

## Upcoming Classes

### Wednesday Weight Checks for Baby

Jasper, Ind. – Deaconess Memorial Medical Centers lactation consultants are offering free walk-in, infant weight checks on Wednesdays except the 1st Wednesday of the month from 9-11 a.m. Lactation consults will also be available by appointment if needed. 812-996-0383 Weight checks will be held in the First Level Conference Room. Enter the main entrance of the hospital and stop at the information desk. Signs will be posted directing you to the appropriate location (across from outpatient lab).

### Your Health and Diabetes Education

Jasper – Discovering the diagnosis of diabetes can be overwhelming. Deaconess Memorial Medical Center wants to support you in this transition of lifestyle, and sponsors a continuing education group for persons with diabetes, pre-diabetes, or anyone who is interested in learning about the disease. This support group is held the third Monday of each month and provides knowledge to help you feel more secure, manage problems, and avoid hospitalization for diabetes-related issues. The next meeting will be Monday, March 16 2026, from 2:00 pm- 3:00 pm p.m. on the 3rd floor of the Barrett Building at Deaconess Memorial, on 800 West 9th Street in Jasper. For more information, please contact Deaconess Memorial Medical Center's Diabetes Management and Prevention Services at 812-996-0521.

### Stop The Bleed

Jasper – In emergency situations, the help given by an immediate responder can often make the difference between life and death, even before professional rescuers arrive. Deaconess Memorial Medical Center's Ambulance and Trauma Services is offering "Stop The Bleed®". This informational program focuses on the immediate response to bleeding, recognizing life-threatening bleeding, and appropriate ways to stop the bleeding. For more information and scheduling contact Sarah.Schneider2@deaconess.com

### Hearty Hearts Cardiac Rehab Club

Jasper –The "Hearty Hearts" Rehab Club is an organization formed specifically for all former and current Memorial Hospital Cardiac Rehab and Angina Heart Therapy patients and their families. The meetings are held 3 times a year and are conducted by the nurses and exercise physiologists of the Cardiac Rehab at Deaconess Memorial Medical Center. The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. in the Medical Arts Building Conference Center, located at 721 West 13th Street in Jasper. March's meeting will be led by Natalie O'Connor, NP-FNP-BC from Deaconess Clinic - Heart and Vascular. Natalie will discuss the differences between the old and new USDA dietary guidelines which were recently updated. Cardiac Rehab is an outpatient, heart-monitored exercise program for patients who have had a recent heart attack, angina, coronary artery bypass surgery, heart valve replacement surgery, balloon angioplasty, or stent placement For more information about the "Hearty Hearts" Cardiac Rehab Club, please call the Cardiopulmonary Rehab Center at 812-996-0554 or toll-free at 800-852-7279, ext. 0554.

## Memorial Medical Center Foundation establishes Ann Dall Hopf Memorial Nursing Education Endowment

*Honoring lifelong legacy of care*

Jasper, Indiana — The Memorial Medical Center Foundation is honored to announce the establishment of the Ann Dall Hopf Memorial Nursing Education Endowment Fund, created by Mike Hopf and family in loving memory of Ann Kathleen Hopf. This permanent endowment will support the professional development and education of nurses at Deaconess Memorial Medical Center and provide scholarships for local students pursuing careers in healthcare, continuing Ann's legacy of compassion, excellence, and dedication to patient care.

Ann Hopf devoted 40 years of her life to Memorial Hospital, serving patients in the Intensive Care Unit and Cath Lab and teaching advanced cardiac life support to fellow caregivers. A graduate of the Deaconess School of Nursing, Ann was known not only for her clinical expertise, but for her deeply caring nature and commitment to helping others. Her impact reached far beyond the bedside, shaping the lives of countless patients, colleagues, and students throughout her remarkable career.

Through the Ann Dall Hopf Memorial Nursing Education Endowment, annual distributions will provide a minimum of \$2,500 to support nursing education and professional development for Memorial



Ann-Kathleen-Hopf

nurses. In addition, the endowment will fund two annual \$1,000 scholarships for Dubois County high school seniors who participate in the HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) program at Deaconess Memorial Medical Center, helping inspire and prepare the next generation of healthcare professionals. All educational support and scholarships from the endowment will begin in spring 2027, with award amounts increasing over time as the endowment grows through investment and additional contributions.

"Ann exemplified what it means to be a nurse - compassionate, skilled, and wholly devoted to others," said Deidra Church, Memorial Medical Center Foundation Director. "This endowment honors her extraordinary career and ensures that both current nurses and future healthcare professionals have opportunities to grow, learn, and continue providing exceptional care in our community."

The Memorial Medical Center Foundation welcomes additional gifts to the Ann Dall Hopf Memorial Nursing Education Endowment.

Community members, colleagues, friends, and family who wish to honor Ann's legacy may contribute at any time. Gifts can be made payable to the Memorial Medical Center Foundation, with the designation Ann Dall Hopf Memorial Nursing Education Endowment, and will remain permanently invested to provide ongoing support for Deaconess Memorial Medical Center nurses and local students.

Ann Hopf passed away on December 12, 2025, surrounded by her family. She was remembered for her unwavering care for others, her devotion to her family, and her lifelong commitment to nursing. This endowment stands as a lasting tribute to her life's work and the profound difference she made in the lives of so many.

For more information or to make a gift to the Ann Dall Hopf Memorial Nursing Education Endowment, please contact the Memorial Medical Center Foundation at 812-996-8426 or visit [www.deaconessmemorial.com/giving](http://www.deaconessmemorial.com/giving).

About Memorial Medical Center Foundation  
The Memorial Medical Center Foundation supports Deaconess Memorial Medical Center by securing charitable gifts that enhance patient care, support healthcare education, and improve the health and well-being of the communities it serves.

## JPD remembers Dennis Prescott

It is with heavy hearts that the Jasper Police Department mourns the passing of our friend and coworker, Dennis Prescott.

For nearly seven years, Dennis faithfully served our department as our maintenance technician, playing a vital role in keeping our facility running and supporting our personnel each day. His work often happened behind the scenes, but his impact was felt by everyone.

Dennis also played a major role each year in helping design and build our department's Christmas parade float—something he took pride in and that brought joy to both our officers and the community we serve.

Dennis was more than a coworker—he was part of our Jasper Police Department family. He will be deeply missed.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones during this difficult time.

Rest easy, Dennis. You will not be forgotten.



Dennis Prescott



# FFA Salute

*Inside this Issue*

## Dubois County Historical Society to discuss Lincoln and the Declaration of Independence

The Dubois County Historical Society will meet at 6:30 EDT Tuesday, March 17, 2026 in the Dubois County Museum at 2704 N Newton St, Jasper, IN.

A catered dinner will be served.

