



Huntingburg Press

SERVING DUBOIS COUNTY SINCE 1905 • IN GOD WE TRUST

Somula “Sam” Schwoeppe named 2026 ATHENA Leadership Award recipient

The Rotary Club of Dubois County celebrated its 14th annual ATHENA Leadership Award Banquet on Thursday, September 3, at the Huntingburg Event Center in Huntingburg, Indiana, where Somula “Sam” Schwoeppe was named the 2026 recipient of the ATHENA Leadership Award.

In addition to Schwoeppe, five other finalists were honored at the event, which celebrates women whose professional accomplishments, community service, and commitment to developing others exemplify the principles of the ATHENA Leadership Award. The remaining finalists were Bea Cobo-Becerra, Shannon Fuhs, Tammy Humbert, Susan Mann, and Paula Rasche.

“Each of our finalists embody what the ATHENA Leadership Award is all about,” said Rotary Club of Dubois County ATHENA Event Chair Manda Combs. “This year’s ATHENA recipient, Sam Schwoeppe has opened doors, built meaningful partnerships, and used her leadership to create opportunities for others. From becoming a trailblazer for women in agriculture to mentoring young people and working to ensure families have access to nutritious food, Sam’s impact reaches far beyond her own accomplishments. She leads with humility, integrity,



and a genuine desire to help others succeed, and we are incredibly proud to honor her as our 2026 ATHENA Leadership Award recipient.”

In addition to celebrating this year’s honorees, event attendees heard a keynote presentation from Indiana Chief Justice Loretta H. Rush.

“Chief Justice Rush’s story was a powerful reminder of the courage it takes to be a trailblazer,” said Derek Budd, President of the Rotary Club of Dubois County. “Throughout her career, she has broken barriers and helped create space for women in a field historically dominated by men. Her message about leadership, perseverance, and the responsibility we have to open doors for those who follow was especially fitting for an evening dedicated to celebrating women who are doing exactly that in our own community.”

The Rotary Club of Dubois County would like to thank

its 2026 ATHENA Awards sponsors for their generous support of the event: Deaconess Memorial Medical Center, Dentons Bingham Greenebaum, German American Bank, Kimball International, and Old National Bank.

A portion of the proceeds from the ATHENA Leadership Award Banquet benefits the Rotary Club of Dubois County’s Community Grants program as well as a local nonprofit selected by the ATHENA Award recipient. This year, Schwoeppe selected Crisis Connection as her nonprofit of choice.

Community members are encouraged to begin thinking about women whose leadership, service, and commitment to helping others reach their full potential make them deserving of consideration for the 2027 ATHENA Leadership Award.

About Somula “Sam” Schwoeppe
Somula “Sam”

Schwoeppe is an agricultural leader, advocate, and mentor whose career has been dedicated to strengthening communities by connecting people, agriculture, and purpose. As Director of Industry Partnerships for Fresh Connect Central, the social enterprise of Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana, she builds partnerships among farmers, food processors, nonprofits, and food banks to increase access to nutritious food for families experiencing food insecurity.

Previously, while leading agricultural engagement for Feeding America, Schwoeppe helped expand dairy access by more than one billion pounds through strategic partnerships across the nation’s food system.

A sixth-generation farmer, Schwoeppe has also become a nationally recognized champion for agriculture and women in leadership. She has served as

President of Annie’s Project, represented the United States in PepsiCo’s global Closing the Crop Gap initiative, and became the first woman elected to an executive officer position in Prairie Farms Dairy’s more than 85-year history.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Schwoeppe has dedicated decades to mentoring youth, supporting 4-H, strengthening local schools, and advancing food security initiatives. Colleagues describe her as someone who sees potential in others before they see it in themselves.

Through her servant leadership, unwavering integrity, and commitment to developing future leaders, Schwoeppe continues to create opportunities that strengthen agriculture, empower women, and improve communities locally and around the world.

About the Rotary Club of Dubois County

The global Rotary mission focuses on seven key areas to maximize impact in the world and our community by addressing the most critical and widespread humanitarian needs. Those key areas are:

- Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution
- Disease Prevention & Treatment
- Water and Sanitation
- Maternal and Child Health
- Basic Education and Literacy

Economic and Community Development Environment

The Rotary Club of Dubois County is an active social and service club comprised of dynamic and diverse professionals who make a lasting difference in our community and around the world. For more information about the club, visit www.duboiscountyrotaary.com or find the club on Facebook, LinkedIn, or Instagram.

About the ATHENA Leadership Award

ATHENA was launched in 1982 by Martha Mertz when she realized she was the only female member of her local Chamber of Commerce.

She was convinced her goal to “Create a Balance in Leadership Worldwide” would succeed if women’s strengths and contributions were publicly recognized. Since the program’s inception, more than 8,500 ATHENA awards have been presented in over 500 regions, representing 48 states and 11 countries.

The ATHENA Leadership Awards Banquet honors women who have achieved the highest level of professional excellence, contributes time and energy to improve the quality of life for others in the community, and actively assists others, particularly women, in realizing their full leadership potential.

Community Foundation awards \$100,000 grant to Kids’ Place

Huntingburg, IN — Dubois County Community Foundation has awarded a \$100,000 grant to A Kid’s Place to support workforce sustainability efforts.

The investment will help retain and support the dedicated staff who provide high-quality care and early learning opportunities for local children.

A Kid’s Place is a nonprofit, NAEYC-accredited childcare center in Huntingburg serving infants through preschool-aged children. The organization plays an important role in providing families with access to high-quality early childhood education and care.

“High-quality early childhood experiences begin with dedicated and

talented educators,” said Deanna Vonderheide, Director of A Kid’s Place. “This investment helps us support the staff who make a difference in the lives of children every day and strengthens our ability to serve local families.”

The grant aligns with the Community Foundation’s Early Care & Education initiative, a strategic effort focused on expanding access to high-quality, affordable early education throughout Dubois County.

This funding was made possible in partnership with

Smart Start, an initiative to improve early childhood education access, affordability, and quality in 10 counties

in the Indiana Uplands region.

A Kid’s Place is one of several local providers working to increase access to

quality early learning opportunities and support children’s development during their most critical years.



Area Deaths

Mary Ann D. Sander

Mary Ann Sander, 76, of Celestine, Indiana, passed away surrounded by family at 3:48 a.m. on Tuesday, September 1, 2026, at home. A Mass of Christian Burial for Mary Ann Sander was held at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at St. Celestine Catholic Church with burial following in the church cemetery.

Michael D. Stenftenagel

Michael D. Stenftenagel, age 71, of Jasper, Indiana, passed away at 8:33 a.m. on Monday, August 31, 2026, at Deaconess Memorial Hospital in Jasper, Indiana. A Mass of Christian Burial for Michael D. Stenftenagel was held at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at St. Mary Catholic Church in Ireland, Indiana, with burial following in the church cemetery.

Lawrence “Larry” E. Mehringer

Lawrence “Larry” E. Mehringer, age 76, passed away at home surrounded by family at 5:45 a.m. on Monday, August 31, 2026. A Mass of Christian Burial for Lawrence “Larry” E. Mehringer was held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 5, 2026, at Holy Family Catholic Church in Jasper, Indiana, with burial following in Shiloh Cemetery in Jasper. The V.F.W. Post #673 will conduct military graveside rites.

Brian Robert Waddell

Brian Robert Waddell, age 52, of Jasper, Indiana, passed away surrounded by family at 3:15 a.m. on Sunday, August 30, 2026, at Deaconess Memorial Hospital in Jasper, Indiana. A Mass of Christian Burial for Brian Robert Waddell was held at 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Friday, September 4, 2026, at Precious Blood Catholic Church in Jasper, Indiana, with burial following in Fairview Cemetery in Jasper.

Barbra R. Nelson

Barbra R. Nelson, age 92, of Huntingburg, Indiana, passed away on September 5, 2026 at Huntingburg Beehive Assisted Living. Visitation and funeral services will be held on Saturday, September 12, 2026, at Nass and Son Funeral Home in Huntingburg from 10:00 a.m. until the time of the service beginning at 1:00 p.m., EDT. with burial to follow in Fairmount Cemetery. The Nursing Honor Guard of Southern Indiana and Pastor Jeff Donihue will officiate the services.

