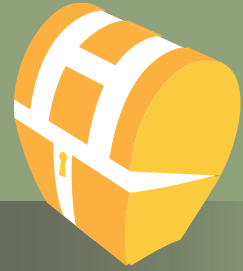


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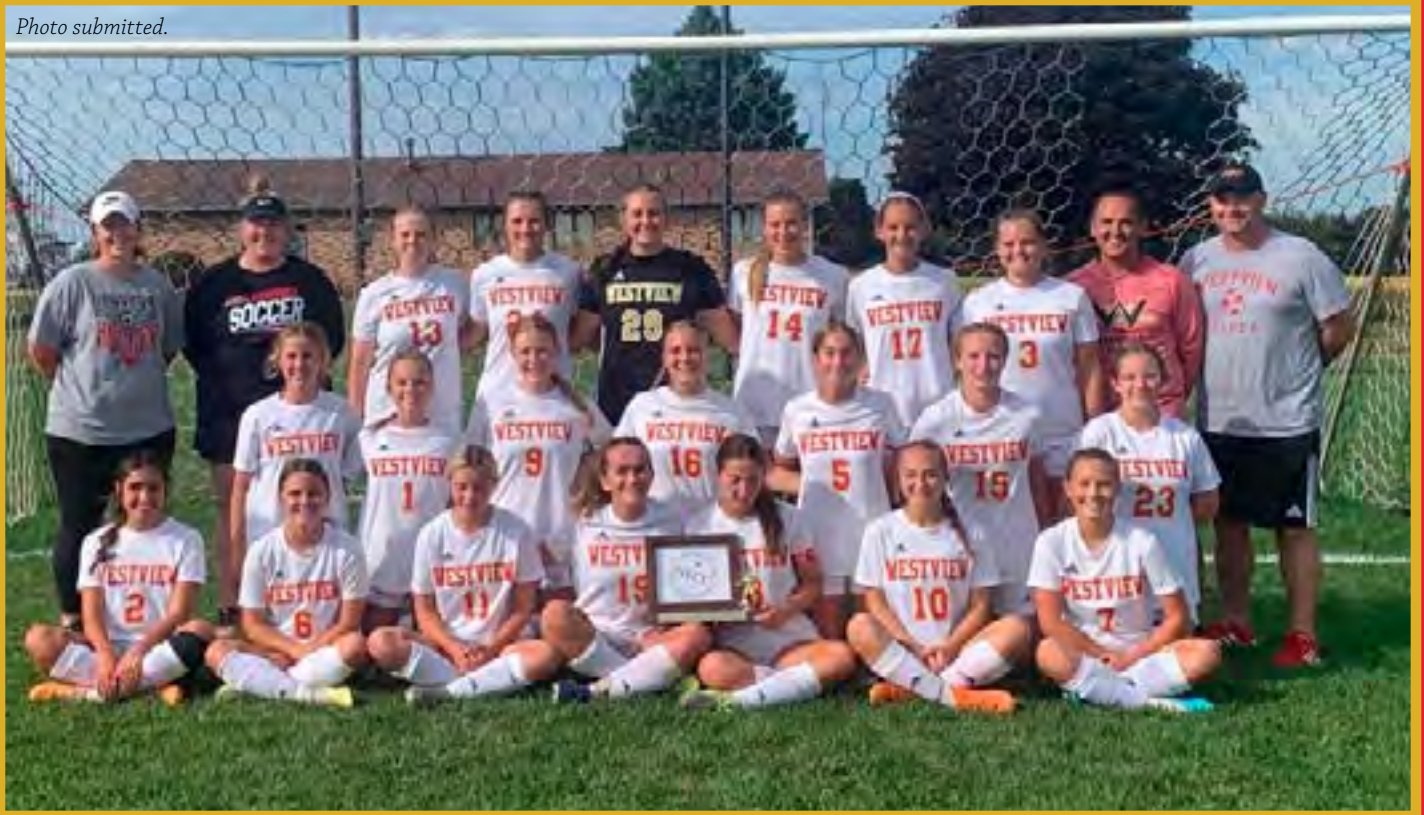
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- 1) Braden Kauffman sprints to the ball.
- 2) Breaking records! In the game against Central Noble on 9/19/23, Teague Misner broke the record for most Career Assists previously held by Gramm Egli.
- 3) Trick shot! In a move that had to be seen to be believed, Alberto Fernandez Guzman, with the goal at his back, kicks backwards and scores a goal against Central Noble.
- 4) Caleb Bontrager looks to gain control of the ball.
- 5) Carson Brown brings the action back towards the goal.

Photos by Abby Wenger

These photos and more will be available for purchase at lagwanaphotos.com.

The Hometown Treasure

A Monthly Publication by
LaGwana Circulation: 6,000

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Phone: 260-463-4901 • Fax: 260-463-7257
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You may call or stop by during office hours:
 Monday - Friday, 8 am-5 pm

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12 noon, Tuesday, October 17

Thursday, October 12 if you need a proof.

November Issue Date is Tuesday, October 24.

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The Hometown Treasure reserves the right to not print any submitted advertisement or press release. Refunds for errors on advertising shall be limited to the amount paid for the first insertion for such advertising.

A 
 Publication



Hometown Pride

When I leave work each day, I see tourists roaming around the center of Shipshewana. Between the Davis Mercantile, the Blue Gate, and the variety of local shops and restaurants, travelers keep the town buzzing even past the end of the work day. On my drive home recently, I saw lines of people waiting to take photos with the fall decorations exclaiming "Welcome to Shipshewana!" It's an understatement to say that the decorations around town look great—they truly look fabulous!

It's nice to see and know how much care is placed into decorating the town for different seasons and events. Keeping Shipshewana looking sharp for the visitors and the residents is something to be proud of. Even more so, however, we should be proud of the people who make our community what it is.

This includes the people who decorate Shipshewana each season to Bed and Breakfast owners who go above and beyond. And not just the people who keep the tourism business booming, but organizations like Thrive by 5 and LaGrange County Miracle Tree, who are working to improve our county by giving back.

We should also be proud of the upcoming students in Westview schools and all they are accomplishing. We can see how hard students have

been working this year already, with reading challenges and taking time out of their school day to help those in need around the world. A big congratulations to Westview's boys' and girls' soccer teams for taking charge and winning the NECC tournament, and to the boys' and girls' cross-country teams for their successes at various invitationals this season!

And as we enter the month of Halloween, be sure to check out Harold's Historical Feature about some of the Halloween traditions that Shipshewana residents used to practice each year. It's sure to give you a good laugh! Happy Fall and Happy Halloween everyone!

As always, feel free to write us to let us know what articles and content you would like to see. We love to hear from our readers and explore new topics! We'd also love to partner with area businesses to bring you editorial content that appeals to you. Please send your thoughts, comments, and recommendations to The Hometown Treasure, PO Box 70, Shipshewana IN 46565, or email them to news@lagwana.com.

Best Wishes,



Chloe Lovell
 The Hometown Treasure Editor



38

Table of Contents

News

- Bereavement Support Groups.....15
- Early Childhood Grants Awarded17
- LaGrange County Library.....12
- LaGrange County Miracle Tree19
- LaGrange Parks Department.....13
- Outstanding Educator Award17
- SAHS: Last 2023 Meeting15
- Survey to Improve Childcare.....15
- Town Park Board Members Wanted...15
- Tractor Enforcement.....21

School

- Kids' Club (Birthday Page)..... 20-21
- Meadowview Elementary 22-23
- Shipshe-Scott Elementary..... 24-25
- Topeka Elementary 26-27
- Westview Elementary 28-29
- Westview Jr/Sr High..... 30-31
- Sports..... 2-3, 32-37

Contests & Puzzles

- Clueless Crossword46
- Coloring Contest 46, 47
- Mystery Farm Contest.....45
- Riddle.....46
- Word Search.....45

Everything Else

- Display Advertiser Listing.....50
- Sponsor Listing.....50

Columns

- Heart and Soul..... 7
- MoneyWise11
- Smart Choices..... 9

Features

- Cover Story:
 - Shipshewana Airbnb Named Best in the State 39-41
- Historical Feature:
 - Halloween Shenanigans43-44



Photo Submitted

23



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43



Stock Photo

11

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Don't Let Your Mood Make You Rude

Mood rings were a fad of the '70s. The stone's thermochromic element responded to changes in body temperature. Consequently, the color changes (supposedly) give clues to a person's state of mind. Many young people, like me, fell headlong for this mystical fad. Having been a pre-teen in the 70s, I'm sure my parents didn't need a stone to tell them what kind of mood I was in. I seem to remember that it was glaringly obvious. Sorry, mom and dad!

Humans are emotional beings, which is a good thing. Imagine a world where we had no emotion. There would be no passion, no tears of joy. What a dull and dreary place it would be. But just as the feeling of happiness and laughter is contagious, so is anger and frustration.

We all experience mood swings. Things happen in life that can make us grumpy. We get tired and troubled, and recently I had some achy feet that set me in a foul state of mind! In my opinion, it's times like these that a mood ring should be mandatory. And might I suggest that caution lights flash when it turns brown, gray, or black (meaning the wearer is in a lousy mood) so others know to stay away? Far-fetched? Maybe, but lately, I've experienced people who have allowed their mood to make them

rude! It's okay to be moody, but it's not okay to take it out on others!

Have you ever encountered someone that has taken out their grumpiness on you? Do you know people who wear their lousy mood for the whole world to see? I recently saw a toddler meltdown because she was handed the wrong color cup! Everyone there knew she was in a bad mood. Everyone received the brunt of her circumstances as her blood-curdling screams swept across the room. It's no different when we adults snub someone, snap at them, or clam up when we're having a crummy day. On my achy feet day, my dear husband took the blows from me. Sorry, dear!

Bad moods happen; rudeness never should. Proverbs 29:11 says, "A fool gives full vent to his spirit, but a wise man quietly holds it back." I don't know about you, but I choose wise over foolish any day.

Paul instructs the church in 2 Corinthians 5:20 that we are "ambassadors who represent Christ, God making his appeal through us." An ambassador for Christ is a person who gets sent out to represent the truth and light of God's kingdom to a world of deceit and darkness. As Ambassadors



for Christ, Christians should not allow their mood to dictate how they approach others, as it could ruin their representation of who Christ is.

It can be challenging to turn a frown upside down. I know from experience. These verses listed above, however, remind me of the vital role I play in the world to make it a better place. A true Ambassador follows the golden rule in Matthew 7:12: "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you." Plain and simple, I desire to be respected so I should always show respect and kindness.

