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AREA DEATHS - inside

In God We Trust

Thursday, May 14, 2026

Oak Hill Times

Space telescope discoveries topic of free Observatory open house

KOKOMO, Ind. — What are the “little red dots” discovered by NASA’s James Webb Space Telescope?

Learn more about the mysterious red shifted objects discovered recently, at the last Indiana University Kokomo Observatory free open house of the academic year.

Patrick Motl, professor of physics, will begin the open house at 8 p.m. Sunday, May 17, with a presentation of the “little red dots,” believed to be a transitional phase between dense, star-forming galaxies and active galactic nuclei, according to NASA.



“The James Webb Space Telescope discovered these very young and very distant astronomical

objects recently and astronomers are starting to follow up on the Webb observations in other

kinds of light,” Motl said.

After the presentation, stargazers may be

able to see Jupiter, Venus, the spring constellations with the spring galaxies and the Summer Triangle constellations through the Observatory’s telescopes. They include a six-inch Takahashi refracting telescope and a 16-inch Meade reflecting telescope mounted together. The Takahashi provides exceptionally sharp images of planets, while the Meade allows viewers to see fainter objects in the sky, due to its larger light-collecting area.

Observation will continue through 10 p.m., weather permitting. Open

houses will resume in September 2026.

The Observatory is at 2660 S. Washington Street. Free parking is available on campus.

Education is KEY at Indiana University Kokomo.

IU 2030: Service to Our State and Beyond

Improving the lives of the people and economic vitality of Indiana and beyond through timely education, research, innovation, economic development, community service and engagement.

See our full plan at <https://kokomo.iu.edu/leadership/2030-strategic-plan>

The Dave Matthews Tribute Band 2026 free concert

The Dave Matthews Tribute Band will be part of the 2026 Hudson Family Park Summer Concert Series on Thursday, June 4, 2026 at 8:00 p.m. at Hudson Family Park Amphitheatre, 509 South Wayne St, Portland, IN 47371

The concert is FREE of charge

No tickets or registration needed.

Arts Place is excited to announce the 1st concert of the 2026 Hudson Family Park Summer Concert Series: The Dave Matthews Tribute Band. A family friendly event; bring your children and enjoy a night of food and music. Activities will also be available for kids!

The Dave Matthews

Tribute Band is a celebration of the music of the Dave Matthews Band. The band takes inspiration from the classic DMB sound, with immense respect for the original quintet. While including material from the bands later and current catalogs, the goal is to create a well-rounded and authentic tribute. The



THE DAVE MATTHEWS TRIBUTE BAND

attention to details, love for the music, and sense of community creates an atmosphere

that causes concert goers to say “...wow, if I close my eyes, it’s like I am there!”

The Hudson Family Park Summer concert series is sponsored by The City of Portland, The Portland Foundation, and Compass Wealth Solutions. Thank you!

For more information or questions on how to be involved, please contact Arts Place by calling 260-726-4809 or emailing jcc@myartsplace.org

Indiana Laborers’ District Council calls for Project Labor Agreement and local workforce on Google-backed data center project

The Indiana Laborers’ District Council (INLDC) is calling on Potentia Inc. and all parties connected to the proposed Google-backed data center development at Heartland Industrial Park in Sullivan County, Indiana, to commit to a binding Project Labor Agreement (PLA) and prioritize Indiana workers and contractors on the massive project.

The multi-billion-

dollar development has been promoted publicly as a transformational investment for Sullivan County, with promises of job creation and long-term economic growth. However, the INLDC says early site work has already been awarded to out-of-state contractors while qualified local workers and contractors are being sidelined.

Labor leaders say representatives associated with the project previously indicated that discussions surrounding a PLA were underway before major construction activities began. A PLA would establish local hiring standards, wages, benefits, safety requirements, and workforce participation expectations for the project.

Instead, according to union representatives, contractors from outside Indiana have already mobilized to the site while local skilled workers are being left behind.

“No one is opposed to economic development or investment coming into Sullivan County,” said Joe Bolk, Business Manager of Laborers’ Local 204. “But a project this size should be creating careers and strengthening communities right here in Indiana. Not shipping work and wages out of state.”

“Indiana Laborers are some of the best-trained and most

productive workers in the country,” Brian Short, Business Manager of the INLDC, said in a statement. “Our members live in these communities, raise families here, support local businesses, and reinvest their wages back into Indiana’s economy. Developers should not be bypassing the local workforce while importing labor from other states.”

Union leaders also raised concerns that no finalized PLA or enforceable local hiring agreement has been publicly announced despite earlier conversations suggesting such agreements were

being pursued.

The Indiana Laborers’ District Council is calling for:

A Signed Project Labor Agreement (PLA) covering major site work and construction work; A written local hiring and local contractor participation plan prioritizing Indiana workers and businesses;

Transparency regarding subcontracting and workforce decisions; A commitment to utilizing local skilled union labor throughout all phases of the project.

The INLDC says it remains ready to work with developers

and contractors to ensure the project succeeds while delivering meaningful economic benefits to the people of Sullivan County and all of Indiana.

“We are ready to build this project safely, efficiently, and professionally,” Bolk added. “Now it’s time for the developer to stand by its word and invest in Indiana’s workforce.”

#####

The Indiana Laborers’ District Council is an affiliation of eleven Laborers’ Local Unions representing more than 12,500 members across the state of Indiana.

LiUNA!

Indiana Laborers District Council

Feel the Power

VICTORIOUS *Living* ...in a troubled world

This one thing serves you will throughout life

Teresa LeNeave –
leneave2@comcast.net

Television (even cartoons) teach kids that it's funny to have an attitude. Movies teach kids it's okay to have an attitude. And, parents teach them it's okay to be disrespectful when a bad attitude is ignored. Then, we pretend we don't know why kids struggle with good attitudes.

When kids are toddlers, everything is cute. I know. I think everything my grandchildren do is cute. When they pout, I even think that is cute. I guess, kids have been pretty much the same since the beginning of time because the Bible has so much to say

about honoring your mother, your father, and your elders. The Bible is very explicit, and to the point, when talking about honor. I don't think anyone could read what the Bible says about honoring parents and not understand it.

What does it mean to honor your father and mother ... to have a good attitude?

To honor your father and mother means to revere (respect), prize and value. Do we as adult revere, prize, and value our parents? Or, do we think they are adults and we have our own lives to live? ... Never forget your children watch what you do and will probably treat you just like you treat



your parents.

Honor, to me, is something that stems from an inward attitude and it always values the position of the other.

Those who honor their parents are blessed according to Jeremiah 35:18-19. In Jeremiah, the blessing extended from generation to

generation. I believe it still does today.

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother which is the first commandment with a promise, so that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth" (Ephesians 6:1-3).

In my opinion, we have to teach our children / grandchildren well, because this world is trying very hard to teach them wrong. When it really comes down to learning, kids learn from watching. What do they see in us? Do they hear me talk respectful? Do they

see me be kind or hateful? What they see, they learn.

Why is it important to teach honor to children? One simple statement answers that question: Because it serves them well throughout life. After a child is mature and on their own, the ability to show honor and respect will serve them well in honoring authorities who are above them such as employer, teachers, pastors, even the President. Ask any school teacher how important honor and respect is. Ask any employer who their most valuable employees are. Honor trickles into every vein of your life and it leaks into the life of following generations.

I couldn't ask for anything better

By Gary Miller

About a month ago, I hunted this same area. I was able to take a big gobbler that morning. I had not been back since. So, I knew, after a month, I could go back and see if I could get another one of those toms to come to my call. It was a beautiful, crisp, and quiet morning. My set up turned out to be about textbook. Before I made my first call, a tom belted out a loud gobble over the small hill, about 150 yards away, and directly in front of my location. Just after that another

tom began to belt his opening alarm, behind me, about 500 yards away. He started gobbling almost none stop. I was liking what I was hearing, and also liking my morning set up. But it got better. As day was breaking two more toms joined in the chorus. One just to the left of the one directly in front of me, and one to the right. I couldn't ask for anything better. Three competing in front of me and one behind me. I'm thinking, "Let the competition begin." That was what I was thinking, but that was

not what I was feeling. I was feeling nothing. I mean my heart didn't race, I didn't imagine a trophy camera shot, nor did I fret about what bad scenario could happen. I just stayed calm, enjoyed the welcomed noise, and waited to see what might happen. Again, I did so without ever having the least amount of anxiety. Why? Because I had been here before. I knew that I had positioned myself as good as I could and there was no other move to make. I didn't overcall. I didn't sneeze or

make any alarming noise. I did all I could do. Everything that would follow was out of my hands. So, why worry. Ah yes. Worry.

