

# Huntingburg Press

SERVING DUBOIS COUNTY SINCE 1905 • IN GOD WE TRUST



Local students from Spencer County VOICE youth advocacy group visited State Rep. Stephen Bartels (R-Eckerty)(back row, center left) and Daryl Schmitt (R-Jasper)(back row, center right) at the Statehouse on February 28, 2026. Spencer County VOICE is part of VOICE Indiana which advocates for tobacco free policies and encourages teens and youths to live a tobacco free lifestyle.

## Free tree give away

In celebration of Earth Day, the Friends of the Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge will be giving away trees free of charge for as long as they last on Saturday, April 25. There will be shrubs, flowering trees as well as hardwoods. The trees can be picked up at the IGA located in Oakland City and the Save-A-Lot in Princeton from 9 am to 12 pm CT and at the Jay C's in Petersburg from 10 am to 1 pm ET. Plan to bring a bag or bucket to take your bare root tree home with you. The tree give away is in support of conservation efforts. "Treet" the Earth on its special day by planting a tree!



Earth Day Tree Give Away

## Rep. Bartels, Sen. Schmitt welcome Spencer County VOICE students to the statehouse

STATEHOUSE — Spencer County students were recently welcomed to the Statehouse by State Rep. Steven Bartels (R-Eckerty) and Sen. Daryl Schmitt (R-Jasper).

The students are members of Spencer County VOICE, a local youth group that works to raise awareness about the dangers of tobacco use and advocate for a tobacco-free future. Spencer County

VOICE is part of VOICE Indiana, a statewide initiative that engages and empowers teens to promote a tobacco-free lifestyle through education, policy awareness and peer advocacy.

"I was glad to welcome these students to the Statehouse," Bartels said. "It is encouraging to see young Hoosiers getting involved, sharing their perspectives and

advocating for issues that affect their generation."

During their visit, the students met with lawmakers to share information about their organization and discuss efforts to reduce youth tobacco use.

"Having local students travel to Indianapolis and meet me at the Statehouse is one of my favorite parts of serving as a senator," Schmitt said. "The

students who participate in Spencer County VOICE are the future leaders of our community, and I always enjoy the chance to discuss Indiana government and answer their questions."

To find information about school and youth group visits to the Indiana Statehouse, visit the Indiana Statehouse Tour Office and Education Center.

## Dubois County Museum hosts Tea with Teddy and Me

The Dubois County Museum announces their Tea with Teddy and Me program. It is scheduled for May 2, 2026, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The museum is located at 2704 N. Newton Street (N. US 231) in Jasper, IN. Experience a morning at the museum with boys and girls ages 3 to 9 invited to participate in a time full of fun, snacks, crafts, games, family time, and a chance for a photo op. Admission

is \$7 per adult and \$4 per child. Grandparents are encouraged to come as well as parents. Bring your favorite teddy bear or stuffed animal, and or dolly. Come dressed in your best for a great time. Receive a free goody bag. Please email stacyhelming@gmail.com to RSVP no later than April 31. The event is sponsored in part by The Optimist Club of Jasper. About the museum

The Dubois County Museum is a local nonprofit organization committed to the collection, preservation and interpretation of historical artifacts and information important to the citizens of the county. Museum operations are funded by annual memberships, admissions, donations and gifts from visitors, area residents and businesses. It is operated entirely by volunteers. It is

located in Jasper at 2704 N. Newton Street (US231). Call (812) 634-7733. Please allow two hours to view exhibits. Visit the museum web site at www.duboiscountymuseum.org. Follow on Facebook and Twitter. Funded in part by the Dubois County Visitors Center-www.visitduboiscounty.com-800968-4578. Come see, discover, and

celebrate our Heritage at the Dubois County Museum.



## Spring Medication Take Back Day Saturday April 25

Be a part of the addiction and pollution solution by bringing your expired, unused, and unwanted pharmaceuticals and disposing of them at the Dubois County Medication Collection on Saturday, April 25 in collaboration with the DEA National Pharmaceutical Drug Take Back Event. The Jasper State Police Post, located at 2209 Newton Street, will host a collection from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. ET while the Dubois Fire Station located at 4199 N. State Road 545, Dubois and the Ireland Fire Station located

at 5053 W Main St. will host the two county collection sites from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The Jasper State Police Post site is a drive through event, while the two county sites are walk up, with drive up available as needed. Medications are accepted anonymously and either the resident or volunteer places them in the box for proper disposal immediately after they are received.

The Jasper Police Station located 309 E. 6th St also accept pharmaceuticals 24/7 year round in their drop box.

Dubois County residents are asked to rid their homes of expired, unwanted, and unused medications. Unused drugs are a common household health threat that can be lessened when you clean the old and unused meds out of your home.

No sharps (auto-injectors, needles, syringes, IV catheters, blades, lancets, auto-injectors, infusion sets, connection needle/sets, and glass), infectious



materials, (anything containing bodily fluids) or waste will be collected. This collection is for private citizens only. No collections will be accepted from businesses or health facilities.

The partners of this event remind residents that correct disposal of medications creates a safer and cleaner environment, and greater public awareness reduces illegal activities and scavenging of personal property and public waste receptacles. Pharmaceuticals should never be poured down the

drain or flushed down the toilet. Doing so potentially pollutes our waterways, ground water and drinking water. Some drugs may kill the beneficial bacteria in sewage treatment plants and septic systems and may produce resistant infectious bacteria.

Keeping old medications in the home is unsafe as children or adults may confuse the medication and it creates the potential for theft of certain medications. This collection event is the perfect opportunity to clean out the medicine cabinet

and dispose of medications properly.

The Dubois County Sheriff's Department will attend to the collection at the county collection sites, while the Indiana State Police will attend the Jasper Post site.

This project impacts the substance abuse and environmental stewardship of Dubois County communities and requires collaboration. The partners that make this successful are Dubois County CARES, Dubois County Solid Waste Management District, Dubois County Advocacy for Recovery and Prevention Council, Dubois and Ireland Fire Departments, Dubois County Sheriff's Department, Indiana State Police, and Drug Enforcement Administration.

For general information or if you have questions, contact: Carla Striegel-Winner, Dubois County Solid Waste Management District; 812-482-7865, swmd@duboiscountyin.org

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

## When our strength is not enough

By Teresa LeNeave  
leneave2@comcast.net

There's a quote by Corrie Ten Boom that challenges me and I hope it does you, too. She wrote: "One of the hardest lessons in faith is learning that your weakness is not the end of the story. When your strength runs out, your wisdom fails, and your control disappears ... that is not where hope dies. ... That is where dependence begins. The Christian life was never meant to be lived in your own strength. Your inability is often the doorway to Christ's power."

Her idea of faith is certainly not the mindset of many of us who find pride in independence, in personal strength and in striving for self-

sufficiency. Weakness is something we're taught to overcome, or worse, something to hide. Corrie Ten Boom's idea of faith corresponds more closely to the Bible than perhaps ours does. She believed weakness is not a dead end, but an invitation to know God in a deeper relationship.

