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AREA DEATHS - inside

In God We Trust



Thursday, April 16, 2026

UPLAND, FAIRMOUNT & HARTFORD CITY Courier

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Children play at an activity hosted by Prevent Child Abuse Grant County

Local organization plans events for National Child Abuse Prevention Month

By Cathy Shouse

April is a month set aside to bring awareness to a difficult topic for any community: National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Local officials have planned events for the public to recognize and to become educated on the subject, as well as to help.

Information last year by Indiana Capital Chronicle reported that 59 children died of caregiver abuse or neglect in 2024, according to the Indiana Department of Child Services. Forty-two, or 71 percent of the victims, were under age 3.

Brooke Sands, Prevent Child Abuse Grant County President, (PCAGC) recently shared through an email interview what the organization has planned.

One of the main ways the public can support PCAGC is

through a walk that is planned for this weekend. The event doesn't emphasize the physical walk, but is more of a way to gather and support others.

"This Sunday, April 19, is our 3rd Superhero Walk," Sands said. "It is a free public gathering to bring families out and bring awareness to child abuse prevention month. It allows an opportunity for the children of Grant County to walk alongside the local superheroes from their very own neighborhoods."

"The walk is more just symbolic, it is not a run/walk," Sands continued. "We walk around the pond and meet in the garden area at Matter Park. It is very handicap accessible and stroller friendly. It is FREE. We are not raising any money or asking for any kind of donation. However, we are purely donation-run and it does allow us to provide trainings,

free community events, and continue to fund our laundry program."

At the walk, there will be vendors that are local agencies that serve families and children. In a "trunk or treat" style, they will hand out treats along with information about prevention and/or the services they provide.

Prevent Child Abuse Grant County's mission: to work together as volunteers in the community and join efforts with other groups and agencies to prevent child abuse in all forms in our community. "We work together to provide education and raise awareness. We believe every child deserves to live a happy and carefree childhood," she said.

One of the programs that is relatively new is the laundry program.

"We launched our Loads of Life program three years ago," Sands said. "This is a program that has

helped families with children wash loads of clothes. Through this program families can also be connected with additional resources within Grant County."

For those interested in a more traditional, sit-down event, there's a speaker scheduled to come to Grant County.

"We will end the month of April with our annual Luncheon and Training on April 29 at Ivy Tech," Sands said. "We are pleased to have Albert Grieve, survivor, author, and national speaker encouraging us to "Begin The New Cycle stopping generational abuse, neglect, and domestic violence." It's a breakfast starter, a morning of information and a luncheon at Ivy Tech Community College, 261 Commerce Drive in Marion.

Simply following on social media is one way to lend support. "You can find us on Facebook PCA Grant County," Sands said.

Feeding Fairmount ministry continues to serve

By Cathy Shouse

Monday, April 13 was the second Monday in April, which meant the day for the Feeding Fairmount Ministry luncheon. The program to serve lunch to community members has been going strong since it launched a few years ago.

Monday's lunch offered sliders of two kinds as the mainstay: ham and cheese and turkey and cheese options. Potato salad, a pickle spear, and beverages and homemade desserts were also on the menu.

"They do a wonderful job," one guest who attended reported. "The buns had those little black seeds. The cheese was so good. The tables are always set and decorated. This time it was flowers."

Ruben Gonzales, a member of the Fairmount United Methodist Church, has extensive experience in running restaurants, including Cracker Barrel, as one example. He and his wife Sue have prioritized the ministry. He has coordinated volunteers and supervised and planned the cooking of every Feeding Fairmount Ministry (FFM) meal. The volunteer list to help has been extensive and when some have passed away or become unable to continue, others have stepped up to the plate—literally.

Gonzales recently gave an overview of the program.

"We started feeding Fairmount ministry in January 2023 so we are beginning our fourth year this year," he said. "The planning took about three months starting in September 2022 to get everything in order and ready to serve. We initially received a small grant from the United Methodist conference of Indiana to help get us started. We also received several donations from members of the church and from some

of the other church committees, who donated money as well. We formed a committee in the church and reviewed everything that we needed to do, purchase, and organize to be successful at feeding Fairmount and the local communities surrounding us."

Some decisions were made that have stood them well over time. Sitting with neighbors and visiting face-to-face is the main objective. The emphasis was placed on church members literally serving the meal and using silverware and plates, not plastic ware and paper plates. Volunteers personally bring the food to those who are seated around tables. There isn't an option to get "take-out" and leave.

There may be fluctuations in the attendance numbers, based on those who are away for the winter or have other commitments. But there is a core group of regulars as well.

