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Vol. 3 Issue 11 Serving Rural Washington County - Salem, Pekin, Campbellsburg December 10, 2025

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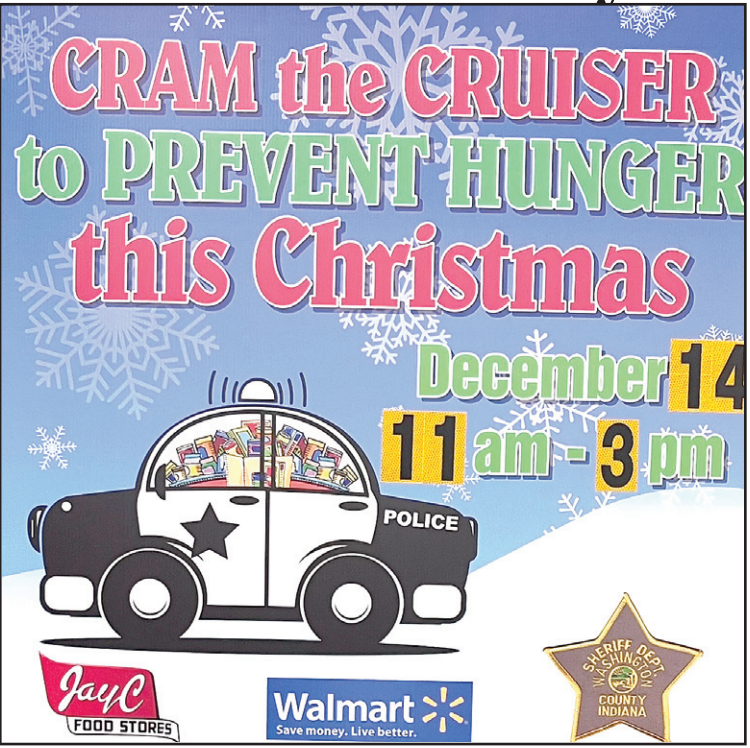
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Cram the Cruiser this Sunday

Annual Shop With a Cop will be Saturday

The Washington County Sheriff's Department and other local law enforcement agencies have a busy weekend planned. On Saturday morning, emergency services workers and many additional volunteers will take part in the annual Shop With a Cop. Then the sheriff's department will once again partner with Walmart and the JayC Store for the 6th Annual Cram the Cruiser Food Drive. The event will take place on December 14, from 11:00 am through 3:00 pm. Deputies will be on hand at Walmart and the JayC Store to receive food items, which will be donated to the Washington County Food Bank. Washington County Sheriff Brent Miller said "Together we can make a difference."



CRAM the CRUISER to PREVENT HUNGER this Christmas
December 14
11 am - 3 pm

JayC FOOD STORES Walmart SHERIFF DEPT WASHINGTON COUNTY INDIANA

He is encouraging everyone to come together and "do what we can to make sure our friends and neighbors don't go hungry during this holiday season!"

Pancakes with Santa Saturday in Pekin

Town of Pekin purchasing cameras for recycling bin

The Pekin park will play host to Pancakes with Santa on Dec. 13 from 8 a.m. until 12 p.m.. That was one of a number of items discussed at the Pekin Town Council's regular meeting that was held on Nov. 18. The Town Council also approved giving the Pierce-Polk Volunteer Fire Department an additional \$1,500 from the contract line item. The contract with the town and the department will be ready to sign at the council's December meeting, which will be Dec. 16 at 6 p.m. Four sewer adjustments, ranging in amounts of \$143.61 being the highest and \$6.05 were also granted by the council. Outside of those items, and the approval of the 2026 salary ordinance, the council just received information from Town Manager Jaden Stone. Stone informed the council that the Asset Management Plan is complete and the town continues to send out ordinance violations. He said the town has patched potholes and also purchased a new cutting edge for the plow. Stone said the sidewalk on School Street has

been patched for now, but he plans to work with the Community Crossing Matching Grant program to see if a more permanent solution can't be found. The town's IDEM (Indiana Department of Environmental Management) inspection has been completed, Stone said and there were no major issues. Stone said credit for that goes to water Superintendent Combs. An area of concern for the town is illegal dumping at the town's recycle bin. He said the town is in the process of purchasing a camera in order to catch the violators. In a more expensive matter, Stone informed the council the town hall roof has been patched for now, but the building will soon need a new roof installed. Another cost increase was a 30 percent rise in the cost of workman's comp insurance, but there was no increase in the town's health insurance. The town's liability insurance did increase five percent, Stone said. Stone said he has been working with an engineer regarding water service with Borden Tri-County Water. The meeting Dec. 16 at 6 p.m. will be held in the meeting room at the Pekin Town Hall.

Pekin man killed in Thanksgiving morning shooting

Thursday, November 27, 2025: Indiana State Police detectives are investigating a shooting that occurred in the early morning hours of Thanksgiving, resulting in the death of 26-year-old Juan Antonio Gutierrez of Pekin. Around 1:30 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. "All subjects are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in court."

Holiday events scheduled in Salem


The following is a list of upcoming holiday events in Salem: Dec. 12 the Polar Express rolls into the Stevens Memorial Museum from 7 until 9 p.m. Dec. 20 is the annual Christmas Parade at 6 p.m. beginning on South Main and going through the Public Square. **SANTA HOUSE HOURS**
Dec. 12 4-7 p.m.; Dec. 13 4-7 p.m.; Dec. 14 1-3 p.m.; Dec. 19 4-7 p.m.; Dec. 20 3-5 p.m.

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SHS JAG class helping out



“If ya need a little take a little and if ya got a little give a little.”

That’s the message at the Blessings Box located at the Salem Community Park ball fields.

Recently Tara Kritzer and Salem High School students in the JAG class filled the Blessings Box.

Kritzer, Salem Mayor Justin Green and students Raelyn Reynolds, Logan Kelly Allyson Layow are pictured here at the park with the Blessings Box.

Anyone who would like to contributed is encouraged to do so.



Lady Musketeers remain unbeaten

The Lady Musketeers picked up their fifth win against no defeats on December 4th when they welcomed in the CAI Lady Warriors.

