



# Huntingburg Press

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## Reminder to churches to “Chime In” with Let Freedom Ring on July 4

Area churches and others are encouraged to join cathedrals and churches, community organizations and historical structures, national parks and memorials, and people from all states and territories on July 4 at 2:00PM EDT for an Independence Day tradition.

The tradition, featuring a solemn 13-count bell toll, celebrates the 1776 signing of the Declaration of Independence.

In addition, America 250 Dubois County committee would like to invite all to then peal (rapid ringing) their bells for 76 seconds – as a rededication to pursuing the spirit of the Declaration.

If there are questions, contact Gary Eck – geck@eck-mundy.com – work 812-634-8001.

## Rotary Club of Dubois County names new president

Derek Budd has been named the new Rotary Club of Dubois County president. He is shown with Deidra Church.

Rotarian of the Year Austin Welp with Deidra Church. See story on page 5.

## Dubois County CARES hires Hilary Duncan as new executive director

JASPER — Dubois County CARES announces the hiring of Hilary Duncan as the organization’s first executive director, marking a significant milestone in the organization’s continued growth and long-term sustainability.

Founded as a community coalition focused on youth substance use prevention, Dubois County CARES has evolved into an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening prevention efforts across Dubois County. The addition of a full-time executive director reflects the organization’s commitment to expanding programs, deepening partnerships and increasing community impact.

“Hiring our first executive director represents an exciting new chapter for Dubois County CARES,” said Megan Durlauf, board chair of Dubois County CARES. “Hilary brings the

leadership, passion and community-centered vision needed to help advance our mission. She joins the dedicated and experienced team consisting of Candy Neal, program director, and Martha Rasche, program assistant.”

Duncan, a Dubois County resident, brings extensive experience in nonprofit leadership, communications, fundraising strategy, donor engagement, event management and community relationship building. In her new role, she will partner with the board of directors to guide the organization’s strategic vision and outcomes. She will work closely with schools, parents, healthcare providers, law enforcement, businesses, faith organizations and community partners to strengthen collaborative substance prevention efforts throughout the county.

“I am incredibly



Hilary Duncan

honored to join Dubois County CARES and to work alongside Candy, Martha, our board members and community partners,” Duncan said. “This organization has built a strong foundation through collaboration and community engagement. I look forward to building on that momentum by helping expand our impact and further empower youth with the skills and support they need to live healthy, resilient and substance-free

lives.”

CARES recently announced the expansion of its evidence-based programming to include school-based prevention education through the Botvin LifeSkills curriculum, along with a diversion component designed to support youth involved in the legal system through early intervention and education.

“Our community has embraced the importance of prevention and early intervention,” Durlauf added. “With a talented and committed team in place, the leadership of an executive director positions us to ensure that today’s investments in prevention create healthier futures for our youth, families and community.”

For more information about Dubois County CARES, upcoming program, or ways to support the organization’s mission, visit [duboiscountycares.org](http://duboiscountycares.org).

## Safe Sitter Essentials with CPR class to be held

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

The next class will be held on Tuesday, July 14, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. EDT at Memorial Southside Office, 1100 West 12th Avenue in Jasper. Class size is limited; cost for the class is \$55. To register, visit Deaconess Memorial’s website at [www.deaconess.com](http://www.deaconess.com) and click on “Classes & Events” or call the Deaconess Wellness Solutions – Jasper at 812-996-2399, option 1.

## Jim Hedinger to talk about Pioneer Andrew Evans and early Jasper history at brown bag lunch July 30 at noon at Dubois County Museum

Jasper resident Jim Hedinger will speak on Thursday, July 30, at noon, for a Brown Bag Lunch

Talk on Jasper History. Kick off your Jasper Strassenfest 2026 with this informative talk. Bring your lunch and enjoy hearing about the early family that settled Jasper.

He is excited to share his knowledge of early Jasper history that includes one of the first pioneer families of Jasper, the Andrew Evans Family. According to Hedinger and historian Ron Flick, Colonel Andrew Evans came to Dubois County and constructed a wooden dam and grist mill, with waterwheel, on the Patoka River. Flick called the spot “an ancient Indian

ford and buffalo crossing”. The mill was believed to date back to 1813. The mill changed hands several times before Francis Xavier Eckert and his cousin, Alois Eckert, immigrants from Pfaffenweiler, Baden, purchased the mill. Mr. Hedinger will include this in his history.

About the museum The Dubois County Museum is a local nonprofit organization committed to the collection, preservation and interpretation of historical artifacts and information important to the citizens of the county. Museum operations

are funded by annual memberships, admissions, donations and gifts from visitors, area residents and businesses. It is operated entirely by volunteers. It is located in Jasper at 2704 N. Newton Street (US231). Call (812) 634-7733. Please allow two hours to view exhibits.

Visit the museum web site at [www.duboiscountymuseum.org](http://www.duboiscountymuseum.org). Follow on Facebook.

Funded in part by the Dubois County Visitors Center-[www.visitduboiscounty.com](http://www.visitduboiscounty.com)-800-968-4578.

Come see, discover, and

celebrate our Heritage at the Dubois County Museum.



Jim Hedinger



## Gov. Braun, Indiana DNR celebrate ribbon cutting at Fort Harrison State Park

Indiana Governor Mike Braun and First Lady Maureen Braun joined the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to celebrate 43 playgrounds updates that are being installed across Indiana State Parks, cutting the ribbon on an updated playground at Fort Harrison State Park in Lawrence.

These playground updates are made possible as part of a \$50 million grant awarded to the Indiana DNR by Lilly Endowment Inc. in 2024. The grant is being used for a variety of enhancements at Indiana State Parks, including \$11 million invested into playgrounds.

“Investments into our state parks are an investment into Hoosier health and Hoosier families,” said Governor Braun. “Thanks to the generosity of Lilly Endowment, we are

creating spaces for all families to enjoy and experience the very best of Indiana’s outdoors. Indiana state parks and natural resources are part of what makes our state such a special place to live, work, and raise a family.”

The Indiana DNR is installing a total of 43 playgrounds at Indiana State Parks. The new playgrounds will provide updated equipment and improved accessibility. Sixteen playground installations have already been completed, five more will be complete by early June, and the remainder will be completed by fall 2026.

*Updated playgrounds that have been installed:*

- Mounds State Park: Locust Grove
- Summit Lake State Park: Picnic Area
- Fort Harrison State Park: Shafter & Cherry

Tree Brown County State Park: Taylor Ridge, Lower Shelter and Linen Room

Lieber SRA: Sunny Acres  
McCormick’s Creek: Deer Run & Pine Bluff  
Brookville Lake/Whitewater Memorial State Park: Quakertown SRA, Horseman’s Campground, Mounds SRA, and Whitewater Cabin

Raccoon SRA: Camp Store Playground  
Shakamak State Park: Campground Playfield B

This historic investment is an important part of the statewide effort to enhance outdoor recreation opportunities and improve accessibility across DNR properties, reflecting DNR’s commitment to ensuring that all Hoosiers have the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors.

