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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Oak Hill Times

Purdue unveils comprehensive AI strategy; trustees approve ‘AI working competency’ graduation requirement

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Purdue University on Friday (Dec. 12) unveiled a broad strategy of AI@Purdue across five functional areas: Learning with AI, Learning about AI, Research AI, Using AI and Partnering in AI.

A key element of the comprehensive plan came as the Board of Trustees approved a first-of-its-kind plan in the country to introduce an “AI working competency” graduation requirement for all undergraduate students on main campus (Indianapolis and West Lafayette).

“The reach and pace of AI’s impact to society, including many dimensions of higher education, means that we at Purdue must lean in and lean forward and do so across different functions at the university,” Purdue President Mung Chiang said. “AI@Purdue strategic actions are part of the Purdue Computes strategic initiative, and will continue to be refreshed to advance the missions and impact of our university.”

Learning About AI

Now and in future, Purdue students will need to possess the requisite critical thinking skills to understand, evaluate and effectively use AI technologies and to keep pace with their future changes — all as informed by evolving workforce and employer needs. To this end, the trustees have delegated authority to the provost, working with deans of all academic colleges, to develop and to review and update continuously, discipline-specific criteria and proficiency standards for a new campuswide

“artificial intelligence working competency” graduation requirement for all Purdue main campus students, starting with new beginners in fall 2026. Some of the underlying educational resources and innovations will be made available as soon as next semester for currently enrolled students, too.

Built on recently launched AI majors, minors and certificates across colleges, and following the establishment of a working group last summer, with additional careful deliberation and advice from the University Senate through its Undergraduate Curriculum Council, the goal of this requirement will be to ensure that, from exposure and awareness to skill-building and problem-solving mastery, Purdue students possess job-ready skills and critical thinking competencies to:

Understand and use the latest AI tools effectively in their chosen field(s), including identifying the key capabilities, strengths and limits of AI technologies, as well as ways that the AI can transform existing methods, processes and tools

Recognize and communicate clearly about AI use, decisions and limitations, including developing and defending decisions informed by AI-driven insights, as well as recognizing the presence, influence and consequences of AI in decision-making

Adapt to and work with future AI developments effectively and continually

“We’re enormously eager to work with faculty colleagues across the university to breathe life into this critical new requirement,” Purdue Provost Patrick Wolfe said. “At the same time, it’s absolutely imperative that a requirement like this is well informed by continual input from industry partners and employers more broadly. For this reason, I’ve also asked that each of



Purdue computer science professors Aniket Bera and Ahmed Quresh are researching virtual therapy, autonomous vehicles and rescue bots, like this robot dog, in their work at the intersection of AI and human emotion and behavior. (Purdue University photo/Rebecca Robiños)

our academic colleges establishes a standing industry advisory board focusing on employers’ AI competency needs and that these boards are used to help ensure a continual, annual refresh of our AI curriculum and requirements to ensure that we keep our discipline-specific criteria continually current.”

Learning With AI

Based on input from and consultation with many, a guidance on the use of generative AI in teaching and learning was published in January 2024. The industry has moved at a rapid pace since then. The Office of the Provost and the University Senate have been partnering to update that guidance and expect to issue the update toward the end of the current academic year.

Research AI

AI@Purdue will advance research, using AI to accelerate innovation, including the Purdue Institute for Physical AI (IPAI) at the interface where the bytes of AI meet the atoms of what we grow, what we make and what we move:

Agriculture and Food Systems:

Teams are advancing precision agriculture to create “biological manufacturing” for food systems in activities coordinated through the Institute for Digital and Advanced Agricultural Systems (IDAAS) and the Open Ag Technology and Systems Center (OATS)

Manufacturing: Researchers

are working in laboratories like Birck Nanotechnology Center and initiatives such as IN-MaC and the William D. and Sherry L. Young Institute for the Advanced Manufacturing of Pharmaceuticals

Transportation and Logistics: Researchers are driving innovation in autonomous personnel and commercial transport and road safety through the Transportation and Autonomous Systems Institute (TASI); developing digital twins, or replicas, of real-world entities based on AI; and pioneering AI in aviation and cargo drones through the center on AI for Digital, Autonomous and Augmented Aviation, or AIDA3

