The Hometown Steasure February 2023 • Vol. 24 Num. 02 The Hometown Steasure February 2023 • Vol. 24 Num. 02

Murder on the Circus
Train

A Robbery Turned Deadly Holcomb's Next Level Agenda

> Early Childhood Coalitions Combine

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BAND & CHOIR

STUDENTS AND TEACHERS OF BAND AND CHOIR AT WESTVIEW JR-SR HIGH SCHOOL

BY: ALEXZANDER SANCHEZ AND CARVER STUMP

STUDENTS OF BAND AND CHOIR

e first interviewed Issac Yater about his experience in band and choir. Issac, an eighth grader, has been in band (playing the trumpet) for three years, and joined choir for the first time this year. When asked why he chose to play the trumpet, he explained that his family already had one, so he chose that to avoid having to purchase a new instrument. The performance he found most memorable was the summer marching band's trip to the Indiana State Fair to perform on Indiana State Fair Band Day. He also recalled one instance where he rode alone on the bus to a parade, as everyone else rode there in their cars. Upon being asked what the toughest thing he had to learn for band or choir was, he mentioned the difficulty of hitting the F at the top of the staff. All in all, he enjoys band and choir, and has made several friends through these programs.

Next, we interviewed Micah Geyer. Micah is a sophomore and he is in band. Micah says that his favorite instrument to play is drums. Micah says he is unsure of his favorite song that he has performed and he remembers all of his performances equally fondly. He then said that the hardest thing about band for him was dealing with people's different parts playing while he performs. Micah said that overall, he loves being in band.

We then interviewed Gwendolyn Owsley, a sophomore, about her experience in band and choir. Gwen has been in band for five years and choir for four. Gwen told us that she joined band because it sounded fun and her dad did it, and she joined choir because she loves to sing. Gwen told us that she plays the saxophone because she wants to learn the music to saxophone-heavy songs. Gwen says that balancing band and choir isn't too difficult, except you will be unable to have a study hall. Gwen says that she has made many friends while she has been in choir, but she already knew most of the people in band.

Finally, we interviewed Grace Atwater. As an eighth grader, this is her second year in choir. She mentioned that she had made some friends in choir that she wouldn't have otherwise. For her, the hardest thing she had to learn was singing part of a song in a different language last year. Outside of those, she mentioned multiple memorable experiences and performances she had in choir. For her, the most memorable performance was during the final song of a concert last year. In between songs, the curtain fell. Quickly, the choir put on the floaties, sandals, etc. that they had stowed under the risers beforehand. When the curtain rose again, the audience laughed. All in all, Grace enjoys choir, and would recommend it to anyone who is considering joining.

MRS. HAMM

Mrs. Hamm has been teaching various classes about music for seventeen years. She currently teaches the school choir and seventh grade music class. She knew early into her life that she wanted to be a teacher, but was torn between social studies and music. In the end, two factors—amazing music teachers in high school (Mr. Brown and Mrs. Franklin) and a thought that ran throughout her senior year, that she just couldn't imagine it being the last time she performed onstage in front of an audience—helped her determine her path. She received an undergraduate degree from Indiana Wesleyan University and continuously looks for ways to improve her craft.

When asked how hard it was to teach choir, she replied: "There are many hard parts to being the choir teacher. First, auditions for anything are so hard to do. I am naturally a people pleaser and I have to select students for various roles, solos, and Dynamic Singsations members each and every year. Second, trying to pick music for the choirs that has value but is also something they would enjoy keeps getting harder. And third, balancing the teaching of musical concepts with making sure we are on track to have a great performance can be difficult. My subject is very visible. What I teach in the classroom is put on a stage for an audience to see multiple times a year."

We asked her whether it was harder to teach older or younger students, she mentioned that she had tried teaching elementary students for 3 years. In her own words: "Oh my, I am not cut out for that! I'll take my middle school through high schoolers any day of the week!"

MR. BROWN

Mr. Brown has been teaching band for students from sixth to twelfth grade for thirty-two years. He had a very positive experience in band during his high school years, and decided that he wanted to provide that same experience for others.

Before coming to Westview, he earned his bachelor's degree at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, and earned his master's degree from Olivet Nazarene University in Illinois.

Whenever either him or Mrs. Hamm is absent, they will substitute for each other. When asked what it was like to teach each other's class, Mr. Brown replied, "While we might not be experts in other subjects, we are experts in teaching. When the absent teacher leaves really clear lesson plans, it's just a matter of using your teaching skills to present different information."

Every four years, the high school band goes on a trip, visiting places all throughout the world. One of Mr. Brown's most memorable performances, in fact, was on board a cruise ship in the Bahamas. While he believes it is more time-consuming due to all the performances, Mr. Brown does not believe that band is any harder to teach than any other subject.

When asked about his single most memorable moment from teaching over the years, Mr. Brown replied, "It's really difficult to pick just one moment. Every day is a new adventure, and great memories are made every year."



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Keep Moving Forward

to print, it is mid-January and I am already seeing a decline in my motivation to keep up my New Year's resolution. It is widely accepted that no matter what is picked, it will not stick. People continue to make them and some surprise themselves with a resolution that does stick! Alas, that glue will require a longer drying time for me.

Regardless, I am reminded of the Disney movie—with three young kids, cartoons have become my source of wisdom to pull from—"Meet the Robinsons" in which the family uses the phrase, "keep moving forward."

In the movie, failure is a thing to be read, as always! celebrated as it brings the person failing one step closer to succeeding—clearly what was tried is not right so it can be eliminated as a solution and then you can move on to the next. They repeat the mantra, "keep moving forward" as a way to be motivated despite the disappointment of setbacks.

I'm finding my mindset—and what email them to news@lagwana.com. I choose to fill my thoughts with—play a big role in my mood and therefore how I handle the challenges and achievements that I run into.

This publication has both challenged me and given me a sense of achievement in different ways and at

At the time that this magazine goes different times. The last issue had more mistakes than I can happily admit to and yet I continue to "keep moving forward."

> The potential to be more—and better than before—is always there if we choose to look for it and so this month, I hope the February issue in your hands will have less mistakes than its predecessor but only be a stepping stone of what is to come.

> I hope you enjoy the news and the updates from the community and Westview schools. Make sure to read the cover story and historical feature by Harold. I found it to be an interesting

> 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

> > Sincerely,

Tamas Wilkins

Tamar Wilkins The Hometown Treasure Editor



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A Reason, A Season, or Forever

I spent time with friends and family and moving into the "month of love," I've been reflecting on relationships. Conclusion—I've been blessed with a lot of them!

some for a season, and some are in it their love is deeply rooted in my heart. forever. No relationship in my life has been wasted. Even if they ended, there people? Who fills in these categories in was a purpose. I've learned valuable lessons, shared laughs, and loved.

life whose paths have crossed briefly each other. He saw Adam was lonely with mine. They have been placed and created another human being for there for a reason. Past teachers taught him. In Galatians 6:2, we are instructed me essential lessons or skills. I've to carry one another's burdens. 1 encountered people in the grocery store that I'm convinced were there for a purpose. This is how I learned to pick a good cantaloupe!

Then there are those people who along the way. were in my life for a season. Classmates, parents who I shared bleachers with and cheered our children on together, or friends who moved away. We didn't part on complicated terms but moved on with good memories. I've also endured learned valuable lessons there, also.

