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Local conference held recently in Upland; faith, fellowship and writing weekend a success

By Cathy Shouse

The annual Taylor University Professional Writers Conference came to the Upland campus over the weekend. The conference is hosted by Taylor University students who are Professional Writing majors, past and present. In addition to the general conference, which was held Friday through Saturday (July 24-25), there were special tracks offered Thursday, on self-publishing books and writing fantasy.

Attendees this year were a mix of aspiring writers as well as accomplished writers who were on faculty. Also, a number of local authors who have learned from previous TYPWC years and have since published their books, were also in attendance. Author Rita Koch of Upland was on hand with her book, "My Argentina." Local children's



author, Shirley Thacker, attends often and reconnected with author Cindy Lynn Sawyer who was on faculty. Thacker will be having a local book signing at Brown's Bakery in Matthews Wednesday, August 19 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Steven James,

an author, writing educator, and podcast host, was a keynote who spoke three times. James was a fixture at the conference, contributing on a faculty panel Saturday afternoon.

Author Kathy Gerstorff, who recently opened a

bookstore, (Bookworm Orchard, 428 S. Washington, Marion) in collaboration with other authors, was in the audience.

"I love listening to master storytellers," Gerstorff posted on Facebook. "Steven James's presentation at Taylor University Professional Writers Conference was one of the best I've heard in a while. I felt like I was at a faith-based Ted Talk—and wondered if those exist, and if not, they should. So inspiring!"

Prior to the panel discussion, students took a moment to show appreciation and give flowers to Linda Taylor, conference director, author, and long-time Taylor professor in the Professional Writing program.

One of the questions asked of panelists was how to know if a writer's work is ready to be published, and/or to be shown to readers. A variety of answers were offered,

including that having an editor review the work might provide one an answer. One of James's thoughts? That writing is meant to go out into the world and one never knows how their words might impact someone. So lean toward more sharing and not less, if the work has been done on it. He made a reference to Ecclesiastes 11:1, "Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days."

Author Jori Hanna, writing as J.J. Hanna, wears many hats, at the conference and in daily life. She's Marketing Director at Torchflame Books, as well as a Publishing Consultant.

Hanna's debut novel is a cozy thriller that will release by publisher Torchflame Books August 11 globally, The Regulars of Amanda Lexie. A Colorado resident, Hanna graduated from Taylor University with a Professional Writing major in 2019. Her book has been nominated for the Chanticleer Sea Shorts award and the Foreword INDIES award by Foreword Reviews magazine.

"I've attended this conference five times, and taught three of those times," she said. Her session on how to write a page-turner was well attended, about keeping readers hooked, no matter the genre.

"In my time working in publishing, I've helped to launch over one hundred books—and despite knowing the path I've been surprised by how it feels to walk it," Hanna said.

For more information @ authorjjhanna and authorjjhanna.com



MusicWorks accepting applications for 2026-27

Arts Place is accepting applications for MusicWorks for 2026-2027.

MusicWorks is a comprehensive program of music instruction for all ages. Students learn: to read music, proper playing techniques, and the fundamentals of music theory. Our experienced teaching artists share their passion and enthusiasm for music.

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)

Registration fee + 1st month lesson fee and 1st month rental fee (if applicable) is due at time of registration.

Registration Link: www.myartsplace.org

Lesson times will be scheduled in the order registrations are received. Please respond promptly when you are contacted.

MusicWorks is made possible by the following generous sponsors: The Portland Foundation, Blackford County Community Foundation, Adams County Community Foundation, WPGW Radio, Citizens State Bank, and Dennis and Marianne Horn.

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



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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



AREA DEATHS



visitation, a service celebrating Lola’s life was held at 12:00 p.m., with Pastor Mick Simpkins officiating. Burial followed at Gardens of Memory in Marion.

Arnold K. Eads

Arnold K. Eads, age 70, of Jonesboro, Indiana, passed away peacefully at home on July 30, 2026. Arrangements for Arnold have been entrusted to the Fairmount Chapel of Armes-Hunt Life Celebration Funeral Home and Cremation Services. In accordance with his wishes, Arnold will be cremated.

Judith “Judy” A. Himelick

Judith “Judy” A. Himelick, 88, of Upland, Indiana, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, July 29, 2026. Arrangements for Judy have been entrusted to the Jones-Smith Chapel of Armes-Hunt Life Celebration Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 259 North Main Street, Upland, Indiana 46989, where a visitation was held on Sunday, August 2, 2026, from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. A funeral service followed at 2:00 p.m. with Pastor Haley Asberry officiating. Burial took place at Jefferson Cemetery in Upland.p.m., with Pastor Joandy Angrand officiating.

Juan Manuel Herrera

Juan Manuel “Manny” Herrera, 60, of Converse, passed away on July 29, 2026 in his home. Born on September 23, 1965, in Marion, Indiana, Visitation will be held on Thursday, August 13, 2026 from 10-11:45am in the narthex of St. Paul Catholic Church, 1031 Kem Road, Marion, Indiana. The funeral mass will be celebrated immediately following at noon with Rev. Michael Block officiating. The family requests family and friends wear Cubs or Colts attire to honor Manny’s love for both teams.

Goldie A. Burgener

Goldie A. (Oswalt) Burgener, 92, of Converse, passed away peacefully on July 27, 2026. Visitation was held on Friday, July 31, 2026, from 10:30am-11:45am at Owen-Weilert-Duncan Funeral Home, Marion Chapel, 2722 South Washington Street, Marion, Indiana. The funeral followed at noon with Rev. Gary Ashbrook officiating..

Richard Henddricks

Richard L. Hendricks, 80, of Macy, IN. passed away peacefully with his family by his side at Ascension-St. Vincent Hospital, Indianapolis, IN. at 7:47 PM, Thursday, July 30, 2026. Family and friends gathered from 12 Noon to 3:30 PM, Tuesday, August 4, 2026 at the Eikenberry-Eddy Funeral Home, 84 W. Main St, Peru. Military Honors were provided by the Miami County Military Rites Unit at 3:30 PM.

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.dens of Memory Cemetery, Marion, Indiana.

Kaley Denise Barnes

Kaley Denise Barnes, 43, of Marion, passed away at 4:49 p.m. on Wednesday, July 29, 2026, in Huntington. The family received visitors from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Monday, August 3, 2026, at Grace Community Church, 1810 E. Bradford Pike, Marion, Indiana. Immediately following visitation, a service celebrating Kaley’s life was held at 5:00 p.m., with Pastor Tyler Gates officiating.

Carol Vanlandingham

Carol Vanlandingham, 75, of Marion, passed away at 4:10 am on Wednesday, July 29, 2026, in Marion. The family received visitors from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon on Monday, August 3, 2026 at Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral & Cremation Services, Storey Chapel, 400 E. Main St., Gas City, IN 46933. Immediately following the time of visitation, a service to celebrate Carol’s life was held at 12:00 noon with Pastor Jim McKinney officiating. Burial took place at Grant Memorial Park.

Anna Jean McCowan

Anna Jean McCowan, 89, of La Fontaine, passed away at 6:20 am on Tuesday, July 28, 2026, at Rolling Meadows Health and Rehabilitation Center. The family received visitors from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm on Monday, August 3, 2026, at Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral & Cremation Service, North Chapel, 1341 N. Baldwin Ave., Marion, IN. Immediately following the time of visitation, a service to celebrate Anna’s life was held at 1:00 pm with Rev. James O. McCowan officiating. Burial took place at Grant Memorial Park.

Dr. John W. Kennedy MD

Dr. John Wayne (“Mike”/”Cutter”) Kennedy, 82, Marion, passed away peacefully surrounded by loved ones on Tuesday, July 28, 2026. The family received visitors from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm on Sunday, August 2, 2026, at Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral & Cremation Service, North Chapel, 1341 N. Baldwin Ave., Marion, IN. Immediately following the time of visitation, a service to celebrate Mike’s life was held at 3:00 pm with Mike Hamilton officiating.vice, Storey Chapel 400 E. Main St., Gas City, IN.

