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Those pesky opinions

The phrase "Everyone has a right to their opinion" is getting on my nerves. While uttered by those who obviously don't believe it, it has some truth. Infamous examples that such can be a dangerous idea include Hitler's opinion of non-Aryans, George Wallace's opinion of civil liberties, and Obama's opinion of business owners. Indeed they have their right to their own opinion, what they do not have is the right to impose those opinions on others. They all have had the power to act on their opinion, and contempt for those they have directed their virulence toward. Were they powerless, their opinions would not have had the results, but would nevertheless have been an affront to civilization.

King George's opinion of the colonists led him to see them as a resource of tax dollars. That opinion started a war of independence. The American spirit was one of liberty, not prone to accepting impositions from afar, an opinion that *freedom is a God given right*. Where has that opinion gone? How have we exchanged "freedom" for "free handout" and God for government? In all fairness, Obama is not the power himself. It is the Senate and Congress that gives vitality and even guidance to his excesses in pursuing his opinion. Next month we can begin the process of removing that power. This month will you join me in protest by cutting off the life blood of government? Pay no taxes by not purchasing, not employing nor earning for one week beginning April 16th. Will you sacrifice a small hardship to let the powers-that-be know that they have taken long enough?



Dave Stafford

Two candidates on the May primary ballot stand out to me as having the opinion that freedom is still a right. You will find them profiled at the end of this issue. One aspires to Congress, to reverse our direction, one to county office to prudently adjust to the hardships imposed by higher government. Both will still try to supply vital services that are within constitutional justification. To provide for the general welfare, not just those who will vote for them. Provide for the common defense, not for those from outside, from those outside. Regulate interstate commerce, to allow free trade, not to trade freedoms.

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, and to the Constitution that guarantees its freedom, and to the Freedom that is its founding principal, one nation, under God, with liberty and justice for ALL.

Your freedom ends at the tip of my nose.

League of Miracles Receives \$150,000 Grant via Mooresville Kiwanis Club

The League of Miracles, a not-for-profit organization formed to create a sports complex in Central Indiana for people with special needs and their families to participate in recreational opportunities, announced it has received a \$150,000 grant from the Mooresville Kiwanis Club.

"We are honored that Kiwanis has chosen to make this investment in the community through our organization," League of Miracles Board of Directors President Steve Overton said. "The money we are raising will help those children and adults with special needs who do not often get the chance to play organized sports and miss

out on its many benefits. Our efforts will touch so many lives in Central Indiana."

Phase I of the Morgan County complex will feature a field of specially installed rubber turf. This forgiving, even playing surface makes it possible for children and adults with motor disabilities to walk, run or use assistive devices such as walkers and wheelchairs. The material is environmentally friendly and easy to maintain at low cost.

A board of directors and community volunteers are seeking cash donations and grants and planning fundraisers to build the League of Miracles sports complex, the first of its kind in

Indiana. A preliminary budget of just under \$1 million has been identified to develop Phase I and pay for limited administrative support.

Monetary donations can be made by visiting www.LeagueOfMiracles.org. These online donations are accepted through the Community Foundation of Morgan County

League of Miracles vision is to create a fun place for people with special needs and their families to participate in recreational opportunities. It will be a premier sports complex that will provide a level playing field for people with physical, emotional, learning and mental challenges.

The Morgan County Business Leader is published monthly and direct-mailed to Morgan County businesses free of charge. Subscribe at www.bleader.biz

BUSINESS LEADER[®]

MORGAN COUNTY

ESTABLISHED 2006
Vol. 4, No. 11

All About Town Publications
211 East High Street
Mooresville, IN 46158

Phone: (317) 697-2893 Fax: (317) 831-2205

E-mail: info@bleader.biz

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Contents

Those pesky opinions	3
The Market is telling us Something.....	4
Business Coaching & Spring Cleaning... Remove the Clutter	4
Contents inventories – Top 4 reasons people don't have one	4
Words of wisdom: Learning, living ... and believing in your dream	5
Renowned entertainers come to Morgan County.....	6
Mooresville free clinic opens in new location with expanded services	8
Karr's Automotive boasts the feminine touch	8
Gentry Martial Arts moves, expands programs	9
Yoga Matters affiliated with Gentry Martial Arts	9
Mooresville Town Councilman makes run for Morgan County district seat....	10
MCLTRC details successes and offers repair guidelines.....	11
Wathen wants to take intergity to congress.....	11



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The Market is telling us Something

The S&P 500 Index, a measure of the 500 largest publicly traded companies rated by market capitalization, has quietly crept over 1150. This is its highest point since September 2008. The stock market and investors should be happy. The Institute for Supply Management's manufacturing index expanded for the seventh month in a row, its non-manufacturing index expanded for the second month in a row, and they reported that the overall economy expanded for the tenth month in a row.¹

The Bureau of Economic Analysis, in their second estimate, revised 4th quarter GDP upwards to 5.9%. It seems the economy is continuing the "V" shaped recovery we have spoken about. The only negative number I have seen is consumer confidence. The Conference Board reported its Consumer Confidence Index fell by 10.5% in February. That is surprising in that personal income and consumption (spending) both rose in January.² I would be prone to think a good portion of that gloom had to do with the weather in February, remember that one day it snowed in 49 states, that and maybe too many people stayed inside and watched the news from Washington.

