



## BFO launches new grant program inspired by Daviess County Emergent Need

JASPER, IN – The Being for Others Health and Wellness Foundation (BFO) partnered with PACE Community Action Agency to ensure Head Start services for children and families in Daviess County continued without interruption caused by a delay in federal funding during the November 2025 government shutdown. This government shutdown lasted a total of 43 days, making it the longest government shutdown in U.S. history. In response to this urgent need, BFO provided temporary financial assistance to PACE Head Start operations in Daviess County, IN, that ensured families could continue working, children could keep learning and thriving, and the local economy remained supported.

PACE's Head Start program was among several nationwide child care programs experiencing a funding delay directly tied to the start of a new federal grant cycle back on November 1, 2025. PACE was providing

services to over 295 children and families, and over 80 staff positions inside their six-county service region in Indiana. Without timely federal funding, programs faced short-term operational challenges that could have had direct impact on children, families, and staff.

Recognizing the strong correlation to the nationally-recognized Social Determinants of Health, BFO's partnership with PACE helped protect that critical support system where access to reliable childcare helps parents maintain employment, supports family stability, and provides children with safe environments, nutrition, and early learning opportunities.

"This collaboration reflected the understanding that community health extends beyond physical well-being," said Christian Blome, BFO President. "It's about supporting the conditions that allow families to flourish. When

children continue learning, parents remain employed, and families stay stable, the foundation of our region's collective long-term health and vitality grows stronger."

PACE CEO Tai Blythe said the partnership helped maintain critical stability for local families. "Our Head Start families depend on reliable access to care, learning, and support. This collaboration helped us maintain that stability during a challenging period, and we were deeply grateful for BFO's timely partnership."

Head Start provides education, health screenings, nutrition support, and family services to children from birth through age five. In Daviess County, more than 90 percent of enrolled children live below the federal poverty line, making the program an essential community resource.

### BFO Launches Rapid Response Grants Program

What began as an urgent need for one

organization inspired the creation of something brand new for BFO: the Rapid Response Grants program. A program designed to quickly support organizations like PACE when unexpected challenges arise.

Rapid Response Grants provide flexible, short-term support for time-sensitive, unexpected needs, or small-scale requests that align with BFO's mission and pillars. These funds are available year-round, or until designated resources have been fully allocated.

In keeping with all of BFO's current grant opportunities, applicants must serve residents in at least one of BFO's eight counties, aligned with at least one BFO grant pillar, operate as a nonprofit, governmental entity, or school, and must not compete with services offered by Deaconess Memorial Medical Center.

Information on the BFO Rapid Response Grant program can be found at [www.BeingforOthers.org](http://www.BeingforOthers.org)

## Rep. Shane Lindauer welcomes local student to the Statehouse

STATEHOUSE — State Rep. Shane Lindauer (R-Jasper) recently welcomed Maddie Popp from Jasper, who attends Jasper Middle School, to the Statehouse where she participated in the Indiana House Page Program during the 2026 legislative session.

"I cannot emphasize enough the benefits of the House page program," Lindauer said. "From networking to experiencing a professional environment, young students get to learn more about their state government and gain valuable skills."

During her day as a page, Popp interacted



with lawmakers and session staff, toured the Statehouse and joined Lindauer on the House floor to watch the legislative process in action.

To learn more about how students ages 13 to 18 can serve as a page during the 2027 legislative session, visit [indianahouserpublicans.com/pageprogram](http://indianahouserpublicans.com/pageprogram).

## Nominees announced for Little Company of Mary Outstanding Physician Award

Jasper, Indiana – Deaconess Memorial Medical Center has announced the names of the physicians nominated for the 14th annual Little Company of Mary Outstanding Physician Award.

The 2026 LCM physician nominees are:  
 Aaron Blair, MD – Family Medicine, Deaconess Clinic Family Medicine – Dale  
 Brian Blessinger, MD – Orthopedics/Spine, Deaconess Clinic Orthopedics – St. Charles  
 Joseph El-Houjairy, MD – Hospitalist, Deaconess Memorial Medical Center  
 Josh Leonard, MD – Cardiologist, Deaconess Clinic Heart and Vascular – Jasper  
 Kevin Lusk, MD – Family Medicine, Deaconess Clinic Family Medicine – Ferdinand  
 Erin Marchand, MD – Family Medicine, Deaconess Clinic Family Medicine and Specialists – Santa Claus  
 Gary Riddle, MD – Family Medicine,

Deaconess Clinic Family Medicine – Ferdinand  
 Cassie Robertson, DO – Family Medicine, Deaconess Clinic Family Medicine – Ninth Street  
 Kyle Schroering, DO – Emergency Medicine, Deaconess Memorial Medical Center

This award is based on outstanding job performance reflecting Deaconess Memorial's Mission Statement and the Core Values of Respect for Human Dignity, Compassionate Caring, Stewardship, Quality and Justice. It is named after the Little Company of Mary Sisters, the founders of Deaconess Memorial Medical Center. To be accepted as a nominee, a physician must be classified as a member of the hospital's medical staff for a minimum of twelve months and be in good standing with the medical staff. The recipient of this year's award will be announced during a prayer service held in the hospital's Chapel on March 30, 2026.

## Duboisswcd announces first-ever photography contest "Conservation in Action"

Jasper, IN - The Dubois County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) is excited to announce the launch of its first annual Photography Contest, celebrating the theme "Conservation in Action." The contest invites Dubois County residents to showcase the beauty, creativity, and real-world impact of conservation efforts happening throughout the community.

Participants are encouraged to submit images

that highlight soil, water, and wildlife conservation, whether through everyday practices, innovative approaches, or inspiring natural moments. The goal is to reveal how conservation is woven into the landscape and daily life across Dubois County.

