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Thursday, July 30, 2026

Journal Reporter

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In God We Trust

Riverfront Canvas issues call for artists for public art initiative

Marion, Indiana — The Riverfront Canvas Commission is calling on artists to help tell Grant County’s story through a new series of large-scale murals in Downtown Marion. Applications to participate are now being accepted through August 14, 2026.

The initiative invites artists of all backgrounds to lend their creative voice to the community’s shared history, character, and future. Interested artists can submit an online application.

The application is the first step of the selection process and simply lets organizers know an artist is interested in participating. The second step is when

selected artists will be paired with one of the community stories or themes identified by the Riverfront Canvas Commission.

Once matched, artists will receive additional background information and instructions for creating their artwork concept. Artists selected to move forward will be asked to submit an original artwork concept sized 8" x 10". Selected concepts will then serve as the basis for large-scale murals that will be professionally enlarged and installed as part of the Riverfront Canvas project.

A \$400 stipend will be provided for each selected piece of work. Design & Submission

Period will be between July 25 – August 22, 2026. All mural-related questions must be submitted via email to Murals@GiveToGrant.org.

For more information and to submit information to the Call for Artists, visit GiveToGrant.org.

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About the Community Foundation of Grant County

The Community Foundation of Grant County, Indiana, Inc. is an advocate for local philanthropy and is dedicated to improving the lives of people in the Grant County area. An effective steward of the community’s charitable resources

since 1984, the Foundation partners with donors to establish charitable funds and invests in nonprofit organizations and community initiatives through a variety of grantmaking efforts. The Community Foundation connects people, resources, and causes to promote sustainable impact for the betterment of Grant County. Currently the Community Foundation holds over 400 charitable funds that support a variety of charities and charitable causes in Grant County. For more information, please visit GiveToGrant.org.

Tina Coons becomes Arts Place Corporate Board of Directors

Arts Place is excited to welcome Tina Coons to the Arts Place Corporate Board of Directors! Tina hails from Hartford City and is the owner of Tina Coons Homes LLC.

Coons is also broker and team leader with REMAX Real Estate Groups and the Tina Coons Homes Team primarily serving Blackford, Jay, Delaware, and Kosciusko counties.

Tina previously served on the United Way board where she served as President, was once a member of the Kiwanis, and is currently a member of the Hartford City Chamber.

In addition to Tina’s three-year term on the Arts



Place Corporate Board of Directors, she will also serve on Arts Place’s building committee for all facilities.

Please join us in welcoming Tina Coons to our organization!

Black Dragons M/C Marion to host 8th Annual King of the Street Redemption Race benefiting First Light Child Advocacy Center

The Black Dragons Motorcycle Club Marion is excited to present the 8th Annual King of the Street Redemption Race on Saturday, September 19, 2026, at the BDMC Clubhouse, 819 N. Butler Ave., Marion, Indiana.

What started as a local motorcycle racing event has grown into one of the premier legal street racing events in the region, attracting racers and spectators from multiple states across the country.

For the past ten years, the Black Dragons M/C Marion has proudly hosted two motorcycle street races each year. The July event, King of the Street, and the September event, King of the Street Redemption, have continued to grow in popularity with every



race. Attendance has steadily increased year after year, creating an exciting atmosphere for racers, motorcycle enthusiasts, and families alike.

This year’s King of the Street Redemption will feature Street

Bike classes and two Harley classes, giving riders multiple opportunities to compete for bragging rights. Gates will open at 9:00 a.m., with racing beginning promptly at 12:00 p.m. Admission is \$10 per person, children 12

and under are free, and racers can enter for \$20.

To ensure fair competition, race rules prohibit slick tires, turbochargers, wheelie bars, and nitrous oxide (NOS). These rules help keep the competition

exciting while maintaining the integrity of the event.

More than just a race, King of the Street Redemption is about giving back to the community. All gate proceeds from this year’s event will benefit First Light Child Advocacy Center in Marion, Indiana. Supporting local charities has always been at the heart of what the Black Dragons Motorcycle Club does, and every race provides an opportunity to make a positive impact on organizations serving Grant County and surrounding communities.

Whether you’re a dedicated motorcycle racer, a Harley enthusiast, or simply someone looking for an action-packed Saturday, this event offers something for

everyone. Spectators can expect powerful motorcycles, close racing, and a family-friendly environment while supporting an important local cause.

The Black Dragons Motorcycle Club Marion invites everyone to come experience one of the few legal motorcycle street races in the area and see why racers and fans continue to travel from across the Midwest and beyond to be part of the excitement.

For additional information, please refer to the event flyer or reach out to the Black Dragons Motorcycle Club Marion through Facebook. We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, September 19, 2026, for another exciting day of racing, community, and charity.

BLACK DRAGONS M/C MARION PRESENTS:

KING OF THE STREET

REDEMPTION

\$10 TO ENTER
\$20 TO RACE
12 & UNDER FREE

9/19/2026

Street Bike & 2 Harley Classes

GATES OPEN AT 9AM
RACING @ 12PM

See You There!



- NO SLICKS
- NO TURBOS
- NO WHEELIE BARS
- NO NOS

BDMC CLUBHOUSE
819 N BUTLER AVE.
MARION, IN 46952

SLIM KUTTA 765-603-6926

GATE PROCEEDS GOES TO
FIRST LIGHT CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER



Pamala Kay Ailes Skeens

Pamala Kay Ailes Skeens, a beloved mother and friend, passed peacefully on July 23, 2026, at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital. The funeral service for Pamala was held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 28, 2026, at the Jones-Smith Chapel of Armes-Hunt Life Celebration Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 259 North Main Street, Upland, Indiana 46928. Burial took place at Jefferson Cemetery, where she was laid to rest next to Paul.

Kenneth Wane Baxter

Kenneth Wane Baxter, 73, formerly of St. Louis, passed away at 3:04 PM, Wednesday, July 15, 2026, at the IU Health Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis. A graveside service celebrating the life of Kenneth Wane Baxter will be held at 1:30 PM CDT, Thursday, July 30, 2026, at the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, St. Louis, MO

Gary L. Randolph

Gary Leon Randolph, 74, passed away on March 2, 2026 at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital. A Celebration of Life service will be from 1 to 3 pm on Saturday, August 8, 2026 at Mississinewa Tavern in Eaton, IN. Keplinger Funeral Home is in charge of local arrangements.. Burial will take place at Jefferson Cemetery.

Robert Lewis Holliday, Sr.

Robert Lewis Holliday Sr., 87, passed away on July 22, 2026 at his residence surrounded by his family and friends in the presence of the lord. Funeral Services for Bob were held Wednesday July 29, 2026 at the Grace and Mercy Gospel Church, 301 E. Harris St., Eaton, IN 47338 - Celebration of Life will be held at 5pm. Bob will be buried privately at Gardens of Memory Cemetery in Muncie at a later date.

Troy Lee Brown

Troy Lee Brown, 58, passed away July 22, 2026 at I.U. Health University Hospital in Indianapolis. A Celebration of Life was held at Keplinger Funeral Home, 509 N. High St. Hartford City, IN 47348 on Tuesday July 28, 2026 at 4 pm with The Most Reverend Bishop David Michaels officiating.

David Hamilton Smith

David Hamilton Smith, 69 years of age, departed this earth after a difficult 5-year battle with chronic illness. Visitation for Dave was Sunday July 26, 2026 at Keplinger Funeral Home, 509 N. High St. Hartford City, IN 47348 from 3-7 pm and Monday July 27, 2026 from 11-1pm Funeral Service was held on Monday July 27, 2026 at the funeral home at 1pm.

