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MORE THAN OUR JANITOR

Not enough people in the Westview area have heard of the world record holder and amazing person on staff at Westview. Travis McNall has been a janitor at Westview High School for the past nine years. Over the years, people have come to know him as “Bart” for his obsession and love of the television show: *The Simpsons*. In his childhood, Bart grew up in the Wolcottville area and attended Lakeland High School in his early years. *The Simpsons* first appeared in 1987 on the Tracy Almond Show, and Travis was immediately hooked. After the first showing, the ‘89 Christmas special was released. The following year, the very first season of *The Simpsons* aired in 1990. Since December 17, 1989, there have been 34 Simpsons seasons and over



Travis “Bart” McNall

DID YOU KNOW?
The Simpsons
holds the record as
the longest running
animated television
series in U.S. history.

730 individual episodes. As for Bart? He has seen every single one—all 734 start to finish.

In his free time, Bart enjoys traveling, drawing, being outside, taking walks, and playing euchre with friends. Besides

those things, the rest of Travis’ time is taken up by not only watching *The Simpsons*, but also growing his collection of Bart memorabilia. Since he began collecting early on, he’s grown his collection to earn himself



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Westview School Corporation Administrative Offices
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a spot in the *Ripley's World Record Book* for the largest collection of Simpsons related items. Travis (Bart) has requirements for his collection. He doesn't collect anything inappropriate because of his love for showing his collection to kids. One day, Bart dreams of opening his own museum in the area to show off his collection. Bart wants to call it the Simpseum and it would be a display of his giant collection over the years. Bart's dreams don't stop there though ... his main goal is to one day be "The Bart" at Universal Studios. At Universal in Orlando, he would get to be in the Bart costume all day and walk around as if he is the real Bart.

Bart's advice to students at Westview or just anyone in general is to stay in school and don't quit. Bart said in his early years he was made fun of all the time in high school,



DID YOU KNOW?
The original Bart character was voiced by a female. Her name is Nancy Cartwright.

and back then he wanted to give up and drop out. He's now proud of himself for sticking it out through all the hard times. Bart wishes he would have continued his education in college and recommends it to anyone who is considering it.

Another thing Bart mentioned when asked about advice was, "Don't give in to peer pressure." Bart explained how there are a lot of people in the world that can influence you to do certain things but it's important that you stick to your values and don't give in.

Students and staff throughout the Westview School district know Travis for the kind and caring janitor that he is. What people don't know is that "Bart" is a walking legend disguised as a softhearted janitor.

Written by Silas Haarer, Mason Clark, and Kaiden Liechty (sophomores at Westview Jr. Sr. High School)

Bart's official record in the 2018 *Ripley's Believe It or Not* says he owns a total of 3,477 Simpsons related items.

According to Bart, he now has a total of over 4,800 items. He plans to keep growing his collection in the future.

The Hometown Treasure

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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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12 noon, Tuesday, January 17

Thursday, January 12 if you need a proof.

February Issue Date is Tuesday, January 31

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Making Connections

Welcome to the updated *The Hometown Treasure*! I'm sure you've noticed the changes so far but keep flipping through to see it all. We've done some rearranging as well as getting back to our roots with color palettes, styles, and content.

Sometimes it takes changing your perspective to relate to others in a new way and that is what we are wanting to accomplish here. We want to approach *The Hometown Treasure* with a fresh perspective in order to re-evaluate what we are doing and how we are doing it.

We hope you will enjoy the fresh layouts and a new excitement for this monthly publication. It has been our goal to provide coverage of our area news, especially the Westview schools and what the students and staff have been up to. We want to continue to give you a glimpse into the classrooms and extracurricular activities, but it is our hope to add content beyond that as well in order to provide a publication with interest for a multitude of people in our community.

We have primarily operated on a submitted-news basis. We are happy to run articles and information that has been sent to us, but have not had the staff to go pursuing information. It

is our hope that we will be able to grow over the years so that is an option. In the meantime, we are pursuing editorial sponsors! By sponsoring an article, individuals or businesses will help us with the printing costs so we can add new columns, writers, features, and expand upon the elements you've already been looking for each issue.

Adding and expanding gives us the opportunity to share more with you and the more we share the more we can connect—us to you, you to the community, and the community with each other!

We want to connect with the community and with you. We hope you will let us do so!

Feel free to write to us to let us know what types of articles and content you would like to see. We'd love to partner with area businesses to bring you the editorial that appeals to you. Send your thoughts, comments, and recommendations to *The Hometown Treasure* PO Box 70, Shipshewana, IN 46565 or email them to news@lagwana.com.

Sincerely,

Tamar Wilkins

The Hometown Treasure Editor



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Samuel & Rachel Chupp

Heart and Soul

by Kim Ray Mishler

Champions of the Year

My friend coaches a youth soccer team. He instilled this fundamental principle into his group of young athletes, reiterating it often: “Champions focus on where they are going, not what they are going through.”

Champion is a word that has never been associated with my name. I’m not an athlete, unless you consider sprints to the concession stand during extra innings something notable. Don’t let the word champion fool you, though. We are all champions of something. Champions for whom we believe in, for a cause, for the relationships we cherish, and some days, we may be the champion of laundry. Being a champion is to succeed.

This quote, stated so wisely by my friend, has resonated with me...big! I’m guilty of allowing my circumstances to take me down. Do you know what I have accomplished by staying in the pit, lamenting my situation, and wallowing in self-pity? NOTHING! Nadda! Zilch! Focusing on my circumstances gets a lot of mileage but gets me nowhere.

I don’t know about you, but it takes up all my mental space when I’m going through the thick of something. It’s my every waking thought; it determines the trajectory of my life at that time. Occasionally, I come to my senses and

remember where my focus needs to be. And guess what? When I do this, inevitably, I have hope.


At a particularly rough time, I was commiserating with a friend. She said to me, “You’re just in the waiting room. What are you going to do while you wait?” Huh? She added, “Girl, while you’re waiting for answers, you gotta get busy!” She was right. I needed to focus on where I was going and actively pursue the mission in front of me. By doing so, I had purpose and perspective. My troubles didn’t go away but focusing on my higher calling sustained me while I waited.

I’m reminded of the Mathew 14 account of Peter and Jesus walking on water. When Peter saw Jesus walking on

the storm-tossed sea, he asked if he could come to him on the water. Jesus said, “Come.” Peter did. However, the minute he took his eyes off Jesus and focused on the storm around him, he began to sink. So it is with us when we take our eyes off Jesus’ plan and concentrate on the storm brewing around us—we fall.

When the storms of life rock my boat, I have a couple of choices. Am I going to curl up in a ball and think about how queasy I am, or will I prepare myself for the work to be done when I arrive safely on shore? When focused on my end goal, there is peace and clarity during turmoil. Don’t kick the hard times to the curb just yet, though. The lessons learned during our circumstances can fuel us to get where we’re going if we are determined to discover the lessons there for us.

Never waste your suffering; use it! All difficulties can be used to benefit someone else. Your suffering can get you to champion status when your focus is on how you can use it instead of how it is using you!

Where are you going in 2023? What things has God called you to focus on? The year ahead is full of promise and possibilities. Perhaps a good New Year’s resolution is to keep a champion mindset no matter what 2023 throws at us. Let us fix our eyes on Him! 



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Smart Choices

By Leah Wren, PharmD Candidate at Topeka Pharmacy

Uncontrolled Diabetes: What Do I Need to Know?

Diabetes is a common condition: 10% of Americans have type 2 diabetes, and 1% have type 1 diabetes. Keeping diabetes under control is sometimes difficult but necessary to prevent complications from developing.

What is controlled diabetes?

