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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2026



More than twenty gospel greats were in the Gaither Hometown Homecoming performance October 17 in Gas City.

Gaither Hometown Homecoming performed to sell-out crowds

By Cathy Shouse

Grant County residents, as well as hundreds of people from across the Midwest, showed up recently for the Gaither Hometown Homecoming concerts. Bill and Gloria Gaither and more than twenty greats of gospel music put on two shows at the Gas City Performing Arts Center (PAC). October 17 and 18, PAC organizers created an overflow parking area, staffed with people. That's because it took special arrangements to manage the sold-out crowd both days, at the 1,800+-seat venue.



Chris Blue sings "Lean on Me," during the Gaither Hometown Homecoming performance October 18 in Gas City.

During the Sunday afternoon performance, Bill Gaither asked how many people had come to both shows. Many clapped and waved, indicating that they had been at Saturday's performance, too. It was an afternoon of music, some laughs, and even a sense of worship, in the trademark style the Gaithers have become famous for. The stage was set to appear like a living room, with a big rug and some comfortable couches on stage. It truly was "hometown," given that the Gaithers have lived and made their music just "up the street" in Alexandria for decades. Bill, 90, and Gloria were on stage the entire time. He introduced singers and told stories, in addition to singing, and she gave a reading written by Bob Benson, "The Sunday School Picnic," which she has become known for. In the Sunday show, they sang, "Back Home in Indiana." Chris Blue sang "Lean on Me,"

and Sandy Patty sang with Bill. Mark Landry sang a song he wrote



October 18, Bill Gaither was on stage at the Gas City Performing Arts Center for the Gaither Hometown Homecoming performance. Vocalist Sandy Patty is in the background.

the lyrics to, "Mary, Did You Know?" Gaither-written songs like "The Longer I Serve Him," were standouts. A continuous string of well-loved songs entertained the audience. At the Sunday show, which started at 2:00 p.m., some thought it might be

winding down at about 4:00 p.m. A handful of people in the audience trickled away, maybe to beat the parking crush. Then Bill stood at the microphone and announced there would be a twenty-minute break. The show resumed after the intermission, with more signing, and the afternoon involved an offering of prayer. The concert ended up lasting about four hours. A few days after the concerts, a Facebook posting by Daniel Britt showed a video taken in Fairmount. Britt mentioned that the Gaithers and their staff have a special memory there. In 1998, they recorded "a piece of gospel music history." An award-winning recording, "Down by the Tabernacle Homecoming," was made at what was formerly known as the Bethel Tabernacle & Wesleyan Campgrounds, in Fairmount.



Bill Gaither, with Gloria Gaither seated behind him, as well as Mark Lowry, in Gas City October 18

Halloween Safety: Keeping Little Ghosts and Goblins Safe

Halloween is a favorite time of year for children and families, filled with costumes, candy, decorations and neighborhood trick-or-treating. While the holiday offers plenty of fun, taking a few simple safety precautions can help ensure everyone enjoys a safe and memorable Halloween.

Choose Safe Costumes

Parents should select costumes that fit properly to prevent tripping and falling. Costumes, wigs and accessories should be made from flame-resistant materials. Masks should provide clear visibility, and face paint or makeup can be a safer alternative when used according to product directions. Adding reflective tape to costumes and carrying glow sticks or flashlights can help children remain visible to drivers after dark.

Practice Street Safety

Motorists should slow down and remain especially alert in residential neighborhoods on Halloween evening. Children should use sidewalks whenever possible, cross streets at designated crosswalks and look both ways before crossing. Drivers should watch carefully for children who may dart between parked vehicles. Younger children should always be accompanied by a responsible adult, while older children should travel in groups and follow an agreed-upon route and return time.

Inspect Treats Before Eating

Candy is one of Halloween's biggest

attractions, but parents should inspect all treats before children eat them. Discard candy with damaged or opened wrappers, unusual appearances or other signs of tampering. Young children should not receive hard candy or small toys that could pose choking hazards. Homemade treats should only be accepted from trusted sources.

Make Homes and Decorations Safe

Homeowners can help prevent accidents by keeping walkways, porches and steps clear of decorations, cords and other obstacles. Outdoor lights should be working properly, and candles should be kept away from costumes, dry leaves and other flammable materials. Battery-operated candles offer a safer alternative for jack-o'-lanterns.

Stay Alert and Have a Plan

Families should establish clear rules about staying with their group, never entering a stranger's home and accepting rides only from trusted adults. Children should know how to contact their parents or guardians if they become separated. Halloween safety is a shared responsibility among parents, children, homeowners and motorists. By planning ahead and staying alert, families can reduce risks and focus on what makes the holiday special: spending time together, enjoying festive traditions and creating happy memories. A little preparation goes a long way toward making Halloween a treat for everyone!



The Miller family of Fairmount decorated for Halloween this year.

VICTORIOUS

Living...in a troubled world

God shall fight for you

By Teresa A. LeNeave

Moses told the people, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart (that’s something you feel inside, a total awareness of God) and with all your soul (thoughts, desires, inner being), and with all your might (your energy; your full strength; the best you have to give). Deut. 6:5. He’s someone you want in your life every day.

Moses said doing so would ensure a blessed life and that each person had the responsibility for passing the love of God to the next generation.

You know, make it perpetual; make sure the flame never dies. God’s plan is: when one generation dies, the next generation keeps it burning. If God is to be a perpetual God, EACH generation has the responsibility to pass the knowledge

of God to the next generation. He told the Israelites to pay attention and watch themselves closely so they wouldn’t forget what God had done for them. They were to tell their children, and their grandchildren, about God and His protection. Deut. 4:7-9.

God is serious about us loving Him with all our heart, soul and might. He wants us to teach, and talk about the blessings and

benefits that come with obedience and love.

In Deuteronomy eleven, God said the people had a choice. Blessing or cursing. That was their two options. If they chose to love and obey God there would be many benefits.



