

# The Hometown Treasure

August 2021 • Vol. 22 Num. 8



*Postal Patrons*

The Hometown Treasure  
P.O. Box 70  
Shipshewana, IN 46565

PRESORTED STANDARD  
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GREENVILLE, MI  
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# Topeka Road Run Results



**Boys Fun Run Mile:** Left to right: Carson Niccum (1st), Brayden Gillette (2nd), and K. Hile (3rd).



**Girls Fun Run Mile:** Left to right: A. Harber (1st), Natalie Gillette (2nd), and Merril Warrenner (3rd).



**Men's Overall Winners:** Left to right: Levi Steeval (2nd), Spencer Carpenter (3rd), and Kent Yoder (1st).



**Women's Overall Winners:** Left to right: Dorcus Wingard (1st), Laura Gillette (2nd), and Emma Long (3rd).



Runners get started on a hot July day, for the Topeka Road Run. Photos Submitted



FRESH CUT  
**FLOWERS**  
*Stems • Blooms • Seeds*

# July 10-17



# LaGrange Co. 4H Fair

**Photos & Layout  
by Abby Wenger**



## The Hometown Treasure

A Monthly Publication by  
LaGwana Circulation: 6,000

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

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

Phone: 260-463-4901 • Fax: 260-463-7257  
e-mail: [news@lagwana.com](mailto:news@lagwana.com)

You may call or stop by during office hours:  
Monday - Friday, 8 am-5 pm

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Erika Byler, Word Search

Rod Lantz & Cary Peters Sales

### — ADVERTISING SIZES & RATES —

Size	width x height	Rate
1/12 page	2 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub> " x 2 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub> "	\$36
1/6 page (Vertical)	2 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub> " x 4 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub> "	
or (Horizontal)	4 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub> " x 2 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub> "	\$70
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or (Square)	4 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub> " x 4 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub> "	\$135
1/2 page	7 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub> " x 4 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub> "	\$192
2/3 page	4 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub> " x 9 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub> "	\$250
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Inside Front	7 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub> " x 9 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub> "	\$400
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Discounts available for print-ready artwork and/or for running in multiple issues.

Call or email for a complete media kit.

Other sponsorships available. Call for details.

### — ADVERTISING INFORMATION —

Deadline for September 2021 Issue:  
**12 noon, Tuesday, August 24**  
Thursday, August 19 if you need a proof.

**September Issue Date is Tuesday, August 31**

Discounts for ads running more than once.

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

Or email [htads@lagwana.com](mailto:htads@lagwana.com)

### — SUBSCRIPTION RATE —

One Year: \$35

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Cover Photo by Abby Wenger  
Photo of chicks born at the LaGrange Co. 4H Fair.

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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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_!

I have started taking over a lot of the outdoor work lately. Of course I have had my garden for awhile, but since my husband works full time and I

do not anymore, I have also taken over mowing, etc. I used a lawnmower for the first time in over ten years a few weeks ago, which was quite a workout, remembering how to maneuver it around trees and things.

I also tore out and rebuild our firepit, because we underestimated the number of bricks we needed when we first built it. I have often joked that we had the world's smallest firepit, as it was only about a foot in diameter. It is now a much more respectable nearly two foot and can actually fit a full log inside. 

Solution on page 18

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# Healthy Healthy

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

## Giving Up Control

Giving up control of your children is hard as they grow. From the minute you bring your child home as a newborn, you are responsible for their health and well-being.

As another school year starts, giving up control is on the mind of parents, whether a student is in kindergarten or starting college. Each school year's milestone is nature's way of helping children fledge into autonomy, to be the person they are designed to be. To "fledge" is to put feathers on an arrow or for a bird to develop strong wing feathers for flight. God designs children to grow strong, to learn new skills, and to be prepared for what they are capable of at each age.

Letting go of control is the responsibility of parents while also helping your child grow. A new school year brings fears and challenges. Do you lie in bed and wonder, *"What if my child is exposed to something that will damage him forever? What if she is bullied, made fun of, or left out?"*

As kids get older, the "what ifs" get louder. *"What if he takes drugs? What if she is assaulted? What if he gets hurt? What if he makes the wrong decision or does something stupid?"*

*"What if I'm not there when they need me?"*

These questions linger even with

adult children. They roll around in your mind, driving worry, insecurity, and the need to control. It is essential, though, that parents appropriately give up control along a child's development for their health and safety.

Here are 3 thoughts about giving up control.




**1. Giving up control is humbling.** Doing so acknowledges you, the parent, are not in charge of their life. Our children are not an extension of ourselves. It is our job to equip them to be the healthiest person they can be according to their capacity.

**2. Giving up control allows your kids to grow and thrive.** Their wing feathers cannot be strong when you rescue them from all their problems, or do not let them do what is appropriate for their age. If they are in kindergarten, they are capable to tie

their shoes and open their milk carton, even though it is easier for you to do so. If they are in middle school, they need to have input on decisions about their interests.

However, giving up control does not mean you let them make all the decisions about things that are harmful, like cell phone use, internet sites, and who they hang out with.

**3. Giving up control strengthens your relationship.** Do you remember when you were a teen or young adult? Did you want your parents involved in all your decisions or telling you what to do with your future? Your older children do not want you dominating their lives. God designed your children to be independent from you. Letting go builds a better life relationship between both of you, and it honors the person they are becoming.

Walking with your kids while they grow is both hard and joyful. Letting go means they might have to struggle as they learn. That is a good thing. As this new school year starts, how can you grow, too, in giving up control? 

