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Treasure

January 2026 • Vol. 27 Num. 1



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4

- 1) Hudson Yoder settles in, waiting for the next play.
- 2) Kaden Grau out jumps his opponent during tip-off.
- 3) Daniel Yoder takes his free throw shot.
- 4) Austin Schlabach lines up his free throw shot.

Photos by the Westview Yearbook Staff.

The Hometown Treasure January '26



- 1) Tori Taylor looks for an open teammate.
- 2) Josie Ryall gains possession of the ball despite Northridge's best efforts.
- 3) Olivia Bontrager shoots a free throw.
- 4) Memphis Bontrager makes a move to get past her Northridge opponent.
- 5) Morgan Grossman keeps the ball from her Bethany opponent.

Photos by the Westview Yearbook Staff.

The Hometown Treasure · January '26



1



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4



5

- 1) Carson Yoder passes the ball to an open teammate.
- 2) Brigham Rahn works to get past his Northridge opponent.
- 3) Weslee Steider centers himself for his free throw shot.
- 4) Gavin Miller shoots a free throw.
- 5) Kendall Mast brings the ball to the Westview half of the court.

Photos by the Westview Yearbook Staff.

The Hometown Treasure January '26



NOLIMIT TRAINING

PURPOSE - INTENTION - CONSISTENCY

New Year's 5v5 Basketball Tournament

Saturday, January 17th

@ Clinton Christian School
61763 CR 35, Goshen, IN 46528

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First Game Starts at 9am
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2026



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 Monday - Friday, 8 am-5 pm

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How Sweet It Is!

The glass was broken. The ball was in his hand. And yet, my son had no idea how the windshield got broken while he waited in the car for my return. I allowed guilt and shame to do their work in my son's soul until he finally confessed. This gave me the opportunity to extend grace to him and come up with a plan to fix the windshield together.

You see, Junior was more concerned with the repercussions than with remorse. What he didn't understand was that, although I would be upset that I now had a windshield to replace, the act wouldn't make me stop loving him. He didn't want to face the reality of his wrongdoing, so he chose to play dumb in hopes I'd be dumb enough to believe him. But he soon learned that the weight of guilt was heavier than spilling the painful truth!

I recently heard this quote from my Bible study leader. If the practice of confession is superficial, then the experience of grace will be superficial. *Genuine confession = genuine grace.* Junior confessed - I forgave. Neither act was easy to do.

Junior learned that saying, "I'm sorry," is difficult. Confession, however, is a two-way street: it frees you from guilt and allows the other person to extend grace through forgiveness. Likewise, when we confess a sin to God, He forgives and forgets. Phew!

It's not so easy to ask for forgiveness from a human, though, is it? The anti-inflammatory concoction I drink each morning doesn't taste good, but the benefits to my joints are worth it. The same is to be said of eating a slice of humble pie. It's hard to swallow, but the benefits to my soul are well worth the humility.

But what if you're on the flip side of this transaction, the one to whom someone is confessing? Well, you have an excellent opportunity to forgive and reconcile. Harder yet, what if you've been offended and the offender doesn't apologize? Well, according to this Bible


verse, we are to forgive anyway.

Ephesians 4:31-32 (NIV)

"Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger...Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you".

Because of Christ's death on the cross, I have been forgiven and set free. The gratitude of this transaction should motivate me to extend grace through forgiveness and receive grace through confession.

Unfortunately, my motivation wanes when I have been wounded by someone. I'm more apt to fret, stew, and think ill thoughts. How about you? When it comes to confession and forgiveness, relief comes only when I remember the example Jesus set for me. On a cross. On the day he extended grace and mercy to a sinner such as I. But mostly, from the grace he gives me now every time I disappoint him.

It turns out that, contrary to popular belief... revenge is not sweeter...grace is! 



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Take Control: Why Budgeting Doesn't Have to Feel Restrictive

Let's be honest: The word "budget" doesn't exactly spark joy for most people. It can feel restrictive or even generate feelings of guilt about past spending choices. But what if budgeting could feel empowering? When done right, it's simply about understanding your money and making sure it aligns with what truly matters to you.

Who needs a budget? While nearly everyone can benefit from budgeting, it's especially helpful if you're just starting out on your own, if your expenses exceed your income or if you're working toward a big goal like buying a home or retiring.

Major life changes — marriage, a new baby, a job change or even retirement itself — are also perfect times to take a fresh look at your finances.

If your spending causes you stress or you simply want clarity about where your money goes each month, budgeting can help. Here are a few tips to help get you started:

Dispense with the dread. Often, the hardest part of budgeting is just getting started. Try breaking it down into small, manageable steps, and dedicate 30 minutes a week to tracking your income and expenses. Pair budgeting with something enjoyable — a favorite coffee or a relaxing activity — to make it less of a

chore.

If you have no idea how much you spend, start by simply observing your buying habits for a few months. Review your checking and credit card accounts



Stock Photo

to see money coming in and going out. You can't change the past but you can adjust for your future.

Find your level of detail. There's no one-size-fits-all approach to budgeting. You might start by tracking just total income and expenses or by using the popular 50/30/20 rule: 50% for necessities, 30% for wants and 20% for savings and debt reduction. Some people prefer to build detailed categories for everything from groceries to entertainment, while others keep broader categories that work better for their lifestyles.

Technology can be your friend here. Budget apps and AI-enabled spreadsheets can pull information directly from your bank and credit card statements, making the process much easier.

Make it work for you. Once you've tracked your spending, look for areas to

adjust. Can you swap brand-name items for generics? Are there subscriptions you're not using? Sometimes the biggest impact comes from examining your largest expenses — housing, utilities, transportation, insurance — to find opportunities to save.

If you can't make room in your budget, you may need to revisit and reprioritize your financial goals. A financial advisor can help you understand your options and any trade-offs.

Stay on track. Check in with your

budget monthly, quarterly or annually — whatever works for you. When life changes, your budget should too. Salary increases, bonuses, new expenses or significant life events are all good reasons to review and adjust.

Above all, the goal of a budget isn't perfection. It's progress toward financial confidence and peace of mind. A good budget shouldn't limit you — it should free you to spend guilt-free on what matters while saving intentionally for your future. **1**

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

LaGrange County Library

Below are the events planned for January 2026.

