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Thursday, December 11, 2025 IN GOD WE TRUST WWW.KY-NEWS.COM



santaclausind.org photo

Christmas season Masses will be livestreamed from Saint Meinrad Archabbey Church

With the holiday season approaching, all are welcome to pray with the Benedictine monks. Seating in the Archabbey Church is limited; however, the Christmas services will be livestreamed at www.saintmeinrad.org/live.
Here is the schedule of services. All times are Central Time.
Christmas Eve,

Wednesday, December 24: Wednesday morning Mass will be at 7:30 a.m., Vespers will begin at 5 p.m., and Christmas Eve Mass will be celebrated at 10 p.m.
Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25: Mass on Christmas Day will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m., and Vespers at 5 p.m.
Friday-Wednesday, December 26-31: Mass

will be celebrated at 9:30 a.m., with Vespers at 5 p.m.
New Year's Day, Thursday, January 1: Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, will begin at 9:30 a.m., with Vespers at 5 p.m.
Epiphany of the Lord, Sunday, January 4: Mass will begin at 9:30 a.m., with Vespers at 5 p.m.

Mass and Vespers are livestreamed each day in the Archabbey Church at 7:30 a.m. Monday through Saturday and at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays and feast days. Vespers is livestreamed each day at 5 p.m.
For more information, call the Saint Meinrad switchboard at 812-357-6611.



Introducing the new Dubois County Chamber website and enhanced member directory

By Angie Sanchez-Hostetter

My name is Angie Sanchez-Hostetter, and I am honored to serve as the new Director of the Dubois County Chamber of Commerce. Having lived, worked, and raised my family here, I have always believed in—and truly loved—Dubois County. This community is built on hard work, innovation, and heart, and I am excited to help take the Chamber to the next level as we support and elevate the businesses that make our county thrive.

Each week in this article, I'll be sharing updates on upcoming events, exciting news from our chamber members, and helpful tips and tricks for local businesses. My goal is to keep our community informed, engaged, and connected as we continue growing together.

We're starting off with something big: the launch of our brand-new Dubois County Chamber of Commerce website. Designed in partnership with Indigo Webservices, the redesigned site offers a clean, modern look and improved



navigation to better serve our members and the community. A major highlight of the new website is our enhanced, fully customizable Member Directory powered by Membee. Members can now personalize their profiles with updated business information, photos, social media links, descriptions, and more. This upgrade was created with one goal in mind—helping our members market themselves more effectively. By giving businesses greater control over their listings, directory becomes a more powerful tool for visibility, customer engagement, and community connection.

Look for Angie's column inside beginning next week.

Indiana House approves new Republican-drawn congressional map

By OAN Staff
Katherine Mosack

INDIANAPOLIS, IN — Indiana state House Republicans have passed a new congressional map that would add two opportunities for the GOP to pick up seats ahead of the 2026 elections. Republicans introduced the new map draft on Monday, and it was approved by a 57-41 vote. The map may favor Republicans in all nine of the state's congressional districts, weakening the Democrats' hold on the 1st Congressional District, represented by Representative Frank Mrvan (D-Ind.), and the 7th Congressional District, represented by Representative André Carson (D-Ind.). The map would split the left-leaning city of

Indianapolis into several districts and also divide the state's Democratic-leaning northwestern region into two districts. The GOP currently holds the remaining seven districts in Indiana. Democrat representatives in the state have balked at the new map, saying it would dilute the voting power of Black Hoosiers — the African American citizens of Indiana. Carson, whose district includes Indianapolis and has represented the area for the past 17 years, is the state's only Black member of Congress, and could now lose his seat. "What we're doing today with this proposed legislation is taking away the rights of Black and brown people in Indiana," said state Representative Greg Porter, who

represents Indianapolis. "This is a direct attack on the system, but more importantly, it's a blatant tell that you don't care what Hoosiers want," said state House Minority Leader Phil GiaQuinta (D-Ind.). Republican lawmakers have also warned that the new map may not garner enough support in the Indiana state Senate to fully pass. Representative Ben Smaltz (R-Ind.), who introduced the legislation, said that it was drawn by the National Republican Redistricting Trust, the group that also drew the map in Texas that was recently approved by the Supreme Court. "While the census anchors the process, nothing in the law prevents a legislature from revisiting maps when circumstances

demand it," he said on Friday in defense of the House-approved districts. President Donald Trump congratulated Indiana's Republican lawmakers for the vote in a Truth Social post on Friday. "It was my Honor to win Indiana six times, including Primaries, in 2016, 2020, and 2024, and this new Map would give the incredible people of Indiana the opportunity to elect TWO additional Republicans in the 2026 Midterm Elections. The Indiana Senate must now pass this Map, AS IS, and get it to Governor Mike Braun's desk, ASAP, to deliver a gigantic Victory for Republicans in the 'Hoosier State,' and across the Country," Trump said, while encouraging state Senators to "make the right decision."



