

## PUT MY EXPERTISE TO WORK FOR YOU!

**Cathy Hunnicutt** 765.618.9394





#### CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



## Thursday, December 18, 2025 Journal Report In God We Trust

Serving GAS CITY, JONESBORO & MARION Since 1888

## New award winning complex at Madison-Grant

Fairmount, IN — Madison-Grant Jr/ Sr High School is awarded the Best Asphalt Project & Golden Lute Award by the APAI, as well as a Distinguished Facility of the Year Honor by American **Sports Builders** Association. The project improves the outdoor facilities for safety and accessibility, along with upgrades and expansion of facilities. The complex was designed by Lancer Associates Architecture to meet the growing needs of Madison-Grant students and allow access for spectators between the outdoor fields. The project was expansive, with new public restrooms, an indoor golf facility, and new outbuildings that house additional locker rooms. It also includes brand new all concrete post tension tennis courts, the resurfacing of the track with new turf, and upgrades to both baseball and softball facilities. The spectator access received an upgrade with walkable pathways to connect all facilities, new parking, and a new entrance and concessions area. Madison-Grant **United School** Corporation put CFO Ben Mann

instrumental in the day to day success of the project, "Ben found the teams and worked to ensure our dollars were being used wisely and kept the project moving. Working on a project of this magnitude is right in his wheelhouse. We are so pleased with the outcome of these wonderful facilities providing an excellent experience for our student athletes and families alike." Breaking ground in November of 2023, the project sailed smoothly to provide a new track just in time for the spring season in 2024. The rest of the complex was completed in August of this year, and once finished, the nominations came rolling in. Not only for Facility of the Year by the American **Sports Builders** Association, but also APAI's Best Asphalt Project.

With multiple contractors involved, CFO Mann says the timely completion of the project all came down to communication and the niche expertise of their lead contractor Byrne & Jones Construction. "Lancer Associates Architecture did a great job planning, and with the sports expertise provided by Byrnes & Jones we avoided some of the typical pitfalls



**Madison-Grant Outdoor Sports Complex** 

that can occur when you have multiple contractors onsite working simultaneously. By working together in collaboration with bi-weekly meetings with reviews, we could effectively coordinate, so it was a smooth transition between key points. Working with so many teams at once came with challenges, but it allowed us to maximize our dollars and the timeline." Mann also says the experience of the teams and having local help made for great outcomes and community input. "The greatest benefit in working with

Byrnes & Jones

Construction was their specialization. They do this all day everyday, so they could identify any issues with design and apply solutions in real time and make those changes. They live in the sports world so they can resolve issues onsite and have a solution in hand to keep the project moving forward."

Mann also noted the use of local contractors was an incredible benefit. "Byrnes and Jones, W.R. Dunkin, E & B Paving, and Able Construction all worked to use local subcontractors whenever possible. Our site was filled

with people who live and work in Madison & Grant county. From Frederick Construction, Rex Collin's Electric, Sullivan Excavation, and Royal Flush Plumbing to Custom Nets for our back stop netting on the ball fields - it was great to see local faces on the job site. All of the companies on this project were just incredible professionals." The Madison-Grant Jr/ Sr High School award winning outdoor facilities help bring the community together at sporting events to support their student athletes. Superintendent Steve

Vore acknowledges, "We've really put together an amazing facility for our athletes and the community. The accessibility and connection this brings to our campus is another piece of the puzzle to put our athletic facilities on the map. It is becoming the place to learn and play in our community. The team putting all of this together has done an outstanding job and earned every

Photo: Lancer Architects

Questions or need more information for media? Contact Lindsey Barton at lbarton@mgusc.k12. in.us or 347-452-9802.

accolade."

### **Marion Community Schools earns national STEM accreditation**

Marion Community Schools is proud to announce that all of our elementary buildings have earned STEM.org Accredited™ status. This achievement gives MCS full K-4 **STEM District** Accreditation, confirming that all

on the project.

Superintendent Steve

Vore noted Mann was

young learners in Marion now begin their education in internationally recognized, highquality STEM environments.

STEM.org is the longest-operating STEM education credentialing organization in the nation, known for setting rigorous global standards for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) instruction. Marion earned this distinction through intentional classroom processes that incorporate hands-on learning and a districtwide commitment to curiosity, creativity, and problem solving.

Across Marion's elementary schools, students engage in

collaborative STEM projects, robotics, coding, engineering challenges, and inquiry-based investigations. Marion also integrates Woz ED curriculum resources, giving students access to industry-aligned pathways in robotics, drones, engineering, and other futurefocused technologies. These experiences help build durable skills in communication, collaboration, and work ethic from an early age. MCS is recognized nationally as a Woz ED STEM Pathway District. "This

accomplishment affirms the work our teachers and students do every day," MCS Superintendent Stephanie Lockwood

said. "Every child in Marion has access to powerful, hands-on STEM learning that connects directly to the world around them."

Marion's STEM journey has been supported by Indiana STEM, a STEM.org partner organization that helps schools design sustainable, community-connected STEM programs. Indiana STEM has partnered with MCS to develop a shared K-4 STEM vision, build instructional capacity, and create pathways connected to local opportunities

District leaders emphasize that this achievement reflects broad community support from families, local partners, and

employers who share a commitment to giving Marion students access to future-ready learning.

"This is a celebration for our entire community," MCS K-8 Curriculum **Director Rianne** Aguilar said. "We invite families and partners to continue working with us as we grow the next generation of innovators right here in Marion."

Exciting things are happening inside Marion's elementary buildings. Over the past year, Marion Community Schools made literacy its first major academic priority, resulting in significant jumps in IREAD performance across

all four elementary buildings. With this foundation firmly established, the district has expanded its focus to strengthening STEM experiences which resulted in their STEM.org Accreditation.

This combined momentum reflects a district committed to elevating student learning in multiple areas, building strong readers while also growing confident problem solvers, creators, and futureready thinkers. As **Marion Community** Schools continue to advance both literacy and STEM, the district remains focused on ensuring every student is equipped for their desired future.

# VICTORIOUS Juring ... in a troubled world

## Had I not believed to see God's goodness

By Teresa LeNeave leneave2@comcast.net

WHERE WOULD I BE, HAD I NOT BELIEVED TO SEE THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD?

David answered it this way, "I would have despaired, had I not believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord..." (Ps 27:13 AMP). I would have become desperate. I would have fallen apart in fear. I would have lost all hope...except that I remembered the goodness of the Lord.

Where would I be if my parents had not believed to see the goodness of the Lord when I was five years old and the doctors looked at my lung x-rays, immediately scheduling surgery just three days out to remove the top half of my left lung? What would my life be like with just half of my lung?

When I was 27-years-old, and totally paralyzed from my neck down, where would I be if I had not believed to see the goodness of the Lord? Would I be confined to a wheelchair or in a nursing facility depending on nurses to feed me, bath me, change my clothes and take me to the bathroom? Like David in the Bible, I would have despaired had I not believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord. Thank God, I was healed and in

just a week, I had recovered. Doctors thought it was Spinal Meningitis, but later ruled it out. Whatever it was, I completely recovered.

Where would the world be if Abraham had not believed to see the goodness of the Lord when he put his oldest servant in charge of all his possessions and made him promise to find a suitable wife for his son, Isaac? What if the old servant had decided it was too much trouble to go all the way back to Nahor and expect God to find the perfect wife for Isaac? What if the old servant had gotten ahead of God and chose just any woman? What if he had not believed to

see the goodness of God?

Rebecca, the chosen woman, also had a part in believing. When God put it in her heart to go to the well, so she would arrive at the precise time the old servant arrived, she could have said, "I'm not going to the well right now. I think I'll wait until later in the afternoon when it's cooler. There will be dozens of shepherds waiting for water at the well, so I'll go later." But that didn't happen. She didn't procrastinate. When the nudge occurred in her heart to go, she went. Where would Isaac have ended up if Abraham's reliable servant had not believed to see the

Very often we don't see it, but God is working in our lives all the time. It is "truth of God" that is a light for our path and a lamp for our feet. The truth is God is love and he is watching over you. David said, "I would have despaired (fallen apart in fear),

had I not believed

in the land of the

emphasis added).

that I would see the

goodness of the Lord

living (right here on

earth) (Ps 27:13, AMP

goodness of the Lord?

I'm asking the reader of this article to take just a moment to think about the things in your own life and ask yourself, "Where would I be if I had not believed to

see the goodness of the Lord?" Or, ask: "Where would I be if I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord?" How would your life be different?