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 December 24 through December 28 in observance of the Christmas Holiday** as well as **Closing early: at 5:00 December 31 & Closed: January 1 in observance of the New Year Holiday.**

Youth Interest

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

LaGrange • Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.

Shipshewana • Tuesdays at 1 p.m.

Topeka • Wednesdays at 11 a.m.

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

Makerspace (Ages 5+) (Registration not Required)

LaGrange • Wednesdays in January • 2:30-7:00 p.m. • Drop in and stay as long as you want. Parents must stay with kids 10 & under. Makerspace is a collaborative space where you can use tools and materials to create, learn and share. New special projects every week!

Lego Play (Ages 5+) (Registration not Required)

LaGrange • Thursdays in January • 2:30-7:00 p.m.

Parents must stay with children ages 10 and under. Drop in anytime between 2:30-7:00. Use our collection of Legos to create and build anything you want or to complete the challenges for the month.

Homeschool Hangout (Ages 8+ with parents)

LaGrange • Friday January 9 • 10:30-Noon Join other homeschool families for a laid-back time to hang out, play games, relax together, share ideas and make new friends.

Teen Games (Grades 6-12)

LaGrange • Monday, January 12 • 4:00-7:30 p.m. Drop in anytime and stay as long as you can. Play some larger group party type games or settle in for something longer.

Book Clubs

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

LaGrange • Monday, January 19 • 4:00-5:00 p.m.

In The Hall With A Knife by Diana Peterfreund

Come to the library in December to get your book to read and discuss in January. 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, January 20 • 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Critter Club: Amy and the Missing Puppy by Callie Barkley

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, January 20 • 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Graysen Foxx and the Treasure of Principal Redbeard by Jeffrey Scott Savage.

Come to the library in December to get your book to read and discuss in January. 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 and Table Top Roll Play Games

(TTRPG) (Grades 7-12)

LaGrange • Monday, January 26 • 4:00-7:30 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. If you enjoy TTRPG's like Dungeons & Dragons, we are going to play a one shot scenario called "Penguin Tale." We will have snacks and TV's set up to play!

Adult Interest

Walking Well-Read (All Ages) Free!

LaGrange • Mondays & Thursdays beginning January 5 • 12:00-12:30 p.m.

Come to the library for 30 minutes of cardio! We'll walk up and down stairs, around the book stacks, and through some behind-the-scenes areas. It's great exercise! Drop in and join us.

Tai Chi (All Ages) Free!

LaGrange • Mondays beginning January 5 • 11:00-11:30 a.m.

Learn Tai Chi with videos from International Tai Chi Master David Dorian Ross. These gentle workouts focus on slow movement, balance, and deep breathing.

Second Saturday Book Club (Ages 16+)

LaGrange • Saturday, January 10 • 11:00 a.m.

This month we'll discuss "The Door-to-Door Bookstore" by Carsten Henn. A charming international bestseller about an unlikely friendship between an elderly door-to-door bookseller and a nine-year-old girl that changes his life. Copies available at the LaGrange Library Adult Information Desk."

Make & Take with Deb - Alcohol Ink Pendants (Ages 12+)

LaGrange • Wednesday, January 28 • 6:00 p.m.

Participants will make 3 pendants from glass cabochons and/or washers and vibrant alcohol inks, then mount them on a necklace cord or chain. No two will be alike! Cost is \$20 per person. Register with non-refundable deposit of \$10 by January 21 at the Main Library in LaGrange.

Cookbook Club

LaGrange • Saturday, January 24 • 11:00 a.m.

This month's cookbook is "Start Here" by Sohla El-Waylly. Borrow the cookbook from the library, choose a recipe. Make it, and bring it to the Cookbook Club Carry-in! Plates, silverware, coffee and tea will be provided. Cookbook Club meets the 4th Saturday of each month.

Families welcome!

Knitting for Beginners (Ages 12+)

LaGrange • Tuesday, January 27 • 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

This class is for adults who have never knitted before. Learn how to knit, purl, cast on, and cast off. All materials will be supplied. Cost is \$5, due at class. Register by January 21, either at the library or by calling 260-463-2841 x1030.



January Events

Quilt Class

Saturday, January 17 • 9 am–3 pm

Maple Wood Nature Center
UGRR Patterns: North Star &
Log Cabin. Alternate Pattern:

Snowman

Registration is required.

Instructions are provided upon registration. Fee is \$25 (\$5 is given back to Parks). Instructors will be present to assist with your project questions. Join us for a light potluck lunch; bring a dish to pass and your own drink. To register, call the Park Office at 260-854-2225.



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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Free suicide prevention training available through Parkview LaGrange in 2026



When someone is in crisis, the people around them every day may have the best chance of noticing unusual changes in behavior or mood that could signal something is amiss – and acting quickly to prevent tragedy. Knowing what to do if you suspect a friend, loved one, co-worker or neighbor is considering suicide can empower you to help them get the support they need.

Parkview LaGrange Hospital's (PLH) team continues to offer free suicide prevention training in 2026.

Trainers teach the QPR (question, persuade, refer) technique, which equips individuals to begin the conversation with someone they think may be considering suicide. The goal of QPR classes is to save lives by providing innovative, practical and proven suicide prevention training. Just as CPR training equips the learner to provide an emergency response to someone experiencing a physical health crisis, QPR equips them to act in a mental health crisis.

Anyone 18 and older can learn QPR in a couple of hours and become prepared to recognize the signs of some-

one at risk of suicide, offer hope and connect that person to expert, compassionate care.

Learners may choose virtual or in-person classes held at PLH, 207 N. Townline Road, LaGrange.

Dates for virtual classes in 2026 are:

- Monday, Jan. 19, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Mar. 17, 4:30 – 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 27, 12:30 – 2 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 14, 4 – 5:30 p.m.
- Monday, Sept. 14, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Nov. 11, 9 – 10:30 a.m.

Dates for in-person classes at the hospital are:

- Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2:30 – 4 p.m.
- Monday, April 13, 9 – 10:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, June 16, 2:30 – 4 p.m.
- Wednesday, Aug. 12, 10 – 11:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2:30 – 4 p.m.
- Monday, Dec. 7, 9:30 – 11 a.m.

