

The
Hometown
Treasure

December 2025 • Vol. 26 Num. 12



**Mrs. Johns Was a
Christmas Bride**



**Wana Night Out
Section**

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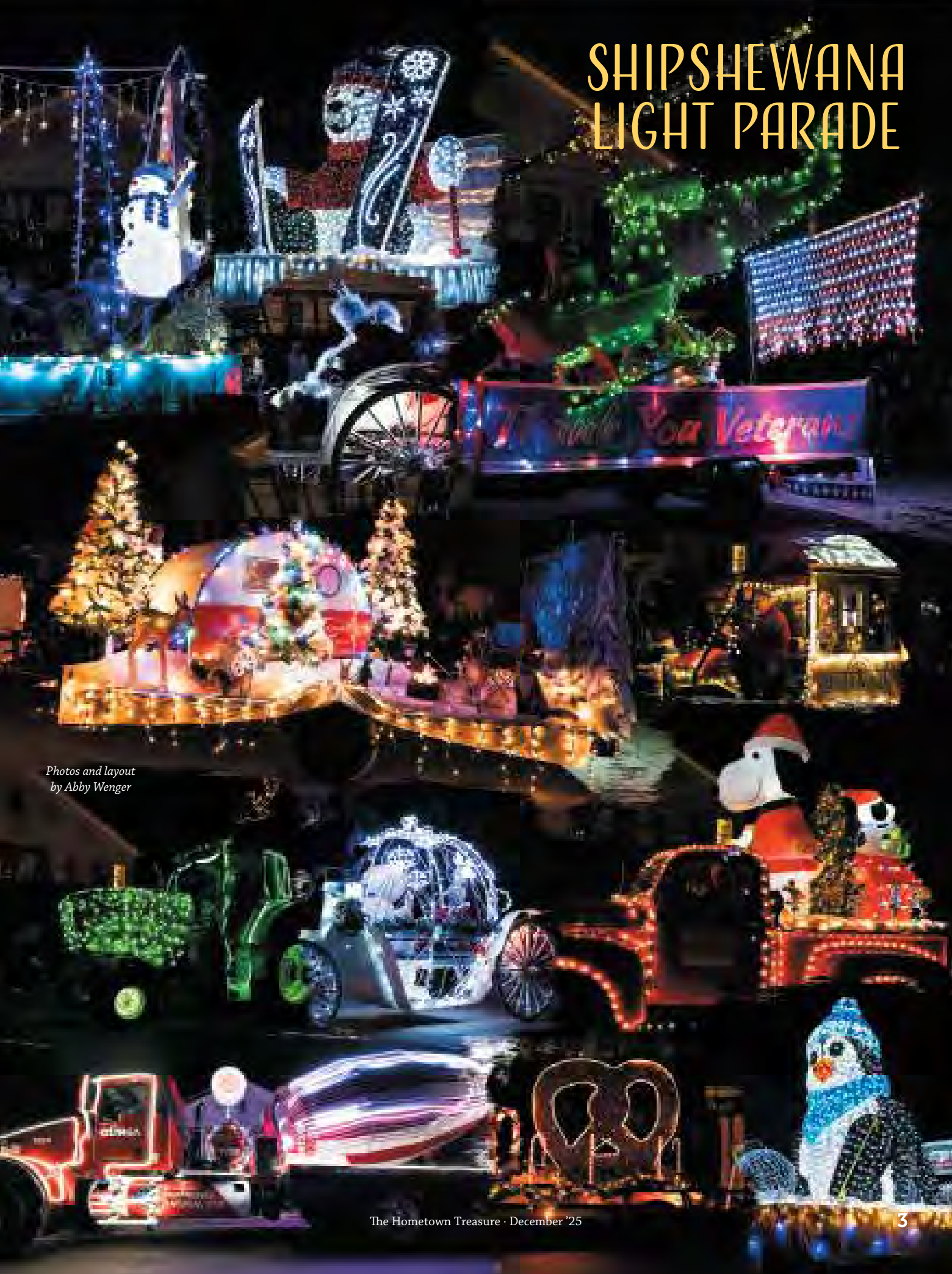
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*Photos and layout
by Abby Wenger*

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You may call or stop by during office hours:
Monday - Friday, 8 am-5 pm

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or (Horizontal)	4 ⁷ / ₈ " x 2 ³ / ₈ "	
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— ADVERTISING INFORMATION —

Deadline for January 2026 Issue:

12 noon, Tuesday, December 16
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January Issue Date is Tuesday, Dec. 23.

— SUBSCRIPTION RATE —

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Avian Influenza: Staying Safe



Indiana
Department
of
Health



Avian influenza, known as bird flu, is a virus that can infect birds, other animals, and sometimes humans. **The risk of humans becoming infected with avian influenza is low.**

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) and the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) are working together to monitor for avian influenza and the overall risk to the public.

How Avian Influenza Spreads

People can become infected when the avian influenza virus is inhaled or gets into a person's eyes, nose or mouth. People who have close contact with sick birds have the highest risk of becoming infected with an avian influenza virus.



Steps to Protect Yourself:

• Avoid Contact with Wild Birds

- Do not touch sick or dead waterfowl
- Observe wild birds and other animals from a distance. Avoid touching or feeding wild birds, even if they don't look sick
- Avoid coming into contact with bird droppings or surfaces that may contain bird droppings
- If you keep birdfeeders and birdbaths on your property, clean them regularly with a 10% bleach and hot water solution, rinse thoroughly, and then allow them to completely dry before refilling. Clean up birdseed that has fallen below birdfeeders.
- Do not feed wild birds, especially waterfowl, near domestic flocks. If you come in contact with any bird that appears unhealthy, wash your hands with soap and water and change clothing and shoes before coming in contact with a domestic flock or captive birds.

• Backyard Flock Guidance

- Hobby poultry owners are encouraged to be aware of the signs of avian influenza and report illness and/or death to the USDA Healthy Birds Hotline: 866-536-7593. Callers will be routed to a state or federal veterinarian in Indiana for a case assessment. Dead birds should be double-bagged and refrigerated for possible testing. Keep dedicated boots/footwear in the chicken coop and don't wear them other places.

• Report Sick or Dead Birds

- Report any cases of sick or dead wild birds to the DNR at on.in.gov/avian-flu.

• Practice Good Hygiene

- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after any contact with birds or their droppings
- Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands
- If wild birds must be handled, protective equipment such as safety goggles, disposable gloves, and an N95 mask should be worn

• Keep Pets Away

- Keep domestic animals, especially poultry and cats, away from wild birds and areas where wild birds congregate

• Avian influenza does not present a food safety risk

- Cooked poultry and eggs and pasteurized dairy products are safe to eat. Pasteurization and cooking kills avian flu viruses.



If You Develop Symptoms:

If you experience flu-like symptoms, such as fever, chills, cough, sore throat, or conjunctivitis after handling birds, contact your healthcare provider for guidance and inform them about your contact with birds.



Online Resources:

- Indiana Department of Health - Avian Influenza: https://www.in.gov/health/idepd/respiratory-disease/influenza/avian-influenza/#How_are_avian_influenza_viruses_spread
- DNR - Avian Flu (Bird Flu): <https://www.in.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/wildlife-resources/wildlife-diseases-in-indiana/avian-flu-bird-flu/>
- Updates are available from BOAH at: <https://www.in.gov/boah/species-information/avianbirds/highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza/>

Living In The “Yet”

My sister from Kentucky recently visited me. She brought her hand-crafted quilts, and we set up at a local craft sale. We greeted potential customers all day, but we didn't sell anything. We were disappointed, yet we had a good time together for the day.

It is possible to be both disappointed and thankful at the same time. We could have easily dwelt on how bummed we were that she had made the trip for nothing. But we fully recognized that the time we had together was priceless. We had chosen to live in the “yet”.

Reflecting on this, I realize I've had many “yet” moments in my life—grieving, yet grateful for the love of friends; as a new mom, exhausted, yet overjoyed.

Many times, I get hung up on one side of the “yet” and never venture over to the other. I remain stuck in grief, disappointment, or exhaustion. But when I choose to step over to the back side of the “yet,” balance returns. It's okay to feel all the emotions—God made us emotional beings. Without experiencing the pain of hard things, we wouldn't have compassion or empathy for others experiencing hardships.

On the flip side of the coin (as

the old saying goes), there is always a brighter perspective. In this way, living in the “yet” levels out the playing field.

For example, when I published my novel, I remember feeling proud of my accomplishments, yet humbled by those who had helped me along the way. By living in the yet, I recognized this success in my life wasn't about anything I had done on my own. It was about recognizing that I couldn't have done it without the support and encouragement of others.


Let's face it, though, life can deliver some heavy blows that feel like there is no flip side. You may feel there is no “yet” to the hurt, shame, or despair you're experiencing. Let's take the Biblical Job, for instance. This guy was the epitome of living in the “yet”.

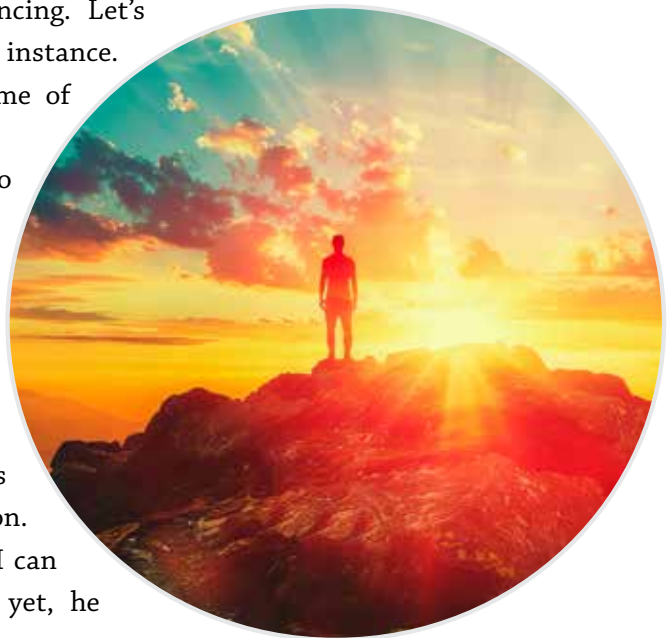
Job was a guy who did everything right. He was obedient to God, successful, and wealthy. In his story, God allows the devil to test him. Job ends up losing his family, his wealth, his health, and his reputation. He suffered like no one I can imagine suffering. And yet, he remained faithful.

That is evident in Job 13:15 where he says, “Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him.” Wow!

Job exemplified “yet” living. Job suffered, and he acknowledged it. However, he chose not to dwell on the pain but on the promise of the One who gave him hope.

Which side of “yet” gets the most emphasis in your life? Are you living in the “yet,” with a balanced view of life's tests and blessings that walk hand in hand? Or, are you a little lop-sided?

I confess, I'm a work in progress here, but God's not finished with me “yet”! 



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Managing Risk At Different Stages Of Life

As an investor, you will always need to deal with risk of some kind. How can you manage the risk that accompanies the volatility of the financial markets? The answer depends somewhat on where you are in life.

When you're starting out ... If you're early in your career, with perhaps four or five decades until you retire, you can likely afford to invest primarily for growth, which also means you'll be taking on a higher level of risk – because risk and reward are positively correlated. But, given your age, you will have time to overcome the market downturns that are both inevitable and a normal part of investing. Still, even at this stage, being over-aggressive can be costly.

When you're in the “middle stages” ... At this time of your life, you're possibly well along in your career and working on at least a couple of financial goals, such as saving for retirement and your children's college education. You'll want to begin adjusting the balance in your portfolio between assets with higher growth and those with lower growth since there will be progressively less time to rebuild losses. You'll need to decide on the balance between risk and growth that's right for you.

When you're a few years from retirement ... You may have already achieved some key goals – perhaps

your children have finished college and you've paid off your mortgage. As a result, you may have more money available to put away for retirement. Growth still matters because your retirement could be 25 or 30 years long, and you'll need investments that can keep up with inflation.



