



DOUBLING UP

Litton wins at Lincoln Park



REPORTER-TIMES

MARTINSVILLE, IND. • MORGAN COUNTY'S DAILY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1889

WWW.REPORTER-TIMES.COM

VOL. 131, ISSUE 173

FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2019

SINGLE COPY \$1.00



More charged after bust

Second person charged in multi-county animal fighting ring

By Nicole DeCriscio
Hoosier Times

Steven Blake, 53, of Bloomington was charged last month as the second person involved in the animal fighting case that spanned Owen and Morgan counties.

In May, Martin Anderson of Camby was arrested following the removal of approximately 600 animals.

Blake faces three level 6 felony counts of purchasing an animal for use in an animal fighting contest, three level 6 felony counts of promoting an animal fighting contest and a class B misdemeanor charge of possession of animal fighting paraphernalia.

The probable cause affidavit for Blake was completed by Indiana Gaming Commission investigator and officer Eddie McHargue.

It details the investigation with Anderson and where Blake comes into the picture.

McHargue was given information about Blake from Indiana Gaming Commission officer Alan Hayes on April 4, 2019. Blake was being investigated in Monroe County for raising and fighting game roosters.

"Hayes had contacted me because he had received information that Blake was in the process of moving his game roosters to a farm in the Catawact Falls area and was going to live on the farm owned by a 'rick guy' and help take care of the animals," McHargue said.

Master Gardeners

Volunteer to plant, tend demo garden



Master Gardeners install arches in the demo garden for the 2019 Morgan County Fair. (Submitted by Theresa Browning)

Submitted by Theresa Browning
Browning Business Strategies

MARTINSVILLE — Morgan County gardeners will find a pot of gold at the demonstration garden at the Morgan County Fair July 26 — Aug. 3, 2019. A gardener's pot of gold is a colorful, healthy garden producing bright flowers and plentiful fresh vegetables.

The Rainbow Garden planted and tended this summer by the Morgan County Master Gardeners holds 62 plants and an arched rainbow trellis of plants. This colorful display is located behind the 4-H building on the south-side of the fair office.

Deb Gearing, a 27-year Master Gardener from Martinsville, was the planter-in-chief. She had help this summer from 36 volunteers who made daily visits to the 25-foot by 80-foot garden to weed, water and pick Japanese Beetles off the plants. This may be the well-cared for garden in Morgan County.

SEE GARDENERS | PAGE A6



Arches set up in the demo garden at this year's Morgan County Fair. (Submitted by Theresa Browning)

or that person's chickens; the probable cause affidavit reads. "Hayes was aware that I was conducting an investigation into a cockfighting operation in that area and wanted to pass along the information."

On May 9, 2019, McHargue was told by Hayes that the Blakes were still moving fowl off their property.

On May 23, 2019, a search warrant was executed on the farm in Owen County near Cataract Falls. Blake was at the Owen County residence and spoke with McHargue.

"I advised him that he was not under arrest, and that he was free to leave, but that I would like to talk to him if he wished," the probable cause affidavit reads. "Blake stated that he would talk to me and give me his side of the story."

SEE BUST | PAGE A6

Deaths

Ricky Fischer, 61
Rudolph Wilson, 88
Sophie Tzimenatos, 97
Doug Praed, 58
William June, 62
Zoe Kirk, 61

Round-up: school supplies for those in need

Staff Report

MORGAN COUNTY — As the start of the school year draws near, parents and students clog the store aisles searching for the best pens, pencils and trapper keepers. However, for families whose finances are tight or who need a bit of assistance, local school districts will be offering school supply drives to help.

MSD of Martinsville

Supply Distribution Day is from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday Aug. 3 at Hoosier Harvest Church located at 4085 Leonard Rd. Certain immunizations will be provided on request. These supplies are available to any Morgan County elementary, middle or school students.

They are accepting donations until July 30.

Monroe-Gregg School District

Monroe-Gregg Schools does not have a specific supply distribution day, but they offer supplies to families in need throughout the year. They reach out to families who are a part of their Pantry

program, but other families in need of assistance are free to reach out as well.

Families with students enrolled in any Monroe-Gregg schools in need of assistance can reach out to Kelli Kizzee at kkizzee@m-gsd.org.

The school PTO has organized a supply drive taking donations in boxes at several local businesses and the library. They are collected donations until back-to-school night Aug. 6.

Eminence Community Schools

Eminence does not have a specific event to distribute schools supplies to families in need, but they instead give out supplies on a case-by-case basis throughout the year.

Citizen's Bank, located at 6497 Indiana 42 in Eminence, Indiana, has organized a supply drive asking the public for school supply donations. They will be accepting donations until the start of school on Aug. 6.

SEE SUPPLIES | PAGE A6



A box sits in the Reporter-Times office ready to accept school, hygiene and easy to prepare food items for the 2019 LiftUp Backpack and Supply Drive. (File photo)

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A2 | FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2019 | THE REPORTER-TIMES | FOR THE RECORD

Obituaries

Ricky Fischer, 61

STILESVILLE - Ricky R. Fischer, 61, of Stilesville, passed away on Saturday, July 20, 2019 at Franciscan St. Francis Health, Mooresville. Born Wednesday, July 31, 1957 in Indianapolis, IN to Runnels and Phyllis Fischer. He was a Warren Central graduate, class of 1976.

He married Carla Jane (Ward) Fischer on October 16, 2004. He worked for Coca Cola Company for many years in different areas. His last position for the company was a truck driver until his retirement in 2007.

Ricky is survived by his wife, Carla (Ward) Fischer; son, Evan Fischer of Indianapolis; daughters, Emily Fischer of Indianapolis, Amelia Adams of Stilesville; step-son, Joshua Brock of Indianapolis;

step-daughter, Jessica Adams of Indianapolis; parents, Runnels and Phyllis Fischer of Indianapolis; brother, Brad Fischer of Fillmore; sister, Katrina Woolf of Indianapolis; and grandchildren, Hailee Fischer of Indianapolis, Makayla Claybon of Indianapolis and Ehlana Brock of North Manchester.

He is preceded in death by his brother-in-law, Tony Woolf.

Visitation will be Tuesday, July 30, 2019 from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at Costin Funeral Chapel.

Online condolences can be made at www.costinfuneralchapel.com.

Costin
Funeral Chapel

Rudolph Wilson, 88

GOSPORT - Rudolph Lane Wilson, 88, Gosport, passed peacefully with his loved ones by his side at his home on July 23, 2019. He was



sons, Timothy L. Wilson of Gosport and his son Quinn

Sophie Tzimenatos, 97

MARTINSVILLE - Sophie S. Tzimenatos was born in Windber, Pennsylvania on June 4, 1922 to Thomas and Katie (Jerz) Kot (formerly of Poland). She passed away July 11, 2019.

Sophie is survived by her daughter, Mary (& John) Fox; sons, Michael Tzimenatos of Coral Springs, Florida, Nicholas Tzimenatos of Port St. Lucie, Florida; and beloved daughter in law, Malena Tzimenatos.

Sophie was preceded in death by her loving husband, Demetrios James Tzimenatos; and her eldest son, Demetrios James Tzimenatos, Jr.; and her seven brothers and sisters.

