

The

August 2025 • Vol. 26 Num. 08

Hometown Treasure



Topeka
TOWN HALL



Our Boyhood Adventures...

...That We Lived to Tell About

First Day of School August 12

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BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Winners

1ST

BOYS 10-12

Pink Panthers - (L-R) Trentlyn Wingard, Travis Miller, Derek Hochstetler, and Micaiah Bontrager.



2ND

BOYS 10-12

Rubber Duckies- (L-R) Tyler Yoder, Jaden Miller, Landon Nissley, and Jason Miller.



1ST

BOYS 13-15

3 OG's - (L-R) Evan Bontrager, Brent Miller, and Brandon Yoder.



2ND

BOYS 13-15

The Rizzlers- (L-R) Braydon Yoder, Justin Slabach, and Jared Miller.



1ST

OPEN DIVISION

Team Keyes - (L-R) Lucas Keyes, McCray Wenger, Kegan Young, and Brandon Deckert.



2ND

OPEN DIVISION

Globo Gym- (L-R) Rieder Hunley, Doug Soucy, Corey Weiderman, and Josh Weiderman.



Topeka Road Run Winners



Boys 1 Mile Fun Run Results: Ethan Rainsberger (2nd), Emmet Niccum (1st) and Nathan Martin (3rd).



Girls 1 Mile Fun Run Results: Sophie Schlabach (2nd), Kierra Roose (1st) and Emelia Jones (3rd).



Men's 5k Run Top Finishers. Winners were Levi Streeval (1st), Andy Williams (2nd) and Drew Sillaway (3rd).



Women's 5k Run Top Finishers. Winners were Ashlynn Myers (1st), Sarah Grigsby (2nd) and Emily Brodtko (3rd).



All photos submitted

The Hometown Treasure

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 Just west of Shipshewana

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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September Issue Date is Tuesday, Aug. 26.

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September 10, 2025

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Francine's Friends is a partnership between Parkview Packnett Family Cancer Institute and Breast Diagnostic Center.

Mammograms and follow-up diagnostics are made possible by funding from the Parkview Health Foundation.

Parkview.com/FrancinosFriends

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Doubt The Doubt

It's probably a fair assumption to say that most folks have experienced trauma of some kind. A car accident, loss of a loved one, sickness, broken relationships...and the list goes on. Perhaps it's also fair to say that most folks have experienced the relief that comes when restoration and healing occur after traumatic events.

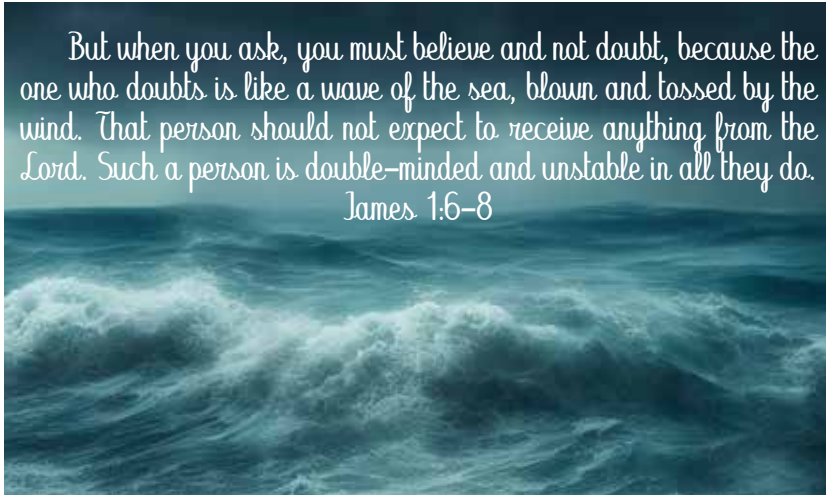
But here's the thing about trauma. No matter how far removed you are from it, the scar that remains from its past existence can have a grip on you. Past trauma can take us to "what if" land in no time flat. What if it happens again?

What if the healing from this was only temporary? What if? It's a daunting reality. Traumatic experiences are the pre-requisite to fear and doubt. They are a reason that fear, and doubt exist. We experience pain, we know it's real, and we fear it can happen again. We temporarily forget that we've moved forward.

Recently, I was fretting over something the Lord has healed in my life. I was fearful that it would happen

again because the scar of the past trauma is still sore occasionally.

But I remembered a scripture I read recently from the 1st chapter of James. "But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind."




It goes on to say that a person who doubts is double-minded and unstable in all they do. Yikes! That's harsh, but all I can say is guilty as charged. This is precisely how I feel when I turn to doubt, fear, and worry. I feel chaotic, out of control, tossed about, and unstable.

Further down in the passage, it says that those who persevere under trial are blessed because they have stood the test and will receive

the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

James reminds us even further that we are not to be deceived. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change!

So, if God has given me the good gift of healing what was broken in my life, why would I think an unchanging God would change his mind? How can I thank him for restoring me from the pain of trauma in one breath and doubt he's serious about it in another? That, my friends, is the definition of being double-minded, as James called it.

The reality is that I had a trial. I persevered through prayer and reliance on God. And the Lord responded with a great promise, crowning me with the crown of life. So how do I respond the next time doubt and fear creep in? First, when in doubt, I must doubt the doubt! Then I will straighten my crooked crown and remember I am a child of the King who never changes! What about you? 

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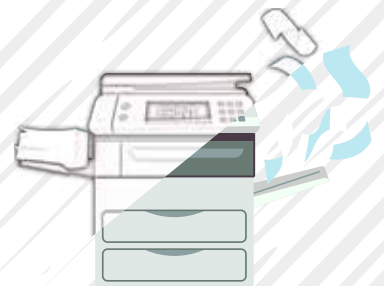


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You Have An Estate Plan — Whether You Know it or Not

Think estate planning is only for the wealthy or elderly? Think again. If you own anything — a home, a car, a savings account, even a pet — you already have an estate plan. The only question is: Did you create it, or will your state do it for you?

When someone passes away without an estate plan, state laws take over, deciding who gets what and when. This legal process may not reflect your wishes. That's why taking control of your assets through a personal estate plan should be a top priority.

At its core, estate planning is about clarifying your wishes and making things easier for your heirs. It ensures your assets are distributed according to your preferences, designates who will make decisions on your behalf if you can't and provides guidance for your care in a medical crisis. Most plans include four key components:

1. **A Will** – This document outlines how your assets should be distributed after your death and names an executor to oversee the process in probate court. It can also designate guardians for minor children. Keep in mind that a will doesn't cover everything — certain transfer on death (TOD) accounts and jointly held property may bypass your will entirely.