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**Saturday: 8 am - Noon**

**260-593-2252**



- 1 Elyas Ali, Kevin Lehman, Jannat Shammam, Jana Troyer
- 2 Hadley Abney, Aiden Birch, Jason Schrock, Justin Slabach
- 3 Nathan Martin, Andrea Schwartz
- 4 Leon Bontrager, Chandler Engle, Christopher Rauguth, Darin Yoder, Julie Yoder
- 5 Aryanna Case, Derek Miller, Anisah Omar, Cynthia Osorio-Luna, Jaxon Wisniewski
- 6 Andraya Lambright, Darrin Miller, Travis Miller, Seth Troyer
- 7 Amy Bontrager, Emily Drew, Colton Tormanen, Dax Tormanen, Vann Tormanen
- 8 Kyla Thompson
- 9 Evan Byroad, Melody Miller, Adilyn Pierrariu, Farrah Pierrariu
- 11 Hailey Graber, Audrey Lambright, Evan Roth, Kaitlyn Weimer
- 12 Jolisa Bontrager, Christina Killian, Lisa Mast, Michael Miller, Nichole Miller, Seth Miller
- 13 Ruth Miller
- 14 Marissa Miller, Kayli Yoder
- 15 Faith Bontrager, Harrison Bontreger, Mohammed Madar
- 16 Hanan Al Gurmi, Jeremy Fry, Isaiah Hostetler, Britton Miller, Logan Miller, Landon Nissley
- 17 Kayla Bontrager, Zoey Fulford, Hannah Troyer
- 18 Samantha Bontrager, Lyle Hershberger, Jacob Lambright



# Lilly Scholarship Applications Open

August

- 19 Kenlin Bontrager, Chloe Briggs, Lance Mullet
- 20 Braden Fry, Anna Miller, Nasami Moore, Violet Tormanen, Lyndon Wingard
- 21 Nicholas Bontrager, Jason Miller, Erikson Mullet, Lyndora Schrock, Sean Williams
- 22 Andrew Helmuth, Jennifer Miller, Carson Yoder, John Yoder
- 23 Janae Herschberger
- 24 Reagan Diehl, Kimberly Linn, Josie Ryall, Tina Troyer
- 25 Braden Detweiler, Brenna Mauck, Kenady Miller, Emberlee Perez Zepeda, Travis Ritchie, James Yoder
- 26 Kalyn Bontrager, Kayla Miller, Kyle Miller, Isabella Marcum, Adrian Troyer, Grace Yoder
- 27 Jacob Hoff, Asher Kauffman, Maxwell Reffett, Landon Schlabach, Angie Slabach, Nyanchai Sornross
- 28 Seth Bontrager, Jalayna Fry
- 29 Kyle Hochstetler, Ryan Mast, Joshua Miller, Laura Miller, Adelynn Raber, Bryson Roth, Joshua Yoder
- 30 Channing Heintzelman
- 31 Makynzee McLaughlin, Gavin Miller, Hailey A. Miller, Hailey B. Miller

LaGrange County's 2022 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship application opens on July 31, 2021. The Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program (LECSP) will provide 143 scholarships statewide and one scholarship in LaGrange County.

LECSP scholarships may be used for otherwise unreimbursed full tuition, required fees, and a special allocation of up to \$900 per year. The special allocation may cover the costs for required books and required equipment for four years of undergraduate study on a full-time basis leading to a baccalaureate degree at any eligible Indiana public or private nonprofit college or university.

The program, administered statewide by Independent Colleges of Indiana (ICI) and locally in LaGrange County through the LaGrange County Community Foundation, is open to all Indiana residents who:

- graduate from an accredited Indiana high school by 2022 and receive their diploma no later than June 30, 2022,
- intend to pursue a full-time baccalaureate course of study at an eligible college or university in Indiana,
- meet the criteria specific to their local community foundation. Students applying in LaGrange County must have a minimum grade point average of 3.0, be a LaGrange County resident, and be graduate from a LaGrange County high school.


Students can learn more about the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship in LaGrange County and apply for this scholarship by visiting [www.lccf.net/lillyscholarship](http://www.lccf.net/lillyscholarship).

Applications must be completed and submitted by Sept. 15, 2021, at 5 p.m. to be considered.

Applications will be evaluated on, but not limited to, the following criteria: academic achievement, demonstrated service to others, leadership ability, commitment and motivation to succeed, employment history, extra-curricular involvement, and essay responses. Two recommendations must also be submitted with the application. A personal interview will assist in determining the scholarship recipient.

Five students will be selected as finalists and be interviewed in October 2021. Following the interviews, the LaGrange County Community Foundation will nominate one local graduating senior for the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship; their name will be submitted to ICI for final approval. The scholarship recipient will be announced in December.

The finalists not selected for the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship will receive a \$1,000 four-year renewable scholarship from the Lambright Leadership Fund established by Kevin and Carrie Lambright.

LaGrange County Community Foundation is again pleased to offer LECSP for its 25th year in LaGrange County. "We are grateful to be able to offer the LECSP Scholarship to our local students. It opens opportunities for the recipient to attend a school that otherwise might not have been possible," said Octavia Yoder, executive director. "LaGrange County is home to exceptional student scholars who are committed, caring community members. We look forward to recognizing the hearts and minds of our community's talented young people." 

Sponsored by





# LaGrange County Library

## Shipshewana Branch

250 Depot St. • 260-768-7444

T - F • 11:00 am - 5:00 pm

Saturday • 9:00 am - 12 pm

Curbside Pickup: T - F • 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

## LaGrange County Public Library

203 West Spring Street • 260-463-2841

M - Th • 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Friday • 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Saturday 9 am - 12 pm

Curbside Pickup: M - F • 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

## Topeka Branch

133 North Main Street • 260-593-3030

T - F • 11:00 am - 5:00 pm

Saturday • 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Curbside Pickup: T - F • 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

**Below are the events planned for August.** *If you have any questions, please call the Main Library at 260-463-2841 for further information.*

## Youth Department

### Multiple Branches or Virtual Activities

#### Virtual Pre-School Story Time

Facebook • Tuesdays, August 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31 • 10 am

LaGrange County Public Library Facebook Page

#### In-Person Preschool Story Time

Main • Tuesdays, August 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31 • 10:30 am

Topeka • Tuesdays, August 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31 • 11 am

Shipshewana • Tuesdays, August 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31 • 1 pm

Registration is appreciated but is not required.

#### New Activity Bags out for Pick-up (limited supplies)

All Locations • Monday, August 9

Theme: Recycled Hedgehog Craft

Each bag contains activity sheets and a simple craft for 2 children.

### LaGrange County Public Library

#### Art (Ages: 8-18)

Main • In-Person • Wednesday, August 25 • 4 pm

Theme: Pulled String Art

Please call (260-463-2841) to register by Wednesday, August 18. Space is limited.

#### Family Movie Night

Main • In-Person • Friday, August 27 • 6 pm

Movie: "Tangled" Rated PG.

