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Vol. 8 Issue 22

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December 10, 2025

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Indiana State Police Arrest Tennessee Man Following Pursuit on I-65 in Scott & Clark County



Wesley Phillips

A 22-year-old Tennessee man was arrested Monday afternoon, December 1, after leading Indiana State Police troopers on a pursuit that ended with a successful Precision Immobilization Technique (PIT) maneuver on Interstate 65.

At approximately 1:30 p.m., Indiana State Police dispatch received multiple calls reporting an orange 2012 Jeep traveling southbound on I-65 in Scott

County driving erratically. Trooper Justin Mears and Probationary Trooper Devin Hopkins responded and located the vehicle near Henryville. Upon catching up to the Jeep, troopers attempted a traffic stop, but the driver refused to yield, weaving across lanes, traveling on the right shoulder, and nearly striking the guardrail.

The Jeep continued southbound, crossing lanes and driving on the shoulder. Deputies from the Clark County Sheriff's Department and officers from the Sellersburg Police Department deployed stop sticks near the Sellersburg exit, successfully deflating multiple tires. Despite the disabled tires, the driver continued fleeing.

Near the 7-mile marker, Trooper Dustin Whitaker joined the pursuit and executed a PIT maneuver. Although the Jeep initially stopped, the driver

re-accelerated and continued southbound. A second PIT maneuver was performed near the 6.5-mile marker, bringing the vehicle to a final stop on the right shoulder.

Troopers conducted a felony traffic stop and took the driver into custody without further incident. The driver was identified as Wesley Phillips, 22, of Spencer, Tennessee. Phillips was transported to Clark County Hospital for medical clearance and subsequently booked into the Clark County Jail.

Phillips faces the following preliminary charges:

- Resisting Law Enforcement with a Vehicle – Level 6 Felony
- Aggressive Driving – Class A Misdemeanor
- Reckless Driving – Class C Misdemeanor
- Operating While Intoxicated (Refusal) – Class C Misdemeanor.

Pekin Man Killed in Thanksgiving Morning Shooting



Philip James Hawkins

Indiana State Police detectives are investigating a shooting that

occurred in the early morning hours of Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 27, resulting in the death of 26-year-old Juan Antonio Gutierrez of Pekin.

Around 1:30 a.m. Thursday morning, the Washington County Sheriff's Department responded to a shooting on the 9000 block of Bush Road near Pekin, Indiana. When officers arrived, they found Juan Gutierrez had been shot with a handgun and was unresponsive. Officers and emergency personnel immediately began lifesaving measures and Gutierrez was transported by ambulance to Ascension St. Vincent Hospital in Salem. Tragically, however, Gutierrez succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced dead at the hospital.

Indiana State Police detectives and a crime scene investigator

were requested and responded to investigate. As part of the investigation, detectives obtained a search warrant and collected physical evidence at the scene. Investigators also conducted interviews with those at the residence, including Philip James Hawkins.

As a result of the preliminary investigation, Investigators arrested Philip James Hawkins, 22, of Pekin, Indiana. Hawkins is charged with one count of Reckless Homicide, a Level 5 Felony. Hawkins was arrested and incarcerated at the Washington County Jail without further incident.

This is an ongoing investigation. An autopsy has been scheduled for Monday, December 1, 2025.

The family of the deceased has been notified.

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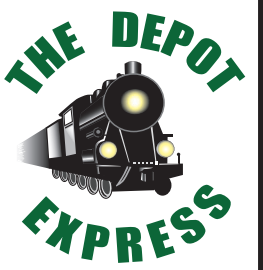
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Amos Publishing - The Herald -

Community Events Calendar & News Briefs

by Marcus Amos & Aaron Stainbrook

e-mail stories to scottcountyherald@gmail.com or aaronstainbrook.theherald@gmail.com



Scott County Democrats Pitch-In Christmas Dinner

The Scott County Democrats are having a pitch-in dinner for Christmas on Thursday, December 11. All Scott County residents regardless of political party are invited to attend. Bring a side dish or dessert and come to the Democrats Headquarters on the square in Scottsburg, starting at 6:30 p.m.

4-H Families and Volunteers are Gearing Up for 2025-26 Program Year

4-H enrollment is open for the 2025-2026 program year! Sign up as soon as possible at in.4honline.com to make the most of your 4-H year. Need help?

Contact the Scott County 4-H -Purdue Extension Office at 812-794-8450 or your local Purdue Extension office: bit.ly/contactIN4H.

As 4-H activities ramp up in your community, consider checking out CLOVER, an online learning platform by 4-H: 4h.org/clover.

Christmas Market Set for Dec. 13 in Vernon

A Christmas Market will be held on Saturday, December 13, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Vawter Reception Hall (Vernon Gym), located at 29 Washington Street in Vernon. The community is invited to come out and do some Christmas shopping.

12th Annual Christmas Train Show Going On Now through Dec. 31

The 12th Annual Christmas Train Show started the day after Thanksgiving on Nov. 28, 2025.

Join the Conductors of Indiana Train Club at their 223 Rising Sun Main Street location for this holiday experience!