Both teams matched each other shot for shot in the first four minutes of the fourth quarter with the score tied at seven.

The Lady Musketeers were able to get a little separation with a quick six to nothing run taking less than a minute to prompt a CAI timeout.

The Lady Warriors used their own six to nothing run at the end of the quarter to trim a ten point deficit to just four at 17-13.

The second quarter started out with a false fire alarm which delayed the game for about ten minutes. Once play resumed Katie Hauner heated up attempting to set the fire alarm off again.

The Lady Musketeers blitzed the Lady Warriors 13-4 in the second behind three, three point field goals from Hauner while their defense held the visitors to just four points on one field goal and two free throws to cruise out to a 30-17 lead at the break.

The third quarter was played pretty even with the Lady Musketeers just edging the Lady Warriors 12-11 to increase their lead by a point to fourteen at 42-28.

The fourth quarter got interesting and gave me brief flashbacks of Superbowl 51 when the Atlanta Falcons led by a considerable margin going into the second half and tried taking the air out of the ball to early, just to watch the Patriots score 31 unanswered points to win the game.

The Lady M’s with a fourteen point lead started the quarter out running the four corner offense and trying to milk the time off

the clock. With the Lady M’s not looking to score the Lady Warriors cranked up the defense and forced some turnovers which turned into points. With 2:14 left in the game the Lady M’s had seen their fourteen point lead dwindle to just to just six at 44-38, they had been outscored 10-2.

The Lady M’s were able to right

the ship and get some foul shots and rebound baskets to fend off the visitors and pull out the 52-40 victory.

The Lady M’s were lead in scoring by Sidney Burton with 17 points. Addison Smith chipped in 13, Katie Hauner 11, Avery Smith and Bailey Trainor 4, and Bailee Robbins 3.

Musketeers drop season opener to Borden

The Eastern Musketeers started their boys basketball campaign on the road with a SAC conference game against the Borden Braves.

The Musketeers came into the game as an inexperienced group and learning a new system under new coach Sean Smith. They struggled in the first quarter as the Braves raced out to a 18-8 lead after the first eight minutes.

The second quarter the boys were able to settle down and steady the ship and start whittling away at the deficit.

A Jeffery Fowler three point basket right before half cut the lead to eight at 29-21. The Musketeers continued to cut into the lead as they had cut the lead in half going

into the fourth as they trailed 35-31. With the score tied at 40 it was Trenton Friedmeyer that gave the Musketeers their first lead at 41-40 with a made free throw.

The Braves trailing for the first time picked up the intensity and exposed the Musketeers inexperience late in the fourth. The result was a game ending run that saw the Braves pick up a 53-43 victory. The Musketeers were led by Jeff Fowler with 16 points knocking down four three pointers. Brody Temple chipped in 11 points, 4 rebounds, 3 assists, 2 steals and 2 blocks. Gavin Hurst came up big with 6 points on two big three point field goals during their second half run.

Starrett Leads Lady M’s past Lady Hornets

On Wednesday November 26 the Eastern Lady Musketeers traveled to Henryville for a conference match-up with the Lady Hornets.

The Lady Musketeers wasted no time in putting the pressure on the Lady Hornets as they raced out to a 16-6 lead in the first quarter and never looked back from there.

They would stretch that lead to 34-12 at the break. The Lady M’s would shoot forty percent from the field en route to a 64-38 victory. Senior Eliza Starrett had a big game recording a double double, with 14 points and 11 rebounds. Fellow senior Sidney Burton chipped in 16 points with 6 boards, as the Lady Hornets

struggle to stop the Musketeers from scoring around the rim.

With the victory the Lady Musketeers pushed their record to 4-0.

Old Blue River Cemetery Meeting Dec. 13

The Old Blue River Cemetery Association has its annual meeting on Saturday, December 13, at 5 p.m. at the home of Gary Smith, located at 314. E Rudder Road in Salem.

Those who have a connection to the cemetery are invited to attend.

Merry Christmas

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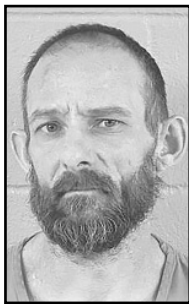
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Washington County Arrests



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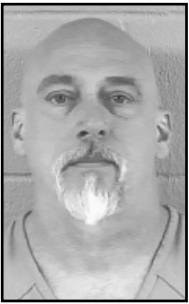
Hartsock



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Helping Hands donates to Shop With a Cop

Washington County Sheriff Brent Miller met with Angie Wilson and Lori Gilstrap to accept a donation for Shop With A Cop. Wilson and Gilstrap made the donation on behalf of the Washington County Helping Hands Inc. Thank you Washington County Helping Hands Inc for your donation.

Shop With A Cop will be held this Saturday, December 13. Donations can be dropped

off at the Salem City Police Department or the Washington County Sheriff's Department. Or you can call either department and a police officer or a deputy will come to you and pick up your donation.

Making Christmas a little brighter for the children of Washington County.

Pictured is Sheriff Miller, Angie Wilson and Lori Gilstrap.

2025.

Phillip J. Hawkins, 22, Pekin. reckless homicide, criminal recklessness while armed with a deadly weapon, Nov. 27, 2025.

Criminal

Caleb T. Plessinger, possession methamphetamine-less than 5 grams, operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, possession of marijuana, operating a vehicle with a schedule I or II controlled substance or its metabolite in blood, operating a vehicle while intoxicated, possession of paraphernalia-introducing a controlled substance into body.

Angel D. Martinez Lopez, invasion of privacy-violates protective order under IC 34-26-5 to prevent dominance.

Marcus Milan Miller, child molesting-fondling or touching with child under 14.

Angelina E. Miller, operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, operating a vehicle with a schedule I or II controlled substance or its

metabolite in blood, operating a vehicle while intoxicated.

Frank L. Horine, auto theft-theft of entire motor vehicle, theft-defendant has a prior conviction for either theft or conversion, criminal mischief damage is between \$750 and \$50000.