We are hearing predictions that employment will start to ex-



Tim Corman

pand in March. If you were to look at the graph on the Bureau of Labor Statistics www.bls.gov you would see an almost perfect "V". The bottom of that "V" is in January 2009 and it peeked into positive territory in November 2009. Employment almost has to expand. The Bureau also reported their final revision of non-farm productivity was up 6.9% in the 4th quarter of 2009. Employment is a lagging indicator. When employment picks up maybe the perma-bears and gold salesmen will quiet down.

While I don't want to down play the concerns investors and citizens have with the Federal deficit, and the possibility of a ballooning deficit with government run healthcare. I think the market

is telling us something. That the odds of this bill passing are becoming less and less.

UPDATE:

Last month I wrote that it would be a good idea, a show of good faith, to cut all civilian government employees pay by 10%. A couple of weeks later, Brian Wesbury, Chief Economist of First Trust Portfolios and frequent TV analyst wrote a column calling for the same thing. Brian actually put some numbers behind the idea. "A 10% cut would only net \$15 billion in outlay savings" and he continued "With today's interest rates, the present value of all future outlay savings would total roughly \$750 billion dollars"

Now that's real money even to a politician.

¹Institute of Supply Management
²Bureau of Labor Statistics

Tim Corman is an independent LPL Financial Advisor and LPL Registered Principal. He can be reached at Corman Total Investment Management (CTIM) 2680 E. Main St. Suite 233 Plainfield IN. 46168 317-837-Securities are offered through LPL Financial Member FINRA/SIPC

Business Coaching & Spring Cleaning...Remove the Clutter

Every year spring faithfully arrives. It brings with it rain and rising temperatures, spring training for professional baseball, NCAA basketball March madness, and kids getting off of school. And best of all, we get to say goodbye to winter.

Also, the new season brings with it talk about spring cleaning. I never really understood that concept. I attacked this cleaning task like I do with most things in life...with a get-it-done-yesterday urgency. I must admit, it felt great to do this long-overdue purging process. When finished it simplified my life. I felt mental relief, freedom and a sense of accomplishment. As a bonus, I could better see my stuff I could actually find things...some were permanently buried beneath the clutter. By removing massive amounts of clutter, I also got rid of the chaos, complexity, and confusion every time I went to look for something. Picking out what I needed was easy and would take seconds instead of minutes.

I could not resist the metaphor. How many owners have massive amounts of clutter in their business closets? You know what I mean by business clutter. It's the low-value, urgent, unimportant tasks (the trivial many) we routinely and reactively handle each and every day. Like an overflowing and disorganized closet of stuff, business clutter consumes our days, clouds out our clarity, wastes our time, clogs our creativity, reduces the flow of meaningful work, and ends up drowning out our productivity. As a business coach, I know this much with certainty...every owner has clutter in their business and personal lives and most of it revolves around doing the wrong type of work each and every day. Because they are



Thomas Barnes

too busy being busy, they do not take the time to think and differentiate between meaningful and meaningless work.

Again, we all have clutter in our lives, some more than others. What's the clutter in your closet? For some examples, clutter could be you doing administrative or hourly type of tasks, checking and responding to email throughout the day, reading the newspaper, chatting with co-workers, repeatedly checking your Blackberry, handling paperwork, surfing the web, answering the cell phone no matter what, doing other people's jobs, messing in the factory, roaming the office, solving the problems others created, doing mindless trips or chores, putting out fires, etc. Most owners simply do the wrong type of work. Many of these activities are just habitual and tension-relieving and not goal-achieving.

Just like most of my stuff was not necessary, most of your daily tasks are not necessary. Realize that 80% of your results come from only 20% of your talents and activities. Therefore, wake-up to the fact that 80% of your daily activities are really not that important. Sorry, but you probably already know this deep down to be true.

Stop wasting your time doing the wrong kind of work. Think of the time you could free up for more important, strategic opportunities to grow your business and profits as well as spend more time with your family. Commit to clean out the clutter from your business.

Here are some quick tips. Spend 15 minutes and write down all the clutter in your professional and personal life. What is wasting your time and talents? What work should you NOT be doing? What is steering you away from critical priorities? What diversions are robbing you and your company of greater productivity? What should you outsource? Where do you need to hire help? Look honestly at the list. Accept the truth and acknowledge the clutter. Commit to eliminate or delegate the 80% of your activities (clutter) that produce minimal results for your business or career.

