# The January 2024 • Vol. 25 Num. 01 The January 2024 • Vol. 25 Num. 01 Number of the January 2024 • Vol. 25 Num. 01 January 2024 • Vol. 25 Num. 01

Surviving the Blizzard of '78



**Enrollment Notice** 

Lilly Scholarship **Recipient Announced** 

**Topeka Firefighters** Honored

Milford, IN J.S. POSTAGE

RNOTTBAL LBTROMS

Shipshewana, IN 46565 0ZX003 'OH THE HOMETOWN TREESURE

# 2024 Lilly Endowment Scholarship Recipient:

Foundation is pleased to announce the It wasn't until I began looking into recipient of the 2024 Lilly Endowment possible career paths that I realized Community Scholarship Award for I could one day bring happiness and LaGrange County: Braden Rogers of peace to others through landscape Westview Jr-Sr High School.

Lilly Endowment Community Scholars are known for their community involvement, academic achievement, charitability, and leadership. Each Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship being part of student government as provides for full tuition, required fees and a special allocation of up to \$900 per year for required books and required equipment for four years.

The scholarship is for full-time undergraduate students leading to a baccalaureate degree at any eligible Indiana public or private nonprofit college or university. Rogers will graduate high school with academic honors and intends to pursue a degree in landscape architecture at Purdue University or Ball State University. He is the son of Jeremiah and Elizabeth Rogers of LaGrange.

In his application essay, Rogers wrote: "Traveling to beautiful places around our country, I have always been drawn to landscape. I've always been the guy who notices a nicely manicured golf course or the detail

The LaGrange County Community of an intricately designed walkway. architecture. My long-term goals are to run my own architectural firm and raise a strong and active family within a great community."

> Rogers' school involvement includes class vice president his junior year, being a Student Council member and serving on the Prom Committee. Rogers is the goalkeeper for the Westview Boys Soccer Team and participates in school musicals. He most recently held the lead role in the musical, "Grease" and participates in show choir, jazz band, weightlifting and is a member of the National Honor Society.

> Rogers also has a love of skiing. He founded the Westview Ski Club and is involved in SOLO (Special Outdoor Leisure Opportunities). SOLO provides opportunities for people with physical and mental limitations to experience downhill skiing with a friend or instructor. Rogers participates in LIFE, a youth philanthropic program of the LaGrange

County Community Foundation. He is a guitarist for the St. Joseph Church and participates in New Life Fellowship Youth Group Worship group. Additionally, Braden manages his time to work part-time jobs in the winter months and a full-time job during the summer.

In determining LaGrange County's Lilly Endowment Community Scholar nominees, consideration was given to academic achievement, demonstrated service to others, leadership ability, commitment and motivation to succeed, employment history, extracurricular involvement, essay responses, as well as two recommendations.

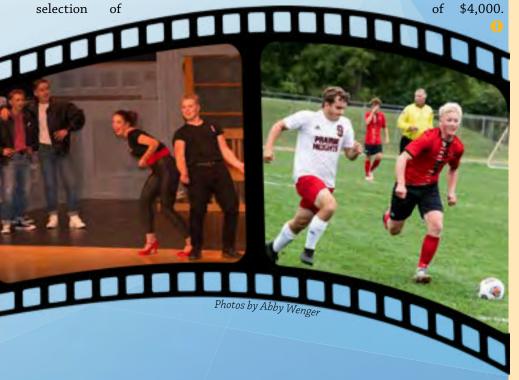
"Braden demonstrates many of the qualities we seek in a leader: motivated, hardworking, and engaged in his school and community. The selection committee was impressed by his service to his community and passion for his career goals," said Octavia Yoder, Executive Director of the LaGrange County Community





The top five students who scored scholarship recipients. highest on their application were then invited to participate in a personal Jerdon and Xia Leu of Lakeland Jr/Sr interview conducted by the Lilly Advisory Committee. Scholarship After the field of applicants was narrowed, nominees were submitted to Independent Colleges of Indiana (ICI), the statewide administrator of the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship renewable up to three more years after

Finalists for 2024 include Taylor School, and Christien Noward and Jace Lang of Westview Jr-Sr High School. Each of the finalists will receive the Lambright Leadership Scholarship, a \$1,000 scholarship established by Kevin and Carrie Lambright in 2013, Program, which approves the final the initial award for a total scholarship



## **LaGrange County Lilly Endowment Scholarship Past Recipients**

2023: Kamryn Miller

2022: Lillian Schackow

2021: Mary Beth Hostetler

2020: Kurtis Davis

2019: Grace Miller

2018: Arianna Smith

2017: Norman Miller

2016: Cole Miller

2015: Abigail Thompson

2014: Jennifer Mobley

2013: Brett Yoder

2012: Kiska Carr

2011: Caleb Lehman

2010: Sara (Eaton) Patrick & Lora Hodgen

2009: Erica (Gilliland) Miller & Rachel Grossman

2008: Kyley Eagleson & Shannon Mehrling

2007: Staci (Bontrager) Kaczmarek & Patrick McMullen

2006: Jennifer (McCoy) Johnson & Rian McMaster

2005: Brittney (Howe) Frey & Kristina Lunger

2004: Kelli Fisher, Kathryn (Campbell) DeYoung & Gretchen (Mishler) Parker

2003: Bradley Fry, Amber Wallace & Sarah (Kathan) Myers

2002: Brandon Walter, Christopher Gidman & Jason Hochstedler

2001: Amanda Reiff, Amanda Lower & Isaac Reed

2000: Matthew Grossman & Jeffrey Nelson

1999: Nathan Tice & Jonathan Stanner

1998: Joshua Wingstrom

#### The Hometown Treasure

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Phone: 260-463-4901 • Fax: 260-463-7257 e-mail: news@lagwana.com You may call or stop by during office hours: Monday - Friday, 8 am-5 pm

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Other sponsorships available. Call for details.

#### — ADVERTISING INFORMATION —

Deadline for February 2024 Issue:

12 noon, Tuesday, January 16 Thursday, January 11 if you need a proof.

February Issue Date is Tuesday, January 23.

#### — SUBSCRIPTION RATE —

One Year: \$35

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.





# **Braving the Cold**

I love waking up to see fresh fallen don't like the cold weather. If it were my choice, I would much rather stay inside than bundle up in layers upon layers to gusting winds.

My dog, however, is the opposite. As a Husky mix, she enjoys being out stick her whole face in and take in all the smells. She also gets excited when I scoop up snow and throw it in the air; the dusting snow as it falls down.

Although I am not one for the snow, it is heartwarming to see how let us know what articles and content much my dog enjoys herself in the midst of the cold. The dark winter from our readers and explore new weather often stops people from going out-who would want to go out in the cold when you can stay comfortable, warm indoors? There are, however, plenty of reasons to step out of the recommendations to The Hometown house during the winter.

over town, at the local library and the com. county parks, Westview sports games, the Annual Ice Festival, and so much more. Although it may be difficult to leave the house and brave the winter elements, there are many fun events to attend and memories to make outside.

The Hometown Treasure · January '24

In this Hometown Treasure issue, snow on the ground and in the trees. we have many exciting memories to As beautiful as the snow is, however, I look back on from 2023, like Christmas programs, holiday festivities and award recipients. Thanks to Harold's article Surviving the Blizzard of '78, venture out into the freezing snow and we can also look farther back in time to when winter was dangerously cold and some people couldn't leave their homes; truly an interesting account in the snow. She loves digging around of events that unfolded during that in the snow to find the perfect spot to storm! I've heard many people say that winter weather gets milder each year. I hope, for the sake of my dog, that we experience more of a winter this she thinks she can jump up and catch year-just not one that creates a dangerous environment.

As always, feel free to write us to you would like to see. We love to hear 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 Treasure, PO Box 70, Shipshewana IN There are events happening all 46565, or email them to news@lagwana.

Happy New Year & Best Wishes,

Chloe Lovell

The Hometown Treasure Editor

In



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The Hometown Treasure  $\cdot$  January '24

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### **LaGrange County Health Department**

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\*IMMUNIZATIONS :: LAGRANGE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT (260) 499-4182 Extension 1\*

#### LaGrange Clinic

Monday & Wednesday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Tuesday 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

#### Shipshewana Clinic

Wolfe Building Community Room

#### Only 1st & 3rd Thursday

8:30 am to 1:00 pm.

#### Topeka Clinic

Topeka Fire Station

#### Only 2nd & 4th Thursday

8:30 am to 1:00 pm.