All ages welcome.

This is a free event.

#### Teen Activity

There will be no teen activities this month.

This event will resume again in September.

## Adult Interest

### LaGrange County Public Library

#### Mehndi: Henna Body Art

Main • In-Person • Saturday, August 28 • 2 pm

Jen Schafer returns with her beautiful artwork! Learn about the history, culture, and science of henna. Then look through Jen's design books and choose a design. Jen will apply it in minutes, and it will last for weeks (with proper skin care). Anyone 6 to 18 years old must either attend with a parent or have a waiver signed by a parent. No children 5 or under. This is a free program.

Register by August 21 at the library or by calling 260-463-2841.

## Adult Interest

### LaGrange County Public Library

#### Gentle Flow Yoga with Farra

Main • In-Person • Mondays, August 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30 • 10 - 11 am

Main • In-Person • Thursdays, August 5, 12, 19 & 26 • 10 - 11 am

Please bring a yoga mat, a rug, or a blanket. The first class is free! For each further class, a \$5 donation is suggested.

#### Chakra Balancing Journeys with Farra

Main • In-Person • Monday, August 9 • 1:10 - 3:50 pm

By appointment (20 minutes each)

Chakras are spinning wheels of energy within the body that when balanced are open, bright, and spinning freely. When they are out of balance they become slow, sluggish, dirty, and shrunken or swollen, all of which affects how we feel.

Come experience a 20-minute Chakra balancing journey with Farra.

Cost is by donation (\$5 recommended).

Register for your appointment by calling 260-463-2841.

#### Make-N-Take With Deb

Main • In-Person • Wednesday, August 11 • 6 pm

Project: Chakra Jewelry

We will have a variety of crystals and stones for you to design your own wire-wrapped necklace or bracelet. For those interested in the chakra balancing, we will have crystals and stones to make jewelry specific to your need.

Cost is \$20 per person. Space is limited.

Reservation and \$10 deposit due by Friday, August 6 at the Main Library.

#### Second Saturday Book Club

Main • In-Person • Saturday, August 14 • 11 am

This month's book is *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel

The son of a zookeeper, 16-year-old Pi Patel has an encyclopedic knowledge of animal behavior and a fervent love of stories. After a shipwreck on the high seas, he finds himself alone in a lifeboat with the only other survivor, Richard Parker, a 450-pound Bengal tiger. Pi's fear, knowledge, and cunning allow him to coexist with Richard Parker for 227 days while lost at sea.

Copies of the book are available at the Main Library's Adult Information Desk.

#### Patchwork Trails

Pine Knob Park • In-Person • Tuesday, August 17 • 6 pm

Mike Metz Fen (Duff Lake) Trail at 2853E SR 120, Howe, IN.

Join us as we explore nature and combine exercise, education, friendship, and fun. No fees or registration required.

Please park at the Program Center.

(Facebook - [m.facebook.com/lagrangelibraryindiana](https://m.facebook.com/lagrangelibraryindiana))

**The following health and safety measures are currently enforced at all library locations:**

- Masks are optional in the buildings
- Social distancing will be observed.

- Children are allowed in the library if accompanied by an adult.
- Computers and study rooms are available for one-hour sessions by appointment only.

Find more information at

**[www.lagrange.lib.in.us](http://www.lagrange.lib.in.us) or call 260-463-2841.**

This page sponsored by







# Mystery Farm CONTEST

## OVER \$50 WORTH OF PRIZES!

**1st Prize:** **Tiffany's Restaurant**, Topeka, \$25 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: **October 22, 2019.**  
*Allow time for mail delivery.*
- 4) Winners will be drawn and prizes mailed.
- 5) Correct entries listed in our next issue!

## August Contest Sponsored by Tiffany's Restaurant and LaGwana

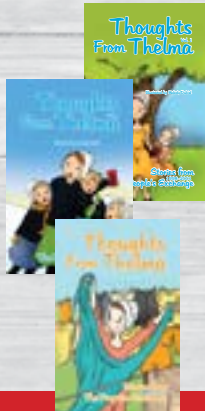
**Andy I. & Rachel Ann Mast of 9135W 100S, Shipshewana**, correctly identified last issue's farm as being owned by **Orla & Verneta, 1565S 1000W, Shipshewana**. Congratulations! They won a 1 Year Subscription from *The Connection*, a lighted pen, a notepad set, and a copy of *The Honeyville Journal* from LaGwana Printing. Second prize went to **Lee & Carolyn Eash, 4922W 1100N, Ligonier**. Third prize went to **Edward Slabach Jr., 10165W 200S, Shipshewana**.



There were 36 correct entries this month. **Others that guessed correctly were:** Marlin & Erma Schrock, Eugene Yoder, Karl & Glenna Bontrager, Elroy & Rachel Miller, Delbert & Mary Bontrager, Kyle & Dora Miller, Andrew & Melinda Lehman, Mervin & Fannie Miller, Matthew Schlabach, Mervin & Katie Byler, Orva Jr. & Beth Whetstone, Joe & Wanetta Bontrager, Kyle & Dora Miller, Merle & Wilma Hochstetler, Wayne & Leona Miller, Alton & Susie Miller, Perry Yoder, Steven & Susan Yoder, Ben & Lorene Gingerich, Dale & Hannah Miller, Gene & Wanda Yoder, Karl Yoder, Lizzie A. Bontrager,

Lavern & Leah Eash, Lester & Wilma Yoder, Devon Schrock, Samuel & LorEtta Schrock, Glen & Lori Hershberger, David & Wilma Miller, Harry W. & Marlene Miller, Glen & Sharon Graber, Wilbur & Wanda Fry, Dave & Treva Lambright, Clyde & Vera Miller, Amos & Elsie Bontrager, Myron & Amanda Bontrager.

## Read. Laugh. Enjoy.



The People's Exchange comes every two weeks.  
The stories are fun but always so brief.  
So here are some books of the stories collected.  
We don't want your reading enjoyment neglected.

For \$10.99 get a book of your choice.  
Read to yourself or out loud with your voice.  
No matter which way, the stories are great.  
Give your belly a laugh and your family a break.