Defense: Researchers are partnering with national security and defense agencies and industries, leveraging AI tools to advance key areas such as hypersonics, energetic materials, cybersecurity, microelectronics and semiconductors

Health: Expanding on university’s One Health initiative, research is focused on real-time digital twin technology for personalized nutrition and interdisciplinary solutions through the Regenstrief Center for Healthcare Engineering and the Institute for Drug Discovery

Using AI

Actions designed to equip faculty and staff with AI resources for

improving efficiency and productivity include the following examples and more:

Adoption of Microsoft 365 Copilot

Early-user phase by researchers completed for Gautschi supercomputer

Rollout of GenAI Studio, a service that makes open-source models like large language models accessible to researchers

Revamped university AI website

Implementation of bots to automate procurement services

Bolstering cybersecurity through a partnership with Rapid7, helping identify, prioritize and remediate security vulnerabilities quickly and effectively

AI tools are also being implemented to place Purdue at the leading edge of academic advising (Listening Companions, Chatbots and Major Change AI Support).

Partnering in AI

The heightened AI@Purdue focus in the classroom combines with greater emphasis on public-private partnerships, harnessing the transformative impact in education and research:

Purdue and Google announced plans to strengthen their educational and research ties in preparing the next generation of AI leaders while also advancing the technology

A high-level collaboration with Apple led to the

launch of the first-of-its-kind Spatial Computing Hub on Purdue’s campus

A joint venture between university’s Scalable Asymmetric Lifecycle Engagement and SCALE K-12 programs and high-performing computer platform Arm was signed to launch Arm EducateAI Coalition, which will prepare the nation’s youth for tech careers

AI@Purdue landing page

Purdue Brand Studio, the university’s central marketing and communications unit, has partnered with major campus units to create a comprehensive AI web experience that features:

Options to learn, research and partner with AI

IT governance and data security

AI facilities and labs, toolkits, and guidance

An AI playbook for Gen Z and Gen Alpha students

Latest Purdue news and stories focused on AI

About Purdue University

Purdue University is a public research university leading with excellence at scale. Ranked among top 10 public universities in the United States, Purdue discovers, disseminates and deploys knowledge with a quality and at a scale second to none. More than 106,000 students study at Purdue across multiple campuses, locations and modalities, including more than 57,000 at our main campus locations in West Lafayette and Indianapolis. Committed to affordability and accessibility, Purdue’s main campus has frozen tuition 14 years in a row. See how Purdue never stops in the persistent pursuit of the next giant leap — including its integrated, comprehensive Indianapolis urban expansion; the Mitch Daniels School of Business; Purdue Computes; and the One Health initiative — at <https://www.purdue.edu/president/strategic-initiatives>.

VICTORIOUS

Living...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

goodness of the Lord?

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 that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living (right here on earth) (Ps 27:13, AMP emphasis added).

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 war-torn 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 billyhollandministries.com

Good News of Great Joy

By Brandon Bramlett
Pastor - Bandana Baptist Church

Good news is hard to come by when you live in a bad-news 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.

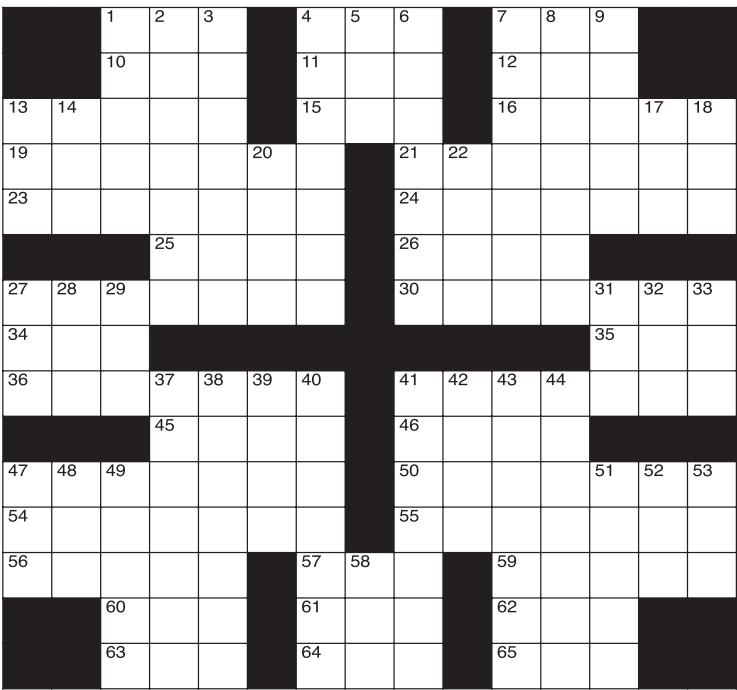
(2) Second, the good news produces joy. The heart of every saved sinner should leap with bliss and glee when considering all the benefits of His