But you'll also need investments designed to help provide for your income needs in retirement and provide more stability. Also consider reducing your exposure to higher-risk investments and instead consider investing more in stable dividend-paying stocks, government and investment-grade bonds, and cash.

When you're retired ... Once you're retired, you might think you should take no risks at all with substantial assets held in cash. However, you could spend two or three decades in retirement, so you may need some growth potential in your portfolio to stay ahead of inflation. A more balanced mix between equities and fixed

income is generally appropriate. Establishing a withdrawal rate that's appropriate for your lifestyle and projected longevity can help reduce the risk of outliving your money. Of course, if there's an extended market downturn during any time of your retirement, you may want to temporarily lower your withdrawal rate.

Managing investment risk is a lifelong process that evolves with your goals, responsibilities and time horizon. While you'll look for balance among your investments based on your life stage, having a balanced and diversified portfolio doesn't fully protect against a loss. Still, aligning your strategy with your stage of life can help navigate market volatility and stay on track toward long-term success while avoiding emotional investment decisions. The key is staying informed and making intelligent choices that reflect your current income needs and future aspirations.



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LaGrange County Library

Below are the events planned for December 2025.

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

Below are the programs for the remainder of 2024

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 open at noon Friday, December 12

All library locations will be CLOSED December 24 through 27 for the Christmas Holiday.

All library locations will close at 5:00 December 31 & be CLOSED January 1 New Year's Day.

Youth Interest

Preschool Story Time (Ages 0-5) Theme: Snow!

LaGrange • Tuesdays • 10:30 a.m.

Shipshewana • Tuesdays • 1 p.m.

Topeka • Wednesdays • 11 a.m.

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

Makerspace (Ages 5-up) Registration not required LaGrange •

Wednesdays, December 3, 10, 17 • 2:30-7 p.m.

Parents must stay with kids 10 & under. Drop in and stay as long as you want from 2:30-7 pm. Makerspace is a collaborative space where people can use a variety of tools and materials to create, learn, and share

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

LaGrange • Thursdays, December 4, 11, 18 • 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, December 8 • 4-7:30 p.m.

Drop in any time and stay as long as you can. Play some larger group party type games or settle in for something longer. Shift to the Pokemon club at 6:00 if interested or stay playing other games.

Pokemon Club (Ages 8-18)

LaGrange • Monday, December 8 • 6-7:30 p.m.

Join us to have fun playing Pokemon, trading cards, and learning strategies. Bringing cards to trade is optional. Sign up is not required.

Book Clubs

Books & Banter Book Club: (Grade 7-12) (formerly Teen B.C.)

LaGrange • Monday, December 15 • 4-5 p.m.

Holes by Louis Sachar

Come to the library in November to get your book to read and discuss in December. At each meeting we will discuss the book we read for this month and do fun activity or craft related to the story.

Books Buddies Book Club: (Grade 1-3) (formerly Elementary B.C.)

LaGrange • Tuesday, December 16 • 4-5 p.m.

Captain Awesome to the Rescue by Stan Kirby

You will get your book at the meeting. No registration required. At each meeting we will start reading our book together and do a fun activity, then you will take the book home with you to finish reading and bring back next month.

Page Turners Book Club: (Grade 3-7) (formerly Mid-Grade B.C.)

LaGrange • Tuesday, December 16 • 4-5 p.m.

Hide and Geek by T.P Jagger.

Come to the library in November to get your book to read and discuss in

December. At each meeting we will discuss the book we read this month and do fun activity or craft related to the story.

Teen Video Games (Grades 7-12)

LaGrange • Monday, December 22 • 4-7:30 p.m.

Join us on the 4th Monday of each month for Nintendo Switch, Wii and VR. Come and go as you are able during this time. We will have snacks and TV's set up to play!

Adult Interest

Culinary Adventure (Ages 12+)

Thursday, December 4

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

The Nut Shoppe • 204 S Main St, Goshen, IN

Fables Books • 215 S Main St, Goshen, IN

Meet at Olympia Candy Kitchen at noon. We will have lunch at Olympia Candy Kitchen, then explore local candy and book shops in search of holiday gifts and treats - and there might be a stop for hot chocolate along the way! All food purchases at your own expense. Register at the LaGrange Library or by calling 260-463-2841 x1030 so we'll know how many to expect.

Cookbook Club Special Edition: Cookie Exchange!

LaGrange • Saturday, December 6 • 11 a.m. | (Ages 12+).

The library will be closed on the fourth Saturday of December, so instead of our usual meeting, we'll have a cookie exchange! Bring 2-3 dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies to share, and an empty container to take goodies home in!

Calligraphy with Markers (Ages 12+)

LaGrange • Tuesday, December 9 • 6-8 p.m.

Learn how simple the ancient art of calligraphy can be. With calligraphy markers, there are no ink spills, no smudges, and no mess. Join us and learn how to draw an italic alphabet. No experience is necessary. All materials will be supplied. Cost is \$5, payable at class (exact change is appreciated).

Please register at the LaGrange Library or by calling 260-463-2841 x1030. Registration ends December 2.

Second Saturday Book Club (Ages 16+)

Saturday, December 13 • 11 a.m.

Grounded Coffee House • 306 S Cavin St, Ligonier

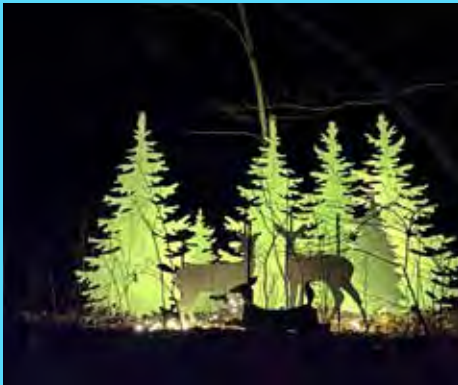
For our December meeting, we'll meet upstairs at the coffee house to discuss "Lassie Come-Home" by Eric Knight. Lassie is joe's prize collie and constant companion. But when Joe's father loses his job, Lassie must be sold. Three times she escapes from her new owner, and three times she returns home to joe, until finally she is taken to the remotest part of Scotland — too far a journey for any dog to make alone, but Lassie is not just any dog. Copies available at the LaGrange Adult Services Desk.

December Upcoming Events

Quilt Class

Saturday, Dec 6 • 9 am–3 pm
Maple Wood Nature Center

Registration is required. This is the end of the year catch up day! You can catch up on missed patterns from the Underground Railroad Pattern series or finish patterns from previous weeks. Choose your own pattern, or finish up christmas gifts. Instructors are present to help with any questions. Bring a sack lunch and/or a potluck contribution. To register, call the Park Office at 260-854-2225.



Trail of Lights

Christmas in the Country

Dec 4th-6th, 11th-13th, 18th-20st,
5:30-8:30 pm

Delt Church Park, 6455S 200 W,
Wolcottville, IN

Enjoyment Fee • Free will donation
We invite you to enjoy a walk through the wooded trail at Delt Church Park, with your family and friends, and take in the Christmas light displays! Refreshments will be available in the Greenwood Pavilion beside the fireplace!



Turkey Trot 5K Fun Run/ Walk

Thursday Nov 27 • 8 am

Delt Church Park

6455S 200W, Wolcottville, IN

Hosted by Friends of LaGrange County Parks. 8 am: Check-in and Walk-in Reg.

8:30 am: Turkey Trot begins

Online Reg. now open on *EventBrite.com*. Fee: \$15 per participant. This is not a timed event. Enjoy the scenery! Fun awards and refreshments will be shared afterward in the Greenwood Pavilion.

First Day Hike: A Glow Walk Trail

Thursday, Jan 1, 2026 • 5:30-7 pm

Delt Church Park

6455S 200W, Wolcottville, IN

Be a part of the national movement of First Day Hikes and begin 2026 with a step towards good health. The glow walk trail will start at and end at the trail head. We invite you to wear family-friendly glow in the dark clothes and accessories. Dress for the elements! Free beverages in the Greenwood Pavilion for participants, while supplies last. RSVP's are encouraged! Call the Park Office at 260-854-2225, by Friday, December 26.

Park Offices Closed

Nov 27-28, 2025

Dec 25-26, 2025

Jan 1-2, 2026

Maple Syrup Days

Mar 21 & 22, 2026



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Jean Fremion-Litke Receives 2025 Heart of Gold Award



Heart of Gold nominees, from left: Joanne Gillespie, Gerald Yoder, Jean Fremion-Litke, and Tina Bartoch were recognized by the LaGrange County Community Foundation during the Celebration of Philanthropy Reception for their outstanding service to the community. Jean Fremion-Litke received the 2025 Heart of Gold Award. Not pictured: Jay Chupp.

The LaGrange County Community Foundation has awarded the 2025 Heart of Gold Award to Jean Fremion-Litke of LaGrange in recognition of her extraordinary services to honoring local veterans.

The Heart of Gold Award honors LaGrange County residents who inspire volunteerism, create positive change, and demonstrate a deep commitment to others.

For the past 15 years, Fremion-Litke has led the Veterans Headstone Project, a fiscally sponsored program of the Foundation dedicated to preserving the dignity and memory of LaGrange County's veterans.

Under her volunteer leadership, the project has restored, repaired or replaced more than 270 veteran headstones and memorials in LaGrange County cemeteries and mobilized volunteers to raise nearly \$151,000 in support of the effort.

She also coordinates the county-wide flagging of veterans' graves each

Memorial Day and performs half-staff flag duties at the American Legion post and the Town of LaGrange. Her work has brought comfort to families and united community partners around the belief, "It is our duty to take care of those who have taken care of us."

As the 2025 award recipient, she is eligible to recommend a \$1,500 grant to a LaGrange County nonprofit of her choice through the Foundation's Caring Community Fund.

All nominees for the 2025 Heart of Gold Award were honored at the Foundation's Annual Reception on October 16 at Dallas Lake Park Lodge, where their service and impact were celebrated. In addition to the award recipient, the Foundation recognized four outstanding nominees whose volunteerism continues to strengthen LaGrange County:

- **Tina Bartoch**, LaGrange – Founder and volunteer for Relay for Life in LaGrange County, now Lights of Hope, with the American Cancer Soci-

ety; known for her daily acts of kindness within the community;

- **Jay Chupp**, Shippshewana – Community leader with LaGrange County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Mayfest, Shippshewana Retail Merchants Association and ARC Opportunities; founder of Northern Indiana Amish Boys Camp;

- **Joanne Gillespie**, LaGrange – Dedicated member of Tri Kappa Sorority, serving as Secretary and in leadership roles for Pumpkin Dash, Trivia Committee, and multiple fundraisers; and

- **Gerald Yoder**, LaGrange – Faith-driven volunteer supporting children's ministry, church events, The Garage, Youth for Christ, LifeWise, and Reason 4 Hope; known known for offering transportation, support, and care to individuals throughout the community.

"All of the nominees embody the spirit of philanthropy in LaGrange County. Their dedication and compassion make our community stronger," said Executive Director Octavia Yoder.

Through the generosity of the Caring Community Fund, each nominee was also able to direct a \$500 grant to a LaGrange County nonprofit of their choice.

About the LaGrange County Community Foundation

The LaGrange County Community Foundation works to inspire generosity, leadership, and service by connecting donors to community needs. Through grants, scholarships, and partnerships, the Foundation helps build permanent charitable resources that strengthen LaGrange County now and for generations to come.

Shipshewana Business Leaders and Front-Line Hotel Manager Receive State Tourism Awards

Alvin and Elsie Miller of Shipshewana are honored with the Will Koch Indiana Tourism Leadership Award, the state's highest tourism accolade. The Indiana Destination Development Corporation (IDDC) announced the awards at the Indianapolis Zoo Hulman Riverhouse, Monday, November 10, recognizing the Millers' decades-long impact on Indiana's visitor economy.

The Millers are celebrated for their development of the Davis Mercantile, a four-story shopping center that began as the Davis Hotel. In the 1980s, Alvin noticed visitors arriving from across the country and began collecting license plate numbers. After hearing repeated questions about places to shop, he left his job at the sawmill and purchased the Davis Hotel, transforming it into a hub of Hoosier Hospitality.

