

The

October 2024 • Vol. 25 Num. 10

# Hometown Treasure



## Mission: Find a Home

A feature on  
The Ark Animal Shelter

Topeka Together  
Upcoming Events

Parkview: Free  
Drive-Up  
Shot Clinic

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Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2024

Starting at 5:00 pm

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Come and hear first-hand miracle testimonies from brothers & sisters in the underground church.



And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Revelation 12:11

## FREE ADMISSION

Love offerings will be taken to support the ministries.

## SUPPER PROVIDED

from 4:00-6:00 at all locations.

## FEATURED SPEAKERS

Eugene Bach, David Witt, Naghmeh Abedini Panahi, and more...

## Questions?

Call Jerry at 260.350.3653.

"It was strictly forbidden to preach to other prisoners. It was understood that whoever was caught doing this received a severe beating. A number of us decided to pay the price for the privilege of preaching, so we accepted their [the communists'] terms. It was a deal; we preached and they beat us. We were happy preaching. They were happy beating us, so everyone was happy." - Richard Wurmbbrand

# SCHEDULE

## 4:00-6:00 **Supper Served**

5:00 Song / Prayer / Announcements

5:15 David Witt (SOM)

6:00 Naghmeh Abedini Panahi (BTJ)

6:45 Pastor Eby (SIM)

7:30 Rena Joy (ICR)

8:15 Eugene Bach (BTJ)

9:00 Closing Song w/Offering



# SPEAKER BIOS



**PASTOR DAVID WITT** is the author of *Fearless Love, In the Midst of Terror* and *India: God's Global Grace Movement*. David is the founder of Spirit of Martyrdom ministries. He has spoken in over 2,500 churches and Christian ministries in the United States. He has traveled to over 50 nations total in his lifetime, preached in underground church meetings, and met with house church leaders. His heart has been touched, and his life changed, by their actions of love and faithfulness to Jesus, even when facing death. Pastor Witt desires to share their stories.



**NAGHMEH ABEDINI PANAH**i was born into a Middle Eastern Muslim family and eventually helped to build up one of the largest underground house church networks in Iran. She experienced the first-hand persecution of the Iranian regime, as well as the hardship of domestic violence. Over this time, Naghmeh became nationally known when she publicly advocated for the release of her then husband. Through her advocacy, not only did she bring worldwide attention to the plight of persecuted Christians, but she was also able to proclaim the gospel to millions of people across the globe by speaking to human rights groups, major news outlets, the United Nations in Geneva, the European Parliament, and the US Congress.

**PASTOR EBY** is the founder of an organization that has raised up and trained over 10,000 pastors in a nation where converting unbelievers to Christianity is illegal. He has first-hand witnessed miracles of God protection and deliverances of his own pastors, yet at other times some of them preaching to their imprisonment and even being martyred for sharing their faith. (Picture withheld for security purposes).

**RENA JOY** is a Middle Eastern woman and former Muslim. R.J. was raised by a Muslim father and a Christian background mother. Amidst almost unimaginable persecution, having fled her country of birth for her life, and faithfully & joyfully sharing Jesus with those around her, R.J. boldly testifies from experience, "The darker it gets, the brighter Jesus shines." R.J. genuinely desires to please the One who has saved her soul. (Picture withheld for security purposes).



**EUGENE BACH** is a pseudonym for a member of the Chinese underground church who does not wish to be identified. He has been working with the underground churches in China for more than twenty years, helping their members to establish forward mission bases in closed countries around the world, including Iraq and Syria. Eugene works with the Chinese mission movement called Back to Jerusalem, which provides essential support for Chinese missionaries in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. He has written books about the underground church in China, North Korea and Iran.

## The Hometown Treasure

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Monday - Friday, 8 am-5 pm

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### — ADVERTISING INFORMATION —

Deadline for November 2024 Issue:  
**12 noon, Tuesday, October 15**  
Thursday, October 10 if you need a proof.

**November Issue Date is Tuesday, October 22.**

### — 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.

A   
Publication

## Using My Passion

Ever since I was a little girl, I have always been a very passionate animal-lover. When someone would ask me what I wanted to be when I was older, I would always respond with "Amish." Little me wanted nothing more than to have a bunch of animals to call her own. As I grew older, I wished to become a veterinarian, until I realized that I would have to possibly hurt animals to save them. My dad always calls me a "cat whisperer." Which is true, I've never met a cat that doesn't love me. When I was given the option to choose my own ideas for the cover story, I had no hesitation in bringing up the Ark Animal Shelter.

I hadn't visited the shelter in years. My latest memory was a preschool field trip we took there. Over the last few years, I've begged my mom to take me to the shelter, but I was always met with a disagreement. We would probably take all the cats home with us. I have always adored what the Ark stands for, but with little insight I knew I had to learn more to help the animals out there.

While I began to research and make connections to get in, I knew that I would have trouble limiting what animals I highlight – I would include all of them if I could. While researching, I realized that many animals had spent a great deal of time at the shelter, which no animal deserves. Even when the

staff takes great care of them, a kennel is no place for an animal to spend its life. I knew I had to shine a spotlight on the animals that had been there for too long.

Creating the questions I wanted to ask to help shape my story was the easiest part of the work I did. While I was going in with limited knowledge, I asked the questions I was wondering about. If someone was reading the article with the same knowledge as me, most questions I believed would be answered. Choosing what to cut and keep was the most challenging task in this process.

When I write, it is almost always something I am deeply passionate about. I lack talent when it comes to things that don't resonate with me. I am always happy to have the opportunity to help animals. Knowing that I could help even one animal find their forever family fueled me to write my cover story with as much care as I could put into it.

I faced many challenges during this experience that I hope will create even better results from my next opportunity. Hopefully I can take this knowledge and grow to generate productive ideas and interesting stories!

As a special bonus, here are some pictures of little me.

Arlene Thompson  
*The Hometown Treasure Intern*



The Hometown Treasure · October '24

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# Heart and Soul

by Kim Ray Mishler

## The Beauty In Change

Fall is proof that change is beautiful. This quote popped up on my Facebook feed recently, and I resonated with its truth. Autumn is my favorite season—pumpkin spice everything for me! But, let's face it, fall is about dying. The lushness of summer fades. The leaves change color before they drop to their final resting places, blanketing the earth and ending up as ash in a burn pile. DEPRESSING!

But, as the grandeur of the season unfolds and we behold its majestic colors, breathe in the fresh air, and sip our pumpkin spice lattes, death is the farthest thing from our minds. On the contrary, we embrace it and enjoy it to the fullest. Or, at least, I do! I get giddy at the first sign of color! I know the facts. I know that this change means that winter is coming, and the sweetness of summer is over. I know that frost on the pumpkin will soon turn to snow on my windshield. I know all these things, but still, I look forward to this season.

I wish all transitions in my life were that easy. I wish I could look forward to things that loom on the horizon as quickly as I welcome

autumn. What about you? Did you see a child off to college for the first time this year or send your last little one to kindergarten? Maybe you're changing jobs, moving to a retirement community, or recently said goodbye to a loved one.

Perhaps what was familiar all your life may need to undergo a necessary change, but deep down, you fear that altering your environment will

But fall teaches us that change can be beautiful. When I'm driving the worry bus, I fail to consider that perhaps the giant detour ahead of me may just lead me on to an even more exciting adventure. I get hyper focused on the inconvenience and how it could potentially ruin a good thing instead of anticipating what lies ahead. Fall says, embrace this beautiful thing and see what beauty unfolds.



Philippians 4:8 gives us some excellent advice for when our focus is a little fuzzy.

Paul writes, "Finally brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things."

By focusing on the bright and bold colors of the present (aka anything excellent or praiseworthy), we can grasp the unknowns of the future more easily. Change is inevitable, but how we respond to it can make all the difference.

inadvertently alter you. I get it... the fear of the unknown is daunting. The "what ifs" can be maddening. I don't know about you, but I can get myself so worked up over something that hasn't even happened yet or may not happen! Worry is such a pesky neighbor!

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## Shipshewana Area Historical Society

The Shipshewana Area Historical Society (SAHS) will meet on Monday, October 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the Farver School Museum. The building is located across from the Shipshewana Post Office. Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

This is our annual meeting and the last meeting for this year. We will have an election of officers and a review of this past year. The new business will be the future of our Society. Please come and share your thoughts. 



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# Smart Choices

By Connie Lehman, RD, CDE at Topeka Pharmacy Wellness Program

## To Cleanse Or Not To Cleanse

TO CLEANSE OR NOT TO CLEANSE herbs, dietary supplements and some prescription drugs can also harm the liver.

Have you ever found yourself wondering if a clean colon is indeed a happy colon, or whether your liver needs to be detoxed? I have, after hearing or reading certain ads. Then I always wonder what exactly toxins are, and how does the cleansing help? Turns out the answers to these questions have a lot to do with nutrition and healthy habits.

What is a toxin?

A toxin is any substance which has no value to the body and could cause harm. The body must work to get rid of the toxin. Toxins come from two sources:

1. Those made inside the body as end-products of digestion or exercise, like lactic acid.

2. Those introduced into the body from outside such as germs, mold, chemicals, pollutants, alcohol or drugs. Even medications and supplements can act like toxins.

How does the body get rid of toxins?

Two of the main toxin-removal systems are the liver and the colon. These removal systems work very well. Make it your goal to practice healthy habits this year, and help your body remove toxins naturally! 

1. Avoid Damage. The liver is harmed if more than 1-2 alcoholic drinks are taken daily, by smoking, by breathing in cleaning products or insecticides, and even by taking too much acetaminophen (Tylenol). Many

2. Eat Clean. A key to strengthening the health of your liver and colon is to eat more fresh fruit, vegetables, whole grains, beans, healthy fats (nuts & olive oil) and to eat very small amounts of processed foods, chips, fries, pop, desserts and saturated fats (animal fat). Eating smaller portions also helps the liver remove toxins more easily.

3. Move More. Much research has found that exercise is a top way to help the liver do its job well, while sitting all day affects liver function negatively. Daily exercise also keeps the colon from getting clogged with waste.

Do I need to cleanse my colon or my liver?

There is no research to prove cleansing regimens do what they claim and repeated cleansing can even harm the liver or colon. However, there is a lot of research which proves healthy habits make a huge difference in keeping the liver and colon working maximally.



