

"A SMALL TOWN  
NEWSPAPER WITH  
A BIG LION HEART"

# The Loogootee Times

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braydynlents09@gmail.com

VOLUME I EDITION VII • LOOGOOTE, INDIANA'S TOP NEWSPAPER, WEDNESDAY EDITION • AUGUST 6, 2025 • FREE

## WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

From all of us at *The Loogootee Times*, we wish all parents, students, and teachers a safe and happy start to the 2025-26 academic school year at all *Loogootee Community Schools* heading back to school today!

## Severe Rain Causes Flooding in Loogootee & Southwest Indiana

Written by Braydyn Bear-Lents

LOOGOOTE, Ind. — More than 2 inches of rain dumped on southwest central Indiana Wednesday, sparking flooding in several areas, including the town of Loogootee. Meteorologists say the downpour, accompanied by training storms expected to continue into the evening, has raised concerns about ongoing flooding.

Residents are advised to exercise caution and obey road closure signs. Authorities warn against driving through floodwaters, which can be misleading and dangerous.

Residents also captured images of the floods and shared them on social media. Many of the photos showed water standing near local residences, towns, and businesses, as residents are forced to use caution when travelling on the roads tonight.

Mike Holt, a local resident, posted a photo of rising waters near his home, noting that flooding continues to escalate. Officials report that St. Mary's Road near the former St. Mary's Catholic Church has begun to flood, with waters surpassing two feet in some places and spilling over past County Road 150 North.

Emergency services are monitoring the situation and stand ready to respond as needed.

Emergency management agencies have issued alerts, urging residents in flood-prone areas to stay alert and

avoid unnecessary travel until waters recede. Floodwaters are impairing visibility and making travel hazardous. Authorities are assessing the severity of the flooding, coordinating rescue efforts, and reminding residents to prioritize safety and stay informed through official channels.

This event underscores the importance of preparedness during severe weather. The National Weather Service in Indianapolis has extended the Flash Flood Warning for all of Martin & Daviess Counties until 12:30 a.m. tomorrow morning, Tuesday, August 5. More rain is expected for tomorrow with severe thunderstorms possible then it should be clear until Saturday, August 9.

Residents should keep updated on forecasts and heed warnings issued by local officials.

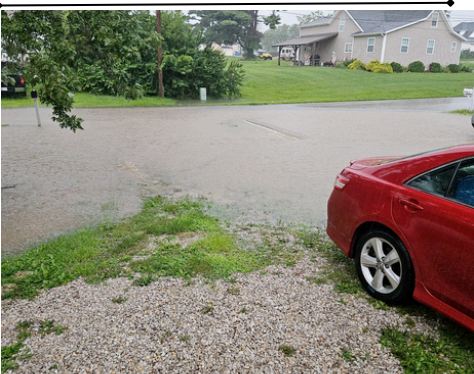


Photo via Mike Holt/Facebook



Photo via Paul Douglas Brassine of the flood on St. Mary's Road in Loogootee/Facebook

## Road closure planned for U.S. 231 in Martin and Daviess County

MARTIN/DAVIESS COUNTY Ind. – The Indiana Department of Transportation announces a road closure for U.S. 231 in Martin and Daviess County.

Beginning on or around Monday, August 11, crews will close U.S. 231 near Loogootee and Crane. This closure will occur between I-69 and U.S. 50.

This road closure will allow for a chip and seal road maintenance project to be completed. Work is anticipated to take a week to complete, depending on the weather.

The official detour for this project is I-69 to U.S. 50. Local traffic will have access during this closure. Local traffic will utilize a flagger.

## Loogootee Christian Church Hosting Free Community Dinner on August 7

LOOGOOTE, Ind. — The Loogootee Christian Church will host a free community dinner on Thursday, Aug. 7, from 6 to 8 p.m. The event will take place at the church, located at 206 Sherman Street.

Attendees can enjoy a variety of dishes, including sandwiches, salads, sides, desserts, and drinks, all provided free of charge.

The church invites everyone in the community to come out for a night of good food and fellowship.

