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The Loogootee Times

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Ground Broken for 50-Unit Apartment Complex in Loogootee

By Braydyn Bear-Lents

Loogootee, IN – A significant step forward for the community took place on Friday with the groundbreaking ceremony for Oak Street Village, a new 50-unit apartment complex set to transform the local housing landscape. This development aims to address the housing needs of residents and attract new families to the area. The project is not just about providing housing; it encompasses a broad vision for community growth and support. An integral part of Oak Street Village is a 4,500-square-foot childcare facility designed to serve the families living in and around Loogootee. This new facility will bring 60 childcare seats to Martin County, offering much-needed support to working parents and contributing to the early childhood education infrastructure in the region. Officials involved in the project expressed enthusiasm about the benefits Oak Street Village will bring. They emphasize that the development will create new opportunities for

young people, especially those who leave Loogootee to pursue higher education or trade training elsewhere. The hope is that these graduates will choose to return to their hometown to build their futures, strengthening the local economy and fostering a sense of community pride. The project has garnered support from various local stakeholders, including government officials, community leaders, and residents who see it as a vital investment in Loogootee's future. Construction of the apartment complex is expected to provide a boost to the local economy through job creation and increased commerce during the building phase.

As the community anticipates the completion of Oak Street Village, hopes are high that it will serve as a catalyst for further development and rejuvenation in Loogootee. The combined efforts of the local government and developers aim to ensure that the new complex not only meets housing needs but also enhances the overall quality of life for all residents.



Photos Courtesy of Network Jasper on Facebook

BOTTOM LEFT: JBH Venture's laid out plan for what the new Oak Street apartments would look like along with the resources and amenities residents can expect living in the new apartments.

TOP RIGHT: Indiana Governor Mike Braun, Mayor Brian Ader, JBH Ventures President Joe White, and three other executives shovel dirt to mark the construction of the Oak Street Village apartments.

MIDDLE RIGHT: Indiana Governor Mike Braun makes a surprise appearance at the Oak Street Village ceremony as he speaks to the crowd about the framework and benefits of the project.

LOWER RIGHT: The JBH Ventures presentation outlined various support service options to assist those planning to move out and transition to a new apartment or living space in Oak Street Village.

Loogootee Historic District Gains National Recognition

FORT HARRISON, Ind. — The Indiana Historic Preservation Review Board convened Wednesday at the Garrison Conference Center inside Fort Harrison State Park to discuss a significant addition to Indiana's historic registry. The board reviewed an application for the Loogootee Commercial Historic District, a prominent area in the small town of Loogootee known for its well-preserved 19th and early 20th-century architecture.

In the meeting last week, Timothy Brown Salsman reported the news on Facebook, and posted the buildings will now be a historical site which drew local officials, preservationists, and community members, aimed to assess whether the district meets the criteria for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. If approved, the designation would recognize the district's historical and architectural significance, helping to preserve its character and potentially providing access to grants and funding for ongoing restoration projects.

The application highlights several key structures within the district, including the historic downtown storefronts, civic buildings, and several private residences. Preservationists expressed confidence that the district's historical importance merits national recognition.

The review process involved detailed inspections and evaluations by board members, who considered factors such as architectural integrity, historical significance, and the district's contribution to the community's cultural fabric. The board's decision was to nominate the Loogootee Commercial Historic District for inclusion on the national register.

Photo below by Timothy Brown Salsman/Facebook



The Loogootee application now moves forward in the federal review process, with a final decision expected in the coming months. Preservation advocates hope this recognition will help protect the district's unique character for years to come.

Truck Collides with Welcome Sign in Loogootee; No Injuries Reported

LOOGOOTE, Ind. — A welcome sign marking the entrance to the north side of Loogootee was severely damaged after a white pickup truck crashed into it on Saturday afternoon. The incident occurred around 4 p.m. as the truck barreled through the sign located just off the main road from Crane.

