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NEWSPAPER WITH
A BIG LION HEART"

The Loogootee Times

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VOLUME I EDITION XVI • LOOGOOTEE, INDIANA'S TOP NEWSPAPER, WEDNESDAY EDITION • NOVEMBER 5, 2025 • FREE

Multiple Arrests Made After a Child Molestation Investigation

Martin County, Ind. The Martin County Sheriff's Office initiated a criminal investigation in May of 2025 after receiving information that Patrick Cox, 24, of Washington Indiana, and Neveah Brown 18, of Loogootee Indiana, allegedly molested a child. Martin County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Ryan Hawkins and Shoals Town Marshall Matthew Copeland initiated the investigation after receiving an anonymous tip. Multiple interviews were conducted including interviews with Brown and Cox where Cox ultimately confessed to a number of crimes. Search warrants were requested through the Martin County Prosecutor's Office for cell phones belonging to Cox and Brown and was granted by Honorable Judge Wright-Ryan. During a search of Cox's phone several images of suspected child pornography were located along with evidence of additional crimes and victims along with another suspect of a separate crime. Sergeant Hawkins submitted probable cause affidavits to the Martin County Prosecutors Office and arrest warrants were issued for Cox and Brown. While searching the cell phone belonging to Cox, Sergeant Hawkins located further evidence and communication with Marie Austin, 28, of Sullivan, Indiana. Sergeant Hawkins completed a report of the results and sent it to . detectives with the Indiana State Police – Putnamville District. ISP Detectives filed charges and arrested Marie Austin, and recommended

USG Shoals Plant Marks 70 Years of Innovation, Community Service, and Sustainability



SHOALS, Ind. — For seven decades, the USG Shoals plant has stood as a pillar of economic growth, community involvement, and innovation in southern Indiana. Established in 1954 and beginning full production in 1955, the plant has grown from a modest one-board operation to a sprawling facility employing approximately 260 workers from the local area. This year, as the company celebrates Manufacturing Month, leaders are reflecting on both the plant's legacy and its evolving mission. "USG Shoals has been a prominent employer here for some time, obviously, and has a long history of giving back to this community, not just in Martin County, but in the other surrounding counties as well," said Dakota Rogers, senior manager at USG, in a recent interview. "We've done work through donations, volunteering time, and getting involved with the Manufacturing Alliance and the chamber. That's been a big focus of ours." The plant's history is intertwined with the region's rich gypsum deposits, which have fueled its growth

and sustained its operations. Over the years, USG Shoals has become more than just a manufacturing hub; it is now a driving force behind local educational programs, economic development, and sustainability initiatives. A Focus on Sustainability Sustainability has been woven into USG's operations for decades. According to Rogers, the company began working with coal-fired power plants in the late 1980s and early 1990s to repurpose byproducts for manufacturing wallboard, a move that kept tons of material out of landfills and set an industry standard. "Instead of sending all that material to landfill, we started bringing that into our plants," Rogers said. "Today, most wallboard companies have taken on that same technology, which has displaced a ton of material that was going to landfill." Recent efforts include reducing the weight of wallboard, which lowers transportation emissions, and converting the plant's mining operations from diesel to electric equipment. "We're working on converting our mining operation, which historically has been very diesel-focused, to electrification," Rogers explained. "In the future, all of our rock hauling will be done using batteries. That's pretty exciting, and a huge diversion

of that carbon that is used in the use of diesel." National Reach, Local Roots Though headquartered in Shoals, the plant's reach is national. USG Shoals supplies products to commercial, residential, and retail markets across the United States—and occasionally internationally—serving projects as high-profile as the new Upload Bull Stadium. The plant is also one of the few in the company to manufacture products for the manufactured housing industry and gypsum-based ceiling tiles. "On any given year, we ship to all 50 states, and we do ship some product, although very minimal, across the border," Rogers said. "It's exciting to see that the products we manufacture right here in southern Indiana are used in major projects all over the U.S." Investing in the Future Workforce USG Shoals' commitment to the next generation goes beyond job creation. The plant partners with local schools to create pathways for students to explore careers in manufacturing, hosting career fairs, classroom presentations, and mock interviews. Rogers called it "one of the most rewarding parts of my job" to watch local high school graduates grow into plant leaders. "Over the course of time, whether that be three, five, or ten years, we see them getting into supervisory roles and even department manager positions," Rogers said. The company also offers \$500 scholarships annually for employees' children and up to \$10,000 a year in educational assistance for employees seeking further training. Safety and Operational Excellence Safety is paramount at USG Shoals. Each day begins with a safety huddle and

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Information on Dubois County Commissioner's Meeting

Written by Contributor Jim Arvim

To the Editor,

I applaud Chad Blessinger for standing up publicly and stating his opposition to the Mid-States Corridor. Does this mean that Commissioners Hostetter and Stenftenagel are still in favor of the project? It would be great if the whole Board of Commissioners voted to drop out of the Mid-States Corridor RDA? Remember, this is possible as membership is voluntary and membership requires financial support from the tax payers.

I noticed that Ms. Kyanne Wheeler's time savings answer was another misrepresentation of the facts. Mr. Blessinger asked what are "...the benefits specifically for Dubois County residents, [Ms.] Wheeler cited travel time savings as the primary advantage. The project would generate "over 300,000 hours of travel time savings annually within the 12-county study area...". Does this mean there will 25,000 hours annually, or 68 hours/day, for just Dubois County? This is the type of razzle-dazzle that is so common from INDOT, the Lochmueller Group and the

Mid-States Corridor RDA spokespeople. Also, note that Ms. Wheeler cited travel time savings as the primary advantage, not connectivity, lower congestion, freight movement or access to multi-modal destinations.