Days of operation are: Thursday-Sunday, from 11a.m. - 5 p.m. until December 17.

Beginning December 18, the event is open every day during the same hours through Dec. 31. Closed Christmas Day.

Contact Ron at (513) 709-8256 for more information.

Seeking Volunteers for CRADLE's Christmas Toy Drive to Clean and Prep Items

CRADLE's Christmas Toy Drive is seeking volunteers to help clean and prep toys.

This Christmas, hundreds of local children will receive toys through Cradle's Toy Drive, before the toys can gifted.

Helping hands are needed to clean, sanitize and prepare donated toys so they are safe and ready to bring joy.

Volunteers are needed anytime during the hours of operation at CRADLE, 501 Thomas Street in Scottsburg. Volunteers being sought include adults, supervised teens and groups are welcome.

Volunteers will wipe down and sanitize toys, sort and organize donations, package toys for distribution and spread Christmas cheer.

Those wishing to take part as a volunteer should call 812-752-6898 or via email at cradle10@gmail.com.

Bring your friends, bring your holiday spirit and help share joy this Christmas season.

Drive-Through Nativity Scene on December 13 and Christmas Concert on December 14

Bethel Baptist Church of Leota invites the community to two special Christmas events this December, supporting families served by the Scott County Clearinghouse and the Edna Martin Christian Center.

Drive-Through Nativity Scene Saturday, December 13

Bethel Baptist Church will host its annual Drive-Through Nativity Scene on Saturday, December 13, from 6 to 8 p.m. The event will take place at the Leota Covered Bridge, located near Bethel Baptist Church (3816 W Leota Rd, Scottsburg, IN 47170).

Guests are asked to bring a donation item—such as non-perishable food, canned goods, personal hygiene products, or a monetary contribution. Tickets are not required, and donations collected will directly support the Scott County Clearinghouse and the Edna Martin Christian Center.

Christmas Concert Sunday, December 14

The following evening, Sunday, December 14 at 6:00 PM, Bethel Baptist Church will host its annual Christmas Concert at the church. Performers include:

- Kayla & Steve Griffen
- Josh Richards & Brian Allen
- On the House
- Brandon Visetchaisri
- Bomar & Ritter

Attendees are encouraged to bring the same types of donation items to support families in need throughout the community.

Free Talk to a Lawyer Clinic Dec. 18 at the Scott County Courthouse

As a Southern Indiana resident you may call in to the free Talk to a Lawyer events and receive answers to your legal questions.

Talk to a Lawyer will be held at the Scott County Courthouse, 1 E. McClain Avenue, Room No. 222 in Scottsburg for all low-income residents of Indiana. Please bring a copy of any court papers or notices you have received.

General advice clinic is from 1:30 to 4 p.m., on Wednesday, December 18. The clinic will include: adoptions, advanced directives, family law (child support, custody, divorce, parenting time) guardianships, landlord/tenant issues, power of attorney and small estates. There will be no criminal law questions.

A volunteer attorney will answer your questions on these issues.

Those who can't attend this clinic, they can find additional ways to get free legal help by visiting the following sites: indianalegalhelp.org, probono14.org; indianalegalservices.org; and indiana.freelegalanswers.org.

Pictures and Breakfast with Santa Dec. 13

The Scott Lodge No. 120 F&AM Breakfast with Santa will be held on Saturday, December 13, 9 to 11 a.m. The community is invited to attend, as a child photo will be available with Santa. Cost is a donation. The lodge is located at 425 N. U.S. 31 in Austin, next to the Dairy Queen.

Scott County Partnership Collecting Food Items for the Clearinghouse

Help us feed local families, together, we can put food on the table.

The Scott County Partnership is collecting food for the Clearinghouse at the next CEASE meeting. Those who can not make it to the meeting, but want to contribute, the drop-off location is at 1057 W. Community Way in Scottsburg. Hours are: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Monday; 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday; and 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 4 to 6 p.m. on Thursday.

Donate to the Scott County Partnership for the Clearinghouse.

Drop-off non-perishable food items at the Clearinghouse and volunteer time at the Clearinghouse.

The most needed food items include: canned vegetables, canned fruit, instant potatoes, gravy and seasoning packets, salt and pepper, sugar, boxed stuffing, powdered milk, rice, mac and cheese, beans and soup; rice pasta and cereal; shelf-stable milk and baby formula; peanut butter and canned protein; and cooking oil and spices; instant oats, Jiffy Mixes (biscuit and corn), dish soap, laundry soap, shampoo and toilet paper.

Breakfast with Santa Dec. 13 at S'burg Mid-America Science Park Banquet Hall

The City of Scottsburg will be hosting Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 13, from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Scottsburg Mid-America Science Park – Banquet Hall.

Enjoy a delicious selection of donuts, muffins, coffee, and milk while spending time with Santa Claus!

Kids will have the chance to write their letters to Santa, plus enjoy a craft corner with fun holiday activities.

Don't forget your camera — it's the perfect time to snap some festive photos and make memories that will last all season long!

This event is free and open to all, so bring your family, your holiday spirit, and your wish lists!