POSTAL PROCEDURES  
THE USPS ANNOUNCES  
HOW THE LOOGOOTE  
POST OFFICE WILL BE  
HANDLING PACKAGES

3-VEHICLE ACCIDENT  
A CAR ACCIDENT TOOK  
THE LIFE OF A  
LOOGOOTE WOMAN  
AND THREE OTHERS IN  
A COLLISION

GEORGE STRAIT  
TRIBUTE  
WITH THE UPCOMING  
CONCERT ON AUGUST  
29, NEW DETAILS  
EMERGE ON THE EVENT

BACK TO SCHOOL  
DRIVING SAFETY TIPS  
DAVIESS COUNTY  
ADVISES EVERYONE TO  
STAY SAFE DURING  
BACK TO SCHOOL TIME



# Loogootee Post Office Reopens: New Package Pickup Procedures

LOOGOOTE, Ind. — The Loogoote Post Office reopened in late June after a period of closure due to a tornado on March 15. Now, the Loogoote United States Postal Service (USPS) has issued a new update regarding package pickup procedures for residents.

The Post Office has announced that the office in Loogoote is now operational, with normal services continuing to resume gradually. However, customers are advised to exercise patience during this transition period as staff work to transfer operations back to the window pick-up area inside the office.

According to the USPS, the mail window at the post office remains closed at this time. Residents can now retrieve all mail and packages

from their PO boxes located at the Loogootee facility. This marks a significant change from previous arrangements, as there is no longer a pickup option at the Washington location.

For residents requiring assistance with certified mail, signature confirmation, or oversized packages, the USPS has set up dedicated hours. The office will be staffed from Monday to Friday, between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Customers needing help are advised to knock on the door during these hours.

USPS officials emphasized that the situation might change day by day, urging residents to stay informed about any updates to the service schedule. Customers are encouraged to plan accordingly and stay in touch with the local office for the latest information.

The reopening of the Loogootee Post Office is a welcome development for residents who rely on the facility for their mailing needs. The USPS has assured the

community that efforts are underway to restore full service as quickly as possible. For more information or assistance, residents can visit the post office directly during staffing hours or check for updates on the USPS website.

# Loogootee Woman Killed in Daviness County 3-Vehicle Crash – Latest News

DAVISS COUNTY, Ind. — Police in Daviess County are investigating a fatal crash that involved a FedEx truck that collided with another vehicle before striking an individual on a moped. According to the Daviess County Sheriff's Office, the three-vehicle accident happened at the intersection of State Road 257 and U.S. 50 around 4:41 p.m. Thursday, July 31. The sheriff's office said the initial investigation showed Gina Graber, of Loogootee, was driving a Ford SUV eastbound on U.S. 50 when a collision occurred at the intersection of U.S. 50 and S.R. 257 between her and a FedEx truck driven by Daniel Altmeyer, of Huntingburg, traveling southbound on S.R. 257. Single-vehicle wreck leaves one injured in Daviess Co. The collision resulted in the FedEx truck hitting a moped stopped on the south side of the intersection, said the sheriff's office. The driver of the moped-

was identified as Jake Kuykendall, of Olney, Illinois.

“As a result of the collision Mr. Kuykendall was thrown from the moped. He was transported to Daviess Community Hospital and then transferred to a hospital in Evansville where he passed away during the night. Mr. Kuykendall’s family has been notified,” said the Daviess County Sheriff’s Office.

# Martin County Truck & Tractor Pull Set for August 15– 16 at Fairgrounds

Mark your calendars for the annual Martin County Truck & Tractor Pull, happening August 15 and 16 at the Martin County 4-H Fairgrounds & Event Center, in Loogootee. The action kicks off Friday night August 15th at 7 p.m. with antique tractor pulls, featuring multiple weight classes and speed divisions. Saturday night's competition begins at 6 p.m. and includes farm stock classes, diesel pickups, and the popular "run-what-you-brung" division. Admission is \$10 for general entry, with pit passes also available for \$10. Kids 5 and under get in free. Concessions

will be available, and adult beverages will be sold. For more event information, contact Dan Wagler at 812-617-5286.



# NSWC Crane Hosts Open House for Local Schools

INDIANAPOLIS — The Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) Crane is inviting middle and high school students to its upcoming Open House event, scheduled for September 18, 2025. The event aims to engage young students with hands-on activities that showcase the main areas of the Crane facility.

The Open House will feature exciting, interactive lessons designed to inspire interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Participants will have the opportunity to explore various aspects of military technology and innovation through immersive experiences.