Sophie leaves nine loving grandchildren, Robert (& Leslie) Tzimenatos of Port St. Lucie, Florida, William (& Jennifer) Hoback of Folsom, California, Chris (& Leah) Tzimenatos of Sacramento, California, Christina (& Matt) Shroeder from Elk Grove, California, Michael Tzimenatos of



home-steads proudly remain as Temple Beth Shalom, and the Archdiocese of

St. Francis of Assisi in New York. They moved to Central Florida in real estate, construction and the orange grove industry and later to the Indian River area of Fort Pierce, Florida to more real estate & orange grove opportunities. Following her husband's death, she moved to Northern California to reside with Mary and John, then to Martinsville in 2005. She loved being part of the community and enjoyed meeting many wonderful people. The area reminded her of her childhood in Pennsylvania and the familiarity of scenery and seasons of Upstate New York.

Despite her busy life, she always honored God, volunteered for many charities and throughout her long life,

Reunions

Martinsville Class of 1963

The Martinsville Class of 1963 will have a mini reunion luncheon at 1 p.m. on Saturday, July 27, at Indy's Family Restaurant, 2201 Burton Lane, Martinsville. If planning on attending, contact Rick Thacker at 765-342-8636, Karen Babb at 317-300-0209, James McLary at 812-287-8457 or Norma Lindsay at 956-655-2083.

Mooresville Class of 1969

The Mooresville Class of 1969 is planning their 50th class reunion and are seeking help from the public in finding some classmates. If you have contact information on any of them or know them, the class can be contacted through the Facebook group "Mooresville Class of 69," [mooresvilleclassof69](https://www.facebook.com/mooresvilleclassof69), classmates.com or by email at buffy135w@aol.com. The reunion will be held from 6 to 10 p.m. on Aug. 3 at Squealers BBQ, 390 E. High St., Mooresville. The cost is \$25 per person. Missing classmates are: Linda Applegate Carter, Rodney Davis, Larry Ebert, Diana Foy, Jim Hollars, Mike Hull, Pamela Kendall, Becky Manual, Danny Mays, Bob Miller, Marilyn Minton, Ginger Peden, Charles Ratliff, Cathy Reinhardt, Susan Rives, Becky Sims, Cathy Walsh, Jerry Wilkins, Carl Johnson, Linda Inabnitt and Tony Holder.

Martinsville Class of 1964

The Martinsville High School Class of 1964 will hold its 55th class reunion beginning at 6 p.m. on Sept. 21, 2019 at the Martinsville American Legion Post 230, 701 E. Morgan St. The cost is \$35 per person or \$65 per couple. Checks can be made payable to MHS Class of 1964 and mailed to Tessa Ballinger, 1771 S. Mt. Nebo Rd., Martinsville, IN 46151 and payments are due by Aug. 21. Mailing addresses are needed for the following members — Sally Baker (Long), Tom Boles, Pam Bunch (Ferguson), Teresa Conwell (Bisesi), Conne Cooper (Sample),

the only child born to the late Lawrence F. and Sara Jane (Baker) Wilson on August 20, 1930 in Morgan County, IN.

Mr. Wilson was a Paragon High School graduate with the Class of 1948. After graduation he attended Spartan College of Aeronautics Technology in Tulsa, OK, graduating with his aircraft mechanic degree in 1950. Shortly after, he joined the US Air Force where he served a total of 20 years in the Air Force and Air Force Reserves, of which time he served 6 months of active duty in Vietnam and attained the rank of Master Sgt. In 1964 he was awarded the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon.

From 1971 until his retirement in 1988, he was employed by Naval Avionics in Indianapolis. He had a love for flying and boating. His most cherished love was for his family and his grandpa, Otto, whom he always held in high regard.

He was a member of the Paragon Christian Church in Paragon where he was baptized.

While stationed in California, he met his sweetheart of nearly 68 years, Mary Adele (Wakeman) Wilson. The two were united in marriage on August 16, 1952 at the St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church in Martinsville.

He leaves behind his loving family including his wife, Mary Adele Wilson of Gosport;



Wilson, Richard J., "Joe"

Wilson and wife Pam (Hopkins) of Bedford and children, Sarah, Jessi and Abby; daughters, Cynthia Jane Barker and husband, Joseph of Martinsville and children Amy, Jason and Rachel, and Rebecca L. Werhle and husband Christopher and children, Mitchell, Max, Mary Anna and Maria; and his great grandchildren, Carson, Colton, Olivia, Emily, Elijah, Layla, Micha, Jayde and Vera.

He was preceded in death by one infant daughter, Alice Adele Wilson. Family and friends are invited to visit on Friday, July 26th from 12:00-2:00 pm at Neal & Summers Funeral & Cremation Center. Pastor Rick Finney will officiate a service celebrating Mr. Wilson's life immediately following visitation at 2:00 pm Friday at the funeral home. Burial with military honors will follow at Friendship Park Cemetery in Paragon.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Morgan County Humane Society, 690 W. Mitchell Ave., Martinsville, IN 46151. On-line condolences and memories may be shared with Mr. Wilson's family at www.nealandsummers.com.



Canton, Georgia, Nick (& Nikki) Tzimenatos, Jr. of Fort Pierce, Florida, Nacole (& Ryan) Suarez of St. Petersburg, Florida, David (& Angie) Tzimenatos of Cartersville, Georgia, and Jacob Tzimenatos of Fort Pierce, Florida. She is also survived by many loving cousins, nephews and nieces in Pennsylvania, Texas & Georgia as well as in Poland and Greece.

Sophie is also survived by 24 great grandchildren, and proudly became a Great Great Grandmother in 2018.

Sophie & a sister moved to New York in 1940. Sophie met and married the love of her life in none other than a Greek restaurant in New York City. They moved from the City to Upstate New York to embark on real estate and the specialty poultry industry. Shortly after, they changed locations and each of their lovely

dedication to family and friends never waned. Instead of embracing technology, she chose to be very well read, enjoyed politics and most of all, never failed to write letters and cards, never missing a birthday or anniversary. She enjoyed hand writing personal notes and cards to each family member or friend including a very long list each Christmas.

Sophie was laid to rest with her beloved husband in Fort Pierce, Florida. There will be no services. Her smiling face, warmest of hugs and kind heart will be missed by all who knew and loved her. Her heartfelt desire is for all to turn their hearts and eyes to God in Heaven with an eternal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.



William June, 62

MOORESVILLE - William R. June, 62, of Mooresville, died Monday. Burial will be 2 p.m. Friday at White

Lick Cemetery. Arrangements by Carlisle-Branson Funeral Service & Crematory.

Zoe Kirk, 61

MARTINSVILLE - Zoe Ann (Hall) Kirk, 61, of Martinsville, died Tuesday. Visitation is 4-8 p.m. Saturday and 2-3 p.m. Sunday at Liberty Christian Church, 2010

Liberty Church Road in Martinsville. Service is 3 p.m. Sunday at the church. Arrangements by Costin Funeral Chapel.

ONLINE: Find an archive of recent obituaries and other news | REPORTER-TIMES.COM

News to share?

Submit news to scrane@reporter-times.com or 60 S. Jefferson St., Martinsville, 46151. Please include contact information and allow 1-2 weeks for date-sensitive submissions.