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



2026 Hudson Family Park Summer Concert Series

Event Date/Time:
Thursday, August 13,
2026 at 7:30 p.m.
Event location:
Hudson Family Park
Amphitheatre, 509
South Wayne St,
Portland, IN 47371
Cost: The concert is
FREE of charge
No tickets or
registration needed.
Arts Place is
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the LAST concert
of the 2026 Hudson
Family Park Summer
Concert Series:
Thunderstruck:
America’s AC/DC
Tribute! A family
friendly event; bring
your children and
enjoy a night of food
and music. Activities
will also be available
for kids!
Thunderstruck
gives fans so much
more than the sound
of AC/DC, they truly
capture the high
voltage energy and
experience. For fans,
it’s about a sense of
familiarity, and it’s
about a feeling that
snatches up listeners
and takes over. It’s
about a contagious
kind of power and
electricity that few
AC/DC tribute bands
can provide.
The Hudson
Family Park Summer
concert series is
sponsored by The
City of Portland, The
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and Compass Wealth
Solutions. Thank you!
For more
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2026-2027 MusicWorks Registration

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Our experienced
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Event Date/Time:
Monday, August 31,
2026 through April 30,
2027
Registration
Deadline: August 24,
2026
Event locations:
Arts Place, Jay
County Campus 131 E
Walnut St, Portland,
IN 47371
Blackford County
Arts Center, 107
W Washington St,
Hartford City, IN 47348
Price list for the
2026-2027 school year:
Registration Fee
\$25.00
Student MusicWorks
Lessons: \$560.00
(monthly payments
available)
Adult MusicWorks
Lessons: \$640.00
(monthly payments
available)
Instrument rentals:
\$80.00 (monthly
payments available)
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1st month lesson fee
and 1st month rental
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www.myartsplace.org
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are received. Please
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4809 or emailing jcc@myartsplace.org

Email Us Your Upcoming Events to:
pamela.kpi2018@gmail.com *Deadline is Monday at 5 PM for the Thursday edition.

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	Fairmount Church of God – 10:30 a.m., Sunday School – 9:30 a.m. Fairmount Friends – 10:30 a.m.
Sweetser United Methodist Church 413 N. Main Street, Sweetser, IN 46987 www.sweetserumc.org (765) 384-7354	Fairmount Wesleyan – 9:30 a.m. Fairmount United Methodist – 9:30 a.m.
Swayzee United Methodist Church 306 S Washington St, Swayzee, IN, United States, 46986 www.umc.org (765) 922-7223	Fowlerton United Methodist – 10:45 a.m. Grant Church (Global Methodist) 11018 S 300 E Fairmount 9:00 a.m.
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	Jones Chapel – 10:30 a.m., Sunday School – 9 a.m. MorningStar Ministries, 11:00 a.m. (Jonesboro)
Sweetser Wesleyan Church (765) 384-7232 200 West Delphi Pike Sweetser, IN 46987 www. https://www.sweetserwesleyan.org Sunday Morning 10 am	Prince of Peace Lutheran Church – 9 a.m. (Hartford City)
Back Creek Friends – 10:30 a.m., Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.	One of Ten Ministries and Church – 10:30 a.m. Pilgrim Holiness – 6 p.m.
Back Creek Wesleyan – 10:30 a.m., Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.	Real Community Covenant Church – 10 a.m. – 1240 S. Adams in Marion
Fairmount Baptist Church – 10:30 a.m., Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.	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

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YOUTH FIRST

Prepare your child for Kindergarten this Summer

By Tiffany Austin,
Youth First, Inc.

Summer always seems to fly by. Before long, August arrives and a new school year begins. For incoming kindergarteners and their families, this milestone can bring a mix of excitement and nervousness. While children may look forward to new experiences, parents and caregivers often wonder how to best prepare them for this important transition.

The following are five ways families can help children prepare for kindergarten this summer:

Maintain a Regular Schedule.

The school day is very structured, with set time frames for different subjects, activities and events. Adjusting to this level of routine can be challenging for some children. Establishing a consistent daily schedule at home can

help children become more comfortable with routines and expectations. While a home schedule may not mirror the school day exactly, it can reinforce the idea that specific times are set aside for specific activities and responsibilities.

Encourage Independence.

Children at this age take great pride in completing tasks on their own. Encouraging independence through everyday tasks can build self-confidence and help children feel prepared for kindergarten. Practice skills such as putting on shoes, zipping jackets, packing a backpack, and opening lunch items. Creating a simple checklist for leaving the house can also help children develop self-help skills. Tasks might include using the restroom, putting on shoes, fastening a

seatbelt, and gathering belongings.

Read Books about Kindergarten.

Reading books about starting kindergarten is a great way to prepare children for this new experience. Many books explore common feelings associated with the first day of school, including excitement, curiosity, and nervousness. These stories help children understand that their emotions are normal and shared by others. Reading together also creates opportunities for parents/caregivers to answer questions, discuss concerns, and introduce healthy coping strategies. These conversations can help ease anxiety and build confidence before school begins.

Focus on Social Skills.

Kindergarten requires children to interact with peers, follow group

expectations, and build new relationships. Providing opportunities for your child to play with others can help strengthen important social skills. Whether through playdates, family gatherings, community activities, or visits to the park, children can practice sharing, taking turns, cooperating, resolving conflicts, and using good manners. These experiences help children gain confidence in social settings and prepare them for success in the classroom.

Practice the School Morning Routine.

A few weeks before school starts, begin practicing the morning routine your child will follow during the school year. Gradually adjust bedtimes and wake-up times to align with the school schedule. It can also be helpful to familiarize your child with the trip to school by

driving the route and pointing out where they will enter the building. Practicing these routines ahead of time can reduce anxiety and help children feel more comfortable on the first day.

Kindergarten is an exciting milestone filled with opportunities for learning, growth, and new friendships. By taking time to practice these five strategies, families can help children approach the first day with greater confidence and enthusiasm. While some nervousness is natural, preparation can make the transition smoother for both children and parents/caregivers. If you have concerns about your child's adjustment to school, please reach out to your school's Youth First Mental Health Professional or school counselor for support and guidance. Tiffany Austin,

MSW, LSW, is a Youth First Mental Health Professional at Glenwood Leadership Academy in Vanderburgh County. Youth First, Inc., is a nonprofit dedicated to strengthening youth and families. Youth First provides over 100 highly trained mental health professionals (primarily master's level social workers), prevention programs, parent engagement coordinators, and bilingual support personnel to 130 schools across 14 Indiana counties. Over 55,000 youth and families each year are served by Youth First's school-based social work and community programs that promote mental health, prevent substance misuse, and maximize student success. To learn more about Youth First, visit youthfirstinc.org or call 812-421-8336. Jana Pritchett Brand & Promotions Specialist

Six development projects close on \$25M+ in state loans

INDIANAPOLIS, – Cities and towns in Allen, Elkhart, Fountain, Hamilton, Scott and Vigo counties have closed on more than \$25 million in low-interest loans from the State this year for housing development. The loans are provided through the Indiana Residential Infrastructure Fund.

“Indiana’s economy is growing, and our housing supply needs to grow with it,” said Governor Mike Braun. “These investments will save local communities money while helping them ensure Hoosier families have access to a variety of housing options.”

The RIF loan program was created in 2023 to provide financial assistance to municipalities to finance infrastructure projects that support residential housing development in communities that

demonstrate the need for additional housing inventory based on local job growth.

“Through the RIF program, these communities will -- in aggregate -- save more than \$6.2 million in principal and interest costs, compared to open-market financing,” said Sherry Seiwert, RIF program director with the Indiana Finance Authority.

Seiwert said the IFA, which manages the RIF program, has closed more than \$87 million in loans with housing developments throughout Indiana since 2024 – benefiting 20 communities across Indiana.

The list of loan closings in 2026 benefit cities and towns such as Arcadia, Attica, Austin, Elkhart, Ft. Wayne, and Terra Haute.

Arcadia — \$3 million

The Town of Arcadia closed on a \$3 million RIF loan to develop the Langdon Crossing workforce housing in Arcadia. The development will include approximately 264 single-family detached homes across 86 acres in four phases.

Attica — \$1.7 million

The City of Attica, a rural community with a population of roughly 3,500 residents, closed on \$1.7 million in RIF loans to develop Shepherd’s Landing. The first phase of the project will develop 29 single-family housing lots with plans to complete two additional phases that will result in a total of 87 housing lots when the project is fully completed.