There are times when HD inspectors, vital records registrar, office staff, and nurses are engaged in field work, taking care of customers, or in satellite clinics. Please, feel free to call us before stopping in to make sure someone will be here to help you. (260) 499-4182

Nursing Division: Ext. #1 & #2 Food Inspector: Ext. #6

WIC Office: Ext. #3 & #4 Septic Inspector: Ext. #7

Vital Records (Birth & Death Certificates): Ext. #5 Water/Well Testing Information: Ext. #5 & #6



#### **Hand-Sized Cloud Filled with Hope**

He challenges them to a "burnt offering" man's hand rising from the sea. contest. Both Elijah and the Prophets Baal Prophets danced and called out enough hope to trust that God was give you a hand-sized cloud, and you

to their gods all day. Nothing happened.

At Elijah's turn, he put the bull on the altar, dug a trench around it, filled it with water, and soaked the whole thing. He called out to the one true God who wasted no time proving to the crowd who was boss! He sent an all-consuming fire from heaven that was so great it even licked up the water. Many believed in God that day.

It's an epic tale of truth, but the rest of the story got my attention. Afterward, Elijah told King Ahab (one of the meanest ombres to walk dusty trails of the Holy Land) to prepare his crew for heavy rain.

climbed to the top of Mt. Carmel with his servant. He bent down to the ground with his head between his knees and began to pray for rain. Six times Elijah sent his servant to the edge to look out toward the sea to see if there was any Elijah, have you taken on a posture of hope! He has big things on the horizon sign of rain. Finally, returning from his 🏻 prayer, pleading with God for a miracle 🗡 for you! 🕕

showdown with the Prophets of Baal. reported seeing a cloud as small as a for it to happen? I've got a list a mile

were to place a bull on an altar and pray cloud or pray for a bigger one. Nope, glimmer of hope only for you to doubt to their God to burn the offerings. The that small hand-sized cloud gave Elijah it's happening? How often does He



fixin' to do something big. He sent his servant to tell evil ol' Ahab to hitch up and head out because a storm was brewin'!

God puts on another show. The sky grew black with clouds, the wind rose, and heavy rain came as Ahab's taillights With no clouds in the sky, Elijah diminished on the road to Jezreel.

> Lots of big miracles happened here, but the plot twist for me was that little hand-sized cloud and the big hope it it-never looking back! He will do it gave Elijah.

In 1 Kings 18, Elijah gets into a seventh trip to the edge, his servant and looking to the horizon expectantly long. But the real question is this: Elijah doesn't dismiss such a small How many times has God given you a

> sit crouched over, praying for a bigger cloud of assurance? Oh, friend, I am relentlessly guilty of this!

> Ditch the doubt and trust that God is going to do something big. Run with it as Elijah did. Literally! The scripture tells us that after Elijah told Ahab to get out of town, the power of the Lord came upon him; he tucked his cloak into

his belt and ran ahead of Ahab all the way to Jezreel. The assurance in God's plan empowered Elijah to do something seemingly impossible. So, can you do all things through Christ who strengthens you? (Philippians 4:13).

Elijah looked on that small cloud with complete confidence that GOD WOULD DO THE BIG THING ELIJAH WAS PRAYING FOR! And he ran with for you also, friend! Pray...trust...wait Friend, how many times, like expectantly! Cling to every glimmer of

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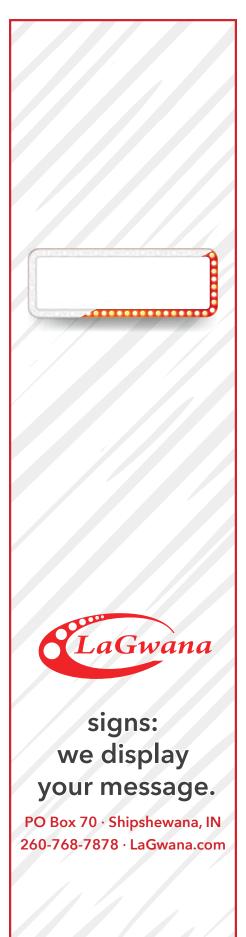
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# Smart Choices

By Nimita Patel, PharmD Candidate at Topeka Pharmacy

#### Medication Lists Save Lives!

get medical care, like family doctors, pill bottles to look at, it is easy to miss hospitals and specialists. Each provider medications. A Medication List can help may give a new medication but the prevent medications from being missed. changes may not be shared with other **How to Make a Medication List?** providers. How do we keep track of the most accurate, up-to-date medication a medication list: important health information? A Medication List!

#### What is a Medication List?

keep up-to-date changes of a person's allergies and current date, as well as a medications. It can help people and list of the individual's doctors, medical their doctors be informed. Medication conditions and emergency contacts. lists have important and detailed information about the person's life- columns for the name and strength of saving medications.

#### Why is a Medication List Important? for use.

In an emergency, a person may not be able to speak and tell the doctors make one section for daily medications saving medication. This puts the person It is important to include all types of Medication lists can be helpful in medication list can have as much or as transitions of care. A transition of little information as the person wants. care is when a person has been moved from one care center to another, like lists is not easy. Topeka Pharmacy is going home from a hospital or a care always willing to help you make, update facility. In these situations, people will and print your medication list. Call us medications. A medication list will help at no charge. We are happy to serve help keep track of all the changes

to make sure the person gets the right care. Sometimes people are unable to take care of themselves. A medication list can give instructions to others on how to give that person their medications. This is especially helpful when people

There are many places we go to take many medications. With so many

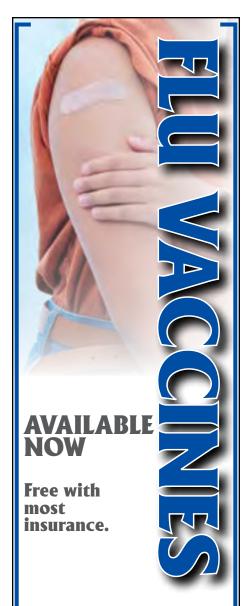
There are two different parts to information and the medications. Important health information includes A medication list is a helpful tool to an individual's name, date of birth.

> Medication lists should include drug, directions for use, and reason

When making medication lists, accurate information about their life- and one for as-needed medications. at risk of harm or even death because medications such as prescription, over they missed that important medication. the counter, and supplements. Each

Making and updating medication be sent home with changes to their at 260-593-2252 ext. 1 or come in for





No insurance? First Friday Clinics have free adult flu vaccines!

December 1 January 5

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#### **New Year's Financial Resolutions**

Now that we've reached 2024, you that's nonessential, don't go into debt still have good fundamentals and are might be thinking about your goals and hopes for the new year. But in addition to whatever personal resolutions you might make—volunteering, going to the gym more, learning a new language and others—why not make some financial resolutions, too?

Here are a few to consider:

#### **Boost your retirement savings**

If you can afford it, try to increase your contributions to your IRA and 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan. The more you put away in these accounts, the greater your chances of reaching your retirement goals. At a minimum, contribute enough to your 401(k) to earn your employer's match if one is offered. And whenever your salary goes up, consider raising the amount you put in to your 401(k)

#### Reduce your debts

It's not always easy to reduce your debts, but it's worth the effort. The lower your debt load, the greater your monthly cash flow. So, look for ways to consolidate debts or find other, possibly more productive, ways of using credit. And if you truly can't afford something

for it. "Live within your means" is an old piece of advice, but it's just as valid now as ever.

#### Build an emergency fund

If you suddenly needed a major home or car repair, or received a large medical bill not fully covered by insurance, would you have the funds available? If not, you might be forced to dip into your retirement accounts or other long-term investments. To avoid this possibility, try to build an emergency fund containing several months' worth of living expenses with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account that's separate from the ones you use to meet your daily expenses. It can take a while to build such a fund, but if you make it a priority and contribute regular amounts each month, you can make good progress.

#### **Avoid emotional decisions**

Too many people overreact to events in the financial markets because they let their emotions get the better of them. If the market is temporarily down, it doesn't mean you need to sell investments to "cut your losses"—especially if these investments

still appropriate for your portfolio. It can be hard to ignore market volatility, but you'll be better off if you focus on the long term and continue following an investment strategy that's designed to meet your needs.

#### Review your goals

Over time, your goals may have changed. For example, while you once might have wanted to retire early, and planned for it, you may now find that you'd like to work a few more years. If that's the case, you may also need to adjust your financial and investment strategies.

#### Revisit your estate plans

married, divorced, you've remarried or added children to your family within the past few years, you may need to review the account titling and beneficiary designations on your 401(k) and other retirement assets, along with your estate-planning documents, such as your will or living trust. You might also need to revise these documents in other ways.

Of course, you may not be able to tackle all these resolutions at one time, but if you can work at them throughout the year, you can potentially brighten your financial outlook in 2024-and beyond. 0

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 January 2024.

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: Arctic Adventure

**LaGrange** • Tuesdays, Jan. 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 • 10:30 a.m. **Shipshewana** • Tuesdays, Jan. 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 • 1 p.m. **Topeka** • Wednesdays, Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 • 11 a.m. Enjoy stories, songs and rhymes with a fun craft or activity.