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VICTORIOUS

Living...in a troubled world

Christmas:

the wild holiday that was tamed

By Teresa LeNeave
leneave2@comcast.net

Did you know that there was a period of history when Christmas was outlawed because the people were too wild in their celebrating? According to history, in 1643, people in England partied and celebrated at Christmas so much that the holiday became too rowdy to allow.

We often complain about the commercialization of Christmas and that it has “lost its meaning”, but before we moan its demise we might be encouraged to know Christmas has only been a “Christian holiday” for a little over 200 years. According to Ace Collins, author of *Stories Behind the Great Traditions of Christmas*, in most of the world, especially in England and America, Christmas was not a time of worship, prayer, and reflection; rather, it was a day set aside

to sing bawdy songs, drink rum, break into homes and riot in the streets. Collins described Christmas as a “combination holiday of Mardi Gras and Halloween”.



Collins said, “Those who attended church did so in wild costumes, and gambling was common during the services.” Christians decided to recapture the holiday.

Our present day celebration in America is a

combination of several customs and traditions that come from different European countries. (The World Book Encyclopedia gives an in-depth description

of these.) Christians knew God was not against celebration, but He wanted celebration toward Him and Him alone. As far back as history is recorded, festivals and celebrations were held. In the Old Testament, even God initiated days of

feasting. For example, Biblical celebrations such as the one in Esther 9:22 are approved by God. “As the days wherein the Jews rested from

their enemies, and the month which was turned unto them from sorrow to joy, and from mourning into a good day that they should make them days of feasting and joy, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor.”

While the Americans and the English celebrated Christmas by being anything but holy, the Germans eventually evolved Christmas into their second

most holy day of the year followed only by Easter. While the first “good” Christmas was not about Christ birth, it had some very wonderful and lasting points that’s influenced the celebration to this day. The first Christmas, as we know it, was

about family. The season has evolved into what we know as a day of giving and receiving gifts; a day to remind the world of Jesus’ birth; a day to spend with family and friends that often are only seen once a year. It has truly become a ‘Christian Holiday’. So is Christmas bad? No. It’s still the most wonderful time of the year because it’s the one time of year that most people are thinking not only of themselves, but others. But, never forget: the ONLY reason for Christmas is celebrating Christ and his arrival, in the flesh, here on earth. He probably wasn’t born in December, but it’s still a good time to remind ourselves, and the world, that Christmas is about Jesus and family. Whatever anyone thinks of Christmas, it should be a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus who was born to change the world ... and nobody can deny He changed it! That’s reason to celebrate.

A divided heart lives in denial and deception

By Billy Holland

I’m reminded again of the quote from Scott Fitzgerald, “You do not write because you want to say something; you write because you have something to say.” I can relate to those who are called to express the burdens within their hearts and thankful for the opportunity to share mine. These freedoms may not always be with us as the world is becoming aggressively opposed to God and His disciples. I write for many secular publications around the country and I’m often warned about toning it down with Jesus as it might offend those who disagree. I’m a editor and contributor for a couple of magazines, and was told the other day that my Christmas article was not family friendly. Too much Jesus. I often wonder if compromising would be

better than having no platform at all, but at what point do we draw the line? The Living on Purpose column is recognized as a source of encouragement and faith, nevertheless, as a watchman I must never ignore His warnings. Pastors and teachers will agree it’s easier to talk about doctrines and Biblical history, but it’s a solemn responsibility and personal sacrifice to deliver a specific and urgent message from God Himself. In the Bible when He would choose a servant that He could trust, often their obedience brought persecution and for some, it cost them their lives. This is happening right now. I’m referring to those few individuals that are not afraid to speak divine truth about sin even if they are silenced with force. The religious “fluff” will continue