The cost of the project through Dubois County is now estimated at \$1.1 billion, without land acquisitions. Let's not forget that the proposed project is 54 miles long and only 22 miles are in Dubois County. The next longest stretch, close to 20 miles, is through Martin County; and Martin County like Dubois County can ill afford more highway maintenance. The cost alone is getting to be a reason for all our elected officials to vote no to the RDA and end the Mid-States Corridor.

Saying J-turns and a high speed divided highway are safer than a lower speed, 2-lane highways is preposterous. The safest way to cross a 4-lane high speed highway is via an over/underpass. The next safest is a traffic signal. Having to cross multiple lanes of fast moving traffic to make a U-turn is not safe. Highway engineers/professionals should know this

STEVE DECKARD, SHOALS
NEWS EDITOR, WINS
PHILANTROPIST OF THE
YEAR IN 2025
PAGE 2

MARTIN COUNTY POLICE
& EMT REPORTS
PROVIDED BY THE
MARTIN COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

BARR REEVE IS SET TO
GO TO THEIR FIRST
STATE CHAMPIONSHIP
IN VOLLEYBALL SINCE
2020

OBITUARIES
WEEKLY OBITUARIES
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CONT.D Mid States Corridor
 , it's just plain common sense.

"Despite individual commutes potentially adding a minute and a half each way, the overall model still shows net travel-time savings, according to INDOT." Who are they trying to kid? A minute and half each way amount to half of the 3 minutes savings as reported in their latest Report. Once again showing the disdain and total lack of candor on the part of Ms. Wheeler and INDOT.

It's good that the Commissioners are starting to ask the hard questions and that at least some of them are attending the informational meetings around the community. It would behoove all of our elected officials to attend these meetings and even more important get out and ask their constituents about the Corridor project. Unless they all get out of their echo chambers they will never know what the people of the County want.

Thank you Chad Blessinger.

Jim Arvin
Rutherford Township
Martin County

CONT.D Child
and recommended the Federal Bureau of Investigations investigate the case further. On October 8, 2025 the US Marshalls transported Patrick Cox and Marie Austin to federal prison to await trial on federal charges.
CHARGES:
Patrick Charles Cox
State Charges:
Child Molesting - Level 1 Felony
Conspiracy to commit Child Molesting - Level 1 Felony
Rape (X3) – Level 3 Felony
Conspiracy to commit Rape – Level 3 Felony
Promotion of Sexual Trafficking of a Younger Child – Level 3 Felony
Vicarious Sexual Gratification – Level 3 Felony
Child Exploitation; Possession of Child Sex Abuse Material (X19) – Level 4 Felony
Sexual Misconduct with a Minor - Level 4 Felony
Child Solicitation – Level 4 Felony
Sexual Battery – Level 6 Felony

Failure to register as a sex offender – Level 6 Felony
Federal Charges:
Conspiracy to commit Sexual Exploitation of a minor
Sexual Exploitation of a Minor (X3)
Possession of Child Pornography
Penalties for Registered Sex Offender
Neveah Brown
State Charges:
Aiding in Child Molesting – Level 1 Felony
Conspiracy to Commit Child Molesting – Level 1 Felony
Aiding in Rape – Level 3 Felony
Conspiracy to Commit Rape – Level 3 Felony
Aiding in Vicarious Sexual Gratification – Level 3 Felony
Promotion of Sexual Trafficking of a Younger Child – Level 3 Felony
Aiding in Sexual Misconduct with a Minor – Level 4 Felony
Aiding in Child Solicitation – Level 4 Felony
Criminal Confinement – Level 5 Felony
Aiding in Sexual

Battery – Level 6 Felony
Obstruction of Justice – Level 6 Felony
Marie Dawn Austin
State Charges:
Child Exploitation (X2)
Federal Charges:
Conspiracy to commit Sexual Exploitation of a minor
Sexual Exploitation of a Minor (X3)
Distribution of Child Pornography
This is an ongoing joint investigation with the Martin County Sheriff's Office, the Indiana State Police, and the Federal Bureau of Investigations. We suspect to file more charges on additional suspects as it relates to this case as the investigation proceeds. The Martin County Sheriff's Office would like to thank the tipster for making the communities a safer place and making a difference. We would also like to remind everyone that anonymous tips can be made on the Martin County Sheriff's .

App and will be investigated by our deputies and or sent to appropriate agencies

CONT.D USG Career Day
stretching exercises, and the plant has a robust incident investigation process to ensure continuous improvement. "We have a robust incident investigation process that we put in place to make sure that, using continuous improvement principles, when we have an incident here—where an employee either gets hurt or, even better, where there's a near miss—we take the opportunity to investigate what happened, get to a root cause, and then attack that root cause with corrective action," Rogers said. The plant's focus on automation has removed "dull and dirty jobs," allowing workers to transition into more challenging, engaging roles without reducing overall headcount. "Our head count has increased over the years, and it's just a different type of work," Rogers noted. A Tradition of Giving Back

Community engagement remains at the heart of USG Shoals. Through USG's Give Local program, the plant donates \$5,000 annually to local charities, with employees recommending recipients. Since 2018, beneficiaries have included the Martin County Historic Society, Martin County Community Foundation, local robotics clubs, playgrounds, and the sheriff's department. "It's rewarding because that program isn't just decided by management, but every associate here has an opportunity to recommend a charity that they feel is deserving," Rogers said. "It's pretty heartwarming to see how many of our folks are involved with local sports teams or robotics." As USG Shoals looks to the future, leaders say the plant's commitment

to innovation, sustainability, and community will remain central to its mission. "We have many years of the future rock available, and we've got projects like this all across the country," Rogers said. "We're always looking at the next technology —how do we like automate our operations to remove some of those dull and dirty jobs that people don't want to do, and transition into jobs that people can use their brains, get involved, and troubleshoot." For more information about career opportunities at USG Shoals, visit usg.com/careers.