#### <u> Winter Break Makerspace (Ages 5+)</u>

LaGrange • Tues., Jan. 2, Noon-7:30 p.m.; Wed., Jan. 3, 11-7:30 p.m.; and Fri., Jan. 5, 9:30–4 p.m. • Drop in and stay as long as you want. Bring your creativity and come explore and build! Legos, Makedo cardboard building kit, Strawbees and more! Kids 5-8 years old require a parent in the room.

#### Teen Games (Grades 6-12)

LaGrange • Monday, Jan. 8 • 4-7 p.m.

We will be finishing our Dungeons and Dragons Campaign and playing some new games with anyone not joining D&D. Registration appreciated but not required.

#### Homeschool Group (All Ages) - Theme: ART

Shipshewana • Wed., Jan. 10 • 1–2:30 p.m.

LaGrange • Fri., Jan. 12 • 10:30-Noon p.m.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED! Call 260-463-2841 or register on our website. We will make individual pieces of art to put together for a collaborative art decoration for the children's department! Don't wear your best clothes, it might get messy!

#### Bilingual Story Time (Parents & Children)

**LaGrange** • Wednesdays, Jan. 10, 17, 24 and 31 • 5:30–6:30 p.m. Enjoy stories in Spanish and English with a fun craft or activity.

#### <u>Homeschool Hangout (Ages 8+ with parents)</u>

**LaGrange** • Thurs., Jan. 11 & 18 • 1–3 p.m.

This is a casual time for homeschool families to get together to play games, chat and get to know each other. We will meet in the Activity Room and use the games the library has or bring your own favorites to share!

#### Elementary Book Club (Grades 1-3)

**LaGrange** • Tuesday, Jan. 16 • 4–4:45 p.m.

We'll discuss "I Survived the Children's Blizzard," do a fun activity and pass out the next book.

#### Middle Grade Book Club (Grades 4-7)

LaGrange • Tuesday, Jan. 16 • 4–4:45 p.m. We'll discuss "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," do a fun activity and pass out the next book.

#### Teen Book Club & Craft (Grades 8-12)

LaGrange • Monday, Jan. 22 • 4–4:45 p.m.

We'll discuss the mysteries everyone chose to read and pass out the next book.

#### <u>Teen Advisory Group (Grades 6-12)</u>

LaGrange • Monday, Jan. 22 • 5-6 p.m.

Join other teens to talk about plans for the teens at the library, the books in our YA collection, and improve the teen space.

#### **Teen Night Activity (Grades 6-12)**

LaGrange • Mon., Jan. 22 • 6-7:30 p.m. • Registration appreciated but not required. We'll make miniature catapults, archery bows and more to launch at tiny targets. Bring your ingenuity to create and improve designs for projectile projects.

#### Youth Department

#### STEAM Through the Seasons (Grades K-3) - Snow Spectacular

LaGrange • Wednesday, Jan. 24 • 4–5 p.m.

Join us for a snow spectacular with Miss Brittany from Purdue University Extension. Registration appreciated but not required.

#### **Adult Interest**

#### Classic Cinema: Comedians (Ages 12+)

**LaGrange** • Tuesdays • 2 p.m. • Free!

Jan. 2: The Gold Rush—Starring Charlie Chaplin (1925) Not Rated. 90 min. Jan. 9: The General—Starring Buster Keaton (1926) Not Rated. 78 min. Jan. 23: Duck Soup—Starring The Marx Brothers (1933) Not Rated. 70 min. Jan. 30: The Road to Morocco—Starring Bing Crosby & Bob Hope (1942) Not Rated, 83 min.

#### <u>Tai Chi (All Ages)</u>

**LaGrange** • Tues. & Thurs., Jan. 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25 and 30 • 11 a.m. Learn Tai Chi with videos from International Tai Chi Master David Dorian Ross. These free gentle workouts focus on slow movement, balance, and deep breathing.

#### The Walking Well-Read (All Ages)

**LaGrange** • Mon. & Thurs., Jan. 1, 4, 8, 11, 15, 18, 22, 25 and 29 • Noon Come to the library for 30 minutes of cardio! We'll walk up and down stairs, around the book stacks, and through some behind-the-scenes areas. Free!

#### Loose Ends (12+)

**LaGrange** • Fridays, Jan. 5, 12, 19 and 26 • 10–11 a.m. • Free! Bring a project you've been meaning to work on, or come for coloring and conversation!

#### The Artist's Way Creative Cluster

LaGrange • Mondays, Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29 • 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Join us for a 14-week exploration of "The Artist's Way" by Julia Cameron. "The Artist's Way" has inspired millions of readers to embark on a creative journey and find a deeper connection to process and purpose. Participants will need a copy of the book. You may bring your own or purchase a copy (at cost) at the first meeting. Space is limited. Please register by calling 260-463-2841 x1030.

#### Second Saturday Book Club (Ages 16+)

LaGrange • Saturday, Jan. 13 • 11 a.m.

This month we'll discuss "The Whalebone Theatre" by Joanna Quinn. A transporting, irresistible debut novel that takes its heroine, Cristabel Seagrave, from a theatre made of whalebones to covert operations during World War II-a story of love, family, bravery, lost innocence, and self-transformation. Copies of the book are available at the LaGrange library's Adult Information Desk.

#### Painting with Carl Mosher (Ages 12+)

**LaGrange** • Friday, Jan. 19 • 1–4 p.m.

Even if you've never painted before, you'll be amazed at what you're capable of! Carl will supply all the materials. Cost is \$25 payable to Carl at class. Classes fill fast, register at 260-463-2841 x1030.

#### Cookbook Club - Cookie Exchange

LaGrange • Saturday, Jan. 27 • 11 a.m.

Check out the cookbook of the month ("Tasting History" by Max Miller) at the LaGrange Adult Services desk. Choose a recipe to make and bring it to the Cookbook Club carry-in! Plates, silverware, coffee and tea will be provided.

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## January Events

**First Day Hike** 

Monday, January 1 • 4:30-6:30 pm Pine Knob Park • 2825 E SR 120, Howe, IN Be a part of the national movement of First Day Hikes and begin 2024 with a step towards good health. The glow walk trail will start at the Pine Knob Clubhouse. We invite you to wear family-friendly glow in the dark clothes and accessories. Glow necklaces will be provided while supplies last and the trail will be marked with lights. Walk at your own pace; you can come anytime and stay as long as you like. Dress for the elements! Free hot beverages in the Clubhouse for participants, while supplies last. RSVP's are encouraged! Call the Park Office at 260-854-2225 by Wednesday, December 27.

#### **Quilt Class**

Saturday, January 13 • 9 am-3 pm Maple Wood Nature Center Fee: \$25 (\$5 is given back to Parks)

Star Studded Puzzle: Looks intricate, but the steps are easy to follow. The completed pattern includes up to four colors on a background and has an intertwined design, similar to an old interlocking wood puzzle. Registration is required. Instructions are provided upon registration. To register, call the Park Office at 260-854-2225. For more information, contact instructors Julia Wolheter, 260-367-1449, or Ira Johnson, 260-463-1438.

#### **Breakfast With the Birds**

Wednesday, January 10 • 8 am-10 pm Maple Wood Nature Center Coffee, donuts and nature conversation. For all ages.

#### **Folk Jams**

Sunday, January 28 • 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.



As I watch snow fall outside of my warm office on a cold December day, I'm reminded that it's time to start my yearly read of "A Sand County Almanac" by Aldo Leopold. It has become a yearly ritual to comb over the book as a reminder that the natural world around us is not distinct and separate, but interconnected with our daily lives.

Coming back to the Michiana area is a connection I wasn't expecting or planning on in my life. Leaving here for the Marine Corps six years ago, I never thought I would be coming back here to make it my home. In those six years, I have had the pleasure to see natural wonders across the world and witness the connections between those wonders and the people that surrounded them.

Returning to the region where I first discovered a love for the outdoors, I am reminded of the simple joys of walking through mixed hardwood forests and looking for the signs of white tail deer or listening for the alarm call of a black capped chickadee that saw me before I saw them. While it's not the woods that I grew up in, I am looking forward to making connections with our county's natural resources.

I encourage all of you to get out in these next few months and discover, or rediscover, the stark winter beauty that our county holds and find those connections that you may have been missing in your life.

> Daniel Schelinski Naturalist

The Hometown Treasure · January '24

# Welcome Daniel Schelinski!



County LaGrange Department welcomes Daniel Schelinski as the new Event Planner and Nature Interpreter. Daniel joined the park team this past November, as Leslie Arnold has left to follow a new journey. Daniel's education includes degrees in Outdoor & Environmental Recreation and Criminal Justice, working parks & recreation experience in Michigan, and service in the United States Marine Corps. Daniel has been active as a scout leader with Boy Scouts of America, a hiking trip guide, a leave-no-trace instructor, and in park conservation management. Daniel, his wife and two dogs are looking forward to joining our community. Help us welcome him to our beautiful corner of the world!