adapting and ignoring as a part of their self-preservation, but sadly this fear of offending is causing many churches to reconsider their stand against sin as a solution to maintaining financial success. Along with most modern assemblies reinventing themselves, we notice a decline in the promotion of prayer. Why is this? Because the masses would rather be cozy and comfortable, to be entertained, and listen to short “feel good” devotions that are non-threatening. Spiritual warfare and serious prayer does not fit into this format, even though intercession generates the power of the Holy Spirit’s presence in the services and increases discernment, anointing, and maturity. When prayer was removed from the public education system, the

enemy won a major battle, but why do we not hear more about how the absence of a praying church has caused a spiritually powerless nation? One reason is the average religious person only calls for prayer is when they need something. If prayer was a top priority of Christians, it would change the world. How often are we desperate for God? Do we anticipate Him whispering for us to go somewhere private and seek Him? I realize I talk about surrendering our will all the time, but I do not apologize as it is the key to accomplishing His. Our free will is the command center within the human experience that has everything to do with our spiritual connection with our Creator. Until the word of God convicts our will and mind, and then

we obey His demands, how can we become transformed into His image? If we choose to fill our minds with the distractions of the world, we will not be convicted to pray or have a passion to walk in the awareness of His presence. So, why is the reverential fear of the Lord hardly mentioned anymore? Because the masses do not want to hear that lukewarmness is a result of being filled with more of the world than the Holy Spirit. We are what we think and when we refuse to protect our conscience, it becomes contaminated. When pleasure becomes more important than pleasing God, our dirty heart separates us from Him. However, if we allow God to purify us with His refining fire, there is no way we can continue being a hypocritical facade. We have two choices:

continue pledging allegiance to the darkness, or become a living sacrifice for Christ. We can’t love two masters at the same time, and being neutral is automatically serving the darkness. Beyond the motivational talks and inspirational stories, we must own all aspects of truth, we must demonstrate what we confess. If we really want to be holy, the only person stopping us is us. We’ve heard about being born-again, but when a person accepts Christ as their Savior and Lord, they no longer live for themselves. All control has been given over to their new Master, and to continue living exactly the same “after” we make our holy vow to Jesus is a fraud, denial, and a deception. To learn more about the Christian life visit billyhollandministries.com

Christmas Interruptions

By Brandon Bramlett
Pastor - Bandana Baptist Church

Joseph’s heart was lacerated when he discovered that his wife-to-be was pregnant. The woman he loved had apparently committed adultery. How else could you explain this pregnancy before their marriage? Therefore, he resolved to end their betrothal, albeit quietly, because he didn’t want to

cause a public ruckus: “And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream” (Matthew 1:19-20a).” The Christmas story is now in jeopardy. All hopes of a Messiah will be dashed if Joseph goes through with the divorce.

Joseph was crucial for the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies about Christ descending from David’s royal lineage (2 Sam. 7:12-16; Isaiah 11:1; Jer. 23:5-6). If Joseph divorces Mary, then Jesus will never inherit all the rights and privileges of being in David’s family. God’s plan had come to an abrupt end—or so it seemed. And that is when God sovereignly

stepped in and stopped him. The Lord intervened by sending an angel to Joseph in his sleep to explain the confounding situation and assure him that the child conceived in her was “from the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 1:20b). God’s plan was never in peril. The Lord did not panic. Joseph’s confusion was merely another page in God’s pre-orchestrated novel of events. And He

supernaturally intervened to bring it to fulfillment. The Lord God still does this today. God may not send an angel when He wants to get you back on course, but He will interrupt your life and intervene in unexpected (and possibly unwanted) ways to accomplish His perfect purposes. Who knows how many times God has already done so in your life? Joseph would tell you

to have faith in the good and sovereign Lord, trusting that He knows what He is doing. He does what He pleases and perfectly carries out His plan for His people (Psalm 115:3; Romans 8:28). Embrace interruptions and obstacles. They are just another page in your pre-written story.



Linus H. Tretter

CELESTINE — Linus H. Tretter, age 85, of Celestine, Indiana, passed away at 3:45 a.m. on Sunday, December 7, 2025, at Scenic Hills at the Monastery in Ferdinand, Indiana.

A Mass of Christian Burial for Linus Tretter will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, December 12, 2025, at St. Celestine Catholic Church in Celestine, Indiana, with burial to follow in the church cemetery.

A visitation will be held from 2:00-7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 11, 2025, at the Becher-Kluesner Downtown Chapel in Jasper, Indiana, and one hour before services from 9:00-10:00 a.m. on Friday at the church. The parish will pray a rosary at 1:30 p.m. at the funeral home on Thursday.

