

"A SMALL TOWN  
NEWSPAPER WITH A  
BIG LION HEART"

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## Loogootee Council Meeting Highlights: New Developments and MOU Updates

By Braydyn Bear-Lents

LOGOOTE, Ind. (July 14, 2025)- The Loogootee Board of Works and City Council meeting took place this afternoon at 6 p.m. Monday, July 14.

Present at the City Board of Works meeting was Mayor Brian Ader, Danny Clark, Dana Strange, Mark McAtee, and Brandon Carrico.

Present at the Common Council meeting was Loogootee City Mayor Brian Ader, Mark McAtee, Jeremy Holland, Dave Smith, Carroll Rayhill. Other important figures at the meeting were Public Works Superintendent, Bo Wilson, City Attorney Steven Teverbaugh, Police Chief John Wagoner, Fire Department Chief Eric Thomas, and Building Commissioner, Justin Davis.

At the Board of Works council meeting, the board discussed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement with the Loogootee school system regarding the School Resource Officer (SRO) program at the Loogootee Schools.

Mayor Ader addressed this issue and suggested two amendments to go through before passing a new the MOU. Specify that the SRO should wear a "city department" uniform, and add new language requirements that the school system is responsible for in regards to adding vehicle maintenance and insurance. Mayor Ader said, "I just think it should say city department, so that way we're not dealing with other uniforms."

"I also think we should put on here all means will be the responsibility of the school system, not us." Ader pointed out that before the board ultimately approved the MOU with these proposed amendments, it ensured clear language about uniform standards and vehicle maintenance operations.

The board also addressed the event and safety efforts for a new show at the pavilion area as a George Strait Tribute band from Nashville will hold an event downtown on August 29, the city discussed closing several streets around the pavilion. Specifically, Southeast First Street, Northeast First Street, Railroad Street, and possibly closing Church Street if extra safety or law enforcement measures are heavily needed. Mayor Ader said, "We're still trying to get all that worked out short notice, but if we have the vendors, we can handle those areas."



He addressed only having one incident occur during the Loogootee Summerfest back in June, where he, along with other law enforcement agents, tried to stop a vehicle from going towards the pavilion and would not stop running then turned around and left.

Otherwise, he said there has been no other problems with the safety or security of eventgoers near the pavilion since that incident. Dana Strange sternly addressed the board and suggested the city will need to close the streets. "Probably by three o'clock, until the events over."

After discussing the George Strait Tribute Band event, the board then looked at the crowd, and Bo Wilson, wearing a branded hunting hat, addressed another important issue on the table.

Wilson addressed the crowd from his first row seat about how the city department's water reports.

The water department reported 7.2 million gallons of water sold to Daviess County Rural Water. Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Specifically, he told the crowd that his findings indicate 18.2 million gallons of water are treated, with an average daily volume of about 627,000 gallons per day, and the water treatment plant is operating at 63% capacity.

Wilson stressed that the city water workers were not able to fix some of the water issues due to a lack of manpower.

There have also been reports of breaks and tears in the roadways since the city recovers from storm repairs that have been noticed in buildings that have standing since the 1980s.

The board talked with Wilson and is considering doing emergency repairs on some of the streets dealing with water breaks near downtown and in several blocks in town.

Mayor Ader said there was some leftover money to help with storm surge repairs.

A motion was made and approved by the board to enhance storm surge protection and improve road repairs.

Police Chief John Wagoner spoke to wrap up the Board of Works meeting before proceeding on.

"The Loogootee Police Department made 6 arrests last month," Chief Wagoner said. "As a department, we had 89 calls for service. Of those calls for service, 12 of them turned out to be actual cases. We had six arrests and we wrote six citations last month."

The Mayor then joked around about the arrests made, the board laughed and called the Board of Works meeting adjourned after 6:30 p.m.

The Common Council meeting addressed business that were not discussed in the last meeting.

This included an enhanced presentation about the latest on the new Oak Street Village apartment housing project.

Presenting the presentation was Joe White, the President and CEO of JBH Ventures, wearing a blue dress shirt and black dress pants.

White took questions from the audience and was pumping up the crowd gearing up to break ground on a new project as soon as next week.

