

The *Hometown Treasure*

September 2021 • Vol. 22 Num. 9



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The Hometown Treasure · September '21



Shipshewana Steam and Gas Show

Story & Photos By: Jonathan Scott

I am not a farmer. I have never claimed to be a farmer, or to know a whole lot about farming. When I was growing up, the closest thing that I knew about farming was playing with my toy farm equipment. However, my grandmother and two of my uncles did farm and I learned a little bit from them. I thought I knew enough to get by. And then I was asked to go to the Shipshewana Steam and Gas Show.

As I made my way down the lane, I felt as though I was being taken back in time as the lane was lined with old, disused farm equipment. As I parked my van and opened the door, I could smell the history of the place (Ok, so maybe I was smelling the smell of smoke and steam). My eyes darted back and forth, looking at old John Deere tractors, Huber threshing machines, numerous small engines, and a steam powered tractor.

Strolling over the area, I would stop to admire the craftsmanship that went into these machines, they really do not make them like they used too.


I was looking, not at museum pieces, but real, honest-to-goodness, working engines. Talking with some of the exhibitors, they would talk about their “toys” as they called them, with delight. They would mention how they worked with so and so, who knew another guy, who knew this other guy in North Dakota that could get you a piece that you were looking for off a non-working unit.

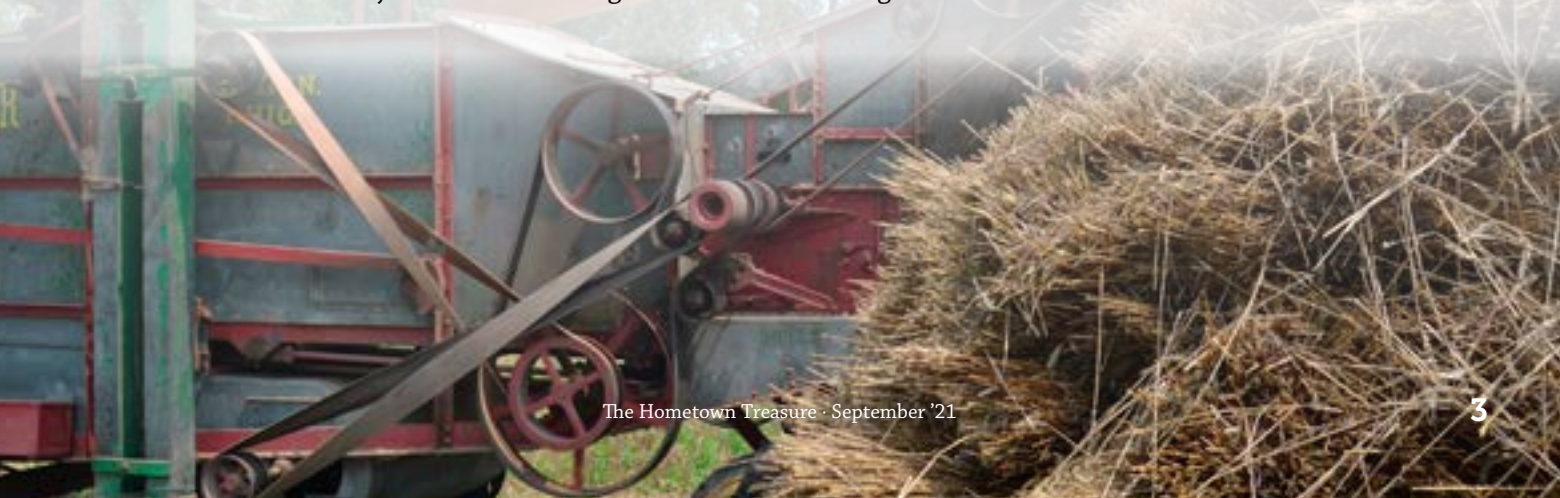
And then I heard it. The sound of an engine, attached to a very large belt, powering a portable sawmill. And the smell, the smell coming from the fresh cut lumber. Seeing the process, from the log being loaded onto the mill, to the bark being cut off, to the boards being formed, really made you take the time to appreciate how consuming the whole process used to be.

Turning around, I saw more steam coming from the big steam tractor that I first saw when I walked in. I approached it as it was being fed more fuel for its fire and then it was put into gear and started moving towards

the field. I would later find out that this engine was only a 50-horsepower engine. This huge machine was only 50 HP?!

They brought it around and hooked it up to the threshing machine, slowly backed it up, parked it, switched the gears, attached the belt, and finally started the thresher. Once the thresher was up to speed, they fed it the cut wheat. A threshing machine separates the wheat grains and the straw, shooting the grain out of one side of the machine, into a bin, and the leftover straw out the other side, into a pile. A wagon load of wheat took about twenty minutes to separate into the two parts.

Like I said earlier, I am not a farmer. I still do not know a whole lot about farming, but today I learned a little bit more about it, and it makes you appreciate how far technology has advanced farming. Believe me, farmers have it a lot easier now, in most regards, than what they used to! 



The Hometown Treasure

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LaGrange County Relay for Life

The LaGrange County Relay for Life will be held on Saturday, September 25 at Delt Church Park, located at 6455 S 200 W, Wolcottville, IN. Christine Yoder, leader of the event, said, "I would love for everyone to come out and take a look at our event. Talk to the participants. Hear their stories. Tell us your stories. The best information and advice I ever got as a cancer patient was from conversations with other cancer survivors."


In previous years, the event has been held at Lakeland High School. However, with COVID that has not been a viable location. Last year and this year, they have had the good fortune of a county parks department that made Delt Church Park available. It is a beautiful location that allows for social distancing or socializing depending on the needs of the moment.

This year's event will look somewhat like this:

As you drive into the park you will be greeted by a registration clerk that will help you get registered for the event and give you information on other stops and activities going on.

They will have a special survivor area and a "Survivor lap and photo"

shortly after opening. As you travel along the path you will find multiple stops for reflection, education, and photo ops for our signature "Road to Recovery" program and Hope Lodge. Additionally, there will be a caregiver space to thank caregivers for their sacrifices and love. They will have a silent auction on site, food trucks, activities, and games. At the end of the evening, They will have luminary bags lit to remember those we have lost from cancer and to honor those still in the fight.

You may register the day of the event at Delt Church Park, or you may register online at https://secure.acevents.org/site/STR?pg=entry&fr_id=98998. We all know someone that has or had cancer. Together we can find the cure. 



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Cover Photo by Abby Wenger

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Word Search

(find all the underlined words) by Erika Byler

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 ----- !

As you may or may not know, I have been the social media manager for my father-in-law's business for most of the past year. He designs and

builds custom cabinets and shelves, as well as lots household items, like potted plant holders and bird houses. Up until recently, I have not had much experience with any sort of woodworking. Recently, though, I have started helping Todd with the sanding and finishing and will eventually help package his smaller items, so he can focus on the bigger custom projects. I am also tackling the task of updating and filling up his website so we can launch it soon. 📌

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Solution on page 18

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

Busyness

How was your summer? “Busy.”
How are you? “Oh, we’re so busy!”
Did you get it done? “No, I was too busy.”

Do those conversations sound familiar? No matter what stage of life you are in or what you are doing, being “busy” is an epidemic. As school gets underway, parents, kids, and grandparents in the community are busier than ever with sports activities, homework, and school.

