Soccer & horses are family tradition for Martin siblings

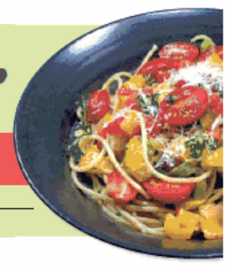
SPORTS | B1

Bella and Lucy Martin

What a pair

PASTA & GARDEN-FRESH VEGGIES

FOOD | B5



The Herald-Times

$1.00 ■ Bloomington, Ind. ■ Wednesday, September 9, 2020 ■ HeraldTimesOnline.com ■ 2 sections

"It will put us closer to our passion and purpose, which is kids. At the same time, keeping everyone safe is a great responsibility, and one that comes with a heavy weight on our shoulders, hearts and minds."

LILY ALBRIGHT, Unionville Elementary principal, on precautions put in place due to COVID-19

Lily Jacobs, left, takes a look at the scene as she approaches the first day of in-school learning Tuesday at Unionville Elementary School Tuesday. (Rich Janzaruk / Herald-Times)

'MIXED EMOTIONS'

MCCSC students head back to school after pandemic forced all classes online

By Emily Cox
The Herald-Times

UNIONVILLE — As cars and buses drove into the Unionville Elementary School parking lot starting at 8:20 a.m. Tuesday, principal Lily Albright directed them to pull forward, past the school sign that read "small and mighty."

Cars arrived at staggered times based on last name. As students hopped out of cars, with masks on and lunch boxes in hand, they were greeted enthusiastically by Albright. Students were then directed to stand on a dot in front of the school — spray painted six feet apart in purple, green, yellow, blue and red — until they were led inside.

On Monday, the Monroe County Community School Corp. metric committee met and reaffirmed the school board's earlier decision to move to the district's yellow phase on Tuesday, which means elementary students attend in person each day and middle and high schools are on a hybrid schedule. The online option is still available.

MCCSC students began the school year all online on Aug. 12. Community Based and Bridges special education classrooms and the Hoosier Hills Career Center started offering in-person learning on Aug. 31. According to data from the MCCSC, as of Sept. 2, nearly 71% of students in the district planned to attend in-person instruction.

Students sanitize their shoes Tuesday as they enter Unionville Elementary School for the Monroe County Community School Corp.'s first day of in-person classes. (Rich Janzaruk / Herald-Times)

As Stacy Goode sat in her car waiting to drop off her son, Jax, a sixth-grader at Unionville, she said they prepared like they usually would for the first day of school by making sure they had supplies they needed. This year, that included masks and hand sanitizer.

SEE MCCSC | PAGE A10

Coroner releases names in murder-suicide

By Laura Lane
The Herald-Times

Police continue investigating a murder-suicide over the Labor Day weekend that left a Bloomington family of four shot to death in their home in the city's Hyde Park neighborhood.

Monroe County Coroner Joani Shields announced Tuesday that the dead are 18-year-old Jakob Mumper, 26-year-old Emma Mumper, 54-year-old Annamarie Greta Simon-Mumper and 61-year-old Jeffrey Mumper.

Investigators said it appeared that Jeffrey Mumper shot his wife and children, then killed himself inside the southeast-side house where they had lived since 2008. It was likely they died in the early morning hours Sunday.

Autopsies are scheduled for today in Terre Haute. Official cause and manner of death are pending the results, Shields said.

Late Sunday afternoon, an Indianapolis TV crew filmed outside the two-story house, where there's a basketball goal in the driveway and a white picket fence around the backyard.

At about 9:30 Sunday morning, a friend of Emma Mumper came to the Mumpers' house at 2609 S. Olcott Blvd. to pick up her friend. After knocking on the door and calling her friend for 45 minutes, she used a key to enter. She found the 26-year-old dead in her bedroom.

Police said the woman left the residence and called 911. When officers arrived, they discovered three more bodies. Jakob Mumper and his mother were found in their bedrooms, and Jeffrey Mumper's body was found in the master bathroom.

Bloomington Police Department Capt. Ryan Pedigo said it's not clear what prompted the killings. Investigators are not releasing details.