"We average between 65 and 80 guests that come in to enjoy our meal so we base the number of meals prepared on that," Gonzales said. "Generally, we start preparing the meal around 9 AM and finish with all of our cleanup between 2:30 and 3 PM."

"There is no charge for the meal," he said. "However, we do accept free will offerings if desired. Our menu has been varied over the last three years, and we try to serve meals that are favorites of the area. Our FFM committee consists of members of our church and the Fowlerton Methodist Church. Our congregation along with Fowlerton are the reason we have been so successful in executing this monthly meal, which is served on the second Monday of the month. Next month's meal will be lasagna, salad, bread, beverages, and homemade desserts."



Let's Grow Something seed swap and free family event



The public is invited to a "Let's Grow Something Seed Swap & Free Family Event" will be held Saturday, April 25th 10am-12pm at Harrison Family Farm (10453 E 400S, Upland IN)

This is a free family event and all are

welcome! Join us at the farm and Let's Grow Something Together!

This open house style event will be held outdoors and is weather dependent. Be sure to follow our Facebook page for up to date details.



Members of the Feeding Fairmount Ministry work together as a team to provide a meal once a month to the community.



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

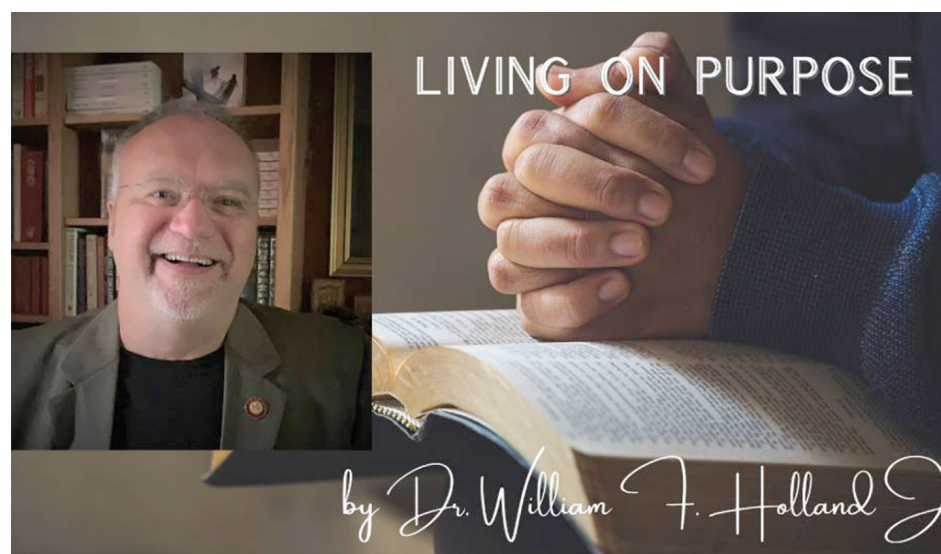
As Christians, we have been given spiritual insight about the power of words and how critical it is to be careful and watch what we say. In the third chapter of James, we read about the potential dangers of the tongue. It discusses how we can use bits in the mouths of horses to control them and how a 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!"

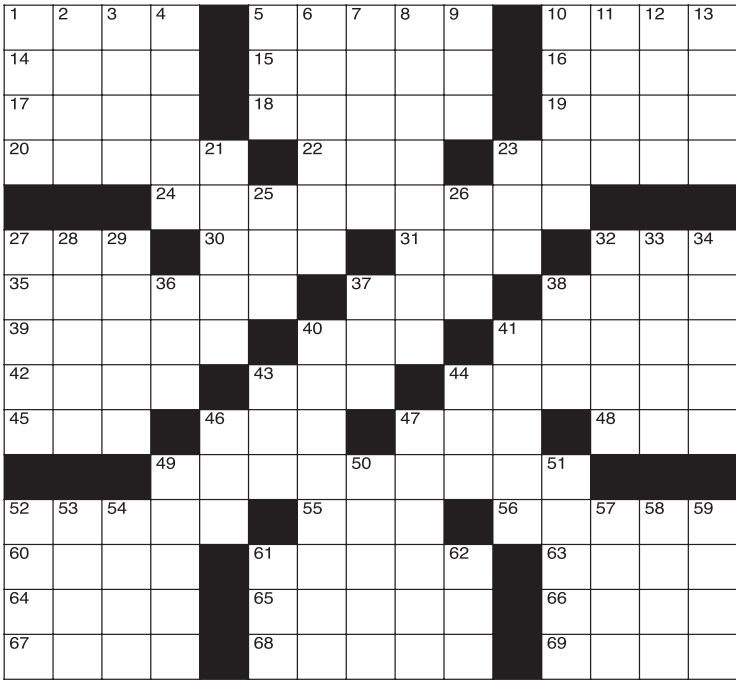
With a booming voice, the coach told everyone to listen up for a minute as the boy stood on one of the benches and began to tell his story. It all seemed like a blur as he enthusiastically explained about

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

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
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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	
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Crypto Fun

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CRYPTO FUN

☼ ☽ ☾ ☿ ♀ ♁ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓

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

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.