Austin — \$1.19 million

The City of Austin

closed on a \$1.19 million RIF loan to develop Yorkwood Crossing. This project will develop 119 single-family homes, 60 triplex units and 72 apartments. The first phase will consist of 54 single-family homes.

Elkhart — \$10 million

The City of Elkhart closed on \$10 million in RIF loans to for development in the Benham and Woodland Crossing neighborhoods. The Benham neighborhood project is part of the South Main Street gateway, where the city recently cleared two sites for redevelopment. The development project includes a blend of residential units and commercial space that will create over 220 housing units. The Woodland Crossing Neighborhood Opportunity HUB

is an adaptive reuse of a blighted mall. This development project will convert a vacant Sears store into a mixed-use neighborhood asset, which will include 140 housing units, a health center, an education/job training center, a retail space and. The city will manage the housing development, which the loan covers.

Ft. Wayne — \$8.15 million

The City of Fort Wayne closed on \$8.15 million in RIF loans to develop The Villages of Arneo. The project will include 182 new single-family lots (including townhomes/condos) and 240 multi-family rental units.

Terre Haute — \$1.575 million

The City of Terre Haute closed on a \$1.575 million RIF

loan to develop Terre Vista Phase III. The development is located along the city’s trail system and will consist of 50 residential housing units.

To learn more about the RIF program, visit IFA: Residential Housing Infrastructure Assistance Program (RIF)

About the Indiana Finance Authority The Indiana Finance Authority oversees State-related debt issuance and provides efficient and effective financing solutions to facilitate state, local government and business investment in Indiana. The IFA also manages the Wastewater and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Programs and the Indiana Brownfields Program.

Southwest announces new and expanding flights out of Indy

Two new nonstops to Florida and more San Juan and Cabo on the way.

INDIANAPOLIS — Southwest Airlines is anticipated to fly 61 nonstop flights per day on peak Saturdays out of Indianapolis during Spring Break 2027, topping its prior record of 56 Saturday nonstop flights. And what’s driving that increase? Southwest just revealed its Spring Break 2027 schedule — and it’s adding two new Saturday nonstop flights to Florida destinations and expanding services on Saturdays to major hotspots in Mexico and the Caribbean.

The Indianapolis International Airport

(IND) got good news from Southwest this week when the airline announced it has added two new nonstop flights on Saturdays from Indy to Palm Beach and Destin, Florida for Spring Break 2027. The Palm Beach flight will operate Feb. 13 – April 5, 2027. The Destin flight will operate March 11 – April 5, 2027.

Additionally, due to high demand, the airline will be expanding its Saturday nonstop flight to San Juan, Puerto Rico that launched out of Indy in June. While

the initial seasonal service will end in August, Southwest will resume Saturday nonstop flights to San Juan starting January 2027 and will operate the route through April 3 – providing nonstop service to Hoosier spring-break travelers looking for a U.S. territory Caribbean getaway. According to Forward Keys, flight searches from Indianapolis to Puerto Rico are currently tracking nearly 50% above last year’s levels for travel within the next 12 months, highlighting strong interest in the destination.

For those travelers looking for sun and sand in Mexico, Southwest announced it will resume its Indy nonstop Saturday flight to San Jose del Cabo for Spring Break 2027.

To book a flight to Destin, Palm Beach, San Juan or Cabo out of Indy, visit Southwest.com.

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About the Indianapolis Airport Authority

The Indianapolis Airport Authority owns and operates Indiana’s largest airport system in the Indianapolis

metropolitan area. In addition to the Indianapolis International Airport (IND), its facilities include Eagle Creek Airpark, Hendricks County Airport-Gordon Graham Field, Indianapolis Regional Airport and Metropolitan Airport. IND generates a \$7.5 billion total annual economic impact to the state of Indiana – without relying on state or local taxes to fund operations. The IAA is a “Best Place to Work in Indiana.” More than 11,000 people work at the airport each day, and nearly 54,000

jobs statewide have a connection to the airport. In 2025, IND served more than 10.6 million business and leisure travelers. IND is consistently ranked, year after year, as the best airport in North America and the nation based on ease of use, passenger amenities, customer service, local retail offerings and public art. The airport is home to the world’s second-largest FedEx operation and the nation’s ninth-largest cargo facility. To join the award-winning team, visit IND.com/Careers.

VICTORIOUS

Living...in a troubled world

Two opposing missions /

two very different outcomes

By Teresa A. LeNeave
leneave2@comcast.net

Images speak for themselves. When you see a lion or a mouse it triggers an emotional response. God drew on this ability of our mind when he describes Satan. Throughout scripture, Satan is portrayed through a variety of animal images that illustrate his deceptive and destructive nature. From the opening chapters of Scripture to the final book of Revelation, these symbolic descriptions present a consistent warning about the spiritual dangers believers face.

In Genesis 3, Satan appears as a serpent, deceiving humanity into disobeying God.

In Matthew 13, Jesus likens him to a bird that snatches away the seed of God’s Word before it can take root in people’s hearts. Later, in John 10, Jesus describes the threat of a wolf, representing the enemy’s desire to attack and scatter God’s flock. In 1 Peter 5, Satan is compared to a roaring lion, prowling about in search of those he can devour. Finally, Revelation 12 pictures him as a great dragon, fiercely opposing Christ and seeking to destroy God’s purposes.

Although these five images differ, they all point to the same reality. Scripture consistently teaches that Satan’s mission is to kill, steal,



and destroy. Jesus summarized this truth in John 10:10, declaring that “the thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.”

Yet the Bible does not leave readers without hope. The same verse continues with one of the most encouraging promises

in Scripture: “I have come that they may have life, and have it more abundantly.” While Satan seeks destruction, Jesus offers abundant life, peace, and eternal hope. Their purposes stand in complete opposition to one another.

For Christians, this

contrast serves as both a warning and a source of confidence. Believers are reminded to remain spiritually alert while also resting in God’s unfailing care. The Lord is greater than the enemy, and His power far exceeds Satan’s schemes.

Those of us who place our trust in God can find assurance in His promises. As believers walk with Him, we can rest in the knowledge that He holds us securely in the palm of His hand (Isaiah 49:16) and faithfully works all things together for our good (Romans 8:28).

In Isaiah 49 God said, “Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are

continually before me.” That, to me, is a reminder of God’s permanent, close, and unconditional love. Like a tattoo, we are permanently engraved in the palm of his hands and he’s not going to forget us. In thinking of the images of Satan in comparison to God, we can rest assured, there are two distinct missions and two very distinctly different outcomes. Choose life with Christ.

In a world filled with spiritual conflict, God’s love, protection, and purpose remain steadfast. It offers lasting hope to all who trust in Him. And, hope, Hebrews 6:19 says, is the anchor of our souls. Hope in Jesus is a firm and secure anchor.

Why didn’t we bring an umbrella?

By Dr. Billy Holland

We’ve heard the old saying that “Life is not a bed of roses” as life has its ups and downs, and unfortunately, most of us will experience our share of hard times. Whether it’s financial anxiety, a medical situation, family problems, frustrations, sadness, or maybe blaming yourself for whatever, sometimes life can be tough. However, in the midst of all that is going on, we can always turn to God, who is filled with an endless source of strength, hope, and love. We can choose to embrace the encouraging truth that God really cares about our concerns and worries. He has the power and the solutions to give us the victory, no matter the size of our obstacles or how hopeless the

situation. “And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work” II Corinthians 9:8. Carlos A. Rodriguez is quoted as saying, “If there’s a Goliath in front of you, remember there’s a David inside of you!”

Yes, there are bumps in the road that can help us learn about faith and patience, but whatever the crisis, it was not God’s intention for us to dwell in a state of defeat. Despite being surrounded by negative forces, we have been given the opportunity through Jesus Christ to abide in His presence and enjoy an abundance of joy, security, hope, and peace. In John chapter 10, we find the words of Christ: “The thief comes not but for to steal, and to kill, and to

destroy: but I (Jesus) have come that you might have life and that you might have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd gives his life for the sheep.” Whatever the situation, Jesus has promised to deliver you as you continue growing stronger and more confident in Him.