Police and animal control removed a dog and a cat from the residence.

SEE RELEASES | PAGE A4

Lessons from the great outdoors

Sycamore Land Trust teams up with Christian school to teach about nature

By Emily Cox
The Herald-Times

Sitting on tree stumps in the woods on a Friday afternoon, first- and second-graders closed their eyes and stuck their hands into six different brown paper bags being held by their teachers or Shane Gibson, Sycamore Land Trust's environmental education director.

They exchanged glances as they kept quiet about what they thought was in each bag, then quickly raised their hands as soon as Gibson asked them to guess the items they had felt but not seen.

"No. 3 was a turtle shell from a box turtle," Gibson said.

"I knew it!" some students said.

This school year, Gibson is partnering with the Cedars Christian School to teach students using the classroom found in the great outdoors. On Friday, Gibson met with

SEE OUTDOORS | PAGE A4

Grace LaMothe, a first-grader at Cedars Christian School, checks her scavenger hunt list. The scavenger hunt was part of a lesson by Shane Gibson, Sycamore Land Trust's environmental education director. (Emily Cox / Herald-Times)

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Vol. 144, No. 116
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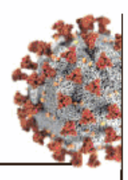
Despite fear of political pressure, makers of potential COVID-19 vaccines pledge full testing | A5



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COVID-19 PANDEMIC

MONROE COUNTY NUMBERS

38,505	1,521	36
TESTED	CASES	DEATHS

7-day Monroe County positivity rate through Sept. 1: 9.2% all tests, 15.9% individuals.

COVID-19 in area counties: Brown (1,729 tested, 91 cases, 2 deaths), Greene (5,090 tested, 382 cases, 35 deaths), Lawrence (6,133 tested, 480 cases, 27 deaths), Morgan (9,411 tested, 624 cases, 35 deaths), Owen (3,758 tested, 156 cases, 1 death).

STATEWIDE: 1,559,986 TESTED 100,780 CASES 3,156 DEATHS

Shane Gibson, Sycamore Land Trust's environmental education director, reads to first- and second-graders in the woods behind Cedars Christian School on Friday afternoon. (Emily Cox / Herald-Times)

OUTDOORS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

first- and second-graders in their outdoor classroom space in the woods near the school on South Endwright Road southwest of Bloomington.

Cedars Christian School provides hybrid schooling for preschoolers through seventh-graders, meaning students attend Cedars Christian School on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and are at home on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Heather Ummel, vice principal of the school, said on the days students are at home, they have work assigned from their teachers, but also work on what their parents have planned.

"There's a lot more to life than only sitting in a classroom and learning, so that's kind of the big picture of why we're a hybrid," she said.

It was Gibson's second time with the students and he built off of his first lesson, which was about using students' five senses to be aware of one's surroundings.

"When I start with a school group in the beginning of the year, I like to start with awareness and observation," he said. "Because everything we do after that we can build on it, of just being in tune to the little things, you know, all the insects that are just buzzing around us right now."

Gibson began his lesson by reading a book to students; then they did sensory activities. With their eyes closed, students guessed what was making a noise created by Gibson, such as deer antlers being rubbed together. Then they headed off on a scavenger hunt.

"When you hear an owl call, that means you have to come meet back here as a group," Gibson said.

Students mimicked the hoot of an owl to demonstrate, then roamed through the surrounding field and woods, clipboards and crayons in hand, searching for things like animal tracks or something red. Once Gibson did an owl call, they moved to the next activity, sitting at picnic tables and using rubber molds of animal tracks and ink to stamp the prints onto pieces of paper. Then they finished up the afternoon by collecting insects with sweep nets.

Gibson's visits are part of something at the school called "look and see," which happens Friday afternoons. Ummel said this time is used to focus on learning about God's creation. Those afternoons consist of service projects, field trips or other exploration activities such as kayaking. Ummel said they hope to help with trail maintenance now that the school is working with Sycamore Land Trust.

"Since we believe that God created the outdoors, how amazing to be able to spend time actually learning about the whole creation around us," Ummel said.

