

# Pair arrested on child molestation, neglect charges

On March 18, 2020, Marion Police Department investigated a complaint of improper touching of an 11-year-old child. A forensic interview was conducted with the child and there was no disclosure by the child.

On Dec. 23, 2020, Department of Child Services contacted the Marion Police and stated that there was a new report of the touching of the same child. A second forensic interview was conducted and the child disclosed that she allegedly had been inappropriately touched by Jason Collins, 44, of Marion. During the interview, the child advised that a 12-year-old living in the residence had



Jason Collins, left, and Angela Whitt, right, were arrested Saturday on multiple charges of child molestation and neglect.

also been inappropriately touched. The child also stated that Collins' girlfriend, Angela Whitt, 44, of Marion, allegedly knew that the activity was being con-

ducted.

On Dec. 29, 2020, the second child was removed from the residence by DCS. A forensic interview was conducted on the 12-year-old

child. During this interview, no disclosure was given.

On Jan. 5, DCS reported to Marion Police that the 12-year-old had disclosed to another adult of allegedly being inappropriately touched by Collins.

On Jan. 14, a second forensic interview was conducted. During the interview, the child disclosed that she had been inappropriately touched by Collins on more than one occasion. The child also stated that Whitt knew what was taking place and participated in the conduct.

On Jan. 16, Marion Police Department applied for a search warrant for the residence of 2225 W. 8th St.,

Marion. Superior Court III Judge Jason McVicker approved the warrant and it was executed around 3:30 p.m. Collins was located hiding in the residence. He was arrested and transported to Grant County Jail.

Whitt was located at her place of employment and arrested also. She, too, was transported to the Grant County Jail.

The following criminal charges were placed on Collins and Whitt:

Collins is charged with: Child Molest – Two counts – Level 1 Felony; Child Molest – One count – Level 4 Felony; Child Neglect – One count – Level 6 Felony; and

Incest – One count – Level 4 Felony.

Whitt is charged with: Conspiracy to Commit Child Molest – Level 1 Felony, and Child Neglect – Level 6 Felony.

## Correction

In last week's story, "Long-term control plan on to next stage," it was inadvertently reported that the Marion Common Council would "in essence, would take over the payment of the bills" if the new ordinances are passed.

With the passing of these ordinances, the Common Council would pre-approve anything over \$5,000 before the service is acquired. After the product or service is acquired, the invoices would go to the city controller, and then to the Board of Works for payment. Any bills under \$5,000, and any that address salary, benefits, the Board of Aviation, police, and fire, to name a few, would be processed and paid by the Board of Works, as usual.

## Metal

the amount of property taxes they pay, but merely phasing in the increase in property taxes borrowed by new investment."

With this new investment by Wiley, the new jobs will be anywhere from entry level to high-level engineering positions.

"The skill set requirement for those jobs is anywhere from a pair of hands, basically...all the way up to engineers who need an engineering degree of some

sort," Wiley Metal President and CEO Ed Wiley said. "We have two of those we are looking for, all the way up to CNC (Computer Numerical Control) machine operator."

Wiley Metal has been a family-owned business in Marion for nearly 40 years. Ed, together with his brother, Rob, own the business, and Ed's sons, Ben and Mike, also work in the business as well, and they hope to be in Marion for years to come.

Furthermore, because of these new jobs, Wiley Metal will be upgrading some of their equipment used in their everyday functions.

"The new equipment we have coming in is a laser system," Wiley said. "We buy sheets, flat sheets, of steel and aluminum, and the laser system cuts them into smaller pieces. This is the latest, greatest technology. This will cut [sheets] at 1,500 inches a minute, so it's multiple times faster than

what we've got right now, so it will keep us competitive and allow us to get into new work and keep up with the times."

Wiley is putting together a purchase order for one of these machines, and is hoping to both purchase and install it in the next month or so. Additional as well as features, will be added in the coming months once they become available.

"I appreciate their investment into our town and our

community," committee member Gary Fordyce Jr. said. "They've been a great steward and customer and manufacturing, and I appreciate them. I am in full favor of it."

The resolution was passed with a unanimous recommendation to be heard by the Marion Common Council.

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## Deaths

p.m. Burial followed at Gardens of Memory, Marion.

**Roy Dale Eib**  
1928-2021

Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, Storey Chapel, on Friday, Jan. 15, at 1 p.m. Burial followed at Riverside Cemetery.

**Mark V. Bennett**  
1962-2021

Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, Storey Chapel, on Wednesday, Jan. 20, at 1 p.m. Burial followed at Grant Memorial Park.

**Emery Bailey, Sr.**  
1950-2021

Funeral services were held at Armes-Hunt Funeral Home, Marion, on Wednesday, Jan. 13, at 1 p.m. Burial followed at Grant Memorial Park.

**Charles Whitaker**  
1961-2021  
In accordance with Whitaker's wishes, no services will be held.

**Ruth Barton**  
1928-2021

A private family service will be held with a future

burial in Waretown, NJ.

**Donald K. Walz**  
1933-2021

Funeral services were held at Armes-Hunt Funeral Home, Upland, on Monday, Jan. 18, at 2 p.m. Burial followed at Jefferson Cemetery.

**Iona Jean Bain**  
1934-2021

Funeral services were held at Armes-Hunt Funeral Home, Marion, on Saturday, Jan. 16, at 1 p.m. Burial followed at Gardens of Memory.

**Helen Heiny**  
1932-2021

Funeral services were held at Armes-Hunt Funeral Home, Upland, on Friday,

Jan. 15, at noon.

**James F. Dockery**  
1945-2021

Funeral services were held at Eastview Wesleyan Church, Jonesboro, on Monday, Jan. 18, at 11 a.m. Burial followed at Park Cemetery, Fairmount.

**James D. Mitchell**  
1954-2021

Funeral services were held at Armes-Hunt Funeral Home, Fairmount, on Wednesday, Jan. 20, at 10 a.m. Burial followed at Marion National Cemetery.

**S. Michael "Mike" Horner**  
1941-2021

Funeral services were held

at Raven-Choate Funeral Home, Marion, on Monday, Jan. 18, at noon. Burial followed at Estates of Serenity, Marion.

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302 East Fourth St. • Marion, IN 46952



**Suzy Shaffer**  
Owner

-Contact Suzy, Brian, or Cecil-

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