

## It's Pretty Simple, Indiana Wins. Google It!

The Indiana Hoosiers Are Your 2025-26 College Football National Champions



MIAMI (AP) — A historic season for Fernando Mendoza ended with a [national title](#).

The Heisman Trophy winner didn't have his best statistical game Monday night, but he came up big when it mattered. He completed 16 of 27 passes for 186 yards and ran the ball six times, one of which was for a pivotal 12-yard touchdown.

Offensive momentum slowed for Indiana in the third quarter and the Hoosiers punted three times. Mendoza had zero passing yards and was

sacked three times. Early in the fourth, the Hurricanes cut a game-long deficit to three points after a 3-yard rushing score from [Mark Fletcher Jr.](#)

But then Mendoza rose to the occasion. He led the Hoosiers on a 12-play, 75-yard drive. He converted two crucial fourth downs, hitting Charlie Becker for an improbable 19-yard reception on a 4th-and-5, and less than a minute later, ran the ball in for a 12-yard touchdown on a 4th-and-4.

It wasn't an easy trip into the end zone. Jakobe Thomas and Wesley

Bissainthe collided with Mendoza hard enough for him to nearly topple over. But he caught himself with his hand. With Ahmad Moten Sr. on his tail, and Mohamed Toure and Xavier Lucas closing in, the 6-foot-5 quarterback used every inch to arch over into the end zone.

"I'll die for my team," Mendoza said. "Whatever they need me to do, they need me to take a shot to the front or back, I'm going to die for my team out there because I know they'll do the same thing for me. That's what makes this national

championship so special." It was the type of play that has surprised competitors all season long. Mendoza, known as a pocket passer, can weave through a defense on foot better than most would expect. He averaged 3.4 yards per carry this season, and including the title game, has rushed for seven TDs. Coach Curt Cignetti said the play was installed specifically for this game. "We put it in for this game," Cignetti said after Indiana claimed its first national title. "It was a quarterback draw, but it was blocked differently. And we

rolled the dice and said they're going to be in (the same defense) again. We blocked it well, he broke a tackle or two and got into the end zone." The Hurricanes responded with a touchdown on the ensuing drive, but Mendoza responded accordingly. He found Becker for a near-identical 19-yard catch on a critical third down. It extended the drive long enough to give Indiana the chance to convert a 35-yard field goal and take a 27-21 lead. On the next drive, Jamari Sharpe picked off

Miami quarterback Carson Beck to ice the game. Mendoza did it all in front of Raiders owner Mark Davis, general manager John Spytek and minority owner Tom Brady — all in attendance at Hard Rock Stadium. If the Raiders use their No. 1 pick on Mendoza, he would become the sixth quarterback to win the Heisman, national championship and be drafted first overall.



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# Balancing Community Rights – ACLU's Strong Arming in Loogootee, Indiana 2

As hostility in Loogootee, Indiana, continues to escalate over the ACLU's recent legal challenge to the city's PrideFest, local conversations have shifted slightly away from traditional topics like the historic Indiana Hoosiers football journey to the College Football National Championship, high school basketball, or the high school band's activities. Instead, residents, particularly long-time residents, are increasingly frustrated with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and its perceived attempts to exert influence over their community.

Two weeks ago, the ACLU filed two lawsuits against the city concerning a new ordinance designed to prevent the annual Loogootee PrideFest from taking place in the public square. The organization

contended that this ordinance infringed upon First Amendment rights.

Previously, an ordinance similar in language was struck down as unconstitutional by the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana in August 2025. That ruling permitted the PrideFest to proceed, despite the city passing a new ordinance

containing many of the same provisions as the invalidated law.

Notably, the new ordinance included two provisions that the court had already declared

unconstitutional and issued injunctions against.

Ken Falk, the legal director of the ACLU of Indiana, emphasized the legal violations, stating, "Court orders must be obeyed, and Loogootee, by enacting an ordinance

leading to accusations of inconsistency—particularly regarding its efforts on LGBTQ+ rights and racial justice. Many in Loogootee had spoken that the ACLU is overly aggressive, accusing it of strong-arming communities through legal tactics that pressure local governments to cancel or alter events, often ignoring community preferences and fueling divisions.

This isn't a new pattern for the ACLU. In 2024, in response to community concerns, the city made logistical adjustments, allowing organizers of the Pride event to relocate to alternative venues, such as local parks and other downtown areas such as a new Green Space built just for events such as PrideFest. But this year, the situation appears different. The ACLU has explicitly cited Loogootee's a

with provisions already enjoined, is in contempt of lawful court orders. Furthermore, this ordinance continues Loogootee's pattern of attempting to unconstitutionally restrict celebrations of the LGBTQ+ community. We will continue to vigorously defend our clients' right to hold their event at their preferred location in the heart of Loogootee."

