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Thursday, December 18, 2025IN GOD WE TRUSTWWW.KY-NEWS.COM

## Celebrating the Reason for the Season



## First Saturday Hike set for January 2026

Start the new year with adventure and fresh air! Join us for the First Saturday Hike of 2026 on January 3rd at 8 AM central time at the beautiful Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge, Columbia Mine Management Area. We'll explore the Massey Trail, a scenic 1.5-mile loop that offers stunning vantage points of Massey Lake. This easy, family-friendly hike is the perfect way to connect with nature, enjoy peaceful views, and kick off the year with community and wellness. Lace up your boots, bring a friend, your pup and come discover the beauty of the refuge with us.

To get to the Massey Lake parking lot, head East from Oakland City on SR 64 for two miles to CR 100W. Turn left (North) onto CR 100W and continue 3/4 mile until the road "T's". Turn left (West) on W CR 475 S, and travel 1/10 mile. Look for the brown Columbia Mine Preserve sign across from the Patoka Grove Church, turn right (North) onto CR 125W and follow the road two miles back to the large parking area at the center of the Columbia Mine Preserve. Dress appropriately for the weather and all dogs must be on a 6 foot or less leash.

## Deaconess Memorial Medical Center named U.S. News & World Report's 2026 High Performing Hospital for Maternity Care and 2026 Maternity Care Access Hospital

Jasper, IN – U.S. News & World Report, the global authority in hospital rankings and consumer advice, has recognized Deaconess Memorial Medical Center with two prestigious maternity care honors for 2026: High Performing Hospital for Maternity Care and Maternity Care Access Hospital. These awards represent the highest distinctions a hospital can earn as part of U.S. News' Best Hospitals for Maternity Care annual study.

Now in its fifth year, the Best Hospitals

for Maternity Care program evaluates hospitals that provide labor and delivery services and submit detailed data for analysis. For the 2026 ratings, approximately 900 hospitals nationwide participated. The program is designed to help expectant parents, in consultation with their prenatal care providers, make informed decisions about where to receive maternity services that best meet their families' needs.

The High Performing designation

recognizes hospitals that demonstrate exceptional outcomes in maternity care as measured by factors such as C-section rates in lower-risk pregnancies, severe unexpected newborn complication rates, exclusive breast milk feeding rates, and birthing-friendly practices, among other measures.

The Maternity Care Access Hospital designation, now in its third year, highlights hospitals that provide essential maternity services to underserved communities and

meet U.S. News' strict quality standards. Of the roughly 900 hospitals evaluated, only 147 hospitals – or 16% – earned this Access designation for 2026. These hospitals play a vital role in preventing maternity care deserts and ensuring families receive safe, high-quality care regardless of geographic barriers.

"Receiving both of these honors reaffirms our commitment to delivering exceptional and accessible maternity care to every family we serve," said Keith

Miller, Deaconess Memorial Chief Administrative Officer and Deaconess Indiana Region President. "Our team of providers, nurses, and support staff are dedicated to providing safe, compassionate, evidence-based care, and we are proud to be recognized for both quality and access."

"Hospitals designated as U.S. News Best Hospitals for Maternity Care are national leaders. This recognition means they are consistently hitting crucial patient safety benchmarks compared to other

hospitals," said Jennifer Winston, Ph.D., health data scientist at U.S. News. "The Access designation is also essential – these hospitals meet strict quality measures for safety and outcomes while simultaneously ensuring that geographical isolation does not prevent families from receiving the care they need."

For more information, visit Best Hospitals for Maternity Care and use #BestMaternityHospitals on Facebook, Instagram, Threads, TikTok and X.

## Heart of Jasper announces 2026 Facade Grant Program

JASPER, Ind. – Heart of Jasper is pleased to announce that applications are now open for the 2026 Façade Grant Program, an initiative designed to support property owners and businesses in enhancing the appearance, vitality, and historic character of Downtown Jasper.

The Façade Grant Program provides financial assistance for exterior improvements that contribute to a more vibrant and welcoming downtown district. Eligible projects may include storefront restorations, painting, masonry repair, awnings, window enhancements, lighting, signage, and other exterior upgrades that improve curb appeal and preserve building character.

"Investing in our downtown's appearance strengthens both the economic and cultural heart of Jasper," said Kate Schwenk, Heart of Jasper Director. "This program helps local businesses and property owners make meaningful improvements that benefit the entire community."

Property owners and business tenants located within the designated Heart of Jasper district are encouraged to apply. Grant guidelines, eligibility details, and application forms are available online at [heartofjasper.org](http://heartofjasper.org) or by contacting the Heart of Jasper office at 812-482-4255 ext: 1152.

**Key Dates:**  
Applications Open: Now  
Application Deadline: Wednesday February 25th  
Award Notifications: Friday March 6th

Completed applications may be submitted electronically to [info@heartofjasper.org](mailto:info@heartofjasper.org) or delivered in person to the Heart of Jasper office located at City Hall. All applications will be reviewed by the Heart of Jasper Design Committee.

About Heart of Jasper  
Heart of Jasper is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization formed through the nationwide organization Main Street America. The mission is to create the epicenter of activity for the community by leveraging existing assets, transforming those in need, and instilling new energy through creative programs and collaborative leadership. The vision is to create the best small town experience for all.



VICTORIOUS

Living...in a troubled world

Had I not believed to see God’s goodness

**By Teresa LeNeave**  
leneave2@comcast.net

WHERE WOULD I BE, HAD I NOT BELIEVED TO SEE THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD?

David answered it this way, “I would have despaired, had I not believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord...” (Ps 27:13 AMP). I would have become desperate. I would have fallen apart in fear. I would have lost all hope...except that I remembered the goodness of the Lord.