Lola Marie Hehr

Lola Marie Hehr, 99, of Marion, passed away peacefully at 10:18 p.m. on Tuesday, July 28, 2026, at Wyndmoor of Marion. Family and friends gathered from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Monday, August 3, 2026, at Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral & Cremation Service, North Chapel, 1341 N. Baldwin Ave., Marion, Indiana. Immediately following the

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

REGIONAL CHURCHES DIRECTORY

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

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

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

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

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

Back Creek Friends
– 10:30 a.m., Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.

Back Creek Wesleyan
– 10:30 a.m., Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.

Fairmount Baptist Church – 10:30 a.m., Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Westview Wesleyan, 11 a.m. (Jonesboro)
Women of Hope Bible Study – Tuesday – 10 a.m.
(Located at One of Ten on SR 26 in Fairmount. Open to all women in Grant County)

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

Fairmount UMC – Wednesday – 10 a.m., Men and Women’s Bible Study

Marion schools deliver nearly 187,000 summer meals to local families

Marion Community Schools has just wrapped up its second year of summer meal deliveries, a resounding success with nearly 187,000 meals distributed to local families!

Through this program, meal boxes are delivered directly to our families at home every 10 days, each box containing 10 breakfasts and 10 lunches. Families can sign up to receive one box, all seven boxes, or any combination in between! Deliveries started May 27, and the final boxes were delivered July 27, providing meals through Aug. 4 (the day before school starts back up). Altogether, we delivered 93,475 breakfasts and 93,475 lunches, for a total of 186,950 meals.

As part of the Summer Food Service Program for Children, created to serve nutritious meals to children when the USDA’s National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program meals are not available, all children age 18 and younger in the Marion Community Schools district qualify for this summer program. There is no income requirement for this program, and acceptance and participation requirements are the same for all children regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

During the school year, EVERY student in our school system, preschool through 12th grade, gets FREE breakfast and lunch, with no application or special requirements.

We also offer monthly food distributions at several of our school buildings through a partnership with Second Harvest, and various other partnerships that help us stock weekend bags, the MHS Caring Closet, and more. Students and families in need can reach out to the Home/School Coordinator at their building to find out what services may be available.

We are proud to offer these options year-round to our students and families. Combatting hunger is something that makes a real impact on the quality of life in our community.

MCS thanks all employees and community partners who make these efforts possible!

NOTICE OF SHERIFF’S SALE/KAREN L. ROBINSON

To The Owners Of The Within Described Real Estate And All Interested Parties: Notice Of Sheriff’s Sale By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of the Superior Court of Grant County, Indiana, in Cause No. 27D01-2603-MF-000022 wherein NewRez LLC was Plaintiff, and Karen L. Robinson, et al were the Defendants, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and costs, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on the 30th day of September, 2026, at the hour of 10:00 A.M, or as soon thereafter as is possible, 214 E 4th St, Marion, IN 46952 in Grant County, Indiana, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Grant County, Indiana. One Hundred Thirteen and one-third (113 1/3) feet off of the West end of Lot Number One (1) in Smith’s Addition of Out-Lots to the Town, now City, of Marion, Indiana. More Commonly Known As: 1224 W 4th St., Marion, IN 46952 Parcel No. 27-07-06-302-090.000-002 Together with rents, issues, income, and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisal laws. Delmiro Garcia Sheriff of Grant County, Indiana Phillip A. Norman #13734-64 Benjamin J Pliskie #30407-45 Phillip A. Norman P.C. Date Township Center Street Address 1224 W 4th St., Marion, IN 46952 The Sheriff’s Department does not warrant the accuracy of the street address published herein. Please Serve: Name Karen L. Robinson Address 1224 W 4th St, Marion, IN 46952 Type of Service Sheriff

(8-3-26_JR_3x_HSPAXLP)

Email Us Your Upcoming Events to:

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*Deadline is Monday at 5 PM for the Thursday edition.

VICTORIOUS *Living* ...in a troubled world

The Good Shepherd offers a place where you belong

By Teresa A. LeNeave
leneave2@comcast.net

In a world marked by uncertainty, the message of the Gospel of Christ continues to offer what we all look for: hope, purpose, and lasting assurance. Scripture teaches when God’s Word is faithfully proclaimed, it will never return without accomplishing its purpose. (Isaiah 55:11). The promise is clear: lives are changed, hearts are strengthened, and faith will bear fruit.

In Psalm 23, David boldly proclaimed, “The Lord is MY Shepherd, I shall not want”. Then he goes on to explain the things he wanted. Peace (green pastures) Leadership

(still waters). Hope (restoration of soul). The image of the Good Shepherd provides a powerful picture of God’s care for His people. Unlike human resources that can run dry, the Shepherd’s storehouse is never empty. There is abundant spiritual nourishment for everyone who comes seeking truth. His pasture offers not only wholesome food but also shelter from life’s storms, refreshing water for weary souls, and shade during seasons of hardship.

Those burdened by sickness, weakness, or discouragement are not turned away. Psalm 23 says the Good Shepherd provides healing, restores strength, and



gently cares for those who are hurting. Like a shepherd tending every need of the flock, He removes what hinders growth, restores health, and renews lives until joy and vitality return.

Under His faithful care, the flock flourishes. An

atmosphere of peace and security replaces fear and doubt, allowing believers to grow in confidence and faith. Jesus told a parable about one little lost lamb where the Shepherd left the herd to find the lost lamb and bring it home to safety. (Luke

15:3-7). In the parable every sheep is known personally, and none are forgotten. When one wanders from the safety of the flock, the Shepherd immediately notices and lovingly goes in search of the lost until they are found.

The Good News is

that the invitation remains open to all of us. Those who choose to follow the Good Shepherd discover more than protection—they find a place where they belong. His care creates willing hearts rather than reluctant followers. Drawn by His love and sustained by His provision, His flock receives the nourishment that only God can provide, finding lasting security in His faithful care. David concludes Psalm 23 with “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life (God’s commitment to David); and I WILL (David’s commitment to God) dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

Nothing can keep us from the love of God

By Dr. Billy Holland

Memories can be wonderful places to visit when they are pleasant and filled with peace and joy. On the other hand, not all of our experiences have been pleasant. Negative thoughts can be more like a haunted house on a dark and stormy night. We all have our own unique collections of thoughts and emotions, which leave us with the task of figuring out a way to deal with them. As most of us know, there are positive ways and negative ways to handle our past experiences, and we can look around and see that some have learned to control their feelings while others allow their thoughts to control them. Who can help? Jesus desires that we give Him our hearts and minds, allowing Him to guide and heal us.

Some will say, “You have not walked in my shoes,” and this is true, but with every person being a unique

individual, God’s love is universal and can bring contentment, peace, and happiness, whatever the situation might be. His promises are true and cannot fail, no matter what we have been through. He can transform our disappointments and stumbling blocks into victorious stepping stones if we listen and obey his voice. In Psalm 57, we read a story about David, who is in great danger and is hiding in a cave to escape the wrath of Saul. However, even in this dark hour of fear and anxiety, we notice in verse one that he is singing God’s praises: “Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me, for in you I take refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until this difficulty and burden have passed.” We may face different types of trials and sorrows that are filled with doubt and discouragement, but it comes down to us trusting him, adjusting our attitude, and then intentionally taking

shelter in the safety and security of his love.

Maybe you were the one who was always selected last for games in gym class, or teased in the neighborhood, or someone spread a hurtful rumor about you that brought shame and anger. Many individuals have a distant relationship with their parents or their children, which is very painful. Others have been betrayed by the one they loved and trusted and are deeply wounded to the core of their soul. Have you ever felt forgotten, rejected, alone, and unwanted? Emotional suffering can make us feel worthless and hopeless. Maybe you were the one who made mistakes and hurt others, and you feel condemned: the list goes on. Whatever is attacking your conscience and trying to steal your joy, God wants you to know today that he’s here for you, he can transform, restore, protect, forgive, and lead you into the beautiful life he

intended you to live.