It is the truth of God that is a light for our path and a lamp for our feet (Ps 119:105). David knew he'd despair, and not survive, if he had not believed to see the goodness of the Lord when he was faced with trouble. The next verse, Psalm 27:14 tells how to believe to see God's goodness awaits us: "Wait for

and confidently expect the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage: yes, wait for and confidently expect the Lord." (Amplified version).

## I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

Most people have read or at least heard of a man named Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882). He was a literary giant in his lifetime and is still known today in many circles as "The Children's Poet" as several schools around our nation are named in his honor. You may remember some of His original works, which include Paul Revere's Ride, The Song of Hiawatha, and Evangeline, and was also the first American to completely translate Dante Alighieri's Comedy. As one of the fireside writers from New England, he is regarded as the most popular poet of the nineteenth century.

On July 9, 1861, tragedy struck the Longfellow home. His wife, Fanny, was near an open window, placing locks of her daughter's hair in a packet, using hot sealing wax to secure it. It was never known whether a spark from a match or the sealing wax was the cause, but suddenly her dress caught fire, and she was engulfed in flames. Henry was

sleeping and was suddenly awakened by her screams for help. He ran into the room and immediately tried to smother the flames as best he could, first with a rug and then his own body, but the damage from the burns was very severe. She died the next morning.

Henry's burns were so extensive on his face and hands that he was unable to attend his wife's funeral. The scars on his face made shaving nearly impossible, so he allowed his beard to grow, which became associated with his image. The anguish within his soul was beyond what anyone could fathom. His family could see his suffering in his eyes, and they observed his long periods of silence. At times, he feared that he would be sent to an asylum on account of his sorrow.

A couple of years later, in 1863, there was another crisis when his son Charles Longfellow, without telling his family, boarded a train headed for Washington, D.C. to join President Lincoln's Union army to fight in the Civil



War. On the first day of that December, Henry was dining alone at his home when a telegram arrived with the news that Charley had been shot and was being transferred to the Rapidan River. Henry immediately set out to search for his son and arrived by train on December 5th. He was alarmed when informed by the army surgeon that his son's wound was very serious and that Charles would most likely be paralyzed. Longfellow, as a 57-year-old widowed father of six children, was not only witnessing

his country fight a war against itself, but his oldest son had been struck down on the battlefield.

Although he was admired for his gift of communicating the human experience, Longfellow still yearned for divine peace, which only God can give. On that Christmas Day in 1863, he heard the Christmas bells ringing in Cambridge and the singing of "Peace On Earth," but he considered the division and violence in his country to be in direct contradiction with a joyous holiday. He sat

down and desperately tried to reflect on the joys of knowing that God is not dead or sleeping, and that He is the only one who can heal, save, and give hope to the soul. He was never considered a hymn writer; however, the poem he wrote on that day expresses the agony about the dark condition of a nation, and was later set to music by Englishman John Calkin. The result is one of our most beloved Christmas carols, "I Heard The Bells On Christmas Day."

There is a theme of passion and

determination within the poem, that expresses how an attitude of confidence and trust in the Lord, can overcome fear and hopelessness even in the midst of bleak despair. The Civil War was in full swing, and the devastation from the battle of Gettysburg still gripped the nation in a state of trauma. He must have asked himself how we can have peace on Earth and goodwill toward men in this wartorn land, where brother fights against brother and father against son? Yes, the days were grievous, but he includes in one of the stanzas, "The wrong shall fail, the right prevail!" Within these words, we sense a man crying out to God in prayer, just like many of us today who are praying for this world, to please stop the hatred and the evil, and may all people be unified with God's forgiveness and love. This reminds us that eternal peace and harmony shall one day be established when the Prince of Peace shall reign forever. Read more about

the Christian life at billyholland ministries.

## Good News of Great Toy

By Brandon Bramlett
Pastor - Bandana
Baptist Church

Good news is hard to come by when you live in a badnews world. You rarely hear a positive story on the evening news nowadays. Reports of natural disasters, political conflicts, or higher prices dominate the headlines. And because bad news is so prevalent, more and more people are cutting cable or ditching their televisions entirely. It would be encouraging to hear some good news every now and then.

The Jews living during the time of Jesus' birth felt the same way, too. Israel was no longer on top of the world, and Rome was on top of them. And they had waited so long for the coming of the Messiah that holding onto hope grew harder every day. That is when God broke the news cycle by announcing through heavenly messengers that the long-awaited Messiah

and Savior had come to earth. Finally, some good news—the greatest news: "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11).

There are four features of the good news announced by the angel. (1) First, the good news calms fear. The shepherds were understandably terrified by the visit of a heavenly being.

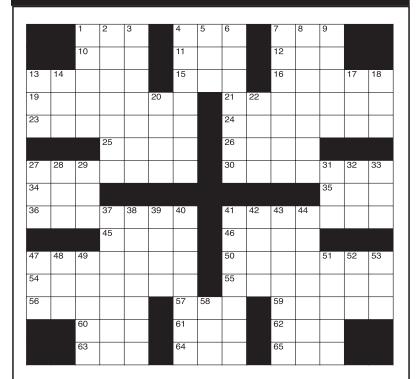
But they had no reason to fear, as the angel assured them, "Fear not." The good news of Christ's coming eliminates fear. Because of His finished work, you do not need to fear the future, judgment, or death. Christ is the Lord—He controls the future, He delivers you from judgment, and He conquered death.

(2) Second, the good news produces joy. The heart of every saved sinner should leap with bliss and glee when considering all the benefits of His saving work. As Peter said, "Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory" (1 Peter 1:8).

(3) Finally, the good news is for all. The good news of Jesus' coming is for "all the people." The free offer of grace is for every tongue, race, and culture. God doesn't pass you by because of how you look or where you come from. Furthermore, He

doesn't hold the gospel back because of your sinfulness or supposed saintliness. God wants you to be saved whether you spend your weekends at the bar or your Sundays at church. The gospel is for those who believe they are too bad to be saved, as well as those who believe they are too good to be saved. Good news like this is worthy of belief and proclamation. Do you believe it? If you do, have you published it to someone who doesn't?

#### **Crossword Puzzle**



#### **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. American automotive titan
- 4. Tire term 7. Two-year-old sheep
- 10. Indigenous people of Thailand
- 11. Anti-Soviet Cold War group
- 12. Actress de Armas
- 13. Not moving 15. Cool!
- 16. Plants of the arum family
- 19. Connected with touch 21. Pen stain
- 23. Monetary units
- 24. School kids' art project 25. Early Bell Canada executive
- 26. Sword 27. Hates
- 30. Fixed in one place
- 34. Pie mode

- 35. Moved swiftly on foot
- 36. Carrier on vehicle
- 41. A path to get through
- 45. "Rule, Britannia" composer 46. Spiritual leader
- 47. Flowing
- 50. Respectful compliments
- 54. Cure
- 55. Soft, lightweight fabric
- 56. Building material
- 57. Japanese delicacy
- 59. A way to cause to be swollen
- 60. One and only
- 61. You might get one in summer
- 62. Wreath
- 63. Thus far
- 64. They
- 65. Employee reference number

#### **CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Policemen (French)
- 2. Toy dog
- 3. Intestinal condition
- 4. Muscular weaknesses
- 5. Helps little firms
- 6. Alphabetical lists
- 7. Takes down
- 8. Facilitates 9. Ethnic people of Ethiopia
- 13. Engine additive
- 14. Explorers group
- 17. Written account 18. Consumed
- 20. Opposite of first
- 22. No (slang) 27. Government lawyers
- 28. NY Giants great
- 29. Small amount 31. A way to save for your future
- 32. Fall behind
- 33. Midway between northeast and east
- 37. Head pain
- 38. Wildly popular sport
- 39. "Princess Diaries" actress Hathaway
- 40. Boat race
- 41. About fish
- 42. Nursemaid 43. Able to be marketed
- 44. Not as large
- 47. Parts per billion (abbr.)
- 48. Paddle 49 Oneness
- 51. Bitter chemical
- 52. Not around
- 53. Very fast airplane 58. Main tributary of the Rhine

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Each number corresponds to a letter.

(Hint: 26 = E)

22 **26** 17 4 17 A. Clue: Waiter/waitress

24 23 13 19 25 26 В.

