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Thursday, January 15, 2026

UPLAND, FAIRMOUNT & HARTFORD CITY

Courier

The Voice of EAST CENTRAL INDIANA Since 1892 • Indiana News Group

Area reading and writing offerings
to warm up winter

By Cathy Shouse

When the weather turns chilly, reading and writing can take center stage for many. Writers and readers have some special opportunities in the area to consider in upcoming months.

Rachael Phillips, a long-time author and humor writer, is an Upland resident. There are numerous ways to enjoy her writings. “I like to keep in touch on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/rachael.phillips.7543>), usually posting on Mondays and Wednesdays,” Phillips said. Her posts often receive numerous comments, and it’s a way to have an online community interaction while the winds blow outside.

Phillips can also be reached through her website, www.rachaelophillips.com, which includes her Monday blog and large archives of humor blogs

and columns she wrote for various newspapers the past 30 years. She and husband Steve recently celebrated 51 years of marriage. He’s a retired physician and an adjunct professor at Taylor University.

Another chance to connect with Phillips will happen at the Taylor University Professional Writers Conference in July. Phillips has published 24 books and three novellas, and is currently putting the finishing touches on a new Cajun romantic suspense novel, Bayou Runaway. A half-Southerner--her father was from Louisiana--Rachael was inspired by stories her kin told on front porches on searing summer afternoons. She’ll be teaching how to write a cozy mystery at the writers conference.

Interested in writing a cozy? Cozy mysteries have made a comeback,

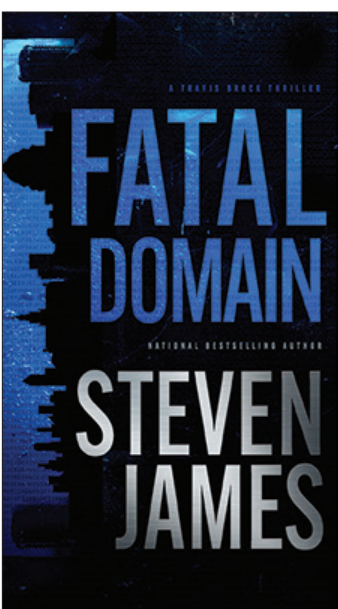
according to information from Alex Newton, who produces book statistics in his business, K-lytics (k-lytics.com). For movie-watchers on Netflix, Richard Osman’s The Thursday Murder Club accumulated 24.7 million views in its first week, made the top 10 in 91 countries, and was the number one movie in 31 countries.

The person putting together the TU writers conference, Linda Taylor, is an author, professor, and the conference director. This year, there’s an early bird pricing through April 30, allowing participants to pay the 2025 prices.

“Many writers conferences are quite expensive; we purposely keep our conference short and affordable so that everyone has the opportunity to come for writing training and encouragement,” Linda Taylor said. “We have writers of all ages, genres, and publication status. There’s something for everyone.”

A keynote speaker, Steven James, aka “The Story Guy,” will be offering three sessions to all attendees, while other offerings are break-out sessions. He’s written novels praised by Publisher’s Weekly, as well as teaching and running a podcast, The Story Blender (Stevenjames.net).

“Years ago I was invited to teach a course on crime writing at Taylor University and I had a great experience there,” James said.



Steven James, an author, writing instructor, and podcast host, has been referred to as “a master storyteller at the peak of his game” by Publisher’s Weekly. James is keynote speaker at the TU writing conference in July. Registration opens February 1.

“Since then, I’ve been hoping for an opportunity to return so I was excited when this opportunity came up. I love that the writing program at Taylor is targeted toward professional writing and focuses on practical writing keys and advice.”

His closing session is entitled, “Fall in Love with the Wonder Again.”

“I believe that one of the goals of an author is to capture details about the world and reflect them back to readers—to help them see it more clearly, vividly, consciously,” James said. “To fall in love with the wonder again. Too many storytellers just focus on the events that occur rather than the journey that the characters take. I’m a big believer that stories are not so much about progressions of events but about collisions of desire. When characters clash, tension results and stories are born. I love helping aspiring authors

rethink what lies at the heart of their stories, and tell them in more emotionally resonant ways.”

Linda Taylor shared, “One of our pre-conference tracks is Fantasy and Worldbuilding <https://taylorprofessionalwritersconference.weebly.com/fantasy-track.html> The two instructors running that track are AJ Skelly and Josiah DeGraaf.”

“I write romance in all genres, both for YA and adult markets,” Skelly said. “My presentation will be focused more on romance in fantasy genres, but more especially, how to write believable (sometimes sizzling) romance, include SWOON, and do it all without compromising morals, values, and without putting body parts on the page. Nothing will be inappropriate for a teenage audience but will be perfectly applicable to an adult audience as well . . . I think Christians need to think long

and hard and spend a good amount of time in prayer to make sure some of the darker, delicate topics are handled appropriately.”

Skelly said conference attendees who bring writing projects, as well as those just getting started or thinking about starting, will be welcome. Books Skelly is associated with that are examples of the genre are at <https://quillandflame.com/books/>

For those wanting to meet up with authors and other readers this month, the Swayzee Public Library is having a book signing (a rescheduled from a rain-out event September 13) from noon to 4:00 p.m. The event is open to the public and light refreshments will be served.

Meet n’ greet authors:

Linda Taylor, April Cannizzaro, Meg Hammand, Cathy Shouse, Ben Oneal. For details go to Facebook at Swayzee Public Library.



For slices of life pieces by Rachael Phillips, go to her Facebook page and feel free to join in the conversation.



Author AJ Shelly is shown at a Barnes & Noble signing in Springfield, MO recently. Shelly and Josiah Degraaf will be teaching an extended track in writing fantasy and world building at the Taylor University Professional Writers Conference in July.



Author Rachael O. Phillips of Upland writes weekly on Facebook about her observations, sharing humor and faith. In July, she will be teaching how to write a cozy mystery at the Taylor University Professional Writers Conference.