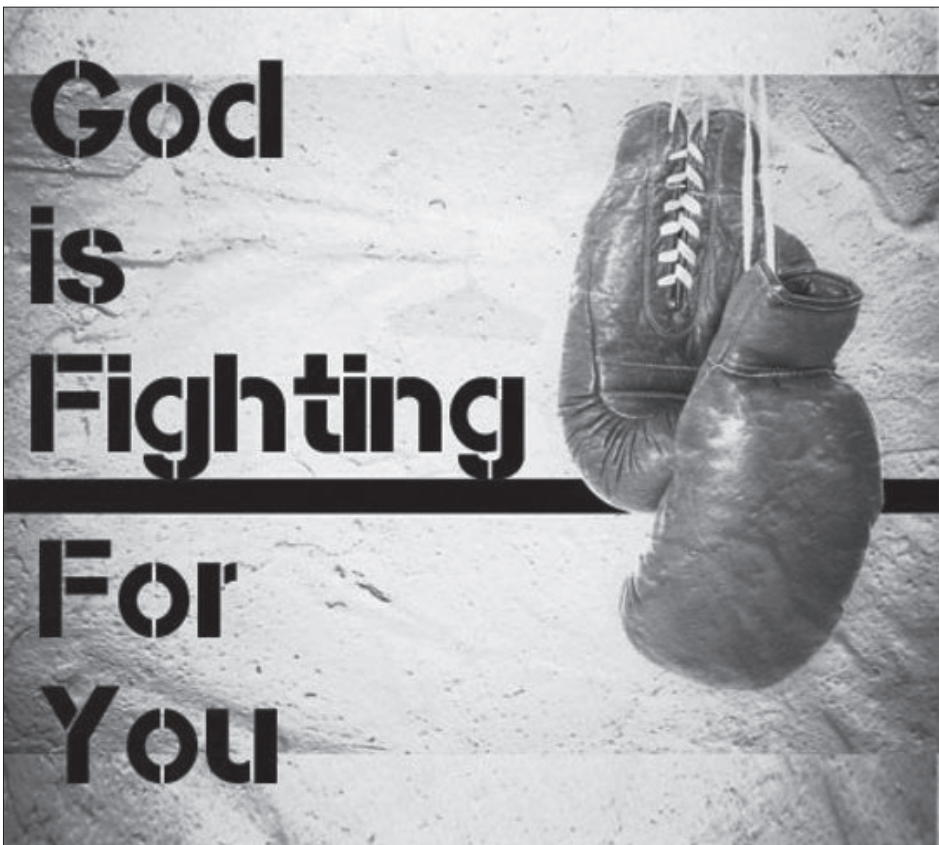
Teresa LeNeave

Specifically, “He (God) Shall Fight For You” (Deuteronomy 1:30). I don’t know about you, but I’ve needed God to fight a few battles for me. Sometimes, no earthly person can fix it. You can give all you’ve got and you still can’t fix it. God can.

Moses said, “When you are in tribulation, and all these things (the curses) are come upon thee, even in the latter days, if you turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice; (For the LORD

thy God is a merciful God;) He will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he swore unto them” (Deut. 4:30-31).

That’s the message every generation must pass to the next generation. He told



them to teach their children about God, to talk to them about God in their homes; when they are outside taking a walk; when they go to bed at night and again in the morning. Keep God in front of their eyes so their minds don’t forget who He is.

When Moses finished reciting all these words to the nation of Israel, he said to them, “Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may command your children to obey carefully all the words

of this law. They are not just idle words for you; they are your life” (Deut. 32:45-47).

May we all take Moses’ solemn warning to heart: they are not just idle words for you; they are your life. Deut. 32:45-47.

Outdoor Truths: The Load

I’ve always considered myself a prepared hunter – some would say over prepared. I very rarely go into the woods without my backpack. During the colder months this is especially true. Since I’m never absolutely sure as to what the weather will bring, I take just about everything. My backpack is over three-thousand cubic inches. I strategically place additional clothes in it or strapped to it. I carry additional socks, gloves, headgear, and even an extra base-layer shirt just in case I sweat too much while getting to the

stand. The nooks and crannies are stuffed full of other things like snacks, a drink, reading glasses, a book, paper, pen, and my phone. And there’s also my umbrella and rain gear. In addition to all of this I carry a fanny pack as well; full of calls, scents, rope, compass, trimmers, and anything else that suits my fancy. Now some of you are already laughing at my overkill. You’re not the first. I’ve never weighed my gear, but I figure it really doesn’t matter because the burden of the load is a small price to pay in order to be a more prepared,

and even satisfied, hunter. Sometimes the weight is cumbersome. Walking the hills most assuredly puts a toll on my legs, but as the season progresses it eventually becomes almost unnoticeable.

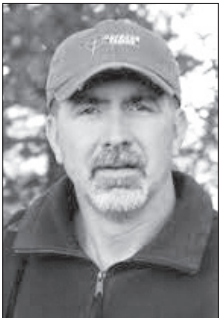
Some of you, right now, are carrying a load of a different kind. It’s a burden that weighs on your heart and mind. It may be one you have caused or one you had nothing to do with. These burdens come through all sorts of circumstances from sickness, the concern over a child, the loss of a job, divorce, or a host of other things. Your mind is questioning

the purpose of such a burden and the devil is quick to answer your question by casting the guilt squarely in your lap and telling you, “If you had only (fill in the blank) this would have never happened, and now God will abandon you to suffer the consequences alone.”

The Bible is clear about the devil and his ways. It says he is the father of lies and his purpose is to destroy your faith by causing you to doubt and

disbelieve the Word of God.

The truth of the scriptures assures us of several things. They tell us we are loved by God, He will never leave us, and that He has promised to bring good to our lives even in the midst of our burdens. He has also promised us peace. Having peace, many times, doesn’t come from the burden being taken away but by changing our mind concerning it. My backpack was



Gary Miller

not a burden because I knew in my mind it would make me better prepared. The weight was the same, but my mind counted it worthwhile. What you may need right now is not your burden removed but only to see it from the perspective of God. It is not bigger than He. In fact, it is simply a tool in His hands to prepare you for what He is making you to be. Ask God to give you peace in your trial. The Bible says He will give it in such a way that it will surprise even you.

