



Huntingburg Press

SERVING DUBOIS COUNTY SINCE 1905 • IN GOD WE TRUST



Dubois County participates in statewide tornado exercise during Severe Weather Preparedness Week

By Laurna Todd, ING Writer

Dubois County joined communities across Indiana on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, for the Statewide Tornado Exercise, part of Severe Weather Preparedness Week, observed March 8-14. The exercise tested all county sirens as a way to practice readiness for tornadoes and other severe weather.

In a press release, Tammy Humbert, Director of the Dubois County Emergency Management Agency, said participating in the exercise is critical for community safety. "Practicing during an

exercise helps everyone understand what to do during a real tornado or severe storm. It ensures residents, schools, businesses, and emergency services are ready and can respond quickly to save lives," Humbert said.

The exercise also serves as a reminder for residents to prepare year-round. Households are encouraged to consider purchasing a NOAA weather radio to receive immediate alerts, and the agency can assist in programming Midland NOAA weather radios (Model #WR-120) specifically for Dubois County.

Residents are reminded that if they hear sirens outside of a drill:

Take shelter immediately in a small, windowless interior room on the lowest level.

Monitor local news, radio, or a NOAA weather radio for updates.

Follow instructions from local authorities.

Participating in exercises like this helps Dubois County strengthen its readiness and reduce the risk of injuries and deaths from severe storms. For more information, contact Tammy Humbert at (812) 482-2202.

See more storm stories and tips on page 8.

Vision Quest Landscaping forms exciting new partnership with The Indiana Laborers Union

Indianapolis — Vision Quest Landscaping today announced they have formed an exciting new partnership with the Indiana Laborers Union. Vision Quest Landscaping is WBE certified with the State of Indiana and has over 35 years of experience in the Indiana construction industry.

Vision Quest Landscaping works throughout Central Indiana in the following scopes of work:

- Landscaping
- Erosion Control
- Seeding/Strawing/Sodding
- Mulching

Retainer Walls and Pavers
Landscape Maintenance
Vision Quest

Landscaping's owner, Cindy Bryant, said of the new partnership, "Vision Quest Landscaping is very excited about the new partnership with the Indiana Laborers Union. We believe it is an excellent opportunity to expand into new markets and partner with other union contractors."

Joe Bolk, Business Manager of Laborers, Local 204 commented on the new partnership, "Vision Quest Landscaping is a strong

company with 35 years of experience and a focus on quality work. We're really glad to have them as a new partner."

For more information on Vision Quest Landscaping contact, Cindy Bryant at: 812-208-4415 or via email at: vq1967@gmail.com.

The Indiana Construction Information Network (INCIN) is a public information source on news, issues, and trends facing the Indiana construction industry.

INCIN reaches over 7,000 construction stakeholders throughout the State of Indiana.



Baby Doe Cold Case Update

By Beth E. Schroeder

Recently, I issued a press release announcing that I had filed charges in the 1987 "Baby Doe" cold case from Ferdinand. This serves as an update to that story.

In June 2024, I received a call from a detective with the Indiana State Police Cold Case Unit. During that conversation, he told me about a deceased infant who was found in the trash at Marian Heights Academy at the Monastery Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand in 1987. He explained that through advanced DNA testing, investigators could potentially identify the parents and attempt

to determine what had happened to the baby. Before moving forward with the testing, he asked whether I would be willing to consider filing criminal charges related to the incident, if appropriate. I told him I would.

Through genetic genealogy testing, the Indiana State Police identified a potential mother who had attended Marian Heights Academy in 1987. She is not from Dubois County, nor does she currently reside here. She was a student living in the dormitory at Marian Heights Academy at the time.

As I have previously stated, given the sensitive nature of this case, I will not discuss further details regarding the circumstances of the pregnancy or the birth. Although the probable cause affidavit has been publicly released by several media outlets, I have chosen to approach this matter with respect for the deeply personal and sensitive circumstances involved. The only additional fact I will provide is that conception did not occur in Dubois County and was unrelated to Marian Heights Academy.

The mother was 16 at the

time of conception and 17 at the time of birth. She was living away from home at a Catholic boarding school. It was 1987, a time when significant stigma surrounded teen pregnancy. Since that time, the mother has led a law-abiding life. I took those factors into consideration when determining how best to handle this case.

It was important to me to honor the life of the child while also acknowledging the humanity and complexity of the young mother's circumstances nearly four decades ago. Prior to filing this case, I spent a lot of time thinking about it, researching the legal issues, discussing it with the investigators, and discussing it with other prosecutors.

Because the offense occurred in 1987 and the mother was a juvenile at that time, we were required to proceed under the laws in effect at that time. Under those laws, the mother could only be charged with a crime today if she was charged with the crime of murder. Upon the filing of the charge of murder, she could also be charged with other, lesser-included crimes, such as

voluntary manslaughter. The distinction between these two crimes, under 1987 law, is that with murder, the state is required to prove that a person knowingly or intentionally killed another human being; with voluntary manslaughter, the person must knowingly kill another human being while acting under a sudden heat.

In summary, there were only two options available in this case: either charge the mother with murder or not charge the mother with any crime.

After weighing all of these considerations and the facts of this case, I elected to charge the mother with murder and voluntary manslaughter. I also offered a plea agreement which would require the mother to plead guilty to voluntary manslaughter. The mother chose to accept responsibility for her actions and pled guilty pursuant to the agreement. Under the agreement, she received a six-year sentence suspended to six years of supervised probation, which will be transferred to her home state.

This mother has carried this secret for nearly 40

years. She will continue to live with it, along with the public scrutiny that has emerged in the court of public opinion.