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**Knowledge is the key ingredient to make better individual health decisions.**

**10/8/2024 – Senior Expo LaGrange 455 E Farver St, Shipshewana, IN 46565**

**10/21/2024 – PPG Shipshewana 8175 W US Highway 20, Shipshewana, IN 46565**

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## Vote For Solid Investment Strategies

With the presidential election just a few weeks away, the public is naturally interested in not just the outcome but what the results will mean for issues of national importance. As a citizen, you likely share these concerns — but how about as an investor? After the votes are counted — or even before — should you make some moves in anticipation of possible changes in policy?

Let's look at the big picture first, through the lens of history. The financial markets have performed well — and at times, not so well — under Democratic and Republican presidents alike. And the same is true about which party controlled Congress.

While it might be an overstatement to say that decisions made in Washington have no effect on the markets, it's not always so easy to draw a direct line between what happens there and how the markets perform. For one thing, political candidates often make promises that are not fulfilled, or, if they are, have different results than intended. Also, other institutions can have a significant impact on the markets. For example, the Federal Reserve, which controls short-term interest rates, can certainly affect many market sectors. And there will always be external events, such as foreign conflicts and even natural disasters, that can make short-term impacts on the investment world.

So, rather than making changes to your portfolio in anticipation of what might happen if certain candidates get elected, or even in response to actual policy changes, look to other factors to drive your investment decisions.

These factors should include the following:

- Your goals – You probably have short- and long-term goals you'd like to achieve. For your short-term goals, such as a wedding, a down payment on a house or a long vacation, you may want to invest in instruments that provide stability of principal. For your long-term goals, most important of which may be a comfortable retirement, you'll need to own a reasonable number of growth-oriented investments.

- Your risk tolerance – When you build and maintain your investment portfolio, you'll need to accommodate your individual risk tolerance. All investments carry some type of risk, but you need to be comfortable with the overall risk level of your investments.

- Your time horizon – Where you are in life is an important consideration when investing. When you are young and just starting out in your career, you may be able to focus more on growth, as you have time to overcome the inevitable short-term market downturns. But as you near retirement, you may want to consolidate any gains you may have achieved, and lower

your risk level, by moving your portfolio toward a somewhat more conservative approach. Even in retirement, though, you will need some growth potential to stay ahead of inflation.

- Your needs for liquidity – As you invest, you'll need to maintain an adequate amount of cash and cash equivalents in your holdings. Without this liquidity, you might be forced to sell long-term investments in case you have unexpected expenses.

In any case, when it comes to investing, you may want to pay less attention to what names are on the ballot — and instead “vote” for the longer-term strategies that reflect your needs and goals. 



*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. Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.*

# LaGrange County Library

Below are the events planned for October 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.lagrangelib.in.us](http://www.lagrangelib.in.us) or call 260-463-2841.

Facebook Page- [m.facebook.com/lagrangelibraryindiana](https://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: The Five Senses

LaGrange • Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. | Shipshewana • Tuesdays at 1 p.m.  
Topeka • Wednesdays at 11 a.m.

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

### Oculus VR, Nintendo Switch, Wii Gaming Systems

LaGrange • Tuesdays • 11:30 a.m.-6 p.m. • Fridays 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Switch and Wii: ages 6 & up, parent must stay with children 10 & under.

Oculus VR: ages 13 & up, MUST have waiver signed by parent on file.

Controllers at Children's desk for 1 hour use, first come, first served.

### Homeschool Hangout

LaGrange • Wednesday, Oct 9 • 1-2:30 p.m.

Friday, Oct 11 • 10:30-12:00 p.m.

Join other homeschool families for a time to hang out, play games, share ideas and make new friends! Feel free to come to one or both days and enjoy some time to relax together. Registration appreciated, not required.

### Teen Games (Grades 6-12)

LaGrange • Monday, October 14 • 4-6 p.m.

Drop in any time and stay as long as you can. We will be learning new games and deciding what titles to add to our circulating games. Enjoy some non-electronic games while snacking and chatting with other teens!

### Pokemon Club (Ages 8-18)

LaGrange • Monday, Oct 14 • 6-7:30 p.m.

Join us to have fun playing Pokemon, trading cards, and learning strategies for improving your game. Bringing cards to trade is optional. Sign up is not required but you can sign up online or call the library so we know how many are coming.

### Teen Dungeons & Dragons (Grades 6-12)

LaGrange • Monday, Oct 14 • 6-7:30 p.m.

Join us to have fun playing Dungeons and Dragons. The group will decide who is Dungeon Master and how long each campaign will be. Please sign-up online.

### Book Clubs

LaGrange • Monday, Oct 14 • 4-5 p.m.

Come to the library in September to get your book for October.

Elementary: Grades 1-3 Reading *Trouble in a Fur Coat* by Janette Oke

Mid-Grade: Grades 4-7 Reading *Witchlings* by Claribel Ortega.

### Makerspace (Ages 5-up)

LaGrange • Wednesday, Oct 23 • 2:30-7 p.m.

Parents must stay with kids 10 & under. Drop in anytime between 2:30 and 7:00 and stay as long as you want. We will have craft supplies and projects available as well as building materials such as Legos and Strawbees. Come and have fun!

### Teen Book Chat Genre Book Club (Grades 8-12)

LaGrange • Monday, October 28 • 4-4:45 p.m.

Read a classic or historical fiction book of your choice and come to discuss and share your thoughts with the group.

### Teen Advisory Group — TAG (Grades 6-12)

LaGrange • Monday, Oct 28 • 5-6:00 p.m.

Come help plan activities for teens at the library, help choose books to purchase and offer ideas about the teen space. Pizza provided!

### Escape Room - Detention: Escape from the Cursed High School!

LaGrange • Friday, Oct 25 • Noon - 8 pm. Saturday, Oct 26 10 am - 6 pm  
Pop-up Escape rooms is at our library for two days! You and your classmates are sentenced to detention and trapped in a haunted classroom. Solve the riddles within 45 minutes to free the ghost from its curse, or remain in detention for eternity!

### Must Register for a 1 Hour Time Slot!

Up to 8 people per group, at least one adult required for kids under 14.

## Adult Interest

### Classic Cinema: Bette Davis (Ages 12+)

LaGrange • Tuesday, Oct. 8 • 2 pm. • FREE admission and popcorn!  
*Dark Victory*, Starring Bette Davis, George Brent & Humphrey Bogart. 1939 TV-PG • 106 min. A Rich party girl is diagnosed with a potentially terminal brain tumor, driving her to an existential crisis, and the challenge of facing possible death with dignity.

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

Corn Crib Café, 0920 N SR 5, Shipshewana, IN

Saturday, October 12 • 11 a.m.

This month we'll discuss "Hidden Pictures" by Jason Rekulak. Mallory Quinn is an ex-drug addict with a chance at redemption working as a nanny for a seemingly perfect family living in an idyllic neighborhood. But when her sweet five-year-old charge begins drawing disturbing pictures well beyond his age, Mallory starts looking for answers in a story of a local artist's murder.

### Make & Take with Deb - Fall Leaves Lighted Tree (Ages 12+)

LaGrange • Wednesday, Oct 16 • 6 p.m.

We will make a tree of artificial fall leaves with lights and natural embellishments. Finished tree will be about 20" tall. Cost is \$25 per person. Must register with a non-refundable \$15 deposit by Oct 9 at LaGrange Library.

### Culinary Adventures: Middle Eastern Lunch

Shawarma Station • 1507 E Chicago Rd, Sturgis, MI

Friday, Oct 18 • Meet at the library to carpool at 11:00 a.m. or meet us at the restaurant at 11:30 a.m. Explore interesting restaurants and food stores throughout our area! Must register at LaGrange or call 260-463-2841 x1030. All food purchases at your own expense.

### Classic Cinema: Bette Davis (Ages 12+)

LaGrange • Tues., Oct. 22 • 2 p.m. • FREE Admission and popcorn!  
*Now, Voyager*, —Starring Bette Davis & Paul Henreid. 1942 Rated TV-G. 120 min. A neurotic woman chafing under a domineering mother is helped by a psychiatrist, who instills self-confidence in her, which is put to the test when she falls in love with an unhappily married man.

### Tuesday Night Survival Club

Meeting #1: Cookies & Brainstorming

LaGrange • Tues., Oct. 22 • 6 p.m

Grandma survived the Great Depression because her supply chain was local and she knew how to do stuff. Learn to be as tough as Grandma! What do you want to learn? What can you teach? Folk skills? Survival skills? Mechanical skills? Come make friends and share your know-how!

### Archi-Trek: Battle Creek, MI (Ages 12+)

LaGrange • Thursday, Oct 24 • Depart & Return: LaGrange Main Library

Departure 8:30 a.m. - Return approx. 5:00 p.m. Cost \$10 per person.

Must register at LaGrange or call 260-463-2841 x1030.

Archi-Treks are all-day tours for architecture exploration and appreciation, within easy reach of Northeast Indiana. They include some walking, some riding and local lunch. This tour of Battle Creek begins at Willard Library. Lunch is in Clara's on the River. Afternoon will be a combination riding/walking tour of architectural highlights. Health note: This tour requires walking and occasional stairs.

### Cookbook Club

LaGrange • Saturday, October 26 • 11 a.m. | Families welcome.

This month's cookbook is *Grandma's Wartime Kitchen* by Joann Lambe Hayes. Check out the cookbook from the library. Choose a recipe, cook it, and bring it to the Cookbook Club Carry-In. Plates, silverware, coffee, and tea will be provided.

# October Events

## Breakfast With the Birds

Wednesday, Oct 16 • 8–10 am  
Maple Wood Nature Center

Coffee, donuts and nature conversation.

## Sewing Group

Wednesday, Oct 23 • 9:30 am–3:30 pm  
Maple Wood Nature Center

Fee: \$5 donation for Parks

What is a UFO? If you answered an unfinished object, this is the perfect sewing group for you! Bring your sewing machine and supplies, and get help and direction with your project! This is a wonderful opportunity to socialize and share ideas with others. Please bring your own lunch/drink, and a snack to share. Please RSVP with Linda Grobis at 260-351-3609.

## Quilt Class

Saturday, Oct 26 • 9 am–3 pm  
Maple Wood Nature Center

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

Pattern to be announced. Registration is required. Instructions are provided upon registration. Bring a sack lunch and/or a potluck contribution. To register, call the Park Office at 260-854-2225.