This controversy has significant implications for the city's future. The ACLU's history of defending free speech has included supporting controversial groups such as neo-Nazis and opposing legislation like the National Labor Relations Act, often citing free speech rights as justification. However, internally, the organization has faced debates over its focus areas,

actions in its legal filings, signaling ongoing conflict. Meanwhile, within the community, voices like Daniel P.—a resident who prefers to keep his identity private—offer a different perspective. Identifying as gay, P. expressed disappointment with the limited spaces for open expression beyond Pride-related events.

"I don't need a pride parade to be who I am, and I've never felt the need for one in Loogootee," he shared on a local news forum. "People know me, greet me at the store, and that's enough. My experiences abroad gave me the confidence to see my hometown not as a battleground but as home. I apologize to residents for the recent actions by the ACLU of Indiana, which seem to turn a non-issue into division."

P. also highlighted our reporting on the ongoing challenges the community faces regarding LGBTQ+ issues and how the city has responded to these challenges, referencing the Owen County PrideFest when Owen County commissioners proposed a "special events" ordinance with high security fees over \$1,500, with new rules and restrictions banning events on the courthouse square. After public outcry and revisions, this bill would pass in December 2019 amid controversy, closing courthouse restrooms during events and prohibiting square use, forcing organizers to adapt.

"This saga in Loogootee mirrors what happened in Spencer, Owen County, where a push for Pride events became a divisive tool that altered the community's fabric." He said, "Spencer Pride Festival began

modestly but grew, attracting thousands to the town of around 2,200." The event founders, Tim and Tracy Brown-Salsman, are the founders of a local LGBTQ+ club at the library and organizers of Pride events. The couple was the first same-sex married couple in Martin County, Indiana, who married in 2015 and celebrated what was then the last same-sex marriage legally performed in Indiana before the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark decision in June 2015 legalizing such marriages nationwide.

Having visited with Tim and Tracy at the old J&R Tool Shop's printing department at my uncle's house, I always described them as humorous and lively individuals who hold strong views about what Loogootee should be. Many residents, however, remain "set in their ways," with

little exposure to any LGBTQ+ individuals, despite some feeling at home within the community. I will say they were the first ever people I met who identified as LGBTQ+. That exposed me to a lot, including their framework and history; however, as their trophies shine, a city has to suffer with the weight of mounted legal pressure and public outcry. Earlier, we discussed how the ACLU has historically influenced communities by supporting marginalized organizations. The strong arming of communities has lasted decades and even a century and is happening again in Loogootee. For example, in 1943, the ACLU defended Jehovah's Witness children who refused to salute the American flag and won. It was a win for religious freedom but seen by some as disrespecting national symbols and patriotic duty.

In 1977, the organization also defended the rights of neo-Nazis to march in Skokie, Illinois—a town with many Holocaust survivors—by asserting First Amendment protections for all speech, including hateful speech. Yes, hateful speech. Many members of the Jewish community saw the ACLU's defense of the Nazis as a betrayal and an overreach.

Many residents yearn for more than silent acceptance—they desire the freedom to express themselves openly, but not include the ACLU, which would drown the city in more debt and in even more legal fees. Someone can eventually hold your event, but not at the expense of putting the city under fire when they don't have the manpower to put out the flames.

If Indiana beats Miami on Monday, Jan. 19, at the National Championship game, I would celebrate the victory in my home, with my friends, my family, or in my community with other Hoosier fans, but I would never include the ACLU in a long-term legal battle in any case because a city policeman said that I couldn't celebrate the win in the streets.

One example that hit me different in college was when Indiana University Social Work professor Jessica Adams delivered a presentation on White Supremacy. Instead of addressing concerns through the

appropriate channels within the Social Work school, a student reported the issue directly to a State Senator, leading to a massive investigation and a near-firing of the Professor. It is unfair to tarnish a professor's reputation over a controversial lecture. Regardless of the points of view, students have the right to discuss their concerns with faculty or request future revisions to the folk giving the presentation, but expressing frustration to a State Congressman is beyond inappropriate.

The demographics of Loogootee reflect a conservative, predominantly White community, with a median age of 40 and notable growth in the youth and senior populations—specifically a 16% increase in children and seniors aged 0-9, 20-29, and 60-69. According to the latest Census data, approximately 95% of residents are White, and 79% voted for President Trump

in 2024. Indiana, as a state, ranks poorly for LGBTQ+ residents, with only 5.4% of the population identifying as LGBTQ+. In this climate, the organizers have perceived their grievances by not voicing actions to Mayor Ader, or to anyone sitting on the board, including Attorney Teverbaugh, or even Mark McAtee. This behavior cannot continue in the city of Loogootee, and actions such as contacting the ACLU to advocate for Pride events in January, when more people are confident about other events in this month than the Pride event in September, are considered excessive or extreme. Such efforts often provoke strong reactions, with community members feeling that their local values and traditions are being challenged and ignored.