Steve Deckard Honored as Philanthropist of the Year at Martin County Community Foundation Dinner

Steve Deckard, publisher of the Shoals News and lifelong Martin County resident, was presented with the Philanthropist of the Year Award last night at the Annual Martin County Community Foundation Dinner. During his speech, Deckard had this to say about the foundation...

Deckard was a founding board member of the Foundation Board 26 years ago and has served on a variety of boards for six decades in Martin County. Curt Johnson presided over his last dinner as Executive Director of the Foundation, as he will be retiring this year. While

recounting the lifelong friends and the impact the foundation has had on him, Johnson said this year the organization will top over 1 million dollars in contributions back to the betterment of Martin County. Those in attendance heard about major improvements at the Shoals Park and Little League and the Loogootee Little League that would not have been possible without the help of the foundation. From scholarships to departments to improvements to the West Boggs Beach House, the Shoals Overlook Park, and pickleball courts, the Foundation has

had a fantastic year giving back to the Martin County community. Around 150 people attended last night's dinner at the Community Center.



PHOTO of Steve Deckard receiving the Award For Philathropist of the Year via WRZR 94.5 FM/Facebook

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SPORTS

IHSAA volleyball state tournament: State championship schedule, scores, coverage

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (IndyStar) [Gainbridge Fieldhouse](#) will make its debut as host of the IHSAA volleyball state championships Saturday.

Here are the pairings and schedule, plus information on tickets and how to watch.

News: [IHSAA volleyball state finals moving from Muncie to Indianapolis, Gainbridge Fieldhouse](#)

Insider: [Volleyball state finals return to Indy felt inevitable. Reaction is nearly all positive](#)

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP MATCHES

Nov. 8

Need a news break? [Check out the all new PLAY hub with puzzles, games and more!](#)

CLASS A: Faith Christian (31-4) vs. Trinity Lutheran (22-11), 11 a.m.

CLASS 2A: Benton Central (27-5) vs. Barr-Reeve (32-5), 1:30 p.m.

CLASS 3A: Fort Wayne Bishop Dwenger (20-8) vs. Roncalli (32-5), 4:30 p.m.

CLASS 4A: FW Carroll (36-0) vs. Plainfield (29-5), 7 p.m.

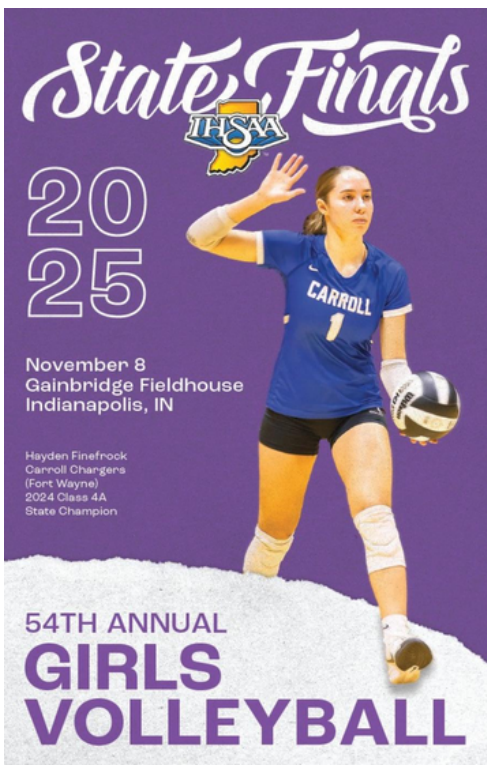
Tickets

\$20 per person. General admission seating. All tickets are digital only through your mobile phone and may be purchased via Ticketmaster.com (service fees apply) or in person at the Gainbridge Fieldhouse Box Office. Purchased tickets will be sent as mobile tickets to the purchaser's smart phone and that verification should be shown at the admission gate.

How to watch finals on IHSAAtv.org IHSAAtv has apps available for iPad and iPhone, as well as Roku, Amazon Fire, Android TV and AppleTV devices. If you

own one of these, search for IHSAAtv in the appropriate app store.

Matches are pay-per-view: \$20 per game or \$25 for an all-access pass.



Barr Reeve Volleyball Moves On To The State Championship Game Nov. 8

BEDFORD, Ind. - [Barr-Reeve](#) extended their winning streak to six games thanks to a huge performance from [Hallie Knepp](#). The Vikings put the hurt on the [Triton Central Tigers](#) with a sharp 3-0 victory on Saturday for which the team can thank Knepp, who had 30 assists and nine digs. She is on a roll when it comes to assists, as she's now posted 16 or more in each of the last 25 games she's played.

Barr-Reeve's win bumped their record up to 32-5. As for Triton Central, they moved to 25-9 with that loss, which also ended their ten-match winning streak.

Coming up, after both having extra time off, Barr-Reeve and Benton Central will shake off the cobwebs and hit the court against one another at

1:30 p.m. on Saturday. Triton Central season is over as the Barr-Reeve volleyball defeated Triton Central 3-0 to capture their first semi-state title since 2020.

The Vikings will play Benton Central in the 2A State Championship. The match will be on Saturday, November 8th, at 1:30 p.m. ET at Gainbridge Fieldhouse.



Photo ABOVE via Kylie Schepers Photography/Facebook at Loogootee Regionals Championship. Photo BELOW via Barr Reeve Volleyball/Facebook



Martin County & Courts

Monday, October 27, 2025

8:16 a.m.- Received an accidental 911 call.

9:44 a.m.- Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 and Loogootee Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Deaconess Memorial Hospital in Jasper.

10:22 a.m.- Received a call requesting a Vehicle Identification Number check East of Loogootee. Deputy Clark responded.

11:39 a.m.- Received an accidental 911 call.

12:18 p.m.- Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 and Loogootee Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Deaconess Memorial Hospital in Jasper.