Then there is the long-haul group. These forever people are my mainstays what. They are my parents, family Romans 12.

Coming off the holidays, where members, spouse, and lifelong friends. These are the ones that have loved me through the thick and thin of life. These individuals have grit and grace, and I can always return to them when I've lost my way. Even if I try, I can't Some were in my life for a reason, get rid of them (God love 'em) because

> Where are you in the lives of other vour life?

God created us uniquely and There have been individuals in my desires us to be in a relationship with Thessalonians 5:11 says we are to encourage and build each other up.

> No matter the status, there is a purpose in each encounter we make

> Romans 13:8 (NLT) says: Owe nothing to anyone-except for your obligation to love one another.

Whether you are in someone's life for a reason, a season, or forever you owe them nothing but love. Easily done complex relationships for a season. I if you're in good standing, but more difficult if there are hard feelings. In time and through prayer, we can have love in any relationship. However, who have stuck with me no matter it must be sincere love, according to



says we should This passage be devoted to one another in love and honor one another above ourselves. It gives a list of how sincere love should look. This list applies no matter how you fit into someone's life.

Here is what sincere love looks like: It is selfless, zealous, fervent, and service-oriented. It is joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer. It's hospitable, compassionate, and giving. It blesses and doesn't curse. It rejoices with the joyful and mourns with the grieving. It is harmonious, humble, and never conceited. Sincere love does not seek revenge but makes peace with everyone. It overcomes evil with good!

How many can you check off this list in your relationships? I'm a work in progress on many of them. Let us strive to love each other sincerely—whether for a reason, a season, or forever.

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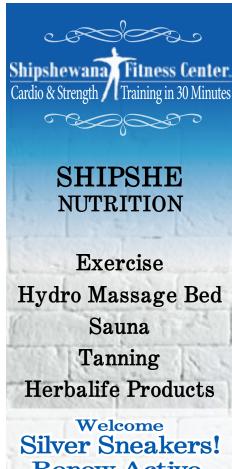








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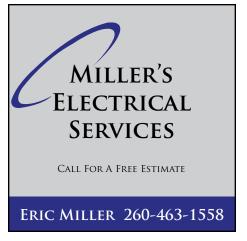


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Smart Choices

By Amela Agic, PharmD Candidate at Topeka Pharmacy

Medication Concerns: Overcoming the Barriers

tion that you did not fill or stopped taking, be purchased at a local pharmacy; they you are not alone! In the U.S., one in five allow people to organize their pills and prescriptions never gets picked up from avoid missing doses. Additionally, the the pharmacy, and half of all prescrip- pharmacy can call or text patients to retions filled are not taken as prescribed.

Consequences of Non-Compliance

Not taking medications as pre-dates are on the same day. scribed can result in poor health out- Side Effects comes such as uncontrolled diabetes and high blood pressure. This increases the give up. Pharmacists can recommend a risk of heart attacks, stroke, hospital- similar medication that will not cause ization, additional healthcare expens- the same issues to come up. Some people es, and death. Many factors can lead to may have a fear of side effects from hearmedication non-compliance. Below are ingthings others have said. Pharmacists common reasons why medications are can review the risks and benefits of each not taken and some ways to help.

Complicated Dosing Schedules

Multiple medications with complicated dosing schedules can be hard to ford their medications or have a means follow correctly. Pharmacists are medica- of transportation. If cost is a barrier, tion experts who can contact healthcare pharmacists can fill out medication asproviders on the patient's behalf and sistance applications to determine if make essential treatment recommenda- uninsured and underinsured people can tions. For example, they can identify if receive certain medications for free. In a regimen can be simplified by reducing addition, delivery services can eliminate the total number of medications a pa-transportation barriers for those unable tient should take. They can also deter- to pick up their medications. mine if the patient can be switched to a different medication with a less frequent with all of the above concerns—and dosing schedule.

Can't Remember

Sometimes it can be hard to remember to take medications, or a busy life can make it hard to stick to the prescribed dosing schedule. Perhaps setting up a phone alarm or reminder can help one stay on track. Also,

If you have ever been given a prescrippill boxes are small containers that can mind them to pick up their medications and can make sure that all of the pick-up

Side effects can cause patients to medication with concerned patients.

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Watch Out for Tax Season Scams

It's that time of year when we do generally will mail you a bill. And the scammers pretend to be from real or our taxes—but it's also the same time IRS won't threaten to bring in the pothat tax scammers go to work. What lice or another law enforcement group scams should you watch for—and how can you avoid being victimized?

long, including demands for payment or requests for "additional information" pertaining to your tax refund, in which the sender asks for your Social Security number and other personal information. These scam emails can look quite official, often incorporating the IRS logo. You might also receive scam text messages containing bogus links claiming to be the IRS website or an online "tool" that can help process your refund faster.

But keep these points in mind:

• The IRS generally won't contact you by phone and won't contact you by email, text messages or social media channels to ask for personal or financial information. The IRS begins most correspondence to taxpayers through regular mail delivered by the U.S. Postal Service.

• The IRS won't call to demand the IRS, as you make an immediate payment through a prepaid debit card or wire transfer. If you owe

taxes, the

IRS

to arrest you for not paying your taxes.

In general, be extremely skep-Sadly, the list of scams is pretty tical about any type of communication purporting to be from the IRS that sounds bullying or over-inquisitive—and certainly don't give out any personal or financial information. But these fake messages aren't the only tax season scams out there. You might even receive a direct deposit from what appears to be the U.S. Treasury Department—but if you weren't expecting it, something's likely not right. This payment could be a sign that a fraudulent tax return was filed in your name, and it might be followed by a communication from a supposed IRS agent requesting this overpayment be sent to them. If Number and must sign your tax return. this happens to you, you'll want to contact the IRS right away, and you could also ask your bank to return the deposit to the government.

> Other scams don't claim to originate directly from

imaginary tax organizations. For example, you could get a message from the Taxpayer Advocate Service, an independent organization within the IRS, but this agency won't contact you without a legitimate reason. Or you could receive a message from the nonexistent "Bureau of Tax Enforcement." Your best bet is to delete these messages immediately or send them to your spam folder.

Not all tax season scams originate from fraudulent IRS representatives or fake agencies. You also need to be careful about whom you hire to prepare your taxes. If possible, get a recommendation from a trusted friend or family member. And keep in mind that a legitimate tax preparer must have a valid Preparer Tax Identification If someone doesn't have this number or is reluctant to sign your return, it may well be a sign that this individual is a "ghost preparer" who only wants to pocket your fee.

> Tax scammers are, unfortunately, here to staybut remaining vigilant can help you keep them from causing problems for you in this tax season and all the ones in the future. $\mathbf{0}$

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.

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

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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, Feb. 7, 14, 21, and 28 • 10:30 a.m. Shipshewana • Tuesdays, Feb. 7, 14, 21, and 28 • 1 p.m. **Topeka** • Wednesdays, Feb. 1, 8, 15, and 22 • 11 a.m. Registration is appreciated but is not required.

Homeschool Group (All Ages)

Shipshewana • Wednesday, Feb. 8 • 1 p.m. LaGrange • Friday, Feb. 10 • 10 a.m. Topeka • Friday, Feb. 10 • 1 p.m. REGISTRATION REQUIRED! MUST REGISTER BY FEB. 2. Theme: Spy School! We will learn about making codes, breaking codes, and learn some detective skills.

