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Thursday, September 3, 2026

Journal Reporter

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Congratulations to Officer Lucas Kolovitz MPD Unit #261 on graduating from the 239th Basic Class at the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy last week.

Marion PD Facebook photo

Marion Fire Department to celebrate 150 years of service to Marion

The Marion Fire Department invites you to join us on Friday, September 11th at 8:30 AM as we remember the 25th anniversary of 9/11 and celebrate MFD 150 years of service to the community of Marion. The event will take place at Station 1 — 213 W. 4th St. Come tour our

brand new Station 1, see our equipment up close, and help us honor the lives lost, the heroes who served, and the sacrifices that continue to inspire us. 25 Years of Remembrance 150 Years of Service. One Community. One Mission. We hope to see you there. All are welcome.

Marion High School plans Night of Giants to honor outstanding alumni

Marion Community School will honor exceptional alumni during Homecoming Weekend this year. The 2026 inductees for the Marion High School Hall of Distinction, along with the MHS Athletics Hall of Fame and the MHS Arts Hall of Fame, will be honored at the Night of Giants ceremony, set for Friday, Sept. 25, at the Walton Performing Arts Center at Marion High School. The ceremony will start at 5 p.m. and is free and open to the public. Doors will open at 4:30 p.m.

Inductees will also be honored at the Giants' homecoming football game set to start at 7 p.m. that day. Inductees will be provided a free game ticket; all others can purchase tickets for \$7 each, to help support the MHS Athletic Department.

Nominations for all alumni honors are accepted year-round. For more information, check out the Alumni

section at www.marion.k12.in.us.

MHS Hall of Distinction

This year's inductees are:

Amos Randle, Class of 1951, first African American to serve as chief for the Marion Police Department, where he served for nearly 30 years; school security officer for nearly 20 years; U.S. Air Force veteran

Michael Gault, Class of 1966, longtime educator, trainer, and coach in both athletic and academic programs as well as the corporate world; community leader; school board member

Diana (Murrell) Reese Gardner, Class of 1975, longtime educator, instructional technology coach, and library / media specialist at Marion Community Schools

Lezlie (Ladwig) Winter, Class of 1977, longtime Grant County educator and administrator; respected statewide leader, mentor, community advocate, and trailblazer for women in educational leadership

Robert Hull, Class of 1991, CFO of Panini America, a multi-billion-dollar company and a leader in the sports and entertainment industry

Daniel Swenson, Class of 1991, longtime journalist, three-time Pulitzer Prize winner, and a recipient of the Peabody Award, the

Edward R. Murrow Award, and many other awards

Aparna (Raj) Parikh, M.D., Class of 2000, internationally recognized cancer researcher and Harvard Medical School educator

Willis Van Devanter, honorary inductee who graduated in 1876 from a Marion school that preceded the establishment of Marion High School, and was a Supreme Court justice for nearly three decades (inducted posthumously)

The MHS Hall of Distinction gives lasting recognition to alumni who have made exceptional contributions to the achievements and prestige of Marion Community Schools. It also serves to help inspire current students to aspire to similar success.

The MHS Hall of Distinction was created in 2006, and is now displayed near the main high school office, as can also be viewed online.

Any MHS alumnus who graduated at least 10 years ago and who has made substantial contributions to the achievements of Marion Community Schools or whose exemplary actions reflect honor on MCS is eligible for nomination. The Hall seeks to honor men and women who have distinguished themselves through superb

accomplishment on a local, state or national level in diverse fields of endeavor. Non-MHS graduates may be afforded honorary status in the MHS Hall of Distinction.

MHS Arts Hall of Fame

This year's inductee is:

Mark Russell, Class of 1969, internationally known violinmaker (inducted posthumously)

Jena (Jones) Adrianson, Class of 1970, longtime music educator

The MHS Arts Hall of Fame Distinction alumni who are nationally recognized professional artists, as well as notable MHS arts faculty. It also serves to help inspire current students to aspire to similar success.

The Giants Arts Hall of Fame opened in 2018. Inductees are honored in a display in the arts hallway, and can also be viewed online.

Any MHS alumnus who graduated at least 10 years ago and who meets the Arts Hall of Fame criteria is eligible for nomination.

MHS Athletics Hall of Fame

This year's inductees are:

John Jones, Class of 1980: In football, All-State, Indiana North-South game, All-NCC, team captain; went on to play Division 1 at

University of Kentucky. In basketball, 1980 state finalist. In track & field, state finalist in 880-yard relay.

Greg Roper, Class of 1985: In basketball, 1985 state championship. In track & field, 1983 state finalist in hurdles, All-NCC. In football, All-State Honorable Mention.

Kyle Chin, Class of 1998: In basketball, 1988 state finalist, All-NCC, record holder for most 3-pointers in a game. In golf, regional championship, finished sixth in state, four-time All-NCC, went on to play at Indiana Wesleyan University where he was named 1st Team All-American, won the regional qualifier to advance to national tournament three times, and was two-time Grant County Amateur champion. He has also been inducted into the Grant County Sports Hall of Fame.

Erin Guarneri, Class of 2009: In basketball, 11th all-time leading scorer, All-NCC; went on to play at Taylor University, earned a spot in their 1,000 Point Club, was a two-time NAIA All-American Honorable Mention, and was named to the All-Academic Team. In soccer, NCC and sectional titles. Also competed in volleyball, softball, and track & field.

Emily Guarneri, Class of 2010: In gymnastics, all-time record-holder in beam, held vault record for

six years and finished 7th in state, 2nd team All-State, All-NCC. In cheerleading, went on to cheer at Division 1 North Carolina State. Also competed in diving and track & field, and earned 13 varsity letters total at MHS.

Katrina Blackmon, Class of 2011: In basketball, 7th all-time leading scorer, All-NCC; went on to play at Indiana Wesleyan University on the NAIA national championship team, was named 1st Team All-American, Crossroads player of the year; IWU Athletics Hall of Honor inductee. In volleyball, All-NCC. Also competed in track & field - high jump.

The Marion High School Athletics Hall of Fame seeks to honor notable Giants athletes who found success in high school, college, semi-pros, and professional leagues. It also honors others who have contributed in a meaningful way to the Marion Giants legacy of athletics excellence. It also serves to help inspire current students to aspire to similar success.

The Giants Athletics Hall of Fame opened in 2017. Inductees are honored in a display in the Bill Green Athletic Arena, and can also be viewed online.

Any MHS alumnus who graduated at least 10 years ago and who meets the Athletics Hall of Fame criteria is eligible for nomination.

Endless Highway and Steve Ladd in Concert Sept. 19th at Epworth Church

Epworth Church, 105 W 8th St, Matthews, Indiana is pleased to announce Endless Highway and Steve Ladd in concert on Saturday, September 19, 2026! New earlier Saturday start time for 2026 - Doors open at 5 PM, Concert starts at 6 PM. Tickets are \$15. Also, a love offering will be received. Limited seating, to guarantee your seats, please purchase tickets in advance at epworthworship.com/goldcity or call/text 765-667-0842.

Endless Highway is a family composed of Jason & Vanessa Griggs and their two children, Jay & Allison. Endless Highway continually has singles on the Top 40 Gospel Music Charts. They are currently touring with Mark Lowry on many of his concert events. They are a regular featured artist on the National Quartet Convention main stage, The Ark Encounter, and other major events. Endless Highway offers a blend of Southern Gospel, Bluegrass Gospel, Acapella, and Acoustic Music.