If you're having a bad day, does it make you rude? How can we remember our ambassador role when grumpiness sets in? I'm going to begin with prayer, better self-awareness, and taking a time-out! How do you keep your 'tude from making you rude? 🙏

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Smart Choices

By Travis Fernandez, PharmD Candidate at Topeka Pharmacy

Dietary Supplements: Are They Worth the Money?

Most American pharmacies stock supplements daily. Most people choose a wide variety of vitamins and herbal products referred to as dietary supplements. These range from simple vitamin D to more exotic bergamot. Americans spend over \$30 billion on these products every year. Are they worth it?

Are Supplements Safe?

Supplements are typically made from ingredients that fall under the category "GRAS," or "generally regarded as safe" for food. Unlike prescription drugs, dietary supplements are not closely monitored by the government during their creation. Supplement makers do not have to get government approval before selling to the public. However, supplements are rarely recalled, so they are likely safe. Because some supplements can interact with medications, it is important to discuss using them with a doctor.

Are Supplements Pure?

Purity means if a supplement really contains what it says on the label and does not contain anything harmful. Laboratory testing is the best way to know the purity of a dietary supplement. Some brands have their products tested at independent labs. To be sure of purity, look for a lab verification label when comparing supplement brands.

Are Supplements Effective?

Since they are not drugs, supplements are not allowed to advertise that they are effective in treating diseases. However, herbal remedies have been used for centuries in various cultures and doctors recommend


them in meeting their need or because they feel it worked for them in the past. Effectiveness may lie in what each person feels will be helpful for them.

Are Supplements Helpful?

Supplements can be useful in several ways:

- To help balance lab values when ordered by a doctor, like in the case of low vitamin D levels.
- To help boost health 'naturally,' like taking bergamot for heart health.
- To help make up for dietary shortages, like vitamin B12 for older adults and vegetarians who commonly do not take in enough from their diet.
- To help manage chronic conditions, like fish oil and CoQ10 which may be helpful for those with heart disease.

Supplement use should be individualized to meet each person's unique health needs, guided by their healthcare team.

Topeka Pharmacy offers a range of supplements for individual health needs. They have knowledgeable pharmacists on staff to help make informed decisions on the best products. Call Topeka Pharmacy at 260-593-2252 with any questions about supplements! 



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Do Your Investments Match Your Goals?

As you go through life, you'll have various financial goals — and to achieve them, you'll need to invest. But just recognizing the need to invest is not as useful as matching specific types of accounts or investments with specific goals. How can you make these connections?

Let's look at some common goals and how they could possibly be met with appropriate accounts and investments:

Saving for a down payment on a house: When you're saving for a down payment, you want a certain amount of money available at a certain time — so, for this goal, you won't want to take too much risk. Consequently, you might consider investing in certificates of deposit (CDs), which will pay you regular interest payments and return your principal when the CDs mature. CDs are issued in a range of maturities, from one month to 10 years. Other vehicles you might consider are money market accounts or other cash equivalents.

Saving for a child's education: If you have children, and you'd like to help them pay for some form of higher education, you may want to consider a 529 education savings plan. Any earnings growth in a 529 plan is federally tax free, provided the withdrawals are used for qualified education expenses, and you may also receive state tax benefits.


A 529 plan can be used for college, approved trade school programs, student loan repayments and some K-12 costs. And if the child you've named as a beneficiary chooses not to continue their education, and doesn't need the money in a 529 plan, you can generally switch beneficiaries to another immediate family member.

Saving for retirement: This is the one goal that will remain consistent throughout your working years — after all, you could spend two or even three decades in retirement, so you'll need to accumulate as many financial resources as you can to pay for those years.

Fortunately, you likely have access to several good retirement-savings vehicles. If you work for a business, you might have a 401(k) plan, which offers you the chance to put away money on a tax-deferred basis. (If you have a Roth option in your 401(k), your withdrawals can be tax free, although, unlike a traditional 401(k), your contributions won't lower your taxable income.)

If you work for a public school or a nonprofit organization, you may be able to participate in a 403(b) plan, which is quite similar to a 401(k), and the same is true if you work for a state or local government, where you might have a 457(b) plan.

And even if you invest in any of these plans, you can probably also contribute to an IRA, which gives you another chance to invest on a tax-deferred basis (or tax-free basis, if you're eligible for a Roth IRA). Try to take full advantage of whatever retirement plans are available to you.

Here's one final point to keep in mind: While some investments and accounts are appropriate for certain goals, they may not necessarily be suitable for your individual situation — so keep all your options in mind and take the steps that are right for you. 

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor, Sheldon Q Shrock AAMS®, 120 N Harrison St, Shipshewana, IN 46565, PH: 260-768-4348. Edward Jones, Member SIPC.



LaGrange County Library

Below are the events planned for October 2023.

All activities are In-Person unless noted. If you have any questions, please call the LaGrange library for further information.

Find more information at www.lagrange.lib.in.us or call 260-463-2841.

Facebook Page- m.facebook.com/lagrangelibraryindiana

Shipshewana Branch

250 Depot St. • 260-768-7444
M - F • 11:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.
Saturday • 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

LaGrange County Public Library

203 West Spring Street • 260-463-2841
M - Th • 9:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m.
Friday • 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
Saturday • 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Topeka Branch

133 North Main Street • 260-593-3030
M - F • 11:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.
Saturday • 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Youth Department

Preschool Story Time (Ages 0-5) Theme: Shapes

LaGrange • Tuesdays, Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 • 10:30 a.m.

Shipshewana • Tuesdays, Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 • 1 p.m.

Topeka • Wednesdays, Oct. 4, 11, 18, and 25 • 11 a.m.

Enjoy stories, songs and rhymes with a fun craft or activity

Bilingual Story Time (Parents & Children)

LaGrange • Mondays, Oct. 9, 16, 23, 30 • 5:30–6:30 p.m.

Enjoy stories in Spanish and English with a fun craft or activity

Teen Games (Grades 6-12)

LaGrange • Monday, October 9 • 4–7:45 p.m.

We will be learning new board or card games and playing our favorites. Enjoy some non-electronic games while snacking and chatting with other teens! Registration appreciated but not required.

Homeschool Group (All Ages)

Shipshewana • Friday, October 11 • 1–2:30 p.m.

LaGrange • Friday, October 13 • 10:30–Noon

REGISTRATION REQUIRED! Register on our website or by calling 260-463-2841. We will be learning about the library, taking a tour, and practicing library skills. This activity is for homeschooling families.

Elementary Book Club (Grades 1-3)

LaGrange • Tuesday, October 17 • 4–4:45 p.m.

We will discuss "October Ogre," do a fun activity, and pass out the next book club book. Sign up by checking out the book in the youth department.

Middle Grade Book Club (Grades 4-7)

LaGrange • Tuesday, October 17 • 4–4:45 p.m.

We will discuss "From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler," do a fun activity, and pass out the next book club book. Sign up by checking out the book in the youth department.

Teen Book Chat (Grades 8-12)

LaGrange • Monday, October 23 • 4–4:45 p.m.

We will be discussing "Hard Wired" by Len Vlahos and passing out the book for next month. Sign up by checking out the book in the youth department.

Teen Advisory Group — TAG (Grades 6-12)

LaGrange • Monday, October 23 • 5–6:00 p.m.

Join other teens to talk about plans for the teens at the library, help choose what books we have in our YA collection, and make the teen space feel more comfortable. Registration appreciated but not required.

Teen Night Activity (Grades 6-12)

LaGrange • Monday, October 23 • 6–7:30 p.m.

We will be making chocolate spoons and candy, and we will have a costume contest! Registration appreciated but not required.

STEAM Through the Seasons: Pumpkins! (Grades K-3)

LaGrange • Wednesday, October 25 • 4–5 p.m.

Join us as we explore pumpkins with Miss Brittany from Purdue Extension.

Youth Department (continued)

Movie and Popcorn (All Ages)

LaGrange • Friday, October 27 • 6 p.m. • Movie: *Elemental* (2023)

No registration required. Popcorn provided. Bring a covered drink if desired.

Adult Interest

Hillsdale College Online Course: Mark Twain (Ages 12+)

LaGrange • Thursdays, Oct. 5–Dec. 7 (except Nov. 23) • 9:30 a.m. • FREE!

Join us as we watch the nine 30-minute lectures together and discuss our own questions and insights after. This is a non-credit course with no prerequisites.

Counted Cross Stitch for Absolute Beginners (Ages 12+)

LaGrange • Second Mondays • 6 p.m.

Mon., Oct. 9: Autumn Leaf; Nov. 13: Snowman. Shelby Jarema will teach this fun 30-minute class. Participants will make one cute seasonal pattern each month. All materials supplied. Cost is \$5 per class. Register for one class, or for both! Register at Adult Services Desk or call 260-463-2841 x1030.

Second Saturday Book Club (Ages 16+)

Maple Wood Nature Center, 4550 E 100 S, LaGrange, IN

Saturday, October 14 • 11 a.m.

This month we'll discuss "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Drawing on her life as an indigenous scientist and as a woman, Kimmerer shows how other living beings offer us gifts and lessons, even if we've forgotten how to hear their voices. *Copies of the book are available at LaGrange Library's Adult Desk.*

Yoga with Farra (All Ages)

LaGrange • Tuesdays, Oct. 17–Dec. 19 • 10 a.m.

Beginners are welcome. Wear stretchy, comfortable clothes. A thick yoga mat is recommended. If you don't have a mat, there are extra mats available to borrow. A \$5 donation is suggested.

Candle Making (Ages 12+)

LaGrange • Saturday, October 21 • 10–11:30 a.m.

Murphy's Townhouse Candles and the LaGrange County Public Library invite you to be a candle maker! Learn to wick, pour, and label a candle tin. We will be making one 8 oz. tin. A variety of fall scents will be available to choose from. Please register at the LaGrange library. Cost is \$8 per person, due at registration.

Classic Cinema: Grant & Hitchcock (Ages 12+)

LaGrange • Tues., Oct. 24 • 2 p.m. • FREE

Suspicion — Starring Cary Grant & Joan Fontaine. Rated TV-PG. 99 min. A shy, wealthy woman is romanced by a charming ne'er-do-well whom she marries and then comes to suspect is going to kill her.

Cookbook Club

LaGrange • Saturday, October 28 • 11 a.m.