Gary Miller
Outdoortruths.org

A treat that tricks

If you’re a jelly bean eater, prepare to spit them out for good. According to numerous sources, their glossy and crunchy coating is actually made from resin secreted by the female “lac bug” after it drinks the sap of trees. The chemical is released by the lac bug onto twigs and branches, where it is collected and later processed into flakes that are sprayed on candies like jelly beans, candy corn, and chocolate-

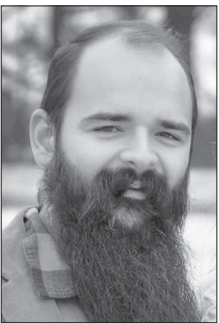
covered mint patties. Because these treats appear delectable and delicious, you’d never suspect you were eating insect excrement. Now, that’s a treat that tricks!

Sin is also a “treat” that tricks. Sin always appears shiny, satisfying, and sugar-coated. It’s tantalizing appearance captures the eyes of our flesh, and its abominable aroma whets our sinful appetite (cf. Gen. 3:6; James 1:14-15). But in reality, sin is not a treat at all. It

is the object of God’s hate, the source of man’s grief, and the root of all the world’s troubles (Psalm 5:4; Job 15:20-35).

Moreover, sin only tastes sweet for a fleeting moment (cf. Heb. 11:25). Sin’s cunning coating of enjoyment wears off quickly, and it always leaves a foul

taste in the mouth. As Job’s friend Zophar observed, “Though evil is sweet in his mouth, though he hides it under his tongue, though he is loath to let it go and holds it in his mouth, yet his food is turned in his stomach; it is the venom of cobras within him” (Job 20:12-14). Sin is bitter like wormwood and sour like unripe grapes to those who



Brandon Bramlett

consume it (Deut. 29:18-19; Jer. 31:30). Those who relish every bite of sin will find sin biting them back (cf. Jer. 2:19).

What is truly sweet is experiencing the grace and goodness of the Lord God. For this reason, the psalmist urges, “Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!” (Psalm 34:8). At His right hand are “pleasures forevermore” (Psalm 16:11). Furthermore, doing His will is

always sweetly satisfying, and it never leads to bitter guilt or sour regret (John 4:34). The satisfaction He gives is not a trick—it is as real as it gets: “For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things” (Psalm 107:9).

Note: My latest book, Bible Gleanings Volume III, contains 100 daily devotionals just like the ones you read here each weekend. It is available in paperback on Amazon.com

“Fear thou not; for I am with thee... I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee.”

— ISAIAH 41:10:

Waiting does not mean God is saying no

Life has its ups and downs, and no one is exempt from struggling every now and then. We’ve heard that how we react to situations is based on how much spiritual peace we can maintain, and I certainly believe this is true. In order to hear God’s still small voice, we need to be very close to Him. How many have experienced the agony of trying to be patient while waiting on God to move? Some of you might be going through this today. No doubt, it’s difficult to be calm when we are hurting. It seems we cannot think of anything else other than how we feel. Nonetheless, it’s possible to not only use these dark times of the soul as a ladder to help us climb out of our pit of discouragement, but to actually rise to a higher level of personal peace and contentment. It’s

possible to learn how to transform our worries into confidence.

In the Song of Solomon chapter two, the Shulamite woman and the king are in love, and their dialogue is a beautiful expression of romance. In verse 15, she mentions how the little foxes damage the grapevines by chewing on them and eventually hinder the ability to make wine. To make a long story short, the foxes represent attacks of frustration and anxiety, while the vines are symbolic of our relationships, especially with God. She is trying to warn her future husband about the importance of keeping their emotions in check by being aware of negative forces that will attempt to ruin their marriage. This story reminds us to remain focused on God’s promises and not allow impatience

and negative distractions that tempt us to let go of our faith. “Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer” Romans 12:12.

We have become spoiled in an age of instant gratification, and this can unfortunately bleed over into our spiritual thinking. We have a tendency to make a decree, say a short prayer, and then expect immediate results, and when we do not have an answer by the end of the day, we move on to something else. Let us consider: this is not always how the Lord works. Have you ever experienced a stressful trial, and as you were searching for answers, it seemed that God was silent? Maybe He was quiet for a reason, and then it could be that we were just not

listening to His future plans. Remember that Abraham and Sarah were told by God they would have a special child, but it was decades later until Issac was born. Hannah also prayed for



Dr. Billy Holland

a child, but it was years later that she gave birth to Samuel. Job had to endure suffering and wait before God responded to deliver him. Moses prayed for the Israelites, but the Lord did not respond until after a long period of wandering. Daniel interceded intensely, but his answer did not come until 21 days later. These are just a few of many instances that emphasize patience. Just because we do not see immediate miracles

from our prayers does not mean that God is saying no. Heaven is not a vending machine where we just push a button and instantly receive our request.

Our heavenly Father is completely aware of our situation, and within His blueprint is for us to submit to His perfect will. Knowing Him is all about trusting Him even when it seems that no one understands or cares. In the book of Ephesians, we are given an explanation about our spiritual armor, and if we notice, the helmet and breastplate is given to protect our mind and heart from the dangerous arrows of outside influences. The enemy of our soul loves to use words against us because he knows how much damage they can inflict. When we are confronted with negative circumstances, we are tempted to absorb and agree, which in

turn triggers our response mechanism to unleash a flood of harmful reactions. Unfortunately, anger, sadness, and self-pity have ruined many people’s lives because they let go of hope. Remember, hold on a little longer as Hebrews 11:6 declares that without faith it is impossible to please God. Whatever you are waiting for today, realize that God wants the best for you. Guard and protect your conscience from the attacks of depression and despair and embrace the absolute reality of His truth. If you know what He has promised, stand strong in your faith and know it’s going to happen.

Dr. Holland is an ordained minister, chaplain, and Christian author. Read more about the Christian life at billyhollandministries.com

Teens and Special Media: Finding balance beyond the school day

By Molly Johnson, Youth First, Inc.

Social media is a common part of daily life for many students. TikTok, Snapchat, and Instagram are often used to stay connected with friends, share laughs, and pass the time. While Indiana law now limits student cell phone use during school, many students continue using their phones before and after school, in the evenings, and on weekends.