Diabetes develops when the body does not make or use insulin well, causing blood sugar to rise. People with type 1 diabetes cannot make insulin. People with type 2 diabetes do not use insulin well. Tracking blood glucose (blood sugar) and A1c is essential for controlling diabetes. A fasting blood glucose (FBG) of 80-130 mg/dL and a random blood glucose of <180 mg/dL show controlled diabetes. FBG and random blood glucose can be measured at home to help make sure diabetes is under control. Also, blood sugars are measured over three months using a percentage called A1c. For well-controlled diabetes, the goal for most people is an A1c of <7% to help avoid complications.

Why is high blood sugar harmful?

High blood sugar damages blood vessels and nerves over time. Symptoms of high blood sugar include frequent urination, increased thirst, blurry vision, and weakness. Complications of high blood sugar may take weeks, months, or years to develop. Some complications include heart disease, nerve damage, chronic kidney disease (CKD), foot amputation, hearing loss, and vision loss. However, well-controlled diabetes does not


increase the risk of most complications.

How is diabetes treated?

Diabetes treatment involves changes to lifestyle and medications. Lifestyle changes may include decreasing the number of carbohydrates eaten per meal, exercising, and maintaining a healthy weight. The doctor might also recommend medications to help keep blood sugar within the goal. Several medications can be started, including metformin, Jardiance®, insulin, and many others. There are oral and injectable options available. The doctor or pharmacist will help decide which medication is best.

Next Steps for Uncontrolled Diabetes

If blood sugar levels are still uncontrolled, the next step is to talk to a diabetes educator. They can provide specific, personalized recommendations for help in diet, medication, and exercise changes which will help blood sugar become better controlled. Most insurance plans will help pay for diabetes classes every year!

Topeka Pharmacy offers A1c testing in the pharmacy. We also offer diabetes classes taught by certified diabetes educators. Please stop by Topeka Pharmacy or call us at 260-593-2252 to learn more. We would love to help! 



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MONEY Wise

Is a Roth IRA conversion right for you?

Depending on your situation, it might be appropriate to make some year-end financial moves. But there's one in particular that may allow you to take advantage of the current investment climate while providing potential benefits far into the future.

This move is called a Roth IRA conversion — the process of converting all or a portion of a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA. Traditional IRAs are often funded with

pre-tax dollars, so contributions can lower your taxable income, and earnings can grow tax deferred. A Roth IRA, however, is funded with after-tax dollars, so you get no immediate tax deduction, but earnings and contributions can be withdrawn federally tax free, as long as you meet several requirements, including holding your account for five years and not taking withdrawals until you're at least 59½.

If you're attracted to the prospect of tax-free withdrawals in retirement, you might consider converting some or all of your traditional IRA dollars to a Roth IRA. Yet, there's one major issue to address: taxes. Any deductible contributions to your traditional IRA, and the earnings generated by these contributions, will be fully taxable the year of the conversion. If you've invested in

your traditional IRA for many years, this tax bill could be considerable.

But if you were interested in converting some of your traditional IRA funds to a Roth in 2022, you might have

find this strategy worthwhile, because moving from a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA can offer some advantages. For one thing, since qualifying Roth IRA withdrawals won't be counted as income, they won't cause additional taxation of your Social Security benefits or bump up your Medicare premiums. (If you wait until retirement before making the conversion, the conversion itself could have these effects, at least for the years in which it takes place.)




Stock Photo

one advantage, tax-wise — and that's the state of the financial markets. As you are no doubt aware, it's been a rough year for stocks, so the value of some of the investments in your traditional IRA may have fallen, perhaps substantially. If you were to convert these assets to a Roth IRA, your tax bill might be quite a bit lower than it would have been last year amid the lengthy bull market.

Still, lower taxes aren't the same as no taxes. Ideally, you probably don't want to take money out of the IRA itself to pay the taxes, since this might reduce some of the benefits. So, if you don't have another source from which you can draw, you may find that a conversion might not make as much sense.

However, you could lower this tax bill by making smaller conversions over several years. And you might ultimately

Also, with a traditional IRA, you typically must start taking withdrawals once you reach 72, but a Roth IRA doesn't have this requirement. So, if you don't need all your Roth IRA funds to support your retirement lifestyle, you can pass the remainder, tax free, to your beneficiaries. Consequently, a Roth IRA can play an important role in your estate planning.

Whatever the benefits of a Roth IRA, it's essential that you consult with your tax advisor before making a conversion decision. It's a big move — so you'll want to be sure it's right for you. 

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 2023.

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

Shipshewana Branch

250 Depot St. • 260-768-7444

T - F • 10:00 a.m.—5:00 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.—6:00 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

T - F • 10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Saturday • 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

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

Facebook Page - m.facebook.com/lagrangelibraryindiana

Youth Department

Family Winter Reading Program

All Locations • Ongoing through February 25

Sign up at any branch. Read and do activities together as a family to earn a family fun night gift bag.

Preschool Story Time (Ages 0-5)

LaGrange • Tuesdays, Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 • 10:30 a.m.

Shipshewana • Tuesdays, Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 • 1 p.m.

Topeka • Wednesdays, Jan. 4, 11, 18, and 25 • 11 a.m.

Registration is appreciated but is not required.

Teen Games (Grades 6-12)

LaGrange • Monday, Jan. 9 • 4-5:50 p.m.

We will be playing Catan!

Elementary Book Club (Grades 1-3)

LaGrange • Tuesday, Jan. 17 • 4 p.m.

We will discuss "Narwhal and Jelly." We will also do a fun activity and pass out the next book club book.

Middle Grade Book Club (Grades 4-7)

LaGrange • Tuesday, Jan. 17 • 4 p.m.

We will discuss "City of Ember," do a fun activity, and pass out the next book club book.

Teen Book Club & Craft (Grades 8-12)

LaGrange • Monday, Jan. 23 • 4-5:30 p.m.

We will be discussing our book and making a fun craft.

We will also be passing out the book for next month.

Movie Night (All ages)

LaGrange • Friday, Jan. 27 • 6 p.m.

Movie: *DC League of Super Pets*, Rated PG.

Free popcorn provided. Bring your own covered drink if desired.

Adult Interest

Adult Winter Reading Challenge: Oceans of Possibilities

All Locations • Ongoing through February 25

Pick up an entry form at any branch and complete the five challenges to win an exclusive library water bottle! Ages 18+

College Online: The Young Jane Austen

LaGrange • Mondays beginning Jan. 2 • 10 a.m.

This six week non-credit course consists of six 30-minute lectures.

Each lecture will be followed by tea and discussion. No prerequisites.

Musical Americana: Movie Tuesdays

LaGrange • Tuesdays, Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 • 2 p.m.

Free admission and free popcorn! Jan. 3: 1776;

Jan. 10: Seven Brides for Seven Brothers; Jan. 17: Show Boat;

Jan. 24: Hello Dolly!; Jan. 31: Meet me in St. Louis.

Adult Interest continued

Indoor Walking Group: The Walking Well-Read

LaGrange • Mondays and Thursdays • 12 p.m.

Come to the library for 30 minutes of cardio! Walk up and down stairs, around book stacks, and through some behind-the-scenes areas. It's great exercise!

Tai Chi (All Ages)

LaGrange • Thursdays, Jan. 5, 12, 19, and 26 • 11 a.m.

Learn Tai Chi with videos from International Tai Chi Master David Dorian Ross.

These free gentle workouts focus on slow movement, balance, and deep breathing.

Bullet Journaling

Topeka • Friday, Jan. 6 • 2 p.m.

LaGrange • Saturday, Jan. 7 • 10 a.m.

Shipshewana • Friday, Jan. 13 • 2 p.m.