Choose a recipe, cook it, and bring it to the Cookbook Club Carry-In. Plates, silverware, coffee, and tea will be provided. Families welcome.

Classic Cinema: Grant & Hitchcock (Ages 12+)

LaGrange • Oct. 31 • 2 p.m. • FREE

Notorious — Starring Cary Grant & Ingrid Bergman. Rated TV-PG. 101 min. A government agent who's trying to get the goods on a gang of suspected Nazis in Brazil enlists the aid of a playgirl who accepts a marriage proposal from the gang's ringleader to infiltrate the group.

October Events

Sewing Group

Wed., October 25 • 9:30 am–3:30 pm

Maple Wood Nature Center

Fee: \$5, given back to Parks

Open to anyone! Bring your sewing machine. Get help and direction with a project, share ideas with others, and make new friends. Please bring a sack lunch and munchie to share. RSVP to Linda Grobis at 260-351-3609.

Second Saturday Book Club

Saturday, October 14 • 11 am

Maple Wood Nature Center

We'll discuss *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. If the weather permits, we'll meet around the campfire and enjoy the fall colors. For more information and to check on availability of copies, contact LaGrange County Library Adult Services at 260-463-2841x1030. Seating at picnic tables will be available; participants are welcome to bring their own camp chair.

Every Trail Fitness Walking Club

Saturday, October 7 • 9 am

Maple Wood Nature Center

Park Staff will be present to record participation and answer any questions. Walk at your own pace and choose your distance. Dress for the weather and bring water. Insect repellent, sunscreen, sunglasses or a hat are recommended. Walking may improve your strength, mood, sleep, and heart health.

Folk Jams

Sunday, October 22 • 1:30–5 pm

Maple Wood Nature Center

Jams are mostly folk, country, and bluegrass music with other styles added in occasionally. Bring a snack to share, if you'd like. For more information, contact Erv Troyer at 260-463-2247 or by email at reo43@aol.com. ☺



Not So Spooky Trail

Quilt Class

Saturday, October 7 • 9 am–3 pm

Maple Wood Nature Center

Fee: \$25 (\$5 is given back to Parks)

Ruby Rose: The sample "flower" is done in red but you can choose your color. The pattern is a table topper that looks more complicated than what it is. Registration is required. Instructions are provided upon registration. To register, call the Park Office, at 260-854-2225. For more information, contact instructors Julia Wolhuter, 260-367-1449, or Ira Johnson, 260-367-1438. Please bring a sack lunch and/or potluck contribution.



18-Hole Disc Golf Tournament

Saturday, October 14 • Delt Church Park
6455 S 200 W, Wolcottville, IN

This event is geared for experienced tournament players. If you are a beginning level player or are interested in learning how to play, this event would be fun to watch and pick up tips! Watch the Parks Dept. website and social media for more information as tournament details are finalized, or call the Park Office at 260-854-2225. ☺

Join the Parks Department for the Not So Spooky Trail on October 20 from 5–7:30 pm. This event will take place at the Maple Wood Nature Center, 4550 E 100 S, LaGrange, IN. This fall program provides activities for the whole family, with little ones particularly in mind:

- Wagon rides through the woods
- Pumpkin games
- Roasting marshmallows
- Face-painting
- Seasonal crafts
- Yummy snacks (donations appreciated)

This free program is sure to be a fun time for the whole family! ☺



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PARKVIEW HOSPICE

OFFERS BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUPS

When a loved one passes away, grief can be bewildering and isolating. While each person experiences grief in their own way, getting support to help you understand your grief and find companionship with others dealing with similar struggles can be important in helping you navigate your feelings and move forward.

Parkview Hospice counselors began facilitating bereavement support groups across the area in mid-September. Any community member who has experienced the loss of a loved one, recently or longer ago, and is seeking a compassionate, supportive environment in which to heal is welcome to attend.

The groups run 10 weeks and focus on concepts in the book, "Understanding Your Grief," by Alan D. Wolfelt, Ph.D. Wolfelt's exploration

of grief, self-compassion and practical steps toward healing has been a helpful guide for thousands of people nationwide. Support group members will receive a free copy of the book, which they will read and discuss during the group's 10-week session.

Groups will meet from 4-5:30 p.m. in LaGrange, DeKalb and Noble counties. The LaGrange County support group will meet on Tuesdays, Sept. 12 through Nov. 14, at First Presbyterian Church, 200 W. Michigan St., LaGrange. The DeKalb County support group will meet on Wednesdays, Sept. 13 through Nov. 15, at Miller's Merry Manor, 1367 S. Randolph St., Garrett. The Noble County support group will meet on Thursdays, Sept. 14 through Nov. 16, at the Kendallville Public Library, 221 S. Park Ave., Kendallville.

Experienced hospice social workers

will encourage group members on their grief journey. Rev. Ken Weaver, LCSW, LMFT, hospice chaplain, and Cathy Petrie, LCSW, bereavement counselor, have led support groups together in Noble and LaGrange counties for 15 years. Petrie will be joined by Angela Beer-Walker, LCSW, hospice social worker, in facilitating the Garrett group.

"It's been such a privilege to serve bereaved people in our community for so many years," said Weaver. "We look forward to meeting more people, hearing their stories, and sharing coping strategies. Reaching out and connecting with others can make a real difference, including for people who may feel 'stuck' in their grief."

To enroll or ask questions, call 800-292-9894. 📞

Town Park Board Members Wanted

The Town of Shipshewana is looking for members to serve on the Town Park Board. Those interested must be a resident of the town of Shipshewana. For more information, please contact Terry Martin at 260-768-4743 x701. 📞

SAHS: Last Meeting of 2023

The Shipshewana Are Historical Society (SAHS) will hold its 23rd annual meeting Monday, Oct 16 at 6:30 P.M. IN THE Farver School Museum at 315 N Morton St. in Shipshewana.

The evening meeting will be a summary of the past year's events and artifacts received. Reports will be given and election of officers for the next year will occur as well.

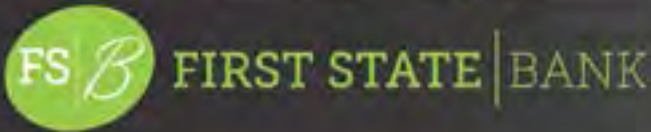
Al Yoder, our area historian, will present the program: Part two of "Real Shipshewana." He will be sharing a PowerPoint about the development of the businesses and how the surrounding area influenced the town.

Please bring a friend to the meeting. This will be our last meeting for the year 2023. 📞





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Thrive by 5 Continues to Make Progress

Surveys, Grants, and Awards

SURVEY

Indiana statistically ranks one of the lowest in the nation for childcare, and families and employers in Northeast Indiana are feeling it. CNBC recently named Indiana one of the 10 worst states to live and work in, and one of the top reasons was a lack of quality affordable childcare.



The Northeast Indiana Regional Early Childhood Coalition (NEIRECC), in partnership with Ambassador Enterprises and national consulting firm Thomas P. Miller & Associates, has launched a survey to gather the data necessary to truly improve the early learning opportunities in our region.

The survey is available online at <https://www.surveylegend.com/s/561b>.

It is designed to gather information from parents about their accessibility to early childcare, barriers, the effects on employment and career advancement. NEIRECC is asking parents with young children to take the survey by Wednesday, October 4.

Families who respond to the survey will be entered in a drawing for a chance to win a \$100 Amazon Gift Card. Information collected will be kept confidential and used only for research purposes.

"Thrive by 5 is working hard to find solutions to our lack of early learning opportunities in LaGrange and Noble Counties," said Thrive by 5 coordinator Jenna Anderson. "The information

we gather both locally and regionally will tell us the story of where we need to focus the most, and where our best opportunities can be found."

GRANTS RECEIVED

Thrive by 5, the early childhood coalition serving LaGrange and Noble Counties, is pleased to announce the investment of \$815,000 in our community to increase access to quality child care for infants and toddlers.

On September 13, Early Learning Indiana announced the 86 recipients of more than \$31 million in grants through the Early Years Initiative, a competitive grant program to help strengthen communities' efforts to support the learning and development of infants and toddlers in Indiana.

Thrive by 5, in collaboration with the LaGrange County Community Foundation, submitted a proposal for a new child care facility in the county and was awarded \$500,000; the maximum amount provided. The facility, which is still in the initial stages of planning and development, would create a child care program that could serve up to 100 children in LaGrange County, including around 50 for ages 0-3.

Thrive by 5 also submitted a proposal on behalf of the Community Foundation of Noble County and was awarded an additional \$315,000. Those funds will be used to support another high-quality provider in developing additional early learning seats at a location to be determined in Noble County.

The aim of the Early Years Initiative

is to help organizations in Indiana meet the developmental needs of infants and toddlers (ages 0-3) and surround Hoosier families with the resources to make the most of these crucial years of learning. The Early Years Initiative has a particular focus on infants and toddlers in low-income families, in families within communities of color and families where very young children are multi-language learners.

Thrive by 5 continues its work in LaGrange and Noble Counties to increase the capacity, quality, and affordability of child care and early learning. More details on the projects will be released as they develop.

FIRST EDUCATOR AWARD

Finally, Thrive by 5 has a big announcement to share with you. They have named their first Outstanding Early Childhood Educator!

Nichole Jahnke of Lakeland School Corporation Preschool at Lima-Brighton was recently awarded the first Outstanding Early Childhood Educator Award from Thrive by 5, sponsored by Black & Ramer Insurance.

Jahnke received a plaque and a \$100 Visa gift card for going above and beyond to care for and teach her students.



Photo Submitted

Thrive by 5 received 25 nominations for this award. Many, including Nichole, were nominated more than once. Nominations for the next round of the Outstanding Early Childhood Educator Award will open in October. 🍌



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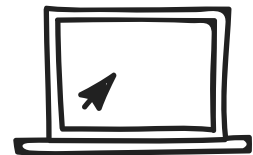
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LaGrange County Miracle Tree: Helping Children in Need

The LaGrange County Miracle Tree is one of the little-known resources in our county that has a large impact on our community. Working out of the basement of the First Presbyterian Church in Lagrange, the non-profit organization began serving in LaGrange County in 2019 with the goal of providing assistance to children of low-income families.

The organization is a sister program to the Noble County Miracle Tree, which began over 40 years ago. Together, the two programs work to serve families in need in LaGrange, Steuben, and Elkhart Counties, while also reaching families in Sturgis, MI. By collecting item donations from the public, Miracle Tree is able to distribute supplies to children living in poverty and to improve their quality of life. Since its establishment in 2019, the LaGrange County Miracle Tree has been able to reach over 400 children in the community.