Today, the Davis Mercantile features over 21 specialty shops and restaurants, a 1906 carousel, and an 18,000-pound Douglas Fir tree centerpiece. Though a fire destroyed the original building in 2004, the Millers rebuilt it with support from local craftsmen and the community. "Soon after the fire, it became evident by the outpouring of letters from friends near and far how others felt about the Mercantile," said Alvin.

"Alvin and Elsie Miller have been pillars of Shipshewana's story for decades," said Sonya Nash, Executive Director of the LaGrange County CVB. "They're both remarkable leaders with a passion for people who turned a small-town landmark into a destination full of memories for visitors and business owners alike."

The Will Koch Award honors individuals who demonstrate exceptional

leadership and innovation in promoting Indiana tourism. The Millers' dedication has helped position Shipshewana as a must-visit destination in the Heart of Amish Country.

"Like Will, Alvin and Elsie Miller are true entrepreneurs who strengthen and enrich the tourism industry," said Amy Howell, IDDC Interim CEO. "They have helped shape the Shipshewana community with an asset like the Davis Mercantile."

IDDC also awarded 12 tourism industry representatives with a Hoosier Hospitality Award. Among those was Ronnie Snook, General Manager at the Holiday Inn Express in Howe and Sturgis.

Ronnie's commitment to guest safety was on full display when a visitor fell in their hotel shower. Without hesitation, Ronnie was the first to reach the guest, calmly assessing the situation and ensuring emergency services were contacted immediately. Her swift actions helped first responders arrive quickly and provide the necessary care, turning a frightening moment into one of compassion and professionalism.

"Ronnie always goes above and beyond for our guests. She wants to make them feel safe and as much at home as possible, in the short time they are here. She has a heart for people and she never wants anyone to feel less than. She has sat with guests who have fallen, until help comes, so they are not alone. She is the glue that holds our team together," said Assistant General Manager at Holiday Inn Express, Tammy Wedge.

"The dedication and devotion Ronnie showed to that single guest is a defining characteristic of our town and its


people," said Sonya. "Genuine hospitality and kindness is exactly what guests will experience no matter if they're at a coffee shop, restaurant, hotel, or walking downtown. It's a true reflection of the quality of life and service that makes our community stand out."

Hoosier Hospitality Award nominations are submitted by community members and reviewed by the Indiana Destination Development Corporation (IDDC). Outstanding service plays a key role in encouraging repeat visits and building meaningful connections with travelers.

Discover authentic adventures in Shipshewana

Stroll through the Davis Mercantile, where you might catch Alvin and Elsie sharing stories over coffee. Explore 21 unique shops, ride a historic carousel, and admire the towering Douglas Fir centerpiece. Book your stay at the Holiday Inn Express in Howe/Sturgis, where Hoosier Hospitality shines through team members like Ronnie. Visit www.visitshipshewana.org to start planning your trip.

About Shipshewana/LaGrange County CVB

The Shipshewana/LaGrange County CVB oversees tourism, advertising, marketing, and public relations for LaGrange County. The dedicated team of professionals works tirelessly with multiple businesses and partners to share the stories of the region's people, places, and experiences. It is the only organization in LaGrange County tasked with communicating and representing the visitor economy to the outside world. 

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Fall Crafter's Art Competition



Blue Gate hosted its annual Fall Crafter's Art Competition, showcasing creative artwork from students at Shipshewana-Scott and Meadowview Elementary Schools. Students were challenged to create a piece inspired by the theme "Fantastic Fall Fun with Family and Friends." Winning entries were selected by Blue Gate and proudly displayed in the Blue Gate Bakery throughout the month of October. 

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December Kids Club Birthdays

- 1 Jennica Hershberger, Lucas Riehl, Christopher Yoder
- 2 Rakan Algaradie, Elijah Ellis, Brantley Miller, Dallas Stemm, Trae Yoder
- 3 Arianne Eash
- 4 Elijah Kemp, Conner Lengacher, Seth Miller, Paisley Taylor, Isaiah Troyer
- 5 Colt Grossman, John Helmuth, Fares Hussein
- 6 Lindsey Stutzman, LeRoy Tyler
- 7 Mya Henderson, Mazie Siples
- 8 Valerie Lopez, Dawson Williams
- 9 Bristol Bowen, Isaiah Caldwell
- 10 Ava Hostetler, Savannah Lambright, Ina Miller
- 11 Kassidy Courtney, Quade Kaufman
- 12 Jeremy Beechy, Zachary Mullins, Sarah Omar
- 13 Nolan Miller, Breann Riehl, Maicee Witham
- 14 Derek Bontrager, Oaklyn Harker, Graesin Lambright, Lorraine Nisley, Danica Otto, Karson Plank, George Waterman
- 15 Felix Otto, Peyton Raber, Sarah Yoder
- 16 Angie Al Yahiri, Ava Bontrager, Kenlyn Miller, Kylan Yoder



Student Ambassadors

- 17 Dena Lambright, Memphis Raines
- 18 Sara Schlabach, Brooklyn Yoder
- 19 Isaac Yoder
- 20 Sadie Miller
- 21 Jayda Kaufman, Jalen Yoder
- 22 Kayan Aldhuraibi, Blake Bontrager, Adrian Miller
- 23 Archie Duzan, Landon Hochstetler, Braydon Sargent, Krystal Schlabach
- 24 Beverly Foulk, Adriana Knepp, Lance Mast, Colin Miller
- 25 Daryl Bontrager
- 26 Nolan Miller, Gracelyn Wingard
- 27 Melanie Beechy, Anna Bontrager, Jameson Fought, GraceAnn Gingerich, Samantha Lehman, Malachi Miller, Benson Schlabach, Brooklyn Yoder
- 28 Hannah Miller, Lucas Schlabach, Matthew Stutzman
- 29 Andrea Barkman, Zachary Wingard
- 30 Allison Bontrager, Austin Bontrager, Sara Chupp, Derek Frey, Michael Stutzman
- 31 Cora Cripe



August - Music Dept.




September - Science Dept.



October - Math Dept.

All photos submitted

These outstanding students were selected by a staff member for doing a noteworthy accomplishment, a generous act, displaying great improvement

or having an outstanding individual achievement. Students like these make Westview a great place to attend. 



All photos submitted

Ping Pong Ball Challenge

In our new ELA curriculum, fourth grade students are completing a Quest, which is a hands-on activity using collaboration. Students were tasked with picking up a ping pong ball (without just using their hands.) Students had to create some type of invention that would allow them to pick up the ball, hold it for three seconds,

and pass it to each teammate. Once each team member had held the ball for three seconds, students had to deliver the ball into a basket. The materials students could use were limited to ten Kleenex, two pencils and as many rubber bands as they wanted. Lots of creativity and collaborating took place! 📌

National Pickle Day

Did you know pickles have been around for centuries? Luckily the pickles the class of 4C tried weren't that old! Students were able to test dill and bread and butter pickles. Most students already knew they liked dill, but some were surprised to learn they like the taste of bread and butter ones. 📌

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MUSTANGS OF THE MONTH


Each month 15 MES 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 medal, and get to participate in a game during the assembly. Pictured are the winners from October of the 2025-2026 school year. Go Mustangs! 



Back Row (left to right) : Felicity Wilson (4th), Colten McAninch (4th), Amy Bontrager (4th). Middle Row : Lindsey Stutzman (2nd), Zachary Sclabach (2nd), Alice Miller (3rd), Micah Otto (3rd), Cyrus Miller (3rd). Front Row: Megan Smith (1st), Quinn Yoder (1st), Alayna Bontrager (1st), Kenlin Miller (K), Angelyn Miller (K), Alex Miller (K).

Family Fun Night

On September 17, 2025 Meadowview hosted a Family Fun Night. Families were invited to enjoy local food trucks, attend a presentation, tour the building and participate in arts and crafts. Speaker Brooke Hall entertained attendees and spoke on “Filling Buckets”, a program that focuses on using kind words and actions to fill other people’s buckets as well as your own. She provided demonstrations and examples of how to fill buckets to help others, and oneself, feel good about themselves, and how to avoid bucket dipping, which tears people down. Principal Graber was presented with a plaque from the Bucket Fillers Academy that officially designated Meadowview as a Bucket Filling School.

After the presentation, students and their families were invited to fill out cards to fill the buckets of Meadowview staff. Students were also encouraged to make their own buckets to take home as a reminder of the night’s event and to be a bucket filler, not a bucket dipper. 

Photos by Abby Wenger



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First Quarter Award Winners

Here are the first quarter award winners for being respectful, responsible, and safe. 📌



Kindergarten



First Grade



Second Grade



Third Grade



Fourth Grade

Cereal Box Domino Race

Shipshewana-Scott students donated over a 1,000 cereal boxes to area food banks. Prior to donating them we celebrated with a cereal box domino race around the school! 📌



This page made possible by the



Shipshe-Scott Elementary Home of the Scotties

First Quarter Shining Citizens

These last pictures are our first quarter shining citizens. These students were chosen by their teachers for doing the right thing and treating people right. 📌



Kindergarten



First Grade



Second Grade



Third Grade



Fourth Grade

All photos submitted

Hometown Smokey

Smokey the Bear came to visit first grade and share fire safety tips. ①



Kindergarten Pumpkins

Kindergarten explored real pumpkins by measuring them, counting the seeds, counting the lines on them, how they felt, and weighed them. ①

Thankful

This is the season for giving thanks. We at Topeka have been working hard on acknowledging all that we are grateful for each day! ①



This page made possible by the




Topeka Elementary

The Hometown Treasure · December '25


Home of the Bears

Red Ribbon Week

We celebrated Red Ribbon Week with some education and fun spirit days. We had Western Day, Zoom Day and more as we learned more about the importance of saying no to drugs! 



Grandparent's Day

Grandparent's Day was a hit! We took pictures, toured the building, visited the book fair and more! We enjoyed seeing grandparents and great grandparents visiting with their students. We even had some grandparents who had gone through Topeka Elementary as a student! 

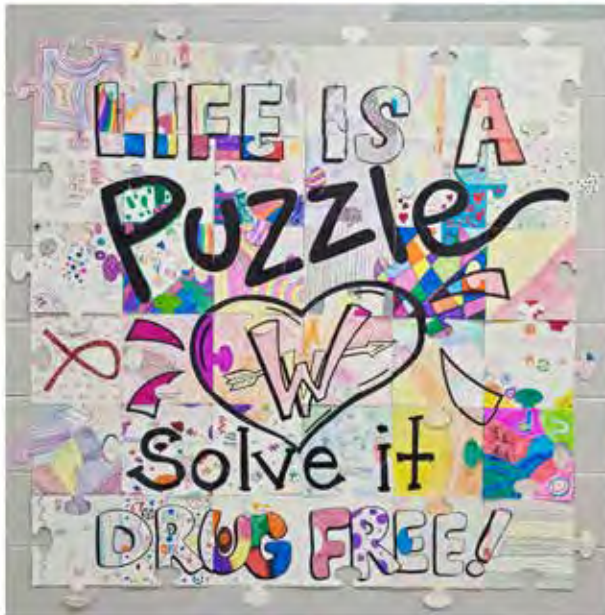


All photos submitted

2025 Fall Bus Incentive Recipients

Here are your 2025 Fall Bus Incentive Recipients. Thank you all for making this happen!

Westview Elementary School - (Back row, left to right) Officer Flowers, Rhianen Withrow, Ellisynn Hamm, Amber Miller, Kylah Miller, Ava Bontrager, Salia Bontrager, Bryan Bontrager, Kyra Schlabach, & Officer Conwell. (Middle row) Madelyn Miller, Kristen Lambright, Graesin Lambright, Kyla Miller, Jamie Chupp, Aaron Hershberger, Sean Williams, & Payton Lambright. (Front row) Kylee Hostetler, Shayla Strater, Lilleigh Mast, Lance Stutzman, Meghan Otto, Hazem Omar, Jenise Miller, Lincoln Miller, & Laylah Lambright. (Front) Jethro Otto. (Not pictured: Lance Stutzman).



