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**Cathy Hunnicutt  
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**AREA DEATHS - inside**

**February 2-3, 2026**

# UPLAND, FAIRMOUNT & HARTFORD CITY **Courier**

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

## Winter Wonderland



Roy Friedersdorf enjoying the snow above and clearing the snow below, left.



Snow in Fairmount by Cathy Shouse



**Calling all Giants fans:  
Limited-edition card  
set commemorates  
Giants basketball  
history**

Marion Community Schools is partnering with some of our outstanding alumni to provide a special opportunity to fans of Giants basketball.

On Feb. 20, 2026, at the Marion Giants vs. Lebanon game at the Bill Green Athletic Arena at MHS, there will be a very special giveaway to the first 2,500 Marion Giants fans who arrive, sponsored by Dr. Courtney Gorman, MHS Class of 1979.

The giveaway will feature an exclusive 54-card set honoring some of our all-time Marion Giants basketball greats. This collectible set has been created by the team at Panini America, where Robert J. Hull, MHS Class of 1991, is the current CFO. This project is a testament to the creativity, skill, and generosity of our amazing alumni!

The set will feature: Marion's State Championship teams from 1926, 1975, 1976, 1985, 1986, 1987, 2000, and 2016. Every MHS basketball player who has been named an Indiana All-Star

Hall of Fame coaches

Marion media icons Giant donors who have made major contributions to enhance Marion Giants athletics

Some other incredible surprises! This limited-

edition set will undoubtedly be a hit with Giants fans, said Mark Fauser, Creative Development Director for Marion Community Schools, who has been helping to lead the project.

"Robert and his team at Panini outdid themselves with these gorgeous cards," Fauser said. "If you like basketball, history, the Marion Giants, or are a collector like me, I would strongly recommend you get the Bill Green Arena early on Feb. 20! These cards are sure to be a valuable collector's item. Thanks to Courtney, Gorman & Bunch, and Robert and Panini for this exciting gift to Marion fans!"

And to make the night even more special, there will be legends in the house, including Dave Colescott, Jeff Todd, James Blackmon, and Kyle Persinger to name a few, for those who may be looking for autograph opportunities. We'll also have special guests here too, including Bill Green's family and the grandson of 1926 State Champion Coach

Eugene Thomas, who is flying in from New Mexico to be a part of this special event.

Don't miss this historic opportunity, a new way to celebrate the Giant tradition of excellence!

## WINGS to hold full moon hike

February 13, 12 - 2 p.m. EST - Guided Winter Hike - Want to burn off some winter blues? Studies show that spending time in nature can provide positive mental and physical health benefits, including reducing stress, enhancing sleep, creativity, and improving memory and cognition. Join Hoosier National Forest staff for a stroll through the winter landscape and learn about winter trees and animals. Hikes will happen in the Hardin

Ridge Recreation Area. Trails could be covered in snow and rugged. Please be prepared for the weather with appropriate outerwear and boots. See you at the amphitheater for some brisk air! These hikes are about 2 miles in length and open to all.

February 27, 12 - 2 p.m. EST - Guided Winter Hike

Visit our Event Webpage for all the details <https://www.facebook.com/SCINWINGS>

# VICTORIOUS *Living* ...in a troubled world

## Angels watching over us

By Teresa LeNeave  
leneave2@comcast.net

Until I fell off a City Scooter while on vacation in Denver, Colorado, I had no concept of the impact a fall can have on a person's life. I'm ashamed to say, in July 2025, when my family doctor said, "You're in very good health, but the older you get, the more you'll have to be careful about falling", I almost laughed. My immediate, and somewhat proud response, was: "Well, I'm not worried about that because my muscles are strong and I don't think I'll be falling in the near future."

I didn't take ignorance into consideration. Why would someone, my age, get on an electric City Scooter anyway? I did, and the MRI showed I had torn my hamstring from the

bone. I spent three days in the hospital in Denver. It took eight days before I could raise my leg enough to put it on a pillow by myself. On the tenth day, I could get out of bed by myself but it was eleven days before I could walk just a couple steps without a walker. On the 13th day, I felt like a miracle had happened. I was extremely slow, but was able to take care of my basic needs without help. It has now started my fourth week and I'm so excited to be able to sit without tremendous pain.

