



# Huntingburg Press

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## Dubois County CARES releases things teens, tweens can do this summer



As the school year ends and May quickly turns to June, Dubois County CARES has concerns about how your teens and tweens will spend the summer.

Substance use across the board peaks during the summer, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. It is particularly noticeable among young adults and teens. According to SAMHSA, up to twice as many youths try alcohol for the first time each day in June and July compared to other months. First-time marijuana use among adolescents increases similarly during these two months.

Why? Well, some young people (and adults) face mental health challenges that the isolation and loneliness of increased free time exacerbate, and they turn to substances. And many in this age range see summer as a long stretch of little to do and even less supervision.

While we can't help with the supervision part – other than to recommend organized programming such as what the local libraries and park departments offer – CARES club members from each of our four county high schools have come up with a list of 67 healthy things for their peers to do this summer. We present that list here and ask you to guide your adolescent toward completing some of the activities. It is important for adolescents to have something to look forward to, to occupy their time productively, and to take

pride in afterward.

Here is the list: Go for a walk, Read a book, Go to a library program, Drink chocolate milk, Get back to a healthy sleep schedule, Play a board game, Go to the swimming pool, Visit an adjacent state, Watch a movie with a friend, Create art, Sing, Do karaoke, Learn a K-Pop dance, Try a new food recipe, hang out with friends, Try a new hairstyle, Go birdwatching;

Go sightseeing in your own community, Go fishing, Play cards, Make slime, Do your summer homework, Go on some dates, Get a job, Do some pottery, Write poetry, Paint your nails, Go to a community festival, Color, Volunteer, Go camping, Hike at a nature park, Go to the beach, Watch a musical, Learn an instrument, Learn how to crochet, learn how to macrame;

Work out, paint a painting, paint a room, go get ice cream – try a new flavor, make bracelets, make a stressball, start a collection, rearrange your room, buy new room decorations, read in the Bible, go to church, hang out with Grandma, Make a cake, Celebrate a birthday, Make a playlist, Go to sports practice, Try a new restaurant, Visit a nursing home, Go to a museum;

Go to an arts center, Dance, Play a pickup game of basketball, Go for a bike ride, Doodle, Make a meal with a friend, Go grocery shopping with your parent, Start a book club with one of your parents, Take a pet portrait, Take your cat for a walk, Look at family photo albums.

Please share this list with other parents and caretakers Print it out to share with your child, then mark off any activities as they are accomplished.

We'll run this list in daily installments on CARES social media sites during the week of Memorial Day. We invite you to follow along, and during the next two months to report in with any successes and to share your own ideas of things for our young people to do.

Sincerely,  
Dubois County CARES



## Celebrating the American Bald Eagle at Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge

Celebrate this country's 250th Anniversary by joining the Friends of the Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge as they sponsor a live presentation of our national symbol, the American Bald Eagle.

The Bald Eagle is one of the most symbolic

and revered birds in this country, but that wasn't always the case. Join us as we learn about the tumultuous history and the amazing adaptations of this bird with the help of a live Bald Eagle.

The Bald Eagle event will be held on June 6, at

10 am CT, at Wirth Park in Oakland City, Indiana. This rare opportunity is free and open to the public.

The Bald Eagle is an awe inspiring bird. Seeing this magnificent bird up close is an experience you won't want to miss.

## \$23,000 Efroymsen Family Fund Grant connects art students with working artists and career experience

EVANSVILLE, IND. — The University of Evansville (UE) Department of Art has received a \$23,000 grant from the Efroymsen Family Fund to connect students with working artists, provide hands-on experience in galleries and collections, and support a recent UE art graduate as they continue developing their creative practice.

The grant continues a partnership that began in 2012, when support from the Efroymsen Family Fund helped establish the Efroymsen Emerging Contemporary Artist Lecture Series at UE. This year's funding includes \$9,000 for the lecture series, \$10,000 for the Bridge Year Fellowship, \$2,000 for a Marketing Internship, and \$2,000 for a Permanent Collections Internship.

Through the lecture series, the Department of Art brings practicing contemporary artists to campus for exhibitions, lectures, workshops, and direct engagement with students. These visits allow students to encounter new ideas, ask questions of artists building active careers, and see how creative work develops beyond the classroom.

"The most valuable learning often happens when students can see the work up close," said Todd A. Matteson '95, Department Chair and

Associate Professor of Art. "They meet artists actively building careers, help prepare exhibitions, and see the decisions, details, and discipline that shape creative work long before it reaches the gallery wall."

A significant portion of the grant supports the Bridge Year Fellowship, which gives a recent UE art graduate a transitional year to continue developing their creative practice while remaining connected to the Department of Art. The fellow receives support to continue their creative practice, build professional experience, and assist with studio management, classroom support, exhibitions, and departmental projects. The fellowship is designed to help bridge the space between undergraduate study and the next step in an artist's professional or graduate-level path.