Red Ribbon Week

For Red Ribbon Week 2025, Westview Elementary celebrated with the slogan, “Life is a Puzzle...Solve it Drug Free!” Each class got to decorate large puzzle pieces with their own style and the result was a beautiful, creative message! It will hang in the cafeteria as a reminder to be drug free. An educational message about how important the decision to stay drug free can be for their future was announced each morning. Students were also able to participate in fun dress-up days such as “Saddle up against drugs”, “Say peace-out to drugs”, and “Don’t get mixed up in drugs”. It was great to see all the creative ways students portrayed each daily theme! 📌

All photos submitted

This page made possible by the



Westview Elementary

Home of the Warriors

Learning Mass & Volume

Students in 5C (Huyvaert's 5th grade class) are learning about mass and volume using measuring tools to figure out the volume of liquids and solids as well as the weight of objects. Students pictured are Aliyah Watts, Jada Nissley and Aaron Riehl, Lillian Thomas and Micah Whetstone, Jenise Miller and Adrian Riehl, Elijah Flores and Alyse Bontrager, and Ryan Schwartz and Sadie Mast ①



Collecting Pennies for the Needy

Mrs. Gongwer's students counting change for our Penny Collections. We are collecting money to help families in need in our community at Christmas time! ①

Honor Roll

Quarter 1

High Honor Roll (3.5 or above)

Westview Jr-Sr High School, 2025-2026 Quarter 1

In addition to the GPA requirements for Honor Roll, students must be enrolled in at least 5 credit hours and have no grades lower than a C-

Grade 7 Taiba Aldhuraibi, Mallory Antal, James Bailey, Landon Beachy, Alicia Bontrager, David Bontrager, Ethan Bontrager, Micaiah Bontrager, Travis Bontrager, Paisley Brandenberger, Alex Detweiler, Ethan Eash, Adrian Frey, Jalayna Fry, Wilma Fry, Archer Geigley, Finley Gingerich, Jude Gingerich, Salena Gingerich, Miles Glassman, Curtis Graber, Mason Grossman, Terra Harlow, Kimber Helmuth, Abigail Hershberger, Kyle Hershberger, Alayna Hochstetler, Ava Hochstetler, Derek Hochstetler, Kari Hochstetler, Tarah Hochstetler, Jesse Hostetler, Jessica Hostetler, Layla Hostetler, Zachariah Jones, Brinley Kraft, Addison Lambright, James Lambright, Seth Lambright, Jaylin Lehman, Jennifer Lehman, Kaleb Liechty, Diaz Martinez, Erika Mast, Kenlin Mast, Kimberly Mast, Ryan Mast, Kate Mauck, Makynzee McLaughlin, Allison Miller, Grace Miller, Hannah Miller, Janice Miller, Jason Miller, Jayna Miller, Jeryle Miller, Justin D Miller, Lyric Miller, Mariah N Miller, Serena Miller, Travis Miller, Katy Mishler, Landon Nissley, Emily Otto, Joshua Otto, Adelynn Raber, Obadiah Raber, Ashlin Rockey, Abrar Saleh, Brynneley Scheuneman, Austin Schrock, Daniel Schrock, Angie Slabach, Kirsten Slabach, Rylan Spencer, Weslee Steider, Mia Stemm, Cole Stutzman, Ida Stutz-

man, Hannah Troyer, Jana Troyer, Jordan Troyer, Ryleigh Weimer, Javon Whetstone, Ava Wingard, Elijah Wingard, Jace Wingard, Trentlyn Wingard, Tyler Wingard, Grace Yater, Austin Yoder, Ava Yoder, Daimon Yoder, Graison Yoder, Logan Yoder, Lynsey Yoder, Reese Yoder, Tyler Yoder, Tyson Yoder, Willard Yoder, Zienna Yoder, Nicolas Yutzzy

Grade 8 Adam Alamari, Trinity Antal, Al-yssa Barkman, Adrian Bontrager, Coltin Bontrager, Dale Bontrager, Heidi Bontrager, Janie Bontrager, Jayna Bontrager, Jerel Bontrager, Kalyn Bontrager, Kathlyn Bontrager, Kayla Bontrager, Leon Bontrager, Luke Bontrager, Harrison Bontreger, Janessa Caldwell, Marissa Childers, Claire Coleman, Jayni Drake, Chandler Engle, Erin Frey, Darin Fry, Kaitlyn Fry, Keturah Fry, Abigail R Hershberger, Cody Hill, Dominick Krantz, JulieAnna Kuhns, Andraya Lambright, Damon Lambright, Kendall Lambright, Kevin Lehman, Michael Manns, Mahweensa Marks, Austin Martin, Tyler Mast, Valentina Mendoza, Cash Miller, Curtis Miller, Dena Miller, Hailey Miller, Jacob Miller, Jennifer Miller, Justin C Miller, Katy Miller, Kenlin Miller, Landon Miller, Maci Miller, Mariah K Miller, Marsha Miller, Sammy Miller, Toby Miller, Beckham Misner, Erikson Mullet, Alexandria Olweean, Anthony Otto, Genesis Perillo, Josiah Radcliff, Brigham Rahn, Akhila Reed, Kendyl Reinhold, Kierra Roose,

Declan Ryall, Dena Schlabach, Aleya Schrock, Cindy Schwartz, Kayla Schwartz, Isla Slabach, Jaden Slabach, Amber Stoltzfus, Hallie Stults, Alex Stutzman, Brooklyn Stutzman, Kennedy Stutzman, Heather Troyer, Joshua Troyer, Lisa Troyer, Julian Warrenner, Julianne Whetstone, Caleb Wingard, Nasser Yahya, Amy Yoder, Ashby Yoder, Carson Yoder, Hadley Yoder, Heidi Yoder, James Yoder, Jessica Yoder, Juliana Yoder, Melody K Yoder, Miles Yoder

Grade 9 Tyrone Baccol, Bryndle Bontrager, Brynn Bontrager, Sara Bontrager, Hope Brandenberger, Chloe Briggs, Avery Christner, Jaxon Christner, Noah Cleveland, Carter Cranor, Charlie Double, Avionna Duke, Ellianna England, Madalyn Everage, Breanna Garrett, Tenley Groves, Addison Hershberger, Keera Hostetler, Hannah Jasso, Katelyn Martin, Kylie Mast, Kylin Meadows, Kameron Meyers, Caydon Miller, Logan Miller, Kaydence Mosher, Kandice Parker, Lacey Ramey, Evan Roth, Asher Sandquist, Lyndora Schrock, Makayla Slabach, Faith Stump, Janessa Stutzman, Lucas Swanson, Tori Taylor, Chloe Turner, Bryce Yoder, Olivia Yoder

Grade 10 Baylor Atra, Makenna Bender, Laban Bontrager, Laine Bortner, Tyler Brewer, Liam Brill, Cooper Fry, Mila Geyer, Morgan Grossman, Alayah Hostetler, Elizabeth Lehmer, AJ Martin, Maggie Mast, Mari Jo Mast, Jada Mauck, Paige McDonald, Adison Miller, Brendan Miller, Jaxon Mille, Madilyn Miller, Saul Moreno, Shelby Mullett, Fisher Oakley, Alarcon Queralt,

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Westview Jr./Sr. High

Gavin Rainsberger, Kya Roose, Josie Ryall, Emma Stinnett, Tyler Stutzman, Lex Thompson, Merrill Warrenner, Rylee Watson, Elijah Watts, Kaitlyn Weimer, Hudson Yoder, Janae Yoder, Kasen Yoder, Will Yoder

Grade 11 Eva Bates, Evan Beechy, Karleen Bender, Lexy Bennett, Matthew Bibbee, Memphis Bontrager, Olivia Bontrager, Camryn Christner, Isaac Drake, Jarrett Dunker, Josie Eash, Graci Engle, Ethan Fry, Caedmon Gates, Landon Gingerich, Luke Haarer, Makenna Helman, Amanda Hershberger, Keegan Hershberger, Alyssa Hooley, Kaden Hostetler, Ibraheem Hussein, Addison Kauffman, Erica Lambright, Ashlyn

Martin, Jacob McCoy, Emilia Mendoza, Sage Mercer, Angela Miller, Ethan Miller, Gloria Miller, Peyton Miller, Lucas Mullet, Wyatt Murray, Keegan Norberg, Isaiah Radcliff, Kaine Reinhold, Austin Schlabach, Carver Stump, Chris Terones, Owen Weinberg, Devyn Whetstone, Kendra White, Aaron Williams, Gavin Yeip, Daniel Yoder, Kloie Yoder, Pierce Yoder, Savannah Yoder

Grade 12 Riccardo Acs, Noriah Aldhurabi, Joshua Angeles, Kristen Bender, Lilyan Bennett, Katana Bibbee, Noah Bontrager, Taylor Bryan, Antonio Candido, Breann Cory, Chayenne Diaz, Hunter Egli, Makenna Feipel, Levi Fisk, Nicola Giroldi, Kaden Grau,

Madison Grossman, Haily Halderman, Luke Hall, Kyleigh Hershberger, Ava Hostetler, Dakota Hubbard, Kaleb Iddings, Briana Kaufman, Hailey Lambright, Janell Lambright, Janissa Lehman, Jasmine Litton, Bailey Manns, Audri Martin, Lanita Mast, Miley Mast, Eden Mauck, Braxton Miller, Kaiden Miller, Katie Miller, Milan Miller, Myra Miller, Samuel Miller, Becky Moore, Lily Mullet, Majid Omer, Corra Owens, Aaron Roth, Bentley Ryall, Jayden Salisbury, Caiden Schrock, Kylie Singleton, Brett Springer, Lili Terrones, Austin Troyer, Jordynn Wasson, Jalayna Whetstone, Brylee White, Brina Williams, Alex Yoder 

Regular Honor Roll (3.0-3.499)

Westview Jr-Sr High School, 2025-2026 Quarter 1

In addition to the GPA requirements for Honor Roll, students must be enrolled in at least 5 credit hours and have no grades lower than a C-

Grade 7 Lillian Bechtel, Lydia Bloom, Joanie Bontrager, Justin Bontrager, Emmalyn England, Kinley Hershberger, Kalaya Hostetler, Derrick Martin, Ronnie Mast, Aiden Miller, Austin Miller, Gavin Miller, Heidi Miller, Kadrian Miller, Nolan Miller, Zoey Moon, Saadia Omar, Jayna Otto, Jemeila Reed, Hannah Riehl, Sovanda Schrock, Dale Siples, Adelyn Vandergriff, Obadiah Wingard, Andrew Yoder, Bryce Yoder, Darin Yoder


Grade 8 Jared Beechy, Calista Bollinger, Cayden Coleman, Marshal Houser, Ava Hufnagle, Layla Lengacher, Bently Miller, Blake Miller, Sharon Miller, Clayton Moon, Erik Moore, Avery

Myers, Abdulla Omar, Anisah Omar, Jamal Omarouf, Micah Schrock, Drayden Slabach, Adriana Stutzman, Trenton Vilardo, Skylynn Weeden, Kellan Winquist, Janae Yoder, Aubrey Young

Grade 9 Ibrahim Algaradi, Winchester Altimus, Dalton Brown, Brodee Freiwald, Zayne Geigley, Thomas Harlow, Shaylee Heintzelman, Blake Hostetler, Lucas Lambright, Spencer Lambright, Braylin Leonard, Destiny Mercer, Josiah Miller, Lance Mullet, Holden Rheinheimer, Jorge Rimola, Tanner Singleton, Alisyn Tetzloff, Malia Weaver Shaffer, Jakoby Whetstone, Bella Williams, Grady Yoder

Grade 10 Julie Christman, Cyota Ferrera, Remington Helmuth, Karson Mast, Cole Miller, Kaylee Nuzum, Alexis Riggio, Bayli Smith, Alexandria Sweet, Karla Yoder, Madalyn Yoder

Grade 11 Ibrahim Alrasheed, Hudson Bloom, Jillian Bontrager, Kayla Bontrager, Mylie Dzialak, Ryan Hunsberger, Janessa Miller, Travis Mitchell, Luke Stults, Isaac Yater, Marilyn Yoder

Grade 12 Broderick Barton, Ilias Cherif, Aiden Norberg, Kayla Yanke, Dallas Yoder, Elijah Zolman 

2025 Fall Bus Incentive Recipients

Here are your 2025 Fall Bus Incentive Recipients. Thank you all for making this happen! 📍



Westview High School - (Pictured back row, left to right) Officer Conwell, Haily Halderman, Eva Bates, Matthew Bibbee, Karen McDonald, Mason

Walz, Fisher Oakley, & Officer Flowers. (Front) Chondra Quinn, Thomas Harlow, Olivia Yoder, & Ada Chupp. Photo submitted.