The program will commemorate the 250th anniversary of

the Declaration of Independence through a presentation by Joshua Claybourn titled "Abraham Lincoln, the Declaration of Independence, and the American Idea." Drawing from his forthcoming book *Lincoln's Compass*, Claybourn traces Lincoln's lifelong engagement with

the Declaration, from his frontier youth to his final presidential speeches. The talk shows how Lincoln treated equality as a guiding principle for self-government and why his reading of the Declaration still speaks to the demands and limits of constitutional democracy.

Claybourn has been recently elected president of the Abraham Lincoln Association in Springfield Illinois. This group is the nation's largest dedicated to Lincoln's history and legacy.

Also, an update will be presented on the Society's project "Revolutionary Rendezvous Dubois County"

– the Revolutionary times reenactment event to be held April 10 – 12 at the Ferdinand State Forest.

The cost of the meal is \$25. For reservations call Tom Fierst 812-630-8882 or Email [tfierst@twc.com](mailto:tfierst@twc.com)

Reservations are due by March 4.

The public is invited.

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

## Released from past mistakes

By Teresa LeNeave  
leneave2@comcast.net

If you're a beach lover like me, you've watched as ocean waves wash onto shore melting your footprints into the surrounding sand. If you've noticed, sometimes those powerful waves must take two or three sweeps across the grainy sand before the telltale signs of someone walking completely disappears. A tiny footprint may only take one gush of water, but a big and deep footprint takes more than one.

That's like the footprints left in our lives because of sin. Some are barely seen. Others are very deep. What can we do about the footprints that just won't go away?

In life, not only do we have to contend with footprints we've left behind, we also have to learn to deal with the footprints our



spouses, our children, our churches, our government and sometimes even the footprints our parents left behind. But know this, the past has no power over you if you don't focus on it. Apostle Paul had lots of reasons to regret his life before Christ, but he said, "This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching

forth unto those things which are before" (Phil 3:13).

Focusing on the left-behind footprints is not healthy. Satan tries to keep our focus on what is wrong, but God wants us to think on what is right. For some of us, it's time to change our thinking habits, if we want to be released from past mistakes. The Bible says, think on these

things: whatever is true, honest, just, pure, lovely and of good report (Phil. 4:8). Not once does Jesus say to think on your failures and shortcomings.

For all of us, the first step in washing away deep and unpleasant footprints, the answer is to give our life to Christ. After that, it becomes a journey. You're not instantly

sanctified and perfect. We are, however, cleansed by his blood and forgiven. Trouble is, forgiveness does not wipe out the past. The price for sin is very costly. Sometimes, bad choices turn our entire lives around and continue spinning in mindless circles. Only Jesus can help people deal with the spinning that is out of control.

Too many of our choices are made without 'thinking'. Take, for instance, when I fell off a city scooter ripping the hamstring muscle from my bone. Getting on that scooter was a decision I made without thinking and it's one I'll be reminded of for the rest of my life. I'll no longer have the freedom to do just any activity I want to. My life will be filled with many restrictions and, for me, that's a gross reminder that there's always a price to pay for not thinking before acting foolishly.

No one can change your life, but you. God can change your heart and your desires, but it will be up to you to obey God and change your life. In this life, we will all leave deep and unwanted footprints, but thank God, He has the ability to wash away our sins and make us whole again.

## Whatever happened to the fear of sinning?

By Dr. Billy Holland

What does the average, or maybe we could say normal, person think about sin? Have you noticed that most people would rather listen to messages that talk about how much God loves us and wants to bless us, than how His heart is breaking over us failing Him? Some of you might be thinking, you thought this was an inspiring and encouraging column, but my response is like your mom used to say, before we eat our chocolate cake, we also need to eat our spinach. We claim we want to please God, but is this true? Our level of reverential fear of who He is reveals how much we love and respect Him.

Do we have an awareness or feel guilty when we are not displaying the character of God? For

those who have made a vow to honor the covenant of Christ, are they convicted when they willingly disobey Him? One of the dangers of becoming distracted with the everyday activities of life is how seldom we examine our attitude and behavior. Being spiritually cold and calloused is how the heart and mind can grow numb to sin. Aren't we required to develop spiritual discernment? It's one thing to feel guilty about sins we commit, but we often forget about the sins of omission, where we neglect to obey His voice. We are deceived to assume that God is lenient about our rebellion, as He does not turn a blind eye to our secret games of denial.

This brings us to some interesting questions: Does God keep a running record

of our sins? When we ask Him to become our Lord, does this mean all our sins, past, present, and future, are forgiven? If we need to constantly ask forgiveness, do we confess each sin specifically, or can we just take the easy way by grouping them all together as one general request? "Lord, forgive me of all my sins." Some churches emphasize private confession, where the individual explains to the priest the ultimate details of what they have done. This particular theology believes a prescription is given that will eliminate the offenses from the eternal record. Other churches embrace that Jesus is the only personal mediator between God and man, and the only Savior who can forgive us. Jesus paid for our sins with His blood at Golgotha,

but does this mean that all our trespasses are automatically washed away? Or are we required to repent for each specific sin? What if we forget about certain sins?

Sin is basically defined as missing the mark, which refers to God's plan for the redeemed to live holy as He is holy. You see, God has the highest standard of purity and expects His people to see sin as intentional rebellion and disobedience. We have mentioned recently how it's common for the average person to ignore sin as something that God does not pay attention to. This is not true. We need to realize our carnal behavior breaks His heart. When was the last time our sin made us physically ill to the point of being nauseated? Why are we not afraid of sinning against

Him, especially since the Bible contains terrifying stories about those who did? One example is found in Joshua chapter seven about a man named Achan. He kept some of the valuable spoils of war, after God warned Israel to not keep anything, and his disobedience resulted in Israel losing the battle, the death of 36 soldiers, and he and his entire family were executed.

In Acts chapter five, we read about Ananias and Sapphira, a husband and wife who claimed to donate the full amount of a land sale to the church. However, as they secretly held back a portion for themselves, their deception was considered by God as lying to the Holy Spirit, and they fell dead. There is not enough room to list them, but

consider just a few punishments for sin including Adam and Eve, the prophets of Baal, the flood, Miriam's leprosy, Lot's wife, Herod Agrippa, Nabal, Er and Onan, Uzzah, Nadab and Abihu, Sodom, the 250 followers of Korah, and the 42 children who mocked the prophet Elisha. The point is that just because we do not see people falling dead for their sins, this does not cancel the warning that declares the wages of sin are death. "Let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire" Hebrews 12:28-29.