Clue: Cooking room

17 26 22 13

Clue: Place to dine

D. 19 **25 26** 19

Clue: Restaurant bill

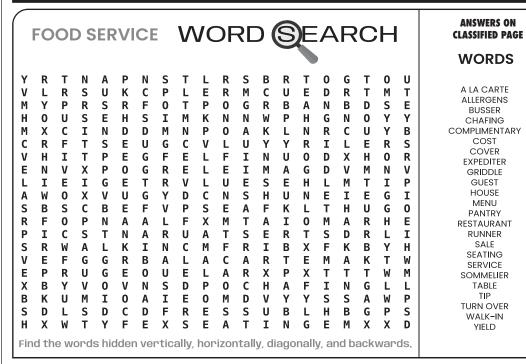
#### **Winter Jokes**

What do you call a vampire with a snowman? Frostbite!

What kind of math do Snow Owls do best? **Owlgebra** 

What fish do you catch in the winter? Frozen fish sticks

### **Word Search**

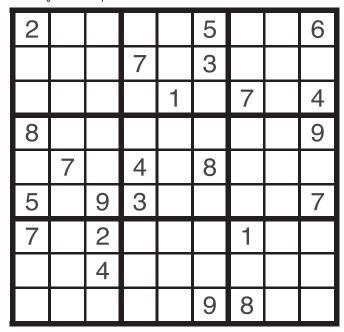


#### Sudoku Puzzle

**PUZZLE PAGE** 

#### **How it Works:**

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle! Good Luck! ANSWERS ON CLASSIFIED PAGE



#### **Word Scramble**

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to food service.

TCIDRE



Answer: Credit

#### **Guess Who?**

I am an actress born in New York on December 19, 1972. I began acting at age 8 after landing a role on a national tour of "Annie." I rose to fame as a teen on a television show about a male housekeeper. I later starred alongside two other "sisters" on a magical show.

Answer: Alyssa Milano

### **COLORING FUN**







#### Tamara Kay "Tammı" (Arnett

WARREN — Judith "Mary Ann" Parrie, 85, of Warren, formerly of Gas City, passed away at 8:52 am on Friday, December 12, 2025. at Heritage Pointe in Warren. The family will receive visitors from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm on Thursday, December 18, 2025, at Holy Family Catholic Church, 325 E. N. A St., Gas City, IN. Immediately following the time of visitation. a Funeral Mass to celebrate Mary Ann's life will begin at 1:00 pm with Father Kevin Hurley officiating. Burial will take place at Grant Memorial Park.

#### Silvia E. Stanley

MARION — Silvia E. Stanley, 65, of Marion, passed away in her home on Thursday, December 11, 2025. The family will host a memorial visitation at a later date.

#### Meggan L. Planck

MARION — Meggan "Meg" L. Planck, 43, of Marion, passed away at 1:45 pm on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, in her home surrounded by her loving family.

Visitation was held from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm on Monday, December 15, 2025, at Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral & Cremation Service, North Chapel, 1341 N. Baldwin Ave., Marion, IN. A celebration of Meg's life followed at 1:00 pm, with burial at Converse Cemetery.

#### Timmy L. Doyle

SWAYZEE — Jimmy L. Doyle, 81, Swayzee, passed away at 2:49 pm on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, in his home. Visitation was held on Friday, December 12, 2025, from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm at Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral & Cremation Service, North Chapel, 1341 N. Baldwin Ave., Marion, IN.

A celebration of Jimmy's life took place on Saturday, December 13, 2025, at 11:00 am at North Chapel, with Pastor Phil Lake officiating. Burial will follow at Grant Memorial Park.

#### Kristopher Linton

Kristopher L. Linton, 75, passed away peacefully at his home on December 11, 2025. Visitation will be held on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, from 4:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. Thursday, December 18,2025 there will be an hour of visitation, 11:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. funeral will follow, with burial at Marion National Cemetery.

#### Kenneth Leavitt

Kenneth B. Leavitt, beloved father, grandfather, brother, and friend, passed away on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at Marion Health, leaving behind a rich tapestry of memories and a legacy of laughter.

In honor of Kenneth B. Leavitt, funeral services will be held on Friday, December 19, 2025, at 1:00 PM at the Jones-Smith Chapel of Armes-Hunt Life Celebration Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 259 North Main Street, Upland, Indiana 46989, with Pastor Tony Miner officiating. Visitation will be held on Thursday, December 18, 2025, from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. at the funeral home, as well as 11:00 - 1:00 on Friday prior to the service. Burial will take place at Jefferson Cemetery.

#### Mary "Dixie" Bone

Mary V. "Dixie" Bone, 85, died Sunday, December 7, 2025, at her Marion home. Arrangements have been entrusted to the College Park Chapel of Armes-Hunt Life Celebration Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 4601 South Western Avenue, Marion, Indiana 46953, where a visitation will be held on Friday, December 19, from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. A memorial service will follow at 1:00 p.m., with Pastor Chuck Vernon officiating.

#### Mary Melvina "Mel" Sicks

Mary Melvina "Mel" Sicks, 81, went to be with her precious Lord and Savior on Sunday December 7, 2025 surrounded by her loving family.

Funeral service was held at 11 am Thursday, December 11, 2025 at Hartford City Wesleyan Church, 1301 S. Walnut St., Hartford City with Pastor Josh Fox and Rev. Richard Dickson officiating. Entombment will follow at Gardens of Memory Mausoleum in Muncie.

#### Mary K. Rhoades

Mary Kathern Rhoades, 71, passed away on Sunday, December 7, 2025 at her residence. Mary will be cremated and a Celebration of Life service will be scheduled at a later date.

#### Judith "Mary (Ann" Parrie

WARREN — Judith "Mary Ann" Parrie, 85, of Warren, formerly of Gas City, passed away at 8:52 am on Friday, December 12, 2025, at Heritage Pointe in Warren.

The family will receive visitors from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm on Thursday, December 18, 2025, at Holy Family Catholic Church, 325 E. N. A St., Gas City. IN.

Immediately following the time of visitation, a Funeral Mass to celebrate Mary Ann's life will begin at 1:00 pm with Father Kevin Hurley officiating. Burial will take place at Grant Memorial Park.

Memories may be shared online at www. nswcares.com.

#### (Arlene Gene' Schmidt

MARION — Arlen "Gene" Schmidt, 92, of Marion, passed away at 5:17 am on Friday, December 12, 2025, at Colonial Oaks Health & Rehabilitation Center in Marion.

Gene was a United States Air Force veteran. The family will receive visitors from 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm on Thursday, December 18, 2025, at Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral & Cremation Service, North Chapel, 1341 N. Baldwin Ave., Marion, IN.

Immediately following the time of visitation, a funeral service to celebrate Gene's life will begin at 2:00 pm with Rev. Dr. Tom Mansbarger officiating. Burial will take place at Grant Memorial Park.

Memories may be shared online at www. nswcares.com

#### Mary Carolyn Sheets

JONESBORO — Mary Carolyn Sheets Jones, 93, Jonesboro, passed away at 10:07 am on Saturday, December 13, 2025, at Twin City Healthcare in Gas City.

The family will receive visitors from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Friday, December 19, 2025, at Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral & Cremation Service, Storey Chapel, 400 E. Main St, Gas City, IN.

A funeral service to celebrate Mary's life will be held at 12:00 noon on Saturday, December 20, 2025, at the Fowlerton United Methodist Church 315 Franklin St., Fowlerton, IN. Pastors Glen Davis and Ella Nickles will be officiating with burial following at Gardens of Memory - Marion.

Memories may be shared online at www. nswcares.com

#### Donna T. Weakle

LAFONTAINE — Donna J. Yeakle, 60, LaFontaine, passed away on Saturday, December 13, 2025, at Rolling Meadows in LaFontaine.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral & Cremation Service, North Chapel, 1341 N. Baldwin Ave., Marion, IN with Pastor Mick Simpkins. Burial at Estates of Serenity.

#### Lee W. Burnham

LAFONTAINE — Lynn "Noel" Huston, 58, of LaFontaine, Indiana passed away at 10:55 a.m. on Thursday, December 11, 2025, at her residence.

Funeral service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, December 19, 2025, at LaFontaine Christian Church, 202 S. Bruner Pike, LaFontaine, Indiana 46940 with Pastor Brad Wright officiating, Burial will follow at LaFontaine IOOF Cemetery in LaFontaine,

Visitation for family and friends will be on Thursday, December 18, 2025, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at LaFontaine Christian Church.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.mcdonaldfunerals.com

#### Vonna "Bonnie" L. Christie Wardlow

Vonna "Bonnie" L. Christie Wardlow, 90, formerly of Kokomo, passed away Thursday, December 11, 2025 at T. Boone Pickens Hospice Facility in Dallas, Texas.