Westview Junior High School - (Pictured back row, left to right) Officer Conwell, Mahweensa Marks, Leila Graber, Joshua Troyer, Heather Troyer, Andraya Lambright, Samantha Fender, Abrar Saleh, Katy Mishler, & Alayna Hochstetler.

(Front row) Tarah Hochstetler, Trentlyn Wingard, Salena Gingerich, Kari Hochstetler, Cole Stutzman, John Yoder, Jordan Yoder, & Kathy Miller. Photo submitted.

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Westview Jr./Sr. High

Parent Shadow Day

An opportunity for parents to see their children in action. ①





V BOYS BASKETBALL

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2025-2026 Varsity Boys Basketball Team: Back (left to right): Coach Chandler Prible, Daniel Yoder, Kaden Grau, Pierce Yoder, Asst. Coach Collin Barker, and C-Team Coach Mike Bowen. Middle: Asst. Coach Russ Yoder, Manager Collin Vandergriff, Brett Springer, Cooper Schwartz, Bryce Yoder, and JV Coach Austin Miller. Front: Manager Mearl Miller, Hudson Yoder, Austin Schlabach, Austin Troyer, Kaine Reinhold, and Manager Noah Cleveland.

Photo by Abby Wenger



JV BOYS BASKETBALL

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2024-2026 JV Boys Basketball Team: Back (left to right): Nicola Giroldi, Colton Knepp, Gavin Yeip, and Hudson Yoder. Middle: Bryce Yoder, Grady Yoder, Cooper Schwartz, and Coach Austin Miller. Front: Lucas Swanson, Avery Christner, Lucas Lambright, and Blake Hostetler.

Photo by Abby Wenger



V GIRLS BASKETBALL

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ALPHA
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2025-2026 Varsity Girls Basketball Team: Back (left to right): Asst. Coach Adam Christner, Gloria Miller, Morgan Grossman, Maddie Grossman, Bre Cory, and Coach Ryan Yoder. Front: Janissa Lehman, JJ Whetstone, Olivia Bontrager, Memphis Bontrager, and Graci Engle. Photo by Abby Wenger



JV GIRLS BASKETBALL

Sponsored by

EMMA WAREHOUSE

2025-2026 JV Girls Basketball Team: Back (left to right): Coach Ashya Klopfenstein, Mari Jo Mast, Faith Stump, and Katie Weimer. Middle: Tori Taylor, Kylie Mast, and Graci Engle. Front: Eva Bates, Josie Ryall, Memphis Bontrager, and Janae Yoder. Photo by Abby Wenger



V CHEER

Sponsored by



2025-2026 Varsity Cheer Team: Back (left to right): Madi Miller, Kendra White, Rylee Watson, Lilly Mullet, Brina Williams, Laine Bortner, and Sara Bontrager. Front: Hailey Lambright, Erica Lambright, Brylee White, and Kya Roose.

Photo by Abby Wenger



JV CHEER

Sponsored by



2025-2026 Junior Varsity Cheer Team: Back (left to right): Janessa Miller, and Rylee Watson. Middle: Braylin Leonard, Madi Everage, and Tenley Groves. Front: Malia Shafer Weaver, and Bryndle Bontrager.

Photo by Abby Wenger



BOYS WRESTLING

Sponsored by  FIRST STATE BANK

2025-2026 Boys Wrestling Team: Back (left to right): James Steglich, Asst. Coach Tyler Prator, Adrian Hostetler, Sage Mercer, Manager Jacob McCoy, Jarrett Dunker, and Jorge Rimola. Middle: Coach Jonathan Fennell, Chris Rauguth, Winchester Altimus, Logan Miller, Dreyke Howard, and Chloe Briggs. Front: Charlie Double, Chris Terrones, Ayden Kloth, Holden Rheinheimer, and Edward Bower.

Photo by Abby Wenger



GIRLS WRESTLING

Sponsored by 

2025-2026 Girls Wrestling Team: Front (left to right): Hope Brandenberger, Jaylynn Brown, Kylie Singleton, Destiny Mercer, Serenity Tennant, and Coach Kyle Rocky.

Photo by Abby Wenger



BOYS BASKETBALL C-TEAM

Sponsored by



2025-2026 Boys Basketball C-Team: Back (left to right): Coach Mike Bowen, Evan Roth, and Lucas Lambright. Middle: Jaxon Christner, Asher Sandquist, and Grady Yoder. Front: Jakoby Whetstone, Noah Cleveand, and Lucas Swanson.

Photo by Abby Wenger



**Treat keeper.
Chief belly rubber.
Expert ball thrower.**

When you show up for your routine screenings, you show up for them. And that might just save your life.

Find out which cancer screenings are right for you based on your age, gender, and risk factors.

[ShowUpForThem.com](https://www.ShowUpForThem.com)



 **PARKVIEW HEALTH**

WANA night OUT

*Don't miss
these sales!*

Dec. 2, 2025



Sponsored by the Shipshewana Retail Merchants Association

We've Moved! Come visit our NEW LOCATION
beside E&S Sales and Ben's Pretzels

The Dutch Kernel

Monday - Friday 10 to 5, Saturdays 10 to 4



Holiday Flavors

- Christmas Medley
- White Chocolate Peppermint
- Santa Munch
- Puppy Chow
- Red Hot
- Nutcracker Nut Mix



Coupon

**\$5 off a
\$25 purchase**

Expires: End of the 2025 year

Wana Night Out
Dec 2nd - Open 10am-8pm
15% off all bags of gourmet popcorn all day

PURCHASE \$100 OR MORE TO ENTER A DRAWING FOR CHUPP BROS. WHOLESALE MERCHANDISE
1ST PRIZE: \$500 2ND PRIZE: \$250 3RD PRIZE: \$100

2025 WANA NIGHT OUT SPECIALS

DECEMBER 2 • 9 AM - 8 PM



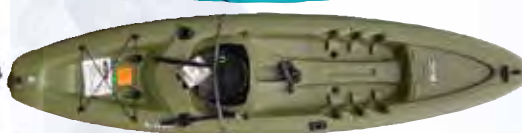
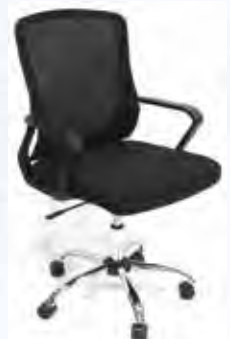
4' Table (white, solid)	39.00
6' Table (white).....	59.00
6' Table (black).....	59.00
8' Table (white).....	99.00
8' Table (black).....	119.00
4' Fold-in-Half Table.....	39.00
8' Fold-in-Half Table (white)	79.00
37" Square Fold-in-Half Card Table	39.95
Folding Chair (white).....	28.95
Folding Chair (black).....	28.95
Commercial Folding Chair (white)	32.95
Commercial Folding Chair (black)	32.95
6' Fold-in-Half Bench (white)..(pallet of 60, \$39 ea) ..	45.00
6' Folding Picnic Table, grey	169.00
6' Folding Picnic Table, brown wood grain.....	169.00
Child's Picnic Table	59.00

To place an order over the phone to pick up later, call this number the **DAY OF THE SALE! 260-768-7616**
Phone orders do not qualify for drawing.



LIFETIME 'SET' PRICING

BLACK: 6' Table & 6 Chairs	229.00
BLACK: 8' Table & 8 Chairs	349.00
BLACK: 8' Table & 8 Commercial Chairs	379.00
WHITE: 6' Table & 2 Benches.....	135.00
WHITE: 6' Table & 6 Chairs	229.00
WHITE: 8' Table & 8 Chairs	329.00
WHITE: 8' Table & 8 Commercial Chairs	369.00
WHITE: 37" Fold-in-Half Card Table & 4 Chairs ...	159.00
24" Square Table with 4 Child's Chairs	115.00
37" Square Card Table with Solid Top & 4 Chairs.	185.00



CHUPP BROTHERS Wholesale

This sale will be held at the **CHUPP AUCTION CENTER**
890 S Van Buren St (SR 5) • Shipshewana

Join us for **FREE...**
**BURGERS, CHIPS,
ROLLS & COFFEE**



Serving burgers
starting at 11:00 AM



**THERE WILL BE OTHER IN-HOUSE
SPECIALS NOT ADVERTISED!**

• HORSE & FARM ITEMS •

Shaft Loop Horse Blanket, 420 denier.....	59.00
Stall Blanket with leg straps, 420 denier.....	59.00
Turn-Out Blanket, 1200 denier.....	79.00
USA-made Waterproof Turn-Out Blanket..	CLOSE OUT ..69.00
(10) Double End Snaps, NP 3/4".....	14.00
(10) Spring Snaps, NP 3/8".....	4.95
(10) Bull Snaps, NP 4".....	17.00
Draft Halter (#5001).....	10.95
Halter, Standardbred (#5003).....	7.95
USA-made Leather Halter, Standardbred.....	24.95
7' Lead Rope with Bull Snap.....	5.95
10' Neck Rope (#5105).....	7.95
10' No-Chew Neck Rope with SS hardware.....	17.95
49" Buggy Whip (#5137).....	4.95
66" Whip.....	6.95
5.28-gallon Stainless Steel Pail.....	14.95
Heavy Duty Future Fork.....	16.95
24" Soft Bristle Push Broom with braces.....	17.95
24" Medium Bristle Push Broom with braces.....	16.95
24" Stiff Bristle Push Broom with braces.....	16.95
Fiskars #12 Aluminum Scoop Shovel.....	18.95
Seymour #12 Poly Scoop Shovel.....	26.95
10" Cast Iron Harness Hook.....	6.95
Stainless Steel Curry Comb & Brush Combo.....	6.95
Jumbo Curry Comb with plastic handle.....	4.95
4" Stainless Steel Curry Comb.....	3.95

• OUTDOOR & MISC. ITEMS •

4000 PSI Power Washer with Honda motor.....	995.00
3300 PSI Task Master Power Washer.....	225.00
48,000 BTU Patio Heater.....	159.00
8-Gun Fireproof Safe.....	350.00
Lifetime 11' Kayak with Paddle (Teal).....	259.00
Ames 6 cu.ft. Double Wheel Wheelbarrow.....	89.00
Ames 8 cu.ft. Double Wheel Wheelbarrow.....	99.00
Flex-Rake Dirt Shovel, fiberglass handle.....	13.95
Flex-Rake Garden Rake.....	13.95
Fiskar 24" Leaf Rake.....	9.95
Flexzilla 5/8" Grip Garden Hose	
25'.....	27.95
50'.....	39.95
75'.....	53.95
100'.....	69.95
Indoor/Outdoor Rugs, 6'x8'.....	39.95
NEW 9-Hole Bucket Golf Set.....	439.00
<i>Includes 8 large clubs, 2 child clubs, 12 balls</i>	
Schwinn Child Bike Cart.....	79.00
Tide Rite 5' Spinning Combo Fishing Rod.....	14.95
Trike & Trailer Set.....	149.00
Chupp Auctions Volleyball.....	9.95
Chupp Auctions Basketball.....	15.95
Chupp Auctions Kick Ball.....	4.99
Medium PonyCycle.....	189.00
Child's Wheelbarrow.....	29.95
Office Chairs, 2 styles.....	69.00
2.1-Litre Coffee Butler.....	32.50
2.5-Litre Coffee Butler.....	36.50
100% Cotton Sheet Sets, Queen or King.....	29.95
High Peak Folding Camp Chair.....	14.95
Zero Gravity Lounger.....	49.00
Child's Folding Chair.....	18.95
Light Folding Chair, metal with cushion seat.....	16.95
Heavy Folding Chair, metal with cushion seat.....	23.95

**HOT
BUYS!**



**1 DAY
ONLY!**



YODER'S SHOPPING CENTER

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2ND
3pm-8pm**

YODER'S Shipshewana Hardware

***20% off storewide
on all in-stock product**

YODER The Cotton Corner DEPARTMENT STORE

***25% off storewide
on all in-stock product**



Hoosier Banquets CAFE

20% off food & beverages

Register to win one of twenty, \$20 Gift Cards.
Discounts do not apply to previously ordered
merchandise. No rain-checks.
*some exclusions may apply

300 S Van Buren St. Shipshewana



Berkshire/E&S
Location Only
260-336-8682
250 E. Berkshire Dr.
Shipshewana, IN • 46565

Northern Nutrition HERBS & VITAMINS

Wana Night Out

20% Off Storewide

30% Off NOW &
Northern Nutrition
Brand Products
excludes MLC & Food Items

December 2, 2025

All Day Sale

8am-6:30pm



Sales Good
All Day!