The site, spanning five and a half acres, has undergone extensive GEO and environmental testing, with the state issuing clearance for the development of children's and family centers.

## Unraveling the Quirky Origins of Loogootee's Unique Town Name

An Indianapolis newspaper has just listed the top eleven quirkiest, odd-sounding names of towns and cities across the state of Indiana.

Samantha Habashy of The Indianapolis Star highlighted eleven of Indiana's most quirky and whimsically named towns and cities, delving into the intriguing and often mysterious origins behind each one. Among them is Loogootee, our small city

nestled in Martin and Daviess County, whose unusual name has puzzled residents, tourists, and visitors alike.

The precise history of Loogootee's name remains shrouded in mystery, even to the local community. Various theories abound, suggesting origins that range from personal names to references to influential historical figures. The name might be a fusion of the names of early settlers or prominent individuals who played a role in the town's development. According to The Indianapolis Star, one of the most popular and widely circulated theories posits that the name is a portmanteau of Thomas Gootee, who filed the original town plat in 1853, and a railroading engineer known as Mr. Loo.

CONT.D as "Unraveling" on pg. 3

The project includes the submission of memorandums of understanding, ensuring operations and licensing for daycare services that will serve children before and after school in Loogootee.

White also emphasized that the development will serve as a 'truly a public asset,' featuring pickleball courts and stormwater prevention measures from the cemetery to the humane society, which will remain operational. The site will host 14 two-story units and 38 three-story units, with ample parking available. The groundbreaking event is scheduled for Friday at 2 p.m. at 507 N Oak Street.

The development plan includes 50 units across the two buildings, with a total project cost of approximately \$14.6 million. Rental rates for one-bedroom units with one to two bathrooms are set, with the developer committed to maintaining high quality and value inside the buildings. The project will also feature a small patio for residents.

An on-site manager will be present for five hours a week, playing a key role in property management. Importantly, the units will not accommodate Section 8 tenants; rent will be payable by residents who meet certain income requirements, with utility relief offered. The project targets children aged two to five and will operate a separate daycare facility, which will be located at 505 N Oak Street and 507 1/2 N Oak Street, as advised by police.

The overarching goal is to build trust within the community and encourage residents to become homeowners in the future. Construction is expected to begin before the winter months, with completion anticipated by November 2026, roughly 15 to 16 months from now. Leasing for the units is planned to start between July and August 2025 or 2026, with White assisting in the transition. The mayor praised White for his efforts in advancing the project.

After the presentation a representative from Wessler Engineering along with Bo Wilson addressed more about the SCATA project that has been in the works.

This according to Wessler Engineering involves a strategic downsizing plan with a planned return in two years to upgrade the SCATA project.

If Wessler is not involved, the cost for the project will amount to \$5 million.

The industry standard approach emphasizes modular design for flexibility and efficiency. Maintaining the current relationship is expected to be more cost-effective in the near future, although specific details are still to be determined.

Ader has suggested that the project could be completed within six months.

Regarding staffing, utility workers are generally hired with little to no prior experience, earning approximately \$15 to \$18 per hour.

However, benefits are a concern, as many are hesitant to accept these positions, especially younger workers.

There was an issue with the incorrect use of a code; a call was made to the election division, and the Secretary of State did not subsequently utilize the code.

The meeting's atmosphere grew increasingly tense when Ralph and Charity Truelove presented three Public Comment Requests. They addressed a city ordinance pertaining to water bills at the Sunset trailer park, highlighting their concerns and adding a layer of emotional weight to the proceedings.

Nessa Friedel made two other Public Comment Requests over the road conditions near her home on Country Court St. in Loogootee, as repairs haven't been made for a while near her street.

Gary Arvin addressed complaints about several unfinished projects and reports of high grass he has been affected by.

Then the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is yet to be determined at this time, but we will keep you updated about those meetings on Twitter/X, on our website, [www.loogooteetimes.com](http://www.loogooteetimes.com), and Facebook.

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# Now accepting patients in Loogootee: Meet Daniell Summers, FNP-C

This is a message from Daviess Community Health newsletter: Looking for a compassionate provider close to home? Daniell Summers, RN, MSN, FNP-C, is now accepting new patients at Daviess-Martin Medical Clinic in Loogootee—part of Daviess Community Hospital.

