

The
**Hometown
Treasure**

January 2020 • Vol. 21 Num. 1



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P.O. Box 70
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WESTVIEW GRADUATES

Kaylee Schrock graduated from Westview in May of 2017. While at Westview, she participated in choir, volleyball, and softball. What Kaylee misses most about Westview is seeing her friends and her favorite teachers every day. She had one teacher and one class in particular, Mrs. Jansen's economics class, that she really misses the most. She enjoyed the friendly and welcoming atmosphere of Westview. Kaylee's all-time favorite memories of Westview are the friendships she made and will have for a lifetime. For most high school students, their experiences are going to be ones that they never forget. This is true for Kaylee as well. She claims her high school experience was sometimes stressful but also fun and enlightening. The most valuable lesson she learned from Westview is to always be kind and look out for one another. Kaylee has been out of school for around three years now, and she says the most challenging part of living on her own is having more responsibilities and having to rely more on herself than on others. What keeps her motivated, though, is thinking about the future and the goals she has for her life. In closing, Kaylee Schrock has some advice for high school students now: "Stay hard working and make lots of connections. Keep in contact with the friends you make."



"Stay hard working and make lots of connections. Keep in contact with the friends you make."

-Kaylee Schrock

Graduate,
Kaylee Schrock

STUDIES

Melissa Miller is an 11th grade student at Westview Jr-Sr High School. She is the middle child of two sisters and two brothers. She does not partake in any extracurriculars at the moment, but she is a hard-working student whose grades indicate so. "One of the good things about maintaining a good grade point average is that doing well gives you some self-satisfaction and more respect," Melissa says. Being the competitive person she is, Melissa sees her friends doing well with school and strives to do so as well. She advises her fellow students to

make good choices and pick good friends that encourage you and push you to acquire your goals. One of the people that encouraged her to be the person that she is today is her mother. Melissa is a quiet person and likes to focus on her studies during the school time. She actually prefers to stay away from her phone, which will distract her. She has great attendance as well, even going two years straight without missing a single day of school. Despite getting sick a lot in the winter time, she still tries her best to make it to school every day. At home in her free time, she likes to listen to music and enjoys watching her favorite show *The Office*.

A fun fact about Melissa is that last spring she went on a mission trip to Puerto Rico and helped build a church. That experience really changed her view on the world and opened her mind on how most Americans are very

**Junior,
Melissa
Miller**



Twitter: @wvcorp



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Westview School Corporation Administrative Offices
1545 S 600 W, Topeka, IN 46571
260.768.4404 | eashy@westview.k12.in.us



SPORTS

privileged and don't even think about it. Although she wasn't a fan of their particular style of food, she appreciated their work.

Melissa's future is quite a big question for her right now. She is interested in the psychology field, but she is still learning and researching and trying to figure out different information that could help her with the decision of her future career.

“One of my favorite memories so far is riding the bus to an away game in the snow and having everyone sing along to Christmas music.”

-Frida Kaska

Frida Kaska is an exchange student from Germany. She just started her first year at Westview, and became a part of the basketball team. Although it's her first time playing this sport, she enjoys it and loves playing with the other members. Frida also played soccer and said it's hard to choose a favorite. "One of the hardest things is to put all of my energy into practice." She added, however, that seeing how much she is improving makes her forget the difficulties. Her team is made up of many motivated and positive students. Seeing them makes her feel comfortable and pushes her to try her best.

Some fun facts about Frida are her love for singing and the *Harry Potter* series. Animal science is her favorite class. Frida doesn't feel overwhelmed by the amount of homework because she has a study hall, so she does her work there and

finishes all of her work in school. Although she has a favorite class, it's hard for her to pick a favorite teacher because she says every teacher she has met "is just so nice." She also likes that everyone in this school is supportive of each other and helps each other. For this reason she feels that Westview is like a family to her that she cares about. In general, Frida has enjoyed her Westview experience so far.

Frida will forever remember her time at Westview. She says one of her favorite memories so far is riding the bus to an away game in the snow and having everyone sing along to Christmas music. Her advice to upper and underclassmen is to be nice and open and to make a positive impact on each other—that way you can also find new friends easily.

As for everyone here at Westview, we love having new exchange students in school with us, but for most of us, it is hard to see them go when they head back home after the school year.



Senior, Frida Kaska

Created by seniors Kiah Schrock and Rasha Muharram in Westview's Interactive Media Course.



The Hometown Treasure

A Monthly Publication by
LaGwana Circulation: 5,700

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

Mail: P.O. Box 70, Shipshewana, IN 46565
 Located at the SE corner of 250N & 850W
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You may call or stop by during office hours:
 Monday - Friday, 8 am-5 pm

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Size	width x height	Rate
1/12 page	2 ³ / ₈ " x 2 ³ / ₈ "	\$36
1/6 page (Vertical)	2 ³ / ₈ " x 4 ⁷ / ₈ "	\$70
or (Horizontal)	4 ⁷ / ₈ " x 2 ³ / ₈ "	
1/3 page (Vertical)	2 ³ / ₈ " x 9 ⁷ / ₈ "	\$135
or (Square)	4 ⁷ / ₈ " x 4 ⁷ / ₈ "	
1/2 page	7 ³ / ₈ " x 4 ⁷ / ₈ "	\$192
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Full Page	7 ³ / ₈ " x 9 ⁷ / ₈ "	\$325
Inside Front	7 ³ / ₈ " x 9 ⁷ / ₈ "	\$400
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Discounts available for print-ready artwork and/or for running in multiple issues.

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Other sponsorships available. Call for details.

— ADVERTISING INFORMATION —

Deadline for February 2020 Issue:

12 noon, Tuesday, Jan. 21

Friday, January 17 if you need a proof.

February Issue Date is Tuesday, Jan. 28

Discounts for ads running more than once.

Call for details! **260-463-4901**

Or email htads@lagwana.com

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One Year: \$35

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Principal's Dozen

WJHS - November 2019

Back (left to right): Jacob Peruski, Darin Bontrager, Emily Detweiler, Mason Wire, Jane Miller, and Jonathan Roth. *Front:* Lori Hochstetler, Jesse Miller, Jacob Watts, Joshua Lehman, Julie Schrock, and Karlie Schrock.

Photo Submitted

Westview Junior High School recognized the above students during the month of November for their efforts in academics, hard work in class, caring, leadership, citizenship, athletics, or random acts of kindness to others.

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Student Ambassadors

WHS - November 2019

Back (left to right): Abder Alrasheed and Saleh Omer. Front: Hannah Knabe, Ashley Weaver, and Drew Walker.

Photo Submitted

Westview High School has selected five students to receive *Student Ambassador of the Month* honors for November 2019. These outstanding students were selected by their teachers. Westview strives to promote and acknowledge students doing more than what is expected of them. 📌



Cover Photo by Abby Wenger

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Word Search

(find all the underlined words) by Erika Byler


Left-Over Letters Spell Out A Message From Erika!

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

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

Solution on page 18

My husband and I have a large collection of board games and they are always required when we visit my parents. My family has

always played lots of games. For several years we would play Settlers of Catan almost every Sunday. My dad even got my mom a table built specifically for the game for Christmas. My husband has introduced us to cooperative games. We always played competitive games, so working together to beat the game took a bit of getting used to. I would say my family enjoys it though, since they've held on to one of our deck building games for over a year now! Eventually they might give it back so we can play it too. 

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HLIA

Healthy Healthy

by Brenda Yoder, LMHC, Advocate for Elijah Haven, Speaker, Writer & Life Coach

A New Year for Fresh Starts

The New Year is great for fresh starts. There's a verse in Scripture that says, "God's mercies are new every morning" (Lamentations 3: 22-23). What a great reminder that every day is a new day!

