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Thursday, February 19, 2026

UPLAND, FAIRMOUNT & HARTFORD CITY

Courier

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

Upland resident pens book about adventures while growing up in Argentina

Rita Koch to have book signing at Upland Public Library

By Cathy Shouse

Rita Koch spent her childhood overseas and has written a book about her unique experiences. Koch, an Upland resident, has devoted many years to collecting and organizing her memories from living in Argentina. Her recently released book, *My Argentina: The Early Years* is a wide-ranging story.

Koch will be having a book signing hosted by the Upland Public Library Saturday, February 28 at 10 a.m. Copies of her book will be available for sale, and she'll give an informal chat at the meet 'n' greet style event.

Koch lived in Argentina from 1945 through 1963, and that period of her life is covered in the book. She pieced together her story from many, many places, since

her experiences there began when she was very young. It's been a labor of love, and in addition to her own family's memories, she included a wider look into what was happening at that time.

"I ended up with so many sources, a veritable treasure trove—years of correspondence between my parents and grandparents, and those of other missionaries, photos, diaries, denominational magazine articles—that I felt compelled to record that rich history of the mission, some Argentine history, a look back at a different era, the story of a family doing life in another country. . . It is a missionary memoir," she said.

Koch and her husband Mike have lived in Upland since 1983, and the couple

recently celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary. Both of them are retired. She taught Spanish at Taylor University and Mike worked at Taylor University as well as in Muncie. He's volunteered for twenty years with the PhyXTGears robotics team based out of Matthews. They have three adult children, six grandchildren, and three great grandchildren with a fourth on the way.

The idea of her book evolved over time.

"The book began as a blog," Koch said. "I posted a chapter every 1 & 15 of each month over a period of two years and ended up with more than 90,000 words, which had to be cut down considerably and rearranged. Tisha Martin Mills was my developmental editor and project manager."

She's returned to Argentina about

seven times.

After coming back to the United States, Koch continued on more adventures. She attended

Grace College, went to Europe with Operation Mobilization. She also worked with a team that prepared

vehicles with secret compartments to smuggle Christian literature into Communist Europe, as well as spending five years on a missionary ship.

"That all happened after my book," she said. "There's enough material for another book or two! This book is dedicated to the memory of my parents and late brother and serves to inform and inspire," she said. "It helps my own family, my husband and children, learn about my previous lifetime. There is much even my younger siblings do not know about the early years of my parents' ministry. Readers all will find stories, experiences, situations they can relate to or learn from."

The book, *My Argentina: The Early Years*, is available online from Amazon or for purchase from the author.



Rita Koch poses in a sweater she made over the winter. Koch will be signing her new book at the Upland Public Library Saturday, February 28.



Rita Koch's first day of school in Argentina where her family were missionaries in 1954.



A photo of Rita Koch, an Upland resident, at her first Christmas while living in Argentina in 1946.



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"The book began as a blog. I posted a chapter every 1 & 15 of each month over a period of two years and ended up with more than 90,000 words..."

— RITA KOCH



As a child, Rita Koch and her family resided in this house in Don Bosco, Buenos Aires.



Rita Koch's father built a church in Don Bosco, Buenos Aires in the 50s.

VICTORIOUS *Living* ...in a troubled world

What can an ant possibly teach a human?

Teresa LeNeave
What can an ant (that no one wants around) possibly teach a human being? Solomon thought they had something to teach us because in Proverbs 6:6 he said, "Go to the ant, you sluggard (slacker) ... consider its ways and be wise". From what I can tell, they love, they accept, they work, they prepare for the future and they serve.

We have this instruction: love one another: "This is my commandment, that you love one another". How can we posture ourselves to do that? For one, we can DO things that build up others just like the ant does. Remember the story of the Samaritan that helped the injured man who was beaten up and left to die on the roadside? Jesus said, "A Samaritan, as he traveled, came

where the (injured) man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him" (Luke 10:33 NIV).

What other action postures us to take a bit of wisdom from the ant? Why not try accepting one another without trying to make them like ourselves? When we accept one another, as Christ accepts us, we bring praise to God. Show respect to everyone you come in contact with. A good example is the story of a Samaritan woman and Jesus at the well. This is a very good example of Jesus living out the principal of accepting others. She wasn't worthy. Her reputation was questionable ... but Jesus accepted her and offered to change her life. She accepted the



invitation and won an entire city to Christ. Accepting is NOT approving of wrong, but it's being willing to reach out, without condemnation and with understanding. It's sharing Jesus and offering an opportunity to others to share in the blessings of redemption.

What about serving like the ants serve? The Bible says, "By love serve one another". Do unto others AS you want them to do to you.

Just as Jesus humbled Himself to wash the disciples' feet, we must keep in perspective that we are all of the same God and no one is loved, by God, above another.

Have you ever wondered why Jesus said, "The one who is greatest among you, will be the servant?" Though there are many reasons, I believe, when you are helpful (without complaining), people enjoy being around you and they

are more willing to hear the Gospel. People have many motives for being helpful, but when helpfulness comes from the heart, people know it. It shows. Ants help each other and it shows.

Ants are creatures of little strength, yet they store up their food in the summer (Prov. 30:25). They plan ahead and leave nothing to chance. They can carry up to 20 times their weight. Some can carry up to

50 times their weight. How is that for "little strength?"

Ants know all about caring for each other. They are social insects. They are almost always with other ants. They always live in a community. They always look after the community. Ants always share what they have. When an ant finds food, he doesn't keep it to himself. He leaves a scent trail that directs other ants to the food.

They cover, and take up the slack, for other ants. If a catastrophe occurs, ants respond by quickly adapting their duties to overcome the problem. If a food item is too heavy, other ants come to their rescue to help them carry the load. They are not lazy. They are workers.

They love, they accept, they work and they serve. I guess that's a good reason to learn from ants as Solomon instructed.