Some students have shared that they stay on their phones late into the night, sometimes as late as 2:00 am. This lack of sleep can significantly impact their mood, focus and ability to function the following day. As a result, social media continues to play a significant role in students’ well-being, friendships, and daily lives, even beyond the school day.

One challenge many students face is comparison. Social media often highlights the best and most carefully curated moments of someone’s life, making it easy for students to believe others are happier, more popular, more confident, or simply doing better than they are. Seeing these images and videos can leave students feeling left out and inadequate. Adults also experience comparison, but



students are still developing their sense of identity and learning who they are. This can make the pressure to compare, and the emotions that come with it, feel especially intense and difficult to navigate.

Another challenge is the pressure to be constantly connected. Group chats, notifications, and online trends continue long after the school day ends, leaving some students feeling they need to respond immediately or risk missing out. This can interfere with sleep, increase stress, and make it harder to focus or manage emotions. Social media can also intensify friendship conflicts, as small disagreements can quickly escalate

through messages, screenshots, or rumors. For students still learning to navigate friendships, online conflict can feel especially overwhelming.

Despite its challenges, social media can also have positive uses. Students can be creative, share humor, learn new things, and connect with others. Families can join in too - doing TikTok dances or trends together can create connection and support, turning screen time into a shared experience rather than something done alone.

It is also important for students to have time away from screens. Playing outside, joining sports or clubs, drawing,

listening to music, reading, cooking with family, or having game nights can help students relax and feel connected. These activities can support emotional balance and give students a break from the pressure that comes with being online.

Teaching students about online safety is just as important as discussing screen time. Remind them to protect personal information, think carefully about what they post, and recognize that not everyone online has good intentions. Knowing how to block or report unsafe content – and when to turn to a trusted adult – can help students navigate the online world more safely.

Encouraging students to speak up when they are concerned about a friend can help ensure they get support when they need it. Adults also play an important role by listening, setting healthy limits, and modeling balanced phone use. Parents and caregivers can start conversations by asking how social media makes their child feel, not just how much time they spend on it. Talk about comparison, online safety, and taking breaks from screens, especially before bedtime. Most importantly, remind children that they can come to you without fear of getting in trouble.

Social media will

continue to be part of growing up. With balance, guidance, and strong connections both online and offline, students can learn to use it in healthy and positive ways.

If your student needs additional support or guidance in this area, check to see if your school has a Youth First Mental Health Professional at <http://www.youthfirstinc.org/mentalhealthprofessional>.

Molly Meriwether, MSW, LSW, MHA, is a Youth First Mental Health Professional at Washington Middle 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 138 schools across 15 Indiana counties. Over 56,000 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 or call 812-421-8336.



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MAIL TO: Kentucky Publishing, Inc., 1540 McCracken Blvd., Paducah, KY 42001

CARDS: Visa, Mastercard, American Express and Discover.

Subscriptions are payable in advance. Late payments are retroactive.

Published weekly by: Indiana Newspaper Group, 1540 McCracken Blvd; Paducah, Ky 42001

Postmaster: Send address changes to Indiana Newspaper Group, 1540 McCracken Blvd., Paducah, KY 42001.

The Huntingburg Press (I SSN 10413421-USPS #0030002). Periodical Class Postage Paid at The Huntingburg Post Office, Huntingburg, IN 47542.

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photos courtesy of Marion High School

The Marion girls' basketball team has started practicing for the upcoming 2026-27 prep hoops season. The Lady Giants will have a scrimmage versus Warren Central at the Bill Green Athletic Arena at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 31.



photos courtesy of Oak Hill High School

Oak Hill freshman Brantley Blair joined an elite group as he finished seventh overall in the IHSAA Manchester Super Regional Cross Country Meet on Saturday, Oct. 24. The seventh-place finish earned Blair a spot in the IHSAA State Finals in Terre Haute.

Oak Hill Girls' Basketball Apparel Store open

Staff Report

CONVERSE — The Oak Hill Girls' Basketball Apparel Store is open through the end of the month. The apparel store will close after Saturday, Oct. 31. The Oak Hill girls' basketball team will tip off its 2026-27 season in November. Various items are available in the apparel store, which is located online at <https://thewinningedge.chippily.com/OakHillGirlsBasketball/?action=viewall>.

Crossroad League AOTW

By Seth Mikel

JACKSON, Mich. – The Crossroads League Athletes of the Week were announced on Monday, recognizing the league's top individual performances from October 12 through 18. Sports Information Directors from the league institutions nominate student-athletes for the awards and vote on each week's winners.

Women's Volleyball Attacker of the Week Shae Williams, Indiana Wesleyan Williams powered No. 16 Indiana Wesleyan to a trio of victories, averaging 5.0 kills per set on a .346 percentage. The sophomore had

at least 14 kills and a .333 percentage in all three matches, while also piling up nine total blocks on the week.

Women's Volleyball Setter of the Week Margo Hernandez, Taylor Hernandez turned in a pair of solid showings for No. 12 Taylor in its sweeps of Saint Francis and No. 13 Gace. The senior setter averaged 11.2 assists, 1.7 digs, 0.8 aces, 0.8 kills and 0.5 blocks per set for the Trojans in the two wins.

Women's Volleyball Defender of the Week Reagan Owens, Grace Owens produced 47 digs for No. 13 Grace in its two matches, piling up 17 in a five-set win over Spring Arbor and

30 in a three-set loss to No. 12 Taylor. Owens averaged 5.9 digs per set in the two outings.

Men's Soccer Offensive Player of the Week Felipe Van Dijk, Bethel Van Dijk led No. 23 Bethel to wins over Marian and Huntington with a total of three goals in the two contests. The freshman scored twice and netted the game-winner in a 3-2 win over MU, before adding another strike in a 2-0 win against HU.