Daniell is a board-certified family nurse practitioner with experience in critical care, pediatrics, outpatient care, and family medicine. She provides thoughtful, personalized primary care for individuals and families throughout Martin County and southwestern Indiana.

A proud supporter of local health initiatives, Daniell is deeply connected to the community she serves.

Her goal? To deliver reliable, expert care to every patient—right here at home.

Watch Daniell's story on the Daviess Community Health YouTube page.

Her office is located at: Daviess-Martin Medical Clinic  
12546 E. US Hwy 50,  
Loogootee, IN  
(in Dr. Sutton's former office)

(812) 295-5095



## Gasthof Announces Exciting New Event Space 'The Barn' Opening in Montgomery, Indiana

MONTGOMERY, Ind.- In March 2026, Gasthof is excited to announce the grand opening of The Barn, a new event space designed to accommodate a wide range of occasions, from large gatherings to weddings. This addition to Gasthof's existing facilities underscores the venue's commitment to providing versatile options for groups seeking a memorable setting for their special events.

The Barn boasts a maximum capacity of 300 guests, making it an ideal location for sizable celebrations. Its spacious interior is crafted to offer both comfort and elegance, accommodating events from formal weddings to corporate functions and community gatherings. The barn's architecture and design elements reflect a blend of rustic charm and modern amenities, ensuring that every event hosted there is both stylish and functional.

Gasthof, a well-established venue known for its quality service and beautiful settings, now expands its offerings with The Barn. Alongside The Loft, the banquet building, and the Gasthof Room—existing rental options—The Barn provides additional flexibility for event organizers. **CONT.D on Page #3**



## Loogootee Senior Center Unveils New Mural Celebrating Local Talent

Loogootee, IN — The Loogootee Senior Center proudly announced the completion of its newest artistic endeavor: a vibrant and inspiring mural crafted by a talented young artist from the community. This project not only enhances the aesthetic appeal of the center but also serves as a testament to the fostering of local talent and community engagement.

The mural, which now adorns one of the prominent walls within the senior center, is the first original artwork by Ella Parker, a recent graduate of Loogootee High School. Parker's artistic talents have garnered admiration throughout her academic career, and her recent work further cements her reputation as a promising young artist.

The project began as part of an initiative to beautify the center and encourage community involvement through art. The idea was to create a piece that would inspire and uplift attendees, embodying themes of vitality, hope, and community spirit. Ella Parker, who expressed her enthusiasm about the project, was excited to bring her creative vision to life.

"I've always loved art, and being able to contribute something meaningful to my community means a lot to me," Parker shared during the mural unveiling. Her passion and dedication are evident in the vibrant colors and intricate details of the mural, which depicts scenes of community life, nature's beauty, and symbols of hope.

The process of creating the mural involved several stages, including conceptual sketches, community feedback sessions, and the actual painting.