The grant also supports two student internships that strengthen the department's day-to-day work while giving students practical experience. The marketing internship allows a student to help promote exhibitions, programs, and department initiatives, while the Permanent Collections Internship provides experience with the care, documentation, and preparation of UE's permanent art collections.

Together, the programs give UE art students a broader understanding of the creative ecosystem they may enter after graduation. They learn that a life in the arts is shaped not only by making work, but also by collaboration, communication, preservation, public engagement, and the behind-the-scenes labor that allows exhibitions and arts organizations to thrive.

"This partnership has had a lasting impact on our department," Matteson said. "Year after year, it helps us bring new voices to campus and give students experiences that build confidence, skill, and a stronger sense of what is possible in the arts. We are deeply grateful for the Efroymsen Family Fund's continued trust in our students and our program."

The Efroymsen Family Fund, a fund of the Central Indiana Community Foundation, was established in 1998 by Dan and Lori Efroymsen. The Fund supports organizations and initiatives in areas including arts and culture, historic preservation, the environment, and community-based efforts in Indiana and beyond.

For more information about the University of Evansville Department of Art, visit [evansville.edu/art](http://evansville.edu/art).

# YOUTH FIRST: Is your child suffering from “Digital Overload?”

By Camryn Cater,  
Youth First, Inc.

Technology. It’s everywhere, woven into the fabric of our daily lives, influencing how we work, communicate and live. While the use of technology can be beneficial to children, it can also have negative effects. Excessive screen time can impact children cognitively,

academically, physically, socially, behaviorally, and mentally.

As our world evolves, technology is reducing real-world interaction, creating continuous stimulation and exposing children to harmful content at increasingly younger ages. Our technology-driven world is physically altering children’s

brain chemistry, creating many risks during critical developmental years. Therefore, parents and guardians need to take steps to create a safer environment and promote a healthy balance for kids.

Children are often introduced to tablets, iPads, iPhones, and apps like YouTube long before they enter kindergarten.

Because the early years are critical to cognitive and social development, the experiences children have during this time can strongly influence their future success. Although technology can improve classroom efficiency and provide valuable educational support, excessive use may hinder a student’s ability to develop essential learning skills.

High exposure to technology can significantly contribute to lower academic achievement. The instant gratification provided by digital devices and media may shorten children’s attention spans, making it more difficult for them to concentrate on slower-paced or less stimulating tasks. In addition, constant overstimulation from technology can also interfere with healthy brain development and negatively impact memory, focus, and critical thinking abilities. Without these essential foundational skills, students may struggle to meet academic expectations and perform successfully in school.

Increased technology use can also lead to physical health

problems. Children are spending less time playing outdoors, engaging in imaginative play, and participating in physical activity. This shift has contributed to increased rates of obesity among children and teens. Another concern is prolonged exposure to blue light, which can cause eye strain and sleep disturbances.

Technology also impacts children socially. With fewer in-person interactions, school may be one of the only places children socialize face-to-face with peers. Children who spend excessive time on devices may struggle more with conflict resolution, empathy, and basic social interactions. Social media further complicates this by exposing children to highlight reels of influencers, celebrities, and peers. Constant comparison can lead to lower self-esteem, which may contribute to mental health struggles such as anxiety and depression.

Overconsumption of technology can also increase the risk of cyberbullying. Children now communicate with peers at all hours of the day, allowing them to hide behind screens and act unkindly, sometimes anonymously. Children may see posts showing events they were not invited to or may be included in group messages they do not want to be part of. They may also be exposed to information that is not age appropriate.

How can parents avoid digital overload in their children? First, establish clear, consistent boundaries around screen time (such as no screens allowed in bedrooms, at the dinner table, or after a certain time). Involve your kids in creating a family media plan, which makes rules around screen time feel like a shared agreement rather than a punishment.

Parents should also model healthy screen-time habits

in their own daily lives. Encourage alternative, non-digital hobbies such as reading, playing board games, crafting, playing sports, and engaging in outdoor activities. In addition, parents should guide children toward interactive or educational content rather than passive scrolling. Whenever possible, co-view media with your kids to promote discussion, engagement, and meaningful family interaction.

Parental control tools and software can be used to block inappropriate content and set screen time limits. And most importantly, have open conversations with your kids about why limits exist and to “pause, think and report” when they encounter disturbing content or someone acting inappropriately online.

For more specific age-appropriate guidelines, consider the 3-6-9-12 rule to guide your approach: No screens before age 3, no consoles before age 6, no internet before age 9, and no social media before age 12.

Camryn Cater, MSW, LSW, is a Youth First Mental Health Professional at Scott Elementary School in Vanderburgh County. Youth First, Inc., is a nonprofit dedicated to strengthening youth and families. Youth First provides over 100 highly trained mental health professionals (primarily master’s level social workers), prevention programs, parent engagement coordinators, and bilingual support personnel to 130 schools across 14 Indiana counties. Over 55,000 youth and families each year are served by Youth First’s school-based social work and community programs that promote mental health, prevent substance misuse, and maximize student success. To learn more about Youth First, visit [youthfirstinc.org](http://youthfirstinc.org) or call 812-421-8336.