A funeral service celebrating Bonnie's life will take place at 1 pm Thursday, December 18, 2025, at Stout & Son Funeral Home, 200 E. Main St., Russiaville, with Dr. Jim Willoughby officiating. Burial will follow in Russiaville Cemetery.

Messages of condolence may be left online at www.stoutandson.com

#### Glenn Bernard Dockemeyer

KOKOMO — Glenn Bernard Dockemeyer, 63, of Kokomo, passed away on Thursday, December 11, 2025.

A Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 1:00 p.m. Thursday, December 18, 2025 at St. Patrick Catholic Church, 1229 N. Washington Street, with the Rev. Fr. Christopher Shocklee the celebrant, and Rev. Fr. Peter Vanderkolk the con-celebrant. Burial will follow in Crown Point

Messages of condolence may be left online at www.shirleyandstout.com

### Bedford Junior Johnson

SHARPSVILLE — Bedford Junior Johnson, 96, passed away Friday, December 12, 2025, at his home in Sharpsville, Indiana.

A funeral service celebrating BJ's life will be held at 1:00 pm on Saturday, December 20, 2025, at the Sharpsville United Methodist Church, 228 W. Meridian Street, Sharpsville, with Pastor Heather Holman officiating. Burial will follow in Sharpsville Cemetery.

Messages of condolence may be made at www. stoutandson.com

#### Elizabeth J. Knutson

Elizabeth J. Knutson, 89, passed away peacefully on December 9, 2025, in Lenoir, North Carolina.

In keeping with Elizabeth's wishes, private services will be held.

#### Karen Lynn (Shelton) Bolt

MONTPELIER — Karen Lynn (Shelton) Bolt, age 75, of Montpelier, IN, passed away at 2:22 PM on Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at her home.

Funeral services were held on Monday, December 15, 2025 at the Walker & Glancy Funeral Home located at 109 W Windsor St Montpelier with Chaplain Les Turner officiating. Interment in the Brookside Memorial Park in Montpelier.

Online condolences may be made at www. glancyfuneralhomes.com

#### Wyatt Toe Hasinbiller

MONTPELIER — Wyatt Joe Hasinbiller, age 52, of rural Montpelier, IN, (Washington Twp.) passed away unexpectedly at 11:20 PM on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at home.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday, December 17, 2025 at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home located at 109 W Windsor St Montpelier with Pastor Lyle Meece officiating. Interment in the Six Mile Cemetery in Bluffton.

Online condolences may be made at www. glancyfuneralhomes.com

#### David L. Hicks

WARREN — David L. Hicks, age 59, of Warren, IN, (Chester Twp. Wells Co.) passed away at 7:15 PM on Thursday, December 11, 2025 at Heritage Pointe in Warren, IN.

Funeral services were held on Sunday, December 14, 2025 at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home located at 109 W. Windsor St. Montpelier,

Online condolences may be made at www. glancyfuneralhomes.com

#### Joseph M. Schwartz

GENEVA — Joseph N. Schwartz, 85, of rural Geneva, IN, passed away on Monday, December 15, 2025 at his home in Geneva, IN.

A Funeral Service will be held at the Schwartz residence at 9:00 AM on Thursday, December 18, 2025 with Bishop Jonas H. Graber officiating. Interment will follow in the Bunker Hill Amish Cemetery in Geneva.

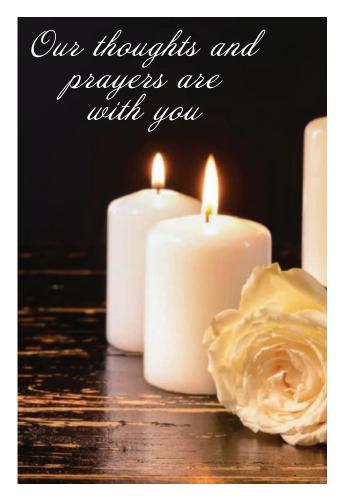
Online condolences may be made at www. glancyfuneralhomes.com

#### Anna M. Lewis

MARION — Anna M. Lewis, 98, of Marion, Indiana, went to be with the Lord at 3:16 am on Sunday, December 14, 2025.

A Celebration of Life will take place at 11:30 am on Monday, December 22, 2025, at North Chapel with Rev. Dan Van Cise officiating. Burial will follow at Grant Memorial Park.

Memories and condolences may be shared online at www.nswcares.com.



## LOCAL CHURCH SERVICES

Submitted by Catherine Lamb

Back Creek Friends - 10:30 a.m., Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.

Back Creek Wesleyan – 10:30 a.m., Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.

Fairmount Baptist Church – 10:30 a.m., Sunday School – 9:30 a m

Fairmount Church of God – 10:30 a.m., Sunday School – 9:30

Fairmount Friends – 10:30 a.m.

Fairmount Wesleyan – 9:30 a.m.

Fairmount United Methodist – 9:30 a.m.

Fowlerton United Methodist – 10:45 a.m.

Jones Chapel – 10:30 a.m., Sunday School – 9 a.m.

MorningStar Ministries, 11:00 a.m. (Jonesboro) Prince of Peace Lutheran Church – 9 a.m. (Hartford City)

One of Ten Ministries and Church – 10:30 a.m.

Pilgrim Holiness – 6 p.m.

Real Community Covenant Church – 10 a.m. – 1240 S. Adams in Marion

Westview Wesleyan, 11 a.m. (Jonesboro)

Women of Hope Bible Study – Tuesday – 10 a.m.

(Located at One of Ten on SR 26 in Fairmount. Open to all women in Grant County)

Fairmount UMC – Monday – 7 p.m. – Campus Life

Fairmount UMC – Wednesday – 10 a.m., Men and Women's Bible Study

## Grant County Sheriff's Office updates scam investigation / arrest

On June 7th, 2025, the Grant County Sheriff's Office initiated an investigation with Sweetser

Police when a 68-year-old male Sweetser resident reported he believed he was scammed of over \$231,000.00. The telephone scammers falsely identified their selves as FBI and Sweetser Police Officer advising the victim his identity had been compromised and that criminal charges had been filed in his name. They convinced him and then instructed him to protect his assets immediately by convert his savings into \$201,000.00 in gold bars and \$30,192.00 in cryptocurrency to protect his "funds" during a supposed investigation and arranged for a

"courier" to pick up the gold to secure his financial assets. This "courier" had arrived on June 5th and took possession of the gold.

Sheriff's detectives' investigation led to the "courier" identified as Tirth A. Savani (22) an international living in San Bernardino, California on a Student VISA, from India.

Detectives obtained an arrest warrant on October 29th as Grant County Prosecutor Scott J Hunt files formal criminal charges on Tirth A. Savani, reference the investigation for felony charges of FRAUD, MONEY LAUNDERING, THEFT, and **IDENTITY** DECEPTION with an arrest warrant issued by Honorable Judge Mark E. Spitzer of the Grant Circuit Court.
Detectives travelled to California

working with the San Bernardino Police Department were able to locate and arrest Tirth Savani on the Indiana warrant on November 4th, where he was being held pending extradition procedures. On December 1st, during a court hearing in Tirth A. Savani waved his extradition voluntarily agreeing to return to Indiana. Deputies travelled back to California this week and brought Savani to the Grant County Security Complex / Jail.

Sheriff Garcia is proud of the intense and dedicated police work by detectives in solving this crime. This case investigation is ongoing as detectives



continue gathering evidence on potential co-conspirators in this scheme.

Anyone with information related to this crime or other criminal activity is encouraged to contact the Grant County Sheriff's Office (765) 668-8168 or their local law enforcement agency. Anonymous tips can also be submitted to Crime Stoppers at (765) 662-TIPS (8477).

Sheriff Del Garcia Chief Deputy Jay Kay, PIO

## Upcoming Community Events

#### **Submitted by Catherine Lamb**

Community Breakfast – Masonic Lodge #635, Saturday, (biweekly), freewill donation Hope Center – Every Friday, 1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Fairmount Town Council – Biweekly at 6 p.m.

Feeding Fairmount Ministry – 2nd Monday of month – Fairmount UMC, freewill donation, 12 noon

Upland Winter Market starts November 7th, 4-7 p.m. on the first and third Fridays through April. No market Good Friday.

Madison-Grant Christmas Break – December 22nd – January 2, 2026

Fairmount Wesleyan Church Christmas Eve Services – December 23rd at 6:30 p.m.