VICTORIOUS

Living...in a troubled world

There is no substitute for perseverance

By Dr. Billy Holland

When it comes to finding our place in this world, let’s consider two categories. The first one, let’s call “floating down the river.” Imagine someone napping in a small boat without a compass or a paddle and not caring about where they are going. Having a spectator mentality, they have yet to understand the importance of having an intentional direction and instead settle for just hoping for the best. They are comfortable with what they do not know and believe that everything will somehow be alright. Our second way of thinking involves listening and developing an awareness of our personal accountability to ourselves, those around us, and, of course, God, the one who made us. Until we embrace the reality that He has a specific meaning and purpose for our lives, we will not fulfill our potential.

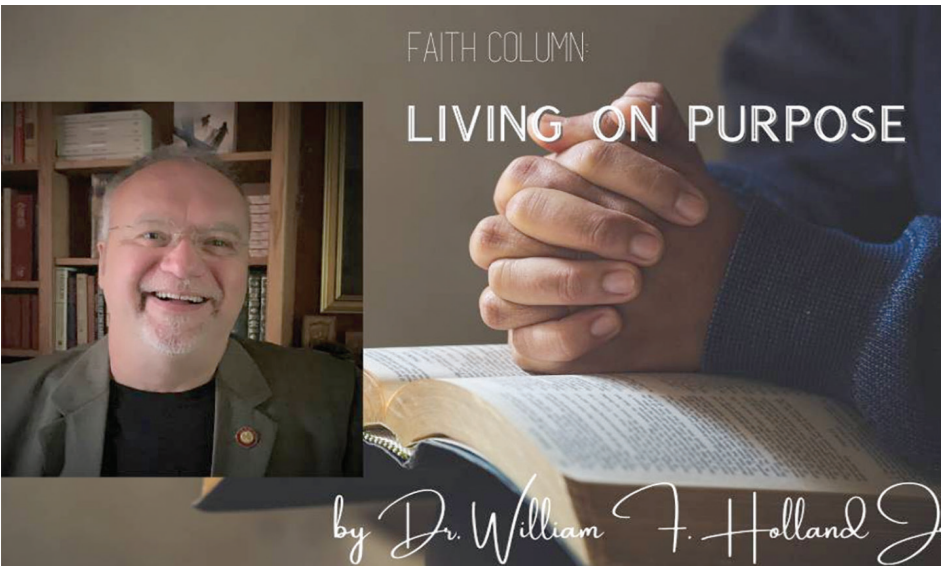
As a substitute teacher, I have the honor to help children

learn, and while in this position, I observe different types of personalities and attitudes. I notice that those who are eager to absorb knowledge and excel are enthusiastic about all subjects. I believe when kids are encouraged at home, and education is a priority, this transfers over to the student as it opens their eyes to encouraging possibilities and opportunities. On the other hand, when children are looking out the window and doodling on their papers instead of answering the questions, it seems they are not only bored with the subject matter, but have made a mental decision to refuse to learn. Do some have a resistance to change because they are afraid of failing?

Being a minister, I also volunteer at our local detention center a couple of times a month, where I speak to the inmates about God and the Christian life. For those who ask God to intervene, and agree to let go of their ways, our team will baptize and serve them communion, and try to help them all we

can. I’ve heard some heartbreaking stories from these individuals, and often, they testify about having a hard life at home when they were kids. They lost interest in school, started running with a bad crowd, and it’s been a downhill slide ever since. Some admit they are on the bottom, with terrible personal problems, and have burned every bridge, but of course, it’s never too late to ask for God’s help.

God’s love encourages and motivates us, but another aspect of success is to realize there are certain conditions and responsibilities on our part for His plan to be fully activated. It will require surrendering our will to him. You see, with God being the Potter and us being the clay, it’s critical to accept the fact that we do not conveniently add God to the plans we already have, but rather we must allow Him to transform us into His brand new creation. One of the basic attitudes I see all the time is “I don’t care.” So what makes people rise from the ashes of



apathy, rebellion, and discouragement? Well, personal change is not easy, and anyone who advertises how wonderful it is to sacrifice, suffer, and step into a lifestyle completely opposite to their comfort zone is not being honest. There’s nothing wrong with reading books about how others have conquered their demons, but even if someone understands what it will take, this does not automatically mean they will do it.

Sadly, many are only trying to survive today, without a desire to plan for tomorrow. If you’ve ever tried to help someone find their direction, you

understand when I say we cannot force anyone to do anything, especially those who are not willing to help themselves. In every area of life, the ones who desire a healthy state of being must comprehend the truth about their own responsibilities and be willing to do something about it. Beyond the motivational seminars, the Bible studies, and achievement formulas, it will take a personal revelation, an enlightenment of the mind and soul, to have faith in ourselves the way God has hope in us. Whether we are young or old, being an overcomer requires seeking, praying,

and working, and living in denial and blaming everyone for our problems only makes it worse. I have compassion for those whose parents failed them and know those who still struggle from neglect. Life has always seemed like a huge mountain that was impossible to climb. There is no substitute for perseverance, as it’s true, “We cannot lower the mountain, therefore we must elevate ourselves.”

Dr. Holland is an ordained minister, chaplain, and author. Read more about the Christian life at billyhollandministries.com.

Watching for wolves

By Brandon Bramlett
Pastor - Bandana Baptist Church

Something curiously chilling was creeping across the urban parks of New York City. “Tracks were etched in the crusted snow, doglike but more oblong, the claws less prominent and, over all, more compact,” the New York Times reported in 2015. Out of concern for the public’s safety, park officials deployed sensor cameras around the parks to identify the beast responsible for the unusual tracks. They were shocked to discover an animal scarcely seen scurrying about the Big Apple—one that had infiltrated the city in substantial numbers: coyotes. New Yorkers never

expected the grizzled-gray critters to journey from plains and forests to the big city, but as Lisa Foderaro, a reporter for the New York Times, observed, “A predator, though rarely seen, is in New York City to stay.”