**How To Enter**  
 Residents may submit their photographs now through June 11, 2026, using the QR code provided on the contest flyer

or visiting [www.duboisswcd.com](http://www.duboisswcd.com) to find the link. The link gives access to the entry form, judging criteria, and full contest guidelines.

**Eligibility**  
 Open to Dubois County Residents Only  
 Photos must reflect the theme "Conservation In Action"

The Dubois County Soil & Water Conservation District supports responsible land and resource stewardship through

outreach, education, and community programming. This photography contest continues SWCD's commitment to engaging the public in conservation awareness and celebrating the role individuals play in protecting natural resources.

For more information, please contact the Dubois SWCD office at 812-482-1171 ext. 3 or [duboisswcd@gmail.com](mailto:duboisswcd@gmail.com)



Adobe photo

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

## The elephant in the room

By Teresa LeNeave  
leneave2@comcast.net

It's easy to do things absentmindedly. There can be some bad consequences from not thinking before we make decisions. I was 62-years-old before I had a broken bone. Freezing rain was falling and compacting as soon as it hit the ground. Without thinking, I decided to go outside, down four-ice covered steps just to shut a storage building door that had blown open. There were no items of significance in the building so why did I absentmindedly, step out the door not taking the consequences of

my actions into consideration? I don't know, but what I do know is that the second my foot stepped out the door and touched the first step, I immediately slid down the other three shattering my wrist requiring surgery with two pins and six screws to hold it together.

I remember when my sister was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer. Even though I knew God could heal her, I thought my world had nearly ended. Bad news can be a very frightening thing. It shakes our world and shatters our peace. Doubt and fear come flooding into our soul and mind. For a

little while we may forget our position in Christ. A phone call at 3:00 a.m. sends chills down our spine. A knock at the door after mid-night momentarily engulfs us in fear. News of a bad accident is blood chilling.

That's when we pray scared prayers. We pray visualizing the worse scenarios: everything our mind tells us is possible. We pray in fear of what may happen. As you know, most of what we fear never happens. Although there are those times when our worst fears do come true, faith is still our best go-to. Where do we run? What is our first reaction to bad news?



What about when the weather man is counting down the time when a tornado could potentially hit your house? There are some scary times we have to deal with, but in all these God is still God and he has the power to bring peace to every situation. Faith is still the best antidote for fear. Any fear.

The elephant in the room is, "How much

do we trust Him?" Is fear or faith our first reaction? For me, that depends on the situation, I guess. There were times I've had no fear in the face of bad news, but there were other times (like when I heard the news of my sister's possible death), that I stayed up all night sick with fear. Praying for God to intervene. And, He has. She's not cured yet, but she's on the

way. God is good and the more we realize that, the stronger we'll be when bad times come.

We don't want bad news. But, as you've often heard, God allows bad to come once in a while so we will learn to trust Him and be thankful to Him for the good He brings in our lives. If everyday was stress and anxiety free, we'd never appreciate the good God does in our lives.

I'm so thankful for the Word of God that says "peace be still, take courage, be strong, trust in Me, I'll never leave or fail you." Faith is a product of hope and hope is the anchor of our soul.

By Gary Miller

As I look back on this last deer season, it seems that bad news could be the theme. I hunted hard but my effort only produced minimal results. If I had to compare the hours in the stand to my harvest ledger, I would definitely be in the red. What makes it even worse is I knew I was in a place where some big bucks lived. In fact, I missed my opportunity at one of those bucks because I couldn't get my crossbow up before said buck left. Another bummer was when I arrowed a ten-pointer but was never able to find him. I think he's still alive. At least I hope he is. When I think about it however, I

can't remember a year that was marked by more successes than failures. The truth is bad news is a lot more normal than good news, and it's easier to find. It's certainly that way in most areas of life.

One of my favorite evangelists of times past was a black man by the name of E.V. Hill. The way he preached could make me confess sins I'd never committed. He tells a story about a woman in his church who always sat on the front row. Her nickname was Eighteen Hundred. It was given to her because she was so old that everyone thought she must have been born in the 1800's. Everyone loved Eighteen Hundred.



### Outdoor Truths

## Eighteen Hundred

Author, Shane Claiborne, tells how E.V Hill shared the story with him. Every Sunday old Eighteen Hundred would sit in her usual spot in the front row. As Pastor Hill started preaching, she would start muttering, "Get to the good news, Pastor: get to the good news". And her commentary would get louder and louder as the

news!" Eventually he would get to the good news, and she would shout "Amen!" at the top of her lungs.

I think about all that Eighteen Hundred went through in her life. Racism, slavery, poverty, and the likes. If anyone ought to wallow in the bad news it ought to be her. But Eighteen Hundred had not only found a story of bad news that ended in good news, but she also wanted to make sure it always ended the right way. It was this good news that overcame all the bad news she had endured in her life. Friend, I know the world is full of bad news. But it always has been. The gospel, however, is good news, and it is good news for

everyone who hears it. So, don't forget, it's alright to recognize all the bad things that may be going on, but don't end the story on Friday. Sunday is coming.

Gary Miller  
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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)

## Age is not an excuse for being unhealthy

This might be one of the most unpopular articles of all time, but as I sit here wanting to express from my heart, my private burdens are being exposed. I care about you (and me), it's the only reason I would write about such a challenging subject. I believe it's better to step forward and deal with personal issues that are causing great harm to our bodies and our self-esteem. Excess body fat is a serious problem. Many people, including myself, tend to gain size and bulk around the waist. I do not like it, but within my mind, trying to do something about it is like climbing a vertical cliff. Most of the time, I talk myself out of trying even before I can gather the ropes and climbing gear.

Let's face it, being

overweight makes a person sluggish, and to be blunt, we do not like how we look. Our obesity can be a psychological dark cloud that hangs over us, along with being self-conscious of how we look when we get dressed or undressed, and anywhere that has a mirror. Not only are we seen by everyone, but we also feel bad for our spouse and how we have let ourselves go, as if our appearance were not important. I know those who love us say they do not care about our outward appearance, but what are they supposed to say?

