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Journal Reporter

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Thursday, January 22, 2026

In God We Trust

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS!

Hoosiers go 16-0, complete dream season

Curt Cignetti  
finishes his  
masterpiece in  
his 2nd season

By ALANIS THAMES  
AP Sports Writer

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP) — Curt Cignetti came to Indiana to win championships.

The old-school, blunt-spoken coach who began his Hoosiers tenure with a promise to bring swift success to the losingest program in college football completed his masterpiece on Monday night, guiding Indiana to a 27-21 win over Miami in the College Football Playoff final and the first national championship in school history.

Cignetti accomplished what few imagined could be done — at least not this quickly. But after taking advantage of the transfer portal and name, image and likeness money to build a championship roster, Cignetti coached the Hoosiers to their first No. 1 ranking, and they finished off an undefeated campaign in front of 67,227 fans at Hard Rock Stadium, concluding one of the most surprising turn-arounds in college football history.

Cignetti — who began his head coaching career at Division II Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 2011 — became the first head coach to win a national title in his first or second season with a team since Gene Chizik led Auburn to the championship in 2010.

“What’s this moment like for me?” Cignetti said. “Back when I was waxing the staff table at IUP Thanksgiving weekend and the school was



Indiana head football coach Curt Cignetti holds the trophy after their win against Miami in the College Football Playoff national championship game, Monday, Jan. 19, 2026, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

(AP Newsroom Photo by Rebecca Blackwell)

shut down for the playoffs ... Did I ever think something like this was possible? Probably not. If you keep your nose down in life and keep working, anything is possible.”

Cignetti kept working and kept winning through stints at Elon and James Madison before he made the leap to the Big Ten and dismissed skeptics by saying, “I win. Google me.”

On Monday night, Cignetti described his team’s performance as gutsy. He certainly called the game that way with a pair of fourth-down gambles on a scoring drive in the fourth quarter that ended with a bruising touchdown run by Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Fernando Mendoza.

Cignetti went for it on fourth-and-5 at Miami’s 37, and the result was a first-down catch by Charlie Becker, who

whipped around to snag a back-shoulder pass for a 19-yard gain.

The next was a call from fourth-and-4 at the 12 that was by far the biggest of the game.

Cignetti initially sent his kicker out but then called a timeout. The team huddled on the field, and the coach drew up a quarterback draw. Mendoza scored, slipping a tackle and muscling his way into the end zone to put the Hoosiers up by 10 with nine minutes left.

“We put it in for this game,” Cignetti said. “It was a quarterback draw, but it was blocked differently. And we rolled the dice and said they’re going to be in (the same defense) again. We blocked it well. He broke a tackle or two and got into the end zone.”

The bold call was fitting,

considering how improbable it was that Indiana was playing for the title.

Indiana had never won more than nine games in a season before Cignetti’s arrival two years ago, and in 2022 became the first Bowl Subdivision program to reach 700 losses.

Now the Hoosiers have double-digit wins in two straight years.

Cignetti brought 13 players from JMU to Indiana and saw the potential in Mendoza, who transferred from California.

“Coach Cig changed my life,” said standout linebacker Aiden Fisher, who followed Cignetti from JMU. “From a kid that felt like I was under-recruited, that I deserved more attention than I got. ... The amount of confidence he built in me, the trust and belief he had in me — I mean, why

would you leave that? When a coach cares that much about you and sees so much for your future. He’s talked about development and growth for me all the time. It was a no-brainer. I owe a lot to him. He’s an unbelievable coach, but he’s an unbelievable person.”

A Pittsburgh native and the son of College Football Hall of Fame coach Frank Cignetti Sr., Cignetti graduated from West Virginia in 1982 and began coaching as an assistant at Pitt. He spent the next 24 years working his way up the college football ranks before landing with Nick Saban in Alabama as a recruiting coordinator and receivers coach.

That was Cignetti’s last stop before making the jump to head coach at IUP in 2011.

“I never really thought this was possible,” he said. “But I just kept working, and things happened. And here we are.”

As expected, Cignetti barely smiled during the game. He didn’t show much emotion when Indiana defensive lineman Mikail Kamara blocked a punt by Dylan Joyce, leading to a touchdown.

The 64-year-old threw his hands up briefly in triumph after Mendoza scored. Even as Indiana players began celebrating victory after Miami native Jamari Sharpe intercepted the Hurricanes’ Carson Beck in the final minute, Cignetti’s eyes remained on the field, waiting for the final seconds to tick off the clock.

Once it was final, as confetti began to hit the ground, Cignetti sprinted onto the field and pointed toward the sky.

“We won the national championship at Indiana University,” he said. “It can be done.”

After that, he cracked a smile.