What things would you like to do over? Did 2019 leave you with experiences you don't want to go back to? While we can't go back and do things over again, we can learn from our experiences so we don't repeat things we don't want to do over. As you contemplate the fresh start for 2020, here are six things to consider.

1. When you don't learn from your personal history, you're liable to repeat your mistakes. Look at those things that you want to redo. What information do you know now that would make a difference in how you would handle that situation if it happened again? If you could do it over, what would you change that you have control over? Many times what we want to change are things over which we have no control, like the decisions or actions of another person. Rather than feeling helpless over what others did in the situation you want to change, ask yourself what you have learned that changes you, your choices, behavior, and attitude.

2. What expectations do you need to let go of so you can move forward in 2020? Expectations are great killers

of relationships, goals, and personal growth. Are there expectations of others or yourself you need to let go of so you don't get caught in disappointment or resentment? One person said, "Expectations are premeditated disappointment."

3. What habits or attitudes do you need to get rid of for 2020? Habits often grow from attitudes and beliefs.




"I won't ever lose weight," is an attitude that probably fuels bad eating or exercise habits. Are you a critical person? Do you need to change your attitude towards others by not criticizing them? What habit do you hope to redo that starts with your thoughts, then is followed by action?

4. When making new goals, make

them reasonable and achievable. Most New Year's resolutions last maybe into February, then fall by the wayside. Goals are helpful to us if we make short term goals ones that are achievable. You sabotage efforts to change if you make goals so high that when obstacles arise, you abandon the plan. When making your goals, write them out while making tangible steps of how to get from today to the goal. Make the steps practical and achievable.

5. Be committed to growth above anything else. When setting goals or changing behavior, it's tempting to look at what you're NOT achieving. When really, you're growing and changing, but you're not even noticing it. As a counselor and life coach, I love pointing out where clients are growing. Change happens in small increments, and growing is how a person reaches any accomplishment. Be committed to a growth mindset, not just all or nothing options.

6. Give yourself grace. Grace is undeserved kindness. It's what comes with each morning, each New Year. No matter how much you want to forget the mistakes of the past, look at today and tomorrow through the lens of grace. 

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- 2 Adrian Bontrager, Ashton Miller, Coleen Miller, Nicole Troyer, Aislynn Wanamaker, Derek Yoder
- 3 Sireena Gill, Addison Hershberger, Kara Miller, Merrill Warrenner
- 4 Jolynn Bontrager, Chayenne Diaz, Kari Miller, Kirsten Miller, Jakob Seneca, Christopher Yoder
- 5 Farrah Blankenship, Jenna Miller
- 6 Melanie Beechy
- 7 Lucy Alwine, Andrea Lehman, Miley Mast
- 8 Isaiah Bontrager, Izick Donley, Richelle Lapp, Brianna Troyer
- 9 Adam Frey, Gage Miller, Daryl Schwartz, Hannah Troyer
- 10 Rahaf Aldawshan, Curtis Hershberger, Damon Lambright, Vada Miller
- 11 Kara Beechy, Hadley Keim, Azriel Lehman, Katy Miller, Lacey Ramey, Easton Workman, Kameron Yoder
- 12 Lisa Bontrager, Kenlyn Lambright, William Yoder
- 13 Kaleb Cupp, David Hilty, Harper Kraft, Charles Lassen, Seth Lambright, Charles Lassen, Lanita Mast, Bayli Smith
- 14 Lucas Troyer
- 15 Abdulrahman Algeradi, Tyson Bontrager, Ryan Otto, Melody Troyer, Reagan Wilson, Alex Yoder

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

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Remember Jesus
is the reason for the season
*Thanks to all our customers
for a good year!*

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- 16 Brian Bontrager, Braylin Leonard, Sadie Schlabach, Alex Troyer, Kayla Yoder
- 17 Logan Cruz, Kyren Meadows, Janice Miller, Mariah Miller
- 18 Janae Frey, Erica Lambright, Alexis Lambright, Jacob McAninch, John Neal
- 19 Kevin Borntreger, Audrianna Martin, Abrar Saleh
- 20 Josiah Lambright
- 21 Katie Miller, Kyla Miller, Elijah Watts, Caleb Wingard
- 22 Mallory Antal, Kimber Helmuth, Justin Miller
- 23 Justin Bontrager, Caedmon Gates, Ellisynn Hamm, Caiden Marks, Steven Miller, Natalie Stutzman, Dominique Troyer
- 24 Evan Beechy, Kailen Myers, Shawn Schmucker, Estelle Zabona
- 25 Alyssa Hooley
- 26 Deric Fry, Noah Stickler, Luke Tormanen
- 27 Ava Mishler, Jaylen Rennick, Hannah Riehl, Joshua Troyer
- 28 Allyse Hostetler, Kari Kurtz, Ryan Miller, Alexandria Sweet, Amber Yoder
- 29 Karleen Bender, Madalyn Everage, Silaimaan Fadil
- 30 Julian Flores, Kristen Chupp, Elijah Wingard, Emily Yoder



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Upcoming Concerts

Dec 31 New Year's Eve: The Singing Contractors, John Schmid & Jimmy Travis

Jan 3 "The Heart Behind the Music" Songwriter's Showcase starring Mo Pitney, John Ford Coley and Lenny LeBlanc

Jan 4 David Pendleton

Jan 10 & 11 Booth Brothers

Jan 17 Billy Dean

Jan 18 The Talleys

Jan 24 Doug Stone

Jan 25 Jason Crabb

Jan 31 Laura Story

Feb 7 Darryl Worley

Feb 8 The Return - The Ultimate Beatles Experience

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LaGrange County Library

LaGrange-Main Branch

203 West Street • 260-463-2841
M - Th 9:00 - 8:00, F - Sat 9:00 - 5:00

Topeka Branch

133 North Main Street • 260-593-3030
M - F 11:30 - 6:00, Sat 8:30 - 3:00

Shipshewana Branch

250 Depot St. • 260-768-7444
M - F 11:30 - 6:00, Sat 8:30 - 3:00

Preschool Events

Preschool Storytime (ages 2-5)

LaGrange County Library • Tuesdays, January 7, 14, 21 & 28 • 10 am
Shipshewana Branch Library • Thursdays, Jan 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 • 1 pm
Topeka Branch Library • Tuesdays, January 7, 14, 21 & 28 • 1 pm

School Age Events

Multiple Branches

Lego Club • Open to All Ages!

LaGrange County Public Library • Monday, January 6 • 4 pm
Shipshewana Branch Library • Monday, January 20 • 4 pm
Topeka Branch Library • Monday, January 13 • 4 pm

Homeschool Group • Leap into Science

For Homeschoolers of all ages and their parent/teacher.

LaGrange County Library • Friday, January 10 • 10 am
Please register at the library or by calling 260-463-2841.

Shipshewana Branch Library • Wednesday, January 8 • 1 pm
Please register at the library or by calling 260-768-7444.

Topeka Branch Library • No Group.

LaGrange County Public Library

Sensory Play (ages 0-5)

Friday, January 24 • 10:30 am

Shipshewana Branch Library

Amazing Art! (ages 6 and up) – Painting with Tissue Paper

Wednesday, January 15 • 4 pm

Please register at the library or by calling 260-768-7444.

Topeka Branch Library

STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (ages 6 and up)

Thursday, January 16 • 5 pm

Please register at the library or by calling 260-593-3030.

Teen Events

LaGrange County Public Library

T.A.G. (Teen Advisory Group)

Thursdays, January 2, 9, 23 & 30 • 5 pm

Every week we have different activities to enjoy!

Henna Body Art for Teens (open to ages 13 – 19)

Thursday, January 30 • 5 pm

Space is limited so please register at the library or by calling 260-463-2841.