13

## **Lupe Troyer Wins State Hospitality Award**

Trover was honored in Indianapolis on October 30 with a 2023 Hoosier Hospitality Award.

members of the Indiana Destination Development Corporation (IDDC) presented 15 Hoosier Hospitality awards during a ceremony at the Eiteljorg Museum in Indianapolis on October 30, for their high level of service in tourism-related jobs at hotels, restaurants, attractions and other destinations.

"Hoosier hospitality is at the core of this ceremony," said Elaine Bedel, IDDC Secretary and CEO. "We see it and feel it every day in Indiana. In hospitality and tourism, we take great pride in our communities and recognize the importance of going the extra mile and how much it makes a difference."

Lupe Troyer works an Information Specialist the Shipshewana Visitor's Center, meaning she's usually the first to

to answer questions, give advice, and find whatever information visitors are searching for, all with a positive outlook pleased that Lupe joined our staff this Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch and and an outgoing, friendly personality. Not only is she a well-known face in the community, but she possesses an impressive wealth of knowledge about its people, culture, history, and destinations.

> "We had an Italian man who didn't speak any English who was traveling alone," says VB Administrative Assistant Sandy Mast. "He needed to get to South Bend to meet up with his daughter, but had gotten his bus schedule mixed-up. He would've had to find somewhere to stay overnight, but instead Lupe found someone who spoke Italian and then got him a ride to South Bend that same day. She's very resourceful!"

well known that outstanding service is a significant factor in determining whether a person returns to an individual

Longtime local resident Lupe greet newcomers. Lupe does her best business or destination, and Lupe is always outstanding.

> "We couldn't be prouder and more year as our Information Specialist," says Sonya Nash, Executive Director of the Shipshewana/LaGrange County Visitor's Bureau. "She excels at making newcomers feel welcome, and goes above and beyond to assist everyone that comes through our doors." 1



Hoosier Hospitality Award recipient Lupe Troyer (right) with Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch (left). Photo Submitted

#### **Parkview Hospitals Seeking Volunteers**

Noble and Parkview LaGrange hospitals are seeking new volunteers to help in various positions around the campus.

Parkview LaGrange Hospital in LaGrange is seeking six to eight new volunteers who could support the front entrance information desk or assist around the radiology department and operating rooms.

Parkview LaGrange is also seeking a therapy dog handler to bring their dog into facilities to boost the spirits of patients and visitors. Interested volunteers and their dog would need to complete training through one of approved pet therapy programs: Three Rivers Visiting Dogs,

PAWS, Alliance of Therapy Dogs or Pet Occupational Health, including a drug Partners.

Noble Parkview Hospital Kendallville is seeking eight to ten volunteers to support information desk or Volunteers should commit to at least one four-hour shift per week.

"Our volunteers play an important role in ensuring all patients and visitors to our hospital have the best experience possible," said Christina Blaskie, manager for patient experience and volunteers at Parkview LaGrange Hospital.

Volunteers must be at least 18 years old. All volunteers are required to complete a physical through Parkview yoder@parkview.com.

screen and tuberculosis test, as well as a background check. Volunteers can select their availability and will be assigned jobs as needed by the hospital's volunteer coordinator.

"We're looking for a group of dedicated and caring volunteers to help at Parkview Noble Hospital," said Taylor Yoder, community health improvement manager at Parkview Noble Hospital. "If that's you, please reach out to find out how you can contribute."

For more information, contact Blaskie at 260-463-9389 or via email at christina.blaskie@parkview.com, or Yoder at 260-347-8126 or by email at taylor.





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# Frigid Cold Weather by Amos Miller

My parents moved to Iowa into the Buchanan County area from Indiana. The closest towns were Fairbank and Oelwein Area. My twin, Andy, and I were five years old at that time. Twelve of our youth years were spent growing up in Iowa.

When I was sixteen, my oldest brother asked if I would do his chores for two weeks because they were going to Indiana for a wedding and to visit. I told him that I would, and I agreed to stay at their place to do their chores. Their house was an old schoolhouse with very little insulation; there were only curtains to make up the rooms.

One morning I woke up with a cold nose and the house plants were hanging their heads with black tips on the leaves. I got up and put more wood into the stove because the fire had died down. I checked the temperature in the house, and it was down to 32 degrees. When I checked the outside temperature, it was 32 degrees below zero. Then I found out there was no water in the house and when I checked the barn, those lines were frozen too.

I took the horse and buggy and went eight miles to my parent's home to get a blow torch to thaw out the water lines. When I got there, my horse was covered in white frost. I went into the house and mother made me some hot chocolate and I warmed up.

I spent most of the day thawing out water lines and doing chores. The temperature stayed at 32 degrees below zero for a week. I was glad when my brother came home again. Makes me cold just thinking about it. 1

# **Topeka Honors 2023** Firefighters

The Topeka Volunteer Department honored several members at the department's annual Christmas Banquet on Friday, December 1, at is given in memory of the late Red the Sylvan Cellars banquet hall in Haggard, who served with the Topeka

Rome City.

Length of service plaques were given to Galen Bontrager and Michael Turner for 5 years; Cory Hoopengardner for 10 years; and Brian Miller and Pat Martin for 15 years. Gary Lambright was honored for 30 years

years with the department.

second year in a row was Kevin Wright. Safety Officer. 1

Fire Devon Bontrager was the recipient of 2023 Red Haggard Fireman of the Year. The department's top annual award

> Volunteer Department for more than 40 years. The award was presented by Red's wife, Doris Haggard.

Officers for 2024 will be: Stewart Bender. Chief: Adam Lambright,

of service, and Greg Strawser, who is Assistant Chief; Brian Miller, Captain; retiring, was recognized for his 21 Devon Bontrager, Rescue Captain; Barry McDonald, Lieutenant; Harley First Responder of the Year for the Miller, Lieutenant; and Pat Martin,



Chief Bender (left) presenting Gary Lambright (right) an award for 30 years of service.



Chief Stewart Bender (left) presenting award to retiring fireman Greg Strawser (right) for 21 years of service to the department. Photos Submitted



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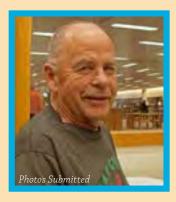
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# Rex Fisher

The Rex Fisher History Scholarship

The Rex Fisher History Scholarship supports a student planning to teach history. A lifelong historian, researcher and student, Rex Fisher

was born in LaGrange, and lived in Wisconsin and Alaska throughout his life. He left LaGrange to attend Ball State and earn a degree in education in 1954. It was there he discovered his love of history and historical research.

Fisher next traveled to the University of Wisconsin and completed his graduate degree. He then moved to Alaska in the 1960s to teach U.S. history to high school students and do academic research.

The Rex Fisher History Scholarship supports a LaGrange County high school senior pursuing a degree in education with an emphasis on teaching history. The scholarship is \$10,000 per year, renewable up to three years with a maximum award of \$40,000.

# Jean Seagly Crouse

The Jean Seagly Crouse Memorial Scholarship

The Jean Seagly Crouse Memorial Scholarship supports a LaGrange County student planning to pursue a degree in education. The scholarship



is a one-time award in the amount of \$1,000 awarded annually to a graduating senior.

Crouse grew up in Topeka, graduating from Topeka High School as valedictorian of the class of 1944. She attended the University of Michigan for two years before getting married in 1946. After raising four children, Crouse completed her education degree at Goshen College in 1963. She was hired by Westview School Corp. and taught fifth grade at Topeka Elementary for 25 years, retiring in 1988.

# Community Scholarships

#### **New Awards Offered**

LaGrange County Community Foundation is accepting applications to the Community Scholarship Program through February 15, 2024.

The Community Scholarship Program provides 47 unique scholarship opportunities for graduating high school seniors who are planning to pursue full-time education at a college, university, technical or trade school.

Scholarship opportunities vary according to residency, career fields, current high school attendance, anticipated college enrollment, extracurricular involvement, and academic performance. Students complete a common application and are matched to scholarship opportunities. Scholarship awards range from \$500 to \$10,000 and may be used for educational expenses.

The Community Foundation partners with families, businesses, and organizations who want to help LaGrange County students succeed in obtaining higher education. New this year are two scholarship opportunities for students pursuing degrees in the field of education.

"We are thrilled to offer these new scholarship opportunities in the field of education," said LaGrange County Community Foundation Executive Director Octavia Yoder. "They provide options for students in our county to make college more affordable and encourages more students to pursue a path in education."

Students can apply for the Community Scholarships at LCCF.net/Scholarships. The deadline to apply is February 15, 2024, at 4 p.m.

A full list of scholarships, criteria, and their award amounts is available at Lccf.net/AvailableScholarships.

About LaGrange County Community Foundation: Established in 1991, the LaGrange County Community Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization with the mission to inspire and sustain generosity, leadership and service in LaGrange County. The Foundation connects people to charitable causes and provides resources to nonprofits to make a lasting and sustainable impact.