The Bible warns of an animal far deadlier than coyotes, one that scurries and sneaks in to wreak havoc—and it just so happens to be the coyote’s kinfolk: wolves. No—not literal wolves, but spiritual wolves who exploit the feeble and devour the naive. Jesus admonished, “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves” (Matthew 7:15). Their teaching is cushy and cuddly like the wool of a sheep. They seem harmless as sheep

because they always preach what you want to hear (2 Timothy 4:3). But the Scripture is clear: they are “deceitful workmen,”



disguising themselves like the devil who commissioned them (2 Corinthians 11:13). Their deadly tracks are found in

the scores of false religions that assert that there are many paths to heaven and many gods to worship. Unfortunately, their footprints can be just as easily identified in many churches today, too. Many such wolves ravage souls and shred biblical doctrine by teaching anti-gospel heresies: salvation is by good works, giving money to God ensures miracles, and you can have anything in life if you “name it and claim it.”

True believers must utilize the “sensor camera” of discernment to identify and expose such teaching and teachers: “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the

world” (1 John 4:1; cf. Ephesians 5:11).

There were no defenses in place to prevent coyotes from migrating to New York City, and the creatures deemed the city to be a sanctuary. And when no precautions are taken against spiritual wolves, they will migrate to our churches and find a home in our sanctuaries. Christian, watch out for wolves:

“I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive” (Romans 16:17-18).

This Week’s Truths: Unwanted exposure

By Gary Miller

I’ve really enjoyed the unseasonably warm January weather. I wouldn’t mind if the whole winter felt like this. It has allowed me to do a bunch of stuff outside in comfort. One of things I’m getting ready to do is head back into the deer woods. I want to spend a few hours perusing the land to learn what I can about last the previous season. I

want to see where the bucks spent most of their time, where the most scrapes were, and of course how I can apply that to the next deer season. As I have mentioned many times before, one can learn so much when the leaves are off the trees and the season is over. There is no pressure. There’s no time limit. There’s no one thing that takes priority. There are just opportunities to learn and grow. And there’s

no better time to do a full investigation than when the woods are stripped down to their bare frame. Everything is exposed. Everything is open. And while everything seems dead, the ground is just preparing for another season of life. This sounds too much like you and me – and life.

As I write this, I think about many of you who would describe your present season as one of a bare frame. No leaves

of life. No fruit of flourishing. Because of some circumstance or situation, you feel exposed to the world. You feel open for all to see the crooked limbs that stress shaped and trauma twisted. So, what do we do when this unwanted season of exposure comes our way? We find the signs of God. They will be there just as they have always been. But now we will be able to see them more clearly. And when we

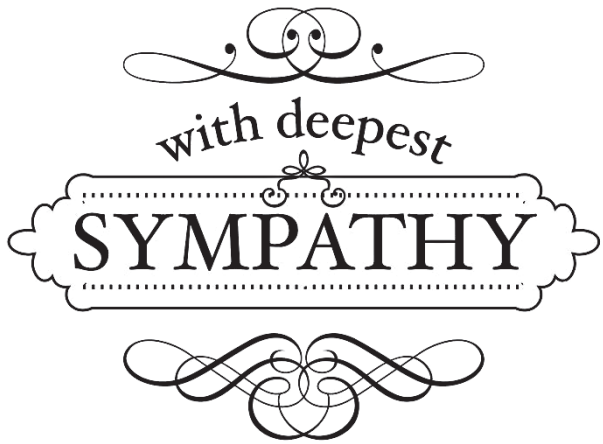
do that, we can return to our spring sooner. God does not always remove the leaves to correct us, but to help us see where He wants us to be more quickly, so that we can get back to the thriving life He has for all of us.

Join me on Zoom each Tuesday morning at 6:30 central time as we dive deeper into this week’s Outdoor Truth. Get the link [HERE](#)

Gary Miller
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org

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



Kuba Jill Timmons Curtis

Kuba Jill Timmons Curtis, 75, Sweetser, passed away at 3:00 am on Friday, January 9, 2026, at Rolling Meadows Health & Rehabilitation Center in LaFontaine. A funeral service to celebrate Kuba’s life will be held at 11:30 am on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at the Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral & Cremation Service, North Chapel, with visitation from 10:30 am until time of service. Burial will follow at Maple Grove Cemetery.

Virginia Nadine Estes

Virginia Nadine Estes, 84, of Amboy, passed away peacefully at 3:02 am on Thursday, January 8, 2026, at Waterford Place Health Campus in Kokomo. Family and friends are invited to gather for visitation from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral & Cremation Service, North Chapel, 1341 N. Baldwin Ave., Marion, IN. A celebration of Virginia’s life will follow at 1:00 pm, with Pastor Allen Rawlings officiating. Burial will take place at Thrailkill Cemetery.

David M. Chambers

David M Chambers, 90, of La Fontaine, passed away at 8:46 pm on Tuesday, January 6, 2026, at Rolling Meadows Health & Rehabilitation Center in LaFontaine. The family received visitors from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm on Monday, January 12, 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 David’s life was held at 1 pm with Rev. Dan VanCise officiating. Burial took place at Grant Memorial Park, Marion, IN.

David W. Sorenson

David Wayne Sorenson, 64, of Marion, IN, passed away on January 6, 2026. A funeral service was held on Friday, January 9th at 7pm at Needham-Storey Wampner Funeral Services in Marion, IN with visitation from 5-7pm casual attire, please.

Loren T. Carpenter

Loren T. Carpenter, 93, of Marion, passed away at 12:15 am on Tuesday, January 6, 2026. The family received visitors from 10:00 am to 11:00 am on Friday, January 9, 2026, at Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral & Cremation Service, Storey Chapel, 400 E. Main St, Gas City, IN. Immediately following the visitation, a service to celebrate Loren’s life was held at 11:00 am. Burial will take place at Gardens of Memory in Marion.

Doretta Florine Harter

Doretta Florine Harter, 92, of Marion, Indiana, passed away peacefully at 8:44 am on Tuesday, January 6, 2026, at Cedar Creek of Marion. There will be no formal service. The family will receive friends and loved ones for a come-and-go casual Going Home Celebration from 2-4 pm on Sunday, February 8, 2026 at Needham Storey Wampner Funeral and Cremation Service, 1341 N. Baldwin Ave., Marion, IN, 46952. The family appreciates all the kind thoughts and support during this time.