Benjamin T. White, possession of methamphetamine-less than 5 grams, possession of paraphernalia-introducing a controlled substance into body.

Tracy Canaday, dealing in methamphetamine-between 5 and 10 grams enhancing circumstances, possession of methamphetamine-between 5 and 10 grams, possession of paraphernalia-introducing a controlled substance into body.

Heather N. Meredith, theft-use when property stolen is a firearm, unauthorized entry of a motor vehicle, possession of paraphernalia-introducing a controlled substance into body.

Allison C. Dawson, domestic

battery.

Timothy S. Watling, domestic battery.

Bryce D. Miller, driving while suspended: knowing violation and prior conviction within 10 years, operating motor vehicle without financial responsibility: prior.

Kevin E. Warren, operating a vehicle while intoxicated: endangering a person prior within 7 years, operating a vehicle with an ACE of .15 or more but where defendant has a prior conviction, operating a vehicle while intoxicated: prior conviction within 7 years.

Michael A. Bary, burglary of a dwelling, theft: defendant has a prior conviction for robbery or burglary, possession of methamphetamine, possession of paraphernalia: introducing a controlled substance into body.

Angela M. Jones, burglary of a dwelling, theft, possession of methamphetamine: less than 5 grams.

Washington County's Public Record

Arrests

The following arrests were recently made by local law enforcement agencies. Those listed, in most cases, are just facing charges. They are to be considered innocent of those charges unless, and until proven guilty in a court of law.

Washington County Sheriff's Department

Edward Akers, 45, Indianapolis, petition to revoke, Dec. 3, 2025.

Cody P. Bloomfield, 37, Pekin, out of county charges only, Dec. 2025.

Joshua A. Hartsock, 35, Salem, serve time, Dec. 1, 2025.

Terrance B. Kaelin, 49, Floyd's Knobs, serve time, Dec. 1, 2025.

Tommy S. Blanton, 72, Summitville, Ind., operating a vehicle while intoxicated, operating while intoxicated per se, Nov. 26, 2025.

Todd M. Schmidt, 54, Borden, operating a vehicle with an alcohol concentration equivalent to at least .08 gram of alcohol but less than .15 gram of alcohol, operating while intoxicated per se, Nov. 28, 2025.

Salem Police Department

Abigayle R. Nicholson, 32, Salem, domestic battery, Nov. 28, 2025.

Indiana State Police

Adam J. Abell, 24, Salem, domestic battery committed in physical presence of a child less than 16, intimidation, Nov. 30,

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Our Dad, Ronald C Haendiges Sr, has gone to be his Lord at the age of 82. Although Dad was unresponsive during his final days, on the afternoon of December 3, 2025 he was awakened to the surpassing glory of his Savior Jesus Christ.

Here's a short summary of Dad's life and a brief tribute to him. Ron Haendiges Sr was born to George and Hazel Haendiges on September 22, 1943 in Louisville, Kentucky. Dad met his future bride, Mary Ann Haendiges, as a teenager and married Mom soon thereafter. Mom passed away in 2013 preceding Dad in death. Ron and Mary Ann share two children, a son Ron (Pam) Haendiges Jr and a daughter Micki (Terri) Haendiges. Ron Sr. also has 4 grandchildren: Trey (Mallery), Xavier (Maeve), Greg and Shelly Haendiges. Ron also has great grandchildren: Mabry, Hagan, and Maelie. Ron also had two siblings, George Haendiges Jr. (deceased) and Debbie Haendiges. Dad had a long-time best friend and companion, Bonnie McKinney, whom he adored. He also leaves behind many nieces and nephews and three sister in laws. He prayed consistently and fervently for all of his family and friends.

Dad made the best decision of his life, as a young adult, to follow Jesus. This decision alone influenced many (family, associations, clients) as he became a passionate defender of the unborn and committed follower of Lord Jesus. He was unafraid to share his beliefs and to speak his mind, often to the delight of many but occasionally to the chagrin of a few. He was loving, yet undeterred, as he believed in the absolute truth of God's Word.

During the final chapter of his life he just wanted to be with the Lord, and we his family members are grateful that God has mercifully granted that earnest desire. We grieve our temporary earthly separation from Dad but rejoice that he is safely with his glorious Savior and has already been clothed with Christ's perfect righteousness and has begun to experience eternal life in Heaven. Dad accomplished what God's Word tells us in 2 Timothy 4:7-8 "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing."

Per Dad's wishes, he will be cremated and no post services are currently scheduled. If you would like to express condolences, or have questions, please either call or text Ron at 812-521-9254 or Micki at 765-438-3844. We thank you so much for those who knew him and loved him. Our family appreciates every prayer during Dad's final months particularly as each day became a physical struggle as he longed to be with his Savior and his wife. Ron Sr. will greatly be missed, but we

anticipate our Heavenly reunion because of our shared belief in Jesus Christ.

Hughes-Taylor Funeral Hume handled the arrangements.

CHARLES "BRIAN" CARTER, AGE 58 of Salem passed away on Wednesday, December 3, 2025 at Meadowview.

Mr. Carter was born March 8, 1967 in Salem, the son of Charles Gene Carter and Annita Smith Carter.

Mr. Carter is survived by his mother, Annita Carter, his brother, Bradley Carter of Salem, his sister, Tina Carter of Salem, his nephew, Josh Carter of Salem, his niece Justina Bierly of salem and 6 great nieces and nephews.

Mr. Carter is preceded in death by his father.

Services were Tuesday, December 9 at Weathers Funeral Home. Burial followed after the funeral at Crown Hill Cemetery.

MR. JOE LUTHER BARNARD, AGE 89 of Salem, passed away December 2, 2025 at St. Vincent Salem Hospital.

Mr. Barnard was born September 8, 1936 in Broughtontown, Kentucky to Felix and Isabelle Estep Barnard. He attended Westview Christian Church and retired from Child Craft Furniture after 41 years.

On June 29, 1957, Mr. Barnard married Donna Mae Greenwood. They were married for 61 years.