Teen Games (Grades 6-12)

LaGrange • Monday, Feb. 13 • 4-5:50 p.m.

Elementary Book Club (Grades 1-3)

LaGrange • Tuesday, Feb. 21 • 4 p.m. We will discuss "Good Dog: Home is Where the Heart Is." We will also do a fun activity and pass out the next book club book.

Middle Grade Book Club (Grades 4-7)

LaGrange • Tuesday, Feb. 21 • 4 p.m. We will discuss "Explorer's Code," do a fun activity, and pass out the next book club book.

Teen Book Club & Craft (Grades 8-12)

LaGrange • Monday, Feb. 27 • 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, Feb. 24 • 6 p.m. Movie: Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile, 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+

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! This page sponsored by

Adult Interest continued

Tai Chi (All Ages)

LaGrange • Thursdays, Feb. 2, 9, 16, and 23 • 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. In February, we'll do Balance Exercise, a gentle, standing tai chi workout with a focus on improved balance, strength, and stability. Free!

Hillsdale College: Free Online Course

Mark Twain: Tom Sawyer, Huckleberry Finn, and Selected Short Stories **LaGrange** • Fridays, Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24, Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 • 9:30 a.m. Mark Twain—pen name of Samuel Clemens (1835-1910) has been called the father of American literature. Twain's realistic fiction reveals timeless truths about human nature and encourages reform in the reader and society. Join us as we watch the nine 30-minute lectures together and discuss our own questions and insights afterward. This is a non-credit course. No prerequisites. Free. Space is limited! Register by calling 260-463-2841 x1030.

Learn to Crochet

Topeka • Friday, Feb. 3 • Register by Jan. 27 • 2:30-4:30 p.m. **Shipshewana** • Friday, Feb. 10 • Register by Feb. 3 • 2:30–4:30 p.m. **LaGrange** • Saturday, Feb. 18 • Register by Feb. 11 • 10 a.m.-Noon Cost is \$5, due at class. To register, call 260-463-2841 x1030. This class is for adults who have never crocheted before. You'll learn all of the basic stitches, which can be used to make anything from afghans to doilies. All materials will be supplied.

Musical Americana: Movie Tuesdays

LaGrange • Tuesdays, Feb. 7, 14, 21, and 28 • 2 p.m. Free admission and free popcorn! Feb. 7: Oklahoma!; Feb. 14: The Unsinkable Molly Brown; Feb. 21: Thoroughly Modern Millie; Feb. 28: Yankee Doodle Dandy.

Second Saturday Book Club

LaGrange • Saturday, Feb. 11 • 11 a.m.

This month we will discuss The Three Musketeers by Alexandre Dumas. The adventures of a young gentleman, D'Artagnan, and his three friends from the King's Musketeers—Athos, Porthos, and Aramis. Ages 16+ Copies of the book are available at the LaGrange library's Adult Information Desk.

<u> Make-N-Take: Alcohol Paints</u>

LaGrange • Wednesday, Feb. 15 • 6 p.m.

We will use alcohol paints to decorate bowls and/or mugs and/or wine glasses with striking designs! You can mix and match for a set of 4. Ages 12+ Cost is \$25 per person. Space is limited. Reservation and \$15 deposit due by Wednesday, Feb. 8 at the LaGrange library.

Cookbook Club

LaGrange • Saturday, Feb. 25 • 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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Parkview Noble Hospital and Parkview LaGrange Hospital have been recognized by the Indiana Hospital Association (IHA)—in partnership with Governor Eric J. Holcomb and State Health Commissioner Kris Box, MD, FACOG—for the hospitals' commitment to infant and maternal health. The announcement was made at the third annual INspire Hospital of Distinction recognition program.

INspire, funded by the Indiana Department of Health's Safety PIN grant, was developed to implement the delivery of best-practice care for Hoosier moms and babies and recognize hospitals for excellence in addressing key drivers of infant and maternal health.

Parkview Noble and Parkview La-Grange earned the INspire Hospital of Distinction designation based on their having implemented best practices in six key areas, including infant safe sleep, breastfeeding, tobacco prevention and cessation, perinatal substance use, obstetric hemorrhage, and maternal hypertension.

This is the third consecutive year to creating that Parkview Noble and Parkview Lacare systems.

Grange have been recognized in the Indiana."

The

"I was thrilled to learn that Parkview Noble has been honored with the INspire Hospital of Distinction award for our Family Birthing Center,"

Parkview Noble Hospital and said Gary Adkins, president of Parkview Review LaGrange Hospital have been Noble Hospital. "Our co-workers take gnized by the Indiana Hospital Asgreat pride in providing their patients ation (IHA)—in partnership with with the highest-quality care, and this ernor Eric J. Holcomb and State award reflects the fact that we are meetleth Commissioner Kris Box, MD, ing that important objective."

"We are so blessed to have an outstanding team of dedicated nurses and physicians who have a passion for mothers and babies here in LaGrange County," said Jordi Disler, president of Parkview LaGrange Hospital. "These providers work tirelessly to deliver superior care and exceptional quality in a comfortable, nurturing environment. This recognition shows why we are so proud of our Parkview LaGrange Hospital team."

"The dedication of Parkview La-Grange Hospital and Parkview Noble Hospital to quality improvement in maternal and child health is truly inspirational," said Brittany Waggoner, IHA Maternal and Infant Quality Improvement Advisor. "Despite the challenges our Indiana delivering facilities are facing today, they remain committed to creating a highly reliable obstetric care system for moms and babies across Indiana."

The Indiana Hospital Association serves as the professional trade association for more than 170 acute care, critical access, behavioral health and other specialized hospitals in Indiana.





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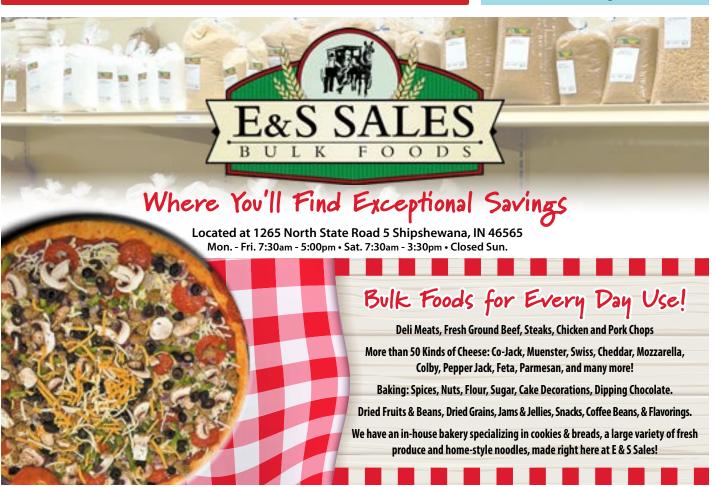
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Seeking Volunteers

The LaGrange County Community Foundation is seeking scholarship application reviewers for 2023. Each year the Community Foundation relies on volunteers to help review more than 500 applications.

The evaluation process is online and only requires a personal computer to participate. Volunteers can be professionals from any discipline or sector and must be at least 23 years of age. Volunteers should live or work in LaGrange County or have ties to the community to participate.

Volunteers should have 3-4 hours available, over a two-week period beginning March 1, 2023 to March 14, 2023, and should be comfortable evaluating:

and personal achievement.