Instead of creating a "to-do" list each and every day, start creating a "not-to-do list." Start giving up tasks that are not worthy of your time and that you probably don't enjoy doing...either delete those tasks all together or delegate them to others. Choose instead to focus on the meaningful 20% of your talents and activities that drive the vast majority of your results and success. The "vital few" tasks are those that produce money, save money, or keep your customers happy.

Work smarter, not harder! Do those tasks you are naturally good at doing and enjoy doing. Give up the rest. Commit to clean up and give up the "clutter" in your professional and personal life.

Contents inventories – Top 4 reasons people don't have one

The topic of business and home inventories is being discussed often. Usually after a disaster, it becomes top of mind for a few days, then everything is back to normal. Until another fire, tornado or earthquake, and it's a topic for discussion once more. Due to the current economy, thefts are frequent. Therefore, it is common for casual conversations about the most recent string of burglaries to turn once again to the need for a list of one's belongings.

Statistics vary, but less than 5% to just shy of 45% of the American public have some version of an inventory. Insurance agents we interviewed believe it's closer to the 5%, based on their policyholders. Most agents stated that they encourage their customers to record their contents, but they know that very few actually complete the task.

A survey we conducted among those living in the Indianapolis Metropolitan area showed that 9% have an inventory. Interestingly, 95% of the respondents admitted that they would not be able to recover properly without one!

With this knowledge, we found the reasons why the 91% do not have this valuable documentation.

I don't have the time

Lack of time is by far the main reason given. In fact, 45% stated they don't have the time. Family, jobs and busy lifestyles are some of the priorities that come before documenting their assets (which



Cindy Hartman

is why we provide a personal property inventory service).

A comment on our survey:

My insurance agent told me I should have one (he's told me more than once!), but I just can't seem to get to it.

I live on the edge and don't believe I'll need one

Some (20%) believe "it" will never happen to them. Even if you think you're exempt from a natural disaster, fire or theft, think of an inventory as an investment in peace of mind. Remember, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

I believe I can remember and prove everything I own

Take a moment now and try to list everything in your living or family room. How many CDs and DVDs? What is the manufacturer and model number of your television, CD player, speaker

system? Though 14% who do not have an inventory believe they can remember, 100% of victims interviewed state otherwise.

I don't know how or I wouldn't keep it up to date if I did create one.

8% of our readers fall into this category. Some feel it's a daunting task (and it can be) and just can't seem to get started. Others know they wouldn't keep it up to date. Insurance companies suggest an annual update to ensure your documents are current.

Comments on our survey:

- I wouldn't know where to begin. It seems like a huge project that I just can't seem to force myself to start.
- I have an inventory, but it's 4 years old.

Time is the main factor for not having a personal property inventory, whether for a business or residence. Professionals can complete the task efficiently and some will maintain the updates for you as well. The prevention (your time if you do it yourself and the small fee if you hire a 3rd party service provider) is minimal compared to the loss you'll likely face.

Cindy Hartman is President of Hartman Inventory LLC, a woman-owned business that provides business and home inventory services. <http://www.HartmanInventory.com>

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Top Tips from tiptopics.com

Words of wisdom: Learning, living ... and believing in your dream

Presented by Bob Chenoweth

Rather than offer specific business commentary this time around, I thought I'd share some quick snippets of wisdom and inspiration from others. Consider these observations for success in life and business:

On Getting Started:

"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose."

— Dr. Seuss

"The longest journey you will ever take is the 18 inches from your head to your heart."

— Andrew Bennett

"Whatever you can do, or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it."

— Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe

On Life's Possibilities:

"Listen to the mustn'ts, child, listen to the don'ts – listen to the shouldn'ts, the impossibles, the won'ts – listen to the never haves, then listen close to me – anything can happen, child ANYTHING can be."

— Shel Silverstein

"Go as far as you can see. When you get there, you can see farther."

— B.J. Marshall

"Vision is the art of seeing things invisible."

— Jonathan Swift

On Confidence and Self-Worth:

"If you think you are this 'meat suit' running around, think again. You're a spiritual being! You're an energy field, operating in a larger energy field."

— James Ray

"Do not wish to be anything but what you are, and try to be that perfectly."

— St. Francis de Sales

"To be what we are, and to become what we are capable of becoming, is the only end of life."

— Robert Louis Stevenson

"You don't have to be tall to see the moon."

— African Proverb

"If you're going to doubt something, doubt your limits."

— Don Ward

On Wisdom:

"To know what you know and to know what you don't know, that is real wisdom."

— Confucius

"Admitting that you were wrong is just another way of saying that you are wiser today than yesterday."

— Don Ward

On Faith and Perseverance:

"I dare you, while there is still time, to have a magnificent obsession."

— William Danforth

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

— Hebrews 11:1

"If you're going through hell, keep going."

— Rob Estes



Bob Chenoweth is the founder, President and Chief Creative Officer of TipTopics LLC. A professional writer, content consultant and graphic designer, Bob also owns Chenoweth Content & Design LLC, which specializes in helping business owners and operators craft messages that communicate, illuminate and resonate.