To participate in a virtual class, individuals will need to have access to a computer, tablet or smartphone with the free app Microsoft Teams. Due to the nature of the subject matter and the types of discussions that arise in the training, all participants must be

able to use a video connection that enables them to see and hear each other, and the Microsoft Teams app works well for that purpose.

Registration is required at least three days prior to the preferred training date, and capacity is limited. To register, visit the suicide prevention page at parkview.com.

For additional information, or to inquire about training for small groups, call 260-463-9270 or email leah.heaston@parkview.com. Youth classes are also available by request for children in grade 7 or higher.

Other suicide prevention resources

Do you know about steps anyone can take to connect with a mental health professional if experiencing a serious mental health crisis?

- Call the Parkview Behavioral Health HelpLine at 260-471-9440 or 800-284-8439 anytime 24/7. Experienced specialists can guide you to the appropriate level of care or resources for your situation.
- Call or text 9-8-8, the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline
- Text "IN" to 741741
- Call 2-1-1, option 3, to speak with a crisis specialist 24/7

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Tuesday 9-5 & Thursday 9-5

Avian Flu Can Be Spread by Humans

The current outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Flu (HPAI) in northern Indiana is very serious. There are now over 60 barns currently quarantined in LaGrange and Elkhart counties. It is both costly and stressful for our farm families.

While HPAI was originally brought to our area through wild birds migrating south, the virus is now being moved from farm to farm by human activity. This has been confirmed by DNA testing conducted by BOAH (the Board of Animal Health).

The virus lives in the nasal secretions and manure of infected birds. It can be spread by direct contact between birds, and indirect contact with humans, shared equipment, barn cats, dogs, wild animals, contaminated feed, water, manure on buggy wheels and bicycle tires, contaminated water and feed, even on the hooves of horses.

If we are going to stop the epidemic, we will all need to work together. Securing all poultry farms (infected or not) is very important. We need adopt biosecurity steps for months, not just while birds are on site. Even after a farm has been depopulated, the virus can live on for months.

The steps to good biosecurity include

1. Keep your distance
2. Keep it clean
3. Do not haul the disease home
4. Do not send the disease to your neighbor
5. Know the signs of sick birds
6. Report sick birds

HPAI virus has been moved from some sites by people attending events like fund raisers, weddings, church and funerals. It is not reasonable to assume these events will stop, but if the events


can be relocated to sites without birds, it may help slow the spread.

No one is suggesting church functions should be cancelled. That is an important part of our community's fabric. However, the location of church and social gatherings should probably not be at poultry farms at this time due to the risk of virus being transferred.

When visiting a farm, or coming home from town, consider spraying disinfectant on wheels, tires, even hooves before arriving at a site and before pulling back onto your property. Having a foot bath with disinfectant to step in at barn and home doors may also be useful to cleanse your shoes. Even children's shoes can have manure and virus on

them, so be sure to talk to your loved ones. A designated set of clothing for use just in the barn may be helpful also.

Do you suspect HPAI on your farm? Here are suggested places to call.

- Commercial growers: The company you work is a good place to start. They are working closely with BOAH to slow down this problem. They probably talk to the BOAH veterinarians several times a day.
- Backyard flocks: contact your local veterinarian or BOAH
- BOAH direct number is 1-866-536-7593
- Sick wild birds? Contact Indiana DNR at 812-929-0753. 

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LIFE Grants Open for Youth Educational Projects

Applications for the 2025-2026 LIFE Grants at the LaGrange County Community Foundation will open on Nov. 24. These grants support projects, programs, and curriculum that introduce educational opportunities to youth across LaGrange County. The application deadline is Jan. 5, 2026.

Applications are reviewed by the student members of LIFE, the Foundation's youth philanthropy program. LIFE Members attend one of the county's three high schools: Lakeland, Westview or Prairie Heights — or are homeschooled. Students are selected to join in ninth grade and participate in the program through their senior year.

LIFE Grants are created to help organizations make a meaningful difference in the lives of LaGrange County youth.

Funding priorities focus on youth educational projects that:


- Help students grow — supporting their academic, social, emotional, and physical development.
- Build connections — encouraging activities that strengthen relationships among youth and within the community.
- Spark new ideas — backing creative, effective educational programs that address local needs.
- Make a lasting impact — supporting achievable projects that benefit students long term.

Eligible applicants include non-profit organizations, government agencies, and public schools that serve youth in LaGrange County. Grants will not be considered for individuals, political activities, or religious instruction.

LIFE Grants also do not support general operating expenses or payments toward past debt.

Grant awards typically range from \$250 to \$500. After the application deadline, proposals are reviewed by LIFE youth members and recommended to the LCCF Board of Directors for final approval. Grant recipients will be notified in February 2026.

“LIFE Grants give our young leaders the powerful opportunity to shape their own community,” said Beth Retterbush, Scholarship and LIFE Program Manager. “Their decisions spark positive change and make a real impact on their peers.”


Organizations interested in applying or learning more are encouraged to contact Retterbush at bretterbush@lccf.net or (260) 463-4363. 

Fall Community Impact Grant Recipients



Community Health Clinic: Octavia Yoder, Executive Director of LaGrange County Community Foundation; Jaime Cunningham, Operations Director of Community Health Clinic; and Deborah Jurgielewicz, Director of Program Development & Grant Administration of Community Health Clinic. Photo submitted.



Lakeland School Corp: Octavia Yoder, Executive Director of LaGrange County Community Foundation and Cara Young, Lead CTE Instructor and Program Coordinator of Lakeland Jr/Sr High School. Photo submitted. 

Parkview LaGrange Hospital receives Performance Leadership Award for hospital quality

One of three Parkview hospitals recognized by Chartis Center for Rural Health

Parkview LaGrange Hospital was recently awarded a Performance Leadership Award by The Chartis Center for Rural Health in the quality category.

Compiled by The Chartis Center for Rural Health, the Performance Leadership Awards program recognizes the Top 25% performance among rural hospitals in quality, outcomes and/or patient perspective.

It's the fourth consecutive year Parkview LaGrange has received a quality award from Chartis, while the hospital also received an award for outcomes in 2023. Parkview LaGrange was one of three hospitals recognized by Chartis this year, with Parkview Huntington Hospital and Parkview Wabash Hospital also receiving Performance Leadership Awards for outcomes in 2025.