Do this in remembrance of me

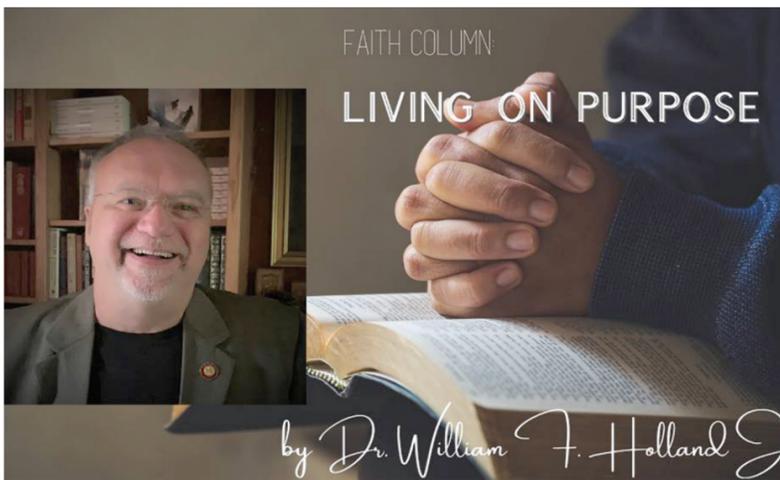
By Dr. Billy Holland

Last week, we touched on the subject of baptism, and this week I thought we could follow up with a chat about communion. For those who are Christians, the church ordinance of communion is a sacred and spiritually personal event. In some circles, the Lord's Supper is referred to as a sacrament, while others call it an ordinance, depending on the theological tradition. However, regardless of the term, within Christian churches, it is seen as a means of grace and an integral part of obedience and worship, established by Christ Himself. A time of sacred reflection on Christ's death and resurrection. Where does it come from? It's a recorded true event that is told in each of the four Gospels, along with the Apostle Paul, who also discusses it in 1 Corinthians 11:23-29. Verse 26 declares, "For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes."

Most have seen the images of what is called

the "Last Supper," where Jesus and His disciples are sitting around a large table eating and drinking at what was called the Passover celebration. We read in all four gospels about this true account, and how Jesus wanted His followers to remember Him as the promised Lamb of God. In Luke 22:19-21, we read, "Jesus took a loaf of bread and gave thanks to God. As He broke it and gave it to His disciples, He said, this is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me. In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, this cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is shed for you." Matthew 26:30 reveals that He concluded the meal by singing a hymn, then they walked out into the night to the Mount of Olives. As they entered the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus told them to rest while he took some time to pray. It was there that, as predicted, Jesus was betrayed by Judas. The following day, He was crucified.

Jesus declared that the bread spoke of His body that would be



broken, as Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53 describe that He would be so brutally and violently tortured that it was hardly recognizable. The wine spoke of His blood, with Him indicating the terrible death He would soon experience. It is agreed that most likely He literally bled to death. Christ, the perfect Lamb, the Son of God, became the fulfillment of the countless Old Testament prophecies concerning a Redeemer. Genesis 3:15, often called the protoevangelium or first gospel, is an amazing biblical prophecy where God

reveals that at the crucifixion, the serpent will bruise the heel of Jesus the seed of the woman, but in the resurrection, Christ the Son of God will crush the serpents head, establishing the Lord as the ultimate power and authority in the cosmic struggle between good and evil. In my view, the communion does not literally transform into the blood and flesh of Jesus, which is called transubstantiation. Since it is symbolic, I do see the point. It's simply about keeping the sacrifice of His great love fresh within our hearts and minds.

So, as we partake of

the unleavened bread and wine or grape juice, the elements serve as a covenant symbol of Christ's body and blood, and how we grieve as He willingly suffered. He gave the supreme sacrifice of love that can redeem us. Now we can have spiritual hope and faith, as we celebrate this sign of unity and truth among believers, anticipating His return. I've served communion in churches, prisons, and correctional facilities throughout the years, and I currently work with a jail ministry preaching the gospel, baptizing, and serving communion, where I

remind everyone how serious this is. First Corinthians chapter 11 says that whoever receives these elements unworthily will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. They absorbed damnation to themselves, and some have literally died. Never allow the ceremony to become a dead and formal ritual, or come to the Lord's table with unconfessed sin. Personally, when I take communion, I embrace this as entering into the holy presence of God. A sacred time and place of repentance, asking forgiveness, being cleansed, and made presentable to become one with Him. I imagine Jesus hanging on the cross, and what great love that caused Him to willingly die to save me. It's a deeply meaningful moment of remembering and appreciating.

Dr. Holland is a licensed and ordained minister, a certified chaplain and teacher, and a Christian author. Read more about the Christian life at billyhollandministries.com

Steward your spiritual gifts

By Brandon Bramlett
Pastor - Bandana Baptist Church

Being blind, uneducated, and seventy years-old, there was not much she could do—but she wanted to do something. The African woman had been led to Jesus by a gospel-preaching missionary, but her newfound zeal hit a brick wall because of her limitations. She wanted to serve the needy, but felt too old. She yearned to teach, but she couldn't read. But after seeking God's wisdom, she conceived

an unconventional idea.

She gave her Bible to the missionary and asked him to underline John 3:16 in red ink. She then passed around her Bible to younger villagers, asking, "Can you read the passage underlined in red?" Then came a follow-up question: "Do you know what this means?" When the youth would respond, "No," she would then tell them "the old, old story of Jesus and His love." Although she wasn't a missionary or a Bible teacher, she understood that the Lord gave her a job to

do—and she made it all about Jesus.

Likewise, if you believe in the Man whose voice inspired the red letters, you also have a calling to fulfill, a ministry to steward, spiritual gifts to use, and divinely-tailored tasks assigned by God exclusively for you. As Paul explained, "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone" (1 Cor. 12:4-6).