Where would I be if my parents had not believed to see the goodness of the Lord when I was five years old and the doctors looked at my lung

x-rays, immediately scheduling surgery just three days out to remove the top half of my left lung? What would my life be like with just half of my lung?

When I was 27-years-old, and totally paralyzed from my neck down, where would I be if I had not believed to see the goodness of the Lord? Would I be confined to a wheelchair or in a nursing facility depending on nurses to feed me, bath me, change my clothes and take me to the bathroom? Like David in the Bible, I would have despaired had I not believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord. Thank God, I was healed and in

just a week, I had recovered. Doctors thought it was Spinal Meningitis, but later ruled it out. Whatever it was, I completely recovered.

Where would the world be if Abraham had not believed to see the goodness of the Lord when he put his oldest servant in charge of all his possessions and made him promise to find a suitable wife for his son, Isaac? What if the old servant had decided it was too much trouble to go all the way back to Nahor and expect God to find the perfect wife for Isaac? What if the old servant had gotten ahead of God and chose just any woman? What if he had not believed to

see the goodness of God?

Rebecca, the chosen woman, also had a part in believing. When God put it in her heart to go to the well, so she would arrive at the precise time the old servant arrived, she could have said, “I’m not going to the well right now. I think I’ll wait until later in the afternoon when it’s cooler. There will be dozens of shepherds waiting for water at the well, so I’ll go later.” But that didn’t happen. She didn’t procrastinate. When the nudge occurred in her heart to go, she went. Where would Isaac have ended up if Abraham’s reliable servant had not believed to see the

goodness of the Lord?

Very often we don’t see it, but God is working in our lives all the time. It is “truth of God” that is a light for our path and a lamp for our feet. The truth is God is love and he is watching over you. David said, “I would have despaired (fallen apart in fear), had I not believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living (right here on earth) (Ps 27:13, AMP emphasis added).

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I’m asking the reader of this article to take just a moment to think about the things in your own life and ask yourself, “Where would I be if I had not believed to

see the goodness of the Lord?” Or, ask: “Where would I be if I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord?” How would your life be different?

It is the truth of God that is a light for our path and a lamp for our feet (Ps 119:105). David knew he’d despair, and not survive, if he had not believed to see the goodness of the Lord when he was faced with trouble. The next verse, Psalm 27:14 tells how to believe to see God’s goodness awaits us: “Wait for and confidently expect the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage: yes, wait for and confidently expect the Lord.” (Amplified version).

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

Most people have read or at least heard of a man named Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882). He was a literary giant in his lifetime and is still known today in many circles as “The Children’s Poet” as several schools around our nation are named in his honor. You may remember some of His original works, which include Paul Revere’s Ride, The Song of Hiawatha, and Evangeline, and was also the first American to completely translate Dante Alighieri’s Comedy. As one of the fireside writers from New England, he is regarded as the most popular poet of the nineteenth century.

On July 9, 1861, tragedy struck the Longfellow home. His wife, Fanny, was near an open window, placing locks of her daughter’s hair in a packet, using hot sealing wax to secure it. It was never known whether a spark from a match or the sealing wax was the cause, but suddenly her dress caught fire, and she was engulfed in flames. Henry was

sleeping and was suddenly awakened by her screams for help. He ran into the room and immediately tried to smother the flames as best he could, first with a rug and then his own body, but the damage from the burns was very severe. She died the next morning.

Henry’s burns were so extensive on his face and hands that he was unable to attend his wife’s funeral. The scars on his face made shaving nearly impossible, so he allowed his beard to grow, which became associated with his image. The anguish within his soul was beyond what anyone could fathom. His family could see his suffering in his eyes, and they observed his long periods of silence. At times, he feared that he would be sent to an asylum on account of his sorrow.

A couple of years later, in 1863, there was another crisis when his son Charles Longfellow, without telling his family, boarded a train headed for Washington, D.C. to join President Lincoln’s Union army to fight in the Civil



War. On the first day of that December, Henry was dining alone at his home when a telegram arrived with the news that Charley had been shot and was being transferred to the Rapidan River. Henry immediately set out to search for his son and arrived by train on December 5th. He was alarmed when informed by the army surgeon that his son’s wound was very serious and that Charles would most likely be paralyzed. Longfellow, as a 57-year-old widowed father of six children, was not only witnessing

his country fight a war against itself, but his oldest son had been struck down on the battlefield.

Although he was admired for his gift of communicating the human experience, Longfellow still yearned for divine peace, which only God can give. On that Christmas Day in 1863, he heard the Christmas bells ringing in Cambridge and the singing of “Peace On Earth,” but he considered the division and violence in his country to be in direct contradiction with a joyous holiday. He sat

down and desperately tried to reflect on the joys of knowing that God is not dead or sleeping, and that He is the only one who can heal, save, and give hope to the soul. He was never considered a hymn writer; however, the poem he wrote on that day expresses the agony about the dark condition of a nation, and was later set to music by Englishman John Calkin. The result is one of our most beloved Christmas carols, “I Heard The Bells On Christmas Day.”

There is a theme of passion and

determination within the poem, that expresses how an attitude of confidence and trust in the Lord, can overcome fear and hopelessness even in the midst of bleak despair. The Civil War was in full swing, and the devastation from the battle of Gettysburg still gripped the nation in a state of trauma. He must have asked himself how we can have peace on Earth and goodwill toward men in this war-torn land, where brother fights against brother and father against son? Yes, the days were grievous, but he includes in one of the stanzas, “The wrong shall fail, the right prevail!” Within these words, we sense a man crying out to God in prayer, just like many of us today who are praying for this world, to please stop the hatred and the evil, and may all people be unified with God’s forgiveness and love. This reminds us that eternal peace and harmony shall one day be established when the Prince of Peace shall reign forever.