God cares about you more than you can imagine. Even before you were in the womb, the Lord knew you and has never taken his eyes away from you. He knows every thought, sees every tear, and wants a personal relationship with you more than anything. The accuser of the brethren will try to remind us how the damage and consequences cannot be changed, but we can boldly remind the devil that our resentment and negative attitudes have been washed away. Micah 7:19, Isaiah 43:25, and Psalm 103:12 establish that through repentance our sins are gone forever. He now sees us as a new forgiven creation in Christ that can walk confidently in the power and divine truth of his grace and righteousness.

Take the time to make a list of everyone who has hurt and offended you in any way. If you are not able to speak to these



individuals in person, lay your hand on their name and ask the Lord to help you sincerely forgive them. Harboring bitterness toward anyone is the iniquity of omission. Since giving is associated with receiving, we can be assured that forgiving others allows us to be pardoned. Read the entire chapter of Romans 8, but listen carefully to these verses 35, 37-38. “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine

or nakedness or danger or sword? For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Dr. Holland is an ordained minister, chaplain, and author. Read more about Living On Purpose at billyhollandministries.com.llandministries.com

Outdoor Truths: Just things

At least once a year I fish the Powell River with my friend, Michael. We live about an hour from each other, so these trips are planned a few weeks in advance. Our preferred way of fishing is with light tackle in kayaks. We both love everything the river offers. The Powell is a small river, and while there are some larger smallmouth bass, most of our trophies measure less than 15 inches. But the fight they put up, combined with the pull of the current, gives

us plenty of thrills and hours of enjoyment. I am new to the river compared to Michael. My river fishing started only about 15 years ago. Michael’s began when he was a child with his dad and brother. Every time we go, I hear stories and lessons from those days on the river. Ed (his dad) was a local postal worker who spent his spare time floating from one stretch of river to the other. He knew every place to put in and take out. Of course he had his favorite bait. And

back then, it wasn’t kayaks, but Jon boats. A mess of redeyes was as good as any meal you could buy at the local grocery store. While I knew Michael and his whole family as a teenager, I never knew the priorities of his dad. What I’ve learned from our fishing trips is that Ed had a great sense of what was truly valuable. And what he valued most was what money couldn’t buy. I learned this after hearing story after story about how the

river would sometimes swallow rods, reels, and anchors. Not to mention glasses, knives, and other tackle. While Ed and the boys had to learn to “deep-sea-dive” to try to retrieve these things when lost, Ed would eventually remind them that they were just that. Things. Replaceable things. There is nothing – no thing- that can trump the value of time on the river, especially the ones with your sons. Rods will be broken. Reels will be lost. The river

will claim whatever isn’t tied down. But the value of those memories will never diminish. In fact, with each passing year, they will become more valuable. How do I know? I hear it in every story Michael tells. I hope the things you value can’t be bought, bent, or broken. I hope they’re found in experiences, adventures, and people – maybe even in the moments that involve losing or breaking those things that were, after all, only things.

Gary Miller
gary@outdoortruths.org

Gary Miller has written Outdoor Truths articles for 23 years. He has also written five books which include compilations of his articles and a father/son devotional. He also speaks at wild-game dinners and men’s events for churches and associations. Stay updated on Outdoor Truths each week by subscribing at Outdoortruths.org

Farm Bureau encouraged by Senate Farm Bill Markup Schedule

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall today applauded the release of farm bill text and notice of a Senate Ag markup for next week.

“When you look across the spectrum of agriculture, there is one piece of legislation that touches almost every farm in America, and that’s the farm bill, so it’s time for Congress to get it done.

“We’re grateful to Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman John Boozman for releasing farm bill text

and are encouraged that we can achieve a bipartisan bill that can get across the finish line. We appreciate the Administration’s call for Congress to move this process forward and urgently deliver a farm bill to the President’s desk.

“The bill includes important provisions beyond traditional farm bill program support, including authorizing the sale of E15 blended fuel year-round, expanding investments in specialty crops and measures to reduce

input price volatility. We’re also calling on Congress to deliver a fix for interstate commerce issues as well as much-needed economic aid for agriculture.

“We’ve lost 200,000 farms in a decade, and a modernized farm bill will help stabilize the struggling farm economy. We’re calling on the Senate Agriculture Committee to advance the bill out of markup and send it forward for full Senate passage and ultimately the president’s signature.”



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Secretary Rollins announces continued growth of USDA’s Product of USA label with six additional companies joining initiative

(Washington, D.C., – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins today announced six additional meat and poultry companies have adopted USDA’s voluntary Product of USA (POTUSA) label, continuing the strong momentum behind the Trump Administration’s efforts to help consumers easily identify products that are truly born, raised, harvested, and processed in the United States.

As more processors adopt the Product of USA label, American families have greater confidence that when they purchase products bearing the claim, they are directly supporting American farmers, ranchers, processors, and rural communities.

“Product of the USA label is a win for American farmers, ranchers, processors, and consumers alike, and we are continuing to see companies respond to this demand,” said U.S. Secretary Brooke Rollins. “American consumers want to know where their food comes from, and they deserve labels they can trust. Every new company that adopts Product of USA is helping strengthen rural America, create new market opportunities for U.S. producers, and make it easier for families to support American agriculture every time they shop.”

The newest companies to adopt USDA’s Product of USA label include:

- Creekstone Farms – Kansas
- Caviness Beef Packers
- CS Beef Packers –



Texas Greener Pastures – Texas Lone Star Beef Processors – Texas Claxton Poultry Farms – Georgia

The continued expansion of the Product of USA label complements President Trump’s and Secretary Rollins’

broader strategy to strengthen America’s livestock industry by supporting independent ranchers, family farmers, and domestic meat and poultry processors. By creating new market opportunities for products that are fully American

from pasture to plate, USDA is helping producers and processors compete, grow, and meet rising consumer demand for American-raised meat.

The Product of USA initiative also complements USDA’s Strengthening Processing for U.S.

Ranchers (SPUR) Program, a \$500 million investment to help eligible small- and mid-sized beef processors preserve and expand domestic processing capacity. Together, these efforts are strengthening America’s meat supply chain, expanding opportunities for U.S. producers, and increasing consumer access to high-quality American-raised products.

USDA continues to receive strong interest from processors across the country, with additional companies expected to adopt the Product of USA label in the coming months as consumer demand for authentic American-produced meat and poultry continues to grow.

SCAN ME!

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FARM EQUIPMENT AUCTION

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 14TH • SMALL TOOLS @ 10:00 AM, FARM EQUIPMENT SIMULCAST @ 11:00 AM

From the Estate of Brian L. Washler, buyers will find a strong selection of farm equipment and agricultural assets that have been well cared for and are ready for their next operation.

Featuring an outstanding lineup including: International tractors, New Holland hay equipment & Gehl equipment, Polaris Ranger, 2015 Chevrolet 3500HD Duramax Dually & support equipment, Hay tools, wagons, skid steer attachments & farm implements, Quality equipment ready to go to work for farms of all sizes.

Located at 8032 Co Rd 42, Butler, IN 46721.

Preview Date: Wednesday, August 11th | 12pm-5pm or by appointment

Estate of Brian L. Washler, Dekalb Co., Case #17C01-2506-ES-000002, Admin: Amy Washler

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2026 AT 10AM

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AUCTION PREVIEW: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12 FROM 4-6 PM

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USDA asks partners to develop AI solutions to accelerate crop innovation

(Washington, D.C. — The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is taking steps to speed up progress in plant science by calling on universities and stakeholders to help build new AI tools that can translate the huge amount of germplasm data the agency collects.