Although they work year-round to help children experiencing crisis situations (such as fire loss or domestic violence), LaGrange County Miracle Tree also focuses their efforts during the Christmas season to provide aid to children in poverty. The organization takes this goal one step further, working to provide not just a child's needs but also their wishes in hopes of making a child's world a little brighter.

More recently, Miracle Tree is seeing an increasing need within the community for assistance in families

with newborn babies and toddlers. The organization is working on a new program this year to better aid the overwhelming number of families in need with children in this age group. Through the "Items for Infants" program, LaGrange County Miracle Tree works to provide items for newborn children and toddlers, such as diapers, formula, clothing, bedding, and more.

In order to support young children and teenagers in need, LaGrange County Miracle Tree depends on collecting donations from the general community. The organization has a storage facility to hold supplies for when a crisis situation arises unexpectedly, but it takes a community to keep the shelves stocked and loaded, not just for crisis situations but for the Christmas season.

There are several opportunities available for those in the community who are willing to help make sure the children in need within our community are provided for. To start, adopting a child allows a person, family, or business to fully provide a child with all the needs they require to live a quality life. Miracle Tree has a list of items that they ask adopters to provide their child with, including a variety of clothing, personal hygiene items, a toy, and more, to ensure that child experiences a complete Christmas.

Where purchasing all the necessities for a child is a significant commitment,

community members can also keep an eye out for the Miracle Tree tag locations on the LaGrange County Miracle Tree Facebook page. These tags indicate an item that a child in the community needs. Community members can pick up a tag (or more than one!), shop for the item on the tag and return the tag with the purchased item to Miracle Tree.

Finally, if community members can neither adopt a child nor shop for individual items but still want to support Miracle Tree's mission, monetary donations can be made out to LaGrange County Miracle Tree Inc and sent to 200 W Michigan St. LaGrange, IN 46746.

If you have any questions about Miracle Tree or how to help, or are in need of this service, you can reach out to lagrangecomiracletree@gmail.com.

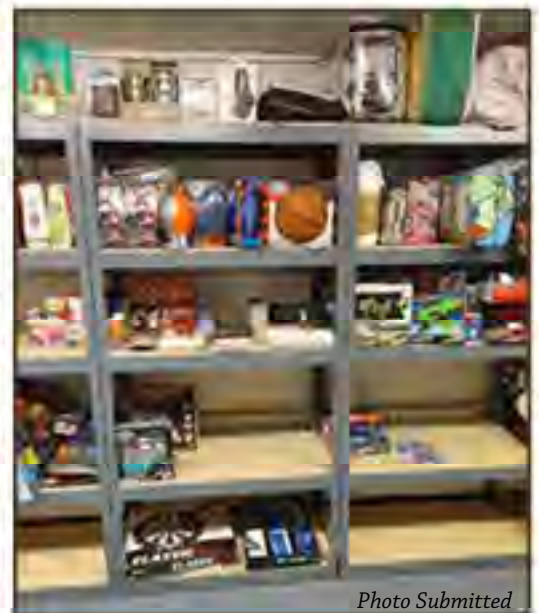


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October Kids Club Birthdays

- 1 Santiago Dominguez
- 2 Daxtyn Delagrang, Wilma Fry, Seth Miller, Jared Yoder
- 3 Gabriel Eicher, Sadie Mast, Macy Matney, Jack Miller, Maverick Turner
- 4 Ethan Miller
- 5 Aaron Miller, Bryan Miller
- 6 Braden Hochstetler, Allie Wolfe, Juliana Yoder
- 7 Mason Grossman, Sophia Lehman, Bryleigh Miller, Aubrey Young
- 8 Hanan Algaradi, Katy Mishler
- 9 Ava Hochstetler, Zachariah Jones, Cash Miller, Weston Troyer
- 10 Hagar Algaradi, Oliver Lancour, Avery VonGunten, Karla Yoder
- 11 Finleigh Withrow, Hannah Yoder, Nolan Yoder
- 12 Theodore Frey, Wyatt Frey, Jaryl Kurtz, Melody Yoder
- 13 Madison Arbogast, Lane Mullet, Heather Troyer, Seth Yoder
- 14 Derek Lehman, Nathaneal Wilkins
- 15 Lyndon Bontrager, Lucas Miller
- 16 Travis Bontrager, Felicity Eash, Elijah Lambright, Keturah Fry, Dawson Miller, Daniel Schrock

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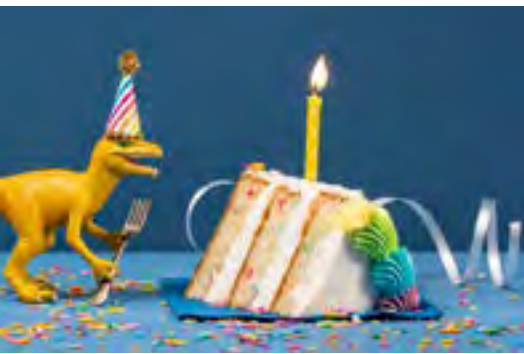
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- 17 Alaina Halderman, Jebreel Masad
- 18 Brooklyn Hochstetler, Kendall Yoder
- 19 Tameem Alrasheed, Grayson Kauffman, Alice Miller, Amy Miller
- 20 Kaia Forbes, Adam Hershberger, Lynn Miller, Kelsey Slabach
- 21 Ryan Miller, Yaritzi Munoz Huerta
- 22 Alaina Clark, Skylee Doty, Akhila Reed, Jamin Yoder
- 23 Aiden Grant, Jenna Yoder, Willard Yoder
- 24 Knox Cripe, Serenity Lambright, Kara Lower, Vonda Mishler, Johny Wiles
- 25 Elijah Bontrager, Jake Chupp
- 26 Gavin Hochstetler, Adelyn Vandergriff, Justin Yoder, Dominic Young
- 27 Nicole Lehman
- 28 Chester Bloom, Marissa Childers, Archer Glassman
- 29 Heidi Borntreger, Natalie Detweiler, Brentlee Miller, Keegan Miller, Tyson Yoder
- 30 Jeslyn Schwartz
- 31 Jamie Chupp, Trenton Hostetler, Heidi Yoder

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It is important to protect our way of life. Law enforcement officers have started enforcing tractor violations here in LaGrange County. The use of tractors and farming go hand in hand. Our county residents understand that from time to time it may be necessary to use the roads to get from farm to field. This is part of our way of life here in LaGrange County, and that will not change.

Those traveling our local streets and county roads also know that the use of the tractor has grown at an incredible rate, into improper, and sometimes dangerous uses. This explosion of improper use can no longer be ignored.

To boil this issue down to its simplest form—if you use a tractor as if it is a car or truck, you must follow all the rules that go along with a car or truck. This includes registration and licensing.

The reasoning behind this is straightforward. All vehicles must register to operate on our roads. (IC §9-18.1-2-3) But a “farm tractor” is not required to be registered. (IC §9-18.1-2-2(7)(H)) A “farm tractor” means a self-propelled implement of agriculture designed and used primarily as a farm implement for drawing implements of agriculture used on a farm and, **when using the highways, in traveling from one (1) field or farm to another or to or from places of repairs.** (IC §9-13-2-56) So if you are not using

your tractor for farm purposes, such as traveling from field to farm, or farm to field, or for repairs—by law it is not a “farm tractor.”

It is unfortunate that common sense has been put aside for convenience. A “farm tractor” cannot pull a boat to the lake. A “farm tractor” cannot pull a trailer all over our county for commercial purposes. A “farm tractor” cannot pull a trailer with eight (8) lawn chairs set out for seating on the trailer. A “farm tractor” cannot pull a trailer with a rack loaded with kayaks.

This enforcement is not meant to pick on any particular group, in reality it is just treating everyone under the law in the same manner. We are doing this to protect our way of life—quite literally, our way of **LIFE**. The dangerous circumstances the improper use of tractors have brought about is not worth the potential loss of life.

There will be an informational meeting on October 11, 2023, at 2 pm. The current location will be the LaGrange County Prosecutor’s office, across from the courthouse at 105 N High Street, LaGrange IN 46761. This is a large meeting room, however, spacing is limited so perhaps finding a spokesperson for larger groups may help make sure everyone can get their questions answered.


- Travis J. Glick, LaGrange County Prosecutor

Reading Celebration and Volunteer Work

Meadowview Elementary School was “WOOFing it up” on Friday, September 1 when we celebrated our summer reading program, “Paws for Reading!” A total of 80 students participated, with each student reading 600 minutes or more over the summer. The students were able to enjoy the company of Cavapoo puppies, as well as a golden retriever puppy thanks to Seth Eash and Karissa Mynhier. Each participant also received a coupon for a

free drink, slushie, or scoop of ice cream from The 4-Way Café...thank you 4-Way Café! Vanilla Bean donated ice cream tokens for our top readers in the school and grade levels...thank you Vanilla Bean! Top readers also received a copy of the book, Dog Breath, as well as dog puzzles, dog joke cards, or a dog-themed card game. Thank you Meadowview Elementary PTO for supporting our program by providing prizes for the top readers, in addition to Scooby Snack

Bones for all participants!

Fourth graders and some parents from Meadowview traveled to the MEC at the end of August to do volunteer work and package meals for Feed My Starving Children. In just over two hours, Meadowview students were able to package over 30,000 meals! This will allow over 108 people to eat for an entire year. Great job and way to give back to those less fortunate. 



The golden retriever (in the picture to the right) is a three legged dog named Lena who lost her leg due to the umbilical cord being wrapped around her leg. Lena leans a lot with only three legs!



Top 11 Readers in the School: Back (left to right): Derek Frey, 3B; Aaron Hershberger, 4A; Jamie King, 2A; Cyrus Miller, 1A; and Nicholas Bontrager, 3B. Front: Joshua Miller, 4A; Ruth Miller, 3B; Mila Yoder, 1C; Neva Bontrager, 2C; Bryan Lehman, 4A; and Amber Miller, 4B.



1st Graders



2nd Graders

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Chocolate Sales Kick Off

Meadowview is participating in The World's Best Chocolate sales and to kick off the celebration of sales, "Hollywood" James Ortega visited Meadowview. James delighted students with his many tricks and skills using a soccer ball. Some students were chosen to come down to help James keep the soccer ball spinning on their fingers. If you are interested in getting your fingers on some of The World's Best Chocolate, see a Meadowview student. Chocolate bars are \$2 each. Chocolate sales end September 25.