Marion Kindergarten Roundup set for April 9

Marion Community Schools invites families of children who will be starting kindergarten next school year to attend our Kindergarten Roundup, 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, April 9, at Bill Green

Arena at Marion High School. Please bring your kindergartner-to-be with you!

Children who will be 5 years old on or before Aug. 1, 2026, can attend kindergarten in the 2026-27 school year. (If you’d like to request early entry, we will have information about that at Kindergarten Roundup as well.)

What you need to bring:

Proof of residence (like a utility bill with your name and address on it) if possible.

A copy of your kindergartner-to-be’s birth certificate. We need that official document to certify your child is eligible for kindergarten. (If you cannot bring a copy of the birth

certificate on this day, we can still begin the registration process, but we’ll need you to follow up with us and provide that document before we can complete the registration process.)

Your child’s immunization records. (If you don’t have that to provide now, you can bring them to the school later.

School immunization requirements for 2026-27 are not yet available, but you can view the current requirements on our website as reference, or talk to your health care provider.)

SKIP THE LINE: Watch for information about setting up your Infinite Campus account and getting a jump on the registration process!

This step will open up sometime in March. We will provide updated information when it is available!

Our teachers and staff are excited to meet you and help you get registered and ready for kindergarten!

We will have a photo booth, gifts for you, and lots of important information. See you there!

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VICTORIOUS

Living...in a troubled world

# Looking beyond this life

**By Brandon Bramlett**  
Pastor - Bandana Baptist Church

You are standing on a vanishing strip of soil, but not for long. Surrounding you on both sides are two rapidly raging rivers, eating away the ground beneath your feet. Swimming to safety is not an option, and it is only a matter of time before one of the turbulent torrents sweeps you away forever. Strangely, the secret to survival is your sight—keeping your gaze locked on both rushing rapids. And

this is not a heart-stopping scene from a survival movie—this is how John Wesley (June 28, 1703—March 2, 1791) picturesquely described living a life that counts for eternity before your heart stops: “I desire to have both heaven and hell ever in my eye, while I stand on this isthmus of life, between two boundless oceans.”

The Scripture supports Wesley’s sobering statement. Life is as short as a three-to-five second breath (Ps. 144:4), and fades as quickly as a vapor (James

4:14). We are candles flickering in the wind, living on borrowed time, and only one heartbeat away from eternity. But why should heavenbound believers live with one eye fixed on heaven and the other eye fixed on heaven? Simply put, concentrating on heaven keeps our hearts lifted and contemplating hell keeps our feet moving.

To cheer our troubled hearts, we should think often of that glorious place being prepared for us by Christ (John 14:2-3), and to ignite

evangelistic zeal in our hearts, we should think often of that gruesome place prepared for the devil and his angels (Matt. 25:41), where lost souls are headed. While enduring bitter afflictions, we should ponder the bliss and wonder of spending a never-ending eternity of worshipping Christ (Rom. 8:18), but to strengthen our resolve to preach the gospel to every creature, we should pin our thoughts to the banishment and woe of a never-ceasing eternity of enduring the wrath of

God, laid up for our unbelieving friends and family members (2 Thess. 1:8-9). While we rejoice that our names are written in heaven (Luke 10:20), we must remember that the souls whose names are not found in the Lamb’s Book of Life will be cast into the lake of fire forever and ever (Rev. 20:12-15), and that should compel us to preach unto them, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29). While we yearn for the day when God will wipe away every tear from our eyes

(Rev. 21:4), we must grieve that there is a place of weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matt. 13:42), to which unsaved souls around us are bound, unless they hear and believe the gospel from our lips.

Keep both infinite oceans in view. Let heaven anchor your heart—let hell awaken your concern. Let heaven console you—let hell compel you to action. Think about the glory awaiting you, and be encouraged—think about the gloom awaiting the unsaved, and be evangelistic.

**By Gary Miller**

The bass fishing tournaments are getting ready to start with a vengeance. Once they begin, each weekend will offer another opportunity to fish for money.

All bass tournaments have pretty much the same rules; two fishermen; one boat; the five biggest fish by weight, win. Some men will literally come to blows in pursuing first prize. And first prize can be worth lots of money even in the smaller tournaments.

As I have said before these types of events touch both the competitive and outdoorsy side of men. It’s fun enough to fish

but add in beating somebody in the process and winning cash to do it makes it an addictive potion.

Most of the time, each team will spend the first few hours on the water just trying to catch any size of fish. The immediate goal is to get five fish in the boat.

After (or if) that is accomplished, the goal changes. Now it’s time to cull the smaller ones that are already in the live well for bigger replacements. Remember, it’s the five heaviest fish.

Sometimes the technique changes just for the purpose of perhaps catching less fish but bigger ones. Again, the lesser ones get tossed back in when



## Greater Value than what we already have

a better quality one is caught. And there are occasions when some good fish are thrown back because a great one is caught.