Through the Genesis Mission

and the Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority (AgARDA), USDA is expected to launch an Agricultural National Science & Technology Challenge later this year. The Challenge will ask innovators to create practical solutions that pull together different types of information—like

images, field data, and lab results—so scientists can quickly spot important plant and seed traits and develop crops that are more resilient and productive.

“USDA is taking concrete steps to give scientists the modern tools they need to innovate agricultural solutions from the vast plant data that they collect,” said

REE Under Secretary and USDA Chief Scientist Dr. Scott Hutchins. “When our partners help us to solve agricultural challenges by using AI tools, we’ll unlock faster discoveries with germplasm data and grow better crops that strengthen our food system for many future generations.”

The Genesis Mission, launched in November 2025, is a national effort coordinated by the White House Office of Science and Technology

Policy to leverage artificial intelligence to accelerate scientific discovery. The Mission will bring together America’s scientists, top innovative businesses, world-renowned universities; and data repositories, production plants, and national security sites — to use AI tools to solve the nation’s most complex science and technological challenges. Challenge teams will have access to the American

Science and Security Platform, DOE-built shared infrastructure that will connect datasets, scientific instrumentation, and AI tools to accelerate discovery.

More details on the Challenge are forthcoming. Proposing teams are encouraged to read the full Genesis Mission Executive Order and bring their best ideas to advance America’s future in germplasm innovation.

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For online bidding go to wilnat.com

(EQUIPMENT IS NOT ON SITE)

Go to wilnat.com for consignor list, equipment locations, and updated consignment list



Marvin Yutzy

Tractor Collection

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 12 • 10:00 A.M.

TRACTORS

- 1995 JD 5400 w/ JD 520 Loader
- John Deere 4650
- John Deere 4450
- 1977 Massey Ferguson 255
- 1970 John Deere 4020
- Ford 8N
- John Deere 50
- John Deere 3155
- Ford 6700
- Massey Harris 30
- Case Tractor
- McCormick Deering 1020
- (2) McCormick Deering Farmall F-20s

Marvin Yutzy Tractor Collection

- 1968 AC 190XT Diesel
- AC D10 Gas
- AC D12 Gas
- AC D14
- AC D17 Series III Gas
- AC D21 Diesel
- AC WD45 Gas
- Ford 8N Gas
- Ford Jubilee Gas
- John Deere 730 Diesel
- John Deere 830 Diesel
- Minneapolis Moline Z Gas

COMBINES, HEADERS, & CARTS

- John Deere 9500 Combine
- John Deere 9570 STS Combine
- John Deere 9550 Combine
- John Deere 9510 Combine
- (3) John Deere 9500 Combines
- JD 9410 Combine
- JD 920 Grain Head w/ U&M Cart
- JD 643 Cornhead
- 2003 Gleaner R65 w/ 6 Row Cornhead
- 1995 Gleaner R42 Combine w/ 630 Cornhead
- Case IH 2188 Combine
- Massey Ferguson 9240 Draper
- John Deere 920F Grain Platform w/ Header Cart
- John Deere 693 Cornhead w/ Header Cart
- John Deere 693 Cornhead
- 6 Row Corn Reel
- John Deere 922 Flex Head

- John Deere 843 Cornhead
- International 863 Cornhead
- (3) John Deere 643 Cornheads
- 2014 Case IH 30' 3020 Terra-Flex Platform
- 2013 JD 635F 35' Flex Platform
- Case IH 30' 1020 Platform
- John Deere 635F Grain Platform
- John Deere 925 25' Platform
- Case IH 30' 1020 Platform
- Case IH 25' 1020 Platform
- 2013 J&M HT 36 Header Cart
- J&M 36' Header Cart
- Unverferth 25' Header Cart
- Unverferth HT-36 Header Cart
- Unverferth 30' Header Cart
- EZ Trail 30' Header Cart
- EZ Trail 20' Header Cart

GRAIN HANDLING

- E-Z Trail 500 Grain Cart
- Brent 472 Grain Cart
- KillBros 1400 Grain Cart
- KillBros 385 Gravity Wagon
- KillBros 350 Gravity Wagon w/ Auger
- J&M 750 Grain Cart
- KillBros 350 Gravity Wagon
- 1986 Unverferth McCurdy 375 Gravity Wagon
- 150 Bu. Gravity Wagon
- 150 bu. Gravity Wagon w/ Auger
- 250 Bu. Gravity Bed Wagon
- 150 Bu. Gravity Bed Wagon
- EZ Trail 50 Mini Gravity Wagon
- E-Z Flow 350 bu. Gravity Wagon
- Unverferth 150 bu. Gravity Wagon
- (2) KillBros 375-385 Gravity Wagon
- (2) Ficklin 4500 Gravity Wagon
- M&W Gravity Wagon
- Westfield WRX 10-31 Auger
- Westfield Mk 100-71 Hyd. Swingaway Auger
- Maykrath 10"x50" Swingaway Auger
- MK-100 Westfield Swingaway Auger
- 1995 CFAB 270 Grain Dryer
- 6500 Bu Grain Bin

TRUCKS & TRAILERS

- 2019 Peterbilt 579 MX 13 Semi
- 2012 Freightliner Cascadia Semi

- 2006 Int. 8600 Single Axle Semi
- 2000 Kenworth T800 Semi
- 1985 Int. 9370 Semi
- 1985 Int. 5200 Single Axle Semi
- 1984 GMC D9L Cabover Semi
- 2011 Ram 5500 Cab & Chassis
- 2015 Chevy 1500 LT Crew Cab
- 2005 Chev 1500 Truck
- 1920's Ford Model A
- 2011 Int. 4400 Dura-Star Grain Truck
- 1975 Ford 600 Grain Truck
- 2009 Timpler 40' Super Hopper
- Maurer 38' Alum. Hopper Bottom
- 2014 MAC 35' Dump Trailer
- 2010 Valley 30' Flat Bed
- 1999 Wilson 40' Hopper Bottom
- 1995 Wheeler Hopper Bottom
- 1975 Fontaine 33' Double Drop Trailer
- TN 12' Enclosed Trailer
- 16' Tandem Axle Bumper Pull Trailer

CONSTRUCTION

- 2010 John Deere 310J Backhoe
- John Deere 410D Backhoe
- Case 450C Dozer
- Prime Mover LL-40 4WD Articulating Forklift
- Hyster 70 Diesel Forklift
- Backhoe Attach. for Vermeer Trencher
- 2014 Bobcat T870 Skid Steer
- 2016 Bobcat T770 Skid Steer
- 2015 Bobcat S520 Skid Steer
- Future FT-3T Hyd. Tilt Bucket
- (2) 67" Skid Steer Buckets
- 97" Skid Steer Bucket
- Skid Steer Forks

PLANTING, SPRAYER & TILLAGE

- 2023 Unverferth 122 5 Shank Subsoiler
- 2021 Great Plains 30" TerraMax VT
- DMI 24' Rolling Basket
- Glencoe SF 4800 20" Soil Finisher
- John Deere 8300 10' Drill
- 2001 Kinze 3600 Planter
- John Deere 1760NI Planter
- 2012 Case IH 4430 Patriot Sprayer
- John Deere 4930 Sprayer
- Rogator 1254 Sprayer

- Top-Air TA 500 Pull Type Sprayer
- John Deere 787 Air Cart w/ JD 1850 36" Air Drill
- Phillips 4305 43" Rotary Harrow
- 10' Pull Type Disc
- IH 415 20" Cultimulcher
- 11 Knife DMI Applicator
- 11 Row Applicator
- JD 9 Shank 710 Disc Chisel Plow
- John Deere 1610 12 Chisel Plow