Witnesses reported seeing the truck strike the sign head-on, resulting in significant structural damage to both the brick facade and the layered components of the sign. Tire marks were visible on the ground where the vehicle collided, indicating the force of the impact. Cathy White, a local resident who witnessed the crash, took to social media to inform community members about the accident. "I saw the truck hit the sign, and I don't believe anyone was hurt," she posted on Facebook shortly after the event. Her comments were echoed by other onlookers who expressed shock but relief that no injuries were reported.

Cleanup crews arrived quickly on the scene to begin assessing the damage and clear the area. The destruction of the welcome sign, which serves as a key marker for visitors and residents alike, has raised concerns within the community about the necessary repairs. The sign has long been a local landmark, welcoming visitors and signaling their arrival into the city.

Authorities are currently investigating the circumstances surrounding the crash, including any potential causes for the truck's loss of control. Eyewitness reports suggest that the vehicle may have been traveling at a high speed, but no conclusions have been drawn pending further review. Local officials have not yet announced a timeline for the sign's repair or reconstruction. In the meantime, residents are left to ponder the incident and reflect on the importance of the community's landmarks, even as they express gratitude that no one was harmed during the unfortunate event. As the investigation continues, residents of Loogootee await updates from local authorities regarding the cause of the crash and the future of their beloved welcome sign.



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COMMUNITY BUSINESS

Christine Brennen, author of a new book on Caitlin Clark speaks about the WNBA and more

BLAKE FUNERAL HOME

PROVIDED BY BLAKE FUNERAL HOME, WE WISH OUR CONDOLENCES TO TO DEBRA KAYE PARSONS

VIVA LOOGOOTE
ELVIS PRESLEY
IMPERSONATOR IS
COMING TO LOOGOOTE

PRIME TIME EVENT
TO ATTRACT BUSINESS
TO SHOALS, READ MORE
ABOUT THIS PRIME
TIMERS EVENT IN AUGUST
ON PG. 3



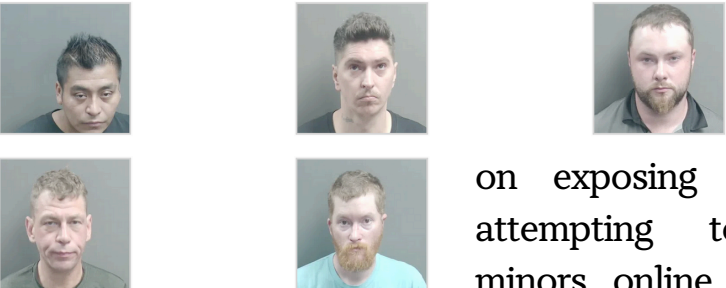
Sports Columnist, Christine Brennan, Discusses WNBA & Caitlin Clark

On Thursday, July 17, Washington Post sports columnist and renowned journalist Christine Brennan delivered an engaging talk at Morgenstern's Book Store, located in Bloomington, Indiana. The event took place just ahead of the WNBA All-Star Weekend held in nearby Indianapolis, creating a perfect opportunity for Brennan to discuss her latest work centered on one of the league's brightest stars, Caitlin Clark. Brennan's visit was highly anticipated, given her status as a respected voice in sports journalism and her deep knowledge of women's sports. During her presentation, she offered a thorough exploration of Clark's remarkable career and her impact on the

the evolution of women's basketball. The occasion also served as a platform to promote Brennan's new book, titled "On Her Game: Caitlin Clark and The Revolution of Women's Sports," which intricately details Clark's journey from a talented young athlete to a transformative figure in the sport. The book is now widely available, including at Morgenstern's Book Store in Bloomington, as well as major online retailers like Amazon and Barnes & Noble. Brennan's discussion shed light on the athlete's rise to prominence, emphasizing her exceptional skills, leadership qualities, and influence beyond the court. Attendees left with a deeper understanding of Clark's significance in the broader context of women's sports, as Brennan's extensive insights painted a vivid picture of her evolving legacy and the ongoing revolution in women's athletics.