The amazing thing is that for almost two weeks I had to have someone do everything for me and miraculously on the 12th day, everything begin to get better day-by-day. I attribute that healing process to God's divine



intervention and lots of prayer from lots of Christians. I still need help with some things and it remains to be a challenge. I'm so grateful for where I am. In fact, from where I was, to where I am, I know God's love and mercy was instrumental in my healing.

I read where celebrity chef, Guy Fiera, fell down some

stairs in November, tearing his quadricep muscle in half. He said it was one of the worse things he's ever gone through. I agree. This is one of the most painful things I've ever experienced. But I'm on the mend and the long-term process of physical therapy must take place if I don't want to limp around the rest of my life.

I don't fully understand the reasons people fall when we get older. In my case, it was a bad choice on my part, but when most people fall it's not their fault. It could be from general weakness, uneven steps, vision problems or something they trip over like a pair of shoes, a cord or a

pet. In any case, it's a rude awakening when it happens to you.

The point of my telling you this is that we think it can't happen to us. It can. We take so much for granted when, in fact, we should look at "normal every day" activities as a privilege. It's God's blessings that we get out of bed, without help, in the morning. I cling to the scriptures, "He sent His Word and healed them" (Ps 107:20) and "Healing is the children's bread" (Matt. 15:21-28).

If you're going through something that's new and painful remember God is with you to heal and restore you. "With us is the Lord our God to help us" (2 Chron 32:8). I honestly believe there are angels watching over us.

## HEAVEN'S SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Bro. Brandon G. Bramlett  
Bandana Baptist Church

The young man complied although he did not completely comprehend his father's request. If he wished to continue living at home, he had to stick with his dad's straightforward stipulations: hold down a job and pay rent. So, he paid his parents a substantial sum every month, hard-earned money that might otherwise have gone toward video games, upgrading his smartphone, and

acquiring frivolous things from Amazon. Eventually, he decided to move out and buy his first home. It was then that his father revealed a long-time-coming surprise: "Son, I've been putting all of the money you've paid your mother and I into a savings account for the down payment on your house."

His sacrifices literally paid off. Though he likely doubted at times whether it was a waste of time and money, he ended up paying himself. And similarly, the sacrifices we

make for the Lord and His kingdom are everlasting investments. What we give up for Christ—as costly as it may be on earth—is sent ahead of us and reserved in an eternal "savings account," to be inherited when we leave this world to live in a "house not made with hands" (2 Cor. 5:1). And this account is insured by the greatest "FDIC" of all: the Father's Deposits in Christ.

According to Jesus, we rob ourselves of heavenly rewards when we settle for a comfortable and complacent life where

our time, talents, and treasures are spent on ourselves (cf. Mark 8:34-36). But when we give until it hurts, serve when it interrupts our schedule, and choose costly obedience over convenient sins, we grow "rich toward God" (Luke 12:21) and stockpile treasure in heaven: "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do

not break through nor steal" (Matt. 6:19-20, KJV). Christ also assured that we accrue "interest" on what we sacrifice: "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not receive many times more in this time, and in the age to come eternal life" (Luke 18:29-30). In other words, the Lord will not only reimburse what we give up on earth—He will infinitely multiply it in eternity.

Still, just as the son

paid rent to please his father rather than secure a reward, we must bless others, give our all for God's kingdom, and treat every day as a sacrificial altar—not to manipulate God for blessings, but simply to please Him. The Lord owes us nothing, yet He promises to reward our faithfulness with "an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you" (1 Peter 1:4). Are you storing up treasures in heaven?

My hunting season is over. I have scheduled a couple of fishing trips, but they are a few weeks away. Until then, I am surrounded by everything man-made. I don't mind this too much after a season of God-made stuff, but I need to return to the God-made stuff quickly. But not for the hunting or fishing, but for the God of the stuff. You see, most of the time when I go to the woods I am going for the purpose of pursuit—whether that is for the purpose of scouting or hunting. When I'm in the woods I'm thinking about deer or turkey. When I'm on the water, it's usually with a fishing rod.

The point is that

while I'm surrounded by the very handiwork of God when I am outside, I am focused on a more mundane activity. And sometimes (not all the time) my purpose doesn't line up with my place. Let me explain.

What I need right now more than anything, is to be surrounded by creation for the purpose of being with and hearing from the Creator. My purpose needs to line up with my place. And yours does too. As you know because you hear it from me all the time, creation is the first way God spoke to his people, and it is still the first way He does it.