To learn more, contact Bob Chenoweth at:

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30 Greenwood Drive
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(317) 831-7760 (Office)
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"Do, or do not. There is no try."

— Yoda

"Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up."

— Thomas Edison

On Love and Kindness:

"To love a person is to learn the song that is in their heart, and to sing it to them when they have forgotten."

— Thomas Chandler

"Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier."

— Mother Teresa

On Success:

"...there are successes to be recognized and joy to be seized in every day."

— Elizabeth Keane

"And will you succeed? Yes indeed, yes indeed. Ninety eight and three-quarters percent guaranteed!"

— Dr. Seuss

"Believe in the dream you are moving toward; Believe in yourself, have faith in the Lord. Know that tomorrow is borne of today; Be a hero to someone along the way. Love, laugh and learn as you follow your star; Be strong in your quest, you've made it this far. Yes, believe in that dream, it's waiting on you; Believe it and see it and make it come true."

— Bob Chenoweth (Okay, this one's mine)

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Renowned

to

By Bob Sullivan

Morgan County Business Leader

"It amazes me how many people in Morgan County have never seen a live performance before attending one of our shows," said Janice Lindboe, President of the Board of Premier Performances of Morgan County. "Then again, given the drive to Indianapolis or Bloomington, plus the hassles and price of parking and the price of the ticket itself, I guess it's not that surprising after all." Premier Performances concludes its 15th season of programming Tuesday, April 6, with the Harry James Orchestra appearing at Martinsville High School. The group has recently confirmed its schedule for 2010-2011 (see sidebar).

Since its inception, the goal of Premier Performances has been to bring a variety of quality, affordable stage shows to Morgan County. Simultaneously, Premier Performances has had great success with an outreach program, arranging for their talent to visit Morgan County schools during the day to provide special exhibitions and question-and-answer sessions that introduce the artists' crafts and give students better insight into the arts.

"These [the performers] are not newcomers, they're seasoned professionals. They've had long, successful careers in demand throughout the world. We've had the Kingston Trio and the Russian Symphonic Choir direct from Moscow," Janice notes, "literally that day. These are amazing artists and it's thrilling we're able to bring them here."

Given the caliber of entertainment, Premier Performances is quite affordable. "A family ticket for a season of shows is \$95," notes Janice. "It's much cheaper than a night at the movies," notes Janice.

Premier Performances started in 1994. According to Janice, an agency that handles talent for similar programs stopped in Martinsville and met with a small group to learn more about the community's needs. That small group included Ruth Rusie, Nancy Witham and Patty Wood. After the meeting, the group became the original board, with Nancy Witham as the first president. "They assembled a first season with tremendous community support from the first performance," said Janice.

The organization is not-for-profit. The money from ticket sales and advertising revenue goes directly into bringing in and accommodating the talent. The reason for their success, Janice feels, is their board's ability to balance the proper level of talent with the funds available. "We are lucky because our program is so well supported by the community. Sadly, in today's economy, a large number of similar programs are forced to close down."

Janice and Garry Lindboe have been married 45 years. They've lived in Martinsville for 30 years. Janice works one day a week with Garry, a financial advisor, at his office on the north side of Indy. "It's the one day a week I do what he says," she joked. She also pursues her interest as a pastel artist. "I had enjoyed that in high school and college. Two children and three grandchildren later, I picked it up again. And my work with Premier Performances keeps me busy. I must have an understanding husband, because he keeps feeding me."

Premier Performances is putting out the call for volunteers. "We have over 30 now, which is a good number, but we'd love to have more. Every year, we host a dinner where our talent agent discusses the upcoming season with our volunteers. If, afterward, the volunteers sell 10 tickets each, they are able to earn their own season tickets free of charge." Depending on budget and the entertainers available, Premier Performances strives to schedule four to five shows every season. "That's why our volunteers are so important," Janice emphasized. Those interested in learning more about the volunteer program should call Janice Lindboe at 765-342-7890.

Premier Performances of Morgan County

Board President: Janice Lindboe

Phone: 765-342-7890

Ticket information: Ruth Rusie: 765-342-3266

www.premierperformances.org

Ruth Rusie,
Maxwell, K

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World entertainers come to Morgan County



(center green coat) Mayor's Dinner Spirit Award Winner is pictured with the board, L-R: Pat Roudebush, Roger Maxwell, Cathy Maxwell, Debbie Burden, Rod Bray, John Ehrhart, George Boder. Not Pictured: Patty Wood.

These [the performers] are not newcomers, they're seasoned professionals. They've had long, successful careers in demand throughout the world. These are amazing artists and it's thrilling we're able to bring them here."