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



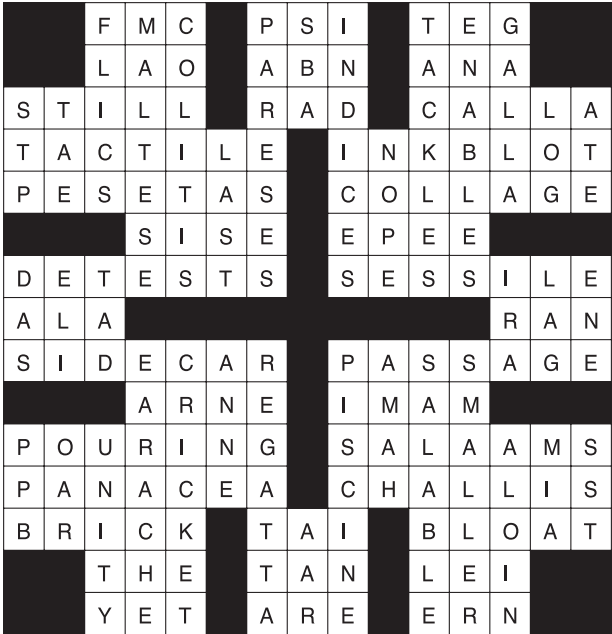
CLUES ACROSS

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

PUZZLE SOLUTION



Crypto Fun



Solve the code to discover words related to food service.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 26 = E)

- A. 22 26 17 4 26 17
Clue: Waiter/waitress
- B. 24 23 13 19 25 26 11
Clue: Cooking room
- C. 17 26 22 13 9 12 17 9 11 13
Clue: Place to dine
- D. 19 25 26 19 24
Clue: Restaurant bill

Answers: A. server B. kitchen C. restaurant D. check

Word Search

FOOD SERVICE WORD SEARCH



Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

ANSWERS ON CLASSIFIED PAGE

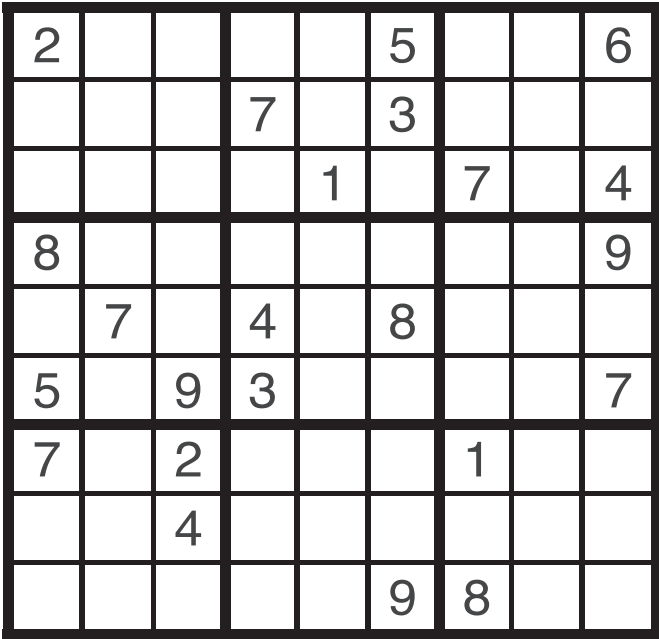
WORDS

- A LA CARTE
- ALLERGENS
- BUSSER
- CHAFING
- COMPLIMENTARY
- COST
- COVER
- EXPEDITER
- GRIDDLE
- GUEST
- HOUSE
- MENU
- PANTRY
- RESTAURANT
- RUNNER
- SALE
- SEATING
- SERVICE
- SOMMELIER
- TABLE
- TIP
- TURN OVER
- WALK-IN
- YIELD