2. **Power of Attorney** – If you become incapacitated, you'll want someone you trust to be able to make

decisions on your behalf. A durable power of attorney designates such a person, helping to ensure your bills are paid, your business continues (if you have one) and your wishes are honored.

3. **Health Care Directive** – Sometimes called a living will, this document spells out your preferences for medical treatment if you're unable to speak for yourself. It can also designate someone to make health care decisions for you.




4. **Beneficiary Designations** – Accounts like 401(k)s, IRAs, and life insurance policies transfer directly to the people you name, regardless of what your will says. It's essential to review these beneficiary designations regularly, especially after significant life events such as marriage, divorce, death of a spouse or the birth of a child.

One common myth is that a will is all you need. But wills only take effect after death; they don't help if you're alive but unable to make decisions.

Another misconception is that estate planning is only for the wealthy. In truth, planning is about more than money — it's about making things easier for the people you love during difficult times.

An effective estate plan can prevent costly legal battles, reduce confusion and give your loved ones a clear roadmap to follow. It also allows you to leave a legacy that reflects your values and priorities.

As your life changes, your estate plan should change along with it. Review your documents every few years or after major life events. It's often a good idea to seek help with such reviews. Your financial advisor or attorney can guide you through the process, ensuring your plan fits your unique circumstances.

In the end, estate planning isn't just about planning for what happens when you are gone. It's about feeling confident, knowing that what matters most — your family, your purpose, your legacy — is protected. 

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor, Sheldon Q Shrock AAMS®, 120 N Harrison St, Shippshewana, 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 August 2025.

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.

All library locations will be **CLOSED** on Monday, September 1 in observance of Labor Day.

Youth Interest

Preschool Story Time (Ages 0-5) Theme: At the Zoo!

LaGrange • Tuesdays • 10:30 a.m.

Shipshewana • Tuesdays • 1 p.m.

Topeka • Wednesdays • 11 a.m.

Enjoys stories, songs, and rhymes with a fun craft or activity.

Makerspace (Ages 5 & Up)

No Makerspace in August

Join us on Wednesday afternoons in September.

Lego Play (Ages 5 & Up) (Registration not required)

LaGrange • Thursdays in August • 2:30 -7 p.m.

Parents must stay with children ages 10 and under. Drop in any time between 2:30 and 7:00. All of our Legos will be out to build anything you want, or attempt to complete the challenges for the month.

Teen Games (Grades 6-12)

LaGrange • Monday, August 11 • 4-7:30 p.m.

Drop in anytime and stay as long as you can. Play larger group party type games or settle in for something longer. Feel free to shift to the Pokemon Club at 6:00 if interested or stay playing other games.

Pokemon Club (Ages 8-18) (Registration not required)

LaGrange • Monday, August 11 • 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. You can sign up online or call the library to help us know how many are coming.

Book Clubs (Registration not required)

LaGrange • Tuesday, August 19 • 4-5 p.m.

Elementary: Grades 1-3 Reading & Discussing: *Sydney & Taylor Explore the Whole, Wide World*. You will get your book at the meeting, We will begin reading the book together and do a fun activity related to the book, then you will take the book home with you to finish reading and bring back next month.

Mid-Grade: Grades 4-7 Discussing: *Library Girl* by Polly Horvath.

Come to the library to get your book in July to read and discuss in August. At each meeting we will discuss the book we read over the last month and do a fun activity or craft related to the story.

Family Movie Night (All Ages)

LaGrange • Friday, August 22 • 6 p.m.

A Minecraft Movie Rated PG. Free popcorn provided! Bring your own covered drink.

Friends of the LaGrange Co Public Library - Book, DVD, & Audiobook Sale

Wednesday, August 13 • 2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - F.O.L. Members only • Thursday, August 14 • 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Open to Public

Friday, August 15 • 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Open to Public • Saturday, August 16 • 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Open to Public

Friends of the LaGrange Co. Public Library Memberships can be purchased or renewed at the Sale.

Adult Interest

Second Saturday Book Club (Ages 16+)

LaGrange • Saturday, August 9 • 11 a.m.

This month we'll discuss "*The Nine*" by Gwen Strauss.

The true story of the author's great aunt Helene Podiasky, who led a band of nine female resistance fighters as they escaped a German Forced labor camp and made a ten-day journey across the front lines of WWII from Germany back to Paris. Copies of the book are available at the LaGrange's Adult Desk.

Chicago Architecture by Land and River

Saturday, August 16 • One Day Motorcoach Trip

Depart LaGrange Town Hall 7:30 a.m., return approximately 7:30 p.m. Cost \$264 per person. Registration and \$25 deposit due to S&S Travel by July 16, 2025. Information & registration forms at all library branches.

Culinary Adventures: Historic Goshen (Ages 12+)

Thursday, August 21

South Side Soda Shop • 1122 S Main St, Goshen, IN

Olympia Candy Kitchen • 136 N Main St, Goshen, IN

Meet at South Side Soda Shop at noon. Experience two Goshen landmarks! All food purchases will be at your own expense. Must register at LaGrange library or call 260-463-2841 x 1030 so we'll know how many to expect.

Patchwork Trails - Dallas Lake Park (All Ages)

Our Lady, Patroness of America Center

2730 E Northport Rd., Rome City, IN

Tuesday, August 19 • 6 p.m.

We will be walking the grounds only. Patchwork Trails combines exercise, education, friendship, and fun! No fees or registration required, just meet at the designated starting point. All ages welcome.

Make & Take with Deb - Painted Apron (Ages 12+)

LaGrange • Wednesday, August 20 • 6 p.m.

Participants will paint an apron with bib, using fabric paints and stencils. This will be perfect for protecting clothes when working on art projects, cooking or entertaining. Cost is \$25 per person. Must register with a non-refundable \$15 deposit by August 13 at Adult Services Desk LaGrange Library

Cookbook Club

LaGrange • Saturday, August 23 • 11:00 a.m.

This month's cookbook is: "The Complete Summer Cookbook" by America's Test Kitchen. Check out the book at the LaGrange Adult Services Desk, choose a recipe from the book, make it and bring it to the Cookbook Club carry-in! Families welcome. Plates, silverware, coffee & tea provided. Meets the 4th Saturday of each month.

August Events

Quilt Class

Saturday, August 23 • 9 am–3 pm
Maple Wood Nature Center

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

Registration is required. Instructions are provided upon registration. To register, call the Park Office at 260-854-2225.

Sewing Group

Wednesday, Aug 20 • 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.

Folk Jams

Folk Jams at Maple Wood Nature Center are taking a break for the summer. Check back this fall!