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:

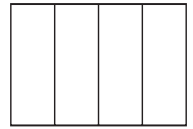
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric 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

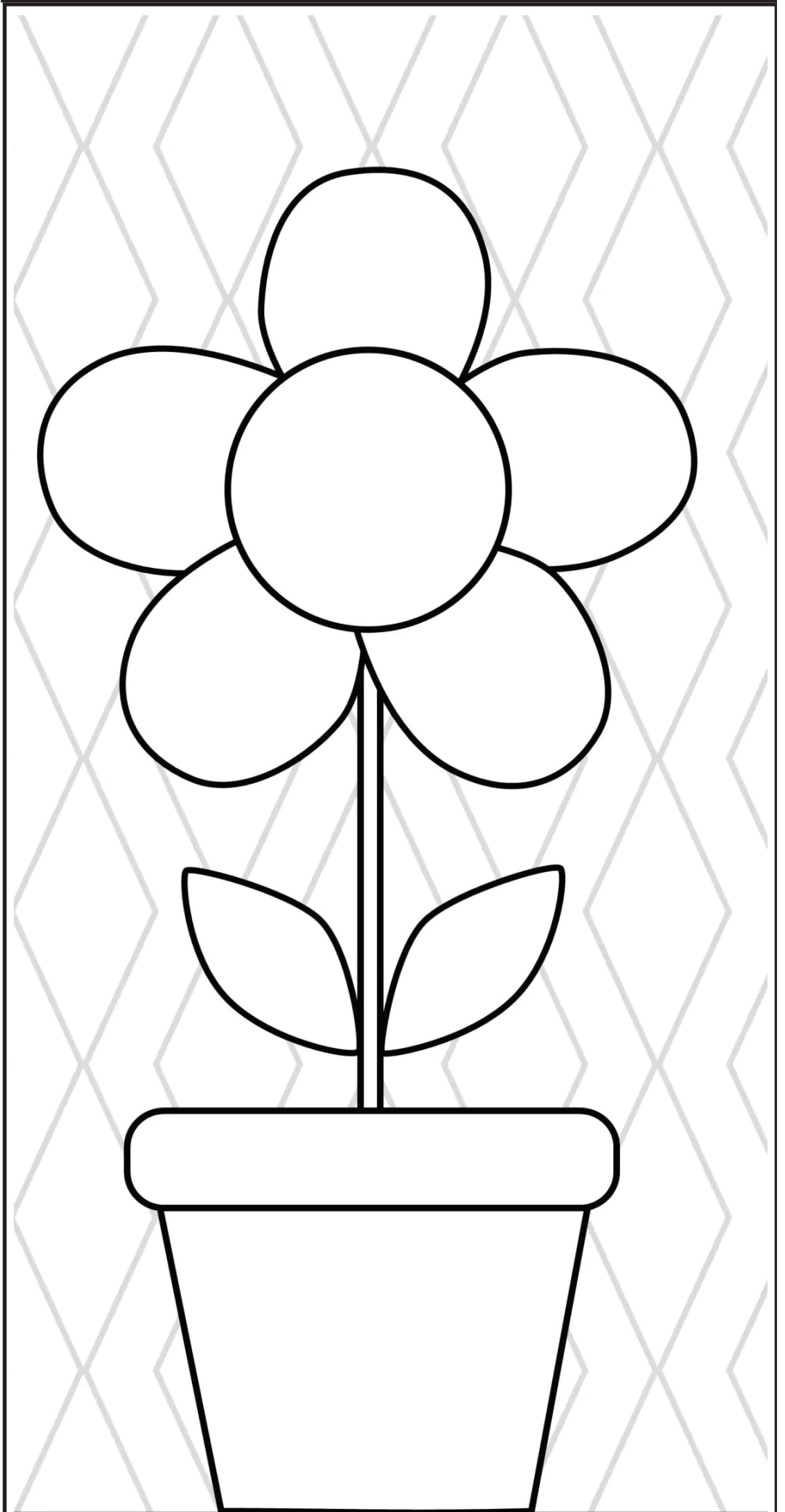
Guess Who?

