

The

May 2026 • Vol. 27 Num. 5

Hometown Treasure



The Battle of Shipshewana - Revisited



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- 1) Issac Drake is mid rotation during his turn in the shot put event.
- 2) Tyler Stutzman clears his pole vault attempt.
- 3) Noah Bontrager leads the way to a first place finish in the mile race.
- 4) Evan Beechy keeps up a steady pace.

*Photos by the Westview Yearbook Staff
The Hometown Treasure · May '26*



- 1) Hailey Lambright competes in her leg of the relay.
- 2) Marilyn Yoder receives the baton during the relay exchange.
- 3) Jordynn Wasson keeps firm hold of the baton during her leg of the relay.

Photos by the Westview Yearbook Staff

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The Hometown Treasure

A Monthly Publication by
LaGwana Circulation: 6,200

Serving the towns of Shipshewana, Topeka, &
 the entire Westview School Corporation since 2000.

Mail: P.O. Box 70, Shipshewana, IN 46565
 Located at the SE corner of 250N & 850W
 Just west of Shipshewana

Phone: 260-463-4901 • Fax: 260-463-7257
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You may call or stop by during office hours:
 Monday - Friday, 8 am-5 pm

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Size	width x height	Rate
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or (Horizontal)	4 ⁷ / ₈ " x 2 ³ / ₈ "	
1/3 page (Vertical)	2 ³ / ₈ " x 9 ⁷ / ₈ "	\$160
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1/2 page	7 ³ / ₈ " x 4 ⁷ / ₈ "	\$225
2/3 page	4 ⁷ / ₈ " x 9 ⁷ / ₈ "	\$300
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Call for details! **260-463-4901**

Or email htads@lagwana.com

Other sponsorships available. Call for details.

— ADVERTISING INFORMATION —

Deadline for June 2026 Issue:

12 noon, Tuesday, May 19

Thursday, May 14 if you need a proof.

June Issue Date is Tuesday, May 26.

— SUBSCRIPTION RATE —

One Year: \$35

The Hometown Treasure reserves the right to not print any
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Photo Submitted



Photo Submitted

Avian Influenza: Staying Safe



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:

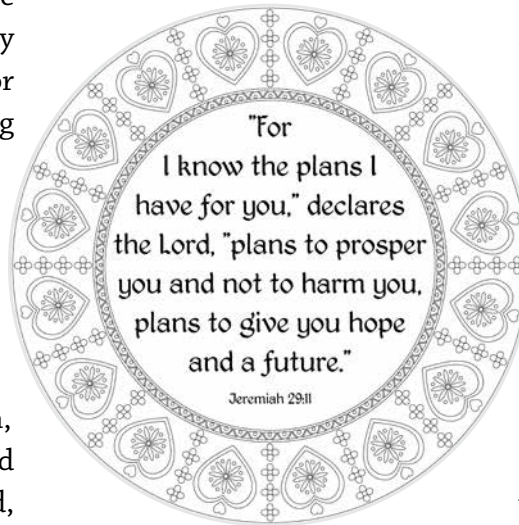
- Indiana Department of Health - Avian Influenza: https://www.in.gov/health/idepd/respiratory-disease/influenza/avian-influenza/#How_are_avian_influenza_viruses_spread
- DNR - Avian Flu (Bird Flu): <https://www.in.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/wildlife-resources/wildlife-diseases-in-indiana/avian-flu-bird-flu/>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

What's That Noise?

My two young grandsons are famous for saying, "What's that noise?" They are acutely aware of every sound around them. The whirring of the furnace, the icemaker, the scratch of the wreath on my front door. All those things that I am accustomed to hearing every day are new to them when they visit. I spend a lot of time explaining various sounds in my house that I otherwise take for granted. Sometimes, their young ears hear sounds that my old ears don't hear. And then I'm forced to listen more intently to see if I can pick up on what has piqued their curiosity.

In 1 Kings 19, the Lord appeared to the prophet Elijah, who was discouraged and needed to hear God's voice. The Lord said, "Go stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." On the mountain, Elijah experienced a powerful wind, an earthquake, and a fire, but the Lord was not in any of them. After these events, a gentle whisper came. When Elijah heard the still small voice, he recognized it was the Lord. He covered his face with his cloak and waited for the Lord to speak.

Have you ever stood amid a personal storm, received earth-shattering news, or been engulfed in the fire of fear? I have, more than once. In the whirlwind moments of my life, I find myself straining to hear God's voice. What are you trying to say to me, Lord? What lesson am I supposed to learn in



this? Sometimes it feels like he's not speaking at all. I desperately want him to speak as loudly and come as swiftly as the storm that rages in my soul.

Just as he came quietly to Elijah after chaos, he often comes quietly to me, as well. Is he there, weathering those storms with me? Yes, He is! Yet I'm often so distracted by the noise that I can't

hear His voice saying, "Peace, be still." Only when I give him my full attention is His voice no longer muffled by calamity.

Later in the passage, once God had Elijah's full attention, he divulged his plan: people were appointed, a remnant of Israel would be reserved, and someone would take over the reins for Elijah so he could rest. Elijah had cried out in discouragement, and the Lord heard and answered. Have you ever stood back in awe, after a trying time, and marveled at the plans the Lord had for you all along? He always speaks; we just need to listen!

Like my grandsons, I hope to be more aware of the sounds around me—especially my Father when He speaks in His still small voice. What's that noise? It's the voice of the One who has a plan for my life. A plan to prosper me and not harm me. A plan to give me hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11).

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening. 🙏

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Topeka 3rd & 4th of July

3 - ON - 3 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Friday, July 3, 2026

Check-in/Registration: 7:15-7:45 am

Games start at approximately 8 am.

Team Name _____
(not a player's name)

Team Captain _____

Phone _____ Ext _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Division: Boys Girls

Ages: 10 - 12 13 - 15 16 - 18

Open Division *(no age groups)*

CAPTAIN Age _____
(as of July 3)

Shirt Size *(all adult sizes):*

S M L XL

Player 2 Name _____ Age _____
(as of July 3)

S M L XL

Player 3 Name _____ Age _____
(as of July 3)

S M L XL

Player 4 Name _____ Age _____
(as of July 3)

S M L XL

Teams limited to 4 players. All games will have referees. (Their decisions are final!) Trophies will be awarded for first and second place teams in each division. Tournament is double elimination. Must be at least three entries in a given division for competition to take place. Each team to pay \$60 student/\$75 open division entry fee with registration.

Cash Prizes

STARTS AT APPROX. 2 PM

For anyone over 18 who still wants to play.

OPEN DIVISION: Teams limited to 4 players, can be over 18 (but don't HAVE to be). **Deadline is 12 o'clock noon**, games start at approx. 2.



T-Shirts for everybody!

All games will have refs!

Trophies will be awarded to 1st and 2nd place teams in student divisions. Also, top two teams in 16 - 18 division may play in the open division FREE!

Entry Deadline June 12, 2026

Student Division \$60

Open Division \$75

Make checks payable to LaGwana.

Send completed form and entry fee to:

LaGwana, PO Box 70
Shipshewana, IN 46565
phone: 260-768-7878

You can also fill out the registration form online at:

<https://lagwana.com/events/>

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You may Email: _____
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Four Estate Planning Myths That Could Cost Your Family

Consider this scenario: A teacher of 30 years and mother of three passes away at age 58. She leaves behind a modest home, a retirement account and cherished family heirlooms – but no estate plan. Her children, still grieving, find themselves navigating a confusing probate process, disagreeing about when to sell the house and considering who gets their grandmother’s ring.

This mom wasn’t wealthy by most measures, but her lack of planning created confusion, conflict and uncertainty at a time when her family needed clarity. Her story reminds us of an important truth:

estate planning is about easing conflict and making sure what you have goes where you want it to go.

As you think about your own legacy, consider these myths that can lead to costly mistakes and unintended outcomes.

Myth 1: Estate planning is only for wealthy people. The desire to make things easier for loved ones has nothing to do with net worth. Formally documenting your wishes reduces the burden on family members and gives you control. Without a plan, your state’s laws will decide how your estate is handled, and you may not like what those laws say.

Myth 2: Having a will is all you need. While a will is important, it

only takes effect after death. That means it offers no protection if you become incapacitated and cannot make decisions for yourself. It does, however, allow you to name legal guardians for dependent children.



The foundation of most estate plans includes a will (which directs asset distribution), a financial power of attorney (for financial decisions), a health care power of attorney (for medical decisions), and a medical directive (to share your end of life wishes). While not everyone needs a trust, there are several that allow you to make special provisions, such as for minor children, a special needs family member or even a cherished pet. Consulting with a financial advisor and an estate planning attorney can help determine the right combination based on your situation.

Myth 3: Equal distribution is always fair. It’s likely that the individuals in your estate plan,

especially if they are adult children, have different family and financial situations. You may have one child who’s extremely successful financially while another is struggling. Or you may have assets, such as a house or ownership of a family business, that are more suitable for one beneficiary than another. It’s important to consider any unique circumstances as you develop your estate plan.

Myth 4: I can set it and forget it. You’ll want to review your estate plan every few years or when a major life event occurs. Life is full of changes, such as marriages, divorces, new children and relocations, and they will likely impact your goals. Reviewing your plan helps keep everything aligned with your wishes and serves as a reminder to keep your beneficiaries on all your assets up to date.

Ultimately, estate planning is about helping ensure your voice is heard and your loved ones cared for, no matter what the future holds. 📌

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 May 2026.

Please call the LaGrange library for further information.

Find more information at www.lagrange.lib.in.us or call 260-463-2841.

Facebook Page - m.facebook.com/lagrangelibraryindiana

Shipshewana Branch

250 Depot St. • 260-768-7444

M - F • 11:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.

Saturday • 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

LaGrange County Public Library

203 West Spring Street • 260-463-2841

M - Th • 9:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m.

Friday • 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Saturday • 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Topeka Branch

133 North Main Street • 260-593-3030

M - F • 11:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.

Saturday • 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

All library locations will be CLOSED on Monday, May 25 in observance of Memorial Day.

Youth Interest

Preschool Story Time (Ages 0-5) Theme: Alphabet: Letters I, J, K

LaGrange • Tuesdays • 10:30 a.m.

Shipshewana • Tuesdays • 11:00 a.m.

Topeka • Wednesdays • 11:00 a.m.

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

Makerspace AND Lego Play (Ages 5+) Registration not required

LaGrange • Wednesdays and Thursdays in May • 2:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Drop in and stay as long as you want in posted hours. Makerspace is a collaborative space where you can use tools and materials to create, learn and share. New special projects every week! AND we will have all of our Legos out to build what you want or complete the monthly challenge. Parents must stay with children ages 10 and under.

Homeschool Hangout & Curriculum Swap: (All Ages)

Registration not required

LaGrange • Friday, May 8 • 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. We will have tables available for you to bring any curriculum books you no longer want. You decide if you want to trade, give away, or sell. Call Tiffany at 260-463-2841 with questions.