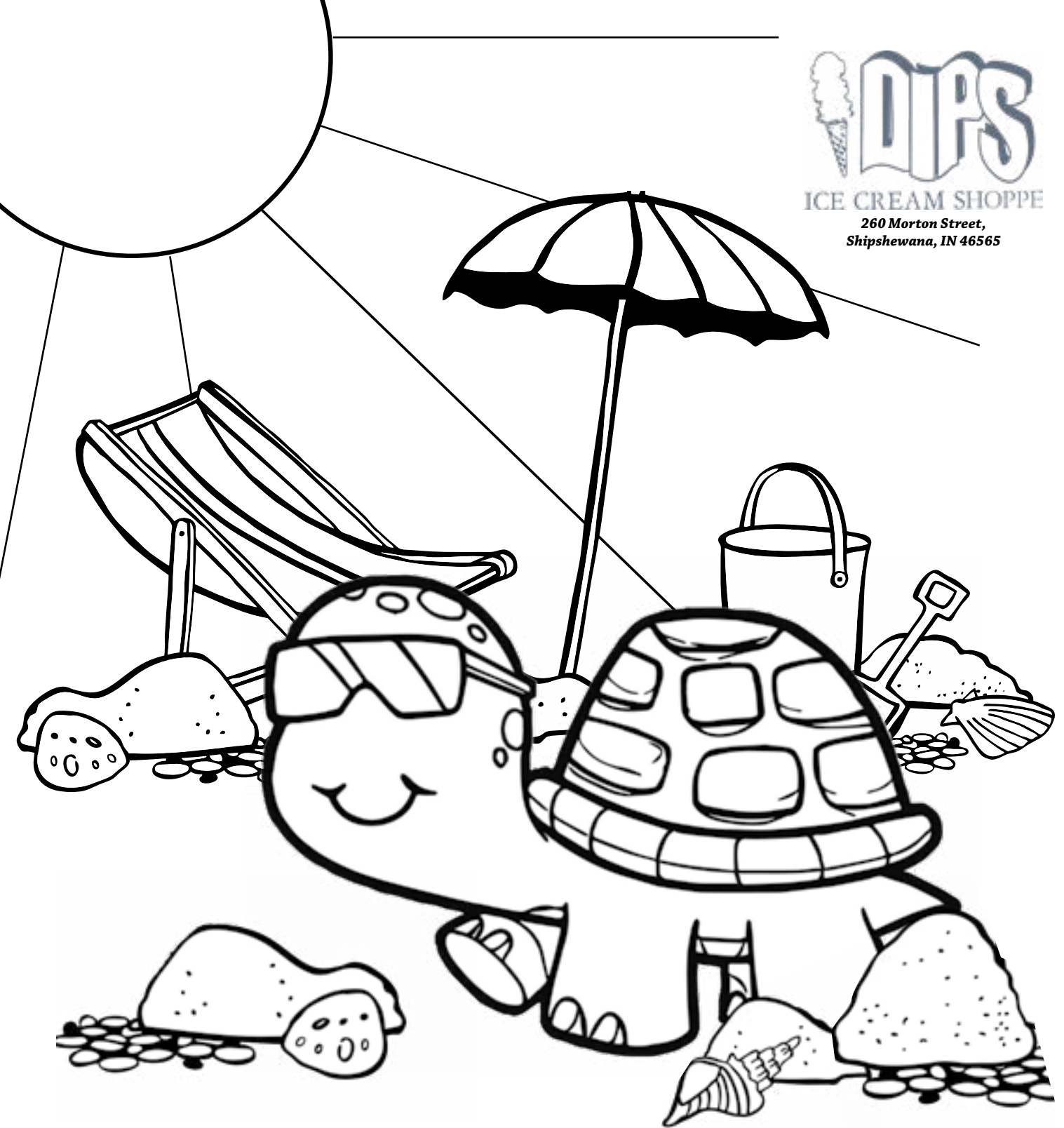


P 260-768-7878 · F 866-931-7480  
office@lagwana.com  
PO Box 70 · Shipshewana, IN 46565

## ENJOY EVERY MOMENT







Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

**Coloring Contest: kids age 6 and younger.** Sponsored by Hostetler's Store's Dips Ice Cream Shoppe this month! Winner gets a FREE ICE CREAM TREAT OF CHOICE at Dips Ice Cream Shoppe, 260 Morton St., Shipshewana. Winning drawings will be on display at Dips Ice Cream Shoppe. ALL PARTICIPANTS come in and claim your drawing for A FREE ICE-CREAM CONE at Dips Ice Cream Shoppe in September. Mail submission to: LaGwana, Coloring Contest, PO Box 70, Shipshewana, IN 46565. **Entry deadline is August 24, 2021.**

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

# Smart Choices

By Hadley Whicker, PharmD at Topeka Pharmacy

## COVID-19 Delta Variant: What You Should Know

Just when we thought the pandemic was nearly over, every other headline on the news lately has been about the new COVID-19 Delta variant. Some headlines have been scary, some confusing, and some downright wrong. To address some uncertainty that this new variant brings, here is some information about what the Delta variant is and what you can do to protect yourself against the COVID-19 virus and Delta variant.

### What is a variant?


Variants are different “strains” or types of a virus which develop as a virus changes. It is natural for viruses to change over time. New variants are expected to form for most viruses, especially those that are easily spread like COVID-19. If you think about a virus like a tree growing and branching out; each branch on the tree is slightly different than the others. By comparing the branches, scientists can label them according to the differences. Some variants may change to become resistant to treatments or vaccines. Some may become easier to spread. The most concerning variants are those that change to cause more severe infections. Public health officials track variants very closely to see if they are causing more disease, hospitaliza-

tions, and deaths and to make sure that treatments and vaccines still work. This is how we know that the Delta variant is spread very easily and causes severe infections.

### What are the statistics of this Delta variant?

Since June 11, 2021, at least 80 cases caused by the Delta variant have been discovered in Indiana. This means that more than 55% of all variant cases of COVID-19 have been from the Delta variant. Luckily, the Pfizer vaccine is still 88% effective at preventing COVID-19 illness and 96% effective at preventing hospitalizations from the COVID-19 Delta variant.

