



Boys, girls bowlers ready for new 2025-26 season

SPORTS, 11A

The Marion Star

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First responders filled about half of the room on Dec. 1 for discussions related to the 2026 budget. Despite rumors of layoffs, Mayor Bill Collins confirmed that as of Dec. 1, there will be no layoffs. ABBY BAMMERLIN/MARION STAR

City cuts \$5 million from 2026 budget, no layoffs

Abby Bammerlin
Marion Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

After two weeks of making cuts, Mayor Bill Collins and city administration have slashed the 2026 budget by almost \$5 million. The budget proposed to Marion City Council's finance committee calls for no layoffs, but Collins said that could change if more cuts are made.

The 2026 budget projects about \$14.8 million in expenses, compared to two weeks ago when projections sat at about \$19.7 million. Revenue projections show the city will bring in about \$15.4 million, giving the city about \$600,000 to make changes.

But the finance committee did not give the amended budget to review before the meeting. Collins said his staff was still making changes to it just hours before the committee was set to meet.

After some discussion, finance chair Twila Laing, Fourth Ward, made a motion to move the budget forward to full

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Marion City Council's finance committee Twila Laing, Fourth Ward; Aaron Rollins, at-large; and Ayers Ratliff, Second Ward, voted 2-1 to hold the 2026 budget in committee. The committee did not have the time to review it prior to the Dec. 1 meeting. ABBY BAMMERLIN/MARION STAR



Milo, a 40-pound collie mix, will be up for adoption during the dog pound's Dec. 7 event. He's in search of a quiet and calm home with no young kids or energetic dogs. Milo's been in the shelter for more than 230 days. ABBY BAMMERLIN/MARION STAR

'People find it hard to feed animals'

Dog Pound hosts adoption event to combat overcrowding

Abby Bammerlin
Marion Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Marion County Dog Pound is asking the public to consider adopting one of its more than 50 dogs from the overcrowded dog shelter.

Marion County Dog Warden Scott Mills explained the shelter has the capacity to hold 20 dogs, but the shelter is currently holding about 50. Mills relies on volunteers and rescues to take in the dogs and foster them until they're ready for adoption.

In 2014, when Mills started at the dog pound, overcrowding has never been as bad as it is now.

"But it's gotten worse and worse; in the years since COVID, we've gotten a lot of issues with the overcrowding," Mills said. "People find it hard to feed animals and there's just a lot of overbreeding."

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Educator finds second career as children's book author

Kim Gasuras
Special to Bucyrus Telegraph-Forum
USA TODAY NETWORK

BUCYRUS — Leeann Teynor knew exactly what she would do after retiring from her job as a teacher for Marion City Schools: become a children's book author.

"After retiring, besides being a full-time Grammy, I wanted to do something that kept me connected to the world of

education. Subbing just wasn't a good fit for me, so I was looking for another way," Teynor said.

She knew there were things she would miss the most about her teaching position, and one of those was reading books to her students.

"And having discussions about the books we have read and making connections from them to real-life situations with the students," Teynor said. "I got the idea of using our family pets as

my characters and their adventures as the way to connect to life lessons from stories I would tell my grandchildren during nap time when I was babysitting."

She began writing stories that her older grandchildren would critique for her.

"They love reading my books and make lots of good suggestions about how I could make them better," Teynor said. "They even give me more ideas for

future books to write."

Teynor said writing has always been a passion of hers.

"While growing up, I wrote in journals daily, mostly to help with the usual growing up problems and I found it therapeutic even at a young age," she said.

She would also write class plays that some of her elementary teachers would have the class perform.

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