The concept of God supplying our needs is a wonderful and true spiritual reality, but there is also a crucial component to receive His abundant blessings: our responsibility to believe. Without faith, it’s not only impossible to please Him, but highly unlikely that His miracles can be activated in our lives. Faith can move mountains, but we seldom consider that our doubt and fear allow them to remain. In Jeremiah chapter

29, God has a fantastic plan for us. “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.” He will do His part when we understand that our part is doing it His way. “Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.”

I recall a story about a small farming community that had been experiencing a terrible drought. The crops were dying in the fields, and everyone was very worried because this was how they made their living. The pastor of the local church called a special prayer service for all the people of

the town to gather in front of the church and spend some time agreeing in faith that God would send some rain. Many people arrived, and you could sense the seriousness among the crowd. As the pastor was getting ready to begin the meeting, he scanned the crowd and noticed many troubled faces. As his attention was directed to the front row, he saw a young girl standing quietly. Her face was beaming with excitement, and then he noticed she was holding a large, colorful umbrella.

As he focused on the umbrella, he was ashamed that he had not brought one himself, and now felt a sudden surge of hope and confidence. The little girl’s childlike innocence warmed his heart as he realized how much genuine

faith she possessed. Though the town had come together in spiritual unity to pray for rain, it seemed that no one anticipated getting wet. When we pray, do we really believe we are going to receive what we ask for? Sir William Robertson is quoted as saying, “There isn’t enough room in our mind for both doubt and faith. We must decide which one will control our destiny.” The world and even our own human nature will constantly remind us it’s impossible, it’s risky, and it’s hopeless, but true faith will prove that nothing is too difficult for God.

Dr. Holland is an ordained minister, chaplain, and author. Read more about Living On Purpose at [billyhollandministries.com](#)

Little Differences

By Brandon Bramlett
Pastor - Bandana Baptist Church

One might say it was a lucky shot when an archer randomly fired his bow into the air and somehow struck and severely injured the armor-covered King Ahab precisely where he was exposed (1 Kings 22:34). Some would conclude that the stars aligned when the midnight insomnia of King Ahasuerus could only be cured from reading an old book—one that just so happened to record the forgotten loyalty of Mordecai, compelling

the king to honor him rather than hang him (Esther 6:1-11). Some would suppose that the widow Ruth carried around a rabbit’s foot and a four-leaf clover when she went to work in a field that serendipitously belonged to Boaz, her future husband and redeemer (Ruth 2:3). Some might believe it was a fluke of good fortune when the little boy with a sack lunch “coincidentally” stood near Jesus exactly when the multitudes needed to eat (John 6:9). Some may argue that fate smiled upon the apostle Paul, whose life was

repeatedly spared simply because he was a Roman citizen (Acts 16:35-40; 22:22-29).

But according to Scripture, nothing is random—everything is ruled by the Lord (Prov. 16:33). Nothing is a happy accident—everything is a divine appointment (Psalm 139:16). Nothing is a coincidence—everything is a providence. “[God] works all things,” wrote Paul, “according to the counsel of his will” (Eph. 1:11b). And small things are part of all things.

They say that the biggest doors still

swing on the smallest hinges and that every avalanche begins with a single snowflake. And the Bible teaches something even greater: the Lord often accomplishes His grandest purposes through the smallest details of everyday life. He doesn’t merely move mountains—He moves molecules. The God who governs the galaxies also intricately directs detours, delays, disappointments, and even daily decisions. As the Puritans used to say, the Lord’s greatest works are often His quietest works.

It is tempting to associate the Lord’s power with mighty miracles only, but miracles are frequently hiding in plain sight. Perhaps this is why Scripture says not to despise the day of “small things” (Zech. 4:10). He may use a minor inconvenience to completely redirect the course of your life or place you beside the right person at the right time to hear the right words to counsel or encourage you. He may use one sentence from one sermon to change your mind, one verse in Scripture to comfort your soul, one

unexpected phone call that answers a prayer, or even one different route home to spare you from unforeseen harm. God tends to the little things like counting hairs (Matt. 10:30), ensuring that every star has a name (Ps. 147:4), feeding the sparrows (Matt. 6:26), giving the lions their prey (Ps. 104:21), and making the grass grow (Ps. 104:14). And He will never fail to superintend the little things in the lives of His people.

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

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A	H	E	L	P	E	R	I	S	T	I	U	M	I	S	H	D	I	I	H
C	C	I	N	A	S	O	M	N	M	X	D	C	C	V	G	E	3		
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Y	4	B	A	I	C	T	I	H	H	I	S	A	H	R	S	E	3	H	
T	O	S	C	R	I	T	I	V	W	N	R	3	I	W	B	T	I	I	
W	M	A	N	M	N	V	E	N	A	S	T	I	R	I	C	O	X	V	
F	T	S	M	R	X	A	R	N	R	3	A	H	B	3	C	N	M	M	
A	W	I	R	O	C	N	O	C	I	3	O	2	N	G	Q	3	T	L	
N	T	3	4	4	3	T	X	A	A	3	S	W	3	I	C	N	H	O	
H	9	W	A	W	N	N	O	0	C	H	R	3	N	O	I	3	A	W	
R	3	0	3	R	N	I	T	N	C	I	R	3	9	3	O	I	8	0	
K	3	S	3	D	0	I	N	N	H	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
C	3	S	3	X	I	A	3	R	3	S	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
W	N	N	3	A	S	T	3	C	3	C	3	N	3	3	3	3	3	3	
V	N	N	0	3	A	3	A	M	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
V	T	I	O	S	A	3	A	M	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
F	A	C	3	N	M	3	O	M	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
S	A	3	T	3	N	3	A	3	T	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
I	N	N	H	W	N	I	0	R	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	

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Grant County Economic Growth Council awarded \$200,000 Community Foundation grant to expand support for local entrepreneurs

GRANT COUNTY, Ind. – The Grant County Economic Growth Council was recently awarded a \$200,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Grant County through the Foundation’s Give to Grant Summer Cycle. The funding will support the Growth Council’s launch as Grant County’s Entrepreneurial Support Organization (ESO), a permanent, countywide resource that coordinates programming and resources for businesses at three stages: those still shaping an idea; those newly launched; and long-established companies pursuing modernization, growth or succession.

With funding from the grant, the Growth Council will launch a professional feasibility study, to map the county’s entrepreneurial landscape and evaluate a multi-hub model serving Marion, Gas City, Upland, and extend throughout Grant County. Additionally, the ESO initiative will offer ongoing workshops led by recognized experts in the field of entrepreneurship and business development; enhance the partnership and services through East Central Indiana Small Business Development Center; facilitate entrepreneurial-specific coaching built on Gallup’s Builder Profile 10 assessment; establish participation in Business Showcase Week, support Business-Pitch competitions; and establish an “Adopt-a-preneur” program pairing established business owners with newer entrepreneurs for one-on-one mentorship.

The initiative also creates pathways to better connect entrepreneurs to local sources of capital, including the Growth Council’s two revolving loan funds, up to \$30,000 countywide and up to \$50,000 within Marion city limits, and other community investment resources, creating a path from an initial idea to an investable business.

“True economic development starts from within. Becoming Grant County’s certified Entrepreneurial Support Organization isn’t just about adding new programs; it’s about surrounding our local business owners, entrepreneurs, and other innovators with an intentionally connected and accessible ecosystem of resources. Together, we are ensuring that anyone in Grant County with a business vision has the coaching, capital, and community backing to grow right here in our home community,” shared Ted Ward, executive director of the Grant County Economic Growth Council.

“Strong communities are built when organizations work together around a shared vision. The Growth Council has assembled an exciting framework for supporting entrepreneurs at every stage, and we’re proud to invest in a collaborative model that strengthens our local economy while creating new opportunities for innovation, business growth, and long-term community prosperity,” said Dawn Brown, President & CEO of the Community Foundation of Grant County.