"We're proud to once again be recognized by the Chartis Center for the high-quality care we deliver at Parkview LaGrange Hospital," said Jordi Disler, market president, Parkview Health North. "Our physicians, nurs-

es and team members are devoted to providing excellent care close to home with the same quality, safety and experience patients can expect to find at any Parkview hospital, big or small."


The Performance Leadership Awards program is based on the results of the Chartis Rural Hospital Performance INDEX®, a comprehensive and objective framework for assessing how



rural hospitals are performing. INDEX benchmarks are relied upon by rural hospitals, health systems with rural footprints, hospital associations, and state offices of rural health to measure performance across multiple areas impacting hospital operations and finance.

Parkview LaGrange Hospital also received a Quality and Accountability Award from Vizient Inc. earlier this

year, was named one of Becker's Healthcare's Critical Access Hospitals to Know in 2024 and was recognized as one of Modern Healthcare's Best Places to Work in Healthcare. Parkview LaGrange has also received numerous top ratings through the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) in recent years for categories including most recommended hospitals, staff responsiveness, cleanliness, facility quiet and lowest rates of C. diff infection.

"Parkview remains committed to serving our rural communities with excellent hospitals like Parkview LaGrange," said Dr. Ray Dusman, president, physician and clinical enterprise, Parkview Health. "With 10 community hospitals serving northern Indiana and northwest Ohio, Parkview delivers the local care people need and want in their hometowns, while providing access to our wider regional network of doctors, specialists and services both in-person and virtually. High-quality care is never far away when you're with Parkview." 


Topeka Honors Firefighters

Members of the Topeka Volunteer Fire Department recently met to honor the service of several of their department members.

Recognized for years of service with the department were: Kevin Wright 5 years, Barry McDonald 10 years, Pat Martin 20 years, along with Stewart Bender and Kenny Miller with 25 years each.

Devon Bontrager was recog-

nized as the 2025 First Responder of the Year. Michael Turner was the recipient of the 2025 Auburn "Red" Haggard Award which is the highest award given by the department.

Officers for the coming year are: Stewart Bender, Chief; Adam Lambright, Assistant Chief; Captains Brian Miller and Devon Bontrager; and Lieutenants Barry McDonald, Harry Miller, and Michael Wingard. 



Michael Turner (Photo submitted)

Community Meets \$450,000 Matching Challenge for Hawpatch Trail, Purchases Land



Members of the LaGrange County Council, LaGrange County Commissioner, LaGrange County Community Foundation and LaGrange County Trails Board celebrate the closing on the property transfer. From left: Harold Gingerich, County Council Member; Jeff Campos, County Council Member; Peter Cook, County Commissioner; Sherryl Rhinesmith, Vice President of LaGrange County Trails; Jeff Wingstrom, President of LaGrange County Trails; Marilyn Wingstrom; Karen Eagleson, County Council Member; and Octavia Yoder, Executive Director of LaGrange County Community Foundation. Photo submitted.

The community has successfully completed the \$225,000 matching challenge for the Hawpatch Trail, unlocking a total of \$450,000 to advance early development of the project.

The LaGrange County Community Foundation received a \$750,000 matching grant through Lilly Endowment Inc.'s Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow (GIFT) Phase VIII Initiative. Guidelines allowed the Foundation to designate up to 30 percent of the grant for a community project, and Hawpatch Trail was selected as that priority. As part of this commitment, the Foundation matched all gifts to the Hawpatch Trail Fund, securing \$450,000 for early-stage development.

Phases 1 and 2 of the planned 10-mile trail in and around Topeka are expected to cost approximately \$11 million, including land acquisition. About \$3.5 million is still needed to

complete these initial phases.

"I'm thankful for everyone in our community who supported this effort and believed in the Hawpatch Trail. Their generosity is bringing this project to life and will help create a trail that offers both recreation and safer connections for our community," said Executive Director Octavia Yoder.

The Hawpatch Trail is envisioned as a 17-mile multi-use corridor connecting Wolcottville, Topeka and Millersburg, along the former Wabash Railroad corridor. The full project represents an estimated \$18 million investment.


On Nov. 26, LaGrange County Trails officially purchased 114 acres from Norfolk and Southern Railroad for \$1.1 million, securing the abandoned rail corridor that will become the backbone of the Hawpatch Trail.

The acquisition concludes five

years of negotiations and gives the organization full control to begin designing and engineering the trail system in LaGrange County.

"This is the moment we've been working toward for years," said Jeff Wingstrom, President of LaGrange County Trails. "It's the foundation for the project that will benefit the community for decades."

Securing the land marks a pivotal milestone for the Hawpatch Trail, positioning the nonprofit to transition from negotiations to active construction planning.

"This is more than a land purchase — it's an investment in the safety, health, and quality of life of our community," Wingstrom added. "We are thrilled to officially call this corridor ours and can't wait to see it come to life as the Hawpatch Trail." 

Visit Shipshewana/LaGrange County Wins Best TV Advertising Campaign at IBA Spectrum Awards



LCCVB Marketing Manager Sara Gletty, LCCVB Executive Director Sonya Nash, and Multimedia Sales Manager at Gray Media Helen Lipp. Photos submitted.

Visit Shipshewana/LaGrange County and WNDU-TV are the recipients of the Indiana Broadcasters Association (IBA) Spectrum Award for Best TV Advertising Campaign. The award is due to the collaborative partnership in creating captivating commercials inviting visitors to “Craft Your Experience” at the Heart of Amish Country.

The winning promotional campaign blended engaging visuals, compelling storytelling, and a deep understanding of Shipshewana’s brand. Delivering a powerful message, each invited audiences to visit Shipshewana and spend days immersing themselves in Amish Country by escaping the busy city life and putting away the phone.


“It is an honor to be presented this award alongside the incredible team at

WNDU-TV,” said Sonya Nash, executive director of the Shipshewana/LaGrange County CVB. “When visitors come to Shipshewana, they’ll discover authentic small-town hospitality — from Amish crafters, cozy places to rest, and homemade food. There is always something new to experience at the Heart of Amish Country.”