Teen Games (Grades 6-12)

LaGrange • Monday, May 11 • 4:00–7:30 p.m.

Drop in any time, stay as long as you can. Play some larger group party type games or play something longer. Free Pizza and water provided!

Book Clubs

Books & Banter Book Club: (Grade 7-12)

LaGrange • Monday, May 18 • 4:00-5:00 p.m. Discussing: *The Forgotten Five: Map of Flames* by Lisa McMann. Come to the library in April to get your book to read and discuss in May. At each meeting we will discuss the book we read for this month and do a fun activity or craft related to the story.

Book Buddies Book Club: (Grade 1-3)

LaGrange • Tuesday, May 19 • 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Reading: *Owl Diaries: Eva's Treetop Festival* by Rebecca Elliot. 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)

LaGrange • Tuesday, May 19 • 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Discussing: *Wild Robot* by Peter Brown. Come to the library in April to get your book to read and discuss in May. At each meeting we will discuss the book we read this month and do a fun activity or craft related to the story.

Teen Video Games and Table Top Roll Play Games (TTRPG) (Grades 7-12)

NOT MEETING THIS MONTH - CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY

Adult Interest

Culinary Adventures: Horrocks Farm Market, Battle Creek

Friday, May 8 • Depart via Green Bus Charter from the LaGrange Co.

Library at 10:00 a.m., return 3:30 p.m.

Cost: \$10, due at registration. Registration deadline: May 1. Shop for fresh produce, garden plants, deli foods, pizza, sushi, gourmet coffee, cheese, craft beer, gourmet popcorn, specialty oil & vinegar, and more - all in one place! Whether you love to cook, garden, or just eat well, you won't want to miss this opportunity

Second Saturday Book Club (Ages 16+)

LaGrange • Saturday, May 9 • 11:00 a.m.

This month we'll discuss "*Tress of the Emerald Sea*" by Brandon Sanderson. The only life Tress has known on her island home in an emerald-green ocean has been a simple one, with pleasures of collecting cups brought by sailors from faraway lands and listening to stories told by her friend Charlie. But when his father takes him on a voyage to find a bride and disaster strikes, Tress must stow away on a ship and seek the Sorceress of the deadly Midnight Sea. Copies available at the LaGrange Library Adult Information Desk."

Patchwork Trails - LaGrange Co. Historical Society Museum (All Ages)

109 S High St, LaGrange, IN • Tuesday, May 19 • 6:00 p.m.

Explore local landscapes, landmarks, and history with knowledgeable guides!

Free. No registration required. All ages welcome.

Archi-Trek: Coldwater, Part 1 (Ages 12+)

Depart & Return: LaGrange Co. Public Library

Thursday, May 21 • Depart: 8:30 am - Return 5:00 pm

This crossroads, within easy reach of Chicago, Detroit, Kalamazoo, Battle Creek, and more, still shows architectural influences of the boom eras of Michigan's economy. Cost \$12 per person, Must register at LaGrange or call 260-463-2841 x1030 as space is very limited. pay online at eventbrite.com, or by cash or check at the LaGrange Main Library (payable to Green Bus Tours)

Cookbook Club (Families Welcome)

LaGrange • Saturday, May 23 • 11:00 am

This month's cookbook is "*Dinner for Everyone*" by Mark Bittman. Check out the cookbook of the month at the LaGrange Adult Services desk. 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.

Make & Take - Crushed Glass & Resin Seascape (Ages 12+)

LaGrange • Wednesday, May 27 • 6:00 p.m. • Cost: \$28 per person

Participants will choose from 4 different styles to make a striking scene with crushed colored glass, shells, starfish and more. All supplies included. Samples on display at Main Library in LaGrange. Register with a non-refundable \$15 deposit by May 20 at LaGrange Library.

Coming in October!

Explore the nation's capital in our 250th year on a 6-Day Motorcoach Trip to Washington D.C. & Gettysburg!

Complete information available at the Library or watch for details!

Summer Reading is Coming Soon!

Early sign-up starts May 18 and special summer programs start June 1. First day to turn in your reading log and get a prize is June 10. Join us as we "Unearth a Story" this summer!

May Events

Quilt Class

Saturday, May 16 • 9 am–3 pm
Maple Wood Nature Center

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

Join us for some fun as we start our Disappearing Four Patch pattern. Registration is required. Instructions are provided upon registration. Instructors will be available during class to answer questions and offer guidance. To register, call Julia 260-367-1449 or Ira 260-463-1438.

Sewing Group

Wednesday, May 27 • 9:30 am–3:30 pm
Maple Wood Nature Center

Fee: \$5 donation for Parks

What is a UFO? If you said Unfinished Object—this sewing group is for you! This gathering is open to everyone. Bring your sewing machine and work on a project while getting help, sharing ideas, and connecting with fellow sewing enthusiasts. Please bring a sack lunch and a snack to share. RSVP with Linda Grobis at 260-351-3609.

Every Park Every Trail

Saturday, May 2 • 9 am
Delt Church Park

6455 S 200 W, Wolcottville, IN

The walk will begin at 9 am at the East River Pavilion. Trail maps may be found at the trailhead, on the LaGrange County Parks website, or on the AllTrails App. It is free to participate. Walk at your own pace; For more information, visit the Parks website at www.lagrangecountyparks.org or call 260-854-2225.

Patchwork Trails

Tuesday, May 19 • 6 pm • Dallas Lake Park
Patchwork Trails combines exercise, education, friendship, and fun. Each walk will showcase seasonal beauty unique to each property.



Butterfly Monitoring Training

Indoor Training: May 7 • 6 am–9 pm •
Maple Wood Nature Center

Outdoor Training: June 7 • 1 pm–4 pm •
Pine Knob Park

Hosted by John Brittenham of Blue Heron Ministries. Registration deadline: May 4. Register with John: johnbrittenham@gmail.com or 260-242-2759. All levels of experience welcome. Full details, visit our website. lagrangecountyparks.org.

Bird Photography Outdoor session

Outdoor Session: May 9 • 9 am–12 pm •
Delt Church Park

Join us for a guided bird photography walk. Discover the beauty of native birds as we explore the trails and learn how to capture stunning images right in our own backyards. So, whether you're a beginner or a hobby photographer, this session will help you: Spot & identify local bird species, learn simple camera tips for outdoor photography, use lighting & natural backgrounds to enhance your shots, practice techniques while walking the park trails. Bring your camera (DSLR, mirrorless, or smartphone welcome!) and enjoy a relaxing morning or nature, learning, and creativity.

Canvas & Mocktails

May 22 • 5 pm–8 pm • Maple Wood
Unwind in a beautiful natural setting while creating your own masterpiece! Join us at Maple Wood for a guided painting experience paired with handcrafted, alcohol-free mocktails. Cost is \$35/person. Call the Parks office to reserve your spot.

Summer Adventures Await

Call or email us today to reserve a spot 260-854-2225, parks@lagrangecounty.in.gov.

By Gone Days

June 8–12 • 9 am–3pm Daily • \$50

David Rogers Memorial Park

Step back in time at By-Gone Days at David Rogers Park, where **1 to 5 graders** experience history through hands-on activities, old-fashioned games, and simple fun from days gone by.

Adventure Bound

June 15–19 • 9 am–3pm • \$75

Send your **6 to 9 grader** to Adventure Bound at Dallas Lake Park—packed with hands-on outdoor fun! Explore nature, dive into all things outdoors, make new friends, and head out on exciting field trips nearly every day.

Nature Bound I

June 22–26 • 9 am–3pm Daily • \$50

Nature Bound I Summer Camp for **Grades 1–3** offers playful outdoor exploration, simple nature activities, and lots of hands-on fun designed just for curious little learners at Dallas Lake Park.

Nature Bound II

July 13–17 • 9 am–3pm Daily • \$50

Nature Bound II Summer Camp for **grades 3–5** offers hands-on outdoor exploration, engaging nature challenges, and plenty of active fun that builds confidence and curiosity at Dallas Lake Park.


Nature Bound III

July 20–24 • 9 am–3pm Daily • \$50

Nature Bound III Summer Camp for **grades 6–8** challenges campers to explore the outdoors, build leadership skills, and connect with nature through active, hands-on adventures at Dallas Lake Park.

Conservation Bound

July 27–31 • 9 am–3pm Daily • \$50


Conservation Camp at Pine Knob Park, for **grades 6–9** empowers youth to protect the outdoors through hands-on projects, outdoor skills, and meaningful conservation experiences. 

LaGrange de Lafayette Chapter, Inc. NSDAR Announces DAR Good Citizen Award



Sharla Thompson, Lydia Jacobson and Maureen Bartow. (Photo submitted)

The LaGrange de Lafayette Chapter, Inc., National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, announces the recipients of the annual DAR Good Citizen Award. Natalie Booth representing Prairie Heights, Lanita Sue Mast representing Westview, and Lydia Jacobson representing Lakeland are high school seniors recognized for their service, leadership, and patriotism in their homes, schools, and communities.

On March 21, 2026, the LaGrange de Lafayette Chapter hosted a luncheon in their honor. Lydia Jacobson, daughter of Nick and Crystal Jacobson, shared her winning essay with the chapter and was presented with her certificate and pin. Lydia will be attending Wellesley College in Boston to major in architecture. 

LaGrange de Lafayette Chapter Daughters of American Revolution Donation




Photo submitted

On March 21, 2026, Mark Thompson presented LaGrange de Lafayette Chapter, Inc. NSDAR with a \$1,000 donation check from Farmers Mutual Insurance & Wayne Insurance Group in support of the Chapters community projects. (attach photo of Mark and Maureen)

If you are interested in learning more about DAR membership, contact darlagrange@gmail.com or visit us on Facebook.

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is a women's service organization whose

members can trace their lineage to an individual who contributed to securing American independence during the Revolutionary War. Today's DAR is dynamic and diverse, with over 185,000 members in 3,000 chapters in the United States and abroad. DAR members annually provide millions of hours of volunteer service to their local communities across the country and world. DAR chapters participate in projects to promote historic preservation, education, and patriotism. Over one million members have joined the organization since its founding in 1890. 

LaGrange County Chamber & CVB Launch “Tourism Month” Initiative to Encourage Locals to Explore Their Own Backyard

The LaGrange County Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the LaGrange County Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB), is proud to announce a joint initiative celebrating National Tourism Week by extending the excitement throughout the entire month of May.

This county-wide campaign invites residents to become tourists in their own backyard. The goal is simple: encourage locals to rediscover LaGrange County by visiting attractions, supporting businesses, and experiencing the community from a fresh perspective.

LaGrange County welcomes more than 3.5 million visitors each year, making tourism a vital part of our local economy. This initiative is designed to help residents better understand what draws so many people here, while also rediscovering the experiences available right at home.

At the heart of this initiative is a “Love Local, LaGrange County” message. We want residents to not only support local businesses, but to truly see

what makes our community worth the visit. From unique shops and restaurants to local attractions and hidden gems, this campaign is about reminding our own residents of everything that makes LaGrange County special.