### What can I do to protect myself from this new variant?


GET VACCINATED! Currently available vaccines are effective against the variants of concern that have been detected in Indiana. As more people get vaccinated and become immune, communities will have more protection against variants. Currently only about 49% of the state’s eligible population, 12 and older, have been vaccinated. Viruses usually do not multiply or mutate in people who are immune, so variants will not emerge or spread. Vaccination prevents mutation, so get vaccinated as soon as possible. If you have not been vaccinated and are indoors or in crowded spaces, face masks are still recommended. Contact Topeka Pharmacy at 260-593-2252 with questions and concerns about COVID-19 or to schedule an appointment to get your vaccine! 

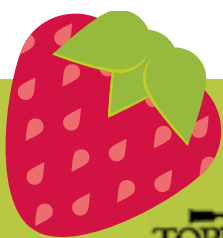
## Community Impact Grants Now Available

The LaGrange County Community Foundation is now accepting applications for its Community Impact Grants fall 2021 awards.

Community Impact Grants are available to nonprofit organizations serving LaGrange County, are made possible through the generosity of donors, who have supported the unrestricted and field of interest charitable funds at the Foundation.

The Community Foundation seeks proposals for innovative or creative projects, with significant impact on the community. Nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply in six areas: arts and culture, community development, education, environment, health and human services, and recreation. Previous grants have ranged from \$5,000 to \$25,000 per award.

To apply visit [lccf.net/community-impact-grants](https://lccf.net/community-impact-grants). All applications are due **September 1, 2021**. Contact Leanna Martin at [lmartin@lccf.net](mailto:lmartin@lccf.net) or call 260-463-4363 for questions or for more information. 



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# Coloring Contest Winners

Five year old Aaron Bontrager of 850 W, Shipshewana was our winner for the July Coloring Contest. He 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 August.

Runners-up were Serena Otto, age 6; Janelle Diane Miller, age 5; Lavera Jean Hostetler, age 4; Audrey Lambright, age 3. Honorable Mentions: Alyse Bontrager, age 6; Drew (775 W), age 6; Nicholas Henry Bontrager, age 6; Julie Grace Eash, age 6; Isabella Yoder, age 5; Isaiah 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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Submitted by Brittney Schori, *Extension Educator, Purdue Extension*

## Should I Rent or Should I Buy?

Are you asking yourself, “*Should I buy a home or keep renting?*” There can be many benefits to becoming a homeowner, from having more control over your space, to building equity, and potentially benefiting from rising home values. But it also might be one of the biggest financial commitments you will ever make, and it is not the right move in every situation. Here are five important questions to ask yourself before you make your decision!

### 1. Are you truly in a financial position to buy? Why does it matter?

If buying over-stretches your finances, you might be less able to cope with a financial emergency or save for other important goals like retirement! Plus, an inadequate down payment or sub-par credit score might leave you at a disadvantage if you are trying to get an offer accepted in today’s competitive buying market. Here are a few relevant aspects of your finances that you should understand: **Your income:** If you do not have stable, sufficient income, it might not be the right time. **Your down payment:** Remember that you typically need a down payment of at least 20% to avoid paying for private mortgage insurance (which protects your lender if you are unable to make your mortgage payments). **Your credit score:** Without solid credit, you might not qualify for a favorable mortgage rate or even be approved for a loan in the first place. **Other debt:** One rule

of thumb is that your total monthly debt payments should not exceed 36% of your pretax income. If you have other debt, there may be less room in your finances for mortgage payments.

### 2. Will you stay for at least a few years? Why does it matter?

When you buy, you will face a boatload of one-time expenses, like broker fees, mortgage origination fees, and title insurance. The longer you stay put, the more time you have to spread out those costs and for your home to potentially rise in value. If you are planning to stay less than 3 years, it likely does not make financial sense to buy. Staying less than 2

years can come with tax disadvantages, because you generally will not qualify for a capital gains tax exclusion. This means you will owe a capital gains tax on the full amount of any increase in your home’s value!

### 3. Which offers better value in your area? Why does it matter?

You might assume buying is a better value because it lets you build equity in a home. But rents have fallen in many areas while home prices have risen (thank you, COVID), so renting may be more of a bargain than you realize. In any comparison, first make sure you are looking at similar properties in the same area (i.e., do not weigh renting your city studio against buying that country cottage). Then you can compare the renting and buying price tags!

### 4. Would you still want to buy if your home’s value does not rise? Why does it matter?

Although home prices have historically risen over long periods, there is no guarantee that they will in any given time frame or in any area. Plus, what matters for you will be the value of your specific property, which can be influenced by everything from the local economy to whether your neighbors take good care of their lawns. I recommend thinking about how you would feel if your home’s value did not budge over 10 years or did not rise as much as inflation. If you buy, you will need to accept the possibility that your home will not be a great investment!

### 5. What does your heart say?

**Why does it matter?** Buying a home is not just a financial transaction. It is also a source of added responsibility, and for many people, pride, and satisfaction. You want to decide that you can feel good about years down the line. Ask yourself if you feel ready for the level of commitment that owning a home will entail. If being on the hook when the basement floods or the roof leaks terrifies you, it could be you are not quite there yet. On the other hand, if you know you want to put down more permanent roots, then you might be ready to take the next step!

If you are looking to bring your home ownership dreams closer to reality, I recommend setting up a savings goal to help you build your down payment, finding a mortgage lender, and a real estate agent! 📌 Source: Fidelity





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## TES Behind the Scenes

It takes a lot of behind the scenes work to get schools ready for students and teachers to come back after summer break. These hard-working staff members at Topeka Elementary School work throughout the summer deep cleaning the building, maintaining and upgrading technology, and making the building shine. Thank you for your hard work and dedication! 




*Top:* Technology Assistant Lisa Royal plugs the copier back in. *Middle:* Custodian Jackie Calhoun tries to decide what cleaner will work better. *Bottom:* Custodian Connie Gadson takes a few seconds to smile for the camera. Photos Submitted

## Topeka Elementary

### Topeka Chicken Sale

The Topeka Elementary PTO would like to thank everyone for their support of their recent Nelson's

chicken BBQ sale. The proceeds are for the PTO, who support student events throughout the school year. 