Every Park Every Trail

Saturday, Aug 2 • 9 am

Mike Metz Fen Trail at Pine Knob Park
2825 E SR 120 Howe, IN
2025 Every Park Every Trail Walking Club will be August 2 at Mike Metz Fen Trail, 2825 E SR 120, Howe, IN. The walk will begin at 9am at the Pine Knob Clubhouse. 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 or call 260-854-2225.



Patchwork Trails

Tuesday, Aug 19 • 6 pm-7 pm

Our Lady, Patroness of America Center 2730 E Northport Road, Rome City, IN Patchwork Trails combines exercise, education, friendship, and fun! The 2025 Patchwork Trails Walking Season shares six guided nature walks in area parks. Each walk will showcase seasonal beauty unique to each property. We'll look at what's blooming, what's singing, what's flying, and what's underfoot. A detailed description of each walk will be put on the Parks website calendar prior to each walk, at lagrangecountyparks.org. No fees or registration are required, just meet at the designated starting point. Make sure to dress for the elements! Each walk lasts approximately one hour. Walk is on grassy lawn.



2025 FeNGkē 5K Fun Run & Walk

Saturday Aug 16 •

Registration 8 am -9 am

Run/Walk begins 9:30 am

Goody Bag Ticket: \$30

Run/Walk only Ticket: \$15

FeNGkē: The phonetic spelling of "funky" & it contains the word fen! Walkers and runners of all ages and skill levels are welcome! The course is a combination of accessible boardwalks and crushed limestone trails that meander through the woods and beautiful fen. Located at Pine Knob Park in LaGrange County, this fun run and walk wraps around the Mike Metz Fen. Trail Runners, walkers, joggers, and strollers are welcome. This is not a timed event and is open to all who want to participate.


Child: ages 10-12, Teen: ages 13-19
Adult: ages 20-50, Masters: Ages 51 and up. Dress "FeNGkē" in a funky, fun, family-friendly costume for a chance to win best overall costume prize. Online registration is live for goody bag tickets at <https://runsignup.com/Race/IN/Howe/Fengke5k>.

Canoe at Pine Knob

Friday, Aug 1 • 12 pm - 5 pm

Pine Knob Park, 2835 E SR 120, Howe
Borrow a park canoe and life jacket for 30 minute timespan to paddle on Meter Lake. Canoes and jackets available on a first come basis. Children ages 15 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Event will be canceled for high wind or storms.

It's Beach Time!

We have three public beaches to enjoy this summer - when it finally gets warm! Summer hours through Labor Day, 8 am - 9 pm. No Lifeguards - swim at your own risk. Dallas Lake Park Beach has a \$1 per person daily fee or a \$40 Summer Family Pass. 

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Stop by the hotel's front desk or contact Chad at (260) 768-4595 to apply.

Shipshewana Swap Meets



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2025 Remaining Dates:
Aug 2, Sep 20
& Oct 18

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Four LaGrange County Students Receive Healthcare Scholarships

Three graduating seniors and a college junior have each been awarded a \$1,000 Parkview LaGrange Hospital scholarship as they pursue health-care-related studies.


High school seniors Caraline Schackow, Kaleb Hagerman and Makenna Mynhier and college junior Katelyn Eash were selected to receive the scholarships, which are made possible by donations to the Parkview Health Foundation.

Caraline Schackow, of Lakeland Junior-Senior High School, will begin studies in nursing or exercise science at Ball State University this fall.

Kaleb Hagerman, of Lakeland Junior-Senior High School, will attend Trine University to study nursing.

Makenna Mynhier, of Lakeland Junior-Senior High School, plans to attend IU Fort Wayne for nursing this fall.

Katelyn Eash is a rising junior at Indiana Wesleyan University, where she is majoring in nursing with the addition of a certificate in child advocacy.

The scholarship program is administered by Parkview Health Foundation. Scholarship winners are selected by a review committee comprising foundation leaders and leaders at PLH. Up to four scholarships are available each year for three high school students and one adult learner. 


Noah Cleveland and Deb Egli Honored by DAR




Photo submitted

Incoming Westview High School freshman Noah Cleveland and Deb Egli were recently honored by the LaGrange de Lafayette Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution for their volunteer community service. The award ceremony took place at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in LaGrange and was a part of the Liberty Tree Dedication.


Noah Cleveland has volunteered for several years at the Topeka Area Historical Society giving tours of the Depot Museum and producing the group's Memorable Moments in Topeka History video series on YouTube. Deb Egli was recognized for her years of service with the Topeka Chamber of Commerce where she organized 4th of July celebrations and numerous other civic events.

Also receiving awards were JoAnn Waldron Fichtner, Mike Metz, Gary Litke, Deb Gaham, Daniel & Nann Kragt, and Sandra Klausung. The town boards of LaGrange, Shipshewana, and Topeka were also recognized. 

Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack Event Coming!

Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack Event will be August 18-22 at the MEC in Shipshewana. This event provides people with a fun, rewarding volunteer experience for people of all ages to join together and provide meals for children around the world. Visit www.brightonchapel.com or call 260-562-2505 to sign up starting July 1st. 

Free Community Supper

Wednesday, August 20th, 5-7 p.m., at the Shipshewana Nazarene Church, 2695N 900W, Shipshewana. 

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These clinics are open to all LaGrange County and surrounding county residents. Donations welcome, most health insurance accepted.

The LaGrange County Health Department will be hosting *immunization clinics*.

Monday, September 8th, 9:00 am to Noon
(5700 W 700 N, Shpshewana, IN 46565)

Monday, September 22nd, 9 am to 11:00 AM
Dayspring Christian Healthcare
(1155 N 1200 W, Middlebury, IN 46540)

Tuesday, September 30th, 9 am to Noon
(1850 E 600 S, Wolcottville, IN 46795)

Lake City Bank's Ashley R. McGhan Promoted To Retail Banking Officer




Photo submitted

Lake City Bank is pleased to announce that Ashley R. McGhan has been promoted to Retail Banking Officer at the bank's Goshen Concord branch.

In this position, McGhan leads sales and service efforts in the branch, manages the daily operations of the office and supports office staff in their efforts to provide quality service and build customer relationships. She has been with the bank for 10 years.

McGhan volunteers with Junior Achievement, Boys and Girls Club of Elkhart County and teaches money smart classes through the bank.

Lake City Bank, a \$6.9 billion bank headquartered in Warsaw, Indiana, was founded in 1872 and serves Central and Northern Indiana communities with 54 branch offices and a robust digital banking platform. Lake City Bank's community banking model prioritizes building in-market long-term customer relationships while delivering technology-forward solutions for retail and commercial clients. The bank is the single bank subsidiary of Lakeland Financial Corporation (Nasdaq Global Select/LKFN). For more information visit www.lakecitybank.com. 