When does busyness ever end?

It does not unless you manage it. *Did you know you have control over busyness and your family schedule?*

Most people do not believe that statement because you feel bound to your schedule. You hurry through life striving to get **more** things done **faster** so you can make it to life’s finish line (whatever that is... Retirement? When the kids are gone? Death?).

The problem with excessive and unintentional busyness is that it causes emotional, physical, and relationship problems. It robs you of a healthy quality of life. When stress escalates, it causes multiple layers of physical and emotional duress. Time for what is most important *gets out of*

balance, waiting for tragedy to bring priorities back into balance.

This is not how God intended us to live. How do you manage a balanced life in the midst of busyness?



1. **Know what you can control and what you cannot.** Everyone must make a living—that you cannot control. But you can control the type of job you have. If your job is stressful because you hate it or the conditions make your quality of life unhealthy, look for another job that would be less stressful. If needed, go back to school for a degree in something you would love to do. You live in a nation where further education or training and multiple job options are available to everyone. If you

doubt this, visit Central America or Southeast Asia. It may be a risk to pursue a job or career change, but if you are looking at long-term life goals, your investment will pay off.

2. **Say “yes” to things which are most important, and “no” to things which are not.** Do you say “yes” to things people ask you to do because you feel guilty or obligated? STOP! Say “yes” to things which are most important to you and your family for your season of life. When you live your priorities, it defines your “yes” and “no.”
3. **Do not let fear motivate your busyness.** Are your kids involved in everything available because you are afraid they will not succeed or be popular? Are you afraid of what others will think of you as a parent? When busyness is motivated by fear and insecurities, it skews your priorities. Busyness during parenting years should be motivated by what is best for the child and family, not fear.

Editors Note: After 10 years of writing “Healthy Hearts, Healthy Homes,” Brenda has decided to step away from this role. We, here at the Hometown Treasure, thank Brenda for her years of wisdom and wish her the best in her future endeavors. ①

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Kids Club

Birthdays

- 1 Spencer Vaughn, Rebah Williams, Nasser Yahya
- 2 Jonathan Collins, Charlie Double
- 3 Karla Fry, Austin Lehman, Bryan Lehman, Lydia Mosher, Jemeila Reed
- 4 Adam Bontrager, Allison Miller, Ashley Miller, Sammy Miller, Fisher Oakley, Sovanda Schrock
- 5 Tyler Bontrager, Malachi Lambright, Audrey Schlabach
- 6 Tyler Schlabach, Mabel Trethewey
- 7 Wesam Algaradie, Sofia Martinez Diaz, Raiden Huggins, Isaiah Miller, Merle Miller, Mia Stemm
- 8 Jesse Lambright, Delanie Lehman
- 9 Lori Bontrager, Lucille Duzan, Micah Miller, Seth Miller, Gavin Rainsberger, Oliver Treadway
- 10 Mila Geyer, Megan Lambright, Jethro Otto
- 11 Sawyer Hamm, Remington Helmuth, Evan Hochstetler
- 12 Dale Bontrager, Emmett Niccum, Kianna Yoder
- 13 Regan Hochstetler, Alayah Hostetler, Brinley Kraft, Mari Mast, Emmalee Pierson
- 14 Sherri Kauffman, Eric Miller, Myles Miller, Lisa Troyer
- 15 Liam Brill, Gabriela Bontrager, Zachariah Johnloz, Jalayna Penick, Blake Tullos, Samantha Yoder
- 16 Micaiah Bontrager, Brayden Graber, Larry Lambright
- 17 Kailey Mast, Audrey Yoder



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velopment.” Robbie Miller, LaGrange County Planning and Zoning Administrator, comments, "A comprehensive plan provides a vision for the future of our community along with the steps

that are needed to make that vision a reality, in essence, a road map to our future. The last road map is 15 years old. There have been significant changes to LaGrange County since 2005, it's time to update our road."

The Listen, Learn, and Launch Open Houses will be held in six locations across the county between September 14 and September 22. These public meetings will educate participants on the planning process, gather insight on the opportunities and challenges within the county, and inspire excitement around the future potential of the communities of LaGrange County. Anyone who is passionate and interested in the future of their community is invited to participate.

Please visit www.lagrangecountytogether.org to learn more about the process and upcoming open house events and to sign up for their emails.

Listen, Learn, and Launch Open Houses

Howe, Tue, Sept. 14

Howe Comm. Bldg, 205 Defiance St.

Wolcottville, Wed, Sept. 15

Wolcott Mills Elem., 108 E Myers St.

LaGrange, Thu, Sept. 16

Fairgrounds Comm. Bldg, 1030E 075N

Topeka, Mon, Sept. 20

Fire Department, 180 Crossfire Dr.

Shipshewana, Tues., Sept. 21

Wolfe Comm. Bldg, 345 Morton St.

Stroh / Mongo, Wed, Sept. 22

Prairie Heights HS, 305 S 1150 E

All events will be held from 4:00 – 7:00 PM. Please stop by at a time that works best for you.

The LaGrange County Plan Commission and the LaGrange County Community Foundation (LCCF) have partnered to facilitate the process to update the county wide comprehensive plan. The process, called LaGrange County Together, launched in April 2021 and is anticipated to last 16 months with several rounds of community engagement. LaGrange County Together is being funded through community partnerships to develop and begin implementing the county wide comprehensive plan. The Lilly Endowment Inc.'s Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow (GIFT VII) initiative awarded LCCF with a Community Leadership Grant of \$100,000 while the County provided an additional \$100,000 in support of the project.

Octavia Yoder, Executive Director of LCCF, acknowledges the collaborative nature of this process. "The Community Foundation is honored to support the Plan Commission and the County in this process and help engage communities to be the driver in shaping the vision of LaGrange County's future." The County and the Community Foundation are working alongside the towns of LaGrange, Shipshewana, Topeka, and Wolcottville and with Region 3-A Regional Planning Commission to engage a wide variety of residents, business owners, organizations, and community stakeholders – the real experts on LaGrange County.

"The landscape of our community has changed quickly in the last 10 years," said Yoder. "Planning is an important part of a community's de-

- 18 Jaydon Herschberger, Wyatt Hooley, Ava Hufnagle, Benjamin Kline, Adrian Lehman, James Mast, Shelby Mullett, Landon Slabach, Graison Yoder
- 19 Tyler Lambright, Bethany Miller, Brendon Yoder
- 20 Melody Drake, Cooper Fry, Casper Hershberger, Hailey Hobgood, Jamie Miller, Jakoby Whetstone
- 21 Kari Hochstetler, Cameron McDonald
- 22 Kaylee Nuzum
- 23 Amelia Carter, Jewel Lambright, Hannah Miller, Alexander Thompson, Adaleigha Yoder, Mariah Yoder
- 24 Maverick Geigley, Valentina Mendoza, Amber Miller, Jordan Yoder
- 25 Abigail King, Rylee Watson, Adrian Yoder
- 26 Muna Omar, David Schrock, Aliyah Watts, Kasen Yoder
- 27 Cheyanne Daniels, Derek Hochstetler
- 28 Michael Bontrager, Serena Eash, Arick Miller, Kenlyn Schlabach, Drew Schrock, Weslee Steider, Jerald Yoder
- 29 Larson Frey, Evangeline Hites, Katelyn Hochstetler, Molly Long, Bently Miller, Ashby Yoder
- 30 Aurora Chupp, Trevor Detweiler, Lincoln Miller, Matthew Yoder



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 LaGrange 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 September 2021.