20% Off Storewide

Including Sale Items

Wana Night Out
One Day Only!
December 2 2025

Store Hours:

10:00 am - 7:00 pm

420 N Van Buren St. (by the Neat Stuff Buggy)

\$20 FRAMES

Wanna Night Special!



240-768-7721
350 S Van Buren St d,
Shipshewana, IN 46555

Midwest
EYECONSULTANTS

Kids Kreationz

150 N Harrison Street • Shipshewana



8am - 8pm
Dec. 2, 2025

15% Off Storewide
In stock items only, excluding build
your own dolls and wigs.
additional 5% Off
if you pay with cash or check

Dolls, Furniture, & Accessories

260-768-7744

Mon-Sat 10am-5pm • Call For Winter Hours: Jan-March

Weaver FURNITURE SALES

Wana Night Out Specials!
20% OFF Storewide



35% OFF Gun Cabinets (IN STOCK)



25% OFF Mattress Sets

Tues Dec 2nd from 3-7 pm ONLY!
25% OFF Storewide & 35% OFF Mattresses & Wall Decor

Shipshewana
SR 5 & US 20
1/4 mile S &
1/4 mile E of
Junction 5 & 20

Also Visit us
at Davis
Mercantile!

Hours
Mon - Fri 9-5; Sat 9-4
Closed Sunday
260.768.7730

WeaverFurnitureSales.com

Wana Night Out Sale

10% OFF STOREWIDE!
DECEMBER 2

10-20% OFF E-BIKES!
TROXUS, E-DASH, MAGNUM AND SANTA MONICA




Trail Riders

NEW HOURS:
Monday - Friday • 9am - 5pm
Saturday • 9am - 12pm
Closed Sunday

Dennis Yoder
305 N. Morton St
Shipshewana, IN 46565
260-214-9210

MAGNUM ELECTRIC BIKE TROXUS SANTA MONICA E-DASH



BLUE GATE
Wana Night
SPECIALS

15% OFF

Shipshewana Furniture Co. & Traditions	Hardwood Furniture & Outdoor Furniture Everything else including clocks & décor
The Blue Gate	Retail & décor, non-food items in the Blue Gate
Craft Barn	Retail & décor

Cannot be used with other discounts. Some restrictions and limitations apply.
260.768.4725 • TheBlueGate.com

WANA NIGHT OUT • DECEMBER 2, 2025

Aunt Millie's Candy
10am-7pm
Wrapped Bulk Candy
\$5 per pound

Red Wagon
10am-7pm
20% Off Storewide

SEASONS
10am-7pm
All Christmas BOGO

260-768-7728
Davis Mercantile
3rd Floor

One Day Only All Day

Family Time Variety

Dec. 2nd
8am - 7:30pm

WANA NIGHT OUT!

15% Off Storewide All Day

SPEND \$50 OR MORE & ENTER YOUR NAME IN A DRAWING

We will be giving away **4 YARDS FREE FABRIC** every hour - MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

Any bride who orders & pays for their wedding order will receive the 15% Off Sale Price (ask for Rose to do this)

574-849-4424

★ 275 E. Main St • Shipshewana, IN • 46565 ★

glow
A Christian Bookstore

1055 S. Van Buren St. | Shipshewana
260.336.7925

Wana Night Out
9 am – 8 pm
Tuesday, December 2, 2025
One Day Only

20% Off Storewide
on all non-sale items

IN STOCK!

Available for **CHRISTMAS**

Sewing cabinets • Magabouts • Recliners



**Wana Night Out
Tuesday, Dec. 2
25% off
STOREWIDE**

Wana
Cabinets & FurnitureSM

Both stores
open
9am - 7pm



7245 W 200 N | Shipshewana | 260.768.7850 | WanaFurniture.com

WANA NIGHT OUT

Shipshewana
Popcorn Co.

Tuesday, December 2, 2025
Hours: 10a-8p

10% off 10a-4p
5% off 4p-8p
STORE WIDE

GIFTS FOR EVERYONE

- Corporate gifting
- Holiday parties
- One-stop shop for all your Christmas gifts
- 50 flavors gourmet popcorn
- Special Christmas gourmet popcorn flavors
- Christmas Fundraisers
- Nostalgic candies, In house hand dipped chocolates
- Create your own gift bags, baskets and boxes

260-293-2534

SHIPSHEWANAPOPCORN.COM

100 S. VAN BUREN ST, SHIPSHEWANA, INDIANA 46565



WANA NIGHT OUT SPECIALS

3-7 PM

\$3.00 LATTES

BUY 25.00 GIFT CARD

RECEIVE FREE LATTE



Where Healthy and Good Collide

250 E Berkshire Dr , Shipshewana

Wana Night Out

December 2, 2025 Only

15% OFF STOREWIDE

IN STOCK ITEMS

10% OFF ORDERS

SOME EXCLUSIONS MAY APPLY



7275 W 200 N
SHIPSHEWANA, IN
260-768-4140

10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

DUTCHMANLOGFURNITURE.COM

We also have a large selection of braided rugs & quilts.

Wana Night Out

One Day Only
December 2, 2025 Only
10:00am - 7:00pm

20% Off Storewide

some exclusions apply

10% Off Orange Stickered Toys
20% Off All Regular Priced Toys
December 1 - January 6
Coupon valid at Town & Country Hardware Only.

325 S Van Buren St.
Shipshewana, IN 46565
260.768.4991

WANA NIGHT OUT

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2ND

HOURS:
8am - 7pm
*Sale on in store products only

HOT DEAL!
50 lb Ground Beef
in 2 lb pkg. \$6.25/lb.
(While supplies last)

10% OFF STOREWIDE!!!

SR 5 • Shipshewana • (260)768-4715

Come in for a meal & put your name in a drawing for a free meal.






Open until
7:30 pm
December 2

Serving Breakfast and Lunch

Hours: Mon-Fri
5 am - 2 pm
Sat: 5 am - 1 pm

Open on Wana Night Out until 7:30 pm

Come try our Homemade Cinnamon Rolls! And our Home Cooked Meals!

Daily Breakfast and Lunch Specials

Every Tuesday & Friday: Mush and Tomato Gravy and Head Cheese

260-768-4589 • 260 E North Village Dr. A, Shipshewana, IN 46565



December 2, 2025

One Night Only!

WANA NIGHT OUT AT

One Night Only!

Yoder's Red Barn Shoppes

Cornucopia
www.cornucopiashipshewana.com
160 Harrison Street, Shipshewana

**WANA NIGHT OUT
DECEMBER 2, 2025
10am to 7pm
10-60% OFF
STOREWIDE**

*excludes select indoor/outdoor rugs
**Greenery 20-50% OFF
Quilts 10-50% OFF**

*SAME DISCOUNTS ALL DAY,
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST
**IN STOCK ITEMS ONLY

20% off Storewide
on regular priced items
2-8 pm

20% Off Storewide
Excludes Sale Items

1-7 pm

20% OFF STOREWIDE
Café excluded

Check Out
Yoder's Rolled Pretzels
(Free Coffee)
574-903-1033

Spend \$15 or more and spin the wheel to find your deal!
260.768.3272

260-768-7399
20% Off Purchases of \$25 Or More
(in-stock only)
2-8pm
Excludes sale items. No return for discount.

20% Off Storewide
2-6 pm

20% off Store-wide
All Day

20% Off Storewide
including sale items

10am - 7pm

25% OFF STOREWIDE

Multiple Places and Multiple Ways to Save. Stop in and shop the sales.

Wana Night Out
8:00 to 5:00

Dirt Road Fabrics
260.768.7512

Check out our offerings of discounted fabrics.

Over 210 fabric choices for \$2.95 yd

Buy a full bolt of over 100 different fabrics and you get it for \$2 a yard

Albert & Sharon Miller
260-768-7512 x1
10755 W 050 N • Middlebury, IN 46540

Davis Mercantile Stores

Wana Night Out
December 2, 2025

Specials abound with deals galore.
Shop each store for gifts and more.



See stores for specials and hours.

2nd Floor of the Davis Mercantile Building



20% OFF Storewide

Wana Night Out
One Day Only!
December 2, 2025

Sales Good All Day!
10:00 am to 7:00 pm

Lolly's Fabrics Quilts
SALE FROM 10AM - 7PM

20% OFF STOREWIDE!
SALE VALID FOR IN-STOCK ITEMS ONLY
In Davis Mercantile

Wana Night Out
December 2, 2025 Only

20% OFF STOREWIDE
in-stock only • sale from 10am - 7pm

Wana Night Out
December 2, 2025 Only

The LANG STORE
1st floor of the Davis Mercantile

Sales Good All Day! 10am - 7pm

Wana Night Out
Only on December 2, 2025

20% OFF STOREWIDE



2nd Floor of the Davis Mercantile Building



Sales Good All Day!
10:00 am to 7:00 pm

20% OFF STOREWIDE
Wana Night Out
December 2, 2025 Only

2nd Floor of the Davis Mercantile Building

in the Davis Mercantile

WANA NIGHT OUT
December 2, 2025 | 10a-7p

20% Off Storewide

In-Stock Items Only

70% Off Homespice Rugs



FARVER HOME & LEATHER



Wana Night Out
December 2, 2025 Only

20% OFF STOREWIDE - ALL DAY

Lower Level Davis Mercantile



Store Hours:
10 am - 7 pm

20% OFF STOREWIDE

115 N Harrison St. including sale items

Wana Night Out
December 2, 2025 Only

Puzzles Plus

Wana Night Out
Dec. 2 ONLY
10a-7p

20% OFF Storewide
Only for In-Stock Items

in the Davis Mercantile



SALES GOOD ALL DAY

20% Off STOREWIDE
INCLUDING SALE ITEMS

Wana Night Out
December 2nd, 2025 Only

Store Hours: 9:00 am - 8:00 pm

PH: 260-768-4290 x109
1055 S Van Buren St.



CRAFTHOUSE
Fabrics & Gifts

20% OFF STOREWIDE
WanaNightOut • 12/2 9A-7P

Upper Level of *Wana*
Cabinets & Furniture
7245 W 200 N • Shipshewana, IN
260-350-2401 • CrafthouseFabrics.com

WANA NIGHT OUT

★ **SUPER SAVER "BUCKET" SALE** ★

15% OFF ANYTHING YOU CAN FIT IN A BUCKET!

BUCKETS WILL BE PROVIDED

OPEN UNTIL 7PM

10% OFF EVERYTHING IN THE SHOWROOM!!!

WANA
FEED SERVICE INC
405 E. NORTH VILLAGE DR.
SHIPSEHWANA, IN
260-768-4567

DECEMBER 2ND 10AM-8PM

Wana Night Out

ENJOY 10% OFF EVERYTHING IN-STORE!

Excluding lumber & building materials, no gift cards, no rain checks, in-stock only

5% OFF POWER TOOLS & BATTERIES

ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN!