By collaborating with WNDU-TV and providing valuable insights into their brand and target audience, LCCVB members contributed to the development and success of the campaign. The partnership between both parties exemplifies the power of teamwork and creativity in achieving marketing excellence.

“We’re humbled to receive this recognition from the Indiana Broad-

casters Association,” said Helen Lipp, sales manager with WNDU-TV. “We’re honored to help share the exceptional experiences, welcoming spirit, and truly one-of-a-kind attractions that make Shipshewana so special. This award for Best TV Advertising Campaign reflects the heart of our community and the memorable moments visitors discover here.”

To experience Shipshewana for yourself, head to visitshipshewana.org to explore the Heart of Amish Country, request your free travel guide, and book your stay. It’s time to unplug and unwind in a place where Hoosier Hospitality shines bright and time seems to slow down. 


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first service
8:30
second service
10:45
BEGINNING JANUARY 4, 2026



- 1 Oliver Eash
- 2 Joshua Bontrager, Austin Hilty, Eli Raber, Seth Slabach, Zachary Yoder
- 3 Lucas Hershberger, Halle Stutzman
- 4 Olivia Everage, Brooklynn McDonald
- 5 Aaron Riehl, Adrian Riehl
- 8 Elijah Flores, Brandon Miller, Isaiah Schrock, Sadie Yoder
- 9 Josh Beechy, Gage Miller, Joel Yoder
- 10 Abraham Bechtal, Rahaf Hussein, Kaleb Knepp, Kaylee Marner
- 11 Allen Bontrager, Hadley Keim, Miciah Slabach
- 12 Shawn Miller, Sam Omar
- 13 Roarke Brohm, Krystal Troyer, Zayne Yoder
- 14 Jaxsen Chastain, Cordelia Crabill Amelia Gray
- 15 Abdulrahman Algeradi, Larion Mullet, Reagan Wilson
- 16 Brian Bontrager, Kinsley Klingaman, Erika Miller, Kara Miller, Valerie Miller, Garrett Schmidt, Caleb Yoder
- 18 Grant Bontrager, Audrey Lambright
- 19 Ember Beechy, Brody Cranor



Notice For Kindergarten Enrollment

If your child will be 5 years old by August 1, 2026, and is not pre-enrolled, the pre-enrollment steps for kindergarten are as follows:

1. Contact school of residence to obtain a pre-enrollment form

Shipshewana	768-4158
Topeka	593-2897
Meadowview	768-7702

Out of district parents should contact the school that you wish to enroll your child at.

2. Return enrollment form to the school as soon as possible
3. Parents will receive a SEEK Screening schedule in the Spring
4. SEEK Screening will be at the student's school of residence near the end of the 26-27 school year.

- 20 Logan Bontrager
- 21 Lachelle Bontrager, Gabriel Miller, Kyla Miller, Rieker Schrock, Jeneva Yoder
- 22 Daxton Smith, Brock Stout, Adleigh Withrow
- 23 Bristol Brandenberger, Ellisynn Hamm, Natalie Stutzman
- 24 Brogan Howard, Karena Miller, Aria Wickey, Estelle Zabona
- 25 Savannah Bontrager, Corbin Jeczala, Curtis Plank, Nicole Miller, Melanie Wingard
- 26 Asher Eash, Quinley McDonald, Noah Stickler, Kielynn Warrener
- 27 Lilly Miller, Mason Miller
- 28 Adra Miller, Emilia Reeder
- 29 Amanda Bontrager, Drew Bontrager, Brenda Carmona, Aydon Eudy, Sophia King, Ryder-Ryan Miller, Averie Stutzman, Janessa Yoder, Malia Yoder
- 30 Phoenix Bond
- 31 Martin Jones, Austin Miller, Elijah Yoder, Justin Yoder

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Charlie Brown Thanksgiving

Second graders at Meadowview gathered together to enjoy a special Thanksgiving filled with laughter, creativity, and treats! Students had a wonderful time celebrating a Charlie Brown Thanksgiving and being grateful to make such fun memories with our 2nd grade friends. 🍂



This page made possible by the



Meadowview Elementary

Home of the Mustangs



Back Row (left to right) : Seth Yoder (3rd), Leon Hershberger (4th), Heidi Bornrtreger (4th), Ethan Waterman (4th). Middle Row: Harper Raber (2nd), Aiden Eutsey (2nd), Ruth Helmuth (3rd), Landry Lambright (3rd), Heidi Miller (3rd). Front Row: Gracelyn Wingard (K), Corben Yoder (K), Lainey Giles (1st), Dean Selleck (1st), Owen Frey (1st). Not Pictured: Jillian Schlabach (3rd). Photo submitted.

★ 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 November of the 2025-2026 school year. Go Mustangs! 📌



All photos submitted

Arrest These Merry Gentlemen Program

Here are pictures from our 3rd and 4th grade Christmas Program "Arrest These Merry Gentlemen." Mrs. Metzler, our music teacher, put on a wonderful show! 📸



All photos submitted

This page made possible by the



Shipshe-Scott Elementary Home of the Scotties



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Arrest These Merry Gentlemen

The Christmas Program was a hit! Mrs. Leatherman with the help of retired teacher Mrs. Kramer led our third and fourth grade students in the performance of Arrest These Merry Gentlemen. They practiced for weeks. They performed for the school. And all of this culminated in an evening performance for family and friends. It was an amazing way to kick off the holiday season! 📌



This page made possible by the



Topeka Elementary

The Hometown Treasure · January '26

All photos submitted
Home of the Bears



Christmas Kindness

TES first graders are learning a very valuable lesson that the best gifts are not purchased, but are acts of kindness. They are working on filling this Christmas tree with ornaments that they receive from random acts of kindness. 📌



PTO Chicken Dinner



Topeka had our annual PTO Chicken Dinner. Mrs. Brassell's class earned a pizza party for the most chickens sold. They enjoyed their hard work! 📌



Running Businesses

Students in Mr. Stump's class had a hands-on experience with economics by running their own businesses between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Selling a variety of good and gifts, the students had great support from the other classes. In a competitive spirit, the girls and boys

challenged each other to see which group could raise the most money to help families in need. Students pictured include Arianna Lehman, Ava Bontrager, Averie Stutzman, Emmery Spencer, Jack Stemm, Grant Bontrager, and Maverick Geigley. 📍

Building Snowmen

5th grade students from Westview Elementary enjoyed building snowmen during recess. 📍



This page made possible by the




Westview Elementary

Home of the Warriors




Glow Basketball

Students from Westview Elementary ended their basketball tournament in PE with a fun game of Glow Basketball! 