- · The applicant's record of community service and engagement.
- · The recommendation of the academic or professional contact; and
- · The substance and quality of writing in the essay and application.

volunteer, reviewers must complete the online form by February 6, 2023, at www.lccf.net/ scholarship-volunteers.

All volunteers will need to complete a conflict of interest and confidentiality form that must be signed and on file before February.

Volunteer opportunities or scholarship questions should be directed to Scholarship Manager, Laurie Sherck at · The applicant's record of academic lsherck@lccf.net, or by calling 463-4363.



Maple Syrup Field Trip **Opportunities**

Maple syrup season is almost here! LaGrange County Parks and Recreation is now scheduling maple syrup tours for school children. Tours will take place at Maple Wood Nature Center, from March 1 to March 22, 2023. Morning tours begin at 9:00 a.m. and afternoon tours begin at 12:00 p.m. Each tour lasts approximately 1.5 hours. There are no Monday or weekend tours. This program is FREE to all LaGrange County Schools. The maple syrup making tour addresses several state proficiency standards. Children will learn about photosynthesis, the important role of weather and temperatures, and the water cycle. Students will take a short walk in the woods to learn about the tapping process, then visit the sugar shack. Everyone is treated to a sweet syrup sample. This tour is nearly 100% outside, so dress for winter weather. Space is limited and will fill up! To reserve your field trip, please call the Park Office at (260) 854-2225, or email Naturalist Leslie Arnold at larnold@lagrangecounty.org. For out-of-county schools, there is a \$3.00 fee per student. Maple Wood Nature Center is located at 4550 E 100 S, LaGrange, Indiana. 🕕

Parkview LaGrange Foundation Accepting Applications

tion is accepting applications for four scholarships for high school seniors and adults pursuing a degree or licensure in parkview.com or call a healthcare-related field.

A total of four \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded. Three scholarships will go to high school seniors, each residing in one of the three school corporations in LaGrange County. The fourth scholarship will be awarded to an adult who is enrolled in a healthcare-related program. Qualified applicants must currently reside in LaGrange County and be accepted or currently enrolled in an educational program leading to licensure or a degree in a healthcare-related field.

arship through an online portal at box under "Gift Designation." 🕕

The Parkview LaGrange Founda- www.parkview.com/plhscholarship. additional information about the scholarships, please email christina.blaskie@

> 260-463-9389. To be considered, completed applications and required attachments must be submitted on or before Wednesday, March 15.

> Parkview LaGrange Hospital scholarships are funded in part through income from the hospital gift shop.

This scholarship fund is also supported by the generosity of donors and is managed through the Parkview La-Grange Foundation. If you are interested in supporting this fund, please visit www.parkview.com/GiveToPLH select "Parkview LaGrange Hospital Applicants may apply for the schol- Scholarship Fund" in the drop-down

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Early Childhood Coalitions Combine

Noble Thrive by 5, an Early Childhood Coaliformed in 2020 increase capacity, ability, and quality of child care and early learning in Noble County, is now expanding.

As of January 1, 2023, Noble Thrive by 5 has become Thrive by 5, serving LaGrange and Noble Counties. Rather than continue with a separate coalition in each county, Thrive by 5, along with its coordinator Jenna Anderson, has formed a unique partnership to create one coalition for both counties.

"We have all heard the saying that two is better than one and know that we will be better together," said Andrea Howe, HR Manager for Farmers State Bank. "Noble has already showed great strides on this initiative with the addition of Jenna's role, and we are excited to see her work come to life in LaGrange County without completely reinventing the wheel and starting from scratch."

On Wednesday, January 11, steering committee members from both the LaGrange and Noble County early child-hood coalitions met together for the first time as a combined organization to develop a shared vision and business plan. This is more than a collaboration...it's an alliance that will take the progress already being developed in Noble County and allow the coalition to hit the ground running in LaGrange.

"Noble Thrive by 5 has seen success in supporting early learning opportunities, and we hope to learn, collaborate, and build upon that success in LaGrange County," said Sara Patrick, Executive Director for the LaGrange County Chamber of Commerce. "We're excited about the marriage of both coalitions because it brings an even-greater impact in LaGrange County through the bounty of experienced stakeholders at the table. Great things are coming, and after several years of working towards solutions, I personally am excited to see the tangible fruit of that work!"

Some of that progress in Noble County to increase capacity includes working with those interested in starting an early learning program and providing the support and resources they need. The most exciting project is a collaboration with the Town of Albion, which is interested in committing Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District Funds to pay a portion of the construction costs to build a new licensed childcare center.

Thrive by 5 is also nearly ready to launch a Tri-Share Pilot Program to address affordability in Noble County. Funded in part by County Economic Development Income Tax (CEDIT) dollars budgeted by the Noble County Commissioners, this program will drastically cut child care costs for families, while engaging employers to provide a unique benefit to retain and attract employees.

"What I've discovered in the role as coalition coordinator is that this work is about finding opportunities," said Thrive by 5 Coordinator Jenna Anderson. "By building relationships, working with a variety of organizations, and nurturing ideas, we will find those opportunities and develop them into something that can truly make a difference."

There is power in numbers and Thrive by 5 has effectively doubled its resources.

"As collaborative organizations of diverse members who are working toward a common goal, one coalition gives us the opportunity to combine and leverage resources from multiple and diverse sources," explained Margarita White, Executive Director of the Community Foundation of Noble County.

Thrive by 5 isn't alone in this work. It also has the support of the Northeast Indiana Regional Early Childhood Coalition (NEIRECC), which works to support and build local coalitions in our eleven counties.

"The child care crisis is complex and will take a concerted effort, we can work smarter and go farther together," said Allie Sutherland, NEIRECC Coordinator. "Working together we can pool resources and make a larger impact for longer. We can also ensure we can continue the work and not continually start and stop efforts."



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Early Childhood ... cont. from 17

of this work.

"The lack of childcare and early learning opportunities affects all counties in northeast Indiana and across the state," said Octavia Yoder, LaGrange County Community Foundation Executive Director. "This is a state-wide and regional issue and it can't be solved by each county alone. Many people living in LaGrange and Noble counties cross county lines for work and share common interests. By partnering with a neighboring county, we can share logistic resources, reduce the programming operating costs, and focus on the

important work of building communities with increased access to childcare and early learning."

While that work focuses on increasing the capacity, affordability, and quality of early learning, long-term success is vital to our communities.

"We can support working families in our community and provide opportunities to give them peace of mind their children have access to good care," said Yoder. "Strong families build strong communities. We want to see families thrive."



LaGrange County Community Foundation Executive
Director Octavia Yoder (right) and LaGrange County
Economic Development Corporation Executive Director
Sherri Johnston listen as Gensyn Design guides the group
through strategic planning to form a single early childhood
coalition serving two counties. Photo Submitted

Next Level Agenda

Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb recently released his 2023 Next Level agenda, and it includes several measures to improve the landscape of early childhood education.

"This is a great time to be involved in early learning," said Jenna Anderson, Early Childhood Coalition Coordinator for Thrive by 5 of LaGrange and Noble Counties. "The need for support to increase capacity, quality, and affordability of child care

is getting recognized by our legislators, and with the work being done both locally and regionally here in Northeast Indiana, we have the opportunity to make some important changes."