Loogootee man arrested for alleged child solicitation in Grant County



on exposing individuals attempting to exploit minors online. Once the suspects arrived at the meeting location, Predator Catchers Inc. notified law enforcement. The following individuals were arrested and charged with Child Solicitation, a Level 5 Felony:

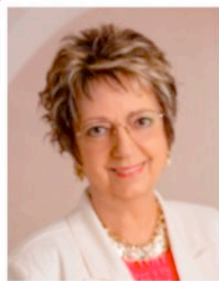
- Isaiah Frye, age 28, of Loogootee, IN
- Johnathon Sasser, age 42, of Anderson, IN
- Joshua Stephen Keck, age 39, of Frankton, IN
- Teddy Lunceford, age 38, of Elkhart, IN
- Raul Escribano, age 35, of Marion, IN — arrested by the Marion Police Department

GRANT CO, Ind. (ADAMS, Fort Wayne) – Five men are in police custody for alleged child solicitation in Grant County. The sheriff's department says four of them traveled from outside the county "to engage in sexual activity" with a girl they thought was 13 years old. Isaiah Frye of Loogootee, Joshua Keck of Frankton, Johnathon Sasser of Anderson, and Teddy Lunceford of Elkhart came from other areas of the state along with Raul Escribano of Marion. The five are charged with a felony of child solicitation. The Grant County Sheriff's Office released the following: The Grant County Sheriff's Office and the Marion Police Department have arrested five men for child solicitation after four traveled from outside counties with the intent to engage in sexual activity with a person they believed to be a 13-year-old girl. Law enforcement was contacted by Predator Catchers Inc., a civilian organization focused



Thank You for Making Rita Lents' Birthday Special

Rita would like to sincerely express her heartfelt gratitude to everyone who took the time to send her birthday cards and heartfelt wishes. Your thoughtful messages, warm words, and kind gestures contributed to making her birthday truly unforgettable and filled with joy. She was genuinely touched by the effort you all made to reach out, whether through handwritten notes, digital messages, or phone calls. Each message brought a smile to her face and made her feel incredibly loved and appreciated. Celebrating her birthday was even more special because of the love and kindness demonstrated by her friends and family. It's a wonderful reminder of how fortunate she is to be surrounded by such caring and supportive people. Rita feels blessed beyond words to have friends and family who take the time to make her feel special, especially on her birthday. Your warm wishes and thoughtful gestures made her feel cherished and valued, reinforcing the strong bonds that she shares with each of you. She wants to thank you all from the bottom of her heart for your warmth, generosity, and kindness. Your messages truly made her day brighter and filled her with happiness. Rita is grateful for each and every one of you and looks forward to creating many more joyful memories together. Once again, thank you all for making her birthday so memorable and meaningful.



"While living in my car for six months, I found Jesus somewhere between the glove compartment and the rearview mirror," Janice says, reflecting on her journey to salvation.

Everyone age 50+ Welcome
Bring a covered dish, enjoy entertainment,
fellowship, food and making new friends

**Saturday August 2nd
11:00 AM**

**Church Of The Cross
9976 Mill Rd,
Shoals, IN 47581**

**Special Guest speaker
and entertainer
Janice Rose**

**For more information text
Kat (812)804-8449**

Prime Timers Event Promises Community and Inspiration in Shoals, Indiana

SHOALS, Ind. — The Church of The Cross is set to host a special gathering for the local community, offering an opportunity for fellowship, food, and inspiration. The event, open to the public, is scheduled for August 2nd at 11:00 AM and is organized specifically for individuals aged 50 and above.

The Prime Timers luncheon will be held at the Church of The Cross, located at 9976 Mill Rd in Shoals, Indiana.

Attendees are encouraged to bring a dish to share, as it will be a potluck-style meal, fostering an atmosphere of community and shared tradition.

The event aims to bring together seniors from the area for a day of camaraderie and celebration.

A highlight of the occasion will be a guest speaker, whose identity has not been disclosed publicly. A love offering will be collected during the event to support the speaker and possibly funding other community activities organized by the church.