## Folk Jams

Sunday, Oct 27 • 1:30–5 pm  
Maple Wood Nature Center

Jams are mostly folk, country, and bluegrass music with other styles occasionally added. Bring a snack to share if you'd like. For more information, contact Erv Troyer at 260-350-2666 or by email at [reo43@aol.com](mailto:reo43@aol.com).



## Not So Spooky Trail

Friday, Oct 18 • 5 pm - 7:30 pm  
Maple Wood Nature Center

A Fall family program with little ones in mind. Seasonal crafts, Wagon rides through the woods, roasting marshmallows, games & crafts, and a bonfire. This is a free event. Donations appreciated.

## Every Park Every Trail

Saturday, Oct 5 • 9 am - End  
Maple Wood Nature Center  
4550 E 100 S, LaGrange, IN

The sixth trail date for the 2024 Every Park Every Trail Walking Club will be Oct 5 at Maple Wood Nature Center, 4550 E 100 S, LaGrange, IN. The walk will begin at 9am at the Nature Center. Trail maps may be found at the trailhead, on the LaGrange County Parks website, or on the AllTrails App. It is free to participate. Walk at your own pace; there will be a fun reward for those who participate! A Park Representative will be present for check-in. For more, visit [www.lagrangecountyparks.org](http://www.lagrangecountyparks.org) or call 260-854-2225.



## Mindfulness in Maple Wood

Saturday, Oct 5 • 9 am

Maple Wood Nature Center  
4505 E 100 S, LaGrange, IN

1 mile accessible trail and 8 mindfulness stations. Join us for a brief welcome and ribbon-cutting ceremony before you walk the trail at your own pace and enjoy the moments in your own time.

## Patchwork Trails

Thank you for enjoying the 2024 season of Patchwork Trails Nature Walks. Stay tuned next Spring for the 2024 schedule



## 2025 Maple Syrup Days

Saturday & Sunday, March 15 & 16  
Maple Wood Nature Center  
4550 E 100 S, LaGrange, IN



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# Fall Decorating and Costume Contests

Topeka Together is bringing fall fun to Topeka with two upcoming events.

Starting the autumn season is Topeka's first annual Fall Decorating Contest with categories for both commercial and residential participants. The judging will take place on October 7 so you will want to get decorating now!

Winners will be announced on November 6 at 6:00 p.m. at the Topeka's Fall Sale Day event. Prizes will be given at that time.

To enter the contest and get your name on the list of potential winners, contact [topekatogetherinc@gmail.com](mailto:topekatogetherinc@gmail.com). This event is sponsored by State Farm agent Lisa Yoder.

A return event you may already be aware of is the annual Topeka Trunk or Treat Costume Contest. Dress to impress and bring out your best because the Topeka Fire Department is welcoming all to come out for this night of fun.

Join us on November 1 at Station 30 where there will be games at 5:00 p.m., the costume contest at 5:30 p.m., and trick-or-treating from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The Benders will be providing donuts and cider. Food trucks will also be available for food options. Sponsors for this event include Party on the Patio, Smokin Guns BBQ, Tiffany's, and the Topeka Fire Department. 



*First Class Grass, LLC, a local landscaping company, made the first donation to the Topeka Together Inc, a new non-profit organization, at our first meeting. Nathan Burr, son of Marlynn Mast, and his business partner Trevor Franklin donated \$500 with Nathan saying, "We are so proud of you, Mom and we want to support you and give back to our community".*

*Photo Submitted*

## BREAKING NEWS

## YOUR NEWS SOURCES

**Newsline Extensions: 1-844-511-1952**

**Ext. 1 Morning Coffee News:** 10-minute summary of news, with a special edition on Saturdays, and on Sundays we take a break from present-day concerns with a short article/story from the 18-1900s newspaper.

**Ext. 2 The Farmer's Almanac Weather:** Almanac's weather with timely tips, wisdom, and a smile.

**Ext. 3 Traveling America:** Travel Guide destinations with phone numbers primarily limited to locations in Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana.

**Ext. 4 NPR News:** Latest national and international news in 5 minutes.

**Ext. 5 History from The Budget:** 5-minute or less clip from a randomly selected historical budget letter.

**Ext. 6 NBC Nightly News:** Lester Holt reports and analyzes the day's most important national and international events in 20 minutes or less.

**Ext. 7 LaGrange County Business:** Meetings minutes, alerts, and health trends at the county level.

**Ext. 8 IN Statehouse Happenings:** Relevant Indiana government bills and business in under 15 minutes.

**Ext. 9 White House/Capital Hill Briefing:** Brief rundown of the President and VP's schedule, the White House briefings, and the government agency's official records.

**Ext. 10 National Security:** National Threat and Incident Notification Services weekly summary released every Saturday, approximately 5-15 minutes long. 

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**2024 Remaining Dates:**  
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# Big Idea Open House

LaGrange County Community Foundation, in partnership with LaGrange County Trails, is thrilled to announce the upcoming Big Idea Open House. The event will showcase preliminary concepts for the LaGrange County Master Trails Plan, an initiative aimed at enhancing and expanding trail infrastructure throughout LaGrange County.

The Big Idea Open House is scheduled for September 26, 2024, from 6-8 p.m. at the LaGrange County 4-H Fair Community Building, located at 1030 E 075 N, LaGrange. The event provides an opportunity for residents to view and offer feedback on the preliminary goals and objectives shaping LaGrange County's future trail network. Attendees will be able to walk through a display that outlines the priorities and maps for ongoing trail development, based on insights gathered from previous open houses held in July and August. The display is expected to take about 30 minutes to explore.

This event marks a pivotal step in the development of the LaGrange County Master Trails Plan, an initiative aimed at enhancing safety, promoting outdoor recreation, and fostering connectivity through planning an expanded and well-designed trails network. The plan will provide a strategy for developing and expanding multi-use biking and hiking trails. Currently, LaGrange County has seven miles of multi-use trails.

The LaGrange County Community Foundation, supported by a grant from Lilly Endowment's Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow (GIFT) Phase VIII, hired HWC Engineering to bring the trails vision to life. The Foundation, in collaboration with LaGrange County

Trails, and community stakeholders, is supporting the development of a trails "roadmap" that will enhance the quality of life in LaGrange County and provide a guide for community leaders to improve trail infrastructure and programs.

## Event Highlights:

- Preliminary Concept Display: Attendees will have the opportunity to view and provide input on initial design concepts for future trails.

- Format: Guests are welcome to attend at their convenience and stay as long as they wish during the event.

- Interactive Stations: Engage with the HWC Engineering planning team and provide feedback through interactive stations.

- Community Forum: Speak with representatives of LaGrange County Trails and the LaGrange County Community Foundation staff to learn about initiatives to support trail development in LaGrange County.

- Refreshments and Activities: Enjoy complimentary fall refreshments, along with a kid's activity area.

- Date & Time: September 26, 2024, from 6-8 p.m.

- Location: LaGrange County 4-H Fair Community Building, 1030 E 075 N, LaGrange.

"We are excited to share the preliminary concepts for the Master Trails Plan and gather feedback from the community," said Octavia Yoder, Executive Director of the LaGrange County Community Foundation. "Support for continued trail development across the county is a key priority in the county's comprehensive plan and we are committed to helping identify that road map."

"Community input is crucial in ensuring that the Master Trails Plan

meets the needs and aspirations of LaGrange County residents," Yoder added.

The LaGrange County Community Foundation encourages all residents to invite their neighbors and share this event within the community.

For additional information about the Master Trails Plan, please visit [Lccf.net/County-Trail-Plan](http://Lccf.net/County-Trail-Plan) or contact Jennifer Barclay at HWC Engineering by phone at 260-475-5092 or email at [jbarclay@hwcengineering.com](mailto:jbarclay@hwcengineering.com).



## Shore Church Opens Walking Path

Shore Church would like to announce the opening of our new walking path! The path is located on our property just west of the church. You can access the path from Shore's parking lot, as well as Yorkshire Drive located in the Berkshire neighborhood. It is open to the public and can be accessed at any time of day. The path's length measures at 0.61 miles. Our hope is for this walking path to be a place of fellowship and fun! So tie up your shoe laces and let's get walking! 





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# Free Drive-Up Shot Clinic

A free drive-up clinic offering a variety of vaccinations will be open to all residents of LaGrange and surrounding counties Thursday, Oct. 3, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Parkview LaGrange Hospital will host the clinic in its north parking lot at 207 N. Townline Road in collaboration with Topeka Pharmacy, Super Shot and the LaGrange County Council on Aging.

“We hope many area residents will be able to take advantage of this opportunity to obtain multiple vaccinations that are very important at this time of year,” said Jordi Disler, market president, Parkview Health North. “Our Parkview LaGrange team is pleased to bring this event to the public again in conjunction with these wonderful community partners.”

## Multiple Shots Available

The event will offer vaccines for flu, COVID-19, pneumonia, RSV and shingles:

**Flu shot** – Regular dose recommended for ages 6 months and older.

High-dose flu shot available for adults 65-plus, regardless of insurance status.

**COVID-19** (newest, 2024 vaccine) – Recommended for ages 6 months and older.

**Pneumonia** – Recommended for adults ages 65-plus and for younger folks who are high-risk.

**RSV** – Recommended for adults ages 60-plus.

**Shingles** – Recommended for adults ages 50-plus.

Anyone age 6 months or older may receive a free flu and/or COVID-19 vaccine. Individuals with healthcare coverage should bring their insurance

card as insurance will be billed, if applicable. Questions may be directed to 260-278-0367.

“Annual flu shots have been proven, over many years, to provide safe and effective protection from the seasonal flu,” said Hannah Smith, PharmD, Topeka Pharmacy clinical pharmacy manager. “Now, we also have years of experience showing safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines. For many people, the shots may not completely prevent sickness, but they certainly help protect against severe and life-threatening illness.”

“Both the flu and COVID-19 especially threaten those most at risk – people over 65 and anyone with chronic diseases such as heart disease, diabetes, COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) and others,” Smith continued. “Healthy people have a responsibility to get vaccinated and prevent the spread of flu and COVID-19 to high-risk members of our community.”

**Influenza:** Anyone can get the flu (influenza), a contagious, viral respiratory illness that sickens and kills vulnerable Hoosiers each year. According to the Indiana Department of Health, on average, 5% to 20% of the nation’s population comes down with the flu in any given year.