“Tourism isn’t just about bringing visitors into our community. It’s about recognizing and appreciating what we have right here,” said representatives from the Chamber and CVB. “We want residents to slow down, explore, and maybe even visit places they’ve never been before.”

Throughout the month, participating businesses across LaGrange County will offer exclusive discounts and experiences specifically for local residents and employees. By simply showing proof of residency or employment within the county, participants can unlock special offers at a variety of locations, from restaurants and retail shops to lodging and attractions.

The initiative not only highlights the unique experiences available throughout LaGrange County, but also reinforces the importance of support-

ing local businesses. By driving foot traffic and encouraging exploration, the campaign aims to strengthen connections between residents and the local economy.

This partnership between the Chamber and CVB reflects a shared commitment to community pride, economic vitality, and collaboration. By working together, both organizations hope to create a lasting impact that extends well beyond the month of May.

Residents are encouraged to visit participating locations, take advantage of exclusive offers, and share their experiences throughout the month.

For a full list of participating businesses and offers, visit www.lagrangechamber.org/tourismweek or www.visitshipshewana.org/tourismweek, or follow the LaGrange County Chamber of Commerce and CVB on social media for updates.

Join us this May and experience LaGrange County in a whole new way..



Shipshewana Area Historical Society


The Shipshewana Area Historical Society (SAHS) will have the seasonal opening of the Farver School Museum on Friday, May 1, and Saturday, May 2, from 1-3 p.m.

The museum, located across from the Shipshewana Post Office, will be open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays throughout the summer months from 1-3 p.m. Tours can be scheduled during the summer months by contacting Sha-

ron Bowen at (260) 768-4777.

The first public meeting of the year will take place on Monday, May 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the Farver School Museum. Everyone is welcome to attend. Harold Gingerich, historian, of the Topeka Historical Society, will present a program on the “The Music of Our Lives”. Eight decades of music from Popular Music to Christian Music and the culture that helped to shape them.

Kate Smith in the 50’s, Frank Sinatra, and Jazz singers.

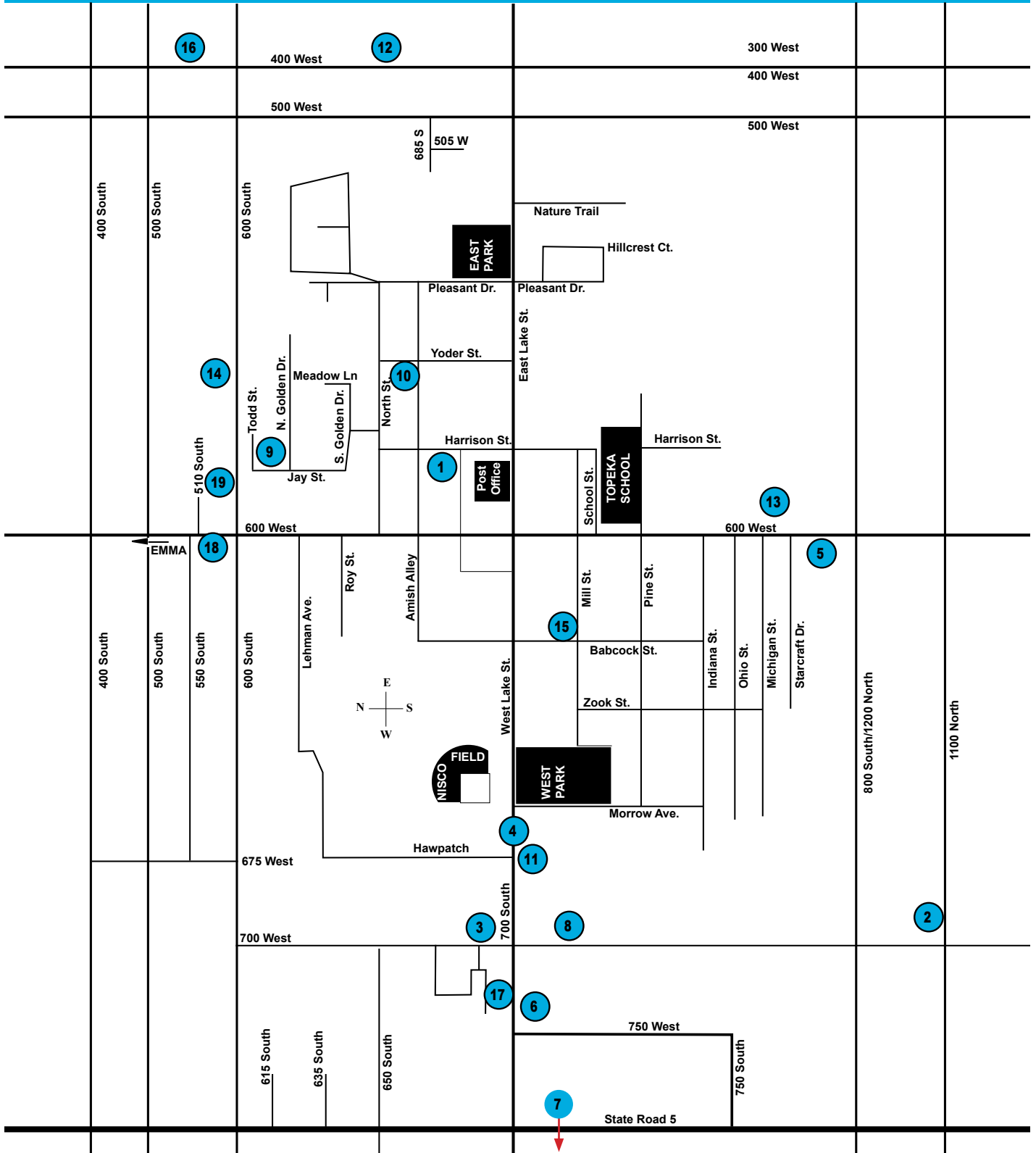
We will also hold bi-monthly public meetings this summer on the 3rd Monday in May, July, and September, along with our annual meeting in October. The museum is located at 315N Morton St., Shipshewana, IN 46565. Please note that SAHS will not be selling chicken this summer. 

Topeka

Annual Townwide Spring Garage Sale

May 7, 8 & 9, 2026

Sponsored by:
The Hometown Treasure



1. Kathy Graber, 213 N Harrison St.
2. John & Leona Troyer, 11322N 700W, Huge 10 Family! Men's items, tools, children and adult clothing, baby items, furniture, new alum. screen door! Tons of other stuff! Also Breakfast wraps, sandwiches, fries and drinks.
3. Gary & Doretta Miller, 6845S 700W, Storage Units, no early sales. Open at 8:00 Thurs.
4. Orva Lehman, 503 W Lake St, Multi Family. 7000 eu Honda Generator. 2 gliders, quilt material, books lots of stuff.
5. James & Edna Whetstone, 715S Main St, Multi family Garage Sale, May 7-9, Love Seat, Dining Room Table, 32" world lawn mower, old doors, chalk board, girls & ladies dresses, Lots and lots of misc.
6. LaVern & Ruth Yoder, 1843 W Lake St, Thursday & Saturday only, youth dresses, children's shoes, lots of misc items. Opens 7:00am
7. Vern Mast, 7285S 900W, Ligonier
8. Lyle & Jolene Beechy, 7105S 700W.
9. Dawn Gangwer, 514 Jay St. Books, luggage, Tupperware, Electric snowblower, Pampered Chef, sewing supplies, antique glassware.
10. Gene & Cindy Hartman, 215 Yoder St. Many items as usual. Large and small women's clothes XS-XXL, very good shoes and purses, 2018 Samsung notebook, Samsung Galaxy A15 cell phone, nerf guns.
11. Matthew & Jolene Frey, 515 W Lake St. Multi Storage Unit Garage Sale, Some clothes, shoes, cassette tape, two older cameras, jewelry, wooden high chair, and lots of misc.
12. Mike & Emma Weaver, 6450 S 400 W
13. Vernon Yoders, Kenlin Yoders, Larry Hochstetlers, 615 S Main St, 2 Bacchetta Bikes, decor, shirts, antique chest of drawers, tools, high chair, baby swing, kids shoes & clothes, buggy robe, tiller, Lots More!!
14. Jeanne Becker, 5455W 600S.
15. Lea Parks, 126 W Mill St.
16. Kevin & Elaine Mullet, 5760S 400W, New load of overstock from Target. Come check it out! Open 7:30 - 4:00 May 7 & 8, Open May 9 from 7:30 - 1:00.
17. Sabrina Miller, 7080W 685S. Clothes, shoes, furniture, home goods, decor, purses, Nike Dunks, TV, puzzles, platform bed.
18. Kevin & Marla Hochstetler, 5700S 600W. Multi-family, baby items, home decor, kitchen, lots of misc. Come check it out! Thursday and Friday only.
19. David & Linda Miller, 5925W 600S.

Noble County Master Gardeners Announce Annual Plant Sale

Noble County Master Gardeners announce their annual flower and plant sale on May 9, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. in Floral Hall on the Noble County Fairgrounds, 580 Fair Street, Kendallville.


Noble County Master Gardeners are individuals trained in the foundational scientific aspects of gardening, and volunteer to provide educational

programs, public service and demonstration gardens to residents of Noble County. The group conducts the plant sale each year so they can use the proceeds to provide scholarships to local young people and for educational programming throughout the county.

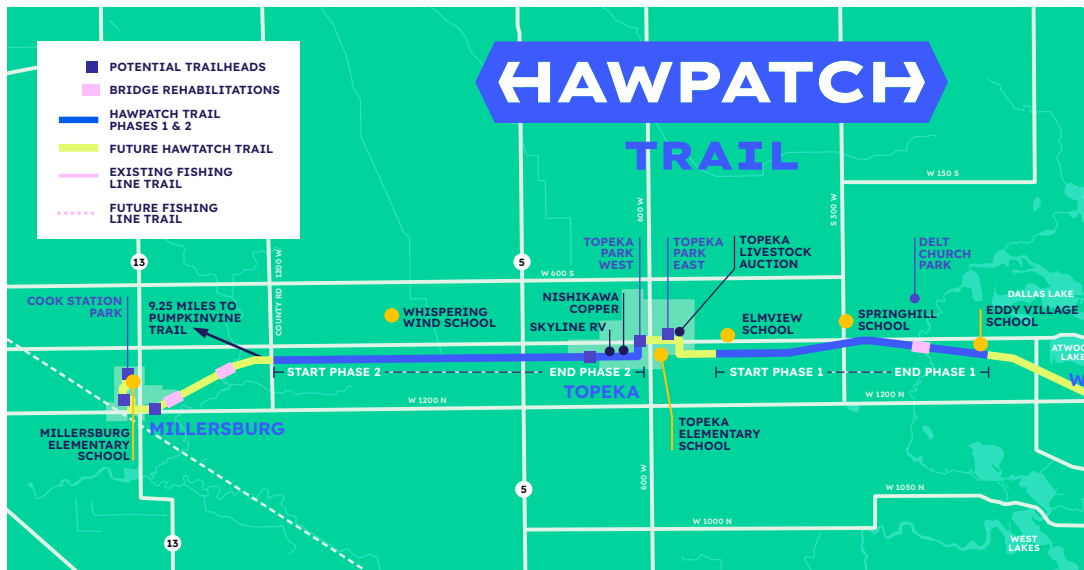
Available inventory will vary from year to year, but interested persons are encouraged to arrive early for best se-

lection. The group will accept payment by cash or check, no credit or debit cards.