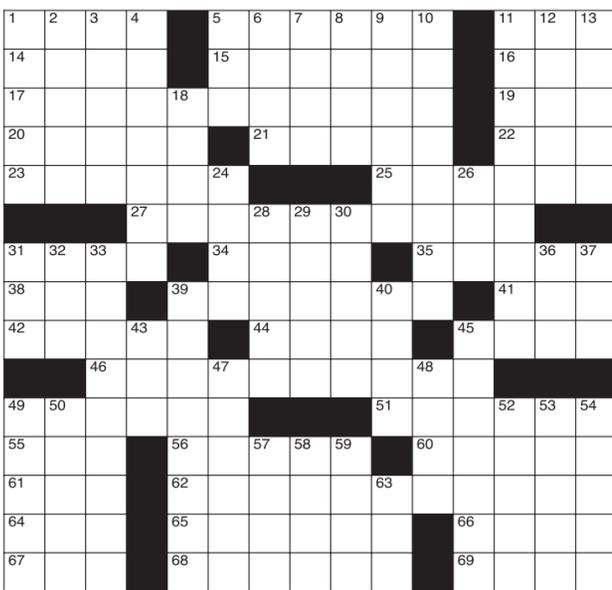
And the not-so-secret secret for faithfully fulfilling your God-given calling is centering your service and spiritual gifts around the "words in red," and the Man who spoke them. If the glory of Christ is not the goal of your Spirit-supplied abilities, then recognition, results, and reputation will take its place. Thus, whether you are pastoring a church, teaching Sunday school, changing diapers in the nursery, evangelizing a lost neighbor, singing in the choir, leading family worship,

caring for the sick, or counseling the broken—the cross must be the axis. This is why Peter said, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 4:10-11a).

Jesus illustrated this truth in His parable of the talents (Matt. 25:14-30). A

master entrusted great fortunes to his servants while he was gone. Two servants invested what they were given, but the "wicked and slothful servant" buried his money in the ground for safekeeping. When the master returned, he blessed the servants who used what he gave them, but cursed the servant who did nothing with what he was given. And the lesson is clear: use what God has given you (Rom. 12:6). Don't bury your abilities and spiritual gifts—steward them faithfully.

Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Cut quickly
- 5. A way to state clearly
- 11. River in NE Scotland
- 14. Expansive
- 15. Lacking social polish
- 16. Amount of time
- 17. Frame
- 19. Automobile
- 20. Toadstools
- 21. High school dances
- 22. Utilize
- 23. Experimented with
- 25. One-sided
- 27. Acquisitive
- 31. Potted plants
- 34. Everyone has one
- 35. Kalahari Desert lake
- 38. Unidentified flying object
- 39. People 65 and over
- 41. Small amount
- 42. Daughter of Acrisius
- 44. Ornamental box
- 45. Government agents
- 46. Uncertain
- 49. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
- 51. Treeless plains
- 55. One's sense of self-importance
- 56. Consumer advocate
- 60. Type of lounge
- 61. Body part
- 62. Can be persuaded
- 64. Woman (French)
- 65. Ready and willing to be taught
- 66. Arab ruler title
- 67. Unhappy
- 68. Gradually went away
- 69. Able to think clearly

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Brushed
- 2. Small water spirit (Germ.)
- 3. Heroes
- 4. Monetary units
- 5. Some don't want to share theirs
- 6. Free-swimming invertebrate
- 7. Litigates
- 8. Outer
- 9. Parallelograms
- 10. Uneasy feelings
- 11. Cross
- 12. A way to remove
- 13. Pages can be dog-__
- 18. Ukrainian city
- 24. A citizen of Denmark
- 26. Month
- 28. Hindu queens
- 29. Group of chemicals
- 30. Rider of Rohan
- 31. Wet dirt
- 32. Southwestern Russia city
- 33. Observed
- 36. Angry
- 37. Drivers' licenses
- 39. Musical composition
- 40. Auction
- 43. They __
- 45. Women
- 47. Be filled with love for
- 48. Thick-soled sock
- 49. Appears
- 50. Old World lizard
- 52. The leading performer
- 53. Protein
- 54. "Gunga Din" script writer
- 57. Art __, around 1920
- 58. __ Blyton, children's author
- 59. Abnormal breathing
- 63. A place to rest

PUZZLE SOLUTION

S	N	I	P		A	S	S	E	R	T		D	E	E	
W	I	D	E		G	A	U	C	H	E		E	R	A	
E	X	O	S	K	E	L	E	T	O	N		C	A	R	
P	I	L	E	I		P	R	O	M	S		U	S	E	
T	E	S	T	E	D					B	I	A	S	E	D
					A	V	A	R	I	C	I	O	U	S	
M	U	M	S		N	A	M	E		N	G	A	M	I	
U	F	O		S	E	N	I	O	R	S		T	A	D	
D	A	N	A	E		I	N	R	O		F	E	D	S	
					I	R	R	E	S	O	L	U	T	E	
S	A	T	E	E	N					P	A	M	P	A	S
E	G	O			N	A	D	E	R		B	A	R	C	A
E	A	R			A	M	E	N	A	B	I	L	I	T	Y
M	M	E			D	O	C	I	L	E		E	M	I	R
S	A	D			E	R	O	D	E	D		S	A	N	E

Crypto Fun

⊙ * ☒ ⊕ ~ Ⓜ Ⓝ Ⓞ Ⓟ Ⓠ Ⓡ Ⓢ Ⓣ Ⓤ Ⓥ Ⓦ Ⓧ Ⓨ Ⓩ

CRYPTO FUN

Ⓚ Ⓛ Ⓜ Ⓝ Ⓞ Ⓟ Ⓠ Ⓡ Ⓢ Ⓣ Ⓤ Ⓥ Ⓦ Ⓧ Ⓨ Ⓩ

- Solve the code to discover words related to the library. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 9 = E)
- A. 11 10 15 9 20**
Clue: No noise
 - B. 20 15 20 19 9**
Clue: Book name
 - C. 6 10 20 25 14 8**
Clue: Writer
 - D. 14 8 4 6 12 15 5 9 16**
Clue: Made orderly