I've heard people joke around about their appearance by saying things like, "I don't care what people think, I just want to enjoy my life" or, "I'm too old to care

anymore, I just want to be happy." I get it, but are we really content and proud with what we have created? These types of comments evolve from the combination of secret frustrations and anger. Frustrating because of how difficult it is to break free from this powerful bondage, and anger for allowing ourselves to get into this mess in the first place. My intention is not to heap more condemnation or guilt on us, but to come out in the open and ask why we are stuck in this merry-go-round of being overweight and out of shape, and how we can stop yielding to the temptations to please and serve our flesh. I guess the big question is, do we believe this is a serious problem, or will we continue being controlled and living

in denial? It is said that when we don't deal with what's going on, it keeps going on.

Within the context of being a marshmallow, the more bad foods we eat, the more we help diabetes take control of our destiny. Even when we realize that what we consume is the problem, some still refuse to change their lifestyles. They are discouraged and depressed, yet the desire to eat unhealthy is stronger than the desire to cast down these food addictions. Max Dupree is quoted, "We cannot become what we want by remaining what we are." We are told that highs and lows from glucose and insulin can make us feel weird, which is why so many of us are on meds to keep us balanced. I

realize I'm older, but I believe my cravings for afternoon naps are a consequence of my sugary diet and lack of exercise.

Exercise is a popular subject to talk about, but it's very difficult to actually do. Personally, I've had visions of working out, but have never been serious about it. I have every opportunity to do push-ups and sit-ups, but I don't want to. I would much rather sit down and watch something meaningless. Just how important is this to me? Yes, I'm old and tired, and I do not have the energy I once had, which proves even more how I must accept that I'm responsible for my health. What about embracing our bad habits, eating too much, eating the wrong types of food,

not getting enough cardio exercise (which causes us to not only be out of shape, and the reason for our muscle atrophy), retaining fluid, heart-artery, lung, kidney, liver, and pancreas problems, and this is just naming a few. I can make a lot of excuses about my negative addictions, but the pain has not yet caused me to raise my game. We can continue to ignore our old attitudes, or we can become motivated to be transformed into the best version of ourselves. Isn't it better to be honest, even if it's uncomfortable?

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

## Upcoming Youth Xplosion 26 coming to Paducah March 27th

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,

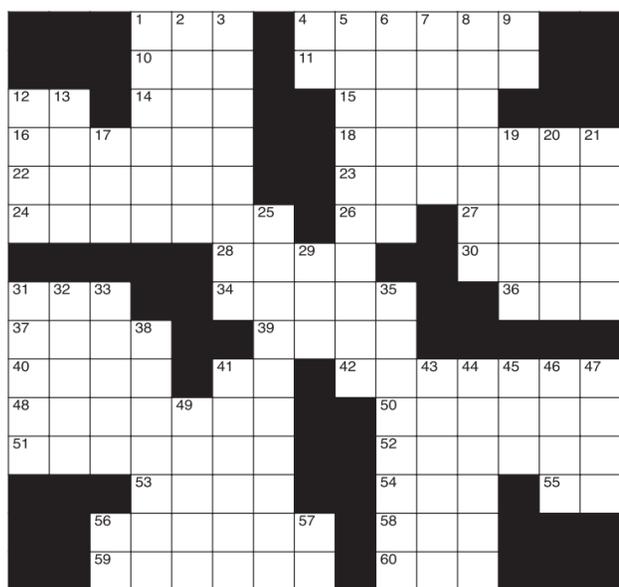
prayer time, and morning and evening worship services. Lunch and dinner will also be served on Saturday. Advance Registration cost is \$40.00. On-site registration is also available for

\$40.00. Registration, except for on-site registration, will be online. For additional registration information, contact Rev. Joshua Sullivan at [berealministries.com](http://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.

### Crossword Puzzle



#### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Inclined to do
- 4. Sketches
- 10. Book of Chronicles (abbr.)
- 11. Atomic #58
- 12. Dorm official
- 14. Small Eurasian deer
- 15. Southern constellation
- 16. Workers' groups
- 18. Former
- 22. Excellent
- 23. Romance language related to Spanish
- 24. Reference
- 26. Equally
- 27. Dirty towels
- 28. A cargo (abbr.)
- 30. Ammunition
- 31. You get one in summer
- 34. Slang for trucks with trailers
- 36. Swiss river
- 37. Exchange rate
- 39. British School
- 40. College teacher
- 41. Foreign Service
- 42. Horse gear
- 48. Cost to fly
- 50. A salt or ester of boric acid
- 51. Mocking
- 52. One who bird-watches
- 53. Concluding passage
- 54. A major division of geological time
- 55. Sodium
- 56. A way to produce
- 58. Soak
- 59. Laughed loudly and harshly
- 60. Affirmative

#### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Moth species phalonia \_\_\_
- 2. Quantum of energy
- 3. Break the law
- 4. Location of White House
- 5. Official cancellation of a decision
- 6. Where rockers work
- 7. Cut of beef: \_\_\_ mignon
- 8. Nocturnal burrowing reptile
- 9. Atomic #62
- 12. Genus of evergreen shrubs
- 13. Flowering plant of the legume family
- 17. Inches per minute (abbr.)
- 19. Tropical fruit
- 20. Hot fluid beneath the earth's crust
- 21. James \_\_\_, painter
- 25. Popular dessert
- 29. Payment (abbr.)
- 31. Cuisine style
- 32. Genus of true flies
- 33. City in western France
- 35. Arrogance
- 38. One holding a position of command
- 41. Weekday
- 43. An evening party
- 44. Print errors
- 45. Not good
- 46. Egyptian Sun god
- 47. East German town
- 49. Olfactory property
- 56. Atomic #37
- 57. "Pollock" actor Harris