Men's Soccer Defensive Player of the Week Brayden Pierson, Mount Vernon Nazarene

High School Football

Golden Eagles defeat Seeger

Staff Report

CONVERSE — Oak Hil defeated Seeger 49-21 in the first round of the sectional on Friday, Oct. 23. The Golden Eagles thrived offensively throughout the postseason matchup. Senior fullback Dylan Archer paced Oak Hill on the ground, rushing 21 times for 247 yards and four touchdowns. Following Archer, senior quarterback Jett Ott took nine carries for 121 yards and two touchdowns. Aiding Oak Hill's offensive attack through the air, senior wide receiver Meyer

Middlesworth hauled in two receptions for 43 yards and one touchdown. Defensively, Oak Hill was led by Gage Pearce, who tallied 11 tackles, one sack and three tackles for loss. Following Pearce, Garrett Wyrick posted nine tackles and a recovered fumble for the Golden Eagles. Supplying a turnover for Oak Hill, Cullen Lainhart recorded an interception. Oak Hill is scheduled to host Delphi in the second round of the sectional at 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 30.



Marion boys' basketball season tickets to go on sale

Staff Report

MARION — Marion boys' basketball season tickets will go on sale on Monday, Nov. 2 and Tuesday, November 3 for Marion High School Athletic Booster Members. Season ticket holders from 2025-2026 may purchase their tickets on Wednesday, Nov. 4 through Friday, Nov. 13. The remaining tickets will be on sale for the general public beginning on Monday, Nov. 16. The Marion High School ticket office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. Season tickets are \$60. That's a \$10 savings off of the regular price at the gate for all 10 home games.

Regular season single-game tickets are \$7. Giant passes will not allow you entry to a boys' basketball game, you must come to the Marion High School Athletic Office with your Giant Pass and pick up your season tickets. To purchase boys' basketball season tickets or a Giant Pass, come to Gate 10 on the east side of the Bill Green Athletic Arena at Marion High School, 750 W. 26th St. After arriving, push the call button to gain entry into the building. Boys' basketball parking passes (East Parking Lot) are available while they last for \$25. Marion students in grades 9-12 are admitted free with a valid MCS Student ID.



The Oak Hill volleyball team captured a sectional championship on Saturday, Oct. 24.

photos courtesy of Oak Hill High School

Robotics Team Open House

By Aidan Whiteman, student mentor

“We are like one big family. When we want to have real conversations, we can. You don’t have to hold back with anyone—you can be yourself and don’t have to hide who you are or who you want to become.” – Kierstyn, a sixth year woodworking and media student.

We invite you to visit our “family” and consider becoming a member at our open house on October 29th between 7-9 pm. We are Team 1720 PhyXTGears, an award winning, high-school level, community-based FIRST Robotics Competition team. FIRST® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is an international organization that designs accessible, innovative programs that motivate young people to pursue education and career opportunities in STEM, while building self-confidence, knowledge, and life skills.



Our robot, Nomad, in action at the Indiana Robotics Invitational.

“Three years ago it was a God-send to find this [robotics] community. The mentors meet the students where they’re

at and instruct them to the next level.” – Diana, a parent.

This year, our team consistently ranked in the top third of teams

at both of our district competitions and at the Indiana State Championship too! These achievements earned us the honor to compete at the World’s Championship this year.

Talk with our students about their experience working as a team. See Nomad, this year’s robot, in action and learn about how our students designed and created Nomad. Hear about our goals and how our team improves year after year. See if our team may be a good fit for you or someone you know.

“I love the hands-on learning, that all the work is done by the students, and

how supportive and encouraging everyone is. I want to pass on what I have learned to new students and help them feel at home as quickly as possible.” – Jeffery Jr, a mechanical team alumni

Although we’re a high school team, we are also open to accepting “motivated” middle schoolers from any area school, including home schools. This event is open to the public, welcoming potential mentors, new students, and anyone else in our community that is interested in learning more about the program.

Whether you’re interested in engineering,

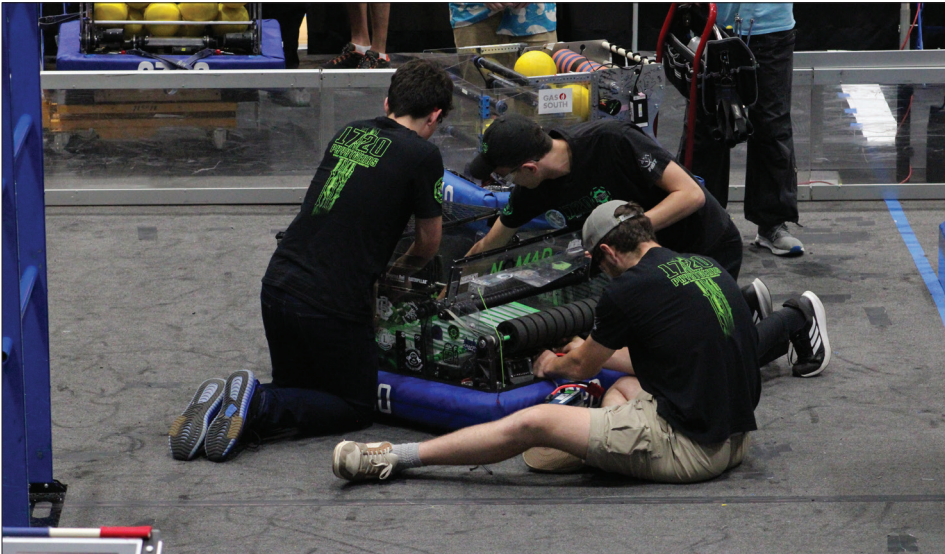
programming, media, CAD modeling, etc, there’s a place for you! No experience is needed for students, just a willingness to learn! We’re also seeking adults who want to share their skills by mentoring our enthusiastic students, alongside our returning mentors. Additionally, we are looking to partner with businesses that want to help us cultivate excitement, understanding, and skills in the fields of STEM.

“I love how the students are learning from mentors who have impressive knowledge and understanding of the various parts of building and programming the robot. Besides any direct instruction I receive, I also look out for teaching/instruction opportunities between other students and mentors and find a way to join in.” – Isaiah, a fourth year programming student

PhyXTGears is excited to share this opportunity with our community. Stop by and explore, ask questions, meet the team, and see where robotics can take you!