*Photo Submitted*



## Meadowview Elementary

### Open House

Meadowview Elementary will have their open house on Thursday, August 5. The open house will be divided according to last names; names starting with A-L will meet from 5:30 to 6:30 pm, names

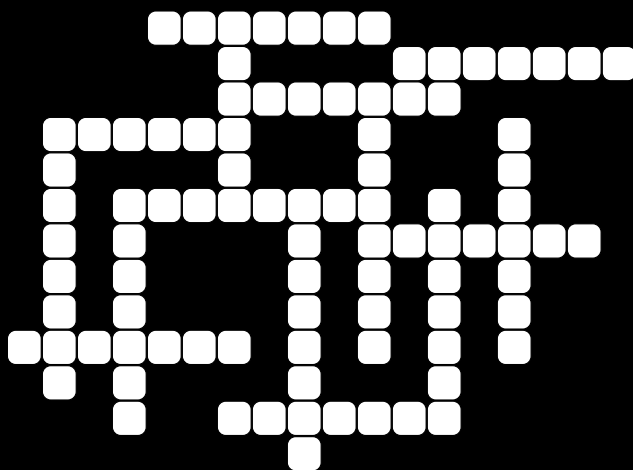
starting with M-Z will meet from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Book fees will also be collected that night. The fee this year is \$90. We look forward to seeing everyone! 

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## Clueless Crossword

Use the words listed  
to fill in the spaces!

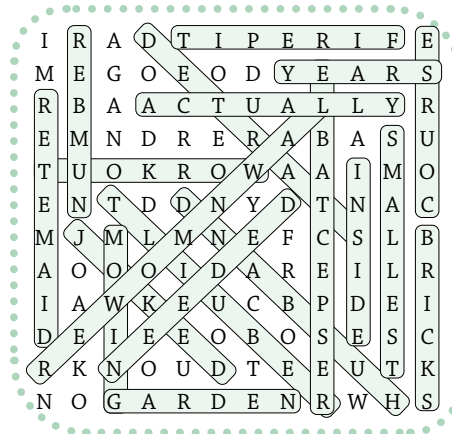
Solution to Clueless  
Crossword is on pg 28.

by Emily Vandevander

# Want a different way to advertise?

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

Solution to puzzle on page 6



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

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the top and going left to right.

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# Topeka Elementary

## End of the Year Carnival!

The students at Topeka Elementary attended a PTO sponsored celebration day. The PTO felt after the end of last year and this school year, with all the cancelled and postponed events, the students needed a send-off that included some of what had been missed throughout the past year. These

students were able to enjoy two jump houses, a Kona Ice truck, and carnival-like games with prizes. Each grade was given a time slot throughout the day to enjoy the activities and it was great to see a normal event to end the school year! 

*Photos Submitted*



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## PLH Welcomes New Doctor

William A. Smith, MD, Parkview Physicians Group (PPG) – OB/GYN, is now seeing patients at a new office, having relocated to the

Parkview LaGrange Hospital (PLH) campus. Until recently, his practice was in Angola, Indiana.

“We’re thrilled that Dr. Smith has returned to LaGrange,” said Jordi Disler, president of PLH. “He was here some years ago, and it’s wonderful to be able to welcome him back after his years in Steuben County. His arrival is great news for patients and the community!”

Smith has been a beloved and respected member of the Steuben County community for two decades, having delivered more than 2,000 babies and developed caring relationships with

his patients. Before he established his previous obstetrics and gynecology private practice in Angola, he was a practicing OB/GYN from 1985 to 2000 in Oklahoma City. He also served first as chair of the OB/GYN department, later as board member and vice president, and finally, as medical director of Northwest Medical Center in Oklahoma City.

Smith received his medical degree from the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. He completed his internship and residency in obstetrics-gynecology at University Hospitals of Cleveland, Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital/MacDonald House for Women in Cleveland, Ohio.


He is a fellow of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology and holds memberships in several prominent medical professional societies.

Smith is married with two grown children. In his leisure time, he enjoys music and outdoor recreation.

As an experienced OB/GYN, he

stresses the importance of partnering with an expert provider for any woman who is considering having a baby: “During pregnancy, studies have shown, those who connect with a provider and have 12-15 prenatal visits during the course of their pregnancy have better outcomes than women who have fewer. Establishing with a caring provider to co-manage your pregnancy is crucial.”

What can women of any age expect from their care? “Patients should expect a very compassionate, warm person interested in teaching and treating [them] in a non-judgmental way,” said Dr. Smith. “It’s about caring for people, showing compassion, answering their questions, educating them, and assisting in their healthcare. Healthy women can shape our community’s future.”

Dr. Smith’s office is located at 207 N. Townline Road, Suite 204, in LaGrange. Office hours are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Friday 8 – 11:30 a.m. To schedule an appointment, call 260-463-9470. 

## PLH Earns State Certification

Parkview LaGrange Hospital (PLH) has completed a new state certification program that confirms its commitment to excellent care for mothers and babies.

In June, the hospital completed the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) Maternal and Child Health Division’s new Perinatal Standards of Care (PSC) certification program, earning Level 1 certification for both obstetric and neonatal care.


The PSC program certifies all Indiana birth facilities for obstetric and neonatal care based on nationally recognized guidelines. As Indiana hospitals and birthing centers previously self-identified their level of care, the program helps ensure

mothers and babies receive care in the appropriate setting.

PLH applied for and received Level 1 certification, verifying its previously self-identified Level 1 status. As part of the certification process, IDOH surveyors (registered nurses with obstetrics and neonatal experience) reviewed the hospital in five categories: facility capabilities, equipment and technology, medications, policies and procedures, and personnel.

“We are proud to join other Indiana hospitals in completing the certification process and confirming our commitment to delivering excellent care for mothers and babies,”

said Todd Klinedinst, vice president of patient care services, PLH. “This process reaffirms that our team has been following nationally recognized guidelines to give each family a safe and healthy start. This also reaffirms the outstanding caliber of care our dedicated nurses and physicians provide each and every day. We are proud of our Family Birthing Center and the role it plays in supporting the health of our community.”

The IDOH began certification surveys in late 2019 and expects it may take through 2022 to certify all delivering facilities. After initial certification, facilities will be placed on a three-year certification cycle. 