Family Movies

LaGrange County Public Library

Abominable • Friday, January 10 • 6 pm

Maleficent: Mistress of Evil • Saturday, January 25 • 1 pm

Adult Interest

Multiple Branches

2020 Adult Winter Reading Challenge – all branches

Starts on January 2 and runs until February 29.

Come to any of our branches and register to participate.

Bullet Journaling – Create a Map to Your Goals!

LaGrange County Public Library • Saturday, January 4 • 11 am

Please register by calling 260-463-2841 by December 21. Free!

Shipshewana Branch Library • Friday, January 3 • 12 pm

Please register by calling 260-768-7444 by December 21. Free!

Topeka Branch Library • Friday, January 3 • 3 pm

Please register by calling 260-593-3030 by December 21. Free!

Creative Stress Relief

LaGrange County Public Library • Monday, January 6 • 2 pm

Shipshewana Branch Library • Monday, January 13 • 2 pm

Topeka Branch Library • Monday, January 20 • 2 pm

Learn to Crochet

Cost: \$5 per person.

LaGrange County Public Library • Saturday, January 11 • 2 pm

Please register by calling 260-463-2841 by January 2.

Shipshewana Branch Library • Saturday, January 18 • 10 am

Please register by calling 260-463-2841 by January 2.

Topeka Branch Library • Saturday, January 25 • 10 am

Please register by calling 260-463-2841 by January 2.

LaGrange County Public Library

Gentle Flow Yoga with Farra

Mondays, January 6, 13, 20 & 27 • 10 am • A \$5 donation is suggested.

Second Saturday Book Club • Saturday, January 11 • 11 am

This month's book: "The Library Book" by Susan Orlean

Painting Class with Carl Mosher • Friday, January 17 • 1 pm

Cost: \$20 per person, payable at the class.

Call 260-463-2841 ext. 1030 to register.

The Walking Well-Read: Indoor Walking Group

Mondays and Thursdays, January 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 27 & 30 • 12 pm

Western Heritage: From the Book of Genesis to John Locke

A Hillsdale College Online Course

Tuesdays, January 7, 14, 21 & 28 • 2 pm

Trivial Pursuit Night • Tuesdays, January 7, 14, 21 & 28 • 6 pm

Credit Reports & Scores • Friday, January 17 • 10 am

Please register by calling 260-463-2841 by January 10.

Holiday Make and Take • Monday, January 20 • 6 pm

Registration and \$5 deposit fee paid by January 13.

Cost per person \$10. Please call or stop by the library to register.

Find more information at:

www.lagrange.lib.in.us/happen.html

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Mystery Farm CONTEST

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1st Prize: Lehman's Variety, LaGrange, \$50 Gift Certificate, lighted pen, notepad set, and a copy of *The Honeyville Journal* from LaGwana Printing.

2nd Prize(s): Lighted pen, notepad set, and *The Honeyville Journal* from LaGwana Printing.

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 21, 2020.**
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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Name: _____ Age: _____

Coloring Contest: kids age 6 and younger. Sponsored by Tiffany's in Topeka this month! Winner gets a FREE ICE CREAM TREAT OF CHOICE at Tiffany's. The Winning Drawings will be on display. ALL PARTICIPANTS claim your drawing for A FREE ICE-CREAM CONE at Tiffany's in February. Mail submission to: LaGwana, Coloring Contest, PO Box 70, Shipshewana, IN 46565. **Entry deadline is January 21, 2019.**

Address: _____

Smart Choices

By Thaovy Tran- Pharm. D Student at Topeka Pharmacy.

Taking the Complications Out of Diabetes

Fast Fact: Uncontrolled diabetes is a leading cause of serious, long-term complications.. High blood sugar levels damage every part of the body and, over time, lead to complications. Knowing how to prevent complications should be a priority for every person with diabetes.

What are some complications of uncontrolled diabetes?

Cardiovascular disease: Uncontrolled blood sugar dramatically increases the risk of having chest pain, heart attack, stroke or narrowing of the arteries.

Nerve damage (neuropathy): Excess blood sugar can damage nerve endings. Symptoms are tingling, numbness, and pain especially at the feet and hands. If left untreated, neuropathy can be a cause of limb amputations, digestive problems and sexual dysfunction.

Kidney damage (nephropathy): High blood sugar damages blood vessels in the kidneys that, over time, can lead to kidney failure or end-stage kidney disease.

Eye damage (retinopathy): Uncontrolled blood sugar can lead to blindness, as well as increasing the risk of developing cataracts or glaucoma.


Dental problems: High blood sugar causes higher risk for gum disease and cavities

Diabetes complications in pregnancy: Uncontrolled blood sugar in pregnant women may cause complications to both mother and baby that includes delivering a very large baby (over 9 lbs), early delivery and a c-section.

How to decrease the risk of developing complications

1. Control blood sugar levels. Know healthy target ranges and work with your healthcare team to keep blood sugar within those ranges.
2. Control blood pressure. Know healthy blood pressure ranges and work with your health care team to keep blood pressure controlled to avoid complications similar to uncontrolled blood sugar levels.
3. Walk or bike 30 minutes, 5 days of the week. An excellent habit to help control blood sugar, blood pressure and avoid complications.
4. Schedule a yearly eye exam.
5. Don't neglect dental exams once or twice yearly.
6. Ask your healthcare team about your kidney health.

And finally-the good news!

Please note that although uncontrolled diabetes causes damage to the body and leads to developing complications, well-managed diabetes is a leading cause of nothing! Topeka Pharmacy provides Diabetes Education Classes. Stop by or call to find out more! 

The Hometown Treasure · January '20



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Coloring Contest Winners

Six year old Nayna Grace Lambright of 600W, Topeka was our winner for the December Coloring Contest. She won an ice cream treat of choice at E & S Sales in Shipshewana.

Everyone else that sent in a page can stop by E & S Sales for a free small ice cream cone through January.

Runners-up were Krystal Schlabach, age 6; Melissa Miller, age 5; Janie Grace Bontrager, age 4; Sophia Miller, age 3; and Kara Deann Miller, age 2. Honorable Mentions: Jariah Wade Lehman, age 5; Alayna Ruth Miller, age 5; Alyssa Miller, age 5; Harper Yoder, age 6; Carol Jean Lambright, age 6; DeAnn Ranae Eash, age 5; and Lucas Jace Hershberger, age 5. Check out page 12 for this month's coloring page.

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

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Name: Nayna Grace Lambright Age: 6

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THE LARGEST RECORDED SNOWMAN EVER BUILT WAS IN BETHEL, MAINE, IN FEBRUARY 1999. THE 113-FOOT, 7-INCH SNOWMAN BROKE THE PREVIOUS RECORD HELD BY YAMAGATA, JAPAN, AT 96 FEET AND 7 INCHES.

MONEY Wise

by Brittney Schori, *Extension Educator, Purdue Extension - LaGrange County*

Financial Goals for 2020


The New Year is a great time to set some good financial goals...but don't go crazy! Be sure to set small realistic goals that will help you work toward your larger goals. You may want to start with a large goal such as buying a house or retiring early and then look at the things you will need to do to reach that larger goal. Regardless of your goal, it's wise to set up a support system to make it easier to reach your goals. It's also important to measure your progress periodically. Here are a few financial goals that you can consider beginning in January 2020!

- **Set a Budget:** Budgeting is the most important thing you can do to be financially successful. There are a lot of people who make a lot of money, but are struggling financially because they don't manage it well. Setting up a budget for the first time may be intimidating, but you shouldn't let that stop you! If you have a difficult time sticking to a budget, consider using the envelope system! The envelope system is a way to force yourself to accurately budget discretionary expenses every month. Then you budget \$500 a month for groceries, or \$250 per paycheck. When the month's first paycheck is deposited, go to the bank and withdraw \$250. Put that cash in an envelope and label it "Groceries." This system will help you to stop spending once you have reached your limit each month. Using this system effectively can help you pay off debt

quicker, as well as save!