Incarcerating the mother four decades later would not have achieved the justice some have called for. As part of the agreement, she is required to complete mental health treatment during her probationary period. I am hopeful that this outcome provides answers to the public, accountability under the law, and an opportunity for rehabilitation and treatment for the mother.

At the same time, we must never lose sight of the child whose life was lost. That child deserved dignity, recognition, and remembrance. Nothing about this resolution diminishes the value of that life. Justice, in cases like this, is not measured solely in punishment, but also in truth, acknowledgment, and the careful balancing of accountability with mercy.

The mother's guilty plea was accepted today in Dubois Circuit Court before Acting Judge Karen Werner. She has been sentenced according to the plea agreement, and the case is now closed.

VICTORIOUS *Living* ...in a troubled world

Upcoming Youth Xplosion 26

Equip Church in Paducah, KY, will be hosting Youth Xplosion 26 on Friday, March 27 th, from 6 pm to 8 pm, and Saturday, March 28 th, from 9 am to 9 pm. It is a church youth conference that will be hosted by Rev. Joshua & Christy Sullivan from Be Real Ministries. Friday will consist of in-person registration and an evening service/worship service.

Saturday events include workshops, prayer time, and morning and evening worship services. Lunch and dinner will also be served on Saturday. Advance Registration cost is \$30.00 until Friday, March 13th. After that date, the registration cost is \$40.00. On-site registration is also available for \$40.00. Registration, except for on-site registration, will be online. For additional registration information, contact Rev. Joshua Sullivan at berealministries.com or Pastor Scott Wade at (217) 899-8639.

We are proud and excited to bring this youth conference to the Paducah area. The youth are the future leaders of the church, and we look forward to helping to lead them to obtain a closer relationship with our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. For more information you can contact Equip Church at 270-441-7900.

Selective Hearing

By Teresa LeNeave
leneave2@comcast.net

Selective hearing. Not good when it involves where we spend eternity. The Bible has some fascinating things to say about the heart and how we hear. For example, have you ever wondered what it means that people hear but don't understand? Or, "He that has ears to hear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches"? We all have ears so I guess that means everyone should listen with intent.

The difference, it seems, is whether we hear with our ears or with our heart. Selective hearing. You know what selective hearing is. We've all experienced it. You're talking to someone and their mind is nowhere near what you're saying. You might as well be talking to a wall.



Selective Hearing

It seems we have a choice in how we choose to hear. That applies spiritually as well as physically because in Revelations the Bible repeatedly says, "He that has ears to hear, let him hear...". To understand the difference, you could think of it like this:

The ears would say: "I heard what you said."

But the heart would say: "I 'hear' what you said. I believe it. I

accept it. And I will let it change me." When we listen to a message about Jesus, have we just "heard" it, or did we actually "hear" it?

Jesus quoted Isaiah when he said, "You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving." (Matthew 13:14).

Clearly, people can listen to God's message and still miss its true meaning because their hearts

are closed. Their mind is somewhere else.

According to the scripture, the Truth of the Word needs to take root, and that takes work. The only garden that didn't take a lot of work was the Garden of Eden and that's long gone. Every gardener will tell you it takes a lot of work to have a good garden. A good spiritual ground doesn't just happen by chance any more than a good vegetable garden does. Both gardens require work. A good spiritual garden requires cultivation through prayer, faith and the Bible.

For example, Jesus said some people do not let Truth take root in their lives. They are too busy and life just takes over, leaving no space or time for God.

Jesus explained this clearly in the Parable of the Sower in Matthew 13. He said the message of God is

like seed. Some seed falls on a path. People hear but immediately forget it. Some seed falls on rocky ground. They accept it, briefly, but soon fall away. Some seed falls among thorns but worries and riches of life choke the message. These all "heard" but they didn't do the work of cultivation and preparing the ground so the seeds could not live.

But there were some seeds that fall on good soil. Soil that was prepared and ready to produce a summer harvest. These people hear, understand, and produce fruit. How we hear and respond is important.

Selective hearing it's not something we want to practice when it comes to salvation and eternity. Choose to hear. Choose to cultivate, mull over and think about the Gospel you hear. It's the life line to eternity with God.

Standing strong with confidence in God

By Dr. Billy Holland

Fear and anxiety are negative byproducts of modern life, trying to influence us away from God. Our jobs are often stressful, our relationships and finances, and even our children struggle with social pressures we hardly faced when we were their age. Some people turn to natural remedies, like the newly popular cannabidiol products, while others are absorbed in social media, but there is even better news that can give us peace in this troubled world. The Bible remains an unending source of hope and comfort in the seasons when we are discouraged and perplexed. Psalm 46:1-3 declares that even in the darkest times, we can stand strong in the light of God's authority because we

are trusting that His promises are true. "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging."

There are times when all of us, at one time or another, feel sad and discouraged. It's alright to occasionally examine our situation, but we should not pitch our tent and decide to live there. It's the irritating things that can distract us and start pulling us toward doubt and worry. Changing our mind can change our attitude, but it does not just happen all by itself; it takes having a strong desire to transform our mind, which involves

choosing the type of life we want to live. We know that spiritual faith is being positive-minded, which gives us joy and strength, and we can also establish that optimism is the key ingredient for happiness. It helps us live more fully and engage more generously with life. It helps us notice joy, to see what is possible, and take the next steps with hope and confidence. In my office, my desk is covered with encouraging quotes that remind me to stay positive and focused on God – He is the way, the life, and the truth.

