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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

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Thursday, December 18, 2025

UPLAND, FAIRMOUNT & HARTFORD CITY  
**Courier**

The Voice of EAST CENTRAL INDIANA Since 1892 • Indiana News Group

Madison-Grant bands finish up  
busy holiday concert season

By Cathy Shouse

If you think Christmas is a busy time of year, imagine how those in the world of music feel. Music is a part of the season in many ways. Kristin Caudill, Madison-Grant's Director of Bands, took a moment to check in recently.

"We have played at several holiday programs over the past few weeks," Caudill said. "The Jazz Band performed at the Festival of Trees {in Anderson} and for the Grant County Retired Teachers Association. Both high school bands performed their holiday concert Monday, December 8. They've also played at multiple basketball games throughout November and December."

Caudill has a long history of working with the school's band program, since signing on with Madison-Grant bordering on two decades ago.

"I started teaching at MG at the beginning of the 2006 school year," Caudill said. "I teach 6th grade band, 7th grade band, 8th grade band, High School



Ciara Trissel has been a member of the M-G High School band program for a year and a half.



M-G Director of Bands, Kristin Caudill, conducts the 7th and 8th grade band at their fall concert.

Jazz Band, and High School Concert Band."

Madison-Grant is one of the smaller county schools in terms of enrollment and Caudill maintains solid numbers for band participation. A room full of young musicians is something she thrives in.

"I have 24 students in my 6th grade band, 33 students in my 7th grade band, 21 students in 8th grade, 19 in Jazz Band and 42 in Concert Band," she said. "While the numbers may not seem especially high, it's a good percentage of the grade level that participates in the band program . . . the percentage in band remains pretty consistent."

Ciara Trissel plays flute in the high school band. "My favorite part about being in band is being able to make music with everyone and the friendships I've made from band," Trissel said. "I have learned how to be more disciplined by making me show up on time with my music practiced and prepared. Band has also encouraged leadership whether by helping others learn music or

being a role model during rehearsals and performances. I do enjoy all music more by learning the process behind most songs. I plan to minor in music in college and play with a college band."

With students able to choose band as an elective class, and not a requirement, her instructor, Caudill, has developed strategies to maintain her band program. When asked to share tips, she had ideas to share.

"Tips that I have would be to set high expectations and maintain those expectations across all of the grades," she said. "The content is different in 6th grade than it is in high school but my expectation, in regard to effort, learning their music, sitting with good posture stays the same. I also truly believe students need to know that you care about them as individuals and not just a number in the band program. My favorite part of this job is that I have students from 6th grade to 12th grade. You get to know them differently over that many years compared to when you have them for just a

semester or two."

She's appreciative of the environment that the school has created to encourage participation in band.

"We have a very supportive administration and guidance counselors at the building and district level," Caudill said.

Her family is part of her success and has worked around her scheduling needs. Performances and contests out-of-town are common, including when students go to the solo and ensemble competitions, among others. At one time the Jazz Band played at a Pacers game in Indianapolis once a year, too. Plus, she just finished up the annual fundraiser, which offered all

kinds of things from meats and cheese to sweets.

"My husband is Brad Caudill. He works in the athletic department at Ball State University," Caudill said. "My oldest son is Tyler. He's a sophomore at Yorktown High School and my youngest son is Blake.

He is a 7th grader at Yorktown Middle School."

The holiday season may be winding down but she's always got her eye on performances in the future.

"The next concert for the MG Bands will be the Junior High Band Concert in February," she said.



A child visits Santa at the annual Upland Annual Christmas Tree Lighting. See story and more photos on page 6.

Photo by Cindy Holloway



December 4, members of the M-G High School Jazz Band performed for members the Grant County Retired Teachers Association.



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).

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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](http://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).