12:37 p.m.- Received a call requesting to speak with Marshal Copeland. Marshal Copeland responded.

1:42 p.m.- Received a call requesting a deputy in Shoals. Marshal Copeland responded.

3:02 p.m.- Received an animal complaint in Loogootee. Deputy Clark responded.

3:54 p.m.- Received a call advising of a vehicle repossession South of Shoals.

4:06 p.m.- Received a call requesting a deputy West of Shoals. Deputy Clark responded.

4:14 p.m.- Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 and Medic 3 responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Daviess Community Hospital.

7:42 p.m.- Reserve Deputy Dorsey on station with Donald Erwin, a 52-year-old male from Shoals, arrested by Marshal Copeland for Resisting law enforcement with a motor vehicle and Resisting law enforcement. He is being held on \$10,000 10% bond.

10:06 p.m.- Received a call requesting a welfare check in Loogootee. LPD Officer Stuckey responded.

10:21 p.m.- Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance North of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 and Medic 3 responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Greene County Hospital.

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

12:20 a.m.- Received a report of a reckless driver on US 231N traveling South into Loogootee. LPD Officer Stuckey responded.

12:41 a.m.- Received a report of a water tower gushing

water in Loogootee. Loogootee Utilities was notified.

1:26 a.m.- Received a 911 call reporting a car-deer accident South of Loogootee. Major Reed and Big John's Towing responded.

3:23 a.m.- Received a call from WH International advising of a commercial burglar alarm in Loogootee. LPD Officer Stuckey responded.

7:04 a.m.- Received a report of a controlled burn North of Loogootee.

7:05 a.m.- Received a 911 call reporting a stoplight malfunction South of Loogootee. Chief Deputy Keller and INDOT responded.

8:04 a.m.- Received a report of an abandoned vehicle in Shoals. Captain Gibson and Big John's Towing responded.

8:33 a.m.- Received a report of a car-deer accident North of Loogootee. Chief Deputy Keller responded.

8:50 a.m.- Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 and Shoals Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Deaconess Memorial Hospital in Jasper.

9:34 a.m.- Received a call requesting a Vehicle Identification Number check North of Shoals. Sergeant Hawkins responded.

9:56 a.m.- Received a call requesting a vehicle unlock in Loogootee. Captain Gibson responded.

10:25 a.m.- Sergeant Hawkins transported one inmate to court.

10:34 a.m.- Received a call requesting assistance Northeast of Shoals. Captain Gibson responded.

1:55 p.m.- Sergeant Hawkins transported one inmate to court.

4:09 p.m.- Received a call requesting to speak with a conservation officer. Indiana Conservation Officer Mann responded.

4:45 p.m.- Received a call requesting a deputy South of Shoals. Sergeant Hawkins responded.

5:12 p.m.- Received a call requesting a Vehicle Identification Number check in Loogootee. LPD Officer Stuckey responded.

7:25 p.m.- Received a report of trespassers in Shoals. Indiana Conservation Officer Mann responded.

7:54 p.m.- Received a 911 call requesting a welfare check in Loogootee. LPD Officer Stuckey responded.

9:23 p.m.- Marshal Copeland on station with Justin Smith, a 25-year-old

water in Loogootee. Loogootee Utilities was notified.

1:26 a.m.- Received a 911 call reporting a car-deer accident South of Loogootee. Major Reed and Big John's Towing responded.

3:23 a.m.- Received a call from WH International advising of a commercial burglar alarm in Loogootee. LPD Officer Stuckey responded.

7:04 a.m.- Received a report of a controlled burn North of Loogootee.

7:05 a.m.- Received a 911 call reporting a stoplight malfunction South of Loogootee. Chief Deputy Keller and INDOT responded.

8:04 a.m.- Received a report of an abandoned vehicle in Shoals. Captain Gibson and Big John's Towing responded.

8:33 a.m.- Received a report of a car-deer accident North of Loogootee. Chief Deputy Keller responded.

8:50 a.m.- Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 and Shoals Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Deaconess Memorial Hospital in Jasper.

9:34 a.m.- Received a call requesting a Vehicle Identification Number check North of Shoals. Sergeant Hawkins responded.

9:56 a.m.- Received a call requesting a vehicle unlock in Loogootee. Captain Gibson responded.

10:25 a.m.- Sergeant Hawkins transported one inmate to court.

10:34 a.m.- Received a call requesting assistance Northeast of Shoals. Captain Gibson responded.

1:55 p.m.- Sergeant Hawkins transported one inmate to court.

4:09 p.m.- Received a call requesting to speak with a conservation officer. Indiana Conservation Officer Mann responded.

4:45 p.m.- Received a call requesting a deputy South of Shoals. Sergeant Hawkins responded.

5:12 p.m.- Received a call requesting a Vehicle Identification Number check in Loogootee. LPD Officer Stuckey responded.

7:25 p.m.- Received a report of trespassers in Shoals. Indiana Conservation Officer Mann responded.

7:54 p.m.- Received a 911 call requesting a welfare check in Loogootee. LPD Officer Stuckey responded.

9:23 p.m.- Marshal Copeland on station with Justin Smith, a 25-year-old

9:45 p.m.- Received a call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 and Medic 3 responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Deaconess Memorial Hospital in Jasper.

9:51 p.m.- Received a 911 call requesting an officer in Shoals. Marshal Copeland and Deputy Clark responded.

9:52 p.m.- Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 2, Medic 3 and Loogootee Fire Department responded. Medic 2 transported one patient to IU Health in Paoli.

10:59 p.m.- Received a 911 call requesting a deputy in Shoals. Major Reed responded.

Wednesday, October 29, 2025

1:16 a.m.- Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance North of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 and Shoals Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Deaconess Memorial Hospital in Jasper.