Christmas – December 25th - Federal

Holiday. No mail delivery.

#### 2026

Community Breakfast – Masonic Lodge #635, Saturday, (biweekly), freewill donation Hope Center – Every Friday, 1 p.m. – 4:30

Fairmount Town Council – Biweekly at 6

Eagles Nest Food Pantry –January 15th and February 19th at 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

(At Park School. Additional dates are on Fairmount Wesleyan Church website. Click

Feeding Fairmount Ministry – 2nd Monday of month – Fairmount UMC, freewill donation, 12 noon

Blackford County Extension - February 13: Election of County Officers

Blackford County Extension - April 14: April District Meeting in Hartford City, "As American As Apple Pie"

Blackford County Extension - May 7: Achievement Day which includes recognition of perfect attendance, membership milestones, new members & Memorial for deceased members.

#### Fairmount Public Library

Take and make craft kit – December 2nd Chair Yoga – December 2nd and16th at 1 p.m. Painting with LouRae – December 6th at 10:30 a.m.

Visit with Santa – December 6th at 10:30 a.m. Book Club – December 9th at p.m. Board Meeting – December 10th at 6 p.m. Crafting Circle – December 16th at 6 p.m. Storytime – 10 a.m. – December 18th at 20 m.

Chair Yoga – December 5th, 12th, 19th and January 2nd at 10 a.m.

Board Meeting – 6 p.m. – November 12th Crafting Circle – 6 p.m. – November 18th Your Story – December 23rd at 6 p.m.

Other Library Services WI-FI Access, Computer Access, Printing, Scanning, Copying, Faxing, Laminating,

# How to stay health while traveling for the holidays

The holiday season is always a busy time of year for the travel industry, and 2025 figures to be no exception. A November report from CNN indicated that the aviation analytics firm Cirium reported that passenger booking on major airlines for Thanksgiving were up by 2.22 percent from a year earlier, when holiday travel reached a record high.

Traveling is indeed a key component of the holiday season for millions of people, and long lines at airports, crowded train stations and trains, and even heavily trafficked roadways are among the challenges such individuals must navigate as they aim to spend time with loved ones between late November and the first week of January. Finding ways to stay healthy while traveling is another challenge such individuals face. While that can be difficult, travelers can look to various strategies to stay healthy when taking to the rails, roads or friendly skies this holiday season.

• Take some creature comforts to ensure a good night's rest. The Clayton Sleep Institute reports that as much as 80 percent of travelers report sleeping worse while traveling than they do at home. Jet lag, general weariness and unique sleeping environments can

compromise travelers' ability to get sufficient and quality rest while away from home. When possible, taking some creature comforts along, such as the pillow you sleep on at home, can facilitate better rest on the road. That can promote a healthier holiday season, as the Mayo Clinic notes people who don't get enough sleep are more likely to get sick after exposure to a virus, including the common cold.

• Do some homework on nutrition. Healthy food and the holiday season are not exactly synonymous, and it's easy to overindulge in unhealthy fare like baked goods when visiting loved ones between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. It's also more difficult to eat healthy when traveling, regardless of the time of year. Some

pre-travel homework can help travelers find restaurants that offer healthy fare on the road to their destination and locate restaurants with nutritious foods once they arrive. Travelers also can pack healthy snacks to enjoy during their travels.

· Stay somewhere you can exercise. Many hotels now feature on-site fitness facilities and/or swimming pools so guests can exercise during their stay. Travelers can book stays in these facilities rather than staying in hotels with no such offerings or in loved ones' apartments. Some hotels may include access to a local fitness facility with each booking in lieu of an on-site exercise room. Travelers who want to stay healthy while on the road can take advantage of these offerings during their

stav

 Take something along to calm the stress. Even the most seasoned travelers can succumb to travel-related stress, especially during the busy holiday travel season. Take along an engaging book, a tablet pre-loaded with films and television shows, a smartphone with a full array of podcasts to listen to, or additional items that might help you remain calm should a stressful situation arise during your travels. Stress can compromise the immune system, so having a distraction during travel delays can help people get through their holiday travels in a healthy way.

Staying healthy when traveling during the holiday season can come down to some simple planning.















# Upland shines bright at 33rd annual Christmas Tree Lighting

Submitted by Our Town of Upland Photo Credit Cindy Holloway

Upland kicked off the holiday season in storybook fashion Sunday evening as families, friends, and festive characters filled Depot Park for the town's 33rd Annual Christmas Tree Lighting, one of Upland's most cherished traditions.

The excitement began well before the switch was flipped. At 5:30pm the crowd gathered around the Depot as the emcees for the evening, Andrew Preston & Alex Reno of Our Town Upland, opened the ceremony with holiday cheer and carols. Town Councilman Michael Harbin delivered a beautiful Christmas message. Inspired by the WWI Exhibit currently in the Depot, his message included a reminder of one miraculous Christmas Eve on a battle field along the French-Belgian border in 1914 when the soldiers from both sides called a day of Peace, conversed in broken English, sang carols, exchanged pictures, and even played a soccer match. It is estimated that more than 100,000 troops participated in this brief period of peace in the middle of one of the deadliest wars in history. It was a hint at the future lasting Peace we all hope for. "We all

have our differences, but around this tree we have the peace of Christmas sharing what we have in common."

Following the message, the Main Street business owners were given the honor of lighting the tree. For the past two years, these businesses have endured the reconstruction of Main Street in phases. With the construction nearing an end, Our Town Upland wanted to give them a nod. Representatives from each business were handed a cord that they then connected together and ultimately connected to the cord of the tree in a symbolic gesture of community.

"Every business in Upland contributes a spark that keeps our town glowing." Alex Reno

Reno
"Just like these
cords deliver power
to the tree, our local
businesses deliver
power to our local
economy. They
create jobs, support
families, welcome
visitors, invest in
our futures, and help
turn small towns into
strong communities."
Andrew Preston

"Tonight's tree will shine because many hands and many businesses power it together, and so does our community." Alex Reno

Those invited to light the tree were Avis Industrial, Best One Tire & Auto Care of Upland, Center Stage Dance Studio, Gary's Barber Shop, Greeks Pizzeria, Ivanhoes, Jones - Smith Chapel of Armes-Hunt Funeral Home, Norris Insurance, Patent Pending, Polished Nail Salon, Upland Family Pharmacy, Upland Liquor, **Upland Printing** Company, and Walnut Creek Country Market.

The crowd joined in a countdown as the towering Christmas tree lit up into a brilliant glow. Cheers echoed through the park as the lights marked the official start of Upland's holiday season. The ceremony ended as it always does, with everyone joined together singing Silent Night.

Moments after the tree lit up the night, the sound of jingling bells and ho ho ho's drew all eyes across from the Depot. In a scene fit for a holiday film, Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived to greet the community, waving warmly as children welcomed them with excitement. The pair took their places inside the Depot, welcoming families for photos, Christmas wishes, and plenty of smiles.

Following their arrival, families enjoyed sleigh rides, Christmas crafts in NearSpace Education's new Maker Space, a hot chocolate bar provided by Upland Family Lions Club, and complimentary homemade cookies from Upland Community Market vendors Pop Dave's Pies, The Flour Garden, Redeeming Acres, and Long Journey Homestead (with gluten free options). Volunteers dressed as a gingerbread couple, elves, a snowman, a Christmas tree, and even Clark Griswold kept spirits bright throughout the night. In fact, next year the community is invited to dress up as a favorite Christmas character or festive costume and compete for most festive human, most confusing costume, and person most likely to be a Christmas decoration. Until then, Merry Christmas!!





#### Share this story with your family on Christmas Eve!

Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house

Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.

The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,

In hopes that St Nicholas soon would be there.

The children were nestled all snug in their beds,

While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads.

And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my

Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,

I sprang from the bed to see what was the

Away to the window I flew like a flash, Tore open the shutters and threw up the

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen

Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects

When, what to my wondering eyes should

But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer.

With a little old driver, so lively and quick, I knew in a moment it must be St Nick. More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,

And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name!

"Now Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer

and Vixen!

On, Comet! On, Cupid! on Donner and Blitzen!

To the top of the porch! to the top of the

Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!"

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,

When they meet with an obstacle, mount

So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,

With the sleigh full of toys, and St Nicholas too.

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof

The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.

As I drew in my head, and was turning

Down the chimney St Nicholas came with a bound.

He was dressed all in fur, from his head to

And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot.