Steven P. Hauser

SCHNELLVILLE — Steven Patrick Hauser, 73, of Schnellville, Indiana, passed away at his home on Saturday, December 6, 2025

A Celebration of Life Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, in Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Schnellville, Indiana, with burial to follow in the church cemetery.

Rita M. Dall

JASPER — Rita M. Dall, age 93, of Jasper, Indiana, passed away at 2:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 4, 2025, at St. Charles Health Campus in Jasper, Indiana.

A Mass of Christian Burial for Rita M. Dall was held at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at St. Mary Catholic Church in Ireland with burial to follow in the church cemetery.

George D. Elliott

JASPER — George Dave Elliott, age 88, of Jasper, Indiana, passed away at 3:40 p.m. on Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at St Charles Health Campus in Jasper, Indiana.

A service for George D. Elliott was held at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at the Becher Kluesner North Chapel in Jasper, with burial to follow at Shiloh Cemetery in Jasper.

Winfield Thomas

Winfield S. Thomas, 90, passed away at his home on December 7, 2025, surrounded by his family.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 AM CST on Thursday, December 11, 2025, at New Hope Baptist Church in Newtonville with

burial in the church cemetery. Brother Brian Bailey will officiate.

Visitation will bel held on Wednesday from 2:00-7:00 PM CST at Huber Funeral Home, Tell City Chapel and on Thursday from 9:00 AM until service time at the church.

Zach Taylor

Zachary Nolan Taylor, 32, lost his battle with cancer on December 4, 2025, at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, TN.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 AM CST on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at Huber Funeral Home, Tell City Chapel. Burial will follow in Greenwood Cemetery.

Missie McManaway

TELL CITY — Melissa J. McManaway, 65, passed away on December 3, 2025, at her home. Funeral services were private. Huber Funeral Home, Tell City Chapel, assisted her family with arrangements.

Robert M. Blanckaert

SANTA CLAUS — Robert M. Blanckaert, age 67, of Santa Claus, passed away at 9:25 a.m., Thursday, December 4, 2025, at Willowdale Village in Dale.

Rainey Funeral Home in Dale were entrusted with handling the arrangements.

Stay safe; always assume you are on ‘thin ice’

Every winter, thousands of Hoosiers safely enjoy fishing, skating, hiking, or just sliding around on frozen ponds and lakes. And every year, people drown after falling through ice.

Don’t let this happen to you or anyone around you.

Indiana Conservation Officers remind Hoosiers to be careful as they begin to participate in activities such as ice fishing, ice skating, or snowmobiling. Remember to put safety first. Take caution when going on frozen lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, and retention ponds. And

watch for others who may venture out on frozen waterways and find themselves in trouble.

Similar to needing to drive differently on snowy versus clear roads, safely having fun on ice may require you to adjust from what you have done in the past. The rule of thumb is to believe all ice is thin ice unless proven otherwise.

Here are a few tips to remember when considering standing on or walking on a frozen body of water:

- Assume no ice is safe ice.
- Test the thickness of the ice with an ice

auger. At least 4 inches is recommended for ice fishing; 5 inches is recommended for snowmobiling.

- If you don’t know the thickness of the ice, don’t go on it.
- Wear a life jacket or flotation coat.
- Carry ice picks and rope gear.
- Before going on the ice, leave a note of your whereabouts with a friend or family member.
- Don’t test the thickness of the ice while alone.
- Wearing a life jacket is especially important when on ice. If you fall through, a life jacket will keep your head above



the water until help arrives.

Remember that a new coating of snow, while perhaps beautiful, can make for treacherous ice conditions. Snow can serve as insulation, causing water to freeze at a slower rate. When snow and rain freeze into ice, it is not as strong as solid, clear

ice.

Another potentially dangerous situation is when you see a pet or other animal in distress on the ice. If that happens, do not go after it. Instead, contact local emergency response personnel, who are equipped to make a rescue.

A few more tips:

Some bodies of water can appear to be frozen solid but still have thin ice in several unexpected areas.

Avoid flowing water, such as rivers and streams, when covered by a layer of ice.

Similarly, water surrounded by sand may freeze with inconsistencies in the thickness of the ice.

Underground springs, wind, waterfowl, and other animals can also keep areas of ice thin.

Enjoy the winter weather but make safety a priority.