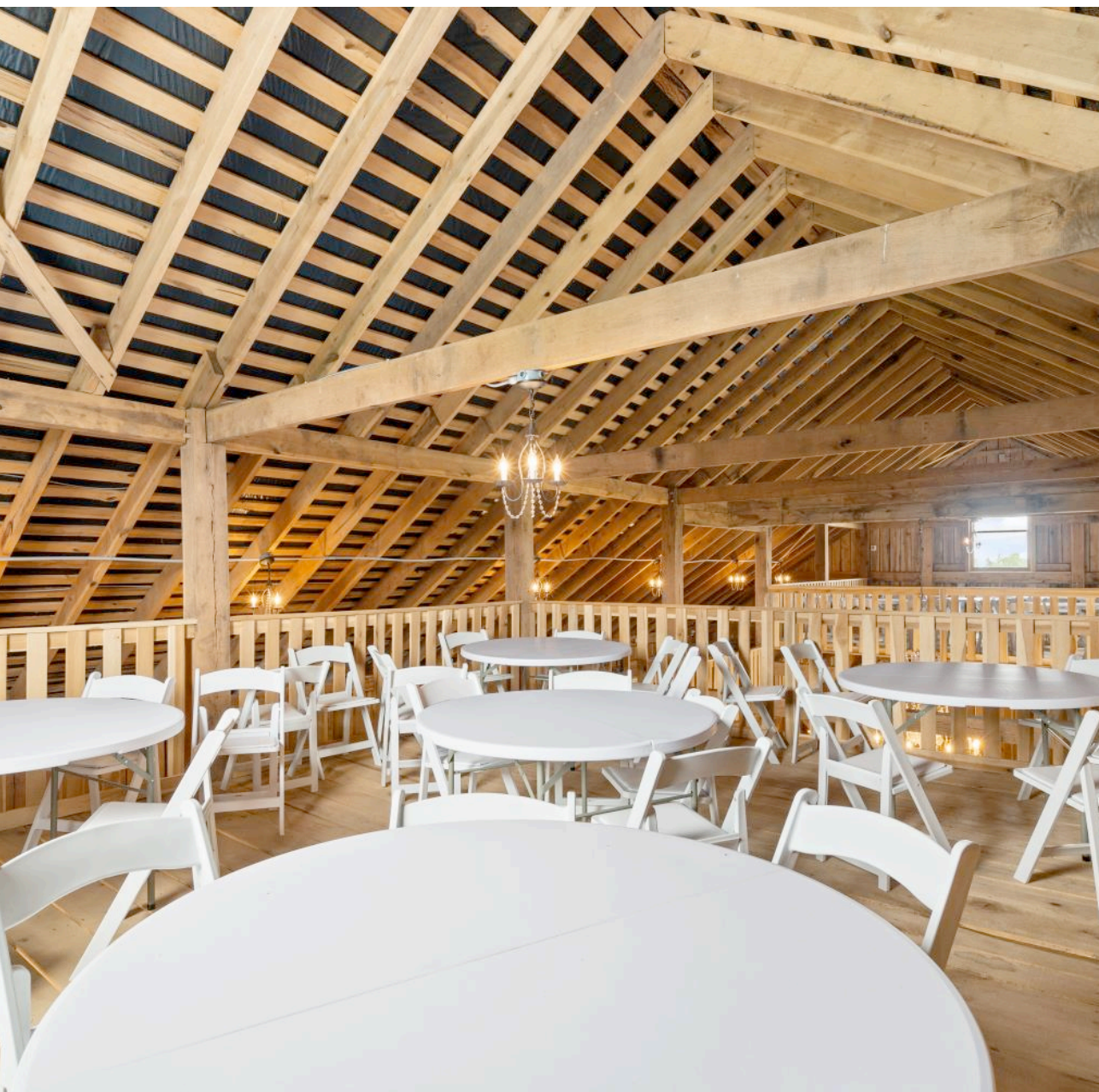
Local residents, seniors, and staff participated in discussions to ensure that the artwork accurately reflected the community's identity and values. This collaborative approach not only resulted in a more personalized piece but also strengthened community bonds.

The senior center's director expressed immense pride in the project, emphasizing its significance in fostering community pride and supporting local young artists. "Ella's work embodies the spirit of our community. Her talents have brought a fresh perspective to our center, making it a more welcoming and inspiring space for our seniors and visitors alike," she commented.

The mural has already begun to attract visitors and is expected to serve as a focal point for community gatherings and events. It symbolizes the potential of youth and the importance of nurturing artistic talents among young residents.

In addition to the visual impact, the project has practical benefits. It has revitalized a once-simple wall, transforming it into a piece of public art that residents can be proud of. The effort aligns with broader community initiatives aimed at promoting arts and culture, recognizing their role in enriching lives.





## Gasthof Renovation (CONT.D)

These facilities collectively enable Gasthof to serve a wide range of client needs, from intimate meetings to large-scale celebrations. The venue's team is eager to begin accepting reservations for events scheduled starting March 2026. Interested parties are encouraged to plan ahead, given the anticipated demand for this new facility. Booking inquiries and detailed information about The Barn, as well as other rental options and catering services, are available through the Groups & Catering tab on the Gasthof website, <http://www.gasthofamishvillage.com>.

The development of The Barn aligns with Gasthof's ongoing mission to deliver exceptional experiences to its clients. By adding a versatile event space capable of hosting up to 300 guests, Gasthof aims to attract a diverse array of events, including weddings, corporate conferences, family reunions, and community celebrations.