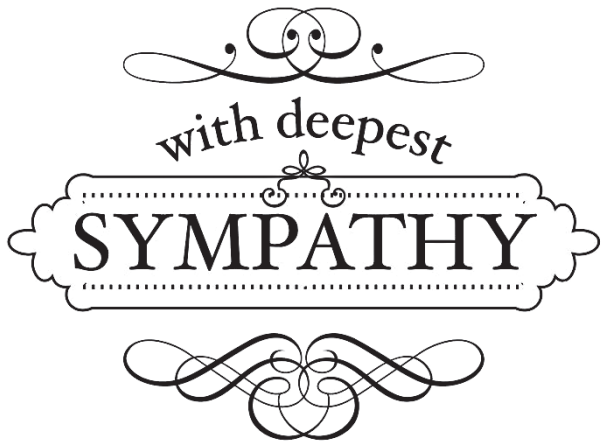
(3) Finally, the good news is for all. The good news of Jesus’ coming is for “all the people.” The free offer of grace is for every tongue, race, and culture. God doesn’t pass you by because of how you look or where you come from. Furthermore, He

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?









*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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.glancyfuneralhomes.com)

*David L. Hicks*

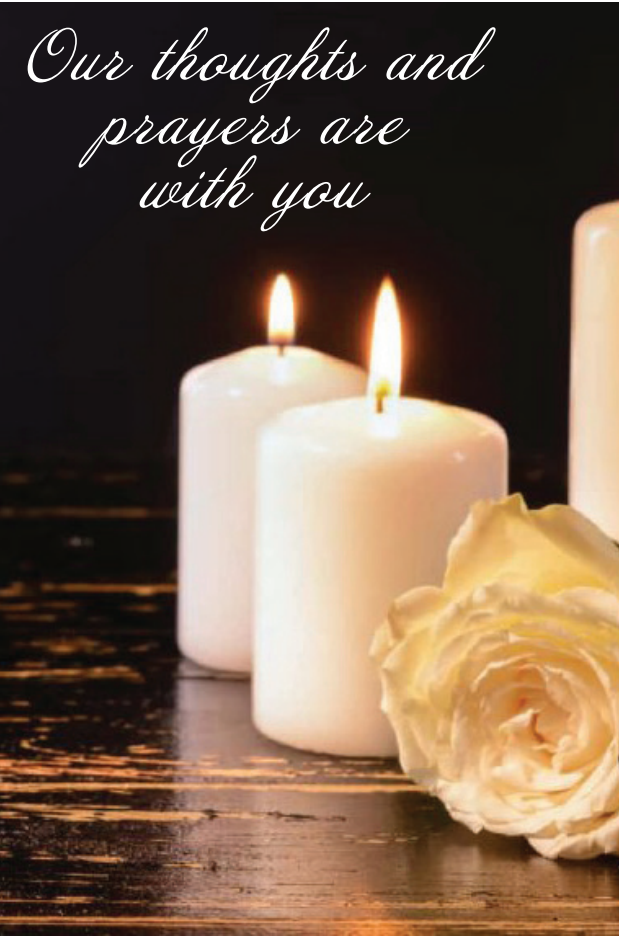
WARREN — David L. Hicks, age 59, of Warren, IN, (Chester Twp. Wells Co.) passed away at 7:15 PM on Thursday, December 11, 2025 at Heritage Pointe in Warren, IN. Funeral services were held on Sunday, December 14, 2025 at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home located at 109 W. Windsor St. Montpelier, IN. Online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

**fiberhawk**

214 S. Washington St. • Swayzee  
**765-922-7916**  
www.fiberhawk.com

*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.

**CHECK OUT OUR WEEKLY SPECIALS!**

**NEIGHBORHOOD FRESH**

1025 E Main • Gas City, IN 46933  
**765-674-9723**





# 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 *Twass the Night Before Christmas*

1. ‘Twass = 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

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**Merry Christmas and many thanks!**

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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 designed for a Christmas-themed activity. The maze is rectangular with a single entrance on the left side. At the entrance, there is a cartoon penguin wearing a Santa hat and holding a red gift box. The maze consists of many winding paths and dead ends. At the exit on the right side, there is a decorated Christmas tree with colorful ornaments and a red star on top. The entire maze is set against a white background.