## Rose Farmstead Auction

**Thursday, June 4th, 2026, 4:30pm**  
12511 Licklider Rd., Conover, OH 45317



**TRACTOR:** 1974 John Deere 4430 Diesel WF, 8 spd. Syncro, 4 Post Canopy, 2 Hydro Remotes, 540/1000 PTO, 3pt. SN#W023677R; 1964 John Deere 3020 Diesel, WF, Single Hydro Remote, 540/1000 PTO, 3pt. SN#50870; Farmall Super M Gas, NF w/After Mkt. Hitch, 540 PTO SN#L505415J; Ford 5000 Diesel WF w/Ford Loader, Hydro Outlet, New Injection Pump.

**FIELD & HAY EQUIPMENT:** John Deere 7000 Corn Planter 6-30” Row, No Till, Bean & Corn Meters w/Liquid Fertilizer & Monitor; John Deere 750 No Till 15’ Grain Drill w/500ac. New Boots & Seed Disc Openers; IH 510 Grain Drill w/Grass Seeder; IH 475 Disc 18’ Hydro Fold w/Remlinger 3 Bar Harrow; John Deere AW 12’ Disc; Oliver 385 Field Cultivator 12’ w/3pt. & Remlinger 3 Bar Harrow; New Holland 640 Round Baler w/Auto String Tie & Monitor; New Holland 268 Sm. Square Baler w/Wagon Hitch & Chute; 3 Flat Bed Wagon 14 & 16’; New Holland 56 Roll-a-Bar Hay Rake; New Holland 492 & 488 Hay Bine w/9’ Cut; John Deere 660 Roll-a-Bar Hay Rake w/ Dolly Wheel; Sintrex 4 Wheel Hay Rake; 3pt. 6’ Blade; 3pt. 6’ Flail Mower; 3pt. 6’ Bush Hog Rotary Mower; John Deere 4BTM Hydro Reset Plow; Hesston Stand Hand 10; John Deere 494 Planter; JD 4 Row Cultivator; John Deere RM 6 Row Cultivator w/Danish Tine; J&M 250 Bu. Wagon w/Auger; John Deere 40’ Elevator w/Drag Leg; 8’ Double Cultipacker.

**VEHICLES:** 2001 Chevy 2500 LS HD Gas 6.0L w/Snow Plow, Controls & Lights-Strob, Toolbox 143,667 miles; 1989 Chevy 1500 Silverado StepSide 148,516 miles-Rusted Frame; 2007 Chevy Trailblazer LT 101,684 miles.

**OTHER:** Honda EB 10K watt Generator Only 4hrs. Like New; (2)Honda EU 2000I Generator-Like New; DeWALT Air Compressor 175PSI-Never Used; Misc. Tools & Farm Related.

**NOTE:** 30 minutes of smalls & onto equipment. No Food available.

**OWNERS: RODNEY & MARY ROSE**

**TERMS:** Cash, Check & Credit Card w/4% Convenience Fee  
No Buyer’s Premium for On-site Attendees



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**LOCATION:** DAS will be having a Online auction for Vera Burke at 417 S Mian Street Chrisney Indiana. To view and bid go to [dasonlineauctions.hibid.com](http://dasonlineauctions.hibid.com).

**PREVIEW:** AUCTION PREVIEW will be Sunday June 7<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 CST. To view and bid go to [dasonlineauctions.hibid.com](http://dasonlineauctions.hibid.com).






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**TERMS:** Pick up time is Tuesday June 9<sup>th</sup> from 10<sup>AM</sup> to 5<sup>PM</sup> CST. Cash, check, or credit card (3% charge) when you pick up your items. A 10% buyers premium will be charged for this online auction. Shipping available. Any announcements made day of auction shall take precedence over any verbal or printed material.

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## Wabash College celebrates local students named to Spring 2026 Dean’s List

CRAWFORDSVILLE, IN — Wabash College congratulates more than 400 students who were named to the Spring 2026 Dean’s List. Students make the Dean’s List by maintaining a 3.5 grade point average or better on a 4.0-point scale.

Benjamin J. Henke of Jasper  
Matthew B. Wright of Jasper  
Located in Crawfordsville, Indiana, and founded in 1832, Wabash is a private liberal arts college, which teaches men to think critically, act responsibly, lead effectively, and live humanely.

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# New statewide initiative aims to expand healthcare training, research, and access to care across Indiana

Marian University, Purdue University, healthcare systems, and academic partners launch Crossroads Academic Medical Institute (CAMI)

INDIANAPOLIS — A new statewide collaboration announced today will expand and strengthen Indiana's healthcare workforce, expand clinical training opportunities, improve access to care statewide, attract talent, and drive innovation in Indiana and beyond.

Marian University, Purdue University, and The Catholic University of America, in collaboration with healthcare systems and academic partners across Indiana, including Community Health Network, Ascension St. Vincent, Parkview Health, Margaret Mary Health, Hancock Health, Daviess Community Hospital, Deaconess Health System, and the Indiana Rural Health Association, have launched the Crossroads Academic Medical Institute (CAMI). In addition to its Indiana partnerships, The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., will help develop a complementary national model for Catholic academic medicine.