Our life is somewhat like these bass tournaments. We know

we only have room for so many things in our life as well.

Each one of these can be of little or great importance. Our life’s pursuit and God’s desire for us is to constantly add

something that has a greater value than what we already have.

What we must remember, however, is sometimes we must get rid of something that is of great value to add something else that is priceless.

This decision always comes with a mixed sense of both loss and excitement. As we mature, we understand it just has to be that way. It’s just like that exercise shirt that you once wore that said, “No Pain; No Gain.”

This is so true. But never forget, what you give up now will not seem so great a sacrifice when you get to the weigh-in.

These types of sacrifices will always

put you in the real money.

We will talk about all this on Tuesday morning. Get the Zoom link at [outdoortruths.org](http://outdoortruths.org)

Gary Miller  
[gary@outdoortruths.org](mailto:gary@outdoortruths.org)

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)

# Do we have faith in God or the world?

**By Dr. Billy Holland**

Whatever we are concerned about today, faith and discernment are key components of our prayers. Without spiritual sensitivity, we do not understand God’s plans, which is why seeking Him empowers and activates our communication with Him. We believe in miracles because we know that God listens and is the only one who has the authority to restore and provide for us. If someone is having a health crisis, the Bible declares that He is the Great Physician and our healer. This is an exciting truth until doubt and fear sneak through the back door, and Satan repeats the same strategy to deceive as he did with Adam and Eve in the garden. His favorite temptation is to sow seeds of uncertainty and fear

in our minds, causing us to question whether faith is real or just an illusion. In our times of trouble, we are bombarded with opinions, but we must become unmovable in knowing that God’s promises cannot fail.

Josh Christmas once said, “I do not believe what I see, but I see what I believe.” This means that followers of God are not to place their trust in speculations or how things appear to our natural senses. Since we are filled and guided by God’s Spirit, we place our spiritual confidence in Him alone. Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen, which means the answers are ready to be manifested, but conditional on our knowing and believing with our hearts. For example, when a doctor says there is no hope,

we must realize that a human diagnosis is not more powerful than God’s final word. Doctors practice medicine, but God is the healer. Our daughter and our daughter-in-law were both told by the experts that they would never have a child. This was not true as the Lord had other plans. Today, our daughter-in-law has three amazing children, and our daughter has a beautiful baby girl. My wife and I prayed about this for years and believe that nothing is impossible with God, Luke 1:37.

When Lazarus was dead for four days, Jesus told the people to remove him from his tomb and unwrap his grave garments. His body was starting to smell, and according to natural thinking, this was disrespectful and even insane. However, they did not understand

the power of God. Christ commanded Lazarus to live again, and he did! Ezekiel describes a valley of dry bones, and God asks the prophet if he believes the bones could live. He told Ezekiel to speak to the bones in faith, and the flesh came back upon them, and they were restored to life. The reason these stories are recorded is to teach us the importance of spiritual discernment when it comes to hearing God’s voice and knowing His will. Christians are to live with an expectation of the supernatural and to walk in the constant awareness of God’s presence as they trust and obey His instructions. My latest book about healing and miracles contains recent accounts of God miraculously intervening, as Hebrews 13:8 promises that Jesus never changes.

Many people build their worldviews on what they have been told instead of researching for themselves. Beware of listening and seeking the world’s opinions more than learning to know God as true truth. Remember, what we believe becomes our reality. If we absorb what an unbelieving culture tells us, we are vulnerable to being brainwashed and conformed to negativity and doubt. Who do you suppose decides what is truth and what is censored as disinformation in our society? Satan is the father of all lies and never stops influencing chaos and confusion.

Our decision to seek God and know what He is saying, versus accepting the report of natural opinions, is the difference between thinking clearly and falling into a delusion. Every moment

we are faced with the choice to absorb the light and life of God, or the deception and hopelessness of a blind and fallen world. You see, faith is not limited to only being associated with positive thinking; it can also be the driving force behind negative attitudes. If we are convinced to accept the worst, we are joining forces with dark energy that will make the problem worse. Unbelief is enmity toward God, Hebrews 3:12-13, Ephesians 4:18. We are not to be conformed to the persuasions of carnality, but to be transformed by the renewing of our mind in Christ, which means we know that God is who He says He is.

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

# Rep. Bartels authors legislation to streamline dozens of Indiana boards and commissions

STATEHOUSE – Recent legislation authored by State Rep. Stephen Bartels (R-Eckerty) aims to reform dozens of state boards and commissions.

House Bill 1003 would eliminate, sunset or restructure dozens of redundant or inactive boards and commissions, aiming to streamline government and improve efficiency across multiple policy areas. In a press

conference last week, Bartels joined House Speaker Todd Huston (R-Fishers) to announce that HB 1003 is part of the House Republican caucus’ 2026 legislative priorities to reduce government bureaucracy.