Mr. Barnard is survived by four daughters, Beverly Sweeney (Rodney), Joanne Stout (Gary), Brenda Castueras (Gli), and Nyoka Whisenant, a brother: Sam Barnard (Sharon) of Indianapolis, Indiana, eight grandchildren,

Luke Hamilton, Lynne Moore (J Ben), Joe Sweeney (Tina), Ashley Jerrell (Chad), Chelsea Hawkins (Ryder), Erin McCulley (Jason), Zachary Motsinger (Nicole), Nick Terry (Hayley), 21 great grandchildren, 7 great great grandchildren and his companion Nola Howard.

Mr. Barnard is preceded in death by his parents, wife Donna, four sisters: Margaret Barnard Greenwood (Carl), Nellie Barnard, Bonnie Bannister (Kenneth), and Pearl Sebastian (DeCorsey) and three brothers: Virgil, Freddie, and James Barnard.

Funeral services were Friday, December 5, 2025 at Weathers Funeral Home. Burial followed at Crown Hill Cemetery.

NANCY ROBERTA (PINAIRE) DAVIS, passed away Monday, December 1, 2025, at the home of her sister and Micah Fox, caregivers in Salem, Indiana. She was 88.

Nancy was born September 27, 1937, to the late Ermal "Bud" Pinaire and Celestine (Barrow) Pinaire of Ramsey, Indiana, who owned Buds Station and Restaurant in Ramsey for many years.

She was a graduate of North Central High School, which is now North Harrison High School in 1956 in Ramsey.

Preceding her in death was her husband Robert and a son, Scotty.

Surviving are 2 sons: Sammy and Lonnie, both of Kentucky; 2 sisters: Norma Helen McGanty of Post Falls, Idaho and Martha Renae Coates of Salem, Indiana; 1 brother, Jim Cooley of Salem, her uncle and aunt James (Bonnie) Pinaire of Ramsey

and many grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Funeral Service was Monday Dec. 8 at Dawalt Funeral Home, followed by private interment in Cedar Hill Cemetery, Corydon, Indiana.

THOMAS FRANCIS EBERLE AGE 72 of Campbellsburg passed away December 2, 2025 at Jewish Hospital.

Mr. Eberle was born May 25, 1953 in Toulon, Illinois the son of Bernard and Coleen Brown Eberle. Thomas was a member of the Lost River Baptist Church. He was a United States Army Veteran. Mr. Eberle was a truck driver.

Mr. Eberle is survived by his wife, Beverly Grace Eberle, they were married on September 7, 1977. He is also survived by his sons, Bobby Moore (Sarah) of Mitchell and Andy Eberle (Susie) of Salem, his daughters, Dana Moore Spradlin (Tony) of Campbellsburg and Misty McGill (Shawn) of Paris Crossing. He is survived by his grandchildren, Caitlin, Quinton, Trevor, Taivon, Sophie, Austin, Justin, Kirsti, Brayden, Brandon, Jordan and Kylie, 17 great grandchildren, and his sister, Susan Chandler (John) of Victoria, Illinois.

Mr. Eberle is preceded in death by his parents, and his grandson, Tyson.

Services were Saturday, December 6, 2025 at Lost River Baptist Church. Burial followed at Claysville Cemetery.

CAROL R. MILLER, AGE 70 of Salem, passed away Monday, December 1, 2025 at Salem Crossing.

Mrs. Miller was born February 5, 1955 in Salem, Indiana the daughter of William Linscott "Scotty" Morgan and Vivian Carol Chastain Morgan. Mrs. Miller was a member of the Pekin Church of Christ.

Mrs. Miller is survived by her brother, William "Bill" Linscott Morgan Jr. (Connie), her sister

Judy Ann Wheat (Roy), nephew, William "Sonny" Linscott Morgan III (Joann), nieces: Monica Chumbley (Jeremy) and Janina Terrell (Scott), Lisa Morgan, nephews, Scott (Lisa), Jim, Mike (Renee) Wheat and many great and great great nieces and nephews, brothers and sister in laws.

Mrs. Miller is preceded in death by her husband, Dennis Miller, they were married August 23, 1975 and he later passed away on August 11, 2017. Mrs. Miller is also preceded in death by her parents.

Services were Thursday, December 4 at Weathers Funeral Home.

JAMES BOYD MCPHEETERS, 47, of Salem, Indiana, passed away on November 28, 2025.

James was born on December 9, 1977, in Salem, Indiana, to Roger and Darlene (Davis) McPheeters. He graduated from East Washington High School in Pekin, Indiana, with the Class of 1996. Throughout his life, James worked as a Heavy Equipment Operator for several companies, a job he took great pride in.

A lifelong resident of Salem, James loved motorcycles, dirt bikes, and spending time outdoors. He especially cherished time spent with his family and friends, and nothing meant more to him than his son and his nephews.

James is preceded in death by his father, Roger McPheeters; his maternal grandfather, Olen Davis; and his paternal grandparents, Glenn and Dessi McPheeters.

He is survived by his mother, Darlene McPheeters; his son, Xander McPheeters; his brother, Chuck (Lori) McPheeters; nephews Lane McPheeters, Landon McPheters, Layton (Mallory) McPheeters, and Lee Roper McPheeters; his grandmother, Rachel Davis; and his great-niece, Quinn Roselynn McPheeters.

Services were December 4, 2025, at Love Funeral Home in Palmyra, Indiana. Cremation followed the service.

Continued on next page

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...Obits

Continued from page 4

LLOYD LEE JOHNSON, AGE 76, of Salem, Indiana, passed away peacefully on November 27, 2025.

Born on November 10, 1949, in Kettle Island, Kentucky, he was the son of Rice and Marie Johnson. Stretch graduated from Evarts High School in Harlan County, Kentucky, and went on to serve his country with honor as a member of the United States Navy. Lloyd proudly served two tours in Vietnam, and his service to his country was a source of deep pride throughout his life.

After his time in the military, Stretch worked as a coal miner for Manalapan Mining Company, where he dedicated many years of his life before retiring. He was also a devoted member of the American Legion Post #41, where he enjoyed spending time with friends and fellow veterans.