A bullet journal is an organizer, a diary, a to-do list, and a wish list all in one. It's a simple, completely personalized method that will change your relationship to work and time! Register for the free class of your choice at the LaGrange branch or by calling 260-463-2841 x1020 by December 20.

Digital Decluttering

Topeka • Friday, Jan. 6 • 3:30 p.m.

LaGrange • Saturday, Jan. 7 • 11 a.m.

Shipshewana • Friday, Jan. 13 • 3:30 p.m.

Technology should improve your life, not control it! This free class will give you ideas about how to tidy up your devices and use them more effectively.

Register for the free class of your choice at the LaGrange branch or by calling 260-463-2841 x1020 by December 20.

Second Saturday Book Club

LaGrange • Jan. 14 • 11 a.m.

This month we will discuss *We Begin at the End* by Chris Whitaker.

An extraordinary novel about two kinds of families—the ones we are born into and the ones we create. Ages 16+

Copies of the book are available at the LaGrange library's Adult Information Desk.

Make-N-Take: Resin Jewelry Pendants

LaGrange • Wednesday, Jan. 18 • 6 p.m.

Design and make your own original pendants with UV resin and your choice of dried flowers, fibers, miniature watch parts, and embellishments, then assemble them into necklaces to take home (max. two per person). Ages 12+

Cost is \$25 per person. *Space is limited. Reservation and \$15 deposit due by Wednesday, Jan. 11 at the LaGrange library.*

Painting with Carl Mosher

LaGrange • Friday, Jan. 20 • 1-4 p.m.

Even if you've never painted before, you'll be amazed at what you're capable of!

Carl will supply all the materials. Cost is \$25 payable to Carl at class. Classes fill fast. Call today, 260-463-2841 x1030. Ages 12+

Cookbook Club

LaGrange • Saturday, Jan. 28 • 11 a.m.

Cookbook Club is a great way to meet new people and try new things! Ask for the cookbook of the month at LaGrange's Main Desk. Choose a recipe and make a free copy of it at the library. Cook the recipe and bring it to the Cookbook Club Carry-In. Plates, silverware, coffee, and tea will be provided.

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January Events

Makin' Tracks

Wednesday, Jan. 4 • 10–11:15 am
Maple Wood Nature Center

We'll go on a walk in the woods to look for animal tracks and other signs of animal activity. Make a track stamp booklet to take home. This program will be outside 50% of the time so waterproof boots and snow gear are strongly recommended. This activity is best suited for elementary aged children and older but all are welcome! Please RSVP to the Park Office at 260-854-2225.

Make-n-Take Crafts

Cardinal Handprint
Saturday, Jan. 14 • 10 am or 2 pm
Maple Wood Nature Center - **Free!**


Quilt Classes

Saturday, Jan. 21 • 9 am–3 pm
Maple Wood Nature Center
4550 E 100 S, LaGrange, IN
Fee: \$25 (\$5 is given back to Parks)

Ferris Wheel: This is a great two color quilt with a background. It can be done in several sizes. It looks complicated, but you will find it is an easy construction. Registration is required. Instructions are provided upon registration. To register, call the Park Office, at 260-854-2225. For more information, contact instructors Julia Wolhete, 260-367-1449, or Ira Johnson, 260-367-1438. Please bring a sack lunch and/or potluck contribution.

Folk Jam

Sunday, Jan. 22 • 1:30–5 pm
Maple Wood Nature Center

Jams are mostly folk, country, and bluegrass music with other styles occasionally added. Bring a snack to share, if you'd like. For more information, contact Erv Troyer at 260-463-2247 or by email at reo43@aol.com. 




First Day Hike: A Glow Walk Trail

Begin 2023 with a step towards better well-being. Join the national movement of First Day Hikes. Come to Delt Church Park on Sunday, January 1 and participate in the Glow Walk Trail!

The self-guided luminary trail will be lit and open from 5:00 until 6:30 p.m. Come whenever you like during the open trail time and walk the trail as many times as you want. The path

will follow some of the newly renovated disc golf course tees. All participants will be given a glow-in-the-dark necklace, while supplies last. Feel free to wear family friendly glow-in-the-dark clothes and decorations.

Waterproof boots and snow gear are strongly recommended. There will be free hot cocoa for participants, while supplies last. If the new shelter is complete by January 1, the trail will begin at the shelter. If the new shelter is not complete, the trail will begin at the East River Pavilion. Delt Church Park is located at 6455 S 200 W, Wolcottville, IN 46795. Please RSVP to the Park Office by December 28 at 260-854-2225. 



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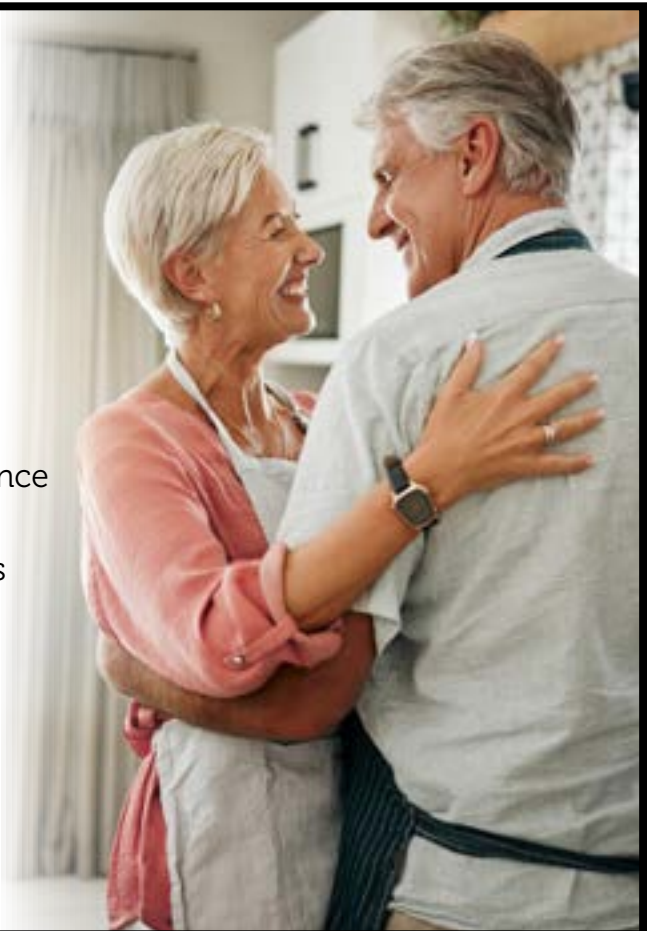
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Kamryn Miller Awarded The Lilly

The LaGrange County Community Foundation is pleased to announce the recipient of the 2023 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship for LaGrange County- Kamryn Miller of Westview Jr. Sr. High School. Kamryn is the daughter of Brian and Brooke Miller of LaGrange, Indiana. Lilly Endowment Community Scholars are known for their community involvement, academic achievement, character, and leadership.

“Kamryn Miller demonstrates many of the qualities we seek in a future leader: motivated, hard-working and engaged in her school and community. The selection committee was impressed by her service to her community and passion for her career goals,” said Octavia Yoder, executive director of the LaGrange County Community Foundation.

Each Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship provides for full tuition, required fees and a special allocation of up to \$900 per year for required books and required equipment for four years. The scholarship is for undergraduate students studying on a full-time basis leading to a baccalaureate degree at any eligible Indiana public or private nonprofit college or university. Lilly Endowment Community Scholars may also participate in the Lilly Scholars Network (LSN), which connects both current scholars and alumni with resources

and opportunities to be active leaders on their campuses and in their communities. Both the scholarship program and LSN are supported by grants from Lilly Endowment to Independent Colleges of Indiana (ICI) and Indiana Humanities.