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





Jill E Shamory

Jill E. Shamory - November 15, 1956 ~ April 11, 2026 - passed away peacefully, leaving behind a legacy of love, kindness, and strength that will be cherished by all who knew her. The family received visitors from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral & Cremation Service, Storey Chapel, 400 E. Main St, Gas City, IN. Immediately following the time of visitation, a service to celebrate Jill's life was held at 1:00 pm. Burial will take place at Riverside Cemetery.

Ruth Ann McIntyre

Ruth Ann McIntyre, 92, of Marion, passed peacefully away at 8:38 pm on Friday, April 10, 2026, at Cedar Creek of Marion. The family will receive visitors from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm on Thursday, April 16, 2026, at Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral & Cremation Service, North Chapel, 1341 N. Baldwin Ave., Marion, IN. Immediately following visitation, a service to celebrate Ruth's life will begin at 1:00 pm, officiated by her grandson, Samuel McIntyre. Burial will take place at Gardens of Memory in Marion.

Lorina S. Watkins

Lorina S. Watkins, 69, of Marion, Indiana, passed away peacefully at 8:46 a.m. on Thursday, April 9, 2026, in Marion, in the loving arms of her husband. In accordance with Lorina's wishes, there will be no public visitation or funeral services. Arrangements are entrusted to Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral & Cremation Service, North Chapel, 400 E. Main Street, Gas City, Indiana.

Joseph McDaniel

Joseph L. McDaniel, 53, of Hartford City, passed away on Sunday, April 5, 2026, in Hartford City. The family will host a Celebration of Life service in Grant County at a later date. Arrangements have been entrusted to Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral & Cremation Service, Storey Chapel, 400 E. Main St. Gas City, IN 46933.

James W. Hayes

James W. "Jim" Hayes, age 85, of Fairmount, Indiana, died Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at Wesleyan Health and Rehabilitation Center in Marion, Indiana. Life Celebration Services have been entrusted to Fairmount Chapel Armes-Hunt Life Celebration Funeral Home and Cremation Service, 415 S. Main Street, Fairmount, Indiana. A Life Celebration will be held Saturday, April 25, 2026, at 3:00 PM, with Pastor Chris Williams and Pastor James Sonnifield officiating. The family will receive friends from 1:00-3:00 PM prior to the service.

Rodney M. Lynch Jr.

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Rodney M. Lynch, Jr., who departed this life on April 7, 2026, at the age of 58. Funeral services will be held on Thursday, April 16, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. at the Fairmount Chapel of Armes-Hunt Life Celebration Funeral Home and Cremation Services. Friends and family may visit prior to the service from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Theodore A Hamilton

Theodore "Ted" A. Hamilton departed his loving family peacefully on April 6, 2026. Arrangement for Ted were entrusted to the Mississinewa Chapel of Armes-Hunt Life Celebration Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 200 North 7th Street, Gas City, Indiana 46933. To honor Ted's wishes a Celebration of Life will be held, in lieu of a traditional funeral, at the Gas City Moose Lodge, 817 E. Main Street, Gas City, Indiana 46933, on Sunday, April 19, 2026, from 1pm-4pm.

Eldiva Varner

Eldiva Varner, 96, passed away peacefully on April 10, 2026. The visitation will be held on Friday, April 17, 2026, from 10:30am to 12:30pm at Owen-Weilert-Duncan Funeral Home, Marion Chapel, 2722 South Washington Street, Marion, Indiana. The funeral will follow at 12:30pm in the funeral home. Burial will follow services in Estates of Serenity Cemetery.

Mary Frances McBride

Mary Frances McBride, 94, passed away peacefully on April 9, 2026, in Marion, Indiana. The visitation will be held on April 15, 2026, from 11am to 1pm at Owen-Weilert-Duncan Funeral Home, Marion Chapel, 2722 South Washington Street, Marion, Indiana. The funeral will follow at 1pm in the funeral home with Pastor James Sonnefield officiating.

Ronald Gene Cochran

Ronald "Ron" Gene Cochran, 86, passed away on April 6, 2026 at his residence. Funeral service were held at 2 pm on Monday, April 13, 2026 at Keplinger Funeral Home, 509 N. High St., Hartford City with Pastor Laura High officiating. Burial will follow at Hartford City Cemetery with Military Honors by the Dunkirk American Legion.