Scott L. Brown

Scott L. Brown, age 77 of Holland passed away on August 31, 2026 at his home. Visitation for Scott Brown was held at Nass and Son Funeral Home on Thursday, September 3rd from 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. EDT with Masonic memorial service at 7:30 p.m. Services began at 10:00 a.m., Friday, September 4th with visitation one hour prior to the service. Burial was held at Mayo Cemetery. Pastor Steve Stilwell officiated the service.

Chad Ring

Chad Ring, age 51, of Holland, Indiana, passed away on August 31, 2026 at Deaconess Midtown Hospital, Evansville after a brief illness. Funeral services were held on Thursday, September 10th at 10:00 a.m. at Augustana United Church of Christ in Holland, Burial took place at Augustana Cemetery. Pastor Debbie Roe officiated the services.

Joan Kapp

Joan Kapp, age 79, of Santa Claus, passed away at 1:52 p.m., Friday, September 4, 2026, surrounded by her family at home. All services for Joan Kapp will be private with Pastor William Covey officiating. Burial will take place at Garden of Memories Cemetery in Gentryville. Rainey Funeral Home in Dale has been entrusted with handling the arrangements.

Richard P. Miller

Richard P. Miller, age 72, of French Lick, passed away peacefully on August 31, 2026 at his home. Services for Richard Miller will be held at a later date. Rainey Funeral Home in Dale has been entrusted with handling the arrangements.

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

AREA DEATHS / NEWS

Spencer County Community Wellness Forum and annual dinner meeting set for Nov. 1th

The Spencer County Health Coalition, Spencer County Tobacco/Vaping Prevention & Cessation Program and Spencer County Substance Abuse Council will host the Spencer County Community Wellness Forum and Annual Dinner Meeting, on Tuesday November 17th, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. CST at Spencer County Youth & Community Center in Chrisney.

Please RSVP by November 10th for dinner reservations, send to klitkenhus@nspencer.k12.in.us

Guest Speakers

This year’s event will feature Keynote Speaker, John Standeford, a former professional football player whose story extends far beyond athletic achievement. A highly accomplished student-athlete and community advocate, John was a Super Bowl Champion with the Indianapolis Colts in 2007, Woody Hayes Award Winner, Big Ten Medal of Honor Recipient, Two-Time First Team All-Big Ten Wide Receiver, and Two-Time Academic All-American, Freshman All-American, and starter on the Big Ten Championship team at Purdue in 2000 whose team represented the Big Ten in the 2001 Rose Bowl game. He remains the all-time career receiving yards

leader in Big Ten Conference history, a testament to his dedication, resilience, and commitment to excellence both on and off the field.

His keynote presentation will encourage attendees to recognize the importance of mental wellness, support recovery efforts, strengthen family and community connections, and become active participants in building a healthier future for Spencer County.

We are excited to announce that David Huff from The Way of Rockport will share his personal journey about addiction and recovery.

Community Resource Fair

We invite your organization/business to set up a resource table during our Community Resource Fair to showcase what you have to offer (resource tables must be able to offer health/wellness resources/materials). Giveaway items/gift baskets are encouraged at resource tables but not required. The event will be inside and tables and chairs will be provided.

For vendor forms please contact, Davina Curtis at ddcurtis@eagles.usi.edu

Deadline to register/sign up is November 9th

Sponsorship Opportunities

Our leadership team would like to ask for your consideration in donating to support our FREE event. Your financial donation will go toward food expenses and event supplies. We have listed the sponsorship levels below. We will schedule a time to pick up your donation, or you can mail the donation to the address given below. If you would like to donate, please contact Jessica Kincaid at jkincaid@nspencer.k12.in.us. All donations must be received by November 1, 2026.

Levels of Sponsorship:
Gold: \$400 +
· Logo on event program
· Logo on PowerPoint presentation

Recognition at the event via signage or banner (whichever you can provide)
· Personal thank you on Spencer County Health Coalition Facebook page/Media Release

Silver: \$150–\$350
· Logo on PowerPoint presentation
· Name listed on program
· Personal thank you on Spencer County Health Coalition Facebook page/Media Release

Bronze: \$50-\$125
· Name listed on program

· Personal thank you on Spencer County Health Coalition Facebook page/Media Release

Please make financial contributions payable to our fiscal agent: Tri-County YMCA
Attn: Mike Steffe
131 E. 16th Street
Ferdinand, IN 47532

*Please put in memo: Spencer County Community Wellness Forum Donation

Together we can help Build a Healthier and Stronger Community!
Sincerely,
Spencer County Health Coalition, Leadership Team Members

Archaeology Day to be held September 12th at Museum

The Dubois County Museum announced the continuation of their program for Archaeology Day.

The program will be held on Saturday, September 12, at 10:30 p.m. at the museum on 2704 N. Newton Street (U.S. 231) in Jasper.

Professor of Anthropology from University of Southern Indiana, Michael Strezewski, returns to give a presentation.

His talk is titled “Pottery Production in Pioneer-era Indiana (1815-1825).

This presentation will cover the pioneer-era

production of redware pottery in Indiana. Redware was the first Euromerican-type pottery made in Southern Indiana.

It was largely used for utilitarian, in-house purposes. Excavations and studies of surviving redware vessels can give us insight into how this pottery was made and used within early nineteenth century households.

Local Archaeology enthusiast, Darrick Haas, will also be on hand to offer expert knowledge on archaeology finds.

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It Matters to Us!
Thanks for Reading!

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VICTORIOUS *Living* ...in a troubled world

The evidence within: *Faith demands an outward change*

By Teresa LeNeave
leneave2@comcast.net

The Bible warns of deception and reveals how deception can be recognized.

In his second epistle, the Apostle John issued a stark warning to the early Church: “Do not be deceived. False teachers are everywhere.” According to the text, the defining mark of these deceptive figures is not that they abandon religious work entirely, but that they deny a core Biblical truth: that Christ has come in the flesh.

These individuals often continue to operate within religious structures, filling the role but

entirely missing the true mission. Their work operates under the spirit of the Antichrist, subtly shifting focus away from the physical incarnation of Jesus. This foundational truth is reinforced in Hebrews 10:5, which declares, “A body hast thou prepared me.”

If the ultimate proof of true faith is acknowledging that Jesus Christ came in human flesh, believers must confront a vital question: What does it mean for Christ to dwell within our flesh today?

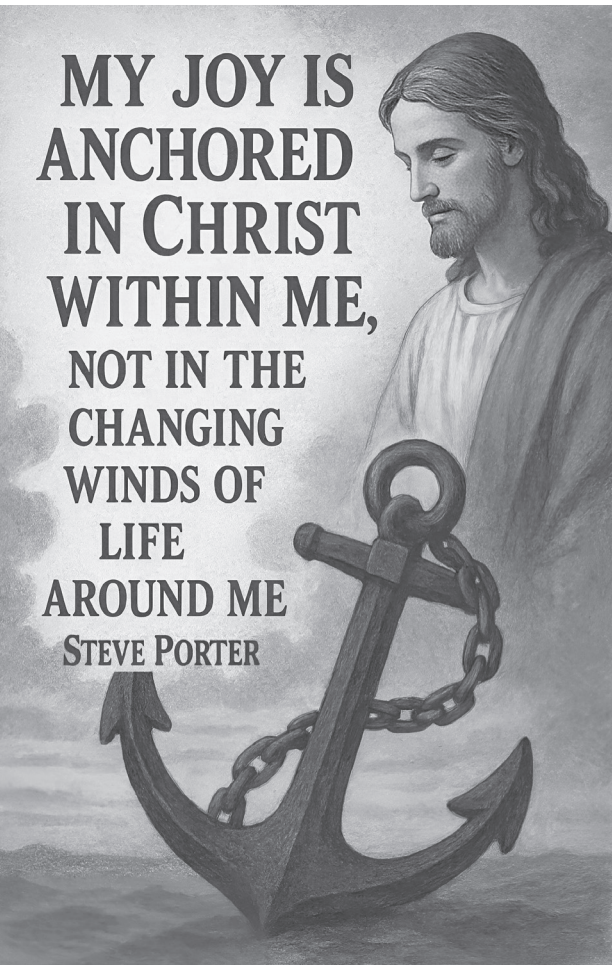
The scriptures outline a clear reality: an inward spiritual transformation must

produce visible, outward evidence. According to 2 Corinthians 4:10-11, the life of Jesus is meant to be made manifest daily in the physical bodies of believers. The New Testament frequently reinforces this concept of tangible change, describing believers as “His workmanship” (Ephesians 2:10) and the very “temple of the Lord” (1 Corinthians 6:19).