Despite these tensions, I believe in the power of speech. The community's pulse remains challenged, but I believe Loogootee in this case cannot back down.

They can prove to the state that they can support the needs of value and the wants to party, but in respects to many residents who remain resistant to change, feeling unexposed to LGBTQ+ individuals, others seek greater misunderstanding and acceptance. The ongoing legal battles and public debates highlight the profound divide and the challenge of balancing community values with individual rights. This community does not deserve this kind of treatment.

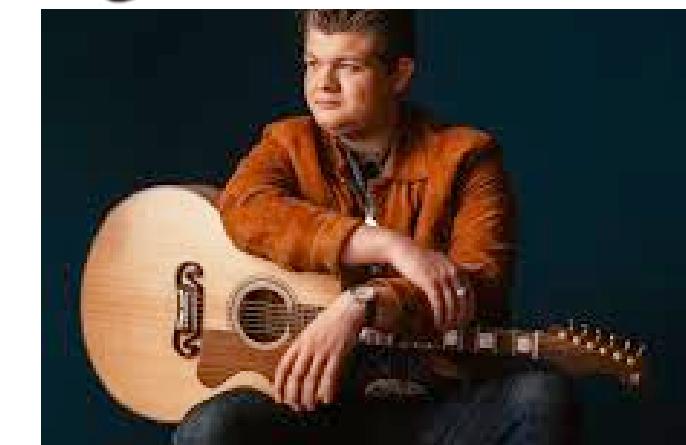
As the legal disputes continue and community conversations unfold, the future of Loogootee remains uncertain. The town's response to these conflicts will likely shape its identity moving forward, determining whether it can bridge the gap between tradition and progress or if division will deepen further.

Alex Miller is set to perform live at the 2026 Loogootee Summerfest on Friday, June 19, on the main stage in downtown Loogootee. The festival, scheduled from June 18 to June 20, promises a weekend full of entertainment. Miller's performance is one of the highlights of the event, which attracts visitors from across the region.

On Saturday night, June 20, the festival will feature the return of Dirty Deeds USA Extreme AC/DC Tribute. Fans of classic rock and high-energy tribute acts are encouraged to attend this popular event. The festival organizers anticipate a large crowd, eager to enjoy the music and festivities.

Loogootee Summerfest has become a staple in the community, offering a variety of entertainment, food vendors, and activities for attendees of all ages. This year's event aims to

## Alex Miller to Perform at 2026 Loogootee Summerfest Featuring Dirty Deeds AC/DC Tribute



The festival's location in downtown Loogootee provides a vibrant backdrop for the festivities. Local businesses extend their support, and the community looks forward to welcoming visitors. As the weekend approaches, preparations are underway to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone.

Music lovers and festival-goers are encouraged to mark their calendars and join the celebration. Whether attending for Miller's live performance or the return of Dirty Deeds, the 2026 Loogootee Summerfest is poised to deliver an unforgettable weekend of entertainment.

# Martin County Sheriff's Office Is Hiring: Full-Time and Part-Time Kitchen Cooks - Apply Now

The Martin County Sheriff's Office is currently seeking candidates for both full-time and part-time kitchen cook positions, according to a recent job advertisement. Interested applicants are encouraged to contact the office with any questions. A full application can be submitted through the company's mobile app or by visiting the office in person.

## MONTGOMERY RURITAN CLUB SHOOTING MATCH DATES FOR 2026

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026**  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026**

SOFT DRINKS AVAILABLE  
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FREE HAM & BEANS AND CORN BREAD FOR ALL

WORKERS ARRIVAL TIME - 11:45 AM to 12:00 PM

**12:15 P.M. HAM ROUNDS & BEEF SIGNUP**

**2:30 P.M. CLOSED BEEF MATCH**

12 Gauge Only (No Reloads)

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55th Annual Turkey Trot Festival Dates -- September 10<sup>th</sup> thru 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
ShootingMatch Updated Understandings & Events

\*All Shooters will be required to sign a Liability Release Form -- \*12 Gauge Shotgun Only -- Special Reminder -- Winchester AA Shells will be provided -- Positively No Carry-in shells -- Unlimited Stock -- Modified Guns Allowed -- \*Shells & Boards are Provided --

\*Ham Rounds - \$4.00 for one shot on Ham Rounds -- \*Money Rounds - \$5.00 for one shot on Money Rounds -- \*Beef Rounds - \$2.00 a shot - 5 shots minimum 1/2 shots maximum per board -- \*Shooting Distances - 35 yards on ham and money rounds, 47 yards on beef rounds -- Other Attractions - Scatter boards, \$2.00 a square for 6 & 12 shot coupons - Half the Pot Draw - Pull Tip Boards - For Shooting Match Information - Josh Miller - 812-259-5874 Andre Knepp - 812-787-1703 and Matt Wagler - 812-486-7890

Winter weather warning  coming! This is the time that will test your furnace. Get it cleaned and serviced or if it does go down and you need it fixed right away give us a call! 812-278-0746



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Friday Night		
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To the Editor,

There's a lot of information and activity regarding the Mid-States Corridor:

On WIBC's Kendall & Casey Show the Mid-States Corridor has been a hot topic since last week. They feature it daily.