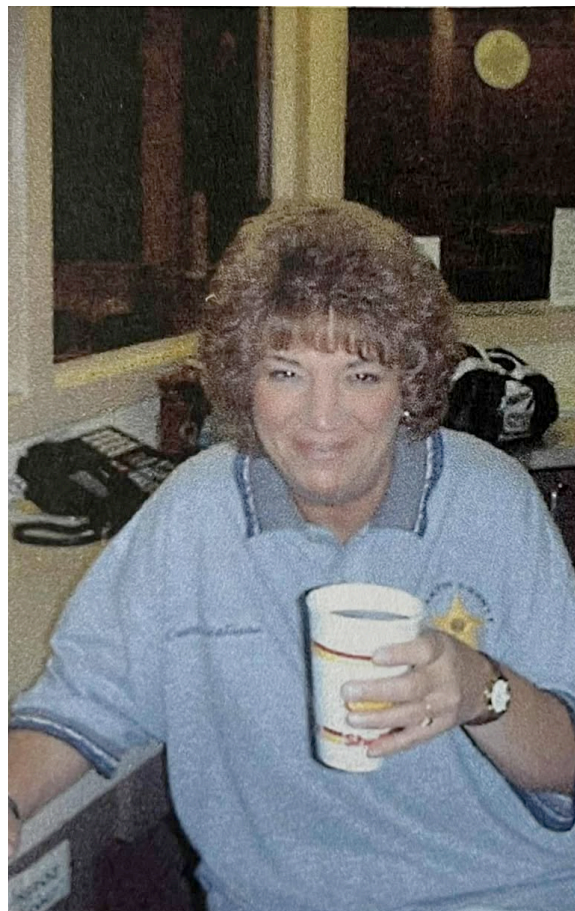
The Prime Timers luncheon is part of the church's broader efforts to engage with the local community and promote social well-being among its senior citizens. Past events have seen strong participation and positive feedback, demonstrating the value placed on social ties and community involvement.

For more information, interested parties are encouraged to contact the Church of The Cross directly. The event is free and open to all residents interested in attending.

As communities continue to seek ways to foster social connections among older adults, events like the Prime Timers luncheon are seen as vital platforms for building relationships and sharing life experiences. All are welcome to join this meaningful gathering on August 2nd in Shoals.

Local Obituaries

A Message from the Martin County Sheriff's Office on the Passing of Debra Kaye Parsons



**Debra Kaye Parsons
1954-2025**

Judith K. (Love) Ballard, 83, of Cannelburg, Indiana, passed away on Wednesday, July 16, 2025, at Poplar Care Strategies in Loogootee, Indiana.

Born on May 13, 1942 in Washington, Indiana, she was the beloved daughter of Ervin R. and Rosemary (Carrico) Love. She married Joseph C. Ballard on October 28, 1972.

Judy was of Catholic faith and a member of All Saints Catholic Church. In her younger years, Judy enjoyed working at Hunt's Café; loved to cook, animals; was a Barr-Reeve sports fan, as well as, a San Fransico 49's football fan. Judy was well liked and made many friends in the nursing home during her time there.

She was preceded by her parents; her husband Joe; Siblings: Simmy, Jimmy, Gary, Adrian, Sue, and Luke. Judy is lovingly remembered by her brother, Ervin Jr., Mary Ann, Joni, Mark, Tami, Lisa, and Neil; and several nieces and nephews.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by Fr. Stephen McGinnis on Monday, July 21, 2025 at 10:00 A.M. at All Saints Catholic Church in Cannelburg, Indiana with burial to follow at St. Peter's Catholic Cemetery, Montgomery, Indiana. Visitation will be held on the same day from 9:00 A.M. to 9:45 A.M. at the church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Barr-Reeve High School Athletic Boosters.

Condolences may be made online at www.blakefuneralhomes.com

Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee, Indiana, is honored to serve the family of Judy Ballard.