Scott County Retired Teachers Quarterly Luncheon Dec. 11

The Scott County Retired Teachers will be hosting it's quarterly luncheon on Thursday, Dec. 11, at 11:30 a.m. in the Basement of the Scottsburg United Methodist Church.

The Scottsburg High School Choir will be their entertainment. They would love to see everyone. Those planning on attending, please let one of us know by calling, texting or messaging, so that we will have a head count for the kitchen ladies! Wishing all a blessed Christmas season: Kathy Anderkin, Carol Reed and Julie Petty.

Compassionate Friends to Host Candlelight Memorial Program Dec. 14

The Compassionate Friends will host its annual Candlelight Memorial Program on Sunday, December 14, at 6:30 p.m., at Vienna Baptist Church.

Please bring a framed photo of your child who has passed, and we will provide the candle. It's part of a national tribute to our children who are gone too soon.

For more information contact Danise at 812.820.8331.

Christmas with the Community Dec. 13 at Calvary Temple Church in Austin

Christmas with the Community will be held on Saturday, December 13, from 3 to 5 p.m., sponsored by Calvary Temple Church.

The church is located at 214 South Dowling Drive, two blocks west of Interstate 65 in Austin.

Join them at the church for Christmas with the Community. Santa and Mrs. Claus are excited to see everyone.

Scott County Heritage Center and Museum Silent Auction, Open House Dec. 14

The Scott County Heritage Center & Museum will be having a silent auction.

The Museum will auction off several baskets filled with all sorts of goodies, with bidding going on now and continuing until the open house on Sunday, December 14.

The open house will be from 2 – 4 p.m., and there will be Christmas Music and refreshments.

Bell Ringers are Needed for December in Scott County

The Scott County Community Clearinghouse is seeking volunteer Bell Ringers this December.

The annual collection of money will take place at Scottsburg Walmart, now through 22 through December 24. Schedules include two hour shifts from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Register at scpartnership.org and click on "Ring the Bell" or call the Clearinghouse at 812-752-0123, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Or email Beth Trabue at beth.trabue@scottcountypartnership.org.

Bell ringing is a great activity for: individuals, couples, families, employee groups, churches, civic groups, scouts, school groups, teams, clubs, friends and anyone.

Did you know that all money donated through local Bell ringing stays in Scott County to help our community.

Remembrance Service set for Dec. 14

Grayson Funeral Home invites everyone and their family to join for the annual Holiday Remembrance Service in honor of loved ones no longer here. This will be on Sunday, December 14 at 1:30 p.m.

Gingerbread Jamboree performing at the Scott County Library

Scott County Public Library is excited to welcome back River City Puppets to perform Gingerbread Jamboree, on Tuesday, December 16, from 4 to 5:30 p.m., at the Main Library in Scottsburg. In addition to the free, family-friendly performance, SCPL will be providing:

- Make & Take Craft kits
 - Snack Bags
 - Surprise book giveaway!
- Space is limited. Registration is required.

Call the Main Library at 812-752-2751 to reserve your spot today! Please visit our website, www.scott.lib.in.us or sign up for our mailed newsletter for more information.

Scott County Food Resources and Locations, Dates & Times

*** Scott County Community Clearinghouse**, 1057 Community Way, Scottsburg

Monday & Wednesday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Thursday 9 a.m. to 12 noon & 4-6 p.m.

Closed Tuesday and Friday.

*** Hope's Kitchen**, 485 Mann Ave., Austin. Meal, Food and Clothes Giveaway.

Sunday 2-4 p.m.
Tuesday 6-8 p.m.

*** The Rock Mobile Pantry**, 750 S. Gardner, Scottsburg

1st Thursday of each month

10 a.m.

*** Food 4 our Souls**, 1054 Clay Street, Austin.

Hot Meal, Food giveaway, clothes

Thursdays 4-6 p.m.

*** Soup for Souls**, 950 S. Main

Hot Meal

Mondays 5-8 p.m.

*** Turning Point Church**, 899 McClain Ave, Scottsburg

1st and 3rd Monday Food Giveaway 10am

Wednesdays 5:30-6 meal / Showers

*** Dare to Care**, 7059 St Road 362 Nabb

3rd Saturday of the Month

8 a.m. - 12 noon

*** Holding Space Recovery Project**, 825 N Highway 31 Austin

8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday

(SOS) Meets at New Frankfort

Survivors of Suicide Loss (SOS) Suicide Bereavment Support Group meets the third Monday of the Month from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Come and share experiences with open discussion, faith friendly environment, emotional support and certified facilitators. The program will be held at New Frankfort Pentecostal Church fellowship hall, located at 3321 E. Highway 256, Austin.

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OBITUARIES

The Honorable **James Dale “Jim” Kleopfer, Jr., 83**, passed away at Norton Hospital in Louisville, Kentucky on November 30, 2025, after a brief illness. He was born on October 16, 1942, at the McClain Clinic in Scottsburg, Indiana. He was the son of James Dale and Earlene Milles Kleopfer. He was raised in Lexington, Indiana and graduated from Lexington High School in 1960. He studied at Indiana University and the University of Louisville where he was granted a Juris Doctor degree in 1968. Jim practiced law in Henryville, Indiana and was elected judge for the Scott County Circuit Court in 1980. He served four terms in that capacity from 1981 to 2004. Jim loved gardening and was instrumental in maintaining the beauty of the Lexington Cemetery where he will be buried. He was a longtime member of the Lexington Presbyterian Church and the Lexington Historical Society.

