

Covering Decatur, Franklin, Ripley and Rush counties

CHURCH | **A4**

## Layne: Why the First Sunday of Lent is a Christian call to action



SPORTS | **A9**

## Basketball: Cougars avenge regular season loss to Jackets



GreensburgDailyNews.com

SATURDAY, MARCH 8 — MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2025

\$2.00

### AT A GLANCE

#### OBITUARIES

- Christopher James Bechtold, 75
- Dennis 'Denny' Doerflinger, 89
- Joseph 'Joe' S. Hayes, 58
- Sr. Lynne Matteson, 81

#### EVENTS

We welcome news about upcoming Southeastern Indiana events from area not-for-profit organizations. Email them to [news@greensburgdailynews.com](mailto:news@greensburgdailynews.com). Questions may be directed to Kevin Green at 812-651-0885.

#### MARCH 8

7 a.m. to noon: If you have stored your camper, boat or RV at the Decatur County Fairgrounds, this is the time to pick it up. Questions: 812-222-0588.

#### MARCH 10

9 a.m.: Rush County Commissioners meeting, Rush County Courthouse Assembly Room, to consider an amendment to the zoning map as proposed by the Rush County Area Plan Commission.

6 p.m.: Rushville Redevelopment Commission meeting, Suite 200, Rushville City Center, 330 N. Main Street.

6:30 p.m.: Batesville Board of Public Works & Safety meeting in the Memo-

Postal delivery information:

## Decatur County REMC responds to legal complaint

KEVIN GREEN  
DAILY NEWS

Several area residents have filed a civil complaint in Decatur County Superior Court against Decatur County REMC CEO Brett Abplanalp and DCREMC Board of Directors members Steve AmRhein, Jason Barnhorst, Carl Reideman, Suzanne Parmer, Steve Nobbe, Brian Scheidler and Dale Wernke. The document, filed Jan 28, 2025, by plaintiffs William J. Wietlisbach,

V. Albert Armand, Daniel Cathey, William Graves, Theodore L. Hahn, Joyce Kessens, Stephen P. Kinker, Jeremy R. Morgan, K. Jeff Morgan, Kenneth Peters, James Schoettmer, Tammy Sidell, Lawrence A. Sidell and Jeffrey L. Springmeyer, includes four counts against either Abplanalp alone or Abplanalp and the entire board of directors. DCREMC is denying any wrongdoing, and both sides of the matter are detailed below.

#### ALLEGATIONS

##### CT. I

Only Abplanalp is named. Court documents in this matter state that the plaintiffs and other members of the DCREMC Board of Directors were told the purpose of the Molly McPherson Report (McPherson is named as a public relations consultant) was to create a communication plan between the DCREMC and its members; that the stated purpose of the Molly

McPherson Report was false; that the defendants made false statements regarding the purpose of the Molly McPherson Report with knowledge and/or reckless ignorance of the falsity; that the defendants intended to deceive plaintiffs and other members of the board with their false statements; that the plaintiffs and other members of the board relied on defendants' false statements when

See **LEGAL** on **A3**



Photo provided

Greensburg Mayor Joshua Marsh addresses the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee on Senate Bill 1.

## Greensburg mayor testifies on taxes

Greensburg Mayor Joshua Marsh has shared his thoughts with Daily News readers and the community in general regarding taxes and how they relate to a city's need for funding.

The mayor's message follows in its entirety:

Dear Residents of Greensburg, I'm writing to you today about an important matter that affects the future of our community. This week, I testified at the Indiana Statehouse in favor of Greensburg maintaining the ability to invest in our city and provide the services our community expects. I've heard your calls for property tax relief and agree that reform must be a priority for our General Assembly.

Meaningful action must be taken to reduce the burden on taxpayers across the state. Simultaneously, it is also my duty to explain why several concepts proposed by the legislature need improvement. This particular legislation could seriously undermine the progress we've made together and hamper our ability to continue providing the essential services you deserve.

As I recently shared in my State of the City address, Greensburg has experienced remarkable growth and development over the past year. We've modernized our operations, improved our infrastructure, and attracted significant economic investment. Our community was recently named 'Neighborhood of the Year' by the U.S. Small Business Administration — the only city selected in Indiana for 2024. This recognition reflects our commitment to creating a vibrant local economy through thoughtful investment in infrastructure and services that support our businesses and residents alike.

However, current proposals threaten to derail this progress by implementing an MLGQ freeze,

or Maximum Levy Growth Quotient, that would cripple our ability to fund essential services. The bill's creation of a 0% cap in 2026, followed by 1% in 2027 and 2% in 2028, fails to account for inflation, population growth, and increasing servicedemands. For Greensburg, this would mean an inability to properly maintain the very infrastructure that has enabled our success.