Buy Chocolate!



3rd Graders



4th Graders

Top 3 Readers in the School (left to right):

- Nicholas Bontrager,
- Bryan Lehman and
- Amber Miller.

All Photos Submitted



Service Projects and Camping Fun!

In August, our third and fourth graders spent the morning at the MEC with the Feed My Starving Children organization. A total of 201 volunteers packed 141 boxes which totals 30,456 meals! Those meals will feed 83 children for an entire year. Students enjoyed working together on the service project and look forward to participating in future years. A big thank you to all the

parent volunteers who helped make

the morning a success!

Camp Scottie has become a favorite yearly tradition, and this year's event did not disappoint! Students brought their families back to school on a Friday night to enjoy s'mores, crafts, photo booths, yard games, face painting and more! A huge thank you to all who helped with planning and volunteered their time at Camp Scottie, including a group of art students from Westview High School who helped with face painting. What a fun evening! 📸



This page made possible by the



Shipshe-Scott Elementary

Home of the Scotties

New Staff



The new staff at Shipshe-Scott this year: (left to right): Christy Miller, Bradi Yoder, Chelsea Weaver, Angie Yoder, Crystal Reed, Christine Nickel, Beth Eash and Talandra Neff.



All Photos Submitted






September 1 was the Topeka Fitness Classic, also known as Field Day, at Topeka Elementary School and it was a beautiful day! Miss Eash planned the most unique and fun stations for students in grades 1-4. Thank you to Westview's National Honor Society students for leading the stations and having fun!

Fourth graders at Topeka held their second annual Market Day on September 7. As part of their social studies unit, students had

to create a business and choose a product to sell to the rest of the school. The students were in charge of picking the price, the quantity of items they wanted to sell, and creating a poster to advertise their business.

We had bakeries, woodworking shops, artists, and many more. The other students in the school were able to purchase their items with pretend money. We have a lot of creative fourth graders at Topeka!  *All photos submitted*

Field Day and Market Day



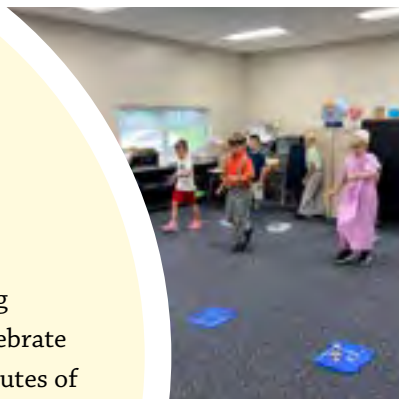
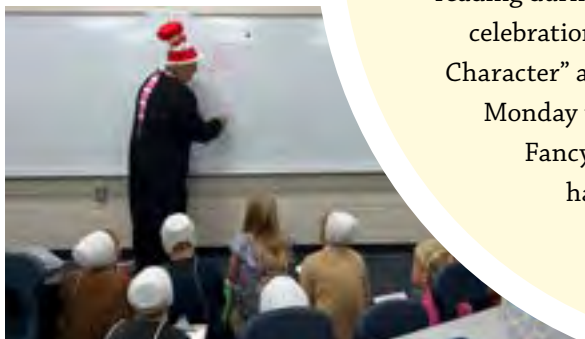
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Summer Reading Celebration

Students who completed the Summer Reading Challenge enjoyed an afternoon of activities to celebrate their hard work. Students who logged over 800 minutes of reading during summer break were invited to attend the celebration. This year's theme was "Reading Builds Character" and four different characters showed up on Monday to lead the stations. The Cat in the Hat, Fancy Nancy, Ms. Frizzle, and Thing One had a fun time with the students! Great job, TES Bears, on all of your reading! 📖



Hard Work, Teamwork and **HAVING FUN!**



This page made possible by the

Mrs. Geng's class (6I) is building teamwork skills and positivity in Art.



Westview Elementary students playing Ultimate Four Square at lunch recess.



WES students and teachers are hard at work during our new whole school intervention time!



6th grade classes have been enjoying drumming!



Students in Mr. Stump's class experimented with the Scientific Method by building and then modifying FPG-9's (Foam Plate Gliders, 9-inch). The goal of the project was to improve the average performance of their models after making modifications to their original gliders. Photos Submitted



Westview Jr.-Sr. High School and Students Receive AWARDS

Westview Jr-Sr High School earned a high National ranking in 2023-2024 Best High Schools, according to a recent U.S. News release. Schools are ranked on their performance on state-required tests, graduation, and how well they prepare students for college. Westview ranked in the top 20% of both the state and the nation. As the adage goes, "it takes a village." Thank you, Westview

staff and community, for all you do. In August, the College Board awarded students across the country with academic honors through their annual National Recognition Programs. These awards recognize high-performing students who excel academically on College Board assessments.

minimum 3.5 GPA, assessment scores within the top 10% in each state or a score of 3 or higher on two or more AP exams in 9th and 10th grade, and attend school in a rural area or small town. Thirteen Westview students met these criteria and received the National Rural and Small-Town Award.

Congratulations to our Westview Warriors! 🏆

The criteria for selection include a

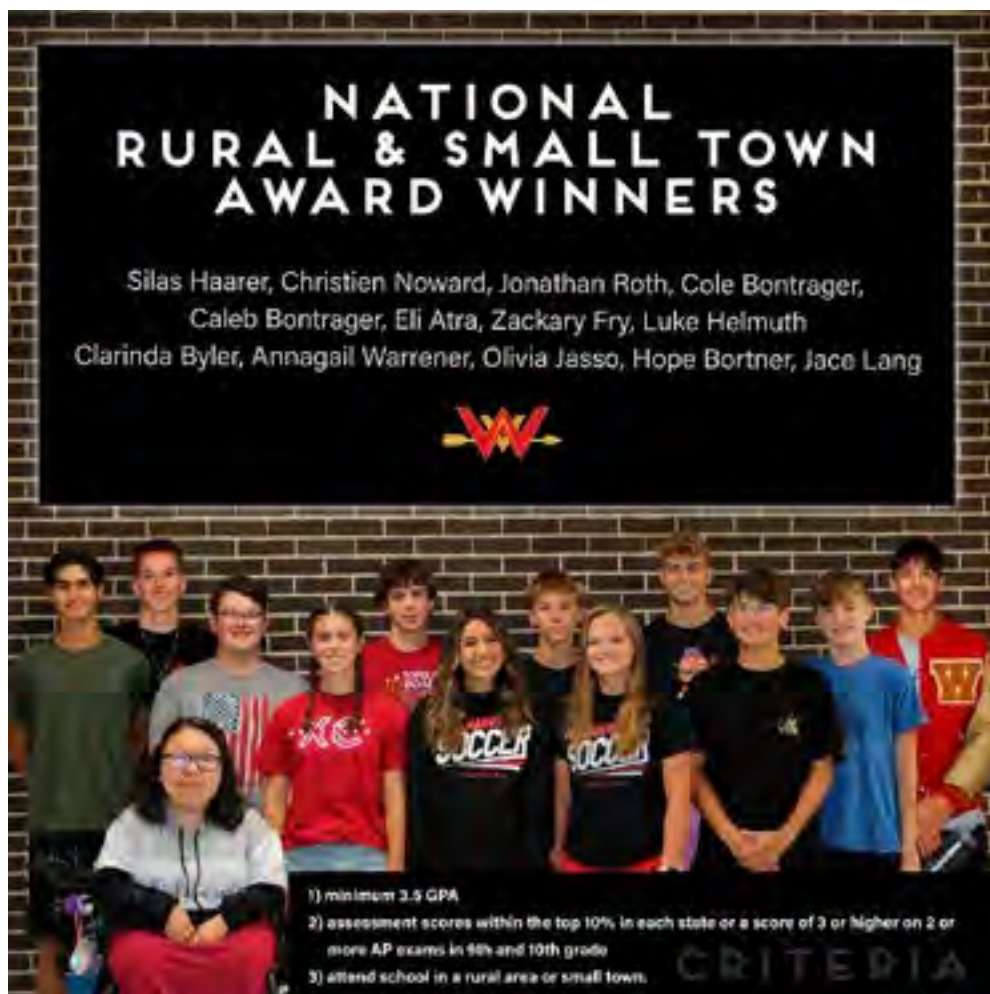


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NATION'S BEST HIGH
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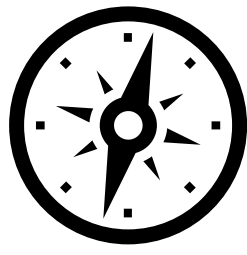
Schools are ranked on their performance on state-required tests, graduation, and how well they prepare students for college.

This page made possible by



Westview Jr./Sr. High

Home of the
Warriors



Westview's PLUS Students Go to **Camp Potawotami**

On September 8, Westview's PLUS students traveled to Camp Potawotami. Juniors and Seniors in PLUS (Partners Linking Understanding for Success) are paired up with students in grades K-6 from each elementary school. The students met their mentors and spent the day at Camp Potawotami creating memories and getting to know each other. 📍



All Photos and Information from the Westview Jr-Sr High School's Facebook Page



Girls JV & Varsity Volleyball



1



2



3



4



5



6

- 1) Mia Bontrager spikes the ball into the Garrett court.
- 2) Addy Kauffman returns a volley from the opposing team.
- 3) Kylie Yoder saves the ball after a wayward hit from a teammate.
- 4) Kloie Yoder gets the first hit after a serve from the Garrett court.
- 5) Camryn Christner sets up a spike for her teammate.
- 6) Jailey Lambright goes up for a soft hit over the net.

Photos by Abby Wenger

These photos and more will be available for purchase at lagwanaphotos.com.

Cross Country Invite Champs



The Westview High School Cross Country teams have found several wins so far this season. At the Prairie Heights invite on August 26, the boys' team placed first overall (1) and the girls' team placed fourth.

On September 9, both the boys' and girls' teams participated in the Wildcat Invitational held at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, IN. The girls' team finished 14th out of

23 and the boys' team finished 16th out of 27. Noah Bontrager placed first overall in the boys' race with a time of 15:27.50, finishing with a six second lead over the second-place runner from Greenfield-Central (2).