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

It seems, years ago, I simply reacted when hunting season came. The preparation phase lasted only about a month. The reason was because I hunted area farms. Unlike many hardwoods' areas, farmland hunting is fairly predictable. The deer are basically going to be there from year to year. I know this cuts out the need for a lot of scouting articles, but the truth is the truth. For instance, I have heard all my life that oak trees only produce acorns every three years or so. Now, I've not studied this, so don't send me mean emails. What I have discovered is

this. If there is an oak tree on the side of a field, and that field is fertilized by the farmer every year, that tree will have acorns every year. I have also noticed this. If that same farmer has several cows and those cows fertilize around that oak tree every year (if you know what I mean), that tree will have acorns every year as well. Things just are a little different on the farm. And what about that wonderful spring gobbler? I've hunted them in the deep woods and on the farm and I can tell you, once again, if that farmer has cows and he feeds those cows a little sweet feed; he



is creating one of the best management areas for turkeys. What each hunter needs to realize is that each cow pie is a natural bait pile that a turkey will eventually find. Somehow, I just can't see this technique being given print space in any

outdoor magazine; but again, that's life on the farm; a little different and, in my opinion, a lot better. The farmer has learned that nothing is wasted – even waste. He has learned that what the rest of the world sees as worthless and even unmentionable is the

catalyst for growth and the medium for consistency. He has learned that waste is not waste. It is fertilizer!

What all of us need to remember is there is nothing that happens in our life that is useless or worthless. God never looks at something we have done and says, "I can't use that." He uses everything and has promised that even the things we consider of no use, He will use to grow our life into one that is consistent in bearing spiritual fruit year after year. As I like to say, not only can God make something out of nothing, but He can

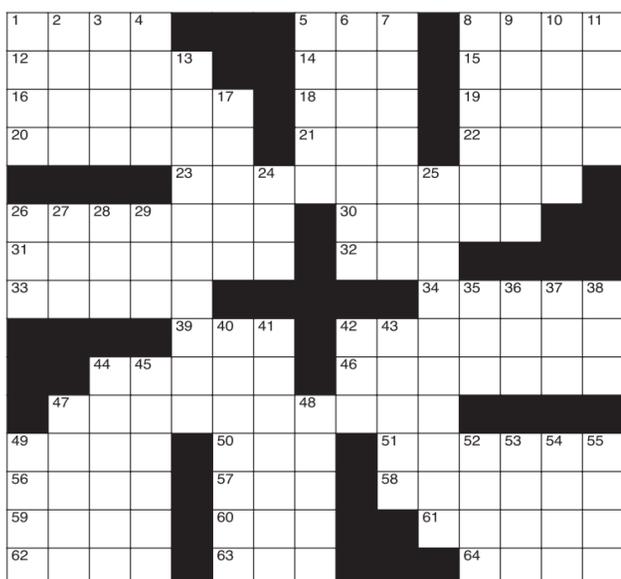
make something out of everything. And that means what looks like cow pies to you, is fertilizer to God.

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](http://Outdoortruths.org)

### Crossword Puzzle



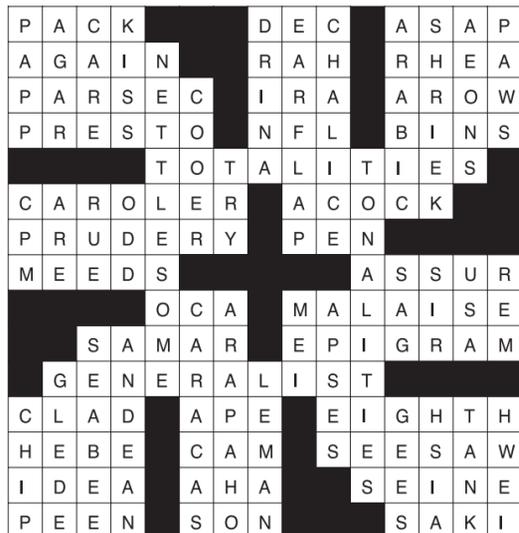
#### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. What travelers must do
- 5. Calendar month
- 8. Hopefully quickly
- 12. Once more
- 14. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- 15. "Cheers" actress Perlman
- 16. Astronomy unit
- 18. Savings vehicle
- 19. Get your ducks in this
- 20. Right away
- 21. Popular sports league
- 22. Containers
- 23. Entireties
- 26. One who wassails
- 30. Turned-up position
- 31. Extreme modesty
- 32. Writing utensil
- 33. Rewards (archaic)
- 34. Ancient capital
- 39. S. American wood sorrel
- 42. General discomfort
- 44. Philippine island
- 46. A witty saying
- 47. One who summarizes
- 49. Covered in
- 50. Mimic
- 51. Henry was a notable one
- 56. Daughter of Hera and Zeus
- 57. Retired NFLer Newton
- 58. Playground equipment
- 59. Concept
- 60. Satisfaction
- 61. Fishing net
- 62. Hammer end
- 63. A father's male child
- 64. Japanese drink

#### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Off-Broadway figure
- 2. Gelatinous substance
- 3. Concern
- 4. "Lick It Up" rockers
- 5. Serbian river
- 6. Part of a hat
- 7. Bowl-shaped drinking vessel
- 8. Semitic language
- 9. Utter a shrill cry
- 10. Long times
- 11. Animal parts
- 13. Causing annoyance
- 17. Amorous talker
- 24. Attempt
- 25. Harmonic effects
- 26. Cost per mile
- 27. They \_\_\_
- 28. Bitterly regret
- 29. Not even
- 35. A way to drop
- 36. Title of respect
- 37. World leader
- 38. Georgia rockers
- 40. National capital
- 41. Great Plains people
- 42. Duck-sized dinosaur genus
- 43. Architectural recesses
- 44. Member of U.S. Navy
- 45. Mountainous
- 47. Kite bird
- 48. Sweetheart (archaic)
- 49. Popular snack made of potato
- 52. 70s songsters The Bee \_\_\_
- 53. SE China port \_\_\_-men
- 54. Something to fill up
- 55. League of Legends character

### PUZZLE SOLUTION



### Crypto Fun



Solve the code to discover words related to canned food. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 5 = E)

- A. 6 22 21 21 5 8**  
Clue: Sealed in metal
- B. 1 5 22 16**  
Clue: Pairs well with carrots
- C. 16 14 15 1**  
Clue: Liquid meal
- D. 10 5 22 21 16**  
Clue: Legumes

Answers: A. canned B. peas C. soup D. beans

### Word Search

#### CANNED GOODS WORD SEARCH



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

#### ANSWERS ON THE CLASSIFIED PAGE

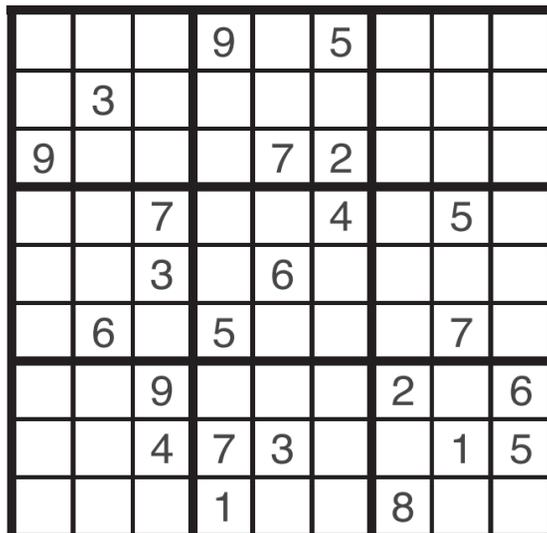
#### WORDS

- BRINE
- CAN
- CANISTER
- FERMENTATION
- FILLED
- LABEL
- LID
- LINING
- OPENER
- PACKING
- PASTEURIZE
- PICKLING
- PRESERVE
- PROCESSING
- REHYDRATE
- ROTATION
- SEALING
- SHELF
- STERILE
- STOCKPILE
- STORAGE
- SYRUP
- TIN
- VACUUM

### 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 canned food.

ODGOS



Answer: Goods

### Guess Who?

#### GUESS WHO?

I am an actress born on February 25, 1976 in California. I attended Harvard University and wanted to become a lawyer. But I went into the arts and starred on a popular television series about the recreation department of a small town. My father was a legendary record producer.