Lake City Bank's Carrie L. Heavner Promoted to Assistant Vice President, Retail Banking Officer




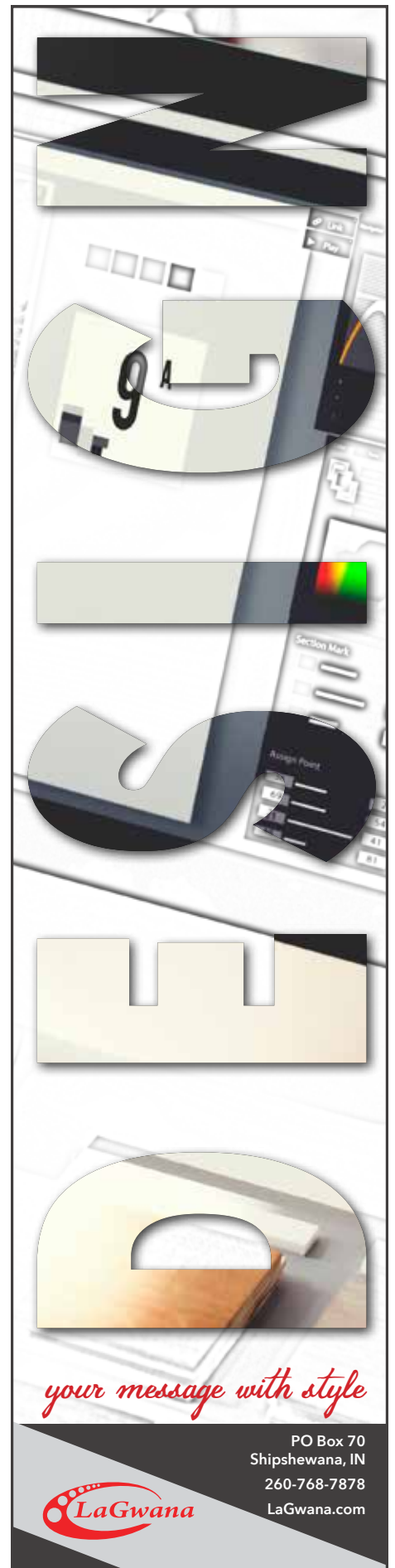
Photo submitted

Lake City Bank is pleased to announce that Carrie L. Heavner has been promoted to Assistant Vice President, Retail Banking Officer at the bank's Mishawaka branch.

In this position, Heavner leads sales and service efforts in the branch, manages the daily operations of the office and supports office staff in their efforts to provide quality service and build customer relationships. She has been with the bank for 24 years.


Heavner earned a bachelor's degree from Purdue University. She volunteers with Joy Blooms and Wellfield Botanic Gardens.

Lake City Bank, a \$6.9 billion bank headquartered in Warsaw, Indiana, was founded in 1872 and serves Central and Northern Indiana communities with 54 branch offices and a robust digital banking platform. Lake City Bank's community banking model prioritizes building in-market long-term customer relationships while delivering technology-forward solutions for retail and commercial clients. The bank is the single bank subsidiary of Lakeland Financial Corporation (Nasdaq Global Select/LKFN). For more information visit www.lakecitybank.com. 



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LaGrange County Barn Trail



Photos submitted

Nestled along the scenic countryside of Shipshewana and LaGrange County stand agricultural monuments of rural life. The humble barn is more than just a shelter for animals like horses, cows, and pigs, and more than storage for bales of hay and straw. These familiar sites dot the landscape of Amish Country, and each has a historic past as rich and deep as the ground on which they're built.

Drive any length of road through the Heart of Amish Country and you'll see your fair share of barns. For those looking to walk through the historic structures, the LaGrange County Barn Trail offers experiences to do just that. This self-guided experience is perfect for history buffs, agricultural enthusiasts, and families eager to explore the buildings and speak with the owners about each one's treasured past.

The Indiana Barn Foundation and the Shipshewana/LaGrange County CVB are hosting the tour showcasing eight barns around LaGrange on Saturday, September 13, from 10 am-5 pm. With free and additional paid events planned for Friday as well. "Exploring

these barns offers a unique glimpse into our region's agricultural heritage. It's a wonderful opportunity for families and history enthusiasts alike to get outdoors, connect with the past, and appreciate the craftsmanship of these structures," said CVB Executive Director Sonya Nash. "If you ever wanted to paint your own barn quilt or step inside an Amish barn and farm, this is your one chance to enjoy a unique experience."


The tour will begin at the Pretty Valley Barn in LaGrange, owned by Steve and Deanna Engleking. Built in the 1940s to milk 40 Jersey cows, the barn was constructed of concrete mixed on site and poured using wheelbarrows and ramps. It includes a mechanical gutter system, four freshening stalls, a milk house, and a granary. Today, the barn serves as storage and a workshop for the owner of the 7.5-acre farmstead.

Board President of the Barn Foundation, Kent Yeager, said, "Our mission of preserving Indiana's historical barns is vital to keeping the tradition alive for future generations. These barns are

not just structures; they are symbols of our agricultural heritage and community spirit."

More than 30,000 barns once dotted farms across Indiana, according to Purdue University administrator and barn expert Mauri Williamson in an IndyStar article. Since 2013, that number has decreased to 20,000. The mission of events such as the barn tour is to make sure barns are protected and restored all throughout Indiana.

Being part of the LaGrange County Barn Trail offers you the opportunity to adventure through the historic barns at the heart of Amish Country. Rome has its marble columns and frescoed ceilings. Indiana has weathered, proud, and painted barns full of heritage and stories.

Tickets are available for \$20 and can be purchased online ahead of time or at the barn tour headquarters at the Pretty Barn on the day of the tour. For questions about the LaGrange County Barn Trail, call the Shipshewana/LaGrange County CVB at 260-768-4008 or visit <https://visitshipshewana.org/barn-tour/>. 



MARION CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Charity Cook will be speaking at Marion Christian Fellowship August 8th and 9th at 6:30pm and August 10th at 9:30am (giving that Sunday's sermon).

Charity is a frequent speaker at many of our events and brings a prophetic teaching gift to her ministry along with a deep well of practical equipping. As a Global Awakening associate evangelist, she has proven to be a woman of character, anointing, and deep thinking. Charity is a graduate of Global School of Supernatural Ministry's inaugural class and has been serving on the Global staff since 2006.

Charity developed a strong prophetic gifting during her time in ministry school and is known to deliver timely, accurate prophetic words. In addition, she enjoys the impact of expository preaching & discovering the truths of Scripture. She holds an M.A. in Practical Theology from Regent University, serves as Executive Assistant for Global Awakening and is traveling internationally for ministry engagements.

Charity grew up in Pennsylvania but since joining Global, she has ministered all around the world, seeing the Body of Christ encouraged and built up.