Come meet the team that went all the way to the FIRST World Championship in Houston, TX, at our shop at 625 Massachusetts Ave, Matthews, IN on Thursday, October 29th, 2026 between 7:00-9:00 PM.

For more information, scan the QR code, visit our FB page, or email us at PhyXTGears@gmail.com.



Our pit crew making on-field repairs during a competition.

REGIONAL CHURCHES DIRECTORY

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<https://www.libertyfamily.org>
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Sunday Evening - @ 6:00 PM
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Converse, IN 46919
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Second Hour service (contemporary) @ 10:15am

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200 West Delphi Pike
Sweetser, IN 46987
www.sweetserwesleyan.org
Sunday Morning 10 am
Back Creek Friends – 10:30 a.m., Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.

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

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

a.m. Sunday evening and Wednesday evening 5:00 p.m.

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

Fairmount Wesleyan – 9:30 a.m.
Fairmount United Methodist – 9:30 a.m.

Fowlerton United Methodist – 10:45 a.m.
Grant Church (Global Methodist)
11018 S 300 E Fairmount 9:00 a.m.

Jones Chapel – 10:30 a.m., Sunday School – 9 a.m.
MorningStar Ministries, 11:00 a.m. (Jonesboro)

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church – 9 a.m. (Hartford City)

One of Ten Ministries and Church – 10:30 a.m.
Pilgrim Holiness – 6 p.m.

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

Westview Wesleyan, 11 a.m. (Jonesboro)
Women of Hope Bible Study – Tuesday – 10 a.m. (Located at One of Ten on SR 26 in Fairmount. Open to all women in Grant County)

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

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

Tribute Quartet with Scott Brand in concert November 7

Epworth Church, 105 W 8th St, Matthews, Indiana is pleased to announce the Tribute Quartet with Scott Brand in concert on Saturday, November 7, 2026! New earlier Saturday start time for 2026 - Doors open at 5 PM, Concert starts at 6 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/tribute or call/text 765-667-0842.

Since 2006, multi-award winning and multi-Dove Award nominated recording artist Tribute Quartet has become one of the country’s most dynamic, beloved and sought after male quartets in all of gospel music. Gary Casto (lead), Josh Singletary (baritone), Gus Gaches (tenor), and Ian Owens (bass) have proven to possess a combination of musical talent, warm and engaging personalities, and a focus that has kept them on the path to continued success since their inception.

In an ever-changing musical climate, Tribute has remained steadfast in their goal to make music that is both timely and relevant to the current musical scene and their fan



base while propelling their mission to share the Hope of the Gospel. With a career that has already spanned the U.S., as well as several foreign countries, Tribute continues to shine a Light into a world in need of truth, hope, love and healing.

With several awards and number 1 songs to their credit, Tribute’s music continues to inspire and encourage generations of believers. With their passion for this music and the message it brings, this team is dedicated to a quality presentation of communication through the art of gospel quartet music. Fans, peers, and industry insiders agree Tribute brings a breath of fresh air to Gospel Music.

Scott Brand hails from Lineville, Alabama, where he started singing at the age of 6 years old.

Scott has traveled full time singing lead previously for the multi award winning Hall of Fame quartet from Gadsden, AL - Gold City Quartet and multi award winning mixed quartet from Nashville, Tn - The Perrys, In addition to solo work, he currently sings lead for the Wills Brothers Quartet. He currently lives in Roanoke, AL with his wife Caitlin

and their 10 year old daughter Brelyn.

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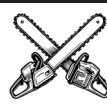
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Robert at 815-291-6856. (tfn)

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2007 Geringhoff Rotadisc, 8 row head, w/ rotacone corn savers, this head is very good and had very little use, needs no work on it before fall season, always shedded \$29,000 815-761-2531. (tfn)

2006 Mustang. 634 telehandler, 6,000 lb cap., 34ft lift, 2,462 hours. foam tires. JD Diesel Engine. Very good condition. \$25k OBO, 812-852-4594 Osgood, IN (tfn)

BUSINESS FOR SALE

Saw Mill Business for sale. Located in Tazwell, IN. \$250,000 OBO Call Becky Higgins/Remax 812-267-6264 (tfn)

Children's clothing resale business, \$7,500. includes 5000 items. 235 East Main Street. Gas City, Indiana . Donna 510-599-9010

AUTOS FOR SALE

2015 Nissan Frontier SV pickup full, 4-door, loaded and showroom new. 12,200 miles. Call 812-482-6304. If no answer, leave message.

2-25-22 tfn

2013 RED SMART FOUR TWO CONVERTIBLE, 43,000 miles, power steering, power breaks, cruise control, tack, garage kept, stored in winter, 35-40 mpg.Very clean, well kept car! Comes with car cover. This car won 1st Place in open stock competition at Heartland Worship Center Car Show in 2014. \$9,500. Call 270-554-7367, leave message if no answer. (tfn)

2000 DODGE RAM 2500 SERIES, V8 Magnum SLT, 17" NEW Tires, Body Lift Kit, Cold Air, 103,000 miles \$6500.00 - 812-549-5216 or 812-309-2214.

2004 STERLING tri-axle dump truck, 8LL transmission, 16.5 ft. aluminum bed, 849,000 miles, great shape, mechanically sound, one owner, professionally maintained. Mid 30's Call 812-639-1078 (tfn)

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2006 YAMAHA ROADLINER 1900 w/accessories. 29,000 miles and 2,000 miles on the tires. Drag pipes and Mustang seats. \$5,500 call 812-686-1774.

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RETIREMENT AUCTION – BOATS, MOTORS, EQUIPMENT & MORE
After 50 years in business, Don and Sharon are retiring and selling their boat shop inventory, equipment and personal property. This is a partial listing.

BOATS: Skeeter Sportfisherman; Winner 1850CC center console with Honda 130 hp; 2001 Odyssey 180 DS bass boat; 1992 Forrester pontoon; 1993 Bayliner Capri; 1986 Bayliner 2150 with Volvo inboard; StarCraft Jon boat and two aluminum canoes. Several trailers included.

