

Trimble Scouts hold annual Pinewood Derby

BY CINDY WARRICK
THE TRIMBLE BANNER

About 30 Scout America boys and girls competed in the traditional Pinewood Derby at the Morgan Community Center in Bedford on Saturday.

The event was opened with the Scout Honor Guard leading the pledge to the flag and the scouting pledge.

The participants then began heat racing with their hand-made vehicles consisting of a piece of pine wood and four wheels on nails or axles. In the tradition of the event, parents had as much at stake in the competition as the scouts as most entries were a collaboration of the scouts with supervision by their parents.

Using special Pinewood Derby software, Cub Scout leader Shannon Edds announced each heat, with incline timing for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each heat with winning times. After several round robin heats the winners were identified from the comprehensive "stat sheet" produced by Edds using the software.

Once finished with the racing heats, all cars were displayed with a People's Choice Award given for the car patrons liked best.

Winners in the Girl Scouts Division were: Onyx O'Neal, first; Amelya Mayes, second; and Abbie Sherman, third.

Winners in the Cub Scout Division were Ethan Edds, a Webelo, first; Jamison Peters, a Wolf, second; and Presley Edds, a Tiger, third.

The top five Cub and Girls Scouts then competed with Ethan Edds placing first, Silas Sparkman second, and Presley Edds third.

Bedford Elementary Teacher Chris Jennings was participating in the organization for the first time with his 6-year-old daughter, Kairi, who is just getting started in Girl Scouts as a Daisy.

"Volunteering in several ways in the scouting program gives me time with family while they are learning new skills and having fun," Jennings said.

Parents share commitment with their children in not only supporting club activities, but in teaching the tenets of scouting, and giving hours of their time to see their children grow and develop confidence.

Scout America in Trimble County is a co-ed den and goes up to fifth grade. While the program is predominantly Trimble County residents, there are families from Carrollton since Carroll County's program was



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Local Scouts participated in a traditional Pinewood Derby Saturday at the Morgan Community Center in Bedford.



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Trimble County Scoutmaster/Scouting Commissioner Chuck Ward (left) and Cub Scout leader Shannon Edds (right) were recently recognized by the Seneca District of the Lincoln Heritage Council. Ward received the Buckskin Award while Edds received the President's Award for their involvement, leadership and dedication to scouting.



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The basic materials in a Pinewood Derby kit.

recently disbanded.

Long time Scoutmaster and Scouting Commissioner Chuck Ward said youths have so many activities available that scouting struggles for members and parent participation in many communities but the tradition continues in Trimble County.

"The program has to compete with the sports programs at the school and leaders are sometimes hard to find, but it has been in existence since the 1970s in Trimble County," said Ward, who has been involved most of that time.

The Seneca District of the Lincoln Heritage Council

recently awarded the Buckskin Award to Ward and the President's Award to Shannon Edds for their involvement, leadership and dedication to scouting.

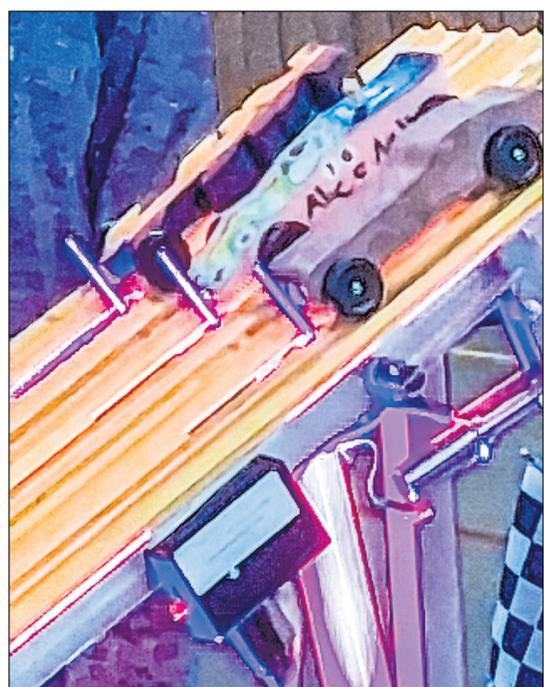
Scouting levels for the Girl Scouts include Daisy, Brownie, Junior, Cadet, Senior, and Ambassador. Levels for the Cub Scouts are Lions, Tigers, Wolves, Bears, Webelos, and Arrow Light.