**August 8th, August 9th at 6:30pm
& August 10th at 9:30am at Marion
Christian Fellowship**



Photos submitted

2025 Grand Marshals: Deb Egli & Stacey Massey

There were two Grand Marshals chosen for the 2025 Topke 4th of July parade. These two are a Mother/Daughter duo. They have been very involved in the community for many years.

Deb Egli and her daughter Stacey Massey both felt very honored to be asked to be the Grand Marshals this year. Deb has been helping with the 4th of July events for over 40 years and Stacey for 14 years. Their favorite part of the 4th of July celebration is seeing the smiles on the faces of all the children that come to see the parade and be a part of the different events.

They have both been involved with and held many positions in the Topeka Chamber of Commerce over the years and they also appreciate all the other people that give their time to Topeka to keep traditions going. Appreciate all of the friends they have made during that time.

When asked what they love most about Topeka, Deb answered that they love the small hometown feeling. They wanted to raise their families in the area because of the Westview School


system, where their children excelled in academics and sports. Stacey and her family were living in Maryland and wanted to move back to this area to have a safe place and a great school system to raise their family in.

Deb was originally from central Illinois. She graduated from Morton Community High School in 1970 and was married to John Egli in the Fall of that same year, when he was a Senior at Goshen College. In 1972 they moved to Guadalajara, Mexico for 3 1/2 years while he was in medical school. They moved to Ft Wayne while he was in his residency program and then to Topeka in 1981. They have 4 children and 15 grandchildren. Their oldest child, Andrea is married and lives in Muncie, IN. Son JJ owns and operates Topeka Do It Best and he and his wife live just around the corner from them. Middle daughter Anika lives in Ft. Wayne and youngest daughter Stacey lives with her family in Topeka and works at Topeka Do It Best. They also hosted several exchange students over the years.

Stacey was born in Ft. Wayne in

October of 1979. The family built a house in Wolcottville and moved into that house in July of 1980. She went to Topeka Elementary through 4th grade. Her class was the first to go through both 5th and 6th grade at Westview Elementary and graduated from Westview in 1998. Her family was living outside Baltimore in a town called Pasadena. Their son Jack had just been born and their daughter Norah would be starting school in a couple of years, so they wanted to move to a safer place to raise them and settle into country life. She is so happy that her kids got to grow up here and also attend and graduate from Westview!

Stacey works at Topeka Do It Best. She thinks Topeka is a special town with so much heart and soul and is very excited to see what the future brings for Topeka!

Stacey said "Good luck to Topeka Together! You have been doing a fantastic job so far with the activities you have added. Thank you for wanting to see our little town continue to grow and strive to be better." 

Independence Day Celebration

Photos by Dan Pruitt



Independence Day Parade

Photos by Abby Wenger





Athletics Information

2025-2026 All Sports Passes

Family Pass: \$195.00

Adult Pass: \$75.00

College Student Pass (Under 25 yrs. Old): \$45.00

Senior Citizen Pass (Over 65 yrs. Old): \$45.00

K-12 Student Pass: \$30.00

REMINDER: Your ALL SPORTS PASS includes Westview Elementary, Junior High and High School sporting events, (including general admission to HS Boys Basketball. If interested in reserving a seat for HS boys' basketball, please contact the Athletic Dept). It **DOES NOT** cover any NECC, Invitationals, Sectionals or a Tourney that we host.

Athletic Fee

Junior High/5th and 6th Grade - \$10.00


High School - \$15.00

This fee is for **each** sport they participate in. The athletic dept. will collect at the beginning of each season.

Physicals

Each athlete needs to have an updated physical in order to participate in ANY sports. Physicals for the 2025-2026 school year need to be dated after April 1, 2025. This is for grades **5th - 12th**.

Any questions please contact the athletic dept at (260)768-4411.

Thank you! 



- 1 Luke Fry, Neva Bontrager, Kyle Kurtz, Jenna Sowaileh, Jordan Yoder
- 2 Gunnar Barkman, Gwendolyn Burgi, Trent Miller, Jason Schrock, Calli Slabach
- 3 Caspen Bunch, Madison Lambright, Nathan Martin
- 4 Sheldon Frey, Julie Yoder
- 5 Austin Bontrager, Cynthia Osorio-Luna, Aryanna Schrock
- 6 Amara Eudy, Logan Lambright, Liam Slabach, Seth Troyer, Keith Yoder
- 7 Braelynn McLaughlin, Elyas Gaber
- 8 Millie Mishler, Kyla Thompson, Baron Yoder
- 9 Evan Byroad, Ash Hadula, Gracelynn Noble
- 10 Reagan Beechy, Damien Jacobs
- 11 Audrey Lambright
- 12 Lori Miller, Nichole Miller
- 13 Francis Baker, Kimber Mast, Ruth Miller, Melanie Troyer, Brynlee Wingard
- 14 Heidi Miller, Matthew Wengerd
- 15 Carter Miller, Janie Slabach, Harper Slattery, Donna Yoder
- 16 Gavin Bauman, Knox Fry, Lilleigh Mast, Landon Miller
- 17 Jolyn Yoder
- 18 Samantha Bontrager, Gibson Schwartz
- 19 Kenlin Bontrager, Eleanor Brown, Avery England, Grayson England, Allane Ferrin, Lilah Miller, Adalena Stemm, Michael Stemm, Adam Yoder





- 20 Brendan Hochstetler, Abel Kistler, Cyrus Miller, Lyndon Wingard
- 21 Nicholas Bontrager, Jaisyn Calvillo, Gatlin Hochstetler, Darius Lehman, Sean Williams
- 22 Andrew Helmuth, Nolan Lambright, Addellyn McLaughlin, Hadelyn Martin, Landon Schlabach, Amber Yoder
- 23 Hamzah Omar
- 24 Isaiah Hershberger, Blake Hochstetler, Jayna Miller
- 25 Braden Detweiler, Kingston Roth, Taelyn Lambert, Brenna Mauck, Kenady Miller, Bryson Mullet, Travis Ritchie, Bryson Schwartz
- 26 Isabella Marcum, Adrian Troyer
- 27 Kaylee Beachy, Asher Kauffman, Maxwell Reffett, Landon Schlabach, Nyanchai Sornross, Carson Stinnett
- 28 Cameron Miller, Makyla Schwartz, Jacob Yoder, Joshua Yoder
- 29 Ryan Mast, Bryson Roth
- 30 Caleb Miller, Dahlia Smith, Nicolas Wilkins
- 31 Norman Jackson, Alexis McDonald, Elijah Miller



School Information

Westview 7th Grade Orientation

Westview Jr. Sr. High School will be hosting 7th grade orientation on Monday, August 4th. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m with the event starting promptly at 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m in the Wilson Auditorium. Please come in through Door 19 (South parking lot).