Miller will graduate high school with academic honors and intends to pursue a career as a mechanical engineer, a dream that stemmed from having taken an engineering course offered since her sixth-grade year. Miller stated: “The feeling of excitement I get from solving real-world problems or from bringing a mechanical drawing to life is comparable to no other.”

Miller’s school involvement includes serving on student council, and as a class officer, participating in concert choir, show choir and musicals, basketball, tennis, the PLUS program, Safety Team, and National Honor Society, among other clubs and organizations throughout her high school career.

In addition to her school involvement, Kamryn is very involved in her church, volunteers at a nursing home, participates in 4-H, and started a program called “Buds for Barb”, a program that delivers donated fresh flowers and a note of encouragement to nursing home residents.

Among her other accomplishments, Miller began her own hot dog vending business.

“I am beyond grateful for this scholarship and the way it will alleviate the financial burden of the first four years of my degree. This community has already shown so much support through both my school and hot dog vending business. I am thankful for this opportunity as it will allow me to give back to the

community,” Miller stated when asked about what this scholarship opportunity meant.

In determining LaGrange County’s Lilly Endowment Community Scholar nominees, consideration was given to academic achievement, demonstrated service to others, leadership ability, commitment and motivation to succeed, employment history, extracurricular involvement and essay responses, as well as two recommendations. The top five students who scored highest on their application were then invited to participate in a personal interview conducted by the LaGrange County Lilly Committee. After the field of applicants was narrowed down, nominees were submitted to ICI, the statewide administrator of the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program, which approves the final selection of scholarship recipients.


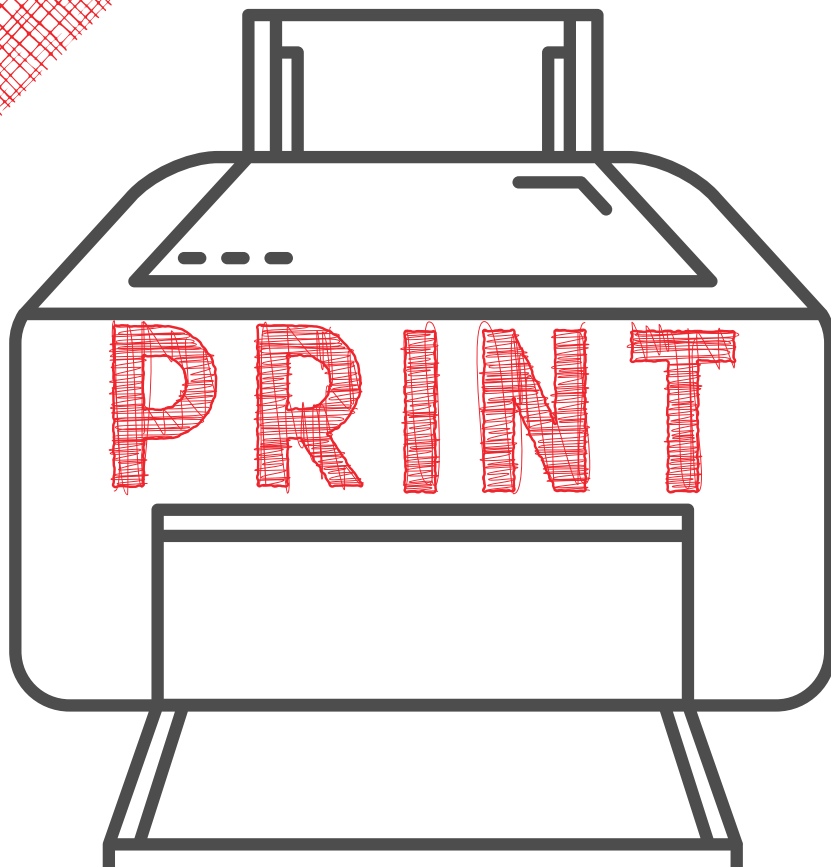
Finalists for the award include Manisha Ramachandran of Lakeland High School; Ella Clark, Ethan Hibbs and Paige Riegsecker, all of Westview Jr.- Sr. High School. Each of the finalists will receive a \$1,000 four-year renewable scholarship from the Lambright Leadership Scholarship Fund established by Kevin and Carrie Lambright in 2013. 



Photo Submitted

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Community Foundation Hosts Reception

The LaGrange County Community Foundation hosted a reception on Tuesday, November 15, to recognize recipients of the \$93,384 awarded from its Fall Community Impact Grants Cycle.

More than 25 nonprofit executives and representatives gathered along with Community Foundation board members, volunteers, and staff to celebrate.

The Community Foundation awarded grants to sixteen nonprofit organizations during the fall grant cycle. Each nonprofit organization shared a brief presentation about their upcoming project and the mission of their organization.

The Community Impact Grants are made possible by the generosity of donors who give to the unrestricted and field of interest funds at the Foundation.

For over 30 years, the Community Foundation has remained committed to its mission of “inspiring and sustaining generosity, leadership and service in LaGrange County.” The Community Impact Grant Program supports grants in six interest areas: arts and culture, health and human services, recreation, environment, community development and education.


“Through our grant making program we are able to ensure a lasting legacy for our funders who have made a long-term commitment to support positive growth of our nonprofit community in LaGrange County,” said Octavia Yoder, Executive Director.

“We are honored to support many deserving nonprofit organizations who are improving the quality of life in our community and helping meet critical and unmet community needs,” Yoder added.

The 2022 Fall Community Impact Grant recipients include: Agape Child Care Ministry, Agape Professional Development and Cleaning Support, \$10,000; Agape Missions of LaGrange County, Agape House Ministry Recovery, \$10,000; Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana, Client Advocate and Client Services Program for LaGrange County, \$3,500; Clothes & Food Basket of LaGrange County, Hungry No More, \$7,500; Community Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Indiana Inc, LaGrange County Farm Wagon Mobile Pantry Program, \$2,000; Community Improvement League of South Milford Indiana, resurrounding/rebuilding the military memorial monument, \$10,000; Elijah Haven Crisis Intervention Center, Inc., Amish Domestic Violence/Sexual Abuse Education, \$2,809; Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry, “Meat” The Need, \$2,000; Junior

Achievement of LaGrange County, Elementary Programs, \$3,000; LaGrange County Soil & Water Conservation District, SWCD Conservation Drone Program, \$8,000; LaGrange Night to Shine, Night to Shine, LaGrange County, \$5,000; Mad Anthonys Children’s Hope House, Overnight Accommodations for LaGrange Families \$2,000; Purdue Extension LaGrange 4-H Youth Development, Youth Programming with the Blender/Spin-Art Bike, \$3,075.00; Ronald McDonald House Charities of Northeast Indiana, Ronald McDonald House Programs for LaGrange County Families, \$2,000; Shore Church FBO Shishewana Ministerial Association, Shishewana Ministerial Association assistance fund \$2,500; and The ARC of LaGrange County, Arc’s Summer Discovery Program, \$20,000.

Each year, the Community Foundation seeks proposals for charitable projects and programs that help local nonprofit organizations provide services in LaGrange County. The Grants Advisory Committee reviews the submitted grant applications and makes recommendations to the Board of the Directors who approve the grant awards.

To learn more about the Community Foundation grants, visit lccf.net/grants. 