Patricia Heener (Homes), Becky Fowler (Listner), Gary Gose, William Greeson, Suzanne Griffin (Hopper), Eddie Hargis, Alfredo Hoyos, Larry Hughes, David Kent, Harold Langley, Pat Legge, Karen McGaughy, Roger Montgomery, Dick Parks, Timothy Riffel, Jill Schnaiter, Suzie Sparks, Tim St. John, Elaina Stierwalt (Charmichael), Carla Waddle (Hayden), William Wade, Billie Mae Walker (White), Patricia Ward, Rolande Webb (Burch), Robert Wood and Susan Worland (Buck). Please email the class at mhs1964@att.net if you have contact information about anyone listed. There will also be a get-together from 4 to 8 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 20 at the home of Roger and Patty Coffin, 5205 Old. Ind. 37 S., Martinsville, an open house from noon to 6 p.m. on Sept. 21 at the home of Gary and Janet Etter, 1640 E. Morgan St., Martinsville and another get-together at the home of Tessa and Bob Blackletter from 2 to 6 p.m. on Sept. 22 at 1771 S. Mt. Nebo Rd., Martinsville.

Meetings

MARTINSVILLE Board of Works

The Martinsville Board of Public Works and Safety will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 5, in council chambers at Martinsville City Hall, 59 S. Jefferson St.

City Council

The Martinsville City Council will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 5, in council chambers at Martinsville City Hall, 59 S. Jefferson St.

MORGAN COUNTY County Commissioners

The Morgan County Board of Commissioners will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 5, in the Lucille Sadler Room of the Morgan County Administration Building, 180 S. Main St., Martinsville.

County Council

The Morgan County Council

will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 5, in the Lucille Sadler Room of the Morgan County Administration Building, 180 S. Main St., Martinsville.

Invasive Management Cooperative

The Invasive Management Cooperative of Morgan County will meet at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 6, at the Morgan County Administration Building, 180 S. Main St., Martinsville. This month's guest speaker will be Mary Hallinan, Regional Specialist for Indiana Invasive Initiative.

Soil and Water

The Morgan County Soil and Water Conservation District will host its regular meeting at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 8, in the upstairs conference room of the Morgan County Administration Building, 180 S. Main St., Martinsville.

Doug Praed, 58

MARTINSVILLE - Doug Praed, 58, of Martinsville, died June 28. A celebration of life will

be 3-7 p.m. August 3 at VFW 1257, 1000 S. Josephine St. in Martinsville.

Area briefs

NEW TODAY

Bike Registration

The Martinsville Crime Watch and Martinsville Police Department will host a bicycle registration event from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 12, at the Disciple House, 127 S. Main St., Martinsville. Please bring your bike to the event.

JULY

Steps for Health

The 2019 Frank Pauley 'Steps for Health' will take place from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday, July 29. Sign up in the Merchants tent at the Morgan County Fairgrounds, 1749 Hospital Drive, Martinsville. Pedometers and registration is free.

Protection seminar

St Francis Health Senior Promise will have a presentation on personal safety tips and protection against fraud and scams from 1 to 2 p.m. Tuesday, July 30 in the CHKS Conference Center, 1199 Hadley Road, Mooresville. This workshop will be given by the Marion

seniors in everyday activities, as well as providing identity theft prevention and burglary prevention tips. The meeting will also cover information about medical/Medicare scams, telemarketing and home improvement scams, and internet, lottery and sweepstakes fraud. There will be tips against being a money mule. This event is free, but is registration is required due limited space. To register, call 317-834-9548 to register.

AUGUST LiftUp Backpack and Supply Drive

The 2019 LiftUp Backpack and Supply Drive collection is currently taking place in various locations throughout Martinsville including the Reporter-Times office, Hoosier Harvest Church, First Presbyterian Church, ATI Physical Therapy, Cricket Wireless, Key Bank, La Herradura Mexican Restaurant, Maurices, Neal and Summers Mortuary, Shoe Sensation and Shoe Show. The distribution of the supplies will take place from 10 a.m. to noon on

ville. For questions, contact Susie Burgess at 765-349-0552 or at susie@hhchurch.com.

Rummage Sale

A rummage sale to benefit Boy Scout Troop 219 for the High Adventure Camp in Alaska will take place from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 3, at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 3496 E. Morgan St., Martinsville.

History partnership

The Morgan County History Partnership will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 6, at Abounding Grace Worship Center, 1795 Centerton Road, Martinsville. Anyone interested in Morgan County history and getting a county museum started is welcome.

Puppet making craft

The Martinsville Senior Center will host a puppet making craft class at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 7, at the center, 1369 Blue Bluff Rd., Martinsville. Robin Holm from Adzooks Puppets will host the free program for area senior

REPORTER-TIMES

How to Contact Us — 60 S. Jefferson, Martinsville, IN 46151

The policy of this paper is to strive for accuracy! Like perfection, total accuracy may be unattainable; however it will remain our primary goal and we will not feel satisfied until it is within our grasp.

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Business office hours:

8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday-Friday

765-342-3311

Classified Advertising hours:

8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Friday

Retail Advertising hours:

8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday-Friday

765-342-3311

Circulation email:

rt-circ@reporter-times.com

Advertising email:

advert@reporter-times.com

News Department hours:

8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday-Friday

765-342-3311

A complete employee email directory can be found at www.reporter-times.com.

Reporter-Times (USPS 461-740)

Postmaster, address changes to

Reporter-Times, 60 S. Jefferson St.,

Martinsville, IN 46151. Periodicals

postage paid at Martinsville, IN 46151.

Published every day, except Sundays

and holidays at Reporter-Times, 60 S.

Jefferson St., Martinsville, IN 46151

— established 1889. Incorporates Mar-

tinville Republican (est. 1870), Mor-

gan County Gazette or Democrat (est.

1845). Services: Newspaper Enterprise

Association, Member Hoosier State

Press Assn., Martinsville Chamber of

Commerce, American Society of News-

paper Editors.



County Prosecutor's Office and will provide informational tips to protect

Saturday, Aug. 3, at Hoosier Harvest Church, 4085 Leonard Road, Martins-

citizens, showing them how to make puppets from everyday items.

800-804-8420

LIFESTYLES | THE REPORTER-TIMES | FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2019 | A3

BUILDING HEALTHY LIFESTYLE HABITS

Daily routines help to develop healthy attitudes in children

By Krystal Loomis
OT, IU Health Morgan

Editor's note: this is the third article in the series on child development.

Last week we discussed the importance of morning and bed time routines. The beginning and end of the day can be difficult, but it is those times in between that can make or break the day. These mid-day routines include meal time, bath time and toilet training. Bath time is more than just getting clean, toilet training is more than just saving money on diapers, and meal time is more than just eating.

Meal time is a great time to increase social and fine motor skills. To increase social and communication skills, try serving your meals family style, encouraging them to pass the plate and request what other items they would like to eat.

Getting the child to engage in the mealtime routine starts with giving them control and letting them have a say in the planning process (grocery shopping, setting the table, and helping clean up the table).

Promoting healthy eating habits by eating together as a family, with the TV off, while encouraging them to try new foods

is essential. It is recommended each meal contain at least three food groups (grain, dairy, protein, vegetable or fruit).

Mealtime is not always fun and meltdowns are common. Try letting the child know if there will be changes to the mealtime routine ahead of time to try and get ahead of behaviors. At home, if behaviors escalate, you may ask the child to leave the table until they are calm and able to rejoin the family, making sure on the flip side you are praising them when they demonstrate good behaviors.

Praising children when they demonstrate desirable behaviors is a great way to let them know what behaviors you are wanting.