A bundle of toys he had flung on his back, And he looked like a peddler, just opening

His eyes-how they twinkled! his dimples how merry!

His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a

His droll little mouth was drawn up like a

And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow.

The stump of a pipe he held tight in his

And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath.

He had a broad face and a little round

That shook when he laughed, like a bowlful of jelly!

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,

And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself!

A wink of his eye and a twist of his head, Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,

And filled all the stockings, then turned with a jerk.

And laying his finger aside of his nose, And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose!

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a

And away they all flew like the down of a

But I heard him exclaim, 'ere he drove out

"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-

#### What Does It Mean?

Important vocabulary words & phrases to help understand the poem Twas the Night **Before Christmas** 

- 1. 'Twas = It was
- 2. stirring = movement
- 3. nestled = comfortably in place
- 4. 'kerchief = handkerchief
- 5. clatter = noise
- 6. sash = window covering that is pulled down from inside the room
- 7. shutters = window covering that is opened from outside the window
- 8. lustre = glow, illumination
- 9. sleigh = Santa Claus' vehicle, also used in Alaska
- with dogs 10. St. Nick = Santa Claus
- 11. Coursers = Animals which draw a sleigh
- 12. Porch = terrace
- 13. dash away = move onwards quickly
- 14. twinkling = a second
- 15. bound = a jump
- 16. tarnished = dirty
- 17. soot = black waste material found inside a chimney
- 18. bundle = bag
- 19. peddler = someone who sells things on the
- 20. dimples = indentations on the cheeks
- 21. merry = happy
- 22. droll = funny
- 23. encircled = circle around
- 24. belly = stomach 25. dread = to be a fraid of
- 26. jerk = quick movement
- 27. down of a thistle = the light material on a certain type of weed that floats away in the air
- 28. ere = before

(765) 948-4632





**MERRY** 

## **Celebrating the Epiphany**

The holiday season is full of faith and celebration. Even though people may believe this important time begins at the start of December, for millions of the Christians, the Twelve Days of Christmas begin with the birth of Baby Jesus on December 25 and continue through the Epiphany on January

The Epiphany, also known as Three Kings Day, is a Christian feast day that "celebrates the revelation of God in His Son as human in Jesus Christ," says The National Shrine of Saint Jude. The Epiphany is celebrated on January 6 each year and gets its name from the Greek word meaning "to reveal, or manifestation," a nod to the idea that this was the day Jesus was revealed to the world.

On the Epiphany, three Magi visited the Christ child to pay homage. These wise men were the first to greet Jesus after his parents. The Magi followed a star to Bethlehem, having faith that the Child's location would be accurate. The unlikely royal visitors bestowed gifts of gold,



frankincense and myrrh. These herbs are typically used in burial ceremonies, and their offering may have potentially foreshadowed Jesus' destiny.

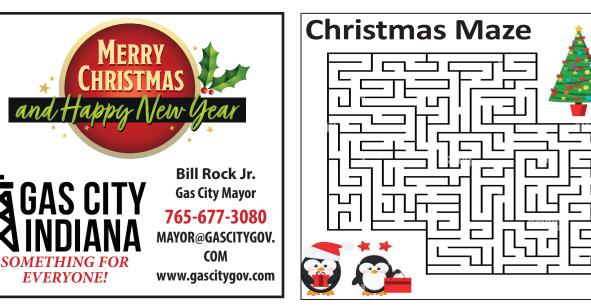
According to Father Hezekias Carnazzo, a Melkite Catholic priest and founding executive director of the Virginia-based Institute of Catholic Culture, the Feast of the Epiphany is one of the earliest feasts and actually predates the celebration of Christmas.

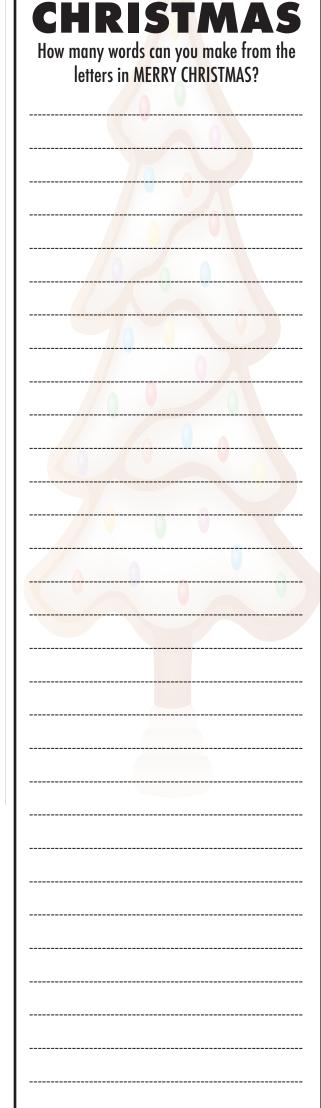
Although the Epiphany is an important date for Christians and many celebrate it, celebrants in Spain and Latin

America consider it as important as Christmas Day. Within these nations Día de los Reyes (Three Kings Day) is a time for serving Rosca de Reyes, an oval-shaped treat that has a small doll inside to represent Baby Jesus. The figurine symbolizes the hiding of the infant Jesus from King Herod's troops. Children also receive the majority of their gifts on Three Kings Day. It is customary for kids to place their old shoes with a wish list on them for the Three Kings. On the morning of January 6, the shoes are filled with toys and gifts.

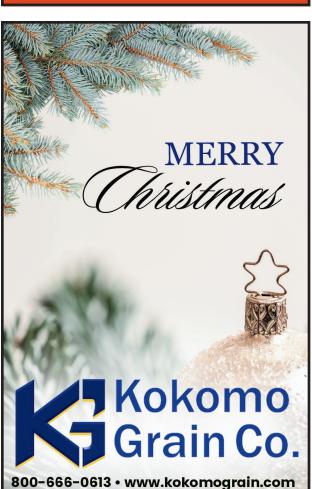
The Epiphany is celebrated in various ways around the world. In the Czech Republic, people swim in the freezing cold Vltava River and men dress up as the Magi before riding camels through Prague's city center. Three Kings Bread, similar to the Rosca de Reyes and called Dreikönigskuchen, is prepared and consumed in Germany and Switzerland.

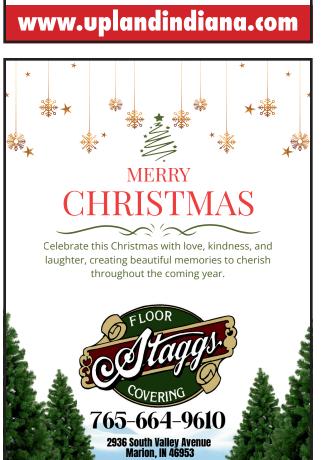
Christmas fanfare does not cease when the calendar turns from December 25 to 26. The Epiphany on January 6 also is an important day of celebration.













### **Sugar Cookie Fudge**

#### **Ingredients**

Cooking spray 1 (14-oz.) can sweetened

condensed milk 2 1/4 c. white chocolate chips

- 11/2 c. sugar cookie
- 2 tbsp. unsalted butter
- 1/4 tsp. kosher salt 11/2 c. crushed sugar or shortbread
- cookies (4-oz.) 1/2 c. confetti sprinkles, divided
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract

#### **Directions**

Line a 9-inch square baking dish with aluminum foil and spray with cooking spray.

In a medium saucepan, heat the sweetened condensed milk over medium heat, stirring frequently to prevent scorching, until hot. Add the white chocolate chips and stir until melted, 2 to 3 minutes. Stir in the cookie mix, butter, and salt until smooth; remove the mixture from the heat. Fold in the cookies, ¼ cup plus 2 tablespoons of sprinkles, and vanilla.

Pour the fudge mixture into the prepared pan, smoothing the top. Top with the remaining 2 tablespoons of sprinkles and allow it to set up completely in the refrigerator before slicing, at least 2 hours.

backstroke:

Cordell

Jenkins

Morgan

Carpenter

1st place - Lennon

Boys 100-yard

2nd place - Trevor

3rd place - Isaiah

Boys 400-yard

1st place - Josiah

Cordell, Hayden Craig

Beck, Liam Carpenter

, Keagan Couchman ,

The Giants battled

Oak Hill at Marion

Thursday evening.