For many, their wealth and health are their security, and they cannot fathom the thought of losing them. However, may we remember that God is our ultimate security and our healer. Though His followers

live in this world, we are also citizens of heaven. What an encouragement to know this temporary life is not all there is – our future is forever! "He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler. You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day, nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday." When we are overwhelmed with fear and feel as if the walls are closing in on us, we can know that God is with us and will always take care of us. Remember that faith nor fear force themselves upon us; they are invited guests. We are given the choice to select one of two foundations we

will stand on; thus, yielding ourselves to God's care must be a deliberate decision. We cannot always control what is happening in our surroundings, but we can control how we react to them.

When we truly believe that He is watching us even more closely than the tiny Sparrow, we will stop doubting His desire and ability to deliver and sustain us. God loves us and wants everyone to understand and believe that He is who He says He is. In John 14:27, Christ promises, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world gives, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." He is saying the world cannot give us the spiritual security that He offers because it's only based on

materialism. When Christ sits on the throne of our heart, we are no longer frantically trying to figure out our own solutions, but we can trust in His power and wisdom to bless and protect us. Optimism doesn't change the world; it changes how we see the world. Since fear is a learned behavior, can we not train our minds to accept faith instead? When our will is to do His will, we will enjoy His peace that passes all understanding. "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" Psalm 27:1.

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

Rooted in Christ

By Brandon Bramlett
Pastor - Bandana Baptist Church

We smelled something sour, but stumbled upon something stunning. While backpacking with one of my brother-in-laws near the Cache River State Natural Area in southern Illinois, we were suddenly enveloped by a foul odor that stopped us in our tracks. But unlike most common-sense hikers, we followed our noses—all the way to the most enormous tree we had ever seen: the historic, state-

champion cherrybark oak tree. An information placard beside it explained that the tree was more than three-hundred years old, stretching one-hundred feet skyward, and over eight feet in diameter. And once I breathed the clean air of Kentucky again, I surfed the internet for answers about its gargantuan growth—and its unwelcome smell.

The tree's malodorous musk remains a mystery, but its massive growth is no secret: this giant oak grows deep before it grows

tall. It grips the earth and gathers all the life-giving nutrients it needs through its roots. Despite countless tornadoes, ice storms, floods, and environmental changes, it has grown heavenward and held its ground all because it is anchored underground. Never underestimate the strength of deep roots!

Deep roots in Christ are also the key to weathering every storm of life and growing heavenward in spiritual maturity. This is why the apostle Paul commanded believers to be "rooted and built

up in Him" (Col. 2:7a). If you yearn to grow tall into an "oak tree" Christian and bear God-glorifying fruit in your life, you must be connected to Jesus—drawing spiritual sustenance from Him just as roots draw nourishment from the soil. As Isaiah the prophet said, "take root downward, and bear fruit upward" (Isa. 37:31b). Jesus used a similar image when He assured, "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing" (John

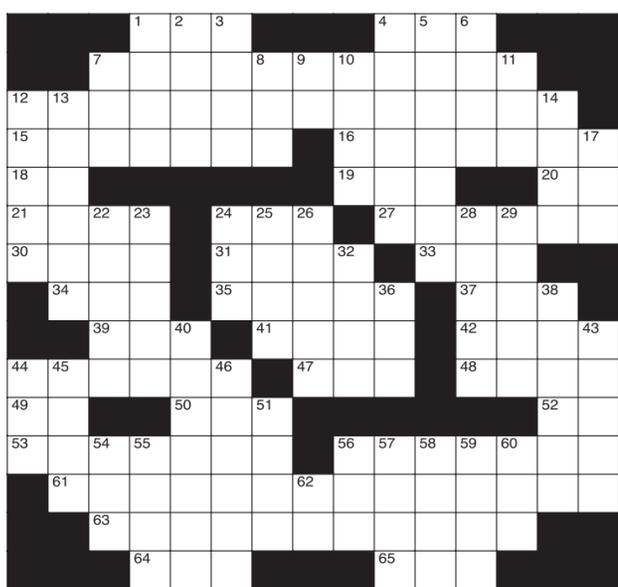
15:5, KJV).

Roots also prevent a tree from being uprooted during wind and storms, and vehement tribulations and violent temptations won't be able to knock you down when you are rooted in Jesus. Tornadoes of life-trouble and hurricanes of temptation may tear off some bark and branches—they may leave their mark on you—but you will remain standing when you are rooted in Christ. As Jeremiah the prophet illustrated, "But blessed are those who trust in the LORD

and have made the LORD their hope and confidence. They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit" (Jer. 17:7-8, NLT).

The strength of your Christian life depends on what lies beneath the surface. Are you burying your roots in Christ through prayer, time spent in His word, worshipping with His people, and walking in obedience to Him?

Crossword Puzzle



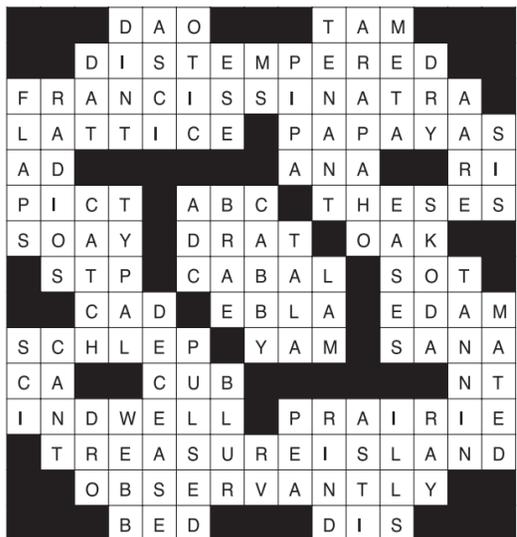
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Blockchain-based entity
- 4. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
- 7. Painted with glue
- 12. Legendary crooner
- 15. Structure made with strips of wood
- 16. Tropical fruits
- 18. Commercial
- 19. Comedienne Gasteyer
- 20. The Ocean State
- 21. Ancient Scot
- 24. Basics
- 27. Stated propositions
- 30. Scottish island group
- 31. Expression of annoyance
- 33. Large tree
- 34. Engine additive
- 35. Conspiracy
- 37. Drunkard
- 39. Someone who is morally reprehensible
- 41. Ancient Syrian city
- 42. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
- 44. Carry (slang)
- 47. Sweet potato
- 48. European river
- 49. The Golden State
- 50. Windy City ballplayer
- 52. New Testament
- 53. Possess spiritually
- 56. A treeless grassy plain
- 61. Popular historical novel
- 63. In a law-abiding way
- 64. A place to sleep
- 65. Criticize