Despite human shortcomings or feelings of inadequacy, biblical doctrine assures believers that they “are complete in Him” (Colossians 2:10). The texts emphasize that a sovereign Creator

takes what is broken or empty and refashions it into a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17).

This identity brings a deep sense of peace to the struggling soul. The Gospel message concludes not with human striving, but with divine selection. As recorded in John 15:16, Jesus reminds His followers: “Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you.” The ultimate purpose of this divine choice is for believers to live transformed lives that bear lasting spiritual fruit. Apostle Paul called it, “Christ in me, the hope of glory” (Colossians 2:27). Accepting Christ as your Savior has deep and lasting benefits.



The infallible Word or man’s imaginations?

By Dr. Billy Holland

The common thread of Christianity pertaining to the understanding of the Bible is that everyone who declares by faith to be born again has free access to the Holy Spirit to help them discern what it means. At the same time, we must also consider that, with human free will, each individual has the opportunity to form their own opinions. It’s common and normal for Christians to have the confidence to voice their own interpretations, even if it’s rejected by their fellow brothers and sisters. Yes, the majority immediately condemns biblical and spiritual views that do not line up with mainstream theology as the errors of a novice or, even worse, a heretic. Multiply this among the billions of believers, and we have what is known as a divided, confused, and hostile world of religiosity.

Christians are taught that the Bible contains the infallible words of God exactly as he guided approximately 40 human writers to record them within a period of around 1500 years from Moses

to the early church. If you are a traditional Christian, most likely you embrace this doctrine that promises God personally breathed and inspired divine truth through the minds and hands of His messengers. And it has been preserved without any alterations since the day they were written? Or do you wonder about errors, embellishments, personal worldviews and opinions mixed in between the lines?

When it comes to believing the Bible as perfect truth versus seeing the writings as religious philosophy and folklore, to be honest, I’ve come to a point in my walk that I’m tired of arguing with other Christians about Biblical interpretations. When I was a young student, I thought I could win any debate about Christianity and religion, and like most of you, I’ve always believed my views were correct. However, we cannot change someone’s mind about their doctrines and creeds unless these two things are involved: The Holy Spirit is intervening, and the truth seeker is sincerely praying that God will transform

their conscience by the renewing of their minds.

People rarely change what they believe because their opinions and convictions are rooted deep within the core of their being. Have you ever argued with someone about the Bible and finally had to agree to disagree? This not only includes the angry discord between traditional Christians, but in today’s modern world we now have a growing movement called the agnostic theist. This is someone who believes in God but sees the Bible as a collection of passed-down, exaggerated oral stories and personal biased philosophies that are not necessarily based on proven facts. This way of thinking allows for belief in the perfect God of creation while maintaining skepticism about legalistic dogma and the exclusive “my way or the highway” attitudes and demands from dictatorial churches.

These are the seekers that have way more questions than answers, and have separated from those who they consider are afraid to use their intelligence and realize that much of the content

is not literally accurate. They refuse to accept a compilation of ancient religious dialogues, visions, and stories from human writers as divine revelation simply by faith. Many are asking: “Is the Bible God’s word top man, or man’s word about God?” If God’s word is infallible and the Holy Spirit gives each follower perfect understanding, explanations, and interpretations, why why is there so much arrogance, antagonism and caustic attitudes? If God is broadcasting, evidently many are on the wrong channel. Agnostic theism emphasizes prayer and personal experiences with God rather than becoming entangled in the chaos of intolerant churchianity. This is not to be confused with secular agnosticism that does not believe in the existence of any God, along with the supernatural being unknown and unknowable.

Traditional followers argue that if portions of the Bible are not



Dr. Billy Holland

correct, how can anyone know what is true? For example, if someone is convinced there is no possible way the story of Noah and the Ark actually happened, then what else has been embellished or even fabricated? Does it matter that accuracy and credibility may have been lost through years of oral storytelling? Some may believe they can put their trust in God and live for Him without trusting the scriptures, but if the Bible is truly God’s perfect word, it is the most important communication from God to mankind the world has ever known. If every word is God-breathed, we must cherish it, obey it, and trust it. If the written Word IS God, and we dismiss it as inaccurate, isn’t this doubting God Himself.

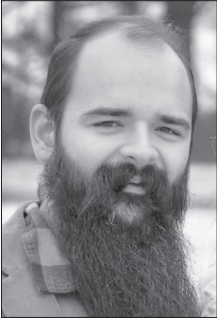
Dr. Holland is an ordained minister, chaplain, and Christian author. Read more about LIVING ON PURPOSE at billyholland ministries.com

The old lighthouse

By Brandon Bramlett
Pastor - Bandana Baptist Church

The old lighthouse may be crumbling, but it continues to beam guiding light across the stormy sea. The Hooper Island Lighthouse in Chesapeake Bay has been steering seafarers since 1901, but many people think it’s time for the old beacon to retire to the junkyard. What used to be a brilliantly towering cylinder of hope is

now a worn out and rusty hunk of metal. However, according to the Washington Post, the lighthouse isn’t going anywhere since it remains as an “active aid to navigation for the U.S. Coast Guard.” Even though it is old and frail, it still has a pivotal purpose: lighting the



Brandon Bramlett

way. Similarly, all Christians are called to be a lighthouse for sinners sailing in the darkness of depravity. The “children of light” are commanded to radiate the light of the glory of Christ in order to direct wayward sinners to the “Father of lights” (cf. 1 Thess. 5:5; James 1:17). As

Jesus said, “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 5:14-15).

The harsh elements of life will eventually cause you to rust and wither away,

but this is your eternally significant purpose as long as you remain standing. The “outer self” is wasting away, and it’s not as vigorous as it used to be (cf. 2 Cor. 4:16). Indeed, you will fade like flowers of the field, and your radiance will dim with time (Isaiah 40:7). Moreover, with each passing day, you are closer to the dust from which you came (Eccl. 12:7). But, as long as God keeps you upright in the world’s waters, your critical

mission is to shine gospel light to those who grope in the darkness of sin (cf. 2 Cor. 4:6).

“O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come” (Psalm 70:17-18).



Southridge is among the teams competing in the first half of the 2026 high school volleyball season. photo courtesy of Southridge High School Volleyball

High School Football

Pioneers double up Raiders for win

Staff Report

BOONVILLE — Southridge came up short as Boonville held on to win 14-7 in a Pocket Athletic Conference game on Friday, Sept. 4. Following the loss, Southridge slipped to 1-2. The win allowed Boonville to move to 3-0. Boonville scored first and never trailed. The Pioneers reached the endzone twice during the second quarter. Boonville entered halftime ahead 14-0.

Southridge crossed the goal line during the third quarter but couldn't make a return trip to the endzone.

Southridge rushed 29 times for 135 yards in the short effort.

Quarterback Parker Steckler paced Southridge offensively. On the ground, Steckler rushed 10 times for 57 yards and one touchdown. Through the air, Steckler completed seven passes for 69 yards.

In addition to Steckler, Grayson Bolling, Ailexander Hendrix, O'Mari Curry, Noah Ring and Maverick Wright rushed for positive yards for the Raiders.

Sam Gasser emerged as Southridge's leading receiver. Gasser hauled in four receptions for 45 yards.

Behind Gasser, Bolling, Ring and Hudson Montgomery each hauled in one reception for the Raiders.

Defensively for Southridge, Steckler and Ring tallied 10 tackles apiece.

Southridge is scheduled to visit rival Heritage Hills for its next game on Friday, Sept. 11.