As you know, Corrie Ten Boom, endured the unimaginable suffering of the Holocaust and claims something greater than human strength helped her come out a survivor. One thing I like about her is that she owned her weakness, but she let her faith in the Almighty God redefine it.

If you've been a Christian for long, you'll agree, faith is

not about having it all together. None of us have it "all together". There is a little weakness in all of us. Not even one Bible character had it "all together" and I think that's one reason I love the Bible so much. Faithful men and women of the Bible were just like us. They had times of weakness. Times of sickness. Times of pain. But they endured because they were seeking a greater place. We need God, too.

There are moments in every life when our own strength is weak; when we want to give up; when we want to run the other direction to ease the pain, but I believe if we let it, those moments can be our turning point. There's a place where we



surrender our own personal strength and accept the strength that comes from "peace that passes all understanding". (Philippians 4:7). It's in these moments when the devil will try to tell us we've failed, but don't listen to him.

Dependence on God is not defeat.

What struck me

about Ten Boom's statement that the "Christian life was never meant to be carried by human strength alone", is that she knew the discomfort of a bad situation. She was speaking from experience. In all her darkest hours, she hung onto faith in God. It worked for her and it will work

for us.

This doesn't mean weakness is desirable, because it's not. What it does mean is that "what the devil meant for evil, God can turn around and make it good. (Genesis 50:20). Pain and uncertainty are real, but so is God's power to heal, cleanse and restore. Like Corrie Ten Boom says, "our lowest points are not where the story ends".

In a world that tells us to rely on ourselves, the Bible reminds us that faith is less about holding everything together and more about trusting when things fall apart. Our weakness may be the very doorway through which our faith becomes stronger and more efficient.

## Giving them a hand

GIVING THEM A HAND

By Brandon Bramlett

A significant yet simple ritual exists among NBA teammates that encourages them to keep on going even when they mess up: high-fives. A few years ago, The New York Times explained this practice in an article with the headline, "He Missed a Shot? Give That Man a Hand." They describe that amid miraculous dunks and strategic passes, players come together to exchange high-fives, pats on the back, and other encouraging gestures—even when players make mistakes. Welcoming hands always meet players who miss free throws.

"If you miss, you want your teammates to say, 'Hey, I'm here for you,'" said Jon Leuer,

who last played for the Detroit Pistons. No one really knows the origin of the practice, but most acknowledge that basketball wouldn't be the same without it. Assistant coach for the Memphis Tigers, Mike Miller, said, "I don't even know why we do it, but we have to do it."

The church could learn a lot from the example of these players. If you are a believer in Christ, you are part of the church—a teammate along with all those who also believe in Christ. And you are called and commanded to offer a helping hand to your fellow brothers and sisters when they miss the mark. This is your obligation as a Christian: "We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up" (Rom. 15:1-2). Sympathy and love should be shown without

reservation to believers who have made mistakes (who of us hasn't made mistakes?).

Solomon of old aptly expressed this when he wrote, "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!" (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10). You need someone to lift you up when you fall, and you need to lift others when they fall. Therefore, it is essential that you be part of a local church that has put on love above all else (Colossians 3:14). It is imperative to be in a body of believers who bear one another's burdens and speak in a way that builds up (Galatians 6:2; Ephesians 4:29).

Are you part of a church that will pat you on the back and say, "Hey, I'm here for you"?

## A time to speak and a time to be silent

By Dr. Billy Holland

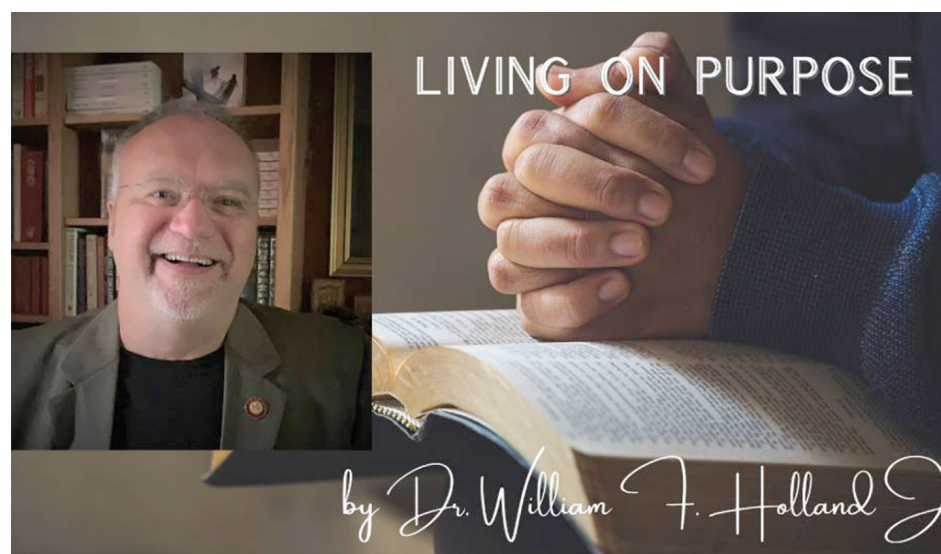
As Christians, we have been given spiritual insight about the power of words and how critical it is to be careful and watch what we say. In the third chapter of James, we read about the potential dangers of the tongue. It discusses how we can use bits in the mouths of horses to control them and how a rudder on a ship is used to manage direction, but controlling the tongue is different because it is associated with self-discipline from within. "For every kind of beast, and of birds, and serpents, and of creatures in the sea is tamed and has been tamed of mankind; but the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison" James 3:7-8. This chapter continues with the observation that the tongue, although a relatively small part of our bodies, can cause significant damage. So, if humans cannot control their tongues, who can? It's all about surrendering our will

to God. In all situations, our words are to be filtered through a personal awareness of sin and a passionate desire to walk in God's character.

There is an old saying, "What is down in the well, will come up in the bucket", which means that what we say reveals the thoughts and intentions of our hearts. We are reminded that someone is always listening. A conscientious servant of Christ not only strives to eliminate negative conversations but prays and meditates on what God is telling them to say. Have you ever heard, "It's better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak and remove all doubt?" This is probably a paraphrase from Proverbs 17:28: "Even a fool when he holds his peace is counted as wise, and he that closes his lips is esteemed a man of understanding." More conversation is not always better; in fact, sometimes we are to say nothing. The key is asking Him for wisdom,

as the privilege of being used as His messenger comes with a solemn responsibility. I pray that I can continue to grow and develop my sensitivity to God's voice and that I will have the faith and courage to relay His message. It's essential that God's people become aware that we are judged (good and bad) for the verbal seeds we are planting.

I recall a true story about a young high school student who had attended a church camp one summer and accepted Christ as his Savior. When school started back in the fall, he really wanted to be a faithful Christian and was excited to tell others about his spiritual experience. He was a member of the football team, and just before a game, he sensed that God wanted him to share his testimony with the entire team. Of course, he was nervous and, being overwhelmed with intimidation, he buckled under the pressure and decided to stay silent. They went out and won the game, and as they



returned to the locker room whooping and hollering, he was again feeling a strong urgency to testify about how Jesus had forgiven and saved him from his sins. He motioned to the coach and privately asked if he could say something. Through the noise and chaos, the coach leaned into his ear and replied, "You have two minutes!"