High School Registration

Registration for grades 8-12 will be the following dates /times:

- Tuesday, August 5th, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, August 6th, from 11:00 a.m to 5:00 p.m.
- Thursday, August 7th, from 8:00 a.m to 3:00 p.m.

First Day of School

The first day of school for all students will be Tuesday, August 12th, starting at 8:10 a.m. Students will report to assigned rooms where they will receive their schedules, student handbooks and other pertinent information.

High School Picture Day

School picture day for Westview Jr.-Sr. High School this year will be Thursday, August 21st

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- Silent Auction

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The **17-mile Hawpatch Trail**, linking Noble, LaGrange, and Elkhart Counties along the historic Wabash Railroad corridor.

Winning Warriors

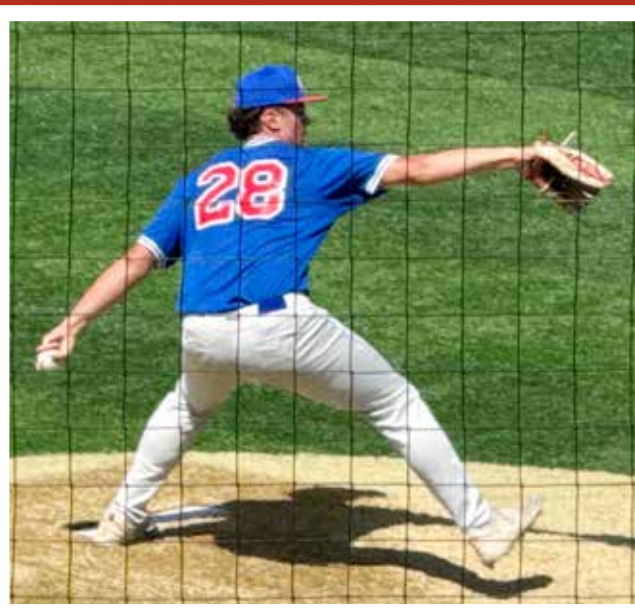


On June 19th **Noah Bontrager** (*front*) came in 1st place in the 5k race during the New Balance National Race. It was a new record time of 14:20.89 at Franklin Field in Philadelphia.

He was also named 2024-25 Gatorade Indiana Boys Track and Field Runner of the year.



Silas Haarer competed in the Indiana Golf Association's Boys State Junior Championship and tied 5th for the Championship. Silas finished 4th overall in match play. He is also the Indiana State PGA Jr. Champion for 2025. Silas has earned a chance to compete in the National PGA Jr. Championship held at Purdue University July 29 - August 1st, a prestigious tournament for Junior Golf.



Max Engle pitched for the Indiana North All-Star team in the North vs South game on June 28th & 29th at Purdue University.

In the 3 innings Max pitched, he had 5 strikeouts, 2 hits, and 0 earned runs.

Photos submitted



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Our Boyhood Adventures ...



... That We Lived To Tell About

By *Harold D. Gingerich*



By no means would you compare us and our adventures with those of the legendary Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn, but my cousin Richard Lambright and I do have some stories to tell. It was long before the age of cell phones, microwaves, and video games. So, we had to get creative. And that we did! The good thing is that we both have lived long enough to have confessed to our families some of the things we got into. Well, let's just say that we have told them about most of the things we did. That is because, one of our great ideas nearly ended up in a lynching.

It was the summer of 1956 when I arrived in the thriving metropolis of Topeka - with a population of 550 people. I can call it a metropolis because

the official name of the school system was The Metropolitan School District of Topeka. My early years were spent in Oregon on my Grandpa Eicher's farm feeding beef cattle, growing ryegrass, and crawdad fishing in the creek. But when Mom married the man, I called my dad, I was part of the deal. And he grew up in Topeka.

The Gingerich family welcomed me with open arms and instantly made me feel like one of the family. I confess that it was a bit of a culture shock to discover that I now had a new Amish grandma and a bunch of Amish cousins. I knew nothing about the Amish. But I quickly came to love spending time with both my Amish and English cousins. When the whole family got together, we had a ball. I am quite sure

that Clarence, Ben, and Fritz Gingerich, Merv and Vernon Miller, Esther, Marlene, Lou, Ida, Betty, along with Keith and Loanna all have their own stories to tell.

Before we went to my Aunt Polly and Uncle Alvin Miller's for an evening meal, Mom sat me down and explained a few things. "Eat what was set before you, don't complain, and there will be a silent pray before and after the meal so don't ask to be excused until after the second prayer." I remember thinking, "Silent prayer before and after the meal, that's strange." I had never heard of anything like that. It didn't make sense.

Today I understand that practice of praying after the meal comes from Deuteronomy 8:10, which says, "When

HISTORICAL FEATURE



you have eaten and are full, then you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you.” Forgive my sense of humor, but I sometimes jokingly tell people that, because Amish-Mennonite cooking is so good, the first prayer is giving thanks for what we are about to eat and the second is asking forgiveness for all that we did eat.

We spent a lot of time with Dad’s sister, Edna Lambright, and her family. Her husband was Amos Lambright. They lived on the LeRoy Priest farm just west of State Road 5 on the county line. Aunt Edna and Uncle Amos had a daughter, Lucille, and two boys, Richard, one year older than me, and Lloyd, a few years younger. Richard and I immediately made a connection because we both loved to play ball. We played quarter pints (baseball) until we were old enough to play half pints. Years later we played high school baseball and basketball for Topeka High School. Rich was the gifted athlete. Me not so much ... I was the overly competitive one.

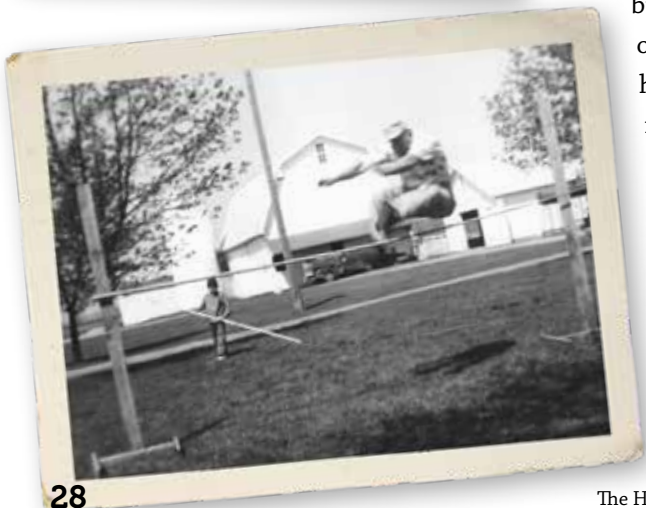
Richard, Lloyd, and I spent untold hours playing back in their woods. Aunt Edna would make us sandwiches for our lunch. We would build forts that we marked out with old baler twine. We hunted birds, played cops and robbers, and of course we always had to build a campfire. Richard had a real BB gun; Lloyd and I just had cap guns. Kids today don’t even know about cap guns. Caps were in rolls that came in a box. You threaded the

roll of caps into your pistol; and when you pulled the trigger the cap would explode with a “pop” and sometimes a small flash, and the heavenly smell of gun powder.