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- JayLor 4350 Feed Mixer w/ Scales
- JayLor 3350 TMR Scales
- JayLor 4425 TMR Scales
- NDE 1502 Feed Mixer
- Gehl 920 Silage Wagon
- Pequea S10ES Silage Wagons
- (2) New Holland 28 Silage Blowers
- Gehl CB 860 Silage Chopper
- Hesston 4590 Inline Baler
- (3) Patriot 150 Creep Feeders
- (10) Fence Line Feed Bunks
- Steel Gravity Feed Bin
- Pequea S10ES Cattle Feeder
- Homemade Cattle Chute
- Pequea 646 Bale Transport Wagon
- 2014 New Holland 330 Big Baler
- New Holland 276 Square Baler
- New Holland 268 Square Baler
- Minneapolis Moline 7622 Hay Loader
- John Deere 662 Hay Rake
- Hay Elevators 30"
- John Deere 200 Hay Elevator
- Smalley 35' Elevator
- (4) 8' Hay Rings
- (3) J&L Hay Savers
- FFC 6 Prong Hay Spear
- (2) 2 Prong Hay Spears for Skid Steer
- New Idea 7" Pull Type Sickle Bar Mower
- Calumet Manure Spreader
- Pull Type Fertilizer Spreader

DISPLAYS/MONITORS RECEIVERS

- New JD Starfire 7500 GPS Receiver
- 2020 CIH 372 GPS Receiver
- 2019 Case IH Pro 700

- 2019 Trimble Nav 3
- 2017 JD 2630 Display

MOWERS

- Woods 15' Batwing Rotary Mower
- 70" Brush Cutter for Skid Steer
- Kubota G1900 Diesel Lawnmower
- John Deere LX280 Riding Mower
- John Deere 455 Diesel Riding Mower
- Toro Real Mower 6500-D

MISCELLANEOUS

- 2013 Polaris Sportsman 550
- Kioti 2400 UTV
- Bafco 19-BM6-900 PTO Wood Chipper
- Double Stack Starter Weight Bracket for JD
- (2) John Deere Slab Weights
- Hubs for 4020
- Rural King 500 Cone Spreader
- 18.4-38 Clamp On Duals
- (4) 13.4-16.1 Wheels & Tires
- White 6 Cyl. Diesel Engine
- JD 217 Gas Engine
- Antique Hit & Miss Gas Engine
- JD 20 Series Front Weights
- John Deere 155 3pt Blade
- Troybilt Snowblower
- (2) Continental 3pt Post Hole Diggers
- Future Post Hole Digger for Skid Steer
- (6) Post Hole Augers
- End Dividers for JD Draper
- Trelleborg 650/65 R38 Tires
- Farm Fans Grain Bin Dryer 30"
- 18.4-34 Clamp on Duals
- Like New Gathering Chains
- (35) Yield 360 Y Drops
- Antique Horse Drawn Manure Spreader
- Pull type Parade Wagon
- Horse Drawn Wagon
- Little Giant Corn Sheller
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USDA, HHS, EPA join forces to bolster consumer protections

(Washington, D.C., — Today, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lee Zeldin announced an updated Memorandum of Understanding (PDF, 2.3 MB) to reaffirm their shared commitment to protecting consumers from heavy metals and other contaminants in food.

For decades, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have coordinated through the National Residue Program to monitor and regulate meat, poultry, and egg products. This updated MOU strengthens collaboration under this program and adopts new methods to better detect and address potential risks.

“American farmers, ranchers, and producers grow and raise the safest, most abundant, and most affordable food supply in the world. Together with our partners at HHS and EPA, we are strengthening the health of American families and giving consumers confidence in the safety of our food supply,” said Secretary Rollins. “This new MOU modernizes how our agencies work together and streamlines the way we share information, coordinates scientific expertise, and improves how we detect and address potential risks. This is the Trump Administration improving the way our government works so we can better protect the American people and ensure the safety of our food supply, which is truly a national security and health priority.”

“Protecting Americans from harmful contaminants in food is a core priority of the Trump Administration,” said HHS Secretary Kennedy. “We are strengthening oversight, improving detection, and coordinating across the federal government to reduce exposure to heavy metals and other toxins. I appreciate Secretary Rollins and Administrator Zeldin for their leadership as we work together to protect American families and Make America Healthy Again.”

“At the Trump EPA, we are excited to help advance new policies to Make America Healthy Again. Today’s announcement ensures a safer food supply by supporting new testing methods to reduce metal residues in produce, meat, and, for the first time ever, processed foods,” said Administrator Zeldin. “We want Americans to feel confident the food on their plate has been held to the highest standards of safety. It’s an honor to serve on the MAHA Commission, led by Secretary Kennedy, working with great partners like Secretary Rollins to pave the way for a healthier nation for generations to come.”

As part of this effort, the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has already taken steps to modernize monitoring for heavy metals in foods by implementing a new, streamlined laboratory method to measure the quantity of 18 heavy metals at extremely low levels. If elevated or unusual levels are detected, FSIS conducts science-based assessments to determine when the agency should take action to keep risky products out of the food supply. Additionally, FSIS will also expand its surveillance for heavy metals to include processed foods, such as sausages and ready-to-eat meals, which combine ingredients from multiple sources.

The data collected by FSIS shows heavy metal contamination of raw meat and poultry products is extremely rare and FSIS will continue to publish results of this surveillance testing online, ensuring transparency for industry and consumers.

This updated MOU further advances efforts to Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) and builds on the MAHA Report’s goal of reducing children’s exposure to heavy metals, PFAS, and other harmful contaminants.



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DV2051
AUG 13
2017 Powerscreen Trakpactor 500 impact crusher



FC3242
AUG 13
2014 Terex I-110 impact crusher



YA3389
AUG 6
2023 Mack Anthem semi truck



FK4070
AUG 19
2020 Goweil LT-Master silage baler



YA3422
AUG 13
2003 Volvo A30D articulated haul truck



FK3507
AUG 18
2024 Massey Ferguson MF 7S.155 MFWD tractor



FK3185
AUG 13
2011 John Deere 1050J dozer



EW1034
AUG 18
2016 Ford F750 dump truck



ER3133
AUG 13
Caterpillar D7F dozer



EM0140
AUG 13
2023 Caterpillar 299D3 XE tracked skid steer

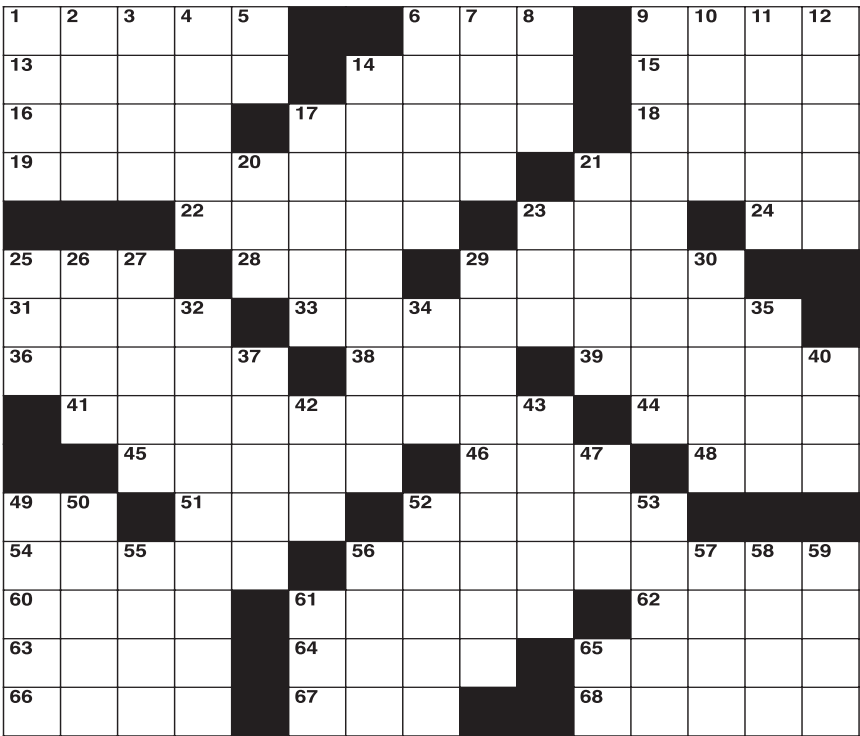
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Crossword Puzzle