Jim is preceded in death by his parents and grandparents, Elmer and Ethel Craigmyle Kleopfer and Earl and Muriel Hall Milles. He is survived by two brothers, Robert of Sun City, Arizona and Gary of Tucson, Arizona; three nieces, Robin Grant, Jennifer Wiley, and Angela Rupp; seven grandnephews and grandnieces, Nick, Regan, Sydney, and Ty Grant, Jacob and Grace Anne Wiley, and Emma Rupp. The family would like to recognize the assistance and support provided to Jim by Troy and Lilia Ponder, and Chaffee Miles.

Graveside services were conducted Sunday, December 7, 2025, by Pastor Aaron Flucke at the Lexington Cemetery, Lexington, Indiana. Interment will follow in the Lexington Cemetery in Lexington.

Friends visited Sunday, December 7, 2025, from 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison, Indiana.

Memorial contributions may be

made to Lexington Cemetery. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison and Hanover.

Online condolences, remembrances and memorials can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

Thomas "Tom" Gardner, 73, of Scottsburg, Indiana, peacefully passed away at his home on December 2, 2025. He was born on December 20, 1951, to the late Rev. Leon Gardner and Mabel Gardner. During his professional life, Tom proudly served 31 years at Cummins Engine in Columbus, Indiana, where he was known for his strong work ethic and leadership as a supervisor. Beyond his career, Tom found joy in the simple pleasures of life. He was a dedicated member of the United Methodist Church in Crothersville, Indiana, and cherished moments spent fishing, cheering on his favorite NASCAR drivers, and passionately supporting his beloved Indiana University sports teams.

Tom was preceded in death by his father, Rev. Leon Gardner; his mother, Mabel Gardner; two brothers, Leon Gardner Jr. and Richard Lee Gardner; sister, Cynthia Lee Gardner; a son, Kevin W. Gardner.

He will be deeply missed by his loving wife of fifty years, Lou Gardner, as well as his daughters, Michelle Swink and Bernice Wilson, and his sister, Sharon Buckles; along with three grandchildren, Alex, Hannah(Tyler), and Bryton; and five great grandchildren.

On December 6, 2025, family and friends gathered to celebrate Tom's life. A public viewing was held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Collins Funeral Home, followed by a funeral service at 1 p.m.. Following the service, Tom will be laid to rest at Collins Family Cemetery in Deputy, Indiana. Please share their memories and condolences at www.collinsfuneralhome.net.



James Dale “Jim” Kleopfer, Jr. passed away at Norton Hospital in Louisville, Kentucky on November 30, 2025, after a brief illness.

He was born on October 16, 1942, at the McClain Clinic in Scottsburg, Indiana. He was the son of James Dale and Earlene Milles Kleopfer. He was raised in Lexington, Indiana and graduated from Lexington High School in 1960.

He studied at Indiana University and the University of Louisville where he was granted a Juris Doctor degree in 1968. Jim practiced law in Henryville, Indiana and was elected judge for the Scott County Circuit Court in 1980. He served four terms in that capacity from 1981 to 2004.

Jim loved gardening and was instrumental in maintaining the beauty of the Lexington Cemetery where he will be buried. He was a longtime member of the Lexington Presbyterian Church and the Lexington Historical Society. Jim is preceded in death by his parents and grandparents, Elmer and Ethel Craigmyle Kleopfer and Earl and Muriel Hall Milles.

He is survived by two brothers, Robert of Sun City, Arizona and Gary of Tucson, Arizona; three nieces, Robin Grant, Jennifer Wiley, and Angela Rupp; seven grandnephews and grandnieces, Nick, Regan, Sydney, and Ty Grant, Jacob and Grace Anne Wiley, and Emma Rupp.

The family would like to recognize the assistance and support provided to Jim by Troy and Lilia Ponder, and Chaffee Miles.

Graveside services were conducted Sunday, December 7 by Pastor Aaron Flucke at the Lexington Cemetery, Lexington, Indiana. Interment followed in the Lexington Cemetery in Lexington, Indiana. Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison, Indiana was entrusted with funeral arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to Lexington Cemetery. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison and Hanover. Online condolences, remembrances and memorials can be left at www.morgan-nay.com

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SCSD2 sees strong growth, invites public to join Wellness Committee

Scott County School District 2 (SCSD2) leaders highlighted student enrollment growth, significant financial recovery, and upcoming personnel adjustments during their most recent school board meeting.

The district announced that it is actively seeking community members to participate in the SCSD2 Wellness Committee. Anyone interested in serving is encouraged to contact Mrs. Karen Anderson, Director of Student Health Services. Her office is located at Scottsburg High School, and she can be reached at 812-752-8927. Mrs. Anderson will provide additional details about the committee’s purpose and expectations.