INDOT announced they have canceled, postponed or reduced the scope of over 300 projects around the state, and are continuing to do so. However, the Mid-States Corridor has not been touched.

Huntingburg's City Council has stated they cannot afford to repair 4th Street where the pavers are causing trip and fall accidents.

The next Property Rights Alliance meeting will be Thursday, Jan 22 at 6pm at the Schnitzelbank. Hope to see you all there! Bring friends! Last week's meeting was a lulu! A big THANK YOU to all who came!

Jim



The Martin County Alliance for Economic Growth, Inc. wants to hear from You!

Our local Senior Center is preparing to launch new activities and seeks community input to ensure they align with residents' interests and needs. The center aims to introduce multigenerational programs, making this survey open to everyone.

Whether you are a senior, have a family member who attends, or simply want to support local initiatives, your feedback is valuable.

Please take a moment to complete our short survey at [https://SIDC.formstack.com/.../2026\\_senior\\_center](https://SIDC.formstack.com/.../2026_senior_center).

Your suggestions will help shape upcoming programs, including fitness classes, arts and crafts, social events, educational workshops, outings, and more.

Thank you for helping us create a vibrant, welcoming space for all community members.

## Lady Lions Senior Night Celebration at JBA at 6 PM Featuring #22 Avery Baker and Team



Tonight, the Lady Lions will celebrate their senior players. The team will host Senior Night at 6 PM at JBA, where fans are encouraged to cheer on #22 Avery Baker and the rest of the squad.

# SPORTS

## Loogootee Sports Schedules

BASKETBALL (BOYS FR) - EVANSVILLE CHRISTIAN (H) 1/21/2026 7:00 PM	BASKETBALL (BOYS 5 & 6) - SOUTH KNOX TOURNEY (A) 1/24/2026 9:00 AM
BASKETBALL (GIRLS 5 & 6) - HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL (H) 1/22/2026 6:00 PM	BASKETBALL (GIRLS 5 & 6) - BARR REEVE JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL (H) 1/24/2026 9:30 AM
BASKETBALL (BOYS 7 & 8) - HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL (A) 1/22/2026 6:00 PM	BASKETBALL (GIRLS 7 & 8) - WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL (H) 1/24/2026 10:00 AM
BASKETBALL (GIRLS V) - NORTHEAST DUBOIS HIGH SCHOOL (A) 1/22/2026 6:00 PM	BASKETBALL (BOYS JV) - BLOOMFIELD JR/SR HS (H) 1/24/2026 1:00 PM
BASKETBALL (BOYS FR) - SOUTH KNOX (H) 1/22/2026 6:00 PM	BASKETBALL (GIRLS V) - CROTHERSVILLE JR-SR HIGH SCHOOL (A) 1/24/2026 1:00 PM
BASKETBALL (BOYS JV) - SHOALS COMMUNITY JR-SR HIGH SCHOOL (A) 1/23/2026 7:30 PM	BASKETBALL (BOYS V) - BLOOMFIELD JR-SR HIGH SCHOOL (H) 1/24/2026 2:30 PM

## Loogootee Boys Junior High School Basketball Teams Beat South Knox

The JH boys teams entertained South Knox on Saturday afternoon in the Activity Center and both teams came away with victories. The 7th graders ran their record to 14-2 with a 43-15 win. Jack Divine led the Lions with 14 points. Zach Lyon added 8. Mason Mathias had 7; August Weitkamp 4; Liam Strange 3; and Kaleb McCloskey added a basket. The 8th graders were led by Jaxon Foster with 15 points as they ran their record to 13-1. Holden Lingenfelter had 7; Hiram Tedrow and Ethan Wildman each had 5; and Jackson Lengacher added a basket. Both teams are back at it on Tuesday night when they entertain WRV.

## Barr Reeve Edges Loogootee 47-42 in Thrilling Basketball Clash



With over 5,000 people watching another rendition of the Loogootee vs. Barr Reeve rivalry, one of the oldest duels in the state of Indiana, the feeling of a national championship may be the buzz in nearby Bloomington; however, as the old attitude goes, in 49 states it is just basketball... but not in Indiana.