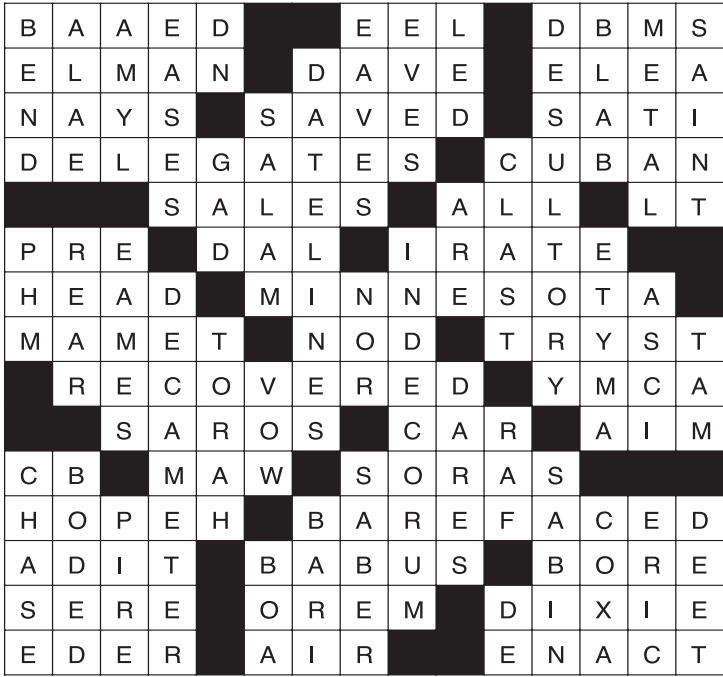
CLUES ACROSS

1. Bleated
6. Snakelike fish
9. Database management system
13. Social evolution anthropologist Service
14. American rocker Grohl
15. Greek personification of compassion
16. Negatives
17. Rescued
18. Self-immolation by fire ritual
19. Assigns tasks
21. Popular type of cigar
22. Discounts
23. The whole quantity
24. New York Giants legend
25. Indicates before
28. Lentils
29. Extremely angry
31. Body part
33. “North Star State”
36. David __, US playwright
38. Lower and raise one’s head
39. Private rendezvous
41. In a way, improved
44. A place to play
45. Astronomical period of 18 years
46. Automobile
48. Something you can take
49. A radio band
51. Jaws of a voracious animal
52. Short-billed rails
54. Chinese province
56. Shameless
60. Horizontal passage from the surface into a mine
61. Indian respectful titles
62. Fail to entertain
63. Dried-up
64. Central Utah city
65. Southern U.S.
66. German river
67. Necessary for breathing
68. Put into play

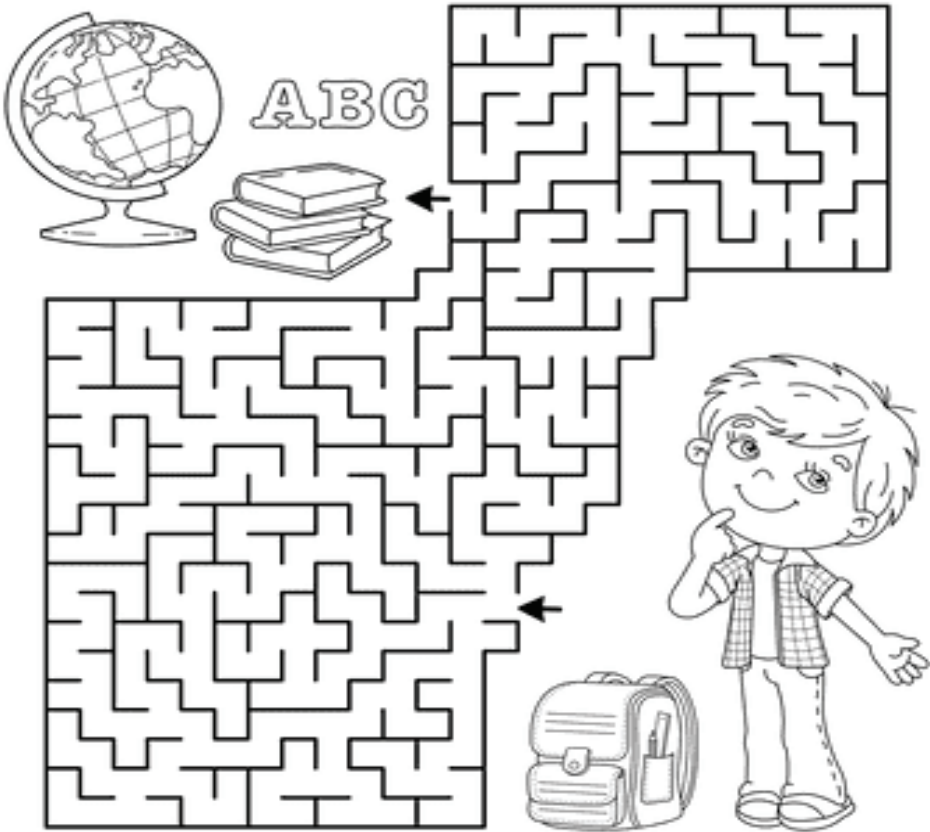
CLUES DOWN

1. Curved segment
2. Wings
3. Yellowish volatile liquid
4. Makes less severe
5. Debit note
6. Overhang
7. The nights before
8. Type of light
9. Lacking enthusiasm
10. Tattle
11. Some is “heavy”
12. One who is canonized
14. Indicates date and place of writing
17. “Peace” in Arabic
20. “Olaf” actor Josh
21. Fragmented rock
23. They __
25. Advanced degree
26. Backside
27. Influential architect and design couple
29. An act of undue intimacy
30. Words from which later words are derived
32. 10 meters
34. Neither
35. Fungal sacs
37. The law of God revealed to Moses
40. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
42. A promise
43. Challenges
47. British Air Aces
49. Large bank
50. Served as an omen
52. Cavalry sword
53. Vaccine developer
55. Belgian WW2 resistance leader Jules
56. Italian Seaport
57. Hip joint
58. __ Clapton, musician
59. Insect repellent
61. Constrictor snake
65 “The First State” (abbr.)

PUZZLE SOLUTION



Maze Craze



Word Search

FAIR DAYS

WORD SEARCH

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

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

ANSWERS ON
CLASSIFIED PAGE

WORDS

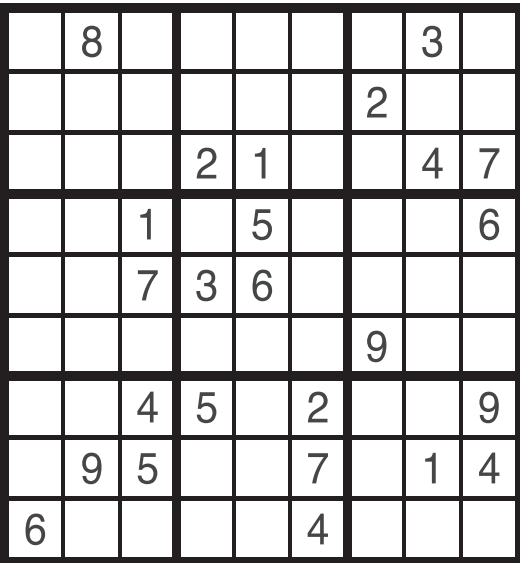
- APPLES
BLUE RIBBON
CARNIVAL
CAROUSEL
CHURRO
COASTER
CONCERT
CORNDOG
COTTON CANDY
EXHIBIT
FERRIS WHEEL
FRIES
FUNNEL CAKE
GAMES
GRAND STAND
JUDGES
LEMONADE
LIVESTOCK
MIDWAY
POPCORN
PRIZE
QUILT
RACING
TRACTOR

Sudoku Puzzle

How it Works:

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

ANSWERS ON CLASSIFIED PAGE

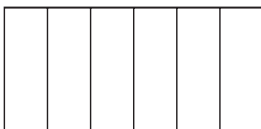


IF IT
MATTERS
TO YOU,
IT
MATTERS
TO US.
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Word Scramble

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to fairs.