This can be especially true with this next routine, toileting. Toilet training should not begin before the child is showing signs of readiness. These signs can occur anywhere between 18 months and 3 years, and they include showing interest in the bathroom or toileting process, wanting to observe others using the restroom, reporting they have gone in a diaper/requesting to wear underwear, or when you notice they are starting to "hold" their urine or bowel movements and/or



Bath time routines encourage children to develop healthy attitudes toward bathing. (File photo)

get upset when their diaper is soiled.

To increase independence with toileting, get a sturdy step stool to help them get on and off the toilet by themselves. If your child is having trouble going potty once they are on the toilet, try running the sink water, singing a song, or reading a book to help them relax. It is important to remember bathrooms can be a scary place with a lot of noises, sensations, and smells.

It can be helpful to talk to your child about what they will experience in the bathroom beforehand. Do not punish your child for an accident, instead praise them when successful

and clean up accidents calmly. Conversations after an accident, and letting them know different ways to be successful in the future can be helpful for future success.

Encourage a consistent toileting schedule. A good start for toileting is when they wake up, before and after naptime, before and after a new play activity, before a meal, before bedtime, before leaving the house and before bath time.

Bath time can be a love it or hate it routine in many households. Either way, encourage your child to help gather and organize items, this helps them to understand responsibility and also gets them to start the

habit of planning ahead.

Water can bring on a lot of fears for children. If your child is afraid of the loud running water, try filling up the bath before they get there. If they do not like being cold when they get out, try warming up a bath towel in the dryer. It is important to try and problem solve through their fears to make this time less stressful and traumatic for all. Letting your child have control over their bath time will increase their willingness to bathe.

Routines are a part of life. The sooner we get our children to master the art of routines and structure, the more independent they can be in their daily lives. Start small with giving your child control over their routines, and praising them when they complete a task. Stay calm when routines do not go as planned and explain gently where things went wrong.

The next topic in this four-part series will discuss the importance of setting limits and increasing emotional regulation skills.

Building Healthy Lifestyle Habits is a weekly column from Barbara B. Jordan YMCA and IU Health Morgan along with lifestyle programming funded with a Kendrick Foundation grant.

Denominational Garden Club discusses name of group

By Roberta Mikesell
Correspondent

The Denominational Garden Club of Morgan County met at Nancy Oberholtzer's house on June 27. Oberholtzer and Lyn Milsho are co-presidents for the garden club.

During the June program, Joanie James gave an interesting program on chickadee gardening. Chickadees only weigh about one-third of an ounce. It's important to plant native plants because birds feed on caterpillars that live on native plants.

After her program, Milsho called the meeting to order and 17 members were present.

In new business, the

Park. Jill Coffey, Jane Black and Mary Jane Ratts volunteered to provide items for the silent auction.

Discussion took place about the name of the garden club. The name "denomination" does not mean anything related to anyone's church, but rather refers to the fact that all denominations are welcome.

On Oct. 19, the district meeting will be in Danville at the Methodist church. Catering has been arranged for that day. This meeting will count as the usual October meeting.

The next regular club meeting will be on July 25 at Kathy Burhart's house.

Those interested in joining should call Lyn

Area ongoing events

ALS support group

Those with ALS and their loved ones are invited to attend the ALS Association's monthly support group meeting. It meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every second Thursday of the month at Comfort Keepers, 4101 E. Third St., Bloomington. Contact Leah Iversen at 812-361-9047 for more information.

Reformers Unanimous

Reformers Unanimous, a national Christ-centered addictions program, has a chapter at Martinsville Baptist Tabernacle, 2189 Burton Lane. The program runs 7 to 9 p.m. every Friday night. It is open to all adults who struggle with addiction or a "stubborn habit." For more information, call the church at 765-342-0501.

Narcotics Anonymous

A Narcotics Anonymous family group to help friends and families cope with the addicts in their lives meets at 6 p.m. Thursdays at River

and attendees are welcome to bring their own snacks and beverages.

Freedom from smoking

The Morgan County Health Department offers assistance for quitting tobacco with American Lung Association Freedom From Smoking classes that meet from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays at the Morgan County Administration Building, 180 S. Main St., Suite 252, Martinsville. Cost is \$20 for seven once-a-week classes, support and free nicotine patches. For more information, call 765-342-6621.

Sertoma Club

The Sertoma Club meets at 6:30 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of every month at Beefcake Burgers, 185 Morton Ave., Martinsville. Community minded people are invited to join the group.

Kiwanis Club

The Martinsville Kiwanis Club meets for dinner at 5:30 p.m. the first and third

Martinsville Evening Lions

The Martinsville Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. the first and third Thursdays of each month at 590 E. Harrison St., Martinsville. For more information, call Mary Malone at 765-318-0381 or Jeanetta Murphy at 317-370-0039.

PAL support group

PAL — Parents of Addicted Loved Ones — is a support group for friends and family members 18 and older who have addicted loved ones. The group meets at 7 p.m. Thursdays at First Christian Church, 525 N. Indiana St., Mooresville. Meetings include an educational session and a chance for discussion. There is no cost to attend. For more information, contact Lari Clayton at 765-318-7585 or at lariclayton@att.net or visit palgroup.org

Eminence food pantry

The Eminence Christian Food Pantry, located

2 p.m. Monday through Friday. The center offers free, paraprofessional Bible-based counseling for women in Morgan County, ages 13 and older. To make an appointment, call 765-349-0911.

Foster/adoptive families

A support group for foster and adoptive families in Morgan County meets from 6 to 8 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 3496 E. Morgan St., Martinsville. Child care is provided for those who RSVP to Bridgett Morales Kilgore at wittybridg@gmail.com or 317-508-0796 or Kathy McHone at kmchone@childrensbureau.org or 317-989-4260.

WellSpring

WellSpring, Morgan County's shelter for homeless families, needs volunteer receptionists at least one afternoon per month, from 1 to 5 p.m. Those interested should call 765-342-6661 and ask for Bob. WellSpring is located at 301 W. Harrison

In new business, the west district meeting will be on Sept. 11 at Canyon Inn at McCormick's Creek State Park. For more information, contact Nancy Oberholtzer at 765-342-5438.

Valley Christian Church, 4295 Egbert Road, Martinsville. Sharing and the 12-Step program are used.

Tuesdays in Keller Hall at the First Presbyterian Church, 240 E. Washington St. The meeting begins at 6 p.m. For more information, contact Jean Ambrose at 765-342-5002.

at Eminence Christian Church, 6597 N. Forrest St., provides perishable and nonperishable food to persons in need. Toiletries and hygiene items are sometimes available. The service area is open to all in need. The food pantry is open from 5 to 7 p.m. the first and third Thursday of every month. Follow it on Facebook to receive updates or check 211 Connect to Help.

Center for Women's Ministries

The Center for Women's Ministries, 360 S. Sycamore St., Martinsville, is open from 10 a.m. to

at Martinsville.

ReadUP tutors

Volunteers are needed at Neil Armstrong Elementary School. Time commitment is one hour per week on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday from 8:15 to 9:15 a.m. Contact Abby Toppe at United Way of Central Indiana, Abigail.Toppe@uwci.org. Additional substitute tutors are always needed at Monrovia, Poston Rd., Paragon, Eminence and Newby schools. Contact Abby to sub.

Tutoring opportunity

The Morgan County Coalition for Literacy is looking for individuals interested in being tutors to help fellow residents attain high school equivalency diplomas. Tutors will work with Wayne Township Adult Education, which will offer a new HSE class from 9 a.m. to noon Mondays and Wednesdays at the Mooresville Ivy Tech Education Center, 200 Southbridge St. Tutors need to be available during the course hours to work with students on a one-on-one basis, in addition to the regular classroom instruction the students will receive. Prospective tutors will complete an orientation session. Contact Dave Reddick at dbrreddick@comcast.net or Sharon Goins at sjgoins@comcast.net for more information.