Endless Highway offers a blend of Southern Gospel, Bluegrass Gospel, Acapella, and Acoustic Music. Whether it be a time tested hymn of the church, a spirited acapella song, or a toe tapping bluegrass song, Endless Highway will offer something to please every



Endless Highway



Steve Ladd

concert attendee. Attendees are sure to enjoy a mix of live instrumentation, pure acapella music, and tracks accompanied by Endless Highway's vocals. Endless Highway loves to have fun while ministering, but make no mistake, their goal is to exalt Christ, edify the church, and evangelize the lost.

Visit them online at www.endlesshighway.org
In the tapestry of life, stories captivate us—tales of triumph, tragedy, and the human journey, marked by disappointments and discoveries, regrets and redemption. This is our story, a collective narrative.

But in the soul-stirring melodies of Steve Ladd and his latest masterpiece, “Come Up Clean,” it transcends the realm of mere storytelling; it’s a testimony—a testament of grace and resilience that he ardently wishes to share with you.

From the tender age of five, growing up in Dayton, Ohio, Steve felt the divine call to minister through song. The son of an evangelist, Steve matured to become a beloved member of America’s most acclaimed Christian music groups, including Gold City, The Anchormen, and Anthem Edition. For over a decade, Steve has journeyed both domestically and internationally, ministering to audiences with inspirational songs like “Come Sunday Morning,” “One More River,” and “Preach the Word.” These harmonious melodies have transformed into personal anthems of encouragement that Steve carries wherever he goes, as he testifies to lives

touched, healed, and uplifted.

On a personal note, Steve’s latest musical journey reflects his pursuit of freedom in recent years. It’s a powerhouse of music that transcends genres, a resonating harmony for all tastes. Professionally, he stands tall with accolades—the Gospel Music Association Hall of Fame, a “New Artist of the Year” nomination, a chart-topping Number One Single featuring the incomparable Jason Crabb, and a stellar record of seven Top 40 Singles. On release day, his album ascended to the elite Top 20 chart for iTunes Christian music. Furthermore, Steve’s heart extends to partnership with Childfund International, exemplifying the fusion of music and purpose.

While his extraordinary journey began within his family and burgeoned through award-winning quartets, his reemergence as a solo artist has been a testament to the Lord’s unwavering faithfulness. It radiates in his wife Maegan, his daily walk, and the very essence of his life. Steve Ladd’s odyssey is more than just a story; it’s a symphony of faith, resilience, and the power of testimony.

Visit him online at www.steveladdmusic.com

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	a.m. Sunday evening and Wednesday evening 5:00 p.m.
Sweetser United Methodist Church 413 N. Main Street, Sweetser, IN 46987 www.sweetserumc.org (765) 384-7354	Fairmount Church of God – 10:30 a.m., Sunday School – 9:30 a.m. Fairmount Friends – 10:30 a.m.
Swayzee United Methodist Church 306 S Washington St, Swayzee, IN, United States, 46986 www.umc.org (765) 922-7223	Fairmount Wesleyan – 9:30 a.m. Fairmount United Methodist – 9:30 a.m.
Converse Church of Christ 301 E. Wabash Street Converse, IN 46919 765-395-3361 First Hour service (traditional) @ 9am Second Hour service (contemporary) @ 10:15am	Fowlerton United Methodist – 10:45 a.m. Grant Church (Global Methodist) 11018 S 300 E Fairmount 9:00 a.m.
Sweetser Wesleyan Church (765) 384-7232 200 West Delphi Pike Sweetser, IN 46987 www. https://www.sweetserwesleyan.org Sunday Morning 10 am	Jones Chapel – 10:30 a.m., Sunday School – 9 a.m. MorningStar Ministries, 11:00 a.m. (Jonesboro)
Back Creek Friends – 10:30 a.m., Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.	Prince of Peace Lutheran Church – 9 a.m. (Hartford City)
Back Creek Wesleyan – 10:30 a.m., Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.	One of Ten Ministries and Church – 10:30 a.m. Pilgrim Holiness – 6 p.m.
Fairmount Baptist Church – 10:30 a.m., Sunday School – 9:30	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

Tickets now available for MHS’s The Music Man, Oct 2-3

Marion High School is bringing The Music Man back to the stage at the Walton Performing Arts Center this fall! The cast features students from Marion High School as well as McCulloch Junior

High. Marching bands, love songs, and a conman with a heart of gold ... what could be better?
By turns wicked, funny, warm, romantic and touching, The Music Man is family entertainment at its best. Meredith Willson’s six-time Tony Award-winning musical comedy has

been entertaining audiences since 1957. Fast-talking traveling salesman Harold Hill sets his sights on an easy mark: the town of River City, Iowa. But things don’t go exactly as he planned when he falls for the local librarian. With heartfelt tunes including the rousing march “Seventy-six Trombones”, the wistful “Good Night

My Someone”, the folksy “Wells Fargo Wagon”, the classic love song “Till There Was You”, and of course the comedic “Gary, Indiana”, this show is a must-see!
Shows are set for 7:30 p.m. Oct. 2, and 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Oct 3. General admission tickets are \$10 for adults, \$7 for students. Tickets can be purchased online

below, or at the door the day of the show.
Book, Music and Lyrics by Meredith Willson. The Music Man is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.MTIShows.com.

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MARIONHEALTH



AREA DEATHS

Betty J. Harmon

Betty J. Harmon, 94, of Marion, passed away at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 26, 2026, at Colonial Oaks Health & Rehabilitation Center. The family received friends from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Monday, August 31, 2026, at Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral & Cremation Service, North Chapel, 1341 N. Baldwin Ave., Marion, Indiana. A celebration of Betty's life was held immediately following visitation at 2:00 p.m., with Pastor Mark Atkinson officiating. Burial followed at Gardens of Memory in Marion.

William Hodge

William Thomas Hodge, a devoted father, grandfather, brother and proud businessman, passed away peacefully on August 25, 2026, at the age of 72. The family received visitors from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Monday, August 31, 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 William's life was held at 1:00 p.m. with Rev. Dan Van Cise officiating. Burial took place at Marion IOOF Cemetery.

Gladys B. Ybarra

Gladys B. Ybarra, 93, Marion, passed away at 5:45 pm on Wednesday, August 5, 2026, at Colonial Oaks Retirement Apartments. The family received visitors from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon on Monday, August 10, 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 Gladys' life was held at 12:00 noon with Pastor Mick Simpkins officiating. Burial took place at Grant Memorial Park.

Douglas E. Maples

Douglas "Doug" E. Maples, 79, Gas City, passed away in his home on Tuesday, August 25, 2026. The family received visitors from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 1, 2026, at Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral & Cremation Service, Storey Chapel, 400 E. Main St., Gas City, IN. Immediately following visitation, a service to celebrate Doug's life was held at 1:00 p.m. at Needham-Storey-Wampner, with Pastor David Morris officiating. Burial followed at Riverside Cemetery.

Betty Joan Carper

Betty Joan Carper, 89, of Marion, passed away at 1:48 p.m. on Monday, August 24, 2026, at Wesleyan Health Care & Rehabilitation Center. At Betty's request, there will be no public visitation or funeral service. Arrangements are entrusted to Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral & Cremation Service, North Chapel, 1341 N. Baldwin Ave., Marion, IN.