Event planning at The Barn will be supported by a dedicated team skilled in delivering personalized services to ensure each event's success. From custom menu options through their catering services to logistical planning, Gasthof's staff is prepared to assist clients at every step.

The official opening of The Barn is scheduled for March 2026, but interested parties are encouraged to contact Gasthof early to secure their preferred dates. As one of the premier venues in the area, Gasthof anticipates high booking rates and recommends early reservations. This new addition is expected to become a favorite destination for those seeking a picturesque and adaptable venue for memorable occasions.

For further information about The Barn, including detailed specifications, pricing, and reservation policies, visitors should visit the Gasthof website and navigate to the Groups & Catering tab. This resource provides comprehensive details and contact information for event inquiries.

Gasthof's continued investment in enhanced facilities and services aims to provide clients with unparalleled event experiences. With the upcoming opening of The Barn, the venue reinforces its position as a leading choice for gatherings of all kinds in the region.

## Local Obituaries



Judith K. Ballard  
1942-2025

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 Francisco 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](http://www.blakefuneralhomes.com)

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

## Artwork (Cont.d)

and strengthening social bonds.

Ella Parker's achievement highlights the importance of providing platforms for young artists to showcase their talents. Her work at the Loogootee Senior Center demonstrates how art can serve as a bridge between generations, fostering understanding and shared experiences.

Looking ahead, local officials and community members hope to foster similar projects in the future. Plans are underway to include more art installations and community art events that will continue to celebrate local talent

and enhance the cultural fabric of Loogootee.

The completion of Parker's mural is more than just a beautification project; it is a celebration of community, creativity, and the promising future of young local artists like Ella. As the senior center continues to serve as a hub of activity and social interaction, the mural stands as a lasting reminder of the power of art to inspire and unite.

For now, Ella Parker's artwork will continue to brighten the days of those who visit the center, embodying hope, vitality, and the spirit of community cooperation. The Loogootee Senior Center looks forward to many more such projects that will inspire and invigorate its community for years to come.

Martha Lynn Keller  
1972-2025



Martha Lynn (Wagner) Keller, age 52, of Dale, Indiana, passed away at Moffitt Cancer Center, in Tampa Florida, on July 3, 2025, surrounded by her family after a long battle with breast cancer.

Born on November 8, 1972, in Bedford, Indiana, she was the beloved daughter of Donald and Marilyn (Edwards) Wagner. She married Trevor Keller on December 20, 1997.

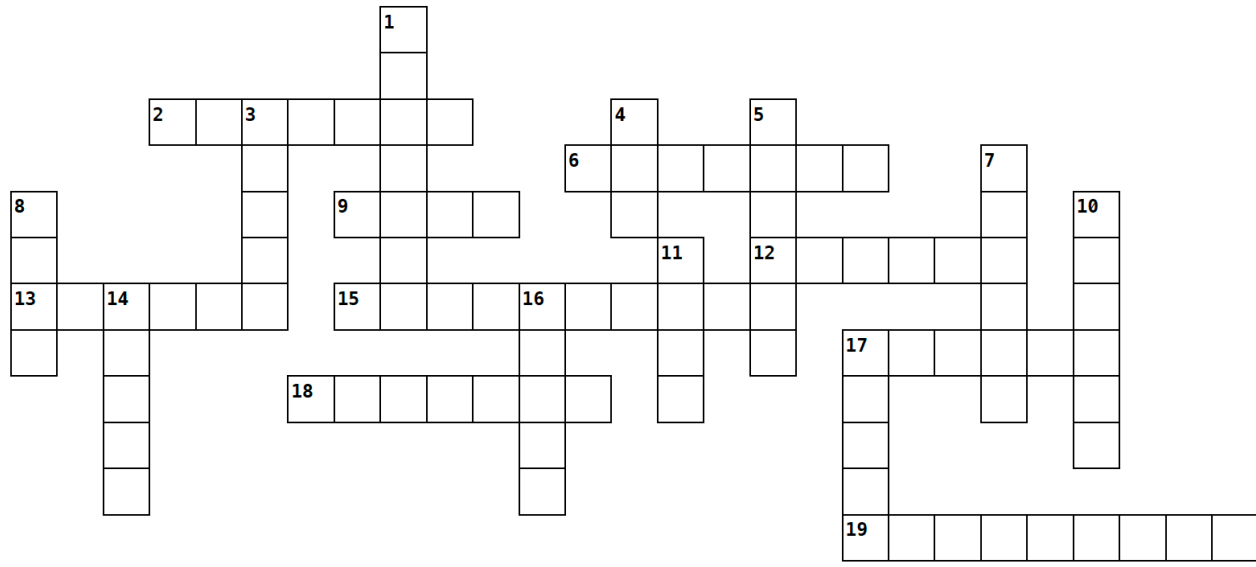
Lynn was of Methodist faith. A teacher at heart, she made her 30-year career in education at Barr-Reeve Schools, and North Spencer Schools for 29 years.