The Monarch Environmental Education Endowment, which was created just over five years ago, allows the programming to be offered for free, Gibson said.

"Sycamore saw a need that to continue protecting land, we need to get people of all ages and all ability levels connected and engaged because they might be our next conservationist," Gibson said. "They might be that next person who wants to donate land, who wants to help protect land. So we're hoping to instill that love of nature and awareness of the world around them."

A student uses a rubber mold of an animal track and ink to stamp the print onto a piece of paper. The activity was part of a lesson by Shane Gibson, Sycamore Land Trust's environmental education director. (Emily Cox / Herald-Times)

Contact Emily Cox at 812-331-4243, ecox@heraldt.com or follow @HT_InSchool on Twitter.

RELEASES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

A 2015 Herald-Times article quotes Jeff Mumper as a medical physicist at IU Health Cancer Radiation Center. Indiana University's directory lists him as a former employee, an adjunct instructor in the School of Physics.

Monroe County Community School Corp. records show Simon-Mumper worked for the district as an elementary school special education teaching assistant in 2016.

Jakob Mumper was a competitive swimmer at Bloomington High School North, where he was a senior.

Jakob was disappointed in his performance in the state finals, but said in March — after being named the H-T Boys' Swimmer of the Year — that he would be working hard over the summer to improve.

He said a team meal after the state finals reminded him that competition is about more than winning.

"I realized that it was about more than just times, it's about hanging out with friends. It's a shared experience that can never be taken away. In 20 years, I won't be thinking about finishing 18th. I'll be thinking about that Italian restaurant we went to."

His sister had been a competitive swimmer at North as well, whose quick times in the freestyle propelled her to state competition in 2009.

The Mumper residence at 2609 S. Olcott Blvd. (Herald-Times)

A message to parents from North principal Michelle Brittain-Watts sent Monday offered support for grieving students.

"Many of you may be aware that we have had a tragic loss of one of our BHSN students. We know this will be difficult for students, staff, and families. Our counseling department is available for students who may need additional support."

Reporter Jim Gordillo contributed to this story.

Northern Monroe Fire Territory chief Joel Bomgardner talks about the then-new fire station in July 2018 at 8768 N. Wayport Road in Washington Township. (Jeremy Hogan / Herald-Times)

Wayport fire station to close Thursday

By Ernest Rollins
The Herald-Times

A temporary fire station established in 2018 in Washington Township is going away this week.

Officials opened a temporary station on the Poynter Sheet Metal property at 8768 N. Wayport Road to better serve Washington Township residents and businesses.

Washington Township Trustee Barb Ooley said a county variance that allowed Northern Monroe Fire Territory firefighters to occupy the property 24/7 will reach the end of its term on Thursday. Northern Monroe Fire Territory chief Joel Bomgardner said they have also worked with the property owner on the lease. He added they are currently leasing the property on a month-to-month basis and the owner has agreed to prorate the payment this month since the station is closing.

The station was considered at the time a "stopgap" solution as they worked toward a more permanent solution for fire protection in the area. The latest plan is to have Washington Township join the fire protection district. More details on upcoming public meetings to discuss the potential merger are forthcoming.

In addition, the fire territory — created in 2016 and comprising Washington and unincorporated Bloomington townships, which manage the temporary station — will dissolve by year's end. Unincorporated Bloomington Township received approvals to join the Monroe Fire Protection District effective Jan. 1, 2021, leading to the territory's dissolution.

Bomgardner said all the equipment at the temporary station, including a $547,000 rescue/pumper truck purchased in 2018, will be kept at the fire station along Old Ind. 37. The truck was purchased with the intent to serve Washington Township and it will continue to do so, he said.

Bomgardner said when the territory dissolves after Dec. 31, township officials will settle up with each other. He added trustees and attorneys have met and have a fairly good understanding on how divvying up fire territory assets would work post dissolution.

Bomgardner said even with the closure of the temporary station, residents will still receive fire protection service from the fire station located along Old Ind. 37. He added they plan to continue using the new fire truck to respond to areas in Washington Township.