Sure, the Bible is



### Creation is how God speaks to us

what we as Christians look to more than anything. But creation is how God speaks to believers and unbelievers all over the world. It is God confronting us head on with something so great that we must contemplate His desire to include us. And

those of us who are Christians need to lean into hearing God through creation as well as through the scriptures. But to do that, we have to get in creation for this specific purpose. So, here's what I'm going to do and maybe it's something that you

might want to do. Go to the woods or get in your boat and go to the lake, for the express purpose of hearing what God might want to say to you through His many masterpieces.

When you get there simply ask God, "What do you want to say to me while I'm here?" And then, shut up, look at all the wonders around you, and listen. And then be able to answer this question should someone ask, and your life depended on it. "What was the one thing God wanted you to know from your time in the woods or on the water?" Be able to answer that question. If you and I do this, we will have perfectly used creation

for the primary purpose it was meant.

And I can't help to believe the man-made world we are returning to, will be filled with a greater joy as well.

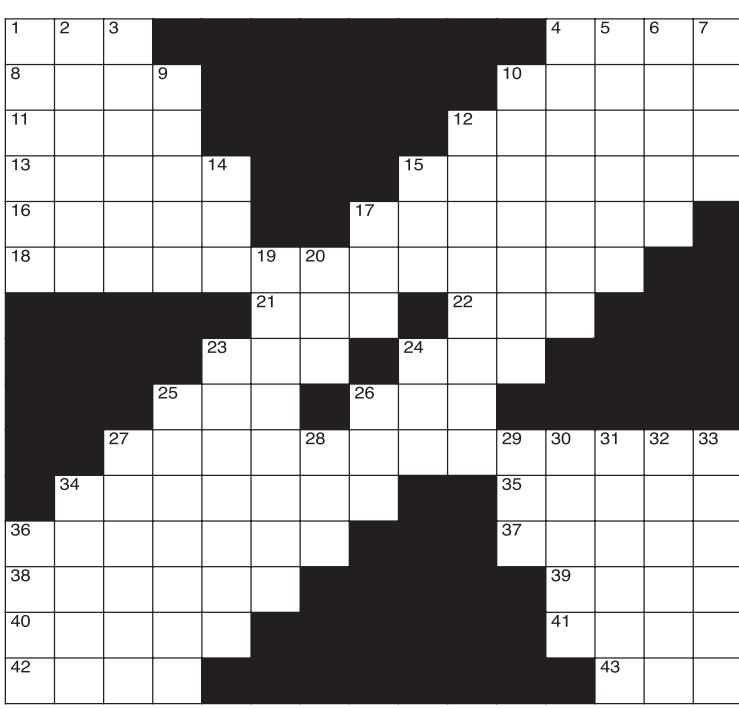
Gary Miller  
gary@outdoortruths.org

Gary Miller has written Outdoor Truths articles for 23 years.

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

*Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:*

## Crossword Puzzle



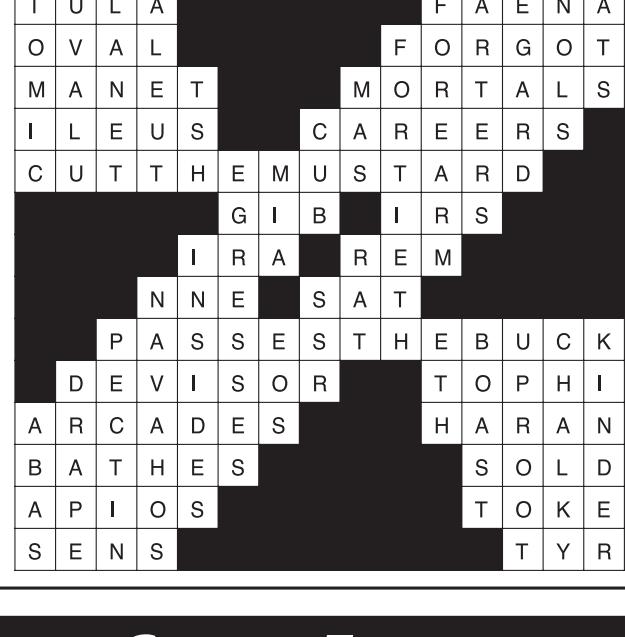
## CLUES ACROSS

1. Racket sport pros  
4. Make tea  
8. City South of Moscow  
10. Spanish bullfighting term  
11. Egg-shaped  
12. Could not remember  
13. French modernist painter  
15. Persons  
16. Painful intestinal obstruction  
17. Professions  
18. Is up to the task  
21. Wood or metal bolt  
22. Tax collector  
23. A way to save for the future  
24. Georgia rockers
25. Midway between north and northeast  
26. High schoolers' test  
27. Does not accept responsibility  
34. One who prepares  
35. Gout-indicative deposits  
36. Place to play games  
37. Book of Genesis character  
38. Cleans oneself  
39. Unloaded for money  
40. Genus of flowering plants  
41. Take a puff  
42. Congressmen  
43. God of battle in Scandinavian mythology