The award builds on the Growth Council’s ongoing work supporting Grant County employers, from workforce development and site selection to administering revolving loan funds and partnering with the region’s small business development center.

The Growth Council’s mission is to promote a vibrant, sustainable economy that attracts and empowers business growth and innovation in Grant County.

“This investment reflects a shared conviction that Grant County’s economic future rests as much on the businesses we grow here as on the ones we recruit. We’re grateful to the Community Foundation for its partnership and its confidence in this work,” said Ashley Hurd, Board President of the Grant County Economic Growth Council.

The grant period runs from July 31, 2026 through June 30, 2027. In its first phase, the Growth Council will execute the feasibility study, formalize and expand its business-coaching partnership with the Small Business Development Center, and complete the industry credentialing required to operate as an Entrepreneurial Support Organization (ESO). Public programming, including the ongoing workshops and participation with Business Showcase Week, will follow into 2027.

Through this investment, the Growth Council plans to:

- Operate as Grant County’s credentialed Entrepreneurial Support Organization
- Offer monthly expert-led workshops open to entrepreneurs countywide
- Connect professionals to one-on-one coaching through the East Central Indiana Small Business Development Center
- Host a Business Showcase Week and Pitch Night Awards
- Launch an Adopt-a-Preneur program pairing established and emerging business owners
- Commission a feasibility study to guide a multi-hub model that starts with Marion, Gas City and Upland

Community members, business owners, and especially budding entrepreneurs interested in learning more can visit grantcounty.com.

About the Grant County Economic Growth Council

Founded in 1985, the Grant County Economic Growth Council is Grant County’s primary economic development organization. Its mission is to promote a vibrant, sustainable economy that attracts and empowers business growth and innovation in Grant County. For more than 40 years, the Growth Council has supported local employers through business retention and expansion, workforce development, site selection and connections to capital and community resources.

About the Community Foundation of Grant County

The Community Foundation of Grant County, Indiana, Inc. is an advocate for local philanthropy and is dedicated to connecting people who care with causes that matter. An effective steward of the community’s charitable resources since 1984, the Foundation works with donors to establish charitable funds and supports non-profit organizations through a variety of grant-making efforts. The Community Foundation connects people, resources, and causes to promote sustainable impact towards the betterment of Grant County. Currently, the Community Foundation holds over 400 different funds that benefit worthy charities and charitable causes in Grant County. For more information, please visit www.GiveToGrant.org.

Community Foundation awards \$24K grant to send Team Marion USA to International Games

Marion, Indiana — The Community Foundation of Grant County has awarded a \$24K grant to support Team Marion USA as 18 local student-athletes travel to Hualien, Taiwan, from July 30 through August 7, to compete in the 2026 International Children’s Games (ICG).

This summer, over 1,600 athletes from 60 teams will travel to Taiwan to compete in 8 different sports. Team Marion USA will compete in three sports: 3x3 Boys Basketball, 6v6 Boys Soccer, and 6v6 Girls Soccer. Only 17 cities across North America will participate in this year’s International Children’s Games. Marion, Indiana, will proudly be the only delegation from the United States represented in these three sports. For these athletes, this journey is about much more than competition.

The International Children’s Games provide young athletes with the opportunity to compete on an international stage while building friendships across cultures, experiencing new traditions, and serving as ambassadors for their communities. Throughout the Games, Team Marion USA will represent not only Marion and Grant County, but also the State of Indiana and the United States.

“These students have worked incredibly hard to earn this opportunity,” said Shelly Jones, Chief Development Officer for the Community Foundation of Grant County. “We couldn’t be more excited to see them represent our community on an international stage. This experience will shape their lives long after the final game is played, and we are proud to invest in young people who are demonstrating teamwork, leadership, and excellence.”

The Community Foundation grant helps offset travel, lodging, and participation expenses for the delegation, ensuring these local student-athletes can participate in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The team is working to raise \$60,000 to make the trip possible, and community support continues to play an important role in ensuring every student has the opportunity to participate regardless of financial circumstances.

“This is about much more than athletics,” said Aaron Murray, Delegation Manager. “These students will return home with a broader perspective of the world, new friendships across cultures, and memories that will stay with them forever. We are incredibly grateful to the Community Foundation and everyone who has supported Team Marion USA.”

The Community Foundation’s investment reflects its ongoing commitment to creating opportunities that enrich the lives of Grant County residents and empower the next generation of leaders.

As Team Marion USA travels to Hualien this summer, whether on the basketball court or the soccer field, they will carry with them the pride and encouragement of an entire community cheering them on from home.

For more information about the Community Foundation of Grant County or to learn how charitable giving creates opportunities for local students and families, visit GiveToGrant.org.

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About the International Children’s Games

The International Children’s Games (ICG) is an International Olympic Committee-recognized event that brings together young athletes from cities around the world for friendly competition and cultural exchange. Through the Games, participants experience international travel, develop lifelong friendships, and serve as ambassadors for their communities. Team Marion USA is proud to represent Marion, Grant County, Indiana, and the United States at the 2026 Games in Hualien, Taiwan.

About the Community Foundation of Grant County

The Community Foundation of Grant County, Indiana, Inc. is an advocate for local philanthropy and is dedicated to improving the lives of people in the Grant County area. An effective steward of the community’s charitable resources since 1984, the Foundation partners with donors to establish charitable funds and invests in nonprofit organizations and community initiatives through a variety of grantmaking efforts. The Community Foundation connects people, resources, and causes to promote sustainable impact for the betterment of Grant County. Currently the Community Foundation holds over 400 charitable funds that support a variety of charities and charitable causes in Grant County. For more information, please visit GiveToGrant.org.

KUTZTOWN, PA — Landin Joseph Brown of Gas City, IN (46933), has been awarded a Master of Fine Arts, Communication Design from Kutztown University.

Kutztown University has conferred degrees for more than 1,200 students for the 2026 spring semester.

Kutztown University announces degree conferment twice a year, once in the winter and once in the summer. Commencement exercises are held in May and December; however, students finish the requirements for graduation throughout the entire year.

The cumulative grade point average necessary for honors distinction is: with honor (cum laude) 3.40; with high honor (magna cum laude) 3.60 and with highest honor (summa cum laude) 3.80.

Students who have requested privacy (FERPA) are not listed publicly.

About Kutztown University of Pennsylvania

Founded in 1866, Kutztown University of Pennsylvania is a proud member of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education located on 289 acres nestled in the beautiful East Penn Valley in Berks County, between Reading and Allentown, Pennsylvania. KU is just two hours from New York City; 90 minutes from Philadelphia.

For more information, please visit us at www.kutztown.edu

Landin Brown of Gas City awarded Master of Fine Arts from Kutztown University

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Community Foundation awards \$400,000 to Strengthen Entrepreneurship and Workforce Development in Grant County

Marion, Indiana — The Community Foundation of Grant County has awarded two \$200,000 Collaboration Partner grants to support transformational initiatives that will strengthen Grant County’s economy by investing in entrepreneurs, students, and the future workforce.

The grants were awarded to the Grant County Economic Growth Council and The Academy through the Foundation’s Collaboration Partners grant cycle, designed to help trusted organizations deepen their impact, expand capacity, and pursue innovative solutions that create lasting community change.

The Grant County Economic Growth Council received \$200,000 for its Grant County Entrepreneurial Support initiative, which will establish the county’s first coordinated entrepreneurial support ecosystem by connecting aspiring

and existing business owners with training, coaching, mentorship, workspace, and access to capital. The initiative is designed to guide entrepreneurs from idea to launch while creating a permanent support network for business growth across Grant County.

The Academy received \$200,000 for its Talent Pipeline & Workforce Development Initiative, which will expand opportunities for local students through paid apprenticeships, dual-enrollment education, mentorship, workforce training, and career development. The initiative is designed to help young people build meaningful careers while encouraging them to live and work in Grant County.