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Impression in a surface
- 2. Computer language
- 3. Relating to the ear
- 4. Occupant
- 5. Member of Great Plains people
- 6. Social media firm
- 7. Digital audiotape
- 8. Midway between east and southeast
- 9. Chronic, progressive disease
- 10. Chinese lute
- 11. Not wet
- 12. Moves wings up and down
- 13. Communication devices
- 14. Swiss river
- 17. Female sibling
- 22. Receive
- 23. Relating to a type
- 24. General's assistant (abbr.)
- 25. Steep bank
- 26. Taxi driver
- 28. Moves into without difficulty
- 29. Bicycle manufacturer
- 32. Traditional rhythmic pattern
- 36. Fugitives are on it
- 38. Bitter-tasting organic substance
- 40. Die
- 43. Matched
- 44. Literary genre __-fi
- 45. Cannot
- 46. Pounded
- 51. British rock group
- 54. Debt relief order
- 55. 2006 NL Cy Young winner
- 56. Green vegetable
- 57. Tough outer skin of fruit
- 58. __ Spumante (Italian wine)
- 59. Ailments
- 60. Famed singer Charles
- 62. Camper

PUZZLE SOLUTION



Crypto Fun



Solve the code to discover words related to home improvement. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 2 = E)

- A. 6 2 11 1 17 6 7
Clue: Fixes
- B. 6 2 9 8 19 1 21 2
Clue: Improve upon
- C. 17 9 21 2 6 17 8 6
Clue: Inside
- D. 5 2 7 17 10 9
Clue: Scope or scheme

Answers: A. repairs B. renovate C. interior D. design

Word Search

HOME REPAIR WORD SEARCH



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

ANSWERS ON THE CLASSIFIED PAGE

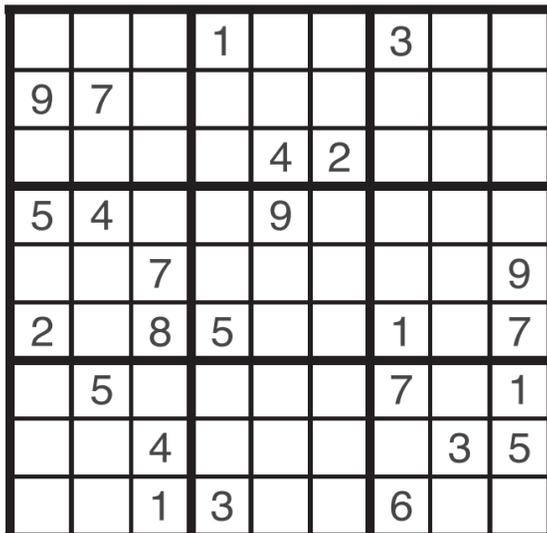
WORDS

- BACKSPLASH
- BUILDING
- CASING
- CIRCUIT
- CONTRACTOR
- CURB APPEAL
- DRAIN
- FLASHING
- GROUT
- JOIST
- LOAD
- MOLDING
- OUTLET
- PERMIT
- PIPES
- ROUGH-IN
- SHIM
- SIDING
- SILL
- SOFFIT
- SUBFLOOR
- VALVE
- VENEER
- WALLS

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 home improvement.

O W D W N I



Answer: Window

Guess Who?

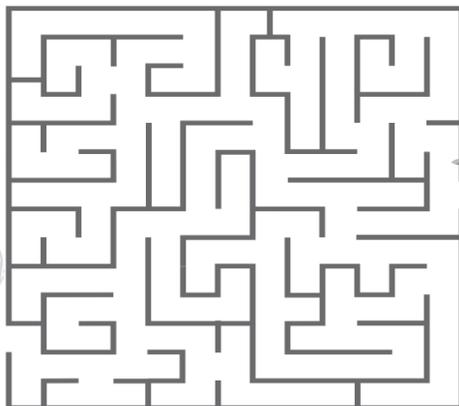
GUESS WHO?

I am a social media star born in California on March 11, 1980. I earned my Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering and went on to work for NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. I share science in fun ways on YouTube and have millions of followers.

Answer: Mark Rober

Help the bird find her way back to her nest.

Spring Maze



COLORING FUN



March Jokes

What did one hat say to the other?
You wait here, I'll go on ahead.

How do you organize a space party?
You planet.

What do you call a bee that can't make up his mind?
A maybe

What falls, but never needs a bandage?
The rain

What is the most popular fish in the ocean?
The starfish

What's spring's favorite kind of pickles?
Daffo-dills.



Dayne K. Hartke

Dayne K. Hartke, 75, of Stendal, Indiana, passed away on March 6, 2026, surrounded by his loving family.

Funeral services for Dayne Hartke will be held at 2:00 p.m., E.D.T., Thursday, March 12, 2026, at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Stendal with burial to follow at St. Peter's Lutheran Cemetery. Pastor John Beasley will officiate at the service.