Note that all [virtual/Facebook](#) sessions have been dropped. If you have any questions, please call the LaGrange library at 260-463-2841 for further information.

Youth Department

Multiple Branches

In-Person Preschool Story Time (Ages 0-5)

LaGrange • Tuesdays, Sept. 7, 14, 21 & 28 • 10:30 am
Shipshewana • Tuesdays, Sept. 7, 14, 21 & 28 • 1 pm
Topeka • Tuesdays, Sept. 7, 14, 21 & 28 • 11 am
Theme: Learning the Alphabet
Registration is appreciated but is not required.

New Activity Bags out for Pick-up (while supplies last)

All Locations • Monday, Sept. 13
Theme: Tissue Paper Painting
Each bag contains activity sheets and a simple craft for 2 children.

Home School Group (All ages welcome)

LaGrange • Friday, September 10 • 10 am
Shipshewana • Wednesday, September 8 • 1 pm
Topeka • Friday, September 10 • 1 pm
Theme: 'Not Back To School' party
Come ready for snacks, crafts, and games to kick off our new year together.
Must call the LaGrange library (260-463-2841) by Sept. 3 to register.

Art (Ages 5-12)

Topeka • In-Person • Wednesday, Sept. 22 • 4 pm
Theme: Quilt and Tile picture
Must call 260-463-2841 to register by Wednesday, Sept. 15. Space is limited.

LaGrange County Public Library

Elementary Book Club (2nd-5th grade)

Reading: To be decided.
LaGrange • In-Person • September 21 • 4 pm
Discuss books and get next book. Come ready to share about any books you read in August that you would like to tell the group about.

Lego™ Challenge (Grades K-5)

LaGrange • In-Person • Wednesday, Sept. 15 • 4 pm
You will have choices of different challenges to build with Legos.
Must call (260-463-2841) to register by Wednesday, Sept. 8. Limited registration.

Movie and Popcorn (All ages)

LaGrange • In-Person • Saturday, Sept. 25 • 6 pm
Movie: "Luca", Rated PG.
Free popcorn provided, bring your own covered drink if desired.

Teen Games (Grades 6-12)

LaGrange • In-Person • September 13 • 4 pm
Theme: Board Games!
Limited Registration. Must register by September 6.

Teen Book Club (Grades 6-12)

LaGrange • In-Person • September 21 • 5 pm
Reading: To be decided.
Discuss books and get next book. Come ready to share about any books you read in August that you would like to tell the group about.

Teen Craft (Grades 6-12)

LaGrange • In-Person • September 27 • 4 pm
We will learn to make t-shirt yarn that we will learn to crochet into a rug in October.
Supplies will be provided.
Must call (260-463-2841) to register by Monday, Sept. 20. Space is limited.

All
Branches
Will be CLOSED
Monday, Sept. 6
in observance of
Labor Day.

Adult Interest

Multiple Branches and Other Locations

Oh, Knots! Survival Knots with Sandra

Shipshewana • In-Person • Thursday, September 2 • 4 pm
Sandra will teach us how to tie a variety of life-saving knots!
This program is free. Register at the Shipshewana branch.

Patchwork Trails

Camp Lutherwald • In-Person • Tuesday, Sept. 21 • 6 pm
For the final walk of 2021, join as we explore nature and combine exercise, education, friendship and fun at 2065W SR 120, Howe, IN!
No fees or registration required.

Feed a Cold, Starve a Fever: Fact or Fiction?

LaGrange • Tuesday, September 28 • 6 pm
Topeka • Tuesday, September 28 • 2 pm
Presenter is Greg Giant, a pharmacist with 30+ years as a consultant.
His goal is improving life with less medication.
Register for the class of your choice by Sept. 21 at the LaGrange library or by calling 260-463-2841.
The program is free.

LaGrange County Public Library

Gentle Flow Yoga with Farra

LaGrange • In-Person • Mondays, Sept. 13, 20 & 27 • 10 - 11 am
LaGrange • In-Person • Thursdays, Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 • 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.

Make-N-Take With Deb

LaGrange • In-Person • Wednesday, September 8 • 6 pm
Project: Wine Bottle Decorating
We will decorate a set of 3 wine bottles to use as candle holders and lights.
Cost is \$20 per person. Space is limited.
Reservation and \$10 deposit due by Friday, Sept. 3 at the LaGrange library.

9/11: A Tribute in Film

LaGrange • In-Person • Friday, Sept. 10
10 am • World Trade Center
12:30 pm • United 93
2:30 pm • Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close
This is a free program. Children under 12 must be accompanied by adult.

Second Saturday Book Club

LaGrange • In-Person • Saturday, Sept. 11 • 11 am
This month's book is *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* by Jonathan Safran Foer.
Copies of the book are available at the LaGrange library's Adult Information Desk.

Painting Class with Carl Mosher • Best Friends

LaGrange • In-Person • Friday, Sept. 17 • 1 - 4 pm
Even if you have never painted before, you will be amazed at what you are capable of! Ages 12 and up. All materials will be supplied.
Cost: \$25 per person, payable at the class.
Classes fill fast so register soon at 260-463-2841 ext. 1030.

Round Robin Crochet Project: Granny Square Afghan

LaGrange • In-Person • Begins Tuesday, September 14 • 4 pm
The group will meet every three weeks. Members will crochet one granny square between meetings, which will go into a project bag. When enough squares have been collected, each member will receive a bag and piece together a beautiful afghan. Members will supply their own yarn. This is a free program. Register by Sept. 9 at LaGrange library or call 260-463-2841.

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

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Mystery Farm CONTEST



September Contest Sponsored by
The Connection and LaGwana

Matt & Emily Hochstetler of SR 5, Shipshewana, correctly identified last issue's farm as being owned by **John & Marijane Troyer, 2125N 1100W, Shipshewana**. Congratulations! They won a \$25 Gift Certificate from Tiffany's Restaurant, a lighted pen, a notepad set, and a copy of *The Honeyville Journal* from LaGwana Printing. Second prize went to **Dennis & Diane Yoder of 075N, Shipshewana**. Third prize went to **Pete & Doretta Schlabach of 900W, Shipshewana**.

OVER \$50 WORTH OF PRIZES!

1st Prize: The Connection, Topeka, 1 Year Subscription, 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: **September 21, 2021**
Allow time for mail delivery.
- 4) Winners will be drawn and prizes mailed.
- 5) Correct entries listed in our next issue!



There were 9 correct entries this month. **Others that guessed correctly were:** Kevin & Marla Miller, Joel & Leah Bontrager, Melissa Troyer, David & Suellen Yoder, Myron & Kara Wingard, Karl & Glenna Bontrager, Lonnie & Joann Bontrager, Ernest & Jenean Bontrager & Willard & Linda Raber.