- **Learn More about Money and Finances:** You can do this by researching online, reading financial books, or by talking with trusted family members. Set a goal to read at least one in-depth source a month; a book or magazine will give much greater insight into a specific area of financial matters. You may consider starting with Dave Ramsey's *The Total Money Makeover* if you have a great deal of debt. A few goals that you can set for yourself in 2020 may include:
 - enrolling in a personal finance class, reading a book about personal finance, and/or subscribing to a personal finance newsletter!
- **Begin Investing:** Are you already budgeting your money well? Have you tried investing it? Investing your money allows you to grow your money at a much quicker rate. Many people invest money successfully on their own, but if you are just starting out, you may consider finding a financial planner to help you achieve your goals. A good financial planner will ask you ques-

tions about your financial and life goals, and then give suggestions on how to achieve them. In addition to starting an investment portfolio, you can also invest in your retirement, via a 401(k), a 403(b) or an IRA. If you are nervous about investing because of the current market conditions or because you don't understand how the markets work, take the time to talk to a financial planner! They will help you understand the risks and benefits of investing and should be able to help you find investments that match your current comfort level when it comes to risks. A few goals that you can set for yourself if you are interested in investing in 2020 may include: finding a financial planner, learning about the stock market, make goals to invest in a certain amount each month, and/or open an IRA!

Interested in scheduling a financial workshop for yourself or for an organization you work with in 2020? Contact Brittney Schori at 260-499-6334 or by emailing bpender@purdue.edu. Visit our county website at extension.purdue.edu/lagrange. 



Source: Miriam Caldwell - *the balance - Basic of Planning Ahead*

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Meadowview Elementary

Christmas Program


On December 3, the Meadowview Elementary third and fourth graders performed a musical titled, "Crazy,

Busy, Peaceful, Holy Night." for their Christmas program. 

Photos by Frank Ludwig



Safety Day

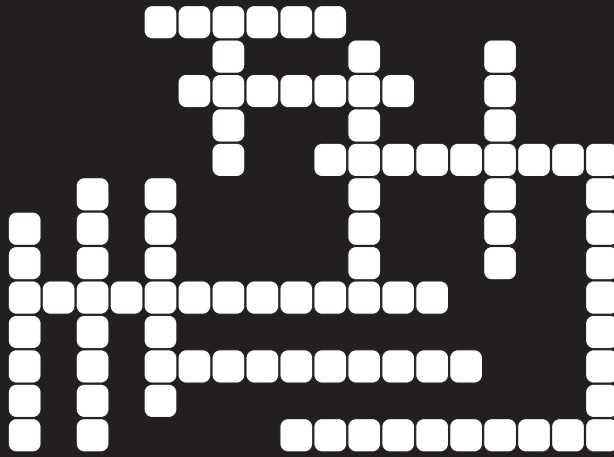
Thank you to all the first responders who took time out of their busy schedules to spend the day with Meadowview Fourth Graders! We learned VALUABLE life saving skills and techniques. 



This page sponsored by



New Year
 Vacation
 Two Weeks
 Family Time
 New Beginnings
 Time Off
 Resting
 Sweet
 January
 Florida Sun
 Sun so Nice
 Sandy Toes
 Disney

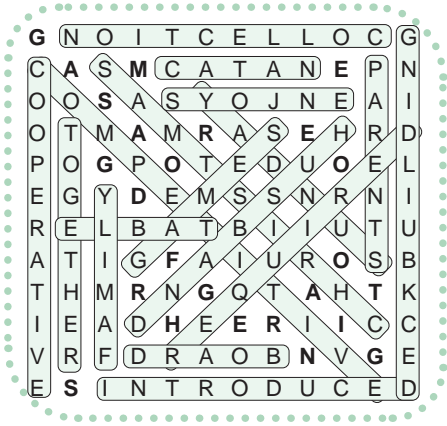


Clueless Crossword

Solution to Clueless
 Crossword is on pg 22.
 by Issa Miller

Use the words listed
 to fill in the spaces!

Solution to puzzle on page 6



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

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Meadowview Elementary



KG

2nd Qtr Mustang Club

Winners are chosen based on their display of the following characteristics: effort, attitude, improvement, respect, and responsibility. Winners are treated to a special activity with the principal, Mrs. Whitney.



1st Grade



2nd Grade



3rd Grade



4th Grade

Kindergarten: Isaac Bontrager, Melissa Hochstetler, Ava Bontrager, Joshua Miller, Jeremy Miller, Madelyn Miller, Sariah Detweiler, Justin Helmuth, Emily Hochstetler, Peyton Raber, CJ Hershberger, and Kyla Thompson. **First Grade:** Tatum Davis, Adelyn Vandergriff, Karl Hershberger, Jemeila Reed, Kimberly Mast, Darin Yoder, Ethan Bontrager, and Kinley Hershberger. **Second Grade:** Janeva Bontrager, Matthew Yoder, Melody Bontrager, Jaydon Hershberger, Jacob Orla, Jamin Miller, and Adriana Stutzman. **Third Grade:** Merle Miller, Janessa Stutzman, Linden Smith, Dustin Yoder, Tyson Bontrager, John Yoder, and Megan Lambright. **Fourth Grade:** Nicholas Miller, Amy Yoder, Aiden Slabach, Hannah Troyer, Amy Bontrager, Lyle Hershberger, John Yoder, *Kyleigh Yoder, and *Kathy Miller.

*not pictured • Photos Submitted

Earth Science

Fourth Graders at Meadowview Elementary have been digging deep into earth science and learning about the properties of soil, the characteris-

tics of volcanoes and earthquakes, and also the many, beautiful features of the Earth's landforms. Science "ROCKS!"



First Graders Celebrate Johnny Appleseed Day

First graders from Meadowview make apple treats and eat them on Johnny Appleseed Day.



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Shipshe-Scott Elementary

Ft Wayne Zoo Makes a Visit

Third grade students had a presenter from the Ft Wayne Zoo talk with them about classifying animals. The zoo also brought some live animals for students to see and touch. 


All Photos Submitted

Christmas Around the World

The first grade students are traveling around the world to learn how other countries celebrate Christmas. Their classroom was transformed into a jet to make travel to other countries quicker. 



Christmas Music Program

Shipshe-Scott Elementary third and fourth graders presented the Christmas program "Crazy, Busy, Peaceful, Holy Night." 



This page made possible by the

WESTVIEW SCHOOL CORPORATION



DISNEY
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Clueless Crossword
 By Melissa Miller
Solution
 to the puzzle on page 18.
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 Sat 8:00-4:00



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Topeka Elementary




Performance of Camel Lot

On Thursday, Dec. 12, Topeka Elementary's third and fourth grade students performed the musical *Camel Lot*, under the direction of the school's music teacher, Lori Leatherman. The

students performed once for the students at 1:00 and again that evening to a packed gym full of family and friends. 




Junior Achievement

Danielle Hill, from Farmer's State Bank, works with students in Mrs. Tobi Culp's class to teach them how a community works. Mrs. Hill is a volunteer with Junior Achievement. 



Christmas Moments

The holidays present many special moments in an elementary school setting. At Topeka Elementary students this year have had the opportunity to choose a book to present to a classmate (sponsored by the school's PTO), enjoy a school-wide sing-a-long, attend the music program put on by the 3rd and 4th graders, as well

as a read-aloud and hot chocolate hour with principal Becky Siegel (shown in the photo).  All Photos Submitted



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Topeka Clinic
Dr. John Egli

7th Boys Basketball



1



2



3

- 1) Jack Massey shoots for three.
- 2) Isaiah Bontrager gains two points for Westview.
- 3) Ian Bontrager moves towards the Westview basket.
- 4) Brian Miller goes for a layup and scores.
- 5) Caleb Miller jumps up and around a Milford opponent to score two for Westview.