This first-of-its-kind distributed academic medical center coordinates medical education, research, and clinical training through a statewide network across Indiana.

Indiana Governor Mike Braun joined university and healthcare leaders in Indianapolis on Tuesday to announce the initiative and its long-term vision to strengthen healthcare access and workforce development statewide.

Instead of operating from a single hospital campus, CAMI connects universities, health systems, and clinical training sites across Indiana to form a coordinated statewide network focused on education, research, and patient care.

"By bringing leading universities and healthcare providers together in the Crossroads Academic Medical Institute, we have created an effective, efficient, and innovative approach to the growing need for outstanding physicians and healthcare professionals of all types across all regions of this great state," said Daniel J. Elsener, President of Marian University.

"This institute and the collaborative power of higher education working with private industry, government, outstanding clinical professionals, and healthcare providers will advance promising research and exploration of new approaches to ensuring compassionate, quality, and affordable care for all Hoosiers and beyond."

Through CAMI, Marian University's Tom and Julie Wood College of Osteopathic Medicine will serve as the academic anchor for medical education, working alongside Purdue University's research enterprise and healthcare partners throughout Indiana to:

Expand clinical training opportunities across urban and rural communities

Develop new residency programs in underserved areas

Strengthen pathways from education to practice for physicians, nurses, and allied health professionals

Advance translational research through shared infrastructure and collaboration

"CAMI will bring a collaborative approach to increase workforce, enhance the quality, and lower the cost of healthcare in Indiana," said Purdue president Mung Chiang. "Partnering with Marian University's medical school and many hospital systems is the latest reflection of Purdue's focus on Indianapolis and on One Health."

"Indiana is building the healthcare workforce of the future, and CAMI positions our state as the place to be for medical education, research, innovation, and patient care," Gov. Braun said. "By bringing together our universities, healthcare providers, and industry partners, we are creating new opportunities for Hoosiers, strengthening communities across Indiana, and ensuring our state leads the nation in developing the next generation of healthcare professionals."

"Indiana's ability to meet future healthcare needs depends on strong collaboration among higher education, healthcare providers, and community partners," said Rodric Bray,

President Pro Tempore of the Indiana Senate. "CAMI represents an innovative statewide approach that strengthens workforce development, expands medical training opportunities, and helps position Indiana for long-term success in healthcare and research."

"Preparing the next generation of healthcare professionals is critical to Indiana's economic future and the well-being of our communities," said Todd Huston, Speaker of the Indiana House of Representatives. "By uniting universities, healthcare systems, and research partners statewide, CAMI creates new pathways for students and helps address workforce needs across Indiana."

Healthcare leaders say the model directly addresses growing workforce and access challenges affecting communities throughout Indiana, particularly in rural and underserved areas where shortages in primary care, behavioral health, and specialty services continue to impact patient access.

"Our rural areas and hospitals play an integral part in the vision of this initiative: to expand clinical training opportunities and improve access to care statewide," said Justin D. Harris, CEO of Daviess Community Hospital. "The development of Crossroads Academic Medical Institute (CAMI) is an important step to help us continue not only our vision of growth and sustainability at Daviess Community, but for all rural hospitals and areas in the State of Indiana, through clinical training opportunities in rural areas and new residency programs in underserved areas. This statewide initiative ensures that rural communities are integral in the collaborative approach to developing a Statewide Platform for Healthcare Education, Research, and Clinical Access."

"Indiana needs more physicians and healthcare professionals, and CAMI is designed to meet that challenge head-on," said Dr. Amanda Wright, Dean of Marian University's Wood College of Osteopathic Medicine. "By connecting clinical training

sites across the state, we are creating a sustainable, scalable model that supports learners while improving access to high-quality care for all Indiana residents. Just as importantly, CAMI strengthens the meaningful relationships between our learners and the communities they serve, ensuring that future healthcare providers are not only clinically excellent but deeply connected to the people and places that rely on them. This is an investment not only in education, but in the long-term health of our state."

Through its partnership with the Catholic University of America, CAMI also aims to help establish a national model for Catholic academic medicine that focuses on research, physician formation, and community health.

"The Catholic University of America is proud to partner in an initiative that reflects the longstanding Catholic commitment to the infinite dignity of each person, compassionate care, and the advancement of knowledge in service to society," said Peter Kilpatrick, the university's president. "CAMI has the potential to become a national model for Catholic academic medicine by integrating education, research, and healthcare delivery to strengthen both communities and the healthcare profession."

Through its collaborative research model, CAMI is expected to position Indiana to compete for significant new external investment and research opportunities. University leaders anticipate that the initiative could attract hundreds of millions of dollars in future research funding, accelerating healthcare innovation, supporting discoveries and patents, and spurring new business growth across the state.