## DNR scuba team strengthen readiness for underwater missions

Two Indiana Conservation Officers Complete Advanced Public Safety Diving Instructor Training, Providing Key Support for Underwater Rescue and Recovery Operations Across Indiana

Indiana Conservation Officers (ICOs) Logan Hodges and Luke Tincher have successfully completed a rigorous series of advanced public safety diving instructor programs through Dive Rescue International, a globally recognized leader in rescue-response training.

Their achievements strengthen the readiness and capability of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Division of Law Enforcement scuba team, which plays a critical role in underwater rescue, recovery, and evidence operations statewide.

Hodges, assigned to Crawford County, joined the division in 2014 and became an ICO scuba diver in 2016. Tincher, serving Vermillion County, joined the division in 2021 and began diving in 2023. They now join a statewide scuba team of approximately 40 officers. In 2025

alone, the team completed more than 600 dives, including more than 35 body recoveries, 40 vehicle recoveries, numerous evidence searches, and a wide range of specialized training missions.

All ICO divers undergo an extensive six-week public safety scuba program that includes Public Safety Diver, Dive Rescue Technician, Drysuit Diving, and Full-Face Mask Diving certifications. Training covers classroom instruction, pool work, open-water skills, and operational scenario exercises. Additional specialties such as Critical Skills Diver and Rapid Intervention Techniques prepare divers for high-stress, high-risk underwater emergencies.

Hodges and Tincher have gone even further, earning certifications as Public Safety Scuba Instructors (PSSI) and Dive Rescue 1 Trainers (DR1T), two of the most demanding instructor-level programs offered by Dive Rescue International. Each program includes intensive physical and academic requirements, including more

than 80 hours of recommended pre-course study. Graduates are trained to certify new Public Safety Divers and Dive Rescue Specialists within their own agencies, enhancing statewide training capacity and standardization.

Prerequisites for the programs include current rescue certifications, medical training, logged operational dives, and sponsorship by a public safety agency. Both officers also completed Med Dive as part of their progression, and they now look forward to pursuing additional instructor-level credentials in Drysuit Diving and Full-Face Mask Diving.

Dive Rescue International emphasizes that its instructors are active public safety divers with real-world operational experience. Their curriculum, used worldwide, equips teams with the knowledge, skills, and equipment guidance needed to respond safely and effectively to the most challenging water-related incidents.

To view all DNR news releases, please see [dnr.IN.gov](http://dnr.IN.gov).



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|---|---|---|--|--|
|  <p><b>YA3200</b><br/>JULY 2</p> <p>2022 JCB 409 T4 compact wheel loader</p> |  <p><b>FB8171</b><br/>JULY 8</p> <p>2013 Trebro AutoStack II sod harvester</p> |  <p><b>EM5108</b><br/>JULY 2</p> <p>2022 Bobcat T770 tracked skid steer</p> |  <p><b>FC2744</b><br/>JULY 7</p> <p>2015 Case 580 Super N backhoe</p>   |  <p><b>FC3114</b><br/>JULY 2</p> <p>2024 Takeuchi TB250-2 mini excavator</p>      |
|  <p><b>DU6307</b><br/>JULY 2</p> <p>2013 Komatsu PC360LC-10 excavator</p>    |  <p><b>FC2725</b><br/>JULY 7</p> <p>2014 Case 580 Super N backhoe</p>          |  <p><b>FG0415</b><br/>JULY 2</p> <p>2015 Caterpillar 930K wheel loader</p>  |  <p><b>DU6269</b><br/>JULY 1</p> <p>1985 Chevrolet K10 pickup truck</p> |  <p><b>FG0419</b><br/>JULY 2</p> <p>2022 Caterpillar 299D3 tracked skid steer</p> |

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



By Teresa A. LeNeave  
leneave2@comcast.net

We all make dozens of choices everyday but one of the most important, to me, is that we choose to bless. Sometimes tough things happen. We get hurt. A spouse or someone we love dies. Financial

## Choose to bless

disaster occurs and we have big choice to make. There are times when you can barely think much less make a hard choice, but choosing to bless can be easy and says a lot about who we are as a Christian.

How can we choose to bless? Maybe it's a smile in the morning when life is hectic and you don't have time to worry about another thing. A smile and hug for your child before they head out to school can make a big difference in their

day. Or, your spouse who is carrying a heavy load at work may need a kind word before they rush out the door into the jungle of their daily grind.

I know as well as anybody, people can be demanding. There are days when blessing someone else is very hard, but when we make the effort, our own life is blessed.

Just a kind word can bless another person.

As Christians, we are instructed to follow God's example

and one of the best I can think of is among His first acts at creation. First, He blessed them and then said, "Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moves upon the earth" (Gen. 1:28). The very first thing God did was "bless" them and then, He began to encourage them and let them know they could succeed. In my

simple terms I can hear Him say, "Go out and conquer. You can do this. I've put my breath in you and my Spirit. You can succeed."

How many children need that kind of encouragement? Many I can tell you. Thousands of children leave for school already feeling beaten down and defeated, but they are expected to arrive at school with a good attitude and desire to learn. If only we could see what just a smile and hug can do for a struggling child,

surely, we'd make the effort to bless.

"Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord for-gave you, so you must forgive others." Colossians 3:13 (NLT)

There are so many simple and little things that we can do to bless. If you get to work before everyone else, a kind gesture would be to start a pot of coffee for everyone else – even if you don't drink coffee. It's the little things that set us up for a good day. If your day is bad – what did you do to bless? How did you contribute to someone else's day?

## Is there more than one path to heaven?

By Dr. Billy Holland  
Ministries

Christians insist there is only one way to heaven, as salvation is associated with believing in Jesus Christ – nothing or no one else. The foundation of their evangelistic mission is declaring that Jesus is THE way, and all other religions are counterfeit and dangerously deceived. The world calls this a controversy despite the Bible revealing that God has never been tolerant of other religions. One of the most common outcries within the realm of spirituality is how could such knowledgeable and devout people from the history of the world who worship other entities be considered deceived and God's enemy? The Christians response is that they have become brainwashed with misinformation and have fallen in love with a spiritual impostor. As humanity continues to evolve toward a more unified concept of independence, there is a growing criticism against any religion claiming to be exclusive.