**PUZZLE SOLUTION**

	A	P	T		D	R	A	F	T	S						
		C	H	R		C	E	R	I	U	M					
R	A		R	O	E		V	E	L	A						
U	N	I	O	N	S		O	N	E	T	I	M	E			
T	I	P	T	O	P		C	A	T	A	L	A	N			
A	L	M	A	N	A	C		A	S		R	A	G	S		
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T	A	N				S	E	M	I	S		A	A	R		
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A	I	R	F	A	R	E				B	O	R	A	T	E	
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### Crypto Fun

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**CRYPTO FUN**

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Solve the code to discover words related to spring cleaning. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 11 = E)

- A. 22 23 15 21 11 25**  
Clue: Storage area
- B. 15 6 7 20 9 2 16 11**  
Clue: Make orderly
- C. 17 19 21 25 2 9 7**  
Clue: Clearing fine particles
- D. 22 23 11 20 9 21 11**  
Clue: Make thoroughly clean

Answers: A. closet B. organize C. dusting D. cleanse

### Word Search

#### SPRING CLEANING WORD SEARCH

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

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

#### ANSWERS ON THE CLASSIFIED PAGE

#### WORDS

- AIRING
- DECLUTTER
- DEEP-CLEAN
- DETOXIFY
- DISINFECT
- DONATIONS
- DUSTING
- FRESH
- HOME
- LABELING
- LAUNDRY
- MAINTENANCE
- MINIMALISM
- MOPPING
- ORGANIZE
- POLISH
- PURGE
- RECYCLING
- RENEWAL
- SANITIZE
- SCRUBBING
- SORTING
- STORAGE
- 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**

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

### Word Scramble

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to cleaning.

**E A W R T**

--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Water

### Guess Who?

#### GUESS WHO?

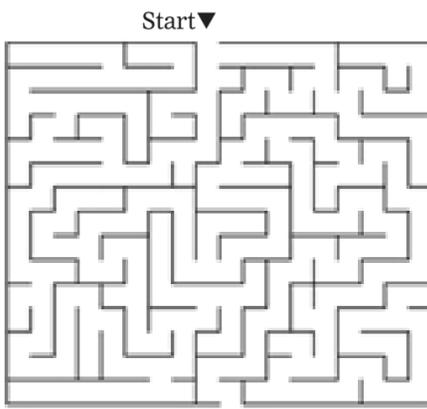
I am an actress born in England on March 18, 1989. I began acting at age two on a BBC television show. I gained success in America for various roles on TV and in movies. My most recent role involves a fish-out-of-water scenario set in Paris. My dad is a famous musician.

Answer: Lily Collins

### COLORING FUN



### Spring Maze



Find the way through the maze to water the flowers.



### March Jokes

- How much do rainbows weight?**  
Not much. They're actually pretty light.
- What's the difference between ducks and dine-and-dashers?**  
Ducks take care of their bills.
- Why do bees have sticky hair?**  
Because they use a honeycomb.
- What does a pickle say when he wants to play cards?**  
Dill me in!
- What do you get when you plant kisses?**  
Tu-lips
- How does an octopus go into battle?**  
Well armed.



### Kermit "Clyde" Huff

ENGLISH — Kermit "Clyde" Huff, 82, of English, Indiana, passed away on March 15, 2026, surrounded by his loving family.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at the Nass & Son Funeral Home in Huntingburg with burial to follow at the Birdseye Cemetery. The Bethlehem Masonic Lodge #574 F&AM will conduct masonic memorial rites and Rev. Albert Madden will officiate at the funeral service. Friends may call for visitation at the Nass & Son Funeral Home from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, the day of the service.

### Shirley M. Schnell

Shirley M. Schnell, age 88, passed away peacefully with family by her side, at 2:30 p.m. on Friday,

March 13, 2026, at the Waters in Huntingburg. A Mass of Christian Burial for Shirley M. Schnell will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 21, 2026, in St. Celestine Catholic Church, in Celestine, Indiana, with burial to follow in the church cemetery. A visitation will be held from 11:00 a.m. until the 1:00 p.m. service on Saturday at the church.

### 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.

### Elmer "Bill" W. Wolf Jr.

Elmer "Bill" Wolf Jr., age 74, of Dubois, Indiana, passed away surrounded by family at 7:37 a.m. on Thursday, March 12, 2026, at Serenity Springs at Northwood in Jasper, Indiana. A Mass of Christian Burial for Elmer "Bill" Wolf Jr. was held at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at St. Raphael's

Catholic Church in Dubois, Indiana, with burial to follow in the church cemetery. The American Legion #147 will conduct military graveside rites.

### Kraig K. Blair

Kraig K. Blair, age 73, of Jasper, Indiana, passed away on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at home. A Celebration of Life for Kraig K. Blair will be held at a later date.

### Ethelreda "Ethel" C. Knies

Ethelreda "Ethel" C. Knies, age 91, of Jasper, Indiana, passed away at 12:25 a.m. on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, surrounded by family at Deaconess Memorial Medical Center in Jasper, Indiana. A Mass of Christian Burial for Ethel C. Knies was held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, March 13, 2026, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Jasper, Indiana, with entombment to follow in the Fairview Cemetery Mausoleum.

### Martha Birchler

Martha L. Birchler, 71, passed away on March 13, 2026, at St. Vincent Hospital in Evansville. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 AM CDT on Friday, March 20, 2026, at Huber Funeral Home, Tell City Chapel. John Smitson and Pastor Keith Messick will officiate. Burial will follow in Greenwood Cemetery. Visitation will be held on Thursday from 4:00-8:00 PM CDT with an American Legion Auxiliary service near the end of the evening and on Friday from 9:00-11:00 AM at the funeral home.