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## Community Foundation Celebrates 30 Years


Since 1991, the LaGrange County Community Foundation (LCCF) has been a charitable partner in LaGrange County, helping connect donors to their charitable dreams and building permanent community funds. Chartered in August 1991, the Foundation began in the basement of Farmers State Bank in LaGrange with a group of community leaders who believed in the importance of building long-term permanent funds for LaGrange County. After occupying the old Bir Hotel near the intersection of SR 9 and US 20 in LaGrange for nearly 25 years, the Foundation moved its offices a few miles outside of LaGrange in April 2021, to a location near the intersection of US 20 and 250 W. The facility includes a community room available to nonprofits for meetings, trainings, or events.

Today, governed by volunteer committee members from across the county, the Board of Directors oversee strategic planning, establish policy, and set priorities. LCCF manages 140 unique funds and has grown to \$19 million in assets, with three full-time staff. "Our responsibility is to be a wise steward of the assets entrusted in our care. The Foundation works on behalf of donors who want to do charitable good in LaGrange County," said Octavia Yoder, executive director. While the Foundation focuses on building permanent funds for charitable efforts, the organization also supports funds for short-term community projects.

In 30 years, the Foundation has granted more than \$3.3 million from its unrestricted funds to support

local charitable needs. The Foundation's Caring Community Grantmaking Fund provides grants to local agencies seeking funding through its Community Impact Grants Program. Nonprofits apply and a committee reviews the applications.

The Caring Community Grantmaking Fund is an unrestricted fund, which allows it to be used for any community need. "Some donors create funds for a specific nonprofit or a type of cause. The flexibility of an unrestricted fund is important," said Yoder, "because the needs in LaGrange County can change over time. When a donor supports the Caring Community Grantmaking Fund, they are supporting grants to local agencies. Donations of all sizes, big and small, are pooled together in the fund and support a robust grant program," Yoder added.

Nonprofits such as Elijah Haven, LaGrange County Department of Parks & Recreation, LaGrange County Trails, Rainbow Years Learning Ministry, and the Ark Animal Shelter are just a few of the beneficiaries of the foundation's awards. Connecting donors to charitable opportunities is changing the landscape of the community for the good. 



*Top: New building on US 20. Bottom: Members hold a ribbon cutting ceremony at the new building. Photos Submitted.*



## August Park News

### Compass Basics

Tuesday, August 3,

10:00 – 11:00 am

Dallas Lake Park Office Lawn  
0505 W 700 S, Wolcottville, IN

Have you ever wanted to know how to use a compass? We will learn the parts of a compass and how to use a compass to walk to a distant point. This program is designed for the whole family interested in hiking, orienteering, or outdoor safety. Bring lawn chairs or a blanket to spread out. You are welcome to bring a compass from home, but compasses will be available to borrow during the program. *RSVP to Leslie Arnold at (260) 463-4022 or [larnold@lagrangecounty.org](mailto:larnold@lagrangecounty.org).*

### Concert

Sunday, August 15, 4:00 – 7:00 pm


Dallas Lake Park,  
Sweetgum Shelter  
0505 W 700 S, Wolcottville, IN.

Local musicians Autumn Grey will be playing live. Autumn Grey is an Acoustic Trio featuring Myron Noward, Cindy Noward, and Paul Lauber. They focus on a lot of folk rock from the 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s. They may play something by Bob Marley and then move onto something by America, followed up by some Patsy Cline. Join us at the Sweetgum Shelter.

### Patchwork Trails Walk

Tuesday, August 17, 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Mike Metz Fen  
2835 E SR 120, Howe, IN.

Join us as we walk the Mike Metz Fen in the Duff Lake area of Pine Knob Park. This will be a rugged walk, so please plan accordingly. Please park at the program center. *No Registration Required!* 



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# SHIPSHEWANA VS TOPEKA

## “Let’s Just Say That We Are a Little Competitive”

by Harold D. Gingerich

Shipshewana and Topeka have a long history of finding ways to create a little “friendly” competition both on and off the athletic field. And while the rivalry has been genuine, over the years it has remained friendly...for the most part. As a rule, the competi-

tion normally involved sports, but the front-page story of the March 18, 1915, edition of the *Topeka Journal* reported on something much different. The headline read “Literary Contest A Success.” The caption was, “Honors About Evenly Divided Shipshewana Wins Debate and Topeka the Two Readings.”

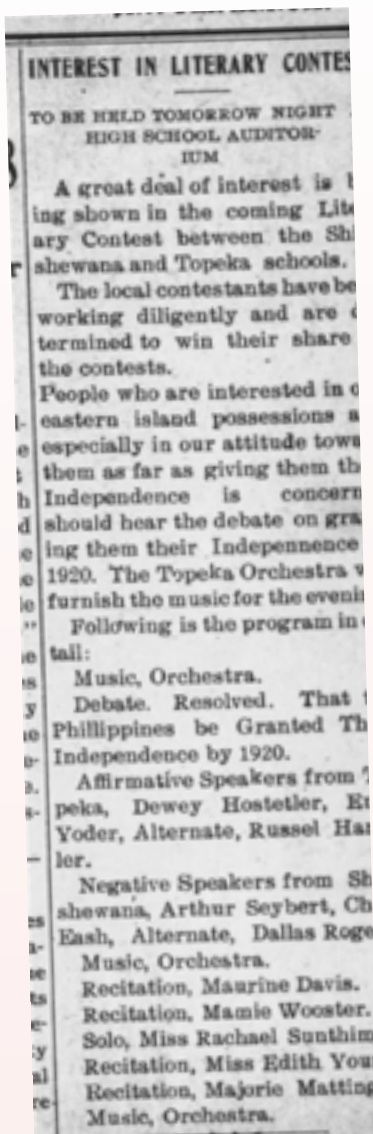
From the page one story in the March 11, 1915 *Topeka Journal* we learn that the literary contest took place on Friday evening, March 12. The location was to be in the high school auditorium. That does raise the question, “Did Topeka High School have a large enough auditorium to handle the

crowd or did people just understand that it would be held in the first Sycamore Hall?” Dedicated on November 24, 1905, Sycamore Literary Hall was the largest auditorium in LaGrange County at the time with seating for almost 500 people.

If the competition between the schools took place at Sycamore Hall, that raises an interesting thought. This may have been one of the last events to take place in the iconic literary hall before it was destroyed by fire on Friday afternoon, April 16. We may never know for sure where this event was held. What we do know is that, according to the opening paragraph of the newspaper article, “The auditorium was filled, and the tense attention

given by the audience throughout the two-hour program showed better than anything else that the efforts of the debaters and readers met with its approval.”

