



Who will McCurdy pick in Week 2 football?

SPORTS, 11A

The Marion Star

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Is generative AI making us stupid?

Generative AI tools like Grok, DeepSeek and ChatGPT changing how people access and process information. For many, it's replacing the need to sift through sources, compare viewpoints and wrestle with ambiguity. JUSTIN TALLIS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Tools ease some tasks, but users may be outsourcing thinking

Aaron French Kennesaw State University | THE CONVERSATION

Back in 2008, The Atlantic sparked controversy with a provocative cover story: Is Google Making Us Stupid? • In that 4,000-word essay, later expanded into a book, author Nicholas Carr suggested the answer was yes, arguing that technology such as search engines was worsening Americans' ability to think deeply and retain knowledge. • At the core of Carr's concern was the idea that people no longer needed to remember or learn facts when they could instantly look them up online. While there might be some truth to this, search engines still require users to use critical thinking to interpret and contextualize the results. See AI, Page 3A

Top five takeaways from City Council meeting

Abby Bammerlin
Marion Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

City Council convened for its last scheduled meeting in August on Monday. Here are five takeaways from the meeting:

1. Council appoints president pro tem, prepares for new appointee

After the resignation of Mike Neff resigned on Aug. 19, City Council is left with eight members until the Republican Party appoints a person to replace Neff.

With Neff's resignation, council was tasked with voting in a new president pro tempore. Should there be an absence or vacancy in the council president seat, the president pro tempore would fill that seat.

Council voted in Shawn Barr, Ward 1, with a vote of 6-2. Aaron Rollins, at large, and Jason Schaber, Ward 3, both voted for Rollins to take the seat.

In addition to replacing president pro tempore, council voted to appoint Neff's replacement to his committee assignments.

2. City transfers property to Tri-Rivers Career Center

City Council voted to transfer a property at 469 Park Blvd. from the Marion Land Bank Program to Tri-Rivers Career Center.

Tri-Rivers plans to build a single-family home on the property using

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Redmon and Niederkohr take a step up in Marion Fire Department

Abby Bammerlin
Marion Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

Two Marion City Fire Department employees have been promoted, and for both the milestone is something they've looked forward to for a long time.

Ryan Redmon was promoted from captain to assistant chief and Aaron Niederkohr was promoted from training captain to suppression captain on Monday, Aug. 25.

Redmon has served the department since 2013. When he started at the department, he didn't intend to become a supervisor. But that changed in 2015.

While fighting a fire downtown, a

two-story cinder block wall fell on Redmon, breaking both legs. He was off the job for nearly a year.

"When I came back, I wanted to make sure that never happened to somebody else," Redmon said. "That was kind of my mission. That's my goal."

Niederkohr began his time at the department in 2010, following the footsteps of his stepfather. He said now, he's ready to get to work.

"It's a shift in responsibility and a big responsibility," Niederkohr said. "I'm looking forward to growing our team and just getting better with them and myself."

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Fire Chief Chuck Deem, left, stands with Ryan Redmon and Aaron Niederkohr, who received promotions during a ceremony on Aug. 25. Redmon is now assistant chief and Neiderkohr is suppression caption. ABBY BAMMERLIN/MARION STAR

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