Educators are encouraged to bring their classes to attend one of two available sessions. The first session runs from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m., while the second takes place from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Each session will provide a unique opportunity for students to learn about the cutting-edge work conducted at NSWC Crane.

"We are excited to open our doors to the community and provide students with a glimpse into the world of defense technology," said a spokesperson for NSW Crane. "This event is designed to inspire the next generation of engineers and scientists and we're looking forward to seeing all the creative ideas and questions

questions from participants."

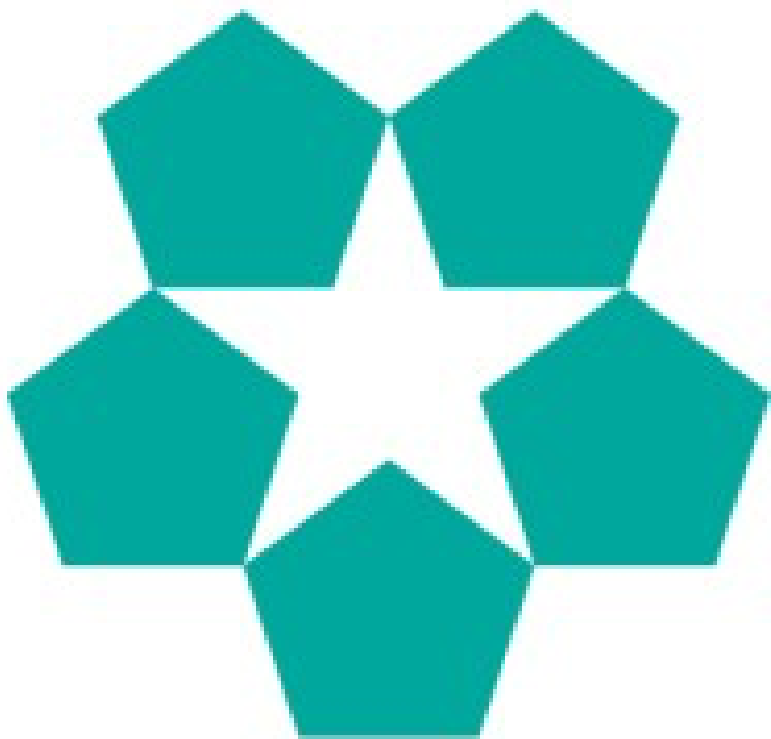
Teachers planning to bring a class are advised to register in advance, indicating the number of students attending to ensure adequate accommodations. For example, if a teacher plans to bring 55 students in the morning, they should select the 9 a.m. session and specify 55 as the quantity needed during registration.

Please note that lunch will not be provided during the event. Teachers are encouraged to ensure students are prepared accordingly.

Registration for the Open House can be completed online, with spots

spots allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. The event underscores NSWC Crane's commitment to community outreach and STEM education.

For more information or to register, educators and students can visit the NSW Crane official website or contact the event organizers directly.



# Paragon Force Company is Hiring 3D Printing Designer

Love turning ideas into reality?

Obsessed with precision and cool 3D designs?

Ready to work on aerospace and defense projects that actually make an impact?

Paragon Force is looking for YOU!

We're hiring an Autodesk Inventor CAD Drafter to join our team. If you can draft like a pro, collaborate like a champ, and want to see your designs take flight (literally), this is your next career move.

What's in it for you?

- Work on real DoD projects that matter
- Use your Autodesk Inventor skills every day (Windchill experience = bonus points!)
- Competitive pay, solid benefits, and a great team
- Secret clearance required (or able to obtain)

If you've got 5+ years of CAD drafting experience and want to design the future, send us your resume!

Email your resume to: [apply@paragonforce.com](mailto:apply@paragonforce.com)

## July lives up to its hot reputation; Duke Energy offers tips to save energy and money

PLAINFIELD, Ind. – July is typically the month when Hoosiers experience the hottest weather. And with soaring temperatures closing out this July, Duke Energy has tips to help you take control of your energy use while keeping you and your family cool.

Tips to save energy and money

- Set your thermostat to the highest comfortable setting. Even a couple of degrees can help save energy and money. Keep in mind: Your system will run longer – using more energy – the hotter it is outside even if your thermostat setting never changes.
- Use cooler water for washing clothes. Switching your temperature setting from hot to warm can cut a laundry load's energy use in half.
- Run heat-producing appliances during cooler morning hours for additional savings.
- Close curtains and blinds on the sunny side of your home to help prevent the sun from heating your home.
- Operate ceiling fans in a counterclockwise direction in the summer, which pushes cooler air back down into the room.