-Janice Lindboe

Announcing the 2010-2011 Premier Performances Concert Series

Doors open at 7 p.m. Performances start at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, September 24, 2010: Rhythm and Passion at Martinsville High School. An international cast of performers awaken your senses to the world of Salsa, Gaucho and Tango

Thursday, December 9, 2010: Leon Williams' Noel at Martinsville High School. A special holiday performance by the celebrated baritone

Thursday, February 15, 2011: Redhead Express at Mooresville High School (tentative). Original and traditional bluegrass, gospel and "old time" music

Tuesday April 5, 2011: Club Swing at Martinsville High School. Where the music's hot and the legend lives forever

"We received our first choices for every performance," said Janice Lindboe. "Our goal every season is to create a program that offers as much variety as possible."



Mooresville free clinic opens in new location with expanded services

By Bob Sullivan

Morgan County Business Leader

The Saint Thomas More Free Clinic first opened in June 2005 under the guidance of church parishioners Chris and Cindy Herman. Co-director Ted Voelz recalled, "At the time, we saw patients in a couple classrooms in the St. Thomas More Catholic Church. Shortly after it started, due to an employment opportunity, the Herman family moved out of the state." That's when Shelly and Ted, who were on the initial board, began to shepherd the clinic.

As patient needs increased, the board relocated the clinic to Pebble's Plaza in 2006. But before long, the clinic needed to find still-larger, more appropriate facilities to meet the continued growth. They have now acquired the Edgar and Oscar Kourney Medical Building. Built 50 years ago, the building stood unused since March 2009, had a floor plan already designed for treating patients, and offered three times more floor space. Plus, it was located directly across the street from the St. Thomas More Catholic Church.

Ted explained, "I think there's some confusion, because we operate under the name of a Catholic church. We're here to help the needy of Morgan County. Patients are screened to assure meet the state's definition of uninsured and impoverished. We don't ask, nor do we care about, a patient's religious affiliation. For that matter, our volunteer board members, doctors and staff are not necessarily affiliated with the Catholic Church, though [the clinic is] an extension of their 501(c)(3) nonprofit status. We receive support from a wide variety of churches and organizations throughout the community."

Bud Swisher, active board member of the clinic and retired president and CEO of Kendrick Hospital, adds, "The Kendrick Foundation has been a vital source to help provide the financial support we've needed to grow, improve services, and better serve the community."

While the clinic's hours are posted as 9:00 a.m. to noon, Ted clarifies, "If you sign up prior to noon, we will do everything we can to see you that day. Our staff, led by Medical Director Dr. Eric Wymer, makes every effort to ensure that happens." Other volunteer physicians include doctors: Kristin Wood, Pamela Lynch, Jennifer Bigelow, David Hadley, Dudley Poplin, and John Stuy. The IU School of Nursing sends the clinic, on average, three nursing students each day it is open.

In 2006, the clinic treated 374 patients, averaging 10.5 patients per day. In 2009, records show that number grew to 849 patients, averaging over 35 patients per day. Clinic co-director Shelley Voelz adds, "Saint Francis Mooresville



St. Thomas More Free Clinic

Clinic Co-directors:

Shelley (middle) and Ted Voelz (left)
1125 North Indiana St.
Mooresville, IN 46158
stmfc@att.net

has been very gracious working with our patients. In 2009 alone, the hospital wrote off, as a portion of their total charity care costs, \$170,000 toward treating 184 patients from our clinic. If not for the Kendrick Foundation and St. Francis, this ministry could not exist. More recently, we've partnered and coordinated our efforts with Alice Cordes from Churches in Mission."

In October 2009, the clinic received the Tony and Mary Hulman Health Achievement Award for Preventive Medicine and Public Health, administered through Indiana Public Health Foundation. "We were honored to receive such recognition of our community service," said Shelley.

Regarding the move to new facilities, Shelley says, "We had reached the point where people couldn't see their doctor. We had people waiting in their car because there was no space in the waiting room. This is about two and a half times larger than our previous facilities. We added an examination room [expanding from 5 to 6 rooms], an office for our medication specialist, and, probably the most important, we can provide far greater privacy for confidential patient consultations. We're also looking to expand our onsite testing capabilities in the near future." The new facilities opened to patients February 6.

Shelley Voelz has worked as a nurse at St. Francis hospital since 1977. She is the director of standards compliance and patient safety for all three campuses.

Karr's Automotive boasts the feminine touch

By Bob Sullivan

Morgan County Business Leader

"It's tough for some people to get used to," Teresa Karr admits. "Some long-time customers left for awhile, but most of them have since returned." The sole owner of Karr's Automotive since her husband left the shop two and a half years ago, Karr says some first-time visitors, particularly men, are surprised when they ask to see the shop owner and she appears. "On the other hand, women customers tend to be put at ease, so I guess it balances out."

Karr's Automotive started out of the Karr home in Mooresville over 22 years ago. Theresa supported her husband's dream, handling the books and paperwork, talking with customers, and working alongside the mechanics. Nine years ago, when the growth of the business demanded relocation, she helped oversee the move to their current location.

Three years ago, following her divorce, Teresa found herself sole owner of the garage. "After 20 years, I discovered the garage had also become my dream. I had the knowledge and experience, and I had the passion and the drive to make it succeed."