“Strong communities don’t happen by accident, they are built intentionally,” said Dawn Brown, President and CEO of the Community Foundation of Grant

County. “These two investments complement one another in powerful ways. One creates stronger opportunities for entrepreneurs to start and grow businesses. The other prepares the next generation with the education, skills, and experiences they need to succeed right here in Grant County. Together, they strengthen our community’s long-term economic future.”

The Entrepreneurial Support initiative will establish Grant County’s Entrepreneurial Support Organization (ESO), providing programming for businesses at every stage of development through expert workshops, one-on-one coaching, business mentorship, feasibility studies, business showcase events, and future co-working space. The project also creates stronger connections to financing opportunities through

the Economic Growth Council’s revolving loan funds.

The Academy’s initiative builds on partnerships with Grant County high schools, the Grant Regional Career Center, Campus, Slingshot, local employers, and community mentors to provide students with paid work experience while earning college credit and developing durable workplace skills. Participants graduate with professional experience, mentorship, and educational credentials that prepare them for successful careers in Grant County.

Both projects align closely with the Grant County Strategic Vision by advancing economic development, talent retention, workforce readiness, collaboration, and long-term community prosperity.

The Community Foundation created the Collaboration Partners grant

cycle to invest in organizations with demonstrated leadership and a shared commitment to solving community challenges through partnership. Rather than funding isolated programs, the initiative focuses on strengthening systems that create lasting opportunities for Grant County residents.

“These projects represent exactly the kind of collaborative leadership our community needs,” Brown said. “When organizations work together to create opportunities, from education and workforce development to entrepreneurship and business growth, we create a stronger Grant County for generations to come.”

For more information about the Community Foundation of Grant County and its grantmaking programs, visit [GiveToGrant.org](#).

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About the Community Foundation of Grant County

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Dodson Legacy receives grant from Community Foundation of Grant County

To Restore Dignity for Foster Children through ‘Bags of Belonging’

MARION, IN – DodsonLegacy, Inc., a dedicated and successful 501(c)(3) organization committed to providing support and services to those facing life’s challenges, announced today that it has received a grant from the Community Foundation of Grant County (CoFo). The funding will be used to support the vital Bags of Belonging project.

The Bags of Belonging project is dedicated to providing new, dignified luggage and essential comfort items to children entering or currently in the foster care system. The mission is to replace the historically dehumanizing practice of using trash bags to carry personal items with a symbol of self-worth and care. Children entering foster care are experiencing one of the most traumatic events of their lives, and the use of trash bags compounds feelings of instability and shame.

The project directly addresses this critical need by providing a Bag of Belonging—a

durable, new duffel bag or suitcase—to every child upon their entry or transition within the foster care system. Each bag is filled with essential comfort items to ease the emotional transition, including a soft, cozy blanket, a full hygiene kit (toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, etc.), and a teddy bear or stuffed animal for emotional support. “Receiving this funding from the Community Foundation of Grant County is an incredible validation of our mission to restore dignity and self-worth to children during a time of profound upheaval” said Elizabeth Dodson, Dodson Legacy, Inc Community Coordinator. “The Bags of Belonging is not simply luggage; it is a powerful message to a child who may feel neglected: you matter.”

The grant supports Dodson Legacy’s goals to completely eliminate the use of trash bags for transporting children’s belongings in their service area and foster self-worth

by equipping every child with a bag they can proudly call their own. The emotional well-being of foster children requires intentional gestures that reinforce their inherent value.

About Dodson Legacy, IncDodson Legacy, Inc. is a dedicated and successful 501(c)(3) organization whose core mission is to provide support and services to those facing life’s challenges.



Dodson Legacy



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community school of the arts



community school of the arts

By Marc Comolatti

Auditions

August 10th-11th from 5:00-8:30pm

You will only need to attend one night of auditions. Come prepared to read one of the prepared sides. The sides do not need to be memorized. Callbacks will be as needed on August 12th 6:00-8:30pm. See audition packet for more information.

The Academy Edu. receives \$200,000 Community Foundation Grant to expand work-based learning and strengthen Grant County’s Workforce

MARION, Ind. —Grant County, Indiana, Inc. to expand its Work-Based Learning Program and provide Grant County students with paid apprenticeship experiences, mentorship, workforce training, and dual-enrollment educational opportunities.

The Academy’s transformational two-year apprenticeship program currently serves 21 high school students and recent graduates interested in software development, logistics, visual creativity, videography, and customer service. Students participate in a structured 36-week program, working approximately 15 hours per week while completing their secondary education and pursuing dual-enrollment college coursework.

“This generous investment will allow The Academy to continue creating meaningful pathways from education to employment for young people in Grant County,” said Ron Mazellan. “Our students are gaining valuable professional experience, developing durable skills, and discovering that successful and rewarding careers are available right here in their community.”

The grant will support:

- Workforce development and instructional technology
- Dual-enrollment coursework through Campus Program
- administration and youth-supervision compliance
- Insurance, payroll obligations, and operational support
- Durable skills training in communication, resilience, accountability, collaboration, leadership, and financial stewardship

Through partnerships with Grant County high schools, the Grant Regional Career Center, Slingshot, Campus, local employers, and community mentors, students receive hands-on professional experience while completing high school graduation requirements and working toward a two-year associate degree.

“The Academy is more than a workforce program—it is an investment in the future of our students and Grant County,” said Lezlie Winter. “By connecting students with mentors, employers, college coursework, and paid professional experiences, we are helping them build the confidence, skills, and relationships needed for long-term success.”

Creating Sustainable Impact in Grant County

The grant will create sustainable impact by helping establish a long-term workforce and talent pipeline that prepares local students for high-demand careers while encouraging them to remain, work, and invest in Grant County.

Students participating in The Academy gain professional work experience, college coursework, certifications, mentorship, and durable skills that contribute to their individual success and strengthen the economic vitality of the community.

Upon completing the apprenticeship program, students will be prepared to transition into professional opportunities with Slingshot, Campus, and other Grant County and East Central Indiana employers seeking skilled professionals in software development, logistics, customer service, videography, and creative industries.

The program’s long-term impact extends beyond the students currently enrolled. By connecting education directly to employment, The Academy helps local employers develop a pipeline of skilled, dependable, and career-ready professionals. It also allows students to see that meaningful educational and career opportunities are available within their own community.

The Academy’s collaborative model strengthens relationships among schools, higher education institutions, businesses, community organizations, mentors, and workforce development leaders. These partnerships will support future Academy cohorts and help ensure the program continues beyond the grant period.

As the program grows, The Academy intends to increase the number of students participating in paid apprenticeships, expand employer partnerships, strengthen postsecondary pathways, and create additional opportunities for graduates to secure employment in Grant County.

Through this investment, The Academy plans to:

- Prepare students for employment in high-demand career fields
- Increase access to paid work-based learning experiences
- Provide students with college coursework, certifications, and professional mentorship

Strengthen the pipeline between local schools and Grant County employers

Help businesses identify and develop emerging local talent

Encourage young professionals to remain, work, and invest in Grant County

Create sustainable apprenticeship opportunities for future student cohorts

Community members interested in learning more about The Academy and its Work-Based Learning Program may visit www.theacademyedu.com.

About The Academy

The Academy’s mission is to prepare students for meaningful employment opportunities, educational advancement, and long-term career success through apprenticeship experiences, mentorship, workforce development, and collaborative community partnerships.

The Academy empowers students to become apprentices of life and careers by combining workforce training, durable skills development, mentorship, dual-enrollment educational opportunities, and direct connections to local employers. Its work helps students recognize that meaningful professional and educational opportunities exist within Grant County and East Central Indiana.

About the Community Foundation of Grant County

The Community Foundation of Grant County, Indiana, Inc. is an advocate for local philanthropy and is dedicated to connecting people who care with causes that matter. An effective steward of the community’s charitable resources since 1984, the Foundation works with donors to establish charitable funds and supports nonprofit organizations through a variety of grant-making efforts.