Sudoku Puzzle

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

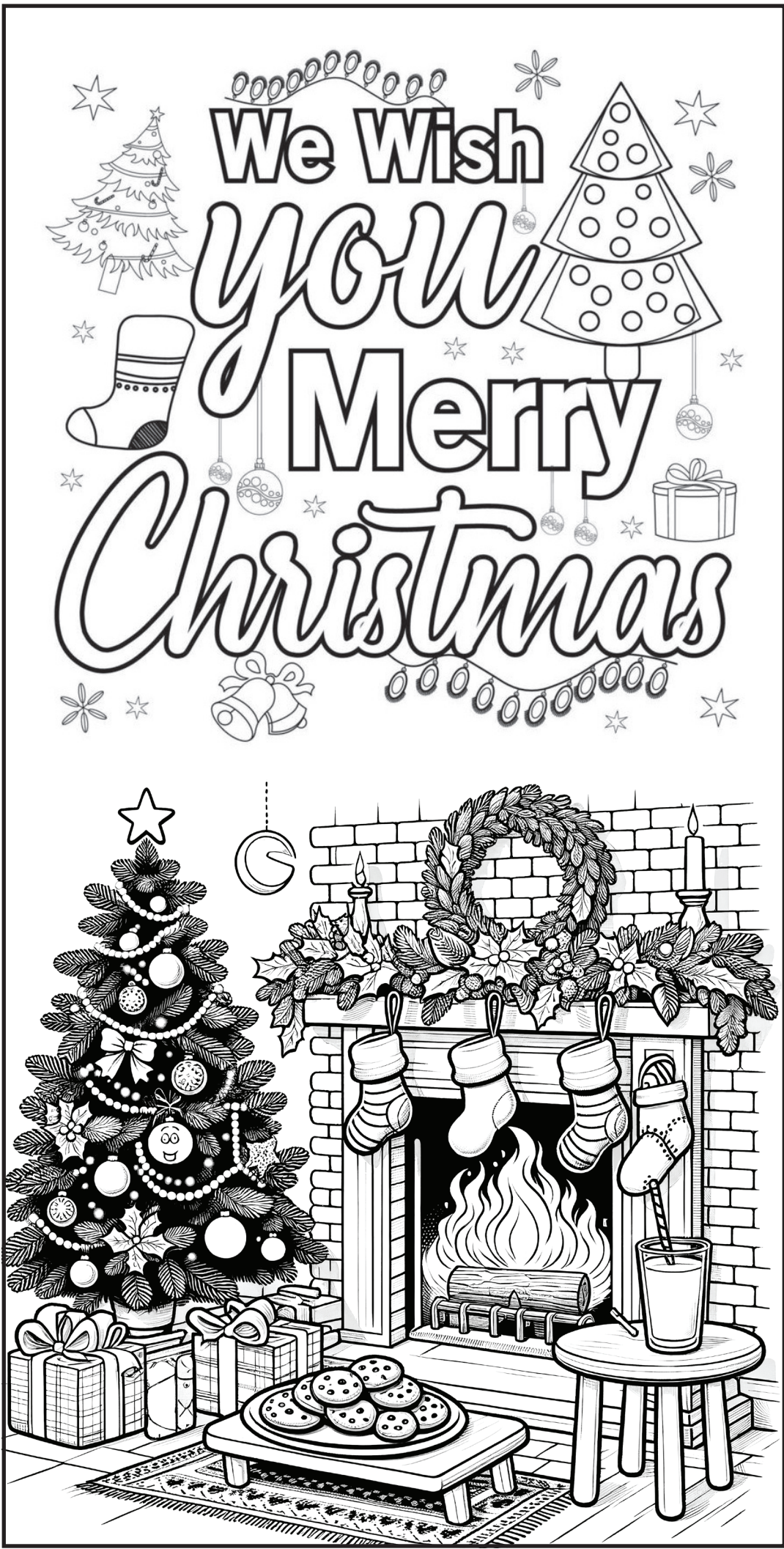
Guess Who?

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.