It was said she had a great love for her students; attending her daughters' sporting events; the beach and Disney World; and possessed a love of outdoors. Survivors include her husband, Trevor; daughters, Miranda Keller, Grace Keller, and Annie Keller; siblings, April (Greg) Clark and Bob Wagner; and nieces and nephews, R.J. Wagner, Josh Wagner, and Cassie Nusbaum.

Lynn was preceded in death by her parents, and one niece, Chelsea Wagner. Graveside services are Wednesday, July 16th, at 11:00 a.m., at Goodwill Cemetery, in Loogootee.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Isaiah 117 House Spencer-Perry County, or North Spencer Community Action Center. Blake Funeral Home, in Loogootee, handled the arrangements.

## 2025 WNBA All Star Game Puzzle



### Across

- 2. The name of the late Head women's basketball coach at The University of Tennessee
- 6. The first name onown for her three point baskets in college and at the Liberty
- 9. The first name of the basketball coach at Connecticut
- 12. The last name of the Tennessee player who dunked in the NCAA Tournament
- 13. The first name of the basketball player now transferred to Maryland
- 15. The last name of a Notre Dame basketball legend
- 17. The first name of an Iowa Six-on-Six basketball legend
- 18. Clark
- 19. A girls' basketball game once played in the state of Iowa

### Down

- 1. The top female basketball player in Indiana University history
- 3. The last name of the basketball coach at Indiana University
- 4. She now plays for the Seattle Storm but once played for the Indiana Hoosiers
- 5. The last name to a rich basketball family, played at USC, brother played at Indiana
- 7. The nickname of a star player for the New York Liberty
- 8. The last name of the Indiana Congressman from Indiana who paved the way to allow Title XI to take shape
- 10. A basketball team once playing in Houston
- 11. The first name of the basketball coach at South Carolina
- 14. Angel
- 16. Cameron
- 17. A groundbreaking female basketball commentator for ESPN

## Sudoku #1

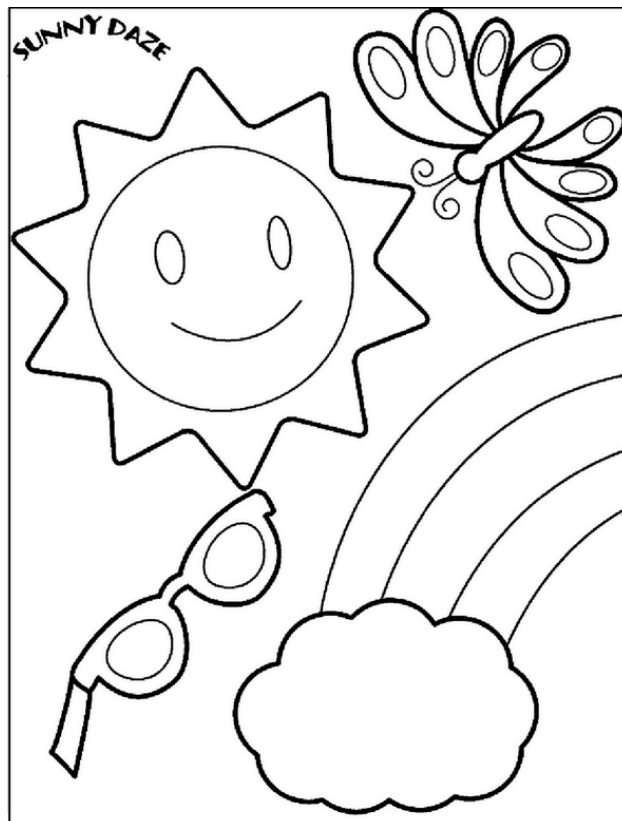
2		5			7			6
4			9	6				2
				8			4	5
9	8			7	4			
5	7		8		2		6	9
			6	3			5	7
7	5			2				
	6			5	1			2
3			4			5		8

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Fill in the blank squares so that each row, each column and each 3-by-3 block contain all of the digits 1 thru 9.