Savings programs and incentives

- Get a free home energy assessment. Duke Energy customers receive free energy-efficiency products, customized usage report, low-cost tips and expert recommendations to help them see energy savings by signing up for our free [Home Energy House Call](#).
- Need an upgrade? Customers can take advantage of rebates for equipment like HVAC systems, hot water heaters and pool pumps as well as upgrades like attic insulation through our [Smart Saver program](#).
- Get paid for shifting energy use. Customers can receive a credit on their bill for automatically shifting their energy use to times when demand for



***The photo (above) was photographed by Briana Rae Wagler, via Facebook, showing her residence being flooded during the Monday, August 4 storm that caused significant flooding throughout the Martin and Daviess County areas between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. Eastern Standard Times. St. Mary's Road, past County Road 150 North, was flooded due to the storm that night. Crews worked tirelessly to restore the area earlier this morning and last night.***

## Local Obituaries

### Joseph H. Schlaegel (1939-2025)

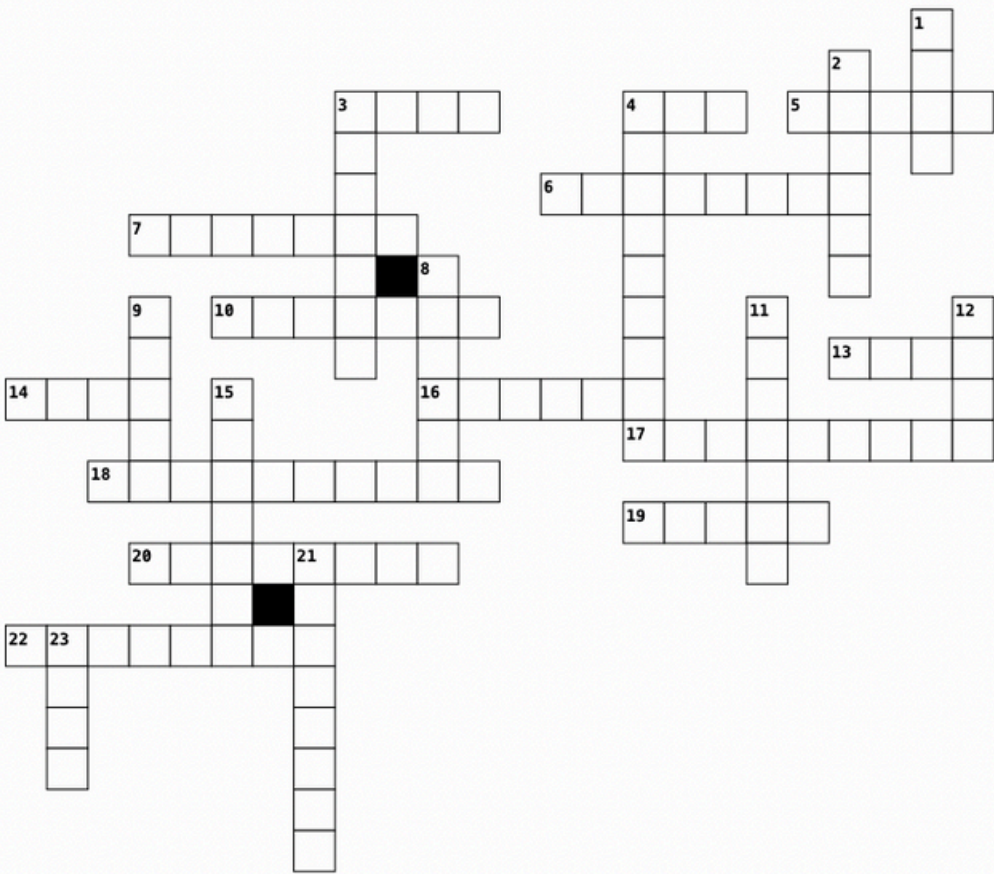


January 12, 1939 - August 3, 2025  
Joseph H. "Joe" Schlaegel, 86, of Shoals, formerly of Chillicothe, Ohio, passed away on Sunday, August 3, 2025 at Sycamore Care Strategies in Loogootee.  
Born January 12, 1939, in Massieville, Ohio, he was the son of Joseph P. And Edith (Lewis) Schlaegel.  
Joe married Norma Jean Knisley on May 16, 1962 and she preceded him in death on January 26, 2015.  
He graduated from Bainbridge High School with the class of 1957.  
Joe was a veteran of the United States Navy, retiring after over 20 years of service and worked at the VA Hospital in Chillicothe, Ohio, retiring after over 20 years.  
He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and camping.  
Surviving are his children,