William D. “Bill” Atkins

William D. “Bill” Atkins, 94, of Marion, passed away in his home at 1:05 am on Tuesday, January 6, 2026. The family will have a private time of visitation and service to honor Bill’s life. Arrangements have been entrusted to Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral & Cremation Service, Storey Chapel 400 E. Main St., Gas City, IN.

Norma Fay Toulis

Norma Fay Toulis, 83, of Converse, IN, went to be with her Lord and Savior on January 5, 2026. A memorial service was held at 11:00 am on Saturday, January 10, 2026, at Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral & Cremation Service, North Chapel 1341 N. Baldwin Ave., Marion, IN.

Amanda L. Carrico

Amanda L. Carrico, a beloved home health care worker, left this world far too soon on January 6, 2026, in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Born on February 15, 1994, in Muncie, Indiana, Amanda brought joy and kindness into the lives of those around her, wearing her heart on her sleeve and shining bright with a spirit that was truly one of a kind.

Gary Hipes

Gary Alan Hipes, 77, passed away on January 8, 2026, surrounded by his loved ones. Services for Gary have been entrusted to the Fairmount Chapel of Armes-Hunt Life Celebration Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 415 S. Main Street, Fairmount, Indiana where services will be held on Wednesday, January 14, 2026. Visitation is from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. with the funeral service beginning at 4:00 p.m.

Nitta Felver

Nitta M. Felver, 78, of Fairmount, Indiana, passed away Monday, January 5, 2026, at IU Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis. Funeral services were held Friday, January 9, 2026, at 1:00 PM at Fairmount Chapel Armes-Hunt Life Celebration Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 415 S. Main Street, Fairmount, Indiana. Visitation will be from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM prior to the service. Burial will follow at Park Cemetery, Fairmount.

Theodore “Ted” C. Hamilton

Theodore C. “Ted” Hamilton, 84, died peacefully on January 5, 2026. The funeral mass will be celebrated on Thursday, January 15, 2026, at 11:00 AM at St. Paul Catholic Church 1031 Kem Road, Marion, Indiana with Rev. Michael Block officiating. The visitation will be held on January 15, 2026, from 9:30am-until 11am in the narthex of the church. Burial with military honors will follow at 1pm in Marion National Cemetery, 1700 East 38th Street, Marion, Indiana.

Barbara Jane (Hamby) Horner

Barbara Jane Horner, 89, of Converse, Indiana, passed away on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, at her home. A service celebrating the life of Barbara will be held at 10:30am, Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at St. Charles Catholic Church located at 58 W. 5th Street, Peru, Indiana, with Fr. Kyle Neterer officiating, with interment immediately following at the Converse I.O.O.F. Cemetery. Family and friends will gather for visitation from 4:00pm-7:00pm on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at Laird-Eddy Funeral Home located at 201 N. Main Street, Amboy, Indiana.

John Robert Kinsella

John Robert Kinsella, 88, of McGrawsville, passed away at 10:15 AM, Sunday, January 4, 2026, at his residence. A memorial service celebrating the life of John Robert Kinsella was held at 4:00 PM, Saturday, January 10, 2026, at McGrawsville Community Church, 9377 S 300 E, Amboy, IN, with Pastor Ryan Ramsey officiating. Family and friends will gather for visitation from 2:00 – 4:00 PM, Saturday, at the church. Burial will occur in the Santa Fe Cemetery at a later date.

Vickie Joe Jones

Vickie Joe Jones, 72, passed away on January 8, 2026 at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital. Funeral service will be at 4 pm Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at Keplinger Funeral Home, 509 N. High St., Hartford City with Pastor Brian Campbell officiating. Visitation will be from 3 to 4 pm on Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at the funeral home. Vickie will be cremated and her cremains will be interred at Hartford City Cemetery at a later date.

Kay Elaine Hornbaker

Kay Elaine Hornbaker, 70, passed away on January 6, 2026 at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital. Funeral service for Kay was held at 1 pm Monday, January 12, 2026 at Keplinger Funeral Home, 509 N. High St., Hartford City with Rev. Steve High officiating. Burial will follow at Hartford City Cemetery.

Diana Lynn Hawkins

Diana Lynn Hawkins, 76, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2026, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. She will be cremated and Keplinger Funeral Home, 509 N. High St., Hartford City is in charge of arrangements. A celebration of life was held at 2 pm on Saturday January 10, 2026 at the main building of the Blackford County 4-H Fairgrounds, 310 E. Park Avenue, Hartford City.

LOCAL CHURCH SERVICES

Submitted by Catherine Lamb	Prince of Peace Lutheran Church – 9 a.m. (Hartford City)
Back Creek Friends – 10:30 a.m., Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.	One of Ten Ministries and Church – 10:30 a.m.
Back Creek Wesleyan – 10:30 a.m., Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.	Pilgrim Holiness – 6 p.m.
Fairmount Baptist Church – 10:30 a.m., Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.	Real Community Covenant Church – 10 a.m. – 1240 S. Adams in Marion
Fairmount Church of God – 10:30 a.m., Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.	Westview Wesleyan, 11 a.m. (Jonesboro)
Fairmount Friends – 10:30 a.m.	Women of Hope Bible Study – Tuesday – 10 a.m.
Fairmount Wesleyan – 9:30 a.m.	(Located at One of Ten on SR 26 in Fairmount. Open to all women in Grant County)
Fairmount United Methodist – 9:30 a.m.	Fairmount UMC – Monday – 7 p.m. – Campus Life
Fowlerton United Methodist – 10:45 a.m.	Fairmount UMC – Wednesday – 10 a.m., Men and Women’s Bible Study
Jones Chapel – 10:30 a.m., Sunday School – 9 a.m.	
MorningStar Ministries, 11:00 a.m. (Jonesboro)	

