

OBITUARIES



LAWRENCE VERNON MEDEARIS

Lawrence Vernon Medearis, 80, of Henry, passed away Friday March 13, 2026, 3:00 a.m. at his home in Henry surrounded by those who loved him.

Cremation rites have been accorded. A visitation will be held on Thursday March 19, 2026, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the New Life Community Church, 1400 Old Indian Town Rd. in Henry. Memorial services will follow at 3:00 p.m. Pastor Mark Griffen will officiate. Full military rites will be accorded following the services at the church. Memorial contributions may be made to the MSW Projects. Calvert & Johnson Memorial Home in Henry, is in charge of arrangements.

Lawrence was born June 4, 1945, at home in Sparland, IL to

Amel and Irma (Smith) Medearis. He married the love of his life, Mary Fogle, on July 27, 1968, in Peoria, IL. Together they had five children. Lawrence was a proud Army Veteran that served in the Vietnam War. Lawrence worked at Caterpillar Tractor Co., Moss-ville plant until retiring in 2010. He was an avid rabbit hunter and loved doing yard work. He will be remembered as a jokester that loved his family fiercely.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Mary Medearis; four children, Steven, Dawn, Chad (Lisa) and Jenny Medearis; eight grandchildren, Stefanie (Dan) Spellious, Brie Bolander, Jaymee Fedele, Colton (Stephanie) Roberts, Hunter Robbins, Haden, Matteson and Travis Medearis; two great grandchildren, Breckin and Kinsey Spellious; and one sister, Lucy Shofner of Henry.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one son, Lawrence Medearis, Jr.; one grandson, Derek Robbins; four brothers, Arnel (Zeke), Russell, Charles (Bud), and Jerry Medearis; and one sister, Jean Schaefer.

Online condolences may be made to: www.calvertmemorial.com.

King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

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

2026's Most Overweight And Obese Cities In The U.S.

Americans are some of the most overweight people in the world, not just stereotypically but statistically too. In fact, nearly 42% of U.S. adults are obese, and it's costing us. Unfortunately, the extra pounds have inflated the costs of obesity-related medical treatment to approximately \$190.2 billion a year and annual productivity losses due to work absenteeism to around \$4.3 billion.

Certain places are more responsible than others for tipping the scale in favor of poor health, though. To identify them, WalletHub compared 100 of the most populated U.S. metro areas across 19 key indicators of weight-related problems. Our data set ranges from the share of physically inactive adults to projected obesity rates by 2050 to healthy-food access.

"Obesity is becoming more and more prevalent in the U.S., and it's costing us big time. In the most overweight and obese cities, residents often lack easy access to healthy food and recreation opportunities, so investing in those areas should help improve people's diets and exercise regimens, and reduce the financial burden overall."

Chip Lupu, WalletHub Analyst

Fattest Cities In America City Score

1. Little Rock, AR.....83.96
2. McAllen, TX.....83.22
3. Memphis, TN.....83.09
4. Jackson, MS.....82.49
5. Augusta, GA.....81.78
6. Lafayette, LA.....81.66
7. Fayetteville, AR.....81.62
8. Shreveport, LA.....81.42
9. Mobile, AL.....81.38
10. Baton Rouge, LA.....80.20
11. Columbia, SC.....79.57
12. Knoxville, TN.....79.51
13. Birmingham, AL.....79.46
14. Wichita, KS.....79.24
15. Greenville, SC.....78.63
16. New Orleans, LA.....78.26
17. Myrtle Beach, SC.....78.23
18. Winston, NC.....77.83
19. Louisville, KY.....77.64
20. Fort Wayne, IN.....77.64

Fittest Cities In America

81. Bridgeport, CT.....66.40
82. Ogden, UT.....66.21
83. Springfield, MA.....65.29
84. San Diego, CA.....65.27
85. Washington, DC.....64.88
86. Boise, ID.....64.79
87. Provo, UT.....64.67
88. Miami, FL.....64.30

89. New York, NY.....64.22
90. Sacramento, CA.....63.66
91. Portland, OR.....63.52
92. Salt Lake City, UT.....63.37
93. Minneapolis, MN.....63.29
94. San Francisco, CA.....62.92
95. Boston, MA.....61.81
96. San Jose, CA.....61.80
97. Colorado Springs, CO.....61.56
98. Seattle, WA.....60.80
99. Denver, CO.....59.19
100. Honolulu, HI.....58.81

Key Stats

♦ The McAllen, Texas, metro area has the highest share of obese adults, which is 2.4 times higher than in Asheville, North Carolina,

the metro area with the lowest.