On February 29, 1980, Stretch married the love of his life, Phyllis (Ford) Johnson. Together, they built a life filled with love, laughter, and cherished memories. Stretch was a man who loved the outdoors-whether hunting, fishing, or simply enjoying nature. He was happiest when surrounded by his family and friends, always eager to share a good story or lend a helping hand.

Stretch was preceded in death by his parents, Rice and Marie Johnson, and two brothers, Earl Johnson and Rice “Buddy” Johnson.

He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Phyllis Johnson; his children, James Napier, Susan (Keith) Day, Mark Johnson, and Brian Johnson; his brothers, Frank (Mona) Johnson and Larry Grubbs; his sisters, Lois Toby, Betty Colvin, and Lorene Hoskins; his granddaughters, Samantha (Brandon) Smith and Alandra Johnson; and his great-grandchildren, Colson Smith and Alaina Smith. He also leaves behind many nieces, nephews, and extended family who will miss him dearly.

Funeral services were Tuesday, December 2 at Love Funeral Home. Burial followed at the Palmyra Cemetery.

JUDY KAY (BOWER) BROWN, AGE 78 of Salem, passed away Wednesday, November 26, 2025, in Hampton Oaks Health Campus Scottsburg, Indiana.

Born December 15, 1946 in Salem, Indiana, she was the daughter of the late Roger and Mildred (Fleenor) Bower.

She had been a life resident of Washington County, graduated Salem High School in 1965 and then attended Indiana State University.

Judy was a retired Teacher’s Aide with the Special Education Department of the Salem Community School System.

She was a member of the Salem United Methodist Church, the United Methodist Women’s Fellowship and attended Mt. Tabor Christian Church.

Judy was a member of the Washington County Homemakers Club and Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.).

She enjoyed Bible study classes, sewing, collecting snowmen, loved quilting and had been a member of the Washington County Piecemakers Guild.

On June 10th 1967, she married Charles D. “Danny” Brown, who survives.

Also surviving are: 3 Sons: Craig (Lisa) Brown of Salem, Chad (Angie) Brown of Huntsville, Alabama and Nathan (Kristin) Brown of Vail, Arizona; 1 Brother: Charles Wayne (Georgia) Bower of Columbus, Indiana; 7 grandchildren: Samantha (Andy) Hall, Benjamin (Shy-Ann) Brown and Matthew, Emilee, Ruby, Terra and Bailee Brown and 2 great grandchildren: Elara and Sara.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Funeral Service was Friday December 5 at Dawalt Funeral Home, followed by interment in Crown Hill Cemetery.

MRS. DEBORAH JANE PONDER, AGE 69, of Salem, passed away Tuesday, November 25 at her home after a three year battle with cancer.

Deborah was born April 22, 1956 in Elyria, Ohio the daughter of Frederick Daniel and Janie McCormac Daniel. She was a retired employee of Washington County Department of Children’s Services.

Deborah married George Ponder on December 2, 1978. She is survived by her husband: George of Salem, her children: Erin Humphrey (Adam) of Salem and Daniel Ponder (Kala) of Salem, a sister-in-law: Connie Daniel of Buckeye Lake, Ohio, three grandchildren: Corbin, Chloe and Copeland., a niece: Jayma Bammerlin of Alexandria, Ohio, and two great-nephews: Rex and Bryce Bammerlin. She was preceded in death by two brothers: Frederick “Toby” Daniel, and Bob Daniel, her parents, and a nephew: Jeff Daniel.

A memorial service was Thursday, December 4 at Weathers Funeral Home with Kyle Stewart officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can me made to Shop with A Cop.

ALEETA SPARKMAN, AGE 81, of Salem, passed away Wednesday, November 26, 2025 at Baptist Health Floyd Hospital. Born April 4, 1944, in Scottsburg, she was the daughter of the late Alice (Gater) Voyles and her step-father, Carl Ray “Buck” Voyles. On December 24, 1965, she married Winifred Ray Sparkman who survives.

Aleeta was a member of Mount Tabor Christian Church and previously worked for M. Fine & Sons along with her husband, Ray. She and Ray enjoyed spending hot summer days in their pool; after retirement, they enjoyed traveling across the country in their vintage RV affectionately named “The Blue Hotdog”. Aleeta took great pride in her plants, caring for them

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING UPON PETITION FOR VACATION
Notice is hereby given that the Washington County Plan Commission will hold a Public Hearing on the 6th day of January, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. EST, to consider a Petition for Vacation filed pursuant to Indiana Code § 36-7-3. The Public Hearing will be held during the Plan Commission meeting on the second floor of the Washington County Indiana Historical Courthouse, on the Salem Square.

A copy of the proposed vacation and related materials can be picked up or viewed at the Surveyor’s Office or at the Building Commissioner’s Office. The proposed vacation and related materials can also be viewed online in the Public Review section of the following site: https://www.washingtoncounty.in.gov/government/land_and_property/washington_county_planning_commission.php

All interested persons may appear in person or by counsel to present their views upon the proposed vacation. Written suggestions or objections to this petition may be filed at the Building Commissioner’s office at: 601 Anson St., Salem, IN 47167 before the time of the hearing and will be considered by the Plan Commission. The hearing may be continued from time to time as the Commission may deem necessary. Nature of the Requested Vacation: The petitioner is requesting the vacation of certain public rights-of-way and/or alleys as legally described in the accompanying exhibit. The vacation is sought to allow for the unified development and efficient use of the property. Petitioner: Samuel N. Wengard Address: 1514 Ewen Road Salem, IN 47167 Subject Property Description: Part of Hamilton’s Plat to the Town of Philadelphia (Exhibit Attached) Reason for Vacation: The vacation is sought to allow for the unified development and efficient use of the property. By Order of the Washington County Plan Commission Lisa M. Fleming, Attorney Washington County Plan Commission

through summer and winter. In their golden years, Aleeta enjoyed working puzzles with Ray, and they especially liked watching Dancing with the Stars together.

