

Substance

children usage of the products.

Ingram and her team have established a virtual classroom, which discusses how nicotine affects the body and teaches the facts about vaping and e-cigarettes. There are 16 links in the classroom, each full of data and resources tailored towards a younger audience. The program will collect Grant County specific data, and will help to discover trends.

“We are trying to educate our children and our adult population that [marijuana] is not the safer option,” Ingram said. “And that safer may not be safe at all. We as a coalition have started to educate even younger. We have educated all of our sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students in Grant County on the dangers of cigarettes and tobacco use.”

The JEAN Task Force reported that most of their arrests and cases in 2020 dealt with the methamphetamine, and in 2021, just three months in, methamphetamine-related incidents and seizures have increased at an alarming rate.

According to the task force, they have already confiscated over 1,313 grams of methamphetamine, more than any of the last three years total, and 279 grams of heroin, the highest since 2018.

Methamphetamine and heroin run amuck in the Grant County Recovery Court as well, according to Court Coordinator Aubrey Kay. The Court serves 185 children, many of whom’s parents are addicted to one of the two substances. Of those parents, 79 percent are unemployed, 55 percent have less than a high school diploma, and 58 percent have a history or are at risk of domestic violence.

Furthermore, according to Amy Eberle of the Maternal Substance Abuse Task Force, of the 38 births in Marion, four umbilical cords tested positive for a combination of methadone, cocaine, and THC.

While these numbers are discouraging, there are several organizations in and around Grant County that focus on families beating substance abuse and getting back on their feet. At Meridian Health Services, Tricia White stated that the organization provides therapy, case management, tele-pysche services, an addiction program, and a family preservation service, which provides safety checks and resources to help people combat their addiction and fight it head on.

Furthermore, at CORE, or Community Opioid Response Endeavor Consortium, workers are trained in the use of narcan, and the team is working diligently to have two narcan boxes installed in Grant County to reduce deaths due to overdose in the area, of which there 19 in 2020.

The next GCSATF meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 25, 2021, and will focus on housing.

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Schedule

Lillian Mae Davis  
1927-2021

A memorial visitation will take place from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 10, at Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral Service, North Chapel. Immediately following the time of visitation, a memorial service to celebrate Davis’ life will begin at 2 p.m. Pastor Jim Sonnefield will be officiating.

Robert “Bob” Lee Benbow  
1939-2021

Funeral services were held at Needham-

Storey-Wampner, North Chapel, on Tuesday, April 6 at 11:30 a.m. A private burial was held at Marion National Cemetery.

Rocky Joe Pace  
1954-2021

At Pace’s request, there will be no public visitation or funeral services.

Glen “Butch” L. Furnish  
1954-2021

Funeral services were held at Morningstar Ministries, Jonesboro, on Thursday, April 1 at 5 p.m. Burial will take place at Marion National Cemetery at a

later date.

Ella Louise Coyle  
1932-2021

Funeral services were held at Armes-Hunt Funeral Home, Upland, on Thursday, April 1 at 10 a.m. Burial followed at Matthews Cemetery.

Mark L. Marine  
1934-2021

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Charles “Leonard” Kimes  
1933-2021

Funeral services were held at Armes-Hunt Funeral Home, Fairmount,

on Monday, April 5 at 2 p.m. Burial followed at Park Cemetery.

Dorothy A. Edgington  
1941-2021

Funeral were held at Raven-Choate Funeral Home on Monday, April

5 at 5 p.m. Committal services will be private.

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# Shonk

is a Fairmount woman who had to go through what no child should ever have to go through, beginning when she was 15.

Now, she is stepping forward courageously for the first time to share her story in hopes of raising awareness about the issue, and preventing such tragedies in the future.

**kNot Today will visit Fairmount on Sat., April 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and will partner with a local survivor, Chesney Shonk, and her awareness effort, #teamCHESNEYstrong.**

**kNot Today was founded by Indianapolis Colts Head Coach Frank Reich and his wife, Linda Reich.**

**kNot Today exists** to generate awareness, initiate prevention strategies, and assist in the development of innovative healing programs for sexually abused and exploited children.

**Chesney's mom** actually first heard about kNot Today after Linda Reich did a news interview. That is why spreading awareness can be so important.

**Colts Head Coach,** Frank Reich, will be there as well as Food trucks, Colts fun, live entertainment, games, giveaways, and much more. This event will be fun and entertaining as we shed light on this issue that is rarely discussed. No child should ever have to go through this, and that is why kNot Today strives to protect the beauty and innocence of childhood.

**We can not thank** our sponsors enough for making this event possible. First Farmers Bank & Trust, Pizza King, and Fairmount State Bank. Without their generous support, none of this would be possible.