To view all DNR news releases, please see dnr.IN.gov.

Tri Kappa Beta Zeta Chapter to host dueling pianos fundraiser Jan. 9 at Champion Lanes

WASHINGTON, Ind. — The Beta Zeta Chapter of Kappa Kappa Kappa, Inc. (Tri Kappa) will host a high-energy Dueling Pianos Fundraiser on Friday, January 9, at Champion Lanes, located at 2100 State Street in Washington.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the show begins at 7:30 p.m., with music, laughter, and audience interaction continuing until 10 p.m. A cash bar and food will be available for purchase from Champion Lanes throughout the evening.

Tickets are \$45 per person through Friday, December 12, and \$50 per person after that date. Attendees may also reserve an

entire table for an additional \$40 (tables accommodate 6–8 guests; individual tickets must be purchased for each person). Tickets can be purchased online at <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/dueling-pianos-9>.

This year’s event will feature Felix and Fingers Dueling Pianos, an interactive musical experience where two talented performers take song requests from the audience and go head-to-head in a lively, crowd-driven show that blends melody, humor, and audience participation. From classic rock and country to pop, oldies, and jazz, the evening promises

entertainment for all ages.

In true Tri Kappa spirit, all song request tips collected during the show will benefit the Beta Zeta Chapter, supporting local scholarships, charitable donations, and community projects throughout Daviess County.

“We’re thrilled to bring something so fun and unique to our community,” said Beta Zeta President Jennifer Graber. “This event is about more than great music—it’s about laughter, friendship, and coming together to support causes that strengthen Daviess County.”

Graber added her appreciation for the venue partnership:

“We’re incredibly grateful to Champion Lanes for opening their doors and helping us create an atmosphere where the community can gather, relax, and enjoy an unforgettable night of entertainment—all while supporting local giving.”

The Beta Zeta Chapter of Kappa Kappa Kappa, Inc., founded in 1915, promotes charity, culture, and education in Daviess County. With around 30 active members, the chapter supports local organizations, provides scholarships, and hosts events like this one to raise funds for community giving.

For more information, follow Tri

Kappa Washington, IN Chapter on Facebook or visit www.TriKappa.org.

About Beta Zeta Chapter of Kappa Kappa Kappa, Inc.

Founded on April 8, 1915, the Beta Zeta Chapter of Kappa Kappa Kappa, Inc. (Tri Kappa) is part of Province I of the statewide Tri Kappa organization. With approximately 30 active members, the chapter is dedicated to promoting charity, culture, and education in Daviess County and surrounding communities. Each year, the Beta Zeta Chapter contributes to numerous local causes including the Daviess County United Way, Jubilee Christmas,

Camp Illiana, Daviess Community Hospital Foundation, Carnegie Public Library, and the Daviess County Community Foundation. The chapter also provides college scholarships to local students and supports a variety of special projects, events, and initiatives.

A highlight of the chapter’s fundraising efforts is the annual Daddy Daughter Dance, which helps fund scholarships and community giving programs. For more information, visit the Beta Zeta Chapter’s Facebook page at Tri Kappa Washington, IN Chapter. To learn more about Kappa Kappa Kappa, Inc., visit www.TriKappa.org.

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FROM A PEN TO A BOAT: How local high school senior raised over \$2,000 for Youth First

By Julie Hoon
Youth First, Inc.

Eighteen-year-old high school senior Wesley never expected that starting with a simple pen would lead to a \$2,600 donation to Youth First. After launching a 72-hour challenge on his YouTube channel, he selected Youth First as the recipient of whatever funds he could raise through a creative trading mission. His effort quickly gained the attention of his family, friends, and his Youth First Mental Health Professional at Castle High School, Chasidy Lambert.

“He’s a student with a vision!” Lambert said. “I don’t know many people who could turn a pen into a boat... just by asking! I’m so proud of the growth I’ve seen in him. He’s made big steps in connecting with people and in his demeanor and responsibilities. He pushes himself to maintain a healthier mindset and form healthy relationships. Seeing him use his skills to achieve a fundraiser like this for Youth First is amazing.”

Wesley started his YouTube channel as a way to push himself beyond his social anxiety. Wanting to use the platform for something positive, he came up with the idea of trading a pen up to a high-value item, then donating the proceeds to a local nonprofit. To hold himself accountable, he set a 72-hour limit and created the challenge: “72-Hours to Trade a Pen for Charity.” With a friend filming, he committed to three days of trading, ending

with whatever item he secured at the final deadline.