Student enrollment as of the current reporting shows continued growth across the district:

- K–12 Enrollment: 2,471 students — up by 9 students from the official count day total of 2,462
- Pre-K Enrollment: 84 students
- Virtual/Warrior Academy: 60 students included in total enrollment

Superintendent Dr. Kyle Neukam praised the upward trend as a sign of community confidence and improving district climate.

A financial update showcased the most dramatic turnaround the district

has seen in years. On November 12, 2024, the corporation account held \$83,813.29 — a financial low point for the district.

One year later, on November 12, 2025, that same account reported a balance of \$4,740,581.56.

Neukam thanked employees, administrators, and the school board for their diligence in implementing better practices and rebuilding the financial footing of the corporation.

“We’ve had an immense year of growth and correction,” Neukam noted. “Every employee in Scott 2 has played a major part in overcoming what once felt like a mountain of an obstacle.”

Special recognition was given to the business office and central office staff for their efforts to implement new efficiencies and restore financial stability.

A modification to the agenda removed a previous contract item involving William Snowden and instead added his continued employment in a part-time social worker position from January through May. Board members welcomed his continued service, noting the required social-worker role as part of student IEP compliance.

The board also approved action regarding surplus property disposal, allowing the administration to reduce storage and clear outdated items following evaluation by building leaders.

The board discussed the HR Solutions proposal from JA Benefits — a one-year contract designed to strengthen business office processes, training, and efficiency.

Board members expressed support, viewing the service as a way to help prevent future financial setbacks.

Pay rates for athletic event workers — including ticket takers, announcers, and clock operators — were reviewed and formally recognized for public transparency.

Beginning January 14, school board meetings will move to a consistent schedule on the second Wednesday of each month, with executive session at 5 p.m. followed by the public meeting at 6 p.m.

Before adjournment, board members recognized the Scottsburg High School football program for its perseverance and sportsmanship during the recent season, noting positive feedback about the student-athletes and staff.

We Care Wrap-Up Auction set for Friday, Dec. 12 at the VFW

The We Care 2025 Live auction was held on Friday and Saturday, December 5 and 6. Appreciation has been extended with heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers who dedicated countless hours to making this year’s auction such a tremendous success. Your effort and commitment are deeply appreciated.

Sincere gratitude also goes out to everyone who donated items for the auction, helping to make this event possible and memorable. Appreciation also goes to the entire community for their unwavering love and support.

Together a meaningful difference has been made.

The Wrap-Up Auction for We Care 2025 will take place on Friday, December 12, beginning at 6 p.m. at the VFW, located at 2168 U.S. 31 in Austin. In addition to the auction, food will be available for purchase.

All proceeds raised will go directly to We Care to help provide warm winter clothing for the children of Scott County. Your continued participation and generosity ensure that the children stay warm and cared for this winter.

Whether someone was volunteer, a person to donate, purchased auction items, your support means the world to We Care 2025 and the children of Scott County.

The organizers look forward to

seeing everyone at the Wrap-Up Auction and making this season warmer and brighter for those in need.

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The Scott County Herald Sports

by Aaron Stainbrook - Sports Reporter
aaronstainbrook.theherald@gmail.com

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IHSAA Boys/Girls Basketball

The Following list is the IHSAA boys basketball coaches and records for the Clark and Scott County teams (as of Monday, December 1)

Austin – Brent Jameson, 12-15 in his second year at the school and is 53-72 overall.
Borden – Kevin Jones, 2-0 in his first year and is 60-61 overall.
Charlestown – Matt Lynch,, 50-44 in fifth year at school and is 119-95 overall.
CAI – Steve Kerberg 138-80 in 10th year at the school. (did not coach from 2020-2025)
Clarksville – Calvin McEwan, 0-1 in first year at school.
Crothersville – Bryant Layman, 27-70 in fifth year at school.
Henryville – Jared Hill, 131-130 in 12th year at school.
Madison – Danny Gibson, 9-16 in second year at school.
New Washington – Logan Miles, 4-21 in second year at school.
Providence – Ryan Miller, 105-36 in seventh year at school.
RCA – Chris Brown, 401-326 in 30th year at school.
Scottsburg – Eric Richardson, – 76-54 in sixth year in school.
Southwestern – Zac Nussbaum, – 103-30 in seventh year at school.
The Following list is the IHSAA girls basketball coaches and records for the Clark and Scott County teams (as of Monday, December 1)
Austin – Jared Hill, 301-199 in twenty-first year at school.
Borden – Matt Vick, 112-85 in ninth year at school.
Charlestown – Scott Matthews, 113-82 in tenth year at school.
CAI – Carson Casey , 51-92 in seventh year at school.
Clarksville – Amanda Carmichael, 30-94 in sixth year at school.
Crothersville – Curtis White, 8-41 in third year at school.
Henryville – Tuesday, Guernsey, 61-80 in seventh year at school.
Madison – Adam Dennis, 44-31 in fourth year at school.
New Washington – Kristi Hol-loway, 97-139 in eleventh year at school.
Providence – Stacy Pendleton, 11-17 in second year at school.
RCA – Keven White – 17-59 in fourth year at school.
Scottsburg – Carrie Daniels, 70-59 in sixth year at school.
Southwestern – Brian Crank, 48-

58 in fifth year at school.