Answer: Rashida Jones

### COLORING FUN

OH, THE PLACES YOU'LL GO!



Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss!

Monday, March 2nd

### Valentine's Day Jokes

**What do you call a girl with a frog on her head?**  
Lily

**Why do birds fly north in the spring?**  
Because it's way faster than walking.

**How excited was the gardener about springs?**  
So excited he wet his plants!

**What did the big flower say to the little flower?**  
Hi, Bud!

**Why are trees very forgiving in spring?**  
Because they turn over a new leaf.

**What goes up when the rain comes down?**  
An umbrella



2026, at the Becher-Kluesner North Chapel in Jasper, Indiana, with burial at a later date. The American Legion Post #147 will conduct military rites at the funeral home after the service. A visitation will be held from 2:00-7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at the Becher-Kluesner North Chapel in Jasper, Indiana.

*Lauren R. Patterson*

Lauren R. Patterson, age 71, of Jasper, passed away on Saturday, February 7, 2026 at Deaconess Memorial Medical Center, Jasper. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Condolences may be shared online at: www.nassandson.com

*Karen S. Phillips*

Karen S. Phillips, age 78, of Huntingburg, Indiana, passed away Saturday, February 7, 2026, at her residence. A Celebration of life for Karen Phillips will be at Nass and Son Funeral Home on Saturday, April 18, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. until time of service at 11:00 a.m.

*Rosalee Hodge*

Rosalee Hodge, 83, passed away on February 13, 2026, at Owensboro Health Regional Hospital. Rosalee requested no funeral services. Huber Funeral Home is assisting her family with arrangements.

*David Dartt*

David Brent Dartt, 51, passed away on Wednesday, February 11, 2026. Funeral services were held at 1:00 PM CST on Monday, February 16, 2026, at Huber Funeral Home, Cannelton Chapel. Pastor Jason Johns will officiate with burial to follow in Derby Cemetery.

*Frank Jochim*

Frank Jochim, age 67, of Huntingburg, passed away at 4:15 p.m., on February 10, 2026, at Deaconess Memorial Medical Center in Jasper. There are no events scheduled at this time. You can still show your support by sending flowers directly to the family of Frank Jochim.

# Almost Home

By Brandon Bramlett  
Pastor - Bandana Baptist Church

On lengthy road trips, I often groan and grumble about the rigors of long travel, and my wife will always reassure me, saying, “Just a little while longer—we are almost home.” And it never fails to cheer me up, no matter how far away we are from home. Because of that reminder, I keep my foot on the gas, my eyes on the road, and the guiding map on my GPS. And all the way, I am encouraged in my heart because I know the road won’t go on forever. Indeed, home will be just around the corner.

All who are redeemed by faith in Christ are headed home, too. We are destined for our Father’s heavenly house. As Jesus assured, “In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? (John 14:2). The Bible even says that we are headed for a place not built with human hands: “For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens” (2 Cor. 5:1). In fact, one day we will “be away from the body and at home with the Lord” (2 Cor. 5:8).

But right now, we aren’t at home. We are sojourners traveling up the rough and rocky road of our Christian pilgrimage—and it is not easy. We often grow tired and exhausted on the road of righteousness (Gal. 6:9). We sometimes have to wait when we wish we were moving forward, much like being stuck in traffic (Psalm 27:14). But we need only to remember the biblical truth that we are almost home.

We cannot be certain of how close we are, of course. But we can be certain that we are closer to our heavenly home-going with every passing hour. Every evening sunset brings us closer to the day when the Son will shine brightly upon us (Malachi 4:2 Rev. 22:5). Every night of sleep brings us closer to the day when we shall rest from our labors (Rev. 14:13). We may be years or only seconds away from entering our eternal home, but no matter what, we are almost there.

And thus, we need to keep our eyes on the highway of holiness and our heads held high in faith, allowing the guiding map of holy Scripture to direct us to our heavenly home. And all the while, we may sing the words of William Hunter’s hymn, I Feel Like Traveling On: “My heav’nly home is bright and fair,

I feel like traveling on.  
Nor pain, nor death can enter there,  
I feel like traveling on.  
Yes, I feel like traveling on,

I feel like traveling on;  
My heav’nly home is bright and fair,  
I feel like traveling on.”

# Peent! An evening with the Woodcocks

Saturday evening, March 7, the Refuge Friends will offer a unique birding experience for the whole family. Most outings aren’t focused on just one animal, but woodcocks are so neat they get a whole night all their own!

Just what is a “Peent”? It’s the sound made by male woodcocks while performing their courtship ritual flights. Join us at Columbia Mine Preserve main parking lot on Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge at 5:30 pm CST for a brief presentation on the woodcock. Then we’ll walk Timberdoodle Trail and hope the woodcocks are in the mood to put on a show.

This event is open to all, regardless of age or experience. Yet, since this is an event in the evening that is dependent on a fairly quiet environment, parents

are encouraged to stay with their children. Dress appropriately for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes. Flash lights are optional. Consider arriving early to enjoy the sunset and walk some trails. In case of inclement weather, the event will be held on March 14 and will begin at 6:30 CST.

Directions: Head east from Oakland City on State Highway 64 for two miles to CR 100W. Turn left (North) onto CR 100W and continue ¼ mile until the road “T’s”. Turn Left (West) on W CR 475 S, travel 1/10 mile. Look for the Columbia Mine Preserve sign across from Patoka Grove Church, turn right (North) onto CR 125W and follow the road two miles back to the large parking area at the center of the Columbia Mine Preserve.

*Dennis E. Adams*

Dennis E. Adams, age 65, of Ferdinand, Indiana, passed away at 4:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 7, 2026, at home. A Celebration of Life memorial service for Dennis E. Adams will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, February 20, 2026, at the Becher-Kluesner Downtown Chapel in Jasper, Indiana. Pastor Darrel Land will officiate. A memorial visitation will be held from 2:00 p.m. until the 6:00 p.m. service time at the funeral home.