Amos and Edna made my 10th birthday one I will never forget. They gave me a brand-new Daisey BB gun! I was beyond excited. In fact, I still have it today. It doesn’t shoot the best anymore, but then again it is 68 years old.

One time when we were back in the woods Richard shot a red-winged black bird. We decided to roast it and see what it tasted like. Well after we roasted it, feathers and all, and poked it open to see if it was cooked, none of us had the courage to taste it. Later in the day we made the mistake of telling Aunt Edna and Lucille about what we had done. Lucille, with righteous indignation, gave us a thorough tongue lashing. Over the years I have taken great joy of reminding her about that. Now she just chuckles and says, “You guys...!” I can assure you that she wasn’t laughing the first time we told her.

There was one day in the woods that nearly ended in disaster. I’m not quite sure what we were playing, but Lloyd was the bad guy. We had a mock trial, found him guilty, and sentenced him to hanging. That’s when things started to go wrong. The plan was to use baler twine for a rope. Well, everything was going as planned until we tried to cut him down. Richard and I started to panic when he started to choke. I grabbed Lloyd’s legs and held him up while Richard got the hatchet we had with us to chop through the twine. All three of us were pretty shook up because we knew that Lloyd could have died. We made Lloyd promise that



HISTORICAL FEATURE

he would NEVER tell anyone about what had almost happened.

Apart from the near hanging, most of what we did was normal for boys our age. We played whatever sport was in season. There were baseball, football, and whiffle ball games in their big front yard. When it rained, we played basketball in the barn. We even had a track meet with hurdles, 100-yard dash, high jump and pole vault over a bamboo pole. Of course, Richard won everything, but we didn't care because we had also made 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons.

Growing older and entering high school brought a lot of changes. Richard and I still played sports. When we were sophomores, Richard hit a last second shot from half court at Millersburg to give Topeka the win. On the baseball diamond Richard was the pitcher and I was the catcher.

One of our last escapades came in the fall of our senior year of high school. The barn lofts were full of hay, straw, and sparrows. While many people today would be horrified at what we did, you must understand that on the farm sparrows were a pest and there used to be a bounty on them. So, one evening we closed the barn doors and with small boards in hand we climbed up to opposite ends of the barn peaks. As the birds flew back and forth from one end of the barn to the other, we swatted them. You might say that we were working on developing our hand-eye coordination skills. I can't remember how many we killed that night. We didn't collect a bounty, but the barn cats were very happy.

All these years later we look back with fond memories of our childhood adventures. Unfortunately, Lloyd has passed away as have all our parents. Richard lives in South Carolina. And Lucille and I, along with many of our cousins, still live in the area. I'm thinking that it is time to plan a Gingerich Reunion.

Finally, since Richard and I are both in our upper 70s, the statute of limitations should have run out on charges of attempted lynching. So, hopefully it should be safe to publicly confess to our shenanigans. If not, I'm blaming Richard. After all, he is a year older than me, and he should have known better!



This article sponsored by



All photos submitted

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11-7 pm

West (Pond) Park



**We Welcome NEW
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Music on Morrow St.
FRIDAY AUGUST 22 6-9PM**



**COOL CAR CRUISE-IN
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Hello All,

Hopefully everyone is staying cool on these hot summer days.

A big thank you goes out to all that helped make our July 4th Celebration as great as it was. Topeka was bustling! We still have a lot more excitement coming our way in the coming weeks.

Every Thursday we are continuing to have the Topeka Farmer's Market at the West Park from 11-7:00pm. Along with the market, there will be several food trucks in the area.

Friday, August 22 we will be having Music on Morrow St., featuring The Hubie Ashcraft Band LIVE from 6-9PM! Bring your lawn chairs! Cool Car Cruise-In is from 4-9PM! Come show off your ride or admire the lineup! There will also be Food Trucks galore...grab dinner and treats from some of the area's best local vendors!

And don't forget the Trailblazing Towards Tomorrow benefit ride at the Auction Barn Saturday, August 30th. The Benefit Ride will be from 3-5pm with the Hometown Cookout from 3-6:30pm. For more information see the full-page ad in this issue.

Topeka has so much to offer...come and join in the festivities.

"Have a Great Day on Purpose",
Connie Gadson

*This page
sponsored by*




Left-Over Letters Spell Out A Message From Erika!
 Enter remaining letters starting at the top and going left to right.

Word Search

(find all the underlined words) by Erika Byler

I've always had a bit of a fascination with edible flowers and other plants that you just really wouldn't expect to be tasty. I have been kindly "gifted" a Rose of Sharon by my neighbor's very prolifically spreading plants, and have been informed by the internet that the flowers are just as edible as other hibiscus plants, though they apparently have a more mellow and nutty flavor than the usual tart hibiscus teas.

I also learned that hostas are edible! The early spring shoots can be cut off and cooked like asparagus, the leaves can be used like spinach, and the flowers are also edible, though not very flavorful, and thus better suited as a garnish.

***Avoid eating plants that have been treated with pesticides or from roadsides or other high pollution areas.*  Solution on page 34.

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A	E	I	D	I	N	I	T	A	A	N	Y
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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: **August 19 2025.**
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!