If you use logic you can solve the puzzle without guesswork.

Need a little help? The hints page shows a logical order to solve the puzzle. Use it to identify the next square you should solve. Or use the answers page if you really get stuck.



# Huge 2 Family Moving Sale in Burns City Furniture, Tools, Home Interior & More

Burns City residents are gearing up for a major community event this weekend, as a large two-family moving sale is set to take place on Friday and Saturday. The sale promises a wide variety of items, attracting both residents and visitors looking for bargains and unique finds. The event will be held at the Abney property in Burns City, with hours scheduled from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, and from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday. Organizers are emphasizing that there will be something for everyone, making it an ideal opportunity for families, collectors, and anyone interested in household goods.

Among the items available are various furniture pieces, tools, home interior pictures, kitchen items, and more. Notably, the sale features two toolboxes, each containing several tools, catering to DIY enthusiasts and professional handymen alike. Additionally, there will be two electric tables, which are expected to attract interior designers, crafters, and those in need of versatile furniture. Community members are encouraged to mark their calendars and take advantage of the extensive offerings. The event is seen as an excellent opportunity for residents to declutter and find new treasures, all while supporting local property owners. The Abney property has become a focal point of activity this week as preparations for the sale are underway. Organizers have expressed enthusiasm for the turnout and the community spirit the event is expected to generate.

## CLOSING HEADLINES

### Bo Wilson Retires From The City of Loogootee

Bo Wilson has now retired from his role as Utility Supervisor in the city of Loogootee. He would periodically give updates during county town hall meetings. In a statement on Facebook, the City of Loogootee government wrote in a statement Thursday:

"Today marks the end of an incredible chapter for the City of Loogootee as we celebrate the last full-time workday of our Utility Superintendent, James Bo Wilson.

After 37 years (tomorrow) of unwavering dedication, hard work, and service to our community, he is retiring and stepping into a well-earned new chapter. From early mornings to late nights, rain, shine, or snow, he has worked tirelessly to keep Loogootee running smoothly — often behind the scenes, but always at the heart of it all. Please join us in thanking Bo for nearly four decades of commitment to our city. Your leadership, knowledge, and dedication will be greatly missed!! Enjoy every moment of retirement — you've earned it!!

### Neighbors in Loogootee & The Surrounding Areas report skunk issues:

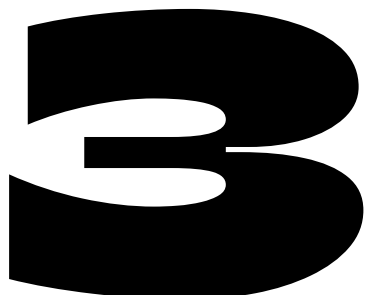
In Loogootee and nearby communities, skunk encounters have become a common concern among residents. Local homeowners report increased sightings, especially near residential areas and gardens, leading to fears of property damage and disease transmission. Environmental experts suggest that urban expansion and habitat encroachment contribute to these incidents. Community discussions emphasize the importance of humane deterrent methods and public education on coexistence strategies. Authorities are encouraging residents to report skunk activities to monitor

and manage populations effectively. Addressing these issues requires a collaborative effort among residents, local officials, and wildlife professionals to ensure safety and ecological balance.

### Let's Pray For a Good Week:

"Heavenly Father, thank you for this new week and the opportunity it brings. Please guide my steps, strengthen my resolve, and fill my heart with joy and peace as I navigate the week ahead. Bless my weekend with rest, renewal, and time for reflection. May your love be evident in all I do. Amen

CAN YOU SPOT THE



DIFFERENCES?