Read more about the Christian life at [billyhollandministries.com](http://billyhollandministries.com)

Good News of Great Joy

**By Brandon Bramlett**  
Pastor - Bandana Baptist Church

Good news is hard to come by when you live in a bad-news world. You rarely hear a positive story on the evening news nowadays. Reports of natural disasters, political conflicts, or higher prices dominate the headlines. And because bad news is so prevalent, more and more people are cutting cable or ditching their televisions entirely. It

would be encouraging to hear some good news every now and then.

The Jews living during the time of Jesus’ birth felt the same way, too. Israel was no longer on top of the world, and Rome was on top of them. And they had waited so long for the coming of the Messiah that holding onto hope grew harder every day. That is when God broke the news cycle by announcing through heavenly messengers that the long-awaited Messiah

and Savior had come to earth. Finally, some good news—the greatest news: “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11).

There are four features of the good news announced by the angel. (1) First, the good news calms fear. The shepherds were understandably terrified by the visit of a heavenly being.

But they had no reason to fear, as the angel assured them, “Fear not.” The good news of Christ’s coming eliminates fear. Because of His finished work, you do not need to fear the future, judgment, or death. Christ is the Lord—He controls the future, He delivers you from judgment, and He conquered death.

(2) Second, the good news produces joy. The heart of every saved sinner should leap with bliss and glee when considering all the benefits of His

saving work. As Peter said, “Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory” (1 Peter 1:8).

(3) Finally, the good news is for all. The good news of Jesus’ coming is for “all the people.” The free offer of grace is for every tongue, race, and culture. God doesn’t pass you by because of how you look or where you come from. Furthermore, He

doesn’t hold the gospel back because of your sinfulness or supposed saintliness. God wants you to be saved whether you spend your weekends at the bar or your Sundays at church. The gospel is for those who believe they are too bad to be saved, as well as those who believe they are too good to be saved. Good news like this is worthy of belief and proclamation. Do you believe it? If you do, have you published it to someone who doesn’t?







with deepest

SYMPATHY

Lois J. Oxley

Lois J. Oxley, age 91, of Jasper, Indiana, passed away peacefully at 1:25 a.m. on Sunday, December 14, 2025, at Legacy Living in Jasper, Indiana. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery in Jasper. Services will be private and no public visitation will be held.

Donald A. Eck

Donald A. Eck, age 89, of Boone Township, Indiana, passed away surrounded by family at 7:42 p.m. on Friday, December 12, 2025, at Deaconess Midtown Hospital in Evansville, Indiana. A funeral service for Donald A. Eck will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Boone Township. Pastor Adam Ruschau will officiate. A burial will follow in the church cemetery. The American Legion Post #147 will perform military graveside rites.

Ann Kathleen Hopf

Ann Kathleen Hopf, age 61 of Jasper, Indiana, passed away at 11:19 a.m. on Friday, December 12, 2025, surrounded by family, at Deaconess Memorial Hospital in Jasper, Indiana. A Mass of Christian Burial for Ann Kathleen Hopf will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, December 19, 2025 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Jasper, Indiana, with burial to follow in Fairview Cemetery in Jasper.

A visitation will be held from 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 18, 2025 at the Becher-Kluesner Northside Chapel in Jasper, Indiana. St. Joseph Catholic Church will pray the Rosary at 2:30 p.m. The Memorial Hospital Nursing Honor Guard will conduct a memorial service at 6:00 p.m.

Robin H. Bauer

Robin Hayes Bauer, age 78, of Jasper, Indiana, passed away surrounded by family at 7:57 a.m. on Thursday, December 11, 2025, at the Linda E. White Hospice House in Evansville, Indiana. Memorial Service for Robin Hayes Bauer will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, December 19, 2025, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Haysville, Indiana, with burial to follow in the church cemetery. Pastor Timothy Holt will officiate. A Memorial Visitation will be held from 9:00 a.m. until the 11:00 a.m. service time at the church on Friday.

Karen S. Kolb

Karen S. Kolb, age 61, of Jasper, Indiana, passed away at 6:20 p.m. on December 10, 2025, at Hospice Care Center in Evansville. A funeral service for Karen S. Kolb will be held at 12:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 16th, at the Becher-Kluesner Downtown Chapel in Jasper, Indiana, with burial to follow in Enlow Cemetery in Jasper. Rev. Darrel Land will officiate. A visitation was held from 10:00 a.m. until the 12:00 p.m. service time on Tuesday at the Becher-Kluesner Downtown Chapel in Jasper. The Nursing Honor Guard will have a prayer service at 9:45 a.m. prior to the visitation.

Ruby Koressel

Ruby Ann (Seib) Koressel, 90, of Tell City, Indiana passed away peacefully on Sunday, December 14, 2025, with her son and daughter in law by her side. There will be a Mass of Christian Burial held at 10:00 AM on Thursday, December 18, 2025, at St. Boniface Catholic Church, Rev. Christopher Droste officiating. Burial will follow in St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery.

Friends may visit with the family from 3:00 until 6:00 PM on Wednesday at Huber Funeral Home, 1139 12th Street, Tell City, IN 47586 and from 9:00 AM until service time on Thursday at St. Boniface Catholic Church, 418 N. Wabash Ave, Evansville, IN 47712.