The lack of access to child care is really an economic development issue, said Anderson. Governor Holcomb's plan to establish a \$25 million Innovation Grant to provide funding and licensing support for employer-sponsored child care options demonstrates that.

"Parents simply can't find quality, affordable child care these days," said Anderson. "Employers really recognize that this is creating an employment issue for them, and they are looking for ways to demonstrate their support for increased capacity."

Work is already underway in the state to re-design regulations for new and existing child care providers, but Governor Holcomb stressed that need in his agenda. He also mentioned modernizing and updating Paths to Quality to better measure kindergarten readiness standards.

"These items are so important in our work to increase capacity and quality," said Anderson. "Those who could emerge as new providers are deterred by the mountain of regulations and paperwork needed to become licensed in Indiana. Existing providers get frustrated, as well. We need to have regulations for the health and safety of our children, but there has to be a way to streamline the process so that it is not so overwhelming for all involved."

Governor Holcomb's final early childhood agenda item will help increase affordability for families. By expanding access to Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) vouchers and On My Way Pre-K assistance, another 5,000 more families will qualify.

"By increasing the income threshold to qualify for state assistance, more families will be able to take advantage," said Anderson. "An increase in access to these state programs, coupled with the Tri-Share Pilot Program to address affordability in Noble County, will put money back into the pockets of many more families struggling to pay for child care."

Early childhood leaders throughout Northeast Indiana will be watching the state legislature as they consider the Governor's Next Level agenda items. •



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February Kids Club Birthdays

- 1 Jared Hershberger, Ava Miller
- 2 Bryan Bontrager, Jason Bontrager, Tyler Castellon, Evan Miller, Caleb Mullet, Declan Ryall
- 3 Jesse Doremus, Peyton Lambright, Alyssa Miller
- 4 Davey King, Lucas Raber, Amy Yoder
- 5 Daryl Beechy, Kurtis Miller, Toby Miller
- 6 Avionna Holmes, Khaled Omer, Marcus Runyan, Rylan Spencer
- 7 Paisley Brandenberger, Ashlyn Lay, Easton McDonald, Jeryle Miller, Lillith White, Dustin Yoder
- 8 Evelynn Brown, Lukas Gingerich, Kinley Hershberger, Andrew Martin, Jared Mast
- 9 Ava Miller, Josiah Miller
- 10 Colton Beechy, Bentley Craig, Jeremy Miller, Austin Yoder
- 11 Landon Fry, Abigail Hershberger, Carson Schwartz, Kelsey Smith
- 12 Lucas Lambright, Angela Miller, Hunter Trinh
- 13 Kaiden Beechy, Kayla Beechy, Derek Bontrager, Austin Miller, Jayda Stutzman
- 14 Alayna Hochstetler, Landyn Honyoust, Chloe Turner
- 15 Maverick Hueston, Lori King, Andrea Lambright, Briana Yoder, Taya Yoder
- 16 Alyse Bontrager, Ethan Riehl, Isla Slabach

Birthdays for children in the area up through sixth grade may be submitted free of charge. Suggestion: Send in your complete list a year at a time. Hometown Treasure, Kids' Birthday List, PO Box 70, Shipshewana, IN 46565



- 17 Jenna Miller, Kinsley Miller, Treva Miller, Eric Schlabach, Justin Schlabach
- 18 Brandon Bontrager, Janessa Caldwell, Isaiah Graber, Raymond Howard, Isaac Miller, Adriana Stutzman
- 19 Sage Fisher, Makenna Grossman, Destiny Mercer, Lucas Miller, Kandice Parker, Emmery Spencer
- 20 Cohen Shepard, Sean Slabach, Alex Stutzman, Derek Wingard,
- 21 Hannah Jasso, James Lambright, Caleb Lehman, Avery Mast, Josiah Schlabach, Kenlin Yoder
- Dixie Altimus,
 Cameron Bontrager,
 Carsyn Haines, Kyrie Mauck,
 Chondra Quinn, Lyndon Yoder
- 23 Lillian Berkey, Julie Bontrager, Bentley Harman, Aaron Hershberger, Isaiah Miller, Tidus Schrock
- 24 Sara Bontrager, Archer Geigley, Curtis Graber, Raylan LaForce,
- 25 Jariah Lehman, Austin Miller, Darin Stutzman, Kylie Wingard, Isabella Yoder, Deanna Yutzy
- 26 Kyle Hershberger, Caleb Mast, Beckham Misner, Janae Stutzman, Kara Yoder, Marilyn Yoder
- 27 Eli Christner, Miles Glassman, Jamal Omarouf
- 28 Cole Donat, Ethan Miller, Bryson Noble, Timothy Schrock, Kaylee Yoder

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Final Christmas News

Looking back in 3A, students celebrated their classroom Christmas party by wearing pajamas, eating breakfast casseroles and cinnamon rolls, and exchanging gifts. Each student brought in a new card or board game as a gift. After gifts, the rest of the day was spent playing games. Students in the Reading and Math Clubs participated in a STEM activity in which they had to build the tallest snowman out of marshmallows and toothpicks. The students used teamwork,















Meadowview Elementary Mustangs

made pos

WESTVIEW

Kindergartners <u>Back (left to right)</u>: Caleb Miller, Austin Bontrager, Ethan Miller, Derek Wingard, and Logan Bontrager. <u>Front</u>: Dena Miller, Cynthia Lehman, and Erick Miller. <u>Not Pictured</u>: Bethany Miller. <u>Photo Submitted</u>

First Graders <u>Back (left to right)</u>: Colton Beechy, Kurtis Bontrager, and Easton Hostetler. <u>Front</u>: Neva Bontrager, Constance Killian, Jana Miller, and Adriana Wingard.

Photo Submitted



Second Graders <u>Back (left to right)</u>: Carsyn Haines, Kohler Yoder, Nicholas Bontrager, and Landon Slabach. <u>Front</u>: Kyla Thompson, Jenise Miller, and Brenna Mauck. <u>Not Pictured</u>: Emmery Spencer. Photo Submitted

2nd Quarter

Mustang Awards

A maximum of 2 students are chosen by the classroom teacher each 9 weeks. Winners are chosen based on their display of the following characteristics: effort, attitude, improvement, respect, and responsibility.

Winners receive a Mighty Mustang tag on a chain and are given a choice of a bag from the principal, Mrs. Helmuth. Pictured are the winners for the 2nd quarter of the 2022-2023 school year.

Go Mustangs! 🕕



Third Graders <u>Back (left to right)</u>: Julian Flores and Kenlin Yoder. <u>Front</u>:

Kylah Miller, Grace Beechy, and Natalie McDonald.

<u>Not Pictured</u>: Isaac Bontrager.

Photo Submitted



Fourth Graders <u>Front (left to right)</u>: Landon Bontrager, Seth Lambright,
Ava Yoder, and Julie Bontrager. <u>Not Pictured</u>: Kinley Hershberger, Graison
Yoder, Natalie Yoder, and Gideon Peterson. Photo Submitted





HARVEST of the Month

Students in 3A sample a locally grown vegetable as a part of Parkview's Harvest of the Month program.