## CLUES DOWN

1. Type of bomb  
2. South Pacific islands  
3. Celestial body  
4. Negotiates  
5. Consider in a specified way  
6. Type of group in organic chemistry  
7. Buddhist monasteries  
9. Inhabitant of Bering Sea island  
10. Body part  
12. Milestone birthday  
14. Thyroid-stimulating hormone  
15. More (Spanish)  
17. Chicago ballplayer  
19. Leaves a place  
20. Cannot be found
23. One's internal body parts  
24. Tell on  
25. North American peoples of southwest  
26. Soviet Socialist Republic  
27. Extract used for jams and jellies  
28. Greek goddess of the dawn  
29. Old English letter  
30. A way to exaggerate  
31. Get up and leave  
32. "Boardwalk Empire" character  
33. More generous  
34. Hanging cloth used as a blind  
36. Ancient Greek sophist

## PUZZLE SOLUTION



## Crypto Fun



Solve the code to discover words related to basketball.  
Each number corresponds to a letter.  
(Hint: 20 = O)

**A. 14 20 20 8 13**

Clue: Another name for basketball

**B. 1 20 11 4 3**

Clue: Place to play basketball

**C. 4 12 2 20 11 6 24**

Clue: Bounce back

**D. 2 5 13 17 12 3**

Clue: Place for ball

## Jokes

Why did Princess Elsa fall off her sled?  
She let it go.

Why did the snowman go to the doctor?  
He was getting cold chills.

Where do snowmen keep their money?  
In snowbanks

## Word Search

## BASKETBALL WORD SEARCH



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

ANSWERS ON  
CLASSIFIED PAGE

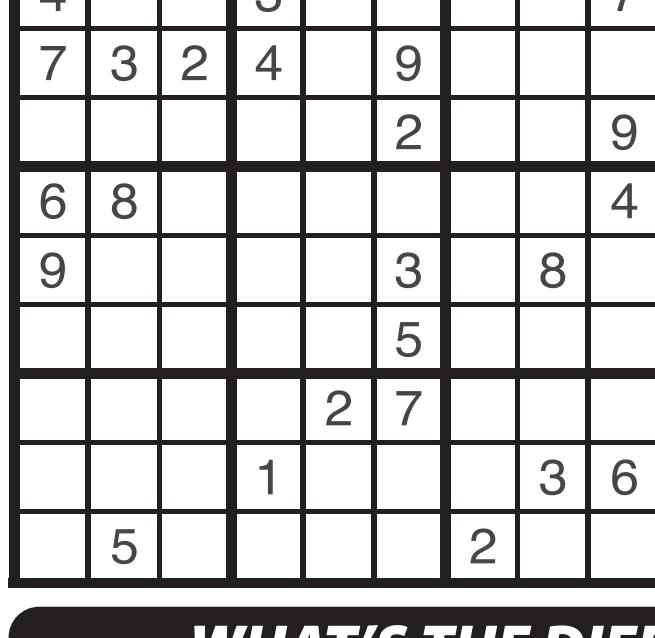
## WORDS

ASSIST  
BACKBOARD  
BASELINE  
CLOCK  
COURT  
CROSSOVER  
DEFENSE  
DRIBBLE  
DUNK  
FOUL  
FREE THROW  
JUMP SHOT  
LAY-UP  
OFFENSE  
PIVOT  
REBOUND  
SCREEN  
SHOT  
SUBSTITUTION  
THREE-POINTER  
TIMEOUT  
TIPOFF  
TRAVELING  
TURNOVER

## Sudoku Puzzle

## How it Works:

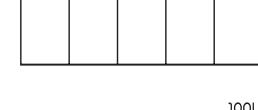
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric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



## Word Scramble

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to basketball.