CAMI leaders say the initiative will continue to expand in the months ahead, with additional partners, training sites, and research collaborations expected to strengthen Indiana's healthcare workforce further and expand access to care statewide.

## Area Deaths

### Rosalie A. Isenbarger

Rosalie A. Isenbarger, age 91, of Jasper, Indiana, passed away at 12:47 p.m. on Monday, January 26, 2026, at Deaconess Memorial Hospital in Jasper, Indiana. A celebration of life will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 30, 2026, at the Mishawaka United Methodist Church in Mishawaka, Indiana. The Reverend Russell Yoder will officiate.

### Michael "Mike" J. Mehling

Michael J. "Mike" Mehling, age 79, of Jasper, Indiana, passed away surrounded by family at Deaconess Memorial Medical Center in Jasper, Indiana. A funeral service for Michael J. "Mike" Mehling will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 28, 2026, at the Becher-Kluesner Downtown Chapel in Jasper, Indiana, with burial to follow in Fairview Cemetery in Jasper, Indiana. The American Legion Post #147 will conduct military graveside rites. A visitation will be held from 9:00 a.m. until the 11:00 a.m. service time at the Becher-Kluesner Downtown Chapel on Thursday.

### John George Schnarr

John George Schnarr, age 78, of Jasper, Indiana, passed away on May 21, 2026 surrounded by loved ones. A Celebration of Life for John G. Schnarr will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 4, 2026, at Trinity United Church of Christ. Pastor Elisabeth Baer will officiate. A visitation will be held from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. service time at the church.

### Janice A. Kreilein

Janice A. Kreilein, age 86 of St. Anthony, Indiana, passed away at 10:25 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at Ascension St. Vincent Hospital in Evansville, Indiana. A Mass of Christian Burial for Janice A. Kreilein was held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, May 18, 2026 at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in St. Anthony, Indiana, with burial following in the church cemetery.

### Nancy K. Hedinger

Nancy K. Hedinger, age 83, of Jasper, Indiana passed away surrounded by family at 10:57 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at Scenic Hills at the Monastery in Ferdinand, Indiana. A Mass of Christian Burial for Nancy K. Hedinger was held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Jasper, with burial to follow in Fairview Cemetery in Jasper.

### Dana Rae Strohmeier

Dana Rae Strohmeier, age 36, of Velpen, residing in Jasper, passed away on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, due to an automobile accident. Visitation for Dana Strohmeier was held at Nass and Son Funeral Home on Tuesday, May 26th from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. EDT and also one hour prior to the funeral service on Wednesday, May 27th at 11:00 a.m., burial followed in Shiloh Cemetery in Jasper. Darrel Land officiated the service.

### Barbara JoAnn Blessinger

Barbara JoAnn Blessinger, age 88, of Huntingburg, Indiana, passed away at 3:17 a.m., Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at The Timbers of Jasper. A funeral Mass for Barbara Blessinger was held at 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Huntingburg. Interment took place at St. Mary's Cemetery.

### Willie "Randle" Story

Willie "Randle" Story, 75, passed away on May 20, 2026, at Ascension St. Vincent Hospital in Evansville. Funeral services were held at 1:00 PM CST on Friday, May 22, 2026, at Talbott Funeral Home in Albany, Kentucky. Burial followed in Craig Cemetery.

*Our deepest condolences to those who have lost loved ones. Prayers of comfort and peace.*



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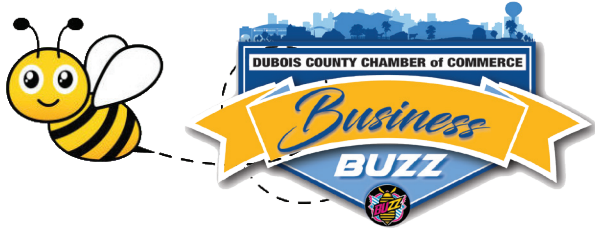
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## Praise and Worship Service at Riverwalk Gazebo June 6th

A praise and worship service will be held on June 6, 2026, from 2PM to 4PM at the Riverwalk Gazebo in Jasper. The event is sponsored by the Center for Women's Ministries in Dubois County.

Special music will be provided by First Baptist Church of Bicknell and more. Find us at 1482 Executive Boulevard, Tuesdays 11 AM to 2 PM and Thursdays 1PM to 3PM or call 812.683.8785.



## Should small businesses open on national holidays?



**Angie Sanchez-Hostetter**  
Executive Director

When a national holiday approaches, many small business owners face a difficult decision: Should we stay open or close?

For customers, holidays often mean time off, family gatherings, and celebrations. But for small businesses, holidays can bring a different reality, one filled with careful planning, staffing decisions, and financial considerations.

Unlike large corporations, small businesses often operate with limited staff and tighter margins. Closing for even one day can mean lost revenue, especially during busy seasons or community events. At the same time, staying open may require owners and employees to sacrifice valuable time with their families and loved ones.