This is actually the posture I should be making in the more serious areas of my life. The posture that comes from being right in the middle of a situation that could turn out bad or good and yet remaining calm because I have done all that I can do. The rest is out of my hands. But the real, unexplainable calm, comes from knowing Whose hands my circumstances are in. God's. Again, this

is the posture God's wants us to have instead of worry. Jesus put it this way. "Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?" And then He added. "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. His words to us are basically this. Just get in the right set up (seek first the Kingdom of God) and I (God) will handle everything else, and every possible scenario, in every possible situation or circumstance, that might come about in

your life. We have one thing to do. He has the rest. So, don't worry.

Gary Miller
gary@
outdoortruths.org

Gary Miller has written Outdoor Truths articles for 23 years.

He has also written five books which include compilations of his articles and a father/son devotional. He also speaks at wild-game dinners and men's events for churches and associations. Stay updated on Outdoor Truths each week by subscribing at Outdoortruths.org

What is more important than the return of Christ?

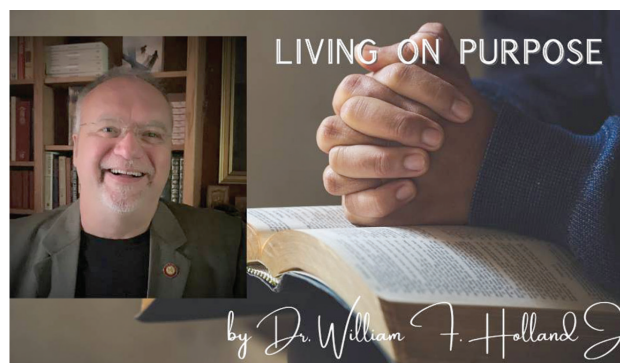
By Dr. Billy Holland

Henry Allan "Harry" Ironside was a Canadian-American Bible teacher, preacher, theologian, pastor, and author who pastored Moody Church in Chicago from 1929 to 1948. It is said that Harry Ironside was one of the most prolific Christian writers of the 20th Century and published more than 100 books, booklets, and pamphlets, many of which are still in print. He also wrote several hymns, including "Overshadowed," "His Grace Proclaim," and "The Wonder of His Love to Me." One editorial reviewer wrote in a 2005 republication that, "Ironside's commentaries are a Christian standard and have stood the test of time."

In his comments on Isaiah 57, Dr. Ironside shares this true account: "Years ago, before the First World War, Professor Stroeter, a well-known prophetic

teacher in Germany, would travel through the country giving lectures, and using charts to explain the dispensations. His meetings attracted the attention of the German Emperor, Kaiser Wilhelm, who, despite his many idiosyncrasies, was quite a Bible student himself and would deliver sermons in the palace chapel on many occasions. One day, the emperor invited Professor Stroeter to his personal residence so that he could learn more about the information the professor had been teaching. The professor was escorted into the library and began to spread his charts out on a table, and as the emperor listened closely, Stroeter pointed out various prophetic stages that led up to the glorious Second Coming.

After a lengthy conversation, the emperor cautiously asked, "Are you saying that Christ is coming back literally, and when He returns,



all the empires of the world are going to be destroyed, and He will set up His eternal kingdom upon their ruins?" Professor Stroeter said, "Exactly, your Majesty." The emperor backed away with a look of sadness and disappointment and said, "Oh no, I can't accept that! This would interfere with my plans!" What an honest but troubling admission from a man who professed to be a student and teacher of the Bible, and even more importantly, a personal disciple of Christ. There are indeed many interpretations and opinions about what the future may bring, but we can agree that there is coming a

day when this earth will be cleansed and judged, and every knee will bow and know that Jesus is Lord and King of all.

We look around and notice that many are striving to build their dreams, but are these God's ideas? I know individuals who are making plans 10, 20, and even 30 years from now, and hope these are divine blueprints that God has drawn. Have you known or heard about those who had their lives all mapped out, but were suddenly taken out of this world unexpectedly? It's worth ensuring whose voice we are following, as the Bible declares that there is nothing more important than keeping our spiritual

eyes and ears open to where God is leading us. "Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails" Proverbs 19:21.

We might add Christ to our long list of things we are interested in, but if God's will is not at the top, we need to rearrange our list. Yes, we all have responsibilities, but ignoring God and not being prepared to meet Him will have serious consequences. Jesus used the term "birth pains" to describe the signs of His return. Like the agony of childbirth, these warnings will become more intense and frequent as the day draws nearer. Can you see them today? Beware of those who mock and say, "It's been 2000 years, so the Lord must not be coming back." Remember the wise virgins in Matthew chapter 25. It simply comes down to who we will trust.

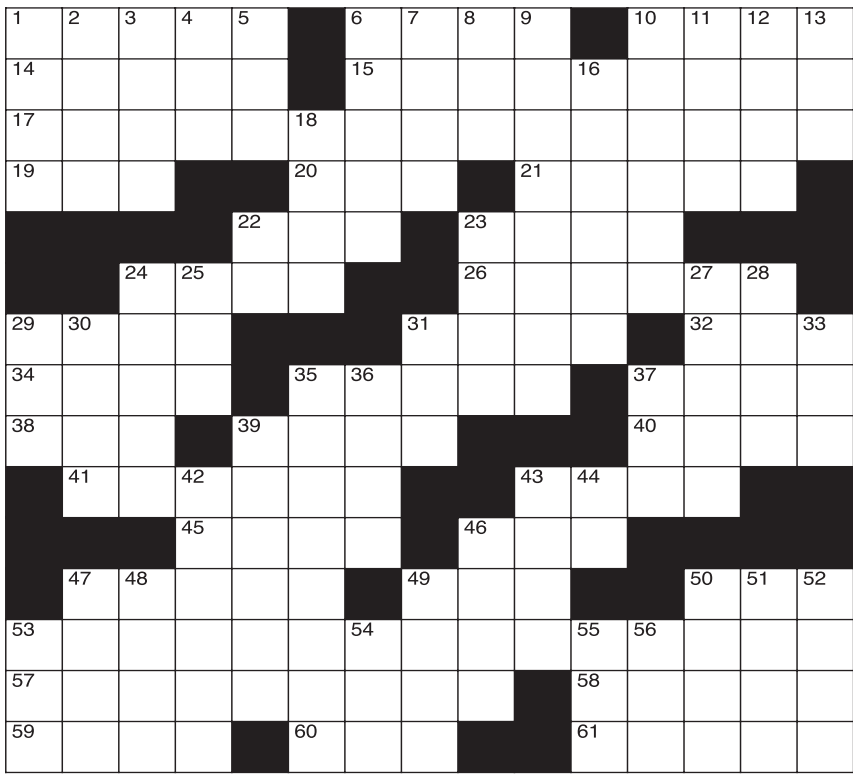
How often do Christians stop and

consider that when they made a vow to surrender their heart to God, their lives were no longer their own? We promised God and the world going forward, we will only follow His voice. So, I ask today: Is there anything in this world that would cause us to wish Christ would postpone His return? Of course, we want to see our family be saved, which is why it's so crucial to intercede and fast for their salvation.

What about you, dear friend, are things like enjoying your wealth, building a house, seeing the world, graduating college, getting married, having children, getting that promotion, retiring, or completing a project you've been working on, more exciting and important than the return of your Savior? Maybe instead of wondering about His return, we should live as if He never left.