She is survived by her husband, Ray Sparkman; 4 children: Greg Sparkman (Trina), Rachel Sparkman, Rhonda Dally (Joe), and Reeda Woosley (Terry); 2 brothers: Bill Spaulding and Larry Spaulding; 7 sisters: Fay Dodds, Jane Balentine, Kathy Setser, Anna Roney, Susie Hamilton, Patty Jolliffe, and Jennifer Humphrey; 7 grandchildren: Adam Dally, Ashley Sparkman, Darien Woosley, Justin Dally, Tyler Sparkman, Julius Woosley, and Madeline Woosley; and 5 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her mother and step-father, Alice and Buck Voyles.

Funeral services were Monday, December 1, 2025 at Hughes-Taylor Funeral Home-Salem Chapel with Tony Mendizabal officiating. Burial followed at Crown Hill Cemetery.

MR. CARL LEON RAGAINS AGE 86 of Hardinsburg passed away December 5, 2025 at IU Health Paoli Hospital.

Mr. Ragains was born September 24, 1939, in Fredericksburg, Indiana to Jake and Oma Hauger Ragains. He was a member of the Kansas Church of Christ and retired from farming and the Washington County Highway Department. Mr. Ragains is survived by one

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF WASHINGTON
IN THE WASHINGTON SUPERIOR COURT
CAUSE NO.: 88C01-2511-GU-000044
IN THE MATTER OF THE
GUARDIANSHIP OF:
LAURA HACKER, Adult
NOTICE OF HEARING
TO: Mark Hacker 21390 Old State Rd 37 Branchville, IN 47514-9042
You are hereby notified that a Petition for Appointment of Guardian Over Person of Laura Hacker has been filed by Southern Indiana Adult Guardianship Services. A hearing on same will be held in the Washington Superior Court on the 11th at day of December, 2025 at 2:00 pm. You may appear at the hearing and be heard by the Court. If you do not appear, the Petition will be heard and acted on by the Court in your absence. Date: November 10, 2025 /s/Stephanie K. Rockey Stephanie Rockey, Clerk Washington County

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY
STATE OF INDIANA
IN THE MATTER OF THE
UNSUPERVISED ESTATE OF
STEWART G. BOAZ, DECEASED
CASE NO. 88C01-2511-EU-00091
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
Notice is hereby given that on November 12, 2025, CRAIG BOAZ and CHARLES E. WALKER were appointed Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of STEWART G. BOAZ, deceased, who died on September 13, 2025. All persons having claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent’s death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred. Dated at Corydon, Indiana, this November 12, 2025. /s/Stephanie K. Rockey Stephanie Rockey, Clerk Washington Circuit Court Prepared By: John E. Colin, #21581-22 SIMPSON COLIN, LLC 205 North Capitol Avenue Corydon, IN 47112

sister, Janet Olver, Roswell, Geogia. Nephews: Gerald Ragains, Fredericksburg, Danny Ragains (Lillian) of Fredericksburg, Steve Ragains (Karen) of Fredericksburg, David Ragains of Jeffersonville, Bill Ragains of The Villages, FL, Richard Ragains of Louisville, Mark Russell of Louisville, Tommy Russell of Louisville. Nieces: Lynne Quinlin of Salem, Julia Ragains Albicocco of Louisville, Mary Ann Bilyeu of Louisville, Barbara Payton of Louisville, Cathy Schneider of Louisville, Elaine Nezat of Frankfort, Kentucky, Susan Martin of Louisville, and Jane Maudlin of Woodstock, GA. Mr. Ragains is preceded in

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY
STATE OF INDIANA
CAUSE NO. 88C01-2511-PL-000914
WANDA C. HATTABAUGH
PLAINTIFF,
v.
JOSHUA L. RIDER, HIS RESPECTIVE UNKNOWN DEVISEES, HEIRS, SUCCESSORS, AND/OR ASSIGNS, AND ANY AND ALL OTHERS WHO HAVE OR CLAIM AN INTEREST IN CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN,
DEFENDANTS
SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF WASHINGTON COUNTY TO THE DEFENDANTS NAMED ABOVE AND ANY OTHER PERSON OR ENTITY CONCERNED OR HAVING OR CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE REAL ESTATE DESCRIBED BELOW:
You are hereby notified that you have been sued by the party named as the Plaintiff and in the Court indicated above. The nature of this suit is a Complaint to Quiet Title. You have been sued to answer as to any interest you may have with respect to the following described real property: Lot Number Six (6) in Persise’s Addition to the Town (now City) of Salem, Indiana. Parcel Number: 88-24-18-441-045.000-022
Commonly known as: 606 W. Walnut St., Salem, Indiana 47162
You must file a written response to the complaint within thirty (30) days after the last notice of this action is published, and in case you fail to do so, judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief demanded by the Plaintiff in the complaint.
DATE: 11/18/2025 /s/ Stephanie K. Rockey Stephanie K. Rockey Clerk, Washington Circuit Court Attorney for the Plaintiff: Colton L. Fleetwood, Esq. #37628-36 THE LAW OFFICE OF FLEETWOOD MARKEL LLC 104 S. Main Street Brownstown, Indiana 47220 (812) 358-3200 colton@fleetwoodmarkel.com

death by his wife, Diana Deweese Ragains, his parents, brothers: Merle Ragains and Doyle Ragains. Sister: Stella Russell. Nephews: Johnny Olver, Billy Olver.

Services will be on Wednesday, December 10, 2025 at 1:00P.M at Weathers Funeral Home. Visitation will be from 10:00A.M. until time of service at the funeral home. Burial will take place immediately after the service at Kansas Cemetery.