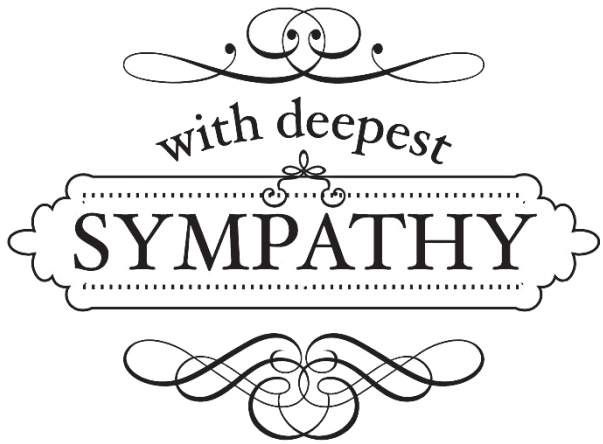
Answer: Alyssa Milano

COLORING FUN



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



Tamara Kay “Tammy” 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.

Jimmy 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 J. Yeakle

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, Indiana. 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

Cemetery. 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 Joe 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

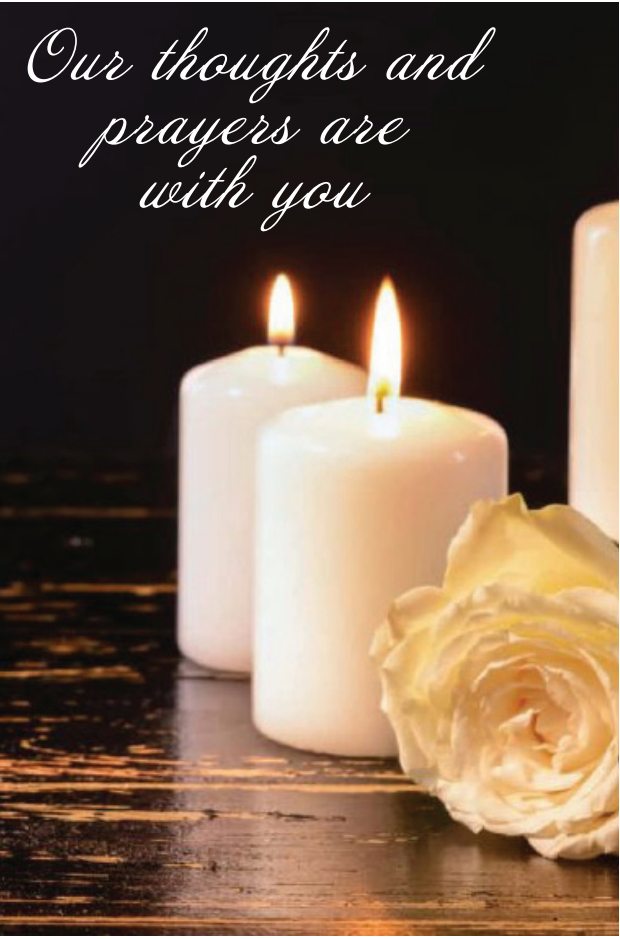
WARREN — David L. Hicks, age 59, of Warren, IN, (Chester Twp. Wells Co.) passed away at 7:15 PM on Thursday, December 11, 2025 at Heritage Pointe in Warren, IN. Funeral services were held on Sunday, December 14, 2025 at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home located at 109 W. Windsor St. Montpelier, IN. Online condolences may be made at www.glancyfuneralhomes.com

Joseph N. 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.





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

"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!!



Merry Christmas &
Thanks for Pulling for Us!

Ho-ho-hope your holiday delivers all the happiness and good fortune you deserve!

Thank you for your support. We look forward to serving you in the coming year.

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Twas the Night Before Christmas

By Clement Clarke Moore

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

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below.
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
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 wall!
Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!”

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky.
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 around,
Down the chimney St Nicholas came with a bound.

He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,
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 pack.

His eyes-how they twinkled! his dimples how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow.

The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath.
He had a broad face and a little round belly,
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 whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim, ‘ere he drove out of sight,
“Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night!”

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 street
20. dimples = indentations on the cheeks
21. merry = happy
22. droll = funny
23. encircled = circle around
24. belly = stomach
25. dread = to be afraid 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

Wishing You a

Splendid Season

We hope the spirit of this special time brings peace, joy and contentment to your heart and home.

Thanks for filling our year with so many good times and warm memories!



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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 6.

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.



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

How many words can you make from the letters in MERRY CHRISTMAS?

