

THE NEWS HERALD

Grant County Life

50 cents

Volume 53, Number 6

A Hometown Media, Inc. Publication.

April 14-20, 2021

DEATHS

April 8-15
Tony Lynn Lamport
1954-2021

The family will hold a private memorial service to celebrate Lamport's life at a later date.

Lloyd C. Owens
1943-2021

Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, Storey Chapel, on Friday, April 9 at 1 p.m. Burial followed at Grant Memorial Park.

Rose E. Plummer
1955-2021

Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, Storey Chapel, on Tuesday, April 13 at 6 p.m.

Lou Jane Burchette
1929-2021

Funeral services were held at Coffey Funeral Home, New Tazewell, Tennessee, on Tuesday, April 13 at 2 p.m. Burial followed at Campbell Cemetery, Tazewell.

See Deaths, Page 2

INDIANA QUIZ

How well do you know the official state song of Indiana? Fill in the blanks.

1. Oh, the moonlight's fair tonight along the _____

2. From the fields there comes the breath of new mown _____

3. Through the _____ the candle lights are gleaming

4. On the banks of the _____ far away
Answers on page 3



U.S. Senator Braun visits Marion

By Ed Breen

The two central concerns of Hoosiers when they talk to their United States Senator:

"First is work force development and the other is broad band access in rural areas of Indiana," U.S. Sen. Mike Braun said during comments to a Marion audience at the Sender Building in downtown Marion last week.

At a personal level, the senator said, "I live a mile outside of town and I can't open a PDF file." Braun, a Jasper native, lives outside the city limits in Dubois County.

He said he is supportive of both federal and state initiatives to extend broad band to areas not now being served.

On the employment front, Braun, a former business leader in Jasper, said the most pressing problem he finds is the absence of qualified workers and, more importantly, workers who will report consistently to their



U.S. Senator Mike Braun speaks to audience at the Sender Building in downtown Marion. Photo by Ed Breen

jobs.

The issues came up when a Marion employer asked the first-term Republican Senator to define the issues that he is finding in touring the state.

Braun, elected two years ago in a race against incumbent Sen. Joe Donnelly, said he is making his second 92-

county tour of the state.

In Marion, he addressed about 30 people, mainly business and governmental leaders in a forum put together at the Senator's request by the Marion Grant County Chamber of Commerce.

He said he returns to Indiana each weekend from

Washington D.C. and commutes through the Louisville, Ky., airport.

His Marion appearance Tuesday came during a day in which he created controversy by declining to say whether he had received his COVID vaccination.

"The COVID vaccine is an incredible medical

breakthrough and the decision to get vaccinated is a personal choice that some Americans may choose not to take for reasons such as allergies, personal or religious objections, or concerns over underlying health conditions," he told Indianapolis reporter Adam Wren.

Training Center to hold
Night of Sweet Dreams fundraiser

By Sean Douglas

After a year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Training Center will be holding its annual Night of Sweet Dreams Fundraiser at New Life Church, celebrating its 10th year of operation as well as raising money to keep the organization serving the students of Grant County.

The Training Center began in the fall of 2011 and has served as an academic youth development program for at-risk students in both Marion and Grant County as a whole over the last decade.

However, while it is an after-school organization, the Training Center is much more than a place that helps students with homework. The organization not only helps students improve



Mary Prows

academically, but also socially, emotionally, and physically, allowing them to achieve their goals and follow their dreams, whatever they may be.

"We are trying to work on the whole person," Training Center Director Mary Prows said. "We are not only working with students, but we are working with families to offer free-of-charge programming that can help our kids who

are at-risk...to give them the tools they need to be outstanding citizens and outstanding students."

The Training Center mainly serves students from Marion Community Schools, but it also works with students from Mississinewa, Oak Hill, and some of the private schools in the area.

Additionally, the Training Center provides a place for students to come and work without the fear of judgement.

"For some of them, school is trauma," Prows said. "They've either been embarrassed or they don't feel confident around their peers, and so, they just don't feel successful. We want to help them walk through [those issues.]"

The Training Center was closed throughout the

COVID-19 cases on rise, leaders urge public to continue masking, vaccinate

By Sean Douglas

In the first meeting since March, Grant County leaders updated the community on the continued fight against the ever-raging COVID-19 pandemic.

According to Commissioner Mark Bardsley, Grant County will mirror the most recent directive of Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb. Essentially, masks are no longer required to be worn in public places, but mask-wearing is still encouraged.

"We are strongly recommending the continued use of masks in public areas or heavy populated gatherings," Bardsley said. "The County building, [and the] City building, as well, they are continuing to require masks of the general public as they are coming into government buildings. We are going to reassess everything on April 19 to see if we need to do any further restrictions, or if we

can continue to lessen the restrictions, which we hope is possible."

While masks are no longer required, businesses are able to still mandate masks if they so choose, according to Marion General Hospital Director of Nursing Cindy Futrell.

"We will tell you at MGH it's mandated, at our facilities, it's mandated, at the schools, it's mandated," Futrell said. "Businesses can mandate it, but they can also not mandate it. There is that choice now that puts us in the position that makes it a little more difficult to control the cases."

With the lowering of restrictions and with people returning from spring break trips, COVID cases are back on the rise after several weeks of plateau. After just three cases on Wednesday, the number jumped to 15 on Thursday. Most of the cases are people in their 30s.

See Night, Page 2

See COVID, Page 2