*Linus O. “Lenie” Jahn*

Linus Othmar “Lenie” Jahn, age 85, of Jasper, Indiana, passed away peacefully on the morning of Saturday, February 14, 2026, at Deaconess Memorial Hospital Jasper. A Mass of Christian Burial for Linus Othmar “Lenie” Jahn will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 21, 2026, at Holy Family Catholic Church in Jasper, Indiana, with entombment to follow in the Fairview Cemetery Mausoleum in Jasper. A visitation will be held from 9:00 a.m. until the 11:00 a.m. Mass time at the church on Saturday.

*Jerry L. Breeding*

Jerry L. Breeding, age 86, of Dubois, Indiana, passed away at 7:45 p.m. on Thursday, February 12, 2026, at home surrounded by family. A funeral service for Jerry Lee Breeding will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 19,

*Lowell Byrum Beasley*

Lowell Byrum Beasley, age 89, of Huntingburg, went to be with Jesus at 3:16 p.m., on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at Scenic Hills at the Monastery surrounded by his family. Funeral services were held at 2:00 p.m., E.S.T., Monday, February 16, 2026, at Central Christian Church in Huntingburg with burial to follow at Fairmount Cemetery. Pastor Jacob Keeling will officiate at the service. Military graveside rites will be conducted by the V.F.W. Post #2366 Memorial Detail.

*Debra Turtle Grunden*

Debra L. “Turtle” Grunden, age 64, of Huntingburg, passed away on Monday, February 9, 2026 at The Waters of Huntingburg. A private graveside service will be held at Marengo Cemetery at a later date.

*Darlene Delores Eckert*

Darlene Delores Eckert, age 85, of Huntingburg, Indiana, passed away on Sunday, February 8, 2026, at Brookside Village in Jasper. A funeral Mass of Christian Burial was held at 10:00 a.m., E.S.T., on Friday, February 13, 2026, at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Huntingburg with burial followed at St. Mary’s Cemetery. The funeral Mass will be celebrated by Rev. Biju Thomas.

### Huntingburg Public Library, Dubois County, Indiana Cash & Investments Combined Statement - 2025

	Local Fund Number	Local Fund Name	Beg Cash & Inv Bal Jan 1, 2025	Receipts	Disbursements	End Cash & Inv Bal Dec 31, 2025
Governmental Activities	100	General Fund Operating	\$356,048.24	\$1,074,092.32	\$1,255,264.14	\$174,876.42
	102	Petty Cash Fund	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
	103	TrustIndiana General Fund	\$435,776.78	\$13,373.09	\$400,000.00	\$49,149.87
	104	TrustIndiana LIRF	\$218,218.71	\$9,112.35	\$20,000.00	\$207,331.06
	200	Gift	\$417,308.13	\$100,360.95	\$231,487.40	\$286,181.68
	201	Rainy Day Operating	\$534,346.97	\$0.00	\$530,000.00	\$4,346.97
	276	State Technology Grant Fund	\$5,055.59	\$3,703.85	\$4,370.04	\$4,389.40
	400	LIRF	\$628,329.36	\$39,411.87	\$650,919.20	\$16,822.03
	421	Rainy Day LIRF	\$464,079.95	\$0.00	\$464,079.95	\$0.00
	802	Evergreen	\$13.25	\$209.53	\$147.33	\$75.45
	806	Payroll Net	\$0.00	\$183,010.81	\$183,010.81	\$0.00
	831	Payroll 941	\$0.00	\$48,340.10	\$48,340.06	\$0.04
	832	Payroll IDOR/State and County	\$0.00	\$9,647.67	\$9,647.67	\$0.00
	833	Payroll INPRS/PERF	\$0.00	\$8,742.09	8,742.09	\$0.00
		Total All Funds	\$3,059,376.98	\$1,490,004.63	\$3,806,008.69	\$743,372.92

(2-26-26\_HB\_1x)



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# Daughters of Isabella Jasper Circle #140 hold meeting

Daughters of Isabella Jasper Circle #140 met for their regular monthly meeting on Monday, February 9, at the St. Joseph Parish Center in Jasper. Regent Marge Beckman welcomed the members to the meeting. Chancellor Bev Himsel led the opening prayer. Members then recited the Pledge of the Flag together. Vice Regent Sharon Gramelspacher read a passage from the Spiritual Reflection Guide. The reflection was on Mary. Regent Beckman asked for any prayer intention requests. After members spoke on their requests, prayers were offered.

Secretary Pam Schneider read the Roll Call of officers. All officers were present but one. Guide Martha Matthews was excused. Minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer Rose Rasche gave the Report of the Treasurer. Her report was filed for audit.

Communications were read by Secretary Schneider. Thank you notes were received from the Community Food Bank in appreciation for our Christmas donation to the Food Bank and a note was received from Father John Brosmer of St. Joseph Parish for the Memorial Contribution we made in Memory of our deceased members recently.

The Quarterly Meeting of Officers was held before the meeting. Financial secretary Betty Mehringer reported that our Circle has

276 members. We continue to be the largest Circle in the whole organization. Treasurer Rose Rasche gave the Quarterly Treasurer's Report. The Auditors Pam Howard, Lynne Bohnert and Tracy Merkel found the books to be in order. The next board meeting has been moved to May 14 at 5:00 p.m. due to the Mother's Day dinner on May 11.

Visiting members in the Nursing Home for February will be Nancy Marks and Patty Bailey. Visiting in January were Bev Himsel, Sharon Reckelhoff and Donna Altman.

A prayer was said for a fruitful increase and retention in the membership of the Daughters of Isabella. Scribe Kathy Bachman had no report.

The prayer for youth and young adults was said.

April 26 is the date for the Spring Fling to be held at Plymouth, IN. The International Convention will be August 8-12 in Toronto, Canada.

Past Regent Kathy Schneider reported that the next Moose Bingo our Circle will help with will be February 24.

The Circle will assist with the Stations of the Cross at St. Joseph Church at 6:00 p.m. on February 20 and provide meatless soups for the presentation to follow. Members are planning to bring a variety of soups. On hand will be pots of potato, broccoli and cheese, cauliflower, bean, clam chowder and tortellini. Tuna salad sandwiches will be included, as well as cornbread muffins.

Members are to have their soups in crock pots at the parish center by 5:00 p.m.

Jane Fischer had a request that the D of I donate to the Sister of Providence Come and See program to help with the cost of meals. The request was granted.

For the Good of the Order Vice regent Gramelspacher read the Evangelization Prayer. She spoke on membership and said those wishing to acquire a membership form should reach out to Regent Beckman, Past Regent Schneider and herself.

Financial Secretary Mehringer gave the receipts of the meeting. She reminded members that dues are now payable and are \$20. Members with last names beginning with the first letters of A-K are asked to send their \$20 check, with a stamped self-addressed envelope to Betty Mehringer at 1744 W. Ackerman Road, Jasper; while those members with last names beginning with letters L-Z are asked to send their check and envelope to Chris Schuetter at 2452 N. Mill Street, Jasper.

The Obligation was given, reading of the Closing Prayer was said and the Closing Ode was sung. The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be March 9, at 6:30 p.m., in Room 301 of the St. Joseph Parish Center.