Both boys' and girls' teams placed first overall in the Class A race at the New Prairie Invitational on September 16 (3). Placing in the top ten on the Westview girls' team was Bailey Manns

(3rd place with a time of 20:50.6) and Adelyn Rainsberger (6th place with a time of 21:21.1). On the boys' team, runners Noah Bontrager (1st, 16:18.4), Daniel Yoder (7th, 17:12.8), and Nick Bontrager (8th, 17:13.5) placed in the top ten overall.

A big congratulations to our Westview Boys' and Girls' Cross Country Teams! 🏆

Photos Submitted





HS GIRLS GOLF

Sponsored by



2023 HS Girls Golf Team: (left to right): Lily Bennett, Danika Yoder, Becky Moore and Coach Jeff Marchant.

Photo by Amy Martin



JH GIRLS SOCCER

Sponsored by



2023 JH Girls Soccer: Back (left to right): Zuriyah Reed, Breanna Garrett, Faith Stump, Katie Weimer, Morgan Grossman, Hallie Stults and Coach Drew Ryall. Third: Manager Mckenzie Hershberger, Grace Yoder, Shelby Mullett, Lexi Sweet, Mari Jo Mast, Rylee Watson and Keera Hostetler. Second: Bryndle Bontrager, Julian Warrenner, Avery Myers, Hadley Yoder, Ashby Yoder and Hannah Jasso. Front: Jayni Drake, Josie Ryall, Chandler Engle, Trinity Antal, Tori Taylor and Laine Bortner.

Photo by Abby Wenger



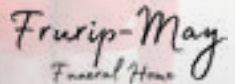
JH BOYS SOCCER A TEAM

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2023 JH Boys Soccer A Team: Back (left to right): Elijah Watts, Collin Vandergriff, Lucas Swanson, Mason Walz, Tyler Stutzman and Coach Blake Egli. Middle: Beckham Misner, Zakaria Algaradi, Jakoby Whetstone, Blake Hostetler, Justin Wallace and Cole Miller. Front: Bryce Yoder, Cash Miller, Grady Yoder, Spencer Lambright, Brigham Rahn and Ibrahim Algaradi. Not Pictured: Marcus Garrett. Photo by Abby Wenger



JH BOYS SOCCER B TEAM

Sponsored by  Fruip-May Funeral Home

2023 JH Boys Soccer B Team: Back (left to right): Logan Miller, Charlie Double, Avery Christner, Coach Braden Eash Evan Roth and Malachi Lambright. Middle: Winchester Altimus, Blake Miller, Declan Ryall, Trenton Vilardo, Adam Alamari and Miles Yoder. Front: Trynten Faulkner, Caydon Miller, Mazen Sowaileh, Luke Bontrager, Alex Stutzman and Cohen Shephard. Photo by Abby Wenger



JH GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

Sponsored by



2023 JH Girls Cross Country: Back (left to right): Serenity Tennant, Alana Donat, Janae Yoder, Madi Yoder, Jada Mauck and Coach Erica Mohr. Middle: Laura Miller, Jessica Hostetler, Hannah Miller, Emma Cummins, Paige McDoanld and Merrill Warrener. Front: Treva Miller, Kylie Mast, Mariah Miller, Abigail Lehmer, Grace Miller, Kimber Helmuth and Kate Mauck.

Photo by Abby Wenger



JH BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

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2023 JH Boys Cross Country: Back (left to right): Shawn Schmucker, Remington Helmuth, Adam Frey, AJ Martin, Gain Rainsberger, Ryan Miller and Justin Miller. Middle: Brenden Miller, Cole Donat, Josh Bontrager, Michael Bontrager, Michael Manns, Cody Hill, Travis Gingerich and Coach Erica Mohr. Front: Kasen Yoder, Coltin Bontrager, Asher Sandiquest, Lance Mullet, Jamin Miller and Karson Mast.

Photo by Abby Wenger



7TH GRADE VOLLEYBALL

Sponsored by



2023 7th Grade Volleyball: Back (left to right): Sara Bontrager, Tennley Amsden, Hadleigh Bontreger, Katie Martin and Coach Mallory Berkey. Middle: Brynn Bontrager, Kari Miller, Kirsten Miller, Lyndora Schrock and Manager Preslee Rahn. Front: Alisyn Tezloff, Makayla Slabach, Janessa Stutzman, Hope Brandenberger and Madalyn Everage.

Photo by Abby Wenger



8TH GRADE VOLLEYBALL

Sponsored by



2023 8th Grade Volleyball: Back (left to right): Melody Lambright, Mabel Trethewey, Madi Miller, Aurora Miller and Alayah Hostetler. Middle: Coach Whitney Rahn, Alexis Diehl, Kari Chupp, Mila Geyer, Allison Stutzman and Manager Preslee Rahn. Front: Kya Roose, Jenisa Kauffman, Karla Yoder, Alexis Lambright and Dani Whan.

Photo by Abby Wenger



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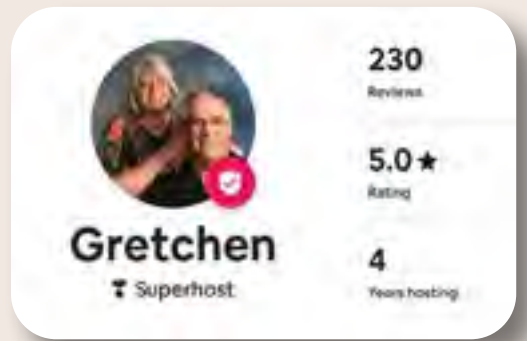
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The Community
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INDIANA'S MOST HOSPITABLE AIRBNB HOST:



Shipshewana Airbnb Host Named Best in the State

by Chloe Lovell

Shipshewana residents are accustomed to seeing tourists in town. It is how many residents make their livelihood. From the various shops to the shows at the Blue Gate and the hometown restaurants to the seasonal events, Shipshewana is a hub of tourist activity that continues to grow from year to year.

It is not just these day-to-day activities that keep the tourists coming, the local lodging plays a big part as well. Keeping tourists near the center of town and providing the means for visitors to stay longer than a day helps the tourism business thrive in our community.

There are many high-quality hotels and Bed and Breakfasts in the area tourists can book to explore Shipshewana. One bed and breakfast

in particular, Gretchen Miller's Hidden Creek, has been noticed by the vacation property rental company Airbnb.

Used worldwide as a means to help travelers and tourists find short-term lodging during their travels, Airbnb connects these travelers with the hosts of potential lodging, who are often individuals who share part of their personal homes with travelers. This past July, Airbnb announced the most hospitable host in each state within the United States. To achieve this title, hosts needed to have a perfect five-star rating in the Cleanliness, Check-in, and Communication categories, and they needed to have at least 100 reviews.

Gretchen Miller of Shipshewana has been recognized as the most hospitable Airbnb host in Indiana. A Superhost on

Airbnb, or a host who Airbnb recognizes as highly rated and most experienced, Gretchen is no stranger to living the life of a hospitable hostess.

Her grandparents Paul and Ruth Miller were the original owners of the Green Meadow Ranch Bed and Breakfast. In the 1980s, one of her first jobs as a teenager was to help with the housekeeping at the bed and breakfast. She also helped work at the gift shop that her grandmother had within Green Meadow Ranch.

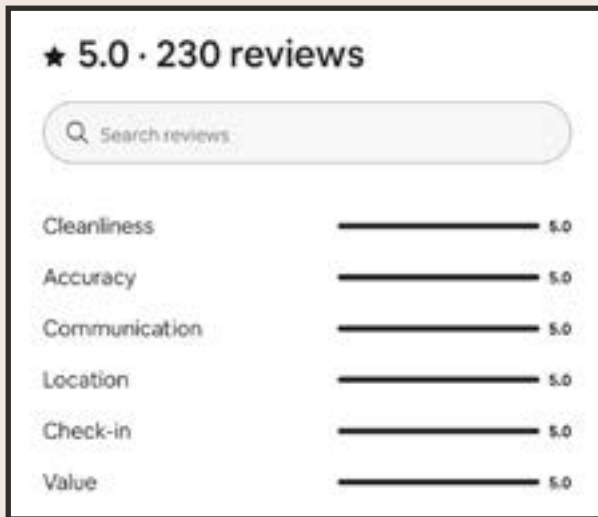
In 1994, her parents Gene and Gwen Newcomer built the Songbird Ridge Bed and Breakfast, where Gretchen worked at the gift shop her mother had there. Working at both gift shops and helping with housekeeping provided Gretchen with a couple of great opportunities to



meet visitors in Shipshewana.

Less than a decade later in 2002, Gretchen and her husband Lavon transformed the lower level of their home with thoughts of renting out the basement or using it to host visitors. This space allowed Gretchen to take on any overflow guests from the Songbird Ridge Bed and Breakfast, as well as use the space to house family and friends as needed. When her parents retired in 2019, however, Gretchen and her husband needed to make a decision: do they continue hosting travelers? And if so, how?

The two began to consider using Airbnb. They found several features of hosting on Airbnb attractive, such as the advertisement of the listing, the ease of booking a stay and of collecting payment. Additionally, Gretchen would no longer need to supply breakfast to visitors staying in the guest portion of her home. Making the decision to give it a try, Gretchen found creating her listing on Airbnb to



be an easy process.

Surrounded by quiet pasturelands and close to the center of town, the Hidden Creek location is ideal for the guests and for Gretchen when she hosts. Utilizing the walk-out lower-level space of their home, Gretchen and Lavon provide a living room, a kitchen and dining area, and two bedrooms with a private bathroom in each. Separate from her family's living area on the main floor, guests have a separate entrance and parking spaces just for them.

Sharing their personal home with visitors comes with its difficulties, however. There is a constant need to be aware of how their living style may affect guests. For instance, Gretchen's family must be cognizant of their noise levels, and conscious of how the food they cook smells. Gretchen and her husband also want to be available to host guests during heavy tourism times, such as weekends and holidays, which prevents them from traveling



much during those times.

Despite these difficulties, Gretchen finds the motivation to continue hosting through the positive reviews guests leave on Airbnb after their stay. Scrolling through the reviews of Gretchen's Hidden Creek listing, one can find glowing reviews of the listing left by one satisfied guest to the next. Some guests even remark that they plan on coming back, like Jamie, a guest who stayed at Hidden Creek in November of 2022: "...We hope this home continues renting for years to come, as we will definitely come time and time again, making it a family tradition as our little one grows."