**COVID-19:** Because the COVID-19 virus is constantly changing, and immunity decreases over time, individuals who received earlier vaccines need to receive the new shot to restore their protection against severe illness.

“This newest vaccine update, approved for use on Aug. 22, provides protection against the latest circulating strains of COVID being seen in the com-

munity,” said Staci Kaczmarek, clinical manager of Super Shot. “Everyone ages 6 months and up should receive this updated COVID vaccine. Super Shot will have COVID vaccines available for all age groups.”

**Pneumonia:** Like flu, pneumonia has the potential to be mild or severe. This infection of the lungs can be caused by viruses, bacteria or fungi. The infection causes inflammation that makes breathing difficult and can be challenging to fight, particularly for people with underlying medical conditions.

**RSV:** (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) causes symptoms that can be mistaken for a cold: coughing, sneezing, runny nose, fever, wheezing and a diminished appetite. However, for babies, young children and older adults, it can be much more serious.

**Shingles:** Shingles is a painful, itchy rash with blisters caused by the virus associated with chickenpox. Once a person is exposed to the virus, it remains in their bodies, and as they age and their immune systems weaken, the virus can re-emerge as shingles. Adults 50 and older – as well as those 19-plus who have poor immune response – are encouraged to get the two-dose shingles vaccine as a preventive measure.

**Reminders:** Guests should dress appropriately to allow clinic volunteers easy access to their upper arm to administer the vaccinations.

Anyone experiencing symptoms of illness – such as sore throat, runny nose, cough, sneezing, fever, fatigue, muscle aches and/or headache – is asked not to participate in this event. Many of these symptoms can be associated with cold, flu and COVID-19. 



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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, Kendra Yoder
- 4 Austin Fry
- 5 Jaylen Bontrager, Aaron Miller, Bryan Miller
- 6 Braden Hochstetler, Allie Wolfe
- 7 Mason Grossman, Sophia Lehman, Bryleigh Miller,
- 8 Katy Mishler
- 9 Ava Hochstetler, Zachariah Jones, Kaylisa Schlabach, Kristopher Schlabach, Landon Stutzman, Weston Troyer
- 10 Walker Berkey, Oliver Lancour, Avery VonGunten, Karla Yoder
- 11 Finleigh Withrow, Hannah Yoder, Nolan Yoder
- 12 Theodore Frey, Wyatt Frey, Scarlett Yoder
- 13 Madison Arbogast, Lane Mullet, Seth Yoder
- 14 Derek Lehman, Sandra Miller, Ahmed Sawal, Nathaneal Wilkins
- 15 Lyndon Bontrager, Lucas Miller
- 16 Travis Bontrager, Felicity Eash, Elijah Lambright,



Dawson Miller, Daniel Schrock, Corbin Yoder

- 17 Jake Slabach, Caleb Yoder
- 18 Amr Alziadi, Brooklyn Hochstetler, Kendall Yoder
- 19 Tameem Alrasheed, Grayson Beachey, Alayna Hershberger, Alice Miller,
- 20 Kaia Forbes, Adam Hershberger, Kelsey Slabach
- 21 Benjamin Miller, Ryan Miller
- 22 Alaina Clark, Skylee Doty, Pablo Furney, Viviana Lopez, Jamin Yoder
- 23 Aiden Grant, Jenna Yoder, Willard Yoder
- 24 Knox Cripe, Serenity Lambright, Vonda Mishler,
- 25 Elijah Bontrager, Robert Lehman
- 26 Gavin Hochstetler, Adelyn Vandergriff, Dominic Young
- 27 Nicole Lehman
- 28 Chester Bloom, Archer Glassman, Joshua Hershberger
- 29 Heidi Borntreger, Natalie Detweiler, Keegan Miller, Tyson Yoder
- 30 Jeremiah Miller, Kamdyn Schlabach
- 31 Jamie Chupp, Trenton Hostetler

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**Winners Announced**  
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**Topeka Fire Department welcomes**  
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**Trick or Treat 6:30-8:30**

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# What We're Up To!

Fourth graders traveled to The MEC to participate in packaging meals for Feed My Starving Children on August 23.

In other news, our very own Mr. Graber visited the classroom as a guest reader. He captivated students while reading Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse. Besides being an entertaining tale, this wonderful story has a lot of important lessons in it too.

Lastly, each month 15 students are recognized during the monthly school wide Family Meeting assembly. These students have shown safety, responsibility, and respect throughout the month. Winners receive a certificate, a Mighty Mustang bracelet, and get to participate in a game during the assembly. Pictured are the winners from August of the 2024-2025 school year.

Go Mustangs! 📢



*Back (left to right): Adrian Troyer (4th), Ethan Miller (3rd), Laylah Lambright (4th), Addyson Lambright (3rd), Avery England (4th), and Maicee Withman (4th). Middle: Micha Otto (2nd), Conner Rohm (2nd), Alice Miller (2nd), Isaiah Troyer (K), and Brian Hochstetler (2nd). Front: Sheldon Frey (1st), Julianna Lambright (1st), and Cheryl Slabach (K). Not pictured: Sheila Miller (K). All Photos Submitted*



Meadowview Elementary Home of the Mustangs

## Summer Reading Program 2024

Meadowview Elementary School celebrated its summer reading program, "Up, Up Away...Read Every Day!" on Tuesday, September 10th. A total of 76 students participated with each student reading 600 minutes or more over the summer.

The students were able to enjoy a kite demonstration by Mr. Jerry Otto, of Otto Stove and Fireplace...thank you Mr. Otto for sharing your amazing hobby and talent. Each participant also received a certificate for a free small ice cream cone from Mom's Ice Cream...thank you Mr. Chris Schlabach for your donation!

Top readers for each grade level received a kite. The top three readers also received a Kites-Time to Fly! game or a boomerang. Thank you Meadowview Elementary PTO for supporting our program by providing prizes for the top

readers, in addition to root beer floats for all participants!

### Top 2 Readers per Grade Level

- 1A: Salena Miller – 2160 min/~ 36 hrs
- 1B: Halle Stutzman – 1740 min/~ 29 hrs
- 2C: Jenna Miller – 4316 min/~ 72 hrs
- 2B: Samantha Lehman – 2580 min/~ 43 hrs
- 3C: Brooklyn Schlabach – 3826 min/~ 64 hrs

3A: Heidi Borntreger – 3094 min/~ 52 hrs

- 4A: Kohler Yoder – 2945 min/~ 49 hrs
- 4A: Jayna Miller – 2904 min/~ 48 hrs

### Top 3 Readers in the School

- 2B: Leah Mast – 8235 min/~ 137 hrs
- 4B: Derek Frey – 7351 min/~ 123 hrs
- 4A: Nicholas Bontrager – 5172 min/~ 86 hrs ①



**Top Winners** Back (left to right): Halle Stutzman, Jenna Miller, Derek Frey, Nicholas Bontrager, Leah Mast, Samantha Lehman, and Brooklyn Schlabach. Front: Salena Miller, Kohler Yoder, Heidi Borntreger, and Jayna Miller. All Photos Submitted



# Feed My Starving Children

Shipshe-Scott third and fourth graders recently traveled down the road to the MEC in order to volunteer for the nonprofit organization, Feed My Starving Children. Students, teachers and parents worked together to pack meals to be donated to those in need. Topeka Elementary 3rd and 4th graders also participated at the same time. Together, these students packed 170 boxes. This is equivalent to 47,580 meals!

These meals will be able to feed 102 children for an entire year. Shipshe-Scott would like to thank Feed My Starving Children for all the work they do for our communities as well as the MEC for hosting this fantastic opportunity. Also, a big shout out to the parents who came and helped pack as many boxes as possible.

Students had a lot of fun on this service project! 🍌



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# Shipshe-Scott Elementary

Home of the  
Scotties



## MIND AND BODY CHALLENGES

Students who participated in the Summer Reading Challenge enjoyed creating a craft as their celebration. This year's theme was "Revved Up for Reading" and students created different types of wooden vehicles with the Intervention Teachers.

Students qualified for this celebration recorded at least 800 minutes of reading during the months of June and July. Third grader Bryleigh Miller was

the top reader of the Summer logging 4,306 minutes. Way to go, readers!

On August 30, students enjoyed the Topeka Fitness Classic organized by Miss Eash. It was a hot day, so the National Honor Society student volunteers enjoyed spraying the students with water to keep them cool. Students had a fun day participating in physical activities. It is a tradition that Topeka staff and students always enjoy! 📢



*This page made possible by the*



# Topeka Elementary

The Hometown Treasure · October '24

Home of the Bears



## Survival Shelters

Students in Mr. Stump's class practiced what they learned about building survival shelters after reading the book "Hatchet." ⓘ



**Swedish Song** Fifth graders had a great time learning "Fjaskern," a song from Sweden. ⓘ



## Bus Evacuation Drills

Students had a beautiful morning for bus evacuation practice. ⓘ



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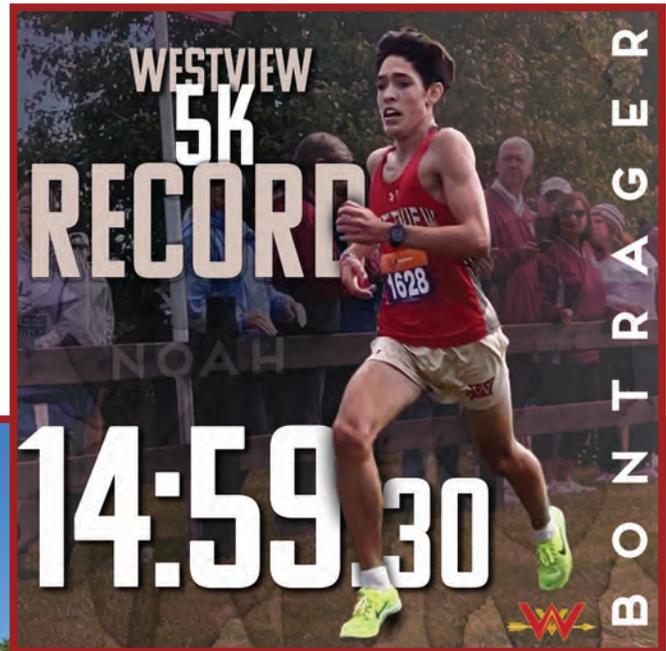
Westview Elementary

Home of the Warriors

# IWU INVITATIONAL

On Saturday, September 7, the Westview High School boys and girls cross country teams participated in a meet at Indiana Wesleyan University.