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# January Kids Club Birthdays

- 1 Brooklyn Miller
- Adrian Bontrager, Seth Slabach, Nicole Troyer
- Sireena Gill, Logan Hartsock, Lucas Hershberger, Halle Stutzman
- Olivia Everage, Brooklynn McDonald
- 5 Alexandria Olweean
- Everleigh White, Lucas Yoder, Mariah Yoder
- 8 Izick Donley, Elijah Flores, Brandon Miller
- 9 Gage Miller, Maddalyn Miller, Hannah Troyer, Joel Yoder
- 10 Rahaf Hussein, Kaleb Knepp, Damon Lambright, Kaylee Marner, Vada Miller
- 11 Allen Bontrager, Hadley Keim, Katy Miller, Miciah Slabach
- 12 Shawn Miller, Sam Omar
- Roarke Brohm, Kaleb Cupp, Zayne Yoder
- 14 Jaxsen Chastain, Amelia Gray, Haizel Mullet
- 15 Abdulrahman Algeradi, Larion Mullet, Reagan Wilson
- 16 Brian Bontrager, Kara Miller
- Janice Miller, Mariah Miller, Jenna Yoder
- 18 Grant Bontrager, Liam Ditson

Birthdays for children in the area up through sixth grade may be submitted free of charge. Hometown Treasure, Kids' Birthday List, PO Box 70, Shipshewana, IN 46565



- 19 Brody Cranor, Abrar Saleh
- 20 Logan Bontrager, Eric Yoder
- 21 Lachelle Bontrager, Gabriel Miller, Keith Miller, Kyla Miller, Caleb Wingard, Jeneva Yoder
- 22 Mallory Antal, Kimber Helmuth, Brock Stout, Adleigh Withrow
- 23 Bristol Brandenberger, Ellisynn Hamm, Lydia Schrock, Natalie Stutzman
- 24 Brogan Howard, Karena Miller, Daxson Sanders, Estelle Zabona
- 25 Olivia Baka, Savannah Bontrager, Jacqueline Yoder
- 26 Asher Eash, Harmony Sattelmaier, Kielynn Warrener
- 27 Lilly Miller, Makayla Troyer
- 28 Micah Beechy, Justin Bontrager, Adra Miller, Emilia Reeder
- 29 Amanda Bontrager, Drew Bontrager, Brenda Carmona, Aydon Eudy, Ryder-Ryan Miller, Averie Stutzman, Janessa Yoder, Malia Yoder
- Julian Flores, Elijah Wingard, Emily Yoder

#### SPONSORSHIP SPACE AVAILABLE

Call 260-463-4901 for details

# Kindergarten Enrollment Notice

If your child will be 5 years old by August 1, 2024, and is not pre-enrolled, the pre-enrollment steps for kindergarten are as follows:

- 1. Contact school of residence to obtain a pre-enrollment form. Out of district parents should contact the school that you wish to enroll your child at.
- 2. Return enrollment form to the school as soon as possible
- 3. Parents will receive a SEEK Screening schedule in the Spring

4. SEEK Screening will be at the student's school of residence near the end of the 2023-24 school year. ①

Shipshe-Scott Elementary: 260-768-4158 Topeka Elementary: 260-593-2897 Meadowview Elementary: 260-768-7702



## SHIPSHEWANA RANKS IN TOP "7 CHRISTMAS TOWNS IN INDIANA"

Only In Your State, website that finds quality travel destinations in each US state, has recognized Shipshewana as one of the top seven Christmas towns in Indiana. The article, written by Tori Jane, placed Shipshewana high on the list, rated second only to Santa Claus, Indiana. The Christmas displays and events are only a portion of what makes our town so notable: the site recognized Shipshewana for the "stunning light displays, long-time Amish traditions, shops, events, and... the ridiculously amazing restaurants."



Ophelia Linder (left) and Cooper Sherman (right) outside of the Blue Gate Restaurant in downtown Shipshewana.
Photo by Bella Slone.

Thank you and congratulations to all those in Shipshewana for your efforts in making this town an amazing place to be during Christmastime!

For more information, visit: www.onlyinyourstate.com/indiana/best-christmas-towns-in/.



Westview Applied Skills Classes had a special Grinch Day at Meadowview Skills Christmas event was again

On Friday, December 8, all of the Food and Drug in LaGrange with their \$1000 sponsorship contribution. Westview School Corporation houses Elementary. The 2nd Annual Applied six Applied Skills Classrooms with students from preschool age to 22 sponsored and made possible by Miller's years old, and features students from

Westview, Lakeland and Prairie Heights school districts. The day focused on grouping older applied skills students with younger applied skills students and completing a morning full of Grinch themed rotations, including a photo opportunity, crafts, and snacks, and finishing the day watching The Grinch as an Applied Skills group. Part of the day's festivities also included a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, and even the Grinch himself! In total, 55 applied skills students and 30 school and applied skills staff received Grinch Day t-shirts and were able to participate and celebrate the Christmas season together in this fun Grinch themed day. Thanks again to Miller's Food and Drug





for making the day possible! 0 All photos submitted







### A Trial and Festivities

Holiday activities are in full swing at Shipshe-Scott! Buddy the Elf has made daily appearances (including during book club), bringing all kinds of fun for students and staff. Fourth grade classrooms recently held a trial for the Grinch in which guest judges heard the questioning of prosecutors and defense lawyers, expert testimony from witness Cindy Lou Who, and a recommendation from a jury after intense deliberation. Staff would like to thank parents and the PTO who have generously helped make this time of year so special!

The third and fourth graders of Shipshe-Scott also performed a Christmas program, "Away in a Mango." What a great way to celebrate the season!

All Photos Submitted

























Thanksgiving in Ms. Sharon Mast's kindergarten class was a gathering of the "Pilgrims and Native Americans." Thank you to family and friends for the feast of turkey, mashed potatoes, sweet corn, homemade bread and rolls, cinnamon butter, strawberry jam, pumpkin desserts, chocolate chip cookies, and lots of love!

Thank you from KA! Happy
Thanksgiving!



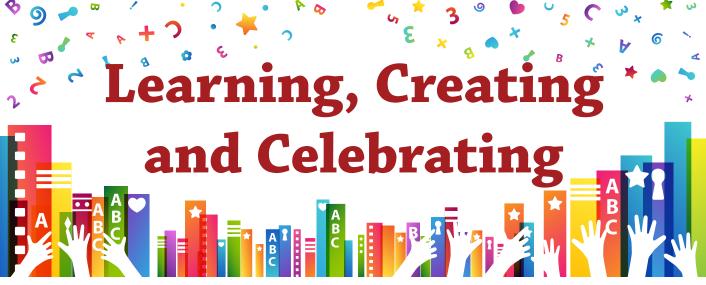




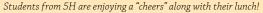


Topeka Elementary

The Hometown Treasure · January '24











Mrs. Jasso and Ms. Hayes' classes celebrated Thanksgiving with a feast of their own.







5th graders created a short performance for "The Little Pine Tree." They learned a song on the xylophones and created movement to bring the story to life.



Westview Elementary Home of the Warriors







Students and staff had twin day for one of their "Fun Friday's" at Westview Elementary.



Mrs. Gongwer's 6C students are taking time during their lunch recess to work on their piñatas.



Students from 5F put together a store called "Santa's Village" with items that were handmade as well as store bought. All of the proceeds go to support a family in the community.







The Healthy Living Program came to Westview Elementary! Students participated in a nutrition activity and made their own smoothie during their PE time.







During Club 56, students were tasked with building their own movie theater. Students practiced division skills based on how many movie items they would need for each theater room.

# Christmas Card Boards



Students from the Junior High Art Club and the Seventh Grade Art Classes designed and painted Christmas Card Boards that went on display at the LaGrange County Courthouse in mid December. The cards were on display alongside others made by other schools and artists in LaGrange County for the community to enjoy.

\*Information and photos from the Westview Jr-Sr High School website.





November Student Ambassadors: Back: (left to right) Christien Noward, Brandon Palmer, Braden Rogers and Lauren Vanderpool. Front: McKenna Feipel, Gabbie Duran-Hall and Brina Williams.