Girls: Oak Hill 127

Boys: Oak Hill 139

Marion Swimmers:

3rd place - Hannah

Huff, Gracie Dixon,

Boys 200 -yard

3rd place - Lennon

Mary Herrington,

Skylar Boogar

medley relay:

Cordell, Trevor

Morgan, Josiah

Womack, Jack

Girls 200-yard

1st place - Jethe

Bovs 200-vard IM:

3rd place - Hayden

Girls 50-yard

Boys 50-yard

2nd place - Skylar

2nd place - Carter

Boys 100-yard

2nd place - Josiah

Girls 500-yard

3rd place - Jethe

Girls 200-yard

2nd place - Jethe

Campanero, Gracie

Boys 200-yard

3rd place - Trevor

Morgan, Jack Jenkins,

freestyle relay:

Lennon Cordell,

Josiah Womack

Girls 400-yard

3rd place - Jethe

Campanero, Hannah

Boys 400-yard

3rd place - Hayden

Craig, Lennon Cordell,

freestyle relay:

Trevor Morgan,

Josiah Womack

freestyle relay:

Paduga, Mary

Huff

Herrington, Elly

freestyle relay:

Paduga, Skylar

Boogar, Elly

Dixon

**Jenkins** 

freestyle:

Paduga

Craig

freestyle:

freestyle:

butterfly:

Womack

freestyle:

Paduga

**Beck** 

Boogar

Girls 200-yard

medley relay:

3rd place - Carter

freestyle relay:

Womack, Trevor

Morgan, Lennon

Ezzy Gibbs

(Thursday-

December 11)

**Swimming** 

High School on

Lady Giants 36

Giants 37

breaststroke 1st place - Jack

## **Marion Giants Recap**

(Friday - December 12)

**Boys Basketball** Giants 67 Richmond 55.

The Giants are 3-1 & 1-0 in the NCC C. Guerrero 24. T. Jones 19, D. Red 9. L. Anderson 9, J. Freshwater 3, T. Currie 2. C. Luster 1

Marion JV 53 Richmond JV 49 in OT.

The Giants JV is 2-2. S. Recometa 17, Jordan Johnson 16, C. Robinson 8,

Jace Johnson 6, A. Lee 4, K. Cook 1, Gavin Johnson 1

#### (Saturday-December 13)

#### Wrestling

The Marion Giant boys wrestling team competed at the Western Invitational on Saturday and finished 5th.

#### **Marion Giant** Wrestlers:

Hickson Love 1st Ben Bevans 2nd Josh McCray 2nd Shsun Caldwell 2nd Adrian Parrish 4th Brody Stickann 4th Anderson Guevara 5th

Javier Lester 6th **Braydon Ricketts** 6th

Angel Maya 6th Nicholas Purdy 6th Dominick Scott 6th Rodrigo Sanchez 6th

#### Girls Basketball

Marion defeats **Huntington North** 55-48.

The Lady Giants are 7-4 & host New Haven on Tuesday, December

N. Hahn 28, J. Townsend 13, A. Reed

E. Inman 4, N. Cox 2 (JV - Huntington N 59 Lady Giants 38) Sophomore Nyomi Hahn scored 28 points vs Huntington North on Saturday and moved into a tie for 17th place on the Marion Lady Giants All-Time Scoring List. Hahn is currently ranked in the top three in the state of Indiana in scoring at

#### (Wednesday-December 10)

29.7 ppg.

Wrestling Marion Giants vs Kokomo Girls:

Kokomo 36 Lady Giants 30

#### **Marion Lady Giant** winners:

Bray'Leigh Sutton **Grace Carpenter** Dani Purdy Adelia Santiago Nely Guevara-Henriquez

**Boys:** Kokomo 58 Giants 18

#### **Marion Giant** winners:

Shaun Caldwell Adrian Parrish Hickson Love

The Marion Giant boys will next compete at the Western Invitational on Saturday, December

#### **Swimming**

Marion Giants vs Kokomo Girls: Kokomo 109 Lady Giants 46 Boys: Kokomo 95 Giants 72

#### **Marion Giant**

swimmers: Girls 200-yard Medley relay: 2nd place - Hannah Huff, Gracie Dixon, Mary Herrington, Skylar Boogar

#### Boys 200-yard Medley Relay:

1st place - Lennon Cordell, Trevor Morgan, Josiah Womack, Jack Jenkins

#### Girls 200-yard freestyle:

2nd place - Jethe Paduga

#### Boys 200-yard freestyle:

3rd place - Levi Craig

Girls 200-yard IM: 3rd place -Gracie Dixon

#### Boys 200- yard IM: 2nd place - Hayden

Craig 3rd place - Jack **Jenkins** 

### Girls 50-yard

freestyle: 2nd place - Skylar

#### Boys 100- yard butterfly:

2nd place - Josiah

#### Womack

Girls 100-yard

#### freestyle:

4th place - Hannah 3rd place - Eliana Campanero

#### Boys 100-yard

freestyle: 3rd place - Carter Beck

2nd place - Eziriah Gibbs

#### Girls 500-yard

freestyle: 3rd place - Skylar

### 2nd place - Jethe

Paduga

#### Boys 500-yard freestyle

3rd place - Levi

1st place - Hayden Craig

#### Girls 100-yard backstroke:

1st place - Aubriella Cruz 2nd place - Mary Herrington

Boys 100-yard backstroke: 1st place - Lennon Cordell

#### Girls 100 yard breaststroke:

3rd place - Gracie Dixon

#### Boys 100 yard breaststroke:

3rd place - Trevor Morgan

Boys 100 yard

#### **BOYS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE CHANGE**

The Marion Giant boys basketball game vs Yorktown that was cancelled on November 29, will now be played on Tuesday, February 24, 2026. The JV game starts at 6:00 pm & the Varsity tips off at 7:30 pm. The game is at the Bill Green Athletic Arena.

### **Crossroads League Athletes** of the Week Dec. 8-14

**Seth Mikel Crossroads League Sports Information** Director

JACKSON, Mich. - The Crossroads League Athletes of the Week were announced on Monday, recognizing the league's top individual performances from December 8 through 14. Sports Information Directors from the league institutions nominate studentathletes for the awards and vote on each week's winners.

Women's Basketball Offensive Player of the Week

Rennna Schwieterman, Saint Francis

Schwieterman led No. 6 Saint Francis to wins against Webber International and Southeastern with 19.5 points, 7.5 rebounds, 4.0 assists and 1.5 steals per contest, while shooting 66.7 percent from the field and 50.0 percent from downtown.

Women's Basketball Defensive Player of the Week

Izzy Shepherd, Huntington Shepherd led Huntington to a 118-62 blowout of Ohio Christian, excelling

on the defensive end with nine steals. The freshman guard also scored 25 points and had four assists in the Forester victory.

Men's Basketball Offensive Player of the Week

Travis Grayson, Spring Arbor

Grayson sank sevenof-eight shots to finish with a game-high 16 points for Spring Arbor in a 32-point win over Grace Christian. The senior guard also dished out six assists and added three steals and two rebounds.

Men's Basketball Defensive Player of the Week

Dante Favor, Spring Arbor

Favor picked up four steals, two blocks and four defensive rebounds for Spring Arbor in an 83-52 win over Grace Christian. In addition to his active work on the defensive end, Favor added eight points without missing a shot.

Women's Indoor TF Track Athlete of the Week

Emma Edwards,

Marian Edwards broke the Marian record in the 400-meters with

a time of 57.39 to provisionally qualify for NAIA Nationals. Edwards finished fifth in the event. competing against NCAA Division I foes at the IU Early Bird.

Women's Indoor TF Field Athlete of the Week

Delaney Teachnor, Marian

Teachnor won the pole vault at the Indiana Tech Warrior Invite with an A-standard mark of 3.65 meters to automatically qualify for NAIA Nationals.

Men's Indoor TF Track Athlete of the Week

Will Osafo, Marian Osafo competed at the Indiana Early Bird and provisionally qualified for NAIA Nationals with a time of 6.74 seconds in the 60-meters, where he finished second overall.

Men's Indoor TF Field Athlete of the Week

Victor Dailey, Marian

Dailey scored a win in the high jump for Marian at Indiana Tech's Warrior Invite. Dailey cleared the bar at 2.01 meters to win the event.

## Fun ways to enjoy to

Winter begins in mid December, and ends mid March. Many people lament the arrival of winter, perhaps thinking the colder temperatures and shorter hours of sunlight will compromise their chances to have fun. Even though particularly chilly thermostat readings or stormy conditions can hamper some plans, when people dig deeper they may find that even the coldest days present opportunities for enjoyment.

When winter begins, the following activities can make for an entertaining way to celebrate the arrival of the season.

