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Marion Star

WEEKEND

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026 | MARION, OHIO | MARIONSTAR.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Marion Area Transit unaffected

After fears of losing funding, partial solution in works

Abby Bammerlin
Marion Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

Marion Area Transit had to “get creative” to work around the city auditor’s office to apply for a reimbursement from

the state. Without the funding, city officials say transit wouldn’t be able to function.

The issue arose after Mike Bodine, public service director, told Marion City Council Jan. 12 that he attempted four times to speak with the auditor to get fi-

nancial documentation related to transit.

He did not get a response. City Auditor Miranda Meginness did not respond to a request for comment.

The documentation was needed to get a reimbursement from the Ohio De-

partment of Transportation, which the city relies on to fund transit in Marion.

“I’m just letting council know this ahead of time because this is how transit runs,” Bodine told Marion City Council Jan. 12. “If you don’t realize it, transit doesn’t make a lot of money and, thank God, we have the help of ODOT, and

See TRANSIT, Page 5A



City Auditor Miranda Meginness did not respond to request for comment as three city council members submit complaints to the auditor of state. ABBY BAMMERLIN/MARION STAR

Council members file to remove city auditor

Abby Bammerlin
Marion Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

Three Marion City Council members have filed affidavits to have City Auditor Miranda Meginness removed from office. The affidavits were received by the auditor of state Jan. 15.

Shawn Barr, First Ward, Ralph Smith,

Third Ward, and Twila Laing, Fourth Ward, signed affidavits certifying their complaints against Meginness.

Meginness and Barr did not immediately respond to request for comment.

Law Director Mark Russell confirmed Jan. 15 that Barr, Smith and Laing were not the only city council members that told him they were working on affidavits.

What did the complaints say?

Each complaint lists multiple issues with Meginness.

Smith and Laing listed more than a dozen problems each. The three complaints contain Marion City Council meeting minutes dating back to 2024

See REMOVE, Page 2A

Son accused of murdering parents to get evaluation

Zach Tuggle
Mansfield News Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

A man accused of murdering his parents in Crestline will have a mental-health evaluation before his case goes any further.

Maxwell Lindsey Anatra, 24, might not even have to leave jail for his competency test, according to Crawford County Prosecutor Matt Crall.

“There’s not a hospital that they go to,” Crall said. “My understanding is, the two people that do it, neither one of them are in the state of Ohio.”

Anatra was in court Jan. 14, the chains around his ankles clanking with every step over the tile floor, to request the psychiatric evaluation.

It was his first trip out of the Crawford County Justice Center since his Dec. 3 arraignment, when he was charged with two counts of aggravated murder, two counts of murder, four counts of aggravated burglary, two counts of theft of a firearm and one count of tampering with evidence.

If convicted of all 11 felony charges, he could receive two life sentences in

See EVALUATION, Page 2A

Note to readers

Due to the upcoming Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday, there will be no mail delivery on Monday, Jan. 19. Instead of receiving your Jan. 19 paper on Monday, you’ll receive it in the mail on Tuesday, Jan. 20.





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