BOAT MOTORS: Large selection of outboard motors, including Mercury, Johnson, Evinrude, Honda, Yamaha, Nissan, Mariner, Force and Tohatsu, plus inboard engines and lower units.

EQUIPMENT & PRECISION TOOLS: Industrial lathes and milling machines, electric forklift, diesel air compressor, pallet mover, floor scrubber, boat lifts and dollies, precision marine tools, engine testers, diagnostic equipment and shop cabinets, America Pace Maker Lathe 16x30, Milwaukee No. 2 Standard Plain Kearney & Trecker, Honda HS50 snow blower in the box, Big Joe electric forklift, Tennant 5' ride-on propane floor scrubber, 22x25 carport.

TRAILERS & VEHICLES: 2016 Cenergy 24-foot car hauler; 16-foot enclosed trailer; 32-foot boat trailer; two 20-foot flatbed trailers; 1997 Chevrolet 3500 HD flatbed truck; 1983 Airstream camper.

TRACTORS: Zetor 9741 Forterra 100-hp cab tractor with loader and bucket; Zetor 5211 cab tractor; Clark forklift; King Kutter mowers and blades.

BOAT PARTS & SUPPLIES: Extensive inventory of OEM marine parts and manuals, propellers, fuel tanks, gauges, cables, bearings, trailer parts, life jackets, ropes, lubricants, chemicals, signs and accessories.

REAL ESTATE: Two tracts offered, Parcel ID 07-07-14-400-012. 2025 property taxes: \$3,577.10, prorated at closing. Terms: 5% down on sale day, balance due upon delivery of merchantable title.



AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: After five decades in business, the owners are selling their boat shop and related inventory. This is only a partial listing.

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Area Deaths

Southern and East Central Indiana

Michael M. “Mike” Witte

Michael M. “Mike” Witte, age 88, of Jasper, Indiana, passed away with family by his side at 12:45 a.m. on Thursday, October 1, 2026, at Scenic Hills at the Monastery. A Memorial Mass for Michael M. Witte was held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, October 19, 2026, at St. Joseph Catholic Church. The American Legion Post #147 performed military rites at the church. An interment will be held at a later date.

Janet L. Judd

Janet L. Judd, age 63, of Jasper, Indiana, went to be with the Lord surrounded by family at 12:49 a.m. on Saturday, October 17, 2026, at Deaconess Memorial Medical Center in Jasper, Indiana. A funeral service for Janet L. Judd will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, October 23, 2026, at Redemption Christian Church in Jasper, Indiana, with burial to follow in Shiloh Cemetery in Jasper.

Eugene “Gene” L. Kempf

Eugene “Gene” Leo Kempf was born on Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 1938, to William and Veronica (Stemle) Kempf. He passed away on October 15, 2026, after five brave and determined months living with lymphoma. A Mass of Christian Burial for Eugene “Gene” Leo Kempf will be held at 11:00 a.m. EST on Friday, October 23, 2026, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Schnellville, Indiana, with burial to follow in the church cemetery. A visitation will be held from 9:00 a.m. EST until the 11:00 a.m. EST Mass time at the church on Friday. Not only did Gene grow up in this parish, but his father helped build the church in the early 1900’s.

Lee J. Welp

Lee J. Welp, age 95, of Schnellville, Indiana, passed away surrounded by family at 6:09 p.m. on Wednesday, October 14, 2026, at Scenic Hills at the Monastery in Ferdinand, Indiana. A Mass of Christian Burial for Lee J. Welp was held at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 22, 2026, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Schnellville, Indiana, with burial to follow in the church cemetery.

Jeremy K. Lee

Jeremy K. Lee, age 56, of Jasper, Indiana, passed away surrounded by family at 10:34 a.m. on Wednesday, October 14, 2026, at Deaconess Memorial Hospital in Jasper, Indiana, after a courageous battle with cancer. A Mass of

Christian Burial for Jeremy K. Lee will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, October 26, 2026, at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Jasper, Indiana, with burial to follow in Fairview Cemetery in Jasper. A visitation will be held from 12:00 p.m. (noon) until 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 25, 2026, at the Becher-Kluesner Downtown Chapel in Jasper, Indiana.

Beatrice “Bea” E. Knies

Beatrice E. “Bea” Knies, age 94, of Celestine, Indiana, passed away surrounded by family at 5:40 p.m. on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at St. Charles Health Campus in Jasper, Indiana. A Mass of Christian Burial for Beatrice E. Knies was held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 21, 2026, at St. Celestine Catholic Church in Celestine, Indiana, with burial to follow in the church cemetery.

George B. Hasenour

George B. Hasenour, age 79, of Dubois, Indiana, passed away at 2:29 a.m. on Monday, October 12, 2026, at Deaconess Midtown Hospital in Evansville, Indiana. A Mass of Christian Burial for George B. Hasenour was held at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at St. Raphael’s Catholic Church in Dubois, Indiana, with burial to follow in the church cemetery. The American Legion Post #147 conducted military graveside rites.

Edna May Young

Edna May Young, 94, passed peacefully on October 12, 2026, with her daughter, Lisa and son-in-law, Joe by her side. Services were held at 11:00 AM CDT on Monday October 19, 2026, at Huber Funeral Home, Tell City Chapel with Paul Alvey officiating. Burial followed in New Cliff Cemetery.

Cheryl L. Ranger

Cheryl L. Ranger, age 77, of Dale, passed away at 8:00 a.m., on Friday, October 16, 2026, at her home surrounded by family. Funeral services for Cheryl L. Ranger will be held at 10:00 a.m., C.D.T., on Saturday, October 24, 2026, at Gentryville Methodist Church in Gentryville. Burial will follow at Dale Cemetery. Pastor Charlotte Jenkins will officiate the service. Visitation will be held from 2:00-8:00 p.m., C.D.T., on Friday, October 23, 2026, at Rainey Funeral Home in Dale; and at the church one hour prior to the service. Condolences may be shared online at: www.raineyfuneralhome.com.