7:00 a.m.- Received a 911 call from a Dubois County address. Transferred the call to Dubois County 911.

12:10 p.m.- Received a request for a welfare check in Loogootee. LPD Chief Wagoner and LPD Reserve Captain Hunt responded.

12:12 p.m.- Received a call requesting a Vehicle Identification Number check North of Shoals. Sergeant Hawkins responded.

2:55 p.m.- Knox County on station with Regina Campbell, a 39-year-old female from Vincennes, arrested on a Martin County warrant. She is being held without bond.

5:28 p.m.- Received an accidental 911 call.

5:36 p.m.- Received a call from Indiana Recovery Services advising of a vehicle repossession in Loogootee.

6:13 p.m.- Received a 911 call reporting a verbal dispute in Loogootee. Deputy Branham and Deputy Clark responded.

6:59 p.m.- Received a call requesting officers in Crane Village. Deputy Branham and Deputy Clark responded.

7:11 p.m.- Received a report of harassment in Loogootee. LPD Chief Wagoner and Marshal Copeland responded.

7:23 p.m.- Received a call requesting a vehicle unlock in Loogootee. Major Reed responded.

8:05 p.m.- Received an accidental 911 call.

10:22 p.m.- Marshal Copeland on station with Matthew Guthrie, a 46-year-old male from Loogootee,

arrested on six counts of Intimidation, Domestic battery-prior, Disorderly conduct, and Criminal mischief. He is being held without bond.

Thursday, October 30, 2025

8:00 a.m.- Received a report of a possible traffic hazard in Loogootee. LPD Chief Wagoner, LPD Officer Purcell and LPD Officer Reynolds responded.

8:19 a.m.- Received a report of a car-deer accident North of Loogootee. Captain Gibson responded.

11:00 a.m.- Chief Deputy Keller transported two inmates to court.

11:54 a.m.- Received a report of an injured deer Northeast of Shoals. Captain Gibson responded.

1:03 p.m.- Received an accidental 911 call.

1:51 p.m.- Corporal Erwin transported two inmates to court.

1:55 p.m.- Received a call requesting a Vehicle Identification Number check in Loogootee. LPD Chief Wagoner responded.

3:59 p.m.- Received a call requesting a vehicle unlocked in Shoals. Captain Gibson and Marshal Copeland responded.

5:09 p.m.- Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance North of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 3, Loogootee Fire Department and Martin County Coroner Abel responded.

6:18 p.m.- Received a call requesting a vehicle unlocked in Shoals. Deputy Branham responded.

7:06 p.m.- Received a report of a reckless driver on US 231N traveling South. Deputy Branham responded.

7:16 p.m.- Received a report of a commercial fire alarm East of Shoals. Keyholder advised to disregard.

Friday, October 31, 2025

4:01 a.m.- Received a 911 call advising of a traffic hazard North of Loogootee. Deputy Nash responded.

4:36 a.m.- Received a report of a reckless driver on US 231N traveling North. Notified Daviess County.

4:38 a.m.- Received a 911 call from an Orange County address. Transferred the call to Orange County 911.

7:47 a.m.- Received a call from WH International advising of a residential burglar alarm in Loogootee. LPD Chief Wagoner responded.

10:44 a.m.- Received a call advising the nursing homes in Loogootee will be testing fire alarms today.

10:48 a.m.- Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 responded and transported one patient to Deaconess Memorial Hospital in Jasper.

11:38 a.m.- Received a call from Life Alert requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 2 and LPD Chief Wagoner responded. Medic 2 transported one patient to Deaconess Memorial Hospital in Jasper.

12:37 p.m.- Received a 911 call from a Lawrence County address. Transferred the call to Lawrence County 911.

3:03 p.m.- Received a report of a scam in Loogootee. Deputy Branham responded.

3:13 p.m.- Received a report of property damage in Loogootee. LPD Chief Wagoner responded.

3:53 p.m.- Received a report of a reckless driver on US 50 traveling West. Deputy Branham responded.

5:00 p.m.- Received a report of a trespasser in Loogootee. Deputy Branham responded.

6:41 p.m.- Received a call requesting extra patrol in Loogootee. LPD Officer Stuckey was advised.

Saturday, November 1, 2025

2:50 a.m.- LPD Officer Stuckey on station with Andrea Brinkworth, a 32-year-old female from Shoals, arrested for Operating a vehicle while intoxicated-endangerment and three counts of Neglect of a dependent. She is being held on \$15,000 10% bond.

10:29 a.m.- Received a report of a controlled burn in Loogootee.

2:09 p.m.- Received a report of a brush fire Northwest of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department responded.

3:04 p.m.- Received a call requesting a vehicle unlocked Southwest of Shoals. Corporal Erwin responded.

5:08 p.m.- Corporal Erwin on station with Cody Major, a 31-year-old male from Bloomfield, arrested for Driving while suspended-prior and Resisting law enforcement. He is being held on \$10,000 10% bond.

5:23 p.m.- Received a call requesting a deputy in Loogootee. Corporal Erwin responded.

6:49 p.m.- Received a report of a disabled vehicle Northeast of Shoals. Corporal Erwin responded.

10:39 p.m.- Received a call requesting a deputy South of Loogootee. Deputy Branham and LPD Officer Stuckey responded.

Sunday, November 2, 2025

1:36 a.m.- Received a 911 call from a Loogootee address.

CONT.D Martin County Arrest & EMT

LPD Officer Stuckey and Deputy Branham responded.
8:46 a.m.- Received a 911 call reporting a limb in the roadway South of Shoals. Corporal Erwin responded.

2:29 p.m.- Received a report of a reckless driver in Loogootee. Advised all on-duty units.
2:52 p.m.- Received a call from Dubois County advising of a reckless driver on US 231S traveling North. Advised all on-duty units.