MORGAN COUNTY FAIR



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JULY 26 - AUG 3



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Saturday, July 27, 7:00pm

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Sunday, July 28, 6:00pm

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OPINION

Moderately Confused



Teenage boys, the shootout

In the summer of 1955, my brother George was a teenager. Those of you who knew him then and know him now, not a lot has changed. Maybe his speed and stamina has slowed a bit, but his hankering for excitement has not. He tells me many stories and, bless his heart, I write them down for the world to see. We attend insurance trainings together and spend a fair amount of time looking through the windshield. This is a story I heard this week. It is probably true, but who knows. I know it was entertaining to me as we shared stories that day.

As teenage farm boys do, they go to town on weekends when all the chores are completed. One such time, brother George, Jim W., and Larry S. were hanging out in Paragon. The local root beer stand with their carhops was a hangout for the young. Cruising the gas station/restaurant where all the truckers stopped was another hotspot. Paragon was thriving then but not huge nightlife.



Life on Turkeyneck Hill

Phyllis Bex

Tom, and his Deputy D.S., were cruising the town to make sure young boys stay out of trouble. They were doing their duty. Of course, these three hooligans tried desperately to avoid the eye of the marshal and his trusty deputy.

The law usually parked by the water tower at the west edge of town. From that vantage point, they could easily survey the traffic. Normally, the boys used this route when heading for home. However, this night, the scrutiny of the town marshal and his side kick seemed unsettling to the boys because they were being followed through town by an unmarked car.

Smith Street led north out of

create dusty roads. As such, the truck created a huge dust cloud which billowed over the law while they were in hot pursuit. The boys weren't slowing down as they continued to flee. Remember this was 1955, before the movies with all the great chase scenes.

Graveyard Road runs along the hill line on a flat curvy road. Since the boys were not stopping, the deputy decided to pull a 'Barney Fife'. He reared his upper body out the window and started shooting at the back tires of the fleeing truck. The boys didn't hear the gun shot as the truck engine was loud. Meanwhile, Larry kept on driving.

When the pickup reached Strawberry Lane and turned right, they heard it. A thump thump—thump thump. They weren't going to make it to Turkeyneck Hill for they had a flat tire and needed to stop. The right rear tire had been shot and killed.

The three excited teenagers surrendered to the town marshal and Barney when they approached the

REPORTER-TIMES
www.reporter-times.com
FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2019

A4

LETTER

HSPA thanks Rep. Mayfield for supporting H.E.A. 1116

Hello Rep. Mayfield:

The Hoosier State Press Association would like to thank you for supporting H.E.A. 1116, authored by Rep. Mike Karickhoff, R-Kokomo. This bill includes a provision that allows governing bodies to meet in executive sessions under the state's Open Door Law to discuss strategy concerning the sale or lease of publicly-owned property.

Rep. Karickhoff reached out to HSPA prior to the legislative session to see if we could agree to a change that would allow government officials to explore ideas on how to better utilize publicly-owned property.

HSPA was originally concerned that the concept would open the door for a secret meeting, followed by a public meeting where a local landmark or treasured park was sold before residents had a chance to voice their opposition. HSPA worked with Karickhoff and Accelerate Indiana Municipalities (AIM) to make sure that the process would afford public comment before any public property could be sold or leased to another party.

The agreed upon language preserves existing process in I.C. 36-1-11 that requires an open process before a government unit can sell or lease property it owns. The new language

was inserted into Karickhoff's bill during its House Government and Regulatory Reform Committee hearing, chaired by Rep. Kevin Mahan, R-Hartford City. The committee voted for the bill, 12-0. H.E.A. 1116 was then passed by the House 98-0, including your "yes." Reps. Mahan and Cherrish Pryor, D-Indianapolis, became co-authors.

The sponsors were Sen. John Ruckelshaus, R-Indianapolis. The bill was passed out of the Senate Local Government Committee, chaired by Sen. Jim Buck, R-Kokomo, with an 8-0 vote. The Senate then passed it 47-1. Co-sponsors were Sens. David Niezgodski, D-South Bend and Lonnie Randolph, D-East Chicago.

Karickhoff concurred with Senate changes to other parts of H.E.A. 1116 and the House passed it again, 97-0, with your "yes" included.

Gov. Eric Holcomb signed the bill into law on May 1. The new provisions in H.E.A. 1116 went into effect on July 1.

HSPA hopes you'll enjoy your summer and we look forward to working with you again in the future.

Respectfully,

Steve Key
Executive Director
and General Counsel
Hoosier State
Press Association

Your government

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Letters to the editor policy

We welcome letters. Letters must be signed by the writer and names will not be withheld from publication. Please include an address and daytime telephone number. We reserve the right to edit or condense letters, and those that are more than 400 words may be rejected or shortened. Letters we believe to be libelous or in poor taste will not be published. Email letters to

That restaurant attracted all sorts of truckers stopping to eat day and night. This was the route from Vincennes to Indianapolis along Ind. 67. Vincennes used to grow really good watermelon and muskmelon. With the built-up railroad tracks running parallel to 67, it provided a perfect cover for melon thieves when the semi loads would stop for a meal. Not saying brother George partook of such larceny, but the conditions were right.

Anyway, once the sidewalks were all rolled up about 2 a.m. in Paragon, the three boys decided to head for home. Larry drove his dad's pick-up truck. They had a new license plate but it was in the cab of the truck, not tagged.

The Paragon Town Marshall

Paragon which connected with Graveyard Road. The three teenagers chose this longer way home. They were trying to give the Marshall and Deputy "the slip" in their unmarked car. When they left Paragon on Smith going north of town, a chase ensued.

I asked George, "why did you run?" He said, "Larry had only stuck the plate the back window. Yet we weren't positive why the law was chasing us."

They approached the ninety-degree north turn at Graveyard and Smith with speed, yet Larry rounded the corner with ease. Ironically, the home near this intersection is where Tom, the marshal, lived.

These were all one-lane gravel roads at the time. Dry hot summers

vehicle. The boys piled in the back of the unmarked car for a long ride to the home of the Justice of the Peace.

After questioning, the only one held was Larry, they turned George and Jim loose.

It is now 3 a.m. George wasn't calling home for a ride at that hour. He had to walk four miles home, while poor Jim moseyed on another two miles by himself.

Funny how some things never change on hot summer nights among the teenage boy population? If mothers only knew the truth of their darling little angels.

Phyllis (Dow) Bex is native of Morgan County, who grew up on a farm west of Paragon. She presently lives in Greenwood.



COMMENTARY

The Census quandary: Representation or what?

The census-citizenship-question sideshow seems to have ended, and thank goodness. Now, we can concentrate on what is really important about our decennial body count.

That's not to say citizenship — particularly the illegal-immigrant component — is not an important issue. It is, but the federal government has ducked it for decades. If a solution were desired, one could have been found, especially during periods of one-party monopoly in Washington, such as in President Obama's first two years and a mere heartbeat ago during President Trump's first two years.

And, as the Stoics might have said, if there is no solution, there is no problem. The whole citizenship controversy has been just another excuse for political posturing, which has gone from habit to obsession in the Trump era.