Martha Susan Marley

Martha Susan (Webb) Marley passed away on August 29, 2026. Funeral services will be held at Raven Choate

Robinson Funeral Home, 1202 W Kem Rd., Marion, Indiana 46952, on Thursday September 3, 2026, at 11:00 AM. A time of visitation for family and friends will begin at 10:00 AM. Private burial will take place at Gardens of Memory Cemetery immediately following services.

Tracy T. Talbert

Tracy T. Talbert, 62, of Fairmount, Indiana, passed away on August 27, 2026, in Fairmount. Cremation will take place through Raven Choate Robinson Funeral Home, 1202 West Kem Road, Marion, Indiana 46952.

Aaron Himes

Aaron Himes, 37, passed away on Tuesday, August 25, 2026, in Yemassee, South Carolina. Aaron's care has been entrusted to the Fairmount Chapel of Armes-Hunt Life Celebration Funeral Home & Cremation Services, 415 S. Main Street, Fairmount, Indiana.

Charles E. Dailey

Charles E. Dailey, 79, passed away on Tuesday, August 25, 2026, at his Fairmount home. Arrangements for Charles have been entrusted to the Fairmount Chapel of Armes-Hunt Life Celebration Funeral Home and Cremation Services. Services for Charles will be private, and burial will take place at Marion National Cemetery.

Bonnie Jean Bennett

Bonnie Jean Bennett, 70, of Jonesboro, Indiana, passed away at her home on August 24, 2026. Arrangements for Bonnie have been entrusted to the College Park Chapel of Armes-Hunt Life Celebration Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 4601 South Western Avenue, Marion, Indiana 46953, where a visitation was held on Monday, August 31, 2026, from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. A funeral service took place on Tuesday, September 1, at the funeral home at 12:00 p.m.

Constance "Connie" Berry

Constance "Connie" Marie Berry of Noblesville, born May 18, 1964, passed away peacefully of natural causes on Monday, August 24th, 2026, at the age 62. There will be no formal services or viewing. Connie will be laid to rest at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Peru, Indiana with her loved ones. A Celebration of Life to be announced at a later date.

Donald Wayne Green

Donald "Don" Wayne Green, 53, passed away on August 27, 2026 at The Waters of Muncie. Funeral service was held at 11 am on Wednesday, September 2, 2026 at Keplinger Funeral Home, 509 N. High St., Hartford City with Rev. Dr. Joey Bowers officiating. Burial followed at Gardens of Memory Cemetery in Muncie.

Brant Alexis Jones

Brant Alexis Jones, 48, passed away on August 26, 2026 at his residence. There will be no visitation or services. Brant will be cremated. Keplinger Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.



The Matthews Covered Bridge Festival returns for its 56th year, with organizers expecting thousands of visitors and several new craft and food vendors.

Photos courtesy of Matthews Lions Club

Matthews Lions Club prepares for 56th Covered Bridge Festival Annual community celebration expected to draw thousands to Matthews

By Greg LeNeave Publisher KPI Newspaper Group

The Matthews Lions Club is preparing for the 56th annual Covered Bridge Festival, one of the community's longtime traditions and a major event for the Matthews area.

Each year, the festival attracts an estimated 10,000 to 12,000 visitors, bringing residents and visitors together for a weekend filled with food, crafts and community fellowship.

This year's festival will feature several new craft vendors as well as a few new food vendors, adding fresh options for returning festival-goers while maintaining the familiar attractions that have helped make the event successful year after

year. Roger Richards of the Matthews Lions Club said the addition of new vendors is particularly significant because vendors are eager to return to the festival.

"That is a big deal because all vendors want to return every year since the event is so successful," Richards said.

The continued interest from vendors reflects the festival's reputation as a well-attended community event. The large crowds provide an opportunity for local organizations, artisans, food vendors and visitors to come together and celebrate the community.

For the Matthews Lions Club, the festival is also an important part of its ongoing commitment to the community.

The Lions Club is a service organization whose members work together on projects and activities intended to benefit the local area.

The Matthews Lions Club meets twice each month, on the second and fourth Tuesday, at the Lions Den in Matthews. Meetings begin at 7 p.m.

As the 56th Covered Bridge Festival approaches, organizers are looking forward to welcoming both longtime festival supporters and newcomers. With thousands of visitors expected and new vendors joining the event, this year's celebration promises to continue a tradition that has become an important part of the Matthews community.



MHS students, grads earn AP Scholar honors and more

Several current Marion High School students and members of the MHS Class of 2026 have been recognized by the College Board for their cumulative excellent performance on multiple Advanced Placement tests in the 2025-26 school year or earlier in their high school career. Every year, the College Board, which administers AP exams, awards students who have excelled on multiple exams. AP

exams are scored on a scale of 1 to 5. A score of 3 designates the student as "qualified" and capable of doing the work of an introductory-level course in a particular subject at college, according to the AP Program's website. Many colleges and universities grant credit and placement for scores of 3, 4 or 5, but the AP Program's website notes that each college decides which scores it will accept. Here's a complete

look at the most recent AP honors, reflecting scores on tests taken in spring 2025 or earlier in a student's high school career:

AP Scholars with Distinction (earning scores of 3 or higher on five or more exams, with an average score of at least 3.5 on all exams taken) Grace Carpenter, Class of 2026 Aliya Cruz, senior Dakhota Daley, Class of 2026

Richard Detamore, Class of 2026 (also AP Capstone Diploma recipient) Tate Duncan, senior (also AP Capstone Diploma recipient) Gabe Fisher, senior Micah Hawkins, senior Elijah Inskeep, Class of 2026 Jetha Paduga, senior Derrick Simmons-Lollis, Class of 2026 (also AP Capstone Diploma recipient) Aly Yanis-Earrest, senior (also AP Capstone Diploma

recipient) AP Scholars with Honor (earning scores of 3 or higher on four or more exams, with an average score of at least 3.25 on all exams taken) Gary Freiburger, Class of 2026 Mary Herrington, senior (also AP Capstone Diploma recipient) Chayim Hofmann, Class of 2026 Nolan Lomely, senior Axel Ortiz Juarez,

senior Aubry Roedl, Class of 2026 Allyson Williams, Class of 2026 AP Scholars (earning scores of 3 or higher on three or more exams) Gigi Bunker, Class of 2026 Eliana Campanero, junior Shaeli Castaneda, Class of 2026 see STUDENTS, page 7



photo courtesy of Oak Hill High School Athletic Department
Oak Hill defeated Kokomo 3-1 in a boys' soccer match on Saturday, Aug. 29.

Boys' High School Soccer

Golden Eagles knock off Wildcats

Staff Report
KOKOMO — Oak Hill defeated host Kokomo 3-1 in a boys' soccer match on Saturday, Aug. 29. Tayt Bowlin led Oak Hill to the win, scoring two goals for the Golden Eagles. Accompanying Bowlin in Oak Hill's scoring column, Maddux Kenyon netted one goal. Aiding Oak Hill's

offensive effort, Crter Kreitzer distributed two assists. Chipping in offensively, Garret Summers added one assist for the Golden Eagles. Goalkeeper Ben Babinski paced Oak Hill defensively, holding Kokomo to one goal. Oak Hill improved to 4-1-1 after securing the win.