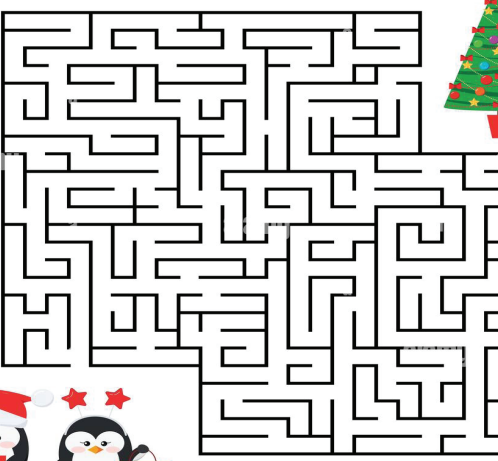


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Christmas Maze



A large, complex black and white maze occupies the center of the page. To the top right of the maze is a green Christmas tree decorated with red, yellow, and blue ornaments and a red star on top. To the bottom left of the maze are two penguins. The penguin on the left is wearing a red Santa hat and holding a red gift box. The penguin on the right is holding a red gift box. There are also three red stars above the penguins.



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Sugar Cookie Fudge

Ingredients

Ingredients
Cooking spray
1 (14-oz.) can sweetened condensed milk
2 1/4 c. white chocolate chips
1 1/2 c. sugar cookie mix
2 tbsp. unsalted butter
1/4 tsp. kosher salt
1 1/2 c. crushed sugar or shortbread cookies (4-oz.)
1/2 c. confetti sprinkles, divided
2 tsp. vanilla extract

Directions

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, $\frac{1}{4}$ 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.

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

JV
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 16.
N. Hahn 28, J. Townsend 13, A. Reed 8, 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 29.7 ppg.

(Wednesday-December 10)

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 13.

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 Boogar

Boys 100- yard butterfly:
2nd place - Josiah Womack

Girls 100-yard freestyle:
4th place - Hannah Huff
3rd place - Eliana Campanero

Boys 100-yard freestyle:
3rd place - Carter Beck
2nd place - Eziriah Gibbs

Girls 500-yard freestyle:
3rd place - Skylar Boogar
2nd place - Jethe Paduga

Boys 500-yard freestyle
3rd place - Levi Craig
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

backstroke:
1st place - Lennon Cordell

Boys 100-yard breaststroke
1st place - Jack Jenkins
2nd place - Trevor Morgan
3rd place - Isaiah Carpenter

Boys 400-yard freestyle relay:
1st place - Josiah Womack , Trevor Morgan , Lennon Cordell , Hayden Craig
3rd place - Carter Beck , Liam Carpenter , Keagan Couchman , Ezzy Gibbs

(Thursday-December 11)

Swimming
The Giants battled Oak Hill at Marion High School on Thursday evening.
Girls: Oak Hill 127 Lady Giants 36
Boys: Oak Hill 139 Giants 37

Marion Swimmers:
Girls 200-yard medley relay:
3rd place - Hannah Huff, Gracie Dixon, Mary Herrington, Skylar Boogar

Boys 200 -yard medley relay:
3rd place - Lennon Cordell, Trevor Morgan, Josiah Womack, Jack Jenkins

Girls 200-yard freestyle:
1st place - Jethe Paduga

Boys 200-yard IM:
3rd place - Hayden Craig

Girls 50-yard freestyle:
2nd place - Skylar Boogar

Boys 50-yard freestyle:
2nd place - Carter Beck

Boys 100-yard butterfly:
2nd place - Josiah Womack

Girls 500-yard freestyle:
3rd place - Jethe Paduga

Girls 200-yard freestyle relay:
2nd place - Jethe Paduga, Skylar Boogar, Elly Campanero, Gracie Dixon

Boys 200-yard freestyle relay:
3rd place - Trevor Morgan, Jack Jenkins, Lennon Cordell, Josiah Womack

Girls 400-yard freestyle relay:
3rd place - Jethe Paduga, Mary Herrington, Elly Campanero, Hannah Huff

Boys 400-yard freestyle relay:
3rd place - Hayden Craig, Lennon Cordell, Trevor Morgan, Josiah Womack

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 student-athletes 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 seven-of-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 start of winter

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

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.

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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, after-school 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 responsible 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.



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27D01-2510-EU-000077

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

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF GRANT COUNTY, INDIANA

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

(12-18-25/01-08-26_JR_2x)