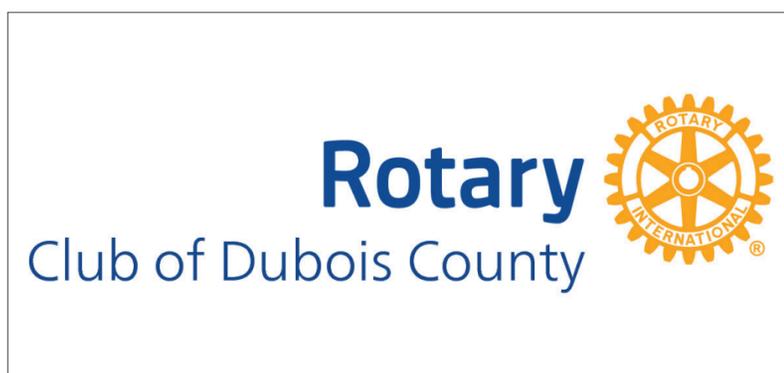
## Rotary Club of Dubois County Community Grant deadline approaching

The Rotary Club of Dubois County reminds local nonprofits that the deadline to apply for its 2026 Community Grant Program is March 20, 2026.

Nonprofit organizations, schools, and community groups throughout Dubois County are encouraged to apply for funding to support impactful local projects.

Each year, the Rotary Club of Dubois County raises funds that are reinvested

directly into the community through a competitive grant process designed to support meaningful and sustainable initiatives. Proposed projects must align with at least one of Rotary International's Seven Areas of Focus, including peacebuilding, disease prevention, clean water and sanitation, maternal and child health, education and literacy, economic and community development, and environmental sustainability.



Projects must also include an opportunity for hands-on involvement from Rotary members.

Organizations may apply for up to \$20,000 in funding.

Applications opened February 2 and will close on March 20, 2026. Selected applicants will be invited to briefly present their projects to the Rotary Club

membership, with final funding decisions expected in late April 2026.

A portion of the funding is made possible through the Rotary District

Grant program, with full funds typically available in early August.

Organizations interested in applying can access the application and program details at [www.duboiscountyrota.com](http://www.duboiscountyrota.com) or directly at: <https://forms.gle/WyuQdZ9WXPjo3SvX9>

For more information, contact Christian Blome, Rotary Club of Dubois County Community Service Director, at [cjblome@gmail.com](mailto:cjblome@gmail.com)

## Helping Hands and Paws:

### Therapy animals help students succeed in school

By Callie Sanders, Youth First, Inc.

Increasingly, schools across the country are incorporating therapy animals, particularly dogs, to help students feel calmer, more focused, and better prepared to learn. These programs, known as animal-assisted interventions (AAs), are utilized in elementary and middle schools to support students in various ways. Research shows that spending time with trained animals can help children improve their emotional regulation, behavior, and even their reading skills.

Researchers interviewed school staff in San Antonio, Texas, during a study

conducted in 2022 to learn how therapy animals were helping students. Teachers and counselors said they noticed big improvements in student behavior. Many children became less aggressive and more willing to talk about their feelings. Others who struggled with anxiety or trauma began to feel safer and more comfortable in school. Some staff said students even looked forward to coming to school just to see the therapy dog. While there were some concerns about safety, allergies, and planning, most teachers said the program was worth it.

Animal-assisted reading programs are also becoming more popular in

younger grades. These programs let children read aloud to a calm, nonjudgmental dog. This helps them feel more confident and less afraid of making mistakes. A study published in 2014 concluded that students who read to dogs for ten weeks showed major improvements in reading speed, accuracy, and understanding, more than those who read to adults or stuffed animals. Even better, the progress continued for weeks after the program ended. Children stayed more engaged in the classroom and enjoyed reading.

Animal-assisted programs also help students with autism. A 2020 review in the journal Autism

Research looked at 16 different studies involving nearly 500 children with autism. The review found that spending time with therapy animals helped many of these students improve their communication and social skills. Research shows that therapy animals can also be a great support in special education classrooms or in one-on-one sessions.

Therapy animals can help in many ways at school. They can sit quietly with a child during a stressful moment, listen to a student practice reading, or visit classrooms to create a peaceful mood. Schools that use trained animals and follow safety guidelines can create

new opportunities for learning and healing.

These programs help all kinds of students, from those with learning difficulties to those who just need a little extra emotional support. In a time when concerns about student mental health and classroom stress are at an all-time high, animal-assisted interventions are proving to be more than just a feel-good idea. They are real, research-backed tools that help kids succeed both in and out of the classroom.

Callie Sanders, MSW, LSW, is a Youth First Mental Health Professional at Fort Branch Community School, Haubstadt Community School, and Owensville Community School

in Gibson County. Youth First, Inc., is a nonprofit dedicated to strengthening youth and families. Youth First provides over 100 highly trained mental health professionals (primarily master's level social workers), prevention programs, parent engagement coordinators, and bilingual support personnel to 130 schools across 14 Indiana counties. Over 55,000 youth and families each year are served by Youth First's school-based social work and community programs that promote mental health, prevent substance misuse, and maximize student success. To learn more about Youth First, visit [youthfirstinc.org](http://youthfirstinc.org) or call 812-421-8336.



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# Core collection undergoing reboxing

*Core library holds 54+ miles of the state's geological archive*

By Sara Clifford

Core collection undergoing reboxing

Several hours per week, standing along a narrow table in a dusty garage, three to four IGWS staff members are working to reassemble “the biggest, weirdest jigsaw puzzle you’ve ever seen.”

That puzzle is the IGWS core collection: cylindrical samples of rock gathered from tens to more than 1,000 ft underground at thousands of spots across Indiana. (See those locations on this map.) Amassed over nearly 100 years, the 400-ton collection is spread across 1,054 pallets stacked in a northern Bloomington warehouse. If laid end to end, samples in the collection would span more than 54 miles, or roughly a drive from Bloomington to Indianapolis.