Winning the birthday prize for the month was Chris Schuetter.

The meeting prize was won by Tracey Merkel.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Bachman,  
Scribe



## Open your eyes to the threat of glaucoma

It is easy to take sight for granted when eyes are working as they should. When vision begins to diminish, people may seek the advice of an eye professional to determine if there is something they can do to prevent further deterioration.

Glaucoma is the second leading cause of blindness in the world, advises the Cleveland Clinic. Unlike some other vision problems like cataracts that affect the lens or surface of the eye, glaucoma impacts the optic nerve directly. However, blindness from glaucoma often can be prevented with early treatment.

### Under pressure

Glaucoma is brought on by abnormal pressure buildup in the eye. The American Academy of Ophthalmology® says the eye constantly makes a substance known as aqueous humor. When new aqueous humor flows into the eye, existing aqueous humor should drain out through an area called the drainage angle. But if the drainage angle is not working correctly, the fluid builds up and intraocular pressure in the eye increases. Over time, this pressure damages the optic nerve. The primary function of the optic

nerve is to transmit visual information from the retina to the brain.

### Open-angle and closed-angle glaucoma

The most common type of glaucoma is known as open-angle glaucoma, which occurs when the drainage angle becomes blocked or there is resistance to the fluid draining out, says the Cleveland Clinic. This disease may go undetected for years because most people do not experience symptoms early on. The Mayo Clinic says gradual development of blind spots in peripheral vision and, in later stages, difficulty seeing things in central vision may occur.

In closed-angle glaucoma, also called angle-closure glaucoma, a person's iris is very close to the drainage angle and the iris itself can end up blocking the drainage angle. When the drainage angle becomes completely blocked, pressure in the eye can rapidly increase. The AAO says this is known as an acute attack and is a true emergency that can result in blindness. Signs of an acute attack include:

- Suddenly blurry vision
- Severe eye pain
- Headache
- Nausea

- Vomiting
- Rainbow-colored rings or halos appearing around lights

### Glaucoma risk factors

Glaucoma can affect anyone, but the risk increases with age (over 60) and is higher among Black and Hispanic populations. Asian and Inuit populations are more susceptible to closed-angle glaucoma, says the Cleveland Clinic. People with diabetes also have a much higher risk of getting glaucoma. In addition, individuals with a family history of glaucoma; people with high blood pressure; and people with previous eye injury or surgery are at risk for glaucoma.

### Treatment

The main treatment for glaucoma includes prescription eye drops that will decrease fluids and improve drainage in the eye. Laser therapy also may be recommended to help improve fluid drainage. Surgery also can achieve better eye pressure, but it is more invasive and additional methods may be tried first.

Glaucoma is not something to take lightly. Routine eye exams that measure intraocular pressure can help determine if eyes are healthy.

## Christie Thomas named next DAISY award winner

Jasper, IN – Deaconess Memorial Medical Center is excited to announce that the next recipient of the DAISY Award is Christie Thomas, RN! Thomas works in Women and Infant Services and was nominated by a patient. In the nomination, the patient shared, "She was more than a nurse, but

also my sense of power, strength, determination and endurance throughout the labor and delivery process.... She got into the trench of the hardest thing I've ever went through physically, to bear it along with me. Forehead to forehead, refusing to let me believe that I couldn't do what I needed to do to birth that baby."

We thank Thomas for her dedicated and compassionate care she provides to our patients every day. For more information on how you can nominate a nurse, visit [www.deaconessmemorial.com](http://www.deaconessmemorial.com) or contact Anna Borden in Human Resources at 812-996-1488.

The DAISY Award is an international program that rewards and celebrates the extraordinary clinical skill and compassionate care given by nurses every day. Deaconess Memorial Medical Center is proud to be a DAISY Award Partner, recognizing one of our nurses with this special honor each quarter. To find out more about the DAISY Foundation, please go to [www.DAISYfoundation.org](http://www.DAISYfoundation.org)



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# DUBOIS COUNTY FFA CHAPTERS



*Jasper*

## Jasper FFA posts record year of success and service

By Laurna Todd  
ING Writer

Under the leadership of Brianna Lammers and Hannah Knust, Agriculture teachers and FFA advisors at Jasper High School, the chapter is celebrating an outstanding 2025–2026 school year marked by competitive excellence, leadership development and meaningful community service through the National FFA Organization.

Jasper FFA members have earned top finishes across multiple Career Development Events (CDEs) at the district, area and state levels.

Claire Linette captured District X First Place honors in Beef Production Placement Proficiency, setting the tone for a strong year of success. The chapter also performed well in District X Welding competition. In the Advanced Division, Gavin Kempf placed third individually alongside teammate Cale Bueltel, leading

the team to a seventh-place finish. In the Beginner Division, Luke Popp earned fifth place individually, and with teammate Jace Wagner, secured a fifth-place team finish.

Area 3 contests proved especially successful for Jasper FFA. The Junior Entomology Team claimed first place overall and qualified for state competition. Traycen Haase led the team with a first-place individual finish, followed by Dawson Dittmer (second), Sarah Wehr (third) and Avery Senninger (fourth). The Senior Entomology Team also qualified for state with a sixth-place finish, represented by Madison Shumaker, Mackenzie Lichlyter, Kaitlyn Fuhrman and Jaclynn Shumaker.

In Area 3 Soils, Jasper achieved a rare double victory. The Senior Team earned first place and advanced to state behind individual champion Claire Linette, with Luke Popp placing fourth and Jace Wagner

fifth individually. The Junior Team also earned first place, led by Maddie Popp as first-place individual, Ava Greenwell as second-place junior individual, Lilly Wagner placing third and Lucy Linette finishing fifth individually.

Additional highlights include Ava Greenwell qualifying for state in Area 3 Crops with a fifth-place junior individual finish; the Area 3 Forestry Junior Team placing sixth, with Lilly Wagner earning 10th place individually; a sixth-place finish for the Senior Horticulture Team at the state level, led by Carson Powell with a second-place individual finish; and a twelfth-place finish for the Junior Horticulture Team at state competition.

Jasper FFA members also participated in the 2026 Indiana FFA Ag Advocacy Day, attended FIRE Camp and SOAR Camp, and advanced in



2025 American Degree Recipients — National FFA Convention: Members of the Jasper High School FFA Chapter received the American FFA Degree at the 2025 National FFA Convention. Pictured left to right are Catherine Herzog, Jackson Beier and Cali Beier. The American Degree is the highest honor awarded by the National FFA Organization.

the Novice Chapter Meeting contest after earning second place at District X.

Three Jasper members — Catherine Herzog, Jackson Beier and Cali Beier — earned the prestigious American FFA Degree, one of the highest honors awarded by the organization.

Beyond competition, the chapter demonstrated its

commitment to community service through the 2025 Meals in the Fields initiative, delivering 167 meals to 34 local farms during harvest season.