Answers: A. quiet B. title C. author D. organized

Word Search

LIBRARY VISIT WORD SEARCH

ANSWERS ON THE CLASSIFIED PAGE

WORDS

- ARCHIVES
- ARRIVAL
- AUDIOBOOKS
- BIBLIOGRAPHY
- CATALOG
- CHECKOUT
- CIRCULATION
- COLLECTIONS
- DATABASE
- DESK
- LIBRARIAN
- LIBRARY
- LOAN
- MICROFICHE
- PERIODICALS
- QUIET
- READING
- REFERENCE
- RESERVE
- RETURN
- SHELF
- STACKS
- STUDY
- SYSTEM

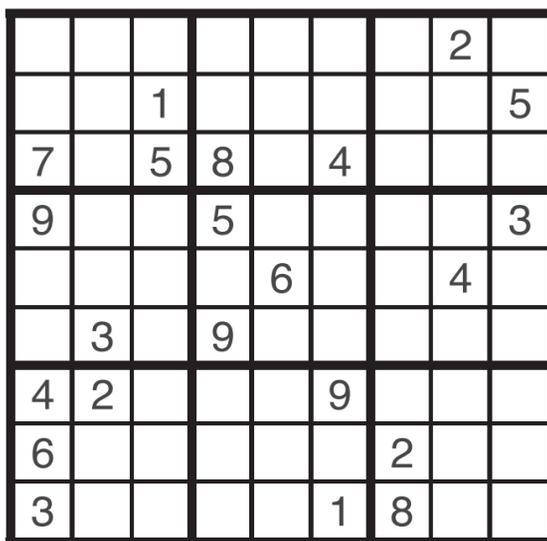
B A S M I D S F M S K I H E K K T Y U R F
 L O R Q M F S L N O V L L P I E K V V L D U G F
 H D K Q M R S K O V L L C V U V R F U C C
 I P S S T C L O I I N U G R U I E T K N L
 Y A E U Y Y Q B O E T B M N Y N Y S I E Y
 B H D M E S C E R E B K C S E D M T L P I E Y
 T R P U Q Y T E U I O I E U M T Y C M R
 O G I A Y N F E P E T I O L B D I K A R R
 C T D V R E F D M L Q K D V L R G L L L
 I S U C R G G B S E C H G U C O R F A E
 S L A C I D O I R E P A A A A I C R H D
 G S G I Y P I H S R P I L A U A B Q C C R V V
 A H E V O L C C L R B A E Y K H I E V U
 E E Y S Q S T U I B I T F L N I F A S M C
 S L P T A R K V L I I G R V O D K A A O Q
 E F P D E B A Q O H F B E R I C Q T Q M
 T I Q T U L A N A U T S C N A B A U F E
 L F U P C G U T N L Y I G T T L I O O Q
 Y R A R B I L H A B M O S K O E T U A B
 N A I R A R B I L D I B S G T U A A T E

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

Sudoku Puzzle

How it Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle! Good Luck! **ANSWERS ON THE CLASSIFIED PAGE**



Word Scramble

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to the library.

SBKOO



Answer: Books

Guess Who?

GUESS WHO?

I am a singer/actress born in California on February 20, 2003. My acting debut was a role based on a character from a book series I was introduced to as a child. Early in my career I starred in movies and in a Disney show before progressing to music. A song about driving propelled my fame.

Answer: Olivia Rodrigo

COLORING FUN



National Love Your Pet Day

February 20th

Valentine's Day Jokes

- Why can't a nose be 12 inches long?**
Because then it would be a foot.
- Why did the football coach yell at the vending machine?**
He wanted his quarter back.
- What's the most popular fish in the ocean?**
The "star" fish
- How did the student feel when he learned about electricity?**
Totally shocked
- What do you call a happy cowboy?**
A jolly rancher
- What subject do cats like best in school?**
Hiss-tory



Kathleen Barnhart

Kathleen Barnhart, 82, of La Fontaine, passed away at 4:14 pm on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at Rolling Meadows Health & Rehabilitation Center in La Fontaine. The family will receive visitors from 9 am to 11 am on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at Liberty Baptist Church, 517 Church St, Sweetser, IN 46987. Immediately following visitation, a service celebrating Kathleen's life will begin at 11 am, with Pastor Terry Bishir officiating. Burial will take place at Grant Memorial Park.

Jack Shaffer

Jack Shaffer, 106, Gas City, passed away at 4:50 pm on Monday, February 9, 2026, at Bethel Pointe Health & Rehabilitation in Muncie. The family received visitors from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm on Saturday, February 14, 2026, at Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral & Cremation Service, Storey Chapel, 400 E. Main St, Gas City, IN. After visitation, a service to celebrate Jack's life was held at 2:00 pm with Pastor Mick Simpkins officiating. Burial took place at Jefferson Cemetery. There was a Masonic rites service held at 11:45 am, prior to the funeral service.

Nutell Murdayne "Marty" Boesing

Bobby Nutell Murdayne "Marty" Boesing, 92, of Marion, passed away at 9:33 am on Monday, February 9, 2026, in her Marion home surrounded by her loving family. A committal service was held at 1:00 pm on Monday, February 16, 2026 at Grant Memorial Park Mausoleum Chapel, 1606 W. 26th St. in Marion, IN. The family will host a celebration of Marty's life on the anniversary of her birthday, Thursday May 21, 2026.

Avery Lee Hasty

Avery Lee Hasty, 77, of Gas City, passed away on Sunday, February 8, 2026, at the VA Northern Indiana Health Care System - Fort Wayne. At Avery's request, there will be no public visitation or funeral service. A graveside memorial service will be held at a later date at the Marion National Cemetery.

William B. Nicodemus

William B. Nicodemus, 74, of Marion, passed away at 8:47 pm on Sunday, February 8, 2026, at Marion Health in Marion. At William's request, there will be no public visitation or funeral service. Arrangements are entrusted to Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral & Cremation Service, North Chapel, 1341 N. Baldwin Ave., Marion, IN.