2:56 p.m.- Received a 911 call reporting a reckless driver on US 231S traveling North. Advised all on-duty units.

3:13 p.m.- Received a request for an ambulance South of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Corporal Erwin and Big John's Towing responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Daviess Community Hospital.

5:46 p.m.- Received a report of a possible stolen mini bike, North of Shoals. Deputy Clark responded.

Loogootee Methodist Church Food Pantry to Open Wednesday Evening

LOOGOOTEE, Ind. — The Loogootee Methodist Church food pantry will be open this Wednesday evening from 6 to 6:30 p.m. in an effort to better serve the community's needs. The pantry, which primarily supports working parents who find it difficult to visit during regular hours, aims to provide convenient access to essential goods.

Church officials encourage families to bring their children to the church's Pioneer Club while visiting the food pantry. This initiative allows parents to pick up groceries without having to miss program activities for their kids.

"We understand the busy schedules of working families," said Pastor Jane Doe. "Opening the pantry on Wednesday evening offers a flexible option for them to access the resources they need without the constraints of a traditional schedule."

The pantry operates as part of the church's ongoing outreach efforts to support the local community. It offers non-perishable food items, toiletries, and other necessities. The church regularly updates its inventory to meet the evolving needs of residents.

Community members are encouraged to take advantage of the new Wednesday evening hours.

LOCAL OBITUARIES

brought to you by Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee, Ind.

Doris Jean Baker
October 11, 1934-
November 2, 2025



Doris Jean Baker, 91, of Loogootee, Indiana, passed away peacefully with her family by her side on November 2, 2025 at Sycamore Strategies Nursing Center in Loogootee, Indiana. Born in Loogootee on October 11, 1934, she was the beloved daughter of Ernest and Dorothy Hembree. On January 31, 1952, Doris married Malcom G. Baker. Doris lived with a deep, unwavering faith in Jesus, and she demonstrated that faith through her compassionate care for others.

Doris dedicated herself to hard work throughout her life, initially supporting her family through various jobs. However, her true passion was babysitting, which she loved most of all. She took much joy in cooking for her family. Doris never turned anyone away from her kitchen table and always believed the best of people. She loved being outdoors, gardening, and celebrating the Christmas holiday. She was long time member of the Alfordsville Assembly of God. Truly, Doris was much loved, respected and a remarkable woman.

Doris was preceded in death by her parents, one infant son, Mark Stephen Baker; siblings: Denny & Ernest Jr. (Bubby) Hembree, and Linda Fleck. She will be lovingly remembered by her husband of 72 years, Malcom; children: Gene (Debbie) Baker of Alfordsville and Kevin (Donna) Baker of Loogootee; 5 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great grandchild; Siblings: Louise Dyal, Patricia (Ruthie) Kidwell, Karen (Tom) Wade, Joan (Pat) Kluesner, Herb Hembree, Chester (Patty) Hembree, Kenny (Janet) Hembree, Mark (Darlene) Hembree, Brenda Marks, Cheryl (Doug) Sult, and David (Bryan) Hembree; several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held on Monday, November 10, 2025 at 11:00 AM at Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee with Pastor Paul

Hyatt to officiate. Family and friends may visit Monday from 9:00 AM to 10:45 AM at the funeral home. Burial to follow at Alfordsville Community Cemetery Alfordsville, Indiana. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Alfordsville Assembly of God. Condolences may be made online at www.blakefuneralhomes.com Blake Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Doris Baker.

Julia P. Wilz
August 3, 1954-
November 2, 2025

Julia P. Wilz, 71, of Loogootee, Indiana passed away on Sunday, November 2, 2025 at Poplar Care Strategies in Loogootee, IN.

Julia was born on August 3,1954, in Jasper, Indiana to the late Hugh and Patricia Renneker.

Julia was a member of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church. She was a lifelong lover of flowers. Julia spent much of her life working with local flower shops, including her own shop, Julia's Flowers. Her gentle spirit and the beauty she brought into the world will forever bloom in the hearts of those who knew her.

Julia is preceded in death by her parents, Hugh and Patricia Renneker, her children, Shane Wilz and Jennifer Wilz, and her sister, Ellen Renneker.

She is survived by her son, Bob (Mandy) Wilz.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by the Very Rev. J. Kenneth Walker at 1:00 P.M Thursday, November 6, 2025, at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church.

Visitation will be held at the church on Thursday, November 6, 2025, from 11:00 A.M to 1:00 P.M prior to the Mass. Burial will follow in Oak Grove Cemetery in Washington, Indiana.

Online condolences can be made at www.blakefuneralhomes.com

Blake Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Julia Wilz.

To send a flower arrangement in memory of Julia P. Wilz, please [click here to visit our sympathy store](#).

To plant Memorial Trees in memory of Julia P. Wilz, please [click here to visit our sympathy store](#).

Michael Joseph Smith
July 7, 1952- November
1, 2025



Michael Joseph Smith, 73, of Loogootee, Indiana passed away on Saturday November 1, 2025, at his home. His is survived by his son, Shawn (Debbie) Smith; grandchildren: Noah, Addison, and Jackson Smith.

He was born on July 7, 1952, in Washington, Indiana to James R. Smith Sr. and Betty (Huey) Smith. Michael is preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Ellen Smith; brothers: James R. Smith Jr. and Jeffrey A. Smith.

Surviving siblings: Mary Jane Edmiston and Mark D. (Kathy Havill-Smith).

Funeral services will be held on Wednesday November 5, 2025, at 11:00 A.M. at Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee, Indiana, with the Very Rev. J. Kenneth Walker to officiate. Burial will follow in St. Martin Cemetery.

Friends may visit on Wednesday November 5, 2025, from 9:00 A.M until the time of service at 11:00 A.M at the funeral home.

Blake Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Michael Joseph Smith.