Girls' High School Soccer

Marion rolls to win over Muncie Central

Staff Report
MARION — Marion pulled away to defeat Muncie Central 9-1 in a North Central Conference girls' soccer match on Saturday, Aug. 29. The Giants improved to 1-2-1 after notching the win. Marion finished strong, scoring seven goals in the second half. Rayleigh Hancock recorded a hat trick for Marion, scoring three goals. Following Hancock in Marion's scoring column, Naomi Cox and Jayme Hardwick netted two goals apiece. Rounding out Marion's scoring, Farrah McPherson and Jordyn Hollumn netted one goal each. Marion thrived both offensively and defensively throughout the match. Marion is scheduled to host Lafayette Jefferson for its next match on Saturday, Sept. 5.

High School Football

Indiana upend Giants

Staff Report
MARION — Mississinewa defeated rival Marion 39-13 in a non-district game on Friday, Aug. 28. Jacob Schwartz paced Mississinewa through the air, completing seven passes for 109 yards. Rayveon Fetz hauled in a 57-yard reception for the Indians. Mississinewa rushed 33 times for 297 yards and six touchdowns. Laz Crandall led Mississinewa on the ground, rushing 20 times for 247 yards and four touchdowns. Following Crandall, Schwartz rushed eight times for 50 yards and two touchdowns. Marion reached the endzone twice via the ground in the non-district matchup. Mississinewa is scheduled to visit Frankton for its next game on Friday, Sept. 4. In another game set for Friday, Sept. 4, Marion is scheduled to host Columbus North.

USA Today High School Football State Poll

Class 6A Football Top 10	Votes Prev. Ranking
Ranking Team Record	1. Evansville Memorial (9) 1-0 144 3
Votes Prev. Ranking	2. Andean (3) 0-1 124 1
1. Brownsburg (16) 1-0 160 1	3. Adams Central (3) 1-0 123 5
2. Westfield 1-0 137 2	4. (tie) Tri-West (1) 1-0 104 6
3. Carmel 1-0 127 3	4. (tie) Gibson Southern 0-1 104 2
4. Warren Central 1-0 112 5	6. Lawrenceburg 0-1 65 4
5. Fort Wayne Carroll 1-0 87 8	7. Evansville Mater Dei 1-0 56 7
6. Center Grove 0-1 59 6	8. Twin Lakes 1-0 53 9
7. Crown Point 1-0 55 7	9. Indian Creek 1-0 46 NR
8. Lawrence North 0-1 49 4	10. Maconaquah 1-0 23 NR
9. Penn 1-0 43 9	Dropped out: Mississinewa (8), Eastbrook (10).
10. Ben Davis 1-0 26 NR	Others receiving votes: Fairfield 6, Eastbrook 5, Mississinewa 5, Griffith 4, Norwell 3, Bluffton 2, Heritage Christian 2, Tippecanoe Valley 1, West Lafayette 1.
Dropped out: Hamilton Southeastern (10).	
Others receiving votes: Merrillville 15, Avon 7, Columbus North 2, Elkhart 1.	

Class 5A Football Top 10	Class 2A Football Top 10
Ranking Team Record	Ranking Team Record
Votes Prev. Ranking	Votes Prev. Ranking
1. New Palestine (16) 1-0 160 1	1. Lapel (6) 1-0 150 2
2. Bloomington South 1-0 138 3	2. Brownstown Central (6) 1-0 147 1
3. Cathedral 0-1 122 2	3. Lutheran (2) 1-0 124 3
4. Castle 1-0 83 8	4. Cascade (2) 1-0 117 4
5. Pendleton Heights 1-0 76 9	5. South Putnam 1-0 99 5
6. Warsaw 1-0 70 NR	6. Eastside 1-0 70 9
7. Floyd Central 1-0 65 10	7. Eastern (Greentown) 1-0 67 6 (tie)
8. Lafayette Jeff 0-1 44 4	8. North Posey 1-0 39 NR
9. Concord 0-1 42 6	9. Linton-Stockton 0-1 24 6 (tie)
10. Fort Wayne Snider 0-1 31 7	10. Eastern Hancock 1-0 18 NR
Dropped out: Plainfield (5).	Dropped out: Providence (8), Knox (10).
Others receiving votes: Franklin 26, Plainfield 19, Evansville North 3, Huntington North 2.	Others receiving votes: Providence 12, Rochester 9, Bremen 1, Southmont 1, Centerville 1.

Class 4A Football Top 10	Class 1A Football Top 10
Ranking Team Record	Ranking Team Record
Votes Prev. Ranking	Votes Prev. Ranking
1. Bishop Chatard (8) 1-0 140 3	1. Riverton Parke (8) 1-0 150 2
2. FW Dwenger (3) 1-0 137 4	2. Pioneer (6) 1-0 146 1
3. East Central (4) 1-0 135 2	3. North Judson (1) 1-0 126 4 (tie)
4. Roncalli (1) 0-1 117 1	4. Milan 1-0 110 4 (tie)
5. Mishawaka 1-0 82 5	5. South Adams 0-1 79 3
6. Yorktown 1-0 70 6	6. North Decatur 1-0 65 9
7. East Noble 1-0 65 7	7. Lafayette Central Cath. 1-0 60 10
8. SB St. Joseph 1-0 56 8	8. North Daviess 1-0 38 NR
9. Hobart 1-0 30 9	9. Springs Valley 0-1 20 6
10. Heritage Hills 1-0 16 NR	10. Tri 1-0 19 NR
Dropped out: Fort Wayne Luers (10).	Dropped out: Frontier (7), Sheridan (8).
Others receiving votes: Evansville Reitz 13, Muncie Central 8, Jasper 3, Guerin Catholic 2, DeKalb 2, Fort Wayne Luers 1.	Others receiving votes: Clinton Prairie 17, Sheridan 16, Tecumseh 10, Carroll (Flora) 9, Frontier 3, West Washington 3, Cloverdale 1.

BLACKFORD
BRUINS

Date	Opponent	Time	H/A
8/28	Wes-Dei	7:00 PM	H
9/4	Elwood	7:00 PM	H
9/11	@Eastbrook	7:00 PM	A
9/18	@ Mississinewa	7:00 PM	A
9/25	Oak Hill	7:00 PM	H
10/2	@ Frankton	7:00 PM	A
10/9	@ Alexandria-Monroe	7:00 PM	A
10/16	Madison Grant	7:00 PM	H

MARION
GIANTS

Date	Opponent	Time	H/A
8/28	Mississinewa	7:00 PM	H
9/4	Columbus North	7:00 PM	H
9/11	@ Lebanon	7:00 PM	A
9/18	@ Muncie Central	7:00 PM	A
9/25	Kokomo	7:00 PM	H
10/2	@ Richmond	7:00 PM	A
10/9	Lafayette Jefferson	7:00 PM	H
10/16	@ Anderson	7:00 PM	A

EASTBROOK
PANTHERS

Date	Opponent	Time	H/A
8/28	FWCL	7:00 PM	H
9/4	@ Alexandria Monroe	7:00 PM	A
9/11	Blackford	7:00 PM	H
9/18	Elwood	7:00 PM	H
9/25	@ Madison Grant	7:00 PM	A
10/2	@ Mississinewa	7:00 PM	A
10/9	@ Oak Hill	7:00 PM	A
10/16	Frankton	7:00 PM	H

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This Season!