All photos submitted

Listening Maps

5th graders enjoyed creating a listening map using playdough while listening to “In the Hall of the Mountain King”. They figured out the form and important elements in the song. 



All photos submitted

FFA Welding Team

Congratulations to the Westview FFA Welding Teams who competed at the District 3 FFA Welding Contest on Saturday, November 22nd! Our students demonstrated outstanding skill, professionalism, and dedication throughout both the written exam and the hands-on welding portions of the contest.

Beginner Division

- Karson Mast & Wyatt Murray : Placed in the Top 5
- Keegan Norberg & Keegan Hershberger : Placed in the Top 15

Advanced Division

- Cole Miller & Remington Helmuth : Placed in the Top 15

We are incredibly proud of the hard work these students put into preparing for this contest, from practicing their arc welds and vertical fillets to studying for the welding knowledge exam. Their commitment to safety, technique, and teamwork truly represents the values of the Westview FFA Chapter.

A big thank you to Caleb from Rock Run Industries for sharing your expertise and helping prepare our students before the contest.

Great job, welders! 📌

This page made possible by



Westview Jr./Sr. High




Westview Theatre

On November 22nd, Westview Theatre was one of eight schools competing at the Huntington University Theatre Regional. Westview presented *And the Crew Plays On...* by Lauren Grove, and placed 2nd, earning a slot at the state level competition in January

at the Indiana Thespians State Conference. This is a three day event held at Avon High School, January 23rd-25th.

On January 22, 2026, at 7:00pm we will be presenting our competition show for the public at Westview's Wilson Auditorium. Admission will be by

donation, and all proceeds will go to help offset the students' cost for the conference and lodging for the weekend. Come see a fun comedy and cheer on these students as they prepare to compete against 10 other schools from all over Indiana. 



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All photos submitted

“Don’t Touch That Dial, It’s Time For”

By Harold D. Gingerich

For many of us who grew up in the 1940s and ‘50s just hearing the words “Don’t Touch that Dial”, brings back a smile. We know what is coming next on the radio. Dagwood Bumstead (played by Arthur Lake is about to yell “BLONDIE....!” and the fun is about to begin. We also remember who lived at 79 Wistful Vista. That was the home of Fibber McGee & Molly and their verbose neighbor, Gildersleeve, spouting his iconic line, “You’re a hard man McGee.” And when the announcer said, “What evil lurks in the hearts

of men...”, we would say with all the mystery a pre-adolescent boy could muster, “The Shadow knows.” While we didn’t know their faces, we certainly recognized their voices as they came through the radio.

One hundred years ago, every evening, millions of families gathered around the radio. It was a simpler time. In the 1920s and early ‘30s there was no television or social media as we know it today, just a simple AM radio whose crackling signal often faded in and out. For those of us who were

born before 1950, radio dramas and serials triggered our imagination and sense of wonder. We were mesmerized by the adventures of the Lone Ranger, The Shadow, and cops shows like Boston Blackie, Richard Diamond, and Gangbusters! Radio was our window to the world. But there was one program, first aired on January 12, 1926, that would become one of the most popular radio shows in America.

Radio as we know it today traces its history to Guglielmo Marconi. It was Marconi who first patented the

HISTORICAL FEATURE

technology to send a wireless telegram in 1895. The technology was improved by scientists at the Thomas Edison General Electric laboratories to enable the transmission of audio waves. Initially used to transmit military information, the radio quickly became a primary source of entertainment and news for Americans.

KDKA (1020 AM) in Pittsburgh, PA, is credited with being the first commercially licensed radio station. Owned by the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company and based on the work of Westinghouse engineer Dr. Frank Conrad, KDKA began broadcasting on November 2, 1920. In 1921 they were the first to broadcast a live boxing match and a major league baseball game.

KDKA's success demonstrated the potential of radio as a mass medium, leading to the creation of over 600 commercial radio stations nationwide and eventually prompting the government to create the Federal Radio Commission in 1927 to manage the airwaves.

The growth of radio's popularity was nothing short of dramatic. In 1923 only 1% of American households owned a radio. By 1926, there were five million radio receivers in use. By the 1930's, approximately 40% of U.S. households had a radio. That number would swell to over 90% by 1940. Keep in mind that this was happening during the Great Depression when people were simply trying to survive.

Monday evening, November 15, 1926, was landmark moment in the history of radio. The National Broad-

casting Company made its debut from the New York's Waldorf-Astoria Hotel with a four-and-a-half-hour gala featuring the leading musical and comedy acts of the day. The broadcast linked stations across the East Coast and as far west as Kansas City. The audience is said to have been 2.5 million listeners. That single event marked the birth of the first radio network.

Earlier in that same year, on Tuesday, January 12th, a two-man comedy series called Sam 'n' Henry hit the airwaves on Chicago's WGN radio station. When someone from the Chicago Tribune saw Freeman Gosden and Charles Correll's vaudeville act in blackface, they suggested that they create a radio show. The creative genius of Gosden and Correll fascinated their Midwest listeners. The two men wrote and produced 586 episodes. They also provided all the voices for their characters. Both Gosden and Correll were white, but the characters they played were black men from the deep South who had moved to



HISTORICAL FEATURE

Chicago to seek their fortunes.

Today, performing in dark stage makeup, “blackface”, is racist and totally unacceptable; but 100 years ago, it was totally acceptable. In fact, the American theater had a long tradition of such performances.

By 1927 Sam ‘n’ Henry had become so popular that Gosden and Correll tried to convince WGN to record the program on to phonograph records to distribution to other radio stations. When WGN rejected the idea, Gosden and Correll quit the show and the station.

In March of 1928, they introduced the world to Amos ‘n’ Andy featuring characters Amos Jones (Gosden), Andrew Hogg Brown (Correll), and George “Kingfish” Stevens (Gosden) on rival Chicago station WMAQ. Many of the story lines involved Kingfish trying to rope Andy into “get rich quick” schemes.