Online condolences can be made at www.blakefuneralhomes.com

To send a flower arrangement in memory of Michael Joseph Smith, please [click here to visit our sympathy store](#).

To plant Memorial Trees in memory of Michael Joseph Smith, please [click here to visit our sympathy store](#).

THE LION SHOUTOUT!

LMS “Mane” Trait, Pay It Forward!

Pay It Forward!

At Loogootee, we believe that paying it forward builds a community rooted in kindness, generosity, and compassion. Every action, word, and attitude matters — they have the power to uplift others and create positive change. Remember, the one who gives grows just as much as the one who receives.



Pictured: Sydnee Salmon, Harry Richer, Nicolas Helderman, Asher Hayes
Congratulations!

CONT.D Food Pantry
The pantry's limited opening time aims to maximize convenience while allowing staff to manage resources effectively. For more information, residents can contact the Loogootee Methodist Church at (123) 456-7890 or visit their website. The church remains committed to assisting those in need and fostering a supportive community environment.

Loogootee Elementary School November Students of The Month

LES November Students of the Month

'Mane' Trait = Pay It Forward

Students of the Month

Congratulations to our Students of the Month for October! These students were nominated by their teachers for having this month's "Mane" Trait of a Lion

"PAY IT FORWARD"

Freshman:
Abbi Bradley

Sophomore:
Isabella Welker

Junior:
Reed Brittain

Senior:
Dax Lee

Loogootee Middle School Staff 2025-26



Easy

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

Expert

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

Master

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

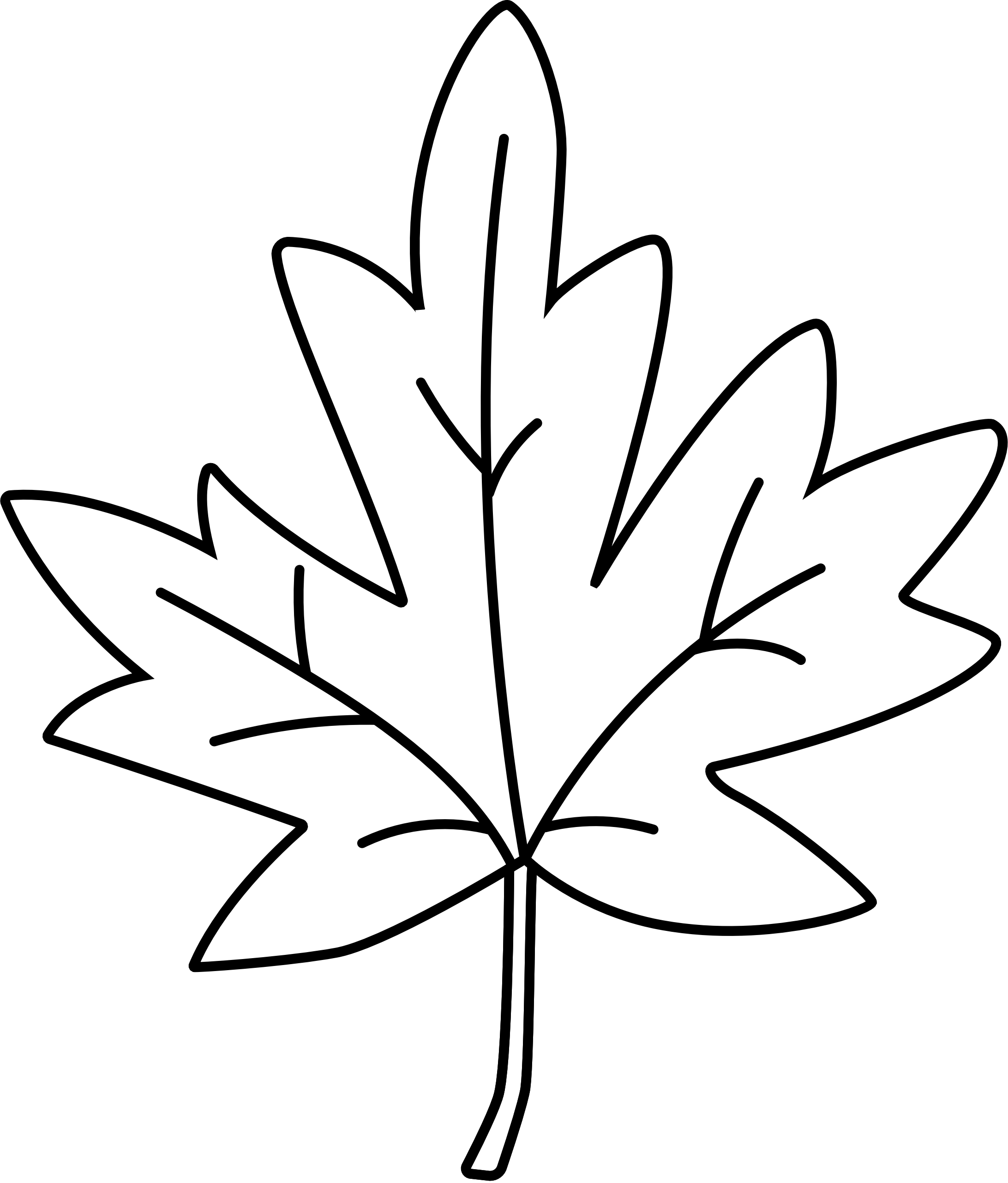
Sudoku.com 11/05/2025

Download the original **Sudoku.com** mobile application and play thousands of Sudoku puzzles anytime, anywhere!



