

ent in drug, forgery case

Marion.
A search of Venable's residence at the time of his arrest uncovered three pounds of marijuana - worth approximately \$19,000 in street value - along with about \$96,000 worth of oxycodone, in addition to several legal firearms.

Both Venable and Styles were charged with seven felony counts - a class B felony for conspiracy to commit dealing in a controlled substance, a class C felony for conspiracy to

commit forgery, a class C felony for corrupt business influence, a class D felony for counterfeiting, a class D felony for possession of a controlled substance, a class D felony for maintaining a common nuisance and a class D felony for possession of marijuana - along with two class A misdemeanor counts for dealing marijuana and possession of paraphernalia.

The conspiracy to commit forgery and counterfeiting charges were due to Venable and Styles allegedly

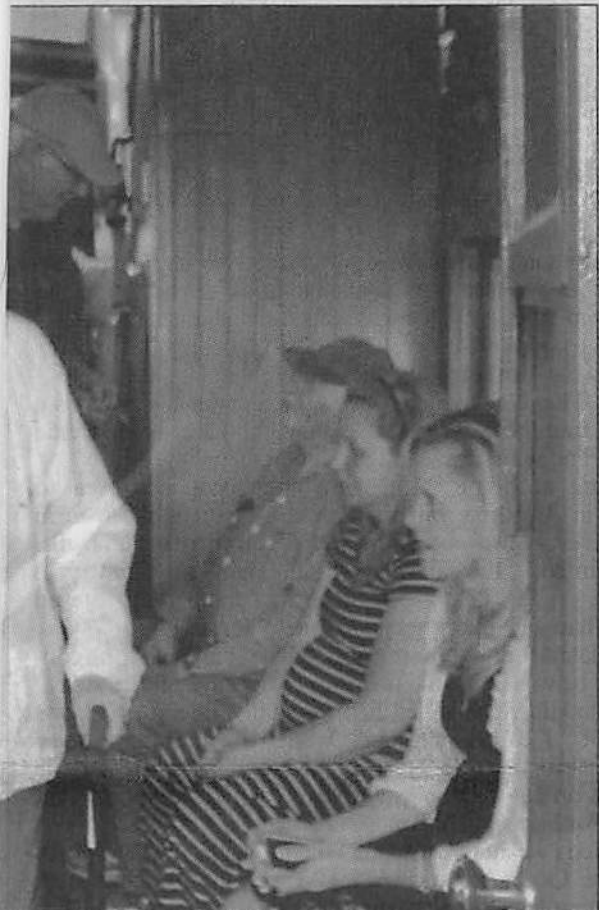
forging signatures onto prescriptions, along with creating false prescriptions. The corrupt business influence charge came from Venable allegedly using money made from drug dealing to purchase jewelry, firearms and vehicles.

Styles reached a plea agreement with the prosecutor's office in January, where she pleaded guilty to a class D felony count of maintaining a common nuisance, a class A misdemeanor of dealing in marijuana and a class A misdemeanor of

possession of paraphernalia. She was sentenced to a total of three years in the Indiana Department of Corrections, with half of that time to be executed and the other half suspended to probation.

Venable initially pleaded not guilty to the charges, but according to his plea agreement with prosecutors filed Monday, he would plead guilty to a class B felony of conspiracy to dealing in a controlled substance,

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DARRELL SMITH / News-Examiner

day with other donors to Bruce's Caboose project of restoring

onors recognized



DARRELL SMITH / News-Examiner

The last of five Whitewater Valley Railroad wooden cabooses to be stored, B&O 2028, is sandblasted Tuesday by Whitlock's Pressure Wash.

new how to pull it together, she said. Around the office, the project became known as "Bruce's Caboose." "Actually, they are ours," she told the donors. His legacy lives in the work you continue to do in the community and the things he has taught us." The effort to raise funds

came in the form of a pledge drive - something the foundation had never done - so it was a learning experience, Dungan said. The fundraising began in the spring of 2011.

Even as his body deteriorated, his mind was sharp and he continued to give

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Fighting for Freedom

By DARRELL SMITH
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A local man's fight against government tyranny, as well as his service in Iraq and Afghanistan, are recounted in a soon-to-be released book, "Rugged American Spirit: The Fight for Freedom."

