

Olympics

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“This is the first sport I chose to do, and I’m good at it. I thought, ‘this is it,’” she said.

She began going to school early to practice, and her work paid off as she was on the precision team in the fall of 2019.

The first air rifle marksmanship competition was at Concordia High School. A typical freshman, Yancey was excited to leave school to compete. She remembers the range was small and the walls looked like popcorn.

“I don’t know what my scores were, but it was fun to compete. I liked it,” she said.

Now, scores have real meaning to her. Scores provide information. “I ask myself, ‘What can I learn from this?’” Yancey said.

Another key to her development is her coach, Gregg Rice, at The X Count in Fort Wayne. One of the best shooting coaches in the country, Farlow said, “He’s taken her even further than we could with our program.”

Yancey heads to The X Count a couple of times a week for practice and instruction. Farlow said, “Her future is with X Count as she looks toward international competition.”

For now, Yancey is headed to the USA Shooting National Junior Olympics in May. (And she’s excited to miss school for the competition.) Only 83 female athletes qualified for the event, so she’s among the elite. Usually, this event is in Colorado Springs, but this year it will be in Hillsdale, Mich.

Yancey said, “I was practicing when I found out I qualified. I thought, ‘Oh, cool. I don’t have to worry about that anymore.’”

The competition is intense. Over the two competition days, Yancey will shoot 120 shots, 60 each day. She will have an hour and 15 minutes. The 15 minutes is to adjust the settings on the rifle and prepare. Standing, she will shoot 60 shots over the next hour.

Yancey plans her shooting before each shot. “I think about how I’m going to do my shooting. It keeps me from second guessing



Yancey practices with her air rifle.  
Photo by Lori Overmyer.

myself,” she said.

As with any skilled athlete, Yancey has a routine before each shot. She loads, keeps her arm on her hip, relaxes her shoulders, looks down, checks the natural point of aim, and finds the little black dot. Then, she waits for the first stage of “trigger sway.” At this point, she reminds herself to relax as the rifle stops moving. Finally, the trigger is released. Yancey follows through by watching how the target hits.

“I get tired from the concentration,” Yancey said, “I need snacks for energy – just not during shooting.”

While Yancey is among the elite athletes with skill, she will compete against people with custom equipment. Her school club rifle costs around \$2,200, but others may use \$8,000 rifles. Her uniform provides stability and protection. Her jacket came from The X Spot. MHS provides what’s needed for an intro-

ductory level shooter, but a custom uniform, pants and jacket, are \$2,500.

Yancey is confident of her skills and her equipment, but funding for the Junior Olympics needs bolstered.

Farlow said, “The cost she has to bear herself is \$1,800. That will cover the cost of her meals, lodging, and registration. The MHS JROTC is working to help her with cost. We are accepting donations at MHS JROTC, 750 West 26th Street, Marion, IN 46952.”

As Yancey prepares for the Junior Olympics air rifle competition, she’s also laying the groundwork to compete in the small-bore competition next year. Her goal is to reach the Olympics in either Paris and Los Angeles ... or both.

With amazing accuracy at targets and a wide-open future, Yancey makes one thing clear, “I don’t want to kill anything, ever.”

Indiana Department of Education announces school allocations from American Rescue Plan Act

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) announced Monday the estimated funds that public school districts across the state will receive as part of the third round of federal stimulus dollars (American Rescue Plan Act). Together, these school allocations total nearly \$1.8 billion.

“Over the past year, this is the third round of federal funding allowing many Indiana schools access to unprecedented resources to sustainably invest in their future,” said Dr. Katie Jenner, Indiana Secretary of Education. “While the needs may vary from one school to the next, it’s criti-

cal that schools are strategically planning to maximize their return on investment, in turn achieving the greatest outcomes for students.”

Money allotted to the Grant County schools were as follows:

Eastbrook Community Schools – \$2,151,105.40

Madison-Grant United School Corporation – \$1,824,529.14

Marion Community School Corporation - \$16,356,456.7

Mississinewa Community Schools - \$3,612,776.91

Oak Hill United School Corporation - \$1,397,140.70

With this funding,

schools can reimburse approved expenses incurred through September 2024 that address some of the greatest challenges schools continue to face as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Per federal requirements, schools must use at least 20 percent of these funds to support accelerated learning opportunities for students, as schools work to make up for lost instructional time due to COVID-19. These evidence-based interventions may include summer learning or enrichment, comprehensive after-school programs, extended school years programs, and more.

Deaths

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**Vanessa K. Robinson**  
**1956-2021**

The family will receive visitors from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 24, at Trinity Victory Missionary Baptist Church, 2001 S. Gallatin St., Marion. Immediately following the time of visitation, a service to celebrate Robinson’s life will begin at 1 p.m. Pastor Stanford Bolden will be officiating.

**PJ Corey**  
**1975-2021**

The family will receive family and friends from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, April 23, at Grace Community Church, 1810 E. Bradford Pike, Marion. A celebration of Corey’s life will begin at 3 p.m.

**Terry Johnson**  
**1949-2021**

The family will host a private graveside service fol-

lowed by burial at Marion National Cemetery.

**Lucille D. First**  
**1933-2021**

Funeral services were held at Holy Family Catholic Church, Marion, on Friday, April 16 at 10 a.m. Burial followed at Estates of Serenity.

**Michael Allen Smith**  
**1960-2021**

The family will host a private graveside service to celebrate Smith’s life. Burial will take place at Estates of Serenity.

**James Lee Obenchain, II**  
**1969-2021**

Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, Storey Chapel, on Tuesday, April 20 at 11 a.m. Burial followed at Riverside Cemetery.

**Melinda S. Hicks**  
**1965-2021**

Services for Hicks will be private.

**Michael Bunch**  
**1951-2021**

Funeral services were held at Armes-Hunt Funeral Home, Fairmount, on Tuesday, April 20 at 11 a.m. Burial followed at Jefferson Cemetery, Upland.

**Robert Lindley Winters**  
**1930-2021**

Funeral services were held at Raven-Choate Funeral Home on Saturday, April 17 at 11 a.m. Burial followed at Gardens of Memory, Marion.

**Patricia S. “Patty” Sachse**  
**1953-2021**

Funeral services were held at Raven-Choate Funeral Home on Monday, April 19 at 1 p.m. Burial followed at Estates of Serenity.

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State Route 9 to close for bridge contstruction

The Indiana Department of Transportation will close State Route 9 near Marion, south of the Marion Municipal Airport, for bridge construction starting Saturday,

April 17, for approximately two weeks.

The closure will be in place in both directions from U.S. 35 to Old Kokomo Road.

INDOT reminds drivers

to slow down, use extra caution and travel distraction-free in and around all work zones.

All work is weather dependent and schedules are subject to change.

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