**H O S T O**



Answer: Shoot

## Guess Who?

**GUESS WHO ?**

I am a singer born in New York on January 25, 1981. I studied Mozart and Chopin as a youth, and graduated from the Professional Performing Arts School. I became the first singer to receive five Grammy Awards at once after releasing my debut album.

Answer: Alicia Keys

## WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

There are four differences between Picture A and Picture B.



Answers: 1. Missing lock on door knob. 2. Man at door. 3. Different wreath above fireplace. 4. Missing fur rug.

## COLORING FUN



## Color Key

1 = White 2 = Light Blue 3 = Green 4 = Blue

5 = Purple 6 = Orange 7 = Black

*Carl E King*

Carl E King, 100, of Marion, passed away at 4:44 pm on Thursday, January 29, 2026, at Colonial Oaks Health & Rehabilitation Center in Marion. Per Carl's wishes, he will be cremated and entombed and there will be no services. Arrangements are entrusted to Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral and Cremation Service, North Chapel, 1341 N. Baldwin Ave., Marion, IN

*Estella Lorine Compo Walker*

Estella Lorine Compo Walker, 95, of Palestine Lake, Claypool, died Monday, January 26, 2026, at Lutheran Kosciusko Hospital. The family will receive visitors from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral & Cremation Service, North Chapel, 1341 N. Baldwin Ave., Marion, IN. Immediately following the time of visitation, a service to celebrate Estella's life will begin at 1:00 pm with Rev. Dr. Tom Mansbarger officiating. Burial will take place at Van Buren Cemetery.

*Marilyn K. Bowling*

Marilyn K. Bowling, 79, passed away at 4:14 am on Sunday, January 25, 2026, at Marion Health. At Marilyn'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.

*Geneva Churchill*

Geneva M. Churchill, 89, of Marion passed away peacefully on Saturday, January 24th, 2026. The family received visitors from 11:00 am to 12:00 noon on Tuesday, February 3rd, 2026, at Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral & Cremation Service, North Chapel, 1341 N. Baldwin Ave., Marion, IN. After visitation a service to celebrate Geneva's life was held at 12:00 noon with Sr. Pastor Nephew Gordon Rowe and Next Gen Pastor Nephew Eric Rowe officiating with entombment to follow at Grant Memorial Park.

*Rena K. Bennett*

Rena K. Bennett, 71, of Gas City, passed away in her home at 2:54 pm on Friday, January 23, 2026. At Rena's request, there will be no public visitation or funeral service. She and her husband's remains will be inurned at Marion National Cemetery at a later date. Arrangements are entrusted to Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral & Cremation Service, Storey Chapel, 400 E. Main St., Gas City, IN.

*Patricia Embry*

Patricia A. Embry, 91, of Upland, Indiana, passed away Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at Marion Health in Marion, Indiana. Arrangements have been entrusted to Jones-Smith Chapel Armes-Hunt Life Celebration Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 259 N. Main St., Upland, Indiana. A private graveside service will be held at a later date.

*Robert "Bob" L. Roth*

Robert L. "Bob" Roth, 92, went home to be with his Lord on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at Suite Living in Marion. Arrangements were entrusted to the Fairmount Chapel of Armes-Hunt Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 415 S. Main Street, Fairmount, Indiana, where visitation was held on Monday, February 2, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. A funeral service followed at 1:00 p.m. with Pastor Todd Graham and Pastor Glenn Davis officiating. Burial will be at Park Cemetery, Fairmount.

*David Adcock*

David Lee Adcock, 60, of Indiana, passed away on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital. Arrangements for David were entrusted to the Fairmount Chapel of Armes-Hunt Life Celebration Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 415 South Main Street, Fairmount, Indiana 46928, where a visitation was held on Friday, January 30, 2026, from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. A funeral service will follow at 2:00 p.m. with Pastor Tony Bye officiating. Burial will take place at Matthews Cemetery.

*William Trout*

William Darrell Trout, a beloved husband, dedicated father, and cherished member of the community, passed away peacefully on Friday, January 23, 2026, at the age of 92, at Wesleyan Health Care Center

in Marion. Services were held at Center Chapel Church on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, starting with a Masonic Service at 1:40 p.m., followed by military honors, and then a funeral service, with Pastor Mark Sanders officiating. Following the services, Darrell was laid to rest at the Van Buren Cemetery.