On day one, Wesley made his first trade when a couple swapped his pen for a Mother’s Day decoration. That small success fueled a huge second trade: a propane grill. Although the ignitor didn’t work, the grill could still be lit manually.

Day two brought another surprising turn. An individual offered to trade a subwoofer and amplifier for the grill. By the end of the day, Wesley and his friend decided to broaden their reach, posting the available items on Facebook Marketplace and Snapchat. Their social media outreach paid off; by day three, Wesley received an offer to trade the subwoofer and amplifier for a 12-foot jon boat—a flat-bottomed, lightweight fishing boat. After securing a truck to transport it, the trade was finalized.

Later that same day, Wesley found a buyer for the boat and announced that his chosen charity was Youth First. When the buyer learned the proceeds were being donated, he increased his offer to \$1,500. Additional contributions from family and friends who followed the challenge brought Wesley’s total donation to an impressive \$2,600.

“I’ve never seen anything like this!” said Julie Hoon, Youth First’s Vice President of Marketing & Communications. “Our donors are incredible and come in all ages and stages of life, but not many can say they turned a pen into \$2,000. Wesley’s

heart is big, and I’m so impressed with his charitable mindset. I hope he motivates other young people to see how one idea can support a mission and make a substantial impact.”

When asked why he chose Youth First, Wesley explained, “Other people need this money more than me. I wanted it to go to an organization that has helped me, and that’s Youth First. I want to make sure they’re always able to help students.”

If you are inspired by Wesley’s story and would like to consider a donation to Youth First this holiday season, please visit our website at youthfirstinc.org/donate. Write “Wesley’s Story” in the comment box.

To visit Wesley’s YouTube channel, Fever-R, and watch this story, click here: [I Turned a Pen Into \\$2000 for Charity](#).

Julie Hoon is the Vice President of Marketing & Communications at Youth First, Inc., a nonprofit dedicated to strengthening youth and families. Youth First provides over 100 highly trained mental health professionals (primarily master’s level social workers), prevention programs, parent engagement coordinators, and bilingual support personnel to 130 schools across 14 Indiana counties. Over 55,000 youth and families each year are served by Youth First’s school-based social work and community programs that promote mental health, prevent substance misuse, and maximize student success. To learn more about Youth First, visit youthfirstinc.org or call 812-421-8336.



UE opera receives \$35,000 grant from the William E. Schmidt Foundation

EVANSVILLE, IND.—The University of Evansville (UE) is pleased to announce that it has received a \$35,000 grant from the William E. Schmidt Foundation, continuing a longstanding partnership that has strengthened the University’s music and opera programs for more than two decades.

The William E. Schmidt Foundation has supported UE and its music programs since 1998 and has provided dedicated support for the University’s opera program since 2006. This latest grant will fund UE opera productions, community outreach efforts centered on music and opera, and scholarships within the UE Music Conservatory.

“The Schmidt Foundation has played a transformational role in advancing vocal performance and opera at the University of Evansville,” said Dr. Alanna Keenan, Associate Professor of Music at UE. “Their generosity helps our students develop as artists

while bringing high-quality performance experiences to the broader community.”

Under the artistic direction of Dr. Keenan, with additional guidance from Dr. Dennis Malfatti and Dr. Gregory Rike, UE Opera has flourished as a dynamic force in the field of opera, enriching the lives of students and fostering a deep appreciation for the arts within the community. The Schmidt Foundation’s grant will empower the program to continue its legacy of excellence and expand its community reach.

UE’s opera program offers performance opportunities, professional-level training, and community engagement experiences that help students develop their artistic craft. The continued support of the Schmidt Foundation ensures that UE can remain a regional leader in developing the next generation of vocal artists.

The William E. Schmidt Foundation provided grant

funding to UE Opera in 2023 and 2024 respectively.

For more information about the UE Opera and upcoming performances or to contact the Music Conservatory, please click here.

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

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

Disinger Jewelers celebrates Christmas open house

By Laurna Todd
ING Writer

Disinger Jewelers recently held their Christmas Open House, which drew a large and enthusiastic crowd. Guests enjoyed refreshments, special discounts, and the chance to win exciting prizes during the event.

