

Happy Thanksgiving!

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DEATHS

Death Notices for Week of November 17-23

Keith R. Jones
1973-2020
Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, North Chapel, on Friday, November 20 at 1 pm. Burial followed at Grant Memorial Park.

Theodore "Ted" F. Wohlheter
1931-2020
Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, North Chapel, on Monday, November 23 at 1 pm. Burial followed at Gardens of Memory.

Rosanna P. Bloxson
1918-2020
Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, North Chapel, on Thursday, November 19 at 1 pm. Burial followed at Greenlawn Cemetery in Mexico, IN.

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INDIANA QUIZ

All of the songs below, except one, were composed by Hoagy Carmichael. Which one did not come from his talented pen?

Georgia on My Mind
Stardust
Skylark
Heart and Soul
Two Sleepy People
Lazybones
Back Home Again in Indiana
Old Buttermilk Sky
The Nearness of You
In the Cool Cool Cool of the Evening
Can't Get Indiana Off My Mind
Up A Lazy River

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High Court hears YMCA case

By Ed Breen

The City of Marion had its 20 minutes last week to tell the Indiana Supreme Court why it should be allowed to pursue its lawsuit against several defendants in the long-disputed "Old YMCA" case in Marion.

And, likewise, lawyers for the city's former consultants, the London Witte Group, Indianapolis, argued Thursday they were not at fault in the misuse of \$2.5 million spent on the never-completed renovation of the old YMCA on W. Third

Street in Marion.

Now both will await a decision from the five-member court, a decision that likely will not be made until late winter or early spring of next year. It is a decision which will either end Mayor Jess Alumbaugh's legal pursuit of London Witte Group, Chad Seybold and the estate of the late Michael An, or return it to a Grant County court for a full trial.

The state Supreme Court agreed to hear the case several months ago after the state appeals court upheld

the ruling by Judge Warren Haas in Grant Superior Court 3 that the City's legal action had come too late, that the statute of limitations had expired. Thursday's oral arguments before the court were made on Zoom, since the court and other Statehouse offices have been closed by COVID.

The action by the Supreme Court was based on one legal point: That the time limitations under the law were too restrictive because the administration of the previous mayor, Wayne

Seybold, would not have taken legal action against itself during the appropriate time.

Derek Molter, a lawyer in the Ice Miller firm in Indianapolis, which has been hired by the City of Marion to argue on its behalf, summed up the situation inherited by Mayor Alumbaugh this way:

"This doctrine fits these facts just like a glove," he said of the "adverse domination" concept.

"London Witte was negligent in not giving the city critical advice at the out-

set."

"The best factual evidence of this is that every time a subordinate city employee brought up a concern related to this project, the city's efforts died at the feet of the mayor or his family. So when Darren Reese, for example, the director of development, brought up the obvious concern of the city investing \$2.5 million in a project that the mayor's brother would be overseeing, the mayor said that's not the city's business; we don't

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State Farm Agent Nick McKinley (right of check) presents \$25,000 check to Brain Kitchen students at Allen Elementary Wednesday. Photo by Sean Douglas

Brain Kitchen gets \$25,000 grant

By Sean Douglas

At the end of September and into early October, The Brain Kitchen, a Marion-based, non-profit organization that works with children in an after-school setting, was selected as a Top 200 finalist in State Farm's Neighborhood Assist program.

Each year, the State Farm Neighborhood Assist program doles out \$1,000,000 to 40 deserving organizations out of a pool of 200, each of whom receive a \$25,000 grant.

Due to the tireless efforts of Marion State Farm Agent Nick McKinley, his team, and the city of Marion, The Brain Kitchen ended the initiative as a top-40 finalist, and was awarded a \$25,000 check in a special ceremony at Allen Elementary School on Wednesday afternoon.

"What I love about it is you have a local business that has set an idea that, 'I can make my community better,'" Indiana District 31 Representative

Ann Vermilion said. "[Nick] and all the employees at State Farm knew that if we got this, it would impact children in our community. [This grant] is such a wonderful asset to the Brain Kitchen and to Marion Community Schools. This is just a win-win, and gosh knows that we need these positive stories."

During the finalist selection process, McKinley encouraged the Marion community to vote, primarily through Facebook, for such a worthy organization like The Brain Kitchen, and the Marion community certainly stepped up to the plate.

"It feels fantastic to know that the community came together, put these votes in, and now, the Brain Kitchen gets \$25,000 simply because the community decided to vote online," McKinley said. "It was that simple. A couple of extra votes online put us over the edge to get this \$25,000 grant. I'm ecstatic for the Brain Kitchen, because this \$25,000 is going

to do a lot for them."

Founded in 2016 by Gary Herrington and Amanda Drury, The Brain Kitchen is held two days a week, Thursday and Friday, in the Jay House, a building owned by the Marion Public Library, which sits in the corner of the library parking lot.

The Jay House is sectioned into three unique functional areas: movement, activities, kitchen. In the movement room, kids are engaged in a variety of activities to promote active brains and bodies. In the room, students read or receive help with their homework. In the kitchen, students are taught about food preparation, how to use kitchen tools like a can opener, and basic cooking skills.

"It's incredibly humbling," Drury said. "When this was first brought to my attention, it seemed like a pipe dream. I really didn't think anything would come of it. But then we just kept getting further and further in the

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City Hall closes due to COVID

On Thursday, the City of Marion announced that all City Hall offices will be closed to public access due to the significant increase in COVID-19 related cases. All departments will continue to perform City business as usual. However, any business with City departments shall be conducted by telephone, email, fax or Zoom meetings.

Until further notice, the Building Department will continue to process and issue building permit requests in an effort to continue construction activity by appointment only. Anyone with an appointment will need to call 765-662-9931 upon arriving at City Hall. The employee you made the appointment with will come down and meet you at the front door and take your temperature. You MUST have a mask on to enter the building.

The Transportation Department terminal will remain closed. Bus service from this location will not be available. Buses will continue to provide ADA service by appointment only for transportation to

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