Historically, core has been stored in cardboard boxes, some plain and some waxed—not the greatest material for durability. As generations of researchers have taken the collection out and studied it, boxes—and some cores inside them—have begun to deteriorate. This process was worsened by the whole collection having to be moved to different storage locations twice within five years.

Now, thanks to a \$616,063 grant from the USGS National Geological and Geophysical Data Preservation Program, plus \$150,000 from IU Research, the core collection is getting the care it has long deserved. The two collections staff members, Jenna Lanman and Marloes Krabbe,



Jenna Lanman holds a core sample being reboxed at the IGWS Core Research and Teaching Repository in January 2026.

| Sara Clifford, IGWS

and other staff are slowly moving all core samples into sturdy, chemically stable, plastic boxes, which nest to save valuable storage space on shelves and provide a rigidity and stability that cardboard boxes do not.

The process is slow because as multiple hands have handled boxes over decades, they’ve gotten jumbled. Often, pulling a 200-ft core for a researcher means that collections staff must locate multiple pallets, lower them with a forklift, drive them to a building with available space, then unstack each pallet box by box to find the full length of the core, traditionally stored 10 ft to a box.

Shales are seen in a cardboard core

box in January 2026. Samples such as this one are difficult to handle during the core reboxing project, as it’s not very clear how each piece fits together or whether they are in the right place in the box. | Sara Clifford, IGWS

“There’s potential pitfalls that you have to watch for, like picking up a box and sticking your fingers through the bottom of it,” Lanman said. “Some of these boxes haven’t been replaced since the ‘60s.”

Once all boxes have been found, the intricate part of the puzzle begins. Not every driller throughout IGWS history labeled core tops and bottoms in the same way—or at all—so it’s not always

clear which side of the box is up. It’s also possible that a researcher who took out a section to study never returned it, or didn’t put it back the way it was originally facing. Cross bedding and grading in the rock, mud patterns, or fracture patterns can be clues. “It takes a while, and you also have to be paying attention so that the pieces aren’t turned around, so it’s a very attention-to-detail thing,” Lanman said.

Visit the map layer at <https://igsmap.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=c912b26e5e0c4429a97fcd25c71a915>.

Once reboxed, each core will proceed to a photography station. Those high-quality

images, taken in white (wet and dry) and UV light, will be added to IGWS Digital Collections to enable them to be seen and studied by anyone, anywhere, at any time, and to provide a digital backup for physical samples.

The reboxing process has been made more complex by limited space which restricts the amount of people working at one time; a recent burst water pipe at the storage site; and staff being needed elsewhere to move other IGWS collections.

The reboxing project—slated to last until summer 2028—is a critical piece toward putting the IGWS Core Research and Teaching Repository back together so that samples are more accessible for studying. The core collection, 18,360 additional boxes of rock cuttings and 17,000 lithologic strips have been in various storage locations since 2018. These state-held resources are windows into Indiana’s subsurface for geological researchers from across the state, country, and world, helping to answer questions about water availability, mineral deposits and quality, carbon storage, and geological and environmental hazards.



Shales are seen in a cardboard core box in January 2026. Samples such as this one are difficult to handle during the core reboxing project, as it’s not very clear how each piece fits together or whether they are in the right place in the box.

| Sara Clifford, IGWS

## UE launches TRIO student support services program to advance student success

By Tracy Gerth  
Appointed Project Director

EVANSVILLE, IND. —The University of Evansville (UE) has launched a new TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) Program, a federally funded initiative through the U.S. Department of

Education designed to increase college retention and graduation rates for first-generation students, income-eligible students, and students with disabilities. UE’s initiative grant total for TRIO is approximately \$1 million.

TRIO Student

Support Services is part of the nationally recognized TRIO portfolio of programs, established under the Higher Education Act of 1965 to promote educational access for students who face systemic barriers to higher education. UE’s TRIO SSS program will provide

comprehensive, personalized support to help students persist, thrive, and graduate.

“TRIO Student Support Services represents a powerful investment in our students and in the University of Evansville’s mission to support access, opportunity, and

success,” said Mary Kessler, UE Acting Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. “This program strengthens our ability to meet students where they are and provide the tools and guidance they need to reach their full potential.”

*Supporting Student Success at UE*

The University of Evansville’s TRIO SSS Program is designed to serve 140 undergraduate students annually, focusing on students who meet federal

see **TRIO**,  
Back page

## UE announces lineup for 2026 summer camps

EVANSVILLE, IND. —The University of Evansville (UE) will host a wide variety of engaging and educational camps throughout the summer of 2026.

The camps offer hands-on experiences from digital innovation and artistic expression to leadership and justice, the 2026 summer roster provides a platform for students from elementary through high school to explore their potential on a collegiate campus.

“We are excited to welcome hundreds of students to campus for a summer of exploration, growth, creativity, and discovery,” said Apryl

Weatherford, Director of Youth Programs. “Each camp is designed to give young people the chance to try something new, develop their passions, and build confidence while experiencing the energy of a college campus and the University of Evansville’s commitment to hands-on learning and developing future changemakers.”

The full lineup is as follows:

June 1-12  
Ceramics (Grades 9-12)

June 6-12  
Journey to Justice (J2J) (Grades 9-12)

June 8-12

Ceramics (Grades 6-8)

Music Camp (Grades 6-12)

STEM Camp (Grades 5-8)

June 15-19  
Multimedia  
Upcycled Art (Grades 3-6)

Crafty Critters Art Camp (Grades 2-4)

Miniature Art Camp (Grades 5-7)

High School Art Camp (Grades 8-12)

Dance Camp (Grades 6-12)

June 22-26  
Printmaking (Grades 9-12)

Printmaking (Grades 6-8)

June 26-28  
PRIDE Camp (Grades 8-12)

July 6-10  
Grandparents and Me Art Camp (Grades 3-6)

Fantasy and Mythical Creatures Art Camp (Grades 2-4)

Multimedia  
Upcycled Art (Grades 5-8)

Best Friends Art Camp (Grades 4-6)

July 6-17  
Ceramics Workshop (Grades 9-12)

July 6-24

Esports Camp (Grades 6-12)

July 13-30  
Jr. TASL Scholars Program (Grades 7-12)

Camps will be hosted throughout June and July, with registration now open. Space is limited, and early registration is encouraged. More details, including costs and age requirements, can be found at [evansville.edu/camps](http://evansville.edu/camps). Financial assistance is available for families who qualify.