Noah Bontrager, a junior, was the overall meet winner for the boys, coming in almost half a minute ahead of the second place finisher. In the process, he broke the Westview school 5k record with a time of 14:49.30. The previous record had been set by Noah also.



# MANCHESTER INVITATIONAL

The Westview Jr. High boys cross country team won the Manchester Invitational on Saturday, September 7, beating 18 other teams at the event. Taking 6th place overall was Kevin

Bontrager followed by Karl Bontrager (7th), Michael Bontrager (8th), Darin Miller (9th) and Micah Miller (13th) placing for the Westview boys.

The Westview Jr. High girls cross country team placed 6th in the Man-

chester Invitational on Saturday. Taking 8th place overall was Sara Bontrager followed by Kimber Helmuth (26th), Alicia Bontrager (28th), Laura Miller (29th), and Kylie Mast (47th) placing for the Westview girls team. 1

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# Westview Jr./Sr. High

Home of the Warriors



# JH BOYS SOCCER

Sponsored  
by



**2024 JH Boys Soccer:** Back (left to right): Beckham Misner, Cooper Schwartz, Trenton Vilaro, Lukas Swanson, Blake Hostetler, Harrison Bontrager, and Adam Alamari. Middle: Jakoby Whetstone, Luke Bontrager, Blake Miller, Grady Yoder, Brigham Rahn, and Spencer Lambright. Front: Alex Stutzman, Lyric Miller, Mazen Sowailen, Ibrahim Algaradi, Bryce Yoder, and Cash Miller. Not Pictured: Coach Blake Egli, Coach Joseph Sanchez, Justin Wallace, Jace Amsden, Mason Grossman, Kaleb Liechty, Ryan Mast, Gusmar Munoz, Kipton Schrock, and Austin Yoder.

Photo by Abby Wenger



# JH GIRLS SOCCER

Sponsored  
by



**2024 JH Girls Soccer:** Back (left to right): Assistant Coach McKenzie Hershberger, Hadley Yoder, Chandler Engle, Bre Garrett, Faith Stump, Jayni Drake, Hallie Stultz, Coach Drew Ryall, Tori Taylor, and Keera Hostetler. Middle: Bryndle Bontrager, Mallory Antal, Akhila Reed, Reese Yoder, Hannah Jasso, Finely Gingerich, Yaritzi Munoz, and Kiera Roose. Front: Avery Myers, Adelyn Vandergriff, Brinley Kraft, Paisley Brandenberger, Trinity Antal, Val Mendoza, Serena Miller, Sofia Martinez, and JJ Warrener.

Photo by Abby Wenger



# JH GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

Sponsored by  SHORE CHURCH

**2024 JH Girls Cross Country:** Back (left to right): Coach Erica Mohr and Coach Don Williams. Middle: Grace Miller, Olivia Yoder, Layla Hochstetler, Tenley Groves, Serenity Tennant, Jessica Hostetler, Bryleigh Bailey, Sara Bontrager, and Mariah Miller. Front: Zienna Yoder, Alicia Bontrager, Kimber Helmuth, Laura Miller, Kylie Mast, Kate Mauck, Treva Miller, and Ashlin Rockey.

Photo by Abby Wenger



# JH BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

Sponsored by  Dutch Blessing Floral

**2024 JH Boys Cross Country:** Back (left to right): Charlie Double, Kevin Bontrager, Jaron Bontrager, Darin Miller, Karl Bontrager, and Coach Don Williams. Third: Logan Miller, Carter Cranor, Michael Manns, Michael Bontrager, Micah Miller, Brandon Miller, Cole Donat, Holden Rheinheimer, and Coach Erica Mohr. Second: Travis Miller, Kendall Lambright, Asher Sandquist, Lance Mullet, Britton Miller, Ethan Mast, Tyson Yoder, and Jamin Lambright. Front: Damon Lambright, JJ Radcliff, Cody Hill, Tyler Mast, Brendon Yoder, Tyler Hochstetler, Colton Bontrager, Maciah Yoder, and Ayden Kloth

Photo by Abby Wenger



# 7TH GRADE VOLLEYBALL

Sponsored by  
  
 BreatheEasy  
 MOLD SOLUTIONS

**2024 7th Grade Volleyball:** Back (left to right): Coach Mallory Berkey, Kayla Schwartz, Ava Hugnagle, Lexi Olweean, Masha Miller, and Jennifer Miller. Middle: Manager Finnley Berkey, Genesis Perillo, Kennedy Stutzman, Maci Miller, and Layla Lengacher. Front: Brooke Mahon, Cindy Schwartz, Marissa Childers, Ashby Yoder, and Morgan Bontrager.

Photo by Abby Wenger



# 8TH GRADE VOLLEYBALL

Sponsored by  
  
 EASH SALES

**2024 8th Grade Volleyball:** Back (left to right): Coach Whitney Rahn, Sophia Ruiz, Tennley Amsden, and Katie Martin. Middle: Brynn Bontrager, Janessa Stutzman, and Lyndora Schrock. Front: Makayla Slabach, Madi Everage, Emma Miller, and Alisyn Tetzloff.

Photo by Abby Wenger

# Tennis

Sponsored by Oak Grove Tax and Accounting Service



- 1) Dylan Shrock returns a serve from his Prairie Heights opponent.
  - 2) Kaden Hostetler volleys against his opponent.
  - 3) Kaden Grau sends the ball back across the net.
  - 4) Pierce Yoder completes a successful serve to the Prairie Heights court.
  - 5) Ethan Miller races up the court to return a volley.
- Sports photos by Abby Wenger  
These photos and more will be available for purchase at [lagwanaphotos.com](http://lagwanaphotos.com).*



# Varsity Girls Soccer



- 1) Rebecca Miller fends off her Garrett opponent to gain control of the ball.
- 2) Kelsie Ward rushes forward with the ball looking for an open teammate.
- 3) Morgan Reigsecker beats her Garrett opponent, gaining control and moves closer to the goal.
- 4) Keeper Breann Cory gets ready to put the ball back into play.
- 5) Memphis Bontrager is wide open as she moves the ball closer to the goal.

*Photos by Abby Wenger*

*These photos and more will be available for purchase at [lagwanaphotos.com](http://lagwanaphotos.com).*

The Hometown Treasure · October '24



- 1) Michael Bontrager is first to cross the finish line for the Westview boys.
- 2) Cole Donat keeps a steady pace midway through the course.
- 3) Charlie Double comes to the finish line.
- 4) Sara Bontrager is first out of the woods with a strong lead.
- 5) Kate Mauck powers through the middle of the course.
- 6) Tenley Groves puts on a burst of speed to cross the finish line.

*Photos by Abby Wenger*

*These photos and more will be available for purchase at [lagwanaphotos.com](http://lagwanaphotos.com).*

The Hometown Treasure · October '24



Homeless  
Please  
Help!

# Mission: Find a Home

Located in the country, lies an animal shelter relentlessly fighting to get their animals in a home. "Ark Animal Rescue and Adoption's mission is to improve the lives of companion animals by finding forever homes, providing health care, educating the public, assisting pet owners, and keeping Ark a no-kill adoptable shelter." A non-profit organization, the Ark relies heavily on the public's help and donations.

The moment you walk in you are met by wonderful staff. Each person has a job to do, and they do it proficiently. Even when things get crazy, the staff perseveres and helps any animal or person they can. The Ark staff have an undeniable passion and love for what they do. The bright smiles they have while they do their work just proves the enthusiasm they have to better these animals' lives.

You wouldn't know it, but behind the small building is a yard full of fun. The dogs get to lay out and play in the sun, and the cats get to enjoy some fresh air. Being stuck in the shelter and in a kennel can be hard on any animal, but the work the Ark puts into keeping their animals as happy as can be is admirable. Each dog gets their own gate in an area with food, water, and toys. They have "dog-runs" where the canines are allowed to get their energy out and be themselves.

While it may be loud in there, the kennels for the dogs are full of nothing but excitement and love. You will be met with all kinds of different attitudes; some may be jumping up and down, some may be howling for your attention, or some may simply be sleeping. There are all kinds of personalities in there for every kind of person.

The cat room on the other hand, is full of nothing but calm and happy kitties. While you do have the occasional crate of crazy kittens, most of the cats just want some love and affection. The community rooms are a great place to start. They each house about four to six cats, all wanting your attention or relaxing on the cat tree. You will see many personalities while there but will want to take

them all home!

When staff member Taylor Avila was asked about the adoption process, she said, "One of our favorite parts is to name the animals. Some might have never experienced a name before, and to be able to give them something special like that is so meaningful." The staff of the Ark Shelter deserve praise for the love and pride they take in these animals. These animals trust them with their life, even though it can be hard work to create that bond. They fight every day to give these animals a good home, while making the shelter comfortable and loving for those not chosen. All animals are assessed and given the medical attention they need when brought in, and they are up to date on vaccines and any medical procedures they may need.

If this has piqued your interest, the adoption process is quite straight forward. You will first need to fill out an application on their website. This can be done with the intention of a specific animal in mind, or just to keep it on file. Next you will need to schedule a meet and greet with the animal you are interested in. If you have other pets, please bring them in to

make sure they will get along with the possible new member of your family. If

the meet and greet goes well, then the new addition gets to go home with you!

Some people may not be ready to fully commit to being a pet owner but still want to help the animals. Fostering is a great opportunity that benefits the shelter and the animals. You will need to fill out the fostering application on the Ark's website. This helps the animals socialize and gives them an idea of how to act in a home if they've never been in one before. It gets them out of the kennel life that can be incredibly difficult to manage. This also helps free up room so more animals can have a comfortable living space. The shelter takes care of all your needs and provides you with anything you may need to successfully foster an animal. And who knows? You may find your fur-ever buddy while fostering.

The shelter offers endless opportunities to interact with animals. Another amazing way to help is to participate in their Doggy Day Out program, where you can take a dog out to escape the shelter life and give them a treat. You can also help the cats and kittens socialize by setting up an appointment. To learn about many more opportunities, check their website [www.ark-animalrescue.net](http://www.ark-animalrescue.net) or call them at (260)-463-4142.

