

THE NEWS HERALD

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DEATHS

Week of Dec. 8-14

Betty Irene Oakerson
1922-2020
Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, North Chapel, on Wednesday, Dec. 9 at 1:30 pm. Burial followed at Estate of Serenity.

Ruth E. Lauer
1949-2020
Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, North Chapel, on Friday, Dec. 11 at 6 pm.

Theresa M. Tegarden
1934-2020
The family held a private visitation and funeral service. Burial took place at IOOF Cemetery, Hartford City.

Barbara Sue Miller
1936-2020
Funeral services were held at St. James Lutheran Church, Marion, on Tuesday, Dec. 8 at 11 am. Burial followed at Gardens of Memory.

Betty J. Lindley
1922-2020
Graveside services were held at Gardens of Memory, Marion, on Tuesday, Dec. 15, at 2 pm.

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INDIANA QUIZ

1. In what Spencer County town will you find a 40-ton 22-foot statue of Santa Claus?
2. The motion picture "A Christmas Story" is based upon author Jean Shepherd's childhood in what Indiana city?
3. Which Indiana governor had the tradition each year of reading "The Night Before Christmas" to children at the Statehouse?

Answers on page 3



One child chats with Santa about his Christmas wish list as his dad looks on. Photo by Sean Douglas

Van Buren has 'Cocoa with Santa'

By Sean Douglas

The Van Buren Fire Department building was brimming with Christmas cheer, smiling children, and delicious treats on Saturday afternoon as the Popcorn Festival Committee hosted their third annual Cocoa with Santa event.

Looking for another way to raise money for their annual Van Buren Popcorn Festival each summer, the Popcorn Festival Committee established this event three years ago as a way to continue to fund their most

popular event of the year, as well as provide Christmas cheer and fun to the families of the Van Buren community.

"With the Popcorn Festival Committee, we are always looking for donations to [be able] to put the festival on every year," committee member Mark Towery said. "We decided we needed something in the offseason at Christmas time for people here in Van Buren."

Throughout the afternoon, various types of cookies, as well as hot chocolate, were

available for all who attended. Additionally, vote boxes were set up with pictures of homes that took part in the annual Christmas Light contest, and for a penny, people could vote for which house they thought boasted the best Christmas decorations. After only a few homes participated last year, a total of nine participated in this year's event.

"I think people wanted to get out and put their lights out this year because of all the stuff going on," Towery said.

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Code Enforcement Committee begins discussion on ordinance

By Sean Douglas

With the ever-growing issue of illegally parked and abandoned vehicles on properties across the city, Marion's Code Enforcement Committee Meeting began discussing a new ordinance for the establishment and enforcement of parking in residential districts and the use of public right-of-ways in their latest

meeting on Thursday.

This new ordinance would replace and update City of Marion, Indiana Code of Ordinances, Chapter 90, which addresses abandoned and/or parking of vehicles.

"What we would like to do is take some of what is in this ordinance and put it into a new ordinance that



Several illegally parked vehicles in a side yard in Marion. Photo provided by Code Enforcement Department

COVID-19 vaccines making way to Grant County

By Sean Douglas

With the COVID-19 virus continuing to leave its mark in Marion and throughout Grant County, long-awaited relief may finally be on the way.

According to Marion General Hospital Director of Nursing Cindy Futrell and Dr. Shinkaran Srikanth, COVID-19 vaccines, courtesy of Pfizer and Moderna, could be available as early as next week.

After applying and being approved for an Emergency Use Authorization, Pfizer and Moderna's vaccine has already been administered in other countries, such as the United Kingdom, yielding positive results. While there were a few side effects, including a drop in blood pressure and some minor, brief breathing difficulties in a few cases, Srikanth and Futrell stated that the vaccine is safe for most people to take, the lone exception being those who have had adverse reactions to vaccinations in the past.

"This is just a dream," Srikanth said in the latest Grant County COVID-19 business update meeting on Thursday. "None of us thought they could come up with a vaccine this quickly, this efficient, and with so few side effects."

Srikanth reassured the entire community that it is a safe bet to get the vaccine,



claiming that it is a better alternative than contracting the virus as there's no telling how someone will react to the virus. Additionally, the vaccine, according to recent data being produced, is highly effective.

Marion General Hospital is still quite busy with the influx of COVID-19 patients, according to Futrell. However, the B'MAB medication, an antibody administered by IV and tested and proved to be beneficial to those who are more at-risk patients, has helped tremendously in the continued fight against COVID-19, and they plan to continue to use it in conjunction with the vaccine.

"We are seeing good results," Futrell said. "We have given several doses to several people and it had a really good, positive turnaround on those patients."

While the news of a vaccine is a welcome one in what has been a tumultuous few months, Futrell, along with Grant County Public Health Officer Dr. David Moore, encouraged residents of Grant County to continue to follow all protocols. Cases are continuing to skyrocket around the country, and Indiana has been no exception.

As he previously stated,

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