High School Football

Patriots level Tigers

Staff Report

LINCOLN CITY — Heritage Hills rolled past Pocket Athletic Conference rival Princeton 63-0 in a home opener on Friday, Sept. 4. With the win, Heritage Hills improved to 2-1. As a result of the loss, Princeton

dropped to 1-2. Heritage Hills bounced back to win after coming up short in an overtime loss to Apollo (Ky.) one week earlier on Friday, Aug. 28. The Patriots took control early, outscoring Princeton 27-0 in the first quarter, Heritage Hills led

49-0 at halftime and remained in control throughout the second half. The Patriots scored one touchdown in each of the last two quarters. Heritage Hills is scheduled to host Southridge for its next game on Friday, Sept. 11. In another game

on Friday, Sept. 4, Evansville Reitz pulled away to defeat Jasper 56-21. Evansville Reitz led at the end of each quarter. The Panthers doubled up the Wildcats 28-14 in the first half. Jasper (1-2) is scheduled to visit Evansville Bosse (0-3) for its next game on Friday, Sept. 11.

Girls' High School Soccer

Northeast Dubois knocks off Evansville Day

Staff Report

EVANSVILLE — Northeast Dubois defeated Evansville Day 3-1 during the Panther Classic at Goebel Soccer Complex on Saturday, Sept. 5. Northeast Dubois benefitted from a balanced offensive attack. Katelyn Keusch, Holly Wyland and Stella Mahar each scored one goal for the Jeeps. Wyland, Mahar and Maddie Dill distributed one assist apiece for Northeast Dubois in its win. Goalkeeper Anzlee Voegerl paced Northeast Dubois defensively, holding Evansville Day to one goal. Voegerl tallied 10 saves. Evansville Reitz 1, Northeast Dubois 0: Evansville Reitz edged Northeast Dubois 1-0 during the Panther Classic at Goebel Soccer Complex on Saturday, Sept. 5. Finding the net, Evansville Reitz scored the match-winning goal in the first half. Each team excelled defensively. Goalkeeper Anzlee Voegerl paced led Dubois defensively, limiting Evansville Reitz to one goal while logging six saves.

High School Football

Rangers knock off Hatchets

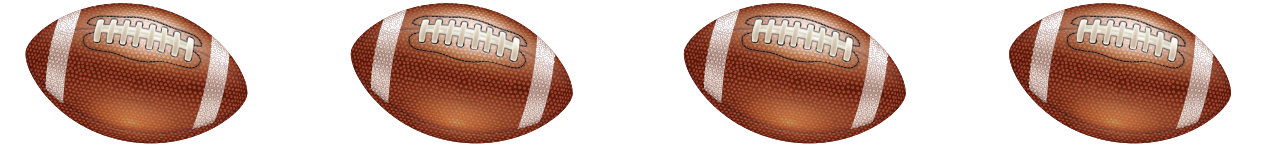
Staff Report

WASHINGTON — Forest Park outlasted host Washington 18-15 on Friday, Sept. 4. The Rangers moved to 3-0 after registering the win. Forest Park is 3-0 for the first time since 2010. The Rangers led 2-0 at halftime. However,

Forest Park and Washington were tied 8-8 at the end of the third quarter. Finishing strong, Forest Park outscored Washington 10-7 in the fourth quarter. Defensively, Forest Park recorded a safety. Hudson King and Carter Jochem each delivered one rushing

touchdown for the Rangers. Quarterback Anden Uebelhor paced Forest Park through the air, completing 14 passes for 179 yards. Steven Reinke emerged as Forest Park's leading receiver, finishing with three catches for 65 yards. Delivering on

special teams. Forest Park kicker Parker Wolf booted the game-winning field goal with 3.5 seconds remaining. Forest Park is scheduled to visit Tecumseh for its fourth game in the 2026 high school football season on Friday, Sept. 11.



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Girls' High School Soccer

Forest Park upends North Posey

Staff Report

POSEYVILLE — Forest Park pulled away to defeat North Posey 4-1 in a Pocket Athletic Conference girls' soccer match on Saturday, Sept. 5.

The Lady Rangers improved to 5-1-1 after registering the win.

Forest Park claimed its fourth straight win.

The Lady Rangers scored first and never trailed. Forest Park entered halftime ahead 3-0.

Ellie Meunier netted two goals for the Lady Rangers.

Joining Meunier in Forest Park's scoring column, Mallory Morrison and Aurora Jacob netted one goal apiece.

Chipping in offensively for Forest Park, Avari Boeglin pushed out one assist.

Defensively for Forest Park, Elise Niehaus and Katelyn Kippenbrock split time at goalkeeper. Kippenbrock logged three saves.

Forest Park 1, Heritage Hills 0: Forest Park pushed past Heritage Hills 1-0 in a Pocket

Athletic Conference girls' soccer match in Lincoln City on Tuesday, Sept. 1.

The Lady Rangers netted the match-winning goal in the second half.

Brynn Vaught scored the match-winning goal off an assist from Sophia Hubbs.

Defensively for Forest Park, goalkeeper Katelyn Kippenbrock recorded a shutout. Kippenbrock posted 11 saves.



Tucker Wathen is pictured preparing to kick for Forest Park during a boys' soccer match.

photo courtesy of Forest Park High School

Boys' High School Soccer

Wildcats shut out Pioneers

Staff Report

JASPER — Jasper shut out Providence 4-0 in a boys' soccer match on Thursday, Sept. 3.

The Wildcats improved to 6-1 after registering the win.

Jasper set the tone early and

forced Providence to play from behind throughout the match. The Wildcats led 3-0 at halftime.

Jasper benefitted from a balanced offensive effort.

Marvin Figueroa, Diego Ramos, Connor Klem and Brayan Pupo each scored one

goal for the Wildcats.

Defensively for Jasper, goalkeeper Cole Schmitt recorded a shutout.

Jasper and Providence aren't scheduled to meet again in the 2026 boys' high school soccer season.

Staff Report

FERDINAND — Forest Park shut out Evansville Christian 2-0 in a non-conference boys' soccer match on Saturday, Sept. 5.

Following the win,

Forest Park improved to 6-2.

Forest Park scored both of its goals during the first half of the match.

Hunter Osborne and Gabe Schemenauer each scored one goal for the Rangers.

In addition to finding the net, Osborne provided an assist on Schemenauer's goal.

Defensively for Forest Park, goalkeeper Dexter Meyer recorded a shutout.

High school sports participation increases for fifth consecutive year

Staff Report

INDIANAPOLIS — Led by the continual growth of girls' flag football and girls' wrestling, participation in high school sports increased for the fifth consecutive year in 2025-26 and set another all-time record.

The annual NFHS High School Athletics Participation Survey

indicated that 8,415,684 participants were involved in high school sports in 2025-26 – up 149,440 from the previous year. The total includes 4,761,095 boys and 3,654,589 girls – both record highs – according to figures obtained from the 51 NFHS member state associations, which includes the District of Columbia.

The continual spike

in the number of girls participating in flag football and wrestling since the pandemic has been nothing short of phenomenal. In the first post-pandemic survey in 2021-22, there were 15,716 girls participating in flag football nationally. That number has now ballooned to 102,360 –

see **INCREASES**, page 7

Boys' High School Soccer

Forest Park upends North Posey

Staff Report

FERDINAND — Forest Park shut out Evansville Christian 2-0 in a non-conference boys' soccer match on Saturday, Sept. 5.

Following the win,

Forest Park improved to 6-2.

Forest Park scored both of its goals during the first half of the match.

Hunter Osborne and Gabe Schemenauer each scored one goal for the Rangers.

In addition to finding the net, Osborne provided an assist on Schemenauer's goal.

Defensively for Forest Park, goalkeeper Dexter Meyer recorded a shutout.

Boys' High School Soccer

Wildcats outlast Highlanders

Staff Report

FLOYDS KNOBS — Jasper outlasted Floyd Central 3-2 in a non-conference boys' soccer match on Tuesday, Sept. 1.

The Wildcats improved to 5-1 after notching the win.