REGIONAL CHURCHES DIRECTORY

Liberty Baptist Church

517 Church St, Sweetser, IN 46987
<https://www.libertyfamily.org>
 (765) 384-7004
 Sunday School - @ 9:00 AM
 Worship - @ 10:00 AM
 Sunday Evening - @ 6:00 PM
 THURSDAYS
 Classes @ 5:30 & 6:30 PM

Sweetser United Methodist Church

413 N. Main Street, Sweetser, IN 46987
www.sweetserumc.org
 (765) 384-7354

Swayzee United Methodist Church

306 S Washington St, Swayzee, IN, United States, 46986
www.umc.org
 (765) 922-7223

Converse Church of Christ

301 E. Wabash Street Converse, IN 46919
 765-395-3361
 First Hour service (traditional) @ 9am
 Second Hour service (contemporary) @ 10:15am

Sweetser Wesleyan Church

(765) 384-7232
 200 West Delphi Pike Sweetser, IN 46987
[www. https://www.sweetserwesleyan.org](http://www.sweetserwesleyan.org)
 Sunday Morning 10 am

Back Creek Friends

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

Back Creek Wesleyan

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

Fairmount Baptist Church

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

Fairmount Church of God - 10:30 a.m., Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
 Fairmount Friends - 10:30 a.m.

Fairmount Wesleyan - 9:30 a.m.
 Fairmount United Methodist - 9:30 a.m.

Fowlerton United Methodist - 10:45 a.m.
 Grant Church (Global Methodist) 11018 S 300 E Fairmount 9:00 a.m.

Jones Chapel - 10:30 a.m., Sunday School - 9 a.m.
 MorningStar Ministries, 11:00 a.m. (Jonesboro)

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

One of Ten Ministries and Church - 10:30 a.m.
 Pilgrim Holiness - 6 p.m.

Real Community Covenant Church - 10 a.m. - 1240 S. Adams in Marion

Westview Wesleyan, 11 a.m. (Jonesboro)
 Women of Hope Bible Study - Tuesday - 10 a.m.

(Located at One of Ten on SR 26 in Fairmount. Open to all women in Grant County)

Fairmount UMC - Monday - 7 p.m. - Campus Life

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

Anthem Edition and Avenue in concert at Epworth Church



Anthem Edition



Avenue

Epworth Church, 105 W 8th St, Matthews, Indiana is pleased to announce Anthem Edition (formerly "The Old Paths") with special guest Avenue in concert on Friday, May 15, 2026! Doors open at 6 PM, Concert starts at 7 PM. Tickets are \$15. Also, a love offering will be received. Limited seating, To guarantee your seats, please purchase tickets in advance at epworthworship.com/anthem or call/text 765-667-0842.

Anthem Edition burst onto the scene in 2003, then known as The Old Paths, setting forth with a clear vision and mission: to glorify the Lord and seek His ways in everything. In 2012, they signed with Crossroad Music's Sonlite Records label, a collaboration which brought forth the breakout album, 'Right Now.' This debut record quickly yielded two #1 hits, 'Battlestand' and 'God's Great,' and earned the group a Singing News Fan Award for Favorite New Quartet. Anthem Edition consists of Tim Rackley (lead), Doug Roark (baritone), Andrew

Utech (bass), Cameron Edens (tenor), and Kevin Davis (pianist). Avenue is a dynamic trio of seasoned vocalists—Kasey Kemp, Haley Kemp, and Jonathan C. Smith—who have swiftly earned recognition in the Christian music community for their exceptional harmonies and powerful messages of encouragement and hope. The name "Avenue" reflects the group's mission: to use their music as the pathway for proclaiming the greatest message—the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Their debut project, Songs For Every Mile, released in June 2018, showcases their robust sound, strong vocals, and poignant messages. The album's first radio release, "One Of These Mornings," climbed to #23 on the national Singing News chart. Avenue has since continued their success with chart-toppers such as "Can't Keep a Good Man Down," "Here We Are," "Walking on With Jesus," "They Could Not," "I Will Follow Christ," and "New Name Written Down in Glory."

Upcoming Events

Submitted by Catherine Lamb

Community Breakfast - Masonic Lodge #635, Saturday, (biweekly), freewill donation

Hope Center - Every Friday, 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Fairmount Town Council - Biweekly at 6 p.m.

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

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

Epworth Church to hold annual Chicken Noodle Fundraiser

Epworth Church at 105 W 8th St. in Matthews, Indiana will have their annual Chicken Noodle Fundraiser Dinner on Sunday, May 3, 2026. Epworth is known for their noodles served at Cumberland Covered Bridge Festival and this is an opportunity to enjoy a delicious homemade chicken and noodle dinner prepared in the same tradition.