Boys Rankings:

The following rankings are the Scott and Clark County boys basketball teams. (keep in mind this is just my opinion.) (Records are according to John Harrell and are based on games played up until December 4.)

1. Silver Creek 2-0
2. Scottsburg 1-0
3. Charlestown 1-1
4. Henryville 1-0
5. Southwestern 1-0
6. Borden 2-0
7. Austin 1-1
8. Providene 0-0
9. CAI 1-1
10. Madison 0-1
11. Crothersville 1-2
12. RCA 1-1
13. New Washington 1-1

Girls Rankings:

The following rankings are the Scott and Clark County girls basketball teams. (keep in mind this is just my opinion.) (Records are according to John Harrell and are based on games played up until December 4.)

1. Silver Creek 5-1
2. Charlestown 4-1
3. Borden 6-1
4. Madison 6-0
5. Austin 5-2
6. Southwestern 4-3
7. Henryville 3-4
8. Providence 2-2
9. Scottsburg 0-7
10. CAI 2-4
11. Clarksville 3-5
12. New Washington 3-2
13. RCA 1-5

NFL

Week 13 Scores:

Packers 31, Lions 24
Chiefs 28, Cowboys 31
Bengals 32, Ravens 14
Bears 24, Eagles 15
Falcons 24, Jets 27
49ers 26, Browns 8
Rams 28, panthers 31
Texans 20, Colts 16
Cardinals 17, Buccaneers 20
Saints 17, Dolphins 21
Jaguars 25, Titans 3
Vikings 0, Seahawks 26
Bills 26, Steelers 7
Raiders 14, Chargers 31
Broncos 27, Commanders 26
Giants Patriots

Week 15 Schedule:

Thursday, December 11:
Eagles vs Chargers – 8:15 p.m.
Sunday, December 14:

Jets vs Jaguars – 1 p.m.
Bills vs Patriots – 1 p.m.
Browns vs Bears – 1 p.m.
Ravens vs Bengals – 1 p.m.
Cardinlas vs Texans – 1 p.m.
Commanders vs Giants – 1 p.m.
Chargers vs Chiefs – 1 p.m.
Raiders vs Eagles – 1 p.m.
Titans vs 49ers – 4:25 p.m.
Lions vs rams – 4:25 p.m.
Packers vs Broncos – 4:25 p.m.
Colts vs Seahawks – 4:25 p.m.
Panthers vs Saints – 4:25 p.m
Vikings vs Cowboys – 8:20 p.m.
Monday, December 15
Dolphins vs Seahawks – 8:15 p.m.

NCAA Basketball

Game Schedule:
Wednesday, December 10:
Purdue vs Minnesota – 7 p.m.
Saturday, December 16:
Louisville vs Memphis – 3:30 p.m.
Kentucky vs Indiana – 7:30 p.m.
Arizona vs Alabama – 9:30 p.m.
Tuesday, December 16:
Louisville vs Tennessee – 7p.m.
Top 25 and records (as of Thursday, December 4)

1. Purdue 7-0
2. Arizona 7-0
3. Michigan 7-0
4. Duke 8-0
5. Uconn 6-1
6. Louisville 7-1
7. MSU 8-0
8. Houston 7-1
9. BYU 7-1
10. Iowa State 8-0
11. Gonzaga 7-1
12. Alabama 6-2
13. Tennessee 7-2
14. Illinois 6-2
15. Florida 5-3
16. UNC 7-1
17. Vanderbilt 9-0
18. Kentucky 5-3
19. Texas Tech 6-2
20. Auburn 7-2
21. Kansas 6-3
22. Indiana 7-1
23. St. Johns 4-3
24. USC 8-0
25. Arkansas 6-2

Class All Sports

I recently received a letter from Austin High School Coach Andy Watts. Watts has been a cross-country and track coach for 50 years and would like to see the sports become a classed sport. The state of Indiana is the only state where track and cross country are not divided into classes. All other sports have classes and a point system. In other words, if you keep winning, then you get moved up, which can be a curse and a blessing. Watts is simply asking that parents call the IHSAA and ask them to make cross country and track, like the other sports, and divide them into classes. Recently, we saw Barr Reeve finish 24th out of 25 at state, competing as a 1A school against 4A schools for a state championship. However, if there were classes, Barr Reeve would be celebrating as 1A State Cross Country Champions. Without classes, small schools cannot prove they belong. If you support this change, please contact the IHSAA.

Austin Lady Eagles

Fall to Lady Pirates

The Austin Lady Eagles traveled to Charlestown on Wednesday, December 3, for a little MSC girls basketball contest. The Lady Eagles trailed the game 10-15 after the first quarter and 19-22 at halftime. The Lady Pirates pulled away in the third quarter, leading the Lady Eagles 41-26, and went on to win 58-31.

Crothersville Tigers Dominate Mustangs

The Crothersville Tigers hosted conference foe New Washington on Tuesday, December 2. The game would be good for a quarter and a half, but the Tigers would quickly

pull away in the middle of the second quarter. The Tigers would go on to win the game 73-58.