GRAND PRIZE:

Makita 36V 16" LXT Chainsaw Kit OR \$100 Alpha Building Center Gift Card

Milwaukee M18 Fuel 2-Pc Impact & Drill Combo Kit

DeWalt 60V FlexVolt 6.0Ah Battery 2-Pack



Shipshewana Location Only!
0855 N SR 5 Shipshewana, IN (260) 768-4410
Lumberyard & Building Materials close at 4:30pm



North Village ■ Shipshewana
One Day Only ■ December 2, 2025

Forks
County Line
Store

260-768-4931

**In Store
Specials!**

Special Store Hours

**Country
Corral
Restaurant**

260-768-4589
from 2-7:30pm(?)

Open All Day
**Come in
for a Meal
& Enter a Drawing
for a FREE Meal**

Wana Night Out
Relaxation Special

*Unlimited Massage
Bed and Sauna*

Exercise Options Also Available

\$250/yr (pre-pay)

(new customers only)

Shipshewana Fitness Center
Cardio & Strength Training in 30 Minutes

505 E North Village Dr. Shipshewana
260-768-4705

WANA NIGHT OUT ONLY

1 Day Only • December 2nd • All Day



**JOJO'S
PRETZELS**

**\$2 PRETZELS
ALL DAY LONG!
(10AM-7PM)**

ONLY ON WANA NIGHT OUT. EXCLUDES GLUTEN FREE.

**KITCHEN
CUPBOARD**

COFFEE HOUSE

**\$1 DRIP COFFEE
ALL DAY LONG!**

*Only on Wana Night Out.
Open 8am-7pm.*



Village Boutique

**QUILT SETS
\$125.00**

10 AM - 7 PM
Only on Wana Night Out

**Sarah Davis
Ltd.**

**30% Off
APPAREL**

10AM - 7 PM

Only on Wana Night Out



Located in **THE DAVIS MERCANTILE | 260.768.7759**



Wana Night Out

\$2 JUMBO PRETZELS

Ben's
soft pretzels™

3-7 pm

Shipshewana Indiana 260-768-4935





260-768-7511
1205 N STATE RD 5
SHIPSHEWANA, IN
46565

WANA NIGHT OUT
ONE DAY ONLY! • DECEMBER 2, 2025
8AM - 6:30PM

INDOOR STORE

OUTDOOR STORE

10% OFF following items **10% OFF** In Stock Items

- Roni Bags
- Wooden Toys (NEW)
- LEM Products
- Breco
- Bayou Classic
- KC Products
- Christmas Greenery
- Coffee Butlers
- Black Welder Coffee (Free Tasting)

Excluding Sheds & Cabins



No Phone Orders

WANA
night
OUT

Don't miss these sales!

Dec. 2, 2025

Harmony Harness
Wayne & Wanda Miller
10830W 050N • MIDDLEBURY, IN 46540
260-350-8885

COME SEE US AT
BEN'S SOFT PRETZEL
CONFERENCE ROOM ON
DEC 2 WANA NIGHT OUT.
1 DAY SPECIAL \$10 OFF!

HARMONY
NECK AND BACK
MASSAGER

ONLY \$219.00!

- SILICON SHIATSU NODES
- SHIATSU MASSAGE
- ROLLING MASSAGE
- AIR COMPRESSION
- SPOT CONTROLS
- SOOTHING HEAT
- VIBRATION MASSAGE
- REMOVABLE INTENSITY FLAP

TOOL BATTERY OPTION
AVAILABLE!
FOR AN
ADDITIONAL
\$40.00



CHRISTMAS IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER,
GIVE THE GIFT OF COMFORT THIS YEAR

\$15.00 FLAT RATE SHIPPING ON ALL ORDERS

NOW THROUGH THE END OF DECEMBER.

120 Volt Adapter Included

Wana Night Out

December 2, 2025

Hrs: 8am-8pm



**15% Off
Water Systems
& Filters**

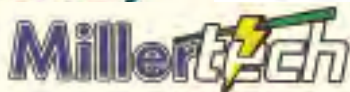
Wana Night Out Only

**15% Off
Accessories**

**\$100 Off Regular Bikes
\$200 Off E-Bikes**

In-Stock Only
Wana Night Out Only

E-Bikes



USED RENTAL BIKES FOR SALE AT DISCOUNTED PRICING!

Otto's Bicycle & Water Shop

3650 N State Rd 5 • Shipshewana, IN • 46565

260-768-7223

Earl & Edna Otto

**BURLEY
BIKE CARTS**

**NO REPAIRS
ON SALE DAYS**

Wana Night Out Specials



Where You'll Find Exceptional Savings

**Tuesday,
Dec. 2, 2025**
Specials run
all day long!



Fabrics • Shoes • Boots • Apparel

Frozen Chicken Deals.

- Honey Breaded Boneless Chicken Bites
20oz Famous Brand, Fully Cooked.....\$2.99
- Buffalo Breaded Chicken Breast Strips
20oz Famous Brand, Fully Cooked.....\$2.99
- Breaded Chicken Breast Strips
25 oz Store Brand, Fully Cooked.....\$3.49
- Chicken Breasts
40 oz, Store Brand IQF, Boneless, Skinless.....\$4.99
- Breaded Popcorn Chicken
25 oz, Store Brand Fully Cooked.....\$3.49

Grocery Dept.

- K**Homemade Style Noodles.....\$3.99/lb
- L**Chicken Flavored Soup Base With Parsley..... \$1.89/lb
- U**Flavored Melting Wafers
- B**Alpine Milk Chocolate..... \$2.49/lb
- Leman Mint Footballs.....\$4.49/lb
- Oatmeal, quick or regular.....\$0.69/lb
- Foam Lunch Trays, 125 ct, limit 4.....\$5.99
- Barrel Cheese Balls, 23 oz.....\$3.99
- Dorito's Chips, 18 oz assorted flavors.....\$4.99
- Little Debbie Swiss Rolls,2/\$4.00
- Morton's Tender Quick Meat Cure, 2lb.....\$3.99
- Always Save Saltine Crackers, 1lb.....\$1.09
- Mayo, name brand, 8oz.....\$0.69
- Salad Dressing, name brand, gallon.....\$13.99
- Salty Stix Pretzels, 3lb.....\$5.99
- Toilet Tissue, Large roll 2 ply, 6 pack.....2/\$5.00
- Dutch Blitz Playing Cards.....\$5.99
- Fresh Ground Pork, 10lb or more.....\$2.49

Stop by for **FREE**
coffee and cookies!
7:30am-7:00pm

Located at 1265 North State Road 5
Shipshewana, IN 46565
M - F 7:30am - 5:00pm • Sat. 7:30am - 3:30pm
Closed Sun.
Regular Business Hours

- 15% Off All In Stock Fabric
- 15% Off All Toys And Games
- 15% Off All Under Armour Shoes
- Extra Hot In-Store Specials
On Selected Apparel



- Twisted X Black Slip-ins.....\$75.00
- Selected Adult Black Fleece Gloves.....\$5.00
- Bird Cards.....\$1.99

**Closed Nov. 27th,
HAPPY THANKSGIVING**

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**Special Hours
Dec. 2nd Only
8am - 7pm**





Live in Topeka IN Bethlehem Walk

Join us for an outdoor, immersive experience that will transport you back to the moments leading up to the birth of Jesus. Walk through several powerful scenes that tell the true Christmas story from the Inn Keepers to the humble manger where our Savior was born. This is a free, family-friendly event for all ages!

Topeka Livestock Auction

3:00-7:00pm
December 6th

Local Congregations Participating:
Eden • Emma • Restart • Maple Grove
New Life • Topeka Christian
Refreshments by: Amish Neighbors



Happy Holidays &
Merry Christmas!

I'm praying everyone is healthy and happy. This time of year can be hard on families, and also, single people. Please check on your neighbors and friends. A little care goes a long way... your smile, or a plate of cookies or meal, may be what makes a difference in their lives. Spread Joy & Love! We could all use a reminder of the "Reason for the Season".

Don't forget, we have Topeka's first Bethlehem Walk coming up on December 6th, from 3-7:00pm at Topeka Livestock. This is our first year for this event...spread the word! We are hoping for a HUGE turnout to celebrate Jesus's birth.

Also, don't forget the Pancake Breakfast with Santa at the Topeka Fire Station, Saturday, December 13th, 8-10:00 am. This event is sponsored by Fun Festivities of Topeka, another great group giving our town exciting activities for young and old alike.

Merry Christmas!
Connie Gadson

Luke 2:12-14

"And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the Heavenly host praising God and saying 'Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth peace, good will toward men.'"

This page sponsored by




Imagine that...

Mrs. Johns Was a Christmas Bride!

By Harold D. Gingerich

All photos submitted



There are many people living in the area who attended either Topeka or Westview High School who fondly remember Mrs. Ruth Johns. She was highly respected, greatly loved and admired by all who knew her. Her life left a lasting impression on many of her students. Her character as a person and as an educator is borne out by the fact that every year since 1979, Westview High School has presented the Ruth Johns Award to an outstanding senior female athlete. But, what very few of us knew was that in 1938 Ruth was a Christmas Eve Bride, and her wedding dress was not what most of us would have expected.

Had it not been for a phone call from Ruth's grandson, Tom Johns, the story of her wedding might have simply faded into history. But when Tom and his wife Doris decided to sell the family home and move to LaGrange, there were some things that simply needed a new home. I will never forget receiving

his cellphone call and hearing Tom say, "Hey, would the historical society like to have Grandma's wedding dress?" There was not a moment of hesitation. "Of course!"

I had no idea of the shock that awaited me until Tom dropped it off at the Depot Museum in Topeka. The dress wasn't white! Are you serious? Our Mrs. Johns, the woman who always had her hair neatly rolled and who never dressed to impress, got married in a wine-red velvet dress. There had to be more to this story. And indeed, there was.

Ruth Johns was born on March 19, 1909, to Ingoldsby W. "Goldy" (1880-1968) and Clara Belle Patterson Gnagy (1878-1939). She was born on a Friday, the same day that the first American airplane-manufacturing company was formed as Glenn Curtiss partnered with Augustus M. Herring to create the Herring-Curtiss Company. In Germany, Zeppelin I, with 26 passengers on board, made the longest controlled airship flight up until that time - 90 minutes.

On April 29, 1914, Ruth's only sister Mary was born. Unfortunately, Mary suffered from a heart ailment and in her last years was confined to bed. She died on September 20, 1931.

Ruth graduated from Topeka High School in the Spring of 1927. A Baccalaureate Service was held on Sunday, April 17th and Graduation was the following Friday night. There were 13 in her class, which included Helen Gay and Mildred Smith. Unfortunately, the historical society does not have a photo of the entire class from that year.

Ruth's next stops were at Goshen College and Ball State (then known as Ball State Teachers College) where in three terms she earned a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Science degrees. Her master's degree came from the University of Iowa. Mrs. Johns always spoke fondly and with pride of her time at the University of Iowa.



HISTORICAL FEATURE

For 36 years Ruth taught business, math, and typing classes. She helped students at Topeka High School publish the Student Echo (the school newspaper) and the yearbook, and following school consolidation with Shipshewana, she continued to help Westview students with their student newspapers and yearbooks. Countless times she was the students' choice for class sponsor. If it had been up to her, Ruth would have taught for a few more years. But Westview had a mandatory age limit policy, and she was forced to retire in 1985.

Let's get back to the wedding and the wedding dress. Ruth's grandson Tom told me some of the story. She had traveled to Chicago to buy the wine-red velvet fabric for her wedding dress which she sewed herself. That in itself is amazing. It was still in the days of the Great Depression, life was hard. How did she get back and forth from Chicago? Did she drive? Did she take the train? Tom and Doris don't know. In addition to that, the Gnagy family was Mennonite. And all Mennonite dress, for men and women, was conservative in those days. One can only wonder how many eyebrows were raised and what discussions might have taken place behind closed doors. "After all, a red velvet wedding dress!" But, then again, it was Christmas Eve! But on the other hand, most Mennonites in those days didn't put up Christmas trees and other holiday decorations were kept to a minimum.