Robert Lee "Bob" Dixon

Robert Lee "Bob" Dixon, 78, formerly of Perry County, passed away on December 11, 2025, at his home in Owensboro, Kentucky. A Celebration of Life will be held on April 18, 2026, at New Cliff Cemetery in Cannelton. Service times will be posted in April. Bob's family and friends are welcome to attend.

Wanda Seamon

Wanda L. Seamon, 86, passed away on December 9, 2025. Per Wanda's request, there will be no services. She will be laid to rest in Greenwood Cemetery.

Steve Simpson

Steven W. Simpson, 76, passed away on December 9, 2025, at Owensboro (KY) Regional Health Hospital. Funeral services were held at 11:00 AM CDT on Friday, December 12, 2025, at Huber Funeral Home, Tell City Chapel, with burial in Lilly Dale Cemetery. Ron Ammons will officiate.

Xenox Rand

Lenox Edward Rand, 66, passed away at home on December 8, 2025, surrounded by family. The family received friends on Saturday, December 13, 2025, from 11:00 AM until 12:00 PM CST at Crossroads Church Tell City, located at 1098 33rd Street, followed by a Celebration of Life at 12:00 PM CST. Pastor Mark Ayers will officiate.

Pamela Lee Turner

Pamela Lee Turner, age 65, of Huntingburg, passed away at 2:34 a.m., on Thursday, December 11, 2025, at Deaconess Memorial Medical Center in Jasper. Visitation for Pamela Turner will be held from 1:00-6:00 p.m., on Friday, December 19, 2025, at the Nass & Son Funeral Home in Huntingburg with a funeral service following at 6:00 p.m., Friday evening.

Senior Living

Thoughtful gifts for aging parents

Children typically want to treat their parents to something special during the holiday season. Parents do a lot for their children, and when those kids become adults, a desire to express their appreciation for Mom and Dad grows. According to The Wrap Up: Snappy's 2022 Holiday Gift Report, the majority of Americans (64.2 percent) report they need help when it comes to holiday

gifting. They may want to carefully consider a recipient's interests, as the report also discovered more than half of all Americans want a gift that reflects their personal interests and hobbies. When shopping for elderly parents, it may not be as simple as identifying interests, particularly if Mom and Dad are experiencing age-related health issues. Consider these gift ideas that may be ideal for the aging adults in

your life.

- **Cozy blanket:** Older adults may have trouble regulating their body temperatures, which can translate to feeling cold a lot of the time. A new blanket or throw for a bed or to cuddle up with in a favorite recliner might be the perfect gift.

- **Family history book:** Budding writers can interview their aging parents and jot down family stories. Those stories and anecdotes can be compiled into a book and combined with photos to make a family history log, which can be gifted back to the interviewee.

- **Gripping slippers:** Slips and falls can injure aging adults and put them out of commission for quite some time. Sturdy and secure slippers with anti-slip soles are good for getting around the house and making quick trips to take out the trash or get the mail.

- **Robotic vacuum:** Keeping up with the household chores is easier with a robotic vacuum that automatically scours carpets and hard-



surface floors. This eliminates having to wrestle with a cumbersome vacuum.

- **Key finder:** A key finder can help adults find their keys if they are misplaced. Some employ radio frequency, while others utilize Bluetooth technology and can be paired to a smartphone.

- **Magnifying light:** Older parents who like to do puzzles or close-up work like knitting or stitching can benefit from an LED lamp that also has a magnifying glass built right in.
- **E-reader:** Avid

readers may enjoy an e-reader because they don't have to find spots to store even more books in their homes. E-readers can be customized so the print is the right size for the reader's needs. Also, the devices are lightweight and easy to stow in a bag.

- **Automatic card shuffler:** Parents who are known card sharks around the community can use an automatic card shuffler to make card play even easier.

- **Resistance bands:** Resistance bands are like large rubber bands that exert

force to strengthen muscles and improve flexibility. They can help aging adults stay in shape in a low-impact way.

- **Dining gift cards:** When parents do not want to spend additional time in the kitchen, they may opt to visit a favorite restaurant. A combination of a gift card to a favorite establishment as well as pre-paid taxi or ride share service ensures a good meal and a safe ride home. Although they seem to have everything, aging parents still can benefit from some thoughtful gifts.

Well, that's a **first**

Even with Irene's family far away, she's surrounded by friends to celebrate the season.

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# Dubois County Art Guild holds monthly meeting

Dubois County Art Guild Minutes – December 2025

The Dubois County Art Guild held their December 4th meeting at the Thyen-Clark Cultural Center in Jasper. President, LaVonne Tisdal, called the meeting to order at 6 pm and welcomed 26 members.

The minutes from the last meeting were sent via email to all members and approved. Treasurer, Mary Reisz, gave the treasurer’s report and collected \$20 dues which were due December 4th.

Thank you to Maryla Scarpa for conducting the November jewelry workshop. Pictures were posted on Facebook of the class.

The DCAG will be meeting on January 8 and not January 1st due to the holiday. The Thyen-Clark Center’s first Thursday reception will also be on January 8 from 6-8pm. George Smith will organize the presentation for the January Art Guild meeting.

Plans for the 2026 guild show at the Thyen/Clark Galleries were given. A photo of your work for the postcard is due by January 31st. Display decisions should be made by February 28th (what are you going to

exhibit, size, etc.) The image and size will need to be emailed to Emily Cilucci-Peak at visualarts@jasperindiana.gov. Work will be delivered Monday, March 30th and the show will open on April 2nd. Art work needs to be larger than 5x7 and completed within the past two years. The Dubois County Art Guild received the 2026 Thyen-Clark Center’s contract. President Tisdal will sign the contract. Members who would like to sell art at the show must have a W-9 filled out with the City of Jasper. New submission forms will be emailed to all of the members before the show.