*Michael Hiles*

Michael W. Hiles, 73, of Jonesboro, passed away Friday, January 23, 2026, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne following a brief illness. Family and friends gathered from 4:00-7:00 PM on Tuesday, January 27, 2026. A Life Celebration Service was held at 1:00 PM Wednesday, January 28, 2026, with Pastor John Clark officiating. Interment followed Park Cemetery, Fairmount.

*Terri Lynn Ruiz*

Terri Lynn Ruiz, 69, of Marion, passed away at 5:11 am on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, in her home. At Terri'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.

*Julia Sanders*

Julia Diane Sanders, 74, of Sheridan, passed away at 11:50 p.m. on Monday, January 19, 2026, at Riverview Health Hospital in Noblesville. The family received visitors from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm on Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral & Cremation Service, North Chapel, 1341 N. Baldwin Ave., Marion, IN. Immediately following visitation, a service celebrating Julia's life was held at 1:00 p.m., with Pastor Devin Miller officiating. Burial took place at Grant Memorial Park.

*Marjorie A. Brown*

Marjorie A. "Marge" Brown, 76, of Marion, passed away at 8:29 pm on Sunday, January 18, 2026, in her home. The family received visitors from 11 am to 1 pm on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at Friendship Baptist Church, 1921 W. Spencer Ave, Marion, IN, 46952. Immediately following the time of visitation, a service to celebrate Marge's life was held at 1 pm with Pastor Matt Castle officiating.

*Larry R. Stephenson*

Larry R. Stephenson, 86, Fowlerton, passed away at 10:06 pm on Sunday, January 18, 2026, at Marion Health East in Gas City. The family received visitors from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral & Cremation Service, Storey Chapel 400 E. Main St., Gas City, IN. Immediately following the time of visitation, a service to celebrate Larry's life was held at 6:00 pm with Pastor Mick Simpkins officiating. Burial will take place at a later time at Marion National Cemetery.

*Charles D. Gray*

Charles D. Gray, Jr., 67, of Gas City, passed away in his home on Saturday, January 17, 2026. At the family's request, there will be no public visitation or funeral service.

Arrangements are entrusted to Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral & Cremation Service, Storey Chapel, 400 E. Main St., Gas City, IN.

*Leann Ruth Martens*

Leann Ruth Martens, age 68, of Marion, Indiana passed away at her home on January 16, 2026, at 11:50 a.m. A memorial visitation took place from 1 to 3 pm on Saturday, January 24, 2026 at College Wesleyan Church, 200 E. 38th St., Marion, IN, 46953. Immediately following visitation, a memorial service to celebrate Leann's life took place at 3 pm with Pastor Ethan Linder officiating.

*Michael Hiles*

Michael W. Hiles, 73, of Jonesboro, passed away Friday, January 23, 2026, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne following a brief illness. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Fairmount Chapel of Armes-Hunt Life Celebration Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 415 S. Main Street, Fairmount, Indiana. Family and friends gathered from 4:00-7:00 PM on Tuesday, January 27, 2026. A Life Celebration Service will be held at 1:00 PM Wednesday, January 28, 2026, with Pastor John Clark officiating. Interment will follow at Park Cemetery, Fairmount.

*Juanita Herring*

Juanita Mae Herring, 90, passed away at home, on Monday, January 19, 2026. Arrangements for Juanita were entrusted to the Jones-Smith Chapel of Armes-Hunt Life Celebration Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 259 North Main Street, Upland, Indiana 46989, where on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, there was a visitation from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M., with the funeral began at 1:00 P.M. with Nephew, Pastor Darrel Herring officiating. Burial immediately followed at Jefferson Cemetery, Upland, Indiana.

*Richard Haynes*

Richard Haynes - August 30, 1968 — January 19, 2026 - It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Richard A. "Rick" Haynes, who left us unexpectedly on January 19, 2026. Stories told and visitation was held on Saturday, January 24, 2026, at the Jones-Smith Chapel of Armes-Hunt Life Celebration Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 259 North Main Street, Upland, Indiana. The service was held from 10:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. Military honors took place at 12:45 p.m.