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2026 ISCA Week Two Rankings

3A ISCA High School Boys' Soccer Poll	20. Clarksville
1. Goshen	3A ISCA High School Girls' Soccer Poll
2. Hamilton SE	1. Hamilton
3. Noblesville	Southeastern
4. Valparaiso	2. Homestead
5. Bloomington	3. Carmel
South	4. Center Grove
6. Brownsburg	5. Westfield
7. Ev. Memorial	6. Cathedral
8. Carmel	7. Noblesville
9. FW Carroll	8. Zionsville
10. Castle	9. Crown Point
11. Zionsville	10. Lawrence North
12. Concord	11. Penn
13. WL Harrison	12. Castle
14. Penn	13. Lawrenceburg
15. Fishers	14. Columbus North
16. Ev. North	15. Bloomington
17. Lake Central	South
18. Lawrence	16. East Central
Central	17. Mishawaka
19. Chesterton	Marian
20. Cathedral	18. Evansville North
	19. Northridge
	20. Avon
2A ISCA High School Boys' Soccer Poll	2A ISCA High School Girls' Soccer Poll
1. Guerin Catholic	1. SB Saint Joseph
2. Bishop Noll	2. Breuef Jesuit
3. Mishawaka	3. Evansville
Marian	Memorial
4. Park Tudor	4. Park Tudor
5. Illiana Christian	5. Evansville Mater
6. Covenant	Dei
Christian (Indpls)	6. Bishop Dwenger
7. Bishop Luers	7. Belmont
8. Leo	8. Bishop Chatard
9. Cardinal Ritter	9. Heritage
10. Speedway	Christian
11. Heritage Hills	10. Heritage Hills
12. Brebeuf Jesuit	11. Guerin Catholic
13. Bishop Chatard	12. Tri-West
14. SB Saint Joseph	13. Batesville
15. Southridge	14. Leo
16. Concordia	15. West Lafayette
Lutheran	16. Madison
17. Charlestown	17. Washington
18. Hanover Central	18. Delta
19. Washington	19. Kankakee Valley
Community	20. Gibson
20. Bremen	Southern/Danville/
	Benton Central
1A ISCA High School Boys' Soccer Poll	1A ISCA High School Girls' Soccer Poll
1. Blackhawk	1. Westview
Christian	2. Oldenburg
2. Faith Christian	Academy
3. Shawe Memorial	3. FW Blackhawk
4. Greenwood	4. Elkhart Christian
Christian	5. Evansville
5. Westview	Christian
6. Scecina	6. Providence
7. Oldenburg	7. Forest Park
Academy	8. Switzerland Co.
8. Northeast Dubois	9. Lapel
9. Forest Park	10. Oak Hill
10. Argos	11. Trinity Academy
11. White River	12. Bremen
Valley	13. Sheridan
12. Canterbury	14. Monrovia
13. Tell City	15. Lakewood Park
14. Southwestern	16. South Knox
(Shelby)	17. White River
15. Bethesda	Valley
Christian	18. Covington
16. South Knox	19. Central Triton
17. University	20. Shawe Memorial
18. Christian	
Academy of Indiana	
19. Southwestern	
(Hanover)	



OAK HILL			
GOLDEN EAGLES			
Date	Opponent	Time	H/A
8/28	@ Norwell	7:00 PM	A
9/4	@ Madison Grant	7:00 PM	A
9/11	Frankton	7:00 PM	H
9/18	Alexandria Monroe	7:00 PM	H
9/25	@ Blackford	7:00 PM	A
10/2	@ Elwood	7:00 PM	A
10/9	Eastbrook	7:00 PM	H
10/16	@ Mississinewa	7:00 PM	A



photo courtesy of Oak Hill High School Athletic Department
Oak Hill shut out Northwestern 4-0 in a girls' soccer match on Saturday, Aug. 29.

GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER Lady Eagles shut out Northwestern

Staff Report	2026 girls' high school soccer season.	goal of the second half on an assist from Annie Hale.	Hill, goalkeeper Jolee Hawkins logged seven saves. Helping keep the Tigers scoreless was the Eagles' defense: Hadleigh Bricker, Brooklyn Young, Charlie Roark and Berklie Hardman.
CONVERSE — Oak Hill shut out Northwestern 4-0 in a girls' soccer match on Saturday, Aug. 29.	Kora Pond scored two goals for the Lady Eagles. Pond's first goal came in the first half on an assist from Landri Hardman.	Later in the initial half, Pond secured the Eagles' third goal.	
Remaining undefeated, Oak Hill moved to 6-0 in the	Erika Newhouse scored the opening	Landri Hardman scored Oak Hill's final goal.	
		Defensively for Oak	

Crossroads League Announces Athletes of the Week – August 24-30

Seth Mikel Crossroads League Sports Information Director		CROSSROADS LEAGUE
JACKSON, Mich. – The Crossroads League Athletes of the Week were announced on Monday, recognizing the league's top individual performances from August 24 through 30. Sports Information Directors from the league institutions nominate student-athletes for the awards and vote on each week's winners.	Taylor Hernandez RV Taylor to four wins in five outings, including victories over No. 5 Corban and No. 19 Bushnell. The senior averaged 11.3 assists per set, had 30-or-more helpers in all five contests and also was a threat at the net with a .400 hitting percentage.	Men's Soccer Offensive Player of the Week Gustavo Nunes, Marian Nunes came off the bench to light up Brescia for five goals in 27 minutes of action during an 8-1 win for Marian. Nunes also took five shots for the Knights in a 5-1 win over IU Columbus, finishing the 2-0 MU week with five goals and 10 points in 11 shots.
Volleyball Attacker of the Week Reagan Kleiman, Taylor Kleiman helped to power RV Taylor to wins over No. 5 Corban and No. 19 Bushnell during a 4-1 week for the Trojans. Kleiman averaged 3.6 kills per set in those matches, while hitting .338 and adding 0.5 blocks per set.	Volleyball Defender of the Week Mackenzie Gerig, Taylor Gerig piled up 79 digs for the RV Taylor backrow in a 4-1 week that included wins over No. 5 Corban and No. 19 Bushnell. The junior had double-digit digs in four contests, averaging 4.4 per set and highlighting the week with 23 in a sweep of Corban.	Women's Soccer Offensive Player of the Week Alyssa Hamann, Indiana Wesleyan Hamann scored in each of No. 11 Indiana Wesleyan's victories, finishing the week with three goals on four shots. In IWU's 1-0 win over No. 20 Science and Arts, Hamann had the lone tally, before scoring twice in a 4-0 win over Tennessee Southern.
Volleyball Setter of the Week Margo Hernandez,		Men's Soccer Defensive Player of the Week Diego Arrieta, Bethel Arrieta led No. 13 Bethel past No. 4 Cumberlands and to a draw with Rio Grande with his defensive play. The senior also scored a goal in BU's 6-0 shutout of Cumberlands and worked 164 minutes of game action on the week.
		Women's Soccer Defensive Player of the Week Avery Sluss, Indiana Wesleyan Sluss did not allow a goal in 180 minutes of work in net for No. 11 IWU, racking up nine total saves in wins over No. 20 Science and Arts and Tennessee Southern. In the shutout of Tennessee Southern, Sluss picked up seven saves to reach 200 for her career.