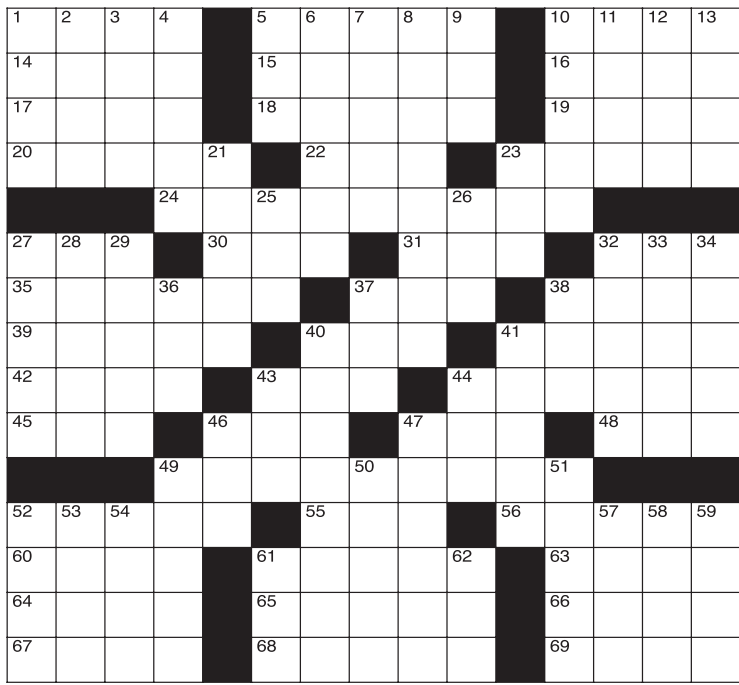
With a booming voice, the coach told everyone to listen up for a minute as the boy stood on one of the benches and began to tell his story. It all seemed like a blur as he enthusiastically explained about

hearing the gospel, becoming convicted, repenting, and surrendering his life to Jesus. He actually quoted John 3:16: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." When he finished speaking, the team went back to their celebrating, and he heard no more about it. 20 years later, he received a phone call from one of the players who was on that team. The man said he was listening that night and had always remembered

those heartfelt words. He went on to talk about how that sincere testimony had played a huge part in his becoming a follower of Christ. He just wanted to call and say how much he respected and appreciated a brave young man who stood up in a smelly locker room on a hot Friday night, and shared that Jesus loves us so much, He suffered and died on a cross to save us.

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

### Crossword Puzzle



#### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Greek goddess of marriage
- 5. Tropical American blue jay-like bird
- 10. Abba \_\_, Israeli politician
- 14. Dark olive black
- 15. Light, crinkled fabric
- 16. Notre Dame has a golden one
- 17. Leaked blood
- 18. Confronted
- 19. Negligible amount
- 20. Facilitated
- 22. Hill or rocky peak
- 23. Minneapolis suburb
- 24. Songs to one's beloved
- 27. Brake horsepower
- 30. Angry
- 31. Children's game
- 32. Spelling is a type of one
- 35. Obtained in return for labor
- 37. Indicates center
- 38. Chinese dynasty
- 39. Old World buffaloes
- 40. Slang for time off
- 41. Fabric
- 42. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 43. Defunct regional economic organization
- 44. Philly footballers
- 45. Female sibling
- 46. Peter Griffin's daughter
- 47. Digital audiotape
- 48. Insecticide
- 49. Scientific instrument
- 52. Pages may be dog-\_\_
- 55. Israeli city \_\_ Aviv
- 56. Type of sword
- 60. Middle Eastern military title
- 61. Wise individuals
- 63. French Polynesian island Bora \_\_
- 64. Popular shoe type
- 65. One of 50
- 66. Divulge a secret
- 67. Dish of cooked meat mixed with potatoes
- 68. Actress Zellweger
- 69. Romanian city

#### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Greek cupbearer of the Gods
- 2. Ancient Syrian city
- 3. Small Eurasian deer (pl.)
- 4. Range of mountains
- 5. One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)
- 6. Spoke
- 7. City in Georgia
- 8. Theatrical
- 9. CNN's founder
- 10. Icelandic poems
- 11. Bjorn \_\_, tennis player
- 12. Bowfin genus
- 13. One point north of northeast
- 21. Political divisions in ancient Greece
- 23. Electroencephalograph
- 25. Cool!
- 26. Male parent
- 27. Where some gymnasts work
- 28. Capital of Vietnam
- 29. Sailboats
- 32. Shelter (Scottish)
- 33. Completed
- 34. Discharge
- 36. Arrest
- 37. Partner to cheese
- 38. Coffee receptacle
- 40. Stagnate
- 41. Satisfies
- 43. Snake-like fish
- 44. Consume food
- 46. Type of school
- 47. Erase
- 49. Inform
- 50. Girl's given name
- 51. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- 52. Every one of two or more things
- 53. Northern India city
- 54. Seventeenth stars in a constellation
- 57. Weapon
- 58. Amounts of time
- 59. Isidor \_\_, American Nobel physicist
- 61. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 62. Witness

PUZZLE SOLUTION

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| H | E | R | A |   | M | O | M | O | T |   | E | B | A | N |   |
| E | B | O | N |   | C | R | A | P | E |   | D | O | M | E |   |
| B | L | E | D |   | F | A | C | E | D |   | D | R | I | B |   |
| E | A | S | E | D |   | T | O | R |   | E | A | G | A | N |   |
|   |   |   |   |   | S | E | R | E | N | A | D | E | S |   |   |
| B | H | P |   |   | M | A | D |   | T | A | G |   | B | E | E |
| E | A | R | N | E | D |   | M | I | D |   | M | I | N | G |   |
| A | N | O | A | S |   | V | A | C |   | S | U | E | D | E |   |
| M | O | A | B |   | E | E | C |   | E | A | G | L | E | S |   |
| S | I | S |   |   | M | E | G |   | D | A | T |   | D | D | T |
|   |   |   |   |   | T | E | L | E | M | E | T | E | R |   |   |
| E | A | R | E | D |   | T | E | L |   | S | A | B | E | R |   |
| A | G | H | A |   | S | A | G | E | S |   | B | O | R | A |   |
| C | R | O | C |   | S | T | A | T | E |   | B | L | A | B |   |
| H | A | S | H |   | R | E | N | E | E |   | I | A | S | I |   |

### Crypto Fun

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**CRYPTO FUN**

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Solve the code to discover words related to fishing.  
Each number corresponds to a letter.  
(Hint: 1 = A)

- A. 15 21 1 4**  
Clue: Rides on water
- B. 9 1 4 9 7**  
Clue: Nab
- C. 15 1 3 4**  
Clue: Lures in
- D. 2 3 18 19 20 5**  
Clue: Heavy item

Answers: A. boat B. catch C. bait D. sinker

### Word Search

#### MILITARY SERVICE WORD SEARCH

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

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

#### ANSWERS ON THE CLASSIFIED PAGE

#### WORDS

- ARTILLERY
- BARRACKS
- BATTALION
- CAMOUFLAGE
- COALITION
- COMMANDER
- DEPLOYMENT
- FORTIFICATION
- GARRISON
- INFANTRY
- LIEUTENANT
- LOGISTICS
- MANEUVER
- ORDNANCE
- PROTOCOL
- RECONNAISSANCE
- REGIMENT
- SKIRMISH
- SQUADRON
- STRATEGY
- TACTICS
- UNIFORM
- VANGUARD
- VETERAN

### 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**

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

### Word Scramble

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to the military.