The University of Evansville is a private, comprehensive university with a solid foundation in the arts and sciences and professional schools in business, engineering,

education, and health sciences. Established in 1854, UE is recognized across the globe for its rich tradition of innovative, academic excellence and dynamic campus community of #Changemakers.

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

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2007 Honda Shadow, excellent motorcycle. 2 owner. White & Grey. 13,100 miles. Asking \$4,000. Please call...765-661-5498. (7-26-22 tfn)

KillBros Seed Tender w/plastic auger, \$2,000 1985 M & W 375 Wagon \$2,200 309-275-0524. (tfn)

2007 Geringhoff Rotadisc, 8 row head, w/ rotacone corn savers, this head is very good and had very little use, needs no work on it before fall season, always shedded \$29,000 815-761-2531. (tfn)

2006 Mustang. 634 telehandler, 6,000 lb cap., 34ft lift, 2,462 hours. foam tires. JD Diesel engine. Very good condition. \$25k OBO, 812-852-4594 Osgood, IN (tfn)

**BUSINESS FOR SALE**  
Saw Mill Business for sale. Located in Tazwell, IN. \$250,000 OBO Call Becky Higgins/Remax 812-267-6264 (tfn)

Children's clothing resale business, \$7,500. includes 5000 items. 235 East Main Street. Gas City, Indiana . Donna 510-599-9010

**AUTOS FOR SALE**

2015 Nissan Frontier SV pickup full, 4-door, loaded and showroom new. 12,200 miles. Call 812-482-6304. If no answer, leave message. 2-25-22 tfn

2013 RED SMART FOUR TWO CONVERTIBLE, 43,000 miles, power steering, power breaks, cruise control, tack, garage kept, stored in winter, 35-40 mpg. Very clean, well kept car! Comes with car cover. This car won 1st Place in Heartland Worship Center Car Show in 2014. \$9,500. Call 270-554-7367, leave message if no answer. (tfn)

2000 DODGE RAM 2500 SERIES, V8 Magnum SLT, 17" NEW Tires, Body Lift Kit, Cold Air, 103,000 miles \$6500.00- 812-549-5216 or 812-309-2214.

2004 STERLING tri-axle dump truck, 8LL transmission, 16.5 ft. aluminum bed, 849,000 miles, great shape, mechanically sound, one owner,

Sudoku Answers

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

Word Search Answers

V U N O R R A X E E A T J J C E I S J A  
 W E C A C T I N G A D J Z H L T S I S  
 T d I L 9 1 N V O d d A M R R E Z V T  
 8 A I 9 Z I I O H O d J M N I M R O S  
 T Z H H I I O I L R R S M V A Z d  
 Y C M d d d I L H E E E I B I I V L Z  
 P U N N O L W E I S S d I R A A 9 X E  
 R R W O T N O N V M M I S O M C O  
 E S T I d d Z 8 V O N O O I O M O  
 S S A d S V O E R E I V I H Z R R C J  
 I H R Y 9 9 H O G O G A S J B Z 8  
 d d Y X 9 9 H O G O G A S J B Z 8  
 A X N 9 W 3 I X 9 d d G W R A d  
 H W I N M M Z X C C J S E L X N M N  
 O Z I I I I H V S S 8 9 V R O M I C V  
 I N N W V I N I E N N S T A Z d S E I  
 T H A 9 I L N A R R N S T A Z d S E I

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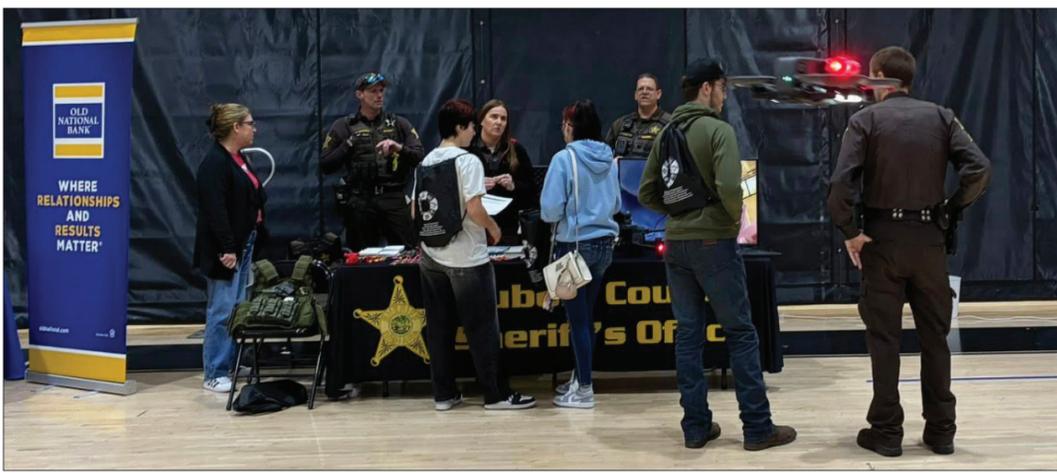
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# Dubois County Career Cruise and Job Fair



The Dubois County Sheriff's Office participated in the Dubois County Career and Job Fair last week. More than 600

local 8th graders stopped by to learn about the Dubois County Sheriff's Office and other local career opportunities.