There's no universal answer. For some businesses, opening on a holiday makes sense because customer demand is high. Restaurants, retail stores, entertainment venues, and

service-based businesses may rely on holiday traffic to help carry them through slower times of the year. For others, closing allows time for rest, reflection, and work-life balance.

The key is finding what works best for your business, your employees, and your customers.

Some businesses choose to compromise by shortening hours, rotating staff schedules, or offering special holiday promotions while still allowing employees personal time. Others proudly close their doors to prioritize family and recharge for the weeks ahead.

What's important is understanding that these decisions are rarely simple. Small business owners are constantly balancing finances, customer expectations, employee needs, and personal responsibilities.

As a community, we should remember to extend patience and support no matter the decision. Whether a business is open or closed on a holiday, the owner is likely doing what they believe is best for their team and their future.

Running a small business often means making difficult choices, especially on holidays. And behind every decision is someone simply trying to make it all work.

## Evansville Promise Neighborhood to host three national organizations at UE

EVANSVILLE, IND. — The Evansville Promise Neighborhood (EPN) will welcome representatives from three national organizations to the University of Evansville (UE) campus as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen community collaboration, capacity building, and sustainability.

The William Julius Wilson Institute at Harlem Children's Zone will visit Evansville to tour the Promise Neighborhood and engage with local partners. The visit will provide an opportunity to highlight EPN's place-based approach and explore opportunities for continued collaboration and shared learning.

In addition, leaders from StriveTogether

will participate in an Evansville Promise Neighborhood sustainability convening, contributing to discussions focused on long-term impact and partnership alignment across the community. Representatives from Toyota North America will also be attending and will be contributing to conversations focused on workforce development and community investment.

"These visits underscore the importance of national and local partnerships in building a stronger, more connected community," said Derek McKillop, Director of the Evansville Promise Neighborhood. "We are proud to showcase the collective work happening across Evansville and to

learn from national leaders in this work."

Their visit reflects a shared commitment to improving outcomes for children and families through cross-sector partnerships, and we look forward to welcoming them to Evansville.

For more information, visit [evansville.edu/epn](http://evansville.edu/epn).

About Evansville Promise Neighborhood

Evansville Promise Neighborhood (EPN) is an initiative housed at the University of Evansville's Center for Innovation & Change, made possible through funding from the U.S. Department of Education. EPN focuses on building strategic partnerships that unlock resources and create pathways of opportunities for kids, families, and entire communities.

The University of Evansville is a private, comprehensive university with a solid foundation in the arts and sciences and professional schools in business, engineering, education, and health sciences. Established in 1854, UE is recognized across the globe for its rich tradition of innovative, academic excellence and dynamic campus community of #Changemakers.

Home of the Purple Aces, UE is located in the southwestern region of Indiana and offers over 75 majors, 17 Division I sports, and a unique study abroad experience at Harlaxton, the University's very own Victorian manor located in the countryside of England. For more information, please visit [evansville.edu](http://evansville.edu)

## Indiana Manufacturers Association applauds state's bold step to lower commercial healthcare prices

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana Manufacturers Association (IMA) today released the following statement regarding the newly unveiled Medicaid financing overhaul announced by Governor Mike Braun and the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA). The initiative, which ties Medicaid reimbursement increases to a hospital's average commercial price, represents a significant step toward transparency and affordability in the Hoosier healthcare market.

"For too long, Indiana's manufacturers and their employees have shouldered the burden of some of the

highest commercial hospital prices in the nation," said Andrew Berger, President and CEO of the IMA. "Healthcare is one of the most significant line-item expenses for our members. When these costs outpace inflation and national averages, it directly hampers the ability of Indiana manufacturers to reinvest in their workforce, expand operations, and remain competitive in a global economy."

The IMA has consistently advocated for policies that address the lack of market competition and the pricing disparities that exist between Indiana and its peer states. By leveraging Medicaid payments to incentivize lower commercial rates, the

state is addressing the root cause of high employer costs, creating a structural framework intended to pave the way for potential reductions in commercial prices over time.

"We commend Governor Braun and FSSA Secretary Roob for their leadership in implementing this first-in-the-nation model," Berger continued. "This overhaul sends a clear message: the status quo of ever-increasing commercial healthcare costs is unsustainable for the engines of Indiana's economy. We support this effort to reward high-quality, reasonable-cost providers and look forward to continued collaboration with the administration

to ensure Indiana remains the premier destination for manufacturing investment and jobs."

###

About the Indiana Manufacturers Association  
The Indiana Manufacturers Association is the state's oldest and largest comprehensive trade association for manufacturers, representing nearly 1,000 companies of all sizes across Indiana. The IMA's mission is to advocate for a positive business climate and to support the growth and success of the manufacturing industry, which remains the largest contributor to Indiana's GDP.

## UE Board of Trustees approves new name for center supporting professional and continuing education

EVANSVILLE, IND.— The University of Evansville (UE) Board of Trustees has approved a new name for the former Center for the Advancement of Learning. Effective immediately, the center will now be known as the Center for Professional and Continuing Education.