LEGAL NOTICE

CITY OF SALEM, INDIANA PUBLIC NOTICE OF SALE OF SURPLUS CITY EQUIPMENT/PROPERTY

The following property has been declared surplus to the needs of the City of Salem and will be offered for sale by sealed bid. The following property will be sold:
Property List/Description:
2005 Chevrolet Equinox
2007 Ford Ranger
2007 Ford Ranger
2008 Chevrolet Silverado
2008 Ford F150
2006 Ford F250 Van
2004 Ford Econoline Van
1993 Ford F250
1998 Int’l Single Axle Dump Truck
2003 Ford F150
2006 Chevrolet Silverado
Belt Press
Single Axle Ditch Witch Trailer
Tandem Axle 16’ Trailer 3500#
3 Mobile Home Axels
Shaw Box with Electric Lift,
Electric Hoist for Cylinders
All items are being offered individually and sold AS-IS with no warranties and with no guarantees of fitness of use or purpose for these items. All items are located at various City locations and may be inspected there during regular business hours. Please call for site location, 812-883-4264.
Offers will be accepted by bids submitted in writing addressed to the Clerk-Treasurer’s Office located in City Hall in Salem, Indiana during regular business hours. Bids may also be dropped off at the Salem City Water Department Drive-through window during regular business hours.
Bids will be received beginning on the date of first publication of this notice and the sale shall continue from day to day thereafter until the 5th day of December 2025 at 12:00 noon.
This property may not be sold to a person who is ineligible pursuant to I.C. 36-1-11-16 and an offer to purchase this property submitted by a trust (as defined in I.C. 30-4-1-1(a)) must identify each beneficiary of the trust and settler empowered to revoke or modify the trust.
Bids will then be publicly opened and read aloud during the December 2025 regular City Council Meeting, which shall be held on the 8th day of December 2025 at 5:30 P.M.
The City of Salem reserves the right to reject any and all bids.
City of Salem, Indiana
Sally Hattabaugh, Clerk-Treasurer

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Senators race past Lions

By Perry Stainbrook
Staff Writer
Amos Publishing, LLC

The parking lot was full at West Washington High school on the night before Thanksgiving which could only mean one thing, it was the kick off to the boys basketball season.

The Senators and Lions were kicking off their annual rivalry game. Last year it was the Lions who jumped out early but a fourth quarter run gave the Senators the victory.

The game this year saw both defenses play a solid game for the first minute and a half as neither team was able to score the ball.

The first points in the game came on two Brady Rosenbaum free throws with 6:30 left in the first quarter.

The Senators would extend this

lead to 5-0 before Salem's Evan Lloyd would bury a three to get the Lions on the board. Colton Brown responded for the Senators as he hit back to back buckets to put the Senators on top 9-3. The Lions Carter Reardon knocked down a three to pull the Lions within three at 9-6.

The Senators would answer with back to back threes and would close out the first quarter on a eight to two run to take a 17-8 lead. Payton Schocke got going in the second quarter starting the quarter off with a three. The Lions offense would pick up the second stanza as they were able to score fourteen points. The Senators still bested them by two as they would increase their lead to eleven at the break. Coming out of the break the Lions ran into a buzz saw as the Senators ripped off a 14-2 run

to push the score to 47-24. The Senator defense frustrated the Lions the entire third quarter as they held the Lions to just points, taking a twenty point lead at 51-31.

The fourth quarter was much of the same as the Senator outscored the visitors 19-8 holding the Lions to just 17 total points in the second half picking up the 70-39 win. The Lions were led in scoring by Kaiden Romero-Hembree with 13 points. Payton Schocke chipped in 10, Evan Lloyd 8, Carter Reardon 6, and Braxton Dean 2.

The Senators had four players in double figures. Nash Ables, Colton Brown, and Holden Russell each scored 11, Bryce Heischman scored 9, Brady Rosenbaum 8, Hayden Morrow and Tristan Brown each scored 5.

Lady Lions pick up second win

By Perry Stainbrook
Staff Writer
Amos Publishing, LLC

The Lady Lions came into the season looking to improve on their win total from last season.

The team is very young but has some talented players that are learning, and eager to learn with every game. Last years team won their first contest but wouldn't get in the win column the rest of the season as they finished 1-19.

This season they started out with that opening game win much like last year and losing their next six. Unlike last year the girls were

much more competitive in this years losses with several of them just getting out of hand in the fourth quarter.

Also unlike last year they were able to put another good game together and go on the road and pick up their second win. The opponent was the Paoli Lady Rams and the Lady Lions played them tough. With thirty seconds to go the game was tied at 43.

The Lady Lions were able to be the last team to put the ball in the basket pulling out a 45-43 victory and doubling their win total from last season.

Looking to the week ahead

The following is a look at the high school sports schedule for the upcoming week..

Salem
Girls Basketball
12/9 vs Brownstown 7:30
12/12 @ Corydon 7:30

Boys Basketball
12/13 @ Mitchell 7:30

West Washington
Girls Basketball
12/11 @ Eastern 7:30

Boys Basketball
12/12 @ Paoli 7:30
12/13 vs Trinity 7:30

Eastern Pekin
Girls Basketball
12/9 vs Crothersville 7:30
12/11 vs West Washington 7:30

Boys Basketball
12/12 vs Crawford Co 7:30

•ANNOUNCEMENT•

12/13 @ Clarksville 7:30

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EWMS beats Clarksville

The 8th Grade East Washington Middle School Lady Musketeer Basketball team won a defensive battle recently against Clarksville 32-22.

The teams were tied at halftime, but the Musketeers buckled down on defense and allowed Clarksville to score only 5 points in the 2nd half.

Adrienne Johanningsmeier and Tinsley Spalding combined to score 25 of the Lady Musketeers' points!

On Dec. 4, the eighth-grade Lady Musketeers defeated Borden 29 - 16 to capture their third win in a row.

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•WANTED•

WANTED:
JUNK CAR - TRUCK - FARM MACHINERY - ETC.
PAY IN CASH
812-525-1696 or 812-595-2368

•FIREWOOD•

Firewood for sale - \$70 a rick. Will deliver with a 2 rick minimum. 812-820-7953. 3Dec24ph

•RENTAL•

2 bedroom, 1 bath mobile home for rent in nice trailer park in the Salem area. Background check required. \$725 a month, \$725 deposit. Available first week of December. 812-844-2380. 3Dec10ph

One bedroom duplex at 239 S 1st in Scottsburg. 812-820-0507. JSusnick. 3Dec24ph

2 bedroom small house at 975 S Main in Scottsburg. 812-820-0507. JSusnick. 3Dec24ph

•HELP WANTED•

Individual in Scott County area looking for someone to help with transportation to appointments and errands. 812-752-4154. 3Dec10ph

Unfortunately, the Lady Musketeers had to play most of the game with key player, Violet Hauner, who suffered an injury during the 2nd quarter.