Larry J. McDermott

Larry James McDermott, 81, of Sweetser, Indiana, died Thursday, February 12, 2026 from a sudden illness. Arrangements have been entrusted to Fairmount Chapel Armes-Hunt Life Celebration Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 415 S. Main Street, Fairmount, Indiana. Visitation will be held Wednesday, February 18, 2026, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., with a Masonic Memorial Service at 7:00 p.m. Additional visitation will be Thursday, February 19, 2026, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m., followed by a Life Celebration Service at 11:00 a.m., officiated by Rev. Alexander P. Soultz and Dr. Joseph Seaborn. Burial will take place at Park Cemetery.

Linda Jones

Linda L. Jones, 79, of Matthews, Indiana, passed away on Sunday, February 8, 2026, at IU Health University Hospital. Arrangements for Linda have been entrusted to the Jones-Smith Chapel of Armes-Hunt Life Celebration Funeral Home

and Cremation Services. A visitation was held at Epworth Church of Matthews, 105 West 8th Street, Matthews, Indiana 46957, on Monday, February 16, 2026, from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. A memorial service followed at 5:00 p.m. with Pastor Gina Krause officiating. Burial will take place at a later date at Matthews Cemetery.

Kenneth W. Smith

Kenneth W. Smith, 81, of Fairmount, Indiana, passed away peacefully at home on February 8, 2026. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Fairmount Chapel of Armes-Hunt Life Celebration Funeral Home and Cremation Services. In accordance with Kenneth's wishes, cremation will take place.

Payton Mason

Payton Mason, a vibrant 23-year-old, left this world unexpectedly on February 8, 2026, at Ascension St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis. Arrangements for Payton have been entrusted to the Mississinewa Chapel of Armes-Hunt Life Celebration Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 200 North 7th Street, Gas City, Indiana 46933, where a visitation was held on Monday, February 16, 2026, from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. A funeral service followed with Pastor David Morris officiating. Cremation will follow the service.

Mary F. Deisler

Mary F. Deisler, 97, passed away on Friday, February 6, 2026, in the Stillwater Hospice Home of Fort Wayne. Visitation was held at Westview Wesleyan Church, 1300 W 6th Street, Jonesboro IN, on Friday, February 13, from 1:00-3:00 p.m., with a memorial service immediately following. Private burial will take place at Park Cemetery.

Linda D. Haskett

Linda D. Hewitt, 73, passed away on February 8, 2026, in Indianapolis. Those who knew Linda will remember her as loving and caring—a mom to everybody—who found joy in sharing music with others and showered affection on both people and pets alike. Visitation was held on February 13, 2026, from 12pm to 1:45pm at Owen-Weilert-Duncan Funeral Home, Marion Chapel 2722 South Washington Street, Marion, Indiana. The service was held at 2pm. Burial will immediately follow in Grant Memorial Park Cemetery.

Thomas E. Cale

Thomas "Tom" E. Cale, 86, passed away on February 13, 2026 at his residence. Visitation, funeral service and burial for Tom are all private for the family. Keplinger Funeral Home, 509 N. High St. in Hartford City is in charge of arrangements.

Bonita "Bonnie" Kay Green

Bonita "Bonnie" Kay Green, 76, passed away on February 10, 2025 at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital. Funeral service for Bonnie will be at 1 pm on Thursday, February 19, 2026 at the First Church of the Nazarene, 1402 W. Water St., Hartford City with Rev. Steve High and Rev. Jim Nichols officiating. Burial will follow at Gardens of Memory Cemetery in Muncie. Visitation will be from 11 am to 1 pm on Thursday, February 19, 2026 at the church.

Ronald E. Huffman

Ronald "Ron" E. Huffman, 77, passed away on February 10, 2026 at Lutheran Hospital. Funeral service for Ron will be at 2 pm on Friday, February 20, 2026 at Keplinger Funeral Home, 509 N. High St., Hartford City with Rev. Jerry M. French officiating. Burial will follow at Gardens of Memory in Muncie. Visitation will be from 11 am to 2 pm on Friday, February 20, 2026 at Keplinger Funeral Home.

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

LOCAL CHURCH SERVICES

Submitted by Catherine Lamb

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.

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

Upcoming Community Events

Submitted by Catherine Lamb

Community Breakfast – Masonic Lodge #635, Saturday, (biweekly), freewill donation Hope Center – Every Friday, 1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Fairmount Town Council – Biweekly at 6 p.m.

Eagles Nest Food Pantry – February 19th at 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

(At Park School. Additional dates are on Fairmount Wesleyan Church website. Click events)

Feeding Fairmount Ministry – 2nd Monday of month – Fairmount UMC, freewill donation, 12 noon

Blackford County Extension - April 14: April District Meeting in Hartford City, "As American As Apple Pie"

Blackford County Extension - May 7: Achievement Day which includes recognition of perfect attendance, membership milestones, new members & Memorial for deceased members.

Email Us Your Upcoming Events to: Catherine Lamb at: lambc899@gmail.com or to pamelakpi2018@gmail.com
*Deadline is Monday at 5 PM for the Thursday edition.

To place a full obituary, including a photo, call 270-442-7389 for details and pricing. Obituaries and funeral notices should be received by 9 a.m. Tuesday for inclusion in that week's paper.

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Hoosier National Forest announces seasonal hiring for upcoming recreation season

Positions available in Bedford and Tell City, Indiana

(Bedford, IN, February 12, 2026) — The Hoosier National Forest is hiring seasonal employees for the upcoming recreation season and is encouraging local residents to apply.

“Our seasonal employees are the backbone of summer operations—keeping our campgrounds, trails and recreation sites open, safe and welcoming for visitors,” said Mike Chaveas. “These positions offer meaningful work, hands-on experience and the chance to support public lands close to home.”