The *Topeka Journal* article, which filled almost an entire column of print, did provide a detailed outline of the evening. The debate question was, “Resolve that the Philippines should be given their independence by



Left: Shipshe Topeka Literary March 11, 1915.

Below: 1st Topeka High School.





1920.” In the affirmative for Topeka was Emir Yoder (THS Class of 1915) and Dewey Hostetler (THS Class of 1916). In the negative for Shipshewana was Charles Eash (SHS Class of 1915 or 16) and Arthur Seybert (SHS Class of 1915). Yoder and Hostetler maintained that “during the last seventeen years the result accomplished in the Philippines have not justified the money and effort spent because used in other ways the human race would have received greater good.” Eash and Seybert argued for the good of the Filipino people independence should not be granted.


How the debate was judged would be very interesting to know. Charles Mattingly, *Topeka Journal* editor, noted that, “While in argumentation the two debating teams were about evenly divided in the matter of delivery, the team from Shipshewana with the old-time style of persuading won out.” It would also be very interesting to know what was meant by “old-time style of persuading.” What is fascinating is that this took place in 1915, before a packed house and that four high school students from the corn fields of Northeast Indiana were debating such a weighty foreign policy subject. Sadly, it is hard to envision something like this taking place in the Westview community today.

The evening continued with memorized readings. The first was Mamie Wooster (Topeka) with “The Swan

Song” recited in a way that “appealed to everyone in the audience.” Shipshewana’s Maurine Davis gave a humorous selection entitled “The Movement Cure for Rheumatism.” How the reading competition was scored was not reported. The newspaper article only says that “It (Davis’s reading) was very well given, and the judges gave first place to Miss Wooster by a margin of one six points.”

Two eighth grade girls also participated. Edith Young representing Shipshewana and Marjorie Mattingly representing Topeka. Speaking of Edith Young, Mattingly reported that, “She gave an excellent rendition of the pathetic story of ‘Connors’ and won a most hearty applause from the audience.” But Mattingly could not help a little fatherly pride in his reporting when it came to his own daughter. “Marjorie Mattingly for Topeka did even better, however, with ‘Pro Patria’ and won with the highest score given any of the four readers.” Give him credit for being a proud father and who can fault him for that.

The evening included more than a debate and readings, there was also music. Rachael Sunthimer sang a solo entitled “The Dew Drop” which the audience enjoyed. The Topeka Orchestra also played.

Most of us today have never even heard of the works that were read that evening, nor have we gone to a public high school debate. But two schools, two communities came together to see their kids take the stage. The literary competition aside, it must have been an amazing evening! 

*Photos submitted.*

*June 18, 1915 postcard.*



*Dewey Hostetler*



*Anne Belle, Marjorie, Charles Mattingly.*



*This article sponsored by*





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**O** **S** **E** **A** **S** **H** **O** **R** **E** **G** **O** **L**  
**T** **H** **O** **U** **B** **O** **A** **T** **I** **N** **G**  
**H** **O** **T** **A** **R** **D** **A**  
**E** **W** **D** **L** **D** **A**  
**F** **R** **E** **E** **D** **O** **M** **O** **L** **E** **N**  
**S** **S** **B** **E** **R** **R** **I** **E** **S** **S**

*Clueless Crossword Solution*  
 By Emily Vandevander  
 to the puzzle on page 18.

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## DID YOU KNOW?

A single strand of Spaghetti is called a "Spaghetto"



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# Middlebury Summer Festival

## 3 - ON - 3 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

*Saturday, August 14, 2021*

Next to the Fire Station

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

**Games start at approximately 8 am.**

Team Name \_\_\_\_\_

Team Captain \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Ext \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Division: Open ☐ Century ☐

CAPTAIN Age \_\_\_\_\_  
(as of Aug. 14)

Player 2 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
(as of Aug. 14)

Player 3 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
(as of Aug. 14)

Player 4 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
(as of Aug. 14)

*Cash Prizes*

**STARTS AT APPROX. 2 PM**

**For anyone over 18 who still wants to play.**

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

### Guidelines:

Referees will call the games (their decisions are final). Tournament is double elimination. Cash awards of \$200 (first place) and \$100 (second place) will be awarded. Entries (in these divisions only) will still be accepted until day of tournament. Must be at least three paid entries for competition to take place. Each team to pay \$75 entry fee. Please bring your \$75 to the tournament site during the younger teams' tournaments. **Make checks payable to LaGwana.**

All games will have refs!

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

**Entry Deadline noon,  
August 14, 2021**

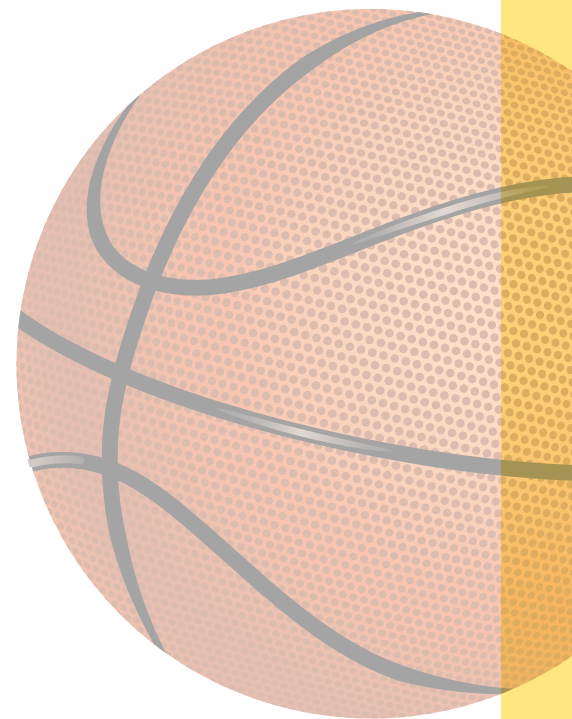
**Open Division \$75**

**Make checks payable to LaGwana.**

Send completed form and entry fee to:

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

After August 6th, call 260-585-6050 for  
3 - on - 3 schedule and info.



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