A critical component of Christian salvation

is how a person who receives Christ as their Lord and Savior becomes born again by being transformed from a state of being lost, into a new creation and identity as now a saved child of God. According to the Christian view, until a person has gone through this process of accepting God's grace through faith, the person is being held captive by sin, and their name is not written in the Lamb's book of life. These individuals will be lost forever, no matter how devoted they were to the contrasting religious philosophies they were taught. Christianity has always been strongly resistant to being incorporated into a global religion, and by the way, they are not the only ones. Following Christ requires an all-or-nothing commitment to Jesus as the one and only incarnation of the Son of God, who, as a member of the Trinity, is also the one true God.

Within the concept of religious pluralism and universalism, there are progressive and non-exclusive belief systems that respect all types of paths to heaven,



including simply living a moral life and being a nice person, which has always been accepted as non-judgmental. Some Universalists who embrace the idea of total reconciliation are convinced everything will be restored and forgiven, and that all those who ever lived will eventually return to God to live with Him forever. The philosophy of there being no such thing as hell or an eternal consequence and punishment for not accepting Christ is no doubt also growing in popularity, even though the Bible warns of such a place. Since

the God of the Bible is not a team player, the world finds this offensive, especially with a culture that thrives on the freedom of choice. The world wants to know why can't everyone serve a god like cheering for a beloved team, having personal political views, or eating at a favorite restaurant?

As a Christian, the Archbishop of Canterbury insisted that truth cannot contradict itself. Either Jesus is the Son of God who provides salvation to all who will believe, or he is not. It is either one or the other; it cannot be both. To believe that all

contradictory religions are God's truth is like saying 2+2=5, or 8, or 26, or whatever you like. And to believe in all religions simultaneously is to become hopelessly self-contradictory. One simply cannot accept the Hindu belief that there are hundreds of thousands of gods, while embracing the Muslim belief that there is only Allah, along with Buddhism, which does not believe in God at all, at the same time. Consider religious opinions about the afterlife: Certain sects of Taoism and Shintoism maintain that there is no afterlife.

Buddhists, through endless reincarnation experiences, seek Nirvana, where the human conscience finds complete peace, while Christianity, in Revelation 22:4, teaches that heaven is a reality where, after this life, only the redeemed will spend eternity in God's presence. How can they all be true?

Free will allows everyone to have their own opinions, and humans can worship any idol or religion they choose, but they cannot make up their own truth. To insist that all religions are equally true is another way to say that all religions are equally false. A.W. Tozer is quoted, "Jesus does not only speak the truth that we must believe; He is the truth that we must live." Ravi Zacharias is quoted, "Divine truth is not merely a concept to be embraced, but a person to be known." "Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" John 3:3.

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

## Leaves or fruit

By Gary Miller  
gary@outdoortruths.org

July is the month when the fruit of sowing begins to show. Gardens begin to produce their harvest, and trees begin to reveal what has been hiding behind their leaves. For deer hunters, behind those oak leaves should be tiny acorns beginning to take shape. And since acorns are a deer's favorite food, these signs tell us where to hang a tree stand. It's not unusual for me this time of year, to just ride around on my side-by-

side looking for the trees that will be dropping acorns during the upcoming deer season. And there's really no rhyme or reason to know which trees these will be. Sometimes I will see a large tree, thick with leaves, and think this tree will be full of acorns, only to do a deeper look and find no fruit whatsoever. It looked "fruity," but nothing was there.

There's a story in the Bible where Jesus saw a fig tree that looked fruity, but when He arrived at the tree,

the figs were absent. He cursed the tree and it withered. He understood that while leaves do most of the work that makes fruit possible, leaves are not the fruit.

For years, when it came to the Christian life, I got the fruit wrong. I thought the fruit of a follower of Christ was church attendance, prayer, giving, Bible study, and some other disciplines. Somehow, I overlooked one of the simplest verses in the Bible. The Apostle Paul put it

on the lower shelf for people like me. He said, "But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." (Gal 5:22-23 NLT) For some reason, I always thought these verses read this way. "But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: Bible reading, church attendance, prayer, and giving." I'm not sure how I missed something so plain. Maybe I couldn't see

the fruit for the leaves. More likely however, I thought the leaves were the fruit. Let me break this down quickly. (And you can join me on Zoom on Tuesday mornings as I talk about this.) The true test of spiritual growth is not found in the leaves but in the fruit. And what the Holy Spirit is trying to produce in you and me, is not church attendance, prayer, Bible study, or giving. These are only the leaves. And while they do most of the work toward producing

fruit, they are not the fruit. Let me break it down a little more. If you and I are a follower of Christ and we are not more loving, joyful, peace-filled, have more patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, than we were a few years ago, then we have mistaken the leaves for the fruit. And while others may be initially drawn to our fruity look, they will ultimately leave disappointed because our life produced nothing that satisfied.

## Area Deaths

### Mark A. Lampert

Mark A. Lampert, age 67, of Huntingburg, Indiana, passed away on Saturday, May 16, 2026, at home due to injuries sustained in an accident. A Celebration of Life for Mark A. Lampert will be held from 10:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. (service time) on Friday, July 3, 2026, at Redemption Christian Church in Jasper. Lunch will follow the service.

### Gerald B. "Jerry" Meyer

Gerald B. "Jerry" Meyer, age 72 of Jasper, Indiana, passed away peacefully on Saturday, June 27, 2026 at home surrounded by his family. A Mass of Christian Burial for Gerald B. "Jerry" Meyer was held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 1, 2026 at Holy Family Catholic Church in Jasper, Indiana with burial to follow in Fairview Cemetery in Jasper.

### Ronald E. Mroz

Ronald E. Mroz, age 69, of Celestine, Indiana, passed away at home surrounded by family on Thursday, June 25, 2026. Services for Ronald E. Mroz will be held at a later date. Online condolences may be made at [www.becherkluesner.com](http://www.becherkluesner.com).

### Gary A. Siddons

Gary A. Siddons, age 83, of Jasper, Indiana, passed away surrounded by family at 1:48 p.m. on Tuesday, June 23, 2026, at home. A Mass of Christian Burial for Gary A. Siddons was held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, June 29, 2026, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Jasper, Indiana, with entombment to follow in the Fairview Cemetery Mausoleum in Jasper.

### Ray Kissing

Ray Kissing, age 81, of Huntingburg, IN passed away June 26, 2026 at Deaconess

Gateway Hospital surrounded by family. Born June 30, 1944, Ray lived a life defined by service, laughter, and a genuine love for people. Funeral services were held on Wednesday, July 1st at 10:00 a.m. at the funeral home with visitation one hour prior to the service. Burial followed at Fairmount Cemetery with military graveside rites conducted by V.E.W. Post # 2366 Memorial Detail.