Scottsburg Warriorettes Fall to 0-7

The Scottsburg are still searching for their first win of the season, as this time they fell to the Lady Braves of Brownstown Central. Brownstown came to town on Friday, November 28, and walked out with a demanding victory. The Warriorettes have struggled to score all season, averaging only 30 points per game. The Warriorettes lost the game 24-52.

Henryville Hornets Making Noise

I was honored to sit in on a Henryville boys' basketball practice, and let me tell you, they look good. Coach Jared Hill is excited to see what his squad can do this season, as they look to make noise in March. The Hornets have a solid junior class, and I expect them to be the team to beat in their respective class. I did not know what to expect to start the season, as I had them ranked to finish almost dead last in this year's rankings, but I am happily mistaken. So, if you want to watch a basketball team play the game the right way, then go watch the Henryville Hornets.

New Washington

The New Washington Mustangs boys basketball team traveled to Crothersville for a SAC matchup on Tuesday, December 2. The Mustangs were unable to slow down the Tigers, who ran away with the game in the second quarter, falling 73-58.

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A Journey of a Lifetime:

The Good News Series:

Volume 2, No. 41

by Marcus Amos - Amos Publishing, LLC

Wekcome to this week's The Good News - A Journey of a Lifetime Volume 2, No. 42. This week as we prepare for Christmas Eve and Day. We are going to learn exactly what we should be doing this time of the year, as we go through all the traditions and things we do to prepare for what is going to happen during the upcoming holiday. We are going to learn the main purpose is to be prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ, in remembrance of the birth of Jesus. But we should also remember to prepare ourselves for the second coming of Christ as well. We will look in the book of Matthew in the New Testament for today's lesson.

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

Scripture Matthew 3:1-12:

3:1 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea

2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

3 This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A

voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"

4 John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey.

5 People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan.

6 Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?"

8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.

9 And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.

10 The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

11 "I baptize you with [b] water for repentance. But after me comes

one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with [c] the Holy Spirit and fire.

12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

Today we're going to talk about what it means to be ready.

What does it look like when we're ready? Being ready means that we are patient, we wait, and we watch.

Are you ready for Christmas?

You will hear that question many times over the next several weeks.

Is your Christmas tree is up and your house is decorated?

Have you finished your Christmas shopping?

There's another question that we should be asking ourselves today. It's more important than "Are you ready for Christmas?" The more important question is "Are you ready for the Christ of Christmas?"

Many years ago, a man named John the Baptist preached about what it means to be ready for Jesus.

John the Baptist was a different kind of man. He wore clothes made of camel's hair with a belt around his waist. His diet was rather unusual as well. He ate a diet of locusts and wild honey. Do you know what a locust is? Many

of us today might call it a grasshopper. I'm not sure I would want to eat grasshoppers and honey. How about you?

John the Baptist traveled throughout the wilderness of Judea. His message to the people was to get ready for Jesus. John would shout loudly, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

Are you ready for Jesus? Many people were ready for Jesus. So they came to John the Baptist. They confessed their sins to God and were baptized by John in the Jordan River.

After John baptized the people, he told them, "I baptize you with water for repentance. But there is one coming who is more powerful than I. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Are you ready for Jesus this Christmas? (Give a few kids who are ready a piece of candy and affirm the way they're ready.)

During this special season of the year as we get ready for Christmas, you and I need to make sure we're ready for the coming of the

Christ of Christmas. We need to look into our hearts and ask God to make us clean so we can walk with Jesus each day of our life. Let's ask him to do that now.

Prayer: Dear God, we want to be ready for the Christ of Christmas. Prepare our hearts for his coming. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

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LEGAL NOTICE

The following abandoned mobile home will be auctioned at 1231 Birch Tree Lane, Scottsburg, IN 47170 on Friday, January 9, 2026 at 10:00 A.M. ET. White, 1999 Fleetwood, 14x60 mobile home, (VIN #TNFLW26A82203ST13) located at 1414 Cyprus Lane, Scottsburg, IN 47170. Any questions call 812-477-3655.

LEGAL NOTICE

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE MATTER OF THE STUCKER FORK CONSERVANCY DISTRICT JOHN L. SOMMERVILLE JAMES T ST CLAIR HUBERT CRAIG ET AL EX PARTE

IN THE MATTER OF THE STUCKER FORK CONSERVANCY DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE DISTRICT AND CANCELLATION OF ELECTION OF ONE MEMBER

OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF SAID DISTRICT TO REPRESENT

AREA ONE (1) SINCE SOLE

NOMINEE IS UNOPPOSED.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS,

STUCKER FORK CONSERVANCY

DISTRICT, OF SCOTT AND

JEFFERSON COUNTIES, INDIANA,

HEREBY GIVES NOTICE THAT

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF SAID

DISTRICT SHALL BE HELD AT 4:00

P.M. EST, MONDAY, DECEMBER

15, 2025, AT THE OFFICE OF SAID

DISTRICT AT 2260 N US 31, AUSTIN,

INDIANA.