Looking ahead, members are preparing to celebrate National FFA Week and attend the Indiana FFA State Convention, where students will be recognized for their achievements

and continue building leadership skills alongside peers from across the state.

With strong finishes, state qualifications and continued service to the agricultural community, Jasper High School's FFA chapter continues to cultivate leadership, responsibility and excellence in the next generation of agricultural professionals.



2025 Jasper FFA Banquet: Members of the Jasper High School FFA Chapter gathered for their annual chapter banquet celebrating the 2025 year. Pictured are Row 1: Traycen Haase, TJ Block, Avery Senninger, Levi Mehringer; Row 2: Ava Greenwell, Sarah Wehr, Lucy Linette, Maddie Popp, Lilly Wagner, Reagan Hochgesang, Brynn Buechlein; Row 3: Kinley Hardin, Jaclynn Shumaker, Madison Shumaker, Nalanie Buechlein; Row 4: Mackenzie Lichlyter, Kaitlyn Fuhrman, Brooklynn Rasche, Kate Yarbrough, Kenadie Ambrose, Vanessa Padilla, Grace Kluemper, Emma Popp, Claire Linette; Row 5: Luke Popp, Bodie Lechner, Jace Wagner, Trent Walton, Tyler Fuhrman, Cale Bueltel, Samuel Kelly, Carter Wagner, Carson Powell.



2025–2026 Jasper FFA Officer Team: Officers of the Jasper High School FFA Chapter for the 2025–2026 school year are, left to right, Carson Powell (Reporter), Kenadie Ambrose (Secretary), Luke Popp (Treasurer), Claire Linette (President), Vanessa Padilla (Vice President) and Jace Wagner (Sentinel).

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# DUBOIS COUNTY FFA CHAPTERS

## Forest Park



## Forest Park FFA earns national honor, expands community impact

By **Laurna Todd**  
ING Writer

Under the leadership of agriculture teachers and FFA advisors Annette Applegate and Susan Atkins, the Forest Park FFA chapter continues to make a strong impact through national recognition, competitive success and meaningful community outreach.

At the 2026 National FFA Convention, Forest Park FFA received the prestigious National 3-Star Chapter Award — an honor awarded to fewer than five percent of chapters nationwide. The chapter has earned this distinction consecutively since 2024 by demonstrating excellence in leadership development, community service and strengthening

agriculture.

Students have also found success in Career and Leadership Development Events this year. Members competed in Livestock Skillathon, Soils, Crops and Forestry contests at the state level. The junior forestry team placed eighth overall, while the junior crops team earned 14th place. The junior high Livestock Skillathon team achieved an impressive 28th-place finish among strong statewide competition.

Community service remains a cornerstone of the chapter's mission. Forest Park FFA partnered with the Dubois County Health Department and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division to host an ATV Safety Seminar that drew 90



**Cutline:** Attendees from Forest Park accepted the National 3-Star Chapter award at the National FFA Convention which was held in Indianapolis, Indiana in November.

participants. Youth and parents learned about the importance of wearing helmets and protective gear, and each participant received a free helmet. Members are currently securing donations and grants to host the event again in June with hopes of distributing even more helmets to local youth.

Throughout the year, the chapter hosts five Kiddie Pedal Pull events at local fairs and festivals, providing family-friendly competition while promoting agricultural awareness and supporting community causes. Members also volunteered at

Farm to Future Day, introducing fourth-grade students to agricultural technology, environmental stewardship and career pathways through interactive activities.

During Dairy Day at the 4-H fairgrounds, FFA members assisted local dairy farmers

by coordinating obstacle courses, pedal pulls and hands-on educational stations for youth.

To support member growth and opportunities, the chapter hosts an annual Member Work Experience Auction, allowing community members to bid on eight hours of work from FFA students. A yearly fruit sale fundraiser also helps fund activities and expand agricultural experiences for members.

With continued success in competition and a strong commitment to service, Forest Park FFA remains dedicated to developing leadership, personal growth and career success while strengthening agriculture in its community.



Forest Park FFA students earned top honors at the District FFA Welding Competition this past December. In the Beginner Division, Anstin Vonderheide and Sydney Wathen placed 3rd as a team, with Anstin finishing 6th and Sydney 9th individually. In the Advanced Division, Lucas Grieshaber and Brody Beck also earned 3rd place as a team, with Lucas placing 2nd individually and Brody 18th. Both teams advance to the state competition in January. Photo credit: Forest Park FFA



The 2026 Forest Park FFA Officer Team is ready to lead the chapter into a successful year. Officers include President Caiden Beck, Vice President Adalyn Luebbehusen, Secretary Trinity Foll, Treasurer Miranda Rickelman, Reporter Kynsley Gogel, Sentinel Lance Boeglin, and Greenhand President Sophie Miller. Photo credit: Forest Park FFA



Members of the Forest Park FFA chapter gather for a group photo during FFA Week. The chapter includes 80 junior high and high school members.



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# DUBOIS COUNTY FFA CHAPTERS

## Northeast Dubois

### Northeast Dubois FFA builds community connections through service and agriculture

By **Laurna Todd**  
ING Writer

Students in the Future Farmers of America chapter at Northeast Dubois High School are learning that agriculture extends far beyond the classroom. Under the leadership of agriculture teacher and FFA advisor Traci Wineinger, the chapter continues to emphasize community service, hands-on learning and schoolwide engagement throughout the year.

According to Wineinger, one of the chapter's greatest accomplishments has been its continued involvement in local events that strengthen relationships within the community. Recently, FFA members assisted the



Members of the Northeast Dubois FFA chapter participate in the Celestine Christmas Parade. Pictured from left to right are Kolton Sermersheim, Alli Betz, Parker Coultas, Xavier Meyer, Eliana O'Brian, Karsen Bieker, Jaxson Seger, Cam Gogel, Gunner Haefling and Kegin O'Brian, proudly representing their school and agricultural program during the community celebration

Dubois Community Club with its annual Fish Fry, providing volunteer support and helping ensure the event's success. Earlier in the fall, students also helped

operate boards during shooting matches hosted by both the Celestine Community Club and the Dubois Community Club. "Our students love helping the

community," Wineinger said. "These opportunities allow them to take responsibility while representing agriculture in a positive way."

In addition to service activities, the chapter participates in community celebrations that highlight student pride and local traditions. During the Celestine Christmas Parade, FFA members proudly represented their school and agricultural program.

While the chapter remains active year-round, Wineinger says students especially look forward to one particular week each year — National FFA Week celebrations. Activities include a petting zoo and agriculture fair designed for elementary and intermediate students, giving younger children an opportunity to learn about agriculture through hands-on experiences.

The celebration also features a tractor parade through town and concludes with an Ag Olympics event involving the entire high school, creating a fun and educational way to promote agriculture across campus.

Wineinger noted that additional photos highlighting upcoming activities will be shared soon as the chapter continues its busy spring schedule.