### Walter Lee Faulkenburg

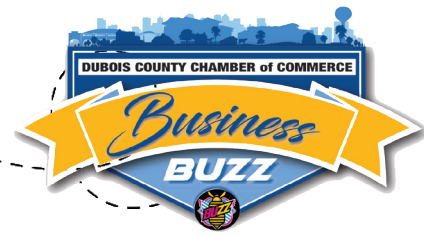
Walter Lee Faulkenburg, age 48, of Beaverdam, KY, passed away at Beaverdam Nursing and Rehab Center in Beaverdam, KY on Wednesday, June 24, 2026. Visitation for Walter Faulkenburg was held at the Nass and Son Funeral Home in Huntingburg from 11:00 a.m. until the time of service at 1:00 p.m., EDT, on Tuesday, June 30, 2026. Burial followed at Oak Hill Cemetery in Birdseye. Pastor Ivan Glispie will officiate.

### Randy Bolin, Sr.

Randall Lee "Randy" Bolin, Sr., 66, passed away on Friday, June 26, 2026, at his home, with family. Visitation for Randy was from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM on Tuesday, June 30, 2026, at Huber Funeral Home, Cannelton Chapel. Burial followed in New Cliff Cemetery.

### David L. Kemp

David L. Kemp, age 87, of Huntingburg, passed away at 6:40 a.m., on Thursday, June 25, 2026, at his home. A funeral mass for David L. Kemp was held at 11:00 a.m., E.D.T., on Monday, June 29, 2026, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Huntingburg. Burial took place at St. Mary's Cemetery with military graveside rites conducted by the Huntingburg V.F.W. Post #2366 Memorial Detail. Father Biju Thomas will officiate the mass.



## When your business is under water

**Angie Sanchez-Hostetter**  
Executive Director  
Dubois County  
Chamber of Commerce  
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With the recent flooding, it's hard not to think about the families and businesses that have found themselves underwater, both literally and figuratively.

Sometimes business feels the same way. You may not have floodwaters in your building, but you can still feel overwhelmed. Maybe sales have slowed, expenses have piled up, a key employee has left, or an unexpected setback has left you wondering what to do next. Whatever the challenge, it's important to remember that you don't have to face it alone.

If your business has experienced actual flood damage, your first call should be to your insurance company. They can help assess the damage, explain

your coverage, and often recommend approved contractors to begin the cleanup and recovery process. The sooner you begin that conversation, the sooner you can start getting back on your feet.

If your business is "under water" financially or facing other operational challenges, don't be afraid to ask for help. Your local bank can be an excellent resource. Many financial institutions have business banking specialists who work with owners every day to navigate difficult situations, explore financing options, and develop plans for long-term success.

And remember, your Chamber of Commerce is here for

you as well.

One of the Chamber's greatest strengths is connecting businesses with the resources they need. Whether you're looking for referrals, professional services, networking opportunities, educational programs, or simply someone to help point you in the right direction, we're here to help.

Every business faces difficult seasons. Asking for help isn't a sign of failure, it's a sign of good leadership. The strongest businesses aren't the ones that never encounter challenges; they're the ones that know where to turn when those challenges arise.

No matter what kind of water you're facing, remember this: there are people and organizations in your community ready to help you weather the storm and move forward.

Because when our businesses recover, our entire community grows stronger.

#LoveLocalDuCo

## Jasper Strassenfest 2026 Half Pot Sales Kickoff with booth opening Thursday, July 2 and NEW online sales option

Jasper Strassenfest's Half Pot event is back this year with a new way to purchase tickets in addition to traditional booth sales. Strassenfest committee and VU Jasper representatives will have set hours beginning Thursday, July 2 at their Big Red Booth located in front of Ruler Foods in Jasper. Tickets are also now

available for Indiana residents to purchase online by visiting [jasperstrassenfest.com/halfpot](http://jasperstrassenfest.com/halfpot) and clicking on the Purchase Tickets button.

The half pot event is in conjunction with the Jasper Strassenfest which will take place July 30-August 2, 2026. In 2025, the Half Pot winners took home

\$77,900 and a donation of \$45,548.62 was made to the VU Jasper Scholastic Excellence Fund, providing area students with a one-year full tuition scholarship and fees.

Tickets can be purchased with cash or credit card during booth hours at the Jasper Ruler Foods location: Thursday and Friday from 3PM until 6PM and

Saturday and Sunday from 9AM until 12PM through Sunday, July 26th. Extended hours will be offered during and after the Strassenfest. The booth will be closed for the 4th of July holiday. Ticket prices are as follows: 1 for \$5, 3 for \$10, 20 for \$20, 50 for \$40, or 150 for \$100. The committee and VUJ representatives offer quick and easy

drive-up sales utilizing hand-held mobile devices that print a receipt showing your purchased raffle numbers. Tickets will also be on sale at the Jasper Chamber of Commerce and VUJ Bookstore during business hours.

Post-fest sale dates and times will be announced after the Strassenfest with the drawing taking

place Friday, August 14th at 11AM at the Jasper Chamber of Commerce.

You must be 18 years of age to participate in the half pot raffle. Current pot total, license number, rules and regulations can be found online at [jasperstrassenfest.org/halfpot](http://jasperstrassenfest.org/halfpot) or on site at the Big Red Booth at Ruler Foods in Jasper.

## JULY 2026 events at the Huntingburg Public Library

**Wednesday, July 1:** Explore & Play - open activities, 10:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m. ages 0-17

**Thursday, July 2:** Dinosaur Encounter with Feller Express, 11:00 a.m. @ Holland Elementary, 2:00 p.m. @ the Library. Friday, July 3: Cake Pop Day, 4:00 -5:00 p.m. Teen & Young adult

**Saturday, July 4:** Library is Closed

**Monday, July 6:** Wiggle Worms Stay & Play, stories, songs, and play, 10 - 10:30 a.m. ages 0-2 and their adult

**Tuesday, July 7:** Kids Craft Night - Perler Beads ( dinosaurs and

other designs), 5 - 6:00 p.m. , ages 3-17

**Wednesday, July 8:** Explore & Play - open activities, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. ages 0-17

Revolutionary War Presentation ,Teens & Adults , 6:00 p.m.