Serving will be from 11:45 am - 1:30 pm, and the community is invited to dine-in or carry out. We welcome other church congregations to join us following their services. Dinners include chicken and noodles, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, beverages, and dessert. Free will donations for the meal will be gratefully accepted for the Epworth Concert Outreach Ministry Fund. This outreach provides an opportunity to experience Christ through the power of music by accomplished, nationally known gospel artists.

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MARION SPORTS RECAPS

Saturday-April 11

Baseball
Alexandria 24
Giants 0 (5 innings)
Marion is 1-2 & will travel to Richmond on Sat, April 11.

Softball
Madison-Grant 11
Lady Giants 10
(6 Innings - called because of darkness)

Wednesday-April 8

Softball
Lady Giants 5
New Haven 1

Baseball
Maconaquah 10
Giants 6

Tennis
Mississinewa 4
Lady Giants 1
#1S Shaeli Castaneda won 6-0, 7-5
#2S Katy Rayment lost 0-6, 0-6
#3S Areanna Miller lost 0-6, 0,6
#1D Nyla Hubartt/Aubry Roedl lost 0-6, 7-6, 3-6
#2D Lilly Carter/Lillian Walker lost 6-4, 2-6, 2-6

Track & Field
Girls
Lady Giants 68
Huntington North 60

Boys
Huntington North 80
Marion boys 51
Marion 1st place finishes:
Girls:
4 X 800M Relay - Elizabeth Morgan, Kenzie Larson, Livia Beck, Jayme Hardwick 11:37.01
4 X 400M Relay - Jayme Hardwick, Nyomi Hahn, Elizabeth Morgan, Naomi Cox - 4:29.32
200 Meters - Naomi Cox - 27.51
400 Meters - Naomi Cox - 1:03.94
3200 Meters - Alexa Ortiz - 15:18.20
Discus - Alyviah Reed - 80-5
Shot Put - Alyviah Reed - 32-6
Pole Vault - Alicia Jimenez - 7-0
High Jump - Nyomi Hahn - 4-8
Boys:
400 Meters - Elijah McGruder - 53:18
800 Meters - Caiden Daniel - 2:07.05
1600 Meters - Caiden Daniel - 4:49.65
Discus - Trevor Morgan - 147-9
High Jump - Keeghan Cook - 6-3

Saturday-April 11

Girls Tennis
Kokomo 3
Lady Giants 2
Marion is 0-2, 0-1 in the NCC
#1S Shaeli Castaneda won 6-0, 6-0
#2S Katy Rayment lost 0-6, 0-6
#3S Lilly Carter lost 7-6 (9-7), 6-7 (2-7), 3-6
#1D Nyla Hubartt/Aubry Roedl won 6-1, 6-2
#2D Lillian Walker/Maria Manueles lost 0-6, 0-6
Lafayette Jeff 3
Lady Giants 2
Marion is 0-3, 0-2 in the NCC
The Lady Giants will travel to Shenandoah on Tues, April 14.
#1S Shaeli Castaneda lost 6-2, 4-6, 3-6
#2S Katy Rayment won 6-2, 2-6, 6-4
#3S Lilly Carter lost 1-6, 1-6
#1D Nyla Hubartt/Aubry Roedl won 7-6 (7-5), 7-6 (7-3)
#2D Lillian Walker/Kaylianna Rogers lost 0-6, 0-6

Baseball
Richmond 11
Giants 1 (5 innings)
(Game 1) Marion is 1-3, 0-1 in the NCC

Richmond 16
Giants 0 (5 innings)
(Game 2) Marion is 1-4, 0-2 in the NCC

Monday - April 13

Boys Golf
Taylor 274 Giants 304
Marion is 0-1 & will host Alexandria on Wed, April 15.
K. Shelton 50
R. Dailey 58
C. Martindale 65
B. Stickann 65
A. Elarnaouty 66

Baseball
Norwell defeated Marion in 4 innings.
The Giants are 1-5 & will host Eastern on Tuesday, April 14

Weather and disaster prep essentials

Preparation can pave the way to professional success, and that utility extends beyond one's career. Preparation also is a vital component of personal safety, particularly in relation to natural disasters. Knowledge of storms and weather-related events such as hurricanes, tornadoes and floods can be lifesaving, and various government agencies encourage adults and children alike to learn what they can do to stay safe should a storm strike. But it's equally vital to personal safety to assemble a disaster supplies kit. Ready.gov, the official website of the United States Department of Homeland Security, recommends individuals gather and maintain the following items as part of a basic emergency supply kit.