Friends may call for visitation at St. Peter's Lutheran Church from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., Thursday. Nass & Son Funeral Home in Huntingburg has been entrusted with the funeral arrangements

Steven D. Bredhold

Steven D. Bredhold, age 68, of Jasper, Indiana, passed away at 4:10 a.m. on Saturday, March 7, 2026, at home surrounded by family. A Mass of Christian Burial for Steven D. Bredhold will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 12, 2026, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Jasper, Indiana, with burial to follow in St. Mary Cemetery in Huntingburg, Indiana. A visitation will be held from 2:00-7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at the Becher-Kluesner Downtown Chapel in Jasper, Indiana. St. Joseph's Parish will pray a rosary at 1:30 p.m. at the funeral home.

Ruzena "Oli" Bonifer

Ruzena "Oli" Bonifer, age 86, of Jasper, Indiana, passed away with her husband by her side at 8:25

p.m. on Thursday, March 5, 2026, at Legacy Living in Jasper, Indiana. A Mass of Christian Burial for Ruzena "Oli" Bonifer was held at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Jasper, Indiana, with burial to follow in Fairview Cemetery in Jasper.

Harold D. "Don" Barth

Harold D. "Don" Barth passed away on March 4, 2026, succumbing to a long battle with several undiagnosed health conditions and the aftereffects of the COVID-19 virus. A celebration of life for Don will take place on Friday, March 20, from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. at the Jasper Parklands Pavilion. Anyone who would like to pay their respects to the family is invited to attend. (Carpooling is advised.)

Ben A. Thomas

Ben A. Thomas, age 69, of Jasper, Indiana, passed away surrounded by family at 3:45 p.m. on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at The Timbers of Jasper. A Mass of Christian Burial for Ben A. Thomas was held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, March 9, 2026, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Jasper, Indiana, with burial to follow in Fairview Cemetery in Jasper.

Kathleen V. Goss

Kathleen V. Goss, age 81, of Jasper, Indiana, passed away at 6:16 a.m. on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at Deaconess Memorial Medical Center in Jasper. A funeral service for Kathleen V. Goss was held at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 5, 2026, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Boone Township with burial to follow at the church cemetery.

Windell J. Toby

Windell J. Toby, age 78, of Jasper, passed away from complications of mesothelioma asbestos cancer on March 5, 2026 at Serenity Springs at Northwood in Jasper. There will be no services at this time. Burial will take place at Wickliffe Cemetery at a later date. Condolences may be shared online at: www.nassandson.com.

Albert L. Sander

Albert L. Sander, age 81, of Huntingburg, Indiana, passed away at 11:10 p.m., on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at the Linda E. White Hospice House in Evansville. Funeral services for Albert Sander were held at 10:00 a.m., E.S.T., Monday, March 9, 2026, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Huntingburg with burial to follow at St. Mary's Cemetery. The funeral Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Biju Thomas.

Sylvester Richard Merkel

Sylvester Richard Merkel, Jr., age 74, of Huntingburg, passed away on March 2, 2026 at Greenwood Healthcare Center in Greenwood, Indiana. Funeral services for Sylvester Merkel were held at 10:00 a.m., Friday, March 6, 2026, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Huntingburg with burial to follow at St. Mary's Cemetery. Rev. Biju Thomas will officiate at the funeral Mass.

Phillip Wesley Miller

Phillip Wesley Miller, age 73, of Gentryville, passed away on Monday, March 2, 2026, surrounded by his family at home. Funeral services for Phillip Miller were held at 10:00 a.m., C.S.T., on Friday, March 6, 2026, at Santa Claus Christian Church, 351 N. Holiday Blvd, Santa Claus, Indiana 47579. Burial followed at Chinn Cemetery in Dale. Pastor Marc Grimes will officiate the service.

Raymond C. Wheeler

Raymond C. Wheeler, age 82, of rural Perry County, Indiana, passed away February 27, 2026. A celebration of life for Raymond Wheeler will be held at 2:00 p.m., C.D.T., on Saturday, March 14, 2026, at Rainey Funeral Home in Dale. A social gathering will be held at Turnkey Events immediately following the service. Visitation will be held from 1:00-2:00 p.m., C.D.T., on Saturday, prior to the service at the funeral home.

Psi Iota Xi presents senior art awards

The Zeta Mu Chapter of Psi Iota Xi presented two \$500 Senior Art Awards to area high school seniors on Thursday, March 6, 2026. The award ceremony was held at Jasper Arts' First Thursday Reception in honor of Youth Art Month, held at the gallery at the Thyen-Clark Cultural Center.

Kynlee Jackson of Southridge High School received the \$500 award for two-dimensional art for her watercolor entitled Horangi. Of her entry, Kynlee said, "I chose the tiger for my watercolor because of how fun it would be to capture a cat in water. I love tigers and painting with watercolors so I thought I could use both of these in one project. I tried an abstract version before I chose this piece, but it became muddy too quickly, so I switched to this peaceful and clean-cut piece." Kynlee is the daughter of Chad Jackson and

Megan Hupp, and her art teacher is Amber Barclay.

Vanessa Padilla of Jasper High School received the \$500 award for three-dimensional art for her plaster molding and painting work entitled The Strongest Knot of Faith and Culture. Of her piece, Vanessa said, "I chose to make a mold of my hands in a praying position to signify my devotion to the Catholic faith. I am Mexican so on one side I painted the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe who is strongly tied to Mexico and is often recognized as the queen of Mexico. Our Lady is also the figure who converted thousands of indigenous people to Catholicism in Mexico. She is the strong knot that ties my culture to my religion. On the other side I painted the crucifixion of Jesus as a daily reminder of the love that Jesus has for us." Vanessa is the daughter

of José Padilla and Abigail Silva, and her art teacher is Andrea Fleck.

