

# THE NEWS HERALD

Grant County Life

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## DEATHS

April 1-8

**Charlotte Ann Beltz  
1944-2021**

A graveside service will take place at a later date.

**Donna L. Heindl  
1944-2021**

Funeral services were held at College Wesleyan Church, Marion, on Thursday, April 1 at 12:30 p.m. Burial followed at Earlham Cemetery, Richmond.

**Nancy L. Maddox  
1950-2021**

Funeral services were held at Lakeview Wesleyan Church, Marion, on Tuesday, April 6 at 1 p.m. Burial followed at Grant Memorial Park.

**Barbara J. Foland  
1931-2021**

Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, Storey Chapel, on Saturday, April 3 at 1 p.m. Burial followed Park View Cemetery, Alexandria.

**Alice "Joan" Abernathy  
1930-2021**

Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, North Chapel, on Wednesday, April 7 at 1 p.m. Burial followed at Gardens of Memory, Marion.

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## Substance abuse impact on local youth

By Sean Douglas

The Grant County Substance Abuse Task Force had its first meeting of 2021, discussing the effects and impacts of substance abuse on infants and children.

Cathy Felton, regional director of Debra Corn FosterCare, stated that in December 2020 in Grant County, 270 children who were adjudicated as CHINS, or Child In Need of Services, and out of those 270, 76 of them were able to remain in their home while the Department of Child

Services worked with them. Additionally, 194 of those children were placed outside of their homes, and 73 had to be placed in a non-relative foster home.

Felton also stated that according to the National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare, the increase in opioid use has been described as "having the worst effect on the child welfare system that they have ever seen."

Kids come to Debra Corn FosterCare with language difficulties and cognitive developmental disabilities, and they struggle with aca-

ademic achievement. Furthermore, the organization has worked with children who have been exposed to meth, as well as children born addicted to heroin.

Child welfare workers also report that an overwhelming majority of children placed outside of their home have a parent that suffers with alcohol or substance abuse.

"These kids coming to us are coming to us in survival mode," Felton said. "They are trying to make it day-to-day. They are trying to make sure they get to eat today. They are trying to

make sure that their siblings are safe. We see a lot of different things."

Amiee Ingram, the Tobacco Coalition Program Coordinator and representative of Breathe Easy Grant County, provided several numbers in regards to children and teenagers' usage of cigarettes, e-cigarettes, and marijuana. While use of alcohol, cigarettes, and marijuana has decreased since 2000, the use of e-cigarettes has increased since being introduced to the market in 2015. At the end of 2018 heading into 2019, one out of every four high school

students were using e-cigarettes and one in every five are using marijuana daily.

Furthermore, young e-cigarette users are 3.5 times more likely to use marijuana, one in three teens have tried marijuana by 12th grade, and almost 6 percent of high school seniors are daily users of marijuana.

Ingram hopes that with more education and with more awareness on the dangers of cigarette and marijuana usage, it will help decrease the numbers of

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## Reverse Easter Parade back for a second year

By Loretta Tappan

Jonesboro's small-town charm was on full display on Saturday, April 3, during their second annual Reverse Easter Parade, which began at Jonesboro Town Hall on Main Street and swirled throughout Jonesboro.

Dressed as the Easter Bunny, Ward Three Jonesboro Council Member Robert Couse said the appeal of the Reverse Easter Parade is: "instead of them coming to us as we go

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Robert Couse, Jonesboro Council Member, as Easter Bunny, with daughter Josephine Couse (PC - Loretta Tappan), Robert Couse, Jonesboro Council Member, Ward Three; Josephine Couse, and Brit-tany Couse, Jonesboro Clerk-Treasure. Photo by Loretta Tappan

## Mike Cline making an impact for Marion's youth

By Sean Douglas

Throughout his life, Mike Cline has served as a faithful steward for the city of Marion and all of Grant County.

Cline spent more than 25 years working at the Chronicle-Tribune, before spending nine years at the Grant County Prosecutor's Office, engaged in grant writing and grant manag-ing.

After retiring in 2017, Cline has remained active in the community, most



notably serving as a councilman for the Marion Common Council. In spite of all the years he has served Marion, he wanted to continue serving in some capacity.

After retirement, Cline spoke with colleagues who served as volunteers for CASA of Grant County. Cline always had an interest in the tremendous work that CASA does for the children of Marion and wanted to become involved with the organization.

Roland Auble and Mike Day, two longtime advocates for CASA and friends of Cline's, convinced him to volunteer, and in February of 2018, he became a full-fledged

CASA volunteer.

"I wanted to still be active. I wanted to still do something," Cline said. "Having listened to what [Auble and Day] said, I wanted to see if I could do it."

In his three years of service, Cline has worked two cases, one of which involved four children.

"I'm glad I did it," Cline said. "It's a valuable thing to do. Little kids don't always have someone when dealing with things in an adult world. Being a

CASA is an opportunity for the kids to have a voice and to have someone who is going to speak for them."

His first case, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, allowed him to meet with the children two to three times a month, usually in an outside setting. During these meetings, Cline asked questions, listened to them, and checked on their progress.

His second case, which occurred during the

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## INDIANA QUIZ

### Indiana Quick Quiz

1. Who is the current Governor of Indiana?
2. Who is the current Lieutenant Governor of Indiana?
3. Holli Sullivan was recently appointed to what state executive office?

Answers on page 3