Meanwhile, we're still pretending that the primary purpose of the census remains what it was at the country's founding, a way to ensure that all people in our representative democracy are fairly represented. As states gain or lose population, they are to gain or lose members of the House.

That lasted until roughly the start of the Progressive Era — thank you, Teddy Roosevelt — when it was decided that the government should take a more active role in curing the country's ills. "More active role" means, of course, collecting and distributing more money.



Leo Morris

Indiana Policy Review

who we send to Washington, but what we get from Washington.

According to Tracy Gordon of the Tax Policy Center, the 2020 population count will affect roughly \$900 billion in federal spending, ranging from Medicaid assistance funds to Section 8 housing vouchers.

It was a mere \$185 billion for the 2000 census that caused even the liberal Slate magazine to complain that "distributing goodies is now all the government does." The government "has become a mechanism for distributing largess, and your census form is your ticket."

Don't worry about Indiana not getting its rightful slice of the pie — Hoosier politicians are paying attention. Nearly \$18 billion is on the line for Indiana in the census — roughly \$2,710 per person, reports the Indianapolis Business Journal. And the fewer people counted, the less money allocated to Indiana's 6.7 million residents.

"The challenge is, if we don't get everybody counted in Indiana, that's never good for us," said Carol Rogers, deputy director of the Indiana Business Research Center and the governor's liaison to the census. "Let's get our fair share back from Washington."

Oh, yeah. Those congressional seats. Kind of an afterthought, but at least she hasn't forgotten them entirely.

Some communities are even going above and beyond.

The Economic Development Coalition of Southwest Indiana, we are told by the Courier & Press, is working to persuade the federal government to enlarge the Evansville metropolitan statistical area. The current Evansville MSA includes Vanderburgh, Warrick and Posey counties in Indiana and Henderson County in Kentucky. The EDC wants to enlarge it to include Gibson County, the region's second-largest employment center, and Wabash County in Illinois.

The bigger the MSA, you see, the more federal dollars. I wouldn't be surprised to wake up one morning and find Fort Wayne is part of the Indianapolis MSA, with a few Ohio and Michigan counties thrown in for good measure.

Now that I think about it, perhaps I was too hasty in dismissing the illegal-immigrant matter out of hand. Federal funds are allocated not based on the number of citizens but on the number of warm bodies. If anything, Indiana does not have its fair share of those folks.

So, we should definitely ask that on the census. But what if that makes them afraid to reveal themselves and there is a terrible undercount? I'm so confused.

I should run for Congress.

Leo Morris is a columnist with the Evansville Courier & Press.

The policy of this paper is to strive for accuracy. Like perfection, total accuracy may be unattainable; however, it will remain our primary goal and we will not feel satisfied until it is within our grasp. Editorials reflect the views of The Reporter-Times editorial board. Other opinions on this page are solely those of the writer expressing them.

OUTDOORS | THE REPORTER-TIMES | FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2019 | A5

Funding to improve habitat for monarch butterflies ends soon

By Carol Kugler
Hoosier Times

Improving habitat for monarch butterflies is beneficial to many other animals, from pollinating insects to pheasant and quail.

That's why Pheasants and Quail Forever has partnered with the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service to offer landowners assistance in establishing habitat for monarch butterflies and other wildlife. For Hoosiers, applications need to be filed by Aug. 9 to be eligible for the next round of funding through the Improving Working Lands for Monarch Butterflies Regional Conservation Partnership Program.

The eight-state program helps landowners establish areas of unproductive cropland, land that borders fields, pastures and buffers around waterways and wetlands.

In Indiana, there is about \$260,000 available to help Hoosier landowners, according to Ryan Owen, a farm bill wildlife biologist with Pheasants and Quail Forever who works in Indiana. Even so, Owen said there are usually only a few people who apply for the funding to help with habitat.

"Traditionally in Indiana that has not been a popular fund pool, but I think a lot of that is due to lack of publicity," he said.

Anyone who applies for the funds should know by the end of



A monarch butterfly in the butterfly sanctuary in the Spring Mill State Park area lands on a flower. (Rich Janzaruk / Hoosier Times)

September if they were accepted into the program, Owen said. Once a landowner is approved for the program, someone from the agency will visit their land to review the landowner's objectives and help them establish how to improve their property.

"It's a great fit for small farms, urban farms, organic farms," said Jerry Raynor, state conservationist with the U.S. Department

of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Raynor said applicants have to meet the eligibility requirements, but he encourages anyone interested to sign up and see if they can receive funds. While monarch butterflies are the species most people recognize as having difficulty finding enough habitat, Raynor said many other animals species benefit when habitat for

More information

For more information about the federal assistance program to establish monarch and pollinator habitat, go to www.nrcs.usda.gov/Get-Started or contact your local district conservationist at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/in/contact/local/>.

In Monroe County, the Natural Resources Conservation Service office is at 1931 Liberty Drive, Bloomington.

monarch butterflies also helps pheasants and quail, who often eat insects.

"Pollinator habitat is excellent brood rearing habitat for pheasants and quail and other upland game species," he said. "They require protein-rich insects the first several weeks of their life and pollinator habitat produces that."

Besides providing areas for quail and pheasant, the improved habitat areas also provide the pollinating insects necessary for ensuring Americans have many of the foods we eat.

"A lot of people don't realize that one in three bites of food that you're going to have throughout the day require pollination of plants," he said, adding that most food in grocery stores wouldn't be there without pollinators. "They are essential for the food web, not just for wildlife but for humans as well."

To that end, Pheasants and Quail Forever has included 850 million milkweed seeds in its pollinator mixes as of November 2018. Those seeds include nine kinds of milkweed, which is the only plant upon which monarch butterflies will lay their eggs. Wiklund's group has "impacted 233,354 acres for pollinators," he said, adding that those contributions are noteworthy because of the Pollinator Partnership Action Plan designated by the White House in 2016 that calls for 1 billion new milkweed stems to be "established" by 2020.

monarch butterflies and other pollinating insects is increased.

There are species of ants, bats, beetles, birds, flies, moths and wasps that also act as pollinators. Having all of those animals available to pollinate plants helps farmers with not only agricultural crops but also with vegetable and fruit crops, he said.

Helping landowners better their land is an ongoing focus of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Raynor explained.

While Raynor's agency helps with assistance, it's the Pheasants and Quail Forever staff that determine who is eligible and will be approved to participate in the program.

Jared Wiklund, public relations manager with Pheasants Forever, said his group's participation in the program starts with the fact that improving habitat for

Weather topples stalk of famed plant; greenhouse staff still hoping for seeds

By Carol Kugler
Hoosier Times

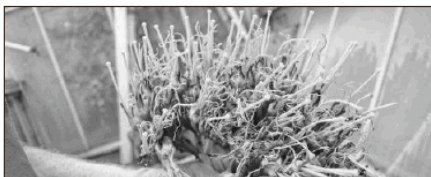
The stormy weather that heralded the beginning of the current colder temperatures in Bloomington also toppled the flowering stalk of the century plant in the Jordan Hall Greenhouse on the Indiana University campus.

On Monday morning John Lemon, supervisor of the greenhouse, noticed the single flowering stalk that was 30 feet tall and rose above the greenhouse glass roof was bent, with the flowers resting on the roof. By Monday afternoon, the stalk of the Agave americana plant was bent at about a 45-50 degree angle.