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Quarter 1 <u>Back (left to right)</u>: Gloria Miller, Angela Hochstetler, Austin L. Miller, Ryan Yoder, and Sage Mercer. <u>Middle</u>: Olivia Bontrager, Alyssa Hochstetler, Elijah Watts, Landon Raber, and Janae Yoder. <u>Front</u>: Kaitlyn Miller, Katelyn Hochstetler, Amy Bontrager, and Grace Yoder. Photo Submitted

Students of the Quarter

Quarter 2 Back (left to right): Nate Fether, Collin Vandergriff, Pierce Yoder, Kaine Reinhold, and Chris Terrones. Middle: Paige McDonald, Alyssa Hooley, Tyler Stutzman, Seth Bontrager, and Jacob Lambright. Front: Amy Yoder, Grace Yoder, Laine Bortner, and Graci Engle.

Photo Submitted



Westview Jr./Sr. High

Home of the Warriors

Sutch Blessing floral 7th Boys Basketball







- 1) Jaxon Miller passes the ball to open teammate Jacob Lambright.
- 2) Laban Bontrager puts up a two point shot.
- 3) Hudson Yoder shoots for three
- 4) Josh Bontrager brings the ball down the court toward the Westview basket.

Photos by Abby Wenger **These photos and more will be available for purchase at lagwanaphotos.com**.

The Hometown Treasure \cdot February '23



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8th Boys Basketball











- 1) Pierce Yoder scores three for Westview.
- 2) Luke Haarer works his way around his Garrett opponent.
- 3) Adrian Miller faces heavy opposition under the Westview basket.
- 4) Micah Wingard passes the ball to an open teammate.
- 5) Austin Schlabach makes it around his Garrett opponent and heads to the basket.
- 6) Daniel Yoder puts up a two point shot.

Photos by Abby Wenger **These photos and more will be available for purchase at lagwanaphotos.com**.

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2023 7th Cheer: Back (left to right): Madilyn Miller, Jaylynn Brown, and Janae Yoder. Front: Rylee Watson and Kya Roose.

Photo by Stopher-King



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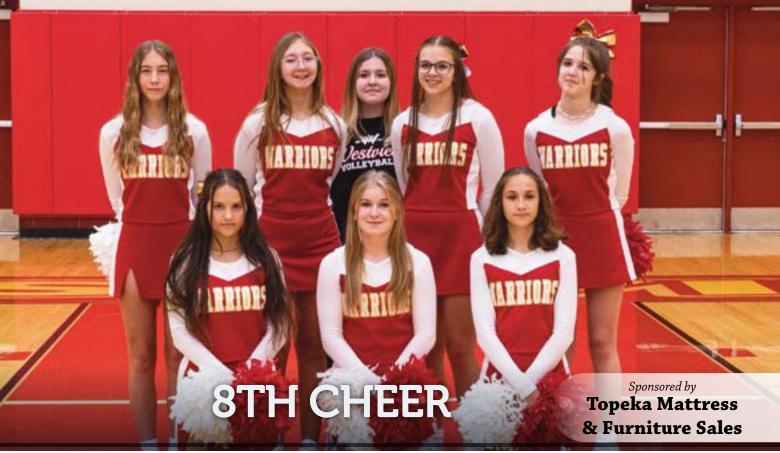
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2023 8th Cheer: <u>Back (left to right)</u>: Marilyn Yoder, Eva Bates, Manager Rayna Jackson, Janessa Miller, and Kendra White. <u>Front</u>: Savannah Yoder, Lexy Bennett, and Erica Lambright.

Photo by Stopher-King



Funeral Service For George Henderson Held Sunday

George Elmer Henderson, 77, former sheriff of LaGrange county, died Friday morning at his home in Topeka, after having been bedfast for several weeks, from heart complications.

The funeral was held in the Topeka Methodist church at 2:30 p. m. Sunday, with burial in Sloan cemetery, 6 miles northeast of Topeka. The services were in charge of the Rev. Eldridge Saunders.

The deceased, son of Anthony and Nancy Henderson, was born April 26, 1868, on a farm 6 miles east of Topeka. His marriage to Elnora Castleman took place Jan. 29, 1888, in Sturgis. They lived on the Henderson homstead until Mr. Henderson was elected sheriff about 35 years ago. At the end of his term he located in Elkhart, and with a partner named Mishler erected and operated the H. & M. garage at 742-744 South Main in Elkhart. He also for a while was employed at the Foster Machine Co. After living in E khart6 years he moved back to the homestead and was again chosen sheriff, locating in Topeka upon completion of that term.

Mr and Mrs. Henderson had 3 children, all deceased. There are 6 grandchildren and 9 greatgrandchildren.

Funeral For Mrs. Elnora Henderson Held Sunday

After an illness of 2 months since the neath of her husband, George Henderson, which occurred Feb. 9, wrs. E nora Henderson, 80, died of a heart attack early Thursday morning at the home of her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Iva Henderson of Topeka.

Mrs. Henderson was born Sept. 24, 1864, in Clearspring township, the daughter of John and Carolyn Murray. She is survived by 9 grandchildren, one of whom is with the 7th army in Germany and another in the air corps in Amarillo, Tex.; 9 greatgrandchildren; and her daughter-in law.

Funeral services were he'd at the Iva Henderson home Sunday 30 1:30 p. m in charge of the Rev. Edridge Saunders of the Topeka Methodist church, assistied by the Rev. Phay Prummer of

Faudits Kill One and Rob Circus Train

Swarming over a Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Balley circus train, a gang of negro bandits killed one man and wounded another in a holdup north of Hore Saturday night.

Anthony La Russo, Newark, N. J. circus employe was shot through the head and William Smith, Chicago, another employee was cut, in a desperate attempt to break up the robbery.

La Russo died immediately Smith's were dressed and he continued with the circus to Pt. Wane.

The negroes arrested were taket from freight train near the scene of the robbery by a posseled by Sheriff George Henderson and State Police from Ligonier barracks

James Manuel, Raleigh, N. C., has allegedly confessed the mur der and implicated James Garret, Yazoo. Miss., and John Gordon. New Orleans. They are being held in the LaGrange county jell pending the Grand Jury session due in September

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THREE ADMIT CIRCUS MURDER

y Associated Press

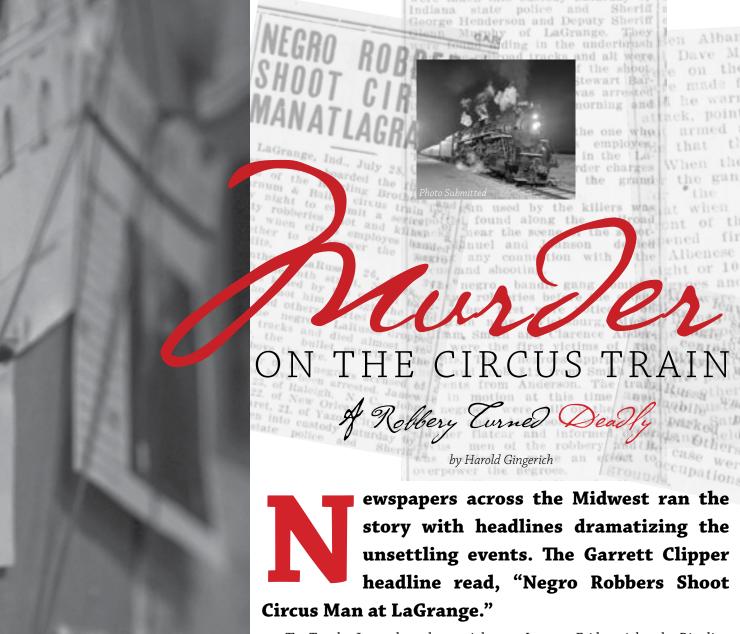
LAGRANGE, Ind., Aug. 3.—
Three Negroes were held for grand
jury action today following pleas
of guilty when arraigned in a
justice of the peace court charged
with the murder last Saturday of
Anthony La Russo, aged 28 Newark, N. J., a circus employe.