The guild has established new committees to aid in smoother functions of the group. The areas addressed include gallery, exhibit, and program committees. Diane Wininger will be chairman of the exhibit committee. George Smith will oversee programs and Valerie Acker will chair the gallery committee. A sign-up sheet was passed around for members to help with a committee of their choice.

The Dubois County Art Guild congratulates member Sister Jane Becker

for her 60 years at the Monastery of The Immaculate Conception.

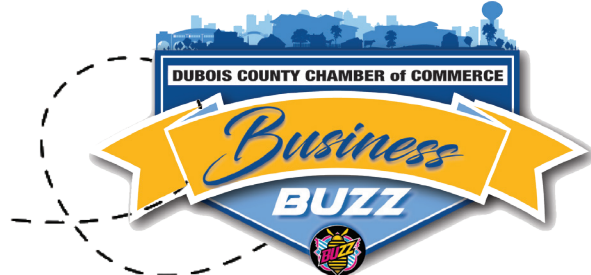
On December 13th, the last loneliness workshop was held at Trinity United Church of Christ. Three Christmas crafts were made by participants free of charge. The workshop ran from 9am to 3pm.

Jasper O’Tannebaum Days were held on December 6th from 10 am to 3 pm. Three guild members sold their art at local stores and conducted demonstrations.

Member Valerie Acker sold her watercolors in the Thyen-Clark Center’s Art sale on December 4th.

Joseph (Swampy) Schoenbachler led a leather making program at the December meeting. He provided supplies for leather ornaments and coasters. The leather was held under water for 3 seconds. A metal stamp was then pressed into the leather piece leaving an image. A black or brown shoe polish was then applied to the leather.

The next Dubois County Art Guild meeting will be held on January 8th at 6pm at the Thyen-Clark Cultural Center in room 171.



## Love local Dubois County this Christmas season

By Angie Sanchez-Hostetter  
Dubois County Chamber of Commerce

As the Christmas season approaches, our community is filled with the spirit of giving, gratitude, and togetherness. It’s also a time when our purchasing decisions can have a lasting impact close to home. At the Dubois County Chamber of Commerce, we encourage residents to keep that impact local by choosing to shop small and support the businesses that make our community thrive.

When you shop local, you’re doing more than buying a gift, you’re investing in your neighbors.



Local businesses create jobs, support local organizations, and help sustain the unique character of Dubois County. Dollars spent locally are more likely to stay here, strengthening our economy and helping our towns grow stronger year after year.

This holiday season, we invite you to “Love

Local DuCo”. From one-of-a-kind gifts and personalized service to familiar faces and trusted businesses, shopping locally creates meaningful connections that big-box retailers simply can’t replace. Whether you’re purchasing gifts, dining out, or booking services, your choice to shop local truly makes a difference.

On behalf of the Dubois County Chamber, thank you for supporting our local businesses this Christmas season. Together, we can ensure Dubois County remains a vibrant place to live, work, and shop—not just during the holidays, but all year long.

## Daughters of Isabella Jasper Circle holds Christmas dinner

Members of the Daughters of Isabella Jasper Circle #140 met for their Christmas Dinner on Monday, December 8, at St. Joseph Parish Center in Jasper. Regent Marge Beckman welcomed the ladies to the dinner and evening. She introduced vice regent Sharon Gramelspacher and past regent Kathy Schneider as they begin their terms in those positions.

Father John Brosmer, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, gave the meal prayer. The catered meal was enjoyed

Secretary Pam Schneider called the roll of officers and they were recognized by the members. A motion was made to dispense with the minutes from the previous meeting for this evening.

Regent Beckman presented gifts to the circle’s parish priests. Many could not attend due to the December 8 Holy Day Masses at their parishes. D of I members volunteered to deliver the gift to their pastors.

Regent Beckman called upon Past Regent Schneider to give updates on the

recent fundraising activities. The D of I continues to assist the Moose Family Center in Jasper with their Bingo games. We are waiting for the new 2026 schedule to see when we will again work at selling pull tabs at the game nights. The D of I gets a percentage of those sales. D of I members must be members of the Moose in order to help with this fundraiser.

Schneider reported that the Dressing Fundraiser was very successful this year. Our Circle sold 160 gallons of dressing.

The members of the Circle also volunteered to adopt a family at Christmas from the St. Elizabeth Coleman Center and purchase Christmas gifts for a mother and her five children. Schneider will deliver the gifts to the Center.

Members were thanked who helped with the Bingos at the Moose, with the dressing fundraising and with setting up the dinner meeting.

Regent Beckman reminded members to update their phone numbers and addresses to the Financial Secretary, Betty Mehringer.

Vice regent Gramelspacher read a Christmas meal Blessing for the Good of the Order. And she went over the monthly sign up for visiting members in the Nursing homes.

Regent Beckman recognized 50 year members who were present.

Vice regent Gramelspacher also reminded members to check out the Christmas tree the D of I decorated at the Dubois County Museum.

Members were thanked who volunteer at the nursing homes to run Bingo games and assist with Masses.

The evening concluded with prizes awarded, The December birthday winner was Tracy Merkel. Eleven members at the meeting had a December birthday.

Regent Beckman invited members to attend the monthly meetings. The next meeting will be January 12, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in Room 301, at the St. Joseph Parish Center. Meetings are always the second Monday of the month. The Circle does not meet in July.

## Indiana law enforcement officer wins national recognition

Officer confronts violence, enforces lawful operation at establishments

INDIANAPOLIS — The National Liquor Law Enforcement Association has named Indiana State Excise Police Officer Adam Buckley as the 2025 Alcohol Law Enforcement Agent of the Year.