Rev. Mike (Becky) Schlaegel, of Shoals, and Robert Schlaegel, of Chillicothe, OH; Five grandchildren, Mystery (Seikura) Burton, Hailey Schlaegel, Eli (Hannah) Schlaegel, Destiny Schlaegel, Aubrey (Zach) Baker and Kimberly Schlaegel; several great-grandchildren; one sister, Mary Speakman; and several nieces and nephews.  
He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Norma Jean; son, Joseph "Bub" Schlaegel Jr.; daughter-in-law, Tonya Schlaegel; granddaughter, Samantha Schlaegel; and sisters, Julia Shepler and Martha Limley.  
Visitation will be from 4-7 P.M. on Wednesday, August 6, 2025 at the Queen-Lee Chapel of George Funeral Care.  
Funeral service will be at 2:00 P.M. on Friday, August 8, 2025 at the Mingo Road Church of Christ in Christian Union (Plug Run Church), 1586 Mingo Road, Chillicothe, Ohio 45601 with Rev. Gary Heimbach officiating. Visitation will be from noon until the service hour on Friday at the church. Burial will follow in the Twin Township Cemetery.  
Online condolences may be shared with the family at [www.queenlee.com](http://www.queenlee.com).  
Arrangements in Shoals are under the direction of the Queen-Lee Chapel of George Funeral Care and arrangements in Chillicothe, Ohio are under the direction of the Ware Funeral Home.  
To order [memorial trees](#) or send flowers to the family in memory of Joseph H. Schlaegel, please visit our [flower store](#).



Loogootee Community Schools Puzzle

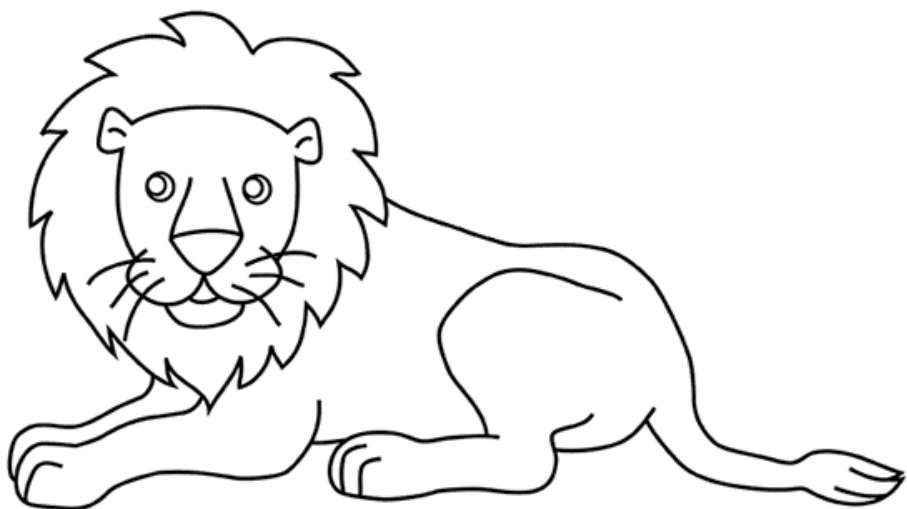


Across

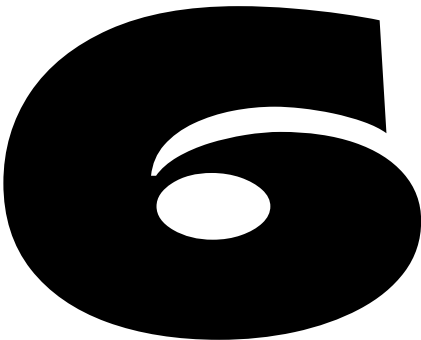
- 3. Buther
- 4. the name of the side served at Dairy Master's
- 5. Master's
- 6. the name of an activity that is not included to play at Loogootee High School athletics
- 7. our rivals from North Daviess High School
- 10. the former head coach of the Loogootee Lions basketball team
- 13. on the back of a lion
- 14. Smith
- 16. the name of the school with the mascot being a Greyhound
- 17. the city of \_\_\_\_\_, Indiana
- 18. an activity made famous across the state of Indiana
- 19. our mascot at Loogootee High School
- 20. think of Bloomington High School South