Connor Klem, Brayan Pupo and

Diego Ramos each scored one goal for Jasper in its win.

Aiding Jasper offensively, Graham Day distributed one assist.

Jasper fared well offensively and defensively.

Goalkeeper Cole Schmitt paced Jasper defensively, limiting

Floyd Central to a pair of goals in the conference match. Schmitt logged three saves.

Jasper and Floyd Central aren't scheduled to meet again in the 2026 boys' high school soccer season.



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The Northeast Dubois girls' soccer team competed in the Panther Classic in Evansville on Saturday, Sept. 5.
photo courtesy of Northeast Dubois High School

Reserved
hunt
applications
open for
waterfowl,
deer,
gamebirds

Staff Report

INDIANAPOLIS — Hunters may apply for reserved hunts online at GoOutdoorsIN.com. Reserved hunts available in this round include waterfowl, deer, and gamebird hunts on properties managed by the DNR Division of Fish, Wildlife & Nature Preserves (DFWNP), on Indiana Private Lands Access (IPLA) properties, Indiana State Park properties, and on National Wildlife Refuge properties.

The online application method is the only way to apply for these hunts. No late entries will be accepted. Applicants must possess a valid Indiana hunting license for the hunt to which they are applying. A \$1 tech fee is charged for each hunt application purchased.

Applications must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. ET on Wednesday, Sept. 16.

First time GoOutdoorsIN.com users will be directed to create an account through the Access Indiana portal and to look up their existing DFWNP record. Users should verify that all personal information is up to date in the “Your Profile” menu option after logging in. For questions related to an online account, call 317-232-4082 or email INHuntFish@dnr.IN.gov . Hunters at each participating property will be selected through random computerized draws and will be able to view results online. An email will be sent to all applicants when the drawings have been completed.

For Indiana State Park property deer management hunts, hunters may apply individually or as part of a group. Hunters should only apply as a group if they are not interested in hunting unless all group members are drawn. Group and individual applications are weighed equally.

Reserved hunts in this application period include:

- Waterfowl hunts at

see **GOLF**,
page 7

see **HUNT**,
page 7

Boys’ High School Soccer

Heritage Hills edges Gibson Southern

Staff Report

FORT BRANCH — Heritage Hills edged Gibson Southern 1-0 in a Pocket Athletic Conference boys’ soccer match on

Tuesday, Sept. 1. The Patriots improved to 5-1-1 after registering the win. Both Heritage Hills and Gibson Southern excelled defensively throughout the

conference boys’ soccer match. Heritage Hills scored the lone goal in the game during the second half. Gabe Brown scored off an assist from

Jorge Gomez to lift Heritage Hills to the win. Defensively for Heritage Hills, goalkeeper Kane Navarro recorded a shutout.

Heritage Hills and Gibson Southern aren’t scheduled to meet again in the 2026 boys’ high school soccer season.

Battle Ground Golf Club to host Girls’ Golf State Finals October 2nd and 3rd

Staff Report

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana High School Athletic

Association has announced that Battle Ground Golf Club will serve as the site of the IHSAA Girls’ Golf

State Finals on Friday, Oct. 2-Saturday, Oct. 3. The venue was approved by the

IHSAA Executive Committee at its first meeting of the 2026-27 schoolyear in August.

A championship course just outside Lafayette, Ind., Battle Ground Golf Club recently hosted the 2026 Indiana PGA Women’s Open in June and neighbors the site of the 1811 Battle of Tippecanoe and historic Prophetstown State Park.

The change in venue comes as a result of the extreme weather events that impacted central Indiana in recent weeks. Prairie View Golf Club in Carmel, the host course for the last 12 years and borders the White River, was greatly affected and notified the IHSAA that it would be unable to host this year’s event.

The dates, times, and practice rules remain the same as in previous years and players will again navigate 36 holes over the two days in the first weekend in October.

“Battle Ground Golf Club and O’Neal Golf Management are honored to provide a wonderful championship venue for the 54th Annual IHSAA Girls Golf State Finals,”

FOREST PARK RANGERS			
Date	Opponent	Time	H/A
9/4	@ Washington	7:00 PM	A
9/11	@ Tecumseh	6:30 PM	A
9/18	South Spencer	7:30 PM	H
9/25	Pike Central	7:00 PM	H
10/2	@ North Posey	6:30 PM	A
10/9	Tell City	7:30 PM	H
10/16	@ Southridge	7:00 PM	A

HERITAGE HILLS PATRIOTS			
Date	Opponent	Time	H/A
9/4	Princeton	7:00 PM	H
9/18	@ Washington	7:30 PM	A
9/25	Gibson Southern	7:00 PM	H
10/2	@ Mt. Vernon	7:00 PM	A
10/9	South Ridge	7:00 PM	H
10/16	Boonville	7:00 PM	H

JASPER WILDCATS			
Date	Opponent	Time	H/A
9/4	@ Evansville Reitz	6:30 PM	A
9/11	@ Evansville Bosse	7:00 PM	A
9/18	Evansville Mater Dei	7:30 PM	H
9/25	@ Evansville Central	7:00 PM	A
10/2	@ Castle	6:30 PM	A
10/9	Evansville North	7:00 PM	H
10/16	@ Columbus North	7:00 PM	A

SOUTHRIDGE RAIDERS			
Date	Opponent	Time	H/A
9/4	@ Booneville	6:30 PM	A
9/18	@ Gibson Southern	6:30 PM	A
9/25	Mt. Vernon	7:30 PM	H
10/2	@ Tell City	7:30 PM	A
10/9	@ Princeton	6:30 PM	A
10/9	@ Heritage Hills	7:00 PM	A
10/16	Forest Park	7:00 PM	H

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INCREASES, from page 5

an increase of 87,000 participants in just four years.

Amazingly, participation in girls flag football increased 48.7 percent last year – 68,847 to 102,360 – and the sport cracked the Top 10 list for most popular girls’ sports. The number of schools reporting girls flag football participation increased from 2,736 to 3,990 in the past year, and a total of 37 states will be either sanctioning the sport or conducting independent/pilot programs by next year.

The popularity of wrestling for girls is not far behind flag football. Participation in girls wrestling increased 19.9 percent from the previous year – from 74,064 to 88,771 – and the number of schools sponsoring the sport for girls now rests at 8,853.

Since the return to activities from

the pandemic, the number of schools offering the sport has jumped from 4,802 to 8,853, and the number of participants has increased from 31,654 to 88,771. In addition, all states are now reporting some participation in girls wrestling, and 40 state associations are now conducting state championships.

There was also good news on the girls’ basketball front. Participation in girls’ basketball was up 6,142 from the previous year to halt a downward trend that has seen numbers decline 100,000 during the past 20 years. A total of 362,382 were reported in girls’ basketball in 2025-26, up from 356,240 the previous year.

Overall, girls’ participation in high school sports increased by 114,993 – a 3.2 percent jump. Girls’ volleyball continued its annual climb with another 9,257 participants and topped 500,000 for the first time. At

502,056 participants, volleyball is No. 2 in popularity for girls, trailing track and field now by only 7,014 participants. In addition, girls’ golf participation increased 6.3 percent to 90,176.

“We are pleased to see the number of students involved in high school sports continuing to rise every year,” said Davis Whitfield, NFHS executive director. “Education-based sports within our nation’s schools is a privilege not available in most other countries, and we are thankful these opportunities continue to expand.

“We salute the coaches, athletic directors and school administrators for making these experiences happen, especially with some of the recent growth in several emerging sports. It is great to see new sport opportunities created to involve as many students as possible in high school sports.”

Five of the top 10 boys’ sports registered increases in 2025-26, including 11-player football, outdoor track and field, soccer, golf and tennis. Eleven-player football registered a 1.4 percent increase with another 14,128 participants and now stands at 1,043,716 – by far the most popular sport for boys or girls. The sport is continuing to rebound from the pandemic and posted its highest mark since the 2016-17 season.

In addition to 11-player football, a total of 33,191 boys were involved with 6-, 8- and 9-player football, and 4,334 girls were involved in all four versions of the sport, bringing the overall participation in high school football to 1,081,241 – up 11,597 from the previous year.