Items that may be available include annual flowers, perennial plants, vegetables bedding plants, herbs and other surprises.

For more information, call Purdue Extension in Noble County at 260-636-2111. 

Hawpatch Trail



LaGrange County has a strong affinity for all things historic, home-grown and handmade. From our distinctive heritage to our residents' commitments to their crafts, to our serene and scenic surroundings, and beyond—life takes on a slower pace.

For nearly 90 years, the railroad connected these uniquely LaGrange County experiences to others across the region. Today, that same rail has a renewed purpose—reconnecting our past with our present by offering a safe path for work, recreation and more.

Built upon one of LaGrange County's historic rail lines, the Hawpatch Trail is essential, high-quality infrastructure that will provide a safe and reliable path for bicyclists between Wolcottville, Topeka, Millersburg and beyond—increasing opportunities for health, well-being and recreation for LaGrange County residents and visitors.

The 17-mile trail creates a safe path away from the main roads used by semi-trucks, box trucks and farm vehicles. For many residents—especially within the Amish community—bicycling is a primary mode of transportation, yet narrow rural roads can pose

serious safety risks. The Hawpatch Trail addresses this need while expanding opportunities for health, recreation and well-being for residents, workers, families and visitors.

By reactivating a historic rail line, the trail honors local heritage, fosters community pride, and lays the foundation for regional growth. As it connects to trail systems in Noble and Elkhart Counties, the Hawpatch Trail will support workforce mobility and help drive long-term economic growth.

Who Is the Trail For?

It's for Residents For many LaGrange County residents—especially within the Amish community—bicycling is a primary form of transportation. The Hawpatch Trail will provide a safe, reliable alternative to narrow, heavily trafficked roads, improving quality of life and offering new ways to explore the county.


It's for Visitors The Hawpatch Trail offers visitors a scenic, safe way to explore LaGrange County at their own pace. With convenient connections to neighboring county trails, visitors can easily access uniquely local experiences—from discovering historic towns

and shopping small businesses to enjoying lakes, parks and the county's natural beauty.

It's for Workers The Hawpatch Trail will offer a dependable transportation option for employees commuting by bicycle between Wolcottville, Topeka, Millersburg and nearby communities.

It's for the Economy By connecting to regional trail systems, the Hawpatch Trail will support workforce development, strengthen property values, and catalyze future development and collaboration, boosting economic growth across our region.

Donate Now

Your donation helps move the Hawpatch Trail forward—from planning and development to long-term maintenance and impact. You can make a donation to the Hawpatch Trail Fund online - see QR code, or send a check to LaGrange County Community Foundation, 0045N 250 W LaGrange, IN 46761. 



Scan to donate or visit LaGrangeCountyTrails.org/donations.

Academy of Country Music Nominates Blue Gate Theatre for Theater of the Year

Shipshewana's Blue Gate Theatre has been nominated for Theater of the Year by the Academy of Country Music (ACM). Announced today for the 61st ACM Awards, the nomination places the Blue Gate Theatre alongside iconic venues like the Grand Ole Opry, Ryman Auditorium, and other storied stages across the country.

This marks the second ACM nomination for the Blue Gate Theatre, further solidifying its growing reputation as one of the premier mid-sized venues in the nation.

Owner Ryan Riegsecker shared his thoughts on the honor: "We're passionate about creating amazing experiences, and we have the privilege of working with some of the most talented artists and teams in the world. To be recognized by our peers in the ACM is incredibly humbling and truly an honor for our entire team."

Located in the heart of Indiana's Amish Country, the Blue Gate Theatre has become a top destination for live entertainment. Guests can enjoy hundreds of performances each year, including the impressive lineup of country artists such as Lady A, Trace Adkins, Alison Krauss & Union Station, Little Big Town, Sara Evans,

Sawyer Brown, Dwight Yoakam, Ricky Skaggs, Kameron Marlowe, Terri Clark, and many more. The 1,500-seat venue is also known for its extensive collection of artist memorabilia displayed throughout the theatre—pieces collected from performers who have taken the stage over the years.


ACM's Theater of the Year Nominations:

- Blue Gate Theatre - Shipshewana, IN
- Grand Ole Opry House - Nashville, TN
- State Theatre - Portland, ME
- The Franklin Theatre - Franklin, TN
- Ryman Auditorium - Nashville, TN

"We're incredibly honored to receive this nomination, and to be recognized for a second time makes it even

more special. This wouldn't be possible without our amazing guests, community, and the incredible team here at the Blue Gate who work tirelessly to bring it all to life every day," said Blue Gate Hospitality VP of Sales & Marketing Andrew Rohrer.


The 2026 ACM Studio Recording Awards and Industry Award winners will be announced in the coming weeks and trophies will be presented to recipients at the 19th Academy of Country Music Honors, a special event held annually in August in Nashville. More details including additional honorees for this year's show will be announced in the coming months.

Check out the full calendar list of concerts, musicals, and performances at the Blue Gate Theatre. 



Third Annual Bark in the Park to Take Place May 2nd

The 3rd annual Bark in the Park to benefit the animals at ARK Animal Rescue and Adoption will take place at Dallas Lake Park in Wolcotteville on Saturday, May 2nd. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. and is 40 dollars per entry. The walk/run begins at 10:00

a.m. For pre-registration or questions, please contact Janet Gerardot at (260) 336-1008 or Sharrita Lawson at (260) 336-4211. 



The Hometown Treasure · May '26



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SHIPSHEWANA TOWNWIDE GARAGE SALES • MAY 8-9, 2026

1. Deaner & Ash Miller and Dale & LeNora Chupp, 2325N 735W
2. Gary and Jane Carty, 7055W 100N, Tools, hardware, piano, non-electric k-cup coffeemaker, Bunn coffeemaker, NuWave nutri-pot and accessories, volcanic rock, mortar and pestle, rockers, housewares, books, hickok fuel injector regulator system tester, and more!
3. Gene & Rose Yoder, 240S Wolfe Dr, 8-5 Multi-family: old painted china hutch, hickory rocker, NG fridge for shop or basement, rainbow sweeper, lots of books, E-bike, clothes, decor, cleaning out corners.
4. Dean & SuEtta Yoder, 695 E North Village Drive.
5. Marnita Yoder, 7555W 390N.
6. Jamie Fennell, 357 E Country Lane.
7. Marcus & Ida Lambright, 3630N 770W, May 8-9, Huge multi-family moving sale and storage unit treasures. Lots of household items, furniture, clothing, generators, air compressors, hunting & fishing items and so much more.
8. Jerry & Betty Yoder, 125 N Talmadge St.
9. Larion & Deann Yoder, 7160 W 250 N, Oak dresser, ottoman, office chair, tan accent chairs, PC grill pans, kitchen items, decor and lots more!
10. Stan & Mary Miller, 6395W 200N.
11. Josey & Kandra Miller, 445 Morton St
12. Naomi Raber, 705 E North Village Dr, Silverware chest, oak oval coffee table, oak light stand, oak wooden waste basket, campstove, chain saw, fishing rods, glass lamp shades, several tables of free items.
13. Schlabach, 3660N 795W (Valley Hills). Name brand kids and adult clothing and shoes, baby items, home decor, kitchen, tools, much more.
14. Lisa Yoder, 140 N High St.
15. Ivan & Doris Miller, 600 E Country Lane. Glider rocker, spinner, furniture.
16. Kenlin & Carolyn Yoder, 7130W 350N.
17. Devon & LaWanda Chupp, 950 Taylor Dr
18. Ernie & Joanna Hochstetler, 3950N 760W. Moving Sale: Set of 6 dining chairs, set of 4 barstools, wicker patio set, lamps, wall decor, bedding, Echo backpack blower, lifejackets.
19. David & LeEtta Wingard, 2770N 735W.
20. Earl & LaManda Hershberger, 6960W 200N. Multi-family. 30 gallon water heater, 4 adult bikes, great condition, (kid's bike seat on one), bikecart, pet cages, rocking chair, side-zipper dresses, little kids dresses/shirts.
21. Kenny & Kaylene Miller, 7290W 200N. Open at 7:30. Multi-family small coffee bar, living room furniture, shoe racks, baby boy clothes, decor, lots of goodies.
22. Anna Sue Lambright & Kari Beachy, 200E Curtis Street, Kid's clothes, toys, kitchen items, children's books.
23. Cole Schwartz, 415 Davis St.
24. Orva & Dorothy Beechy, 110 Union St. - 5 family sale, clothing, books, glassware, card making things and lots more.
25. Larry & Tina Yoder, 6115W 200N, Lots of books, games, puzzles, crafts and crafting supplies, decor, glassware, toys, sewing machines, amish and non-amish clothing and some plants, also open May 12 and 13.
26. Laura Beechy, 7235W 250N, Corner sectional with hide-a-bed, couch, chair, tables, Tupperware, rubber stamps and stamping supplies.
27. John & LuEtta Yoder, 2145 N 735 W.
28. Glen & Wilma Mast, 730 E Country Lane, Lots of bigger items, roll top desk, bikes, kayak, propane fryer, household items, clothes, pool table, portable basketball goal, sewing machine cabinet w/detachable treadle, 250 gallon propane tank.
29. Harry & Cindy Graber, 6650 W 550 N. Downsizing - Cleaning out corners, lots more goodies for the ladies, camping stuff, queen mattress set, lots of misc., garden seeder, boat motor tanks, come check it out! RV refrigerator, kitchen table, 12v refrigerator.
30. Jerry & Ruby Miller, 930 E Country Lane.
31. Eugene & Charlene Bontrager, 7400W 200N. Curio, dresser, coffee bar, walker, carseat, bumbo, Princess House glasses, XL long sleeve shirts, twin tubs, bikes, 3000 and 2200 Honda generator, rocking chair, high chair.
32. Ray & Ruthie Lapp, 7600W 350N. Multi-family sale. Lots of clothes, new and used Tupperware. Bake sale and coffee drinks, too much to list! Bathroom vanity. Will open at 8:00 firm.
33. Menno Lambright, 475 Berkshire Dr. Storage units, plus lots of personal items, clothes shoes, dishes, bedding small cabinets, house plants, purses. We cleaned out. Will be cancelled if it rains, 8:00-?
34. Delmar & Rhoda Yoder, 0725N 900W.
35. Edith Schrock, 330 Morton St. Used Rainbow vacuum, Queen bed frame and mattress, Tupperware, decor, men's XL blue vest & pants. Lloyd & Katie Yoder will also have items.
36. Mike & Calla Patka, 7832W 350N. Electronics, houseware, decorations, tools, yard tools, tiller, edger, TV's, furniture. Huge family sale from moving!
37. LaGwana, 2465 N CR 850W.
38. Ervin & Carolyn Lehman, 220S Wolfe Dr. Lots of home decor, bar stools, coffee table and lots more.
39. Erma Schmucker, 1311 Orchard Lane. May 8th only! 3 blub chandelier, Pampered Chef products 10% off, unique gifts and toys, lots of misc.