*Sports photos by Abby Wenger
These photos and more are available for
purchase at photos.lagwana.com.*



4



5



Photos Submitted

3D Shapes

Topeka Elementary first graders, Jayden Lehman, Gusmar Munoz-Huerta, and Nolan Sprague show off their 3-D critters they made in Math Club. The class was learning about 3-D shapes and found time to work art into their math lesson for the day. **i**

Topeka Elementary



New Topeka Elementary Bears That Care Book Den

On Monday, December 2, the book den pictured here was placed on the sidewalk in front of the Topeka Do-It Best Hardware.

The book den provides an opportunity for families to borrow a book to read at home. After reading the book it should be returned and another book may be borrowed.

The book den has been made possible by Topeka Elementary, United Fund of LaGrange County, Miss Elizabeth Wilson, and Mr. and Mrs. Ray Miller. **i**

Westview Elementary

Westview Elementary Sixth Grader Advances to County Spelling Bee

Westview Elementary held its annual Spelling Bee, December 13, with 35 fifth and sixth graders. Those participants earned their spot in the Bee by participating in a 30-word written preliminary bee in November.

Sixth grader, Noah Bontrager prevailed as school champion by successfully spelling the word “solar”. Noah is the son of Lyle and Erin Bontrager of Shipshewana.

Ava Hostetler, also a 6th grader, battled to earn the title of Runner-up by correctly spelling the word “abundance”. Ava is the daughter

of Marion and Ina Hostetler, also of Shipshewana.

Noah will advance to the LaGrange County Spelling Bee. **i** Photo Submitted



This page made possible by the

WESTVIEW SCHOOL CORPORATION



2019-20 8th Boys Basketball A Team: Back (left to right): Brady Lehman, Eli Atra, Micah Miller, Mason Wire, Scott Yoder, and Coach Kenton Weaver. Front: Luke Helmuth, Wade Springer, Braden Rogers, Wiley Minix, and Braden Kauffman.

Photo by Abby Wenger



2019-20 8th Boys Basketball B Team: Back (left to right): Tyler Hochstetler, Eric Bontrager, Matthew Miller, Keith Yoder, and Christien Noward. Middle: Austin Stutzman, Trevor Ruble, Blake Chupp, Jaden Bontrager, Riley Helman, and Coach Kristen Duff. Front: Thatcher Clementz, Olen Yoder, Darin Lehman, Jayce Brandenberger, and Josh Miller. Not Pictured: Quinton Yoder.

Photo by Abby Wenger



2019-20 7th Grade Boys Basketball A Team: Back (left to right): Jaxson Engle, Max Engle, Ryan Yoder, Cameron Privett, Hayden Lower, and Coach Caleb Logan. Front: Kamden Yoder, Gavin Engle, Anson Chupp, Owen Brill, Silas Haarer, and Kurtis Mast.

Photo by Abby Wenger



2019-20 7th Boys Basketball B Team: Back (left to right): Ben Yutzy, Jack Massey, Brian Miller, Isaiah Bontrager, Micah Bontrager, and Coach Erica Fair. Middle: Jared Lambright, Tristan Pearson, Austyn Miller, Caleb Miller, Jaylin Miller, and Ian Bontrager. Front: Brandon Yoder, Jacob Watts, Kyle Schlabach, Curtis Miller, Caleb Hochstetler, and Karl Lehman.

Photo by Abby Wenger

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Varsity Boys Basketball



- 1) Drew Litwiller, Junior, shoots for three.
- 2) Ben Byrkett, Junior, looks for an open teammate.
- 3) Charlie Yoder beats the halftime buzzer with a dunk against Churubusco in the first home game of his Senior year.
- 4) Senior Blake Egli looks for an opening to pass the ball.
- 5) Mason Yoder, Sophomore, catches a long pass mid-air.

*Sports photos by Abby Wenger
These photos and more are available for purchase at photos.lagwana.com.*


The Hometown Treasure · January '20

March 15 Application Date for New Healthcare Scholarships


The Parkview LaGrange Foundation is accepting applications for four new scholarships for high school seniors and adults pursuing a degree or licensure in a healthcare-related field. The scholarships are funded, in part, through income from the hospital's gift shop and by generous donors.

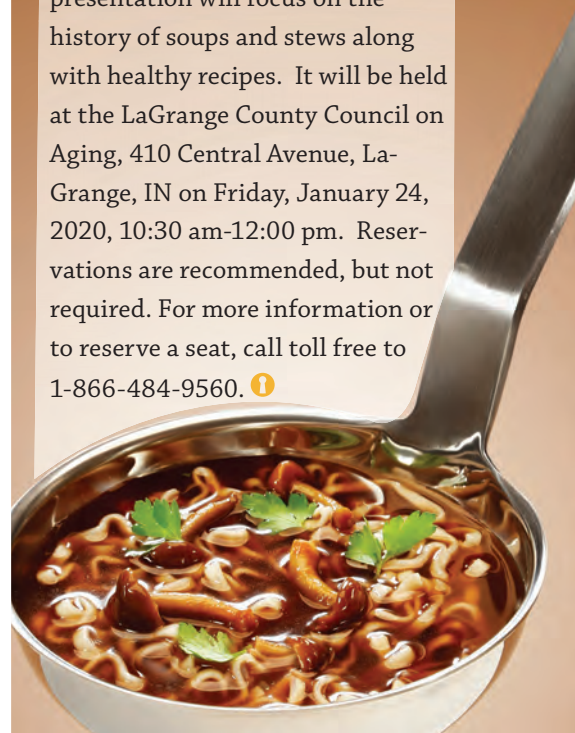
A total of four \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded. Three scholarships will go to high school seniors residing in the attendance area of one of the three school corporations in LaGrange County. The fourth scholarship will be awarded to an adult who is enrolled in a healthcare-related program. Qualified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

LaGrange County and be either accepted or currently enrolled in an educational program leading to licensure or a degree in a healthcare-related field.

For additional information about the scholarships and to obtain an application form, email christina.blaskie@parkview.com or call 260-463-9389. Indicate whether you are a high school student or an adult. Alternatively, applicants can access an application form through the Parkview LaGrange website, www.parkview.com/lagrange (Home page/News). The completed application and required attachments must be received by or before Sunday, March 15, 2020. 

Soups On

Sue Delagrang, MS, RD, from LaGrange County Council on Aging Cancer Services will present a free program called 'Soups On'. This presentation will focus on the history of soups and stews along with healthy recipes. It will be held at the LaGrange County Council on Aging, 410 Central Avenue, LaGrange, IN on Friday, January 24, 2020, 10:30 am-12:00 pm. Reservations are recommended, but not required. For more information or to reserve a seat, call toll free to 1-866-484-9560. 




Helping Hoosiers Get On Their Feet

There is a program starting up this month, brought to you by Purdue Extension, that just may help you reach your New Year's resolution to be more healthy. It is for those who want to improve their health, but are short on time and may lack motivation. Who of us does that not describe! It specifically targets those who would like to

change their lifestyle but don't have time to attend a class. The free program is 'Get Walkin', Helping Hoosiers get on their feet!' Starting on January 2, 2020, participants will receive two emails a week for the first month, then one email a week for the next eight weeks. While you may walk alone, or with a friend, you will receive motiva-

tion through the emails.

Walking helps reduce risk of obesity, heart disease, and diabetes. It can also help you feel more energized.

Register by Monday, December 30, 2019 by emailing Brittney Schori at bpender@purdue.edu or by calling 260-499-6337. 

HS Wrestling

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2

1



3



4



- 1) Payton Wire works to get his Fairfield opponent to the ground.
- 2) Keegan Kohlheim grabs his opponent to flip him on his back.
- 3) Anthony Stevens almost has his Fairfield opponent pinned.
- 4) Ian Williams forces his opponent down to the mat.