Golf had the largest percentage increase among boys’ sports with an 8.3 percent rise to 175,757 participants, while outdoor track and

field was up about 4,000 participants, and tennis and soccer each gained about 3,000 participants.

Texas (911,405) and California (859,022) remained atop the list of state participation – by a wide margin. Ohio (347,994) ranked third, followed by Illinois (326,756), Pennsylvania (315,647), New York (312,563), Florida (311,233), Michigan (295,634), New Jersey (273,711) and Minnesota (241,536).

The NFHS High School Athletics Participation Survey was started in 1971 and provides the most comprehensive national view of participation in high school sports. The first survey in 1971 indicated 3.6 million boys and 294,015 girls involved in high school sports. Thanks to the passage of Title IX in 1972, the number of girls in high school sports jumped to two million by the end of the decade and now has exceeded 3.6 million.

HUNT, from page 6

participating DFWNP properties.

- Deer archery hunts at Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and participating DFWNP properties.
- Deer firearms and muzzleloader hunts at Big Oaks NWR and participating DFWNP properties.
- Gamebird hunts on gamebird areas in northern Indiana. Youth hunts will be offered. These hunts are not put-and-take pheasant hunts..
- IPLA hunts for waterfowl, gamebirds, deer archery, deer firearms and muzzleloader, late season deer muzzleloader and archery, squirrel, and rabbit.

For a complete list of hunts available, see on.IN.gov/reservedhunt.

NFHS, Ballogy expand partnership to power the future of athlete skill development

Staff Report

INDIANAPOLIS — The NFHS has announced an expansion of its partnership with Ballogy Inc., the Official and Exclusive Athletic Skills Development App Partner of the NFHS, to bring NFHS-certified content, coaching resources, and officials sport guidance directly into Ballogy’s newest app release.

The collaboration places the NFHS community and resources at the center of one of the most advanced athlete skill development platforms available, giving the nation’s middle school and high school coaches, athletes and parents a single, trusted destination for both skill development and NFHS rules compliance.

Ballogy’s all-new app, built around the MTR framework — Move, Train, Recover — delivers a complete system for athlete skill development

across all sports. The platform’s AI-powered tracking tools, sport-specific drill libraries, and wearable integrations have made it one of the fastest-growing skill development apps in high school, youth and amateur sports. By embedding NFHS content directly into this ecosystem, the partnership ensures that coaches and athletes are not only training smarter but staying informed, compliant and connected to the information and standards that govern high school athletics nationwide.

“The NFHS has always believed that innovation in service of student-athletes is not optional — it is essential,” NFHS Executive Director Davis Whitfield said. “Ballogy represents exactly the kind of forward-thinking platform we want to be associated with. We are meeting our community of coaches, parents and athletes where they already are

and giving them the guidance they need to compete and succeed at the high school level. This is what modern, education-based athletics looks like.”

The NFHS-certified content that will be delivered within the app includes real-time rule updates and sport-specific guidance across all 18 NFHS-sanctioned sports, risk management and eligibility compliance resources, official coach education materials, and curated training content developed in alignment with NFHS standards. Coaches can access these resources alongside Ballogy’s AI-powered skill development tools, giving them everything they need to run a program that is both high-performing and fully informed.

“The NFHS endorsement has always been a cornerstone of what Ballogy stands for,” said Todd Young, Founder and CEO of Ballogy. “Having

their certified content and resources built into the app means that every coach has the full weight of the NFHS behind their program. For our users, that is an enormous vote of confidence, and for us, it reinforces that we are building something the sport truly needs.”

The NFHS reaches more than 19,500 high schools and more than 12 million student-athletes through its 50 member state associations. With Ballogy now multi-sport and available across all levels of youth and amateur athletics, the partnership creates a pathway for NFHS resources to reach a broader audience than ever before.

The Ballogy app is free to download and available now in the Google Play and App Store. NFHS-specific content and resources are accessible directly within the app.

GOLF, from page 6

said Colin O’Neal, President of O’Neal Golf Management. Our team is excited to provide a world-class tournament experience to all that step foot on property in early October. Our passion towards junior golf activity speaks for itself with O’Neal Golf Management playing host to 12 high school golf programs across the State of Indiana at our managed locations, including hosting multiple sectional and regional competition sites for both boys and girls high school golf in Indiana. This will be O’Neal Golf Management’s 24th IHSAA Golf State Championship event, and our passion for creating a life-long memory for all involved continues to be our objective.”

“I would like to thank Doc and Colin O’Neal for stepping up

and providing a strong and reliable solution in a difficult situation,” added IHSAA Assistant Commissioner Chris Kaufman, who administers the golf state tournament. We’re also grateful to the other courses who reached out to us to provide an alternative, but with the O’Neal’s track record, passion, and association with our tournament, combined with the Indiana Golf Association, I’m confident we’ve chosen a venue that promises another great experience for the participating players, coaches and spectators.”

Battle Ground Golf Club was previously a girls’ golf regional site hosted by Lafayette Jefferson High School. That regional will continue to be hosted by Lafayette Jefferson but will now be played at Harrison Hills Golf Club in Attica, Indiana.

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Have a great season Fall Sports Athletes!



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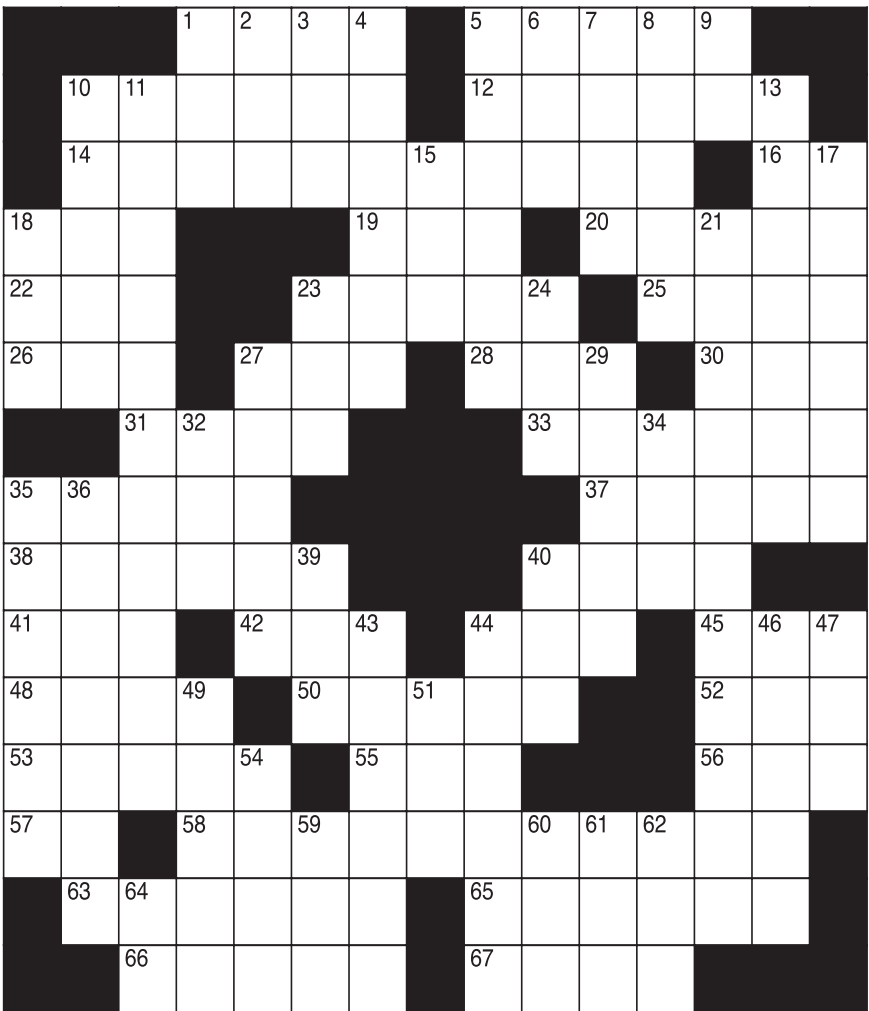
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Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