♦ The McAllen, Texas, metro area has the highest share of physically inactive adults, which is 2.8 times higher than in Provo, Utah, the metro area with the lowest.

♦ The Memphis, Tennessee, metro area has the highest share of diabetic adults, which is 2.4 times higher than in Bridgeport, Connecticut, the metro area with the lowest.

♦ The Baton Rouge, Louisiana, metro area has the highest share of adults with high blood pressure, which is 1.9 times higher than in San Jose, California, the metro area with the lowest.

Exciting Weekend Planned At Sparland Baptist Church March 21-22

Next Saturday, March 21 from noon until 4:00 p.m., the Sparland Baptist Church will offer an afternoon of music with guest musicians performing as follows:

12:00 Noon: 1:00 p.m.: Lila & The Dad

11:15 - 2:15: Chloe Mae Finch

2:30 - 3:30 p.m.: John & Gabi

Come for any or all of the music groups. All of the performers are local teenagers. Games and snacks including lots of pizza and a nacho bar will be available.

On Sunday, March 22, the Baptist Church invites you to attend an "Invite a Family or Friend Sunday Worship service. The speaker will be Sparland's own Rick Medearis along with beautiful special music by Linnell Shepherd. A potluck dinner will be served for anyone to attend.

Worship Service: 10:45 p.m.

The Sparland First Baptist Church is located at 714 Hilltop Drive, Sparland. For more information, call (309) 238-3521.

Illinois Extension To Offer Garden Planning Workshop On April 17

Whether you're dreaming of your first garden or looking to make better use of your existing space, Illinois Extension's Garden Planning Workshop offers a fresh and inspiring start to the season. Join us on April 17, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Putnam County Library - Granville Branch (214 S McCoy St, Granville, IL 61326) for an interactive program that will introduce participants to the square foot gardening approach and guide them step-by-step in developing a personalized garden plan.

During this hands-on workshop, attendees will explore practical techniques for layout design, soil preparation, crop selection, and succession planting. With guidance from Extension staff and local Master Gardeners, each participant will leave with a personalized garden plan tailored to their space, goals, and experience level.

The Garden Planning Workshop is open to adults of all experience levels—from first-time gardeners to hobbyists looking to try a new method. Register online at go.illinois.edu/GardenPlanGranville

For questions or if you need an accommodation to participate, please contact Emily Hansen at emhansen@illinois.edu or 815-224-0896. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time to meet your access needs.

"What's another word for The-saurus."
- Steven Wright

SPARLAND BAPTIST CHURCH PRESENTS
A DAY OF MUSIC With...

JOHN & GABI
2:30 - 3:30pm

CHLOE MAE FINCH
1:15pm - 2:15pm

Saturday, March 21 2026
Noon till 4pm
714 Hilltop Dr. Sparland Il.
MUSIC/ FOOD/ PRIZES/ FELLOWSHIP
All ages welcome!
Free Admission!

Lila & The Dad
12pm-1pm

Paint Classes

Paint Classes are the perfect place to learn new techniques, express yourself, and connect with other creative minds.

Betty Heinold, a local artist, will be leading classes.

AGE: 8 yrs. and up

WHEN: Tues. April 14th 3:45-5:45pm
(planning to have more in the summer)

WHERE: Lacon Area Community Center
405 N. Washington St. Lacon

COST: \$5 Donation

REGISTER: Online at laconacc.com

20 SPOTS PER CLASS
RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!

Partially sponsored by the Lacon Area Community Center Org., Jean & John Wabel, LACC membership donations.

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