

THE NEWS HERALD

Grant County Life

50 cents

Volume 52, Number 40

A Hometown Media, Inc. Publication.

December 9-15 2020

DEATHS

Week of December 1-7

Myron C. Shinholt

1943-2020

Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, Storey Chapel, on Friday, December 4, at 11 am. Burial at Gardens of Memory.

Beverly R. English

1943-2020

The family will host a private service.

George Sanford "Sandy" Wilkins

1924-2020

Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, North Chapel, on Thursday, December 10 at 10 am. Burial followed at Gardens of Memory with full military honors.

Paul D. Reed

1934-2020

A private family service was held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, North Chapel.

Rebecca Richard

1936-2020

Funeral services were held at Greater New Light Baptist Church, Marion, on Monday, December 7 at 1 pm. Burial followed at Grant Memorial Park.

Sharon K. Maddox

1949-2020

A private service was held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, North Chapel. Burial at Grant Memorial Park.

See Deaths, Page 3

INDIANA QUIZ

Indiana Quick Quiz

1. Why are there 19 stars on the Indiana State Flag?

2. What role did Schuyler Colfax play in the administration of President Ulysses S. Grant?

3. What sports venue in Indianapolis is named for Major Taylor?

Answers on page 3



An artist's rendering of what the new hospital will look like in Gas City. Photo by Ed Breen

New hospital planned in Gas City

Marion General Hospital facility expected to open in 2022

By Ed Breen

Marion General Hospital is going to build an \$80 million, four-story, 24-bed hospital at the junction of Ind. 22 and I-69 east of Gas City.

The disclosure of the major medical development came Wednesday from Gas City Mayor Bill Rock, who said the development will create 100 new hospital jobs and open the area east

of Gas City for further business development.

It is to be located northeast of the intersection of the interstate and Ind. 22, north of the Cracker Barrel restaurant and east of the long-defunct James Dean Museum. It is to be built on 16 acres currently owned by Sam Thompson and Dr. Patel.

Construction is expected to begin in early 2021, with a completion and opening

in mid-2022, the Gas City mayor said.

The plan was unveiled in a meeting in Gas City Tuesday evening that included Rock, members of the Gas City Council, the Gas City Board of Works and other community leaders. Presentation of the plan was made by Stephanie Hilton-Siebert, chief executive officer of the hospital, accompanied by Tim Dailley, president of the hospi-

tal board of directors.

"There had been talk about this as long as 16 years ago," Rock said in confirming a social media post on Facebook early Wednesday.

"It totally changes things for orthopedic and sports medicine for Gas City and the eastern part of Grant County," he said, indicating that a municipal sports complex may be developed near the new hospital site.

The structure, which would be visible from I-69, would create the only medical facility along the 100 mile stretch of interstate between northeast Indianapolis in the Fishers area and Fort Wayne.

It also would be within two miles of the new Mississinewa and Gas City auditorium, a project for which bids have recently been taken. It is to be on the

Continued on Page 3

Business, healthcare leaders give update on COVID-19 pandemic

By Sean Douglas

With COVID-19 positive cases on the rise in Grant County, business leaders, medical professionals, and several school superintendents met via Zoom on Thursday afternoon, to discuss the challenges they continue to face and their responses to the ongoing health crisis.

For the second week in row, Dr. David Moore, Grant County's Public Health Director, led the discussion. Continued on Page 9

Mayor issues COVID-related executive order

On Monday afternoon, Marion Mayor Jess Alumbaugh announced Executive Order 2020-E0-4, which, once again, requires certain city employees to work remotely during a declared emergency.

According to the executive order, Alumbaugh stated that with COVID-19, Continued on Pg. 9



Passing out sweet treats & holiday cheer: Santa got in on the action, too, serving donuts and other treats to the community during a socially distanced Breakfast With Santa on Saturday, Dec. 5, at Matter Park. The event was sponsored by Miller's Merry Manor. For the complete story, see Page 2.

Photo by Sean Douglas