

# THE NEWS HERALD

Grant County Life

50 cents

Volume 52, Number 39

A Hometown Media, Inc. Publication.

Dec. 2-8, 2020

## DEATHS

### November 24-30

#### Donna M. Royce 1935-2020

Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, Storey Chapel, on Wednesday, November 25 at 11:30 am. Burial followed at Gardens of Memory, Marion.

#### Vivian Marie Pyles 1926-2020

Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, North Chapel, on Monday, November 30 at 1 pm. Burial followed at Grant Memorial Park.

#### Evelyn Burnice Craig 1923-2020

A private graveside service to celebrate Craig's life was held at Gardens of Memory, Marion.

#### Barbara M. Pyle 1929-2020

Funeral services were held at Bethel Friends Church, Jonesboro, on Friday, November 27 at 2 pm. Burial followed at

See Deaths, Page 3

## INDIANA QUIZ

Use the clues below to identify these Hoosiers with December birthdays. Their initials are also provided.

1. Indiana Governor in the 1990s and later a United States Senator (E B)
2. Famous violinist and conductor born in Bloomington (J B)
3. Basketball legend from French Lick (L B)
4. Chief Justice of the Indiana Supreme Court from 1987 to 2012 (R S)

Answers on page 3



## Health official criticizes county's COVID situation

By Ed Breen

Grant County's top public health official delivered his harshest judgment so far on the county's failure to contain the COVID-19 virus in an interview Friday.

"It is like watching an avalanche that can't be stopped," said Dr. David Moore, who assumed the top health job in the county only months before the onset of the coronavirus. He laid part of the blame for the skyrocketing spread with public officials who he believes have been timid in urging greater protective care. "It cannot be stopped until we do the right things," he said.

He went out of his way, however, to exclude schools in Grant County from his



Dr. David Moore

criticism.

Dr. Moore, who, along with his wife, is currently recovering from COVID-19, said school children and education officials have done an outstanding job of following the instructions on masking and social distancing.

"It is the adults who introduce the infection from the outside that are causing the problems."

He cited schools at all levels and professional sports teams as examples of proof that the spread of the virus can be controlled and contained through collective effort and focus.

Dr. Moore spoke within days after the status of Grant County's virus contamination was elevated from "orange" to "red" alert by state health officials. Seventeen of the state's 92 counties are in the "red" category, and are thus subject to greater controls by the state. Attendance in public places such as restaurants and bars is now limited to 25 per cent of capacity. In addition to Grant

County, contiguous and nearby counties now listed as "red" are Blackford, Whitley and Wabash counties. Rush County is the lone county in the state remaining in the low-level "yellow" category.

"The single most important thing we can do in Grant County is wear masks in any public places," the physician said Friday, and he urged public officials to ratchet up the message to the public.

"These people are in leadership roles in the city and county. We have put them there by electing them to office and now is the time that they must lead," Dr. Moore said.

He also urged continued use of testing and urged people to go to the Faulkner

Center on W. 12<sup>th</sup> Street in Marion to be tested. There is no charge for the state-administered tests and, while walk-ins are permitted, they prefer advance scheduling by calling 888-634-1116. Results are available in several days, but have been slowed by heavy response.

Marion's City Hall was again ordered closed last week by Mayor Jess Alumbaugh. While most city employees are at work in the building at Third and Branson Streets, it is closed to the public. Some county offices are working with reduced staffs, but the buildings remain accessible. The city hall was closed for about four months earlier in the year.

See COVID Page 2

## Borderman Park decorated for Christmas

By Sean Douglas

With Thanksgiving firmly in the rearview mirror, Grant County is getting ready for the Christmas season.

Burgeoning Christmas decorations on homes and lawns are creating a festive feel throughout Grant County communities, and the town of Converse on the west side of the county is no exception. For the second year in a row, the citizens of Converse gathered together at Borderman Park, working together to bring Christmas spirit to the town.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the town was unable to get involved with the project, so Lake and his team took the reins. Along with Mier resident Richard Skinner, who donated many of the items used in the event, the residents of Converse also got involved, donating lights, ornaments, and various other decorations to the cause.

"We asked for donations — all kinds of decorations, whether they worked or not," event organizer Sam Lake said. "We got quite a few, and it's all coming to

*"When people come by here and look at this, hopefully they will have hope," Lake said.*

*"That's the main thing: to have hope in our nation, our country, and our being as Americans."*

**Sam Lake  
Event organizer**

gether. It's working out really well."

An eclectic array of holiday decorations adorns the park, creating a festive feel, while maintaining space for children to play. Lights cover the pavilion in the center of the park, and surrounding trees, while Mickey Mouse, penguins on sleds, reindeer, and Christmas trees add a whimsical touch.

People came and went throughout the day, according to Lake, providing a helping hand, and fellowship, to all who participated.

"It's a community thing," Lake said. "We are trying to do our best to lift

Christ up. We just hope that people have hope. It's just a thing that we want to do for the town."

With Grant County, the state of Indiana, and the United States of America continuing to suffer through a tumultuous 2020, Christmas spirit could be at an all-time low. However, the town of Converse is doing its part to provide a little light this holiday season.

"When people come by here and look at this, hopefully they will have hope," Lake said. "That's the main thing: to have hope in our nation, our country, and our being as Americans."



Decorations adorned Borderman Park on Saturday morning. **Photo by Sean Douglas**