The new name more accurately reflects the center's mission, the populations it serves, along with the breadth of its work supporting adult learners, working professionals, employers, and community partners.

The updated title also aligns with terminology commonly used at peer institutions and provides greater clarity for prospective students and industry partners seeking professional development and continuing education opportunities. The change is expected to improve search visibility related to continuing education and workforce learning initiatives.

All existing programs and services currently housed within the center will remain unchanged and

continue under the new name. These include adult degree completion programs, the Master of Science in Leadership (MSL), certificate programs, dual credit initiatives, industry partnerships, micro-credentials, and CLUE programming.

"Our new name better reflects the work we do to expand access to lifelong learning opportunities and to support workforce and community development throughout the region," said Cindy Felts, Senior Director of the Center

for Professional and Continuing Education. "As the needs of students, employers, and industries continue to evolve, this new name more clearly communicates our commitment to offering flexible, relevant programs that help individuals advance their careers and strengthen our communities."


For more information about the Center for Professional and Continuing Education, visit the UE website.



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

**Word Search Answers**

1. HONEY  
2. BEE  
3. WAX  
4. COMB  
5. STING  
6. PROPAGATOR  
7. COLONY  
8. QUEEN  
9. DRONE  
10. HIVE  
11. POLLEN  
12. BEEHIVE  
13. SWARMING  
14. HONEYDEW  
15. BEEKEEPER  
16. HONEYCOMB  
17. BEEHIVE  
18. HONEY  
19. BEE  
20. WAX  
21. COMB  
22. STING  
23. PROPAGATOR  
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# VICTORIOUS *Living* ...in a troubled world

## Unseen: the guiding hand

By Teresa A. LeNeave  
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I've got some good news for you. You haven't come this far by accident. There is a divine hand guiding you even when it looks like you're swimming alone.

Most "news" we get in this life is negative. Major news channels have one purpose: who can get the most likes and biggest audience so they can get the most advertising dollars. The world thrives on bad news. The worse death, health report or latest arrests get the most attention, but good news is far better for our mental health. Bad news promotes doubt, fear, unbelief,

confusion, and mental anguish so keeping our minds on the hope of the gospel, and not the fear of the day, will make our space much happier.

Fear says it won't work out. That there is no way out. Faith, on the other hand, says whatever is causing anguish will work out for your good. Everything will be alright. Stay focused, keep believing, never give up, keep trying, keep praying, help is on the way. Keep praising God, stay positive, be still, be courageous, keep your mind on good things, happy things, think happy thoughts and enjoy mental peace.

And always remember, you haven't come



this far by accident. You can rest in hope of a bright future because there is a guiding hand watching over you. You are not

alone in your present situation. God is love and according to the Bible there is no place to hide from God. Always work Him into

your future plans.

It's always good to have a friend on your side. Having said that, you have to be on His side, too. We can't

walk the opposite direction from God and think He doesn't care. His mercy supersedes judgement, but never forget God is right where you are at all times. He knows when no one else does. That's not to promote fear, but to motivate us to follow the Creator who loves us even when we do fail.

Seek wisdom, embrace her, love her and she will give you another avenue out of your present troubles. Faith comes by hearing the word of God. It is a good news message, giving hope to a hopeless situation. Believe it, speak it, regain your composure, and know you haven't come this far by accident.

## For the love of family and country

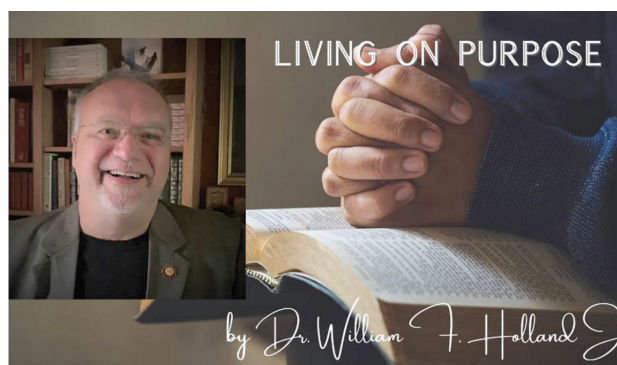
By Billy Holland

Memorial means to "remember" and every year on the last Monday in May, we honor those who sacrificed their life in the line of active military service. The first Amendment was not only signed into existence with ink, but with the blood of over 1.3 million Americans who have died in U.S. wars since 1775, along with multitudes of wounded who have suffered with physical and mental difficulties. Truly, our privilege and freedom to openly live and speak what we believe are liberties that have come at the highest expense.

We live a couple of miles from Camp Nelson National Military Cemetery, and as you drive past, you can see many rows of the over 16,000 perfectly lined white marble tombstones. I admit that I've often driven past without hardly thinking about how each of these individuals, at one time or another, accepted the call of sacrificial duty. And

what is that call? To defend and protect our liberties – whatever the cost! Each one of these brave soldiers was willing to give their life for their country, as all gave some and some gave all. My family has suffered loss from war and has a deep appreciation for the men and women who have served to protect our country. Each of my Mother's brothers and her Father served, and one of her brothers, Kenny Maye, was killed in Korea. I have his tags, casket flag, and a rare military photo of him. He was only 20 years old in 1950, and his body was never found. Sadly, his existence is nearly unknown, and I often wonder about the life he could have had.