**YDTU**



Answer: Duty

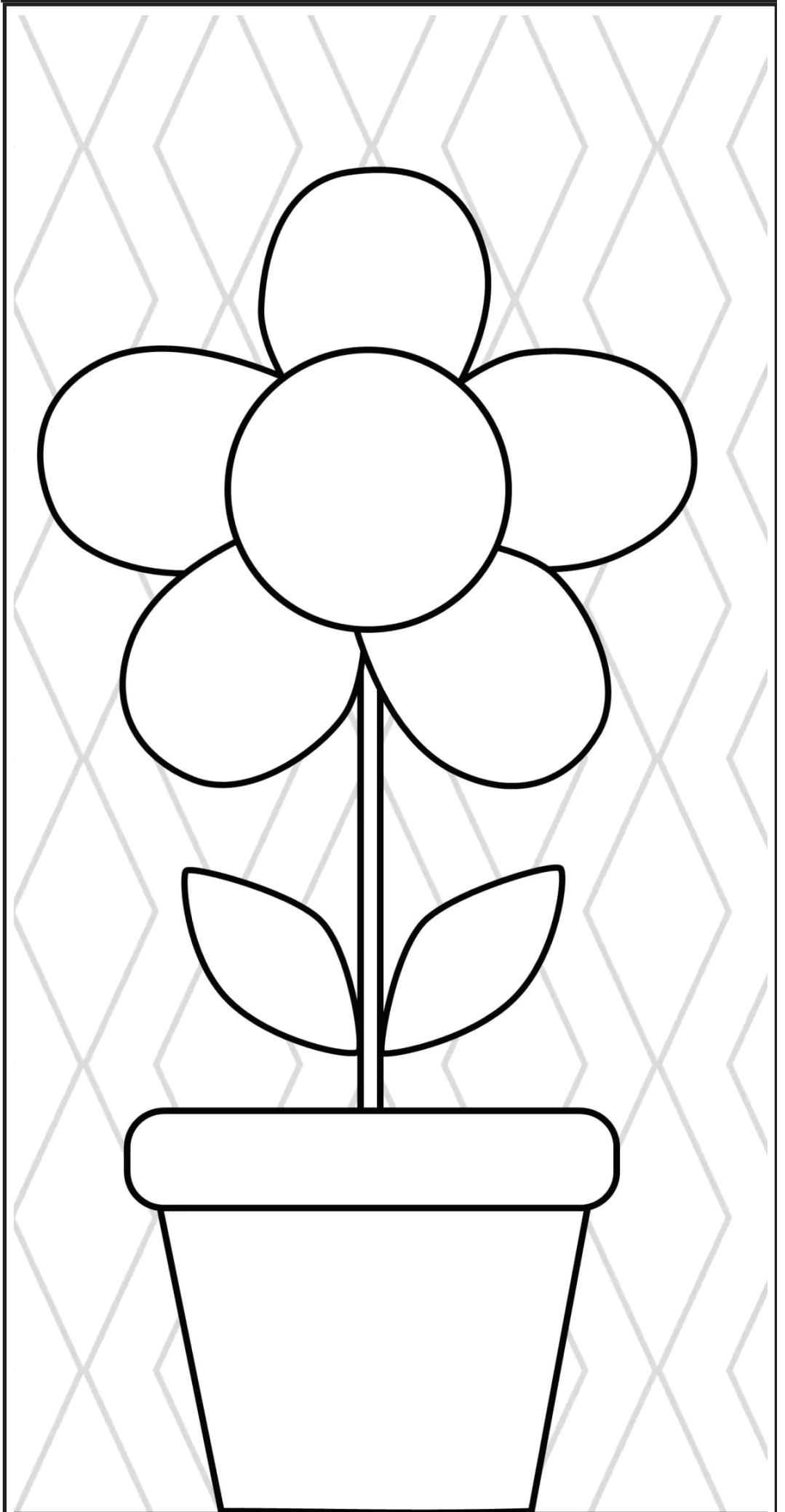
### Guess Who?

**GUESS WHO?**

I am an actress born on April 15, 1990, in France. I attended a theater arts school and starred in school plays. My big break came playing a famous, magical character on the big screen. I also was a live action Disney princess.

Answer: Emma Watson

### COLORING FUN



### April Jokes

**How do you get a tissue to dance?**  
Put a little boggie in it.

**Why did the robber take a shower?**  
He wanted a clean get away.



### Linda Lou Kalb

Linda Lou Kalb, age 88, of Dubois, Indiana, passed away surrounded by family at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 11, 2026, at Legacy Living in Jasper, Indiana. A funeral service for Linda Lou Kalb was held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at Christ Lutheran Church in Haysville, Indiana, with burial to follow in Haysville Community Cemetery. Pastor Timothy Kraemer will officiate.

### Elfrieda "Fritz" H. Merkley

Elfrieda "Fritz" H. Merkley, age 97, of Ireland, Indiana, passed away with her family by her side at 8:56 a.m. on Friday, April 10, 2026, at Legacy Living in Jasper. A Mass of Christian Burial for Elfrieda "Fritz" H. Merkley was held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday April 15, 2026, at St. Mary Catholic Church in Ireland, Indiana, burial followed in the church cemetery.

### Sheryl L. Schnell

Sheryl L. Schnell, age 66, of Dubois, Indiana, passed away with her family by her side at 5:37 p.m. on Wednesday, April 9, 2026, at Deaconess Memorial Medical Center in Jasper. Private family services for Sheryl L. Schnell will be held at a later date.

### Gerald Lee "Jerry" Buettel

Gerald Lee "Jerry" Buettel, age 77, of Huntingburg, Indiana, passed away at 5:03 a.m., on Saturday, April 11, 2026, at Deaconess Memorial Medical Center in Jasper. Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m., on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Huntingburg. Burial followed at St. Henry Cemetery in St. Henry.

### Lana Gayle Flamion

Lana Gayle Flamion, age 74, of Holland, Indiana, passed away at 2:55 p.m., on Saturday, April 11, 2026, at her residence. Funeral services for Lana Flamion were held at 10:00 a.m. E.D.T., Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at St. James Lutheran Church in Holland with burial to follow at St. James Cemetery. The service will be celebrated by Pastor Daniel Landin.

### Hans Gunter Lochmann

Hans G. Lochmann, age 84, of Huntingburg, passed away on April 8, 2026 at Deaconess Memorial Medical Center in Jasper. Hans was a proud to be a veteran and requested to be buried among his fellow comrades in Lebanon National Cemetery in Kentucky. Graveside rites were held on Wednesday, April 15th, 2026. Condolences may be shared online at: [www.nasandson.com](http://www.nasandson.com).