EKCITT



Answer: Ticket

Guess Who?

GUESS WHO?

I am a musician born in California on August 3, 1963. I learned to play various instruments after being inspired by the band Aerosmith growing up. I am a cofounder of one of the most popular heavy metal bands of all time.

Answer: James Hetfield

Crypto Fun



Solve the code to discover words related to fairs. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 16 = R)

A. 10 3 14 15

Clue: Fun outdoor gathering

B. 5 3 15 23 14 22 3 8

Clue: Event with rides and attractions

C. 15 14 17 7

Clue: Amusement

D. 22 7 23 17 1 15

Clue: Sells something

Answers: A. fair B. carnival C. ride D. vendor

Coloring Fun



Reorder the letters to find the words from the picture.

MFLIGANO _____
TERTUL _____
GDYOG _____

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

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

Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship

Two Full-Tuition Scholarships Available to Outstanding Grant County Students

Application Open: August 1st-September 20th at midnight

Grant County, Indiana — The 2027 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship application is now available in Grant County through the Community Foundation of Grant County. The Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program (LECSP) will provide 147 scholarships statewide and two of those scholarships will be awarded in Grant County. LECSP scholarships may be used for otherwise unreimbursed full tuition, required fees, and a special allocation of up to \$900 per year. The special allocation may cover the costs for required books and required equipment for four years of undergraduate study on a full-time basis leading to a baccalaureate degree at any eligible Indiana public or private nonprofit college or university.

The program, administered statewide by

Independent Colleges of Indiana (ICI) and locally in Grant County through the Community Foundation of Grant County, is open to all Indiana residents who: graduate from an accredited Indiana high school by 2027 and receive their diploma no later than June 30, 2027 intend to pursue a full-time baccalaureate course of study at an eligible college or university in Indiana meet the criteria specific to their local Community Foundation.

Students can learn more about the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship in Grant County, including scholarship criteria and can apply for this scholarship by visiting GiveToGrant.org. Applications must be completed and submitted by midnight on September 20th to be considered.

Applications will be evaluated on, but not limited to, the following criteria: academic achievement, leadership, community involvement, service, work experience, character, and the applicant’s essays. Finalists will participate in an

interview as part of the selection process. Up to six finalists will be nominated by the Community Foundation of Grant County, and their names will be submitted to ICI for final selection of the recipients. Scholarship recipients will be notified in December.

Lilly Endowment created LECSP for the 1997-98 school year and has supported the program every year since with tuition grants totaling more than \$505 million. More than 5,400 Indiana students have received Lilly Endowment Community Scholarships since the program’s inception.

The primary purposes of LECSP are: 1) to help raise the level of educational attainment in Indiana; 2) to increase awareness of the beneficial roles Indiana community foundations can play in their communities; and 3) to encourage and support the efforts of current and past Lilly Endowment Community Scholars to engage with each other and with Indiana business, governmental, educational, nonprofit and civic leaders to improve the quality of life in Indiana

generally and in local communities throughout the state.

Community Foundation of Grant County is again pleased to offer LECSP for its 28th year in Grant County. “For more than three decades, the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship has opened doors for outstanding students in Grant County,” said Dawn Brown, President/CEO of Community Foundation. “We’re grateful to Lilly Endowment Inc. and Independent Colleges of Indiana for making this extraordinary opportunity possible and we encourage every eligible senior to apply. The scholarship recognizes students who have excelled academically while demonstrating leadership, service, and a commitment to making a difference in their communities.”

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.

About Lilly Endowment Inc.

Lilly Endowment Inc. is an Indianapolis-based, private philanthropic foundation created in 1937 by J. K. Lilly and his sons, Eli and J.K. Jr., through gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical business, Eli Lilly and Company. While those gifts remain the financial bedrock of the Endowment, Lilly Endowment Inc. is a separate entity from the company, with a distinct governing board, staff, and location.

In keeping with its founders’ wishes, the Endowment supports the causes of community development, education, and religion. Although the Endowment funds programs throughout the United States, especially in the field of religion, it maintains a special commitment to its hometown, Indianapolis, and home state, Indiana.

About Independent Colleges of Indiana

Since 1997, Independent Colleges of Indiana has administered the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program statewide with funding provided by Lilly Endowment Inc. Founded in 1948, ICI serves as the collective voice for the state’s 28 private, nonprofit colleges and universities. ICI institutions employ over 22,400 Hoosiers and generate a total local economic impact of over \$5.3 billion annually. Students at ICI colleges have Indiana’s highest four-year, on-time graduation rates, and ICI institutions produce 30 percent of Indiana’s bachelor’s degrees while enrolling 20 percent of its undergraduates.



Orchestra Indiana announces “The General” Live in concert at Gas City Performing Arts Center

Gas City, IN — Orchestra Indiana is proud to announce Expanding Access to Live Orchestral Music in Gas City, a special community concert event taking place on Saturday, March 13, 2027, at the Gas City Performing Arts Center. The performance will feature a screening of the classic silent film The General accompanied live by Orchestra Indiana.

This unique program combines the excitement of live orchestral music with one of cinema’s most beloved silent films, creating an engaging and family-friendly cultural experience for audiences of all ages. The event is designed to increase access to the arts in

Grant County while bringing community members together through a shared live performance experience.

“Our goal is to make live orchestral music more accessible and meaningful for residents throughout Grant County,” said John Clark, Orchestra Indiana Board President. “By pairing a classic film with a live orchestra, we hope to create a memorable experience that introduces new audiences to the power of orchestral music.”

Funding support for this project from the Community Foundation of Grant County will help Orchestra Indiana continue its mission of enriching communities through

high-quality musical performances and educational opportunities.

Additional event details, including concert time and ticket information, will be announced at a later date.

For more information about Orchestra Indiana, visit orchestraindiana.org.

About 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 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 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 or call 765-662-0054.

SCHOOL HEALTH

Back to school can mean the return of lice

The start of a new school year often means shopping for supplies, making new friends and getting acclimated to the teaching styles of new teachers. Unfortunately, a new school year also can mean head lice.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says there is no precise data regarding how many people get head lice each year. However, an estimated six to 12 million infestations occur each year in the United States among children between the ages of three and 11.

an insect that can infest people. Lice make their homes in human hair and feed on blood. Head lice multiply rapidly by laying small, gray-colored, oval-shaped eggs known as nits. The nits are sticky and attach to the base of the hair close to the scalp. Unlike other blood-sucking insects, such as mosquitoes or ticks, head lice are not known to spread disease.

What is head lice?

The Minnesota Department of Health says a head louse is

Who gets head lice?