Anthony La Russo, aged 26 Newark, N. J., a circus employe. La Russo was abot and killed when he resisted an attempted robbery by the Negroes aboard a circus train. The Negroes held are James Manuel, John Gordon and James Garet.

"Within less
than
10 minutes
after sentence
was pronounced
the slayers
were on their
way to prison."

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The Topeka Journal was less racially oriented, Bandits Kill One and Rob Brothers and Barnum & Bailey circus Circus Train." The Great Depression train was enroute from Kalamazoo, was gripping the nation and times were hard. Hard times often make people desperate; so desperate that they do the unthinkable. On July 28, 1934, the unthinkable happened over \$12.41 shocking area residents. While the crime that they were first noticed on board occurred just north of Howe, Indiana, there is an interesting link to the local Michigan. Were they traveling with the community.

It was the kind of story that movies are made of. Unfortunately, this story ended in robbery and murder. And three men would be sentenced to spend were hatched is not clear. While the the rest of their lives in prison at Michigan City.

It was a Friday night; the Ringling Michigan, to Ft. Wayne, Indiana. A gang of as many as five bandits committed two robberies before the shooting. One newspaper described them as "circus roustabouts." Another reported the circus train around Vicksburg, circus? We don't know. But it was the Depression and seeing men hop a train (for a free ride) was not unusual.

How and when the robbery plans train was moving, the robbers approached two circus workers, William

Smith and Clarence Anderson. They stole \$12 from Smith and 41 cents from Anderson. By today's standards that is not much money. But keep in mind it was the Depression. The phrase, "Brother can you spare me a dime" had real meaning because nobody had money. So, \$12.41 in 1934 was a significant amount of money to a lot of people.

Following the robbery, while Smith and Anderson made their way to another flatcar to tell other circus men what had happened, the bandits stayed on the train. Plans were quickly made to overpower the bandits and recover the stolen money. One circus employee, Ben Albanese of Newark, New Jersey, warned the men against the attack saying that the negro bandits were armed.

When the train stopped to take on water north of Howe, the vigilantes assembled and started for the bandits. Albanese told authorities that when the circus workers confronted the bandits the negroes opened fire. He believed that two of the bandits were armed and that 8 or 10 shots were fired.

Anthony LaRusso, 26 of Newark, New Jersey, dropped in his tracks and was killed almost instantly with a bullet wound above his eye. William Smith

from Chicago, and who had been one of the robbery victims, suffered a gunshot wound to the left side of his face. Smith's wounds were bandaged, and he continued with the circus train to Ft. Wayne.

Immediately following the shooting, the bandits jumped from the train and scattered. A posse led by LaGrange County Sheriff George Henderson, Deputy Sheriff Glenn Murphy, and the Indiana State Police (Ligonier post) combed the area for the suspects. James Manuel, 23, of Raleigh, North Carolina; John Gordon, 22, of New Orleans, Louisiana; and James Garet, 21, of Yazoo City, Mississippi, were found hiding in the underbrush along the railroad tracks and were captured on Saturday morning within a mile of the fatal shooting. Another negro man, Theodore Colman, age 45, was also detained as a material witness. A fourth suspect, Stewart Barnett of New York City, was arrested in Ft. Wayne on Sunday morning and returned to LaGrange.

Justice came swiftly.
Prosecutor Theodore

Wood addressed the grand jury on July 30th and indicated that based on statements by four Negros, who were being held without bond, criminal charges were being filed. The August 2, 1935, edition of the Topeka Journal reported that "James Manuel, Raleigh, N.C. has allegedly confessed the murder and implicated James Garret, Yazoo Miss, and John Gordon, New Orleans."

On Thursday, September 6th, three defendants appeared in the LaGrange Circuit Court before Judge Clyde C. Carlin. Manuel, Garet, and Gordon pleaded guilty to second degree murder. Judge Carlin accepted their plea, found them guilty and sentenced each to life in prison. The Waterloo Press (Waterloo, IN) noted that "Within less than 10 minutes after sentence was pronounced the slayers were on their way to prison." What happened to Stewart Barnett and Theodore Coleman is yet to be discovered.

Sheriff George E. Henderson (1868-1945) has an interesting connection to the community. His February 15, 1945,

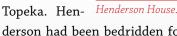
obituary published in the Topeka Journal contains a wealth of information. He was born six miles east of Topeka married Elnora Castleman on January 29, 1888, in Sturgis. George and Elnora would have three children. The couple lived on the Henderson homestead until he was elected sheriff, presumably in 1910.

The front page of the August 6, 1914, Topeka Journal reported that Henderson was a candidate for Sheriff on the Democratic ticket. State law limits a sheriff to two terms. It was probably after his second term that Henderson moved to Elkhart and operated the H & M Garage that is mentioned in his obituary. Six years later he moved back to the area and again ran for sheriff.

The Henderson House, which still stands at 221 North Main Street in Topeka, was home to George & Elnora's oldest son Walter (1890-1944). Walter married Iva Bowsher (1890-1969), on June 12, 1910. We do not know when mostly built

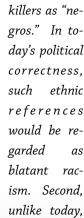
by George and Elnora when they moved back to the community. Growing up two houses north of the Henderson House, to Anthony and Nancy Henderson. He I remember the winter I was paid 50 cents a week to carry in firewood for Iva Henderson's kitchen stove.

> George Elmer Henderson, forsheriff mer of LaGrange County, died Friday morning February 9, 1945, at his home in



derson had been bedridden for several weeks with heart complications. His funeral service, conducted by Rev. Eldridge Saunders, was held the following Sunday afternoon at the Topeka Methodist Church with burial at the Sloan Cemetery six miles east of Topeka. Two months later at the age of 80 Elnora died of a heart attack. Following a funeral in the Henderson House conducted by Rev. Saunders and Rev. Phay to rest next to George. •

Postscript: In the process of researching newspaper articles for this story, two things were striking. First, newspaper reports repeatedly identified the bandits/



Photos Submitted the graphic details of exactly how Anthony LaRusso died were there in print for all the world to see.

While justice was swift, one has to wonder if the crime had occurred in the South given the racial prejudice in the 1930s, would the accused have lived long

enough for there to have even been a trial.

This article partially sponsored by the home was built, but it was Plummer from the Topeka Baptist Church, GENERAL DENTISTR she was laid The Hometown Treasure · February '23









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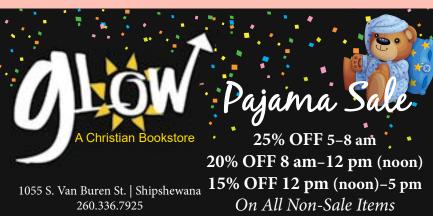














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February 4

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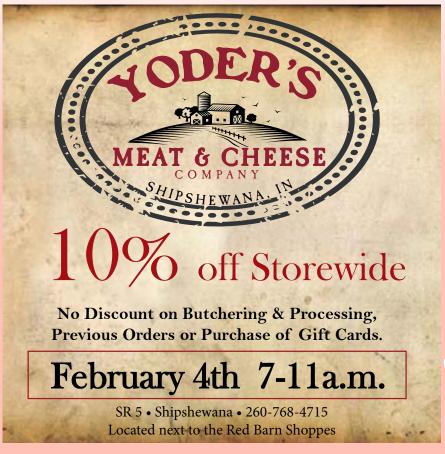
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Left-Over Letters Spell Out A Message From Erika!