Read more about the Christian life at billyhollandministries.com

Crossword Puzzle



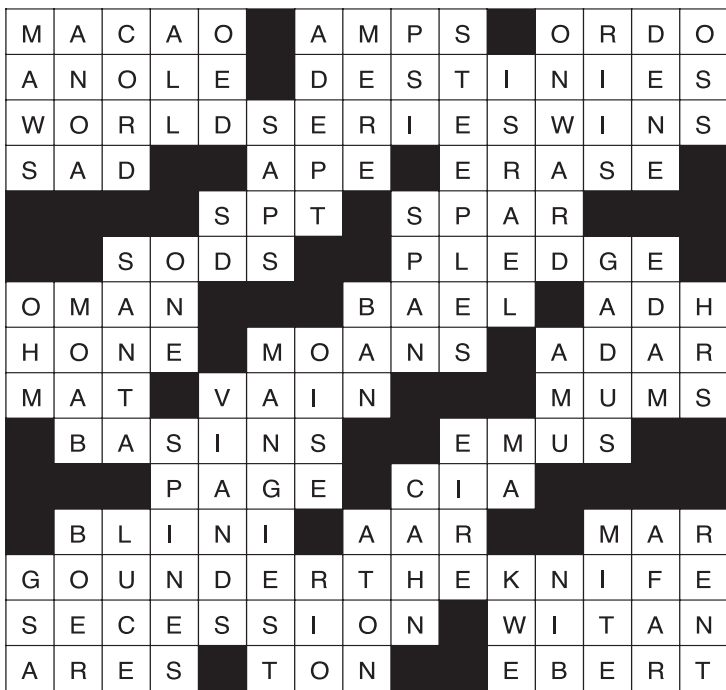
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Notable casino destination
- 6. Current units
- 10. Roman military unit
- 14. American lizard
- 15. Fates
- 17. The Yankees have lots of these
- 19. Unhappy
- 20. Mimic
- 21. Remove from the record
- 22. Where cargo ships dock (abbr.)
- 23. A way to fight
- 24. Turfs
- 26. Contract
- 29. Country along the Arabian peninsula
- 31. Tree species
- 32. Pituitary gland secretion (abbr.)
- 34. Perfect
- 35. "Partner" to groans
- 37. Jewish calendar month
- 38. Where wrestlers work
- 39. Egotistical
- 40. Potted plants
- 41. Containers
- 43. Large, flightless birds
- 45. Part of a book
- 46. American spies
- 47. Pancakes made of buckwheat flour
- 49. Swiss river
- 50. Disfigure
- 53. Have surgery
- 57. Formal withdrawal
- 58. Early English council
- 59. Area units
- 60. 2,000 lbs.
- 61. Siskel and __

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Animal jaws
- 2. Small water buffalo
- 3. An appliance has one
- 4. Every
- 5. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- 6. Very skilled
- 7. No more than what is specified
- 8. Tire measurement
- 9. Towers
- 10. Forward
- 11. Jacob __, American journalist
- 12. Vale
- 13. Former CIA
- 16. Middle Eastern nation
- 18. Exhausts
- 22. South Dakota
- 23. The complete duration of something
- 24. Kids love him
- 25. Singular
- 27. Cod genus
- 28. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
- 29. Resistance unit
- 30. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 31. Cast out
- 33. 60-minute periods
- 35. Most worn
- 36. European river
- 37. Atomic mass unit
- 39. Items of food
- 42. Body parts
- 43. Ireland
- 44. Partner to Pa
- 46. Sammy __, songwriter
- 47. Dutch settler
- 48. Full-grown pike fish
- 49. Sun or solar disk
- 50. Minute arachnid
- 51. From a distance
- 52. A monthly expense
- 53. Young women's association
- 54. Brazilian state
- 55. Air freight provider
- 56. Pointed end of a pen

PUZZLE SOLUTION



Crypto Fun



Solve the code to discover words related to meditation.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 15 = E)

- A. 3 15 4 25 15 6 14**
Clue: Think deeply about
- B. 3 15 25 10 7**
Clue: Unwind
- C. 17 14 3 15 17 17**
Clue: Pressure or tension
- D. 6 10 25 19**
Clue: Quiet

Answers: A. reflect B. relax C. stress D. calm

Word Search

MEDITATION WORD SEARCH

ANSWERS ON THE CLASSIFIED PAGE

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

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

WORDS

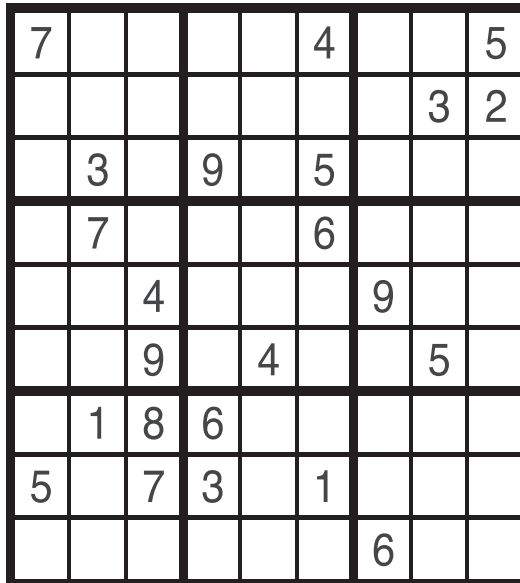
- ALIGNMENT
- AWARENESS
- BREATHWORK
- CHAKRA
- CLARITY
- COMPASSION
- ENLIGHTENMENT
- EQUANIMITY
- FOCUS
- GRATITUDE
- INTENTION
- MANTRA
- MINDFULNESS
- MUDRAS
- NIRVANA
- PRANAYAMA
- PRESENCE
- SAMADHI
- STILLNESS
- TRANSCENDENCE
- VIPASSANA
- VISUALIZATION
- ZAZEN
- ZEN

Sudoku Puzzle

How it Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle! Good Luck!

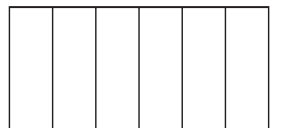
ANSWERS ON THE CLASSIFIED PAGE



Word Scramble

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to horses.

TASLBE



Answer: Stable

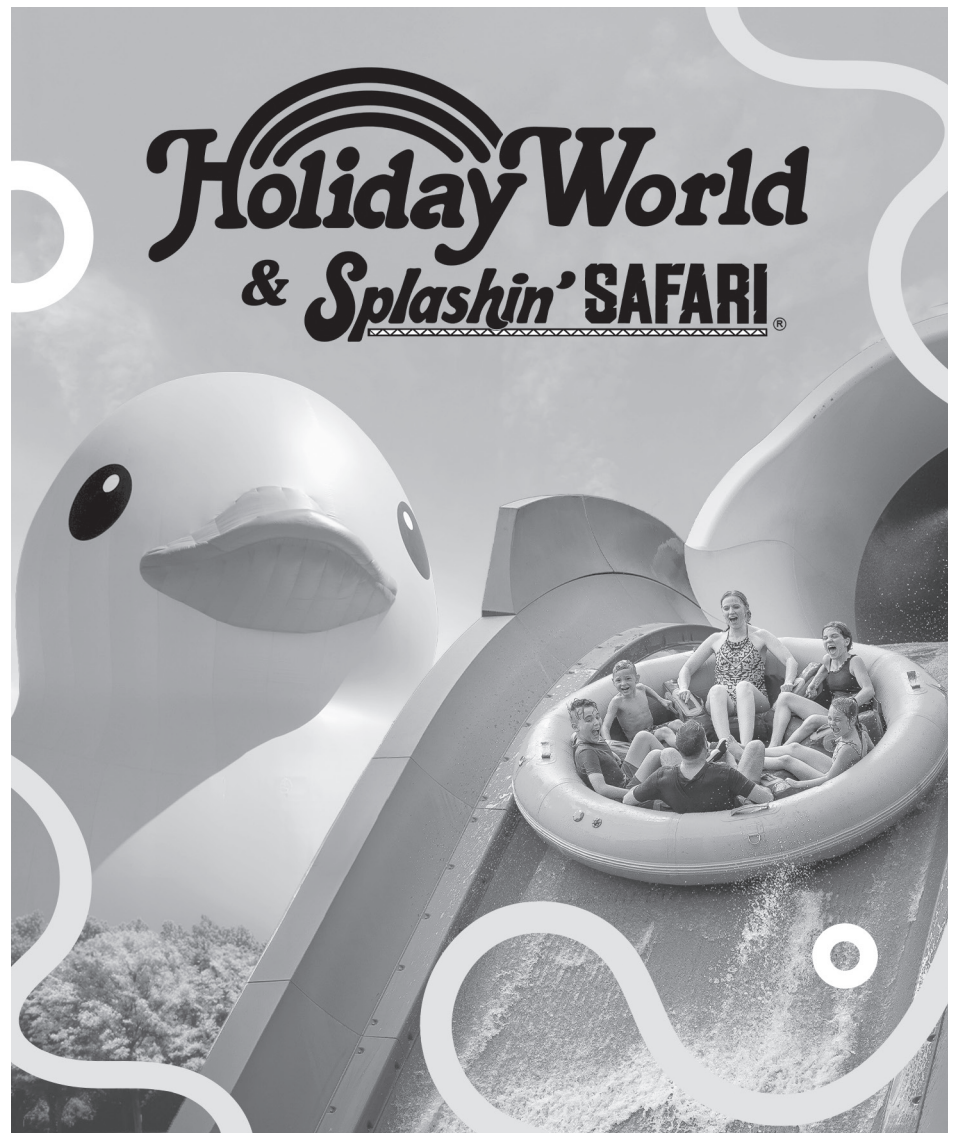
Guess Who?