Photo Submitted



# Student **Ambassadors**

Westview High School has selected seven students to receive "Student Ambassador of the Month" honors for November 2023. These outstanding students were selected by their teachers for making a noteworthy accomplishment, a generous act, displaying great improvements or having an outstanding individual achievement. Students like these make Westview a great place to attend. 0

CLaGwana Westview Jr./Sr. High

Home of the Warriors



# TradingPlace Auction & Flea Market

### 2024 Event Calendar

JANUAR	<b>PY</b>	AUGUST
27	Standardbred Horse Sale	2-3Weekend Flea Market
MARCH		3Shipshewana Antique & Vintage Market
4-6	March Madness Makers Event	3Swap Meet
23	Standardbred Horse Sale	SEPTEMBER
29	Good Friday Horse Sale	2-4Labor Day Flea Market
APRIL		21Swap Meet
20	Ship-Chic Craft & Vintage Show	25Last Flea Market Day for Season
24	Antique Toy Auction	28Standardbred Horse Sale
27	Swap Meet	
30	Flea Market Opens (Tue/Wed May-Sept)	OCTOBER
	annum services of one (they are an inequality	19 Swap Meet
MAY		23 Antique Toy Auction
18	Swap Meet	26Ship-Chic Fall Craft & Vintage Show
22	Signs & Advertising Auction	NAVENDER
27-29	Memorial Day Flea Market	NOVEMBER
JUNE		29Day After Thanksgiving Horse Sale
14-15	Weekend Flea Market	Nov-DecShipshewana's Lights of Joy
15 15	Swap Meet	DECEMBER
	Swap Meet	
JULY		7Ship-Chic Holiday Craft & Vintage Show
2-4	Independence Day Flea Market	18Signs & Advertising Auction

#### \*Events subject to change. Call to verify before traveling.



#### **Seller Opportunities:**

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**2023** 7th Boys Basketball A Team: Back (left to right): Coach Michael Christner, Evan Roth, Lucas Lambright, Lucas Swanson and Avery Christner. Middle: Asher Sandquist, Justin Wallace and Bryce Yoder. Front: Grady Yoder, Jakoby Whetstone, Cooper Schwartz and Blake Hostetler.

Photo by Abby Wenger



**2023** 7th Boys Basketball B Team: <u>Back (left to right)</u>: Coach Mike Bowen, Noah Cleveland and Tyrone Baccol. <u>Middle</u>: Jaxon Christner, Tanner Trittipo, Seth Hochstetler, Kohbey VanHoozer and Caleb Mullet. <u>Front</u>: Durrel Frey, Spencer Lambright, Josh Slabach and Micah Miller. Photo by Abby Wenger



2023 8th Boys Basketball A Team: <u>Back (left to right)</u>: Jacob Lambright, Laban Bontrager, Hudson Yoder and Brent Miller. <u>Middle</u>: Assistant Coach Jethro Hostetler, Kasen Yoder, Noah Chupp and Head Coach Jeremiah Hostetler. <u>Front</u>: Jackson Miller, Nicholas Miller, Liam Brill and Brendan Miller.

Not Pictured: Tyler Stutzman.

Photo by Abby Wenger



2023 8th Boys Basketball B Team: <u>Back (left to right)</u>: Coach Paul Baker, Braydon Yoder, Brandon Yoder, Azriel Lehman, Brandon Miller, Ryan Miller and Derek Miller. <u>Middle</u>: Ethan Yoder, Landon Miller, Justin Slabach, Jeremiah Lambright, Karson Mast and Kameron Yoder. <u>Front</u>: Aiden Slabach, Jeremy Nissley, Evan Bontrager, Travis Gingerich, Neil Miller and Joshua Bontrager.

Photo by Abby Wenger



2023 Varsity Boys Basketball Team: Back (left to right): C-Team Coach Brady Yoder, Asst. Coach Russ Yoder, Christien Noward, Kaden Grau, Wyatt Zepp, Micah Miller, Wiley Minix, Asst. Coach Collin Barker and JV Coach Karl Grau. Front: Head Coach Chandler Prible, Kamden Yoder, Austin Schlabach, Wade Springer, Owen Brill, Luke Helmuth and Manager Mearl Miller. Not Pictured: Keegan Norberg.

Photo by Abby Wenger



**2023 JV Boys Basketball Team:** <u>Back (left to right)</u>: Pierce Yoder, Daniel Yoder, Jacob Watts, Ben Schmidt-Burr and Kaine Reinhold. <u>Middle</u>: Coach Karl Grau, Manager Mearl Miller, Owen Weinberg, Carson Niccum, Hunter Egli and C-Team Coach Brady Yoder. <u>Front</u>: Gavin Yeip, Brett Springer, Milan Miller, Alberto Fernandez and Boe Helmuth. <u>Not Pictured</u>: Keegan Norberg.

Photo by Abby Wenger



**2023 Varsity Girls Basketball Team:** <u>Back (left to right)</u>: Asst. Coach Adam Christner, JJ Whetstone, Bre Cory, Maddie Grossman and Head Coach Ryan Yoder. <u>Middle</u>: Manager Grace Heyerly, Olivia Bontrager, Hope Bortner, Karis Weinberg and Manager Rebecca Miller. <u>Front</u>: Shanna Miller, Morgan Riegsecker, Audrey Taylor and Janissa Lehman.

Photo by Abby Wenger



2023 JV Girls Basketball Team: <u>Back (left to right)</u>: Coach Ashya Klopfenstein, Jordynn Wasson, Maddie Grossman and Gloria Miller. <u>Middle</u>: Eva Bates, Gracie Engle, Memphis Bontrager and Janissa Lehman. <u>Front</u>: Manager Rebecca Miller, Jillian Bontrager, Kristen Bender, Janell Lambright and Manager Grace Heyerly. <u>Not Pictured</u>: Asst. Coach Amber Radermacher.

Photo by Abby Wenger



**2023 7th Grade Cheer Team:** <u>Back (left to right)</u>: Sofia Ruiz, Katie Martin, Kylin Meadows and Sara Bontrager. <u>Front</u>: Kaori Runyan, Makayla Slabach, Madi Everage, Lyndora Schrock and Braylin Leonard.

Photo by Abby Wenger



**2023 8th Grade Cheer Team:** <u>Back (left to right)</u>: Zuriah Reed, Laine Bortner, Madilyn Miller, Janae Yoder and Rylee Watson. <u>Front</u>: Alexis Diehl, Alana Donat, Emma Cummins, Bayli Smith and Grace Yoder. <u>Not Pictured</u>: Kya Roose.

Photo by Abby Wenger



**2023 Varsity Cheer Team:** Back (left to right): Hailey Lambright, Amelie Schilt and Brina Williams. Middle: Lilly Mullet and Mackenzie Smith. Front: Karlie Schrock, Danika Yoder and Jennifer Osorio. Not Pictured: Victoria Sandquist.

Photo by Abby Wenger



**2023 Junior Varsity Cheer Team:** <u>Back (left to right)</u>: Kendra White, Brylee White and Lilly Bontrager. <u>Front</u>: Becky Moore, Erica Lambright and Mackenzie Smith.



**2023 Wrestling Team:** <u>Back (left to right)</u>: Chris Terrones, Keegan Hershberger, Taven Schrock, Jacob McCoy and Asst. Coach Tyler Prater. <u>Front</u>: Sage Mercer, TJ Mitchell, Josh Heidorn, Colin Yoder and Head Coach Jonathan Fennell.

Photo by Abby Wenger

# 7th Boys Basketball NECC Champs!



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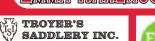












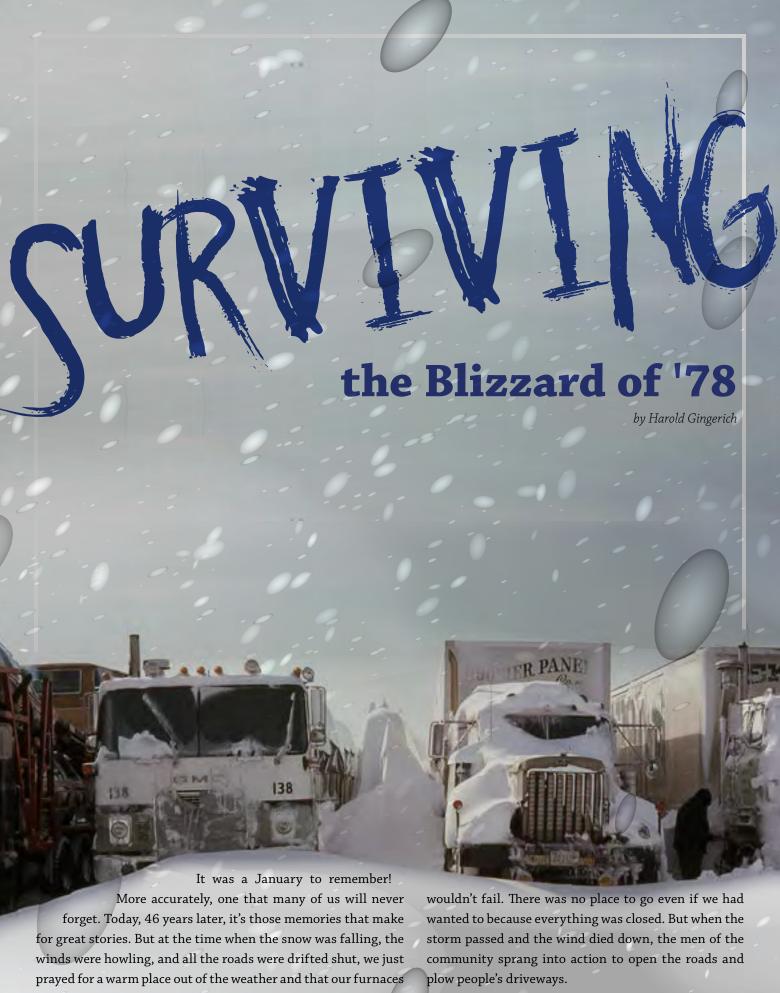








Photo from the Westview Jr-Sr High School websit



Winter storm warnings started being issued late Tuesday and early Wednesday, January 25, 1978. Three low-pressure systems from the Gulf had plenty of food Coast, the Southwest, and Canada in the house, they were converging over Indiana. That were fine. There convergence created the perfect storm. It was the first time the National Weather Service issued a Blizzard Warning in the state of Indiana - and they had a very good reason. Snow was falling at 1-2" per hour and winds were gusting up to 55 mph. By Wednesday evening, the blizzard had hit Michiana numerous stories of with all its fury. Roads quickly became impassable, counties declared emergencies, and everything came to a stop.