• Build a snow **creation.** Use the first significant snowfall of the season to organize a snowman, snowwoman, or snowanimal-making event or contest. Waterproof gloves are a necessary piece of equipment, as are buckets for moving snow, shovels, carving and shaping tools (which can be plastic cutlery), and accessories to dress up the final product.

 Go sledding on the best hills. Sledding is a popular wintertime activity that doesn't require

too much equipment. Sleds can be purchased at sporting goods stores or toy stores. Sledders of all ages should consider wearing helmets to protect against injury if they will be traversing especially steep hills.

 Host a winter block party. Many cities and towns across North America participate in WinterFest events, which run the gamut from food and craft festivals to sporting events. Individuals can take cues from these type of activities and plan neighborhood festivals right on their streets. Neighbors can wheel out their fire pits or utilize outdoor propane heaters to keep spots cozy. Hot cocoa and cider stations and warm treats can keep everyone from feeling too cold. Electric slow cookers can keep everything from soups to chilis to stews warm and participants can enjoy a buffet of hearty

 Visit an ice rink. Whether a rink is indoors or outside, ice skating is a quintessential wintertime activity. Skaters of all skill

foods.

levels can take to the ice and enjoy some exercise and laughs. Check local rink schedules to take advantage of open skate times when hockey games or practices are not dominating the ice.

 Mark the winter **solstice.** The winter solstice, also known as the start of astronomical winter, is the shortest day of sunlight on the calendar. It occurs when either of the Earth's poles reaches maximum tilt away from the sun. In the Northern Hemisphere, this occurs on December 21st. Because there will be only roughly seven hours of daylight, take steps to make the fact that the sun will set at its earliest a little easier to swallow. Kids can run around outdoors with glow sticks, while adults can deck their homes in twinkle lights if they are not decorated for Christmas. Lanterns, campfires and candles can be lit, and everyone can gather outdoors to chat and socialize.

Winter begins on December 21, 2025, and there are plenty of ways to celebrate this fun, if sometimes frigid, season.

# start of winter

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# Bowen Health CEO appointed to AHA Behavioral Health Committee

Warsaw, IN -December 9, 2025 - Bowen Health is proud to announce that President and CEO Dr. Rob Ryan has been appointed to the American Hospital Association's (AHA) Committee on Behavioral Health. The committee advises the AHA on advocacy, public policy, and strategic initiatives to advance healthcare nationwide.

"Rob leads with compassion and a clear focus on the whole person, mind and body, said Matt Ditzler, Chair of Bowen Health's Board of Directors. "Under his leadership, Bowen Health has added primary care and dentistry to our mental health services. This integrated approach makes care easier to access, strengthens outcomes, and improves quality of life in the communities we serve. Rob's voice will be a strong addition to the AHA's behavioral health work."

Dr. Ryan holds a Ph.D. in Counseling

Psychology from **Andrews University** and is a Nationally Certified School Psychologist and Licensed Mental Health Clinician in Indiana. Since joining Bowen Health in 2004, he has championed integrated healthcare, combining mental health, primary care, crisis stabilization, and addiction recovery services to support every aspect of patient well-being.

"It is an honor to bring Hoosier sensibility and compassion to this assignment, said Dr. Ryan. "The Midwest is often the birthplace of new and inventive ways to solve problems, and I can see the opportunity to do that with this group. The AHA mental health subcommittee helps set national policy and legislative goals for millions of health care workers and patients struggling with mental illness. It is a privilege to represent both groups, our patients and staff at a national level," said Dr. Ryan.

## Taylor University students take faith and service to Albania

By Kylie Roggie

This past summer, a team of four Taylor students and two leaders traveled to Albania, a small country located in southeastern Europe, to partner with World Gospel Mission (WGM). Led by alumni Stephen Allgeier Fall '25 and Kaeley Sells '24, the students spent two weeks in the village of Vlashaj.

Albania, a predominantly Muslim country, offered a unique setting for this Taylor World Outreach (TWO) trip. Students navigated language barriers, cultural differences, and unfamiliar surroundings, all while learning how God works across cultures.

#### Teaching, Playing, and Praying for Transformation

The team's service focused on two main ministries. The first was Jeta, a community center that encourages healthy living and transformation for people of all ages and abilities. The group engaged in Jeta's English classes, soccer training, afterschool tutoring, Bible study, and church. Ultimately, the group joined the staff in prayer for those who entered Jeta to find life in Jesus Christ.

The second ministry the team worked with, Valued Treasures, serves individuals with physical and cognitive special needs. The ministry recognizes the social stigma attached to special needs and offers distinct programs to cultivate the potential of each individual. The group was able



to assist in various social activities and education.

"It's not about doing something extraordinary," Sells said. "It's about saying 'yes' to God wherever He calls you, even if it's across the world."

#### Leading with Heart and Logistics

Sells began working with WGM before graduating from Taylor with her degree in Global Studies. Sells was resposible for coordinating every aspect of this trip to Albania. From training students to ensuring the team's presence benefited the ministries, she emphasized intentionality and relationship-building. Working closely with local missionaries, Sells ensured the team strengthened, rather than disrupted, ongoing programming.

Though thoughtfully

planned, the trip also required flexibility and perseverance. Because of the size of the group, students learned to work closely as a team in unfamiliar circumstances. Communication often relied on body language, facial expressions, and basic Albanian phrases.

#### When Service Speaks Louder Than Words

For sophomore Anna Petry, the trip became more than service—it also influenced her in return. Visiting an orphanage for even a short time opened her heart in unexpected ways.

"Seeing the brokenness and feeling the heaviness in the orphanage we visited for only one hour was enough to capture my heart to see the great need of love for the lonely," Petry said. "If not for my team and their love for God, I would not have been led to the healing I have today."

The team also experienced the hospitality and resilience of the Albanian people, who welcomed them warmly despite cultural and religious differences. Simple gestures, shared activities, and even laughter became tools for connection.

"Albania's history of communism made me realize how important it is to share the Gospel with respect and gentleness," junior Amber Scott said. "I saw that love truly knows no barriers; even when language fails, His love speaks louder than any words."

The trip allowed students to discover that mission work is measured not by grand gestures but by presence. Participating in daily activities, praying silently over others, and simply being present allowed the team to reach beyond boundaries to serve those around them.

"Missions isn't about what you do, but about who you are doing all things for," Petry said.



STATE OF INDIANA

IN THE GRANT SUPERIOR COURT

GRANT COUNTY, SS:

CAUSE NO. 27D03-2510-EU-0000

IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF RUTH W. BERGMAN HAYES, Deceased

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

27D01-2510-EU-000077

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF GRANT COUNTY, INDIANA

In the Matter of The Estate of Ruth W. Bergman Hayes, deceased.

in the Matter of The Estate of Ruth W. Bergman Hayes, deceased.

Notice is hereby given that Judith A. Quick was, on the 8th day of October, 2025, appointed Personal Representative of The Estate of Ruth W. Bergman Hayes, deceased, who died on the 21st day of January, 2018.

All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated at Grant County, Indiana, this 8th day of October, 2025.

/s/ Pamela K Harriz Clerk of the Grant Superior GRANT

James S. Forcum (6917-05) FORCUM LAW OFFICE 300 South Jefferson Street Post Office Box 430 Hartford City, Indiana 47348 765-348-1858

## ONLINE AUCTION ENDS THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18th @ 6 PM (CST)

ELBERFELD, INDIANA

To view and bid go to "dasonlineauctions.hibid.com"

LOCATION:

DAS will be having a Online CONSIGNMENT located at 11055 Nobles Chapel Rd, Elberfeld, IN.

PREVIEW: Sunday, December 14th • 2-4 PM (CST)

2 NICE YARD
BARNS
HUSKEE LOG
SPLITTER
HAND & YARD
TOOLS
PYREX
COLLECTIBLES
POTTERY
FURNITURE
GLASSWARE
AND MORE







To view and bid go to "dasonlineauctions.hibid.com"

AUCTION NOTE: Items should be picked up Tuesday
DECEMBER 19<sup>50</sup> from 10AM to 5PM (CST) located at 11055
Nobles Chapel Rd, Elberfeld, Indiana. A receipt will be emailed to
you after the auction. You can pay with cash, check, or credit card (3%
charge) when you pick up your items. There is a 10% buyer's premium
for the online auction. No shipping. Any announcements made day of
auction shall take precedence over any verbal or printed material.



(12-18-25/01-08-26\_JR\_2x)