Let me share some concrete examples from our community:

**Infrastructure Improvements:** In 2024 alone, we secured over \$9 million in grants for road projects — a historic amount for our administration. We completed crucial stormwater projects, with more planned for 2025. The MLGQ freeze would significantly hinder our ability to provide matching funds for future grants and maintain this momentum.

**Public Safety:** Our police department responded to over 13,000 calls for service last year, while our fire department answered 1,158 calls. Both departments have made significant investments in training, equipment, and facilities to ensure resident safety. The proposed cuts would force difficult decisions about staffing and resource allocation that could compromise public safety.

**Economic Development:** Through strategic investments, we've attracted major economic development, broken ground on Liberty Lakes—our first new residential subdivision in over a decade—and begun work on a downtown apartment complex. These developments require ongoing infrastructure support that would be jeopardized by the proposed funding restrictions.

**Quality of Life Initiatives:** Projects like our award-winning Building Bridges Inclusion Park, which has become a regional destination, demonstrate how targeted investments enhance

our community's appeal and draw visitors from neighboring states. Data shows we need more of these investments, not fewer.

As I mentioned, our citizens should receive property tax relief. Indeed, targeted relief for those who need it most—seniors, veterans, and first-time homebuyers—makes sense. However, implementing across-the-board cuts without replacement revenue sources will ultimately harm the very communities we're all working to strengthen.

In Greensburg, we've worked diligently to secure grants, form public-private partnerships, and leverage every available resource to maximize value for our taxpayers. But these efforts cannot fully compensate for the significant funding losses proposed legislation would impose.

In my testimony, I advocated for a balanced approach that targets seniors, veterans, and others who may need a leg up. This can be done, while preserving our hard work and allowing us to build on what we've started.

As your mayor, I remain committed to advocating for Greensburg's best interests at the state level. I believe we can find balanced solutions that provide appropriate tax relief for those who need it most while maintaining the essential local services that make our community special. I would welcome your thoughts on this issue and encourage you to reach out to both my office and your state representatives to share your perspective.

Thank you for the trust you've placed in me to serve as your mayor. Working together, we will continue to ensure Greensburg thrives and grows.

In service,  
Joshua Marsh  
Mayor, City of Greensburg

## Fatal crash on I-74

GREENSBURG — At approximately 4:45 a.m. Friday, March 7, Decatur County Dispatch received an automatic crash indication near the 133 mile marker eastbound of I-74.

Law enforcement from the Greensburg Police Department and Decatur County Sheriff's Department responded and found a single passenger car had been struck in the slow lane by a tractor-trailer.

Emergency personnel from the Greensburg Fire Department and Decatur County EMS arrived.

The single female occupant of the passenger car was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The driver of the tractor-trailer was cooperative with law enforcement.

At the time of this writing there

See **I-74** on **A2**

## New road funding heads to local communities

STAFF REPORT

STATEHOUSE — Indiana's Community Crossings Matching Grant Program awarded local communities over \$2.6 million in state funding for local road and bridge projects, according to Decatur County legislators.

The Community Crossings Matching Grant Program provides local communities funding for road reconstruction, bridge preservation, intersection improvements and other projects. This year, 245 Indiana communities will receive more than \$200 million in state matching grants.

"As we advance legislation to make Indiana's roads safer, this funding will help bolster our efforts by putting resources into our local communities," said State Rep. Alex Zimmerman (R-North Vernon). "Community Crossings grants are a great tool that has continued to improve travel in House District 67 and beyond."

Indiana was recently ranked as the best state in the nation for overall road conditions by ConsumerAffairs, noting our low rate of traffic fatalities and quality of roads.

Area grant recipients include Decatur County (\$1.4 million), Millhousen (\$77,664) and Greensburg (\$1.1 million).

"Families, businesses and students

See **ROAD** on **A3**

rial Building. Batesville Common Council meeting follows.

6 p.m.: Batesville Community School Corp. board meeting, Batesville High School Bulldog Center.

#### MARCH 11

11 a.m. to 8 p.m.: Dine for Youth at Greensburg's The Beach Tiki Bar & Grill. 10% of purchase price donated to Decatur County Champions of Youth.

5:30 p.m.: Greensburg Board of Works; 6:30 p.m., Greensburg City Council. Both in City Hall, 314 W. Washington Street.

6 p.m.: Rushville Parks & Recreation Board meeting, Suite 200, Rushville City Center, 330 N. Main Street.

6 p.m.: Greensburg Community Schools board meeting, 1312 W. Westridge Parkway, Greensburg.

#### MARCH 12

9:30 a.m.: Joint meeting of the Rush County Commissioners and Rush County Council in the Rush

See **EVENTS** on **A2**

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