The radio show was widely popular, running from 1928 until 1960. From 1951 to 1953, the show was on television with black actors playing the roles of Amos and Andy. But it was the radio show that most people remember.

Amos ‘n’ Andy was the first radio program to be syndicated. By 1931, the program had become a national sensation with nearly 40 million listeners. It is said that movie theaters were forced to stop their feature film each night to pipe in the 15-minute radio show for their audiences. While Amos ‘n’ Andy holds a special place in the history of radio, the show’s humor did contribute to stereotyping and racism in America.

As a boy in Oregon, I remember my mother listening to Blondie. The radio sitcom, which ran from 1939 to

1950, was based on the long-running Chic Young comic strip by the same name. It starred Arthur Lake as Dagwood Bumstead and Penny Singleton as his wife Blondie. I remember Mom taking me to the Oregon State Fair in Salem to see Dagwood and Blondie in person.

Another one of Mom’s favorites was One Man’s Family. This radio soap opera was heard for nearly three decades, from 1932 until 1959. The term “soap opera” was coined because most of these day-time dramas were sponsored by soap companies.


The brainchild of Carlton E. Morse, a former San Francisco journalist, the serial reflected his belief that the family was the primary source of moral and spiritual strength. The saga of One Man’s Family followed the Barbours family who lived in the shadow of the Golden Gate Bridge. Father Henry, Mother Fanny, and their children Paul, Hazel, Claudia, Clifford and Jack struggled with the typical family matters and the tensions that arise between the generations. Over the show’s 27 years on air, the Barbours aged, got married, went to war, watched their children and grandchildren grow up, and all the while bewildered by their offspring. It was a typical soap opera - you could go for a couple of weeks without listening, but know immediately what was going on when you started listening again. One Man’s Family was inducted to the Radio Hall of Fame in 1995.

While I grew up glued to AM radio listening to radio programs and baseball games that I could pull in from Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, and sometimes New York, there was one program (which is still being

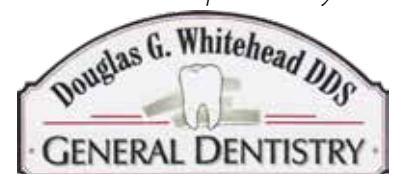
produced) that stands out in my mind. It’s called Unshackled, produced by Pacific Garden Mission in Chicago. As a boy, I had the privilege of sitting in the studio audience when one of the programs was being recorded. I also sang at Pacific Garden Mission when I was so small that I needed to stand on a chair behind the pulpit. But that’s a story for another time.

The Unshackled radio program first aired under the leadership of Pacific Garden Mission’s Superintendent Harry Saulniker in September of 1950. The script was written by John Gilleis, who worked at radio station WMBI (Moody Bible Institute) in Chicago. Clear channel giant WGN agreed to air the first program that told the life of the famous Chicago baseball player, Billy Sunday, who had become a Christian evangelist.

Most young people today have no concept of the joys of playing with the radio dial to seek what stations you could pull in. But we remember. Fortunately thanks to our smartphones, we still have access to podcasts of many of these classic programs.

By the way for all of you AM radio junkies like me, on most clear nights after 9 o’clock you can pull in ZUMA radio (AM 740) out of Toronto and enjoy an old-time radio program. 

This article sponsored by





Welcome January,

A time for cuddle puddles, sleds, snowball fights and new beginnings! Praying you all had a joyful, magical Christmas. Most of us welcomed the time to rest and enjoy family and friends, but don't forget to thank the ones that worked through many of those days. Police/Fire/EMS/doctors, teachers, restaurant workers, road crews, stores, banks, gas stations, etc.. The list goes on and on.

There's not a lot happening this month. I plan on enjoying this "slow time". Spring will be soon enough...and that means busy days ahead!

I do love the snow, especially when the sun shines on it and reflects like jewels. Since my desk at work is right inside the front entrance, I get to watch the scenery throughout each season. It is so beautiful when we have snowy days and it comes down in big, fluffy flakes. It's like I'm inside a snow globe. (If only the temperature didn't drop below freezing).

Get plenty of rest and please be careful on the snow & ice.

Sincerely,

Connie Gadson

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Left-Over Letters Spell Out A Message From Erika!

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Well its a new year, and time for new beginnings! I've never done any New Year's Resolutions. I like to think that you can start building a new habit at any time of year, and sometimes starting that process in the middle of August or late March, or really just any old time, can remove a lot of the pressure that comes with a New Year's Resolution.

It is nice to start new journeys with the new year. This year I'm anticipating new challenges for myself, as I take on a couple of new roles here at LaGwana: Publications Manager and Web Designer.

I'm nervous and excited all at once! Above all, I'm thankful for the knowledgable team I will be joining and the support I'm sure I will receive from them. **i** Solution on page 43.

Word Search

(find all the underlined words) by Erika Byler

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

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A PERSONALIZED CALL TO ACTION FOR YOUR BUSINESS

Mystery Farm JANUARY CONTEST

OVER \$50 WORTH OF PRIZES!

1st Prize: **The Connection**, Topeka, 1 Year Subscription, a pen, notepad set, a letter opener, and a copy of *The 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 25\$ Gift Certificate to *Tiffany's Restaurant* and more!
- 5) Correct entries listed in our next issue!

LAST MONTH'S WINNERS

Ezra & Mary Ellen Yoder, 425 N, Shipshewana correctly identified last issue's farm as being owned by **Marion & Miriam Miller, 8740W**

SR 120, Shipshewana Congratulations! They won a 1 Year Subscription from *The Connection*, a pen, a notepad set, a letter opener, and a copy of *The Way I See It* from LaGwana. Second prize went to **Floyd & Fannie Mae Farmwald SR 120, Shipshewana** Third prize went to **John & Mary Ellen Yoder, 650 N, Shipshewana**.



