as well as working with a local nonprofit in town, Lark Song, who specializes in positivity training and coaching.

The original location on West Jeffras Avenue has

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