It was front page news in the December 29, 1938, edition of the Topeka Journal. But the headline which simply read, "Pretty Church Service", might not have caught the casual reader's attention. The opening paragraph read, "Miss Ruth Gnagy, daughter of Mr. and

Mrs. I. W. Gnagy, became the bride of Mr. Ward Johns, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Johns, in a wedding of simple though extremely pretty appointments of ferns and white carnations, Saturday evening at eight o'clock at the Maple Grove Mennonite Church, Rev. Edwin J. Yoder reading the marriage ceremony."

The article went on to report that, "The bride wore a beautiful wine velvet gown and carried a bouquet of regal lilies and white carnations." The couple was attended by Georgia Ellen Loucks, a former classmate of Ruth, and Leland Byler a cousin of the groom. The maid of honor wore a plum crepe dress. A mixed quartet from Goshen College also sang two numbers, "Unto God the Father" and "Oh Happy Home." Immediately following the ceremony, a reception was held at the home of the bride (which was only three houses north of the church on the east side of the street) for 75 relatives and friends. The news item concluded with, "Mr. & Mrs. Johns are now on a honeymoon trip with destination unknown and on their return will be at home with the bride's parents."

Tragically, death would strike a cruel blow on May 25, 1953, leaving Ruth a widow with a 13-year-old son (David) to raise on her own. Reporting on Ward's unexpected death, the Topeka Journal stated that, "Mr. Johns had been confined to his bed for some time with a slipped disk in his spine." The death certificate, signed by K. M. Lehman, listed the cause of death as being a cerebral embolism (a blood clot on the brain). Funeral services were held on May 29 at the Maple Grove Church in Topeka, Ind., with C. Norman Kraus and Edwin J. Yoder in charge. Burial

Pretty Church Service

Miss Ruth Gnagy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. I. W. Gnagy, became the bride of Mr. Ward Johns, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Johns, in a wedding of simple though extremely pretty appointments of ferns and white carnations, Saturday evening at eight o'clock at the Maple Grove Mennonite church. Rev. Edwin Yoder read the marriage ceremony.

The bride wore a beautiful wine velvet gown and carried a bouquet of regal lilies and white carnations.

The couple were attended by Georgia Ellen Loucks, a former room-mate of the bride, and Leland Byler, a cousin of the groom, of Goshen. The bride's maid wore a dress of plum crepe.

Lester Winger, John Freisner, Levevie Yoder and Lois Yoder of Goshen college sang two numbers, "Unto God the Father" and "Oh Happy Home." Dana Greenawalt, Nolen Hartzler and Gerald Yoder were the ushers.

Miss Gnagy is the commercial teacher in the Topeka High school.

Immediately after the ceremony a reception was held at the bride's home for seventy-five relatives and friends. Vera Hooley, Ella May Hooley, Hazel Scurock, Ida May and Maggie Yoder, Clara Christner, Marie Yoder and Wilma Miller served the guests.

Mr. and Mrs. Johns are now on a honeymoon trip with destination unknown and on their return will be at home with the bride's parents.

was in the Maple Grove Cemetery.

At the January 2018 Topeka Area Historical Society meeting which honored the life and legacy of Ruth Johns, at least one former student remembered attending that funeral. "It was just so sad; I can still see her bending over the casket saying her last 'Good-

HISTORICAL FEATURE

byes'...her grief was beyond words."

Mrs. Ruth Johns stepped into eternity on December 10, 1994, and is buried alongside her beloved husband Ward in the Maple Grove Cemetery. At the time of her death, she had one son, three grandchildren and a great-grandchild. Her son David died unexpectedly in August of 2004.

It is unfortunate that the memory of one of the most beloved teachers in the history of Topeka and Westview High School has all but faded. But for those of us who knew her and had her as a teacher, Mrs. Johns will forever hold a place in our hearts. She was the one teacher you did not want to disappoint in the classroom or in life.

Postscript:

On a personal note, in the summer of 1962 I got my permit to drive, Mrs. Johns loaded up several of us from the Maple Grove Mennonite Church youth group and took us (I was the only guy) at her own expense to Kansas for the wedding of the young pastor who was serving an internship at Maple Grove.

In those days there were no interstate highways, only two-lane roads. About six or seven hours into the trip Ruth looked at me and said, "Harold, I am so tired; you are going to have to help drive!" For a teenage guy with only a learner's permit, it was both exciting and scary. In spite of the fact that a tornado hit our motel while we were at the wedding, everything went well. I didn't wreck the car and we all lived to tell about it. However, when we got home and my mother heard about all the driving that I had done, she was horrified. As far as I was concerned, I felt rather manly!

Through the years Mrs. Johns nev-



er tired of reminding me, with a twinkle in her eye, of how I had disappointed her in typing class. She had so much confidence in me that I would make the next speed level. So, she had ordered me a 45 words per minute pin (you had to reach that speed on two speed tests as I recall), but unfortunately, I remained stuck at 40.

Personally, I'm still blaming it on those old manual typewriters; you know the ones where you had to almost beat on the keys and then physically hit the lever to return the carriage at the end of every line of type. Besides, what's the point of typing "Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their party" over and over again for three minutes just to get a typing pin that you would probably throw in



a dresser drawer and forget about until you are 78 years old. Looking back over the years, learning to type was one of the most useful things I learned in high school. And, yes, Mrs. Johns, I still hit the space bar with my left thumb instead of the right one! But thank you for always believing in me.

Merry Christmas everyone... and best wishes to all the Christmas brides!

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**“Always Essential,
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Left-Over Letters Spell Out A Message From Erika!

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

_____!

We had our first snowfall early this year! Its back to dreary rainy days again as I'm writing this, but it was lovely to have a nice snowy couple of days, though it did make my morning commute quite a bit longer.

I am glad we've got some warmer weather for a bit again, because I still have some late autumn yardwork to do! For my birthday, I got a variety of seeds for local native wildflowers, and several of them do best if they're planted in late fall. They need the natural rythm of the ground freezing and thawing over the winter, so starting them indoors for the spring involves remembering to move them in and out of the freezer, which sounds like a hassle when Mother Nature will do that for me outside! **1**

Solution on page 62.

Word Search

(find all the underlined words) by Erika Byler

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

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Mystery Farm DECEMBER 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: **December 16, 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!

SPONSORED BY:



Next Month Sponsored By: **THE CONNECTION**

LAST MONTH'S WINNERS

Floyd & Leona Beechy, 900 N, Ligonier correctly identified last issue's farm as being owned by **Elva & Velma Miller, 1050N, Wawaka.**

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 **Perry & Thelma Hochstetler, 400W, Topeka.** Third prize went to **Lavern & Velda Yoder, 700S, Topeka.**



There were 18 correct entries this month. **Others that guessed correctly were:** Dewayne & Luann Lehman, Vernon & Marlene Miller, Jaylon Ray Beachy, Leonard & Treva Beachy, Sam & JoEtta Schlabach, Harley & Loretta Miller, Daniel & Irene Yoder, Lyle & Katie Yoder, Norman & Rosanna Miller, Jesse Lambright, David H & Marlene Miller, Steven & Wanda Miller, Ernest and Mary Beechy, Harley & Mary Miller, Malinda Lambright

MORE FARMS NEEDED!

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

Please include your name and address. 1



JoJo's Pretzels[®]

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Name: _____ Age: _____

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 January. Mail submission to: LaGwana, Coloring Contest, PO Box 70, Shipshewana, IN 46565. **Entry deadline is December 16, 2025.**


Address: _____

Coloring Contest Winners

Six-year-old Melanie Rose Yoder of 450 N, Shippshewana was our winner for the November Coloring Contest. She won an ice cream treat of choice at Vanilla Bean Creamery in Topeka.

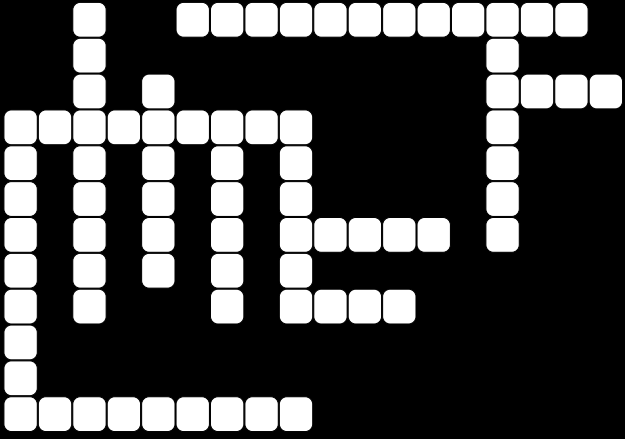
Everyone else that sent in a page can stop by Vanilla Bean Creamery for a free small ice cream cone through December.

Runners-up were Alyssa Yoder, age 6; Drew Lambright, age 5; Mason Lambright, age 4; Zechariah Farmwald, age 3; Adrian Luke Fry, age 2. Honorable Mentions: Melanie Wingard, age 6; Joshua Bontrager, age 6; Kari Yoder, age 6; Amy Miller, age 6; Bethany, age 6; and Terry Miller, age 6. Check out page 60 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. 



- Angels
- Baby Jesus
- Bethlehem
- Christmas
- Frankincense
- Gifts
- Joseph
- Manger
- Mary
- Shepherds
- Star
- Wise Men



Clueless
Crossword

Solution to Clueless
Crossword is on pg 62.
by Marsha Patrick

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

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.



Answer on page 62.



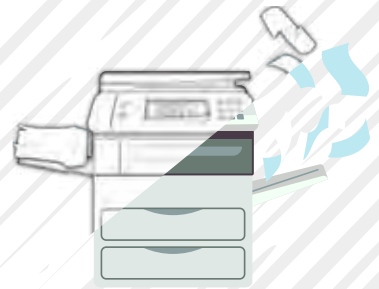
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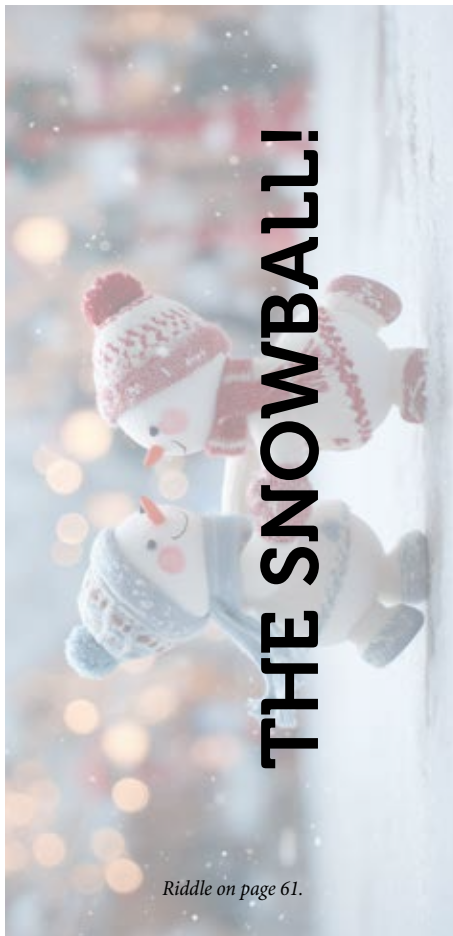
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LaGwana.com

Clueless
Crossword
Solution
By Marsha Patrick
to the puzzle on page 61.

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SAMP
BETHLEHEM
SABYD
SHEPHERDS



Riddle on page 61.

Solution to puzzle on page 59



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

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

**WISHING FOR
BLOOMS IN
SPRING!**

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Nov 21 - Dec 31 (seven days/week)

(Closed 11/27 & 12/25)

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SHIPSHEWANAS

DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING HORSE SALE

Friday, November 28th, 2025

9:00 am - Loose Horses, Driving Horses, Work Horses, Saddle Horses

9:00 am - Tack (Up to 5 Rings)
Inside Misc. Auction Building

2:00 pm - Ponies / Minis
Inside Misc. Auction Building

To pre-register your horse and secure a seller number (optional), call the Shipshewana Auction & Flea Market at 260-768-4129. Sale order spots are reserved on a first-come, first-serve basis.