The Martin County Sheriff's Office Mourns the Loss of a Former Employee

Martin County (Shoals): The Martin County Sheriff's Office mourns the loss of former employee, Debra Parsons. Debra passed away peacefully on Sunday July 20, 2025, at her granddaughter's residence surrounded by her family.

Debra was employed by the Martin County Sheriff's Office for 23 years. During her time at the Sheriff's Office, she was a Corrections Officer, assisted as a Kitchen Cook, and most recently as a 911 Communications Officer.

Debra's dedication and service to both Martin County and the Martin County Sheriff's Office will be deeply missed.

Please keep the family of Debra Parsons, her friends, and our community in your prayers during this difficult time.

**LEAH ROSE
KEMP
September 30,
1975-July 22,
2025**



Leah Rose (Stoll) Kemp, 49, of Loogootee, Indiana passed away Monday, July 21, 2025 in Louisville, KY.

She was born on September 30, 1975 in Daviess County, Indiana to David Dale & Anna Mae (Raber) Stoll. She attended and was a member of the Old Order Amish Church. She married Ervin Kemp on May 16, 2004, and he survives.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Anna Mae Stoll, and her mother-in-law, Naomi Kemp.

Leah is survived by her parents, Dale and Laura Stoll; siblings: Abner and Diane

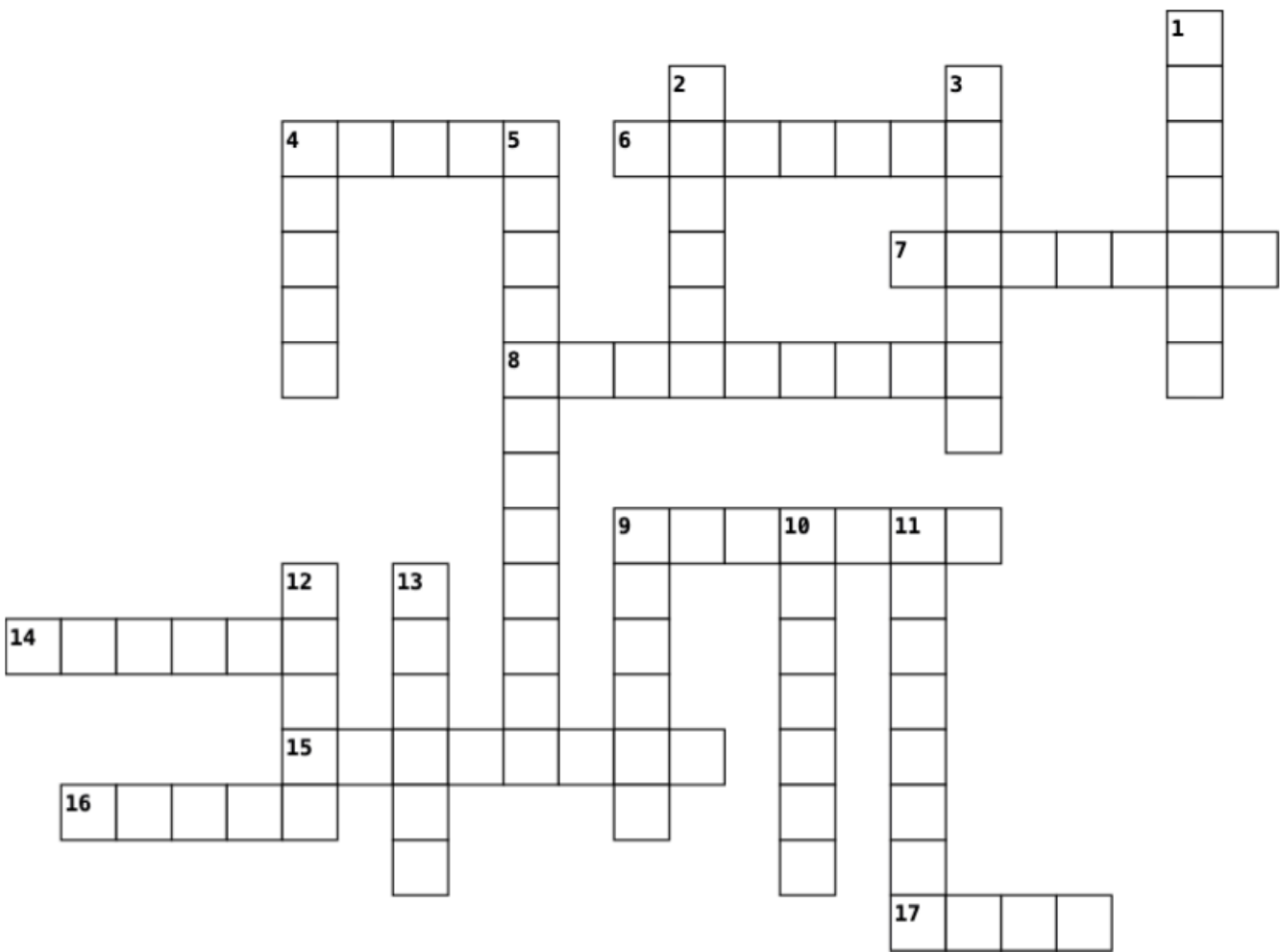
Stoll, John Henry Stoll, Martha Jean and Richard Wagler, Karen Sue and Matthew Knepp, Diane and Ivan Stoll and step-brother Robert Wayne and Debbie Knepp; her in-laws: Amos and Delilah Kemp; 20 nieces and nephews; 4 step-nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be Tuesday, July 22, 2025 at 5 pm until the hour of service. Funeral services will be conducted at 9 A.M. on Thursday, July 24, 2025 at the Daviess Community Building (formerly known as the Produce Building). Burial will follow at Stoll Cemetery with home ministers to officiate.