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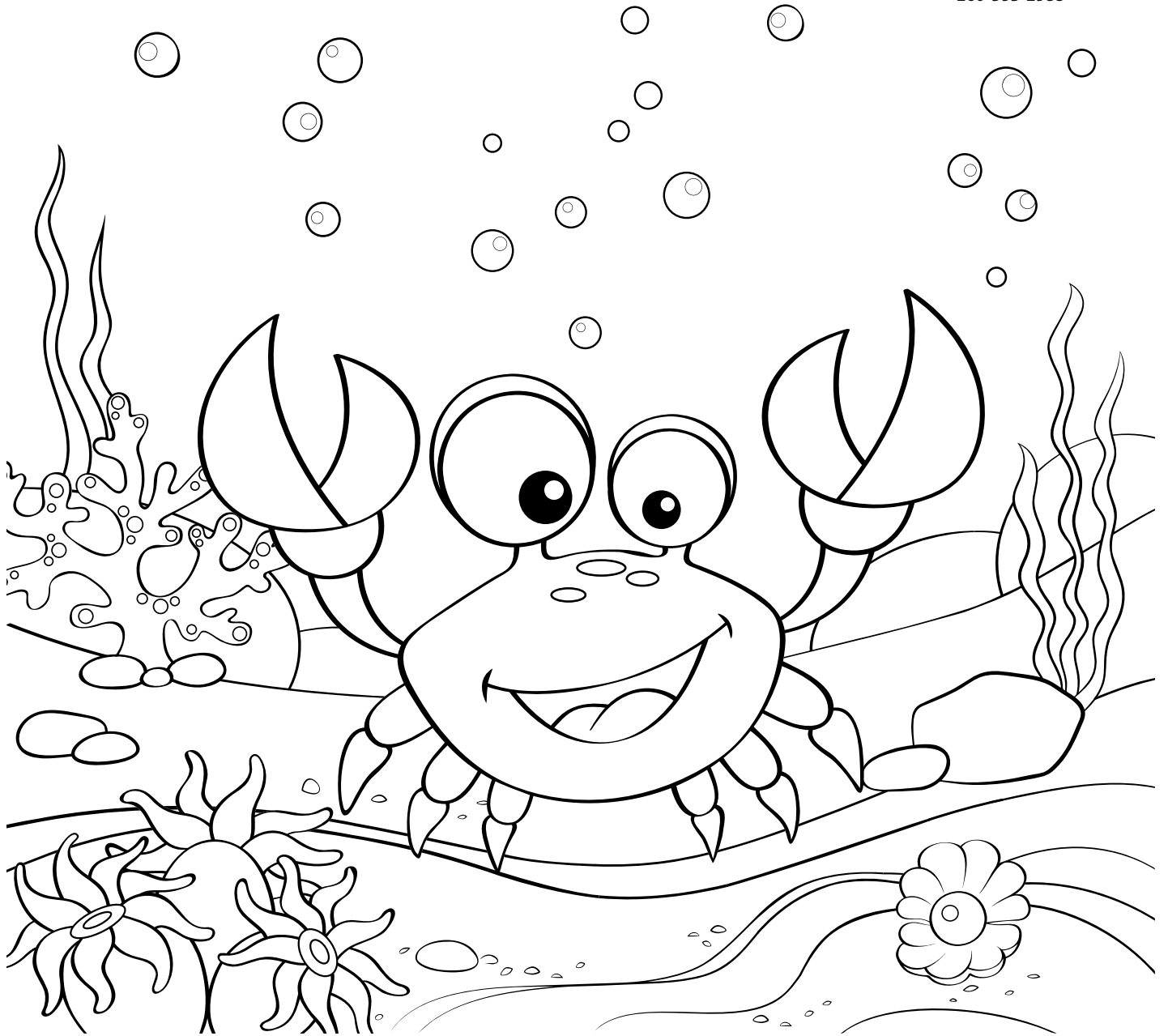
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Name: _____ Age: _____

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 October. Mail submission to: LaGwana, Coloring Contest, PO Box 70, Shipshewana, IN 46565. **Entry deadline is September 21, 2021.**

Address: _____

Smart Choices

By Riley McCafferty, Manchester PharmD Candidate at Topeka Pharmacy

Monitor Your Blood Sugar Around the Clock

Are you tired of pricking your finger to check your blood sugar level? Checking your blood sugar is an important part of managing your diabetes. It is helpful for both you and your healthcare provider to know how well your medications are controlling your diabetes. This usually involves using a device called a glucometer and having to stick yourself one or more times a day. The glucometer takes the small drop of your blood and tells you how much glucose (sugar) is in it. The good news is that newer devices called CGMs may allow you to check your blood sugar without a finger stick.

What are CGMs?

CGM stands for Continuous Glucose Monitors, which are similar to standard glucometers, but are able to check your blood sugar at any time without having to poke your finger. They use a sensor that you stick to your body. The sensor tests your blood sugar every few minutes which you read with a hand-held meter. Two CGMs covered by insurance are Freestyle Libre and Dexcom G6. They both have a sensor that you replace every 10-14 days, depending on the system. They even may allow you to connect to your smartphone for more convenience.

Some devices also have alarms for when your blood sugar is too low or too high. CGMs can help you increase the time in the target blood sugar range (typically 80-130 mg/dL) which can help to manage your diabetes and prevent complications.


What are the requirements to get a CGM?

Medicare Part B requirements include:

- Diagnosis of diabetes mellitus.
- Use of a glucose monitor and testing at least 4 times a day.
- Treatment with insulin and using at least 3 injections a day or a continuous infusion pump.
- Require multiple dosing adjustments a day due to your blood sugar results.
- Have an appointment with your physician within 6 months before ordering a CGM.
- Meet with your physician at least every 6 months to assess use of CGM and diabetes treatment.

What if I do not have Medicare?

If you do not have Medicare and want to know if your insurance will cover a CGM, speak with your pharmacist who can help you find what requirements your insurance has and help you determine if you meet them.

Topeka Pharmacy is here to help answer your questions or check if your insurance will cover a CGM. Call us at (260) 593-2252 or stop in today. 