Bartels is a member of the General Assembly’s Government Reform Taskforce which met last fall to discuss the approximately 250 boards and commissions

that currently exist in Indiana. Bartels said that HB 1003 is a result of those discussions, which found examples of state boards and commissions that were doing the same work or no longer active at all.

“The various boards and commissions in our state do important work, however, some of them serve similar purposes and have similar goals. Under this bill, many of

these would be combined, reformed or eliminated to better serve Hoosiers,” Bartels said. “This is about streamlining efforts and reducing government bureaucracy. We did this using a thoughtful and responsible approach while working closely with stakeholders every step of the way.”

HB 1003 would also consolidate various cultural-focused commissions under

one Indiana Cultural Commission (ICC), centralizing resources for communities across Indiana. Bartels emphasized that this proposed change is not about taking anything away but keeping the essential functions of the boards and commissions while retooling them to operate more effectively.

Bartels said that he worked alongside members of the

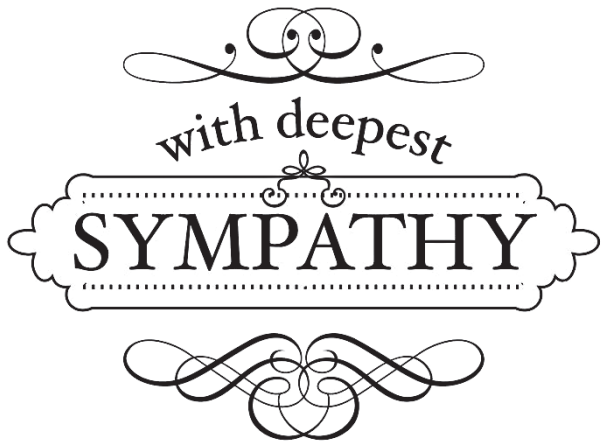
Government Reform Task Force, the Indiana Civil Rights Commission and members of boards and committees themselves to identify areas for potential reforms.

HB 1003 has been referred to the House Government and Regulatory Reform Committee for consideration. To read more about this bill and follow session, visit [iga.in.gov](http://iga.in.gov).









Danny Dale Warren

Danny Dale Warren, 69, of Marion, passed away on Friday, January 16, 2026, at Marion Health. At Danny’s request, there will be no public visitation or funeral service.

David Lee Couchman Sr.

David Lee Couchman, Sr., 78, Gas City, passed away at 8:45 am on Thursday, January 15, 2026. The family will receive visitors from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm on Thursday, January 22, 2026, at Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral & Cremation Service, Storey Chapel, 400 E. Main St, Gas City, IN. Immediately following the time of visitation, a service to celebrate David’s life will begin at 1:00 pm with Pastor Mick Simpkins officiating. Burial will take place at Riverside Cemetery.

Dianna L. Derry

Dianna L. Derry, 71, Gas City, passed away at 5:04 pm on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at Community Hospital Anderson. A funeral service to celebrate Dianna’s life will be held at 9:30 am on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at the Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral & Cremation Service, Storey Chapel. Rev. Jerry Gallaway will be officiating with burial following at Marion National Cemetery.

Robert Howard

Robert N. “Bob” Howard, 81, of Gas City, passed away at 3:55 a.m. on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at Lutheran Hospital of Indiana in Fort Wayne. A graveside service will be held at a later date at Marion National Cemetery.

Donna Rains

Donna Sue Rains, 92, of Marion, passed away at 9:45 pm on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at Miller’s Merry Manor in Marion. At her request, there will be no public visitation or funeral service.

Jack E. Colescott

Jack E. Colescott, 95, of Gas City, passed away at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, in Gas City. Visitation will be held from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Friday, February 6, 2026, at Grace Community Church, 1810 East Bradford Pike, Marion, IN. An additional hour of visitation will take place from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 7, 2026, followed by a funeral service at 12:00 p.m., also at Grace Community Church. Rev. Dr. Tom Mansbarger will officiate. Burial will follow at Gardens of Memory - Marion.

Marcey Lee Smith

Marcey Lee Smith, 46, of Marion, passed away peacefully at 12:30 am on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, in Marion. At Marcey’s request, there will be no public visitation or funeral service.

Darol Floyd

Darol Leon Floyd, 62, Jonesboro, entered the gates of heaven at 3:05 am on Monday, January 12, 2026, at Indiana University Health Ball Memorial after fighting a long battle with ALS. The family received visitors from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm on Monday, January 19, 2026, at Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral & Cremation Service, North Chapel 1341 N. Baldwin Ave., Marion, IN. Immediately followed the time of visitation, a service to celebrate Darol’s life began at 1:00 pm with Pastor Tom Mansbarger officiating.