Upcoming Community Events

Submitted by Catherine Lamb
Community Breakfast – Masonic Lodge #635, Saturday, (biweekly), freewill donation Hope Center – Every Friday, 1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Fairmount Town Council – Biweekly at 6 p.m.
Eagles Nest Food Pantry –January 15th and February 19th at 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. (At Park School. Additional dates are on Fairmount Wesleyan Church website. Click events)
Feeding Fairmount Ministry – 2nd Monday of month – Fairmount UMC, freewill donation, 12 noon
Blackford County Extension - February 13: Election of County Officers
Blackford County Extension - April 14: April District Meeting in Hartford City, “As American As Apple Pie”
Blackford County Extension - May 7: Achievement Day which includes recognition of perfect attendance, membership milestones, new members & Memorial for deceased members.
Fairmount Public Library
Take and make craft kit – December 2nd Chair Yoga – December 2nd and16th at 1 p.m. Painting with LouRae – December 6th at 10:30 a.m. Visit with Santa – December 6th at 10:30 a.m. Book Club – December 9th at p.m. Board Meeting – December 10th at 6 p.m. Crafting Circle – December 16th at 6 p.m. Storytime – 10 a.m. – December 18th at 20 a.m. Chair Yoga – December 5th, 12th, 19th and January 2nd at 10 a.m. Board Meeting – 6 p.m. – November 12th Crafting Circle – 6 p.m. – November 18th Your Story – December 23rd at 6 p.m.
Other Library Services WI-FI Access, Computer Access, Printing, Scanning, Copying, Faxing, Laminating, Notarizing

Email Us Your Upcoming Events to: Catherine Lamb at: lambc899@gmail.com or to pamela.kpi2018@gmail.com *Deadline is Monday at 5 PM for the Thursday edition.



SENIOR SAFETY

Common financial scams that target seniors

Financial scams are as old as the concept of currency. But consumers’ vulnerability to scams has seemingly increased in the twenty-first century, when the Internet and devices like smartphones have enabled scammers to gain access to potential victims’ financial information and even gain virtual entry into their homes.

Seniors are targeted by financial scammers with such frequency that the term “elder fraud” has entered the English lexicon and is now widely recognized as a notable threat to individuals age 60 and older. In recognition of that threat, the Elder Justice Initiative aims to support and coordinate U.S. Department of Justice efforts to combat financial fraud that targets older adults. Those efforts are ongoing and include a number of initiatives to educate older adults about elder fraud, including warning seniors about some notable scams that criminals use to target older adults.

• **Social Security Administration Impostor Scam:** When perpetrating this scam, criminals typically contact prospective victims via telephone and falsely claim that suspicious activity has prompted the



suspension of their Social Security number. Scammers may also indicate money must be withdrawn from a potential victim’s bank and stored on gift cards for security’s sake. It’s important to note caller ID spoofing is often utilized when perpetrating this scam so an incoming call appears to be coming from the Social Security Administration.

• **Tech Support Scam:** This scam involves criminals claiming to be representatives from widely recognized companies who are calling to inform seniors that viruses or malware have been detected on their devices. Some also may claim a target’s computer has been hacked. The Federal Trade Commission notes perpetrators of this scam pretend to be tech support and request victims enable them to remotely access their

devices or computer. Granting such access provides an avenue to view sensitive information, but scammers also may diagnose nonexistent problems and charge a fee. But the scam does not always stop there. Some call back later and offer a refund to account for services that can no longer be rendered or to correct an overcharge. The scammers then request victims’ specific banking details under the guise of “correcting” these alleged oversights.

• **Lottery Scam:** The lottery scam involves scammers calling potential victims and informing them they have won a foreign lottery or sweepstakes. Perpetrators of this scam typically identify themselves as lawyers, customs officials or lottery representatives. The telemarketers behind this scam may be based in Jamaica,

but the U.S. Embassy in Jamaica warns that those behind the scam will ask winners to pay various fees, including shipping and customs duties, until victims’ funds are exhausted.

• **Romance Scam:** The FTC warns that wildly popular dating sites, social networking platforms and chat rooms provide opportunities for scammers to identify and exploit potential victims. The aim of these scams, which many victims are too ashamed to report even after they realize they’ve been victimized, is to convince targets to send money in the name of love. But the EJI warns that online love interests who ask for money are almost certainly scam artists. These are just a handful of the many ways that modern scammers target seniors. More information about these and other scams is available at justice.gov/elderjustice.

SENIOR CARE

The unpaid Caregiver

Caregivers provide care to their patients so they can overcome illness or injury, or to support individuals plagued by chronic conditions.

Caregivers may be paid professionals who are employed in the medical field, but many are friends and family members who step up when needed.

The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health reports there are 53 million unpaid caregivers providing care for loved ones in the home across the United States.

It is estimated these people provide more than \$870 billion a year in service to society in terms of caring for others.

Recently, Statistics Canada estimated that 13.4 million Canadians age 15 or older (42 percent of the population) provided unpaid care to either children or dependent adults.

Unpaid caregivers have been called upon more readily due to certain factors, namely that people are living longer and there are limited resources available to provide care.

The cost of long-term professional care is out of reach for many families when services are not covered by private insurance or government-subsidized health programs.



SENIOR LIVING

Making friends in your golden years

Aging and change go hand in hand. Physical changes associated with aging, such as graying hair or reduced muscle mass, may garner the most attention. But personal relationships also can change as people age.

As a person ages, interests could change and home base may not be what it once was. People move after retirement, and friends you might once have seen with frequency may no longer be as close by. Children are older, and the friends you made from these early parenthood relationships may change as well.

It is important to have a solid group of friends. Psychology Today reports that a strong social network reduces the risk of early death by around 45 percent. Recent data even indicates that loneliness is as great a health risk as smoking half a pack of cigarettes per day. Starting fresh and making friends at 50 or older might seem challenging. Although making new friends after 50 may take more effort than it did when you were younger, it is certainly not impossible. Here are some tips for making friends after 50.