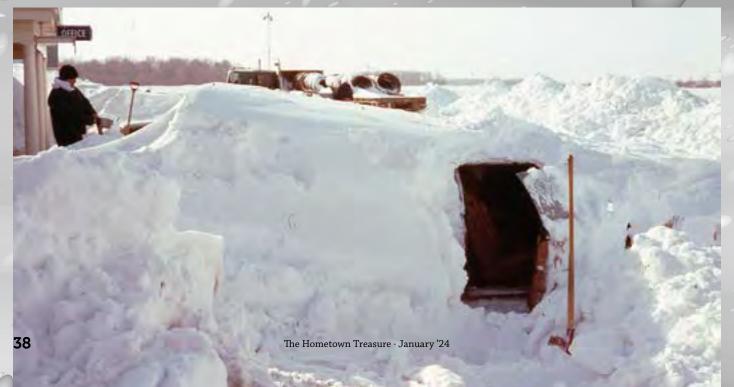
Depending on the location, 17 to a ride to make house 24 inches of snow fell across northeast calls. The only way Indiana on that Wednesday and Thursday. But it was the 35 mph winds, with gusts over 50 mph, that created behemoth snow drifts. Some drifts were reported to be as high as 20 feet, paralyzing the area and most of Indiana for five days. The once in a lifetime as much as the storm broke snowfall records that had snowmobilers stood since 1918.

Area residents were fortunate in people out, the real that, for the most part, no one lost fun was just getting

electrical power or telephone service. So long as people were a handful of emergencies, that was when the superheroes snowmobiles came to the rescue.

There are food and medicine being delivered snowmobile. by Doctors were given some expectant mothers made it to the hospital in time to have their babies was by snowmobile. But let's be honest, enjoyed helping







Doc & Gen Lehman



playing in the snow.

One of baby stories involved deep snow to help us." Maynard and Nancy Mast, who are currently Glendale, living Arizona. In 1978, they were living in apartment above their shoe store on Main Street in Topeka. happened very well:

27, our daughter was making her way into world; however, traveling to a hospital several phone calls, Maynard was able to our apartment.

after Even four decades, on us.

What

out of the house and as a scary morning, is reason for celebrating-a healthy daughter, and a those doctor's willingness to wade through

Many travelers, including our family, found themselves stranded by the storm. Janice and I were in a fulltime traveling ministry, singing and preaching across the country. We were scheduled to hold weekend services in a Mennonite church in Kentucky before the east side of North going on to Ashton Mennonite Church in Sarasota, Florida. From there Janice Nancy remembers what and I were scheduled to fly on to Central America for ministry in three countries. "On Friday, January Mel and Bonita Miller, who owned Topeka Hardware for many years, were to fly down to drive our two boys and our 27-foot motorhome back to Topeka.

The plan was for us to leave Topeka was not an option. After on Wednesday afternoon and beat the storm. My dad, Joe, advised us not to go, but I had my mind made up. Bottom talk to Dr. Lehman. He line: I should have listened to Dad! The agreed to help us, but roads to Ft. Wayne were not good, but we needed time to reach thought that if we could get to I-69, the our apartment. What road would be better. We were listening was known then as to the weather on the radio the whole "Civil Defense" tried to way and shortly before we reached bring him to our door, Anderson, IN, we heard that schools but the snow was simply were being opened for travelers to stay too deep. Dr. Lehman out the storm. That did not sound like walked several blocks to a good place to be for who knows how many days with two little boys.

We stopped at a Holiday Inn that his was full, so we backtracked a couple of willingness to help us miles to Exit 34, just north of Anderson, is remembered with Indiana. We were fortunate to get a profound gratitude. His room in a motel that many truckers kindness is what we used. We weren't there long when the needed in an unplanned State Police closed the highway. That home birth. He assured was where we stayed until mid-Sunday us that our daughter morning, but we were safe, warm, and was healthy, and that he out of the storm. The worst part was would return to check calling my dad to tell him where we were and that we were safe; I knew that began I was going to hear, "I tried to tell you."

To Dad's credit, he didn't do that.

Being at that motel turned out to be a tremendous blessing and adventure. Those truckers took us under their wings. They made sure that the four to five feet of snow blocking our door was shoveled out so we could get out of our room. At mealtime, they would knock on our door and carry our boys to the little restaurant that was about 100 yards from the motel. They took amazing care of us. The restaurant only had one worker who had slept there overnight because he couldn't get home. He contacted the owner who said to make anything that was in the freezer to feed the people in the motel. So, every meal we all got together and ate whatever the worker, with the help of a couple of truck drivers, cooked and sat there visiting for a while before heading back to our rooms. Our boys (Matt, almost 4, and Jason, a little over a year and a half) were the only children in the motel. They definitely enjoyed all the attention.

While the services in Kentucky had to be canceled, we did make it to Florida in time for all the services planned there. After about 10 days, Mel and Bonita flew to Sarasota to pick up our boys, and Janice and I went to Guatemala, Honduras, and Costa Rica for 10 days of ministry.

In true community fashion, when the storm passed in communities across the area, people started digging out. Neighbors helped neighbors. Schools were closed so kids with snow shovels started clearing the sidewalks. Many farmers used their tractors and loaders to open country roads so they could get to town. When they got to town, whether it was Shipshewana or Topeka, they opened streets and driveways.

Barb Hochstetler told me a great story about her late husband James. James spent a day or two with the big payloader

from

Hochstetler & Sons, plowing snow and clearing the streets of Topeka. Barb said with a chuckle, "Yeah, James was out opening up the streets and people's driveways, but he never cleared ours!"

The days following the storm, many dairy farmers had to dump their milk because the milk trucks couldn't get to their farms. LaGrange County highway crews, under the direction of Highway Superintendent Robert Thompson, worked around the clock to clear the 800 miles of county roads.

One interesting thing that did not happen following the Blizzard of '78 was reported in the Tuesday edition of the

October 17th South Bend Tribune (page 14): unlike the New York blackout in July of 1977, there was no spike in the birthrate—no "Blizzard Baby Boom."

This article partially sponsored by Mullis G. Whitehead John GENERAL DENTISTRY

The Hometown Treasure · January '24

Photos Submitted

#### Left-Over Letters Spell Out A Message From Erika!

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

I've spent the past few months wondering why my coffee at home is so much more potent (in flavor & caffeination) than when I make coffee at work. I use the same kind of coffee both places, so I thought maybe my coffee maker at home needed cleaned. Running vinegar through my machine didn't help, and that wouldn't explain how quick the jitters set in anyway!

I just figured out the mystery <u>yesterday</u>. <u>Sometime</u> this past summer, I swapped from using my 8 cup french press to my 4 cup percolator. I guess at some point since then, I have accidentally reverted to the same measurements I used for my french press, which means I'm using twice the amount of coffee grounds that I need for my little coffee maker! No wonder my coffee packs a punch! 0 Solution on page 45.

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## **Word Search**

(find all the underlined words) by Erika Byler

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# Mystery Farm JANUARY

#### OVER \$50 WORTH OF PRIZES!

1st Prize: The Connection, Topeka, 1 Year Subscription, a pen, notepad set, a letter opener, and a copy of The Honeyville Journal from LaGwana. 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: January 16, 2024. Please allow time for mail delivery.
- 4) Winners will be drawn and prizes mailed. Next month's winner will receive a 25\$ Gift Certificate to Tiffany's Restaurant and more!
- 5) Correct entries listed in our next issue!