Following the rough bump of transition, Teresa has taken Karr's Automotive forward, managing a full-service garage and a crew of talented ASE-certified mechanics who support her decisions.

Teresa ordered major upgrades in their machinery, including a state-of-the-art scanner, and has expanded their services to include exhaust work and tires, custom wheels, and rims. "I brought on a fantastic service writer/manager—Steve Thomas—with over 25 years of automotive experience, who works with me to give us greater control of our services. We offer



Karr's Automotive

Owner: Teresa Karr

142 East Harrison St. Mooresville
317-831-8067 | www.karrsauto.com
Hours: Monday through Friday
8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

more deals and specials, various free services with purchases, and free local shuttle service for all our customers. We accept competitors' coupons. It's great for the business, it's great for our customers, and it's not something I could initiate before."

Teresa credits her mechanics for their willingness to do what needs to be done to do the job right and for backing her decisions. "If we didn't come together as a team, we'd have no business. Now, we're in a much better place. We're proof that what doesn't kill you makes you stronger."

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Gentry Martial Arts moves, expands programs

By Bob Sullivan

Morgan County Business Leader

Martial Arts instructor Brandon Sieg, armed with a passion to teach martial arts while instilling an honorable, disciplined “gentry” approach to conduct, opened Gentry Martial Arts 10 years ago. “I received traditional training, which focuses on discipline of the mind and exemplary behavior towards others,” noted Brandon. “I strive to instill these disciplines in my own students.”

“We started on the square and moved to the previous location (333 West Washington St.) seven years ago,” Brandon recalled. “Our program came about through providence. In 1998, I was already teaching at Indiana and Depauw Universities, and a friend contacted me about wanting to start a martial arts studio in Martinsville. We opened in 1999, and for various reasons, my friend eventually had to back out. I spoke with Todd Miller, who taught with me at IU. He joined me in 2001, and we ran with it.”

Brandon explained, “Opening our own studio allowed us to hold the special events and get-togethers that help us to gel as a group and help more active students go to the next level.” He continues, “While our school participates and does well in tournaments, we focus on showing students how to find the confidence to go after whatever goals they set for themselves, whether it’s doing better at school, helping things go better at home—those are victories, too. Besides our professionalism and our disciplined approach, we pride ourselves on having a family atmosphere. We don’t require contracts because we want people who want to be here. We encourage each other and work together. I’m convinced we’re doing things the right way.”

Throughout February and March, the studio has slowly transitioned to their new space, moving equipment and shifting classes. An all-day public grand opening is scheduled for April 17. Trainer and co-owner Todd Miller noted that Gentry Martial Arts is one of the larger martial arts schools in the area and that the business was outgrowing its space. “The new facilities will accommodate more students in our current classes, and allow us to start new classes, like a mother-daughter class—something we’d not been able to pursue before.” According to Brandon and Todd, the new facilities will be larger, more functional, and will have significant upgrades.

Gentry Martial Arts teaches Tai Kwon Do, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, Hapkido, FAST self defense, Tai Chi Ch’uan, and more in a variety of age groups and class times. Frankie Williams, who instructed yoga for the studio, will move her pro-



Gentry Martial Arts

Owner/Instructor:

Brandon Sieg (left) and Todd Miller

New Location:

1909 East Morgan St. Martinsville,
765-342-5600

www.gentrymartialarts.com

Mark Your Calendar
Saturday, April 17 Gentry Martial
Arts Grand Re-Opening
Yoga Matters Grand Opening
Tour the new facilities all day.

gram next to Gentry Martial Art’s new facility.

Todd Miller entered the martial arts program at Indiana University, where he met Brandon. Brandon has been training since age 10. In addition to running their studio, the two continue to instruct the martial arts programs at IU and DePauw.

Brandon grew up in southern Indiana and has been training since age 10. He moved to Martinsville while attending Indiana University. Brandon and Jennifer have two children, Haley (8) and Donovan (3). Todd grew up in South Bend and entered the martial arts program at Indiana University, where he met Brandon. Todd moved to Mooresville in 2003. His wife Amanda is a teacher at Paul Hadley Middle School.

Yoga Matters affiliated with Gentry Martial Arts

By Bob Sullivan

Morgan County Business Leader

“When I started training in yoga, about 10 years ago, I hadn’t considered making a business of it,” recalled Frankie Williams, who is opening her own studio, Yoga Matters, in the space adjoining Gentry Martial Arts. Frankie is a registered yoga instructor through Yoga Fit, the only program recognized by the American Council on Exercise. Frankie cautions, “Avoid the programs that claim to ‘teach yoga after one weekend.’”