Head lice do not discriminate when they choose a person. They are equal opportunity feeders and will hop on just

see **LICE**, page 12

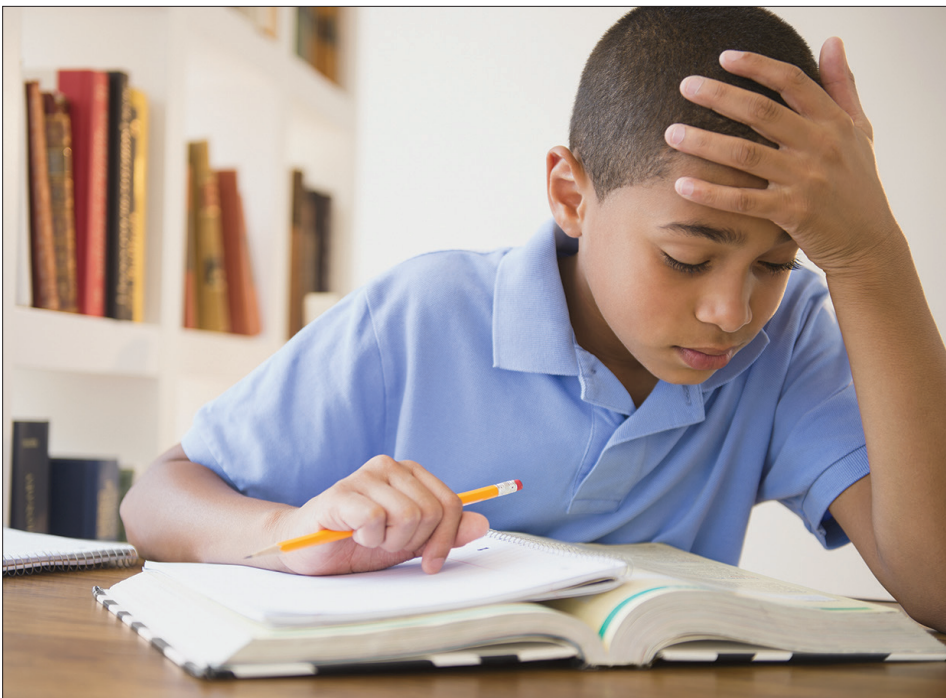


What can be done to help students with ADHD improve focus

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) may seem like a relatively recent phenomenon that perhaps developed late in the twentieth century, when more and more distractions started vying for humans’ attention. However, WebMD notes the condition actually dates back several centuries to 1798, when a Scottish doctor recognized some people were more easily distracted than others.

The ADHD people know today may or may not bear much resemblance to the condition first identified in the eighteenth century, but it’s notable that issues affecting human beings’ ability to focus are not exactly a recent phenomenon. Many students with ADHD, diagnosed or undiagnosed, face an uphill battle in the classroom, where the ability to focus is integral to their success. It may take some trial and error and some help from educators and physicians, but the following are some strategies that could help students with ADHD as they seek to improve their focus in the classroom.

- Ask educators about behaviorial classroom management. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes behavioral classroom management is an approach that involves encouraging students when they behave positively in a classroom. The approach may be centered around a reward system or involve teachers issuing daily report cards. Teachers also discourage negative behaviors. The CDC notes behavioral classroom management is driven by teachers and has been shown to have a constructive impact on students of all ages that increases



their academic engagement.

- Emphasize organization skills to students. The CDC notes organizational training that emphasizes time management and planning has been tested on children and adolescents and found to be effective. The Attention Deficit Disorder Association (ADDA) suggests people with ADHD learn how to break down complex tasks, such as end-of-semester school projects or exams, into smaller sub-tasks, and the planning skills emphasized by the CDC can be employed to do just that.
- Take breaks. It’s hard for anyone to maintain intense focus for lengthy periods of time, and that’s true for people with ADHD and those who do not have the condition. A report from the American Psychological Association notes that routine breaks from challenging tasks, including coursework, can restore energy, prevent burnout and improve performance. Fatigue can compromise a person’s ability to focus, so students and parents should not see routine breaks as counterproductive in relation to the goal

of improving focus. In fact, purposeful breaks that are not too long can sharpen focus.

- Adjust students’ environment. The ADDA notes that several strategies can help students optimize their environment so they can better focus on the task at hand. Utilizing noise-canceling headphones while studying in a quiet spot away from noise and distraction is one way students can optimize their environment. Turning off smartphone notifications, periodically decluttering a workspace and keeping only study materials in spots where schoolwork is done can help students with ADHD sharpen their focus.

Students with ADHD may be able to improve their focus, and thus their academic performance, with a few simple strategies.

LICE,
from page 11

about any scalp for a meal. Head lice are not indicative of a lack of hygiene.

The CDC says infestation with head lice is most common among preschool- and elementary school-aged children and members of their household, including caretakers.

What are the signs of head lice?

Itching is the most common symptom of head lice, says the Mayo Clinic. A louse bite causes an allergic reaction. Itchiness may occur on the scalp, neck and ears. During visual inspections of the hair and scalp, one may be able to see lice and nits. However, both the eggs and the lice themselves are very small, so it can be challenging to spot them.

Parents and caregivers who suspect a child has lice should consult with a school nurse or a pediatrician. Studies show that many children are treated for head lice with home remedies or nonprescription medications when they didn’t even have lice. Dandruff, residue from hair products, scabs, or even dirt can be mistaken for lice.

How can head lice be prevented?

The most common way to contract head lice is through head-to-head contact. Children should avoid head contact during play and other activities at school and home. Although transmission through shared brushes, combs, towels, hats, and clothing is less common, it is still possible, so sharing of these items should be discouraged.

The CDC says using a hot water cycle in the laundry and the high heat drying cycle can kill head lice on clothing and other items. Seal items that cannot be washed in a plastic bag and store them for two weeks.

Vacuum the floor and furniture to remove any nits or lice that have fallen off the head. Fumigant sprays or fogs, which can be toxic if inhaled, are not necessary to control head lice, indicates the CDC.

A new school year may compel families to think about lice. Although lice is a nuisance, infestations can be treated.

Nutritious school lunch ideas

No two children are the same, but many youngsters share a number of similarities. Few young children enjoy going to bed on time, and many can’t resist a good trampoline. Kids also have a reputation for being picky eaters, which can be challenging for parents tasked with picking and preparing school lunches.

When dining at home, parents know which foods their kids eat and which they push around their plates in the hopes they won’t have to consume them. School lunch is a different scenario altogether, as parents are not around to ensure their youngsters eat a full and nutritious meal. Kids who are picky eaters may not eat any lunch at all. Parents who want to ensure their children get the nutrition they need to do well in school can consider the following school lunch ideas.

- Make-your-own sandwich: Kids may be more likely to eat a full lunch if they get to put it together themselves. Parents can put all the elements of a tasty sandwich into youngsters’ lunch boxes, but let kids assemble the meal themselves. Sandwiches are not necessarily the healthiest midday meal, but they are much more nutritious when parents pack whole grain bread, tomatoes, lettuce, and low-sodium deli meat in students’ lunch boxes. If a do-it-yourself sandwich is a nonstarter, consider a DIY taco lunch complete with whole grain tortillas.
- Burrito bowl: A burrito bowl with kid-friendly yet nutritious ingredients is another great school lunch option. Red beans are a good source of fiber and the Harvard Medical School notes all beans are rich in potassium. Fiber is filling, so a burrito bowl that includes fiber-rich ingredients, including red beans but also quinoa or brown rice, can help students avoid late-day hunger pangs that can compromise how they feel and perform in the classroom. Burrito bowls are so tasty that kids may not even realize Mom and Dad have snuck some healthy foods like vegetables into their midday meal.
- Parfait: Parfait has all the looks of a tasty dessert without the pitfalls of ice cream and other treats. The nutritional value of parfait depends on the ingredients Mom and Dad choose to include. Protein-rich Greek yogurt paired with some fruit and granola makes for a filling and tasty meal that’s also loaded with vitamins, minerals and fiber. An insulated and airtight lunch box packed with ice packs can ensure the parfait is still cool come lunchtime.
- Pasta salad: Kids tend to be especially fond of pasta, and parents can use that affinity to their advantage when planning school lunches. A whole-wheat pasta salad with some cherry tomatoes and diced broccoli makes for a nutrient-rich lunch that kids can enjoy. If broccoli figures to raise youngsters’ ire, consider a nutritious substitute, such as shaved cucumber or zucchini.

School lunches can be nutritious and still make kids excited to eat their midday meal away from home.

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