In addition to these positive reviews, Gretchen enjoys contributing to each guest's experience in town. "It's rewarding to be a part of Shipshewana's visitors experience," Gretchen shared. Through hosting, she is able to connect with her guests and catch up with those who have stayed with her before. She encounters guests who had stayed at her parents' and grandparents' Bed and Breakfasts; some have been vacationing in Shipshewana for over 30 years.

Gretchen first heard that she

had been selected as Indiana's most hospitable Airbnb host last spring. She had received an email from the communications team at Airbnb stating her Hidden Creek Airbnb listing had the best ratings in Indiana, and that she would be recognized in an upcoming Airbnb blog post, requesting she fill out a Google form interview about her experience hosting. "I didn't believe it and was sure it was a scam!" Gretchen exclaimed. This past summer, however, the Airbnb communications team notified Gretchen that the blog post was live. Upon researching online, Gretchen was amazed to discover that it wasn't a scam, it was real.

"It was very humbling since there are so many great hosts in Shipshewana and elsewhere," Gretchen stated. "There are certainly things we could improve. It's easy these days for people to focus on the negative things or be critical. We are blessed to host Shipshewana's visitors who may be more mature and gracious than other travelers in the state."

Gretchen's Airbnb is just one of the many high-quality lodging options in the area that tourists can book to explore Shipshewana. But just as lodging is important to entice tourists with a longer stay, they would have no reason to stay without all of the wonderful activities and events put on by Shipshewana residents.

"I'm thankful for those people, past and present, who work so hard to make Shipshewana a great place to visit and live," Gretchen said. "Our business exists because of people coming to the flea market, shops, concerts, shows, and special events. We appreciate the effort that goes into running and promoting these events. It's a pleasure to be a small part of this community." 

Photos from Hidden Creek Airbnb Listing



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HISTORICAL FEATURE

HALLOWEEN SHENANIGANS: AND OTHER OCTOBER DIVERSIONS

by Harold D. Gingerich

October has long been the season for creative Halloween pranks that locally were, for the most part, harmless fun often involving such things as “corn shock football” (i.e., knocking over corn shocks) or a “borrowed” Amish buggy. During the mid-1960s, an Amish buggy or two miraculously appeared on the Sale Barn roof on the east side of Topeka every Halloween. Perhaps the cleverest stunt was “The Great Elephant - Buggy Caper.”

Whose idea it was to put “Newt Katie’s” (Miller) buggy, hitched to a pink elephant, on top of the Topeka Town Hall (now the police department) is still a mystery. Former Topeka Town Marshal Carl Stoltz found the pictorial evidence in the police files when he was preparing a presentation for the historical society on the history of law enforcement in Topeka. No one admits

to knowing when it was done or who was responsible for the engineering feat. There is one clue in the photograph. It is clearly visible in the picture that it was done before a new fire station. Carl says that he was a boy when this happened, but he assured this writer that he was much too young to have participated in the fun.

The following morning, town board members were dutifully incensed and outraged over the whole affair. Apparently “Newt Katie” thought it was funny when she saw it too, that is until she learned that it was her buggy on top of the town hall.

Rumor has it that the enterprising young men, one of which may have been the Town Board President’s son, decided to “borrow” the Republican Party’s elephant that was being stored at the Elkhart County Fairground in Goshen.

We are happy to report that both the buggy and the elephant were safely returned undamaged to their rightful owners. What punishment, if any, was meted out to the young men is not known. But the photo of the buggy endures as a testimony to their ingenuity.

Halloween pranks are nothing new for Topeka. To my knowledge, neither a bed nor a buggy was ever hoisted on top of the water tower as happened in Millersburg. Perhaps Elkhart County boys are more enterprising than their counterparts to the east. But for many years, Topeka people woke up to a buggy or two perched on the roof of the Sale Barn. Some might say that it was a relatively harmless rite of passage for young Topeka lads.

The year that a buggy came crashing to the ground as it was being hoisted onto the Sale Barn roof seems to have marked the end of the annual tradition. Rumor has it that former town marshal, Red Haggard, may have been an observer of the whole affair. Needless to say, if there are any surviving photos of buggies on the Sale Barn, the historical society would be delighted to make copies.

One of my favorite stories is about the time Andy Gingerich (my uncle) talked Slim Miller into raiding a Honeyville watermelon patch. What Slim didn’t know is that Andy had arranged things with Carl Christner to provide a little welcome for the would-be melon snatchers. At the appropriate time, Carl started firing his shotgun into the air. Andy dropped to the ground, crying out in pain--he



HISTORICAL FEATURE

pretended to be shot. The word is that poor Slim was so scared that he took off running across the corn field for town leaving Andy to fend for himself. One version of the story says that when Slim came to the fence there was no need for him to climb over, he was so scared that he cleared it in full stride. We will never know if that part of the story is true or not because all the participants are now gone. But it certainly makes for a great story. What we do know is that the whole thing was an elaborate joke on Slim because there never was a watermelon patch.

Merv Miller, my cousin, and Andy's nephew, says that for the next month or two, Andy would pretend to have a limp every time he came to town and saw Slim just to add a little more insult to Slim's misery.

A more recent prank was when the late Harley Fry, who lived just east of town, returned home to find Bambi (a deer -- field dressed of course) hitched to one of his buggies sitting in the driveway. Photos do exist to verify the story. Rumor has it that a certain local physician, along with a retired pharmacist currently living in Ohio,

may have vital information on just how it was accomplished.

When I was in high school, more than a few teenager guys from town thought it was great fun to try and knock over corn shocks. It wasn't long before a number of Amish farmers caught on and started driving steel fence posts into the ground and building the corn shocks around them, making it more challenging and painful to knock them over.

I also remember there were years when the local authorities and grocery store owners were on the lookout for teenagers purchasing toilet paper because there had been an epidemic of homes in the area being "tee-peed." The tradition of young people adorning the front yards of their friends with toilet paper continues to this day.

One thing is evident, other than

a few incidents involving "cherry bombs" and mailboxes, there was never any intent for malicious mischief. It was all done in good fun. And as best we can tell, all the "borrowed" items were returned to their rightful owners intact.

The one notable exception being the smashed buggy.

Disclaimer: *The recounting of these shenanigans is purely for entertainment purposes. None of these memories from the past are intended to encourage, inspire, or promote criminal mischief and vandalism. Have a GREAT October!*

IT WAS
ALL DONE IN
GOOD FUN.

This article sponsored by



Left-Over Letters Spell Out A Message From Erika!


Enter remaining letters starting at the top and going left to right.

Word Search

(find all the underlined words) by Erika Byler

I love all of our cats very much, but I recently realized while reading a Garfield comic just how strange our oldest cat, Felicia, is. I was chuckling about how ridiculous it is for a cat to specifically enjoy lasagna when I realized I actually had a cat that would probably appreciate lasagna.

Felicia only eats kibble. She doesn't recognize treats as edible, and the same goes for any wet canned cat food. Tomato sauce, however? She loves it. She licks it off of my pizza if I don't stop her. She loves gnawing on the crusts to get any little bit of sauce I left. I've watched her try to lick the leftover spaghetti sauce out of bowls when she thinks I'm not watching.

How do I convince her shredded chicken is food, but tomato sauce is not?  Solution on page 49.

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

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2nd Prize(s): A pen, notepad set, a letter opener, and *The Honeyville Journal* from LaGwana.

3rd Prize(s): *The Honeyville Journal*.

*Additional 2nd and 3rd prizes will be awarded for every 50 entries over 100 received.

RULES:

- 1) Identify farm shown by owner's name, by address, or by road and nearest intersecting road.
- 2) Mail to Hometown Treasure - Mystery Farm, P.O. Box 70, Shipshewana, IN 46565. Please include your name and address.
- 3) Entry deadline: October 17, 2023. Please allow time for mail delivery.
- 4) Winners will be drawn and prizes mailed. Next month's winner will receive a 1-year subscription to *The Connection* and more!
- 5) Correct entries listed in our next issue!

LAST MONTH'S WINNERS

Herman & Emma Miller of Nature Trail, Topoka correctly identified last issue's farm as being owned by **Gary & Sara Horschberger, 6350 S 400 W, Topoka.**



Congratulations! They won a \$25 Gift Certificate from Tiffany's Restaurant, a pen, a notepad set, a letter opener, and a copy of *The Honeyville Journal* from LaGwana. Second prize went to **Larry Yoder of 200 N, Shipshewana.** Third prize went to **Kenny & Ruby Fry of 400 W, Shipshewana.**



There were 33 correct entries this month. Others that guessed correctly were:

Lavera & Leah Eash, Junior & Mabel Miller, Lyle & Katie Yoder, Jaron & Colleen Miller, Regina Bontrager, WM & Edna Miller, Wanda Henschberger, Dan & Sue Miller, Elmer & Irene Miller, John & LeAnna Kartz, Mike & Emma Weaver, Wilbur & Ida Weaver, Christy & Loretta Beechy, Jaymar & Karen Miller, Jr. & Esther Beechy, Danny & Ina Miller, Davy & Ruby Yoder, Matt & Velda Kauffman, Leo & Martha Bontrager, Wilbur LeRoy Yoder, Mattie Mullet, Dan & Loretta Miller, Lonnie & Maria Bontrager, Byron & Norma Slabach, Myron & Kara Wingard, John & Lorene Kartz, Lavon & Mary Yoder, Pete Barkman, Joe & Leanna Eicher, and LaVerda Fry.

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Next Month Sponsored By: **THE CONNECTION**

Coloring Contest Winners

Six-year-old Brylee Wilson of 260 N, Shippshewana was our winner for the September Coloring Contest. She won a large mum or pumpkin at Country Garden Center in Topeka.

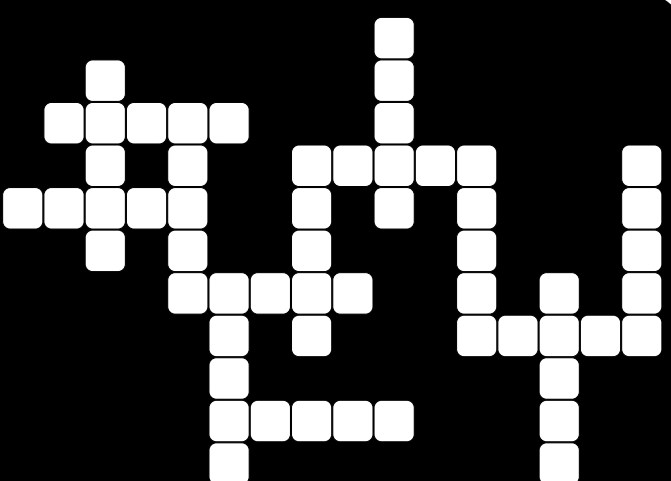
Everyone else that sent in a page can stop by Country Garden Center for a free small pumpkin through October.