1. Longtime *Vogue* editor Wintour

5. A Spanish title of respect

10. A way of looking

12. Properly

14. Rolled steel

16. Not down

18. Law degree

19. Consume food

20. Intermediate ecological stage

22. Old world, new

23. Dispense justice

25. Stiff hair-like structure

26. Ethiopia

27. Cool!

28. Father

30. An enthusiastic devotee of sports

31. Holm oak

33. Be united

35. Rattling breaths

37. Supermarket chain
38. Provided with a quality

40. Samoan monetary unit

41. Swiss river

42. Hill (Celtic)

44. Have already done

45. ATM company

48. Syngman __, Korean president

50. Very willing

52. Arctic explorers (abbr.)

53. Food listings

55. Bachelor’s place to crash

56. Big Blue

57. Sports magazine

58. Relating to a place north of south of the equator

63. Female follower of Bacchus

65. A type of laugh

66. Slovenly women

67. Large jug

CLUES DOWN

1. Boxing’s GOAT

2. Zero

3. Midway between north and northeast

4. Concurred

5. Added flavor

6. Amount of time

7. Eggs of parasitic insects

8. S-shaped moldings

9. Atomic #45

10. __ d’art: small artistic item

11. A godparent’s “kids”

13. Nocturnal burrowing lizard

15. Hit lightly

17. Aircrafts

18. Witness

21. Alluding to something

23. Take to the limit

24. Baglike structure in a plant or animal
27. Start over

29. Administered

32. Romanian monetary unit

34. Unit of liquid capacity

35. Equips with weapons again

36. Disney town

39. Female deer

40. Title of respect

43. A place to go rafting

44. A way to conclude

46. Type of television

47. Georgia rockers

49. Leonhard __, Swiss mathematician

51. Slang for gun

54. River in Bosnia and Herzegovina

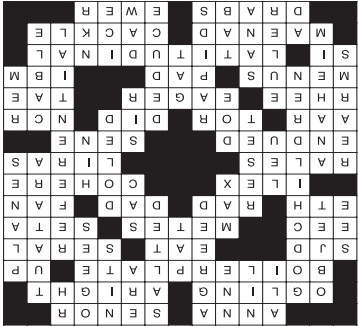
59. Bar bill

60. Small, gray-headed crow

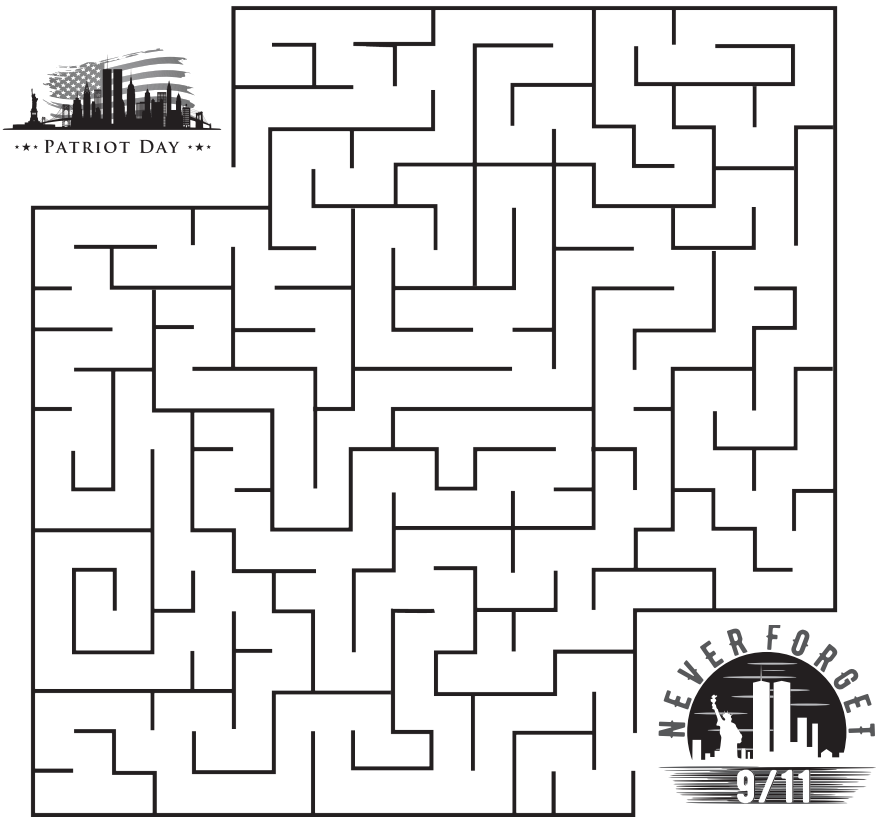
61. Frozen water

62. Norwegian krone

64. Commercial



Maze Craze



Word Search

MELODIOUS

WORD SEARCH

ANSWERS ON THE CLASSIFIED PAGE

WORDS

ACOUSTIC
ANTHEM
BALLAD
CADENCE
CHORD
CRESCENDO
DYNAMIC
ENSEMBLE
HARMONY
IMPROVISE
LYRICS
MELODY
OCTAVE
OVERTURE
RHAPSODY
RHYTHM
SERENADE
SOLO
SONATA
STACCATO
SYMPHONY
TEMPO
TIMBRE
VIBRATO

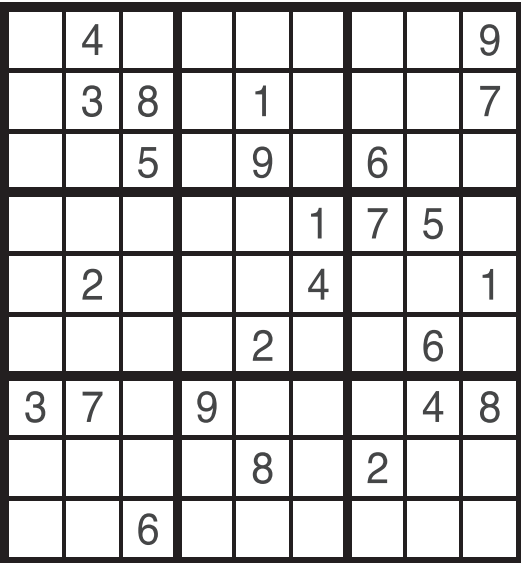
S O N A T A M M P T O A B C R H P O S T
M T C Y T R V H B N E A M Y A N T H E M
I N H V U V M O O T A C C A T S N T T R S
Y S B A L A N B C O L A O Y C D U A N S
D E T T R L L P R N S E D V I B R A T O
O M D C P M C S A E R L N B M D O N V A
L B N O B S H D R Y R M E M A P P V E L
E L A A I B H E C H E O C H N V M U I Y
M E D N A E N A A A A D V S S Y O E V U R
C M P L T A D P P N T E E A D H T R M I
V C L H D E S Y I O D R R M H B B O H C
U A A E N O N T T U E T C E Y Y A L N S
D B D C D O T L S S M U Y Y T B M O U P
C U E Y H E V O M M I R E N M D S R C
A D L P E T R H R Y O E S I O H M D U B
O P M C I T S U O C A Y D O U M T C B S
D Y L E S I V O R P M I P R O U E R Y Y I
S D U Y E M P O V H D R O H C O D A H O
E H C L V P M A O I D S E B S T U V H R

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

Sudoku Puzzle

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

ANSWERS ON THE CLASSIFIED PAGE



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

Word Scramble

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to music.

CRIHO

Answer: Choir

Guess Who?

GUESS WHO?

I am an actor born in Connecticut on September 8, 2002. I began my career on the stage starring in musicals. I got a big break when I was cast in a hit Netflix series about a group of kids in the 1980s facing otherworldly creatures.