MISSISSINEWA			
INDIANS			
Date	Opponent	Time	H/A
8/28	@ Marion	7:00 PM	A
9/4	@ Frankton	7:00 PM	A
9/11	Alexandria-Monroe	7:00 PM	H
9/18	Blackford	7:00 PM	H
9/25	@ Elwood	7:00 PM	A
10/2	Eastbrook	7:00 PM	H
10/9	@ Madison Grant	7:00 PM	A
10/16	Oak Hill	7:00 PM	H

We're proud of all athletes, and we wish you a wonderful and winning season!

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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 – 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.



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YA2673  SEP 3 2018 Peterbilt 389 semi truck	FK4117  SEP 3 1996 Peterbilt 378 semi truck	FG0586  SEP 2 2012 John Deere 4940 sprayer	YA3163  SEP 10 2021 Tigercat 234B log loader	FK5042  SEP 10 2014 Freightliner Business Class M2 bucket truck

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2026 Fire Truck Pull Challenge set for September 26th

The 2026 Fire Truck Challenge is set for Saturday, September 26th at the Ballard Field in Marion.

WHAT IS THE 2026 FIRE TRUCK PULL CHALLENGE?

Think of the ultimate tug-of-war but with a fully loaded FIRE TRUCK!

On Saturday, September 26, 2026, teams will take over Ballard Field in Marion to see who has the strength, teamwork, and determination to pull a fire truck 50 feet!

HOW IT WORKS:

Teams can have up to 10 people and must raise or donate at least \$500 per team to compete.

Think your team has what it takes? There are several ways to WIN:

Fastest Team Pull: Race against the clock to pull the truck 50 feet. Each team gets three attempts, and the fastest time wins!

Lowest Combined Weight Pull: Start

with just one or two teammates and keep adding people until you can pull the truck 50 feet. The team that gets it done with the lowest combined weight wins!

AWARDS:

Fastest Pull – 1st, 2nd & 3rd

Lowest Combined Weight Pull

Top Team Fundraiser

But this challenge is about much more than bragging rights.

PULL FOR A PURPOSE

Proceeds benefit Special Olympics Indiana – Grant County, supporting athletes with intellectual disabilities as they train and compete in Olympic-type sports at the local and state levels.

Pull together. Compete together. Make a difference together.

EVENT DAY

Concessions: 11 AM – 4 PM

Team Registration:

12 – 1:15 PM

Team Captain Meeting: 1 – 1:30 PM

Opening Ceremonies: 1:30 – 1:45 PM

THE PULL: 1:45 PM

Awards immediately following

Ballard Field | Marion, Indiana

FREE admission for spectators!

READY TO TAKE THE CHALLENGE?

Team registration and the minimum \$500 registration fee are due September 1. Each participant must also complete an Individual Registration/Pledge Form and the required waiver.

Questions? Contact Jessica Fortney, County Coordinator, at 765-618-7487.

Grab your team. Grab the rope.

LET’S SEE WHO HAS WHAT IT TAKES TO MOVE A FIRE TRUCK!

STUDENTS,
from page 3

Lennon Cordell, Class of 2026

Roman Dailey, senior

Clara Davies, senior

Gracie Dixon, junior

Jeremias Gallegos Ayala, Class of 2026

Nyla Hubartt, Class of 2026

Gavin Johnson, senior

Elias Khalouf, junior

Maizey Kuch, senior

Nam Nguyen, junior

Alexa Ortiz-Juarez, senior

RJ Slinkard, junior

In addition, students can earn other AP awards as part of AP Capstone, a diploma program based on two year-long AP courses: AP Seminar and AP Research. These courses are designed to complement other AP courses that the AP Capstone student may take. Instead of teaching specific subject knowledge, AP Seminar and AP Research use an interdisciplinary approach to develop the critical thinking, research, collaboration, time management, and presentation skills students need for college-level work. Several MHS students earned recognition in this category as well:

AP Capstone Diploma (earning scores of 3 or higher in AP

Seminar and AP Research and on four additional AP Exams)

Grace Carpenter, Class of 2026 (also AP Scholar with Distinction)

Richard Detamore, Class of 2026 (also AP Scholar with Distinction)

Tate Duncan, senior (also AP Scholar with Distinction)

Derrick Simmons-Lollis, Class of 2026 (also AP Scholar with Distinction)

Aly Yanis-Earnest, senior (also AP Scholar with Distinction)

AP Seminar and Research Certificate (earning scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research)

Mary Herrington, senior (also AP Scholar with Honor)

Gavin Johnson, senior (also AP Scholar)

Maizey Kuch, senior (also AP Scholar)

Since 1955, the rigorous Advanced Placement Program has enabled millions of students to take college-level courses and exams and to earn college credit or placement while still in high school.

According to a study cited on the AP Program’s website, AP students have better four-year college graduation rates than those who did not take AP. Taking AP also

increases eligibility for scholarships and makes candidates more attractive to colleges.

AP Scholar honors put the spotlight on students who excel in multiple subjects, and students may cite this academic distinction among their credentials on applications, resumes, and portfolios. (Learn more about the honors here.)

MHS AP students surpass state and global success rates:

In six subjects, MHS students surpassed the state and/or global percentage of students passing the exams in the 2025-26 school year. And in four subjects, 100 percent of test-takers at MHS passed!

Overall, 87 students passed at least one exam, while 30 of those passed multiple exams — both an increase over the previous year.

Marion Community Schools is proud of these students’ excellent achievements, and is proud of the early college opportunities MHS continues to offer to its students. For information about how your high school student can take advantage of these early college credit opportunities and more, check out the enrollment section of our website.

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STATE OF INDIANA

COUNTY OF GRANT

IN THE GRANT CIRCUIT COURT

CASE NO. 27C01-2608-MI-99

IN RE THE MATTER OF:

Bran Danilo De La Paz
Petitioner

ORDER SETTING HEARING

Comes now Bran Danilo De La Paz, pro se, having filed a Verified Petition for Change of Name, and the Court finds that the matter should be set for hearing.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that this matter shall be heard on October 5, 2026 at 8:30 AM

So ORDERED August 21, 2026


Judicial Officer

Published in the Journal Reporter,
09-03-26, 09-10-26, 09-17-26, HSPAXLP

2026 Fire Truck Pull Challenge

Grab your team, take hold of the rope, and see if you have what it takes.

Saturday
September 26, 2026

Ballard Field
799 E 3rd Street
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VICTORIOUS

Living...in a troubled world

If you don't like the harvest, change the seed

Scripture teaches that what we cultivate in our hearts can shape the course of our lives.

By Teresa LeNeave
leneave2@comcast.net

Scripture is clear about the source of blessing: It comes from the Lord. I love a verse in 3rd John where he expressed a heartfelt desire for the well-being of his readers: “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth” (3 John 2). Who among us would not want to prosper, enjoy good health and experience a life marked by God’s blessings? This does not mean we don’t suffer and go through hard times, but in those times we “have a friend that sticks closer than a brother”. That’s a blessing beyond measure.