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Next Month Sponsored By: **THE CONNECTION**

LAST MONTH'S WINNERS

Marvin & Arlene Miller, 500N, Shipshewana correctly identified last issue's farm as being owned by **David & Nettie Petersheim, 450N, Shipshewana.** 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 **Dan & Sue Miller, 750W, Shipshewana.** Third prize went to **Karl & Marilyn Miller, 500W, Shipshewana**




There were 35 correct entries this month. **Others that guessed correctly were:** Dale & JoEllen Yoder, Leroy E Miller, LeRoy & Irene Miller, Lonnie & JoAnn Bontrager, Orla & Verneta Bontrager, Leroy & Deborah Hochstetler, Kevin & Rose Miller, Marc & Mary Wingard, John & Dorothy Beechy, Lavon & Kayla Bontrager, Ray & Kate Miller, Norman & Naomah Fry, Leon & Wanda Miller, Chris Slabach, Steven & Nora Petersheim, Ray & Laura Bontrager, Jerry & Mary Yoder, Elva & Velma Miller, Myron Miller, Steven & Sharon Miller, Becky Schwartz, Orla & Marilyn Miller, Jay & Michelle Lambright, Marlin & Edna Miller, Nate & Lisa Lehman, Kenny & Ruby Slabach, Dan & Lisa Beechy, Freeman & Betty Wingard, Nathan & Susie Miller, Jr. & Sharon Yoder, Ezra & Mary Ellen Yoder, Kevin & Ruth Yoder

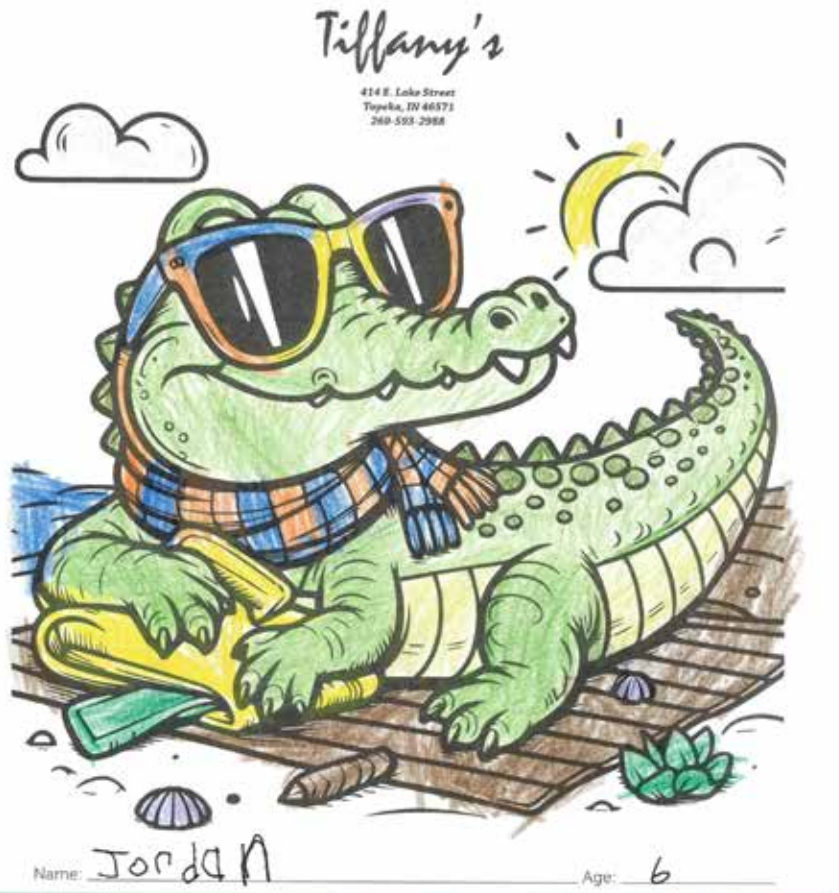
Coloring Contest Winners

Six-year-old Jordan of P.O. Box 10, Shepshewana was our winner for the July Coloring Contest. He won an ice cream treat of choice at Tiffany's in Topeka.

Everyone else that sent in a page can stop by Tiffany's for a free small ice cream cone through August.

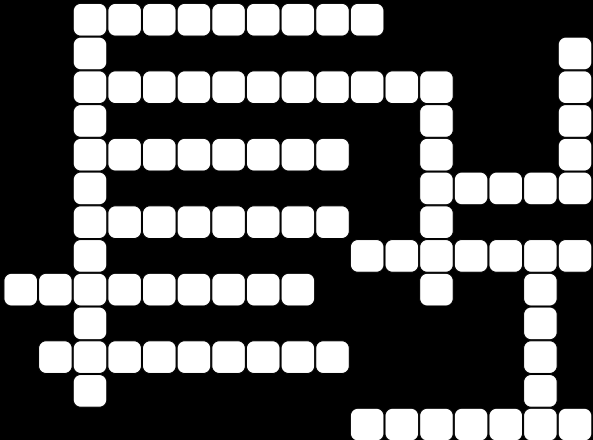
Runners-up were Joshua Elliot Yoder, age 6; Drew Lambright, age 5; Leah Joy Miller, age 4; Adrian Luke Fry, age 2. Honorable Mentions: Julie Petersheim, age 6; Amy Rose Herschberger, age 6; Lilly Yoder, age 6; Jenna Alyse Bontrager, age 5; Lori Marie Bontrager, age 5; and Gemma Schlabach, age 4. Check out page 12 for this month's coloring page.

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. 



- Backpacks
- Back to School
- Books
- Calculators
- Crayons
- Desks
- Eraser
- Folders
- Notebooks
- Pencils
- School Bus
- Students
- Teachers

Use the words listed to fill in the spaces!
(Might be backwards)



Clueless
Crossword

Solution to Clueless
Crossword is on pg 34.
by Marsha Patrick

Want a different way to advertise?

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

I HAVE A HEAD AND
A TAIL BUT NO BODY,
WHAT AM I?

Answer on page 34.



WANA - CUP



295 N Van Buren St.
Shipshewana, IN
(260) 768-4923

Name: _____ Age: _____

Coloring Contest: kids age 6 and younger. Sponsored by Wana-Cup in Shipshewana this month! Winner gets a **FREE ICE CREAM TREAT OF CHOICE** at Wana-Cup, State Rd 5 South, Shipshewana. Winning drawings will be on display at Wana Cup. **ALL PARTICIPANTS** come in and claim your drawing for **A FREE ICE CREAM CONE** at Wana-Cup in September. Mail submission to: LaGwana, Coloring Contest, PO Box 70, Shipshewana, IN 46565. **Entry deadline is August 19, 2025.**

Address: _____

Clueless CROSSWORD Solution

By Marsha Patrick

to the puzzle on page 32.

Sponsored by

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We would be happy to use words
related to your business as the
words used in the puzzle. Call for
more details at 260-463-4901.

B **A** **C** **K** **P** **A** **C** **K** **S**
B **O** **O** **K**
C **A** **L** **C** **U** **L** **A** **T** **O** **R** **S**
R **E** **D** **E** **S** **K** **S**
T **E** **A** **C** **H** **E** **R** **S**
O **S** **T** **U** **D** **E** **N** **T** **S**
L **N** **O** **Y** **A** **R** **C**
S **C** **H** **O** **O** **L** **B** **U** **S**
F **S** **A** **R**
N **O** **T** **E** **B** **O** **O** **K** **S**
L **S** **L** **I** **C** **N** **E** **P**



Riddle on page 32.

Solution to puzzle on page 31



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

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

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IN YOUR
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