The Lady Musketeers responded and regrouped to secure the win.

Leading all scorers was Chloe Graves with 17 points.

•GARAGE SALE•

HUGE BARN SALE! Light's Dance Barn. 1366 S Zion Rd, Scottsburg, IN. Thursday & Friday, December 18 & 29, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, December 20, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Catering/wedding business going out of business! LOTS of catering/wedding supplies, household items, L/XL ladies clothes (\$1), Christmas gifts, decorations for EVERY holiday, LOTS MORE! If you are getting married or starting a catering business - DON'T MISS IT! Everything MUST go - so priced to sell! 812-595-3673. 3Dec10ph

•AUTO•

2015 Ford Focus, SE Hatchback, White, 130,000 miles. Clean, good car. Asking \$7,000. 812-620-6968. 3Dec17ph

•MISC.•

4 burial plots - Garden of Apostles, Graceland Kraft in New Albany - valued at \$15,580; asking \$14,000. Inquire at 812-595-5796. Transfer of title will be at cemetery. 3Dec24ph

•MOBILE HOMES•

1997 Champion 16x80, 3 bedroom, 2 bath mobile home. \$47,900. Move to your location and set. 812-595-9608. TFN

1994 16X80 3 bedroom, 2 bath trailer for sale. Located in Southway Villa in Salem. Call 812-340-6333 or 812-896-0848 for more information. 3Dec17ph

•SERVICES•

FREE quotes on mowing and weedeating. Call or text 812-595-0697. Weekly & bi-weekly rates available. Reasonable rates! TFN

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•HELP WANTED•



•FREE•

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SHS Media gets second place at IUS



Salem High School Media Students are: Luke Baldwin, Valerie Bravo, Benjamin Cadle, Jocelyn Elrod, Thommie Engler, Braydon Hankins, Ty Hobbs, Luke Ingram, Hadley Keith, Noah Lincks, Daniel Livers, Evan Lloyd, Cater Reardon, Joshua Reardon, Marissa Redmon, Connor Richardson, Kaiden Romero-Hembree, Jax Rueff, Dahlia Saling, Claire Schmaltz, Wil Sears, Lyric Smith, Adan Soto, Ryker Sparkman, Bryden Stafford, Hadleigh Sturgill, Aiden Taylor, Sterling Tefft, Flora Wade, Dylan Walters, Sydney Wilson, Blake Applegate, Brianna Bobo, Nataliee Boutelle, Chloe Day, Abagale Elliott, Cynthia Elliott, Kenadie Garloch, Lillian Grissom, Alexis Maudlin and Peyton Maynard. Congratulations to the 2024-25 yearbook staff who won several awards at IUS Media Day on Friday: First Place - Best Advertising Section, First Place - Best Clubs and Organizations Section, First Place - Best Sports Section, Second Place - Yearbook of the Year, Second Place - Best Design, Second Place - Best People Section, Second Place - Best Photography, Second Place - Best Coverage of Student Life, Third Place - Best Coverage of Academics, Third Place - Best Copy.

EHS band third at state



The Eastern High School band traveled to Franklin Central on Oct. 25 to compete in the Scholastic B state finals and came home with a third-place finish. The performance ended a remarkable seasons for the EHS band. Members of the band are pictured here.

...WW

Continued from page 6
volunteers: Tom Rosenbaum, Titan Williams, Luke Stultz, Jared Green; Wrestling-HC: Dennis Tankersley, Asst. 1: Bill Johnston, Asst. 2 (Girls): Dennis Tankersley, Bill Johnston and Mason Jones (split 3 ways), JH: Mason Jones and Winter Strength Coach: Mark Gibson.

The board also approved the 2026 Budget, inclusive of the School Bus Replacement Plan and the Capital Projects Plan.

Following Superintendent Keith Nance's recommendation, the board approved Superintendent Nance recommended a \$0.20 increase in non-certified hourly employee wages and a \$2 per day increase in wages for bus drivers.

Nance also recommended a \$3,000 total salary increase for non-certified salaried employees. The salary increase will be retro to August 2025.

The board also voted to approve an Electronic Payment Resolution which will allow some claims to be paid electronically on a monthly basis (as needed) in order to ensure timely payment of the invoices due to consistent delays with the mailing system.

The board approved the following field trips: 11/3/25-Mr. Wolfe & AP Env. Science/DC Earth Science to Spring Mill Mr. Eisele Health classes to Ivy Tech Sellersburg; Mrs. Ledgerwood HS choir to AIS Diamond in Evansville; Stacey Nance 11th /12th graders to IUS; Mrs. Hepp FFA to BNL for welding contest; Mr. Eisele Health classes to U of L; Mrs. Hepp FFA to Orange Co. Community Building; Mrs. Hepp FFA to Indiana FFA Leadership Center; Mrs. Ledgerwood 7th gr. Music/drama classes/drama club to New Albany; Mrs. Hepp FFA to Crothersville HS for chapter

meeting contest; Mrs. Acree 5th grade to JA Biztown in Louisville; Mrs. Young Elem. Student council to the Indiana Statehouse and Mr. Walker 5th grade to Corydon for a movie and lunch.

The board's next meeting will be Monday, Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. in the high school library.

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Beef producers' regional meeting

Beef cattle producers from nine southern Indiana counties are invited to take part in the upcoming Area 2 Beef Meeting, hosted by the Indiana Beef Cattle Association and Purdue Extension.

The event will be held on Saturday, January 3, 2026 at noon at Southern Hills Church, located at 1645 IN-135 in Salem. Producers from Clark, Crawford, Floyd, Harrison, Jackson, Lawrence, Orange, Scott, and Washington Counties

are encouraged to attend.

Organizers say the gathering will offer a meal and a lineup of valuable information covering a range of beef industry topics.

The meeting is free to attend, but participants must RSVP ahead of time through the Indiana Beef Cattle Association's website at Indianabeef.org.

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