The day after, we also had juniors and seniors come through to check things out. Our drones, vests, basic handcuffing

techniques and drunk goggles were definitely a hit! THANK YOU to Hub19 for all you do for the youth in our community.

TRIO, from page 5

TRIO eligibility criteria. The program responds to documented challenges faced by this population, including academic preparedness gaps, financial barriers, and the complexities of navigating college systems.

The program has established ambitious, student-focused goals, including:

80% year-to-year persistence for participating students

95% of participants maintaining good academic standing

70% graduation rate within six years

To achieve these outcomes, UE's TRIO Student Support Services Program will provide a comprehensive suite of evidence-based supports, including individualized Academic Success Plans with ongoing coaching and progress reviews; academic tutoring; financial aid advising and financial literacy education; career readiness and graduate school preparation; and cultural enrichment experiences.

These enrichment opportunities, such as visits to museums, historical sites, arts events, and community organizations, are designed to broaden students' worldviews and connect academic

learning to real-world experiences.

### Leadership Appointment

The University of Evansville is pleased to announce the appointment of Tracy Gerth as Project Director of the TRIO Student Support Services Program. Gerth has been with the University since 2022, most recently serving as Assistant Director of the Center for Career Development.

"We are especially excited to welcome an internal leader into this role," said Kessler.

"Tracy brings deep knowledge of our students, a strong commitment to student success, and a proven dedication to the University of Evansville community. She is exceptionally well-positioned to build and lead this program with vision, compassion, and excellence."

As Project Director, Gerth will oversee program implementation, student services, compliance with federal requirements, and campus collaboration to ensure the program's long-term impact.

For more information about the TRIO Student Support Services Program at the University of Evansville, visit <https://www.evansville.edu/trio/index.cfm>

# Dubois County Sheriff's Office responds to hostage situation

Dubois County Sheriff's Office Incident Response – Ferdinand, Indiana

On March 13, 2026, at approximately 4:15 p.m., the Dubois County Sheriff's Office was dispatched to the residence located at 10598 S 50 W in Ferdinand, Indiana, after a female caller reported that she was homicidal, was in possession of a firearm, and claimed there were three hostages inside the home.

Upon arrival, officers established a perimeter and began assessing the situation. During this time, the female subject walked outside holding a glass jar with liquid which appeared to be a Molotov Cocktail. The female subject refused to follow officers commands and reportedly poured a liquid over herself and returned inside the residence.

In an effort to safely assess the interior of the home, officers broke a window and deployed a small drone into the residence. The drone was operated by Deputy Hanselman, who was able to observe the female subject inside the home standing alone and yelling to herself. Officers attempted



to deploy gas into the residence in an effort to encourage the subject to exit the home safely. Those efforts were unsuccessful, and the subject refused to come outside.

Due to the circumstances of the situation, the Indiana State Police SWAT Team was requested and responded to assist. The SWAT team made entry into the residence and encountered the female subject. The female subject resisted officers during the encounter and was

subsequently tased before being taken into custody.

Following her being detained, the subject was transferred to assisting officers and escorted to a staged ambulance for medical evaluation.

The female subject has been identified as Jamie Gonzalez, who was taken into custody on two outstanding felony warrants.

The investigation remains ongoing, and additional charges may be filed pending the outcome of the investigation.

\*\*All subjects are

presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law\*\*

Further information will be released as it becomes available.

Thanks to the assistance of: Ferdinand Police Department Jasper Police Department Deaconess Memorial EMS

St. Henry First Responders Indiana State Police (SWAT) Indiana Conservation Officer Dubois County Communication Center

## Safe Sitter Essentials Class with CPR to be held at DMMC

Jasper – Deaconess Memorial Medical Center is offering "Safe Sitter", a class designed to prepare adolescents ages 11-14 to be safe when home alone, watching younger siblings, or babysitting. Students will gain knowledge and confidence while learning nurturing child care, basic first aid, basic CPR, rescue skills, and personal safety through fun.

The next class will be held on

Wednesday, March 25, 2026 from 9:00-1:30 p.m. at Memorial Southside Office, 1100 West 12th Avenue in Jasper. Class size is limited; cost for the class is \$55. To register, visit Deaconess Memorial website at [www.deaconessmemorial.com](http://www.deaconessmemorial.com) and click on "Classes & Events" or call the Deaconess Wellness Solutions-Jasper at 812-996-2399, option 1 or toll-free at 800-852-7279, ext. 2399

# The difference between a tornado watch and a warning



A tornado watch means conditions are favorable for tornadoes, while a tornado warning means a tornado has been sighted or indicated by radar and immediate action is required.

### Tornado Watch: Be Prepared

A tornado watch is issued when weather conditions are favorable for the formation of tornadoes in a specific area. It does not mean a tornado is occurring, only that one is possible. Watches typically cover large regions, often multiple

counties or even several states, and can last several hours. During a watch, you should:

Stay alert and monitor local news, weather apps, or NOAA Weather Radio.

Review your emergency plan and identify safe shelter locations.

Ensure emergency supplies, such as water, food, flashlights, and batteries, are ready.

Charge devices and prepare for potential power outages.

Watches are issued by the Storm Prediction Center (SPC), which

monitors atmospheric conditions like wind shear, instability, and moisture that could support tornado development.

### Tornado Warning: Take Action Immediately

A tornado warning is issued when a tornado has been sighted or indicated by radar, signaling imminent danger to life and property. Warnings cover smaller, localized areas, such as a city or part of a county, and usually last 20 to 60 minutes. When a warning is issued, you should:

Move immediately

to a basement or interior room on the lowest floor, away from windows.

If in a mobile home, vehicle, or outdoors, seek the closest substantial shelter.

Protect yourself from flying debris using blankets, helmets, or heavy clothing.

Continue monitoring alerts until the threat has passed.

Warnings are issued by local National Weather Service (NWS) forecast offices using radar data, satellite imagery, and reports from trained storm spotters.