The Hoosier National Forest is recruiting for a variety of roles, including:

- Recreation and visitor services
- Trail and facility maintenance

These positions are in addition to seasonal fire hire events, already underway. Bringing Forest Service careers, benefits and upcoming hiring events, visit fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/careers.

recreation experiences for all.

Visitors can expect to see clean and safe visitor facilities.

“Seasonal jobs can be a first step into a natural resources career, a way to build experience, or simply a chance to spend the summer working outside,” added Chaveas. “We encourage anyone interested to apply.”

How to Apply

Applicants can view open job announcements and submit applications through USAJOBS.gov beginning February 20.

Application periods, qualifications, and start dates vary by position. Applicants are encouraged to review job announcements carefully for deadlines and required materials.

Working for the Forest Service

To learn more about Forest Service careers, benefits and upcoming hiring events, visit fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/careers.

About the Forest Service: The Forest Service has, for more than 100 years, brought people and communities together to answer the call of conservation. Grounded in world-class science and technology — and rooted in communities — the Forest Service connects people to nature and to each other. The Forest Service cares for shared natural resources in ways that promote lasting economic, ecological, and social vitality. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest wildland fire and forestry research organizations in the world. The Forest Service also has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 900 million forested acres within the U.S., of which over 130 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live.

Spring Piano Lab at Blackford County Arts Center

Brief description of performance/event: Students 2nd grade - 4th grade from any county may participate in group piano lessons once a week for 8 weeks. Students are loaned a keyboard to take home to provide additional practice time. The loaned keyboard must be returned on the last day of piano lab, 04/29/26 OR if the

student participates in the Spring MusicWorks recital, he/she can return the keyboard at the end of the recital. The Piano Lab is intended for beginning students. Students must be registered in advance.

Event Date/Time: Wednesdays; March 11th through April 29th, 2026, 6:00 pm to 6:45 pm.

Event Location:
Arts Place
Blackford County Arts Center
107 West Washington St
Hartford City, IN 47348
Cost: \$40.00 per student
Arts Place contact person for questions or more information.
Call Lydia Rowles at 765-348-4154 with any questions.

MARION SPORTS RECAP

Girls & boys swimming and diving wins big on senior night

By Tyler McQuiston
Oak Hill High School

The Lady Eagles gave their seniors a great win for their last home meet. The seniors picked the lineup for tonight and put together some fun swims and competitive races. I really liked the effort and energy tonight. We had some girls excel in new events and our depth was a key factor in the big win tonight.

Congratulations to our seniors Avany Bokinski, Clarisse Callens, Addison Carey and Kaitlyn Scalf. They are our breakthrough performers tonight. All seniors had a PR in at least one swim tonight. Great way to finish out your last dual meet! First place finishes: 200 Medley Relay (Savannah Hunt, Clarisse Callens, June Burtner, Lilly Snyder) 200 Free (Kaitlyn Scalf) 200 IM

(Addison Carey) 50 Free (Riley Archer) 100 Fly (Savannah Hunt) 100 Free (Bella Kenyon) 500 Free (Kaitlyn Scalf) 200 Free Relay (Quinn Brunner, Karsyn Cole, Izzy Hernandez, Charleigh Nevers) 100 Back (Savannah Hunt) 100 Breast (Bella Kenyon) 400 Free Relay (Elayna Cates, Sierra Snyder, Riley Archer, June Burtner) Oak Hill Girls Varsity vs Blackford High School (129 - 41) Win

Notice Of Sheriff's Sale/Jami A. Heater/Virgil E. Heater

To The Owners Of The Within Described Real Estate And All Interested Parties: Notice Of Sheriff's Sale By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of the Superior Court of Grant County, Indiana, in Cause No. 27D01-2501-MF-000014 wherein U.S. Bank Trust National Association, Not In Its Individual Capacity But Solely As Owner Trustee For RCF 2 Acquisition Trust was Plaintiff, and Jami A. Heater, et al were the Defendants, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and costs, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on the 22nd day of April, 2026, at the hour of 10:00 A.M, or as soon thereafter as is possible, 214 E 4th St, Marion, IN 46952 in Grant County, Indiana, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Grant County, Indiana. The North one-half of Lot Number Thirteen (13) and all of Lots Numbered Fourteen (14), Fifteen (15) and Sixteen (16) in Block Four (4), of Wm J. Leach's First Addition to the Town of Fowlerton, Indiana. The plat of which is recorded in Plat Book 2, Page 98, in the Office of the Recorder of Grant County, Indiana. More Commonly Known as 215 West 3rd Street, Fowlerton, IN 46930 Parcel No. 27-10-25-303-076.000-05 Together with rents, issues, income, and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisal laws. /s/ Delmiro Garcia Sheriff of Grant County, Indiana Township Fairmount Phillip A. Norman #13734-64 Benjamin J Pliskie #30407-45 Phillip A. Norman P.C. Date Street Address 215 West 3rd Street, Fowlerton, IN 46930 The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the street address published herein. Please Serve: Jami A. Heater 215 West 3rd Street, Fowlerton, IN 46930 Type of Service Sheriff Virgil E. Heater 215 West 3rd Street, Fowlerton, IN 46930 Type of Service Sheriff

(2-19-26_3x_JR, HSPAXLP)

