

# Marion Community Schools restrict event attendance due to COVID

With a record number of COVID-19 cases in Grant County in October, and the rate of new cases still increasing, Marion Community Schools announced a restriction on attendance at school events through November 28.

Student participants in each team or group (both



home and visiting teams) will have tickets to assign to immediate family members as their guests for each event.

For events in Bill Green Arena, each student participant on the home team will have up to six tickets to assign to family members. The visiting team will be provided up to two tickets per student participant.

For events in the Walton Performing Arts Center, the number of tickets will de-

pend on the number of student participants in a particular event. (Events with more student participants may need a lower ticket number to keep crowd size at a safe number.)

For smaller venues (the Marion High School pool and other gymnasiums and auditoriums throughout the

district), student participants will have up to two tickets to assign to family members.

Masks are required for spectators, coaches, and student participants (with exceptions for student participants when masks are not possible due to specific activity). Social distancing

will also be expected, with family household groups able to sit together. Children are expected to sit with their family group at all times.

Marion Community Schools asks that the community continue to wear masks and maintain social distancing any time they are outside of their own homes

# Marion Coin Club holds fall show at 4-H Fairgrounds

By Sean Douglas

Since its humble beginnings in 1958, the Marion Coin Club has spent the last 62 years fostering a passion for coin collecting in and amongst the Grant County community. On Saturday, the club held one of its two biggest events of the year, hosting their 13<sup>th</sup> annual Fall Coin Show at the Grant County 4-H Fairgrounds, giving coin enthusiasts of all ages a chance to browse, buy, and sell historic and valuable currency.

The Marion Coin Club meets monthly to educate members and other interested parties about coin collecting and at the same time provide an opportunity to connect with others who may hold the same interests. Additionally, each meeting includes a coin auction.

“You can just tell by looking around that there are quite a few folks here,” Marion Coin Club President Jose Perez said. “There is an interest, particularly in Marion. The Marion Coin Club is thriving. We have more members now than we did in the last five years. We’ve had five years of steady growth.”

Every year since the club’s inception, they have held a coin show in the spring, which takes place each March. But as the popularity of coin collecting grew, the club felt the need to add a second show 13 years ago to give coin collectors more opportunities to expand their collection and conduct business.

In all, 29 dealers from all over the Midwest, including Indiana, Ohio and Michigan, set up shop around the

main building at the Grant County 4-H Fairgrounds. There were all kinds of items on display, including gold and silver bullion, foreign coins, tokens, United States bills of varying value, and coins from all different eras, including coins from the 1600s and 1700s, providing collectors a variety of currency to choose from.

In previous years, roughly 300-400 people attended, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, attendance was down. Still, Marion Coin Club President Jose Perez stated that over 200 people attended the event through the course of the day.

While some items are just for show, most of the coins and currency on display were on sale to the public. Those looking to start a collection or find that one elu-



Coins displayed at the show.

sive coin for their collection had a chance to discover what they were looking for among the 60 tables set up around the building.

“Most of the stuff that you see is for sale,” Perez said. “There are one or two display items that are clearly marked for display, but these folks are here to sell coins.”

The event works well for both parties involved. Dealers keep the profits made



Eventgoers taking a look at some coins to add to their collection. **Photos by Sean Douglas**

off the selling of their wares, while the Marion Coin Club takes what they make off raffles and other activities and invest it into the Marion community.

“It definitely helps the economy for one, and it promotes education and

learning. Those are some of the immediate benefits,” Perez said. “Hopefully, the younger generations will develop some interest in this.”

The Marion Coin Club Spring Show is scheduled Saturday, March 20, 2021.

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course of the year.

“All of the money that we raise, including the booth rent, the Chinese auction, and then the raffle, all of that money goes back into (AmVets Post 5) and we sponsor veterans at the VA,” Cook said. “We take care of

them all year.”

The Post does several different things to help veterans, including home repair and helping with basic living expenses, as well as providing gifts for them on special occasions. For example, the Post is able to spend \$250

on each veteran for Christmas, and an additional \$150 dollars on their birthday.

In all, the AmVets Post 5 Christmas Bazaar aims to put people in the Christmas spirit, as well as make sure veterans are taken care of throughout the holiday season and beyond.

“I don’t believe that people tend to think of veterans,” Cook concluded. “Veterans go over there, serve our country, and keep us safe. We want to be able to do things for (them.) That is what’s important. It’s just time that people wake up and think about the veterans. Not just on Veterans Day, (but) 365 days a year.”

302 East Fourth St. • Marion, IN 46952






**Suzy Shaffer**  
Owner

-Contact Suzy, Brian, or Cecil-

**765-664-6460**

mariontire@bestoneofmarion.com



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