Down

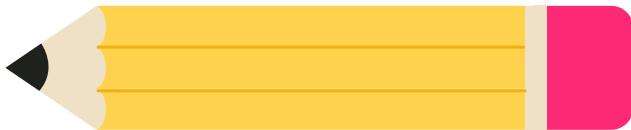
- 1. Lady
- 2. another former head coach at the Loogootee Lions
- 3. our rivals from Shoals High School
- 4. the name of an activity played at Loogootee Elementary School
- 8. a writing utensil
- 9. the name of the basketball court
- 11. the last name of the baseball coach at Loogootee High School
- 12. the old color of North Daviess High School back in the day
- 15. our rivals from Barr Reeve High School
- 21. the book you need to carry around throughout class to class
- 23. the name of a former teacher at Loogootee High, think of Mr. Herm



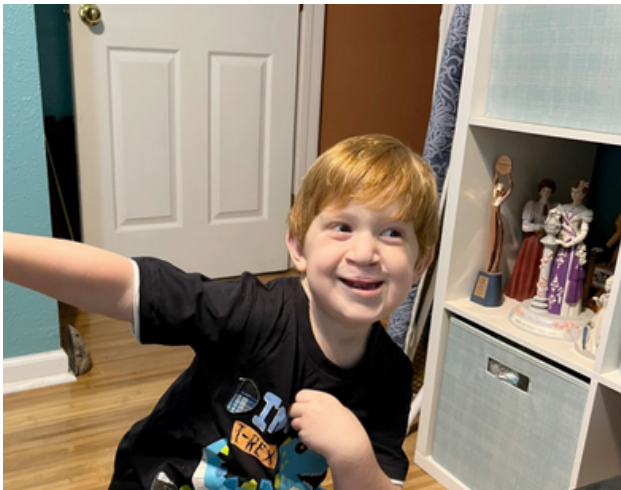
CAN YOU SPOT THE



DIFFERENCES?



# Vote Tucker for National Toddler of The Year



LOGOOTE, IN — Tucker, a resident of this small Indiana town, has made his mark on the national stage by entering the National Toddler of the Year contest, hosted by the nonprofit organization Colossal.org. This initiative not only highlights the charm and talents of toddlers but also serves a greater purpose: advocating for those in need.

Colossal.org, registered as a professional fundraiser, aims to inspire individuals to advocate for themselves and their communities. Through various online competitions such as Toddler of the Year, the organization provides participants with a platform to shine while raising awareness about important causes.

Tucker, was selected as a contestant after his grandmother submitted a video showcasing his adorable antics and charming personality. “We are so proud of Tucker,” said his grandmother.

The National Toddler of the Year contest not only focuses on the charisma of the toddlers

toddlers but also encourages participants to engage in social advocacy. Each contestant has the opportunity to raise funds for a cause they are passionate about. Tucker's family has chosen to support a local food bank, aiming to raise awareness of food insecurity in their community.

“My great-grandson should be toddler of the year.” His great grandmother said, “He has an awesome personality for a 4 year old. Born with double cleft palate. He’s amazing.”

Voting for the contest occurs online, with participants encouraging friends, family, and community members to cast their votes. The winner will be announced at a virtual event later this year, where they will receive recognition and prizes that support their chosen cause.

The contest has garnered attention from families across the country, fostering a sense of community and support. With exceptional candidates like Tucker competing, the excitement and anticipation surrounding the event are palpable. As the contest progresses, Tucker's family remains hopeful and engaged, looking forward to raising both awareness and funds for their chosen charity. The Toddler of the Year contest exemplifies how fun, competition, and philanthropy can intertwine, making a positive impact on local communities and beyond. For more information on the contest and to follow Tucker's journey, visit Colossal.org.