**Thursday, July 9:** Build a Dino with Banzi Balloons, 11:00 a.m. @ Holland Elementary, 2:00 p.m. @ the Library

**Saturday, July 11:** Chalk Day - make your own chalk ,10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. Premade chalk available 9:30 -1:00 p.m. Junk Journal Workshop - 11:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. Teen & Young adult

**Monday July 13 :** Preschool Storytime (stories, craft, and play) 10:00 - 11:00 a.m., families welcome to attend, ages 3-5 Huntingburg Book Club : 1:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, July 14 :** Gaming Night at the Library, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Teen & Young adult

**Wednesday, July 15:** Explore & Play open activities, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. ages 0 - 17, Reader's Club, 6 - 7:00 p.m. Thursday, July 16 : Foam Party - bring a towel, swimsuits welcome, 11:00 a.m. @ Holland Elementary 2:00 p.m. @ Teen

Outback, Library Board meeting , 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

**Friday, July 17 :** Deadline for Skating Bash, kids wanting to attend must have their completed reading log turned in by the end of this day. Bingo Night, 4:00- 5:00 p.m. Teen & Young adult **Monday, July 20:** Wiggle Worms Stay & Play- stories, songs, and play, 10:00 - 10:30 a.m., ages 0-2 and their adult **Tuesday, July 21:** Kids Craft Night- cellophane window art, 5:00 -6:00 p.m., ages 6-12

**Wednesday, July 22:** Explore & Play -open activities, 10:00

a.m. -3:00 p.m., ages 0-17

**Thursday, July 23 :** Skate Bash at Jasper Skate Palace 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., Reward party for kids \* Invitation only. Saturday, July 25: Junk Journal Workshop , 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Teen & Young adult

**Monday, July 27:** Preschool Storytime ( stories, craft, and play) 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. families welcome to attend ages 3-5 Tuesday, July 28: Gaming Night at the Library, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Teen & Young adult

**Wednesday, July 29:** Explore & Play - open activities 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. , ages 0-17

**Thursday, July 30:** Dino Art Day assorted dinosaur theme crafts for kids, 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. ages 3-12 **Friday, July 31;** Last day to turn in ALL reading logs and prize slips, We will announce all winners on **Monday, August 3.** Game night , 4:00-5:00 p.m. Teen & Young adult

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Wednesday 9 a.m.-8 p.m.  
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Friday 9 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Saturday 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

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The Huntingburg Press  
Publication # 020-051  
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**Mailing Address:** 1540 McCracken Blvd., Paducah, KY 42001.

**Subscription rates** are \$51.00 County (420 zip code); \$81.00 out of county and state; 10% discount senior citizens; \$39.99 on line (subscribe on-line at [www.ky-news.com](http://www.ky-news.com)). Mail subscriptions to: Kentucky Publishing, Inc. Attn: Indiana Newspaper Group, 1540 McCracken Blvd., Paducah, KY 42001. Visa, MasterCard and Discover are accepted. Mail subscriptions are payable in advance. Late payments are retroactive to due date.

Publisher: Greg LeNeave  
Sales: Greg LeNeave, Larrah Workman  
Editor/Production: Larrah Workman  
Bookkeeping: Teresa LeNeave

**Advertising standards** Merchandise and services advertised in our papers are expected to be accurately described and readily available.

**Postmaster:** Send address changes to Indiana Newspaper Group, 1540 McCracken Blvd., Paducah, KY 42001. The Huntingburg Press (ISSN 10413421-USPS #0030002). Periodical Class Postage Paid at The Huntingburg Post Office, Huntingburg, IN 47542.

## Dubois County Art Guild Gallery Walk at the Jasper City Mill

The Dubois County Art Guild at the Jasper City Mill in Jasper, IN, has a new exhibit up and it will be on display through October, 2026. The DCAG Gallery Walk exhibit changes every 6 months. The public is invited to the Jasper City Mill, open Thursday-Sunday.

The featured artist for this time period is George Smith.

George is originally from Louisville, KY but now lives in St. Anthony, IN.

George's father was a billboard designer for Nagaley Advertising so George followed in his footsteps and studied graphic design at Jefferson Community College in Louisville.

He first worked at Oates Flag Company as head artist in the graphics department. This involved many aspects of printing. After this, he began working for WOM USA's art department. He then transferred to Milliken and Company in LaGrange, GA as a design tech for flooring and retail rugs. During that time, he also received his BA in Art and Design from LaGrange College. In 2008 he moved back to Louisville freelancing as a graphic designer. He met his wife from Ferdinand, IN and moved to Dubois County.

George works primarily in these mediums: watercolor, oil, pen and ink, and graphite.

He is a member of the Dubois County Art Guild and serves



George Smith

on the Visual Arts Committee of the Jasper Arts Center.

In addition to George's art, the other art guild members have a collection of their artwork in the gallery walk as well. Become a collector of original art. Prices are very affordable and the work is beautiful. All artwork at the Jasper City Mill DCAG Gallery Walk is original and for sale. The work consists of oil, watercolor, drawing, acrylic, photography, print, sculpture, and 3D wall pieces.

Summer is here and a great time to visit the Jasper City Mill and see the exhibit. It's picturesque view of the river and winding river walk is an inviting atmosphere. Spend an afternoon with the family and watch the corn grinding and listen to the demonstrations and stories about the mill.

If you are looking for something different and original for gifts or for your home,

the Jasper City Mill provides a unique atmosphere to do so. Shop at the mill for gifts, bakery items, homemade jellies and much more. The mill also has a beautiful collection of Amish made hickory furniture, numerous artisans' merchandise as well as the art in the Gallery Walk.

The Dubois County Art Guild promotes the appreciation of art and art education in the Dubois County communities. Artists are welcome to join the art group for sharing, support, learning and painting.

The guild meets the first Thursday, 6 pm at the Jasper Arts Center.



Green Garden

## Dubois County Art Guild holds June meeting

The Dubois County Art Guild held their June 4th meeting in room 171 at the Thyen-Clark Cultural Center. President LaVonne Tisdal called the meeting to order at 6 pm and welcomed eighteen members plus one guest. She reminded everyone to sign the attendance sheet for record-keeping purposes. The president also thanked everyone for a good show. For future shows, please do not remove artwork early.

Minutes from the last meeting were emailed to members. If anyone failed to receive the minutes, please reach out to ensure proper communication.

Treasurer, Mary Reisz, presented the treasurer's report.

The Dubois County Art Guild received a new grant for the 2026 Loneliness Workshops. The president took ideas for workshop ideas. The next workshop will be on July 30 at the Huntingburg Senior Citizen Center from 9:30am-1:30pm. Tere Robinson, DCAG

member, will be teaching wet felting over a bar of soap. Ten DCAG members and ten members from the public may RSVP. Please bring a sack lunch. The guild will provide coffee and donuts. Guild members are asked to provide a large dish pan or bowl for the workshop. More details will be provided later.

Dubois County Art Guild members were asked to sign get well cards for 2 members and a thank you for the grant.

The Dubois County Art Guild will have an art exhibit at the Dubois County Museum from September to October. DCAG members may exhibit two 2-D artworks for a fee of \$5. The museum will take a 20% commission. Please deliver art to the museum on August 22 or 23 from 1:00 pm to 4:00pm. Artwork is to be picked up from November 2 to 7 from 10:00 am to 2:00pm. For more details, contact Joe Schoenbachler 812-630-5374.

The mill exchange will be 11:00 am to 12:30pm on June 11. Please pick up and drop off your artwork during that time. Email Diane Wininger (dianewine302@gmail.com), if you would like to show an art piece there. The artwork should have a wire on the back. Artists must submit a W-9 with the Jasper City Hall if they are selling art at the mill.