*Sports photos by Abby Wenger
These photos and more are available for
purchase at photos.lagwana.com.*

Community Impact Awarded Grants



The LaGrange County Community Foundation awarded Community Impact Grants totaling \$126,836 in 2019 to 18 projects and programs benefiting LaGrange County. Through Community Impact Grants, the foundation aims to support nonprofit needs and provide innovative programs and services in LaGrange County.

LaGrange County Trails, Inc., of Topeka was among the 18 organizations who received funding. The Community Foundation awarded LaGrange County Trails \$25,000 for The Hawpach Trail, a proposed 17-mile trail that will stretch from Millersburg to Wolcottville, connecting three counties. The grant will support the early stages of developing the Hawpach Trail in Topeka through legal fees, title research, surveying and appraisals.

Founded in 2019, LaGrange County Trails, Inc. is committed to creating hiking and biking trails for LaGrange County and to encourage safe, active, outdoor experiences.

The Town of LaGrange received \$20,000 to support an inclusive park and splash pad in the heart of downtown LaGrange. The grant will support phase one of the new park, a splash pad accessible for all ages and abilities. The next phase will consist of an inclusive play area and a pavilion. Phase one will break ground spring of 2020. The Town of LaGrange Park Committee will fundraise to complete all phases. Located near the existing bathrooms, this

inclusive park and splash pad will serve all families of LaGrange County.

“I am so excited that the new town park is coming to fruition. We really want a space that provides play opportunities for all kids and is unique enough to bring in visitors from surrounding towns,” said Brittany Cowley, Town of LaGrange Park Committee Member.

Each year, the Community Foundation accepts proposals for charitable projects and programs that help local nonprofit organizations provide services to LaGrange County families and individuals. The Grants Advisory Committee reviewed the submitted grant applications and made recommendations to the Board of the Directors who approved the grant awards. The grants are made possible through the generosity of donors who have supported the unrestricted and field of interest charitable funds at the Foundation.

The 2019 Community Impact Grant awards include:

- LaGrange County, Courthouse Restoration & Historical Project, \$5,225
- Veterans Headstone Project, American Flag Holder Program, \$4,350
- WNIT, Education Counts Michigan, \$10,000
- Science Central, Science 4U Outreach Programming, \$5,000
- Junior Achievement of Northern Indiana, Junior Achievement Finance Park, \$4,725
- Agape Child Care Ministry, Materials and Toddler Playground, \$6,000
- Trine University, Walk Into My Future Event, \$3,000
- United Fund of LaGrange County, United Way 211, \$2,979
- Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana, Client Advocate and Client Services, \$3,500
- LaGrange County Parks, Duff Lake Fen Development, \$15,000
- Community Harvest Food Bank, LaGrange County Farm Wagon, \$5,000
- Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry, “Meat” the Need, \$5,000
- LaGrange First Church of God, LaGrange Night to Shine, \$2,000
- ACRES Land Trust, Massasauga Rattlesnake Habitat Recovery, \$3,000
- LaGrange County Public Library, Genealogy Microfilm Reader Scanner, \$4,057
- Community Health Clinic, Community Outreach Education, \$3,000
- LaGrange County Trails, Inc., Hawpach Trail, \$25,000
- Town of LaGrange, Inclusive Park and Splash Pad, \$20,000

In 2020, applications for Community Impact Grants will be accepted on April 1 and Sept. 3. To learn more, visit lccf.net/grants. 

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HS Girls Basketball



1



2



3

- 1) Sara Lapp, Freshman, goes up for a basket.
- 2) Freshman Kamryn Miller sets up to shoot a two point basket.
- 3) Hallie Mast, Junior, gets a fast break and moves towards Westview's basket.
- 4) Freshman Ava Brown looks for an open teammate.
- 5) Erika Miller, Junior, waits to make a move around her Fairfield opponent.
- 6) Sophomore Allie Springer catches a pass.

*Sports photos by Abby Wenger
These photos and more are available for purchase at photos.lagwana.com.*



4



5



6


Topeka Fire Department Awards

The Topeka Volunteer Fire Department took time to honor several of its members at the department's annual Christmas Banquet held Monday evening, December 2, at Station 30.

Length of service awards were handed out to Nick Philley (5 years), with Stewart Bender, Gerald Hershberger, and Kenny Miller each receiving 20-year awards.

First Responder of the Year honors went to Mark Webster. Devon Bontrager was named the 2019 Red

Haggard Fireman of the Year. The department's top award, named in honor of her late husband who served more than 40 years on the department, was presented by Doris Haggard.

Officers for 2020 are Stewart Bender (*Chief*), Adam Lambright (*Assistant Chief*), Brian Miller (*Captain*), Devon Bontrager (*Rescue Captain*), Barry McDonald (*Lieutenant*), Pat Martin (*Lieutenant*), and Pete Kaufman (*Safety Officer*). 



20 Year Awards Above (left to right): Gerald Hershberger, Stewart Bender, Kenny Miller


1st Responder Below (left to right): Stewart Bender and Mark Webster (2019 First Responder of the Year). **Not Pictured:** Devon Bontrager (2019 Red Haggard Fireman of the Year).



Persing Promotion to Sergeant

Christmas came several days early for one Topeka police officer. At the Wednesday evening, December 11, Christmas Dinner for Town of Topeka employees, Marshal Stan Strater, Jr. surprised Officer Tracey Persing with a framed certificate of promotion to the rank of Sergeant. Persing, who joined the Topeka Police Department in June of 2016, said, "I had no idea this was coming."

Marshal Strater briefly reviewed Persing's career in law enforcement beginning with him being a reserve officer for the Town of Lagrange from 2010 to 2016 when he transferred to Topeka. In 2019 Persing completed over 520 hours of training, in addition to his time at the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. He graduated from the Marshal's Academy in March of this year.

"Tracey has continued adding to his list of accomplishments," Strater said. "He is an ALICE (active shooter) instructor, IDACS certified (in car computer), a Mobile Tech Drug Detection certified trainer, and a member of the Emergency Response Tactical Team." 





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"Precision Built"

by Harold D. Gingerich

It should come as no surprise that, given Topeka's early history related to lumber and sawmills, the town's first modern industry would be the manufacturing of woodworking power tools. When the Sprunger brothers moved their fledgling tool company from South Bend to Topeka in the fall of 1946, it marked a new chapter in the industrial and manu-

facturing growth for the area. Today the town has a strong industrial base that employs thousands of people, but it was the Sprunger brothers who took Topeka into the modern era.

When Sprunger brothers, Harry and Lynn, teamed up with Ernest H. Fahlring in a small tool & die shop in South Bend, Indiana, in about 1943, the result would be a popular line of woodworking tools. Following World War II, the brothers began designing their own line of woodworking power tools. The first being an 8" Tilt Table Saw. Sprunger Brothers Tools, in working order, can still be found today on secondary markets.

Lynn was an engineer with the Studebaker Automobile Company.

Harry, according to his grandson Scott, owned a company that manufactured swimming pools. However, the Topeka Area Historical Society's book, "Celebrating a Century 1893-1993", says that Harry was a feed company salesman. How Ernie Fahlring came to be part of the company is not known to this writer. Orland Sprunger, Lynn's son, believes that the two may have grown up together in the Ft. Wayne area.

It wasn't long before they needed more space to accommodate the growing business. So, in the fall of 1946, the company moved to Topeka, officially filing incorporation papers as Sprunger Brothers, Inc. Why they chose Topeka is a question that Lynn's children Jim (THS Class of 1950), Shirley (THS Class of 1963), and Orland can't answer. They do know that the building Sprunger Brothers moved into on South Main had been owned by Shook Egg Company which had recently relocated to another town. That left a vacant building where manufacturing could begin almost immediately. Shirley, referring to her conversation

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with Jim, says that, "Neither one of us knows exactly why Dad and Mom chose Topeka. We can only speculate, but they probably got a good deal on that property and I would imagine that Topeka needed new businesses at that time." Whatever the reason, Lynn moved his family from the farm where Shirley was born in Elkhart to Topeka. Orland was an 8th grader at the time.