### Ethel Daugherty

Ethel J. Daugherty, 83, passed away on April 11, 2026. Funeral services were held at 7:00 PM CDT on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at Huber Funeral Home, Tell City Chapel. Memorial contributions may be made to Lincolnland Worship Center.

### April Harding

April Lynn Harding, 44, passed away on April 9, 2026, at Deaconess Medical Center in Jasper. A Memorial Service was held at 6:00 PM CDT on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at Huber Funeral Home, Tell City Chapel.

### Sandy Wilkerson

Sandy Wilkerson, 63, passed away on April 8, 2026, at Owensboro Regional Health Hospital. Visitation was held from 2:00 until 7:00 PM on Saturday, April 11, 2026, at Huber Funeral Home, Tell City Chapel. There will be no funeral service with burial taking place later in Rowe Cemetery.

### Joe Wilson

Joe Allen Wilson, 67, passed away at his home on April 8, 2026. Funeral services were held at 12:00 PM CDT on Saturday, April 11, 2026, at Huber Funeral Home, Tell City Chapel. Brother Brian Adkins will officiate. Burial followed in Greenwood Cemetery.

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

## Dubois County celebrates Week of the Young Child Investing In The Critical First Five Years

Dubois County, IN — This week, Dubois County joins communities across the country to celebrate the Week of the Young Child (April 11-17). Established by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), this annual celebration focuses public attention on the needs of young children and their families while recognizing the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.

The Week of the Young Child serves as a reminder of the importance of high-quality early childhood experiences for families and communities, a necessity for a child's future success. Research shows that

the first five years are the most crucial period for human development. During this time, the brain develops more rapidly than at any other point in life, forming 1 million new neural connections every second. By age five, 90% of a child's brain is already developed, laying the foundation for all future learning, behavior, and health.

"Early learning experiences lay the foundation for a child's future success. When we invest in young children, we're not only supporting kindergarten readiness—we're building the skills, confidence, and curiosity that lead to lifelong learning," Dr. Tracy Lorey, Superintendent of Greater Jasper Consolidated Schools,



### DUBOIS COUNTY Community Foundation

said. "Every child deserves a strong start, and high-quality early childhood programs help make that possible."

In 2024, the Dubois County Community Foundation launched a county-wide effort to expand access to high-quality, affordable early childhood education. To lead this work, a committee of community partners and early care providers—Thrive by Five—was formed and continues to lead the

initiative, focusing on four key pillars of impact.

**Increase Capacity:** Expanding the number of available high-quality childcare seats so that no child is left on a waitlist.

**Increase Quality:** Supporting local providers in reaching higher standards of care and learning.

**Increase Community Education and Awareness:** Help families understand the critical

importance of the first five years for brain development and equip them with the knowledge to identify high-quality early care and learning experiences.

**Support the ECE Workforce:** Investing in early childhood education (ECE) professionals who play a critical role in shaping children's development and preparing them for lifelong learning.

"During the Week of the Young Child,

we celebrate the joy, curiosity, and potential of our youngest learners. Every moment we invest in early childhood through play, connection and care helps build a stronger future for our community," Deanna Vonderheide, Director of A Kid's Place, said. A Kid's Place is a Level 4 NAEYC-accredited childcare center in Huntingburg that serves infants through preschool.

For more information about the Week of the Young Child, please visit <https://www.naeyc.org/> or to learn more about Dubois County's Early Care initiative, Thrive by Five, visit <https://www.dccommunityfoundation.org/early-care>.

## Join the Jasper Chamber sponsored "Lunch and Learn" for Executive and Team Leadership, Senior Managers, HR Decision Makers

The Jasper Chamber is sponsoring a "Lunch and Learn" for: Executive & Team Leadership, Senior Managers, and HR Decision Makers on April 22 @ 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM. The cost is \$20

Is turnover a trust problem? Let's talk about it. Presented by Elan Integrative Mind Body Solutions

The session is 45 minutes.

RSVP by April 15 to [shelly@elanmindbody.com](mailto:shelly@elanmindbody.com)

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retention, engagement, trust, and organizational resilience — to equip yourself with practical starting points.

**About Shelly and Elan Mind Body Solutions:**

Shelly started her business in 2015. She has a vast background in the mind-body connection and has spent years teaching clients how to recognize triggered

patterns, navigate difficult emotions, and communicate more effectively. She is a certified Holistic Health Counselor and helps her clients connect the dots between how experiences and thoughts frame their identity, physiology, and behavior.

You can learn more about her and her credentials at <https://www.elanmindbody.com/about>



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# Braun suspends Indiana gas tax for 30 days

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana Gov. Mike Braun said he is suspending the Indiana gas tax for 30 days amid rising gas prices. “I’m taking action to provide relief on high gas prices,” Braun said. Braun called the suspension a “30-day

holiday” that goes into effect “as quickly as we can get it out there.” Braun said the gas tax suspension will be re-examined at the end of the 30 days. But he said there are “no guarantees” the suspension will continue past 30 days. At the start of April,

the Indiana gas use tax jumped up several cents from 15.3 cents per gallon to 17.2 cents per gallon. But the Indiana gas tax is determined by a calculation that uses the average price of gasoline over a previous one-month period. FOX59 previously

warned Hoosiers to brace for a larger gas tax increase in May because the April gas tax uptick factored in an average range that still included rates under \$3 per gallon. But since the U.S. and Israel’s Feb. 28 missile strike on Iran, the price of oil has only rocketed upward.

As of April 8, AAA reports Indiana’s average gas price as \$4.13 per gallon. This is only a few cents below the national average of \$4.16 per gallon. Braun has previously left open the possibility of suspending the gas tax if prices continue to

climb at the pump. In 2022, when gas prices climbed to record highs after Russia invaded Ukraine, Republican leaders in Indiana faced a similar situation but elected not to suspend the gas tax and, instead, capped the tax at \$0.295 per gallon.

## Gas tax suspension offers short-term relief but ignores long-term cost pressures on Hoosiers

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana Senate Democratic Leader Shelli Yoder (D-Bloomington) issued the following statement on behalf of the Indiana Senate Democratic Caucus following Governor Mike Braun’s announcement of a 30-day suspension of the state’s gas use tax: “Hoosiers need relief, and we support putting money back in people’s pockets right now. But this is not a long-term solution, it is a 30-day patch on a problem that has been building for months and years. “Seventeen cents is not going to offset gas prices pushing past \$4 a gallon. And a policy that disappears in a

month is not a plan. “Hoosiers deserve leadership that is willing to level with them about what is actually driving these costs and what it will take to bring them down. “Because the truth is, this moment did not happen by accident. The rising cost of fuel is tied directly to D.C. decisions and global instability that have disrupted energy markets and driven up prices across the country. From international conflicts that have tightened supply, to trade and tariff decisions that increase costs on goods and materials, Hoosiers are feeling the ripple effects