The Community Foundation connects people, resources, and causes to promote sustainable impact toward the betterment of Grant County. The Community Foundation currently holds more than 400 funds that benefit charitable organizations and causes throughout Grant County. For more information, visit www.GiveToGrant.org.

Dinosaur-killing asteroid also created a dust cloud that insulated Earth, ‘charbroiling Cretaceous creatures

Global cloud layer caused planetwide spontaneous combustion, population collapse and atmospheric contamination

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Sixty-six million years ago, an asteroid about the size of Mount Everest smacked into Earth near where the Yucatan Peninsula is today. That impact created the Chicxulub crater and may have knocked out about three-quarters of all living species — including most of the dinosaurs.

Planetary scientists from Purdue University have discovered the key to how one rock — albeit a big one — could have devastated an entire global ecosystem: The asteroid sent up a cloud of planet-smothering dust, bathing the Earth in thermal radiation so intense that most species simply could not survive.

The study, published in the Journal of Geophysical Research: Biogeosciences, found that the impact’s dust cloud so effectively trapped heat that almost none could escape into space. It superheated the upper atmosphere, caused widespread wildfires and had massive effects on any life form that couldn’t take shelter from it — underground, underwater or using some other strategy.

Brandon Johnson, the study’s lead author, is an expert in craters and impacts. He studies how planetary bodies impact — literally — other planetary bodies, including the Chicxulub impact that many scientists believe triggered the extinction of the dinosaurs along with much of the planet’s other life.

“That much kinetic energy has to go somewhere and eventually it is converted to heat,” he said. “With the dust cloud trapping thermal radiation, it was like the surface and everything on it was being charbroiled. And that’s what killed the dinosaurs and all the other animals. It’s not the blast wave from the impact or the fireball — those don’t go very far. It’s the global ejection of this vapor plume material that makes this a global extinction event. Without the dust cloud, it would have been bad. It would have killed a lot of creatures. But it wouldn’t have been a planetary catastrophe.”

The sky is falling

In previous research with Jay Melosh, Johnson’s advisor and former collaborator at Purdue, Johnson discovered that when the Chicxulub asteroid hit, it vaporized over 1,000 cubic kilometers of material — largely rock and dirt, though also whatever animals and plants were in the way.

All that material expanded in a plume above the atmosphere. As the vapor rose into the air, it cooled and then condensed, just as water vapor does. But instead of condensing into raindrops, the impact vapor condensed into droplets of rock, dubbed spherules. The spherules are relatively large as tiny specks go — about 250 micrometers in diameter, or about half the size of a grain of sugar.

As the spherules fell back to Earth, the resistance of the surrounding air heated them up and turned them into miniature versions of the asteroid impact itself. That additional heat added to what was generated in the initial impact.

Paleontologists have uncovered spherules from all over the world, including from the gills of paddlefish at a site in North Dakota who likely died on the day the asteroid hit. Previous research had found that the spherules were made up of material of terrestrial origin — nothing from the asteroid itself. That material, it turns out, did not precipitate into spherules but instead became a cloud of fine dust that ballooned across the entire planet. That asteroid dust later insulated the planet like a smothering blanket that wouldn’t allow heat to escape.

The dust cloud changed the impact from merely tragic to apocalyptic.

“With this fine dust cloud capping the atmosphere, the heat radiation can’t escape to space,” Johnson said. “So the only place that radiation can go is back down to the earth. Without fine dust, this still wouldn’t have been a good day for dinosaurs. It would have killed some off, but it probably wasn’t enough to start many wildfires. With the fine dust, the Cretaceous animals received 17 times the dose of thermal radiation that is 100% lethal to humans. It was enough to ignite grass, pine needles, lichen and maybe even directly ignite wood.”

With the blanketing clouds and boiling heat, Johnson’s description sounds like the surface of Venus. But the comparison, he says, is not quite apt.

“It probably looked more like hell than like Venus,” he said. “The clouds would have blocked daylight so to any animal, like humans, that don’t see far into the infrared, the surface would have probably looked dark. You would only have been able to see a reddish glow from the wildfires. But there really wouldn’t be anything alive to do the seeing anyway, except for any animal that was able to burrow or swim or shelter in some way, to find a way to survive. It would have been terrible.”

Ashes to ashes, dust to dust

To analyze how well the dust cloud would have insulated the planet, the team brought in Alexandria Johnson, an expert on clouds.

A Purdue assistant professor of earth, atmospheric and planetary sciences, Alexandria Johnson studies clouds both on Earth and on other planetary bodies. She looked at the physical properties of the individual dust particles and the dust cloud as a whole to determine the cloud’s radiative properties: how it handles heat.

“We found that the cloud layer was so impermeable that it trapped almost all of the heat from the falling spherules near the surface of the planet — the dust is essentially acting like a lid on a pot,” she said. “It is because of this dust layer that anything that couldn’t shelter itself somehow — underground or underwater — would have gotten baked or fried. Burrowing underground protected those animals from the heat because there are different thermodynamics between the atmosphere and the solid surface.”

The dust layer would have had ongoing impacts beyond the fatal heat. The dust could have taken years, or even decades, to settle, and the particles themselves could have represented an ongoing health threat to organisms.

While the spherules, the droplets of rock precipitated from the impact, were visible to the naked (human) eye at 250 micrometers in diameter, the dust cloud was made up of particles 10 times smaller: 2.5 micrometers in diameter — 30 times smaller than a human hair.

“I study the clouds and air pollutants in our skies today,” Alexandria Johnson said. “The 2.5-micrometer dust we studied here is the same size as the smoke particles we worry about with wildfires. It gets in people’s lungs and even in our bloodstreams, which is why it’s such concern for public human health. So even if critters were to survive the charbroiling, they would likely have had lasting health effects from these particulates as well. But when you look at the time scales of the cooking versus the inhalation risks, the cooking is much faster.”

When it’s advantageous to rent rather than buy

Real estate prices skyrocketed in recent years and property values have remained high in many markets ever since. Conventional wisdom has long attested to the value of investing in real estate, but a significant percentage of hopeful homeowners may be struggling to find an affordable property in the current market. That’s led some to question conventional wisdom and look to renting as more than just a temporary pitstop on the road to homeownership.

According to Hannah Jones, a senior economic research analyst at Realtor.com, many early- and mid-career workers are finding the prospect of purchasing a home out of reach. While the percentage of 18- to 44-year-olds living with their parents has risen by nearly 3 percent since the four-year period between 2010 and 2014, scores of young professionals are looking to renting as well. Renting has long been characterized as a short-term solution, but there are situations when



it’s advantageous to sign a lease.

Buying would bust a budget

Buying a home is more expensive than ever, but the cost of homeownership extends beyond the mortgage. Mortgage calculators are useful tools when estimating a monthly mortgage payment, but that only paints part of the picture in relation to the costs of owning a home. Single-family homes tend to be larger than rented apartments, and that extra space means higher utility bills. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration

(EIA), the national average price for electricity increased by 7.4 percent between 2024 and 2025. Property taxes are another notable variable to consider, as Rocket Mortgage notes they can increase the monthly cost of homeownership by hundreds of dollars, if not more. If the monthly mortgage payment itself is stretching your budget, then that budget is likely to be busted by utility bills, property taxes and the predictable and less predictable maintenance expenditures associated with homeownership.

Renting helps to

steady your expenses

While many suspected the real estate market would become more affordable after prices skyrocketed in the early 2020s, that has not happened. According to the National Association of Home Builders, house prices across the United States increased by 55 percent between the first quarter of 2020 and the third quarter of 2025. Even if that increase levels off rather than rises in the coming years, early- to mid-career workers may not benefit by trying to wait out the market. While landlords

have the right to increase rent at the end of each lease, historically rents do not increase by all that much year-to-year. According to IProperty Management, the average monthly rent increased by 70 percent between 2020 and 2026. However, the average change between 2025 and 2026 was less than 3 percent. While rents have increased over the last half decade, the relatively low year-to-year increase, coupled with the lower utility bills and lack of property taxes, can allow early- and mid-career professionals to steady their

monthly housing expenses in a time marked by a rising cost of living.