While in nearby Bloomington, the focus on college basketball is intense, with the buzz centered around a potential national championship run by Indiana University, the sentiment elsewhere in the state tells a different story. For many Hoosiers, basketball is more than just a game; it's a shared history, a cultural cornerstone that shapes identities and community bonds. From youth leagues to high school championships, basketball's influence permeates every level of life in Indiana.

Although many around the state cite Indiana's football success, these two schools still call basketball their favorite longtime passion, and the game did not disappoint tonight.

Loogootee attempted to gain possession of the game early, ending with a two point lead over their crosstown rivals in Barr Reeve in the first quarter, 12-10 and then again going into halftime as they again led Barr Reeve 21-19.

As the third quarter rolled along, Barr Reeve took their shots. Some small and some large, but Barr Reeve scored as top players such as A.J. Foster committed two fouls close to the end of the game. Loogootee's Coach, Josh Thompson, was even issued a warning by the refs in the second half which turned the game over its head for the Lions to capitalize on major opportunities.



For Barr Reeve they used Loogootee's fouls and fuel. The first two quarters were a back-and-forth affair with each team attempting to hit buckets and clear the lane for a win that would not come easily. However, Loogootee, which have been home to comebacks throughout this season came out of the second half looking dissolved at points as Barr Reeve took a slight advantage to take the lead to win the game 47-42.

The Vikings will jump to 12-1 on the year, 2<sup>nd</sup> in Blue Chips Conference play with a 3-0 record as the Loogootee Lions fall 12-4 after this conference loss.

Barr Reeve will play Wood Memorial on the road at 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 23 and then play North Daviess at home the next day.

The Lions will once again play at Shoals High School on Jan. 23 at 7:30 p.m. with a home match against Bloomfield at 7:30 p.m. the next day.

Final Box Score:

First Quarter Loogootee: 12- Barr Reeve 10  
Second Quarter: Loogootee 21 – Barr Reeve 19  
Third Quarter: Loogootee 32- Barr Reeve 37  
Fourth Quarter: Loogootee 42 – Barr Reeve 47

## DIAMOND AND HAWKINS COMBINE FOR 49 TO BEAT LADY RAIDERS

The Lady Lions traveled to historic Memorial Stadium in Huntingburg on Saturday afternoon for a matinee matchup with the Southridge Lady Raiders. The game opened with back-and-forth action, as freshman Lydia Hawkins and junior Alaina Diamond combined for the first 21 points for the Lady Lions. Their scoring surge helped Loogootee build a 14-9 lead after the opening quarter, a stretch capped by a Sophia Toy three-pointer to break up the Hawkins-Diamond run. Hawkins opened the second quarter with an old-fashioned three-point play, followed by Ava Jeffers finding Diamond down low for another basket. The Lady Lions continued to control the pace and headed into halftime with a 29-18 advantage. Loogootee put the game away in the third quarter, pouring in 17 points. The scoring started with Hawkins finding Alexis Heckard underneath, then Diamond caught fire with a nine-point run that included a pair of free throws and a three-pointer. Hawkins answered with another and-one on a reverse layup and followed it with a coast-to-coast finish for a five-point run of her own. A Jeffers free throw, another Diamond drive, and Hawkins' third and-one of the night pushed the Lady Lions' lead to 52-22. The Lady Lions closed the game strong. Jeffers found Diamond in transition, Mkenna Gregory scored on a drive, and Toy finished the afternoon with a five-point run to seal a convincing 62-26 victory. The win moves Loogootee to 13-5 on the season. Individual Statistics: Alaina Diamond: 26 points on 9/14 shooting, 6/9 FT, 5 rebounds, 4 blocks Lydia Hawkins: 23 points on 9/14 shooting, 5/7 FT, 10 rebounds, 3 assists, 4 steals Sophia Toy: 8 points (2/3 from three), 3 rebounds, 3 assists Alexis Heckard: 2 points, 3 assists Mkenna Gregory: 2 points, 3 rebounds Ava Jeffers: 1 point, 5 rebounds The Lady Lions return to action Thursday night on the road at Northeast Dubois.

# Martin County & Courts

Monday, January 12, 2026

5:08 a.m.- Received a report of a possible disabled vehicle East of Shoals. Major Reed responded.

6:57 a.m.- Received a report of a disabled vehicle South of Shoals. Captain Gibson responded.

7:58 a.m.- Received a call requesting a welfare check in Shoals. Captain Gibson responded.

1:40 p.m.- Received a report of a controlled burn East of Shoals.

2:30 p.m.- Received a 911 call reporting a possible stolen vehicle. Deputy Clark responded.