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

Word Search

(find all the underlined words) by Erika Byler

I have made a <u>discovery</u> about <u>myself</u> very <u>recently</u>. I am <u>juggling</u> a couple of part time jobs, and <u>typically</u> I work one in the mornings, and another in the afternoons.

I <u>always</u> just <u>assumed</u> it was much easier to <u>focus</u> in the mornings <u>because</u> I have <u>people</u> around me, and my afternoons at the other job are very <u>solitary</u> and <u>unstructured</u>.

Well, I've had to <u>switch</u> my <u>schedule</u> around a couple <u>times</u> recently, and as it turns out, I'm <u>actually</u> just a morning person. I apparently work my best between 7am and noon, no matter where I am or who is around, and after that, my <u>brain</u> just <u>begins</u> to feel a bit like <u>pudding</u>. •

Solution on page 45.



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Mystery Farm FEBRUARY CONTEST

OVER \$50 WORTH OF PRIZES!

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<u>2nd Prize(s)</u>: 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.
- Mail to Hometown Treasure Mystery Farm, P.O. Box 70, Shipshewana, IN 46565.
 Please include your name and address.
- 3) Entry deadline: **February 21, 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

Vernon & Deborah Mishler of 650N, Shipshewana correctly identified last issue's farm as being owned by Dennis

& Mary Sue Lehman

and Lyle & Fannie Mae Hochstetler, 3120 N 675 W, Shipshewana.

Congratulations! Theywona \$25 Gift Certificate from Tiffany's Restaurant, apen, a notepad set, a letter opener, and a copy of *The Honeyville Journal* from LaGwana. Second prize went to **Justin & KayAnna Detweiler of 500W, Shipshewana.**

Third prize went to Lavon & Esther Knepp of 450W, Shipshewana.

There were 37 correct entries this month. Others that guessed correctly were: Lester & Marlene Mullett, Sharon Glick, Wilbur & Ida Weaver, Richard & Sharon Lambright, Dale & JoEllen Yoder, Dave & Wilma Chupp, Nelson & Susan Miller, Adrian & Veronica Petersheim, Doris Miller, Jr & Marilyn Bontrager, David & JoAnn Bontrager, Duane & Mary Miller, Joe & Fannie Mae Bontrager, Leonard & Becky Schwartz, Lonnie & Joann Bontrager, Jerry & Erma Miller, Richard & Brenda Miller, Benjamin Raber, Richard & Waneta Miller, Dean & Tina Bontrager, John & Cathy Miller, Marlin & Velma Detweiler, Virgil & Doretta Bontrager, Richard & Jolene Bontrager, Elmer & Loretta Lehman, Mel & Marla Lehman, Orville & Lettie Miller, Daniel & Cristina Bontrager, Larry & Freda Bontrager, Gene & Rose Yoder, Jr & Ruby Schlabach, Karl & Karen Yoder, Homer & Wilma Miller, and Carl & Melinda Miller.



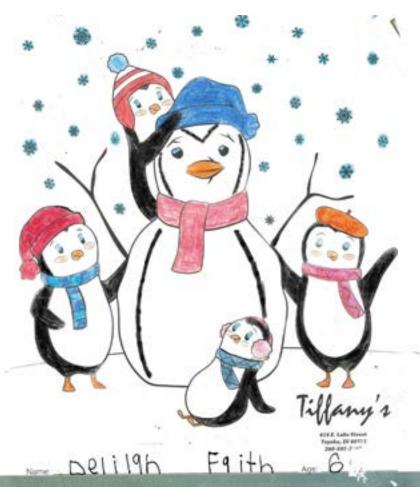
Coloring Contest Winners

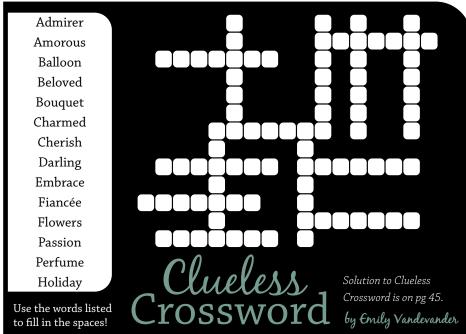
Six-year-old Delilah Faith of 500 W, Topeka was our winner for the January Coloring Contest. She won an ice cream treat of choice at Tiffany's in Topeka.

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

Runners-up were Gary Yoder, age 6; Derek James Yoder, age 5; Lance Nissley, age 4; and Erika Miller, age 3. Honorable Mentions: Alice Miller, age 6; Faith Abigail Farmwald, age 5; Vanessa Joy Hershberger, age 5; Adra Miller, age 6; Alisa Bontrager, age 6; and Angie Bontrager, age 5. Check out page 43 for this month's coloring page.

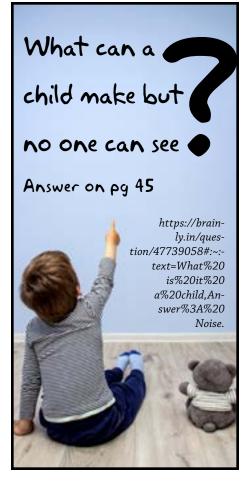
Be SURE to include all your information on the coloring page, even your age! ... we do not want you to miss out! Remember, the contest is only for children up to six years old. •





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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.





Coloring Contest: kids **age 6 and younger**. Sponsored by The Dutch Kernel in Shipshewana this month! Winner gets a FREE TREAT BASKET at The Dutch Kernel, 100 S Van Buren St., Shipshewana. Winning drawings will be on display at The Dutch Kernel. ALL PARTICIPANTS come in and claim your drawing for A FREE TREAT at The Dutch Kernel in March. Mail submission to: LaGwana, Coloring Contest, PO Box 70, Shipshewana, IN 46565. **Entry deadline is February 21, 2023**.

Address:			







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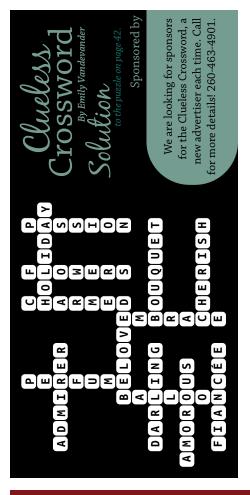
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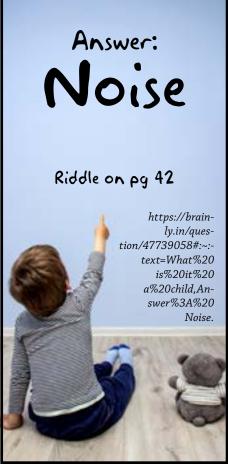
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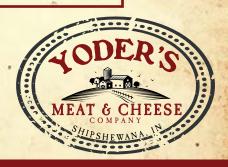
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If your child will be five years old by August 1, 2023 and is not pre-enrolled, the pre-enrollment steps for kindergarten are as follows:

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. •



46



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