The National Liquor Law Enforcement Association is a nonprofit membership organization representing more than 1,700 federal, state, local and campus law enforcement professionals across more than 40 states and the District of Columbia.

Buckley was selected for the award for his professionalism, investigative skill and courage in high-risk situations. He has played a central role in investigating violent crimes at licensed establishments. In 2024, he served as lead or key investigator in nearly 100 violent-incident cases, contributing to 830 administrative violations and warnings, twice as many as any other district in the state.

“Officer Buckley represents the best of Indiana law enforcement,” said Governor Mike Braun. “His courage, professionalism, and commitment to keeping Hoosiers



Officer Adam Buckley

safe, especially in some of the most dangerous situations, is extraordinary. Indiana is grateful for officers like him who uphold the law, protect our communities, and ensure that businesses operate responsibly. This recognition is well deserved.”

While on patrol in Indianapolis one weekend, Buckley advanced toward an active shooter at a nightclub, assisted a gunshot victim and helped apprehend the armed suspect. His actions earned him a departmental commendation.

Additionally, Buckley’s work through the Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission’s Proactive Alcohol Compliance Enforcement program helped turn a business ABOUT THE INDIANA ALCOHOL & TOBACCO COMMISSION

The Indiana Alcohol & Tobacco Commission is responsible for issuing and regulating alcoholic beverage permits throughout the State of Indiana. The Commission issues and regulates alcohol facility permits for businesses, as well as employee permits for bartenders, waiters, waitresses, salespersons, and clerks who wish to sell, serve, or dispense alcoholic beverages. The Commission is also charged with issuing tobacco sales certificates and regulating the sale of tobacco products in Indiana. The Commission is comprised of four (4) members who are appointed by the Governor of the State of Indiana, and no more than two (2) Commissioners may belong to the same political party. All citations issued by Indiana State Excise Police are subject to review by the ATC Prosecutor who ultimately has discretion on whether to file a formal administrative violation against a retailer regulated by the ATC. Additionally, all individuals charged with a criminal offense are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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# How to make Christmas Eve special for kids

Christmas Eve is viewed differently by different people, even those who live under the same Santa-ready roof. Adults may see Christmas Eve as crunch time when they must prepare food for the next day or set up presents for their children to open in the morning. Children, on the other hand, are focused on Santa’s visit and little else.

Parents naturally want to make Christmastime as special as possible for their children, and that may involve ensuring that Christmas Eve is just as memorable as Christmas Day. The following are some ways to impart more magic into Christmas Eve celebrations.

**Attend Mass at midnight**  
Practicing Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas. On Christmas Eve, churches often hold celebrations that may include late-evening or midnight masses that celebrate the birth of Christ when the calendar switches over to December 25. While it does make for a late night, it can be thought-provoking

for kids and a unique experience unlike any other.

**Bake fresh cookies**  
Children like to leave out a plate of cookies and a glass of milk for Santa. That makes Christmas Eve a perfect time to whip up a fresh batch of cookies. Explore different recipes to come up with a unique offering each year.

**Read a Christmas story**  
Watching television or looking at a tablet or mobile phone before bed can be too stimulating when it’s time for children to wind down for bed. Choose a holiday tale or tales that can be read as a Christmas Eve bedtime story. Reciting the poem ‘A Visit from St. Nicholas (‘Twas the Night Before Christmas)’ is a great way to set the Christmas Eve mood.

**Make a batch of ‘reindeer dust’**  
Why should Santa’s reindeer be left out when it comes to receiving treats? Reindeer dust, made from a combination of oatmeal, rice cereal, dried fruits, and glitter (if



desired), is purported to attract Santa’s reindeer and provide them a nibble at the same time. Plus, it’s generally safe for other animals in the

yard to eat.

**Go caroling**  
Caroling may not be the norm, but some families may want to revive it. Close-knit communities

can organize family-centric caroling opportunities and roam the cul-de-sacs and other pedestrian-friendly areas singing popular songs.

Christmas Eve is a great time to embrace various traditions that help to make the season even more special.

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## Great Christmas stories for children

Christmas presents for one another.

- “A Christmas Carol,” by Charles Dickens: No Christmas season would be complete without reading (or watching) “A Christmas Carol.” When three ghosts visit Ebenezer Scrooge, he learns an important lesson about charity, friends and family.
- “The Berenstain Bears Meet Santa Bear: A Christmas Book for Kids”

by Stan and Jan Berenstain: Kids of all generations have grown up reading Berenstain Bears books. This volume has Mama and Papa showing Sister and Brother that the true meaning of the holiday is about giving.

- “Mr. Willowby’s Christmas Tree” by Robert Barry: When Mr. Willowby’s tree arrives for Christmas, it is too tall for his parlor. He must cut off the top so it will fit, and that top is

passed along again and again to spread holiday cheer.

- “The Greatest Gift” by Philip Van Doren Stern: Written in 1943, this story is about a man named George who is contemplating his life while standing on a bridge on Christmas Eve. This tale became the basis for the classic film, “It’s a Wonderful Life.”
- “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” by Dr. Seuss: Famed children’s writer Dr. Seuss was a master of imbuing life lessons in his stories and this book is no different. Isolated and angry, the Grinch learns to appreciate his neighbors in Whoville and comes to realize that Christmas is about being with loved ones and not material gifts.

- Gospels of Matthew (1 and 2) and Luke (1 and 2): Families can read about the birth of Jesus Christ, whose birth is primarily narrated in these passages. Matthew focuses on the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies, while Luke speaks to the angel Gabriel’s announcement to Mary, Christ’s birth and visits from shepherds.