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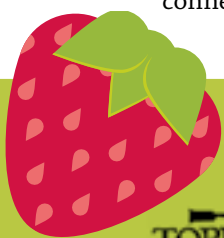
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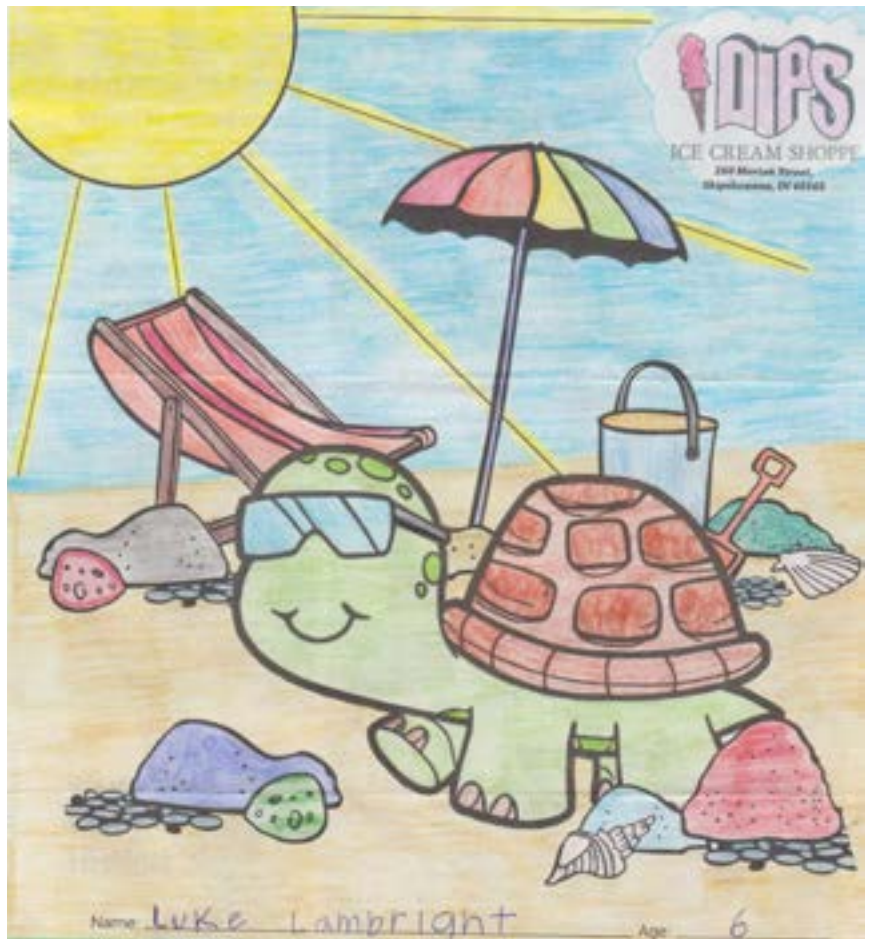
Coloring Contest Winners

Six year old Luke Lambright of 700 W, La-Grange was our winner for the August Coloring Contest. He won an ice cream treat of choice at Dips Ice Cream Shoppe in Shipshewana.

Everyone else that sent in a page can stop by Dips Ice Cream Shoppe for a free small ice cream cone through September.

Runners-up were Janelle Diane Miller, age 5; Lavera Jean Hostetler, age 4; Selena Miller, age 3. Honorable Mentions: Kara Ranae Miller, age 6; Nathan Bontrager, age 5; Isaiah Yoder, age 5; Isaiah Hershberger, age 5; Amy Bontrager, age 5; Bryan Bontrager, 900W. 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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TERMS: Cash • Only qualified buyers need to inquire

CONTACT: Dennis Troyer 260-463-1213 or Kathy Troyer 260-463-1282

MONEY Wise

Submitted By: Brittney Schori, Extension Educator, Purdue Extension

Fall Finance Tips

In this article, you will read more about tips on money moves you can make with your finances this fall to ease the end-of-year rush and prepare for the next year. Summer will be gone before we know it and the days will be getting shorter. The kids are back in school with their friends and learning more every day. Many of us love this time of the year, but many of us are very busy and there are lots of things to get done before fall and winter set in. Here are some fall finance tips regarding money moves you should make this fall that will make your budget and wallet happy!

Up those flex dollars! As much as I love them, FSA plans (flexible spending accounts) that you have through your employer are a use-it-or-lose-it type of account. No rollovers, no refunds. If you have money just sitting there unused, use it! How should you use it? Make an appointment for a checkup or eye exam or buy some prescription sunglasses. As for most things benefits related, keep your receipts. Why? Sometimes the plan administrators want a copy of receipts as proof you are using your account correctly.

Prepare for open enrollment season! Fall is open enrollment season at many workplaces. This is when you can sign up for things like flex accounts, life and disability insurance, and maybe change your health insurance options. Look at your health spending this past year and look forward to next year. If you

maxed out your FSA account funding, did you easily use all of that, or were you scrambling to figure out how to make full use of what you contributed? If you did not fully fund your account, would having more next year be better? Are you expecting additional medical expenses like a crown (the kind IN your head, not ON it), maybe a baby is on the way, or you are finally going to get that LASIK surgery? If your workplace provides life and disability insurance (especially if at no cost to you), then take it. Do not leave money on the table!


Boost your retirement savings! Have you or will you max out your 401(k) this year? If it is in the budget, try to make your allowed contribution by the end of the year. At the least, contribute enough to get any matching funds your employer offers. Otherwise, you are giving up free money! If you are eligible to make Roth IRA contributions and you can fit it in your budget, make those contributions as well. Saving early pays off in the long run.

Prepare for the holidays! Holiday celebrations are coming up fast and whether it is gifts, travel, or celebrations, the costs can add

up quickly. If you have not already been setting aside money for these expenses, start saving some away now, then mark your calendar to prepare the holiday budget for next year.

Cook large, hearty meals and freeze leftovers! Fall is harvest season. If you know how to can food, it is a great time to stock up the pantry for the winter! If you do not know how to can food, that is OK. It is still a great time to freeze a lot of meals or veggies for easy dinners later. I recommend making and freezing chili, soups, enchiladas, and meatloaf. You will save money, time, and a few stressed evenings!

Get your vehicle ready for winter! Winter can be rough on your car. Now is a good time to schedule an oil change and routine maintenance including getting new wiper blades! Would you rather get it done now or when it is cold outside?

I hope this month's article helped you think more about your finances and how you can plan for fall and the upcoming months! 

Source: Savvy Family Finance



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New Staff

Shipshe-Scott Elementary




Shipshe-Scott Elementary would like to welcome their new teachers and staff members! Please welcome Jennifer Warrener, Tessa Zimmerly, Kyrstin Healey, Katrina Overton, Carlie Cripe, Jammie Gard, Chelsea Weaver, and Kari Gale! 

Photo Submitted

Westview Elementary



First Day of School!


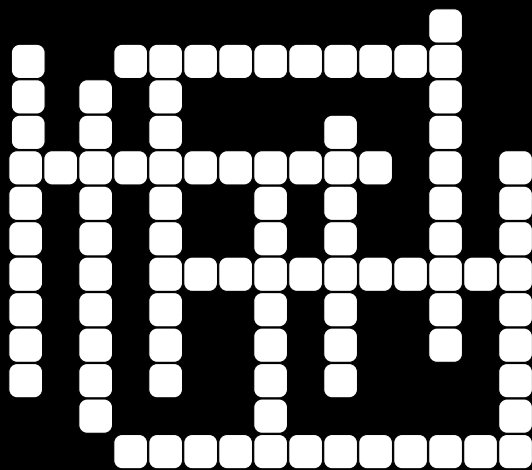
Westview Elementary School celebrates their first day back! 

Photo Submitted

This page made possible by the

WESTVIEW SCHOOL CORPORATION

- Assignment
- Blackboard
- Bookmark
- Calculator
- Examination
- Experiment
- Highlighters
- Mathematics
- Questions
- Profession
- Technical



Clueless Crossword

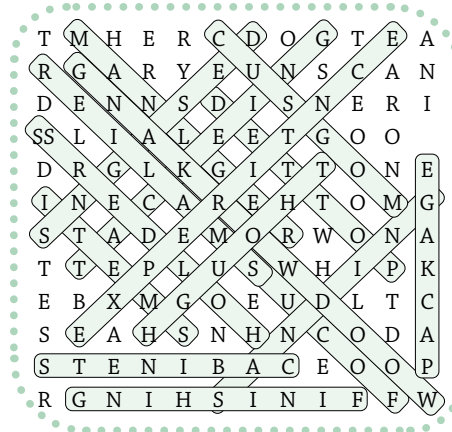
Solution to Clueless
Crossword is on pg 29.
by Emily Vandevander

Use the words listed to fill in the spaces!