• **Join a networking group.** Networking isn’t just for advancing your career. Networking groups that focus on

friendships can help individuals meet one another. Perhaps there is a neighborhood group in which people from a particular housing development or several streets in town get together? Shared interests can include the place where you live.

• **Organize a get-together.** Sometimes making friends involves effort on your part. You might need to step out of your comfort zone and initiate first contact with others. Maybe there is a person at a store you run into frequently, or someone whose path you cross regularly that can be asked out to a get-together?

• **Get involved with activities.** A church group or a volunteer activity can be a great place to meet new people. In fact, volunteers often get involved for the express purpose of getting to know others and to be integral members of the community.

• **Consider other generations.** Friends need not be the same age and from the same generation. Keep an open mind that friends can come in all ages and from all walks of life.

Making friends after 50 requires some effort, but a sizable social network can benefit individual well-being into one’s golden years.

SENIOR FINANCES

Outliving retirement savings

A recent report from the senior care experts at Seniorly indicated that millions of retirees are in jeopardy of outliving their retirement savings. The Seniorly report tabulated projected retirement income and expenses starting at age 65, and found that the average American retiree can expect roughly \$762,000 in income generated from government-sponsored

plans like Social Security, savings and investments. But the expected living expenses of such individuals was determined to be \$877,000, meaning the average retiree may have a shortfall of \$115,000. Retirement savings shortfalls also are a cause for concern in Canada, where 59 percent of Canadians indicated they fear they will outlive their

savings in a 2025 CPP Investments Retirement Survey. Projections like those from Seniorly and the fears expressed by Canadians concerned by a potential shortfall of retirement savings underscore the need to prioritize saving for life after working, which can have short-term benefits as well. In fact, 49 percent of Canadians who expected to utilize the Canada Pension Plan

reported lower levels of stress as a result of their commitment to retirement planning.



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Hemp roots offer new opportunities for farmers and cancer research

By: Maribel Alonso
arspress@usda.gov

In a groundbreaking study, scientists at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service (ARS) redefined the value of roots in industrial hemp, providing new opportunities for industrial hemp growers and opening new avenues for pediatric cancer research.

While the above ground part of Cannabis sativa L. plants, or industrial hemp, is widely recognized for its broad range of uses, including fiber production and grain (as a source of protein and oil), its roots have often been unutilized. This is because, until now, they were not considered to hold significant value.

Dr. Korey Brownstein, a research chemist with the National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research in Peoria, IL, noticed a strange substance showing up in his analysis as he was studying the chemical composition of hemp roots. Intrigued by these findings,

Brownstein led a team of researchers to further investigate and analyze this chemical substance to determine its precise structure.

The analysis showed the substance was multiple compounds (four in total) that researchers predicted through structural modeling to be neolignans – natural products with similar structures formed during the plant’s biological processes. Although molecules with similar properties have also been found in other plants, such as paper mulberries and a tree native to Sumatra and the Malay Peninsula, this is the first time such molecules have been isolated from hemp roots.

The research team spent three years isolating and purifying these compounds—a process they described as ‘complex and increasingly difficult.’ Due to potential activities of the molecules, the researchers were determined to understand their nature and uncover the complete narrative behind them.

The team also collaborated with scientists at the Pediatric Oncology Laboratory at the University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria, where a team of researchers found that these molecules showed moderate activity in killing pediatric cancer cells (cytotoxic effect) in the laboratory setting. Refining and understanding the effect of this molecule on pediatric cancers will open new alternatives for children’s cancers that are unresponsive to current therapies.

“We believe this new discovery offers industrial hemp growers a potential new revenue stream from a part of the plant that was previously overlooked,” said Brownstein. “Unlike crops such as corn or soybeans, which have multiple uses, hemp has been limited in scope. But if we treat hemp as a multi-use crop, we can expand its applications and market—paper, grain, fiber, and now, potentially, pharmaceutical compounds from the



Hemp root.

Image Provided by USDA PGRU Hemp Germplasm Lab - Tyler Gordon Dan Meyers and Zach Stansell

roots. The discovery of these compounds adds value to this commodity.”

The findings, published in a peer-reviewed journal, marked the first time these specific neolignans have been isolated from hemp and linked to possessing cytotoxic effects on pediatric cancer cell lines.

The team’s next steps include scaling up compound

extraction for larger, more controlled functional studies. They aim to explore a broad array of cancer cell lines to assess the therapeutic potential of these neolignans in greater depth.

“This is about opening new doors,” Brownstein emphasized. “We’re expanding the possibilities for using the whole industrial hemp plant. By adding value to the roots,

we’re giving farmers more stability and more reasons to invest in this emerging crop.”

The Agricultural Research Service is the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s chief scientific in-house research agency. Daily, ARS focuses on solutions to agricultural problems affecting America. Each dollar invested in agricultural research results in \$20 of economic impact.

A new spring wheat germplasm promises to reduce economic losses caused by fusarium

By Maribel Alonso
Maribel.Alonso@usda.gov

Researchers at USDA’s Agricultural Research Service (ARS) are helping American wheat farmers fight a devastating crop disease.

Researchers released a new spring wheat germplasm line with resistance to Fusarium head blight. This challenging fungal disease leads to significant annual economic losses in cereal crop production, estimated at \$2.7B over the period from 1998 to 2000, and poses health risks to consumers.

Fusarium head blight (FHB), or scab, is the number one fungal disease impacting small-grain cereal production in the U.S., particularly wheat and barley. The primary cause of the disease is the fungus Fusarium graminearum L., although it can also be triggered by multiple strains or species of Fusarium.

FHB pathogens produce a toxin that contaminates the grain and flour, leading to production losses as it poses health risks for humans and animals. Over the years, it has become clear to farmers, researchers, and breeders that the most effective way to control this

disastrous disease is by enhancing cereal crops with genes that show resistance to FHB. However, the source of effective resistance to FHB is currently limited in wheat and barley. Therefore, there is an urgent need to find new resistance genes that could be used to fight the disease, especially in durum wheat and barley.