All of the students' artwork will be on display at the Jasper Arts' Gallery, 100 Third Avenue in Jasper throughout the month of March.

Psi Iota Xi is a philanthropic service sorority for adult women with the mission of promoting art, literature, music, and speech & hearing. The Zeta Mu Chapter sponsors a free summer language and literacy camp for Dubois County children, is a gold-level sponsor of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, provides college scholarships for speech and hearing students, and supports numerous other local causes. Women interested in joining may contact any member or President Leisa Lowrey at zetamupsiotaxi@gmail.com



Kynlee Jackson with Horangi Senior Art Award



Vanessa Padilla with artwork Senior Art Award



SHIELD TEK ROOFING
Whether you replace it or refurbish it, you need to shield it.
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Jasper, IN
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Joint drug investigation leads to multiple arrests

Dubois County Elected Prosecutor Beth Schroeder provides a statement on the results of a collaborative drug investigation that resulted in the arrest of eleven (11) individuals.

On March 3, 2026, the Dubois County Prosecutor's Office partnered with the Jasper City Police Department, the Dubois County Sheriff's Office, Huntingburg Police Department, and the Indiana State Police to conduct a round-up of eleven (11) individuals following the issuance of arrest warrants for various drug dealing offenses that occurred in Dubois County. This coordinated effort, referred to as "Operation: Snow White," was the result of months of law enforcement investigation into the illicit distribution of narcotics in Dubois County. The arrest warrants were executed simultaneously at locations in Dubois County, Orange County, Spencer County, Warrick County, and Perry County in Indiana and Owensboro, Kentucky.

The eleven (11) individuals facing criminal charges include:

1. Andrew D. Benales, 22, Paoli – Count 1: Dealing in Cocaine, a Level 2 felony; Count 4: Dealing in Cocaine, a Level 4 felony; and Count 3: Dealing in Schedule IV Controlled Substance, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond was set at \$25,000 cash only with enhanced pre-trial monitoring if he posts bond.

2. Avery B. Northerner, (not pictured) 37, Tell City – Count 1: Dealing in Methamphetamine, a Level 3 felony; and Count 2: Dealing in Methamphetamine, a Level 3 felony. Northerner was served in custody at the Spencer County Security Center, where she was being held on a \$200,000 (or 10% cash) bond in Cause No. 74C01-2511-F4-000576.

3. Bobbie J. Nadeau, 42, French Lick –



Combating the flow of illicit substances in Dubois County and holding accountable those individuals who exploit addiction for profit remains a top priority of the Dubois County Prosecutor's Office. In 2025 alone, the Prosecutor's Office filed felony drug dealing charges against 23 individuals, reflecting an ongoing and aggressive effort to disrupt the distribution of dangerous narcotics within our communities.

These cases are rarely simple or swift. They are often the result of extensive and prolonged narcotics investigations involving coordinated police surveillance, carefully planned controlled purchases, the execution of search warrants, detailed evidence review, and hours of report preparation. Each case requires strong collaboration between law enforcement officers and prosecutors to ensure charges are supported by solid evidence and presented effectively in court.

The Prosecutor's Office proudly supports the work of its law enforcement partners and expresses deep appreciation for their diligence, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to community safety.

Prosecutor Beth Schroeder would like to specifically recognize the exceptional efforts of Deputy Prosecutor Jenelle Murling, Narcotics Detective Craig Schneider of the Dubois County Sheriff's Office, and Patrolman Logan Jones of the Jasper Police Department for their tireless work in investigating and prosecuting these cases.

**All suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. No further information will be released at this time.

Count 1: Dealing in Methamphetamine, a Level 2 felony; and Count 2: Dealing in Methamphetamine, a Level 2 felony. Bond was set at \$50,000 cash only with enhanced pre-trial monitoring if she posts bond.

4. Bryor L. Shipman, 24, French Lick – Count 1: Dealing in Methamphetamine, a Level 2 felony. Bond was set at \$50,000 cash only with enhanced pre-trial monitoring if he posts bond.

5. Kaylin M. McKinney, 26, French Lick – Count 1: Dealing in Methamphetamine, a Level 2 felony. McKinney was also the subject of outstanding arrest warrants in Cause Nos. 19D01-2405-CM-000591 and 19D01-2308-CM-000980, in which she was previously charged with Operating a Vehicle without Ever Receiving a License, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond was set at \$50,000 cash only with enhanced pre-trial monitoring if she posts bond. She is being held without bond on her misdemeanor warrants.

6. Darrel R. Harris, Jr., (not pictured) 35, Huntingburg – Count 1: Dealing in Methamphetamine, Level 3 felony. Harris was

served in custody at the Dubois County Security Center, where he was being held on a \$20,000 cash bond in Cause No. 19D01-2602-F2-000117, in which he has been charged with Dealing in Methamphetamine, a Level 2 felony. Bond on the new case was set at an additional \$25,000 cash only with enhanced pre-trial monitoring if he posts bond.

7. Juan Carlos Sanchez, 22, Jasper – Count 1: Dealing in Marijuana, a Level 6 felony. Bond was set at \$1,500 cash only with moderate pre-trial monitoring if he posts bond.

8. Saul Jesus Reyes, 21, Jasper – Count 1: Dealing in Cocaine, a Level 2 felony; and Count 2: Dealing in Marijuana, a Level 6 felony.