Scripture points to something even more important than outward prosperity; it talks about the health and prosperity of the soul. The Bible leaves little doubt about the source of every good thing. “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of Lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning” (James 1:17). Theologians have sometimes described the message of 3 John 2 as “nothing missing, nothing broken.” John’s prayer is that we experience wholeness, not simply in material circumstances, but in our health, our relationships, our

spiritual lives and, ultimately, our souls. As the soul prospers, our lives can begin to reflect that prosperity. The question, then, is how does the soul prosper? Solomon offers an important answer in Proverbs 4:23: “Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life” (NLT). What we allow into our hearts and minds matters. What we see, what we hear and what we continually think about can influence our emotions, attitudes and decisions. It is worth asking ourselves: What causes us to become angry? What produces fear? What leaves us confused, discouraged or troubled? What causes us to make

bad decisions? Once we recognize those influences, we can begin making wiser choices about what we allow to occupy our thoughts and emotions. That’s called “guarding the heart”. What we plant in our hearts can eventually become the harvest we experience in our lives. So, if we don’t like the harvest, perhaps it is time to examine the seed. What are we planting through our thoughts, words, habits and influences? If we want a different harvest, Scripture suggests that we begin by changing what we cultivate within our heart. Guard the heart. Feed the soul. Seek God. And plant good seed.



Don't fight every scorpion

By Brandon Bramlett
Pastor - Bandana Baptist Church

The baby slept soundly in his swing while a scorpion stealthily skulked down the suspension cord above him. His father, Kino, stared like a snake ready to strike, carefully calculating how to kill the eight-legged intruder. But the predator didn’t give him time to play chess, and injected the infant with his toxic tail. The boy was engulfed in agony and Kino was consumed with anger, prompting him to seize the fiend, smash him into a paste within his

hand, and hurl the scorpion’s remains into the dirt. The newborn’s mother frantically attempted to extract the venom with her lips, and they hurried him to the town physician in hopes of saving his life—a debacle that could have been averted entirely had Kino simply grabbed the baby instead of facing down a foe he was powerless to conquer. Kino, why didn’t you snatch your son from the scorpion? Why did you fight when you should have fled with the boy? That is what you will shout from the reader’s chair

while reading John Steinbeck’s short novella, The Pearl. The book commences with the aforementioned fictional story of baby Coyotito being struck by a scorpion because Kino ran headlong into a fight he should have ran away from while cradling his son. Sometimes, the surest strategy for subduing certain foes is retreating rather than trying to prove how strong you are only to demonstrate that you aren’t. Likewise, the Author of Scripture repeatedly shouts to believers, “Don’t fight when you should flee.” The Lord

certainly commands Christians to stand firm against Satan and valiantly fight the good fight (Eph. 6:11; 1 Tim. 6:12), but there are some spiritual skirmishes that believers need to run away from rather than run toward with guns ablazing. Paul exhorted the Corinthians with desperate urgency in his voice, “Flee from sexual immorality” (1 Cor. 6:18), and later on, “Therefore, my beloved, flee from



Brandon Bramlett

idolatry” (1 Cor. 10:14). When intense temptations for sexual sin and idol-worship come crawling down the rope, that is not the time to show off how spiritually mature you are—that is time to get out of Dodge and make a run for it. Retreat doesn’t mean defeat—sometimes the best strategy for survival is to run as far away and as fast as you can. Joseph of old employed this tactic when Potiphar’s spouse sought to seduce him. He

didn’t negotiate with temptation or stick around to prove his competence—he ran for the hills (Gen. 39:12). Samson, on the other hand, lingered with Delilah foolishly thinking that he could conquer the allure of sin with his great might—and he lost (Judges 16:4-22). Don’t fight every spiritual scorpion that slithers your way—know when to run like your soul depends on it, because it does. “The prudent sees danger and hides himself,” wrote Solomon, “but the simple go on and suffer for it” (Prov. 22:3).

Outdoor Truths: The Ross Fire

By Gary Miller

Jacksboro Texas is a special place to me. Of all places, this little town of fewer than 5,000 people changed the direction of my ministry 13 years ago. It was there that a few men gathered at the Davis Ranch, on the back deck, and talked about life and ministry. A little while later, I was invited back for a weekend of hog hunting and teaching. This was the first of what later became our Circle Events. Today, we hold them in several states. In the beginning, most of these events were held at the Davis Ranch. We invited 12 men to hog hunt, or turkey hunt, or to

just do an extended Bible session. Other ranches in Jack County became a part of what we were doing. The Blue Mountain Ranch was a beautiful place full of turkeys and deer, with countless fishing ponds loaded with big bass. Yes, this place, just an hour northwest of Fort Worth, will forever hold a special place in my heart. But today, the people there need our help. The Ross Fire started on August 24th. Since that time, Jacks County has only received 0.03 inches of



Gary Miller

rain. At the time of this writing, the fire has consumed more than 89,000 acres. The firefighters have spent countless hours trying to contain it. They are spent. They are tired. But they are relentless, and right now, they are our heroes. They need help. They need resources. The people of Jacksboro were there for me. I want to be there for them. On September 11th Outdoor Truths Ministry will make a donation to the Jacksboro Fire Department with the

money we raise between now and then. I am simply using this platform because I know some of you will want to help as well. If you would like to donate, you can mail a check directly to the Jacksboro Fire Department, or you can donate through Outdoor Truths specifically for this effort. There will be a special place on our website to give. These men and women are working nonstop to protect their homes and the homes, land, and property of people throughout North Texas. We can stand with them. Pray for rain in North Texas and help me give back to a place that

has given so much to me and Outdoor Truths. Any amount is meaningful.

Gary Miller
Outdoortruths.org

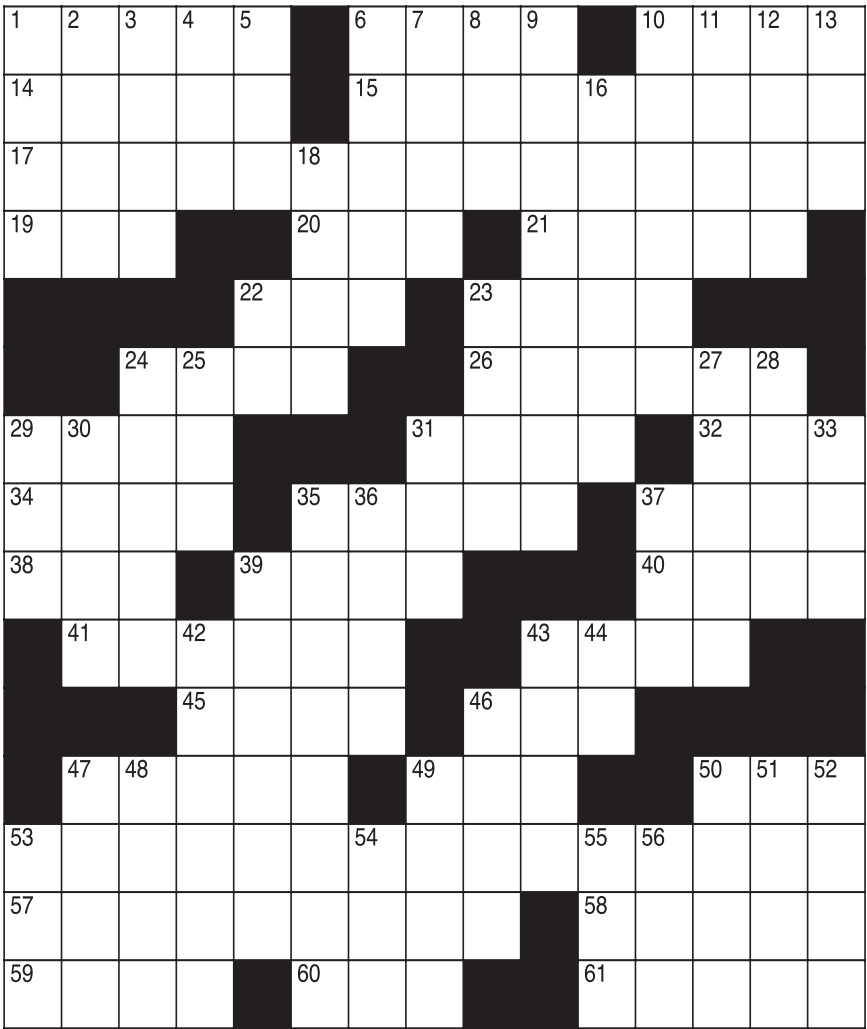
Gary Miller has written Outdoor Truths articles for 24 years.