Congratulations to the winners of this year’s prize drawings:

Virlee Giesler – Diamond Earrings

Brooke Lambert – Ronaldo Bracelet

Jamie Ruxer – Ania Haie Earrings

Tonya Sanders – Jorge Revilla Pendant

Vicki Steinhart – Charles Garnier Bracelet

Heather Sickbert – Pearl Earrings

Winners were encouraged to stop by the Jasper store to pick up their prizes. The event also highlighted the value of shopping local, where customers are known by name, not

by a number. Disinger Jewelers provided personalized service and unique gift options, strengthening their connection with the community.

Even though the open house has passed, the store still offered a wide selection of beautiful pieces, perfect for last-minute Christmas gifts. The team welcomed shoppers, helping them find special gifts for their loved ones and making the holiday season brighter for the community.

Beta Gamma Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa holds monthly meeting

Beta Gamma Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa, an honorary sorority for women educators, met on Thursday, November 13, 2025, at Holy Family Fellowship Hall in Jasper. President Beth Meece welcomed all twenty-seven members. Instead of a guest speaker, members wrote messages of encouragement on pencils for eight graders to be given out in January by Dubois County Cares.

Chaplain Pat Seger gave devotions on “Reasons to be Thankful.” The minutes, sent out ahead of time, were approved with a motion from Clara Fromme and a second by Barb Kendall. Secretary Sue Ann Burns called roll and read a thank you note about Founders Day.

Treasurer Brooke Elrod announced she was still collecting dues. Altruistic Paula Peter reminded members that altruistic hours would be due at the end of February. Under Courtesy a sympathy card was sent to Paula Alles on the death of her father and a congratulatory card was sent to Kristy Dilger on the birth of a new granddaughter. For Fraternity Education Shelley Winzapfel passed out dice and sheets of paper for a gratitude game. Each member told for what she was grateful. Ways and Means Sandy Miller said members will have two different tote bags to sell. She also chose logos for the new shirts. Pat Seger passed out Necrology report forms for members to review

and update.

The Dubois County Museum will have a cookie walk on December 13-14. The ADK Christmas party will be December 1 at the Huntingburg Country Club.

Brooke Elrod and Beth Meece decorated the ADK Christmas tree at the Dubois County Museum on November 11.

November birthdays are 10-Pat Seger and 20-Susan McGovren. Thank you to the November fellowship Committee of Shirley Messmer, Ruth Gehlhausen, Janet Kluemper, and Beth Meece. The next meeting will be the Christmas Party on December 11. The meeting closed with the singing of “The Lamp of Alpha Delta Kappa.”

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

Word Search Answers

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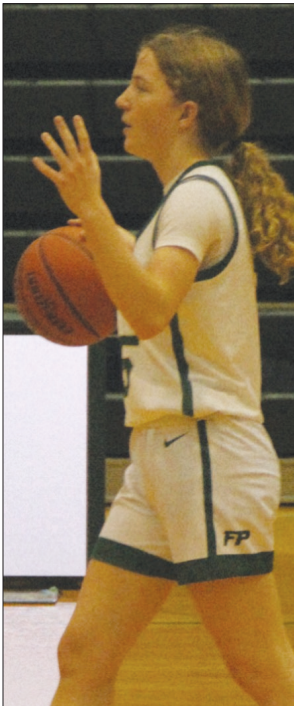


Former Ranger coach notches win #500

Former Forest Park Girls Basketball Coach Marty Niehaus notched career win #500 this evening. Her current team, Springs Valley, defeated Northeast Dubois to achieve this career milestone. Coach Niehaus ranks #2 amongst current girls coaches in the state of Indiana for career wins. After the game, many of Coach Niehaus’ former players, assistant coaches, and friends from Forest Park joined the current Springs Valley team for a group photo. Congratulations Coach!

Photo by Tony Hasenour

Lady Rangers lose in heartbreaking fashion



By Calvin Hasenour

The Princeton Tigers came into Buechler Arena on Thursday night to take on the Rangers. This was an exciting game with lots of lead changes throughout the game. With 17 seconds left in the fourth quarter the Rangers were trailing by 3 and they had the ball. Ellie Meunier made a corner three to tie the game with about 4 seconds left. Then, Princeton made a 3/4 court buzzer beater to beat the Rangers.

The Rangers were led in scoring by freshman Ellie Meunier with 14 points, Avery Hill also tallied 10 points, along with Bree Howard and Bailey Begle adding 9 points apiece for the Rangers.