Back (left to right): Rustin Krapfl of Agape Missions of LaGrange County, Kathy Dunafin of Elijah Haven Crisis Intervention Center, Kim Mishler of Shishewana Ministerial Association, Julia Wolhether of Community Improvement League of South Milford Indiana, Stacey Stumpf of Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana, Debra Seman of The Arc of LaGrange County, Roy Nevil of Community Harvest, and Kyle Burchett of LaGrange County Soil & Water Conservation District. Front: Char Roth of Elijah Haven Crisis Intervention Center, Nora Schwartz of Junior Achievement of LaGrange County, Lisa Howe of Agape Child Care Ministry, Allisa Brown of LaGrange Night to Shine, Brittany Gilger of Purdue Extension LaGrange County, and standing Octavia Yoder Executive Director of LaGrange County Community Foundation. Photo Submitted



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Topeka Volunteer Fire Department Awards



The Topeka Volunteer Fire Department took time to honor several of its members at the department's annual Christmas Banquet. This event was held on Friday evening, December 2, at The Sylvan Cellars banquet hall in Rome City where awards were given for length of service, First Responder of the Year, and the Red Haggard Fireman of the Year.

Carl Miller and Josh Ponce were recognized for their 5 years of service. Ten-year honorees were Michael Wingard, Harley Miller, and Justin Kauffman. Nate Sprunger and Greg Strawser were recognized for 20 years of service. and Pete Kauffman was honored for 25 years of service.

First Responder of the Year for 2022 was Kevin Wright while Brian

Miller was the recipient of 2022 Red Haggard Fireman of the Year.

The department's top annual award is given in memory of the late Red Haggard who served with the Topeka Volunteer Fire Department for more than 40 years. The award was presented by Red's wife Doris Haggard.



Officers who served in 2022 were Stewart Bender, Chief; Adam Lambright, Assistant Chief; Brian Miller, Captain; Devon Bontrager, Rescue Captain; Barry McDonald, Lieutenant; Harley Miller, Lieutenant; and Pat Martin, Safety Officer. 📍

All Photos Submitted



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. That's why Parkview LaGrange Hospital continues to offer free suicide prevention training to the community.

Trainers from the hospital teach QPR, which stands for question, persuade and refer. 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 short time and be prepared to recognize the signs of someone at risk of suicide, offer the person hope and connect

Free Suicide Prevention Training

them to expert, compassionate care.

In 2023, classes will be held from 2:30 to 4 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month, alternating between in-person classes at the hospital and virtual classes via Microsoft Teams app:

- Tuesday, Jan. 17 (virtual)
- Tuesday, Feb. 21 (in-person)
- Tuesday, Mar. 21 (virtual)
- Tuesday, April 18 (in-person)
- Tuesday, May 16 (virtual)
- Tuesday, June 20 (in-person)
- Tuesday, July 18 (virtual)
- Tuesday, Aug. 15 (in-person)
- Tuesday, Sept. 19 (virtual)
- Tuesday, Oct. 17 (in-person)
- Tuesday, Nov. 21 (virtual)
- Tuesday, Dec. 19 (in-person)

Participants need only take one class to obtain the necessary training.

To participate in a virtual class, in-

dividuals 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 parkview.com/preventsuicide. For additional information, or to inquire about training for small groups, call (260) 463-9270.

The Parkview LaGrange Hospital campus is located on Townline Road, just north of U.S. 20 in LaGrange. 📍



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January Kids Club Birthdays

- 2 Adrian Bontrager, Seth Slabach,
Nicole Troyer, Aislynn Wanamaker
- 3 Addison Hershberger,
Lucas Hershberger, Ivory Sprunger
- 4 Olivia Everage
- 5 Alexandria Olweean,
Aaron Riehl, Adrian Riehl
- 7 Everleigh White, Lucas Yoder
- 8 Isaiah Bontrager, Izick Donley,
Elijah Flores, Brandon Miller
- 9 Gage Miller, Hannah Troyer,
Joel Yoder
- 10 Elliott Chupp, Rahaf Hussein,
Damon Lambright, Vada Miller
- 11 Allen Bontrager, Hadley Keim,
Katy Miller, Lacey Ramey,
Miciah Slabach
- 12 Savannah G. Bontrager,
Bruce Collar, Leo Fields,
Kenlyn Lambright
- 13 Roarke Brohm, Kaleb Cupp,
David Hilty, Cynthia Lehman,
Zayne Yoder
- 15 Tyson Bontrager, Aiden Groves,
Larion Mullet, Braelynn Neff,
Karter Spillers, Reagan Wilson
- 16 Brian Bontrager,
Braylin Leonard, Kara Miller
- 17 Logan Cruz, Janice Miller,
Mariah Miller

*Birthdays for children in the area up
through sixth grade may be submitted
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Heartfelt Thank You

from Heather Eash and Family

My family and I would like to extend a big hearty thank you to the Westview community for your immense support of us during these last few months! We are also grateful to the West Noble and Central Noble communities for being a part of the benefit held on December 10th. We don't have words to express how blessed and overwhelmed

"We don't have words to express how blessed and overwhelmed we have been..."

we have been by all the help we've been given. From monetary support, to gift cards, to flowers, meals, cards, messages and prayers, everyone has been

a blessing to us and it's more than we could have ever imagined to receive!

Thank you to the individuals and businesses who donated to the silent auction and bake sale at the benefit. Thank you to those who bought tickets for the meals. Thank you to Nelson's Chicken for the always amazing food! And a very special thank

you to Wendy Misner, Tara Vogt, Jill Hamm and Melissa Kauffman for organizing everything! You ladies have huge hearts! 📍

- 18 Grant Bontrager, Janae Frey
- 19 Zayden Lehman, Graham Rasbaugh, Abrar Saleh
- 20 Logan Bontrager, Eric Yoder
- 21 Lachelle Bontrager, Tony Fugate, Gabriel Miller, Kyla Miller, Caleb Wingard, Jeneva Yoder
- 22 Mallory Antal, Kimber Helmuth, Brock Stout, Adleigh Withrow
- 23 Justin L. Bontrager, Bristol Brandenberger, Ellisyann Hamm, Christian Hilty, Natalie Stutzman
- 24 Brogan Howard, Estelle Zabona
- 25 Savannah E. Bontrager, Alayna Miller
- 26 Deric Fry, Noah Stickler, Kielynn Warrener
- 27 Ezaiah Avila, Lilly Miller, Hannah Riehl, Makayla Troyer
- 28 Justin C. Bontrager, Adra Miller
- 29 Amanda Bontrager, Drew Bontrager, Brenda Carmona, Aydon Eudy, Madalyn Everage, Alayah Hankins, Jayda Miller, Kyleigh Schwartz, Averie Stutzman
- 30 Julian Flores, Kristen Chupp, Elijah Wingard, Emily Yoder
- 31 Breanna Garrett

Kindergarten Enrollment

If your child will be five years old by August 1, 2023 and is not pre-enrolled, the pre-enrollment steps for kindergarten are as follows:

1. Contact the school of residence to obtain a pre-enrollment form.
 - Shipshewana - 260-768-4158
 - Topeka - 260-593-2897
 - Meadowview - 260-768-7702
- 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 the second week in May.
4. SEEK Screening will be at the student's school of residence the last two weeks of the school year. 📍

Oh, the Weather Outside is Frightful!

January in Indiana is atrocious. At least it can be. Snow may be coming but even if it doesn't the air is winter cold—that's colder than the rest of the year cold!

Make sure your kids are grabbing their hats and gloves every day when getting ready for school. And if you're missing any, make a point to check your school's lost and found. 📍



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Meadowview Elementary

Home of the Mustangs


Holiday Happenings

The holiday season started before Thanksgiving and students continued celebrating through December.

Third graders learned about character traits which describe a character's personality that makes them who they are. They used turkeys to decorate and then wrote a short paragraph and highlighted text evidence proving the character trait described and proceeded to write character traits on each of the turkey's feathers.

Third graders also received a class reward party on Friday, December 2.