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

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

MATTHEW 11:28

Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

1. Manila hemp plant

6. Turkish river

10. Something to read

14. In a way, initiated

15. Popular Apple TV series

17. King Charles is part of it

19. Earlier

20. Foot (Latin)

21. Zodiac sign

22. A browning of the skin

23. Remain as is

24. Turfs

26. It’s used to slaughter animals

29. Volcanic crater

31. The mother of Jesus

32. One’s life story

34. One-time Liverpool coach Slot

35. Counterparts
37. Jacob __, American journalist

38. Digital audiotape

39. River in South Africa

40. Kimono sashes

41. Rooting somewhere

43. American spy Aldrich

45. A way to call for

46. Taxi

47. Pancakes made of buckwheat flour

49. Swiss river

50. Popular type of video game (abbr.)

53. Have surgery

57. Formal withdrawal from a union

58. Performs spoken improv

59. Greek war god

60. 2,000 lbs.

61. Helps to evade capture

CLUES DOWN

1. Swedish rock group

2. “Friday Night Lights” director Peter

3. Currency exchange fee

4. Feline

5. Folk singer DiFranco

6. Ghostly pale from distress

7. Rapid eye movements

8. Monetary unit of Macao

9. Lawmakers

10. Colorless mineral

11. At some prior time

12. American protest singer

13. Opener

16. Seldom

18. Relaxing places

22. Touchdown

23. From end to end

24. Kids love him

25. Metal-bearing solid

27. Skin care product manufacturer

28. Thirteen

29. Angry

30. Member of a Semitic people
31. One-thousandth of an inch

33. Former CIA

35. Most lemony

36. Engage in

37. Mass of fish eggs

39. Food supplies

42. Backbones

43. American real estate investment firm

44. Megabyte

46. “Three Coins in the Fountain” songwriter

47. Dutch colonist

48. Full-grown pike fish

49. Emergency prep expert Edwards

50. Flute

51. Dismissive sound

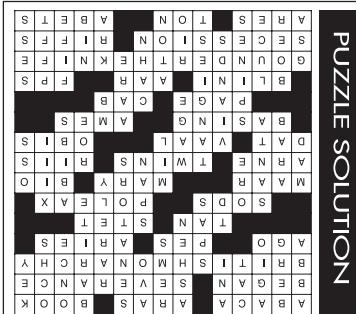
52. Slang term for marijuana

53. Young women’s association

54. Cosmopolitan city

55. Narrow isthmus in Thailand

56. Pointed end of a pen



Maze Craze

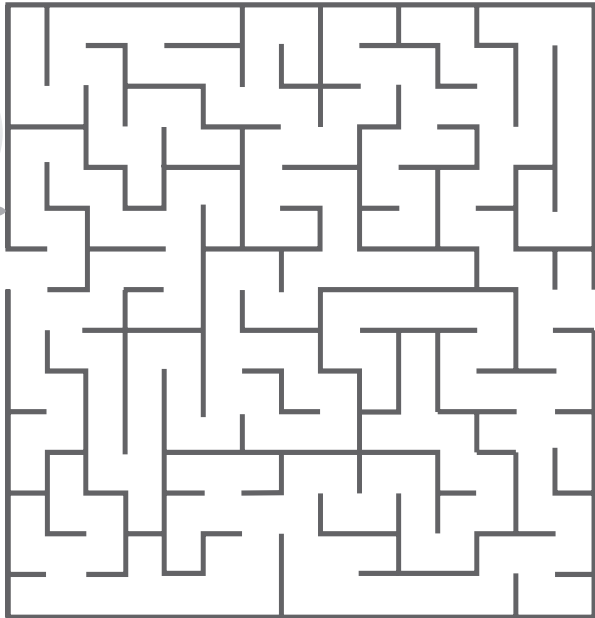
Help these pets find their way home!



FINISH



START



Word Search

FALL EVENINGS WORD SEARCH



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

ANSWERS ON THE CLASSIFIED PAGE

WORDS

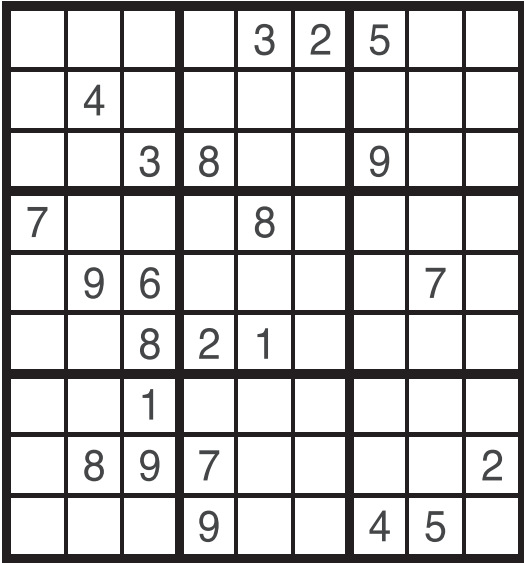
- ACORN
- AMBER
- AUTUMN
- BONFIRE
- BREEZE
- CHILLY
- CIDER
- CINNAMON
- COZY
- CRISP
- EQUINOX
- FLANNEL
- FOLIAGE
- FROSTY
- GOLDEN
- HARVEST
- HAYRIDE
- LEAVES
- NUTMEG
- PUMPKIN
- SCARLET
- SWEATER
- TWILIGHT
- VIBRANT

Sudoku Puzzle

How it Works:

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

ANSWERS ON THE CLASSIFIED PAGE



Word Scramble

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to fall.

P S C I R



Answer: Crisp

Guess Who?

GUESS WHO ?

I am an actress and singer born in California on September 1, 1996. I began my career as a fashion model. I also performed a cover of a Katy Perry song for Kidz Bop. I'm known for my role on a Disney show and also for playing a love interest opposite Tom Holland's Spiderman.

Answer: Zendaya

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

Crypto Fun



Solve the code to discover words related to fall. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 5 = E)

A. 18 5 6 15 5 7

Clue: Tree foliage

B. 13 6 17 5

Clue: Gathers leaves

C. 22 26 20 22 17 1 23

Clue: Orange gourd

D. 11 24 13 23

Clue: Starchy crop

Answers: A. leaves B. rake C. pumpkin D. corn

Coloring Fun



Labor Day

Monday, September 7th

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\$80 -> 26-to-50 words
\$120 -> 51-to-75 words
\$160 -> 76-to-100 words
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ALL CLASSIFIEDS are pre-paid. Call 765-674-0070 Or 812-827-2232

Sudoku Answers

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

Word Search Answers

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

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