"I'm addicted to freedom because of what I've seen," author and Connerville native Steven W. Lunsford said. "This is a story of a lifetime of battles against

tyranny. You don't have to take freedom for granted."

Lunsford and wife Melinda have been together since their freshman year at Connerville High School, graduating in 1983.

The love of country came from watching documentaries about World War I, World War II and Vietnam with his father James, he said. It was all about the men sacrificing their lives

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Contributed

Steven Lunsford, with wife Melinda, will be releasing his new book "Rugged American Spirit" soon, a story of his fight against tyranny and for freedom.

Local Memorial Day ceremony nears

By JAMES SPRAGUE
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Fayette County veterans organizations are coming together next week to pay homage to those who sacrificed their lives in service of the country.

The Fayette County Veterans Council, along with other Fayette County service organizations - the American Legion, AMVETS and Veterans of Foreign Wars - are hosting the annual Fayette County Memorial Day ceremony Monday at the Roberts Building in Roberts Park.

The federal holiday, formerly known as "Decoration Day" and called "Memorial Day" but later officially changed to Memorial Day in 1967, pays tribute to those veterans who gave their lives while in service to the United States. It always takes place the last Monday of May.

This year's program, said Kellis Allen, president of the Fayette County Veterans Council, includes music, guest speakers - including some area veterans -

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LUNSFORD

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for the country.

He served in the U.S. Army in the 1980s, which provided invaluable experience for time as a Department of Defense contract driver. He still drives a truck for Mhart Express Inc. of Hope, Ind.

The story begins in 1993 with a fight against the Internal Revenue Service, later a fight with Countrywide Home Loans. The story also includes tales from his years as a contract truck driver for the U.S. Department of Defense delivering fuel on the battlefield.

"I did an investigation on the IRS," he explained. "My tax bill for that year was \$23,000, so I got a little bit angry. I wanted to see if what they were doing was right. I figured if they had a right to look at my records, I had a right to look at their records. I told them exactly what I was doing and they started sending me publications and laws. They didn't like it."

To defeat them it took a plan, just like on the battlefield, including knowing the laws better than the IRS did themselves, he said. To do that, forms and some hidden paperwork were discovered that provided a way out of paying taxes.

It turned to battle because of a Veterans Administration home loan through Countrywide, he said. Countrywide said they missed some signatures. They didn't have a promissory note and were trying to steal the house.

"I stopped payment to them and then started an investigation into them," Lunsford said. "This was about 2001. Countrywide began foreclosure procedures in federal court at the same time as the IRS and in the same court. I ended up beating the IRS but Countrywide won. I beat the second mortgage."

"We had Countrywide beat but the judge wouldn't rule in our favor because there were so many people with similar loans, he was afraid it would bring down the system," said Melinda.

Rugged American Spirit by Steven Lunsford

Amazon.com: Hardcover \$25.60, Paperback \$11.87, Kindle \$9.99

BarnesandNoble.com: Nook \$9.99

Also available at iTunes and Google play and www.pagepublishing.com

"He couldn't let that happen."

When Countrywide foreclosed, the family moved to Alabama, which is when he got the call to serve as a contract driver, Steve said.

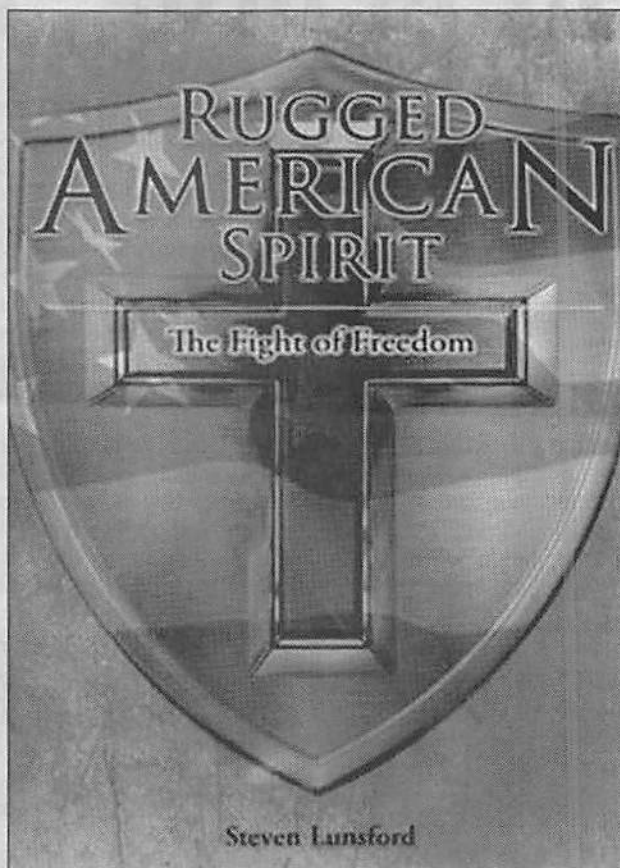
"My feeling was, I was going to go to serve the troops; it didn't have anything to do with serving my country or the American people," he said. "I had prior service and knew the situations. I wanted to help the troops and maybe save some lives due to my prior training. I saw a lot of soldiers die in Iraq and Afghanistan and now to see the apathy I see in this country today. We owe them a lot more than that."