Students have a system in place where the whole class can earn a reward. The reward system uses the game Kerplunk. As students show good behavior—going the extra mile, helping others, doing the right thing—a stick from the Kerplunk game gets pulled. When all the marbles fall, it's reward time!

And rewards were well deserved as third and fourth graders performed a Christmas program to celebrate the Christmas season. 

All Photos Submitted



Eighties for 80th Day

Celebrations

The holidays were in full swing at Shipshe-Scott! Second graders enjoyed a day of Thanksgiving activities to learn about the Pilgrims and Native Americans. They participated in crafts, candle making, Native American script writing, and even made butter by hand! Some classes celebrated Thanksgiving with a feast as well. Thanks to all the extra parents that came and provided food!


Third graders read "Balloons over Broadway" and learned about how balloons were created for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Then, they created their own balloons and had a balloon parade around the school! Parents came to watch the parade, and it traveled through each classroom



Commence

throughout the building. Santa even made an appearance!

Fourth graders studied Dr. Seuss's "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" and put on a mock trial in each classroom. It was the Grinch versus Who-ville! Students in each class participated as lawyers, defendants, and juries while guest judges read the final verdict. Students worked hard to develop arguments and provide evidence to convince the jury. Both the Grinch and Cindy Lou Who were called as witnesses to help the jury reach a verdict.

Finally, a Christmas Program brought singing and dancing to the school as third and fourth graders performed for their families and friends. It clearly was a season to celebrate! 

All Photos Submitted



Children's Books

Students from Mrs. Cowley's Honors English class wrote and published children's books.

They visited third graders to read their books to them.

It was a blast!



This page made possible by the



Topeka Elementary

Home of the Bears

Westview Students Selected to IBA All-Region and All-District Honor Bands

Several Westview Jr./Sr. High School Band members were selected this past fall to be a part of the Indiana Bandmasters Association (IBA) honor band program. These students were chosen from hundreds of applicants by the area IBA selection committees.


The IBA All-Region Honor Band weekend took place November 12-13 at Dekalb High School in Waterloo, IN. Lanita Mast, Noah Bontrager, and Caedmon Gates were selected by the Indiana Bandmasters Association to participate in the IBA All-Region Honor Band. They had a seven hour rehearsal on Saturday, with a concert featuring eight selections at Dekalb High School on Sunday. The guest conductor was Mrs. Sue Jehl, a highly sought after conductor, educator, and clinician from the Fort Wayne area.

The ensemble consisted of 76 students in grades 7-9 from 16 different northeastern Indiana schools.

Below (left to right): Lanita Mast, Noah Bontrager, and Caedmon Gates. Photo Submitted



The IBA All-District Honor Band weekend took place November 19-20 at Dekalb High School in Waterloo, IN. Kaitlyn Cupp, Kiana Mast, and Annagail Warrener were selected by the Indiana Bandmasters Association to participate in the IBA All-District Honor Band. They had a seven hour rehearsal on Saturday, with a concert that featured six selections at Dekalb High School on Sunday. The guest conductor was Mr. Keith Rudolph, retired band director of Penn High School in Mishawaka.

The ensemble consisted of 74 students in grades 9-12 from 18 different northeastern Indiana schools. 




Above (left to right): Kiana Mast, Annagail Warrener, and Kaitlyn Cupp. Photo Submitted



Student Ambassadors WHS - November 2022

Left to right: Leigha Schrock and Jace Lang. Photo Submitted

Westview High School has selected two students to receive Student Ambassador of the Month honors for November 2022. These outstanding students were selected by their teachers for doing a noteworthy accomplishment, a generous act, displaying great improvements or having an outstanding individual achievement. Students like these make Westview a great place to attend! 



Westview Jr./Sr. High

Home of the Warriors

Girls Basketball

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2



1



3



- 1) Andrea Miller shoots for three.
 - 2) Sara Lapp brings the ball inside the three-point line.
 - 3) Mykayla Mast puts up a shot over the head of her Bethany opponent.
 - 4) Morgan Riegsecker looks for an open teammate.
 - 5) Hope Bortner puts up a three at the start of the fourth quarter.
- Sports photos by Abby Wenger
These photos and more will be available for purchase at lagwanaphotos.com.*

5



4



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Varsity Boys Basketball



- 1) Owen Brill passes the ball to an open teammate.
- 2) Jethro Hostetler goes up for the two point shot.
- 3) Brady Yoder sinks one of his many baskets of the night.
- 4) Wiley Minix gets ready to shoot for three.

Photos by Abby Wenger

These photos and more will be available for purchase at lagwanaphotos.com.

The Hometown Treasure · January '23



7TH A BOYS BASKETBALL

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2023 7th Boys Basketball A Team: Back (left to right): Jacob Lambright, Hudson Yoder, Laban Bontrager, Braydon Yoder, Coach Michael Christner, and Tyler Stutzman. Middle: Noah Chupp, Josh Bontrager, Jaxon Miller, and Kasen Yoder. Front: Baylor Atra, Liam Brill, and Brendan Miller.

Photo by Stopher-King Studio



7TH B BOYS BASKETBALL

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2023 7th Boys Basketball B Team: Back (left to right): Coach Jeff Marchant, Cooper Fry, Brandon Yoder, Ryan Miller, Derek Miller, and Nick Miller. Mid-
dle: Derek Bontrager, Justin Slabach, Tyler Brewer, Karson Mast, and Jeremiah Lambright. Front: Neil Miller, Elijah Watts, Evan Bontrager, and Ethan Yoder.

Photo by Stopher-King Studio




8TH A BOYS BASKETBALL

Sponsored by 

2023 8th Boys Basketball A Team: Back (left to right): Adrian Miller, Isaac Drake, Kaine Reinhold, and Daniel Yoder. Middle: Boe Helmuth, Ethan Miller, Carson Niccum, and Kaden Hostetler. Front: Austin Schlabach, Luke Haarer, Pierce Yoder, Micah Wingard. Photo by Abby Wenger



8TH B BOYS BASKETBALL

Sponsored by 

2023 8th Boys Basketball B Team: Back (left to right): Jaylen Schwartz, Keegan Norberg, Austin Miller, and Gavin Yeip. Front: Ryan Miller, Kenlin Miller, Jarius Lambright, and Kevin Miller. Not Pictured: Lucas Mullet and Jaryl Yoder. Photo by Abby Wenger



JV GIRLS BASKETBALL

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2023 JV Girls Basketball: Back (left to right): 41, 43, 25, and 33. Middle: Coach Amber Roth, 13, 21, and 15. Front: 35, 31, 23, and 11.

Photo by Abby Wenger



JV BOYS BASKETBALL

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RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

2023 JV Boys Basketball: Back (left to right): Coach Josh Weimer, 5, 33, 21, and 23. Front: 11, 15, 3, and Manager Mearl Miller.

Photo by Abby Wenger



JV CHEER

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2023 JV Cheer: Back (left to right): Lilly Mullet, Manager Isabelle Savocchi, and Brina Williams. Front: Jocelyn Dominguez, Becky Moore, and Hailey Lambright.
 Photo by Abby Wenger

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Police Unity Connections



Plugging into community across oceans

by Harold Gingerich

International Conference of Police Chaplains (ICPC) International Committee Chair, Harold D. Gingerich met with the Chief Chaplain of the Israel Police, Rabbi Rami Brackyuahu, on Sunday, October 30, 2022, in Jerusalem, Israel. The meeting was set up by New York Transit Authority Chaplain Rabbi Harry Berkowitz who arranged for Chaplain Gingerich to be a part of the October 22nd -31st Police Unity Tour. Gingerich has been the Topeka Police & Fire Chaplain since 2005. He has also been an Indiana State Police Chaplain since 2017.