2:36 p.m.- Received a call from Lawrence County reporting a possible missing person that could be in our county. Captain Gibson, Sergeant Hawkins, Deputy Clark and Indiana Conservation Officer Fuhrman responded.

4:14 p.m.- Received a call requesting to speak with a deputy. Sergeant Hawkins responded.

6:37 p.m.- Received a report of a traffic hazard in Loogootee. LPD Officer Seals responded.

8:18 p.m.- Received a report of a reckless driver on US 50 traveling West. LPD Officer Seals and LPD Officer Purcell responded.

Tuesday, January 13, 2025

12:10 a.m.- Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance East of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 and Shoals Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Deaconess Memorial Medical Center.

12:50 a.m.- Received a call requesting assistance in Loogootee. LPD Officer Seals and LPD Officer Purcell responded.

3:59 a.m.- Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 and Loogootee Fire Department responded. No one was transported.

7:35 a.m.- Received an accidental 911 call.

8:16 a.m.- Received a report of a possible gas leak in Shoals. Shoals Fire Department responded.

9:26 a.m.- Received a report of a reckless driver on US 231S traveling North. Captain Gibson responded.

12:01 p.m.- Captain Gibson on station with Brian Conley, a 27-year-old male from Shoals, arrested for Driving while suspended-prior. He is being held on \$10,000 10% bond.

12:21 p.m.- Received a report of a controlled burn

East of Shoals.

12:42 p.m.- Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance and officers in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Loogootee Fire Department, Captain Gibson, Indiana Conservation Officer Mann, Indiana State Police, Marshal Copeland and Martin County Coroner Abel responded.

1:06 p.m.- Chief Deputy Keller transported one inmate to court.

1:53 p.m.- Received a report of a tree in power lines South of Shoals. Marshal Copeland and REMC responded.

2:30 p.m.- Chief Deputy Keller transported one inmate to court.

3:42 p.m.- Received a call requesting to speak with a deputy. Deputy Clark responded.

3:46 p.m.- Received a call requesting a welfare check in Shoals. Marshal Copeland responded.

4:31 p.m.- Received a 911 call from a Daviess County address. Notified Daviess County.

4:45 p.m.- Received a call requesting to speak with an officer. Marshal Copeland responded.

5:04 p.m.- Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 and Deputy Clark responded. No one was transported.

6:15 p.m.- Received a call requesting a welfare check in Loogootee. LPD Officer Seals and LPD Officer Purcell responded.

7:04 p.m.- Received a 911 call reporting a possible trespasser South of Shoals. Deputy Clark, Marshal Copeland and Indiana Conservation Officer Fuhrman responded.

7:55 p.m.- Received a 911 call reporting a neighbor dispute Southeast of Loogootee. Deputy Clark and Indiana Conservation Officer Fuhrman responded.

9:12 p.m.- Marshal Copeland on station with Steven Boyd, a 55-year-old male from Shoals, arrested for Criminal trespass. He is being held on \$10,000 10% bond.

11:23 p.m.- Received a call from WH International advising of a commercial burglar alarm in Shoals. Marshal Copeland responded.

Wednesday, January 14, 2025  
12:05 a.m.- Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance East of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 responded and transported one patient to Deaconess Memorial Medical Center.

2:11 a.m.- Received a request to speak with a deputy. Deputy Clark responded.

10:19 a.m.- Received a 911 call reporting a suspicious person in Loogootee. LPD Officer Stuckey responded.

12:06 p.m.- Received a call requesting assistance in Shoals. Captain Gibson and Sergeant Hawkins responded.

2:48 p.m.- Received a call requesting assistance in Loogootee. Indiana State Police responded.

2:52 p.m.- Received an accidental 911 call.

3:09 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 Medical Center.

6:33 p.m.- Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Medic 1, Shoals Fire Department and Marshal Copeland responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Deaconess Memorial Medical Center. Frontier was also notified.

2:28 p.m.- Chief Deputy Keller transported two inmates to court.

2:38 p.m.- Jail Commander Gregory transported one inmate to court.

7:27 p.m.- Received an accidental 911 call.

7:31 p.m.- Received a 911 call reporting a traffic hazard West of Shoals. Deputy Branham responded.

8:22 p.m.- Marshal Copeland on station with Jeremias Martinez, a 40-year-old male from Honduras, arrested for Driving while never receiving a license and Providing false identity statement with intent to mislead. He is being held without bond.

8:39 p.m.- Received a call requesting a Vehicle Identification Number check in Shoals. Deputy Branham and Marshal Copeland responded.

10:10 p.m.- Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Loogootee Fire Department and Deputy Branham responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Deaconess Memorial Medical Center. Corporal Erwin responded.

Thursday, January 15, 2026

6:50 a.m.- Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance North of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 responded and transported one patient to Bloomington IU.