James Hayes

James W. Hayes, age 85, of Fairmount, Indiana, died Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at Wesleyan Health and Rehabilitation Center in Marion, Indiana. Celebration Funeral Home and Cremation Service, 415 S. Main Street, Fairmount, Indiana. A Life Celebration will be held Saturday, January 24, 2026, at 3:00 PM, with Richard Hart and Pastor James Sonnifield officiating. The family will receive friends from 1:00-3:00 PM prior to the service.

Nancy Carson

Nancy L. Carson, 63, passed away on January 12, 2026, leaving behind family and friends who will continue to cherish her memory. Arrangements for Nancy 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. Visitation ws held on Sunday, January 18, 2026 from 2:00- 5:00 P.M. at Armes-Hunt Funeral Home. Monday, January 19, 2026, the funeral began at 11:00 A.M. with a one hour visitation prior at St. Paul Catholic Church, 1031 W Kem Rd, Marion, IN 46952. Entombment followed at Gardens of Memory Cemetery.

Claude “Mike” Manley

C. Michael “Mike” Manley, 82, of Marion, Indiana, passed away on January 11, 2026, with his wife and children lovingly by his side, after a long and hard-fought illness. A Going Home Service will be held on Saturday, January 24th at 3:30 p.m. in Clearwater, Florida, at his condominium complex Club House, where family and friends may gather to honor his life. A Life Celebration Service for Mike will be Friday June 5,2026 at 1:30 PM with Rev. Todd Graham officiating at College Park Armes-Hunt Life Celebration Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 4601 S. Western Ave. Marion, IN 46953 where the family will receive guest 1 hour prior to the services. Burial of his cremains will follow at Grant Memorial Park Cemetery, Marion, IN.

Gloria J. Craine

Gloria J. Craine, 75, passed away on January 14, 2026 at her residence in Muncie. Funeral service was held at 1 pm Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at Keplinger Funeral Home, 509 N. High St., Hartford City. Burial followed at Hartford City Cemetery.

LOCAL CHURCH SERVICES

Submitted by Catherine Lamb	Prince of Peace Lutheran Church – 9 a.m. (Hartford City)
Back Creek Friends – 10:30 a.m., Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.	One of Ten Ministries and Church – 10:30 a.m.
Back Creek Wesleyan – 10:30 a.m., Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.	Pilgrim Holiness – 6 p.m.
Fairmount Baptist Church – 10:30 a.m., Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.	Real Community Covenant Church – 10 a.m. – 1240 S. Adams in Marion
Fairmount Church of God – 10:30 a.m., Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.	Westview Wesleyan, 11 a.m. (Jonesboro)
Fairmount Friends – 10:30 a.m.	Women of Hope Bible Study – Tuesday – 10 a.m.
Fairmount Wesleyan – 9:30 a.m.	(Located at One of Ten on SR 26 in Fairmount. Open to all women in Grant County)
Fairmount United Methodist – 9:30 a.m.	Fairmount UMC – Monday – 7 p.m. – Campus Life
Fowlerton United Methodist – 10:45 a.m.	Fairmount UMC – Wednesday – 10 a.m., Men and Women’s Bible Study
Jones Chapel – 10:30 a.m., Sunday School – 9 a.m.	
MorningStar Ministries, 11:00 a.m. (Jonesboro)	

Upcoming Community Events

Submitted by Catherine Lamb
Community Breakfast – Masonic Lodge #635, Saturday, (biweekly), freewill donation Hope Center – Every Friday, 1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Fairmount Town Council – Biweekly at 6 p.m.
Eagles Nest Food Pantry – February 19th at 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. (At Park School. Additional dates are on Fairmount Wesleyan Church website. Click events)
Feeding Fairmount Ministry – 2nd Monday of month – Fairmount UMC, freewill donation, 12 noon
Blackford County Extension - February 13: Election of County Officers
Blackford County Extension - April 14: April District Meeting in Hartford City, “As American As Apple Pie”
Blackford County Extension - May 7: Achievement Day which includes recognition of perfect attendance, membership milestones, new members & Memorial for deceased members.

Fairmount Public Library

Take and make craft kit – December 2nd
Chair Yoga – December 2nd and16th at 1 p.m.
Painting with LouRae – December 6th at 10:30 a.m.
Visit with Santa – December 6th at 10:30 a.m.
Book Club – December 9th at p.m.
Board Meeting – December 10th at 6 p.m.
Crafting Circle – December 16th at 6 p.m.
Storytime – 10 a.m. – December 18th at 20 a.m.
Chair Yoga – December 5th, 12th, 19th and January 2nd at 10 a.m.
Board Meeting – 6 p.m. – November 12th
Crafting Circle – 6 p.m. – November 18th
Your Story – December 23rd at 6 p.m.
Other Library Services
WI-FI Access, Computer Access, Printing, Scanning, Copying, Faxing, Laminating, Notarizing

Email Us Your Upcoming Events to: Catherine Lamb at: lambc899@gmail.com or to pamela.kpi2018@gmail.com \*Deadline is Monday at 5 PM for the Thursday edition.