every single day. “Those same pressures are showing up across the economy. Supply chain disruptions and economic uncertainty have driven up the cost of groceries, construction materials and everyday essentials, while Hoosiers are also facing rising health care costs and struggling to find affordable child care. “For many families, this is not just one bill going up. It is everything, all at once. “What matters is how leadership responds. “Instead of acknowledging those realities and charting a clear, independent

path forward for Indiana, what we continue to see are reactive decisions that follow the moment rather than get ahead of it. “At the same time, we are asking Hoosiers to accept higher costs elsewhere. “This gas tax funds roads and infrastructure across Indiana. Hoosiers deserve transparency and a clear understanding of what this means for our roads and the potholes they deal with every day. If is a tradeoff between the two, Hoosiers deserve to know about that because they will be the ones making the sacrifice at the pump

and on the roads. “And this is not happening in isolation. While families are being told to celebrate 17 cents in temporary relief, they are also facing rising utility bills, higher housing costs and everyday expenses that continue to climb. “Across Indiana, Hoosiers are opening their utility bills and seeing increases they cannot afford, while being told to simply absorb the cost. “That is the pattern Hoosiers are seeing: working people asked to carry more, while those at the top are protected. “And too often, the response from leadership has been to prioritize short-

term fixes instead of standing up for the people who are actually feeling the impact. “Hoosiers are connecting the dots. “Senate Democrats have been clear from the start. Affordability is not one issue. It is the issue. That means tackling costs at the gas pump, at the kitchen table and on monthly bills with solutions that last longer than 30 days. “We will support real relief wherever we can find it. But Hoosiers deserve a plan that actually meets the moment, not one that arrives after the fact and disappears just as quickly.”

## Friday community health screening

Jasper, IN – Deaconess Memorial Medical Center is sponsoring a “Friday Community Health Screening” on Friday, April 24, 2026, from 6:00 – 9:00 a.m. at Memorial Southside Office, 1100 W. 12th Ave., Jasper, IN. Participants must be 18 years of age or older and will have cholesterol (including total cholesterol, HDL, LDL, and

triglycerides) and blood glucose checked via finger stick. A 12-hour fast is required; however, you may drink water and take prescribed medications. The cost is \$33 and may be paid at the screening. The screening lasts approximately 15 minutes, and pre-registration is required. To register for

the screening or for more information on additional screenings available, please visit Deaconess Memorial Medical Center’s website at [www.deaconess.com](http://www.deaconess.com) and click on “Classes and Events”. You may also register by calling the Deaconess Wellness Solutions – Jasper at 812-996-2399 or toll-free at 800-852-7279, ext. 2399.



## Upcoming classes and events

**Adult Mental Health First Aid**  
Jasper, IN – Deaconess Memorial Medical Center is offering Adult Mental Health First Aid. This is a skilled-based training that teaches people how to identify, understand, and respond to signs and symptoms of a mental health or substance use challenge in adults 18 and over. The next class will be held on Monday, May 11, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. The class is free thanks to support by the Dubois County Community Foundation. To register or for more information, visit Deaconess Memorial’s website at [www.deaconess.com](http://www.deaconess.com) and click on “Classes & Events” or call Deaconess Wellness Solutions – Jasper at 812-996-2399, option 1 or toll-free at 800-852-7279, ext. 2399.

**“Check-In Time”**  
Jasper, IN – Deaconess Memorial Medical Center offers a support group, “Check-In Time”, for breastfeeding moms. This “Check-In Time” program allows new and experienced breastfeeding moms to have open discussion with Certified Lactation Consultants while also including weight checks for baby, mom-to-mom support, and mom and baby transitions at home such as pumping and returning to work as well as adding solids. “Check-In Time” will be held on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, from 4:45 – 5:45 p.m. in the Board Conference Room A/B/C at Deaconess Memorial Medical Center, 800 W 9th Street in Jasper. Moms are encouraged to bring

their baby anytime throughout the hour to get weighed and/or to bring their breast pump to check the pressure. No pre-registration is required. For more information on this group, please visit Deaconess Memorial Medical Center’s website at [www.deaconess.com](http://www.deaconess.com) or call the OB Lactation Service at 812-996-0383. **“Your Health and Diabetes”**  
Jasper, IN – Discovering the diagnosis of diabetes can be overwhelming. Deaconess Memorial Medical Center wants to support you in this transition of lifestyle and sponsors a continuing education group for persons with diabetes, pre-diabetes, or anyone who is interested in learning about the

disease. This support group is held the third Monday of each month and provides knowledge to help you feel more secure, manage problems, and avoid hospitalization for diabetes-related issues. The next meeting will be Monday, April 20, 2026, from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. on the 3rd floor of the Barrett Building at Deaconess Memorial, located at 800 West 9th Street in Jasper, IN. For more information, please contact Deaconess Memorial Medical Center’s Diabetes Management and Prevention Services at 812-996-0521. **Deaconess Memorial Medical Center Offers Class For Expectant and New Parents: “Baby Behavior”**  
Jasper, IN – Would you like to better

understand your baby’s wants and needs? Expectant parents in the last trimester are invited to attend Deaconess Memorial Medical Center’s “Baby Behavior” class held on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Using current research on baby behavior, our class instructors will help you better understand your baby. The class will teach parents about things such as infant sleep, feeding cues, engagement and disengagement cues, and crying. The class will help parents become not only more relaxed but also more confident in their new role as parents. It is highly recommended parents take this class before the baby arrives. However, if parents are unable to, this

class can be helpful for parents within the first 1-2 months of the baby being born as well. This class is being held in Deaconess Memorial Medical Center’s Board Conference Room B/C at 800 W. 9th Street, Jasper. It is free to those who are delivering at Deaconess Memorial Medical Center or \$15. The “Baby Behavior” classes are conducted by qualified obstetrical nursing personnel. To enroll, please visit Deaconess Memorial Medical Center’s website at [www.deaconess.com](http://www.deaconess.com) and click on “Classes & Events”. If you are unable to access online, please call 812-996-0383. For specific class questions, please call the OB Lactation Services at 812-996-0383.

# The importance of a healthy parent/child relationship

By Amber Nunaley,  
Youth First, Inc.

Raising a child is no small task, and it often requires the support of a “village.” While many people view parenting as simply providing shelter, clothing, food, and toys, it goes far beyond meeting basic needs. In the busyness of making sure those necessities are covered, it’s easy for parents to overlook the importance of spending quality time with their child.

A healthy relationship with your child begins at birth, through the simple but powerful act of responding to their needs - comforting their cries, ensuring they are fed, and keeping them clean and safe. While these actions may seem routine, they play a crucial role in building trust, teaching the child that their parent or guardian is a reliable source of care and security.

As the child grows into the toddler stage,

they begin to explore their independence while staying close to their parent/guardian. This balance of curiosity and connection is a positive sign that the child feels safe, secure, and confident, knowing they are supported even as they venture out on their own.

A parent/guardian can nurture a strong, healthy relationship with their young child by intentionally spending meaningful time together. This might include getting down on the floor to play, engaging with them on a trip to the park, or reading a book together at bedtime.