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LaGrange County Community Foundation Announces Inaugural Howe Legacy Scholarship Recipients

The LaGrange County Community Foundation is proud to announce the inaugural recipients of the Howe Legacy Scholarship, awarding ten students each a \$5,000 scholarship to support their continued post-secondary education.

The Howe Legacy Scholarship Fund was established to honor the 135-year history of Howe Military Academy and to invest in the future of students connected to the institution and the broader LaGrange County community.

This year marks the first round of awards, with recipients selected through a competitive application process. A volunteer committee reviewed applications using a criteria-based evaluation process, with selections based on academic achievement, eligibility, and demonstrated leadership inside and outside the classroom.

The 2026 Howe Legacy Scholars are:

- Cassidy Blackwood, Redwood City, Calif., Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Aeronautical Studies
- Mason Clark, Middlebury, Ind., Indiana Wesleyan University, Business and Exercise Science
- Scotlyn Gayheart, LaGrange, Ind.,


- Trine University, Psychology, Law
- Nathan Grubbs, Delaware, Ohio, Ohio State University, Pharmaceutical Science
- Elizabeth Ralph, Indianapolis, Ind., Marian University, Education and Special Education
- Phillip Sheets, Wolcottville, Ind., Purdue University, Mechanical Engineering
- Wade Springer, Millersburg, Ind., Grove City College, Biochemistry;
- Arlene Thompson, Howe, Ind., Ball State University, Political Science and Media
- Ezekiel Wachtman, Howe, Ind., Purdue University, Electric Engineering
- Maxwell Wright, Columbia, Tenn., University of Tennessee at Knoxville, History and Education

To be eligible, applicants must be enrolled full-time in an accredited two- or four-year college, university, trade school, or vocational program in the United States with a minimum GPA of 3.0. Applicants must also be either a direct descendant of a Howe Military Academy graduate or reside in LaGrange County.

“The Howe Legacy Scholarship reflects the commitment of preserving the school’s spirit of leadership and educational mission,” said Beth Retterbush, Scholarship and LIFE Program Manager at the Foundation. “We are honored to support these outstanding students as they pursue their academic and career goals.”

Following the closure of Howe Military Academy in 2019, proceeds from the sale of the campus helped establish two permanent funds at the Community Foundation: the Howe Legacy Fund, which supports community projects in Howe, and the Howe Legacy Scholarship Fund, which provides educational assistance to students.

About the LaGrange County Community Foundation

The LaGrange County Community Foundation inspires 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. 



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- 1 Franklin Iddings, Emmalyn Smith
- 2 David Miller, Kaden Miller, Eliza Schlabach, Chloe Swanson, Samantha Vachon
- 3 Devon Bontrager, Luke Hochstetler, Jacob Lehman, Bryson Wheeler
- 4 Eli Davis, Sofia Sykes, Seth Troyer, Brylee Wilson
- 6 Sutton Delagrang, Nash Ferrin, Nicole Miller, Jeremy Wengerd, Janessa Wingard, Jayonna Wingard,
- 7 Sawyer Aspy, Novaleigh Tyler, Luna Williams
- 8 Lucas Bontrager, Bailey Hansen, Sharon Hochstetler, Jennifer Miller, Maram Omer, Thomas VanderRoest
- 9 Jana Miller, Nicole Miller, Zoey Miller, Jack Stemm, Logan Vogt, Kalifornia Withrow
- 10 Hayes Lambright, Alyse Slabach
- 11 Ava Bontrager, Theodore Johnston, Caleb Miller, Freya Olweean, Ethan Waterman, Kenton Yoder
- 12 Neil Miller, Kara Troyer
- 13 Landon Bontrager, Kenlin Miller, Navaeh Norris, Brent Troyer
- 14 Reema Alziadi, Glen Bontrager, Kylee Hostetler, Lanae Miller, Micah Miller, Maelee Tuszynski, Avaiah Vaughn
- 15 Anakin Bower, Jacob Miller, Aiden Eutsey
- 16 Lyle Bontrager, Elena Bostain, Bodie Horner

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I believe:

- Government should be a constant advocate for the public.
- Accessibility, Professionalism and Courtesy in all interactions with the public should be foremost.
- Fiscal Responsibility and Clarity should be the guiding principle in government. Taxpayer-funded resources should be administered even more conservatively than an official's own dollars.



If you share my conservative values, please vote for me on the Republican Primary Ballot, May 5!
Paid for by the Dennis Neeley Campaign Committee



- 17 Brentley Blackburn, Emily Booth, Kobe Dameron, Isaac Graber, Austin Hertzler, Emerson Lewton, Audrey Miller, Ava Miller, Madecai Wilkins
- 18 Baisley Bunger, Maverick Calvillo, Terry Miller, Caroline Schlabach
- 19 Remi Howard, Melinda Kaufman, Mackenzie Rodriguez, Myron Troyer
- 20 Colton Bender, Celise Bontrager, Landon Houghton, Derek Miller, Piper Sprague, Todd Troyer
- 21 Delaina Beechy, Hailey Bontrager, Brynn Fry, Hayden Moon, Bryson Trowbridge, Maddox Wolfe
- 22 Roseanna Yoder, Rosetta Yoder
- 23 Tyler Bontrager, Natalie Fillmore, Addalyn Miller, Lance Stutzman
- 24 Emarie Baker, Malachi Bunch, Jaida Rohm
- 25 Ryker Ball, Malinda Bontrager, Myah Bunton, Marshall Hochstetler
- 26 Roman Freiwald, Ryland Neeley, Dakota Ridenour, Lisa Yoder
- 27 Camden Culp, Jerrick Schrock, Lanae Slabach
- 28 Rylie Beechy, Dustin Mast, Grayson Miller, Jana Miller, Maciah Miller, Penelope Smokewood, Teagan Yoder, Timothy Yoder
- 29 Zachary Schlabach, Rhianen Withrow
- 30 Melissa Miller, Brayden Schlabach, Leah Williams
- 31 Lux Hartford, Melissa Miller



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Topeka's Farmers Market



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Mornings**

8-Noon

West (Pond) Park

Interested in being a vendor at Topeka's Farmer's Market this season? We'd love to have you join us for another great year!

For details or to sign up, contact Marlynn Mast at 260-508-9837.

Hello Friends,

As I'm typing this, we are having drenching rains again, with a lot of flooding. It's great weather for ducks! The colors are really popping out, from the trees and flowers to the green, green grass. There is still beauty in this world...all we have to do is look around us.

I got my golf cart out of storage yesterday. It's so nice to run my short errands without getting my car out. My dogs also love riding on it. It's fun driving it in the evenings with my ground effect lights on. Anyone that knows me, knows I love color!

We have some events coming up soon and I'm sure there will be more.

First of all, Wednesday, May 6th will be the annual Topeka Night Out! Everyone should have received the mailing that lists all the discounts, sales and late-night hours. I would also like to give a shout

out to our sponsor, Northern Nutrition.

They will be having discounts store-wide with hours 8am-6pm. We appreciate their support in bringing the newsletter to all of you.

Also, the Topeka Farmer's Market is starting up on Saturdays this year, beginning May 30th, 8-Noon. Let's make it bigger and better than ever! For more information contact Marlynn Mast at 260-508-9837.

Topeka's annual 4th of July Celebration will be here before we know it. It will be a 2-day event this year. Friday, July 3rd will include food trucks, Little Mr. & Miss Pageant, sand volleyball, pickleball, 3-On-3 Basketball, etc. Saturday, July 4th will consist of the usual festivities... Watermelon Eating contest, Road Race, Parade, Fireworks and LOTS of food! (For more info & updates please contact Marlynn Mast or one of our team of Directors.)

Thank you to everyone for your feedback. Have an amazing May and enjoy all the colors, smells and sounds of Spring!

Sincerely

Connie Gadson



This page sponsored by



★ MUSTANGS OF THE MONTH ★



Back Row (left to right): Kara Miller (4th), Matthew Wengerd (4th), Brian Hochstetler (3rd), Neva Bontrager (4th). **Middle Row:** Alison Camacho Esparza (3rd), Austin Bontrager (3rd), Lori Miller (3rd), Lydia Miller (2nd), Ryder Miller (2nd). **Front Row:** Annalise Hershberger (1st), Leanna Thacker (1st), Daryl Bontrager (1st), Lucas Schlabach (1st), Elijah Miller (K), Quinley McDonald (K), Keri Petersheim (K).

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 March of the 2025-2026 school year. Go Mustangs! 📢

This page made possible by the



Meadowview Elementary

Home of the Mustangs



Kindergarten



1st Grade

Responsible, Respectful & Safe

Students who were chosen for being Responsible, Respectful, and Safe. 🏆



2nd Grade



3rd Grade



4th Grade

This page made possible by the





Kindergarten



1st Grade



2nd Grade



3rd Grade



4th Grade

Shining Citizens
These students were chosen for always doing the right thing! 🏆

All photos submitted

Quarter 3 Awards

We celebrated all of our amazing students who accomplished so much in the third quarter! We have one more quarter left this school year. There is no way to tell what these Bears will do next! 🐻



This page made possible by the



Topeka Elementary

Home of the Bears

The Hometown Treasure · May '26

Westview Pride

We have spirit, yes we do! We have spirit, how about you? 📌



Testing

Over Spring Break at the state house, Topeka Elementary was celebrated as a school for meeting or exceeding a 95% pass rate of third grade students in IREAD in the 24-25 school year! Mrs. Shelley Brill and Mrs. Toni Devers traveled to Indy to receive the award! Congratulations to all TES students, families and staff who worked together to make this happen!! 📌