GUESS WHO?

I am a singer/songwriter born in New York on May 9, 1949. I played the piano at a bar to help support my mother while in high school. I progressed to being a Grammy Award-winning artist and pianist known for my huge catalog of songs. I am the third best-selling solo artist in the U.S.

Answer: Billy Joel

**IF IT MATTERS TO YOU,
IT MATTERS TO US.
THANKS FOR READING!**



**DUCK
DUCK
WOW!**



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*Total savings may vary based on date of visit. \$23 savings calculated from \$1 off Pick Your Date Tickets on select days through June 11, 2026. Tickets must also be purchased at least a day in advance for full savings.



Stacey G. Gosnell

Stacey G. Gosnell, 58, of Swayzee, Indiana, passed away on Thursday, May 7, 2026, at Indiana University Health University Hospital in Indianapolis. The family will receive visitors from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm on Saturday, May 16, 2026, at Sims Wesleyan Church 309 N. Main St. Sims, IN 46986. Immediately following the time of visitation, a service to celebrate Stacey's life will begin at 2:00 pm with Pastor Brian Williams officiating.

Janine Hess Campbell

Janine Hess Campbell, 69, Marion, passed away on Tuesday, May 5, 2026. The family received visitors from 9:00 am to 10:00 am on Saturday, May 9, 2026 at Twin City Bible Baptist Church 7252 S. Meridian St., Marion, IN. Following the time of visitation, a service to celebrate Janine's life was held at 10:00 am with Pastor Russell J. Leivers and Pastor Dale Schuiteman officiating. Burial took place at Grant Memorial Park.

Richard Allen Andrews

Richard "Rick" Allen Andrews, 70, Marion, passed away in his home at 3:05 pm on Tuesday, May 5, 2026. The family will receive visitors from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm on Saturday, May 16, 2026, at Hillside Wesleyan Church, 2510 S. Home Ave., Marion, IN. Immediately following the time of visitation, a service to celebrate Rick's life will begin at 2:00 pm with Rev. Gary Bingham officiating.

Brittany Howard

Brittany Nicole Howard, 34, Marion, passed away unexpectedly in her home on Monday, May 4, 2026. A time of visitation was held from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm on Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral & Cremation Service, North Chapel 1341 N. Baldwin Ave., Marion, IN.

Mary McClain

Mary E. McClain, 73, Marion, passed away at 5:53 pm on Saturday, May 2, 2026, at Marion Health. The family received visitors from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM on Monday, May 11, 2026, at Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral & Cremation Service, North Chapel 1341 N. Baldwin Ave., Marion, IN. Immediately following the time of visitation, a service to celebrate Mary's life was held at 2:00 PM with Rev. Dr. Tom Mansbarger officiating. Burial took place at Knox Chapel Cemetery.

Lillian A. Smith

Lillian A Smith, 86, Marion, passed away at 7:10 pm on Friday, May 1, 2026, at Miller's Merry Manor in Marion. The family received visitors from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm on Friday, May 8, 2026, at Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral & Cremation Service, North Chapel, 1341 N. Baldwin Ave., Marion, IN. Immediately following the time of visitation, a service to celebrate Lillian's life was held at 12:00 pm with Scott Hafer and Ladd Taylor officiating. Burial took place at Grant Memorial Park.

Bonnetta "Bonnie" Sue Slain

Beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and sister, Bonnetta Sue Slain, lovingly known as "Bonnie," passed away peacefully on February

2, 2026, at Keystone Place at Newbury Brook, surrounded by the love of her family and the wonderful caregivers of Keystone Place. She was 86 years old. Arrangements for Bonnie were entrusted to the Jones-Smith Chapel of Armes-Hunt Life Celebration Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 259 North Main Street, Upland, Indiana 46989. There will be a visitation held on Saturday, May 16, 2026, from 10:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M., with the memorial service beginning at 11:00 A.M., and burial to follow at Matthews Cemetery, Matthews, Indiana.

Erin Peacock

Erin Peacock, 31, of Nashville, TN passed away peacefully at home on Sunday, April 19, 2026 after 14-month-long battle with neuroendocrine cancer. Celebrations of Erin's Life will be held at 1951 East 900 South, Fairmount, IN (Sunday, May 31st; 2-5 PM EST); Nashville, TN (Sunday, June 14th- Erin's Birthday); and Philadelphia, PA (June 25th). Information for these services will be announced at a later time.

J. Mark Walters

J. Mark Walters, 73, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend, passed away on Monday, May 4, 2026, in Upland, Indiana. The family held a public viewing on Thursday, May 7, 2026, at the Jones Smith Chapel from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM, the family has requested that casual attire be worn. Funeral services took place the following day, Friday, May 8, 2026, at 10:00 AM at the same location. Mark was laid to rest following the service at Matthews Cemetery.

John W. Porterfield

John W. Porterfield, 81, passed away on May 4, 2026, surrounded by his loving family. Arrangements for John have been entrusted to the College Park Chapel of Armes-Hunt Life Celebration Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 4601 South Western Avenue, Marion, Indiana 46953. A private graveside service will be held at Matthews Cemetery.

Rita Ann Shreve

Rita Ann (Jessup) Shreve, 67 of Albany, Indiana passed away at home after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Services for Rita have been entrusted to the Fairmount Chapel of Armes-Hunt Life Celebration Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 415 South Main Street, Fairmount. Visitation was held May 7, 2026, at Fairmount Friends Church, Fairmount, Indiana, 124 West 1st Street, Fairmount, Indiana, with viewing 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with Celebration of Life was held at 1:00 p.m. Burial followed at Park Cemetery, Fairmount, Indiana.

Leland D. Lamb

Leland D. Lamb, 75, of Fairmount, Indiana, passed away Friday, May 1, 2026, at Twin City Healthcare Center. Arrangements for Leland have been entrusted to the Fairmount Chapel of Armes-Hunt Life Celebration Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 415 S. Main St., Fairmount, Indiana. Family and friends gathered on Saturday, May 9, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the funeral home. Funeral services were held immediately following visitation with Pastor Nowell Hardin officiating. Cremation will follow, with burial to take place at a later date in Park Cemetery, Fairmount with The American Legion Post 313 will conduct a memorial walk-through at 1:00 p.m., followed by Masonic honors presented by Wilson Masonic Lodge, followed by Military honors provided by the US Army and Greentown American Legion.

Jon J. Lazard

Jon J. Lazard, 64, passed away on May 8, 2026, in his home. In keeping with Jon's wishes there will be no services. The family wishes to extend a special thank you to Heartland Hospice for the compassionate care they provided.