9. Jefferey R. Sandage, (not pictured) 53, Tell City – Count 1: Dealing in Methamphetamine, a Level 4 felony. Sandage was served in custody at the Perry County Security Center, where he was being held on a \$255,000 (or 10% cash) bond in Cause Nos. 62C01-2512-F2-000790 and 62C01-2512-F3-000803.

10. Shannon R. Simmons, 54, Cannelton – Count 1: Dealing in Methamphetamine, a Level 4 felony; and

Count 2: Dealing in Methamphetamine, Level 4 felony. Bond was set at \$10,000 cash only with enhanced pre-trial monitoring if she posts bond.

11. Zachary W. Hill, 47, Dale – Count 1: Dealing in Methamphetamine, a Level 4 felony; and Count 2: Dealing in Methamphetamine, a Level 4 felony. Bond was set at \$10,000 cash only with enhanced pre-trial monitoring if he posts bond.

Benales, Sanchez, Nadeau, McKinney, Shipman, Hill and Simmons were arrested without incident and are currently being held in custody at the Dubois County Security Center. They all appeared before Dubois Superior Court Judge Anthony Quinn today, March 4, 2026, for initial hearings.

Reyes was arrested in Owensboro, Kentucky and is being held without bond there on these charges.

The remaining individuals who are currently held in jail in other counties will be brought back to Dubois County for initial hearings on these charges at a future date and time. They are being held without bond on these warrants at this time.



Andrew D. Benales Bobbie J. Nadeau Bryor L. Shipman Kaylin M. McKinney Juan C. Sanchez Saul Jesus Reyes Shannon R. Simmons Zachary W. Hill

Caring for Seniors

Retirement savings shortfalls

A recent report from the senior care experts at Seniorly indicated that millions of retirees are in jeopardy of outliving their retirement savings. The Seniorly report tabulated projected retirement income and expenses starting at age 65, and found that the average American retiree can expect roughly \$762,000 in income generated from government-sponsored plans like Social Security, savings and investments. But the expected living expenses of such individuals was determined to be \$877,000, meaning the average retiree may have a shortfall of \$115,000. Retirement savings shortfalls also are a cause for concern in Canada, where 59 percent of Canadians indicated they fear they will outlive their savings in a 2025 CPP Investments

Retirement Survey. Projections like those from Seniorly and the fears expressed by Canadians concerned by a potential shortfall of retirement savings

underscore the need to prioritize saving for life after working, which can have short-term benefits as well. In fact, 49 percent of Canadians who

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

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

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Severe weather prep:

Know the risks, check your gear, stay safe

By Laurna Todd,
ING Writer

As severe weather season approaches, preparation is key—for both your family and your equipment. Regular maintenance on tractors, trucks, and trailers can prevent costly repairs and keep you safe during storms. Check brakes, tires, lights,

fluids, and hitch connections, and make sure trailers are properly secured.

But protecting your vehicles is only part of the plan. Understanding tornadoes and staying aware of changing weather is critical. Tornadoes can form quickly, often with little warning, so a safety plan is

essential.

Safe Shelter Tips
The American Red Cross recommends:

- Use an underground area like a basement, storm shelter, or safe room.
- Stock enough food and water for three days, along with first-aid kits, flashlights, and battery backups

for phones.

- Keep a charged NOAA weather radio for storm updates
- Have essential documents ready, such as Social Security cards, insurance papers, and banking information.

Tornado Myths to Ignore

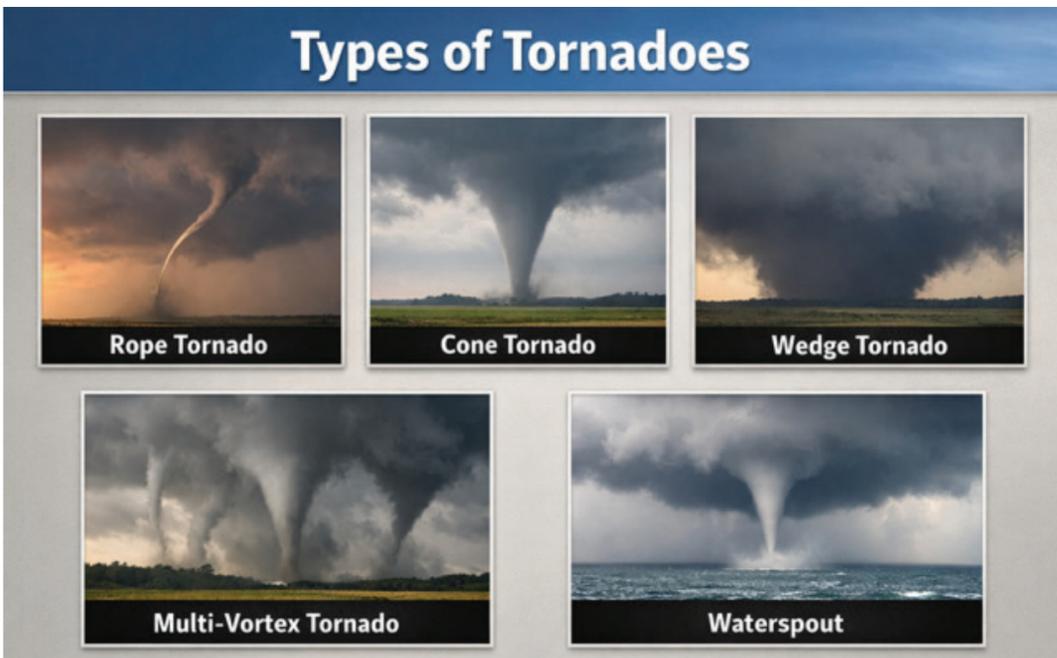
According to the National Climate

Data Center:

- Overpasses aren't safe: Flying debris makes them deadly.
- You can't outrun a tornado: Paths are unpredictable and can change quickly.
- Mobile home parks aren't specifically targeted: Tornadoes strike indiscriminately; mobile homes simply offer less protection.