The Ark Animal Shelter relies heavily on the public. If you cannot adopt or foster, please consider donating supplies. They do have an Amazon Wishlist located on their Facebook page that is easy to donate! Check out the Paws and Claws bookstore in Howe for another way to help support the shelter. Make sure to set up your appointment to meet the fun-loving and adorable animals in the Ark Animal Rescue!



**The Ark Animal Shelter relies heavily on the public. If you cannot adopt or foster, please consider donating supplies they may need.**

Even though I wish I could highlight every single animal located in the care of the Ark Shelter, I wanted to help shed a light on those animals who are older or have been located at the shelter for far too long. Here are six animals I believe you will fall in love with instantly.

**Honey** - Don't let that scowl fool you, she really is as sweet as honey! This beautiful tabby has spent just over seven months in the shelter. She is only three years old, with plenty of life ahead of her in her forever home. While she might be timid when you enter, she warms up almost instantly. She is in

the community room where she mingles with four other cats. Charming and cute, she will make a purr-fect addition to your home!

**Striker** - This boy could lick your hand all day. If you even dare to try and pet somebody else, he'll make it known that he needs your hand back. He is the sweetest guy who loves chin scratches and attention. He has many poses to show off and will talk your ear off, so you know it. He is very loveable and good with other cats.

**Sava** - Once you walk in, Sava makes sure you know she's there. Unable to stop herself from rubbing all over your legs, she needs those pets. She loves to play and finds anything she can to entertain herself. Make sure to keep your shoelaces away from her, or she'll have a grand time. She is an

amazing and caring girl who only wants someone to play with and love her.

**Jasper** - While he may be an old man, he has plenty of love to give. Jasper is the longest resident, having been returned to the shelter twice. He is a dog who wants to be with someone he can trust and knows will do him no harm. He needs an experienced owner who knows how to handle a dog that needs a lot of love. He loves to bask out in the sun, eat peanut butter crackers, and is always expecting a stuffed animal. He needs an owner with no children and no other pets but is a loveable and peaceful guy.

**Sheba** - This momma is a fierce protector who loves her people hard. She is full of personality and is almost too smart for a dog. She will make her opinions known and can be sassy when she

Honey



Striker

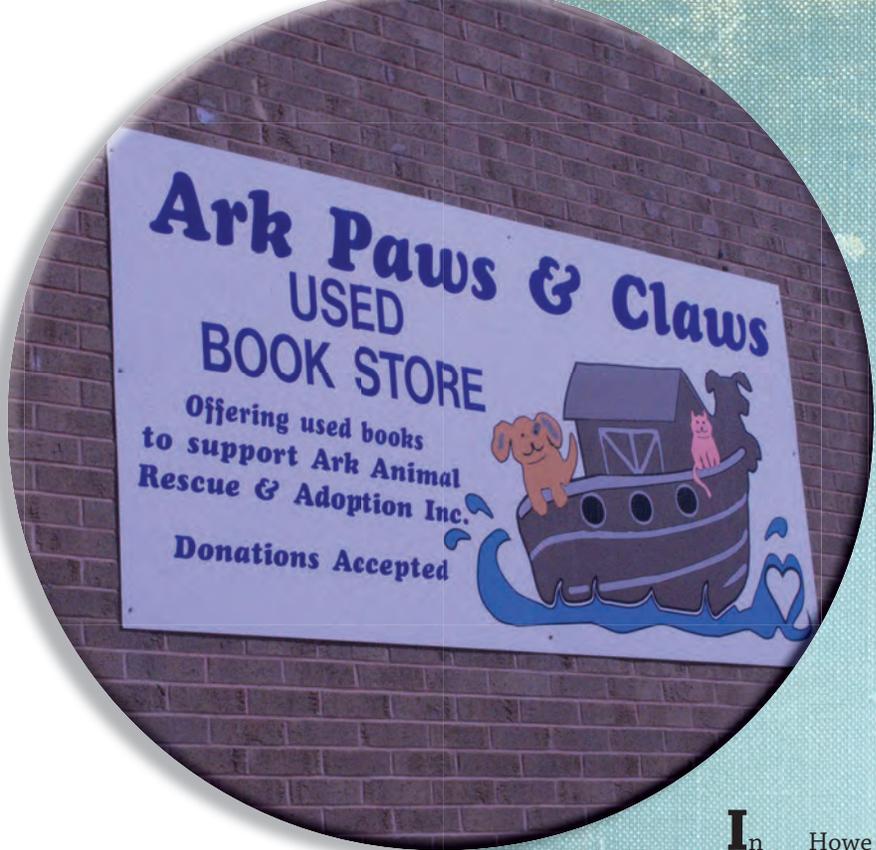


Sava



needs to be. When she finds her person, she protects them with all her might. She had a litter once she was brought into the shelter. She is good with cats and dogs and would love to be brought into your home!

**Shenron** - The sweetest and happiest boy is waiting for you here. He is full of personality and will talk your ear off whenever he can. He can sit and shake but is almost so excited to love you that he just can't! He will jump for joy once he sees that treat in your hand. If you want a boy who brings joy into your life, then this is the dog for you. 📌



Jasper



Sheba

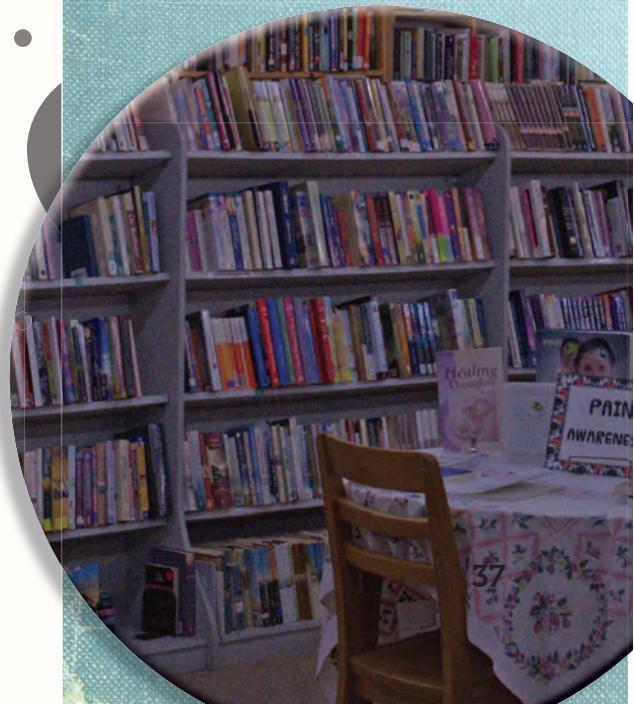


Shenron



In Howe is a quiet place you could get lost in for hours. The Paws and Claws Bookstore has an infinite number of books donated by the public. A way to help support the shelter is to lose yourself within the books and donate to help them purchase items they need.

You are greeted with shelves full of all kinds of genres. The volunteers are eager to help you find what you are looking for. Check it out today to donate to the Ark Animal Rescue.



## HISTORICAL FEATURE

# Oh, Those Senior Trip Fundraisers!

*Chili Suppers, Class Plays, Newspaper Drives, and so much more...*

*By Harold D. Gingerich*

With school back in session, so also begins the season of student fundraisers. Kids have already started knocking on our door to raise money for the band or hitting us up at church for some other school related organization. It's that time of year and we are more than glad to support our kids.

Years ago, if you were a student at Shippshewana or Topeka High School, you remember all the fundraisers you had to do to raise money to pay for your "Senior Trip" to Gettysburg, Washington D.C. and New York City. They seemed to never end. There were newspaper drives, chili suppers, class plays, and whatever else it took to raise the money. Today, it's the Westview 8th graders who make the bus trip to our nation's capital. I am not sure how 8th graders raise the money for their trips today; but looking back on our high school years makes me wonder if kids today are missing out on something special. We worked together and built relationships in the process.

Every school sets their own fundraising policy. As I recall for the Metropolitan School District of Topeka (I always thought it was hilarious that the

word "Metropolitan" was incorporated in the school's legal name), the freshman class was not allowed to do any fundraising. I can't remember how much money we had to raise to pay for our Senior Trip in

1965. And, checking with some of my classmates proved to be no help. No one could remember and they quickly informed me that had all happened 59 years ago. But they all remembered some of the things we did to raise money and the great time we had on our Senior Trip.

For us, fundraising began in earnest in our sophomore year with the Annual Chili Supper in the fall of the year. The school cafeteria was always the location. One or two of the school cooks would help fry up the hamburger, mix up the chili, and be on hand to make sure things ran smoothly. We sold tickets, the girls helped with serving while the guys cleared tables and washed the bowls, silverware, and trays. Did I mention that we washed trays? Boy, did we wash trays! In theory the guys took turns washing dishes, but I got stuck there ... and I washed a lot of soup bowls and trays. And, since I'm telling the story, I get to tell my version. Besides,



there is a picture of me washing dishes in the 1965 yearbook to prove it.

Our junior year we sold concessions over the lunch hour and at the basketball games to raise money. We also put on a class play. Just for the record, none of us took up acting as a career. Our final year there was another class play plus we sold magazine subscriptions.

The THS Class of 1950 was creative with one of their fundraisers. They sponsored an evening of entertainment with a group called The Hoosier



"What's for Dessert?"  
Mrs. Marie Miller; Mrs. Edna Eash; Mrs. Nedra Bobeck; Mrs. Beulah Frain.



# HISTORICAL FEATURE

**\$1.25 PER YEAR**

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## Hoosier Corn Huskers to Appear in Person

---

The original Hoosier Cornhuskers, one of America's foremost radio shows will appear in person at the Sycamore Hall in Topeka, Indiana on October 18th. (Tuesday). The merited show which starts at 8 p.m., promises to bring into the community a wide variety of American Folk, Hillbilly and Western songs, along with instrumental specialties, novelties and a host of "side-splitting" comedy, displayed in a genuine "down-to-earth" fashion by this nationally known group of professional entertainers. You'll leave your cares and troubles at the door when you attend their gala performance.

Featured on the show will be:

- Dottie Lou, the Hoosier Cornhusker's pride and joy
- Grandpap, that grand old man of dry wit and humor
- Darl Fox, the Paulding County Kid and young ladies' choice
- Al Pettit, with his accordion
- Pete Smith, the big Professor

The Hoosier Cornhuskers may now be heard daily over WFIN, Finley, Ohio (1330 on your dial) at 10:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m.; Monday thru Friday.