Google Play

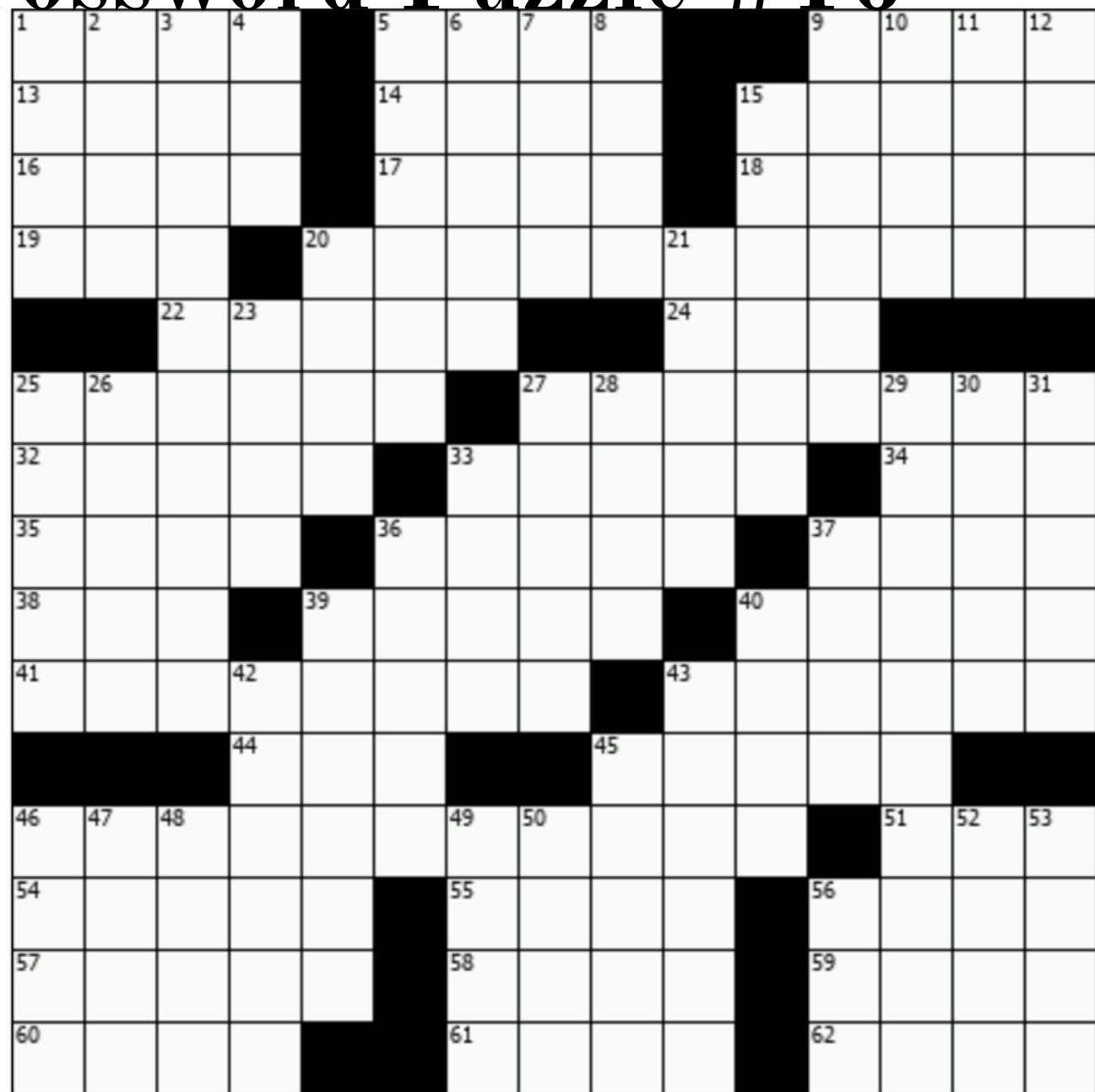
App Store



Crossword Puzzle #16

Across

1. A Connors' rival
5. "The Shadow" star Baldwin
9. Graft recipient
13. Word in a pay-per-view event, perhaps
14. Skywalker cohort
15. Donnybrook
16. Sport fisherman's catch
17. Telephone button
18. Idle and Roberts
19. Commandments chest
20. Canine's canine?
22. New Day divider
24. "We Three Kings of Orient ____"
25. Play boisterously
27. Rhodes sight
32. Perform community service, perhaps
33. Jingles
34. ____-Magnon
35. Some island souvenirs
36. Emulates Ederle
37. Plus or minus, e.g.
38. Country singer Davis
39. Shoe finish
40. Luster
41. Tasting the air
43. Mite-sized
44. "____ Heldenleben" (Strauss piece)
45. Funk of Funk & Wagnalls
46. Fashionable doggy?
51. Biblical matriarch
54. Salon solution
55. Rhymester
56. Knocked off a dragon
57. Seasonal workers
58. Slippery trees?
59. Colonial governor Thomas



Down

1. '70s pop quartet
2. Head for the heavens
3. Canine laryngitis?
4. Short tabloid subjects
5. Distribute into groups
6. Yoga position
7. Distinctive flair
8. Extension extension
9. Protagonists
10. Miscellany
11. Denominational offshoot
12. "Live at Red Rocks" pianist
15. Underground railways of Paris and D.C.
20. It's famous for its rapid transit
21. Type of pitch
23. Ages
25. Settles
26. Mr. T's gang
27. Signaling
28. "That's a new one ____!"
29. Experimental pooch?
30. Strong impulses
31. Heavyweight Liston
33. Mattress size
36. They're under the patellae
37. Queens diamond?
39. Playground staples
40. Seal in the juices
42. Microscope parts
43. Fly over the equator?
45. Knickknacks
46. Arduous journey
47. Ruffle some feathers
48. A deadly sin
49. Blunted weapon
50. Certain car payment
52. Pinto rival of old
53. Wide-spouted jug
56. Carter of classic TV
60. Piano pieces?
61. Where or wise starter
62. Way up a hill