Guild member, George Smith, discussed color for the evening program. He passed around color decks that he uses for ideas for his palettes. Earth tones are muted colors and created from minerals mined from the earth. Earth tones provide better coverage than man-made pigments. Old Holland paint is Smith's recommended paint brand. He challenged members to try to add two new colors to their paint palette.

The next Dubois County Art Guild meeting will be at Traditional Arts in Ferdinand at 6pm on July 2nd.

## Derek Budd named President of the Rotary Club of Dubois County; Austin Welp honored as Rotarian of the Year

DUBOIS COUNTY, IN – The Rotary Club of Dubois County officially welcomed Derek Budd as its President for the 2026-2027 Rotary year during the Club's annual Changeover Meeting held on June 25. Budd's term will begin on July 1.

Budd, a Financial Advisor with Eagle Crest Financial and a Jasper resident, has been an active member of the Club since 2016. He succeeds outgoing President Deidra Church, Director of the Memorial Medical Center Foundation, who has led the organization over the past year.

"Serving as President of the Rotary Club of Dubois County is both an honor and a responsibility that I'm grateful to accept," said Budd. "Rotary is built on service, fellowship, and a commitment to making our community stronger. I look forward to working alongside our members as we continue to make a positive impact in Dubois County and beyond."

During the meeting, the Club also recognized Austin Welp as its 2025-2026 Rotarian of the Year, an honor presented annually to a member who exemplifies Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self."

Welp was recognized for his outstanding leadership and dedication to the Club, particularly through his efforts to strengthen Youth Services initiatives. Under his leadership, the Club expanded student recognition efforts, increased participation in Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), and established the inaugural Rotary Club of Dubois County Interact Scholarship for graduating seniors. In addition, Welp is known for his willingness to volunteer, often taking on responsibilities behind the scenes that help ensure the Club's success.

"Austin embodies what it means to be a Rotarian," said Church. "He is often one of the first people to volunteer, quietly taking on responsibilities behind the scenes without seeking recognition. Through his leadership of Youth Services, our club has expanded opportunities for local students through enhanced recognition programs, participation in RYLA, and the creation of a new senior scholarship. His passion for investing in the next generation and his unwavering commitment to service have made a lasting impact on both our club and our community."

Under Church's leadership, the Club reached all of its annual goals and continued to build upon its strong foundation of service, fellowship, and community engagement.

"Serving as President this past year has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my Rotary journey," said Church. "I'm proud of the positive momentum our club has built, including welcoming several new members, and grateful for all who continually step up to serve our community. Our future is bright, and I look forward to watching the club continue to thrive under Derek's leadership."

As the Club continues its celebration of 25 years of service to Dubois County, members

reflected on a year marked by impactful projects, meaningful partnerships, and community leadership.

Highlights from the 2025-2026 Rotary year include:

- Awarding nearly \$19,000 in Community Grants to TRI-CAP, Trotter House, and Deaconess Memorial Women & Infant Services

- Hosting the 13th Annual ATHENA Leadership Awards Banquet, honoring Laura Grammer and welcoming Olympian Lilly King as keynote speaker

- Partnering with McDonald's to recognize World Polio Day and raise funds for Rotary's End Polio Now campaign

- Presenting the 21st Annual Indiana University Kelley School of Business Economic Futurecast Luncheon

- Collecting more than 1,500 diapers and nearly 5,000 baby wipes for local families through the Club's Holiday Diaper Drive in partnership with the Warrick County Rotary Club

- Hosting a healthcare-focused Leadership Luncheon featuring representatives from Deaconess Health System

- Conducting the annual Clay Shoot fundraiser

- Presenting the inaugural Rotary Club of Dubois County Interact Scholarship to Jasper High School senior Johnson Dong and partnering with the Jasper High School Interact Club to provide hygiene kits to area schools

- Announcing sponsorship and coordination of the Jasper Strassenfest Pickleball Tournament, scheduled for August 1 at Vincennes University Jasper

The Club also welcomed a variety of guest speakers throughout the year who highlighted local initiatives, business trends, and community opportunities. Monthly social events provided members additional

opportunities to strengthen relationships and build fellowship, including a hands-on apple strudel-making experience and a Dubois County Bombers game outing.

The Rotary Club extends sincere appreciation to Vincennes University Jasper for hosting weekly meetings throughout the year.

2026-2027 Rotary Club of Dubois County Leadership

- President: Derek Budd
- Immediate Past President: Deidra Church

- President-Elect: Austin Welp

- Secretary: Judi Brown
- Treasurer: Tanner Egbert

- Sergeant-at-Arms: Gary Schnell

- Public Relations Director: Megan Ziegler

- Club Service Director: Jim McFaul

- Vocational Service Director: Ed Cole

- Community Service Director: Christian Blome

- International Service Director: Dan Collignon

- New Generations/ Youth Services Director: Deidra Church

- Membership Director: Anna Galloway

- Club Administration Chairperson: Kenny Speed

- Rotary International & DCCF Foundations Chair: Bernard Gogel

- ATHENA Committee Chairperson: Manda Combs

- Economic Futurecast Chairperson: Jim McFaul

- Clay Shoot Chairperson: Derek Budd

The Rotary Club of Dubois County meets every Thursday at 11:45 a.m. Beginning July 9, meetings will be held at the Ruxer Center Bistro on the Vincennes University Jasper Campus. Guests are always welcome.

For more information about the Club, upcoming events, and membership opportunities, visit [www.duboiscountyrota.com](http://www.duboiscountyrota.com) or follow the Rotary Club of Dubois County on Facebook and Instagram.

### AUCTION

**Saturday, July 11th @ 9:00 AM ET**

Auction located at the Huntingburg Conservation Club. Address is 8728 S 100 W Ferdinand IN 47532. From US 231 South in Huntingburg take Sunset Dr for 2.2 miles then right on Co. Rd. 100 W for 2 miles. Watch for auction signs.

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JOHN DEERE 6700 sprayer, new in the spring of 08, 603 hours, 60 ft. boom, 3 wheel with shields \$67,500. PRICED REDUCED!!! Call anytime 309-376-6741.

210 ft. HIC Leg, 7500 Bu. per Hr., reconditioned 217-379-2016 Evening

Anhydrous Wagons - Very good cond. farmer owned, \$1800 262-497-3600

7200 MaxEmerge II 1630, row cleaners, copper head closing wheels, 350 JD monitor, new tires, liq in the row, Keyton seat firmers, \$8900-obo. 309-825-1056 (fn).