After eight improvised explosive devices explosions, two drive-by shootings, eight ambushes and countless mortar attacks, as well as a direct rocket propelled grenade hit, God was with him, Melinda said.

The driving required taking fuel and any other supplies needed from base to base in Iraq and fuel in Afghanistan, stationed at a special forces camp - 101st Airborne and 10th Mountain Division - in the Wardak Province, in the heart of Taliban control near the capital of Kabul. Between the two countries, he went out on 762 missions, but that's nothing to those who drove more than a thousand missions.

"The war was totally screwed up. The rules of engagement were so you couldn't fire back unless you contacted the Pentagon," he said. "The contract truck drivers and military truck drivers were rationed to 50 rounds, so they ran out of ammo in ambushes just like that. We lost a lot of lives because of that."

In his group of drivers,



Contributed

Available soon, the book by local author Steven Lunsford is a tale of heroes and their determination to follow the path of justice. Lunsford sheds light on discrimination and abuses of power.

206 were lost in 2004, he said. The U.S. pulled out from Iraq too early.

Melinda said it was tough waiting at home, at that time in Alabama, but they talked every two weeks. One time in 2009, the call didn't come.

"I had felt overwhelmed and later found out that's when he was in hostile fire," she explained. "I called his parents, I called preachers and asked them to put his name on the prayer list to pray for his safety. When we married, we united as one before God. It wasn't 15 minutes later, the phone rang and it was him, 'Honey, I'm all right,' but all I could hear was weapon fire. They were in the middle of an attack."

"It's OK to fight the government. It's OK to fight the leaders when they preach freedom and take it at the same time; that is tyranny. Our forefathers told 'Give me liberty or give me death.' They told us if we were willing to give up freedoms for the promise of safety, then basically you don't deserve liberty or safety. That is in my DNA which is why I fight," Steven

said. That's why the cover is a shield and a cross, Melinda added.

The book is a plea to regain the republican form of government set up by the founders. The country is not a democracy, Steven said.

"I wanted to give the contractors' side of the story," he said. "Everyone knows what the military does; they're all heroes. People have a misconception that contractors are all about the money. Is money worth risking your life? Is it worth getting shot at everyday?"

The next book, "The Formula," should be out before the November election. The book explains remedies for issues created by the government as a way to take our country back.

The hard copy of "Rugged American Spirit" arrived Wednesday. A book signing has been set for June 28 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Roberts Park pavilion. Another book signing will also be announced.

The book is just 115 pages, so should be an easy and quick read, Steven said.

CEREMONY

From Page A1

along with readings of the accomplishments of Medal of Honor winners. The formal program will then be followed by a luncheon, with the entire event

open to the public.

The ceremony, and the day itself, is a day to remember the ultimate sacrifices American veterans have made through the years in the country's various conflicts, Allen said.

"Memorial Day, to me, is a day to remember

Fayette County Memorial Day Ceremony

When: Monday, May 26, 10 a.m. (doors open at 9 a.m.)

Where: Roberts Building, Roberts Park, Connersville
Open to the public. Luncheon to follow program

everybody that's sacrificed their lives for our freedom and our country," he said.

Allen also hopes that residents in the community take a short time Monday to come to the ceremony and pay tribute to those from Fayette County, American flags on the

other volunteers in the community, have also spent the past week - and will continue today and through the weekend - decorating the resting places of veterans in Fayette County cemeteries. This morning, they are placing brand-new American flags on the

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