Runners-up were Megan Riehl, age 6; Heidi Slabach, age 5; Andrea Nicole Lambright, age 4; Abigail Wingard, age 3; and Adrian Bontrager, age 2. Honorable Mentions: Vanessa Faith Miller, age 6; Halle Stutzman, age 5; Lovina Rose Miller, age 5; Lance Nissley, age 5; Emily Bontrager, age 6; and Angie Bontrager, age 6.

Be SURE to include all your information on the coloring page, even your age! We do not want you to miss out! Remember, the contest is only for children up to six years old. 



Apple
Candy
Crisp
Crops
Donut
Field
Ghost
Gourd
Robot
Scary
Seeds
Treat
Trick
Truck



Clueless
Crossword

Solution to Clueless
Crossword is on pg 49.
by Chloe Lovell

Use the words listed to fill in the spaces!

WHAT
DIES
WHEN IT
DRINKS
WATER

?

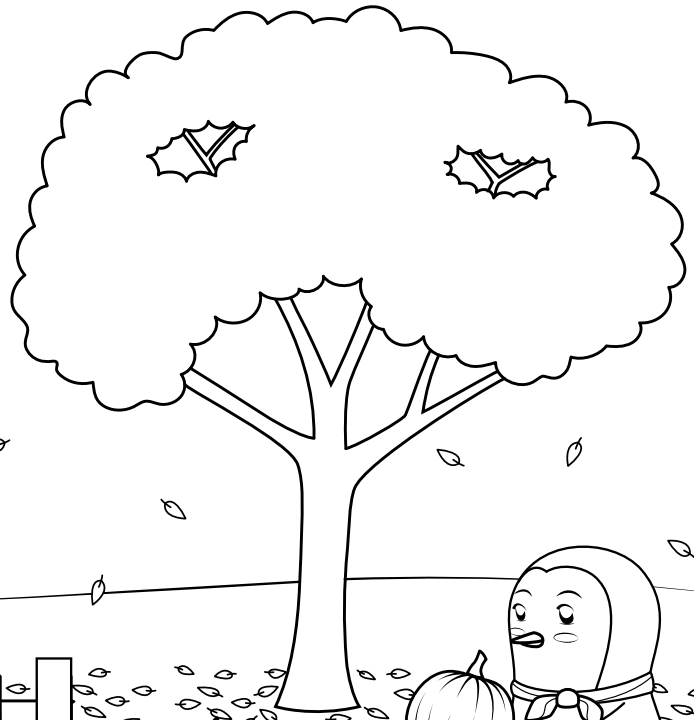
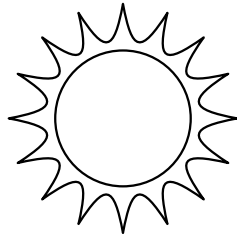
Solution on pg 49

Want a different way to advertise?

We are looking for sponsors for the Clueless Crossword on a month by month basis. Chloe would be happy to use words to do with your business as the words that get put in the puzzle. Call for more details! 260-463-4901.



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Name: _____

Age: _____

Coloring Contest: kids age 6 and younger. Sponsored by The Dutch Kernel in Shipshewana this month! Winner gets a **FREE TREAT BASKET** at The Dutch Kernel, 100 S Van Buren St., Shipshewana. Winning drawings will be on display at The Dutch Kernel. **ALL PARTICIPANTS** come in and claim your drawing for **A FREE TREAT** at The Dutch Kernel in November. Mail submission to: LaGwana, Coloring Contest, PO Box 70, Shipshewana, IN 46565. **Entry deadline is October 17, 2023.**

Address: _____

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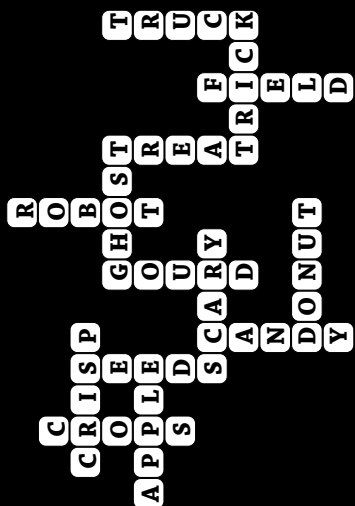
Clueless Crossword Solution

By Chloe Lovell

to the puzzle on page 46.

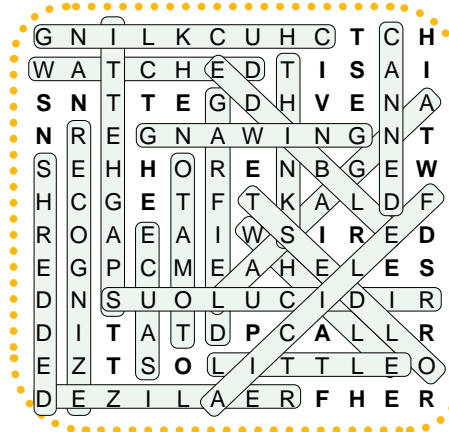
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Riddle on pg 46.
<https://www.ezschool.com/Riddles/Riddle39Ans.html>

Solution to puzzle on page 45



Left-Over Letters Spell Out A Message From Erika!

Enter remaining letters starting at the top and going left to right.

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OF HER!**

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Ace Hardware of Topeka	6	Gutwein Chiropractic	9	Renew Hope Counseling, Inc.	9
Benefit		Hummel Group	49	Shipshewana Trading Place	51
Shipshewana Fire Dept.	48	Integrity Overhead Door	49	Southwind Flooring, Inc.	20
Dave's Landscaping	18	LaGrange Co. Health Dept.	38	Springer Dental Care	10
Edward Jones	20	LaGwana		The Blue Gate	50
First State Bank	16	LaGrange County Miracle Tree	52	The Dutch Coffee Cup	8
For Rent		Many Ways to Order	18	Topeka Pharmacy	10, 42
Waldron Lake Cottage	16	Lakeside Occasions	8	Triple M Tire & Service	42
Forks County Line	9	Midwest Eye Consultants	42	Weather-Pro Insulation	8
Frontline Auto Tech	20	Miller's Electrical Service	49	Weaver Furniture Sales	14
Fry's Repair Shop	10	Mindful and Well	9		
Grogg-Martin Realtors		Picture Pawfect Puppies Transportation	18		
Lantz, Rod	10	Precision Turf Care, LLC	42		

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Douglas G Whitehead DDS	44	Shore Church	35	Topeka Pharmacy	9
Emma Warehouse	33	Stutzman Power Equipment	37	Westview School Corporation	22, 24, 26, 28
Fruvip May Funeral Home	35	The Dutch Kernel	47		

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questions. 260.768.4725.

BLUE GATE GARDEN INN

Blue Gate Garden Inn

Work up to 5 times per week.
Saturdays required!

Housekeeper

Part-time
Pay rate up to \$16.00 per hour.
Hours 9:00 am until 3:00 pm
Must be at least 16 years old.

Breakfast Attendant/cook

Part-time
Pay rate up to \$14.00 per hour.
Hours 7:00 am until 11:00 am
Must be at least 16 years old.

BLUE GATE BAKERY

Blue Gate Bakery

3rd Shift Baker/ Donut Maker
Work up to 5 times per week.
Saturdays required!
Pay rate up to \$17.00 per hour.
Hours 10:00 pm until 6:00 am
Some experience is preferred!
Must be at least 18 years old.

Shipshewana ANTIQU AUCTION

EVERY WEDNESDAY
9 AM YEAR-ROUND



Antiques, collectibles,
furniture, primitives,
glassware, books,
advertising & more!



**Special Antique Toy
& Misc. Auction**
October 18th @ 9AM

Enjoy a special section of
antique toys in addition
to the great items you'll
find every Wednesday!

Call to consign antiques
and miscellaneous items.



345 S Van Buren St
Shipshewana, IN
260-768-4129
ShipshewanaAuction.com



Ship-Chic Fall Craft & Vintage Show
Saturday, October 28th, 9AM - 3PM

SHIPSHEWANA *Auction Restaurant*



The Shipshewana Auction Restaurant
now offers catering! Let us cater your
holiday dinner so you can relax and
enjoy more family time!

Call (260) 336-8362 for more info!

Shipshewana Swap Meets



SAT., OCT. 21, 2023

OPEN FROM DAYLIGHT - 1:00 PM



Space size: 20' x 25'
Cost per Space: \$20
Parking/Vehicle: \$3

2023 Remaining Dates:
Oct 21

ALL TYPES OF FLEA MARKET ITEMS!

All kinds of fowl, poultry, small animals, pets,
produce, baked goods, antiques & more.



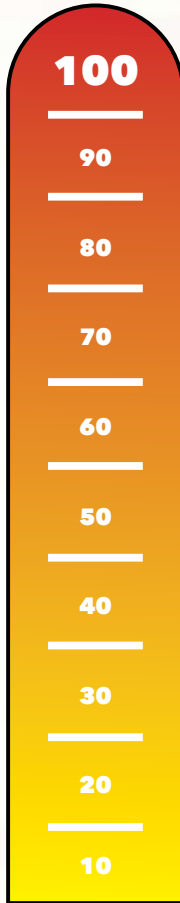
345 S Van Buren St • Shipshewana, IN
260-768-4129





'Tis the Season of Giving

OUR TARGET:
100 Cans
Cranberry
Sauce
AND
100 Jars/
Bottles
of Honey



Help us collect food for
The Miracle Tree Program,

**LAGWANA IS
COLLECTING CANS OF
CRANBERRY SAUCE
AND JARS/BOTTLES
OF HONEY!**

Also accepting cash donations

to go towards the purchase of our designated food items.

100% of all remaining funds

will be given directly to the LaGrange County Miracle Tree.

*The **LaGrange County Miracle Tree** is committed to providing assistance to the children of low income LaGrange County families, both in annual Christmas giving and in family crisis such as fire loss and domestic violence.*

Applications open 8/1-11/1, email lagrangecomiracletree@gmail.com for more information.

Drop-off Deadline: November 10, 2023



PO Box 70 · Shipshewana, IN 46565 · SE Corner 250N & 850W
P 260-768-7878 · LaGwana.com