Professional opportunity knocks

Renting also makes sense when early- and mid-career professionals are presented with career opportunities in new locales. Even professionals who have been saving up in the hopes of buying a home in their current towns or cities may find it financially advantageous, and professionally fulfilling, to pursue new professional opportunities elsewhere. A higher salary can certainly help to bridge the gap between wages and higher home costs, and a relocation to a more affordable rental and ownership market may help professionals save more and build a bigger nest egg to buy their own home down the road.

Rising home costs have garnered considerable attention in recent years. While that might leave some people feeling priced out of the real estate market, there are many instances when it’s advantageous to rent.

Is moving the right move after retirement?

Retirement is a milestone moment in life. Each person has their own vision of an ideal retirement. Some may want to travel the world. Others may look for a second career or a chance to volunteer in support of a cause near and dear to their hearts. Retirement also may lead some to ponder if it’s the right time to sell their homes.

Retirement is often associated with downsizing a home, but data indicates that even seniors who sell are not necessarily moving into smaller homes. A spring 2026 report from the National Association of Realtors found that seniors between the ages of 61 and 70 who sold a 2,000-square-foot home between June 2024 and June 2025 typically moved into a similarly sized property.

Downsizing may not be compelling seniors to move after retirement, but that doesn’t mean newly minted retirees should not give the idea of moving ample consideration. In fact, there are many reasons to move after retiring, and considering those factors can help seniors determine if moving is right for them.

• Real estate market: Real estate markets fluctuate,

and retirees can monitor home prices where they currently live and where they might want to move to see if the time is right to relocate. If prices are high in your current market and low in areas where you may want to spend your retirement, then a relocation might enable you to pocket a sizable amount of money, which can then be redirected toward retirement expenses like travel,

entertainment and health care.

• Taxes: Working with an experienced tax attorney can help retirees determine if moving is in their long-term financial interest. Capital gains taxes, income taxes, and property taxes are just some of the financial variables affected by location. Retirees could save substantial amounts of money by moving to locations with lower tax obligations. Those

savings can help to ensure seniors do not outlive their money. Even if you’re attached to your current home, the tax savings associated with relocating to a more retiree-friendly locale may be too great to pass up.

• Maintenance: While financial considerations may be foremost on the minds of retirees pondering a move, it’s equally important to ask if you can keep up with the maintenance associated with your current home. There’s also the question of desire in relation to home maintenance. If you’re physically incapable of routine maintenance tasks or simply want someone else to handle chores like maintaining the landscape, then a move to a 55+ community where maintenance is paid for by monthly

homeowners’ association fees might be the best decision.

• Family: Modern families tend to spread out. According to the Pew Research Center, 32 percent of adults with a postgraduate degree do not live near any extended family members. But 42 percent of such adults live within an hour’s drive of some extended family members. Retirees who aspire to reconnect with grown children and build strong relationships with grandchildren who may live an hour or more away might consider relocating to be closer to the people they love most.

Seniors considering a relocation in retirement can ponder a number of variables to determine if a move is in their best interest.





photo credit: Right Eye Digital, Used with Permission

Farmer losses projected to deepen

Several years of high inflation and low commodity prices, coupled with volatile production costs, are continuing to squeeze farmers financially. These forces are projected to hit farmers with \$32 billion in losses for the major row crops in 2027 after a projected loss of \$31 billion in 2026. Fruit, vegetable, nut and other specialty crop farmers faced billions of dollars in losses in 2025, with difficult market conditions continuing throughout 2026. American Farm Bureau Federation economists analyzed the losses felt across the farm economy in the latest Farm Bureau Intel.

The Farm Bureau Intel states, “Corn losses are projected to increase from \$131 per acre in 2026 to \$167 per acre in 2027. Soybean losses are projected to increase from \$80 per acre to \$138 per acre, wheat losses from \$114 per acre to \$145 per acre and cotton losses

from \$342 per acre to \$406 per acre. Rice, sorghum, oats, barley and peanuts are also projected to remain below breakeven.”

Specialty crop producers are facing many of the same cost and market pressures. The Farm Bureau Intel outlines six representative specialty crops - almonds, apples, blueberries, lettuce, potatoes and strawberries - with “over \$7 billion in estimated 2025 economic losses as labor, input, compliance and capital costs outpaced farm-level returns. Available 2026 market data show that conditions for specialty crop producers have not broadly improved.” These crops account for only about one-quarter of specialty crop receipts.

AFBF President Zippy Duvall also sent a letter to congressional leaders today in support of market relief.

Cumulative uncovered losses across the farm economy exceed \$12 billion and are being felt across many sectors of agriculture. He wrote, “Farms support rural communities as well as the jobs that keep those communities strong. Every farm lost takes with it generations of knowledge, community leadership, and the heartbeat of local economies. As those farms disappear, America’s food security is put at greater risk.”

Longer-term policy solutions are also needed to strengthen the farm economy beyond immediate assistance. A new, modernized farm bill, protecting interstate commerce, risk management coverage for specialty crop farmers and policies like year-round E15 can help improve demand and reduce the risk of more farm closures.

Careers in agriculture offer diverse opportunities beyond the farm scene



Agriculture is one of the world’s oldest industries, but today’s agricultural careers are more diverse and innovative than ever before. While farming and ranching remain essential, the industry now offers opportunities in science, technology, business, education, engineering, and environmental conservation.

Modern agriculture relies on professionals with a wide range of skills. Agronomists study crops and soil health to improve yields and sustainability. Agricultural engineers design

equipment and irrigation systems that help farmers work more efficiently. Veterinarians and animal scientists ensure the health and welfare of livestock, while food scientists develop safe, nutritious products that reach grocery store shelves.

Technology has transformed agriculture, creating demand for drone operators, precision agriculture specialists, GPS technicians, and data analysts. These professionals use satellite mapping, sensors, and artificial intelligence to help farmers make

informed decisions about planting, fertilizing, and harvesting.

Agribusiness also offers rewarding careers in sales, marketing, finance, logistics, and management. Professionals in these fields help connect producers with consumers, oversee supply chains, and develop new agricultural products and services. Extension agents and agricultural educators work with farmers, students, and communities to share the latest research and best practices.

Environmental careers are another growing segment of agriculture. Conservation specialists, foresters, and natural resource managers work to protect soil, water, and wildlife while supporting productive farming practices. As concerns about climate change and sustainability continue to grow, these careers are becoming increasingly important.

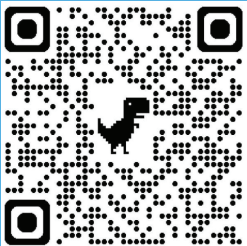
Many agricultural careers require specialized training through technical schools, community colleges, or universities, while others can be entered through apprenticeships or on-the-job experience. Organizations such as FFA and 4-H also help students develop leadership skills and explore agricultural professions.

With a growing global population and increasing demand for food, fiber, and renewable resources, agriculture remains a stable and essential industry. Whether working in a laboratory, an office, a classroom, or a field, agricultural professionals play a vital role in feeding the world and shaping the future of food production.

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Upcoming Sales

August 2nd : Online Only Absolute Attachments & Mini Equipment Sale

Sale to close starting at 1 pm on August 2, 2026. Sale includes multiple attachments, containers, golf carts, electric carts, mini excavators and skid loaders

September 13th : Online Only Markland Consignment Sale 1 pm EST

Taking consignments until noon on September 4th. Sale to include: Hardware, Antiques, Collectibles, Household, Appliances, Tools, Glassware, Small Equipment, Outdoor, Construction, and much more.
Sale to close starting at 1 pm on September 13, 2026

October 10th : Fall Live & Online Consignment Sale 9 am EST

Taking consignments until noon on October 3rd!!!! This sale is ONLINE & LIVE ONSITE!!! Will be selling Farm Equipment, Tractors, Trucks, Semis, Trailers, Attachments, Construction Equipment, Vehicles, and much much more!!!!

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