- Water (one gallon per person per day for several days). Keep in mind that the water is not only for drinking, but also for sanitation.
- Food: Each person in your household should have a several-day supply of non-perishable food.
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



Weather Radio with tone alert. Various retailers carry NOAA radios, which typically cost \$50 or less.

- Flashlight: A flashlight for each person in the household is ideal.
- First aid kit
- Extra batteries: Enough extra batteries to keep flashlights and radios operational during a potentially days-long power outage is recommended.
- Whistle: A power whistle that's loud and carries for a significant distance can be used to signal for help, if necessary.
- Dust mask: Air can become contaminated during a natural disaster, so a dust mask for each person in the household can ensure everyone can safely breathe.
- Plastic sheeting,

scissors and duct tape: These materials can be employed to stay safe and warm or cool when ordered to shelter in place.

- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties: Personal sanitation items such as these can help people stay healthy and keep an area sanitary when services such as garbage pickup and water utilities are not operating normally.
- Wrench or pliers: Tools such as a wrench and pliers can be used to turn off utilities when it's necessary to do so, such as during a flood.
- Manual can opener: A manual can opener can open canned goods during power outages.
- Local maps: Local maps of areas around your home,

place of business and children's schools can help you get around if roads are closed. Even people who feel they know the areas where they live, work and attend school like the back of their hand are urged to keep maps of such regions readily available.

- Cell phone with chargers and a backup battery: Backup chargers and batteries can make it possible to maintain access to potentially lifesaving information and facilitate staying connected with loved ones and neighbors.

A well-stocked disaster preparation kit can keep people and their loved ones safe should a weather-related storm or other dangerous event strike and present potentially dangerous living situations.

Shift climate is impacting extreme weather conditions

According to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the shifting climate across the planet is impacting extreme weather throughout the globe. NASA notes that heat waves affecting the land and the sea, severe floods, droughts lasting years in some cases, extreme wildfires, and hurricane-related flooding are becoming more frequent and intense due to climate change. Warming air and ocean temperatures

resulting from the increased burning of fossil fuels is affecting the water cycle, shifting weather patterns and melting land ice, all of which is making extreme weather even more severe. And NASA warns that severity only figures to increase even further as the planet continues to warm, meaning the storms of today, already devastating to the communities they affect, figure to be even more so as air and ocean temperatures continue to rise.



Plan Ahead. Be Prepared.

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How nutritional needs change with age

The human body undergoes an assortment of changes over the course of a lifetime. Some of those changes are visible to the naked eye, but many more are not. The body's changing needs in regard to nutrition is one alteration that people cannot see.

A nutritious diet can be a building block of a long and healthy life. Nutritional needs change as the body ages, and recognition of those changes can help people rest easy that their diets are working in their favor and not to their detriment.

Calorie needs

The body requires fewer calories as individuals reach adulthood. That's because muscle mass begins to decrease in adulthood while fat increases. The National Institutes of Health notes that muscles use more calories than fat throughout the day, so it makes sense that a body experiencing

a decline in muscle mass will require less calories than one in which muscle mass is on the rise. No two individuals are the same, and some adults exercise more than others. So it's best for adults to consult their physician to discuss their own calorie needs and then adjust their diets based on such discussions.

What to eat

The American Heart Association notes aging adults' calories should come from nutrient-dense foods like vegetables, fruits, whole grains, lean meat, and low-fat dairy. This recommendation aligns with adults' declining calorie needs, as nutrient-dense foods contain ample amounts of protein, vitamins and/or minerals but do not contain a lot of calories.

Water needs

It's vital for aging adults to make a concerted effort to drink water each day. The Office of Disease Prevention and Health

Promotion notes that the sensation of thirst declines with age. Aging adults who are unaware of that unique biological reality may be risking dehydration because they are not compelled to drink water throughout the day. The Cleveland Clinic notes that dehydration can contribute to dizziness, weakness and lightheadedness, among other symptoms. Those symptoms can be particularly menacing for older adults, who are at increased risk for potentially harmful falls even if they are not dehydrated. The body still needs water as it ages, and seniors taking certain medications may need more than usual due to medication-related fluid loss.

These are just some of the ways nutritional needs change with age. Adults are urged to pay greater attention to diet as they age and make choices that can counter age-related changes in their bodies.

IHSAA sectional assignments

The IHSAA has released the Sectional assignments for the 2026-27 & 2027-28 school years. The host sites will be announced at a later date.