Notice of Sheriff's Sale / Vickey Skeens

To The Owners Of The Within Described Real Estate And All Interested Parties: Notice Of Sheriff's Sale By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Grant County, Indiana, in Cause No. 27C01-2507-MF-000062 wherein Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, As Trustee For Lehman Mortgage Trust Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2007-5 was Plaintiff, and Vickey Skeens was the Defendant, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and costs, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on the 22nd day of April, 2026, at the hour of 10:00 A.M, or as soon thereafter as is possible, 214 E 4th St, Marion, IN 46952 in Grant County, Indiana, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Grant County, Indiana. Beginning at a point on the West line of the Northwest quarter of Section 24, Township 23 North, Range 8 East, said point being 16.5 feet South of the Northwest corner of the Northwest quarter of said Northwest quarter of Section 24, and running thence South 553.5 feet along said West line, thence East 611.4 feet parallel with the North line of said Northwest quarter of the Northwest quarter, thence North 570 feet parallel with said West line of the Northwest quarter of said North line, thence West 281.4 feet along said North line, thence South 16.5 feet, thence West 330 feet to the place of beginning. Being a part of the Northwest quarter of the Northwest quarter of Section 24, Township 23 North, Range 8 East, and containing 7.875 Acres, more or less. Subject to legal right-of-way's. Except: Lot Number Three (3) in Skeens Addition as shown in the Office of the Recorder of Grant County, Indiana as Plat Micro 96-44286 as entered on December 5, 1996. Parcel ID's: 27-10-24-200-002.000-034 and 27-10-24-200-002.002-034 Together with rents, issues, income, and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisal laws. /s/ Delmiro Garcia Sheriff of Grant County, Indiana Township Fairmount Phillip A. Norman #13734-64 Benjamin J Pliskie #30407-45 Phillip A. Norman P.C. Date Street Address 8117 S. 500 E. Jonesboro, IN 46938 The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the street address published herein. Please Serve: Name Vickey Skeens Address 8117 S. 500 E, Jonesboro, IN 46938 Type of Service: Sheriff

(2-19-26_3x_JR, HSPAXLP)

The Golden Eagles move to 9-0 on the season with a big win over Blackford on Senior Night. The seniors picked the events tonight and did a great job of mixing fun swims and competitive swims. The team responded well and gave their seniors a great send off. They won every event tonight and several season best swims. Our seniors Cael McCann and Evan Bledsoe went out in style and won all their events. They

are our breakout performers. I was also very pleased with Ben Babinski. He dove to a new personal best by 40 points. Cooper Lynch also had a great swim in his 500. Impressing the coaches with his first ever attempt at that race and taking 3rd in the event. First place finishes: 200 Medley Relay (Max McQuiston, Evan Bledsoe, Cael McCann, Eli Gardner) 200 Free (Eli Gardner) 200 IM (Cooper McQuiston) 50 Free

(Cael McCann) Diving (Ben Babinski) 100 Fly (Cael McCann) 100 Free (Evan Bledsoe) 500 Free (Max McQuiston) 200 Free Relay (Evan Bledsoe, Konnor Bullick, Eli Gardner, Cael McCann) 100 Back (Cooper McQuiston) 100 Breast (Evan Bledsoe) 400 Free Relay (Eli Gardner, Tae'Shawn Inman, Dylan Shafer, Konnor Bullick) Oak Hill Boys Varsity vs Blackford High School (141 - 33) Win



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Summons - Service By Publication/Unknown Heirs and Devises of Joshua L. Hewitt

State Of Indiana County Of Grant In The Grant Superior Court Cause No: 27D01-2601-MF-000003 Nations Lending Corporation Plaintiff -vs- Unknown Heirs And Devises Of Joshua L. Hewitt, River Valley Communities LLC DBA Marion Village Mobile Home Park Defendant(s) Notice Of Suit To the defendants above named, and any other person who may be concerned. You are notified that you have been sued in the Court above named. The nature of the suit against you is the foreclosure of a mortgage upon the property legally described as follows: Lot Number Nineteen (19) In Valencia Village Addition To The City Of Marion, Grant County, Indiana, As Per Plat Thereof, Recorded In Plat Description Record No. 1, Page 281 And In Plat Record No. 1, Page 171, In The Office Of The Recorder Of Grant County, Indiana Commonly known as: 708 W 28th St, Marion, IN 46953 This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following defendant(s) whose whereabouts are unknown: Unknown Heirs and Devises of Joshua L. Hewitt In addition, to the above-named defendants being served by this summons, there may be other defendants who have an interest in this lawsuit. An answer or other appropriate response in writing to the Complaint must be filed either by you or your attorney with the Clerk of the Court for Grant County at: Grant County Clerk 101 East 4th Street 1st Floor Marion, IN 46952 on or before the 20th day of March, 2026, (the same being thirty (30) days after the Third Notice of Suit), and if you fail to do so, a judgment may be entered against you for what the plaintiff has demanded. Phillip A. Norman, P.C. /s/ James Tomasik, # 39957-64 2110 Calumet Avenue Valparaiso, IN 46383 Telephone: 219-462-5104 Facsimile: 219-462-9344 E-mail: james.tomasik@normanattorney.com 25-01755 Attest: /s/ Pamela K Harris MG Clerk, Grant Superior Court

(2-5-26, 2-12-26, 2-19-26, JR_HSPAXLP)

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850 JD tractor finish mower, front loader, 3 point hitch, less than 1000 hours, great condition, sized for mowing a large yard/acreage. Asking \$11,500. 270-898-2805.

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54+/- ACRE FARM FOR SALE Lake Village, Arkansas. Very good income producing cropland with beautiful view of Lake Chicot. Beautiful home sites. 766 +/- ACRE PROPERTY FOR SALE Beautiful property located near Town Creek, Alabama. This previously wooded property is being cleared and converted to farm land, with approximately 300 acres already converted. Very good soils for cotton, corn, and soybeans. Would also make a spectacular cattle ranch. Excellent hunting with large bucks and lots of turkeys. MORE LAND AVAILABLE! 284 ACRE FARM FOR SALE Excellent 280 acres farm for sale in southeast Arkansas, including very fertile, precision leveled, and irrigated farm land, plus exceptional duck and deer hunting. Super location, fronting on excellent paved highway. www.underwood landcompany.com 256.655.9266 or 256.679.2039 (7-10-25_tfn)

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105 acres (100 tillable acres) and home located at 6066 HWY. 142, Philpot, KY \$975,000 270-925-2961 (tfn)

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40 ACRES SOUTHWEST INDIANA. Great deer, turkey and fishing, 7 acres, pasture, 3 lakes, balance mature woods. Call Todd Shaus Land Specialist 812-480-2541.