Through service, leadership and agricultural education, Northeast Dubois FFA members are not only developing career skills but also building lasting connections within their community — proving agriculture education remains rooted in both tradition and teamwork.



Members of the Northeast Dubois FFA chapter visited the Farm Machinery Show first of February, exploring the Expo and Truck and Tractor Show while learning about the latest advancements in agriculture. The trip created lasting memories and continues a valued chapter tradition.



Members of the Northeast Dubois FFA chapter, Levi Culbertson, Emily Recker, and Taylor Blackgrove proudly display their American FFA Degrees, which they received in November. The American Degree is one of the highest honors in FFA, recognizing years of hard work, dedication, and commitment to agricultural excellence.




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# DUBOIS COUNTY FFA CHAPTERS

# Southridge



## From competition to convention: Southridge FFA builds momentum

By **Laurna Todd**  
ING Writer

The Southridge Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapter continues to gain momentum this school year through competitive success, industry experiences and expanding leadership opportunities. Guided by agriculture teacher and FFA advisor Nick Souders, chapter members have remained active in events designed to strengthen agricultural knowledge while developing confidence and leadership skills.

According to FFA President Jaylynn Goodwin, the chapter has participated in several major competitions and activities throughout the year. Southridge FFA members competed in the Area Livestock Skill-A-Thon Career Development Event and advanced to the state level, marking an important achievement for the program.

Students also recently traveled to Purdue University to compete in the Milk Quality and Products State Career Development Event, where members applied classroom learning through hands-on agricultural evaluation. In addition to competitions, students attended the Superior Ag Annual Meeting, gaining insight into agricultural business operations and industry leadership.

The chapter further broadened its

agricultural experience by attending the National Farm Machinery Show and Championship Tractor Pull, one of the nation's largest agricultural events. The trip allowed students to explore modern equipment, technology and potential career pathways within the agriculture industry.

Looking ahead, Southridge FFA is preparing to host the District X FFA Convention. District Advisors Brianna Lammers and Nicholas Souders, alongside District President Jaylynn Goodwin, are organizing the event, which will welcome FFA chapters from across the district for leadership development competitions and activities.

Chapter leaders say they are excited to showcase Southridge while supporting members competing in upcoming leadership development events. The convention represents another opportunity for students to strengthen communication, teamwork and leadership skills — key pillars of the FFA mission.

Through competition, travel and leadership experiences, Southridge FFA continues to provide meaningful opportunities that prepare students for future careers while promoting the importance of agriculture within the community.



Cutline: Southridge FFA members recently participated in a year filled with competitions, leadership events and agricultural experiences. Pictured top to bottom, left to right are: Row 1: Jacob Tempel, William Sickbert, Makenzi Ring, Janelle Hill, Chris Rust. Row 2: Clayton Sickbert, Garrett Goodwin, Colten Schmetz, Mark McAninch, Isaac Heile, Olivia Keubler, Ethan McCoullagh, Benjamin Hoblitzel. Row 3: Alex Hohler, Lucie Mullins, Isabelle Flamion, Sybilla Burrows, Addyson Kane, Brylee Enlow, Anna Meyer, Justina McClane. Row 4: Katelynn Goodwin, Madison Richardson, Jaylynn Goodwin, Abigail Hawkins. Row 5: Ambrose Hohl, Bryce Peters, Shelby McAninch, Abigail Flamion, Leigha Blume and Kaden Jackson.

(Photo submitted)

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# 7 signs of spring allergies

Few things are more deflating than finally venturing outdoors after a long winter of cabin fever, only to find that blooming trees and flowers start wreaking havoc with

your personal health. Spring allergies, also known as allergic rhinitis, occur when the body's immune system overreacts to indoor or outdoor allergens, such

as tree and grass pollen, mold and dust. According to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, approximately 25.7 percent of adults and 18.9 percent of

children in the United States suffer from seasonal allergies. Allergic rhinitis accounts for an estimated \$16 billion in annual health care costs and is a leading cause of reduced productivity while at work.

Identifying the symptoms of allergies is key to distinguishing them from a cold or another infection and to ensuring fast relief. Spring allergies typically peak from March to May and may even continue into July. Physicians will look for specific physical markers to confirm allergies.



**3. Nasal congestion/runny nose:** A thin, clear discharge typically is a sign of allergies, whereas any mucus that is thick, yellow or green could indicate an infection. Constant upward rubbing of the nose from allergies (called the allergic salute) often causes a permanent transverse nasal crease at the junction of the nose tip and the bridge, says Healthline.

**4. Itchy throat and ears:** Pollen may cause a scratchy or tingly sensation in the throat and in the ear canals. Medical professionals warn that chronic inflammation from allergies is a primary risk factor for secondary bacterial infections that can occur in the sinuses and ears. Eustachian tube dysfunction occurs when fluid builds up behind the eardrum because the eustachian tubes become blocked or don't open properly to let fluid drain to the nose and throat, says the Cleveland Clinic. Pressure imbalances, muffled hearing, popping sounds, and even pain can occur.

**5. "Allergic shiners":** Nasal congestion can cause swelling and increased blood

vessels to the small veins in the infraorbital area, causing dark, bluish circles under the eyes called periorbital hyperpigmentation, says the Center for Orofacial Myology. This makes allergy sufferers appear as though they have two black eyes.

**6. Cough:** Post-nasal drip occurs when mucus drips down the back of the throat from the nose. This can cause a persistent, dry cough that's often worse at night. Post-nasal drip also may result in a sore throat and a "cobblestone" appearance in the back of the throat that's visible during a medical exam.

**7. Fatigue:** Insufficient rest due to allergy-related discomfort can cause those with spring allergies to feel fatigued. The constant immune system response to allergies also can lead to daytime tiredness and lack of focus.

Allergic rhinitis is a problem for millions of people each spring. A combination of avoiding triggers and using allergy medications can help calm any symptoms that crop up.

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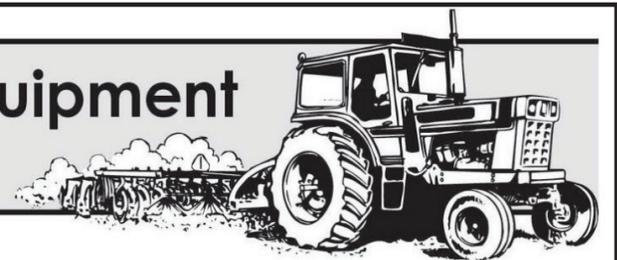
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DAS will take consignments from Saturday Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> through Thursday March 5<sup>th</sup> from 7 AM till 5 PM. **NO CONSIGNMENTS TAKEN ON FRIDAY MARCH 6<sup>th</sup> OR ON AUCTION DAY!** Please bring a list and good description of items being consigned. Each day, items will be updated and available for the online auction. Items can be viewed at the 4-H Center Friday March 6<sup>th</sup> and on auction day, March 7<sup>th</sup>. The staff will be present if you have any questions. For more information, please call or look on our website at <https://dasonlineauctions.hibid.com>.

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