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!

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

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IS GOOD, NOW THE
BELT SANDER!



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First Day of School!!!!

Topeka Elementary

The first day of school is always an exciting and sometimes nervous day for students and staff for the new year! 📌

Photos Submitted



Second-graders Maram Omer and Hanan Al Gurmi stand in front of the school's welcome back sign.



Topeka Elementary students gather at the door, ready to begin a new year.



Principal Becky Siegel welcomes students and staff for the new school year.



First-grader Elijah Flores gives a thumbs up on the first day of school!



Second-grader Riley Beechy picks up a breakfast.

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Safe Schools Week

Westview Schools puts an even larger emphasis on safety during Safe Schools Week, held August 23-27. During this week Fire Safety, Weather Safety, Building Safety, Intruder Safety, and Stranger Awareness were all emphasized. Although these types of things are practiced regularly throughout the school year, this was a time to introduce and further educate the students on each of these topics prior to the year's practice drills. **i**

Topeka Elementary



Top: Westview bus drivers, Wilma Miller and Barb Wengerd speak to the students about bus safety.



Bottom: Topeka students demonstrate the correct way to line up for the bus.



Left: Students show how to correctly enter the bus.

Photos Submitted

New Staff Members

Topeka Elementary would like welcome several new staff members for the 2021-2022 school year. **i**



Left to right: Amy Ruse (Kindergarten teacher), Taylor Eash (PE teacher/Intervention Assistant), Sharon Siebeneck (Intervention Assistant), Karen Bailey (Playground Monitor), and Danielle Miller (Intervention Assistant).

Photo Submitted

New Cafeteria Manager

Jackie Bender is the new Cafeteria Manager at Topeka Elementary. Jackie was an Intervention Assistant last year at Topeka, before taking over the cafeteria position this year. Jackie has four grown children, and in her free time enjoys attending and watching her daughter's softball games. **i**



Photo Submitted

This page made possible by the

WESTVIEW SCHOOL CORPORATION

SHIP SHE SUMMER FEST

3
ON
3

2021 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT AND ROAD RACE

Winners

1ST
GIRLS 13-15

Kristen Miller - (L-R) Madeline Lehman, Janae Lehman, Sheila Stoltzfus, and Kristen Miller.



2ND
GIRLS 13-15

Julie Miller - (L-R) Kristi Wingard, Julie Miller, and Eva Herbert.



1ST
GIRLS 16-18

Brenda Yoder - (L-R) Brenda Yoder, Lynette Whetstone, Geneva Chupp, and Hailey Lehman.



2ND
GIRLS 16-18

Angola Girls



BOYS
FUN RUN

First Place: Noah Bontrager
Second Place: John Troyer
Third Place: Gavin Rainsberger



GIRLS
FUN RUN

First Place: Kristina Petkova
Second Place: Makenna Bender
Third Place: Jessica Yoder



1ST
BOYS 7-9

Black Ice - (L-R) Jason Miller, Tyler Yoder, and Seth Miller.



2ND
BOYS 7-9

Hometown Heroes - (L-R) Gavin Miller, Jordan Troyer, Isaiah Miller, and Landon Nissley.



1ST
BOYS 10-12

Daniel Yoder - (L-R) Daniel Yoder, Ryan Miller, and Seth Nissley.



2ND
BOYS 10-12

Ballerz - (L-R) Noah Chupp, Justin Slabach, Brady Weaver, and Brent Miller.



1ST
BOYS 13-15

Black Ice - (L-R) Isaiah Bontrager, Jesse Miller, Kurtis Mast, and Ryan Mast.



2ND
BOYS 13-15

Elijah Lehman - (L-R) Elijah Lehman, Jaden Bontrager, Luke Fry, and Landon Troyer.



MALE
OPEN 5K

First Place: Derek Miller
Second Place: Merlin Knepp, LaGrange
Third Place: Noah Weslock, Fort Wayne



FEMALE
OPEN 5K

First Place: Petrana Petkova, Goshen
Second Place: Michelle Merritt, Sturgis
Third Place: Elizabeth Yoder



MIDDLEBURY 2021

3
ON
3

BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Winners

1ST

GIRLS 10-12

Lady Bombers - (L-R) Ashlyn Hite, Grace Renn, Faith Renn, and Kylie Simpson.



2ND

GIRLS 10-12

Lady Crushers - Taylor Yoder, Brayleigh Adams, Kenly Yoder, and Reagan Miller.

NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

1ST

GIRLS 13-15

Hoops N Swish - (L-R) Camryn Conley, Macey Reigsecker, Allison Ambers, and Lily Scholl.



2ND

GIRLS 13-15

Yoder Special - (L-R) Reagan Huss, Taylor Heflin, Adelynn Miller, and Brylee Yoder.



1ST

BOYS 10-12

Shaq Attack - (L-R) Lincoln Stem, Adam Ambers, Jake Scholl, and Dominic Logan.



2ND

BOYS 10-12

Rough Raiders - (L-R) Isaiah Bontrager, Jeremiah Lambright, Evan Bontrager, and Brandon Yoder.



1ST

BOYS 13-15

Orange Ice - (L-R) Jeremy Yoder, Eric Fry, and Jaden Bontrager. *Not Pictured:* Anson Chupp.



2ND

BOYS 13-15 - NO PHOTO

Black Ice - (L-R) Jesse Miller, Kurtis Mast, Ryan Mast, and Ben Yutzy.



1ST

BOYS 16-18

Mamba - (L-R) Luke Miller, Bryce Schrock, and Lyndon Miller.



2ND

BOYS 16-18

Lavon Yoder - Lavon Yoder, Kevin Mast, Joe Bontrager, and Lucas Hershberger.

NO PHOTO AVAILABLE



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HOWE**
Howe Community Building
- Wednesday, Sept 15
WOLCOTTVILLE**
Wolcott Mills Elementary
- Thursday, Sept 16
LAGRANGE**
Fairgrounds Comm. Bldg
- Monday, Sept 20
TOPEKA**
Fire Department
- Tuesday, Sept 21
SHIPSHEWANA**
Wolfe Community Bldg
- Wednesday, Sept 22
STROH / MONGO**
Prairie Heights High School
- All events will be held from
4:00 - 7:00 PM. Please stop by at
a time that works best for you.
- www.lagrangecountytogether.org

HISTORICAL FEATURE

THE MAN WHO BUILT Topeka

by Harold D. Gingerich

All but forgotten, Floyd Peck is arguably the man who literally built Topeka. From homes, to schools, to the first town hall, and the second Sycamore Hall, it was Floyd Peck who built them all. Unfortunately, you would be hard pressed to find many Topeka folks who remember the man or have heard references to

“Peck Town” or “Peck’s Pond.” If they do remember hearing those names, they may not be able to tell you where they were located.

Ironically, they may even be living in one of the many houses that Floyd Peck built.

Floyd Ellsworth Peck was born on August 23, 1882, to George W. Peck (1858-1897) and Sarah Hall Peck (1858-1936) in Clear Spring Township.