Even so, Lemon said



John Lemon, supervisor of the Jordan Hall Greenhouse at Indiana University, looks at the flowers on the bent flowering stalk of the century plant on Monday afternoon after storms Sunday night. (Carol Kugler / Hoosier Times)



The once spiky green leaves of the Agave americana, or century plant, are now withered as the plant, about 50 years old, comes to the end of its life. (Bobby Goddin / Hoosier Times)

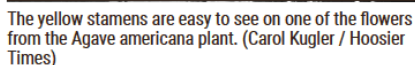
greenhouse soil nearby,

When lightning bolt strikes, is the tree out?



Bark from a tree is stripped after a lightning strike. (Purdue Plant and Pest Diagnostic Laboratory)

But it's the flowers that have a distinctive and



In its native habitat in Mexico and the southwestern portions of the U.S., that smell would attract the bats that are the natural pollinators for the agave plant. Indiana's bats are insect-eating species and don't pollinate plants. Other species of agave plants have white flowers and have a sweeter smell. Those plants are usually pollinated by moths.

Then, from the base of the plant, Lemon will cut off the waxy green leaves that are withering to reveal the base of the flower stalk, which will also be cut into segments and removed so other plants in the

While most sections of the stalk will be cut into fairly short lengths, Lemon does plan to keep a larger section. He has such a section — now dry, brown and brittle slightly bigger in circumference than an adult's fist — from another agave plant when it sent up a flowering stalk years ago. That plant was a different species and didn't have as large stalks as the *Agave americana* does, he said.

Contact Carol Kugler at 812-331-4359, ckugler@heraldt.com or @ckugler on Twitter.

Lightning can strike just about anything tall, but trees do seem to be a frequent target. And the same tree can be hit more than once. Moist tissues, which are vessels for water and carbohydrates just inside the tree bark, are better conductors of electricity than the drier wood in the center of the tree. The electrical current creates intense heating, often resulting in the bark virtually exploding off in large strips. Some trees may explode from the center of the tree, while others may have a narrow, but long, split in the trunk. If the surface of the bark is soaked with rain, the current may travel outside the trunk, resulting in less damage.

You can always take a wait and see approach, as long as the tree does not appear to pose a danger to people or property.

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City	H	L	W	City	H	L	W	City	H	L	W	
Albany	—	87	65	Detroit	—	85	65	Omaha	—	89	72	
Albuquerque	—	82	68	El Paso	—	99	75	pc	Orlando	—	88	
Albuquerque	—	81	53	sh	Fairbanks	—	61	1	Philadelphia	—	90	
Atlanta	—	87	68	pc	Flagstaff	—	81	56	Phoenix	—	108	
Atlantic City	—	86	63	pc	Grand Rapids	—	84	68	Peoria	—	85	
Baltimore	—	89	67	pc	Hartford	—	88	64	Pittsburgh	—	83	
Birmingham	—	91	51	pc	Helena	—	90	60	Portland, ME	—	82	
Birmingham	—	90	60	pc	Honolulu	—	89	75	Portland, OR	—	90	
Boston	—	83	69	pc	Houston	—	92	72	Richmond	—	86	
Brownsville	—	91	74	pc	Jackson, MS	—	91	68	pc	Sacramento	—	96
Burlington, VT	—	88	65	pc	Jacksonville	—	83	72	pc	St. Louis	—	88
Cambridge	—	86	65	pc	Kalamazoo	—	87	63	pc	St. Louis	—	85
Charleston, SC	—	88	67	pc	Las Vegas	—	104	88	pc	San Diego	—	89
Charleston, WV	—	83	63	pc	Little Rock	—	86	66	pc	San Francisco	—	75
Charlotte	—	86	66	pc	Los Angeles	—	88	67	pc	St. Ste. Marie	—	81
Chicago	—	86	65	pc	Memphis	—	87	70	pc	St. Ste. Marie	—	81
Cleveland	—	86	67	pc	Miami Beach	—	91	79	pc	South Bend	—	83
Columbia, SC	—	89	66	pc	Milwaukee	—	83	69	pc	Tampa	—	87
Columbus	—	86	66	pc	Minneapolis	—	87	70	pc	Tucson	—	103
Dallas	—	91	71	pc	Nashville	—	89	67	pc	Tulsa	—	88
Dallas	—	85	5	pc	New Orleans	—	76	74	pc	Wash., D.C.	—	88
Denver	—	92	66	pc	New York City	—	85	71	pc	Wichita	—	91

Around the world today

City	H	L	W	City	H	L	W	City	H	L	W	
Amsterdam	—	98	67	pc	Havana	—	91	72	pc	Paris	—	84
Ankara	—	86	63	pc	Helinski	—	87	63	pc	Prague	—	83
Baghdad	—	111	83	pc	Hong Kong	—	92	84	pc	Reykjavik	—	62
Bangkok	—	93	80	pc	Istanbul	—	86	71	pc	Rio	—	81
Barbados	—	87	81	pc	Jerusalem	—	86	67	pc	Riyadh	—	113
Batavia	—	86	74	pc	Meibau	—	87	70	pc	Salt Lake City	—	89
Beijing	—	100	79	pc	Kiev	—	78	59	pc	Santiago	—	61
Beirut	—	87	81	pc	Kuwait	—	116	92	pc	San Paulo	—	80
Belgrade	—	90	69	pc	Lima	—	64	58	pc	Seoul	—	84
Berlin	—	87	5	pc	Lisbon	—	76	63	pc	Singapore	—	90
Bermuda	—	88	80	pc	London	—	77	64	pc	Stockholm	—	81
Brisbane	—	72	52	pc	Madrid	—	90	63	pc	Sydney	—	68
Brussels	—	94	66	pc	Manila	—	89	79	pc	Taipei City	—	96
Budapest	—	90	65	pc	Mexico City	—	88	55	pc	Tel Aviv	—	89
Buenos Aires	—	90	60	pc	Montevideo	—	87	63	pc	Tokyo	—	90
Calgary	—	81	57	pc	Moscow	—	79	63	pc	Toronto	—	84
Caracas	—	73	65	pc	Nairobi	—	79	50	pc	Vancouver	—	78
Copenhagen	—	78	62	pc	Nassau	—	89	78	pc	Vienna	—	93
Dublin	—	72	52	pc	Nicosia	—	99	77	pc	Warsaw	—	79
Harare	—	78	43	pc	Oslo	—	86	63	pc	Zurich	—	92

Legend for City Lists: W=weather, S=sunny, pc=partly cloudy, c=cloudy, sh=showers, th=thunderstorms, s=snow, pc=partly cloudy, c=cloudy.

THE LATEST FORECAST, WEATHER ALERTS: Follow the weather forecast by the hour, track the radar and find severe weather alerts at [HoosierTimes.com/weather](https://www.hoosiertimes.com/weather)

House, Senate hire lawyer to intervene in Curtis Hill lawsuit

By Brandon Barger
TheStatehouseFile.com

INDIANAPOLIS—Leaders of the Indiana House and Senate have asked a federal court to allow them to intervene in a lawsuit filed by four women who say that Attorney General Curtis Hill groped them at a party at the end of the 2018 legislative session.

House Speaker Brian Bosma, R-Indianapolis, and Senate President Pro Tempore Rodric Bray, R-Martinsville, said late Monday that they had hired Susan M. Zoeller of Jackson Lewis P.C. to represent them in the case. Zoeller, who previously helped lawmakers craft new sexual harassment policies, has been paid \$54,474 for her services so far, according to the Legislative Services Agency.