Originally called Decoration Day, from the early tradition of decorating graves with flowers, wreaths, and flags, Memorial Day is a day for remembrance of those who have died in service to our country. It was first widely observed on May 30, 1868, to commemorate



the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers, by proclamation of General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of former Union sailors and soldiers. During that first national commemoration, former Union General and sitting Ohio Congressman James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, after which 5,000 participants helped to decorate the graves of the more than 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers who were buried there. From 1861-1865, approximately 620 thousand soldiers perished in the Civil War, by far the most devastating conflict in America's history.

In 1971, Congress

passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act and established that Memorial Day was to be commemorated on the last Monday of May. Memorial Day is commemorated at Arlington National Cemetery each year with a ceremony in which a small American flag is placed on each grave. Traditionally, the President or Vice President lays a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Each soldier has their own story, but all are highly esteemed for their conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of their lives above and beyond the call of duty. This is a quote from the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. "Private

George Watson distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism on 8 March 1943, while serving in the Pacific Command with the 2d Battalion, 29th Quartermaster Regiment, near Porlock Harbor, New Guinea. Private Watson was on board a troop ship, the Dutch Steamer 'Jacob' (United States Army Transport), when it was attacked and hit by enemy bombers. Before it sank, the ship was abandoned. Private Watson, instead of seeking to save himself, remained in deep waters long enough to assist several soldiers who could not swim to reach the safety of a life raft. This heroic action, which subsequently cost him his life, resulted in saving the lives of several of his comrades.

Weakened by continuous physical exertion and overcome by muscular fatigue, Private Watson drowned when the suction of the sinking ship dragged him beneath the surface of the swirling waters.

His demonstrated bravery and unselfish act set in motion a series of compelling events that finally led to American victory in the Pacific. Private Watson's extraordinary valorous actions, his daring and inspiring leadership, and his self-sacrificing devotion to his fellow man exemplify the finest traditions of military service."

"We do not know one promise these men made, one pledge they gave, one word they spoke; but we do know they summed up and perfected, by one supreme act, the highest virtues of humanity. Because of their love for country, they accepted death, and thus resolved all doubts, and made immortal their patriotism and their virtue." – James A. Garfield, May 30, 1868, Arlington National Cemetery.

Dr. Holland is an ordained minister, chaplain, teacher, and Christian author. Read more about your purpose at [billyhollandministries.com](http://billyhollandministries.com)

## My Blanket

By Gary Miller

I have a favorite blanket. Don't laugh. You probably do to. And if you don't now, you once did. Deny it and I'll just ask your momma, and she'll show me picture after picture of you with your thumb in your mouth and your blanket over your shoulder. My own son was not only attached to a certain blanket, but he also had a favorite corner of the blanket. I can remember that blanket having to be restored several times and ultimately becoming

a series of knots that simply held one piece to the other. My blanket is special for a few reasons. It's only wide enough for me, it's camo, it's two layers of fleece, and my daughter made it for me. Just writing about it makes me want to stop what I'm doing and go get it.

If you think about it, blankets are prized possessions of many women today. Except this blanket is no longer in use. It is for safe-keeping and for remembering family and events. It is their mother's or grandmother's quilt. It

was put together one piece at a time from swatches of clothing or fabric that had made its way to the rag pile. Part of a coat has been sewn to a strip of a worn-out shirt. The other side of that shirt is attached to the leftover seat of an old pair of blue jeans. A portion of a baseball jersey is attached to a sliver of your first pair of pajamas. Each piece seemingly no longer of any value on its own and seemingly without any connection to the other. And yet there it is, one whole tapestry, completely understood, and of immeasurable

value. All from what was once falling-apart, worthless swatches of unconnected material. Except to the seamstress. Except to the one who was there for the first onesie and the first silky blanket. Except for the one who understood that each section was always a part of the whole, that there were no random events, and there were no worthless pieces.

God is taking every swatch of your life and sewing them together. What you see as worthless and worn-out, He sees as indispensable and

ready for its best use. What you see as unconnected, God sees as vital to the whole. What you see as insignificant, He sees as essential in who He is making you to be. And what you see as a flaw, He sees as what will be someone's favorite corner of your life. God has been there from the very beginning, and not one piece of your life will be wasted. Individually they may not make sense, but God is bigger than your pieces. He is not only making you into a quilt to be admired and remembered, but

also into a blanket to be used to bring comfort and assurance to others.

Gary Miller  
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Gary Miller has written Outdoor Truths articles for 23 years. He has also written five books which include compilations of his articles and a father/son devotional. He also speaks at wild-game dinners and men's events for churches and associations. Stay updated on Outdoor Truths each week by subscribing at [Outdoortruths.org](http://Outdoortruths.org)