2015 New Holland Big Baler 330R Crop Cutter, 3 x 3 square bales w/ preservative, rotor cutter, steerable tandem axle, hdy. folding roller chute, auto-lube, Intelli III monitor. 9778 bales, \$89,000 OBO. Call Robert at 815-291-6856. (fn)

2014 Massey Ferguson 2270 Baler, 3 x 4 square bales w/ preservative knotter blower, standard chute, single axle, 8869 bales, \$79,000

OBO. Call Robert 815-291-6856.

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

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

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

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

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

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

2013 RED SMART FOUR TWO CONVERTIBLE, 43,000 miles, power

steering, power breaks, cruise control, tack, garage kept, stored in winter, 35-40 mpg.Very clean, well kept car! Comes with car cover. This car won 1st Place in open stock competition at Heartland Worship Center Car Show in 2014. \$9,500. Call 270-554-7367, leave message if no answer. (fn)

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

2004 STERLING tri-axle dump truck, 8LL transmission, 16.5 ft. aluminum bed, 849,000 miles, great shape, mechanically sound, one owner, professionally maintained. Mid 30's Call 812-639-1078 (fn)

2009 TOYOTA CAMRY LE. New tires. \$6,250 call 812-639-1246.

2006 YAMAHA ROADLINER 1900 w/ accessories. 29,000 miles and 2,000 miles on the tires. Drag pipes and Mustang seats. \$5,500 call 812-686-1774.

2004 STERLING TRIAXLE DUMP TRUCK, 8LL transmission, 16.5 ft. aluminum bed, 849,000 miles, great shape, mechanically sound, one owner, professionally maintained. Mid 30's Call 812-639-1078 (fn)

1976 CADILLAC ELDORADO CONVERTIBLE, front wheel drive, 22,400 actual miles, 2nd owner for over 30 years. Mint. Never rained on. Always garaged and covered. \$23,900 firm. 812-481-1470.

**MOTORCYCLES & ACCESSORIES**  
2001 1200cc Sportster Turned Trike, low mileage, \$8000. Please call 765-618-4497. (6-7-24 fn)

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



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**Sudoku Answers**

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

**Word Search Answers**

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20  |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40  |
| 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60  |
| 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | 72 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 79 | 80  |
| 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 86 | 87 | 88 | 89 | 90 | 91 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 | 97 | 98 | 99 | 100 |





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Silver Aces Dance Team

## Four Evansville Women to represent UE Silver Aces in Washington, D.C.'s National Independence Day Parade

WASHINGTON — Four Evansville women who are members of the University of Evansville (UE) Silver Aces dance team are now training to perform in the National Independence Day Parade in Washington, D.C. as part of America's 250th anniversary celebration, a historic milestone honoring the nation's semiquincentennial. The Evansville dancers were among just 36 performers selected nationwide for the prestigious opportunity.

Silver Aces is a senior dance and performance team operated through the Center for Innovation & Change in partnership with SWIRCA and other departments on campus. It has become a shining example of how movement and community engagement can improve health outcomes and reduce social isolation among older adults.

Since its launch, the Silver Aces have provided participants with opportunities to stay physically active, build friendships, and engage more deeply in the community through dance and performance. The team has already performed at

numerous local events, including UE Aces basketball games, the popular 5K on the Runway, the Parkinson's Tulip Trot 5K and other community celebrations throughout the Tri-State region.

Now, the group is preparing for its biggest opportunity yet.

A select group of Silver Aces dancers auditioned for the prestigious America's Golden Dream Dancers, an elite performance group made up of women from across the country who perform all over the world. Three Silver Aces and their coach, Erin Lewis, were officially accepted. They travel to Washington D.C. from July 2 to 5, will dance on Constitution Avenue, and take part in many official events for America's 250, including possibly laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The women have been preparing as a team in Evansville, while also rehearsing virtually alongside the 32 other women representing communities from across the United States. The five-minute routine will be performed for 30 minutes as the Parade advances down Constitution

Avenue. In addition, Silver Aces member and United Way of Southwestern Indiana President and CEO Amy Mangold, auditioned for and will also be dancing in the AGDD's Barcelona jazz and musical theatre performance in late July.

"This opportunity represents so much more than dance," said Lewis. "It's about showing that aging does not mean slowing down or stepping aside. These women prove every day that connection, movement, joy and purpose can transform lives. And to represent our community during America's 250th celebration is an incredible honor. We've also loved getting to know the other women across the country who share this joy for dance and performance. I hope any person reading this in our community who used to cheer, perform, dance or simply loves to move will join the Silver Aces."

One of the driving forces behind this opportunity is Silver Aces participant Elissa Bakke, who first discovered the audition opportunity and encouraged the team to pursue it. The remaining Silver Aces team, who are not traveling to D.C. are currently working to learn the routine as well and will perform after July 4 as part of local and regional America 250th Celebrations.

As the dancers continue training for the national performance opportunity, supporters are encouraged to follow the Silver Aces' journey, cheer on the team, and help celebrate this remarkable moment for Evansville and the University of Evansville community. Interview opportunities can be scheduled through Erin Lewis at el131@evansville.edu or 812-449-1044.

# America through the decades:

A 250-year journey (1776 - 2026)



In 1776, thirteen colonies took a bold step that would forever change history. By signing the Declaration of Independence, America's founders established a nation built on the ideals of liberty, self-government, and individual rights. As the United States celebrates its 250th birthday in 2026, it is fitting to look back on the remarkable journey that has shaped the nation over two and a half centuries.

### 1776-1800: A Nation Is Born

The Revolutionary War secured America's independence from Great Britain. Under the leadership of General George Washington, the colonies achieved victory, and in 1787 the U.S. Constitution established a new framework for government. Washington became the nation's first president in 1789, setting many traditions that continue today.

### 1800-1850: Growth and Expansion

The young nation expanded rapidly. The Louisiana Purchase in 1803 doubled the country's size, while explorers Lewis and Clark mapped the western frontier. New states joined the Union, canals and roads improved transportation, and the Industrial Revolution began transforming manufacturing and commerce.

### 1850-1900: A Nation Divided and Reunited

The issue of slavery led to the Civil War (1861-1865), America's deadliest conflict. President Abraham Lincoln preserved the Union and issued the Emancipation Proclamation, paving the way for the abolition of slavery. Following the war, the nation rebuilt during Reconstruction and continued expanding westward as railroads connected coast to coast.

### 1900-1930: Innovation and World Leadership

The early twentieth century brought rapid industrial growth. Automobiles, airplanes, electricity, and telephones changed daily life. Millions of immi-

grants arrived seeking opportunity. America entered World War I in 1917, emerging as a growing world power. The 1920s became known as the "Roaring Twenties," marked by economic prosperity, jazz music, and cultural change.

### 1930-1950: Hardship and Heroism

The Great Depression devastated the economy during the 1930s, leaving millions unemployed. President Franklin D. Roosevelt introduced the New Deal to provide relief and recovery. Soon after, World War II united the nation in a common cause. American soldiers fought across Europe and the Pacific, helping secure Allied victory in 1945. The war also ushered in the Atomic Age.