Lynn was listed as the president, overseeing day-to-day operations. Orland says that his Uncle Harry, the vice-president, was really "the financial guy". Orland recalls Ernie Fahlsing always being upstairs at the factory, bending over the drawing board getting the designs down on paper. Scott Sprunger writes in his brief history of the company that, "Harry traveled the world, often shipping entire sets of tools ahead of him to showcase at trade shows in Israel or Germany (for example). He would then trade the show tools for local items to keep the exposure of the brand in that area long after the show."

Royann (THS Class of 1951), Orland's wife, offered this insight into her father-in-law, "Lynn didn't get to finish high school because during the Depression they

were very poor people. His dad told him he had to go to work, so he became an engineer through home study that he got through the mail. He was a genius; I wish someone in the family had some of his drawings because they were amazing!"

When they opened for business in Topeka, Sprunger Brothers employed eight workers. Three years later that number had risen to 20, all of whom were local residents. William E. Davis, from Wabash, was hired to be the plant manager. No one is sure how the Sprungers and Davis came to be connected, but Davis would maintain his association with the company up until six months before his death (January 30, 1995). Davis also became a pillar in the Topeka Baptist Church serving in a variety of positions for many years.

In his History of Sprunger Woodworking Machinery, Ernest Fahlsing includes the following list of the machines and approximate dates when production started:

- 1947: Tilt Table Saw replaced with 8" & 10" Tilt Arbor Saws
- 1949: 6" Joiner
- 1950: 14" Band Saw
- 1951: Wood Lathe
- 1953: 15" Drill Press (floor & bench models)

By 1956 the company again needed to expand. An additional production facility was built on Gerber Street in Ligonier, a mere two blocks from Harry's home. Scott Sprunger's history says that it was at this time that Bill

Davis was hired to run the factory.

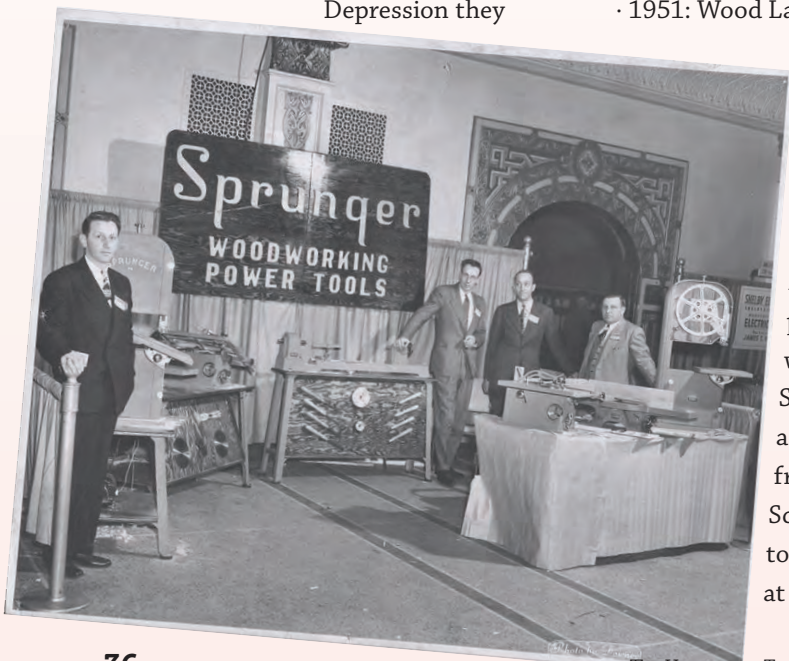
Unfortunately, in 1958, Harry and Lynn had a falling out. Scott says that it was over the model CS-800 Dual Metal Band Saw. Whatever the issue, it was significant enough that Harry bought out Lynn's share of Sprunger Brothers Inc. and production was moved to Ligonier. Lynn went on to build his own line of tools in Albion, Indiana, but they never achieved the same level of success as that of Sprunger Brothers.

With the dawn of 1977, Sprunger Brothers faced another crossroads. Most of their equipment was of 1940's vintage requiring constant maintenance. Product quality began to suffer. Japanese companies had also begun to invade the power tool market making it difficult for companies like Sprunger Brothers to compete. In July of that year Harry sold the company to Elkhart based Dale Fahlbeck of Product Forming Corporation. Tool production continued in Ligonier until 1981 when operations were moved to Elkhart. The last Sprunger power tool came off the line in 1984.

Harry died in 1987 at the age of 72 and was buried in Oak Park Cemetery in Ligonier. His wife, Myrle "Be", died in March of 2009. Lynn Sprunger died in 1993 at the age of 83. He was buried in the Eden Cemetery west of Topeka beside his wife Lula who died in 1965.

Numerous members of Lynn's family still live in the Topeka area, including his son Orland and his daughter Shirley (Hollis). If their last name is Sprunger, they are most likely related. 📍

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Our Home Town

Good Day Everyone,

I love living in Shipshewana, IN and I think the best way to explain it is to tell you about my day this past Saturday. Just one good day out of many, but a little snap shot of some of the things I hold dearest.

So I got up pretty early to meet the guys from church for one of the fellows' birthday. We met at the Blue Gate for breakfast. Walking in the front doors gave me this feeling of pride for my hometown. The Blue Gate family always does it up right, creating the atmosphere and delivering an experience worthy of 5 stars (out of 5 of course). They always put out a great spread on their buffet, and our group enjoyed our time of food and fellowship.

A little while later, I took 3 of our kids with me to Yoder's Department store. They wanted to spend some of their Christmas cash from their grandparents. As we walked in, we were greeted by the smell of freshly popped popcorn. My daughter, age 5 who happens to be a *seasoned Yoder's Hardware shopper*, excitedly proceeds to inform her older brothers about the free popcorn here. I often find myself wondering which childhood memories will stick, and come up in conversations as the kids get older. I wonder if this might be one of them.... "Remember when we would go to Yoder's and eat popcorn?" Saturday was one of our rare "in no hurry" type of days, and we leisurely strolled the aisles browsing the many items on display. I was impressed with the variety of vintage toys, and found my mind going back to my childhood. One of my sons picked out a pocket watch, of all things. As soon as we were all paid up, we got that thing out and put 'er to use. The rest of the day was spent confirming the time frequently and flaunting his chain of bling. We walked out of Yoder's to the sound of live music and the sight of some over the hill chaps enjoying the hickory rockers while taking in the sights and sounds around them.

Since the weather was mild that day, we decided to play follow the leader while riding our bicycles around town. I'm pretty sure this is a memory that will resurface years down the road. We love cruising the sidewalks around the pond at the Farmstead Inn, through the covered bridge, and around the pond at Menno-Hof. "What's Menno-Hof?" the kids asked. "A museum I am embarrassed I haven't taken you guys to," I replied. As we pedal on, I am thinking, this is crazy! I would probably drive for hours to visit a place like this, to help my kids understand their heritage, and here is a world class place right in my back yard. I am thinking, man, what a perfect opportunity for all of us merchants to learn more about our area's culture. Definitely on my bucket list for this next year.

Later that evening, we are heading to the MEC for the show, Noel. As we turn down State Road 5, I about had a fit! Long lines from both North and South waiting to turn in at Lights Of Joy. This warms my heart for a couple of reasons. Of course, I love seeing fellow Merchants be successful, seeing Shipshewana be successful. But what I REALLY love is seeing our little town provide wholesome entertainment and atmosphere to our Visitors. A place where memories are made with those most important. "Get off it," my oldest son tells me as I evidently excessively rant and rave about the great turnout that evening.