There were 32 correct entries this month. **Others that guessed correctly were:** Raymond & Dora Wingard, Christie Lambright, Leroy & Karen Miller, Laura & Leland Graber, Elva & Velma Miller, Dan & Lisa Beechy, Devon & Velda Yoder, Merlin & Lizzie Miller, David & Esther Miller, David H & Marlene Miller, Larry & Betty Nisley, David & Nettie Petersheim, Myron & Retha Schlabach, Leonard & Becky Schwartz, Lynette Hochstetler, Freeman & Katie Miller, Nicole Bontrager, Allen Eash, Darin & Eva Beechy, Wilma Marie Miller, Christy & Diane Miller, Wayne & Katie Bontrager, Kenneth & Carolyn Yoder, Dean & Erma Bontrager, Nate & Geneva Miller, Nate & Lisa Lehman, Kevin & Ruth Yoder, Darren & Joyce Eash, Al & Leanna Fry

MORE FARMS NEEDED!

The Hometown Treasure · January '26

Please mail to:

Hometown Treasure - Mystery Farm,
 P.O. Box 70,
 Shipshewana, IN 46565.

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

SPONSORED BY:
THE CONNECTION
 2465 N 850 W P.O. Box 603
 Shipshewana, IN 46565 Topeka, IN 46571

Next Month Sponsored by: *Tiffany's*

Tiffany's

414 E. Lake Street
Topeka, IN 46571
260-593-2988



Name: _____ Age: _____

Coloring Contest: kids age 6 and younger. Sponsored by Tiffany's in Topeka this month! Winner gets a FREE ICE CREAM TREAT OF CHOICE at Tiffany's. The Winning Drawings will be on display. ALL PARTICIPANTS claim your drawing for A FREE ICE-CREAM CONE at Tiffany's in February. Mail submission to: LaGwana, Coloring Contest, PO Box 70, Shipshewana, IN 46565. **Entry deadline is January 20, 2026.**


Address: _____

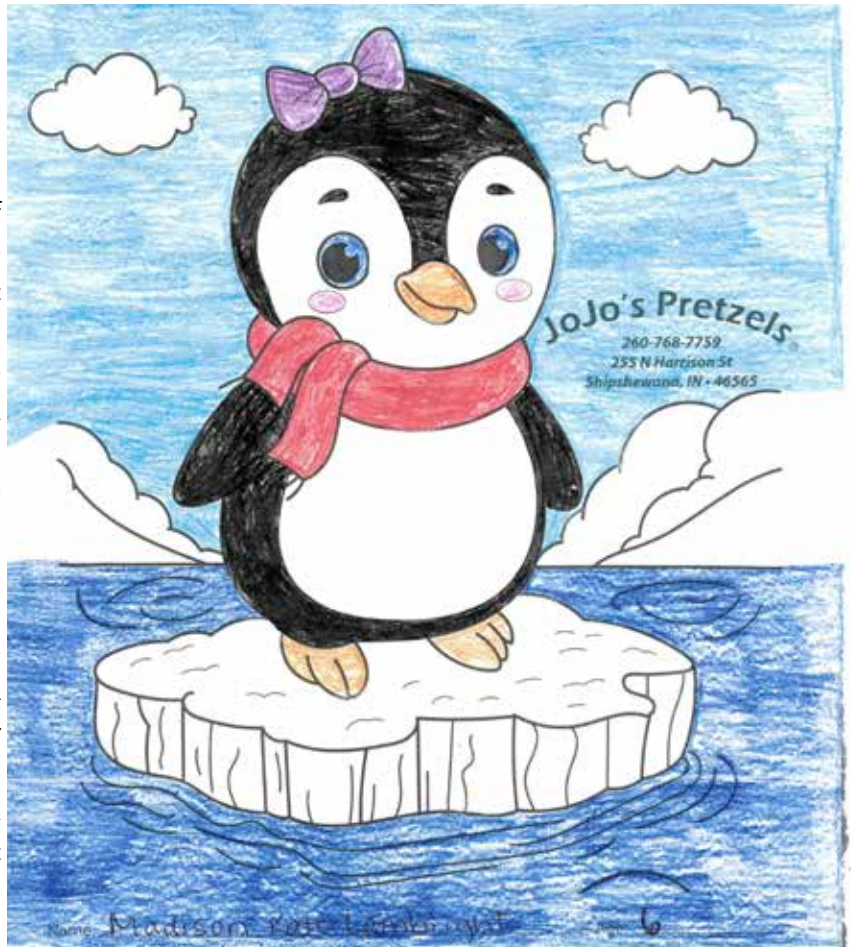
Coloring Contest Winners

Six-year-old Madison Kate Lambright of 250N, Shipshewana was our winner for the December Coloring Contest. She won a pretzel at JoJo's Pretzels in Shipshewana.

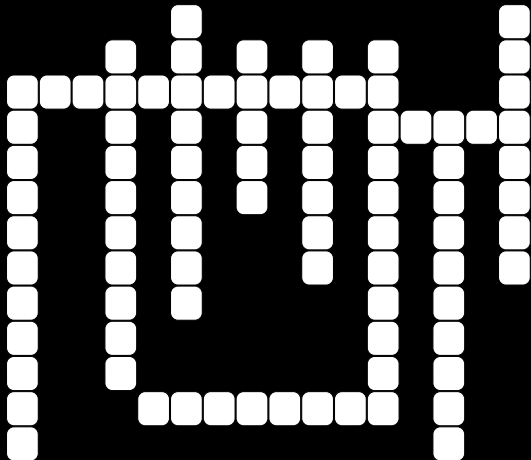
Everyone else that sent in a page can stop by JoJo's Pretzels for a free pretzel through January.

Runners-up were Seth Yoder, age 6; Jenna Alyse Bontrager, age 5; Ashley Yoder, age 4; Julia Hostetler, age 3; Madelyn Yoder, age 2. Honorable Mentions: Janie Hochstetler, age 6; Haley Barkman, age 6; Sadie Yoder, age 5; Emmie Brown, age 6; Piper Lambright, age 6; and Jordon Lambright, age 5. Check out page 40 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. 



- Blankets
- Boots
- Diets
- Exercising
- Hibernation
- Hot Chocolate
- Ice Skating
- New Year
- Resolutions
- Sledding
- Snowsuits



Clueless Crossword

Solution to Clueless
Crossword is on pg 43.
by Marsha Patrick

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

WHAT DO SNOWMEN EAT FOR BREAKFAST?



Answer on page 43.

Want a different way to advertise?

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

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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/>