### 1950-1970: Prosperity and Progress

Postwar America experienced economic growth, suburban expansion, and the rise of television. The Civil Rights Movement challenged segregation and discrimination, leading to landmark legislation that expanded equal rights. The Space Race captured the world's imagination, culminating in Neil Armstrong's historic moon landing in 1969.

### 1970-1990: Change and Technology

The nation faced economic challenges, an energy crisis, and political turmoil following the Watergate scandal. At the same time, computers began entering homes and businesses. Personal technology, satellite communications, and medical advancements reshaped daily life. The Cold War came to an end with the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, signaling a new chapter in global history.

### 1990-2010: The Digital Revolution

The internet transformed communication, education, and commerce. Cell phones became commonplace, eventually evolving into smartphones. The nation experienced both prosperity and tragedy, including the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, which forever changed national security and foreign

policy. Americans also witnessed advances in medicine, science, and space exploration.

### 2010-2026: Innovation and Resilience

The past fifteen years have brought extraordinary technological change through artificial intelligence, renewable energy, medical research, and digital connectivity. Americans faced the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, adapting workplaces, schools, and healthcare systems. Businesses embraced remote work, while communities demonstrated resilience during uncertain times. Scientific breakthroughs continue to improve lives, and private companies have renewed interest in space exploration.

Throughout these decades, America has remained a nation of immigrants, entrepreneurs, inventors, farmers, educators, first responders, military personnel, and volunteers. Every generation has contributed to building stronger communities while facing unique challenges of its own.

As the United States celebrates its 250th anniversary in 2026, the milestone serves as both a celebration and a reminder. The freedoms enjoyed today were earned through sacrifice, defended by generations of Americans, and strengthened by citizens committed to democracy and civic responsibility.

The story of America is far from complete. Each generation writes a new chapter, building on the achievements and lessons of the past. From the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776 to the innovations of 2026, the nation has continually evolved while striving to uphold the ideals of liberty, equality, and opportunity.

America's 250-year journey reflects not only remarkable accomplishments but also an enduring belief that the future can always be brighter than the past. As the nation looks ahead to the next century and beyond, the same pioneering spirit that inspired its founders continues to guide Americans toward new discoveries, greater unity, and renewed hope.

**HAPPY**

**250<sup>TH</sup>**

**BIRTHDAY**

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# U.S.A. HIDDEN MESSAGE PUZZLE

This word search puzzle has a hidden message in it.

- Find all of the words in the list.
- Words can go in any direction and share letters as well as cross over each other.
- Once you find all of the words, copy the unused letters starting in the top left corner into the blanks to reveal the hidden message.

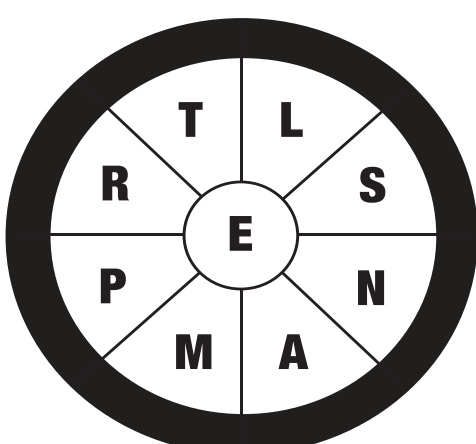
T H E G M Y N E T T Y S B U R  
 G A D D O R O R E S S O E U G  
 F O O P D O I X P L N Q A L D  
 Y Q G T E T T J J P P V Y R O  
 T C P J E C A D B T Q L N K N  
 O S C Q R I N R E Q I K X K M  
 Z K P L F V N O Y V S J X S K  
 K Y M T X V C J I P N S C B O  
 P A V D Q H D C E V N O N V Z  
 L I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

WORDS: CIVIL NATION VICTORY FREEDOM SCORE LINCOLN SPEECH

HIDDEN MESSAGE: \_\_\_\_\_

# WORD ROUND-UP

See how many words you can form. Each word must contain the letter in the center circle.



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Word Ideas: Test, Near, Part, Name, Sent, Meal, Pest, Rent

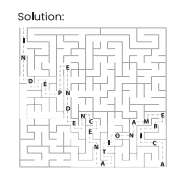


While making your way through the maze, write down each letter you encounter along the correct path. These letters will spell out three words that pertain to the United States of America.

WORDS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Words: Independence Nation America

Start

Finish

# UNITED STATES TRIVIA

Test your knowledge of the history of the U.S.

1. How many original colonies were there?
2. Where was the Declaration of Independence signed?
3. Which explorer is America named after?
4. In what year were women finally granted the right to vote in the U.S.?
5. Who are the only two non-presidents to appear on widely used U.S. currency?
6. What are the three branches of the U.S. government?
7. If someone requests your John Hancock, what are they referring to?
8. Who was the first woman to serve on the United States Supreme Court?
9. Which Civil Rights figure led the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955?
10. True or False? Apple Pie was invented in the U.S.
11. Who was the first U.S. astronaut in space?
12. What is the United States motto?
13. When was Washington established as the capital of the United States?
14. Which state was the first admitted to the Union?

Answers: 1. Thirteen 2. Philadelphia 3. Amerigo Vesputci 4. 1920 5. Alexander Hamilton and Benjamin Franklin 6. Legislative, Executive and Judicial 7. Signature 8. Sandra Day O'Connor 9. Martin Luther King, Jr. 10. False; it originated in England 11. Alan Shepard 12. "E pluribus unum" 13. 1790 14. Delaware

CELEBRATING

# 250<sup>TH</sup>

ANNIVERSARY

of the

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# Presidential Match-Up

Draw a line to match the American president's likeness to his name.

|  |   |                     |
|--|---|---------------------|
|  | ★ | ★ Barack OBAMA      |
|  | ★ | ★ Thomas JEFFERSON  |
|  | ★ | ★ Abraham LINCOLN   |
|  | ★ | ★ Donald TRUMP      |
|  | ★ | ★ George WASHINGTON |
|  | ★ | ★ John F. KENNEDY   |
|  | ★ | ★ Joseph BIDEN      |



How come there's no Knock, Knock joke about America? Because freedom rings!

How is a healthy person like the United States? They both have good constitutions!

# Happy 4th of July



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- FRANCIS SCOTT KEY

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What is the difference between a duck and George Washington? One has a bill on his face, the other has his face on a bill!

Where was the Declaration of Independence signed? At the bottom

What does the Statue of Liberty stand for? Because it can't sit down!

Hidden Message Answers

Happy Birthday AMERICA!



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 OF FREEDOM

1776 ★ 2026

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