Scotty Inman in concert at Epworth Church February 13th

Epworth Church, 105 W 8th St, Matthews, Indiana is pleased to announce Scotty Inman with special guest The Siler Family in concert on Friday, February 13, 2026! Doors open at 6 PM, Concert starts at 7 PM. Tickets are \$15. Also, a love offering will be received. Limited seating, To guarantee your seats, please purchase tickets in advance at epworthworship.com/scotty or call/text 765-667-0842. Music runs through Scotty Inman’s veins. A second generation vocalist, Scotty’s music career has taken him around the world and allowed him to share the message of Christ on stages that many only dream of. With messages of faith, family and life woven

deep with his lyrics, the 4-time BMI awarded singer/songwriter and 2024 Singing News New Artist of the Year is breaking the mold and forging a path all his own. For two decades, Scotty Inman was a vocalist for the award-winning group, Triumphant Quartet. Then in 2023, Scotty Inman felt God leading him into a new season of life to minister as a solo artist. Toby and Christi Siler have traveled and sang gospel music together since they were first married. In 2002, one sunny Sunday morning in September, their family doubled in size when we said “hello” to boy/girl twins, Jarrod and Jewel, who were destined to grow up



“on the road”. They continued to travel for several years following their arrival until God spoke to us that it was time for me to come off the road. When asked whether or not we would ever sing together again, Toby and Christi would respond that we hoped and prayed that God would allow us to travel again as a family. Someday. You know...when the kids

were older. Eventually, Jarrod & Jewel started asking when the four of us would be going back on the road to minister as a family. And so began their adventure begin to start traveling again as “The Siler Family”. They have had the privilege of ministering together all across the US, across the ocean in the Philippines, and even on the ocean during Gospel cruises.





# Tips when traveling with pets

Traveling with pets can be a rewarding experience that enables individuals to share new adventures with their companion animals. Bringing pets along on vacation has become quite popular. According to Top Dog Pet Travel, a central Florida agency specializing in pet-friendly bookings, there has been an uptick in people traveling with their pets since 2024. A report from the American Pet Products Association indicates 22 percent of both cat and dog owners reported taking their animals on at least three flights in 2024.

Although traveling with pets can be fun and cuts down on costs for pet boarding or alternative care, it also requires careful planing to keep pets safe, comfortable and free from stress throughout the trip. These practical tips can make traveling with pets a smooth experience, whether one is traveling by car, plane or just off on a weekend getaway.

- Plan ahead. Research any pet regulations and restrictions prior to traveling. Some hotels, airlines and rental properties have specific rules or fees for pets. Always confirm if companion animals are allowed, and determine if there are restrictions on size, breed or the number of pets. Every airline has different rules for in-cabin versus cargo travel for pets. International travel may require certain vaccinations or quarantine periods, so it pays to start planning well in advance.
- Visit the vet. A checkup with the pet’s vet is a good step prior to any trip. The vet will make sure the animal is current on vaccinations and well enough to travel. Getting a copy of the pet’s medical records and vaccination schedule is helpful, as some airlines or destinations may require it.



Also inquire about medication for motion sickness or anxiety, if necessary.

- Bring familiar items. Animals like consistency and routine. Keeping familiar items nearby can help reduce anxiety in unfamiliar environments. Bring along food, bowls, leashes, and preferred toys or bedding.
- Stick to routine. Give the pet time to adjust to the new surroundings and adhere to the same meal, walk and play schedules the animal is accustomed to at home. Regular feeding helps avoid stomach upset, as does bringing bottled water or water from home.
- Pack some patience. Even the most well-behaved pet may act out a little when in unfamiliar territory. Also, it’s possible to encounter individuals who may not be as amenable to sharing surroundings with pets. Pets will take emotional cues from their owners, so projecting calm can be beneficial.

Traveling with pets is becoming increasingly popular. Planning ahead and working with pet-friendly venues can ensure that everyone in the family enjoys some time away.

# Pitfalls that can compromise dog training

Dogs are not just pets, they often become cherished family members who share in all of the joys and accomplishments of a household. Training a dog that’s new to a home can be deeply rewarding, but various pitfalls can slow the progress of training and potentially contribute to confusion or even lead to behavioral problems. Pet parents can get a leg up on what can go wrong and why, and adjust to help make the training process go more smoothly.

**Problem #1: Inconsistency**

Everyone in the family may want to take part in training the new pet and this can create confusion if everyone isn’t on the same page. People who use different commands or allow different behaviors may confuse the dog. To fix the issue, it’s important that everyone use the same commands and consistently reinforce the same rules. It’s not alright for the

dog to jump up on the furniture when the rule is no furniture lounging, for example.