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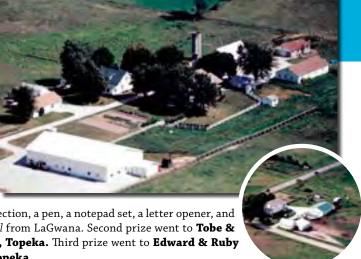
#### THE CONNECTION

Next Month Sponsored By: Tiffany's

#### LAST MONTH'S WINNERS

Regina Mast of 500 S, Topeka correctly identified last issue's farm as being owned by Christy & Lydia Eash, 5995 W 400 S, Topeka. Congratulations! They won a 1 Year

Subscription from The Connection, a pen, a notepad set, a letter opener, and a copy of *The Honeyville Journal* from LaGwana. Second prize went to **Tobe &** Elsie Hochstetler of 300 S, Topeka. Third prize went to Edward & Ruby Herschberger of 500 W, Topeka.



There were 70 correct entries this month. Others that guessed correctly were: Omer Miller, Joni & Ruby Bontrager, Lavon & Ruth Jones, Jaron & Colleen Miller, DeWayne & Wilma Lehman, Paul & Mary Yutzy, Floyd & Sharon Lambright, Vernon & Ruby Mullet, Dave & Treva Lambright, LaVern & Wanita Borkholder, Glen & Erma Bontrager, Amos & Leora Hochstetler, Daryle & JoAlice Yoder, Ervin & Karen Miller, Ida Lehman, Manas & Mary Lehman, Alton & Katie Bontrager, Marvin & Vera Gingerich, Sammy Eash, Wilma & Susie Kurtz, Martha Beachy, Matt Slabach, David & Susan Eash, Dan & Sue Miller, Calvin & Susan Miller, Jr & Marilyn Bontrager, Steven & Gertie Yoder, Ben & Wilma Borntreger, David & Marilyn Lehman, Samuel & LorEtta Schrock, Ernest & Clara Mae Bontrager, Harley & Ella Schrock, David & Alta Schrock, Wilbur & Wanda Fry, Daniel & Erma Miller, Ernie & Velma Mishler, Lawayne & Anita Yoder, Ernie & Lorene Eash, Wilbur & LaVera Hochstetler, Larry & Erma Miller, Paul & Oneita Hochstetler, Dave & Lorene Beechy, Daniel & Treva Miller, Sam & Alice Lambright, Vernon & Edna Bontrager, Fritz & Norma Bontrager, Kyle & Lily Lehman, Matt & Dora Hostetler, Lyle & Katie Yoder, Harley Miller, Leroy Miller, Ora & Alma Schrock, Crist & Sara Miller, Dean & Julie Yoder, Pete & Mary Barkman, Wilbur & Mary Herschberger, Eli & Wilma Miller, Elmer & Loretta Lehman, Lonnie & Ruby Yoder, Delmar & Dora Farmwald, Dave & Loretta Yoder, Howard & Edna Miller, Michael & Rosanna Lambright, John & Lorene Kurtz, Vernon & Pollyanna Bontrager, LaVern & Lorene Lambright and LaVerda Miller.

# Coloring Contest Winners

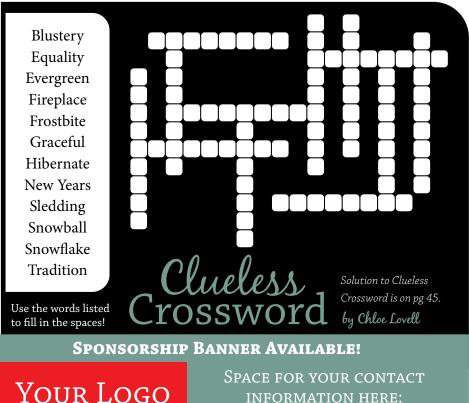
Six-year-old Deborah Petersheim of 450 N, Shipshewana was our winner for the December Coloring Contest. She won an ice cream treat of choice at Wana-Cup in Shipshewana.

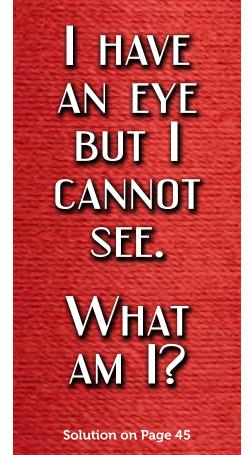
Everyone else that sent in a page can stop by Wana-Cup for a free small ice cream cone through January.

Runners-up were Nathan Miller, age 6; Sarena Lambright, age 5; Melanie Rose Yoder, age 4; and Ava Lorraine Yoder, age 3. Honorable Mentions: Angie Bontrager, age 6; Janie Alyse Miller, age 6; Kiana Faith Wingard, age 5; Julie Petersheim, age 5; Morgan Brooke Lehman, age 5; and Megan Joy Yoder, age 5.

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. •



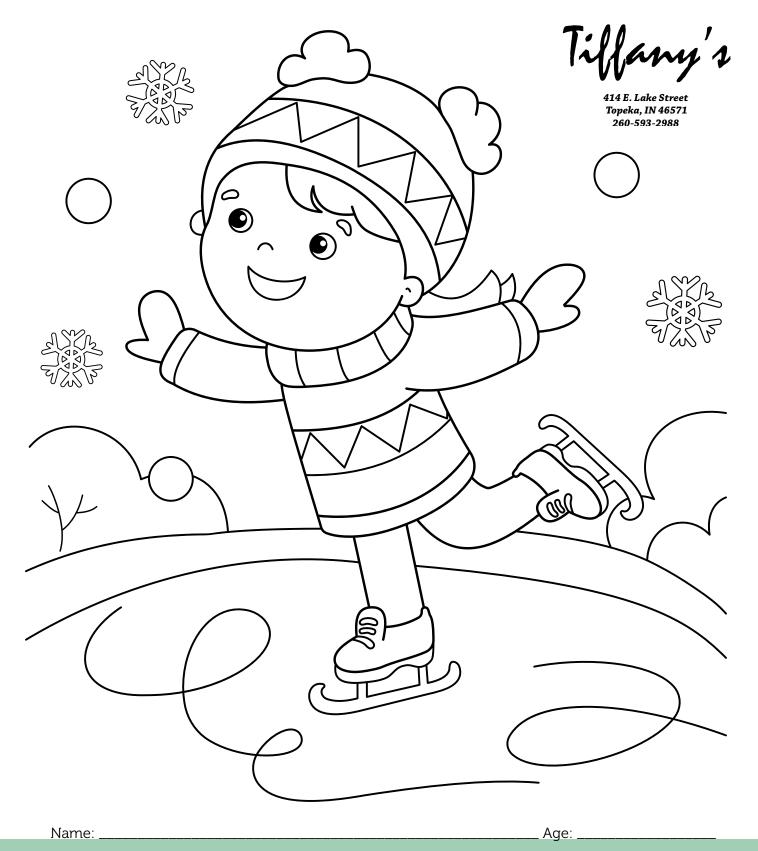




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Coloring Contest: kids **age 6 and younger**. Sponsored by Tiffany's in Topeka this month! Winner gets a FREE ICE CREAM TREAT OF CHOICE at Tiffany's. The Winning Drawings will be on display. ALL PARTICIPANTS claim your drawing for A FREE ICE-CREAM CONE at Tiffany's in February. Mail submission to: LaGwana, Coloring Contest, PO Box 70, Shipshewana, IN 46565. **Entry deadline is January 16, 2023**.

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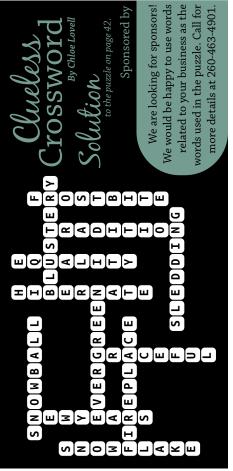
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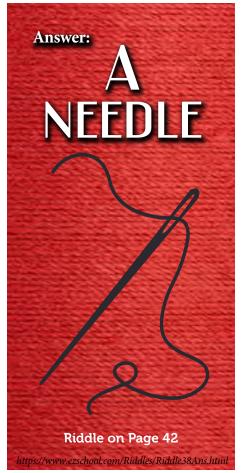


#### **Ace Hardware of Topeka**

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Solution to puzzle on page 41







Left-Over Letters Spell Out A Message From Erika!

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HERE'S TO NORMAL STRENGTH JOE!



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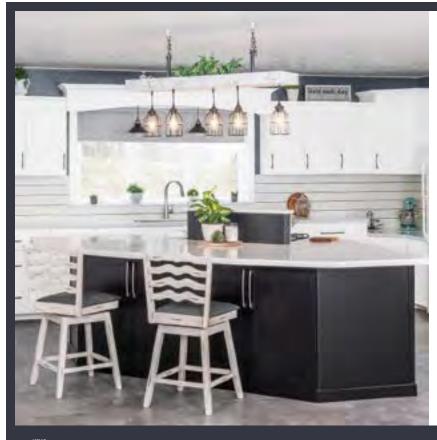
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