In a scientific breakthrough led by ARS Research Geneticist Xiwen Cai with the Wheat, Sorghum, and Forage Research Unit in Lincoln, NE, scientists at ARS and the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station leveraged insights from previously published studies to develop a new spring wheat germplasm line named ‘WGC002.’ This germplasm carries a novel gene [Fhb7The2] found in wild grass that provides significant resistance to Fusarium under diverse environments. The scientists used plant breeding techniques to select genes with the desired traits from wild grass in their breeding lines, which have now been successfully integrated into different market classes of U.S. wheat.

“This is a significant discovery because there are very few resistance genes currently available.

This marks the first effective FHB resistance gene identified in wild species that has been bred into spring, winter, and durum wheat,” said Cai. “Moreover, this gene exhibits what we refer to as an additive effect, meaning it enhances and strengthens the resistance level of another gene.”

WGC002 Spring Wheat Germplasm has already been utilized by many wheat breeding programs locally and around the world. ARS scientists in Lincoln, NE, have now been deploying this novel FHB resistance gene in elite varieties of winter, spring, and durum wheat.

Scientists anticipate a substantial reduction in U.S. economic losses from wheat crops affected by FHB within just a few years if farmers begin growing new varieties with this resistance gene.

WGC002 was developed with financial support from the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, the US Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative, and USDA-ARS CRIS Project.

This research was part of a series of collaborative studies conducted by ARS scientists and

partners to identify FHB resistant genes in wheat and wild relatives. Multiple genes have been found to be resistant to FHB, but only two of them [Fhb1 and Fhb7] have been used and characterized as effective sources of resistance in breeding for wheat

variety development. Selecting multiple genes simultaneously to provide robust and durable resistance is a common and effective practice in this effort.

The Agricultural Research Service is the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s chief scientific in-house research agency.

Daily, ARS focuses on solutions to agricultural problems affecting America. Each dollar invested in U.S. agricultural research results in \$20 of economic impact.

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Bowen Health fills leadership positions

(Warsaw, IN — Bowen Health announces the following leadership hires to help support its rapid growth into integrated care.

Medical Services
Kim Richard has been named Director of Nursing. Kim has provided compassionate, patient-centered care in the Bowen Health - Wabash location as a Nurse Practitioner, creating efficiencies and championing a collaborative approach to care making her uniquely qualified for her new role.

Clinical Services
Esther Wilcox has been named Director of Clinical Programming. In her new role, she is responsible for establishing and maintaining clinical standards across Bowen Health’s range of clinical services. In collaboration with discipline-specific experts, Esther is charged with helping provide a consistent, high-quality integrated care experience for Bowen Health patients. After 10 years serving as a licensed marriage and family therapist and in a clinical services leadership role at Bowen Health, Ms.

Wilcox has a passion for patient access to quality care.

Holly Hirschy-Hurd has been named Clinical Educator. This newly established role will support Bowen Health’s clinical programming and integration by developing and maintaining training that is aligned with established clinical standards. Holly has been committed to helping Bowen Health deliver compassionate, patient-centered care as a therapist and clinical supervision lead for more than 20 years, which aligns perfectly with her new role.

Practice Administration
Allyssa Quick has been named Practice Administrator - Plymouth. Allyssa brings a wealth of knowledge and leadership to her new role after serving in a supervisory role for community-based services in three northern Indiana counties for six years. Her familiarity with Bowen Health systems, combined with her fresh perspective and energy made her an outstanding match for the new position.



Allyssa Quick



Esther Wilcox



Chris Plack



Holly Hirschy Hurd



Chris Watts



Kim Richard



Dustin Babb



Turner Duckett

residents gain access to quality healthcare, regardless of their ability to pay.

Chris Plack has been named Director of Community Engagement - Marshall County. Chris recently helped cut the ribbon on a new health clinic in Bremen, adding a second Bowen Health location in the county providing primary health care, mental health care and substance use treatment. Mr. Plack brings proven mission-driven leadership

to the role as a long-time advocate for safety-net agencies serving vulnerable populations in the region.

Facilities
Dustin Babb and Chris Watts have been named Regional Facilities Managers for Bowen Health’s southwest region and Allen County, respectively. Dustin and Chris provide enhanced patient support, each bringing extensive maintenance expertise and strong leadership skills to the roles and a genuine passion for

service.
XXX
About Bowen Health
Bowen Health is a non-profit community health system committed to serving the underserved in Indiana, regardless of their ability to pay. Bowen Health provides easy access to a wide range of healthcare services under one roof, including primary health care, mental health care, and addiction recovery treatment, to help people live their best lives longer. For more information, visit BowenHealth.org.

Marion Sports Recap

Swimming
Marion Giants swim team @ Bellmont
Boys: Bellmont 117
Girls 54
Girls: Bellmont 93
Lady Giants 53

Marion results:
Girls 200 medley relay:
1st place - Elly Campanero, Hannah Huff,
Gracie, Dixon,
Skyler Boogar

Girls 200 freestyle:
1st place - Jethe Paduga

Boys 200 IM m:
2nd place - Hayden Craig

Girls 50 yard freestyle:
1st place - Skylar Boogar

Boys 50 yard free:
2nd place - Keagan Couchman

Boys hundred yard butterfly:
2nd Place - Josiah Womack

Boys hundred yard freestyle:
2nd Place - Keagan Couchman

Girls 500 freestyle:
1st Place - Jethe Paduga

Boys 500 freestyle:
2nd place - Hadyn Craig

Girls 200 freestyle relay:

2nd place - Skyler, Boogar, Gracie Dixon, Mary Herrington, Jethe Paduga

Girls hundred yard Breaststroke:
2nd Place - Gracie Dixon

Boy hundred yard breaststroke:
2nd place - Jack Jenkins

Girls 400 freestyle relay:
2nd place - Jethe Paduga, Hannah Huff, Mary Herrington, Elly Campanero

Boys Basketball

South Side 64
Giants 38
Marion is 3-7
T. Jones 9, L. Anderson 8, X. Dennis 6,
D. Red 4, Jamari Johnson 4, C. Guerrero 3,
T. Currie 3, L. Bledsoe 1

JV
Giants JV 50
South Side JV 46
Marion JV is 3-7.
Jordan Johnson 21, S. Recometa 10, D. Rogers 5,
C. Robinson 5, A. Lee 4, K. Button 3, K. Cook 2

Girls Wrestling (Regional)
GRACE CARPENTER IS STATE BOUND!!!
Marion Lady Giant Grace Carpenter

won her 2nd match and advanced to the Regional Semifinals & has now qualified for the State Finals.
Grace won her 3rd place match and finished 3rd.