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## Sugar Cookie Fudge

### 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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2014 MASSEY FERGUSON 2270 BALER, 3 x 4 square bales w/ preservative knottter blower, standard chute, single axle, 8869 bales, \$79,000 OBO. Call Robert 815-291-6856. (tfn)

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New Idea 323, exc. shape, field ready. \$3500. 260-609-6912 Columbia City, IN

(CASE IH 7140) Magnum. Great tires. 5,100 hours. Front wheel assist. Dual, 200 horse. Asking \$41,500. 312-889-2415. Leave message. Will call back. (tfn)

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2010 Versatile-485, Cat., PS, 2395 hours, 4wd, QSX 15 L Cummins, recent overhaul, 710/42 Michelin tires 70%, factory AS, 6-hyd, remotes \$119,500. Call 618-535-3456. (tfn)

2011 JD 9230, 3-point PTO, AT-ready,

3012 hours, one owner, \$129,500-obo. Call (217) 242-9105 (tfn) JD-S550 684 Eng. hrs., 469 sep. hrs. 2WD duals, custom cab, 3- spd. elec. shift, contour master. Retiring. Asking \$180,000. (815) 228-4021.

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JOHN DEERE 6700 sprayer, new in the spring of 08, 603 hours, 60 ft. boom, 3 wheel with shields \$67,500. PRICED REDUCED!!! Call anytime 309-376-6741. (tfn)

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2015 New Holland Big Baler 330R Crop Cutter, 3 x 3 square bales w/ preservative, rotor cutter, steerable tandem axle, hdy. folding roller chute, auto-lube, Intelli III monitor. 9778 bales, \$89,000 OBO. Call Robert at 815-291-6856. (tfn)

2014 Massey Ferguson 2270 Baler, 3 x 4 square bales w/ preservative knottor blower, standard chute, single axle, 8869 bales, \$79,000 OBO. Call Robert 815-291-6856.

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## INDIANA STATEWIDE

### Sudoku Answers

2	7	8	6	4	9	5	3	1
9	4	9	2	3	1	7	8	6
3	6	1	7	8	5	2	9	4
4	8	7	1	9	3	6	2	5
1	5	2	8	6	7	3	4	9
6	9	3	4	5	2	1	7	8
7	2	4	9	1	6	8	5	3
8	1	5	3	2	7	9	6	4
9	3	6	5	7	8	4	1	2

### Word Search Answers

A	X	X	W	E	I	N	T	I	V	E	S	X	E	J	A	L	M	X	S
S	d	g	g	H	T	(B	N	S	S	E	R	X	O	J	O	S	T	O	K
d	M	V	S	S	A	A	L	O	O	O	E	I	V	O	I	N	W	K	X
t	T	O	N	T	I	X	H	O	O	O	S	N	L	O	O	A	A	X	B
W	L	L	X	X	X	V	T	O	N	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
M	L	X	V	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
H	L	A	X	S	X	B	I	E	J	W	N	I	X	T	V	M	S	R	
I	T	R	O	O	X	S	I	R	T	A	N	D	S	I	C	I	D	S	
O	g	H	N	O	I	V	I	W	X	S	A	T	V	N	O	O	O	S	
O	g	H	N	O	I	V	I	W	X	S	A	T	V	N	O	O	O	S	
I	g	O	I	T	H	N	S	N	O	I	A	O	O	O	X	A	O	M	
E	I	L	W	T	H	E	S	N	O	I	A	O	O	O	X	A	O	M	
L	N	W	A	O	O	N	I	E	I	E	O	O	O	X	A	I	N	H	
R	O	H	X	O	O	N	I	E	I	E	O	O	O	X	A	I	N	H	
S	B	O	T	I	R	A	A	N	O	I	A	O	O	O	X	A	I	N	
G	A	O	O	N	I	E	I	E	O	O	O	O	O	X	A	I	N	H	
S	A	O	O	N	I	E	I	E	O	O	O	O	O	X	A	I	N	H	
A	S	O	O	N	I	E	I	E	O	O	O	O	O	X	A	I	N	H	
L	W	I	R	O	O	N	I	E	I	E	O	O	O	X	A	I	N	H	
N	O	I	g	O	O	N	I	E	I	E	O	O	O	X	A	I	N	H	





## 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)