Matthew Clinton Dennison

Matthew Clinton Dennison, 54, of Converse, In, passed away May 9, 2026 leaving behind many who loved him deeply. A service celebrating the life of Matthew Clinton Dennison was held at 2:00 PM, Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at the Laird-Eddy Funeral Home, 201 N. Main St. Amboy, with George Siler officiating. Burial was in the Park Lawn cemetery. Family and friends gathered for visitation from 12:00 Noon - 2:00 PM, Tuesday, at the funeral home.

Harriett Joan (Haines) Merkert

Harriett Joan Merkert, 105, of Amboy, passed away at 5:05 P.M., Tuesday, May 5, 2026 at her residence. A Graveside Service celebrating the life of Harriett J. Merkert was held at 11:00 A.M., Friday, May 8, 2026 at Park Lawn Cemetery, Amboy with Pastor Roy Jones

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
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

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.

To be included in the Church Directory:

Email your

**Church Name - Church
Address - Service Times to
pamela.kpi2018@gmail.com**

***Deadline is Monday at 5 PM**

for the Thursday edition.

**Email any changes to same
email address**

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**Upcoming Events to:
Catherine Lamb at: lambc899@gmail.com
or to pamela.kpi2018@gmail.com**

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Community Foundation of Grant County invites public ideas for Riverfront canvas murals

Marion, Ind. — The Community Foundation of Grant County is inviting the public to help shape the Riverfront Canvas Public Arts Initiative, a community-driven mural project that will transform the Grant County riverfront into a public art gallery celebrating local stories, people, and places.

Centered in downtown Marion's Arts District, the Riverfront Canvas will turn the Foundation's historic 100 South Washington Street building into a vibrant visual narrative of Grant County's identity. The initiative is guided by a five-member public art

commission chaired by Marion Mayor Ronald Morrell Jr., with members Eric Marshall, Ron Mazellan, Courtney Middlesworth, and Keenan Davis.

Since its formation earlier this spring, the Commission has convened to develop both a project brief (See attached for details) and a community application process, outlining the themes, values, and goals that will guide the murals. Together, these tools ensure that public participation is central to shaping each stage of the project, from concept to creation.

"This project is about more than artwork on walls; it's about telling the

story of who we are as a community," said Dawn Brown, President and CEO of the Community Foundation of Grant County. "We want every resident, student, business owner, and neighbor to see themselves reflected in these murals and to help shape what that story looks like."

The Foundation and its commission are currently seeking input from residents across Grant County, including students, educators, artists, business and nonprofit leaders, faith communities, lifelong residents, and newcomers. Idea submissions may highlight individuals, places, or moments that

deserve visual celebration. Once community ideas are collected, the commission will review submissions and collaborate with local artists to bring selected concepts to life.

"This is an opportunity for the public to play an active role in how we celebrate our shared history and our growing future," said Mayor Ronald Morrell Jr. "By gathering voices from across the community, we're creating something that authentically reflects the spirit of Grant County."

To submit an idea, community members can complete the Riverfront Canvas Community Ideas application online.

Submissions may include short written descriptions, sketches, or visual references, so no artistic experience is required. Simply scan the QR code below or visit givetogrant.org to participate. Submissions are due on or before midnight, May 31, 2026. All mural-related questions must be submitted via email to Murals@GiveToGrant.org.

About the Riverfront Canvas Public Arts Initiative
A project of the Community Foundation of Grant County, Inc., Riverfront Canvas is guided by a public art commission to celebrate the people, places, and stories

that define Grant County's character and history. The murals will honor the past while envisioning the future, creating a lasting symbol of community pride and connection.

About the Community Foundation of Grant County

Established in 1984, the Community Foundation of Grant County connects people, resources, and causes to promote sustainable impact for the betterment of Grant County. The Foundation manages more than 400 charitable funds that advance a broad range of community initiatives. For more information, visit givetogrant.org.

Indiana Conservation Officers hold memorial, awards ceremony

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Division of Law Enforcement held a ceremony on May 8, at the Indiana Government Center in Indianapolis to remember fallen conservation officers and recognize those who are currently serving for their achievements.

Indiana Conservation Officers are law enforcement officers for the DNR. The DNR Division of Law Enforcement is the oldest law enforcement agency in Indiana and has a total of 214 officers.

The ceremony started with a time of remembrance for fallen officers. The seven conservation officers who have died in the line of duty since the division's inception in 1911, listed with their end of watch date, are: Sgt. Ed Bollman, Feb. 13, 2018; F/Sgt. Karl E. Kelley, April 17, 1998; Officer Thomas Deniston,

Oct. 16, 1990; Officer James D. Pitzer, Jan. 2, 1961; Officer Robert S. Perkins, May 27, 1958; and Wardens William J. Nattkemper and William J. Peare, who both died on April 27, 1926.

After the memorial ceremony, the division recognized current individual officers for their outstanding service.

District 10 Officer Tyler Brock, assigned to Porter County, was selected as the James D. Pitzer Indiana Conservation Officer of the Year. The award recognizes Brock as the top officer of 2025, selected from the 10 district officer of the year recipients.

The Pitzer award is named for James Pitzer, who was killed in the line of duty in Jay County. The recipient of the award demonstrates professional ethics, attitude, and service to the public while demonstrating dedication to the

conservation of natural resources and the enforcement of laws affecting the department. The officer must also provide a positive influence, develop camaraderie within the ranks, and gain the confidence and respect of fellow officers.

Lt. Brent Bohbrink received the Director's Leadership Award for his work overseeing the DNR Division of Law Enforcement's statewide 24-hour dispatch center and the Turn In a Poacher (TIP) program.

District 9 Officer Steve Kinne was presented with the William J. Nattkemper Brotherhood Award. This award is named in remembrance of William J. Nattkemper who, along with William J. Peare, lost his life on April 27, 1926, on the Wabash River near Tecumseh. Officers L.B. Watson,

John Pile, and A.R. Hill, who were witnesses to the incident, remained at the scene until the bodies of their fallen comrades were recovered. This award recognizes the commitment and inseparable bond of brotherhood displayed by those men that has become the hallmark of Indiana Conservation Officers.

Retired Officer Jeff Wells was presented with the Honorary Lt. Colonel Award, recognizing his significant lifetime contributions that have shaped the integrity and professionalism of the Division of Law Enforcement through his continued support and advocacy for the DNR.

District 2 Officer Erick Bolt was recognized by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) as the state's Boating

Enforcement Officer of the Year for his leadership in boating education.

District 8 Officer Zach Howerton was presented with the 2025 Waterfowl Protection Officer of the Year award for his enforcement of waterfowl regulations and his related performance in public education and community interaction.

District 9 Officer Josh Thomas was selected as the National Turkey Federation Wildlife Officer of the Year. Considerations for this award include an officer's case involvement, public relations outreach, and service to the community.

District 8 Officer Rob Klakamp was selected as the International Wildlife Crimestoppers Game Warden of the Year for his demonstration of outstanding conservation law enforcement,

excellence in response to TIP information, heroic service, and meaningful engagement with youth and outdoor communities.

Officers Matt Landis of District 5 and Kendrick Fuhrman and Kenny Tincher II of District 7 were honored with Life Saving Awards for their exceptional actions that saved lives.

Communications specialist Stephanie Hovious received the Dispatcher of the Year Award for her work in the Indiana Conservation Officers Central Dispatch Center.

William Haus received the 2025 Civilian Employee of the Year Award for his dedication, competence, and exceptional attention to detail in assisting the division carry out its mission and responsibilities.

Learn more about DNR Law Enforcement at on.IN.gov/dnrlaw.

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5th & 6th Grade 5:00-6:00PM

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bcac@myartsplace.org
Register at www.myartsplace.org
Registration closes on 05/20/26 11:59pm
Financial Assistance Available
All participants must be pre-registered
No Walk-ins Allowed

Arts Place
Blackford County Arts Center



3rd & 4th Grade:
Cinco de Mayo Maracas!

5th & 6th Grade:
Cinco de Mayo Papel Picado!

Caring for Seniors

Safety and smarts necessary when exercising with arthritis

Physical activity is a vital component of a healthy lifestyle. While the recommendations for exercise may vary for each individual, general guidelines from public health agencies typically suggest most people should get around 30 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic exercise per day.

People with arthritis may be hesitant to head to the gym or engage in home workouts because the instinct to rest is strong when joints feel stiff or painful. However, health care advocates note that movement is one of the most effective treatments for arthritis.

Recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says arthritis remains a leading cause of disability in 2026. Roughly one in four adults in the United States have been diagnosed with some form of arthritis. The



Arthritis Foundation says exercise is not just a lifestyle choice, but an essential component of joint health. People who engage in physical activity report a 40 percent reduction in pain on average. Here is a prescription for safely navigating physical activity while managing arthritis.

• Emphasize

exercise that improves flexibility. The Better Health Channel says people with arthritis should focus on exercises that reduce stiffness and keep joints moving through their full range-of-motion. Examples include gentle neck rotations, shoulder rolls and finger stretches daily, especially in the morning during flare-

ups.

• Incorporate low-impact aerobic movements. Cardiovascular exercises improve heart health and help with weight management, which is essential for people with arthritis. The Arthritis Foundation says losing just one pound of body weight can remove four

pounds of pressure from the knees. Walking, cycling and water exercises are low-impact ways to get the cardio a body needs, says the Mayo Clinic.

• Make resistance training part of your routine. Building strong muscles can help protect the joints by acting as shock absorbers.

People can use bodyweight exercises like chair squats, resistance bands or light dumbbells to build muscle. The Arthritis Foundation recommends focusing on the muscles surrounding joints experiencing the most pain, such as quadriceps for knee arthritis or abdominals to protect the hips and spine.

• Assess pain. Experts suggest using something called the “two-hour rule” to determine if exercise added to or diminished arthritis pain. If joint pain is higher two hours after exercising, then it’s important to reduce the duration or intensity of exercise the next time. During a flare-up, do not stop moving entirely, but shift to gentle range-of-motion stretching only, suggests the Mayo Clinic.

Exercise can remain a key component of daily life, even for those with arthritis.

How to find time to be more physically active each day

Physical fitness is one of the keys to a long and healthy life. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention note that routine physical activity helps people maintain a healthy weight, reduces a person’s risk for chronic health problems like cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes, and strengthens bones and muscles, which can help aging adults overcome age-related reductions in muscle mass and strength

and reduce their risk for falls.

People have much to gain from incorporating exercise into their daily routines. But many adults are not reaping those rewards, and studies indicate sedentary lifestyles are on the rise. A 2024 study published in the journal *The Lancet Global Health* noted that 31 percent of the world’s adult population was physically inactive in 2022, which marked a 5 percent increase

since 2010. And a recent report from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the United Health Foundation found that roughly one in five adults get no physical activity beyond their regular job.

The Heart Foundation notes lack of time is often cited as an excuse for not exercising, and that’s a legitimate hurdle for many professionals. Indeed, a 2026 report from Monster indicated

that 73 percent of workers report regularly working more than 40 hours per week and 47 percent cite employer expectations or company culture as their top reasons for overworking. While professionals in such situations may find it challenging to overcome a lack of time to exercise, the following strategies may be just what people need to incorporate physical activity into their daily routines.

• **Drive less.**

Driving is undoubtedly convenient, particularly for people who feel they’re continuously pressed for time. But leaving the car behind and walking or cycling to run local errands is a simple and enjoyable way to incorporate physical activity into your daily routine. Parents can walk children to the bus stop or their school in lieu of driving. Adults also can try walking to a local coffee shop near their home or office in lieu of driving to get their morning cup of Joe.

• **Break up workouts.**

WHO guidelines recommend adults



between the ages of 18 and 64 get at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity or 75 minutes of vigorous physical activity each week. The WHO also recommends muscle-strengthening activities two or more days per week. That can seem daunting to adults pressed for time, but workouts can be broken up throughout the day. A pre-breakfast strength training session at home may only require 20 minutes, and that night adults can go for a jog or a brisk walk around their neighborhood.

• **Workout while watching television.**

Adults who like to unwind at the

end of the day by watching their favorite television shows can use that time to exercise without giving up their entertainment. Invest in a treadmill or elliptical and turn television time into a time to break a sweat as well. Watching a 30-minute episode of a favorite TV show while on a treadmill or elliptical can help adults meet WHO physical activity guidelines without requiring them to sacrifice their preferred way to unwind.

These strategies can help time-pressed adults incorporate more physical activity into their daily routines and lay a foundation for a long and healthy life.



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Nominations open for 2027 Farm Bureau Farm Dog of the Year Contest

Farmers are invited to submit nominations for the 2027 Farm Bureau Farm Dog of the Year contest, which comes with cash prizes and bragging rights. This is the ninth year of the contest, supported by Nestlé Purina PetCare, which celebrates farm dogs and the many ways they support farmers and ranchers.

The grand prize winner – Farm Bureau Farm Dog of the Year – will win a year's worth of Purina Pro Plan dog food and \$5,000 in prize money. The winner will be recognized at a Farm Dog of the Year award ceremony at the American Farm Bureau Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, in January 2027.

The 2027 Farm Dog of the Year will also be featured in a professionally produced video. The profile of 2026 Farm Dog of the Year Max can be viewed here. Since its inception, the contest has provided a link to the farm for pet-loving Americans who vote for their favorite farm dog online.

“Farm dogs are often important partners in our daily work as well as wonderful companions for farm families,” said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. “As



we saw with our 2026 winner, Max, these loyal companions go above and beyond to look after both the land and the farm families they work alongside.”

Rounding up livestock, chasing off predators, fetching or carrying tools/buckets and greeting visitors are among the many tasks performed by farm dogs.

Scientific research from a collaboration between Mayo Clinic and Purina reveals that interacting with pets can provide health benefits. For example, spending just 20 minutes with a dog increased a hormone that helps moderate stress. This was also associated with a decrease in heart rate and an increase in a self-reported

sense of well-being.

“We are honored to continue supporting the hard-working, devoted farm dogs featured in the American Farm Bureau's Farm Dog of the Year contest,” said Jack Scott, vice president of sustainable sourcing at Purina. “Purina proudly uses nutritious ingredients sourced from American farms to make our pet food, and we remain committed to supporting American farmers who have fed generations of people and pets.”

Desired attributes for the Farm Dog of the Year include helpfulness to the farmer and his/her family, playfulness and obedience.

Farm dog owners must be Farm Bureau members

to enter their dogs in the competition. Not yet a Farm Bureau member but interested in nominating your farm dog? Visit fb.org/join to learn about becoming a member.

Eligibility guidelines and submission requirements are available here. Farm Dog of the Year nominations, which include written responses to questions, at least one still photo and a video clip (optional), must be received by July 11, 2026, for consideration. The Farm Bureau Farm Dog of the Year contest is sponsored by the American Farm Bureau Federation.

The People's Choice Pup, a popular social media element of

the Farm Dog of the Year competition, returns for 2027. Profiles of several dogs nominated for the contest will be shared beginning in September, with the public invited to vote. Bragging rights and a \$2,500 cash prize from Purina will be awarded to the People's Choice Pup.

About Nestlé Purina PetCare Company
Nestlé Purina?PetCare? creates richer lives for pets and the people who love them. Founded in 1894, Purina has helped dogs and cats live longer, healthier lives by offering scientifically based nutritional innovations. Purina manufactures some of the world's most trusted and popular

pet care products, including Purina ONE, Pro Plan, Friskies and Tidy Cats. Our more than 11,000 U.S. associates take pride in our trusted pet food, treat and litter brands that feed 46 million dogs and 68 million cats every year. Nearly 500 Purina scientists, veterinarians, and pet care experts ensure our commitment to unsurpassed quality and nutrition. Over the past five years, Purina has contributed more than \$150 million towards organizations that bring, and keep, people and pets together, as well as those that help our communities and environment thrive. Purina is part of Nestlé, a global leader in Nutrition, Health and Wellness.

About American Farm Bureau Federation

The American Farm Bureau Federation is the Voice of Agriculture. We are farm and ranch families working together to build a sustainable future of safe and abundant food, fiber and renewable fuel for our nation and the world. Learn more at <http://facebook.com/FarmBureau> or follow @FarmBureau on X or @farmbureau on Instagram.