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Merry Christmas





# Kid-friendly holiday traditions

Tradition is a big part of the holiday season. Families lean into tradition each December, and perhaps no people participate in holiday customs with more enthusiasm than children. Whether it's decorating the family Christmas tree or baking cookies for Santa on Christmas Eve, children look forward to various holiday season traditions once the calendar turns from November to December.

Parents of young children can make this unique time of year even more special by engaging in various kid-friendly traditions that are sure to produce lots of fun and even more lasting memories.

**• Advent calendars:** The precise origins of Advent calendars are unknown, but historians believe the tradition was started by German Lutherans in the nineteenth century. More than a century later, roughly 50 million Advent calendars are sold across the globe

each year, according to Marketplace.org. Advent is a nearly monthlong period of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ on December 25. Each day during Advent, children open a flap, window or door and find a small gift, poem, candy, or another item that adds to the excitement of the season.

**• Matching pajamas:** Though the tradition of wearing matching holiday pajamas may not have the same lengthy history as Advent calendars, it's nonetheless a very fun custom for families. Parents can decide how frequently their families dress up in matching pajamas at bedtime during the holiday season, but doing so on Christmas Eve is a popular way to make a fun day even more special. Another idea is to host weekly holiday movie nights during the season, which presents a perfect opportunity to don matching PJs.

**• Holiday lights tour:** Holiday lighting displays have come a long way in recent decades. Whereas it might once have been popular to string a few strands of lights around the exterior of a house, many holiday celebrants now beckon their inner Clark Griswold and turn their properties into areas with enough illumination to land a small plane. Holiday inflatables for the yard add to the awe of such displays. Kids tend to be especially fond of these types of displays, so parents can make a point to pick a night each holiday season to go on a tour of their neighborhoods and towns to see this year's offerings.

**• Christmas dance party:** Sweets are another staple of the holiday season, and what better way for kids to burn off some of that extra sugar than to dance it away to a holiday music playlist curated by Mom and Dad? Cue up some holiday classics but let kids dance to a few of their own favorites as well. Holiday traditions help to make the season a special time of year. Families can embrace various kid-friendly traditions to ensure children have even more fun this December.



Joy to the world

*Joy to the world!  
The Lord is come  
Let earth receive  
her King!  
Let every heart  
prepare Him room  
And heaven and  
nature sing  
And heaven and  
nature sing  
And heaven, and  
heaven and nature  
sing*

*Joy to the world!  
the Savior reigns  
Let men their  
songs employ  
While fields and  
floods  
Rocks, hills and  
plains  
Repeat the  
sounding joy  
Repeat the  
sounding joy  
Repeat, repeat the  
sound joy*

*No more let sins  
and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest  
the ground  
He comes to make  
His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is  
found  
Far as the curse is  
found  
Far as, far as the  
curse is found*

*He rules the world  
with truth and  
grace  
And makes the  
nations prove  
The glories of His  
righteousness  
And wonders of  
His love  
And wonders of  
His love  
And wonders and  
wonders of His love*

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# Gingerbread Men Cookies

**INGREDIENTS**

- 3/4 c. (1 1/2 sticks) butter, softened
- 3/4 c. packed brown sugar
- 2/3 c. molasses
- 1 large egg
- 1 tsp. pure vanilla extract
- 3 1/4 c. all-purpose flour
- 1 tbsp. ground ginger
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. ground cloves
- 1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg
- 1/2 tsp. kosher salt
- 2" piece fresh ginger, grated (optional)
- Zest of 1 orange (optional)
- 1/2 tsp. finely ground black pepper (optional)
- Sugar Cookie Icing, for decorating
- Sprinkles, for decorating

**DIRECTIONS**

In a large bowl using a hand mixer, beat butter, brown sugar, and molasses until fluffy, about 2 minutes. Add egg and vanilla and beat until combined.

In a medium bowl, whisk flour, spices, baking soda, and salt until combined. With the mixer on low, gradually add dry ingredients to wet ingredients, as well as fresh ginger, orange zest, and black pepper (if using), until dough just comes together. (Do not overmix!)

Divide dough in half and create two discs. Wrap each in plastic wrap and chill until firm, about 2 to 3 hours. (Alternatively, divide dough in half and roll each piece of dough between two pieces of parchment to 1/4" thick. Chill until firm.)

Preheat oven to 350° and line two large baking sheets with parchment paper. Place one disc of dough on a lightly floured surface and roll until 1/4" thick. (Alternatively, peel off both sheets of parchment from dough, then replace one sheet of parchment back underneath dough.)

Cut out gingerbread men with a 3" wide cutter and transfer to baking sheets.

Bake until slightly puffed and set, 9 to 10 minutes, depending on the size of your cookie cutters. Let cool on baking sheets for 5 minutes before transferring to a cooling rack to cool completely.

Repeat with remaining disc of dough. Decorate with icing and sprinkles as desired.

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## 3-Ingredient Christmas Swirl Fudge

**Ingredients**

- 1 bag (12 oz) white vanilla baking chips (2 cups)
- 1 container vanilla frosting
- Green and red gel food colors

**Steps**

Line 8-inch square pan with foil, leaving foil overhanging at 2 opposite sides of pan; spray foil with cooking spray.

In large microwavable bowl, microwave white chips uncovered on High 1 minute. Spoon frosting over chips. Microwave on High 30 seconds; stir. If necessary, continue to microwave in 15-second increments until mixture can be stirred smooth.

Place 3/4 cup fudge mixture into each of 2 small bowls, leaving remaining untinted fudge mixture in bowl. Tint 1 bowl green and 1 bowl red by stirring in each food color to desired color.

