

Sand

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fantastic. This is perfect weather.”

According to Hendricks, 13 teams signed up for the event, all of whom sculpted their own unique work of art. Each team had creative freedom with few restrictions, and each team was provided with the materials required to complete a sand sculpture.

“They can embellish the sand in any way they see fit to enhance the sculpture they are creating,” Hendricks said. “There are no rules against anything. They can bring props. They can move as much sand around in their space as they want. Whatever props they want, whatever paint they want, whatever supports they want, it’s up to them.”

There were a variety of incredible sculptures on display, including a shark, an octopus, a dog, and various interpretations of the CASA logo, to name a few.

After not holding a live event last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which forced many events to be cancelled, Hendricks was pleased to have a return to normalcy for CASA’s biggest fundraiser of the year.

“It’s very fun. That was the thing the staff, board, and volunteers have been talking about all year – just being able to come back and do this in person,” Hendricks said. “It’s just very heart-

warming to see this and to be back in person.”

Four awards were given out at the conclusion of the event. With its “CASA Volunteers are Jawsome” sculpture, Oak Hill won the People’s Choice Award, given to the team that had the most tickets within their voting bucket at the end of the judging period. Riverside Federal Credit Union won the Schramm Family Award, given by the family of Pastor Andy Schram, whom the event was created in honor and memory of. The Golden Pail Award was awarded to Midwest Eye Consultants for their “Leader Dogs” sculpture, and Grace Community Church won the Raisin’ Awareness award, which is given to the sculpture that best represented CASA of Grant County, as voted on by staff and volunteers.

The Sand Sculpture Art-fest is not only an event for people to showcase their artistic talents but to also show support and love to a group of people who work tirelessly to serve Marion’s youth.

“[This event] is an affirmation to them,” Hendricks said. “For them to see the support and know that these community members are patting them on the back today saying, ‘What you do does matter and we believe in you.’ I think that is one of the greatest parts of the event.”



*Sand Art*

Sand Sculptures were on display all over the grounds of the Splash House on Saturday

Deaths

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<b>Cheryl Justine Baker</b> 1949-2021 Funeral services were held at Eastview Wesleyan Church, Gas City, on Saturday, July 10, at 4 p.m.	<b>Mattie Jane Clariett</b> 1925-2021 The family will receive visitors from 11 a.m. to noon on Thursday, July 15, at Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, Marion. Immediately following the time of visitation, a service to celebrate Clariett’s life will begin at 12 noon. Pastor Al Curtis Green will be officiating with burial taking place at Grant Memorial Park.	<b>Wayne I. Taylor</b> 1936-2021 Funeral services will be held at a later date in Parkview Cemetery, Alexandria.
<b>Troy Alan Brown</b> 1971-2021 Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, Storey Chapel, on Monday, July 12, at 11:30 a.m.	<b>Jack E. Jackson</b> 1944-2021 Funeral services were held at Armes-Hunt Funeral Home, Marion, on Friday, July 9, at 1 p.m. Burial followed at Riverside Cemetery, Gas City.	<b>William “Bill” C. Williams</b> 1934-2021 Funeral services were held at Armes-Hunt Funeral Home, Fairmount, on Friday, July 9, at 1 p.m. Burial followed at Riverside Cemetery, Gas City.
<b>Margaret Toy-Smith</b> 1927-2021 A private graveside service to celebrate Toy-Smith’s life was held at Grant Memorial Park.	<b>Gathel T. Gibson</b> 1926-2021 Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, North Chapel, on Tuesday, July 13, at 1 p.m. Burial followed at Estates of Serenity.	<b>Linda Lou Rukes</b> 1941-2021 At Rukes’ request, a memorial service will be held at a later date.
<b>Phyllis J. Simpkins</b> 1942-2021 Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, North Chapel, on Monday, July 12, at 2 p.m. Burial followed at Gardens of Memory.	<b>Kenneth Dale Gluff</b> 1973-2021 Funeral services were held at Armes-Hunt Funeral Home, Fairmount, on Thursday, July 8, at 1 p.m. Burial followed at Park Cemetery, Fairmount.	

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