“Rabbi Berkowitz called me in early June; and to tell the truth, I almost didn’t answer this call because I didn’t

recognize the number,” Gingerich said. “And, when he gave me his name and said that he was calling from Jerusalem, I almost hung up because I was sure it had to be a scam. But it wasn’t!”

Berkowitz explained that Chief Chaplain Rabbi Brackyuahu with the Israel Police was interested in what ICPC was doing and the training we have to offer. Berkowitz suggested that we extend an invitation to Rabbi Brackyuahu to join the 2022 Orlando ATS.

While an invitation to attend the 2022 ATS in Orlando was sent to Rabbi Brackyuahu, there was not enough time for the approval process to work its way up the chain of command. Rabbi Berkowitz, who has been a long-time

“I almost hung up because I was sure it had to be a scam. But it wasn’t!”

"I didn't try walking on the water like Jesus," Gingerich chuckled, "but the police speed boat ride on the Sea of Galilee was pretty exciting."



friend of Rabbi Brackyuahu, did attend the Orlando ATS where he met with Chaplain Gingerich and other ICPC leaders face to face. Berkowitz strongly encouraged Gingerich to join the Police Unity Tour and said that he would set up a meeting with Rabbi Brackyuahu. With the blessing of ICPC President Ronnie White, Gingerich signed up for the tour which was comprised of 50 police officers from across the United States.

The tour group was hosted by the Israel Police and stayed at the National Police Academy. "The Israeli police were amazing hosts," Gingerich observed, "not only were they with us everywhere we went, but they made sure that there was also always food waiting for us." Gingerich smiled and said that he had gained five pounds on the trip.

In addition to visiting a few the traditional tourist sites like the Dead Sea, Masada, and the Sea of Galilee the group toured various police command centers. "I didn't try walking on the water like Jesus," Gingerich chuckled, "but the police speed boat ride on the Sea of Galilee was pretty exciting." The 911 Center, where the Israel Police re-

ceive over 1 million calls a year, was one of the stops on the tour schedule.

The group also visited the Golan Heights and the Gaza Strip. "Being at the Gaza Strip and holding one of the rockets that had been fired into Israel by Hamas was unforgettable," Gingerich commented. He went on to say that Israeli law requires every home to have "a safe room" with walls that are about a foot thick and to have a protective window covering. When the incoming rocket alarm sounds, people have only 45 seconds to seek shelter.

One memorable moment for Gingerich was being a part of keeping the Jewish Sabbath by sharing the Friday evening "Shabbat" (meal) in the home of Shimon Butbul who is a Deputy Commander with the Israel Police. In traditional Jewish homes the family gathers after sundown on Friday for prayers, communion, and the breaking of bread which is followed by a large meal. "Shimon filled a glass with wine, read the tradition prayer, which I couldn't understand because it was in Hebrew, and then broke a loaf of warm bread that he gave to everyone along with a small amount of wine from the glass."

On Sunday afternoon, October

30th, Chaplain Gingerich and Rabbi Berkowitz met with Israeli Chief Chaplain Rabbi Brackyuahu and Rabbi Shimon Shukron. Rabbi Shukron is the lead chaplain for the Jerusalem District. The Israel Police chaplaincy corps is comprised of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim chaplains.

"The meeting wasn't more than 20 minutes in length," Gingerich said, "but I believe it was very productive." Gingerich presented Rabbi Brackyuahu an ICPC challenge coin, a copy of the 2022 ATS brochure outlining the various classes that were





All Photos Submitted

offered, and a copy of the 2022 Peace Officer's Memorial Service booklet. "I remember him smiling and saying, 'I have a lot of reading to do.'" He was also pleased with the idea that fallen Israeli police officers could be honored at ICPC's annual memorial service.


"One of the things Rabbi Brackyuahu said repeatedly was that 'We need to be there for each other,'" Gingerich recalled. Given the political and religious



tensions along with constant threats of terrorism, Israeli police officers and chaplains face unique challenges. The rabbi is eager to attend the 2023 ATS and stated that an invitation should be sent as soon as possible. That invitation has been sent.

In addition to meeting with Rabbi Brackyuahu, Chaplain Gingerich met with a German diplomat in charge of International Relations (stationed in Algeria, Africa) who was a member of the unity tour. She was very excited to hear about the mission of ICPC and said, "I'm sure our German chaplains will be interested in this!". She assured Chaplain Gingerich that she would be communicating with him, as well as with her German counterparts.

The tour also provided Chaplain Gingerich with an opportunity to promote police chaplaincy with the other members of the tour group. "Everyone in the group knew why I was on the tour, and they went out of their way to include me and encourage me."

"It will be exciting to see what happens as a result of this trip and my meeting with Rabbi Brackyuahu," Gingerich said, "and without Rabbi Berkowitz it never would have happened." 



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memories

OF CHRISTNER'S FEED MILL

by Harold D. Gingerich

Time and technology wait for no man. Today the old mill, which for years was a beehive of activity, stands in silence at the corner of 400 S and 900 W in Honeyville. There are no horse-drawn wagons loaded with grain waiting in line to grind feed. The bulk trucks with their dust covered Hubbard Feed logos have long since ceased delivering feed. Gone are the friendly smiles of Freeman and Wilbur Christner whose family operated the mill beginning in the 1930s. Time has seemingly passed the old mill by.

Thanks to the diligence of Maggie Glick who edited *Celebrating a Century 1893-1993 the Topeka Area Historical Society*, we have a wealth of information about the earlier days of Honeyville and the feed mill

that served area farmers for so many years. Julie Wolfe wrote several articles about the history of the Honeyville area, the school, and the general store. Freeman E. Christner also contributed a history of their 30-plus years at the mill.

If you drive through Honeyville today it is hard to imagine that years ago Honeyville was on the main route to anywhere. And yet in the early days of LaGrange County it was a part of what was known as the Hawpatch-White Pigeon Indian Trail. According to Julie Wolf (*Celebrating a Century 1893-1993*, page 165), "Honeyville was on the main route used by Indian and white men to haul their wheat and corn to Lyon & Greenleaf

Milling Company at Ligonier." People would travel from Constantine and White Pigeon, MI, Shipshewana, and around the area to have their grain ground into flour and cornmeal either for personal use or to be sold for cash.

The Honeyville School built in 1930 (now home to Eden Worship Center) faces south because county road 900 W was the main road. It is the road that the notorious bank robber John Dillinger took when he was being chased by the police.

I remember the late Ora M. Hochstetler (1929-2018) telling me that when he was a boy the road cut diagonally at the Christner Cemetery to Four Woods Corner on State Road 5, close to where Fry's Engine Repair is today. I'm not sure when the diagonal section was eliminated, and the road changed to going straight south at the cemetery to 400 S.



Freeman Christner (1924-2012) wrote that his father, Eli J., had built a small mill on the family farm west of Honeyville. Then in 1937, the elder Christner built a larger mill and granary with a hammermill for custom grinding. "We started with Hubbard Sunshine Concentrates," Freeman wrote, and then added, "Hubbard Milling was noted for its Mother Hubbard Pancake Flour." In the early years the mill was a 50-50 father-son venture.

For a time during World War II, Eli and Freeman had to suspend operations because it was impossible to buy feed concentrates and supplements. But by 1947, Hubbard's concentrates were available which allowed the mill to reopen.

In 1950, Freeman's older brother Wilbur (1919-1987) who had been driving a fuel truck for Abshire Oil Company, purchased Eli's half of the business. The brothers incorporated the mill under the name of Christner Feed Mill, Inc. About the same time Wolfe Grain, which operated mills in Shipshewana, Topeka and Honeyville, sold their Honeyville operation to the Christners.