Stay Alert, Stay Safe

Awareness is the best defense. Keep up with weather reports, maintain your vehicles and equipment, and know your safe areas. Being prepared and informed can protect lives, property, and peace of mind when severe weather strikes.



Understanding different types of tornadoes

By Laurna Todd,
ING Writer

When severe weather threatens, it can bring uncertainty and anxiety for many people. One way to help ease some of that concern is by understanding the different types of tornadoes that can develop. While no tornado should ever be taken lightly, knowing what meteorologists mean when they describe certain tornado types can help people better understand warnings and what kind of damage may be possible.

Meteorologists identify several types of tornadoes based on their shape and structure. Although they may look different, each type forms from powerful thunderstorms and can produce dangerous winds.

Rope Tornadoes are thin and narrow, often resembling a twisting rope in the sky. According to the National Oceanic

and Atmospheric Administration, rope tornadoes frequently appear this way during the final stage of their life cycle. However, some remain narrow throughout their entire lifespan. Even though they may appear less threatening than larger storms, rope tornadoes can still produce strong winds and cause damage. Because they are smaller and sometimes harder to see, they can occasionally catch people off guard.

Cone Tornadoes are the classic funnel shape many people picture when thinking of tornadoes. These storms are wider at the base where they meet the ground and taper upward toward the cloud above. Cone tornadoes are commonly shown in weather photos and videos and are capable of causing significant damage along their path.

Wedge Tornadoes

are among the largest and most destructive tornadoes. These tornadoes often appear wider than they are tall and can stretch hundreds of yards—or even miles—across. Because of their massive size and intense winds, wedge tornadoes have been responsible for some of the most devastating tornado events in history. Their broad path can lead to widespread destruction in the areas they cross.

Multi-vortex Tornadoes occur when several smaller funnels rotate within or around a larger tornado. These smaller vortices spin around the main circulation and can create pockets of extremely intense wind. This can lead to uneven damage patterns, where one building may be heavily damaged while another nearby may receive less impact.

Waterspouts are tornado-like funnels that form over water.

They are most often seen over lakes or coastal waters. While many waterspouts are weaker than tornadoes that form on land, they can still overturn boats and create hazardous conditions on the water. If a waterspout moves onto land, it can sometimes become a damaging tornado.

While tornadoes may appear in different shapes and sizes, they should all be taken seriously when warnings are issued. Understanding these different types of tornadoes can help people feel more informed when watching weather reports or hearing alerts. In many cases, knowledge can help reduce fear by replacing uncertainty with understanding.

Being aware of how tornadoes form and the ways they may appear can help communities stay calm, stay alert, and respond quickly when severe weather approaches.

Reinforce your home: prepare now to minimize tornado damage

By Laurna Todd,
ING Writer

Tornadoes are unpredictable and powerful, making it essential to fortify your home before the storm season hits. Taking steps now can reduce damage and improve safety. Here's what you can do:

Reinforce Your Roof

If you are able to: Inspect your roof annually before storm season and replace any compromised shingles or boards. Consider hiring a professional to install hurricane clips, which attach roof trusses to load-bearing walls for added strength.

If not: Ensure that loose shingles, tiles, or boards are secured as best as possible. Remove heavy objects from the roof or eaves that could become airborne during high winds.

Upgrade Windows and Doors

If you are able to: Install shatter-proof windows and reinforce doors. For maximum safety, consider a permanent storm shelter to protect your

family during severe weather.

If not: Use plywood or storm panels to temporarily cover windows when severe weather is forecast. Move furniture and valuables away from windows, and keep helmets or cushions handy for personal protection.

Know Your Utility Switches

If you are able to: Learn where your main gas, water, and electrical shut-off points are and how to operate them. Hire a professional if needed to ensure proper handling.

If not: Keep a wrench or tool nearby to turn off gas and water quickly if damage occurs, and unplug sensitive electronics to prevent electrical fires.

Preparation pays off. Whether you can make full upgrades or only take small steps with what you have, reinforcing your home ahead of time can significantly reduce damage and provide peace of mind when severe weather strikes.

STORM PLANNING TIMELINE

A few days out	The day before	The day of
Start preparing as soon as weather alert is issued	The day before, forecast accuracy continues to improve	Be prepared. Watches can turn into a Warning at a moments notice
Put emergency supplies in one place	Adjust plans	Remind family of communication plan
Know your safe places	Cell phone is charged	Know how to evacuate safely
Make a clear communication plan	Shelter is clean and accessible	Be ready to take action in seconds

BE PREPARED FOR SEVERE WEATHER!

KNOW THE DIFFERENCE!

TORNADO WATCH VS **TORNADO WARNING**

BE READY. CONDITIONS ARE FAVORABLE FOR TORNADOES TO OCCUR.

TAKE ACTION! A TORNADO HAS BEEN SPOTTED OR INDICATED ON WEATHER RADAR.

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STAY SAFE DURING SEVERE WEATHER

A Community Message from McDonald's

If a **Tornado Warning** Is Issued

Seek Shelter Immediately

TORNADO SAFETY TIPS

- Go to a basement, storm cellar, or safe room.
- Stay away from windows, doors, and outside walls.
- Stay away from windows, doors, and outside walls.

If no basement, go to a small interior room on the lowest floor.

Protect your head and neck from flying debris.

Stay Safe. Stay Informed.

Stay Safe. Stay Informed.

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