Leading Scorers:
Ellie Meunier: 14 points
Avery Hill: 10 points
Bree Howard: 9 points
Bailey Begle: 9 points
Brynn Vaught: 4 points
Mollie Combs: 2 points
Claire Warren: 1 point

Rangers take 2nd at Warrior Invitational

By Zach Brosmer

The Ranger wrestling team turned in a standout performance at the North Knox Warrior Invitational on Saturday, finishing 2nd out of 9 teams. The Rangers were competitive from start to finish, ending the tournament just 17 points behind Tell City for the top spot.

The Rangers crowned four individual champions on the day.

- Colson Healy (106 lbs)
 - Jace Wright (144 lbs)
 - Clayton Roesner (157 lbs)
 - Izak Meyer (175 lbs)
- Forest Park also had a strong runner-up finish from Tucker Wathen (120 lbs). Adding to the team score were a pair of 3rd-place finishes from Jace Brockman (113 lbs) and Eli Brockman (138 lbs), while Trey Steckler (126 lbs) battled his way to a 4th-place finish.



Southridge Raiders swim team wins quad-meet thriller

By Laurna Todd
ING Writer

The Southridge Raiders Swim Team captured first place overall in a tightly contested quad-meet recently, finishing with 207 points, just three ahead of Tecumseh’s 204. Northeast Dubois scored 107 points, and Forest Park finished

fourth with 86. The men’s team led the charge with a strong showing, placing first, while the women’s team took third place.

Women’s Team Scores:
Tecumseh: 106
Northeast Dubois: 81
Southridge: 30
Forest Park: 25

Men’s Team Scores:
Southridge: 177
Tecumseh: 98
Forest Park: 61
Northeast Dubois: 26

Individual First-Place Winners for Southridge:
Lexi Eckert – 500 Freestyle
Zoey Messmer – 100 Breaststroke
Wyatt Messmer – 100 Backstroke

Aiden Stahl – 200 IM & 100 Freestyle
Ben Fuesler – 100 Butterfly & 500 Freestyle

First-Place Relay Teams:
200 Medley Relay: Luke Ledbetter, Alan Melara, Isaac Heile, Abraham Lara
200 Freestyle Relay: Aiden Stahl, Wyatt Messmer, Ryley

Messmer, Ben Fuesler
400 Freestyle Relay: Ben Fuesler, Wyatt Messmer, Isaac Heile, Luke Ledbetter

With strong individual performances and dominant relay teams, the Raiders continue to prove themselves as a competitive force this season.

Services Planned for 48th Anniversary Commemoration of 1977 UE Plane Crash

Evansville, Ind. — On December 13, 1977, a chartered DC-3 crashed just 90 seconds after takeoff from Evansville’s Dress Regional Airport. News quickly spread across the University of Evansville community that the plane carried men’s basketball Coach Bobby Watson, 14 players, 11 friends of the team, and a crew of five. For those who lived through that night, it will forever be remembered as “the night it rained tears.”

The crash was a staggering loss. At a memorial service held days later, Dr. Philip Ott, professor of philosophy and religion, reminded the community that “we do not choose to live. We do not choose to die. Life is a gift.” Former UE President Wallace Graves offered words of resolve,

urging, “Out of the agony of this hour we will rise.”

Though the tragedy remains etched in UE’s history, the University came together with strength and unity, carrying forward in tribute to the 29 lives taken far too soon.

To commemorate the 48th anniversary, UE will hold a memorial service at 12 p.m. on Friday, December 12, open to the campus community and the public. The service is being held one day early this year, as December 13 falls on a Saturday.

The gathering will take place at Memorial Plaza, located behind Olmsted Hall. It will feature an invocation and message from Reverend Andy Payton, remarks from President Pietruszkiewicz, the reading of all 29 names, and a moment



1977 Men’s Basketball Team

of silence.

Forty-eight years later, we honor each life taken too soon and remember the legacy they entrusted to us.

The University of Evansville is a private, comprehensive university with a solid

foundation in the arts and sciences and professional schools in business, engineering, education, and health sciences. Established in 1854, UE is recognized across the globe for its rich tradition of innovative,

academic excellence and dynamic campus community of #Changemakers.

Home of the Purple Aces, UE is located in the southwestern region of Indiana and offers over 75 majors, 17 Division I sports,

and a unique study abroad experience at Harlaxton, the University’s very own Victorian manor located in the countryside of England. For more information, please visit evansville.edu.