Needing space to store feed, the brothers also purchased the old one room Honeyville School from the township for \$900. They hired Andy Eash, an Amish carpenter, to enlarge the mill. The brick foundation and the white name stone from the original Honeyville School is clearly visible on the south side of the mill.

Freeman wrote that their first employee was DeWayne Bontrager, who grew up in the neighborhood. DeWayne



Freeman E. Christner, left, and his brother, Wilbur Christner, followed their father, Eli J. Christner, in providing milling service to the Honeyville community.

worked in the mill and delivered feed. Bontrager, who passed away in September of 2021, had vivid memories of the day John Dillinger stopped at their farm lane before speeding away as he was being chased by the police. In later years DeWayne became the Topeka Clerk-Treasurer.

Wilbur's boys, Ferman and Kenny, grew up working at the mill. "I don't remember a whole lot," Ferman (THS Class of 1965) mischievously quipped, "he just made me work every Saturday!" But the longer he talked to me on the phone the more he remembered. "I had to ride the elevator up to the second floor and sweep it, but the best part was we would always go to Vonda's (The Milky Way Café) for lunch."


Kenny has lots of memories about working at the mill. "Ferm and I always had to clean the corn and the wheat that fell through the floor out of the basement," Kenny remembers, "and

the basement was full of spiders! One time someone spilled molasses and it got down there... boy was that a mess to clean up!" He also recalled, with a chuckle, how as teenagers they would try to lift the 100-pound feed sacks just to build up their muscles.

Kenny recalled the story his father Wilbur told him about lifting the back of a truck to free Ervin Eichelberger's hand that was pinned under the wheel. "Dad had a flat tire on the truck and Ervin was helping him change it when something happened and his hand (Eichelberger's) was stuck under it," Kenny said. "Dad just picked up the back end of the truck so he could

get his hand out ... you know those things don't just happen!"

The Christner brothers sold the mill in 1980 to Orla and Mary Schlabach and their sons. They changed the name to Honeyville Feed Service. The mill continued to operate and serve the community for many years to come.

But time finally caught up with the old mill. Many farmers no longer needed the mill because they had their own portable feed grinders. In the end, the cost of maintaining the old building and of upgrading the obsolete milling equipment sealed the old mill's fate. It was closed in early 2022 and now stands empty except for the memories. 

This article sponsored by




Left-Over Letters Spell Out A Message From Erika!

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

 ----- !

I had a bit of a whoopsie at the gas station this morning. I was filling up before work, and I was still a bit sleepy and not quite fully alert.

I heard the click of the nozzle, which normally indicates that the tank is full and the gas has stopped flowing. I, as usual, grabbed the nozzle to put it back, but realized, as I was already pulling it out, two very unfortunate truths. 1. The lever had not disengaged when the tank filled, and 2. there was still gas coming out of the nozzle.


I suddenly had gas spraying on my face, hands, and clothes, but was able to shut it of fairly quickly. Thankfully none got in my mouth or eyes, but I do smell quite a bit like gasoline today.  Solution on page 45.

Word Search

(find all the underlined words) by Erika Byler

H	E	A	R	D	E	Z	I	L	A	E	R
S	S	E	N	I	L	O	S	A	G	T	U
T	E	I	S	P	O	O	H	W	D	A	S
A	H	O	E	E	M	E	D	E	A	N	U
T	A	A	Y	T	T	S	G	Y	L	U	A
I	H	D	N	Y	I	A	O	L	R	T	L
O	T	E	A	K	G	U	C	R	E	R	D
N	U	D	R	N	F	L	Q	I	A	O	E
N	O	O	E	E	I	U	T	A	D	F	L
T	M	S	G	C	O	T	L	F	Y	N	L
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2nd Prize(s): Lighted pen, notepad set, and *The Honeyville Journal* from LaGwana.

3rd Prize(s): *The Honeyville Journal*.

*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: **January 17, 2023.** Allow time for mail delivery.
- 4) Winners will be drawn and prizes mailed.
- 5) Correct entries listed in our next issue!

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LAST MONTH'S WINNERS

Myron & Marla Miller of 700 S, Millersburg

correctly identified last issue's farm as being owned by **Mike & Wilma Schlabach, 4375 N 1000**

W, Shipshewana and Wayne & Elsie Slabach, 4425 N 1000 W, Shipshewana. Congratulations! They won a \$25 Gift Certificate from Tiffany's Restaurant, a lighted pen, a notepad set, and a copy of *The Honeyville Journal* from LaGwana. Second prize went to **David & Wanda Yoder of 500 W, Shipshewana.** Third prize went to **Floyd & Betty Miller of 325 N, Shipshewana.**




There were 27 correct entries this month. **Others that guessed correctly were:** Chris & Ramah Slabach, Karl & Marilyn Miller, Orvan & Barb Miller, Dennis & Wanetta Yoder, Dwayne & Barb Bontrager, David & Joan Miller, Wilbur & Martha Bontrager, Gary & Norma Bontrager, Matt & Cristina Troyer, Kevin & Leah Beechy, Lester & Wanda Beechy, Gene & Ruth Yoder, Merlin Petersheim, Junior & Christina Raber, Ivan & Doreen Mast, Orley & Vonda Miller, Richard & Waneta, Dale & JoEllen Yoder, Myron & Retha Schlabach, Larry & DeAnna Miller, Devan & Melissa Bontrager, Leroy & Deborah Hochstetler, Steven Yoder, James & Brenda Otto.

Coloring Contest Winners

Six-year-old Miciah Slabach of 1150 W, Middlebury was our winner for the December Coloring Contest. He won an ice cream treat of choice at Wana-Cup in Shipshewana.

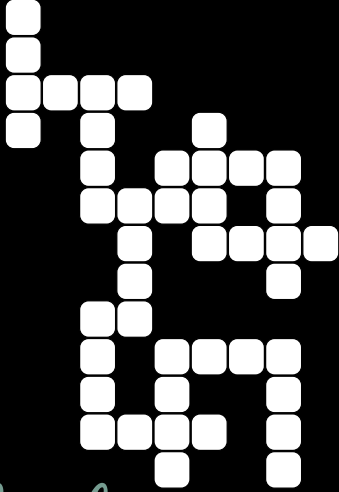
Everyone else that sent in a page can stop by Wana-Cup for a free small ice cream cone through January.

Runners-up were Aaron Bontrager, age 6; Faith Adigail Farmwald, age 5; Amelia Fry, age 4; Wesley Yoder, age 3; Justin Bontrager, age 2. Honorable Mentions: Lucas Yoder, age 6; Renae Jo Petersheim, age 6; Alysse Lanae Peterseim, age 5; Vanessa Hershberger, age 5; Alisa Bontrager, age 6; and Jaydon Lynn Helmuth, age 6. Check out page 43 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. 



- Back
- Copy
- Dash
- Ease
- Jobs
- Kite
- Morn
- Note
- Soon
- Toes
- Toss
- Word
- Work



Solution to Clueless
Crossword is on pg 45.
by Emily Vandevander

Clueless Crossword

Extra Words: Ma, We

Use the words listed to fill in the spaces!

HOW ARE MINUS ZERO NEGATIVE ZERO AND BELOW ZERO ALL THE SAME

?

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winter-riddles/](https://www.getriddles.com/winter-riddles/)

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**Clueless
CROSSWORD**
By Emily Vandevander
Solution
to the puzzle on page 42.

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M O R N
M O R N
Y E A R
A S K I T E
E
M E
T O E S
O O
O O
O O
D A S H
S

**ANSWER:
THEY ARE
ALL
RIDICULOUSLY
COLD.**

Solution to puzzle on page 41



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

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

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D O N O T
G O T O
P L A N !**

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