LaGrange County Grant

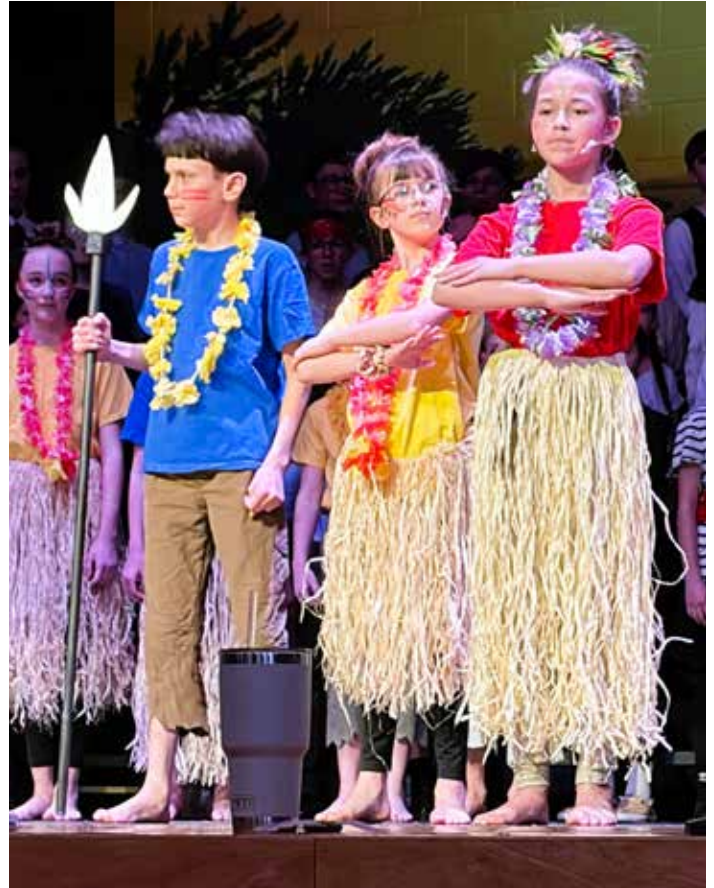
The fourth grade team received a LIFE grant from the LaGrange County Community Foundation to fund their trip to the Air Zoo. This was an amazing opportunity for our fourth graders to learn and explore in a hands-on way. Thank you for this community support for our TES students! 📌



All photos submitted

Treasure Island

5th graders at Westview Elementary School put on the amazing show, Treasure Island. 📌



Westview Elementary

Home of the Warriors

Science Central Program

5th Grade students participated in a Science Central program. 1



Donut Give Up

Our amazing specials teachers are treating all WES students with a sweet start to their day! They are encouraging them by saying, "DONUT give up!" as we start ILearn testing today. 1



All photos submitted

Honor Roll

Quarter 3

High Honor Roll (3.5 or above)

Westview Jr-Sr High School, 2025-2026 Quarter 3

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, Micaiah Bontrager, Travis Bontrager, Raigen Bryant, Alex Detweiler, Ethan Eash, Emmalyn England, Adrian Frey, Jalayna Fry, Wilma Fry, Dakota Garl, Archer Geigley, Finley Gingerich, Salena Gingerich, Miles Glassman, Curtis Graber, Mason Grossman, Terra Harlow, Landyn Harvey, Kimber Helmuth, Abigail Hershberger, Kinley Hershberger, Kyle Hershberger, Alayna Hochstetler, Ava Hochstetler, Derek Hochstetler, Kari Hochstetler, Tarah Hochstetler, Jesse Hostetler, Jessica Hostetler, Layla Hostetler, Zachariah Jones, Christina Killian, Brinley Kraft, Addison Lambright, James Lambright, Jaylin Lehman, Jennifer Lehman, Kaleb Liechty, Diaz Martinez, Erika Mast, Kenlin Mast, Kimberly Mast, Ryan Mast, Kate Mauck, Makynzee McLaughlin, Allison Miller, Austin Miller, Gavin Miller, Grace Miller, Hannah Miller, Heidi 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, Saadia Omar, Emily Otto, Joshua Otto, Adelynn Raber, Obadiah Raber, Hannah Riehl, Ashlin Rockey, Abrar Saleh,

Austin Schrock, Daniel Schrock, Angie Slabach, Kirsten Slabach, Rylan Spencer, Weslee Steider, Mia Stemm, Ida Stutzman, Hannah Troyer, Jana Troyer, Jordan Troyer, Ryleigh Weimer, Javon Whetstone, Ava Wingard, Elijah Wingard, Jace Wingard, Trentlyn Wingard, Tyler Wingard, Grace Yater, Andrew Yoder, Austin Yoder, Ava Yoder, Bryce Yoder, Daimon Yoder, Darin 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, Alyssa Barkman, Jared Beechy, Adrian Bontrager, Coltin Bontrager, Dale Bontrager, Heidi Bontrager, Janie Bontrager, Jayna Bontrager, Jerel Bontrager, Kalyn Bontrager, Kathlyn Bontrager, Kayla Bontrager, Leon Bontrager, Luke Bontrager, Janessa Caldwell, Marissa Childers, Claire Coleman, Jayni Drake, Chandler Engle, Erin Frey, Darin Fry, Kaitlyn Fry, Keturah Fry, Abigail R Hershberger, Cody Hill, Marshal Houser, Dominick Krantz, JulieAnna Kuhns, Andraya Lambright, Damon Lambright, Kendall Lambright, Kevin Lehman, Michael Manns, Mahweensa Marks, Austin Martin, Tyler Mast, Valentina Mendoza, Blake Miller, 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, Sammy Miller, Toby Miller, Beckham Misner, Erikson Mullet, Alexandria Olweean, Anthony Otto, Genesis Perillo, Brigham Rahn, Akhila Reed, Kendyl Reinhold, Kierra Roose, Declan Ryall, Dena Schlabach, Aleya Schrock, Cindy Schwartz, Kayla Schwartz, Drayden Slabach, Isla Slabach, Jaden Slabach, Amber Stoltzfus, Hallie Stults, Alex Stutzman, Brooklyn Stutzman, Kennedy Stutzman, Heather Troyer, Joshua Troyer, Lisa Troyer, Trenton Vilardo, Julian Warrener, JuLayne Whetstone, Caleb Wingard, Kellan Winquist, Nasser Yahya, Amy Yoder, Ashby Yoder, Carson Yoder, Hadley Yoder, Heidi Yoder, James Yoder, Janae Yoder, Jessica Yoder, Juliana Yoder, Melody Yoder, Miles Yoder

Grade 9 Ibrahim Algaradi, Mohamed Aljulowb, Tyrone Baccol, Bryndle Bontrager, Brynn Bontrager, Sara Bontrager, Hope Brandenberger, Chloe Briggs, Avery Christner, Jaxon Christner, Noah Cleveland, Charlie Double, Avionna Duke, Ellianna England, Madalyn Everage, Breanna Garrett, Tenley Groves, Shaylee Heintzelman, Blake Hostetler, Keera Hostetler, Hannah Jasso, Lucas Lambright, Katelyn Martin, Kylin Meadows, Caydon Miller, Josiah Miller, Logan Miller, Kandice Parker, Lacey Ramey, Evan Roth, Asher Sandquist, Lyndora Schrock, Makayla Slabach, Faith Stump, Janessa Stutzman, Lucas Swanson, Tori Taylor, Chloe Turner, Bryce Yoder, Grady Yoder, Olivia Yoder

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Westview Jr./Sr. High

Grade 10 Zakaria Algaradi, Hamzh Aljulowb, Baylor Atra, Makenna Bender, Laban Bontrager, Laine Bortner, Tyler Brewer, Liam Brill, Jaylynn Brown, Cyota Ferrera, Cooper Fry, Mila Geyer, Morgan Grossman, Alayah Hostetler, Elizabeth Lehmer, AJ Martin, Maggie Mast, Mari Mast, Jada Mauck, Paige McDonald, Adison Miller, Brendan Miller, Madilyn Miller, Saul Moreno, Shelby Mullett, Fisher Oakley, Alarcon Queralt, Kya Roose, Josie Ryall, Emma Stinnett, Tyler Stutzman, Lex Thompson, Mason Walz, Merrill Warrenner, Rylee Watson, Elijah Watts, Kaitlyn Weimer, Grace Yoder, Hudson Yoder, Janae Yoder, Karla Yoder, Kasen Yoder, Madalyn Yoder

Grade 11 Eva Bates, Evan Beechy, Karleen Bender, Lexy Bennett, Matthew Bibbee, Memphis Bontrager, Olivia Bontrager, Camryn Christner, Isaac Drake, Jarrett Dunker, Mylie Dzialak, Graci Engle, Ethan Fry, Landon Gingerich, Luke Haarer, Makenna Helman, Amanda Hershberger, Keegan Hershberger, Kaden Hostetler, Ibraheem Hussein, Addison Kauffman, Erica Lambright, Ashlyn Martin, Jacob McCoy, Emilia Mendoza, Sage Mercer, Angela Miller, Gloria Miller, Peyton Miller, Lucas Mullet, Keegan Norberg, Kaine Reinhold, Austin Schlabach, Carver Stump, Chris Terrones, Aaron Williams, Daniel Yoder, Pierce Yoder, Savannah Yoder

Grade 12 Riccardo Acs, Noriah Aldhuraibi, Kristen Bender, Lilyan Bennett, Katana Bibbee, Noah Bontrager, Taylor Bryan, Pedroso Candido, Breann Cory, Chayenne Diaz, Hunter Egli, Makenna Feipel, Nicola Giroldi, Kaden Grau, Madison Grossman, Luke Hall, Kyleigh Hershberger, Ava Hostetler, Dakota Hubbard, Kaleb Iddings, Briana Kaufman, Hailey Lambright, Janell Lambright, Janissa Lehman, Jasmine Litton, Audri Martin, Lanita Mast, Miley Mast, Eden Mauck, Braxton Miller, Kaiden Miller, Katie Miller, Myra Miller, Becky Moore, Lilly Mullet, Majid Omer, Aaron Roth, Bentley Ryall, Kylie Singleton, Brett Springer, Lili Terrones, Jordynn Wasson, Jalayna Whetstone, Brylee White, Brina Williams

Regular Honor Roll (3.0-3.499)

Westview Jr-Sr High School, 2025-2026 Quarter 3

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, Landon Bontrager, Paisley Brandenberger, James Cummins, Kaleb Cupp, Reagan Diehl, James Fender, Aubrie Gibson, Jude Gingerich, Kalaya Hostetler, Seth Lambright, Jayden Lehman, Derrick Martin, Jacob Mast, Ronnie Mast, Xayne Mercer, Aiden Miller, Kadrian Miller, Nolan Miller, Treva Miller, Kole Moon, Zoey Moon, Jayna Otto, Jemeila Reed, Brynnley Scheuneman, Kipton Schrock, Sovanda Schrock, Dale Siples, Adelyn Vandergriff, Baily Yoder


Hadleigh Cotherman, Leila Graber, Jesse Lambright, Malachi Lambright, Layla Lengacher, Marsha Miller, Sharon Miller, Rylan Minshull, Clayton Moon, Erik Moore, Avery Myers, Abdulla Omar, Anisah Omar, Jamal Omarouf, Josiah Radcliff, Adriana Stutzman, Brayden Walz, Skylynn Weeden, Aubrey Young

Grade 9 Winchester Altimus, Brodee Freiwald, Zayne Geigley, Thomas Harlow, Addison Hershberger, Kylie Mast, Destiny Mercer, Kameron Meyers, Kaydence Mosher, Christopher Rauguth, Holden Rheinheimer, Jorge Rimola, Ahmed Saleh, Cooper Schwartz, Tanner Singleton, Emily Smith, Serenity Tennant

Grade 8 Calista Bollinger, Harrison Bontreger, Mercy Buckley,

Grade 10 Yousef Aljulowb, Julie Christman, Mabel Fisk, Remington Helmuth, Caleb Miller, Cole Miller, Jaxon Miller, Kaylee Nuzum, Gavin Rainsberger, Zuriyah Reed, Alexis Riggio

Grade 11 Jillian Bontrager, Kayla Bontrager, Rayna Jackson, Ethan Miller, Janessa Miller, Travis Mitchell, Wyatt Murray, Isaiah Radcliff, Rowan Saleh, Luke Stults, Owen Weinberg, Devyn Whetstone, Kendra White, Kloie Yoder, Marilyn Yoder

Grade 12 Joshua Angeles, Bailey Manns, Samuel Miller, Amani Omar, MaiCee Orozco, Jayden Salisbury, Caiden Schrock, Kayla Yanke, Alex Yoder, Dallas Yoder 

Westview FFA Leadership Conference

Westview FFA had a great District 3 Leadership Contest on Friday evening, March 13th!