7:59 a.m.- Received a report of a disabled vehicle West of Shoals. Captain Gibson responded.

8:01 a.m.- Received a report of an accident with no injuries in Loogootee. Captain Gibson responded.

8:15 a.m.- Received a report of a verbal dispute in Loogootee. LPD Officer Stuckey and Captain Gibson responded.

10:00 a.m.- Chief Deputy Keller transported two inmates to court.

11:55 a.m.- Received an animal complaint in Loogootee. LPD Officer Stuckey responded.

12:58 p.m.- Received an accidental 911 call.

12:59 p.m.- Received a 911 call reporting an accident Southeast of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1, Shoals Fire Department, Captain Gibson, Corporal Erwin, ISP Master Trooper Lents, Indiana Conservation Officer Fuhrman, Marshal Copeland and Salem Wrecker Service responded.

Medic 1 transported one patient to Deaconess Memorial Medical Center. Frontier was also notified.

2:28 p.m.- Chief Deputy Keller transported two inmates to court.

2:38 p.m.- Jail Commander Gregory transported one inmate to court.

6:27 p.m.- Received a 911 call reporting a verbal dispute in Loogootee. Deputy Branham responded.

10:00 p.m.- Received a 911 call with no one on the line Northeast of Shoals. Deputy Branham responded.

Friday, January 16, 2026

7:09 a.m.- Received a 911 call reporting a car-deer accident East of Loogootee. Corporal Erwin responded.

7:44 a.m.- Received a call from WH International advising of a commercial burglar alarm in Shoals. Corporal Erwin responded. Keyholder was also notified.

10:12 a.m.- Received a call requesting a Vehicle Identification Number check in Loogootee. Corporal Erwin responded.

1:09 p.m.- Received a call requesting a Vehicle Identification Number check East of Shoals. Corporal Erwin responded.

3:29 p.m.- Received a report of a hit and run accident in Loogootee. Deputy Branham responded.

3:35 p.m.- Received a report of an injured deer North of Loogootee. Notified ICO South Region dispatch.

3:54 p.m.- Received a call requesting to speak with an officer. LPD Officer Seals responded.

5:24 p.m.- Received a call requesting an officer in Loogootee. Deputy Branham responded.

8:05 p.m.- Received a 911 call advising of a possible unsafe driver in the Loogootee area. Deputy Branham and Deputy Droke responded.

8:13 p.m.- Received a 911 call with no one on the line North of Loogootee. Deputy Branham responded.

Saturday, January 17, 2026

9:32 a.m.- Received a call requesting a Vehicle Identification Number check South of Loogootee. Corporal Erwin responded.

9:35 p.m.- Received a 911 call from a Daviess County address. Transferred the call to Daviess County 911.

10:12 a.m.- Received a 911 call from a Lawrence County address. Transferred the call to Lawrence County 911.

12:17 p.m.- Received a call advising that the nursing homes in Loogootee will be testing fire alarms today.

1:12 p.m.- Received a report of a neighbor dispute in Shoals. Deputy Branham responded.

4:41 p.m.- Received a 911 call reporting an accident in Daviess County. Transferred the call to Daviess County 911.

4:45 p.m.- Received a second 911 call reporting the accident. Advised the caller Daviess County had been notified.

6:29 p.m.- Received a report of a reckless driver on US 50 traveling West toward Shoals. Deputy Branham responded.

7:00 p.m.- Received a report of a tree down Southeast of Shoals. Lost River Fire Department responded. Dubois County was also notified.

8:46 p.m.- Received a report of a possible domestic dispute South of Shoals. Deputy Branham and Captain Gibson responded.

11:21 p.m.- Received a 911 call reporting a possible fire in Loogootee. Loogootee Fire Department, LPD Officer Seals and LPD Officer Purcell responded.

11:30 p.m.- Corporal Erwin on station with Russell Pershing, a 34-year-old male from Crane, arrested for Operating a vehicle while intoxicated-controlled substance, Operating a vehicle while intoxicated with a minor passenger in the vehicle, and Possession of marijuana. He is being held on \$15,000 10% bond.

Sunday, January 18, 2026

4:51 a.m.- Received an accidental 911 call.

7:34 a.m.- Received a call from WH International advising of a residential burglar alarm North of Shoals. Sergeant Hawkins responded.

# Local Obituaries

Brought to You Weekly By Blake Funeral Home  
300 Church Street, Loogootee, Ind. 47553

## Oliver "Mike" Davis

March 29, 1943 - January 17, 2026



Oliver Michael "Mike" Davis, 82, of Loogootee, Indiana passed away on Saturday January 17, 2026, at Eastgate Nursing Home in Washington, Indiana.

He was born on March 29, 1943, in Washington, Indiana to the late Oliver Perry and Anna Laura (Sinnott) Davis.