Blake & Wagler Funeral Home in Montgomery, Indiana, is honored to serve the family of Leah Rose Kemp.

To send a flower arrangement in memory of Leah Rose Kemp, please [click here to visit our sympathy store](#).

To plant Memorial Trees in memory of Leah Rose Kemp, please [click here to visit our sympathy store](#).



Across

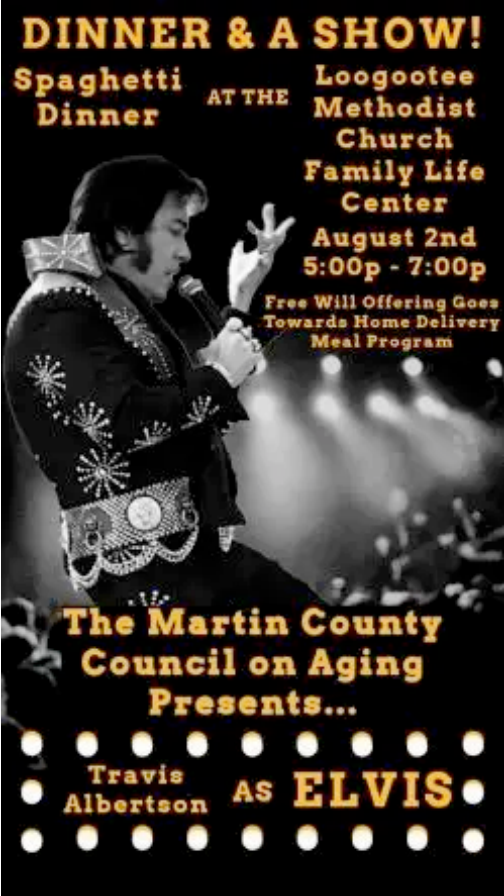
4. Wallace
6. The first Brickyard 400 winner to win the Brickyard 400 and the Indianapolis 500
7. Allison
8. His son drove a red car and the dad drove a black car with the number three on it
9. The owner of a race team and NASCAR Nextel Cup Champion in 2005
14. Johnson
15. "Car of _____" a car that ran in Nascar from 2007-2012
16. what Tony Stewart said on the radio as he passed Kevin Harvick in the 2007 race
17. Earnhardt and Jarrett's first name