Joy Ann Kendall

Joy Ann Kendall, age 94, of Dale, passed away peacefully at 5:30 p.m., on Wednesday, October 14, 2026, at Ascension St. Vincent Hospital in Evansville with her children by her side. Funeral services for Joy Ann Kendall will be held at 10:00 a.m., C.D.T., on Friday, October 23, 2026, at Rainey Funeral Home in Dale. Burial will follow at the Dale Cemetery. Pastor MikeTurner will officiate the service.

Patricia N. Schurz

Patricia “Patty” N. Schurz, age 80, of Holland, passed away on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at her home. A Celebration of Life was held on Saturday, October 17, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., E.D.T., at Christ Community Church in Huntingburg. Pastor Jan Miller will officiate. Rainey Funeral Home in Dale has been entrusted with handling arrangements.

Clifford D. Blunt, Sr.

Clifford Doyle Blunt, Sr., 82, Russiaville, passed away at 6:17 am on Wednesday, October 14, 2026, at Ascension St. Vincent Kokomo in Kokomo. A graveside service to celebrate Clifford’s life was held on Monday, Oct. 19th at 12:00 noon with Bruce Hawkins officiating at Marion IOOF Cemetery 2225 S. Lincoln Blvd., Marion, IN. Arrangements have been entrusted to Needham-Storrey-Wampner Funeral & Cremation Service, North Chapel 1341 N. Baldwin Ave., Marion, IN.

Anna Biddle

Anna L. Biddle, 79, of Marion, passed away at 11:04 a.m. on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, in Marion. The family received visitors from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 15, 2026, at Marion Church of the Brethren, 2302 S. Geneva Ave., Marion, IN. Immediately following the time of visitation, a service to celebrate Anna’s life was held at 1:30 p.m. with Rev. Kay Theel officiating. Burial took place at Grant Memorial Park.

Rosalie B. Fisher

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Rosalie B. Fisher, who departed this life on October 13, 2026, just days shy of her 96th birthday. The funeral services for Rosalie B. Fisher was held on Monday, October 19, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at the Jones-Smith Chapel of Armes-Hunt Life Celebration Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 259 North Main Street, Upland, Indiana 46989, with Rev. Ginny Soultz officiating. Burial took place at Jefferson Cemetery, located in Upland, Indiana.

Nancy N. Cole

Nancy N. Cole, 82, died October 13, 2026, in Marion, Indiana. The service for Nancy was held at 11am, Tuesday, October 20, 2026 in Marion National Cemetery, 1700 East 38th Street, Marion, Indiana.

Pamela Sue Artrip

Pamela S. Bilbrey-Artrip, 64, passed away peacefully on Tuesday morning, October 13, 2026, surrounded by the love of her family, following a courageous, extended battle with cancer. In accordance with Pam’s wishes, no memorial services will be held. Her family asks that you celebrate her memory by cheering on her Colts or sharing a favorite story of times spent together.

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

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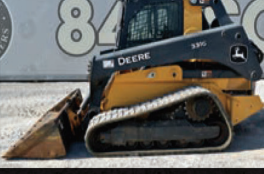






















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Red Ribbon Week 2026 Encourages Youth to Make Healthy, Drug-Free Choices

Red Ribbon Week 2026 will bring schools, families and communities together to promote healthy lifestyles, drug prevention and positive choices among young people. Observed annually from October 23 through October 31, the national campaign encourages students to understand the importance of making decisions that support their health, safety and future success.

The 2026 observance continues a longstanding tradition of raising awareness about substance use prevention and encouraging young people to remain drug-free. Schools and community organizations use the week to share prevention messages, promote healthy habits and remind students that the choices they make today can influence their opportunities tomorrow.

This year’s national theme, “Make a Difference. Be a Hero. Stay Drug Free,” emphasizes that every young person can make a positive difference through healthy decisions. The theme encourages students to recognize that being a hero does not require extraordinary actions; it can begin with standing firm against peer pressure, supporting friends in making safe choices and setting a positive example for others. The message also highlights the importance of preventing substance misuse, including the dangers associated with fentanyl and counterfeit pills.

Red Ribbon Week grew out of the memory of Enrique “Kiki” Camarena, a

RED RIBBON WEEK



Drug Enforcement Administration special agent who was killed in 1985 while working to combat drug trafficking. In his memory, friends and supporters began wearing red ribbons as a symbol of their commitment to preventing drug use. The movement expanded nationwide, eventually becoming the annual Red Ribbon Week campaign.

Today, the red ribbon serves as a reminder that prevention begins with education, positive relationships and community involvement. Schools often recognize the week through classroom activities, special dress-up days, posters, assemblies and student pledges. These activities provide opportunities for children and teenagers to discuss peer pressure, practice making responsible decisions and learn how to seek help from trusted adults.

Parents and caregivers also play

an important role in prevention. Open conversations about health, safety and the risks associated with substance use can help young people feel comfortable asking questions and discussing difficult situations. Adults can reinforce these lessons by setting positive examples, encouraging participation in school and community activities, and maintaining supportive relationships with their children.

Communities can support the campaign by sharing educational information, displaying red ribbons and encouraging local organizations to participate. Teachers, counselors, healthcare professionals, law enforcement officers and youth leaders can work together to deliver consistent prevention messages.

Red Ribbon Week is more than a single week of activities. Its message is intended to continue throughout the year, reminding young people that they have the ability to make choices that protect their well-being and help them reach their goals.

As schools and communities recognize Red Ribbon Week 2026, the campaign offers an opportunity to renew a shared commitment to education, prevention and the next generation. By working together, adults and young people can help build safer, healthier communities where children are encouraged to make positive choices and pursue bright futures.



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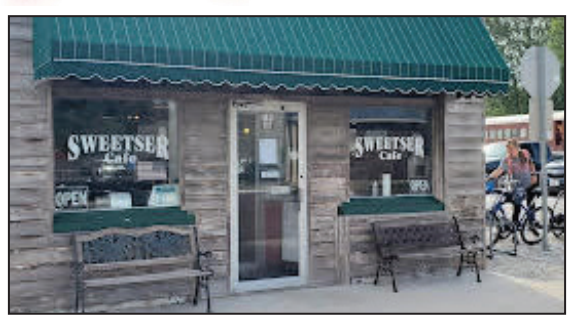
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Red Ribbon Week

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