*Timothy Kline*

Timothy Wayne "Tim" Kline, 67, of Marion, Indiana, passed away Monday, January 19, 2026, at Stillwater Hospice Home in Fort Wayne following an extended illness. Arrangements have been entrusted to College Park Chapel Armes-Hunt Life Celebration Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 4601 S. Western Ave., Marion, Indiana 46953. The family received friends from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, January 22, and from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Friday, January 23, at the funeral home. A Life Celebration Service was held at 11:00 a.m. Friday, January 23, with Rev. Derek Carpenter and Rev. Jim Sonnefield officiating. Interment will take place at a later date in a private ceremony at Union Cemetery, Huntington County, Indiana.

**LOCAL CHURCH SERVICES**

**Submitted by**  
**Catherine Lamb**

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

Back Creek Friends  
- 10:30 a.m., Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.

One of Ten  
Ministries and Church  
- 10:30 a.m.

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

Pilgrim Holiness - 6 p.m.

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.

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.

Jones Chapel - 10:30 a.m., Sunday School - 9 a.m.

Fairmount UMC - Wednesday - 10 a.m., Men and Women's Bible Study

MorningStar  
Ministries, 11:00 a.m. (Jonesboro)

**Upcoming Community Events**

**Submitted by Catherine Lamb**

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

Fairmount Town Council - Biweekly at 6 p.m.

Eagles Nest Food Pantry - February 19th at 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
(At Park School. Additional dates are on Fairmount Wesleyan Church website. Click events)

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

Blackford County Extension - February 13: Election of County Officers

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

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

**Email Us Your Upcoming Events to:**

**Catherine Lamb at:**

**lambc899@gmail.com or to**

**pamela.kpi2018@gmail.com**

**\*Deadline is Monday at 5 PM for the**

**Thursday edition.**

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Clearing up

It is my desire, as the search for a new Health Officer ensues, to eliminate any questions or speculation behind the resignation of Dr. Woods.

As you may or may not be aware, this past year has held significant challenges for me both within the county government system and outside of this system. My granddaughter was born late 2024 with severe medical complexity due to a genetic diagnosis and her disability is profound and life-limiting. My priority is to accompany my daughter and her family, who reside in MI, well. I have found the weight of this personal situation combined with the demands generated in a political environment to be great and costly to me. At this season of life, the role of Health Officer is optional for me and not a necessary position. I am no longer able to pay the price of continuing.

I entered this role with vision and purpose. The people I rub shoulders with within the department, those who are in the trenches doing the work, are wonderful and dedicated individuals. I have deep respect for them. I greatly value the leadership of Tara Street as the administrator. Her role is one of importance in the department and county. Tara carries the workload required that enables Grant County to receive the HFI financial resources. Although the amount given to all counties is reduced, HFI money is freeing up funds to be directed toward other priorities in Grant County.

I ask you to work alongside the commissioners to find a replacement that is suitable to all, with a sense of urgency. I ask that arrangements are made by Jan. 30th, 2026.

I also want to let you know how deeply I appreciated your work last night. I noticed how all were willing to adjust your schedules to help when more clarity was needed. I value the collective wisdom of the board.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and care for our community. I hope to see this work continue which promotes the holistic well-being of our citizens.

With high regard,  
Brenda K. Woods MD FFAFP  
Grant County Health Officer  
Grant County Health Department  
401 S. Adams Street  
Marion, IN 46953  
765-651-2401

## DNR Invasive tree replacement program

The Indiana DNR Community & Urban Forestry program and Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) are excited to offer the Invasive Tree Replacement program in northwest Indiana. Property owners who show proof of removal of an invasive tree on their private property within Lake, Porter, and LaPorte counties are eligible to receive one free native tree at a replacement tree distribution event.

Acceptable species for removal include Callery/Bradford pear (*Pyrus calleryana*), Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), Burning Bush (*Euonymus alatus*), and any woody plant

listed by the Indiana Invasive Species Council (Invasive Plants).

The replacement tree distribution event will be held at Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (6100 Southport Road, Portage, IN 46368)

- Friday, May 1, 4-6 p.m.
- Saturday, May 2, 10 a.m.-noon

For more information about this program, visit: <https://www.in.gov/nirpc/environment/communitytree/invasive-species-replacement-program/>

To enter a submission, visit: <https://arcg.is/0X5mmu1>

Email Racheal Stenger at [rstenger@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:rstenger@dnr.IN.gov) for more information.