In 2008, Frankie instructed yoga classes at the YMCA, and a year ago she began teaching yoga at Gentry Martial Arts. “Both disciplines [martial arts and yoga] are mind/body focused, so it was a natural fit to start a yoga program,” Frankie observed. Her children attended Gentry Martial Arts, so she felt comfortable approaching owner Brandon Sieg. “I sold Brandon on the idea. Then he attended my classes and became a believer.” Space limitations affecting the martial arts studio also affected her classes. “We saw an opportunity to have an autonomous yoga studio in facilities that would allow us to easily combine our floor space for events and tournaments.”

Yoga Matters is Frankie’s first venture into business ownership. Housing her business within Gentry Martial Arts offers the best of both worlds: business ownership and a close relationship with an experienced business owner and peer.

“Yoga is a great extension of what we do [at Gentry Martial Arts],” added Brandon Sieg.



Yoga Matters

Owner/Instructor: Frankie Williams
1909 East Morgan St. Martinsville
765-318-1361
ND2RN46151@yahoo.com

“The disciplines complement each other and help people achieve more in their lives.”

Frankie is a lifelong resident of Martinsville. She and her husband Brian have two children, Brenner (17) and Morgan (11). She also enjoys running, Tai Chi, and other sporting activities.

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Mooresville Town Councilman makes run for Morgan County district seat

By Bob Sullivan

Morgan County Business Leader

Ryan Goodwin was elected to the Mooresville Town Council in 2007, where he currently serves as council president. Now, Ryan seeks to win the May 4 primary for a chance to run for the Morgan County Council seat for District 3. The district represents “the greater Mooresville area, roughly one-third of Morgan County’s population,” Ryan explained.

At age 26, Ryan is well-known by the many hats he wears. In 2005, Ryan started Mooresville Magazine, which later became Morgan County Magazine. The publication continues as an e-publication (see the MCBL February 2009 profile).

Ryan also serves on the Mooresville police department. He began his service as a volunteer and became a full-time patrolman in 2008. After a serious injury in July 2009, he returned to full duty in January 2010.

These roles point to one focus—to serve the local community to the best of his ability. Ryan explained, “The Morgan County Council position oversees and approves the budget for the county. In certain rare instances, the council may pass local rules and policies. The appeal for me in seeking this office is still to represent Mooresville, but to affect decisions at a higher level.”

Ryan notes, “A big issue is public safety. The state is seeking to pass laws requiring us to consolidate various EMS services to a more regional approach, from township- to county-wide. We can get started now, making sure those transitions happen smoothly, in ways that make good organizational sense, while being fiscally responsible.”

On economic development, Ryan says, “I want to address issues from a regional mindset. If something isn’t a good fit in Mooresville, we want to see if it might work elsewhere within Morgan County. Working on the county level would give me the ability to serve in this more regional capacity, which is the direction the economic development industry has taken.”

Ryan emphasized, “We need [to provide] the best care of the county’s employees and to provide the best services possible—at a price we can afford. We need to do the best we can, while remaining within our means, and without sacrificing those services.”



Ryan Goodwin

317-509-2868
www.ryangoodwin.org

Ryan and his wife Daphne, a Mooresville High School mathematics teacher, reside in Karrington Estates in Mooresville.

Networking Opportunities

Martinsville Chamber of Commerce:

The Chamber’s meets on the third Friday at 11:30 AM at the Morgan County Administration Building, 180 South Main Street. Lunch is \$5. For more info, please contact the Chamber office at (765) 342-8110 or visit its website: www.MartinsvilleChamber.com

Martinsville Downtown Merchants Association:

For information contact Pam Badger, The Candy Kitchen, 765-342-6390

Mooresville Chamber of Commerce:

The regular monthly meets on the third Thursday from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM. The meeting location is Jones Crossing Banquet Center at the corner of SR 67 and Allison Road. Lunch is \$5. For more information call the Chamber office at 317/831-6509 or visit its website: www.MooresvilleChamber.com.

Mooresville Revitalization Group:

The Mooresville Revitalization Group meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at Zydeco’s on E. Main St. from 6:45-8:00 PM. Current topics include purchasing additional planters for the downtown area and coordinating a new “Planters on Parade” contest for the Spring/Summer. For more information contact Lori Cole, Autumn Whispers Health and Harmony, 317-831-7817, or email to AutumnWhispers@earthlink.net

Morgantown Merchants Association:

The Morgantown Merchants Association meets on the second Monday at 7 PM at the Fire Station. For more information call Sharon Zimmerman at the Stitchery Mill at 812-597-5997. More information on Morgantown is available at www.MorgantownIndiana.com.

Networking Business Women of Morgan County:

NBW of MC meets on the second Thursday at 11:30 AM at the Mooresville School Administration Building next to the Post Office on Carlisle Street. Bring your own lunch. For more information, call Patti Owen at 317-856-9801.

Rainmakers Meetings:

On the first Friday each month at 7:30 AM at the Holiday Inn Express in Martinsville at Burton Lane and SR 37.

On the second Tuesday at 7:30 AM at Stone Creek Dining Company at Metropolis Mall, Plainfield.

Rainmakers has 50+ meeting per month, including noon and evenings, for more information visit www.GoRainmakers.com.