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 812-972-3059 (4-3-26-4x)

FOR SALE / GENERAL
Log Splitter And Wood Burning Stove - \$800. Call-765-702-7437. (3-26-26-tfn)

FIREWOOD FOR SALE: Split Firewood \$75.00 truckload 765-667-7637 (9-11-25-4x)

SHOP SMITH: Table Saw; Wood Lathe; Drill Press; Band Saw; All-in-One, & All Attachments. \$650. Call- 765-348-3277. (9-20-25-tfn)

For Sale: 1 Whole Bedroom Set, Dresser, Living Room Set, 2 Recliners, Queen Mattress & Box Springs, Breakfast Set with Hutch, Table & 6 chairs. Call 812-367-2658. (9-20-25-tfn)

Industrial air compressor, 10HP, 3 phase electric, 120 gal. horizontal tank, low compressor oil shutoff, works like new, \$1200. 765-238-9883 Hagerstown, IN

850 JD tractor finish mower, front loader, 3 point hitch, less than 1000 hours, great condition, sized for mowing a large yard/acreage. Asking \$11,500. 270-898-2805.

(Dresser TD15c) bulldozer, 1000

hrs on overhaul, injector pump rebuilt, 70% undercarriage, radiator ljust build out, \$18,000 Call: 812-709-0263 Shoals, IN (tfn)

2011 Kawasaki Ninja 250 Black, flush LED lights, riser, frame sliders, security wheels & locks and cover. ONLY 700 mi., military and no time to ride. \$3900. 812-457-5693

1997 Sea Nymph 17' fish & ski boat. 115 Johnson outboard, easy load trailer, travel cover, trolling motor, depth finder and lots of extras. \$8500 call 812-683-4266

2009 3 Wheel Scooter. 50cc, blue and white, low miles, used 1 season only. Very good condition, \$1800 Call 812-683-4266.

REAL ESTATE
 54+/- ACRE FARM FOR SALE Lake Village, Arkansas. Very good income producing cropland with beautiful view of Lake Chicot. Beautiful home sites.
 766 +/- ACRE PROPERTY FOR SALE Beautiful property located near Town Creek, Alabama. This previously wooded property is being cleared and converted to farm land, with approximately 300 acres already converted. Very good soils for cotton, corn, and soybeans. Would also make a spectacular cattle ranch. Excellent hunting with large bucks and lots of turkeys. MORE LAND AVAILABLE!
 284 ACRE FARM FOR SALE Excellent 280 acres farm for sale in southeast Arkansas, including very fertile, precision leveled, and irrigated farm land, plus exceptional duck and deer hunting. Super location, fronting on excellent paved highway. www.underwood landcompany.com 256.655.9266 or 256.679.2039 (7-10-25_tfn)

40 ACRES SOUTHWEST INDIANA. Great deer, turkey and fishing, 7 acres, pasture, 3 lakes, balance mature woods. Call Todd Shaus Land Specialist 812-480-2541.

ARE YOU BUYING OR SELLING LAND? For free market analysis Call Todd Shaus - Land Specialist for all your land needs. 812-480-2541.

RECENTLY REDUCED: 5 fenced acres in Pike County with 2 older homes (needs work), appliances, some furniture, and some tools. Stocked pond, 3 out buildings, 2 large garden areas, and various fruits. Not negotiable. recently reduced to \$98,000 812-536-5308.

ARE YOU BUYING OR SELLING LAND? For free market analysis Call Todd Shaus - Land Specialist for all your land needs. 812-480-2541.

RECENTLY REDUCED: 5 fenced acres in Pike County with 2 older homes (needs work), appliances, some furniture, and some tools. Stocked pond, 3 out buildings, 2 large garden areas, and various fruits. Not negotiable. recently reduced to \$98,000 812-536-5308

100 acre prime tillable land, North Spencer county, road frontage, city water main, PUT YOUR TURKEY FARM HERE! Todd Schaus -Property Experts 812-480-2541.

MOVING Motivated seller 5 fenced acres in Pike County. 2 older homes (needs work), appliances, some furniture, and some tools. Stocked pond, 3 out buildings, 2 large garden areas, and various fruits. Not negotiable. recently reduced to \$98,000 812-536-5308

NEW Double wide or single wide. Financier available. ZERO Down w/land. Land/Home package available. FREE delivery on your new home. 812-354-2197.

DWELLINGS FOR SALE
 Home located in English, IN . Sits on two acres w/attached garage. 3bdr., 2 ba., \$65,000 Call Becky Higgins/Remax 812-267-6264.

105 acres (100 tillable acres) and home located at 6066 HWY. 142,

Illinois Department of Agriculture announces specialty crop block grant funding

Illinois to prioritize projects that benefit beginning farmers, nutrition and health outcomes, sustainability and conservation

SPRINGFIELD, IL – The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) will distribute more than \$796,000 over the next three years to expand access to fresh, locally grown produce and boost the competitiveness of the state’s specialty crop industry. This funding is made possible through the USDA Specialty Crop

Block Grant Program. An application for grant funding will be available this week on the Illinois Department of Agriculture website and must be returned to the Department by noon on June 5, 2026. The program will run from September 30, 2026 through September 29, 2029. Eligible applicants include non-profit

organizations, local and government entities, trade and commodity associations, public and private colleges/universities. Illinois funding priorities include projects that benefit beginning farmers and first-time specialty crop producers (a beginning farmer is an individual or entity that has not operated

a farm or ranch for more than 10 years and substantially participates in the operation), projects with educational programming to enhance knowledge and consumption of specialty crops, projects connecting specialty crops with nutrition and health outcomes, including food safety, projects that prioritize

sustainability and conservation. “These grant funds help ensure that Illinois producers—especially small, beginning, and historically underserved farmers—have the opportunity to grow and succeed,” said Jerry Costello II, Director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture. “Our

goal is to strengthen local food systems, expand access to fresh, healthy products, and drive innovation in Illinois’ specialty crop industry.” To encourage further expansion of this industry, and to take full advantage of the allocated

see **FINDING**, page 11

AUCTIONS

UPCOMING SALE DATES ARE:
JULY 31ST • OCTOBER 30TH • DECEMBER 18TH

LOCATION: 1010 Skyline Drive, Hopkinsville, KY
roederauctioncompany.com

**TRACTORS • COMBINES • CORN & GRAIN HEADS • DRILLS • PLANTERS • SPRAY EQ
 INDUSTRIAL EQ • HAY AND TILLING EQUIP • ROTARY MOWERS**

**NOTE! Information or to consign equipment, call Amy Ezell 270.604.2880
 Or MaryElizabeth Roeder Coleman 270.350.5132**

MaryElizabeth Roeder Coleman AHO # 303097 - (270)350-5132
 Cal Kaufman - Auctioneer - Lic.#NP6114 • Brent Schmidgall - Auctioneer



2020 JOHN DEERE S780 \$210,000

4WD, 2204/1446 HRS, 36" TRACKS, PRO DRIVE, EXTENDED WEAR, 26' AUGER, ADVANCED POWERCAST, TRISTREAM ROTOR, PREMIUM CAB, S/N 1H0S780SHLT811682



2019 JOHN DEERE S790 \$185,000

4WD, 2119/1693 HRS, TRACKS, 750/65R26 REAR TIRES, POWERCAST TAILBOARD, CHOPPER, CONTOUR MASTER, POWER BIN EXTENSIONS, S/N 1H0S790SLKT805075



2012 JOHN DEERE 8310R \$185,000

MFWD, ILS, 2952 HRS, 380/80R38 FRONT DUALS, 480/80R50 REAR DUALS, 5 SCV, 1000 PTO, IVT TRANS, 60 GMP HYD PUMP, QUICK HITCH, S/N 1R0W8310RECD063403



2017 JOHN DEERE R4038 \$178,000

1644 HRS, 120" BOOMS, 15" NOZZLE SPACING, 380/90R46 TIRES, EXACT APPLY, SS EDUCATOR, JD 6000 RECEIVER, JD 2630 DISPLAY, SF1 & SF3 ACTIVATIONS, S/N 1N04038RCHA174542