Parents interested in enrolling their children in Scouting should call Shannon Edds for Cub Scouts at 502-643-0405 and Heather Kinnman Hunt for Girl Scouts at 502-480-6701.



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Top winners at the 2026 Trimble County Pinewood Derby for Boys Scouts and Girl Scouts were (from left): Cub Scout Ethan Edds, dad Jamison Peter, and Girl Scout Presley Edds.



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A Pinewood Derby heat lined up ready to let engineering, construction and gravity decide the outcome.



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Pinewood Derby cars, shaped and painted by their builders, are lined up for People's Choice Award voting.

Madison County library proposes \$10M renovation

BY BOB DEMAREE
PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

MADISON, Ind. — Almost 60 years since the Jefferson County Public Library's expansion in downtown Madison, the library board announced plans at Tuesday's County Council meeting to begin the process of acquiring a \$10 million bond to upgrade the building at 420 West Main Street.

Judi Terpening, director of the library since 2018, said the building has several issues that need to be addressed including an aging HVAC system, foundation concerns with concrete breaking, box gutters leaking, deteriorating windows and more. "Our HVAC was put in in 2003. It's humongous and it's not efficient. We're having trouble getting parts for it," she said.

Terpening said the library's electric bill last year was \$51,000 and the boiler, which runs off gas, cost another \$12,000 to operate. By upgrading to a new HVAC system, Terpening thinks the library can lower its operating costs.

There are also accessibility issues that need to be addressed with Terpening stating the space between shelving is less than 36 inches — not enough for a person with a wheelchair or walker — and the restrooms are not on the main floor,

requiring patrons to use steps or the elevator for access.

Jason Tansell of the Indianapolis accounting firm BakerTilly, said KrM Architecture estimates the cost of the work at \$9,730,000, which will require a property tax-supported \$10 million bond to pay for the project. Because the library currently has no debt, it will require a new tax levy and tax rate increase that would be added in 2027.

Sarah Correll of the law firm Ice Miller, also of Indianapolis, said two public hearings must be scheduled with the library board and a 30-day remonstrance period for formal objections to be filed. If no objections are filed, Correll said a public hearing will be held with the County Council in July, noting that is required because library board members are appointed, and approval must be given by elected officials for the bond to move forward. If County Council approves, then final action would be Sept. 8 by the library board with bonds sold after that.

Council member Heather Foy asked whether it would be more cost effective to build a new library. Terpening said since land would need to be purchased, "it would cost more, much more expensive," estimated at \$15-20 million.

Terpening said the Madison and Hanover libraries had

75,000 visitors last year with 190,000 items borrowed including books, music, movies, magazines, video games and more. There are 7,600 active library card holders in Jefferson County. In addition, the library provides free notary and other services to the public.

Council member Pam Crozier commented on the value of the library and its services. "Every chapter of your life is different, and at some point in your chapter you're going to utilize that library whether it's when you're a young family and your children are taking advantage of that, or maybe you're a grandparent and you're helping out that way ... the majority of our citizens are using the library at some chapter in their lives."

The Jefferson County Public Library dates back to April 18, 1818. The library has been in the current location since purchasing the Powell house in 1929 when it issued a bond for \$9,000.

Ground was broken for an expansion on March 2, 1966, which included a new addition as well as extensive remodeling of the house itself. Full services were restored in November 1967 with the formal dedication held on April 21, 1968. The Hanover branch was added 16 years ago.

Terpening said the library

wants to be available to all Jefferson County residents, recently receiving grant funding to purchase a bookmobile. "We definitely need to meet people where they are," she said.

In other business, the

council:

- Approved an additional appropriation of \$100,000 that will be divided among the county fire departments — Brooksbury/Madison Township, Canaan,

Dupont/Lancaster Township, Deputy, Hanover Township, Kent and Rykers Ridge.

- Approved a transfer to psychiatric services from the fund for certified court reporter.

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