Four women—Rep. Mara Candelaria Reardon, D-Munster; Niki DaSilva, a legislative assistant for Indiana Senate Republicans;

Samantha Lozano, a legislative assistant for Indiana House Democrats; and Gabrielle McLemore, communications director for Indiana Senate Democrats—sued Hill and the state of Indiana in U.S. District Court for sexual harassment, gender discrimination, retaliation, battery, invasion of privacy and defamation related to the March 2018 incident.

Hill is being sued both personally and in his role as attorney general. Indiana is being sued because, the women say, lawmakers and policy-making officials failed to act when concerns about workplace discrimination and retaliation were reported.

But neither the House nor the Senate was sued separately, which is why the lawmakers are asking

the court to allow them to intervene in the case.

Attorneys for the women at Katz, Korin, and Cunningham declined to comment on why the General Assembly wasn't included in the lawsuit.

In motions to intervene on behalf of each legislative chamber, Zoeller wrote that by not naming the House or the Senate, the four women are requiring them to change policies without giving either of them an opportunity to defend current policies.

In addition to the allegations against Hill, the lawsuit says that the state's policies to protect employees against sexual harassment have been weak or non-existent. In January, the General Assembly passed its first sexual harassment policy, but the lawsuit claims the

policy does not go far enough to protect employees.

Zoeller wrote that the House and Senate have a long-term interest in defending its policies and investigative actions from attack.

In separate responses on behalf of the House and Senate, Zoeller responded line by line to every point made in the women's lawsuit, including whether the sine die party held at the end of the session was an officially sanctioned event.

"Answering further, the Indiana House denies there is an official, sanctioned sine die Celebration," she wrote. Zoeller had a similar statement in the Senate response.

In addition to seeking damages against Hill and the state, the women in their lawsuit are asking the court to order the state to

improve policies and procedures for preventing and reporting sexual harassment and retaliation.

Hill has filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit, saying that the charges against him do not rise to the level of a civil rights violation.

Hill faces a hearing in October before retired Supreme Court Justice Myra Selby on charges filed against him by the Indiana Supreme Court disciplinary commission. The 10-page complaint accuses him of committing both felony-level and misdemeanor battery while acting "with the selfish motive to arouse his sexual desires."

Hill could face the loss of his law license, which in turn could cost him his elective office because Indiana law requires the attorney general to be licensed to practice law.

Brandon Barger is a reporter for [TheStatehouseFile.com](https://www.thestatehousefile.com), a news website powered by Franklin College journalists.



BRAY



BOSMA



HILL



A view of this year's demo garden at the Morgan County Fair. (Submitted by Theresa Browning)

GARDENERS

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Japanese Beetles menacingly attacked the eggplant, zinnias, and dark opal basil particularly hard this year.

This is Gearing's second year leading the volunteer team and organizing the demonstration garden, which they planted in May.

The goal of this year's garden: make gardening "attractive to children, encouraging them to plant and eat all the colors of the rainbow," said Gearing.

A home garden, she continued, "can be a fun place for the family to work together to grow healthy food for their family. We try

to show different methods of growing such as raised beds, trellises, pallets, garden towers, and tomatoes in cages or tied to a stake and pruned."

The gardeners planted mostly from seeds, but small animals ate a few of plants requiring multiple rounds of replanting. The bed originally planted with blue wheat challenged the Master Gardeners. After sowing it twice, with seeds from two different seed companies, Gearing replanted it with blue corn. A furry visitor ate the blue corn as well. Finally, Victoria Blue Salvia was to have something blue growing there.

Plants in the demonstration garden include: Rainbow Quinoa (pronounced KEEN-wah),



Purple pole beans will be on display during this year's Morgan County Fair. (Submitted by Theresa Browning)

Purple Bok Choy, Lemon Cucumbers, Bull's Blood Beets, Luffa, Purple Poddled Pole Bean and Chinese Light Green Long Bean.

The gardeners planted some beds to represent one specific color. There is a purple bed, a red bed, a pink bed, etc. Some of the beds are multi-colored, such as the one with the Rainbow Quinoa or the Cut and Come Again Zinnias.

Mooreville residents Marie Reiter and Roberta Sharp, both Master Gardeners in Morgan County,

have watered, weeded and nurtured the demonstration garden this summer. Sharp's favorite bed is the one with the zinnias.

"It fits right in with the rainbow garden theme," she said. Reiter was surprised by the quinoa. "I never grew it myself. That's what I like about our demo garden. Every year there's something new to see and learn about."

If a home gardener wants to grow a rainbow garden, he or she can find information about doing so from the Master



A garden tower which will be on display during this year's Morgan County Fair. (Submitted by Theresa Browning)

Gardeners' booth inside the Merchants building. Follow the Morgan County Master Gardeners on Facebook to receive updates and educational information about plants in the demonstration garden this year. The garden booth is directly next to the Rainbow Garden in the Merchant's building.

Master Gardeners take a 35-hour basic training course in Morgan County and incur 35 hours of volunteer service initially. Many members volunteer

even more than that. Some have expertise in wildflowers and invasive plants that ruin our forests and landscapes. Others are cultivators of tomatoes, berries and beekeeping. The primary goal is education for the community on behalf of Purdue University extension. Learn more from Purdue Extension office for Morgan County.

Fall classes for the next Master Gardener class begin Sept. 4. Contact the Morgan County extension office for more details.

BUST

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McHargue then says that he asked Blake to sit in his police car to talk and that the conversation was recorded.

"Blake stated that he knew the property owner (Anderson) only as 'Mr. James' and that he had met him on social media. Blake went on

in the residence but that everything in the residence was not his. Blake stated that he had moved some of his gamefowl to this location because the Indiana Gaming Commission was investigating him at his residence in Monroe County," the probable cause affidavit said.

It continues with, "Blake advised me that he brought 50 to 60 gamefowl to the farm and sold about 100 others

he and his children were much too old to be in 4-H. Blake reeled that he had other relatives whom he let use his fowl for 4-H."

Blake's vehicle was searched. Inside the vehicle, a book titled The Gamecock, a derby slip and four rooster transport boxes were found. A derby slip is a document provided to a cockfight when he enters a rooster or roosters into a cockfight that has

SUPPLIES

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Mooreville Consolidated School District

The School Supply Distribution for Mooreville students will be from 9 a.m. until noon on July 27 at

Mooreville High School. They will also be providing a clinic at the same time and place through Franciscan Health. To ensure there is enough vaccine, families are recommended to register for vaccinations at 317-528-6374.

They are accepting donations until July 25.

to say that Anderson was allowing him to keep his gamefowl on the property in exchange for doing maintenance around the farm, including feeding and caring for Anderson's animals. Blake referred to his gamefowl as 'show fowl.' Blake admitted to staying in the residence 'sometimes.' He stated that he had possessions

at Dinky's Auction House in southern Indiana. Blake stated that his gamefowl was intermixed with Anderson's gamefowl, and not keep separated or in one area. Blake stated that he was not a cockfight and didn't know any cockfights. He advised that he showed his fowl in 4-H. I asked Blake how he was able to participate in 4-H when

the weight and other identifiers of the rooster on it.

Defendants are presumed innocent and all criminal charges are allegations unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

Contact Nicole DeCriscio at 812-652-6108 or ndecriscio@spencereveningworld.com.



A box sits in the Mooresville Public Library with donated school supplies inside. (Cody Thompson / Reporter-Times)