

THE NEWS HERALD

Grant County Life

50 cents

Volume 52, Number 36

A Hometown Media, Inc. Publication.

Nov. 4-10, 2020

DEATHS

October 27-November 2
Sharon Kay Fannin
1938-2020

Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, North Chapel, on Friday, October 30 at 1 pm. Burial followed at Gardens of Memory, Marion.

Melody Ann Barlow
1954-2020

Funeral services will be held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, Storey Chapel, on Friday, November 6 with Reverend Jeremy Armiger officiating. Burial followed at Elm Ridge Cemetery, Muncie.

Phyllis Jean Harper
1939-2020

Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, North Chapel, on Saturday, October 31 at 2 pm. Burial followed at Gardens of Memory, Marion.

Rita Fay Hueston
1958-2020

Funeral services were held at Armes-Hunt Funeral Home, Fairmount, on Wednesday, October 28 at 6 pm. Cremation followed.

Judith S. Poling
1938-2020

Funeral services were held at Park Cemetery,

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INDIANA QUIZ

Can you name these official symbols of Indiana?

1. The state bird
2. The state flower
3. The state insect
4. The state song

Answers on page 3



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Republicans sweep Grant County

By Sean Douglas

As expected, Republicans pulled off a clean sweep in Grant County in all major elections, as Marion and surrounding areas stood firm in their conservative roots.

In total, 27,519 ballots were cast in Grant County, including 12,681 on Election Day. Additionally, 14,838 absentee ballots were also cast over the course of the 2020 election cycle.

Grant County voted overwhelmingly for President Donald Trump at 68.1 percent (18,543), while Democratic nominee Joe Biden received just 29.4 percent of the votes (8,015). Furthermore, 62.3 percent of Grant County voters (18,266) voted for incumbent Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb, while 69.8 percent voted for Republican Todd Rokita in the attorney general race.

For the elections for state representative Districts 18, 30, 31, and 32, Republicans won big. Craig Snow won easily in District 18 (1,463 to 348) over Chad Harris, Mike Karickhoff won 69.5 percent of the votes (2,225 to 988) in Dis-



trict 19 over Dylan McHenry, Ann Vermilion was unopposed in District 31, and Anthony Cook defeated Amie Neil- ing 4,576 to 1,316, good for 77.6 percent of the vote.

Along with Vermilion, Jeff Todd (Judge of the Superior Court No. 1),

Jason McVicker (Judge of the Superior Court No. 3), Kathy D. Foy (County Recorder), Tiffany N. Griffith (County Treasurer), and James D. Todd (County Surveyor) all were re-elected and unopposed.

Along with that, Republicans Ron

Mowery, Sr. and Mark E. Bardsley were re-elected as Grant County Commissioners in Districts 1 and 2, respectively, while Republicans Shane E. Middlesworth, Chuck Poling, and Mike Roorbach were voted County Council At-Large.

In school board elections, Patrick R. Pinkerton was re-elected in Eastbrook District 4, while Daniel E. Spencer won 62.4 percent of the vote (1,881 to 1,133) over Bradley Dillon in District 5.

At Madison-Grant, Mary Jo Brunt was elected in District 5, while Amanda Kelich ran unopposed in District 6.

Brooke Thomas, Mary L. Prows, and Todd Nicholson were victorious in Marion District 2, 3, and 5, running unopposed while Wayne Gaskin was re-elected in Mississinewa District 1. In District 4, William Cunningham and Jarrett Richards were both victorious, ousting incumbent Terry Fratus.

Finally, at Oak Hill, Teresa Shafer was elected to District 2, while Aaron Pickering defeated David Bettegnies (1,193 to 1,018) in District 5.

Experts propose removal of Charles Mill dam

By Ed Breen

The century-old landscape of Marion's riverfront on the Mississinewa may be about to change.

Or not.

Meeting last week in a public session, environmental and engineering experts proposed that the time has come to remove the 290-foot-wide concrete Charles Mill dam, which has barricaded the river since it was built as a WPA project in the 1930s during Depression years. A previous dam, built in the 1830s, had retained the water for a century earlier to power grain mills which had been on the site since Riley Marshall built a grain mill there in 1834 when Marion was two years old.

The dam, which is deteriorating and costs city government about \$24,000 a year for debris removal, has been unused for about 75 years, ever since it ceased to be used to provide consistent water flow to power the grain mill which sat on the east back of the river at the dam, first known as Thomas Milling and later as Charles Mill. All that remains of the mill is the skeletal structure of the

building that is now The Mill restaurant. There have been past discussions of removal, most recently in the Ron Mowery mayoral years in the 1990s, but none received funding.

While it no longer provides power, it does retain the water to form a pond which extends south and east through downtown Marion before narrowing again to the natural width of the river, about 175 feet.

Its continued presence is deterring the environmental life of the stream, according to Dr. Jerry Sweeten, a retired professor of environmental science at Manchester University. Sweeten is familiar with both the river and the city of Marion. He is a former Marion High School science teacher who was director of the Asherwood project, an outdoor education program run by the Marion school system in the 1970s and '80s.

Sweeten is now affiliated with a Denver, Ind., company named Ecosystems Connections Institute, which is privately owned and focuses on study of streams and the removal of dams on Indiana rivers and



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Charles Mill Dam on the Mississinewa River in Marion. **Photo by Ed Breen**