Congratulations to Jordynn Wasson and Katie Miller for earning 2nd place in the Animal Science Demonstration, and Audri Martin for placing 3rd in the Essay Contest.

Ashlyn Martin and Hadleigh Bon-

treger placed 6th in the Food Science Demonstration, and our Quiz Bowl team of Madi Yoder, Karla Yoder, Emily Smith, and Bryndle Bontreger also placed 6th.

Ashlyn Martin placed 9th in Extemporaneous Public Speaking.

Great job representing Westview FFA! 📌



Photo submitted

FFA Fruit & Nut Production

Congratulations to Jordynn Wasson on earning 2nd Place in the Fruit & Nut Production Proficiency Area. at State

Your hard work, dedication, and passion for agriculture truly paid off. We are so proud to see you represent Westview FFA! 📌



Jordynn Wasson and Katie Miller



Ashlyn Martin and Hadleigh Bontreger



Bryndle Bontreger, Madi Yoder, Karla Yoder, and Emily Smith



Audri Martin (all photos submitted)

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Westview Jr./Sr. High

Westview Jr. Sr. High School Announces Co-Valedictorians for Class of 2026

Westview Jr. Sr. High School is proud to announce the Class of 2026 Co-Valedictorians, Madison Grossman and Brett Springer. These outstanding students have demonstrated exceptional academic achievement, leadership, and dedication throughout their high school careers.

Co-Valedictorian: Madison Grossman


Grossman earned the highest cumulative GPA with the highest number of dual credits (23) in the graduating class, a testament to her hard work and commitment to academic excellence. Madison is the daughter of Matthew and Mallory Grossman of Wolcottville. She participated in National Honors Society, Girls Basketball, Girls Volleyball, and the musical. She also helps to teach Sunday School at her church.

Looking ahead, Madison plans to attend Purdue University to study engineering. She looks forward to the opportunity to explore the different fields of engineering and find which one she enjoys the most.

Co-Valedictorian: Brett Springer

Springer also earned the distinction of Co-Valedictorian by achieving the highest cumulative GPA and the same number of dual credits (23) in the Class of 2026. Brett is the son of Dr. Ross and Amy Springer of Millersburg. He is President of the Senior Class and President of National Honors Society and is actively involved in Student Council, Varsity Golf and Basketball. In addition, he has his private pilot license.

Brett plans to attend either Grove City College or Indiana Wesleyan University to study biochemistry. He plans to become a doctor.

The graduation ceremony for the Class of 2026 will take place on Friday, May 29 at 7:00pm in the Westview High School gym. 



Madison Grossman




Brett Springer

All photos submitted

8th Grade Promotion Ceremony for 2025-2026

The 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony will be on Friday, May 29th at 1:30 pm. The ceremony will take place in the Westview Jr.-Sr. High School gymnasium. All doors will

open at 1:00 pm for entry. Family and friends are welcome to attend and celebrate their student's hard work. 



JH GIRLS TRACK

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2026 JH Girls Track Team: Back (left to right): Coach Nick Martin, Kate Mauck, Kayla Schwartz, Jayni Drake, Audrey Schlabach, Lisa Troyer, Tarah Hochstetler, Jessica Hostetler, Lorraine Nisley, and Coach Terry Miller. Fourth: Coach Joe Bontrager, Felicity Eash, Janessa Caldwell, Ariel Miller, Melanie Schlabach, Grace Miller, Reagan Diehl, Kimber Helmuth, Serena Miller, and Addy Raber. Third: Coach Amy Martin, Rhianan Withrow, Paisley Brandenberger, River Rheinheimer, Ava Bontrager, Avery Mast, Jaylayna Penick, Isabella Marcam, Kenady Miller, Raigen Bryant, and Coach Erica Mohr. Second: Natalie McDonald, Beverly Foulk, Avery Myers, Trinity Antal, Alicia Bontrager, Joanie Bontrager, Brinley Kraft, Treva Miller, and Mercy Buckley. Front: Harper Yoder, Valentina Mendoza, Calista Bollinger, Mariah Miller, Kierra Roose, Kimberly Mast, Nici Troyer, and Julian Warrener. Photo by Abby Wenger



JH BOYS TRACK

Sponsored by



2026 JH Boys Track Team: Back (left to right): Michael Manns, Aaron Hochstetler, Trenton Vilardo, James Bailey, Carson Tyler, Lycan Ferrera, Damon Lambright, Weslee Steider, Harrison Bontrager, and Coach Terry Miller. Third: Coach Nick Martin, Coach Amy Martin, Kellan Winqwest, Travis Miller, Ethan Rainsberger, Jonathan Collins, Lucas Raber, Adam Alamari, and Coach Erica Mohr. Second: Javon Whetstone, Mahweensa Marks, Bentley Harman, Blake Miller, Luke Bontrager, Coltin Bontrager, and Landyn Harvey. Front: Tyler Mast, Kaleb Liechty, Kole Moon, Ryan Bontrager, Nate Martin, Kendall Lambright, and Jacob Miller. Photo by Abby Wenger



JH GOLF

Sponsored by



2026 JH Golf Team: Back (left to right): Coach Bryan Yoder, Bryson Trowbridge, Rylan Minchull, Cody Hill, Jared Beechy, and Curtis Graber. Middle: Austin Martin, Warrick Owsley, Kaleb Cupp, Ethan Miller, and Austin Yoder. Front: Carson Miller, Jamison Williams, Landon Hochstetler, and Obie Raber.

Photo by Abby Wenger



JH TENNIS

Sponsored by



2026 JH Tennis Team: Back (left to right): Coach Tyler Miller, Marsha Miller, Miles Yoder, Tanner Porter, Brigham Rahn, and Mason Grossman. Middle: Declan Ryall, Cameron McDonald, Aubrey Young, Kelsey Smith, and Lydia Long. Front: Stella Zabona, Rebah Williams, Maci Miller, Chloe Swanson, and Alex Stutzman.

Photo by Abby Wenger



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By Harold D. Gingerich



All photos submitted

The Battle of Shipshewana - Revisited

It is pretty safe to say that when you mix politics with a large crowd that has been drinking over a prolonged period; the outcome is seldom good. Imagine several thousand people descending on the tiny village of Shipshewana with the liquor flowing freely. Rumor has it that 126 years ago Shipshewana was a pretty wild place. There are even rumors that it was home to at least one “house of ill-repute”; but that is only a rumor.?

Two sentences in the Shipshewana Historical Society’s “A Patchwork Sampler”, caught the attention of the Hawpatch History Detective. They appear in a reprint from the June 18, 1936, Historical Edition of The Middlebury Independent newspaper. On page 17 of the “Sampler” are two intriguing sentences. “Greatest of all events in the history of Shipshewana was the Judicial convention, sometimes referred to as the Battle of Shipshewana, and a battle they say it was. Over 7,000 people attended the convention.”

Really! So, if this was the greatest event in Shipshewana history, why not tell us more about it? What kind of a convention was it? When and where was it held, and why was Shipshewana chosen as the site of the convention? Where did 7,000 people stay overnight in Shipshewana? Who fed all of these people? And then there is the question of providing “necessary facilities” for a crowd of that size? Back in the day, Shipshewana didn’t have city water, let alone a sanitary system. There were no modern port-a-potties, just out-houses. We are left to only imagine. Did the publishers of The Independent back in 1936 really expect that their

HISTORICAL FEATURE

readers would know all this information? Inquiring minds want to know these things. We are left with another example of how history sometimes leaves us with more questions than it does answers.

The truth be told, nobody seems to know anything about the "Greatest of all events." When asked about it, most local folks just have a blank, dumb-founded look on their face. Most likely behind those blank stares they're thinking, "Is this guy crazy, there was no Battle of Shipshewana."

Well, thanks to the research efforts of "The Hawpatch History Detective", we now know much more about what happened and when. On the editorial page of the July 13, 1900, issue of the Middlebury Independent there are several items about men whose names would be placed in nomination at the upcoming Republican Convention of the 34th Judicial Circuit Court

to be held in Shipshewana on Thursday, August 16th.

There was also this comment, as it appeared in print. "Well informed politicians who been over the district predict the nomination of H.C. Dodge for judge at the Republican mass convention. Prohibitionists have a card up their sleeves which they expect to play at the proper time that will bring consternation to the G.O.P. bosses. The Prohibs will be heard from after the people have had a chance to learn of the disgraceful scenes sure to be enacted at Shipshewana on Aug. 16th."

The August 23rd issue of The LaGrange Standard gave the event front page coverage. "The attendance was probably the largest at any convention ever held in this judicial district." The article went on to report that, "Over 360 went by the G.R. & I special (railroad) from Wolcottville by way of Sturgis, and over a thousand went in

carriages from over LaGrange county". The Lake Shore Railway, known locally as the "Pumpkinvine" because of all the twists and curves as it ran from Goshen through Middlebury to Shipshewana, brought into Shipshewana 29 crowded coaches with 3,700 passengers. Many Elkhart County residents also came in private carriages. There were in fact over 7,000 people who descended upon the village of Shipshewana.

Some estimates say that at least one-fourth of the people stayed in town. The Standard reported that, "Private houses, halls, and even the ware house were turned into restaurants, and there were numerous lunch counters both in town and at the park." But the article does not tell us what warehouse(s) were used or where the park was. We can only presume that the park may have been at Shipshewana Lake close to where

FERRALL AND HILE.

The Nominations at Shipshewana—a Large and Orderly Convention—
What Elkhart County Papers Say.

The Republicans of LaGrange and Elkhart counties in convention at Shipshewana, Thursday, August 16, nominated Joseph D. Ferrall of LaGrange, candidate for judge for the 34th judicial circuit, and William B. Hile of Elkhart, candidate for prosecuting attorney.