The show is to be staged for the benefit of the Topeka Senior Class and the admission will be 50 cents for adults and 25 cents for children 12 years or under including tax.

Cornhuskers. The front page of the October 5, 1949, Topeka Journal celebrated with the announcement that "The original Hoosier Cornhuskers, one of America's foremost radio shows will appear in person at the Sycamore Hall in Topeka, Indiana on October 18th (Tuesday)". The news article went on to describe in glowing terms what was in store for those who attended. "The merited show which starts at 8 pm, promises to bring into the community a wide

variety of American Folk, Hillbilly, and Western songs, along with instrumental specialties, novelties and a host of 'side-splitting' comedy, displayed in a genuine 'down-to-earth' fashion by this nationally known group of professional entertainers. You'll leave your cares and troubles at the door when you attend their gala performance."

The article went on to say that "Featured on the show will be: Dottie Lou, the Hoosier Cornhuskers' pride and joy, Grandpap, the grand old man of dry wit and humor, Darl Fox, the Paulding County Kid and young ladies' choice, Al Pettit, with his accordion and Pete Smith, the big Professor." The October 12th edition of the Journal also included a photo of the group.

The Hoosier Cornhuskers were well known at the time and played in studio for several Indiana radio stations including WIBC-Indianapolis, Ind.; WJOB-Hammond, Ind.; WKMO-Kokomo, Ind.; WOWO-Fort Wayne, Ind. and WFIN-Findlay, Ohio. They also performed live at the Brown County Jamboree and WOWO Hoosier Hop.

We don't know how much the Senior Class had to pay to bring in the Hoosier Cornhuskers. We do know that tickets were 50 cents for adults and 25 cents for children under the age of 12. Unfortunately, most of the members of the THS Class of 1950 are gone, and those who are still with us don't remember. So, we don't have any details on how things went or if they made any money. Hopefully the community turned out in great numbers to support the event and that expenses were more than covered.

For the Class of '65, Commencement was at 8 pm on Friday evening, May 21st, in historic Sycamore Hall. Bright and early on Saturday morning we boarded a Trailways bus. Never



mind that our driver only had one eye and, as I recall, one hand, we were traveling in style. After all, we were from the corn fields of northeast Indiana, and we thought that we were "pretty sophisticated adults"... in other words, "hot stuff". In keeping with our sense of worldly acumen and luxurious travel, most days the girls wore dresses, and the guys had jackets and ties.



## HISTORICAL FEATURE



Our first stop was Pittsburgh, PA, which had a teenage night club just down the street from our hotel

. Oh yes, they did have “near beer” (which was legal) for those who were so inclined. The next afternoon there was a stop at Gettysburg with a tour of the battlefield, the electric map (an impressive display of modern technology) that outlined the three-day battle in colored lights, before heading to Washington D.C.

The nation’s capital made all the history we had studied come alive. We were in awe of the Capitol, the Lincoln and Jefferson memorials, Mount Vernon, Ford’s Theater, and Arlington National Cemetery. It was the first time most of us witnessed the solemn ceremony of the Changing of the Guard. There was another moment of silent reverence as we stood at the grave of President John F. Kennedy. It brought back vivid memories from our sophomore year and the day when the President was assassinated.

And then it was on to three nights in New York City and the World’s Fair. We saw the Rockettes at Radio City Music Hall and had a relaxing boat ride around Manhattan. There was an impressive tour of the United Nations building. Unfortunately, no one bothered to tell us that the former Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations Bryon Price, THS Class of 1908, was the person who oversaw the staff and the construction of the building.

In the evenings some of our classmates chose to take in a Broadway musical. Three of us guys went to a Mets game. I can’t remember who they played or who won, but I do remember the subway ride when our window was shattered by teenagers throwing rocks at our train. Fortunately, none of us were



seriously injured by the broken glass.

The Westview H.S. Class of 1969 also had a memorable trip following graduation. In conversation with several of the class members they all mentioned the same thing. The most memorable part of the trip was when their charter bus stalled in New York City and the boys got out and pushed the bus. Apparently, there is a picture of them pushing the bus that made the New York newspaper. Unfortunately, as of press time I have not been able to locate it.

All in all, senior trips were an experience; one filled with memories that would last for a lifetime. We forgot about all the fundraisers and the hard work that had made the trip possible. But what none of us realized was that when we got back home and stepped off of the bus for the last time, everything was about to change. As a class we would never be together again in quite the same way. Some of us went off to college, some to the military, and some entered the work force.

By the way, we are still trying to raise funds. Could I interest you in a box of candy or a magazine subscription?

*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.

-----  
----- !

I'm creeping ever closer to being 30 (much to my parents' dismay), and I certainly am feeling my age when it comes time to celebrate my birthday! Last week I turned 29, and to celebrate I had a couple of friends over. Two were in town for a wedding, and the third decided to drive up from an hour or so away to celebrate with us.

It was a very exciting party! I had about half a glass of wine (heated up in a mug of spiced cider), we spent two hours discussing the floor plan of the house my friend just purchased, and then we all went to bed by 10:30pm. An absolutely rousing celebration! The real excitement came from my youngest cat, Eriana, having people in "her" house and her discovery of air mattresses. **!** Solution on page 45.

# Word Search

(find all the underlined words) by Erika Byler

B	W	E	D	D	I	N	G	L	A	S	S
L	E	T	S	E	G	N	U	O	Y	A	S
O	O	I	T	K	I	I	H	N	N	P	E
G	F	O	N	L	R	O	Y	A	I	U	S
P	E	W	E	G	U	A	I	C	A	R	S
R	A	E	M	S	D	R	E	D	I	C	E
D	F	R	E	H	E	D	T	O	M	H	R
Y	L	E	T	U	L	O	S	B	A	A	T
A	N	R	I	Y	Y	M	O	V	R	S	A
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## Mystery Farm OCTOBER CONTEST

### OVER \$50 WORTH OF PRIZES!

**1st Prize:** **Tiffany's Restaurant**, Topeka, \$25 Gift Certificate, a pen, notepad set, a letter opener, and a copy of *The Way I See It* from LaGwana.

**2nd Prize(s):** A pen, notepad set, a letter opener, and *The Way I See It* from LaGwana.

**3rd Prize(s):** *The Way I See It*.

\*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 15, 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!

SPONSORED BY:



2465 N 850 W  
Shipshewana, IN 46565



414 E. Lake Street  
Topeka, IN 46571

Next Month Sponsored By: **THE CONNECTION**

### LAST MONTH'S WINNERS

**Mrs. Mary Hochstetler, 5315 W 600 S, Topeka, IN** correctly identified last issue's farm as being owned by **Norman & Inez Yutz, 4745 S 500 W**

**Topeka.** Congratulations! They won a \$25 Gift Certificate from Tiffany's Restaurant, a pen, a notepad set, a letter opener, and a copy of *The Way I See It* from LaGwana. Second prize went to **Steven & Darla Weaver, 4420 W 350 S, Topeka, IN** Third prize went to **Alvin & LeEtta Miller, 4255 S 500 W, Topeka, IN**



There were 9 correct entries this month.

**Others that guessed correctly were:** Paul E. Hochstetler, John & Dorothy Beechy, Junior & Mabel Miller, Amos Jay and Ida Anna Miller, Daniel & Emma Beechy, Wyman Chupp

### MORE FARMS NEEDED!

Please mail to:  
Hometown Treasure - Mystery Farm,  
P.O. Box 70,  
Shipshewana, IN 46565.

**Please include your name and address. !**

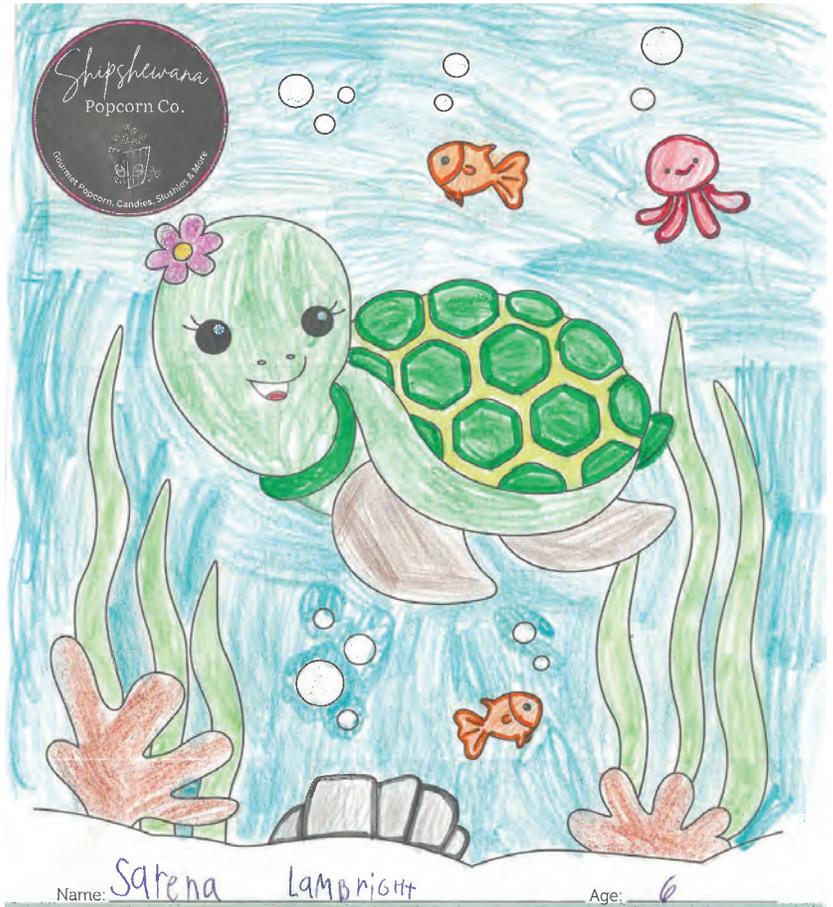
# Coloring Contest Winners

Six-year-old Sarena Lambright of 700 W, LaGrange was our winner for the September Coloring Contest. She won a free treat basket from The Shipshewana Popcorn Co.