**Problem #2: Poor reward timing**

Rewarding dogs for good behavior is one of the hallmarks of positive reinforcement training. However, rewarding or correcting the pet even a few seconds too late can mean the animal may not connect the feedback to the action. It’s important to deliver rewards or corrections within one to two seconds of the desired behavior for the best results. Leerburg Training suggests using marker training, also known as clicker training, which affords trainers a way to immediately communicate with the dog the instant they do something favorable. Withholding the click/mark, tells the dog that you don’t like what they are doing without any punishment.

**Problem #3: Overusing punishment**

Positive reinforcement is the best method of training a dog, and the one that most professional trainers rely on. Still, it can be challenging to avoid yelling or using aversive tools to try to stop a behavior if other methods are slow to work. However, hitting an animal, yelling excessively or using shock collars can create fear or aggression. In some instances, such tactics may border on animal abuse. Advanced Canine Techniques says that dogs can sense a human’s energy level and confidence and any negative energy, which can

be discouraging and adversely affect motivation. Taking a break while training until it can be more fun and positive may stem stress and negative behaviors for both dog and person.

**Problem #4: Unclear commands**

It’s important that everyone utilize the same commands when training a dog. Saying “come here” one day and “get over here” another can be confusing and result in slower learning. Dogs may respond better to visual cues along with verbal ones, so people can utilize hand gestures when setting commands as well.

**Problem #5: Inconsistent results**

Many people have dogs that behave wonderfully while in the house, but poorly at a dog park or elsewhere. A dog may not realize that commands and behavior expectations apply everywhere. That’s why it is necessary to practice in different environments and only periodically introduce distractions. It’s also important to know that a dog that is bored may exhibit restlessness or destructive behavior and won’t be able to focus during training. Meeting the dog’s physical needs first can help when training comes afterwards. After all is said and done, if training is not going as expected, consult a professional trainer for assistance.



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

**Word Search Answers**

X	A	T	M	X	A	H	E	X	A	X	H	O	A	N
X	A	O	I	M	M	S	T	S	H	S	A	X	O	O
W	X	I	N	V	G	E	S	O	V	D	O	N	I	O
A	R	I	N	V	A	E	A	E	N	N	B	C	S	M
R	N	X	A	X	M	S	G	N	O	I	N	S	D	I
O	M	X	T	G	M	A	E	O	M	X	M	A	R	M
G	T	V	I	N	N	V	I	V	A	E	H	O	I	N
L	H	B	N	S	A	X	X	H	M	E	O	C	N	I
E	N	H	V	V	S	I	E	O	X	X	I	A	S	H
H	B	N	B	N	V	S	H	E	O	N	N	V	S	
O	S	E	A	E	S	I	S	X	O	A	L	E	C	I
S	S	M	I	N	E	I	N	O	H	A	E	H	C	A
X	W	O	J	O	I	E	O	N	E	X	T	A	N	X
T	W	O	J	O	I	E	O	N	E	X	T	A	N	X
H	O	A	N	L	O	O	L	I	A	S	N	X	I	O
D	B	E	O	B	V	V	A	A	G	N	I	W	H	N
A	S	E	M	E	V	L	V	A	A	G	N	I	W	H
S	V	H	C	E	O	O	T	O	B	M	H	A	E	X
J	C	H	R	E	H	A	I	T	O	A	E	H	H	X

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# Marion Sports Recaps

(Thursday - January 15)	relay: 3rd place - Hadyn Craig, Jack Jenkins, Lennon Cordell, Josiah Womack	Couchman, Lennon Cordell, Josiah Womack
<b>Boys Wrestling</b>		
Giants 35 Logansport 34		
The Giants will compete in the NCC Championships on Saturday @ Richmond.	<b>Girls 200 freestyle:</b> 2nd place - Jethe Paduga	<b>Girls 100 yard breaststroke:</b> 3rd place - Gracie Dixon
Marion Giant individual winners: Ben Bevans Josh Mccray Adrian Parrish Hickson Love Esteban Santiago Shaun Caldwell	Boys 200 yard freestyle: 2nd place - Levi Craig	<b>Boys 100 yard breaststroke:</b> 3rd place - Jack Jenkins
<b>Swimming</b>	<b>Boys 200 IM:</b> 3rd place - Hadyn Craig	<b>Boys 400 freestyle relay:</b> 2nd place - Hayden Craig Levi Craig, Lennon Cordell, Josiah Womack
The Marion Giants swim team battled Lapel & Blackhawk on Thursday evening at Marion HS.	<b>Girls 50 yard freestyle:</b> 3rd place - Skyler Bogar	(Saturday-January 17)
<b>Boys:</b> Blackhawk 116 Giants 53 Lapel 47	<b>Boys hundred yard butterfly:</b> 2nd place - Josiah Womack 3rd place - Lennon Cordell	<b>Girls Wrestling</b> (State Finals - Friday, January 16)
<b>Girls:</b> Lapel 105 Blackhawk 47 Lady Giants 37	<b>Girls 200 yard freestyle relay:</b> 3rd place - Skyler Boogar, Gabriella Cruz, Gracie Dixon, Jethe Paduga	Congratulations to Grace Carpenter (19-10) on a great season with the Marion Lady Giants. Grace's season concluded during the round of 16 at the IHSAA Girls Wrestling State Finals.
<b>Marion Giant individuals:</b> Boys 200 medley	<b>Boys 200 yard freestyle relay:</b> 2nd place - Jack Jenkins, Keagan	<b>Saturday Girls Basketball</b>
		Marion 51 South Side 34