The judicial convention has been upmost in politics in both counties nearly two months, and the thorough canvass for the several candidates awakened an interest, which was intensified by the reports of corrupting influences and hiring of Democrats and minors to vote. The possibility of the judgeship being bought aroused many citizens who would otherwise have

Chamberlain 3,777, Vail 1,531, Ferrall 693. There being no nomination a second ballot was taken, resulting in J. D. Ferrall's nomination.

TOWNSHIP	Dodge	Vail	Ferrall
Van Buren.....	112	698	400
Newbury.....	123	367	74
Eden.....	108	015	445
Clearspring.....	058	065	746
Clay.....	011	118	626
Lima.....	063	236	677
Greenfield.....	128	020	472
Bloomfield.....	124	220	1,750
Johnson.....	121	113	843
Milford.....	086	129	364
Springfield.....	106	217	364
LaGrange County.....	4,100	5,241	7,716
Elkhart County.....	4,100	5,241	11,211
Total.....	5,138	10,521	18,657

Chamberlain received 2,453 from Elk-

reproach and when elected he will discharge the duties of his office with credit alike to himself and to his party.

Goshen News: It was an intelligent looking and orderly crowd, congregated solely for the transaction of important business.

The plan of holding the convention in the grove at the driving park a half mile from town, was a wise one. Those who went solely for the liquid refreshments were left in town and did not participate in the convention.

Hon. Joseph D. Ferrall and William B. Hile will be the next judge and prosecuting attorney, respectively, of the 34th judicial circuit. They were the

IMPORTANT: T

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HISTORICAL FEATURE

the Brethren Retreat Center stands today. The article does say that there was plenty to eat.

The convention was opened promptly at 1 o'clock by P.D. Berkey, the chairman of the Elkhart County Central Committee. After calling the roll of townships, convention rules were adopted. The first being that "No Democrat or minor shall be permitted to vote." And all votes were cast by ballot; the results of which were reported in The Standard's article. Around 3:30 in the afternoon when the results of the first ballot were announced. Joseph D. Ferrall of LaGrange who was nominated to be judge, was carried to the platform to the thunderous cheers

of the crowd. William B. Hite, referred to as "a wide-awake young lawyer of Elkhart" was nominated for prosecuting attorney.

We don't know if or when the prohibitionists ever took the convention floor to speak. But, based on a somewhat amusing paragraph in the August 23rd article, it probably would not have mattered because many of the attendees were too far gone to have heard or even cared. "During the convention there was a drunken noisy mob of men in the village who had pledged their votes for a free ride, free dinner, and free liquor, but who were too drunk and indifferent to go to the park and vote for their candidates."

The final convention action before adjournment was to act on the following resolution: "RESOLVED, That all Republican Judicial Conventions to be held hereafter in the 34th judicial circuit of Indiana, in the absence of a primary election law, shall be delegate conventions, the representation to be fixed by the Central Committees of the two counties and based upon the Republican vote for the highest office at the general election last pre-

ceding such judicial convention." The resolution was unanimously adopted and the convention was adjourned.

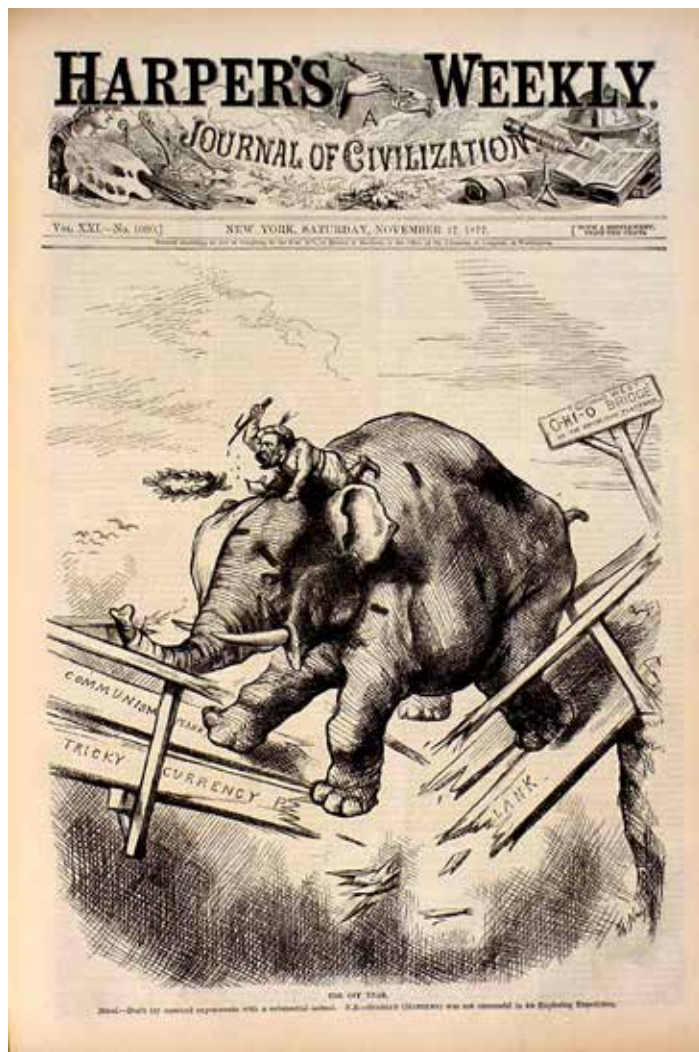
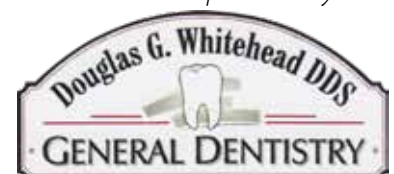
LaGrange County was originally part of the judicial territory of Elkhart County which had been established in 1830. When LaGrange County was created in 1832, from land in both Allen and Elkhart counties, it established its own county administration. However, it remained part of the 34th Judicial Circuit until the early 1900s. But the notion that tiny Shippshewana hosted a huge judicial convention in the Fall of 1900 is beyond imagination.

As of this writing we do not know where the Democrats held their convention. But clearly the Republicans from Elkhart and Lagrange counties had a memorable time. As the late radio commentator Paul Havey was famous for saying, "And now you know the rest of the story!"

Footnote: It was Thomas Nast, perhaps the 19th Century's best US political cartoonist, who came up with the idea of using animals to represent political parties. In his cartoons, the Democratic Party was a donkey and the Republican Party an elephant. Nast also helped to develop the character, Uncle Sam, to represent the United States.

**This article first appeared in the Hometown Treasure in May of 2018. It has been revised with additional information added. ⓘ*

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Coloring Contest Winners

Five-year-old Alyssa Jo Miller of 800 S, Legionier was our winner for the April Coloring Contest. She won an ice cream treat of choice at Tiffany's in Topeka.

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

Runners-up were Sadie Lehman, age 6; Faith Kari Miller, age 5; Jordan Miller, age 4; Nolan Stutzman, age 3. Honorable Mentions: Jonathan Hostetler, age 6; Jeremy Hostetler, age 6; Andrea Nicole Lambright, age 6; Kendra Yoder, age 6; Sara Rose Bontrager, age 5; and Scott Ryan Bontrager, age 5. Check out page 45 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. 

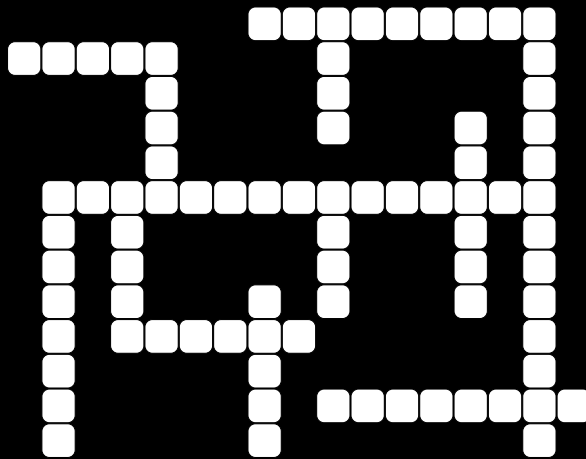
Tiffany's
418 E. Lake Street
Topeka, IN 46571
260-593-2968



Name Alyssa Jo Miller

Age: 5

- Azalea
- Cherry Blossom
- Columbine
- Crocus
- Daffodil
- Foxglove
- Iris
- Lilac
- Lily of the Valley
- Pansy
- Peony
- Rose
- Tulip



Clueless Crossword

Solution to Clueless
Crossword is on pg 47.
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. 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.

WHAT KIND OF COW WEARS A CROWN?



Answer on page 47.



100 S Van Buren St.
Shipshewana, IN 46565



Name: _____ Age: _____

Coloring Contest: kids age 6 and younger. Sponsored by Vanilla Bean Creamery in Shipshewana this month! Winner gets a **FREE ICE CREAM TREAT OF CHOICE** at Vanilla Bean Creamery. The Winning Drawings will be on display. **ALL PARTICIPANTS** claim your drawing for **A FREE ICE-CREAM CONE** at Vanilla Bean Creamery in June. Mail submission to: LaGwana, Coloring Contest, PO Box 70, Shipshewana, IN 46565. **Entry deadline is May 19, 2026**

Address: _____

Francine's
FRIENDS



Mobile Mammography

**Call (260) 483-1847 to
schedule your
appointment.**

When it comes to breast cancer,
the best protection is early detection.

Please bring a photo ID and your insurance card.
For women without insurance, funding is available.

05/13/2026 LaGrange County Health Department 304 N. 00 EW, LaGrange, IN 46761



PARKVIEW

PACKNETT FAMILY
CANCER INSTITUTE



**PARKVIEW
HEALTH FOUNDATION**



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

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

Parkview.com/FrancinesFriends

**FREE
Vaccine
Clinics**



Love them, Protect them, Immunize them!

Please call (260) 499-4182 Extension 1

to schedule your appointment.

-All By Appointments only-

The LaGrange County Health Department
will be hosting an *immunization clinic.*

Tuesday, May 19, 9:00 AM to Noon
(5700 W 700 N, Shipshewana, IN 46565)

Tuesday, June 9, 9:00 AM to Noon
(1850 E 600 S, Wolcottville, IN 46795)

*These vaccine clinics are open to all LaGrange
County and surrounding residents. Donations
welcome, most health insurances accepted.*

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Many Thanks to Our Sponsors..

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Clueless
CROSSWORD
By *Marsha Patrick*
Solution
to the puzzle on page 44.

Sponsored by

We are looking for sponsors for the Clueless Crossword, a new advertiser each time. Call for more details! 260-463-4901.

A DAIRY QUEEN

Riddle on page 44.

Solution to puzzle on page 43

Left-Over Letters
Spell Out A Message
From Erika!

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

EXCITED TO
EXPLORE
GOD'S
BEAUTIES



HTML5, Java,
Modules, CSS3,
Python, SEO,
JavaScript...

Don't let the
web design
jargon alarm
you, the only
term you need
is *LaGwana!*



PO Box 70 · Shipshewana, IN
P 260-768-7878 · LaGwana.com