Answer: Gaten Matarazzo

Crypto Fun

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to music. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 6 = N)

A. 6 25 11 1 24

Clue: Represent a specific pitch

B. 8 7 1 13

Clue: Indicates pitch of notes

C. 18 26 19 9 25 6 12

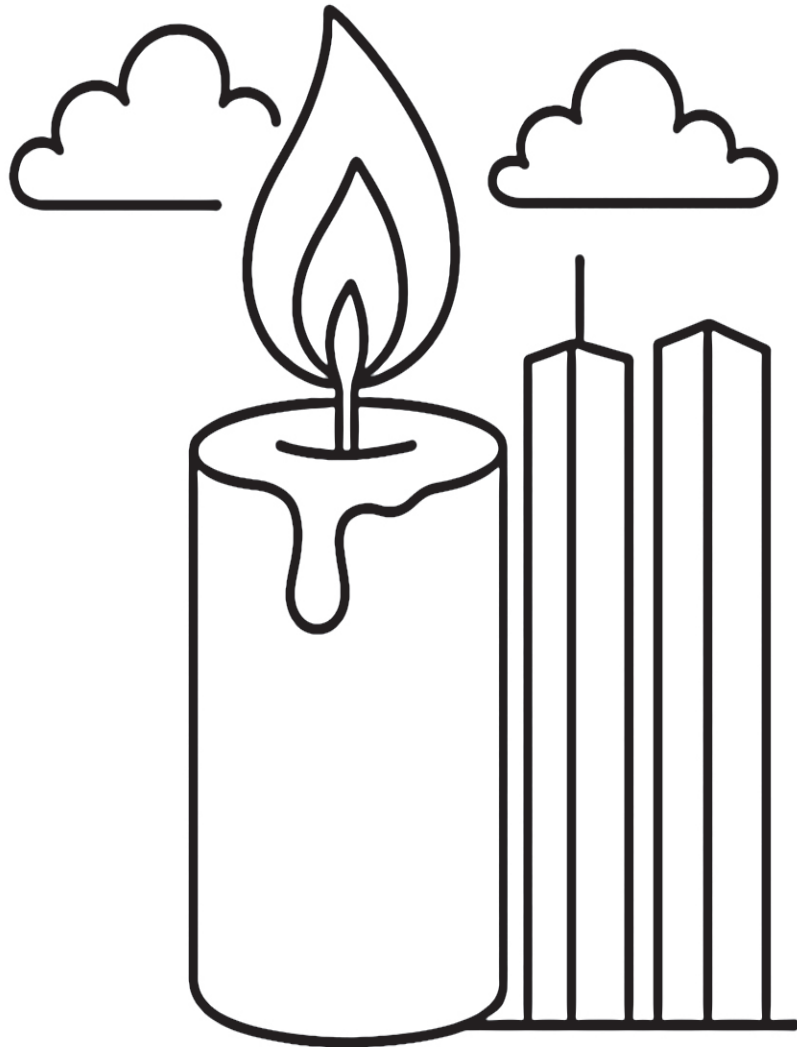
Clue: Combination of musical notes

D. 8 25 6 2 14 8 11

Clue: Lead a musical group

Answers: A. notes B. Clef C. harmony D. conduct

Coloring Fun



NEVER FORGET
9/11

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Sudoku Answers

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

Word Search Answers

S O N A T A M M P T O A B C R H P O S T
M T C Y T R V H B N E A M Y A N T H E M
I N P E M I B C O B T A B B E Y P T H D C
L N H V U V M O Q T A C C A T S N T T R
Y S B A L A N B C O L A O Y C D U A N S
D E M T T R L L P R N S E D V I B R A T O
O E D T C P M C S A E R L N B M D D O N V A
L B N O B S H D R Y R M E M A P P V E L Y
E L A A I B H E C H E O C S H N V M U I Y
M E D N A E N A A A D V S S Y O E V U R
C M P L T A D P P N T E E A D H T R M I C
V C L H D E S Y I O D R R M H B B O H C S
U A A E N O N T T U E T C E Y Y A L N S
D B D C D O T L S S M U Y Y T B M O U P C
C U E Y H E V O M M I R E N M N D S R C
A D L P E T R H R Y O E S I O H M D U B
O P M C I T S U O C A Y D O U M T C B S
D Y L E S I V O R P M I P R U E R Y Y I
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How to commit to service this September 11th

The terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, were tragic. But the resolve shown in the aftermath of the attacks, and the efforts of countless individuals who did whatever they could to help the victims of the attacks, showcased the best of humanity during some of the darkest days in world history.

Both the United States and Canada honor the efforts of those who sought to assist victims on 9/11 with national days of service. The September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance is officially recognized in the United States. Residents of each country are encouraged to honor first responders during these days of service, and also encouraged



to engage in charitable work and good deeds. As the world prepares for the 25th anniversary of September 11, 2001, those who want to honor the legacy of the countless individuals who served in the aftermath of the attacks can do so in numerous ways.

• **Become a volunteer first responder.** First responders embodied the resolve and heroism that marked the response to the ter-

ror attacks of September 11. Volunteering as a local first responder in your community is a great way to honor the legacy of those who perished on 9/11 and the efforts of others who continued to serve in the aftermath of the attacks. Many local communities rely on volunteers to serve as emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and firefighters, and joining such organizations is a great way

to make an impact this September 11 and beyond.

• **Donate to local first responder organizations.** If you can't volunteer with a local first responder organization, then offering financial support to such groups might be the next best way to express your appreciation for their efforts. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, emergency medical services are rarely classified as "essential services." Though that varies by community, EMS groups that rely on volunteers are likely underfunded, and the same may be true of local fire services. By supporting such groups with financial donations, donors can ensure the selfless men and women who

volunteer in their communities have the equipment they need to stay safe and save lives.

• **Work with 9/11 Meal Packs.** On September 11, 2026, companies across the United States are uniting for the largest single-day meal pack in history. Efforts in more than 50 cities across the U.S. are aspiring to pack 20 million meals for families in need. Roughly 50,000 volunteers are needed to meet that goal, and individuals can learn more at 911day.org/meal-packs/. Similar packing activities in Canada are sponsored by GlobalMedic and Food Banks Canada, and Canadians are urged to contact those organizations about events on September 11.

• **Volunteer to help**

educate young people. As many as 100 million Americans and roughly 7.5 million Canadians were not alive on September 11, 2001. As communities commemorate the 25th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, adults who were alive on that day can help to educate young people about the events of September 11, the aftermath of the attacks, and other notable details that people who were not alive on 9/11 may not know.

September 11 is recognized as a day of service in the United States and Canada. Giving back is a great way to honor the legacy of those who lost their lives and the millions more who served in the aftermath of the attacks.

9/11: A Quarter Century of Remembrance

On September 11, 2001, the United States was the target of coordinated terrorist attacks that claimed the lives of nearly 3,000 people. The attacks took place at the World Trade Center

in New York City, the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, and in a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. In the years since, Americans have continued to remember those who were lost while honor-

ing the courage of first responders, service members, survivors and ordinary citizens who helped others during a time of great crisis.

For many Americans, the memories of

that Tuesday morning remain vivid. Schools, workplaces and homes across the nation came to a standstill as people watched events unfold. In the days that followed, communities came together in a remarkable display of unity, compassion and patriotism.

Twenty-five years later, a new generation has grown up with no personal memory of September 11, 2001. The National September 11 Memorial & Museum notes that approximately 100 million Americans are now too young to remember the attacks firsthand. As a result, education and remembrance have become increasingly important in helping younger generations understand both the tragedy and its lasting impact on the nation.

The 25th anniversary will be marked with ceremonies and observances across the country. At the National September 11 Memorial in New York City, family members of victims will gather for a commemoration ceremony featuring the reading of names and moments of silence.

At the Flight 93 National Memorial in Pennsylvania, the National Park Service will hold its 25th annual September 11 observance, including a reading of the names of the passengers and crew members and the ringing of the Bells of Remembrance.

While the anniversary is a time of sorrow and reflection, it is also a reminder of the courage and compassion demonstrated in the aftermath of the attacks. Firefighters,

police officers, emergency workers, medical professionals and countless ordinary citizens responded by helping strangers and supporting communities in need.

As America marks a quarter century since 9/11, the promise to "never forget" takes on new meaning. For those who lived through that day, remembrance preserves personal memories. For younger generations, it means learning history and understanding the importance of courage, service, unity and compassion.

Twenty-five years later, the nation continues to pause on September 11 to remember the lives lost, honor the heroes and reflect on a day that forever changed America.



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