When a child begins preschool, the transition can be just as emotional for parents as it is for the child. After spending the first few years together each day, this new separation marks a significant change in routine. To continue nurturing a strong relationship, parents can take an active interest in their child’s



experiences by asking about their day and making time to stay connected through shared activities and meaningful moments.

As children enter middle childhood, they spend much of their day at school and begin forming stronger connections with peers. Invitations to birthday parties, sleepovers, or playdates become more common, and parents may start to feel less central in their child’s daily life. During this stage, maintaining a healthy relationship often requires more intentional effort. Setting aside dedicated time to connect, such as sharing a meal each evening, can make a meaningful difference. Sitting down as a

family to talk about the day’s highlights, plans for tomorrow, and everyday thoughts creates space for connection. Keeping distractions like phones and tablets away during this time helps ensure that both parent and child are fully present and engaged.

The final stage of childhood - adolescence - can feel especially challenging for many families. Teenagers often seek more independence, choosing to spend more time with friends and sometimes appearing more distant at home. While this shift can be difficult, it is a normal and temporary part of development. During this stage, parents need to maintain

clear expectations and healthy boundaries while also keeping lines of communication open. Taking an interest in what your teenager enjoys can create natural opportunities for connection. Continuing simple routines, like regular family meals and check-ins, can provide a consistent space for support, understanding, and meaningful interaction. In the blink of an eye, your tiny baby has grown up to be a young adult.

Building and maintaining a healthy parent-child relationship is an ongoing effort that requires commitment. When additional support or tools are needed, Youth First offers a variety of helpful programs, including Family First for families and Family Foundations, which supports early bonding between parents and their baby. To learn more about these opportunities, you can visit youthfirstinc.

org or connect with a Youth First Mental Health Professional at your child’s school.

Amber Nunaley, MSW, LCSW, is a Youth First Mental Health Professional at Academy for Innovative Studies in Vanderburgh 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.

## Mental health & substance use support cited as top challenge facing rural Southern Indiana communities

JASPER, IN – In early 2026, the Being for Others Health and Wellness Foundation (BFO) hosted eight informational sessions and invited community members to come together to learn about upcoming grant programs that align with BFO’s vision of Healthy Communities. BFO hosted events at local establishments within their service region of Crawford, Daviess, Dubois, Martin, Orange, Perry, Pike, and Spencer counties.

These events not only promoted community togetherness and strategic collaborative planning, but also served as a way for BFO to gain insight on what local community leaders, nonprofit organizations, service providers, schools, and government agencies find as top issues and barriers for their local

communities.

BFO provided an optional Community Snapshot Survey to all 190 event participants over the course of the three-week time period, and received 146 completed survey responses. Guided by the BFO Grant Priority Pillars, participants identified key challenges to well-being, existing resources, barriers to progress, and community leaders making an impact.

The findings of this survey reveal strong regional alignment around several key issues affecting families and communities, while also highlighting important differences across counties.

Key Regional Findings:  
When combining data from all eight counties, survey respondents identified four areas

with challenges impacting communities across the region, in order of priority:

Mental Health & Substance Use Support  
Housing & Economic Stability  
Transportation & Connectivity  
Early Childhood & Family Support

Among these, mental health emerged as the top concern in five of the eight counties surveyed. Housing and economic stability was ranked consistently high, particularly in counties facing workforce and economic development challenges.

Transportation was also identified as a key structural challenge limiting access to healthcare, employment, and early childhood services.

### Barriers to Community Progress:

Participants also identified common barriers limiting organizations’ ability to address community

needs. The most frequently cited barriers included:

Limited funding  
Capacity and staffing challenges  
Lack of coordination between organizations  
Community trust and engagement challenges

Notably, limited funding was identified as the primary barrier in nearly every county surveyed, underscoring the need for sustainable investment and cross-sector collaboration. This is an area where BFO’s mission serves to bridge gaps between organizations and resources.

### While regional trends were consistent, each county showed unique priorities:

Dubois County respondents expressed the strongest concern around mental health and substance use support needs, while Martin County respondents emphasized housing and economic

stability. Crawford County participants highlighted transportation and connectivity as a dominant challenge, and Pike County respondents reported housing and economic stability slightly outweighing mental health concerns. Other counties including Daviess, Perry, Orange, and Spencer reflected on similar combinations of mental health, housing, and transportation concerns, with varying barriers related to staffing, coordination, and community engagement.

Based on survey feedback, several strategic opportunities for regional collaboration have been revealed, including:

Expanding regional mental health solutions rather than county-by-county approaches

Increasing investment in early childhood programs as a prevention strategy  
Addressing

transportation as a cross-cutting issue affecting multiple sectors

Developing sustainable funding models that encourage cross-county partnerships

Building stronger coordination infrastructure, including shared convening, referral pathways, and aligned data systems

With this first-time report, BFO plans to integrate insights from the Community Snapshot Survey into future grantmaking, partnerships, and regional strategies aimed at improving health outcomes across its eight-county service area. By sharing these findings, and future reports, with the broader Southern Indiana community, BFO hopes to inspire deeper collaboration among organizations to strengthen and advance health and wellness initiatives throughout the region.

## AUCTION

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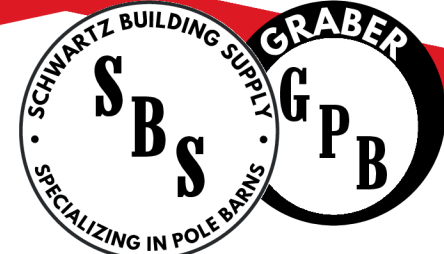


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# What to know about reseeding or replanting your lawn

Spring marks the return of flowering plants and warm weather. And homeowners know that spring also ushers in the return of home renovation season.

Homeowners undoubtedly have an extensive list of projects on their to-do list this spring, and that may include helping their lawns and gardens recover after a long winter. Unpredictable weather, which can include drought and excessive rainfall and everything in between, can take its toll on a lawn. In certain instances, the best solution may be planting new grass. But homeowners can consider these tips before they begin the process of reseeding or replanting their lawns.

• **Scarify the lawn.** Scarifying a lawn can help to create a clean slate, but the timing must be right. Various

lawn and garden experts, including those at BBC Gardeners' World Magazine, recommend scarifying in spring or early autumn. But don't jump the gun when scarifying in spring by scarifying before the lawn has started to grow after a dormant winter. Scarify when the soil is a little wet and the grass is once again actively growing. Scarifying can remove any lingering weeds from last season and also pull up any moss that might have taken hold over the winter. Without weeds and moss to contend with, freshly planted seeds are in better position to thrive.

• **Work with a landscaping professional.** Homeowners with manageable lawns can likely scarify their own lawns with a relatively inexpensive plug-in scarifier. However, scarifying can be a

strenuous physical activity, particularly for homeowners with large lawns. In such instances, homeowners can benefit from working with a qualified landscaping professional. Such a professional can scarify the lawn and subsequently reseed or replant new grass. The latter task is not so simple, as the lawn care experts at Scotts® note that choosing the correct seed is a vital part of reseeding or replanting a lawn. Choosing seed may sound simple, but it's a potentially complex decision that requires knowledge of the existing grass, including when to plant it. Certain grasses are best planted in spring or early fall, while others are best planted in summer. A qualified landscaping professional can identify the existing grass and plan the seeding or planting around this important

detail.