Down

1. The last name of the second Brickyard 400 champion
2. The winner of the first-ever Brickyard 400 in 1994
3. Bobby and Terry
4. The last name of two brothers who made history in NASCAR
5. A legendary X Games driver who won multiple Busch series races at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway
9. Dale Earnhardt (not Junior)
10. Two brothers Michael and Darrell
11. The name of a track in Virginia and a legendary driver
12. Richard
13. the second Indiana resident to win the Brickyard 400

Dinner & a Show to Support Senior Meals in Martin County

Loogootee, Ind. (WAMW Radio)- The Martin County Council on Aging is hosting a "Dinner & a Show" fundraiser on Friday, August 2, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Loogootee Methodist Church Family Life Center. Guests can enjoy a spaghetti dinner and a live performance by Travis Albertson as Elvis. A free-will offering will benefit the Council's home-delivered meal program, which provides 18,000 meals annually to local seniors. It's an evening of food, fun, and support for a great cause.



AQUA Hiring Drivers in Greenwood & Bloomfield

Join Our Growing Team in Bloomfield, IN and Greenwood, IN!

Are you a professional Class A CDL driver looking for a stable and rewarding career? We are excited to announce that we are now hiring! Our company is expanding, and we want you to be a part of our team.

Position Details:

- Job Location: Bloomfield, IN and Greenwood, IN
- Position: Class A CDL Company Drivers
- Schedule: Monday through Friday shifts
- Competitive Pay and Benefits
- Safe and Supportive Work Environment

Why choose us?

We value our drivers and strive to provide a positive work environment where you can thrive. With consistent Monday through Friday shifts, you can enjoy your weekends off and a balanced lifestyle. Our company offers competitive compensation packages, insurance options, and opportunities for career advancement.

Join us today and become part of a dedicated team committed to safety, reliability, and excellent service. Whether you are an experienced driver or just starting your career, we welcome your application.

CLOSING HEADLINES

Don't miss this opportunity to grow with a reputable company. Apply today and take the first step towards an exciting new career!

For more information or to apply, please contact us or visit our website. We look forward to hearing from you!

Come join our team in Bloomfield, IN and Greenwood, IN – your new career awaits!

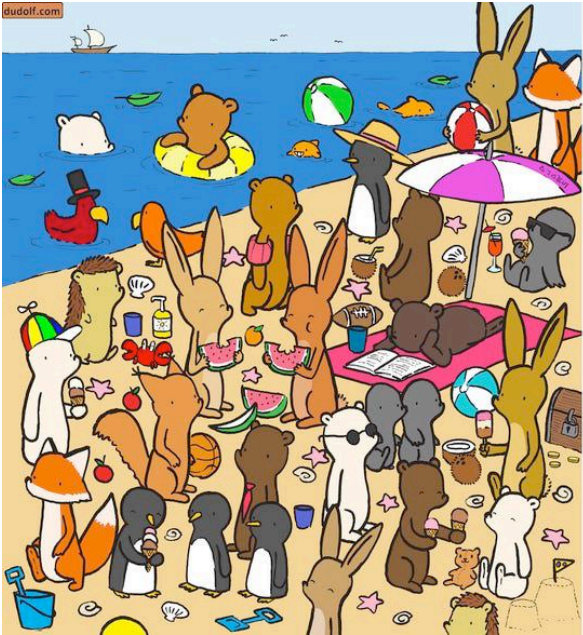
Let's Pray For The Class of 1965, 1975, & 2000:

Gracious God, we thank you for the gift of this reunion and the opportunity to reconnect with classmates. We are grateful for the memories we share, both good and challenging, and for the lessons learned along the way. We ask for your guidance as we reflect on our past and look towards the future. May our conversations be filled with kindness and understanding. Amen.

CAN YOU SPOT THE

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DIFFERENCES?



visit us at www.loogooteetimes.com

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