The Marion Giants JV team is 3-8.  
C. Robinson 13, Jordan Johnson 5, A. Lee 4,  
Jace Johnson 4, K. Burton 2, K. Cook 2

**Wrestling NCC**  
Marion Giant Boys Wrestling finishes 4th at the NCC Championship @ Richmond.  
Marion Giant Winners:  
Adrian Parrish - 1st (126)  
Hickson Love - 1st (132)  
Shaun Caldwell - 1st (165)  
Ben Bevans - 2nd (106)  
Josh Mccray - 4th (120)  
Esteban Santiago - 4th (150)  
Anderson Guevara - 4th (175)  
Dominick Scott - 4th (190)  
Brody Stickann - 4th (215)  
Carter Moreno - 4th (285)

\*\*\*Congratulations to Marion Giants Adrian Parrish (126-LB), Hickson Love (132-LB) & Shaun Caldwell (165-LB) for winning the NCC Championship in their weight class.

\*\*\*Congratulations to Marion Giant Hickson Love for recording his 100th career wrestling victory today.

**Winter Sports Senior Days Boys & Girls Wrestling**

Wednesday, January 21 (Senior Night)  
Marion vs Monroe Central 6:00 pm

**Boys & Girls Swimming**

Saturday, January 24 (Senior Day)  
Marion vs Scecina Memorial 10:00 am

**Girls Basketball**  
Wednesday, January 28 (Senior Night)  
Marion vs Adams Central - JV-6:00 pm, Varsity-7:30 pm

**Boys Basketball**  
Friday, February 27 (Senior Night)  
Marion vs FW Snider - JV-6:00 pm, Varsity-7:30 pm

# Three career opportunities open in Parks Department

3 Career Opportunities Open in Parks Dept.  
The Parks & Recreation Department is restructuring, and currently hiring for three positions. Please see the job listings below for descriptions and instructions to apply while the hiring window remains open through January 16th, 2026.  
Program

Coordinator, Parks & Recreation Dept.  
Administrative Assistant (Part-time), Parks & Recreation Dept.  
Maintenance Laborer, Parks & Recreation Department  
For more information visit <https://cityofmarion.in.gov/news-events/3-career-opportunities-open-in-parks-dept>

# Miniature book shelf decorating

In this class, we will decorate and curate tiny hutches and book shelves with miniature books and decor.  
Event Date/Time:  
January 28, 2026  
6:00-8:00pm

Event Location:  
Blackford County Arts Center,  
107 West

Washington St., Hartford City, IN 47348  
Cost: \$20.00 per participant  
Ages: 12-99

Arts Place contact person for questions or more information and how to be involved  
Call Lydia Rowles at 765-348-4154 with any questions.



# Arts Place to host mobile making January 29th


The 3rd & 4th graders will learn about the famous Alexander Calder and make mobiles out of wire and paper.  
The 5th & 6th graders will learn about the famous Alexander Calder and make sculptures from paper and wire.


January 29, 2026  
3rd & 4th graders meet 4-5pm  
5th & 6th graders meet 5-6pm

Event Location:  
Blackford County Arts Center,  
107 West  
Washington St., Hartford City, IN 47348  
Cost: \$5.00 per student  
Students Must Be Pre-Registered  
No Walk-Ins Accepted  
Arts Place contact person for questions or more information and how to be involved  
Call Lydia Rowles at 765-348-4154 with any questions.

Congratulations IU on your National Championship!

You Make Us Proud!





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Hartford City, IN 47348

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FEBRUARY 2

4-6 PM



BLACKFORD COUNTY HOUSE- BUILDINGS- POND APPROX 5 ACRES  
BLACKFORD SCHOOLS  
3 BEDROOM ~ 2 BATH  
1576 SQUARE FEET~ 2 CAR GARAGE



TRACT 1  
HOUSE ~ BUILDINGS~ POND~ APPROX 5 ACRES  
TRACT 2  
APPROX 30 ACRES  
TRACT 3  
TRACT 1 & 2 COMBINED

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