2024 JOHN DEERE 6155M \$170,000

155 HRS, 420/85R28 FRONT TIRES, 460/85R42 REAR TIRES, JD 640R LOADER W/ BUCKET, 3 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, 20 SPEED POWER QUAD, LHR, 1 OWNER, EMISSIONS WARRANTY TILL 01/2029, S/N 1L06155MHPG209957



2019 JOHN DEERE R4038 \$170,000

2173 HRS, 90/100' BOOMS, ROW SENSE, 15" NOZZLE SPACING, FENCE ROW NOZZLES, SS EDUCATOR, FRONT FILL, 1000 GAL TANK, CROP SHIELDS, 380/90R46 TIRES, EXACTAPPLY NOZZLE CONTROL



2024 JOHN DEERE 6155M \$155,000

982 HRS, JD 640R LOADER W/ BUCKET, 380/85R30 FRONT TIRES, 480/80R42 REAR TIRES, RACK & PINION REAR AXLES, 3 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, 20 SPEED POWER QUAD, LHR, S/N 1L06155MLRG416351



2024 JOHN DEERE 6R 145 \$151,500

1193HRS, 380/85R30 FRONT TIRES, 480/80R42 REAR TIRES, 3 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, 20 SPEED AUTOQUAD PLUS, WARRANTY TILL 05/2028, S/N 1L06145RERK217869



2022 JOHN DEERE 6155R \$130,000

2139 HRS, 380/85R30 FRONT TIRES, 480/80R42 REAR TIRES, 3 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, IVT TRANSMISSION, LHR, EMISSIONS WARRANTY TILL 09/2027, S/N 1L06155RLNP141828



2023 JOHN DEERE 6120M \$125,000

666 HRS, JD 620R LOADER W/ BUCKET, 380/85R24 FRONT TIRES, 460/85R34 REAR TIRES, 2 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, 16 SPEED, LHR, 1 OWNER, S/N 1L06120MPPH198500



2014 CASE IH MAGNUM 260 \$92,500

3581 HRS, 420/85R34 FRONT TIRES, 480/80R50 REAR DUALS, 3 SCV, 1000 PTO, QUICK HITCH, 18 SPEED POWERSHIFT, S/N ZDR001441



2024 SHELBOURNE REYNOLDS XCS36 \$87,500

2024 SHELBOURNE REYNOLDS XCS36, USED ONE YEAR, 1400 ACRES, COMPATIBLE W/ JD S - SERIES OR X9 FEEDER HOUSE, S/N XCS36245103

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MaryElizabeth Roeder Coleman
AHO#303097 - 270-350-5132
 Cal Kaufman - Auctioneer - Lic. #NP6114
 Brent Schmidgall - Auctioneer

FUNDING,
from page 10

federal funds, the Department invites the development of projects pertaining to the following issues affecting the specialty crop industry:

- Enhancing food safety.
- Improving the capacity of all entities in the specialty crop distribution chain to comply with the requirements of the Food Safety Modernization Act, for example, by developing "Good Agricultural Practices," "Good Handling Practices," "Good Manufacturing Practices," and in cost-share

arrangements for funding audits of such systems for small farmers, packers and processors.

Investing in specialty crop research, including research to focus on conservation and environmental outcomes.

Supporting the growth of organic specialty crops.

Developing new and improved seed varieties and specialty crops.

Improving pest and disease control.

Increasing child and adult nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops.

Improving efficiency and reducing costs of distribution systems.

Projects that benefit a particular commercial product or provide a profit to a single organization, institution, or individual are ineligible. Farmers' markets, roadside stands and community-sponsored agriculture programs should consider submitting proposals to the USDA's Farmers' Market and Local Food Promotion Program.

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service defines specialty crops as "fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits and horticulture and nursery crops (including floriculture)." There

are more than 3,200 producers devoting more than 83,000 acres of Illinois farmland to specialty crops production, creating nearly \$500 million in annual sales for Illinois farmers. Nationally, Illinois ranks first for its pumpkin and horseradish production and ranks in the top ten for the production of asparagus, cauliflower, fresh-cut herbs, peas, mustard greens and lima beans. Additional information about the program can be found online at the Department's website and/or by contacting AGR.ISCBG@illinois.gov



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2018 JOHN DEERE 712C
\$51,500

2018 JOHN DEERE 712C CORN HEAD, KNIFE ROLLS, HYD DECK PLATES, HEADER HEIGHT SENSORS, ROW SENSE, S/N 1H00712CHJX805004



KINZE 3500
\$51,000

KINZE 3500 8/15 ROW PLANTER, NO TILL, KEATON SEED FIRMERS, MARKERS, CORN & BEAN METERS, W/ MONITOR



2022 NEW HOLLAND ROLL-BELT 560
\$45,000

2022 NEW HOLLAND ROLL-BELT 560 ROUND BALER, 900 BALES, NET & TWINE, 540 PTO, W/ MONITOR, S/N HBJRB560PMN206060



JOHN DEERE 2210
\$34,500

JOHN DEERE 2210 FIELD CULTIVATOR, 3 SECTION FLEXIBLE, FLOATING HITCH, 38" 6", 3 BAR COIL TINE HARROW, S/N 1N02210XEE0760084



2008 CASE IH 8010
\$32,500

2008 CASE IH 8010 COMBINE, 4WD, 3175/2296 HRS, 520/85R42 DUALS, 540/65R30 REAR TIRES, LATERAL TILT, CHOPPER W/ SPREADER, S/N HAJ202217



2010 JOHN DEERE 1590
\$28,500

2010 JOHN DEERE 1590 DRILL, 15', 7.5" SPACING, NO TILL, S/N N01590X735368



J&M 1151
\$28,500

J&M 1151 GRAIN CART, 1000 PTO, ROLL TARP, 68X50.00-32 TIRES, S/N 6072



2014 KUHN KRAUSE 4400-42
\$25,500

2014 KUHN KRAUSE 4400-42D CULTIPACKER, 42", S/N 4400-42D-2693



1997 JET 34
\$13,000

1997 JET HOPPER BOTTOM TRAILER, 34', 60" SIDES, ROLL TARP, 2 HOPPERS, W/ TITL, VIN: 1J9G34201VH009295



2013 CLAAS 12-30
\$11,000

2013 CLAAS 918 CORN HEAD, 12 ROW, 30" SPACING, KNIFE ROLLS, ROW SENSE, S/N 91802024



2011 JOHN DEERE 635F
\$10,500

2011 JOHN DEERE 635F FLEX PLATFORM, S/N 1H00635FVB0741590



1998 JOHN DEERE 566
\$10,000

1998 JOHN DEERE 566 ROUND BALER, W/ MONITOR, S/N E00566X128107

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Forest Service and other federal lands help sustain rural communities

Bedford, IN — The U.S. Forest Service recently announced it will issue \$248 million in Secure Rural Schools (SRS) payments for 2025, delivering critical funding to eligible states and counties with National Forest System lands. These payments help sustain public schools, maintain local roads, strengthen wildfire preparedness, and support other essential services in rural communities.

During the past decade, the Forest Service has distributed \$2.4 billion through the Secure Rural Schools program. In Indiana, the Hoosier National Forest spans nine counties, all of which will receive SRS funding based on timber receipts and special use permits. These counties also receive annual support through the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program,

which helps local governments offset reduced property tax revenue from federally owned lands. Together, these programs provide consistent and reliable funding that helps communities maintain critical services. For 2025, Indiana counties will receive the following combined SRS and PILT allocations:
 Brown County - \$84,858
 Crawford County - \$97,220

Dubois County - \$24,311
 Jackson County - \$85,506
 Lawrence County - \$49,626
 Martin County - \$28,427
 Monroe County - \$119,206
 Orange County - \$152,007
 Perry County - \$210,401
 For more information about the Secure Rural Schools program, visit the Forest Service website. About the Forest

Service: The Forest Service has, for more than 100 years, brought people and communities together to answer the call of conservation. Grounded in world-class science and technology — and rooted in communities — the Forest Service connects people to nature and to each other. The Forest Service cares for shared natural resources in ways that promote lasting economic, ecological,

and social vitality. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest wildland fire and forestry research organizations in the world. The Forest Service also has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 900 million forested acres within the U.S., of which over 130 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live.

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