Rotary Clubs:

Martinsville meets every Tuesdays at noon at the First Presbyterian Church, 240 East Washington Street, Martinsville.

Mooresville Decatur meets every Wednesday at 7:30 AM at Jones Crossing Banquet Center, SR 67 and Allison Road, Camby.



MCLTRC details successes and offers repair guidelines

By Tonya Todd

Morgan County Business Leader

As spring approaches, the Morgan County Long Term Recovery Committee (MCLTRC), which began its work July 25, 2008, plans to wrap up its flood recovery efforts. The primary goal of the MCLTRC was to return flood survivors to safe, sanitary and affordable housing.

Morgan County was blessed with a large funding base, thanks to the United Way of Central Indiana (UWCI), the Barbara B. Jordan YMCA, the Community Foundation of Morgan County (CFMC), the Colts, a Concert to benefit flood recovery, and many individual and corporate donors. These donations amounted to over \$1.9 million. An amazing 409 projects have been completed, with the average expenditure for each client totaling \$5,982.11.

The amount of help that has been provided would have been much smaller if it were not for the help of many volunteers. Since the establishment of the MCLTRC, over 39,000 unpaid hours have been tracked. The majority of the volunteers were provided by Christian Aid Ministries (CAM), a combined Mennonite and Amish church effort, and Catholic Charities in conjunction with St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church. According to 2008 U. S. Department of Labor wage calculations, these volunteer administrative, construction, food, clothing and furniture distribution hours would have cost over \$586,425.41.

The largest obstacle for the MCLTRC to overcome was inexperience. There was no history of a disaster on this large a scale for Morgan County. MCLTRC reached out to the National Volunteers Active in Disaster for a "how to" manual to help develop the structure and responsibility of the organization. MCLTRC Coordinator Joe Mills states that the lessons learned from the flood of 2008 will help in the event of another such disaster in Morgan County. In fact, there are plans to maintain a skeletal recovery committee in place for the future. The group has created a list of ways residents can protect themselves when seeking contractors for home repairs, regardless of the cause (see sidebar).

Mills and his staff of three took great pride in performing due diligence to determine that damage to be repaired was done by the flood waters and not neglect by the home owner. The team kept meticulous records to ensure that MCLTRC was a good steward of the funds en-

Morgan County Long Term Recovery Committee

Coordinator: Joe Mills
118 East Morgan St.
Martinsville, 46151
765-342-4200
jemills@mcltrc.com

trusted to them.

"We weren't looking to turn someone down," says Mills, "but we had an obligation to ensure funds entrusted to us went to return households to pre-flood conditions. In some cases, the home was returned to better condition, but only because flood repairs were not feasible without making structural repairs."

Mills states that the MCLTRC staff had a great sense of satisfaction when repairs on a home were completed. It was very rewarding when keys were turned over to a home owner. One of many cases that made the MCLTRC work worthwhile was a home owned by Connie Suter, a wheelchair-bound woman who lived alone. Suter applied for help in October 2009, after the wheel of her wheelchair "fell through a little bit between my kitchen and living room floor."

The MCLTRC staff was able to make her home more handicap-accessible by lowering kitchen cabinets, redesigning the bathroom and shower, and widening doorways at no additional expense when they repaired her water-damaged home.

Suter says, "There is no way I could ever repay people involved with the MCLTRC. Jane (Crady) and Darren (Darren Coppock, the construction coordinator) have been wonderful. There aren't enough words to express how thankful I am."

There is much to be celebrated since the 2008 flood, largely because of the efforts of the MCLTRC and the outpouring of community support. Though details have not been finalized, there is a celebration of the county's healing planned for the second anniversary of this life-changing natural disaster.

Wathen wants to take intergity to congress

By Dave Stafford

Morgan County Business Leader

"We need a new face on our conservative values", is the campaign slogan of Eric Wathen. Wathen currently serves as a Hendricks County Commissioner, and is running for Congress in the 4th Indiana Congressional District, the seat held by Steve Buyer. Buyer has decided not to run again, and there are a number of good men seeking to be the Republican candidate. The 4th has long been a Republican stronghold, reflective of Hoosier values, and the Republican Primary election in May will likely be the deciding race for the Congressional seat.

Wathen is an engineer, not a politician. Of the politicians he would be joining in Washington he says, "I don't think any of them have been out in the real world with a real job." As a County Commissioner, he says the biggest challenge is, "Keeping that balance between property rights and community needs." As an engineer, he says, "The only thing you have is your integrity, if you loose that, you'll never be able to get the trust back." Of his candidacy, he says, "It's a good opportunity and a chance to get this country back on the right path."

Eric married his high-school sweetheart, Ann in 1999. They have 4 sons: Zane (8), Drew (6), Tyler (4) and Luke (1). For the past 6 years, Wathen has worked for Rinker Materials in technical marketing and sales.



Eric Wathen

Republican Candidate for
Congress of the United States
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