Football:

Marion, Delta, Ft Wayne Bishop Luers, Jay County, Kokomo, Logansport, Muncie Central, Yorktown

Boys Soccer:

Marion, Columbia City, Ft Wayne South Side, Ft Wayne Wayne, Homestead, Huntington North, Warsaw

Huntington North, Warsaw

Girls Soccer:

Marion, Columbia City, Ft Wayne South Side, Ft Wayne Wayne, Homestead, Huntington North, Warsaw

Girls Volleyball:

Marion, Logansport, Mississinewa, Northwestern, Twin Lakes, West Lafayette, Western

Boys Basketball:

Marion, Logansport, Mississinewa,

Northwestern, Twin Lakes, West Lafayette, Western

Girls Basketball:

Marion, Logansport, Mississinewa, Northwestern, Twin Lakes, West Lafayette, Western

IHSAA LINK BELOW:

<https://www.ihsaa.org/sites/default/files/documents/033126%20Sectional%20Assignments.pdf>

Crossroads League Athletes of the Week April 6-12

By Seth Mikel
Crossroads League Sports Information Director

JACKSON, Mich. – The Crossroads League Athletes of the Week were announced on Monday, recognizing the league's top individual performances from April 6 through 12. Sports Information Directors from the league institutions nominate student-athletes for the awards and vote on each week's winners.

Baseball Player of the Week

Tanner Reinartz, Huntington Reinartz had another big week in the heart of the No. 25 Huntington lineup, posting a .455 batting average with three home runs, four doubles and one triple among his 10 hits. The freshman drove in 11 runs and scored eight of his own to help HU to a 6-0 week.

Baseball Pitcher of the Week

Colin Snyder, Spring Arbor Snyder went 2-0 with a 0.82 earned-run average for Spring Arbor in a pair of victories for the Cougars. The senior allowed just one run over his 11 innings and scattered six hits and four walks for a 0.91 WHIP over his two outings.

Softball Player of the Week

Abby Robakowski, Saint Francis Robakowski drove eight balls over the fences in eight USF victories, finishing the 8-0 week with a .560 average, eight dingers, two doubles, 16 runs batted in and 12 runs scored.

The junior had two multi-homer games and homered in six outings.

Softball Pitcher of the Week

Olivia Fuentes, Saint Francis

Fuentes had a strong week in the circle for USF, going 3-0 with a 2.33 earned-run average and a 0.73 WHIP in her three games. The freshman hurled 15 innings and highlighted her week with a win over No. 11 Marian.

Women's Tennis Player of the Week

Uliana Dotsenko, Goshen Dotsenko was 2-0 at No. 1 singles and No. 2 doubles for RV Goshen. The sophomore helped the Maple Leafs to team wins over Huntington and MVNU.

Men's Tennis Player of the Week

Martin Capdevilla, Huntington Capdevilla was a perfect 4-0 for No. 10 Huntington, winning his two matches at No. 2 singles and No. 2 doubles. The graduate senior's play helped the Foresters to team wins over No. 23 Goshen and Spring Arbor.

Women's Golfer of the Week

Elle Bolkema, Spring Arbor Bolkema played in a pair of tournaments for Spring Arbor, taking medalist honors at the Holy Cross Spring Invite and registering a runner-up finish at the Cleary Spring Invite.

Men's Golfer of the Week

Keldon Koshorek, Spring Arbor Koshorek won the

Holy Cross Spring Invitational with a 36-hole score of 148. The junior shot rounds of 73 and 75 before winning the title in a playoff for his first collegiate win.

Women's Outdoor TF Track Athlete of the Week

Jaynie Halterman, Taylor Halterman won the 5,000-meters at the Ball State Challenge, crossing at 16:08.06 for the fastest time of the year in the NAIA.

Women's Outdoor TF Field Athlete of the Week

Delaney Teachnor, Marian Teachnor won the pole vault at the Tennessee Invite with a height of 3.82 meters. That performance was a new personal-best for Teachnor and broke her own Marian record.

Men's Outdoor TF Track Athlete of the Week

Marzeion Jones, Marian Jones broke Marian's program record in the triple jump with a mark of 15.29 meters to automatically qualify for NAIA Nationals in the event. Jones finished second-of-23 athletes in the event at the Tennessee Invite.

Men's Outdoor TF Field Athlete of the Week

Eric Materna, Marian Materna competed in a trio of events for Marian at the Tennessee Invite, highlighting his showing with NAIA-A marks in the 4x400-meter relay and 400-meters. Materna finished first in the relay and third in the 400.



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

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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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