ADDITIONALLY ONE OF THE

PURPOSES OF SAID MEETING TO

BE HELD AS SET OUT ABOVE AND

Deputies locate wanted sex offender camping near I-65; two arrested



Late on Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, Nov. 27, the Scott County deputies received a tip that a man wanted on a warrant for failure to register as a sex offender out of Madison County, Indiana, was hiding in a tent near Austin, close to Interstate 65. The suspect had reportedly been actively avoiding law enforcement to evade arrest.

Deputies learned the man, identified as Adrien L. Runyan, 44, was allegedly driving a white Mercedes-Benz and living in a makeshift campsite. A search of the area led officers to the vehicle, a shortly afterward, to a nearby tent.

Inside the tent, deputies located Runyan along with Melissa M. Dixon, 56, of Austin. According to the sheriff's officer, Dixon initially failed to cooperate with investigators, and Runyan attempted to provide officers with a false identity. Deputies were able to positively identify him at the scene, and he was taken into custody without further incident. Controlled substances and drug paraphernalia were also discovered during the investigation.

Runyan faces numerous preliminary charges, including: perjury; identity deception; fraud; resisting law enforcement; identity theft; false informing; unlawful possession of a syringe; possession of cocaine or schedule I or II narcotic drug; possession of paraphernalia; maintaining a common nuisance; failure to register as a sex offender.

Dixon was also arrested and faces a preliminary charge of visiting a common nuisance. The investigation remains ongoing.



Norton Scott Hospital unveils commemorative painting honoring 25 years of Women's Health Night

A heartfelt conversation between a nurse and her patient has blossomed into a lasting tribute to community care, as Norton Scott Hospital celebrates its 25th annual Women's Health Night with the unveiling of a stunning original painting.

The artwork, created and donated by local artist Robert Hall, was inspired by a connection he formed with Teresa Smith, a cardiac rehabilitation nurse at Norton Scott. During their sessions, Hall shared how art has been his lifelong passion and emotional outlet for more than 50 years. Moved by the hospital's mission and the spirit of the women's health event, Hall translated his vision into a vivid depiction of nature's quiet beauty, each brushstroke reflecting the compassion and dedication of the Norton Scott team. "This portrait captures our very essence," said Kathleen S. Exline, DNP, R.N., chief administrative officer, Norton Scott Hospital. "It's a visual representation of the warmth, care and commitment that define our team and this community." Women's Health Night has become a cornerstone event in Scott and surrounding counties, offering a fun and educational evening focused on healthy living and access to vital resources. Co-founder Hope White echoed Exline's sentiment, emphasizing the hospital's unique role:

"Though we are one of the smallest and most rural hospitals in the Norton Healthcare system, we offer the same high-quality care with a personal touch that makes everyone feel like family," she said.

The painting will be permanently displayed at Norton Scott Hospital, serving as a symbol of the hospital's 25-year legacy of service and its continued commitment to community outreach and wellness.

A plaque will honor Hall, who also is a beekeeper and tattoo artist operating the oldest tattoo shop in Southern Indiana. Hall credits God and his family as his greatest inspirations and shares his artwork through various social media platforms. His contact information is available through Norton Scott Hospital.

Norton Scott Hospital, a 25-bed critical access hospital located in Scottsburg, Indiana, has been providing care to Scott County and its neighboring communities since 1959. Fully accredited by DNV, Norton Scott Hospital has a 24-hour physician-staffed emergency department and provides inpatient and outpatient services, including cardiac rehabilitation, dietary services, endoscopy, general surgical services, laboratory services, medical imaging, medical/surgical and telemetry services, nuclear medicine and CT, pharmacy and physical therapy. The hospital also has a swing bed program, which allows patients the opportunity to receive continued care so they can transition safely from hospital to home. Norton Medical Group operates Norton Rural Health Clinic, a Part of Norton Scott Hospital, which provides primary care to patients in rural areas. For more information, visit NortonScottHospital.com.

Scott County Humane Society's Pet of the Week - Klaus

By Sharon Estep
Staff Writer
Amos Publishing, LLC

Meet Klaus, a distinguished gentleman looking for his retirement home. Klaus is a big, handsome, older gentleman with a stunning long gray and white coat — the kind of feline who carries himself with both charm and confidence. He enjoys a quiet lifestyle and is hoping to find a peaceful home where he can happily retire.

A favorite among volunteers at the adoption center, Klaus is known for loving nothing more than attention, lounging, and long petting sessions. He gets along well with other cats but would also be perfectly content as the king of his castle in a one-cat household.

Klaus comes well-prepared for his new life. He has had a dental cleaning, was recently neutered, has been combo tested, and is fully vaccinated. His adoption fee is \$75.

If you believe Klaus might be the perfect match for your family, you can meet him at the Humane Society of Scott County's adoption center located at 1176 North Gardner Street in Scottsburg. Visiting hours are Tuesday through Friday from 5-7 p.m. and Saturday from 1-3 p.m.

To view all adoptable pets, visit hsscottcountyin.com.

Scott County Marriage Licenses

Jacqueline Jo Goodman, 27, Lexington and Cory Nicholas Wade McIntosh, 27, Lexington.
Kaitlyn Couch, 27, Scottsburg and Sean Lynn, 31, Scottsburg.

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