Girls Basketball
Lady Giants 57
Richmond 50
The Lady Giants are 9-9, 3-1 in the NCC
Marion will travel to Mississinewa on Tuesday, Jan 13.
N. Hahn 28, N. Cox 10, J. Townsend 8, R. Jordan 6, E. Inman 5

JV
Lady Giants JV 43
Richmond JV 38
R. Trout 14, A. Flowers 10, L. Hahn 6, J. Johnson 5, J. Clark 5, Z. Jones 3

Boys Wrestling
The Giant Boys Wrestling team went 3-2 at the Huntington North Duals on Saturday.

Marion Giants:
Hickson love 5-0
Shaun Caldwell 5-0
Ben Bevans 4-1
Adrian Parrish 4-1
Javier Lester 3-2
Anderson Henriquez 3-2
Brody Stickann 3-2
Carter Moreno 2-3
Dakota Holt 2-3
Braxton Rice 1-4
Dominick Scott 1-4

Swimming (NCC Meet)
The Marion Giants swim team competed in the #NCC on Saturday @ Lafayette Jeff. The Girls finished 5th & the Boys were 6th.

Girls 50 freestyle:
4th place - Skylar Boogar

Boys 100 yard butterfly:
4th place - Josiah Womack

Girls 500 yard freestyle:
4th place - Jethe Paduga

Girls 200 free relay:
4th Place - Skylar Boogar, Gracie Dixon, Mary Herrington, Jethe Paduga

Marion Giants Sports - Friday, January 9
Boys Basketball
Noblesville 46
Giants 43
Marion is 3-6.
T. Jones 20, J. Freshwater 10, C. Guerrero 6,
D. Red 3, L. Anderson 2, X. Dennis 2

JV - Noblesville JV 76
Giants JV 25
Giants Jv is 2-7.
C. Robinson 7, A. Lee 6,
Jordan Johnson 4, Jace Johnson 4,
S. Recometa 2, K. Cook 2

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60' X 120' X 16' 2- 30' X 16" SPLIT SLIDER 1-36" AGRI-DOOR 2-WINDOWS TRUSS 4' ON CENTER	80' X 200' X 16' 1-36" X 16" SPLIT SLIDER 1-20' X 14" OVERHEAD 2-36" AGRI-DOORS 2-WINDOWS TRUSS 4' ON CENTER	PKGS. AVAILABLE FOR DO-IT-YOURSELFERS #1 - 40-YEAR WARRANTY ON METAL, CUT TO YOUR SPECS AND ALL TRIMS

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Sudoku Answers

8	9	7	6	2	8	9	2	1
8	2	1	9	9	2	8	7	6
9	6	2	1	7	8	9	2	8
2	8	2	7	9	6	8	1	9
9	7	9	8	1	2	2	6	8
6	1	8	8	2	9	2	9	7
2	9	6	9	8	1	7	8	2
7	8	8	2	6	9	1	9	2
1	2	9	2	8	7	6	8	9

Word Search Answers

DOWN

1. ACROSS

2. DOWN

3. ACROSS

4. DOWN

5. ACROSS

6. DOWN

7. ACROSS

8. DOWN

9. ACROSS

10. DOWN

11. ACROSS

12. DOWN

13. ACROSS

14. DOWN

15. ACROSS

16. DOWN

17. ACROSS

18. DOWN

19. ACROSS

20. DOWN

21. ACROSS

22. DOWN

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94. DOWN

95. ACROSS

96. DOWN

97. ACROSS

98. DOWN

99. ACROSS

100. DOWN

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Local students named to SNHU Fall 2025 academic lists

MANCHESTER, NH — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Fall 2025 President’s List. The fall terms run from September to December.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President’s List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each

16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Meygan Maloney of Hartford City (47348)
Trevon Sage of Hartford City (47348)
Kaila stith of Sims (46986)
Brittany Riddle of Gas City (46933)

The following students on being named to the Fall 2025 Dean’s List. The fall terms run from September to December.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum

grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean’s List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and

summer.

Jaylen Williams of Swayzee (46986)
Michelle Emry of Marion (46952)
Brooklyn Thurman of Summitville (46070)
Kaylee Hildman of Summitville (46070)
Marrisa Martin of Elwood (46036)

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution with a 93-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more

than 200,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Recognized as one of the “Most Innovative” regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner.



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Pull Type sheeps foot, double drum, 4 foot drums

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2015 PETERBILT 579 Semi-970,121 miles, 6X4, Paccar MX-13 Engine, manual transmission, tandem axle, wet kit, sleeper, heat, air, radio, VIN#1XPBDP9XXFD251260; (***OHIO TITLE GUARANTEED BY CONSIGNOR, ALLOW 30 BUSINESS DAYS FOR PROCESSING** \$25 TITLE FEE APPLIES**)

Easy Man Livestock Loading Ramp, pull type, single axle, NEW/UNUSED

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Case 95 Manure spreader, single axle, single horizontal beater, chain unload

Bush Hog 306 Rotary mower, 6 Ft. working with, 540 PTO driven, SN#669061

CIMC Shipping Container 20 ft length, double doors, wood floor, Serial Number NWRU 360056 0

Penta 7520SD Twin Screw TMR Mixer, PTO driven, Vertical Augers, Digi Star EZ3600V Scales, front discharge, hydraulic adjustable unload chute, Rubber Tub Extension

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2026 AUCTIONS

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FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026

SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2026

FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2026

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2026

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2026

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2026

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