George’s father, Silas “Burton” Peck (1813-1889), moved the family from New York to Clear Spring Township in 1842. He settled on 40 acres of land in Section 31 (an area of land across the street from the current Topeka Livestock Auction – stretching toward the east) where he built a log house and a blacksmith shop. A pencil drawing of Burton, with his signature, appears on page 221 of the *1882 History of LaGrange County, Indiana*. There is also a brief biographical sketch of him on page 384 and on page 385 of his brother, Hawley Peck, who came to Clear Spring township in 1838.

On February 26, 1880, George Peck married Sarah Hall, the daughter of James and Elizabeth Hall, in Wolcottville. George and Sarah lived on a farm at the edge of Topeka, on the south side of what is now East Lake Street. On their farm was a pond. For many years Peck’s Pond was the place where many a Topeka kid tried his or her luck at ice skating. While the farm building and the pond no longer exist,

I have fond memories of hockey games and numerous spills on Peck’s Pond.

George W. Peck died unexpectedly on Friday, March 12, 1897, leaving Sarah with five children. He was buried in the Eden Cemetery west of Topeka (Row 39 Lot 19). Floyd, being the oldest at age 14, had to work the farm to help support the family. Somewhere around 1900 he began his career as a builder. How he learned the trade is something we don’t know, but he was certainly good at it.

Floyd Peck married Nellie May Miller (1880-1954) on July 12, 1903, in Topeka. Floyd built a home for him and his bride on 208 N. Harrison Street (when I was a kid, Don and Dorothy Fought lived there).



A little over a year later, on September 1, Floyd and Nellie welcomed their first child Miles (1904-1993) into the world. The Pecks would have five children: Miles (1904), Kathryn (1905), Herman (1906), Mildred (1909), and Herbert (1911).

In the years that followed, Floyd Peck's skills were in great demand, building the stately Rudy Miller



house at 513 South Main, the Walter Greenawalt house at 121 North Babcock, the John Seagly house on the northeast corner of Harrison and Lake streets, and the house built for Dail Seagly in 1914 at 317 East Lake. Dail's wife Mary Jane lived in the house until 1998 when she passed away at the age of 101 years old. Several other Peck-built homes in Topeka include what I knew as the Burdette Roy house on the northeast corner of North Main and North streets and the Castro Hoverstock house next to the library which is currently owned by Nick Gingerich. I am quite confident that there are more Floyd Peck built homes in Topeka that I am unaware of.

When the original Sycamore Hall burned to the ground on April 16, 1905, Contractor Floyd

Peck was hired to rebuild the grand old hall with seating for nearly 500 people. Jean Seagly Crouse, writing for Topeka Area Historical Society's *Celebrating a Century 1893-1993*, noted that, "In 1920 and 1924, he built the high schools in the nearby towns of Wolcottville and Ligonier" (Page 13). On March 7, 1927, Peck was awarded a \$6,500 contract to build a new fire

station with offices and public restrooms on the southeast corner of Lake and Main streets. Today, the public restrooms are still in use and the remainder of the building is the home of the Topeka Police Department.

The northern edge of Topeka, from Roy Street and beyond, came to be known as Peck Town. All the older homes on the west side of the street, as far as Lehman Avenue, were built by Floyd Peck. One of those was the childhood home of Phyllis Oesch Hartzler. Following



a move from the house he built on Harrison Street, Floyd and his family lived in the home currently owned by Greg and Lorene Schrock. For many years there were no homes on the east side of the street north of Dan Borntrager's Shell station (Northside 66).

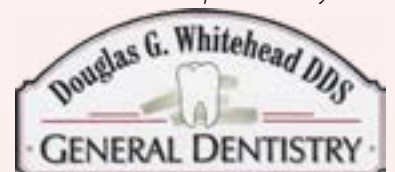
With the coming of the Great Depression, new construction came to a standstill. To find employment, Floyd and Nellie moved the family to Sturgis, Michigan. The move to Sturgis may have been influenced by the fact that Nellie had a brother living there, Dr. Charles Miller. We do not know exactly when they moved to Sturgis, but the 1940 US Census shows them living in Sturgis and that Floyd was a contractor.

Nellie May Miller Peck died on January 17, 1954 and was laid to rest in the Oak Lawn Cemetery in Sturgis (Find a Grave #79364993). Floyd Ellsworth Peck died on Saturday, March 2, 1974, and was buried next to Nellie (Find a Grave #124525645). Unfortunately, as of this writing, I have been unable to obtain any photographs of either Floyd or Nellie.

It is fitting that Miles Peck (Floyd and Nellie's oldest son) would return to Topeka later in life and live out his days on the east side of the street of what was Peck Town. Miles, who died on February 28, 1993, is buried in the Eden Cemetery west of Topeka.

Although Floyd Peck never again called Topeka home after the move to Sturgis, his construction skills have left an enduring mark on this community. 📍

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It's Coming to The MEC



By Harold D. Gingerich

With 100,000 square feet of exhibition floor space and coliseum seating for over 5,000, the Michiana Event Center (MEC) in Shipshewana is unlike any other venue in Northeast Indiana. The MEC, located at 455 East Farver Street in Shipshewana, regularly plays host to an amazing variety of entertainment options. From horse shows to indoor tractor pulls, monster truck shows, professional bull riding competitions, craft and trade shows, and the circus, the MEC hosts

them all. Plus, you just might be able to catch a concert with such musical superstars as Willie Nelson. And, at Christmas time, patrons say that their production of “Noel” is second to none.

Dennis Fry, who grew up in the Honeyville area, did not set out to become the CEO at the MEC. In fact, he was happy to run his masonry construction business and put together horse auctions in Ohio and Indiana. But, in 2010, the Northern Indiana Wood Workers Association (NIWWA)

in LaGrange County approached him about putting together a horse sale in the building they had leased on State Road 9 near the Indiana Toll Road.

“I went up there and looked at it (the building),” Dennis said, “and told them, ‘Yeah, I’d do a horse sale here, but we are going to need an auction





ring, box stalls to put the horses in, and things like that.” Their response was, “Would you consider taking care of it, having the stalls built, putting things together and we will pay for it?”

“So, that’s what we did,” Fry said with a smile. “I called three local steel fabricators and got them together. I said, ‘Look, we need everybody to build 50 stalls; we need 150 total.’” They started doing the steel work and I went up there with my wife and four kids and we started cutting lumber to put in there.” Dennis and his wife Kathryn were married in 1995. They have four children, a daughter and three sons. Two of the four children are married.

With the help of some local people, the stalls were put together and the first sale was held in June of 2010. “Things just kind of snowballed from there,” Fry said. “They (NIWWA) asked me if I would be interested in helping run the place, so I sold my masonry business and I do this full time.”

The move to Shippshewana in 2017 came about for several reasons. First, growth and success began putting a strain on the old building which had originally been built as a distribution center. “It was an old building, and it had a lot of leaks, plus the floor was built for RV manufacturing,” Dennis noted. Initially, the group decided to tear down the old building and construct something new. Plans

were drawn up. But, after looking at construction costs, a decision was made to sell the building and look for land closer to their base. “Equine is our strong point and most of our shows are equine based,” Fry said. “So, we wanted to be closer to the Amish community. And, with the background of what brings people to Shippshewana, we felt that we could contribute to that.”

The move to Shippshewana has proven to be the right one. Playing host to horse shows and sales, tractor pulls, trade shows, and musical equine events has only added to Shippshewana’s popularity as a tourist destination.