ARE YOU BUYING OR SELLING LAND? For free market analysis Call Todd Shaus - Land Specialist for all your land needs. 812-480-2541.

RECENTLY REDUCED: 5 fenced acres in Pike County with 2 older homes (needs work), appliances, some furniture, and some tools. Stocked pond, 3 out buildings, 2 large garden areas, and various fruits. Not negotiable. recently reduced to \$98,000 812-536-5308.

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WANTING TO BUY

Wanting to buy. 1 row corn picker in working condition. Call 812-389-2767. (7-31-25-4x)

DNR hiring for Indiana Conservation officer positions

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Division of Law Enforcement is looking for highly motivated, outdoor-centered individuals to fill Indiana Conservation Officer (ICO) positions across the state.

Anyone interested should first read "Become a Conservation Officer" on our website and complete the

pre-screening test under the "Apply" link. Successful completion of the pre-screening test will automatically enter you into the hiring process. You will then be notified of the next process phase as it becomes available.

To be qualified to pass the pre-screening test, you must be a United States citizen and be 21 years old by Oct. 30. You also must be

able to pass the new Physical Agility Test, which is the new fitness standard for all Law Enforcement in the state starting Aug. 1. The website listed above also contains a video demonstrating the Physical Agility Test, course diagram and testing protocols.

Conservation officers comprise Indiana's oldest state law enforcement agency. ICOs are fully

recognized Indiana police officers who enforce and uphold all DNR rules and regulations as well as all other Indiana state laws. ICOs spend most of their time on the job enforcing fishing and hunting regulations, conducting marine boat patrol on Indiana's waterways, and patrolling DNR properties to keep them safe and family friendly.



In addition to traditional law enforcement work, ICOs also engage in specialty areas, including scuba, K-9,

search and rescue, swift water rescue, and many more. To view all DNR news releases, please see dnr.IN.gov.

Gebisa Ejeta to be inducted into National Inventors Hall of Fame

Plant geneticist honored for lifesaving research on vital grain crop

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — World-renowned plant geneticist and Purdue Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Agronomy Gebisa Ejeta, whose groundbreaking research and patent of grain sorghum has saved millions of people from starvation around the world, will be inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame Class of 2026 on May 7 in Washington, D.C., in partnership with the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Ejeta, who is a Presidential Fellow and previously served as executive director of the Purdue Center for Global Food Security, helped farmers increase production of the versatile and important cereal grain by developing drought- and disease-resistant hybrids and boosting crop



Gebisa Ejeta, the Presidential Fellow for Food Security and Sustainable Global Development and Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Agronomy, was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame Class of 2026. (Purdue Agricultural Communications photo/Tom Campbell)

yields. His work has improved food security for people across Africa and globally.

Ejeta is one of 15 innovators who will be inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

Since 1973, the NIH has annually honored influential patent-holding innovators whose work has significantly advanced technology, society and the nation's

welfare.

Ejeta's outstanding contributions to the science of plant genetics and his impact on the world's ability to reliably produce resilient sorghum hybrids, along with his service as an advisor at the highest levels of science and national policy, earned him the World Food Prize in 2009 and the U.S. National Medal of Science in 2023.

Born and raised in a small, rural community in west central Ethiopia, Ejeta earned his master's and PhD in plant breeding and genetics from Purdue. He served as a College of Agriculture faculty member and researcher from 1984 until his retirement in 2025.

Ejeta's work is part of Purdue's One Health initiative, a presidential initiative

focused on solving complex challenges at the intersection of human, animal and plant health and delivering real-world impact.

The 2026 class also includes Frank S. Greene Jr., who received his master's degree in electrical engineering from Purdue in 1962. Greene will be posthumously inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame. He developed high-speed semiconductor memory systems, including the fastest microchip then available for the ILLIAC IV supercomputer. Greene died Dec. 26, 2009. He was 71.

About Purdue University
Purdue University is a public research university leading with excellence at scale. Ranked among top 10 public universities in

the United States, Purdue discovers, disseminates and deploys knowledge with a quality and at a scale second to none. More than 106,000 students study at Purdue across multiple campuses, locations and modalities, including more than 57,000 at our main campus locations in West Lafayette and Indianapolis. Committed to affordability and accessibility, Purdue's main campus has frozen tuition 14 years in a row. See how Purdue never stops in the persistent pursuit of the next giant leap — including its integrated, comprehensive Indianapolis urban expansion; the Mitch Daniels School of Business; Purdue Computes; and the One Health initiative — at <https://www.purdue.edu/president/strategic-initiatives>.

30th Annual 2026 Spring Farm Auction ONLINE ONLY Saturday, March 7th - 10 AM CST



The 30th ANNUAL SPRING FARM CONSIGNMENT AUCTION will be an online auction through DASONLINEAUCTIONS.HIBID.COM. All equipment will be lined up and staged at the Warwick County 4-H Center as usual. We will not be accept: hand tools, boxed lots, tires, or small barn and garage related items that are usually lined up along the barn. DAS has the writer refusal of any Merchandise Items will be lined up and staged outside in the order they come in the commission is on a sliding scale per each item and a \$15 fee will be charged for each item with a title.

DAS WILL TAKE CONSIGNMENTS FROM SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28 THROUGH THURSDAY, MARCH 5 FROM 7 AM TILL 5 PM.

NO CONSIGNMENTS TAKEN on Friday, MARCH 6th or on AUCTION DAY!

Please bring a list of good description of items being signed each day, items will be updated and available for online auction.

Items can be viewed at the 4-H Center Friday, March 6 and on March 7.

The staff will be present if you have any for more information.

For pictures & bidding please call or look at our website dasonlineauctions.hibid.com

The percentage of each item for the auction are as follows:

\$1 to \$100	30%
\$101 to \$500	20%
\$501 to \$2,000	15%
\$2,001 to \$7,000	10%
\$7,0001 on up	7%



Auctioneer: Robert E. Dimmett

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