• **Prepare to water the lawn.** Watering is vital to the long-term success and health of freshly planted grass seed. Scotts® urges homeowners to keep the top inch of soil consistently moist, but not soggy. That requires a daily commitment, and setting a multi-function hose nozzle or sprinkler to the mist setting once per day or more if it's hot outside can increase the chances grass will grow in thick and strong. Scotts® recommends keeping the top two inches of the soil moist until the new grass reaches a mowing height of roughly three inches. Once that benchmark has been reached, watering frequency can be cut back to about twice per week, but now the soil should be deeply soaked instead of misted. The soaking will help roots grow deep into the soil.



Spring is a great time for homeowners in various regions to reseed or replant their lawns. With

the right approach, homeowners can enjoy a full and lush lawn throughout summer.

## Is your lawn getting enough water?

A healthy lawn thrives with the right amount of water and nutrients. Lawn care is a year-long process. Even when the sun isn't very strong and the temperatures are cold, a lawn still needs water. That water requirement multiplies when higher temperatures lead to increased evaporation.

The experts at LawnLove.com, a lawn care and landscaping resource, say grass needs between 1 and 1 1/2 inches of water a week. Many times precipitation will take care of all of a lawn's water needs. But in times of drought or infrequent rain, it's up to homeowners to

provide the water a lawn requires.

If homeowners ask a dozen lawn experts what they recommend in terms of watering, they're likely to offer 12 different answers. The type of soil and grass affects how frequently a lawn needs to be watered. According to the lawn care company Organo Lawn, it's better to do a deep watering two or three times a week to promote strong grass roots and maintain a healthy microbial composition in soil than to water the lawn daily, which leads to shallow roots and can wash away nutrients. But it is important for homeowners to

recognize when their lawns are not getting ample water. Here are some signs a lawn needs a drink.

• **Visible footprints:** Elasticity of the grass blades decreases when the lawn is not getting enough water. If you walk on the lawn and footprints do not bounce back in a short amount of time, you likely need to water.

• **Gaps between lawn and sidewalk:** Lawn Pride says that the soil can shrink in drought conditions. This may be visible where the lawn abuts a driveway, sidewalk or even planting beds. If you walk along the perimeter of a lawn and notice a gap between the grass and hardscape, it is time to water.

• **Clumps of grass:** It is a sign of drought stress when grass grows in clumps rather than uniformly across a lawn.

• **Presence of dollar spot fungus:** Grass can become susceptible to this

fungus, which also is called ascochyta leaf blight. It only develops in lawns with shallow grass roots caused by improper lawn watering. It's common in parts of Colorado and elsewhere and is noticeable when

damage to the turf begins in the middle of the grass foliage.

• **Slow growth:** A lawn that doesn't seem to be growing well, or doesn't need to be mowed as frequently, likely isn't getting enough

water.

Adequate watering can help a lawn develop strong roots and maintain grass health. Homeowners who have questions about their lawns and watering can consult with a landscaper or a lawn care service.



## Mowing tips for a healthy lawn

Keeping your lawn well-mowed is one of the easiest ways to improve the look of your yard and keep grass healthy. A few simple mowing habits can make a big difference in how your lawn grows.

First, always mow at the right height. Cutting grass too short can stress the plants and allow weeds to grow more easily. Most lawns do best when only the top one-third of the grass blade is removed at a time. Taller grass helps shade the soil, keeping it cooler and holding moisture longer.

Second, make sure

your mower blades are sharp. Dull blades tear the grass instead of cutting it cleanly, leaving jagged edges that can turn brown and make your lawn look unhealthy. Sharpen blades regularly, especially during the peak growing season.

Another helpful tip is to change your mowing pattern each time you mow. Alternating directions prevents the grass from leaning one way and reduces soil compaction caused by repeated tire tracks. It also gives your lawn a neat, professional appearance.

Timing matters as well. Try to mow when the grass is dry, usually in the late morning or early evening. Wet grass can clump together and clog the mower, leading to uneven cuts.

Finally, consider leaving grass clippings on the lawn. This practice, known as mulching, returns nutrients to the soil and helps your lawn stay green and healthy with less fertilizer.

With consistent care and proper mowing habits, your lawn can stay thick, green, and attractive throughout the growing season.

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# Nationwide survey: *Most farmers can't afford fertilizer*

An overwhelming majority of America's farmers who responded to a nationwide survey say they cannot afford to purchase enough fertilizer to get them through the year. The percentage who pre-purchased fertilizer varies significantly by region.

Conducted by the American Farm Bureau Federation April 3-11, the survey shows 70% of respondents say fertilizer is so expensive that they will not be able to buy all the fertilizer they need.

More than 5,700 farmers, both Farm Bureau members and non-members, from every state and Puerto Rico took the survey. Farm Bureau economists analyzed the results in the latest Market Intel.

The analysis reveals that almost 8 in 10 farmers in the southern U.S. say they can't afford all needed supplies this year, followed by the Northeast and West at 69% and 66%, respectively, compared to 48% of the farmers in the Midwest.

Just 19% of



Photo credit: Right Eye Digital, Used with Permission

hardships for farmers who have already endured years of losses. Without the necessary fertilizers, we'll face lower yields and some farmers will reduce acres altogether, which will impact food and feed supplies. It's too early to know how this will affect food availability and prices in the long run, but it's a warning light that we've shared with leaders in Washington. We look forward to working with them to find solutions so farmers can continue to feed families across America."

According to the survey, 94% of respondents reported their financial situation has worsened or remained the same since last year, while only 6% reported improvement.

Get more survey results and read the full Market Intel at <https://www.fb.org/market-intel/farm-bureau-survey-reveals-real-impact-of-fertilizer-availability-and-price>

farmers in the South prebooked fertilizer purchases in advance of planting season.

In the Northeast, only 30% of farmers prebooked, followed by 31% in the West, and 67% in the Midwest. Even with higher pre-booking rates, almost one in three Midwestern farmers still report entering the season without securing all of their fertilizer needs.

The conflict in the Middle East

sent fertilizer and fuel prices soaring. The closure of the Strait of Hormuz is keeping critical fertilizer supplies and crude oil from reaching global markets, putting a squeeze on supplies around the world.

"Spring planting decisions depend heavily on access to fertilizer and diesel fuel, both of which have been impacted by geopolitical risks that have disrupted global markets," the Market Intel

states. "Since the escalation of tensions in the Middle East, nitrogen fertilizer prices have risen more than 30%, while combined fuel and fertilizer costs have increased roughly 20% to 40%. Urea prices have increased by 47% since the end of February, marking the largest month-to-month percentage increase in the price of urea. These increases are occurring when

many producers were already facing tight margins for many consecutive years."

Many of the farmers surveyed said they will forego applying fertilizer this spring in hopes that prices will return to an affordable level later in the growing season.

AFBF President Zippy Duvall said, "The skyrocketing cost of fuel and fertilizer is creating more economic

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