Coming up at the MEC, September 16 – 18, will be the Six Horse Hitch Classic Series World Finals with over \$100,000 in prize money to be awarded. September 30 – October 2, the MEC will host the Shippshewana Fall Crafter’s Fair. And then the circus comes to town October 19 – 23.

Finishing the year, December 10 – 18, will be the Christmas “Noel” Show. The MEC’s website

describes the show as, “Two full hours of nonstop Christmas excitement, filled with nonstop equestrian adventures, featuring some of the most beautiful horses anywhere, along with incredibly talented riders from all around the world. Christmas is, without a doubt, the most special time of the year, and we are proud and honored to share with you the real reason we celebrate Christmas, the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ!”

“The host and promotor of ‘Noel’ was the host and the director for the Dixie Stampede for over 20 years,” Dennis noted, “so it’s a great show, it really is!”

“Noel” features a large nativity scene, complete with a re-creation of the stable and manger in Bethlehem where the Savior was born. An angel on horseback heralds the birth of the Savior as wise men on camels come to bring their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Shepherds and townspeople join the throng with their sheep, goats, donkeys, and cows to witness the miraculous birth. The music and narration combine with the nativity scene to bring a message of hope and eternal life. It is a message that can change your life.

For ticket information on any of the upcoming events at the MEC be sure to visit their website at: michianaevents.com or call (260) 768-3310. 



★ REAL ESTATE AUCTION ★ ★ BY 'SILENT BID' ★

LOCATED: 3 miles north of Wolcottville, IN on State Rd 9 to 500S, west 1 mile
ADDRESS: 2100E 500S, Wolcottville, IN

• 8 ACRES • HOUSE • BARN • ROLLING LAND •

Phone bids accepted until 4:00 PM on Monday, September 20, 2021.



HOUSE: Custom built 2-story home with approx. 5,000 sq.ft., built in 2006. 27'x32' 2-Car garage features a half bath, epoxy floors and a finished 2nd story bonus room that also has a half bath. Full finished basement has kitchenette, family room, rec room, 1 bedroom with walk-in closet, full bath and mechanical room. Main floor includes the master bedroom with full bath and walk-in closet, kitchen, living room, office, laundry room and half bath. Second story has 2 bedrooms (each with walk-in closet), full bath and storage closet.



BARN: 56'x60' with animal tramp shed area and workshop area, fully wired, 3 frost-free hydrants

**6'x26' Screened-in front porch • Beautiful professional landscaping!
31'x20' Stamped concrete patio with LP gas line for BBQ grill
Open loop geothermal system • 4" Constant pressure well**



**Central vac • Gas fireplace
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Main floor Granite countertops**

**Custom quartersawn oak kitchen cabinets
Public sewer • Irrigated lawn • Underground dog fence
House plumbed for outdoor wood burner stove
Buried LP tank • Located close to the lakes!**

COUNTY RD 500 S



All footages are approximate and will be finalized by survey.

Public welcome to inspect this real estate September 1 from 3-5 PM or by appointment with the auctioneers.

Phone bids will be accepted by Chupp Auctions until 4:00 PM on Monday, September 20, 2021. Starting bid is \$700,000. For bidding updates or to place a bid, contact Chupp Auctions at 260-499-0216 or 260-499-0093.

TERMS: 10% down (non-refundable) upon accepted offer on September 20, 2021 with balance due at closing. Closing approximately 60 days after the auction with possession given at closing. Taxes will be pro-rated. Sellers have the right to reject any or all bids. Any announcements made by the auctioneers take precedence over printed matter.



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September Park News

MONTHLY

Maple Wood Fiber Guild

Wednesday, September 8,
10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Maple Wood Nature Center

Open to anyone and any kind of fiber art! Bring a project to work on. Bring your own sack lunch and snacks. Donations for the Parks is appreciated.

RSVP to Leslie Arnold at (260) 363-4022 or larnold@lagrangecounty.org.

Make - n - Take Crafts

Marble Painting

Saturday, September 11,
10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Maple Wood Nature Center

Make a colorful, unique spider web by dipping a marble into paint and rolling out your web. Come anytime and stay as long as you like.

Quilt Class

Saturday, September 18, 9:00 am
- 3:00 pm

Maple Wood Nature Center "Sister's Choice"

A table runner that looks the best with just two colors. Please bring a dish to share for the potluck lunch. Registration is required. Instructions are provided upon registration.

To register, call 260-854-2225, or email lagrangecountyparks@yahoo.com. Fee is \$25 (\$5 is given to LaGrange County Parks). Call Instructors Julia Wolhether 260-367-1449 or Ira Johnson 260-367-1438 for information.

Sewing Group

Wednesday, September 22,
9:30 am - 3:30 pm

Maple Wood Nature Center


What is a UFO? If you answered an un-finished object... this is the perfect sewing group for you! Open to anyone! Bring your sewing machine. Get help and direction with a project, share ideas with others, and make new friends. Please bring a sack lunch and your own snacks. Please bring a \$5.00 donation for LaGrange County Parks.

RSVP to Linda Grobis at (260) 351-3609.

Folk Jam

Sunday, September 26,
1:30 - 5:00 pm

Maple Wood Nature Center

Jams are mostly folk, country, and bluegrass music, with other styles occasionally added. Coffee served, bring your own snacks. For more information, contact Erv Troyer, at (260) 463-2247, reo43@aol.com. 

All LaGrange Co. Offices are CLOSED Monday, September 6 for Labor Day.

Artifact ID

Saturday, September 4,
10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Dallas Lake Lodge

0505 W 700 S, Wolcottville, IN.

Craig Arnold, Archaeologist for Weintraut & Associates, Inc., will be on hand to help identify your collection of Native American arrowheads and stone tools. This ID session is a great opportunity to answer the question, "Is this just a rock?" **Mr. Arnold is not an appraiser; he will do his best to date the artifact and describe its purpose. Please limit your collection to 10 pieces at a time so everyone can participate.** For more information, contact Naturalist Leslie Arnold at 260-854-2225 or larnold@lagrangecounty.org.

Live Music at Dallas Lake Park

Saturday, September 18,
5:00 - 8:00 pm

Dallas Lake Park,
Sweetgum Shelter

0505 W 700 S, Wolcottville, IN.

Here Nor There plays a fun mix of rock, funk, bluegrass, and much more, including some originals. Bring a picnic, lawn chairs, and the whole family. \$5 admission per vehicle at Dallas Lake Park.

Patchwork Trails Walk

Tuesday, September 21, 6:00 pm
Camp Lutherwald, Howe, IN.
2065 St. Rd. 120, Howe IN.

Walk the beautiful grounds of this local, summer resident camp. Enjoy some fall colors and a nice view of the lake.

A Note from the Naturalist

Warm Greetings,

LaGrange County Parks and Recreation would like to thank and recognize the support of the LaGrange County Community Foundation. The parks were awarded a grant for educational supplies and a canoe trailer to enhance the Family Forest School program, as well as other naturalist programs.

Note that all LaGrange County offices will be closed Monday, September 6 for the Labor Day holiday.

Respectfully,

Leslie A. Arnold, Naturalist

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2021 Remaining Dates:
 Sept 18 & Oct 16

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