**TALLULAH GIBSON**  
McCulloch Junior High School 8th-grader

**LEYNA GREENWOOD**  
McCulloch Junior High School 8th-grader

**NAYA CRUZ**  
McCulloch Junior High School 8th-grader

**ALAYNAH JACKSON**  
McCulloch Junior High School 8th-grader

## Four Marion students earn top awards at regional art competition; three others honored

Four McCulloch Junior High School students earned the highest regional honor for their artwork submitted to the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards and will continue on to national-level competition. Three other McCulloch students and seven Marion High School students were also recognized for their outstanding work.

**Tallulah Gibson**, MJH 8th-grader / CSA Arts Academy, earned a Gold Key award for their sculpture "Cuddle Bug". They also earned a Silver Key award for their drawing "Spark of Joy".

**Naya Cruz**, MJH 8th-grader, earned a Gold Key award for their drawing "Mi Tierra". They also earned an Honorable Mention for their art work "Tiger".

**Leyna Greenwood**, MJH 8th-grader, earned a Gold Key Award for their drawing "Let Us Marble".

**Alaynah Jackson**, MJH 8th-grader,

earned a Gold Key award for their painting "After the After Life Runaway Bride".

Cambria Hamner, MHS senior, earned a Silver Key award for their jewelry "Pink and White". They also earned Honorable Mentions for their art work "Gray Tunnel", their stained glass piece "Big Wave", and their jewelry "Silver Pendant".

Sunday Hyde, MHS senior, earned a Silver Key award for their art work "Cafeteria".

Hannah Monroe, MHS senior, earned a Silver Key award for their sculpture "Jerry the Octopus".

Penelope Myers, MHS freshman, earned a Silver Key award for their drawing "The Coffee Shop".

Aliya Cruz, MHS junior, earned Honorable Mention awards for two poems, "Next Time" and "Legacymaking".

Gwynneth Hamilton, MHS senior, earned an Honorable Mention

award for their drawing "Because the Internet".

Symone Purvis, MJH 7th-grader, earned an Honorable Mention award for their drawing "What We Carry".

Damien Taylor, MHS junior / CSA Arts Academy, earned two Honorable Mention awards for their art works, "Half-Death" and "Pinochet".

Selah Veenkant, MJH 8th-grader, earned an Honorable Mention award for their art work "The Tiger's Watching".

Evan Williams, MJH 8th-grader, earned an Honorable Mention award for their drawing "False Reflection".

The Fort Wayne Museum of Art displays the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards honorees for the region, which encompasses 52 counties in northeast Indiana and northwest Ohio. This year's exhibition will be on display from Feb. 14 through April 12 (excluding March

2-6, when the exhibit will be closed due to another museum event).

Hours and admission costs can be viewed online at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art's website: <https://fwmoa.org/plan-your-visit/>.

All pieces that earned a Gold Key will be part of a competition in New York this spring. According to the FWMOA website, the high caliber of entries into the Fort Wayne competition has propelled the region to be one of the top regions for national awards

2026, when the exhibit will be closed due to another museum event). Hours and admission costs can be viewed online at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art's website: <https://fwmoa.org/plan-your-visit/>. Marion has been perennially well-represented in this competition, with students winning regional awards many times over the last decade, as well as national awards

Marion Community Schools congratulates these talented students and expresses gratitude to their outstanding teachers.

### Summons - Service By Publication/Unknown Heirs and Devisees 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 Devisees 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 Devisees 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](mailto:james.tomasik@normanattorney.com) Attest: /s/ Pamela K Harris MG Clerk, Grant Superior Court

(2-5-26, 2-12-26, 2-19-26, JR\_HSPAXLP)

## The McCartney Project



Event Date/Time:  
Saturday, February 14, 2026

Doors open: 6:15 pm  
Cash bar available

Performance: 7:00 pm

Event Location:  
Arts Place Jay County Campus: 131 E Walnut St, Portland, IN 47371

Cost:  
Tickets: \$20.00

Ticket purchasing:  
[WWW.MYARTSPLACE.ORG](http://WWW.MYARTSPLACE.ORG)

Thank you to our sponsors of the Eric R. Rogers Performing Arts Series:

Compass Wealth Solutions, F&M Bank, Bollenbacher & Associates, LLC, Dennis & Marianne Horn, and Dr. Joe Trimmer, in memory of his wife Carol Trimmer.

For more information or questions on how to be involved, please contact Arts Place by calling 260-726-4809 or emailing [jcc@myartsplace.org](mailto:jcc@myartsplace.org)

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Item runs until sold! Seller must  
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the ad.ALL CLASSIFIEDS are pre-paid. Call  
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