If you have not seen Noel, go. This show is a class act! I was brought to tears a few times during the show as the cast passionately performed a Christmas-themed musical using some beautiful horses. And I'm here to tell you, Jesus was not just a small part of this show, He was what He ought to be... the Star! So one minute I was crying, the next minute I was laughing, and at one point I could not even watch the Elf on the high swing for fear I would fall off my seat (she is one crazy Elf!). As we were walking out, some folks asked us how late Lights Of Joy was open. "I don't know but I can make a call to find out," I replied. I was tickled to be able to prove that this is my hometown, and here in Shipshewana we know each other.

Driving home, this family of 8 was discussing the show and singing snatches of some of the catchiest Christmas tunes we had heard. Discussing how there were still quite a few cars driving through Lights Of Joy, and how Dad should still Get Off It already. Making memories. I look around the buggy at my family, feeling blessed beyond measure. There is nothing less than a dull roar coming from the back seat as the kids talk over each other in excitement, and one checks his pocket watch for the time. Smile. I love raising my family here. "Shipshewana is my town" I think, as we drive past the decked-out-to-the-max shops downtown.

Thanks, Father God, I don't deserve this. But thanks.

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FEATURED ADVERTISER



Vintage Finds & New Home Decor

By Harold D. Gingerich

After more than 30 years in the world of business, the last being with Vera Bradley, and a couple of heart attacks, David Traylor was ready to make a change. That change led Traylor and his wife Myra to Shipshewana. “My wife and I both felt that this atmosphere, and the culture of the people here made this a place where we would be comfortable living,” David says. He went on to say that, “We did move up here specifically because it was an Amish community. In September of 2016 they purchased the building at

165 North Harrison Street in Shipshewana. Their store, the Ole Tin Rooster, opened the following March.

Initially David and Myra’s vision had been to open an antiques store. In the end, the store became a down-home blend of antiques, more modern home décor, and a section of used books. “My wife likes to decorate in a way that shows how to utilize antiques with modern furnishings,” David observes. For a number of years prior to opening the store, Myra had operated an antiques booth at various locations.

She called her booth “The Tin Rooster”. However, as they did some research prior to opening the store they discovered that several others were using that name, and it in fact, had been trademarked. The Traylor’s simply added the word “Ole” to the name and went about securing their own trademark, along with a Facebook page and the online domain name.

What makes the Ole Tin Rooster unique is its balance and blend of the old and the new. “Whatever season you might find yourself in,” their Facebook

page says, “we hope that you will find a bit of you inside of the Ole Tin Rooster.” Along with vintage home décor items and used books, they also feature a line of Magnolia Home Furniture and Accessories by Joanna Gaines. You will also find Dear Heart jewelry by Summer Ellis and a collection of Beekman 1802 bath and spa products which are growing in popularity.

Faith and family play a central role in David and Myra’s life. David was born in Indianapolis and raised in Frankfort, Indiana. Myra was a farm girl from Lebanon, Indiana. Her grandfather farmed, and her father was a farmer as well as an executive with a




local state bank. Both families attended the same church, Grace Baptist Church, in Frankfort. That’s how and where David and Myra met and fell in love.” Following graduation from high school, David enrolled at Indiana State in Terre Haute. Six months later, on December 17, 1978, they were married. For the next few years they lived in married student housing until David graduated with a degree in finance and accounting. Ten years later he would complete his master’s degree at Indiana Wesleyan in Marion, Indiana.

The Traylors have two sons, ages 40 and 34, living in the Cincinnati

area. And two grandsons; the oldest is 8 and the other 5.

Recently David and Myra purchased the Morton Street Bed & Breakfast renaming it “Inn Shiphewana B&B”. “We are about bringing people to Shiphewana,” David says. “They will shop wherever they want and that’s Ok. We just want them to have a good experience.” David has also recently been appointed the interim director of the Shiphewana Retail Merchants Association.

The Ole Tin Rooster is currently open Tuesday – Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm. Beginning January they will be open Wednesday – Saturday until spring.

Be sure to check out their Facebook page. Better yet, stop by the store to look around and say “Hello”. You will be glad that you did. 

Davis Named 2020 Lilly Endowment Community Scholar

Kurtis Davis, a senior at Westview Jr.-Sr. High School, has been named the recipient of the LaGrange County Community Foundation’s 2020 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship.

Davis will receive a four-year, full-tuition scholarship to the accredited public or private college or university in Indiana of his choice, along with an annual \$900 stipend for books and


required equipment.

Davis is the son of Kenneth and Sherrie Davis of LaGrange. A two-sport student athlete in tennis and baseball, Davis maintains a 4.06 grade-point average. He plans to pursue a chemistry or chemical engineer degree at Bethel University or Indiana Wesleyan University. “This opens up more options for me academically and the chance to pursue a master’s degree,” Davis said.

Davis serves on National Honor Society, Student Council, Yearbook and the Junior Plus mentoring program. He has participated in a Tech Fest Competition.

This year, 16 applicants participated in LaGrange County’s Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship selection process. The foundation’s Lilly Scholarship

Advisory Committee narrowed the field to five finalists based upon criteria that included scholastic profile, leadership, school activities, community service, work history, essays and interview performance. The committee’s recommendations were forwarded to Independent Colleges of Indiana, the statewide administrator of the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program, for final review and selection of the recipient.

Other finalists included: Ana Wahll and Ryker Bond of Lakeland High School and Chelsea Weaver and Skyler Hawk 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. 



2020 Lilly Scholar– LaGrange County Community Foundation presents Kurtis Davis with the 2020 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship. (left to right): Sherrie Davis, Kenneth Davis, Karyssa Davis, LaGrange County Community Foundation Executive Director Octavia Yoder and seated Kurtis Davis. Photo Submitted

LaGrange County Parks

Upcoming Events

First Day Hike - Luminary Walk

January 1, 2020 - 5:30 pm

Dallas Lake Park Lodge

Join thousands of people all across America hiking their way to a healthy new year! First Day Hikes were started to promote outdoor recreation. Make a resolution to get outside more in 2020!

See the woods by candlelight on a 1/2 mile (approx.) trail.

Take a romantic stroll with your sweetie, or enjoy a walk in the woods after dark with your family.

Dress for cold, wet weather! Free coffee and cocoa will be served while supplies last.



Maple Wood Fiber Guild

Second Wednesdays, 10 am- 3 pm

January 8

Open to anyone and any kind of fiber art! Knitting, crocheting, spinning, weaving, dyeing, tatting, embroidery, and more! Bring projects to work on, get inspiration from others, or learn a new hobby. Children welcome!

Please bring a dish to share for the potluck lunch and cash donation for LaGrange County Parks.

Make - n - Take Crafts

Second Saturdays, 10 am & 2 pm

January 11: Track Stamps

Easy nature crafts for the entire family! Free of charge (donations appreciated).



Winter Quilt Classes:

Chisholm Trail

January 18 - 9 am - 3 pm

This can be done with a jelly roll, or cut your own 2.5 " strips plus a background. A straight forward project perfect for starting a new year.

Registration is required. Instructions are provided upon registration.

To register, call the Park Office, 260-854-2225, or email lagrangecountyparks@yahoo.com. Fee is \$25 (\$5 is given back to Parks)

For more information, contact the instructors Julia Wolheter, 260-367-1449 or Ira Johnson, 260-367-1438. Please bring a dish for the lunch.

Folk Jams

January 26 - 1:30 - 5 pm

Folk Jam music sessions are hosted the 4th Sunday of each month. Jams are mostly folk, country, and bluegrass music, with other styles occasionally added. For more information, contact Erv Troyer, at 463-2247, reo43@aol.com, or Maple Wood at 260-463-4022.



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