Drop heaping tablespoons of green, red and white fudge mixture in bottom of pan to create random pattern. Pull table knife through layers for marbled design. Refrigerate uncovered until set, about 1 hour.

Remove from pan by lifting foil; peel foil away. Cut into 8 rows by 8 rows. Store covered in refrigerator.

May your Christmas sparkle with joy and laughter. Wishing you peace, love, and all things bright this holiday season! 🌟🎄

**Merry Christmas**



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The Story of the Christmas Guest

Adapted by Helen Steiner Rice  
from an old German Legend

It happened one day at the year's white end;  
Two neighbors called on an old-time friend.  
They found his shop, so meager and mean,  
Made bright with a thousand boughs of green.

And Conrad was sitting with face a-shine,  
When he suddenly stopped as he stitched a twine,  
And said, "Old friends, at dawn today,  
When the cock was crowing the night away,

"The Lord appeared in a dream to me,  
And said, 'I'm coming your guest to be.'

So I've been busy with feet astir,  
Strewing my shop with branches of fir.

"The table is spread and the kettle is shined  
And over the rafters, the holly is twined.  
And now I will wait for my Lord to appear,  
And listen closely so I will hear  
His step as He nears my humble place,  
And I open the door and look in His face."

So his friends went home and left Conrad alone,  
For this was the happiest day he had



known.  
For long since, his family had passed away,  
And Conrad had spent a sad Christmas Day.

But he knew with his Lord as his Christmas Guest,  
This Christmas would be the dearest and best.  
He listened with only joy in his heart,  
And with every sound, he would rise with a start.

And look for the Lord to be standing there,  
In answer to his earnest prayer.  
So he ran to the window after hearing a sound,  
But all that he saw on the snow-covered ground...

Was a shabby beggar whose shoes were torn,  
And all of his clothes were ragged and worn.  
So Conrad was touched and went to the door,  
And he said, "Your feet must be frozen and sore.  
I have some shoes in my shop for you,  
And a coat that will keep you warmer, too."

So with grateful heart, the man went away,  
But as Conrad noticed the time of day,  
He wondered what made his dear Lord so late,

And how much longer he'd have to wait.  
When he heard a knock, he ran to the door,  
But it was only a stranger once more;  
A bent old crone with a shawl of black,  
A bundle of branches piled on her back.

She asked for only a place to rest,  
But that was reserved for Conrad's Great Guest.  
But her voice seemed to plead, "Don't send me away,  
Let me rest for a while on Christmas Day."  
So Conrad brewed her a steaming cup,  
And told her to sit at the table and sup.  
But after she left, he was filled with dismay,  
For he saw that the hours were passing away.

The Lord had not come, as He said He would,  
And Conrad felt sure he had misunderstood.  
Out of the stillness, he heard a cry,  
"Please help me and tell me where am I?"  
He stood disappointed, as twice before,  
But shook off his sadness and went to the door.

It was only a child who had wandered away,  
And was lost

from her family on Christmas Day.  
Again Conrad's heart was heavy and sad  
But he knew he should make this little girl glad.

So he called her in and wiped her tears,  
And quieted all her childish fears.  
Then he led her back to her home once more.  
But as he entered his darkened door,

He knew that the Lord was not coming today  
For the hours of Christmas had passed away.  
So he went to his room and knelt down to pray,  
And he said, "Dear Lord, why did You delay?"

"What kept You from coming to call on me?  
For I wanted so much Your face to see."  
When soft in the silence, a voice he heard:  
"Lift up your head, for I kept My Word.

"Three times My shadow crossed your floor,  
Three times I came to your lonely door.  
For I was the beggar with bruised, cold feet.  
I was the woman you gave to eat.  
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ROOM FOR RENT: Near MGH,  
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Stocked pond, 3 out buildings,  
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fruits. Not negotiable. recently  
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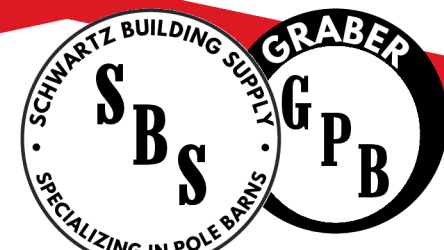
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2	7	8	6	4	9	5	3	1
9	4	9	2	3	1	7	8	6
3	6	1	7	8	5	2	9	4
4	8	7	1	9	3	6	2	5
1	5	2	8	6	7	3	4	9
6	9	3	4	5	2	1	7	8
7	2	4	9	1	6	8	5	3
8	1	5	3	2	7	9	6	4
9	3	6	5	7	8	4	1	2

**Word Search Answers**

A X X W E O N T I L V E S X E J A L M X S  
S d g g H T ( B N S S S E J O O S T O X H  
d M V S S A A A O O O E I V O O I W N K B  
T T O N T I E H W O O O S N N O O A A X  
W L L L X d X X V T E O O O g g g g e A  
M L X V N I H E S J W H N I X T V M S R  
H L A B X S I R T S E J W H N I X T V M S R  
T L R O O X S I R T S E J W H N I X T V M S R  
I R R V N O T V L M X S d T V V N d o S R  
O g g H N I O T V L M X S d T V V N d o S R  
T g g T I H N H S N C T A g g A X O M T V  
d I L W T H E S S N C T A g g A X O M T V  
L N W A O O N N I E T E g g O O X A N H A  
R O H X O O O N N I E T E g g O O X A N H A  
S B O T I R A A N O T A g g O N S I J O X  
B A O O N H T X W O O N N O O N T I X W  
A O O N N H V B R O O O L O g g S S R L A  
L W I R O O O N N H R E T I S N d V A W  
N O L g O O L B S R T I S N d V A W