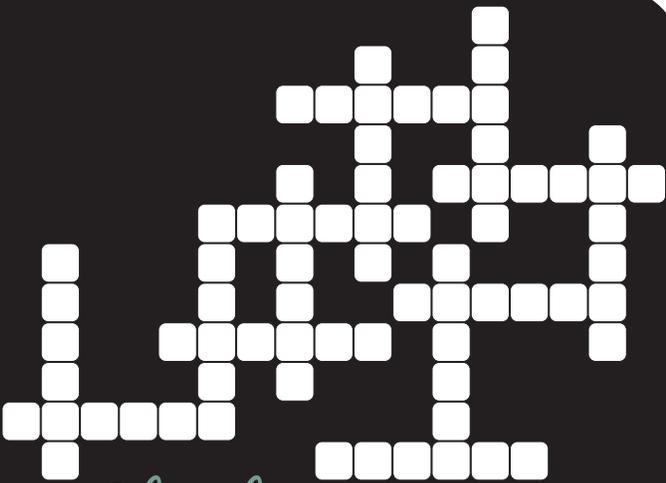
Everyone else that sent in a page can stop by The Shipshewana Popcorn Co. for a free treat through October.

Runners-up were Selena Miller, age 6; Madison Kate Lambright, age 5; Melanie Rose, age 4; Benjamin Henry Yoder, age 3; and Miranda Bontrager, age 2. Honorable Mentions: Emmalee Lambright, age 6; Charlotte Beechy, age 6; Arianna Troyer, age 6; Halle Stutzman, age 6; Allison Nicole Wingard, age 6; and Adrian 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. 



Tackle  
Tactic  
Taught  
Temper  
Tether  
Theory  
Tilled  
Timely  
Toward  
Tracks  
Trader  
Travel  
Trophy  
Twinge



*Clueless*  
**Crossword**

*Solution to Clueless  
Crossword is on pg 45.  
by Chloe Lovell*

Use the words listed to fill in the spaces!

## What comes once in a minute and twice in a moment?

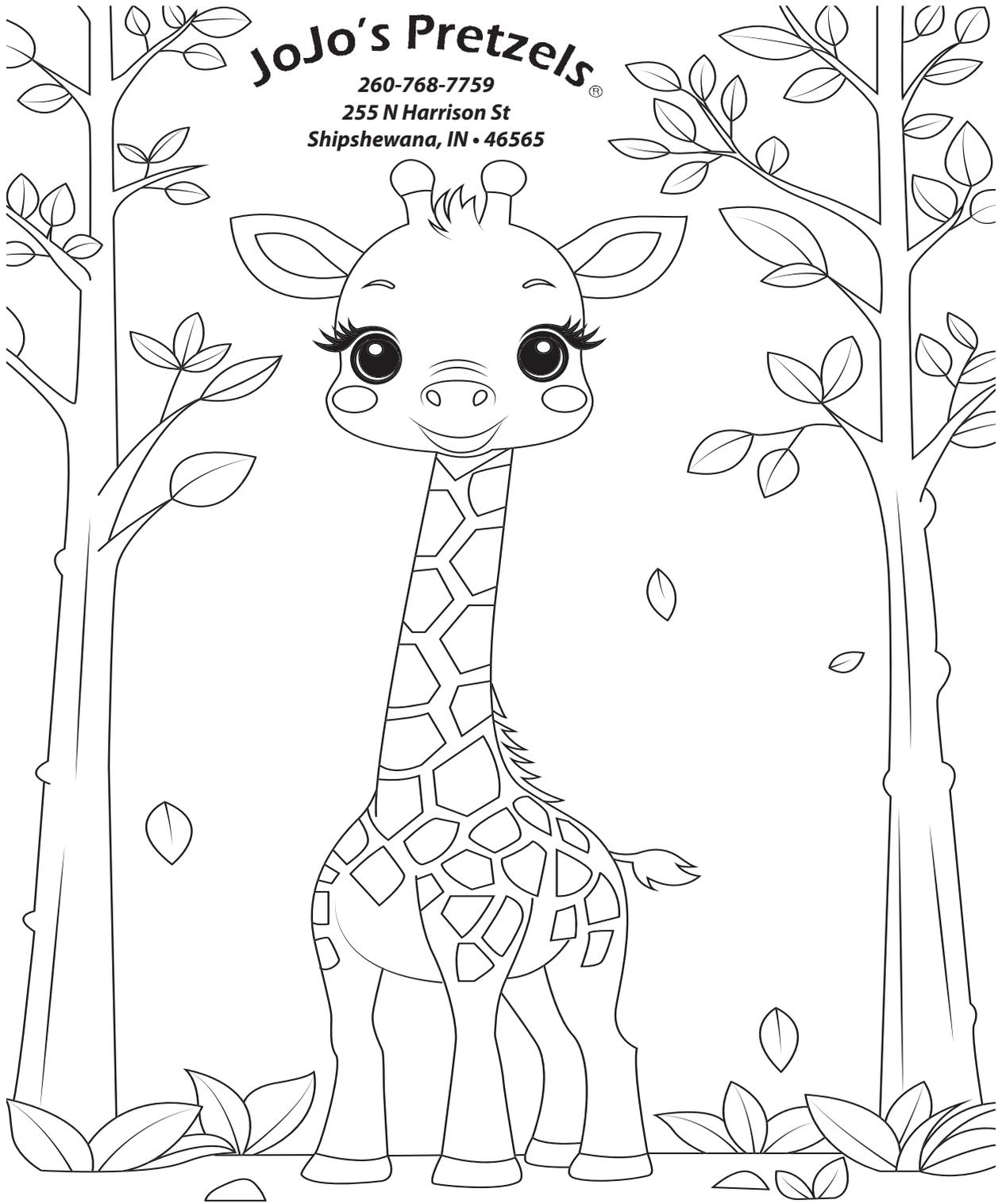


*Answer on page 45.*

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**Coloring Contest: kids age 6 and younger.** Sponsored by JoJo's Pretzels in Shipshewana this month! Winner gets A FREE PRETZEL at JoJo's Pretzels. The Winning Drawings will be on display. ALL PARTICIPANTS claim your drawing for A FREE PRETZEL at JoJo's Pretzels in November. Mail submission to: LaGwana, Coloring Contest, PO Box 70, Shipshewana, IN 46565. **Entry deadline is October 15, 2023.**

Address: \_\_\_\_\_



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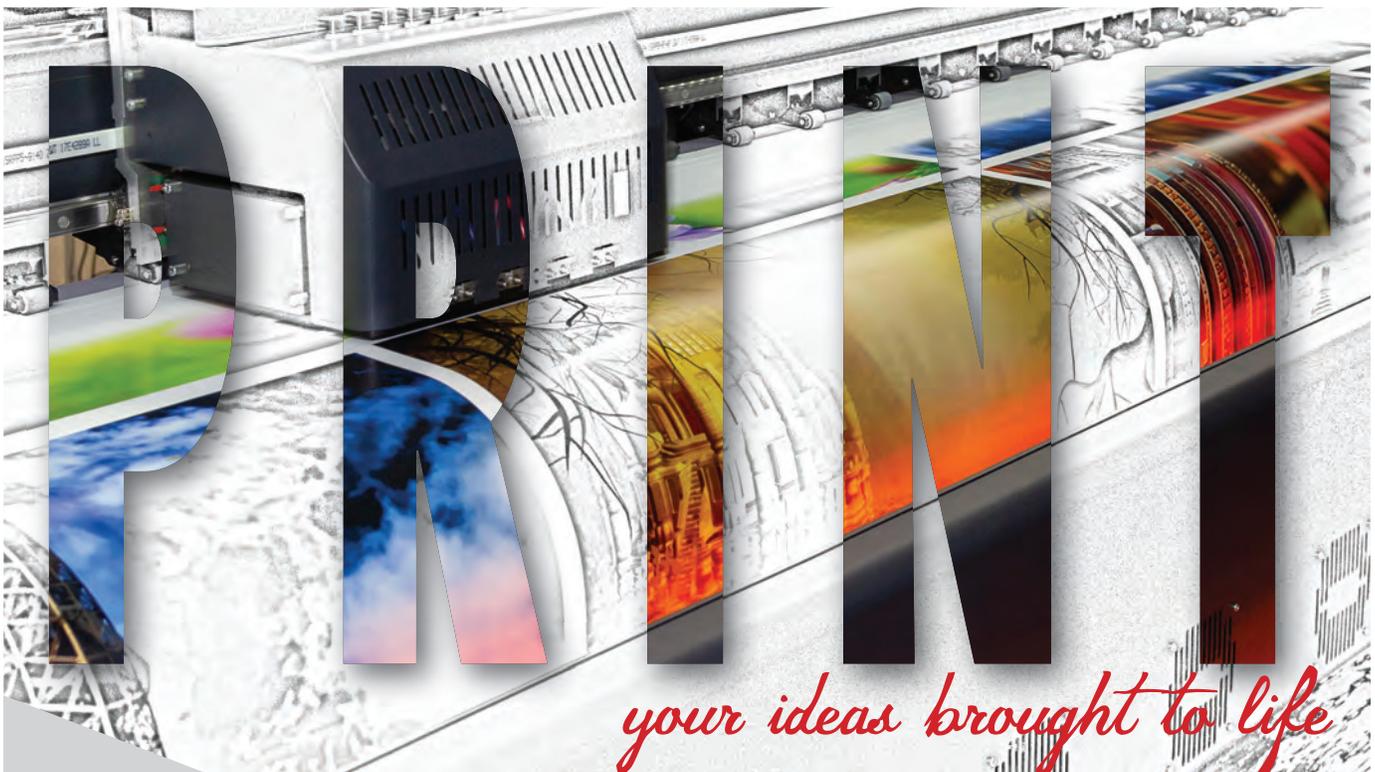


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**\*IMMUNIZATIONS :: LAGRANGE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT (260) 499-4182 Extension 1\***

<p><b>LaGrange Clinic</b>          Monday &amp; Wednesday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm          Tuesday 8:00 am to 3:00 pm</p>	<p><b>Shipshewana Clinic</b>          Wolfe Building Community Room  <u>Only 1st &amp; 3rd Thursday</u>          8:30 am to 1:00 pm.</p>	<p><b>Topeka Clinic</b>          Topeka Fire Station  <u>Only 2nd &amp; 4th Thursday</u>          8:30 am to 1:00 pm.</p>
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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



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