Mike was a life-long mechanic, he was known to have developed a patent on an industrial tie-down that could be used in truck beds to secure anything that needed to be transported. He both made and marketed the tie-downs. He enjoyed developing marketing ideas. Mike worked with the Monroe Custom Bodies Team in promoting his tie-downs and their services at several conventions.

Mike's passions were Indy Cars, Indy Lights, and Dirt Racing. He contributed to the racing industry in many ways, such as working on several Pit

and many, many friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents, and brother-in-law, Gary Woodfork.

Mike is survived by a half-brother, Roland L. (Ruth) Fegan, and sister, Sue Ann Woodfork of Loogootee, Mary Elaine Webb of Evansville, Kathryn Jean "Kathy" Davis of Loogootee, several nieces and nephews, great-nieces and nephews, one step-nephew, and two great step-nephews. He liked to tease all of them and teach them about things such as coin collecting, which was another passion and passed on his love for cars.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by the Very Rev. J. Kenneth Walker at 11:00 A.M Friday January 23, 2026, at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church. Visitation will be held on the same day from 9:00 A.M until 10:45 A.M at the Church. Burial will follow in St. John Catholic Cemetery. A meal will be served for friends and family at the lower level of the St. John Center.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions can be made to St. John the Evangelist Church.

Online condolences can be made at [www.blakefuneralhomes.com](http://www.blakefuneralhomes.com)

Arrangements provided by Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee, Indiana.

## Mary Lou Burress

January 19, 1942 - January 20, 2026



Mary Lou Burress, 84, Alfordsville, Indiana passed away peacefully on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, in Washington, Indiana with her niece Sharon by her side.

She was born on January 19, 1942 in Loogootee, Indiana to Beveridge and Ethel (Boonshot) Burress.

Mary Lou was a member of Mt. Zion Wesleyan Church. She

was very strong in her faith and lived every day for the Lord. Mary Lou was a lifelong farmer and as such, a good steward of God's creation. She was a hardworking woman who took very good care of her cows and calves which she loved, pigs, and crops. Mary enjoyed the simple wonders of life: walking the fields sowing seeds by hand; watching the crops grow until they were harvested; baling and putting up hay in the barn. Friends would see her driving her tractors and her good Ford trucks. We will remember her with smiles on our faces and warmth in our hearts.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her brother David Burress, infant brother James Burress, and great-nephew Jonathan Perry.

She is survived by two brothers: Ralph (Malee) Burress and their children: Angela (Scott) Knust, Staci (Donnie) Jones, Michelle (Darrell) Frye, and Kim (Billy) Phelps.

Brother Paul (Bernice) Burress and their children: Phyllis (Mike) Pence, Lynda (Terry) Reel, and Randall (Mary Jo) Burress.

Her late brother David Burress' children, whom she treated like her own: Mary Jane (Tim) Edwards, Julie (Troy Fitch) Gruber, John "Johnny" David Burress, and Sharon (Brad Walden) Banks.

Great nieces and nephews: Justin and Aaron Knust, Zach and Cade Jones, Saylor, Ethan, and Daylan Frye, Kaleb Phelps, Elizabeth (David) Chanley, Emily Burress, Samantha (Michael Porter) Reel, Michael (Brittany) Perry, Jessica (Christopher) Combs, Faith (Robert) Marshall, Mathew, Megan, Brieanna, Alex. Warren "Casey" (Adison) Miller, Wade and Garrison Gruber, Ashley (Benjamin Grubbs) Banks, Allison Banks.

Great-grand nieces and nephews: Gabe, Elle, and Adeline Chanley, Elia Reel, Bryleigh, Elijah, and Sophia Perry, Bradley, Olivia, and Makenzie Combs, Annabelle and Logan Marshall.

Cremation was chosen according to her wishes. A memorial service will be held at 11 A.M. on Saturday, January 24, 2026 at the Mt. Zion Wesleyan Church in Rutherford with Justin Hilligoss officiating.

Friends and family may visit from 10 A.M. till the time [mes.com](http://mes.com)

of service at 11 A.M. on Saturday at the church.

A fellowship meal will follow the service and all are welcome to attend.

Burial will take place in the church cemetery at a later date.

The Burress family would like to thank Helping Hearts Hospice for wonderful care and support during the last few months.

Blake Funeral Home is very honored to serve the family of Mary Lou Burress.

Online condolences can be made at [www.blakefuneralhome.com](http://www.blakefuneralhome.com)

**Easy**

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

**Medium**

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

**Hard**

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

**Expert**

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

**Master**

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

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01/21/2026

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# Sudoku Daily Game #27

**Easy**

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

**Medium**

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

**Hard**

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

**Expert**

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

**Master**

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

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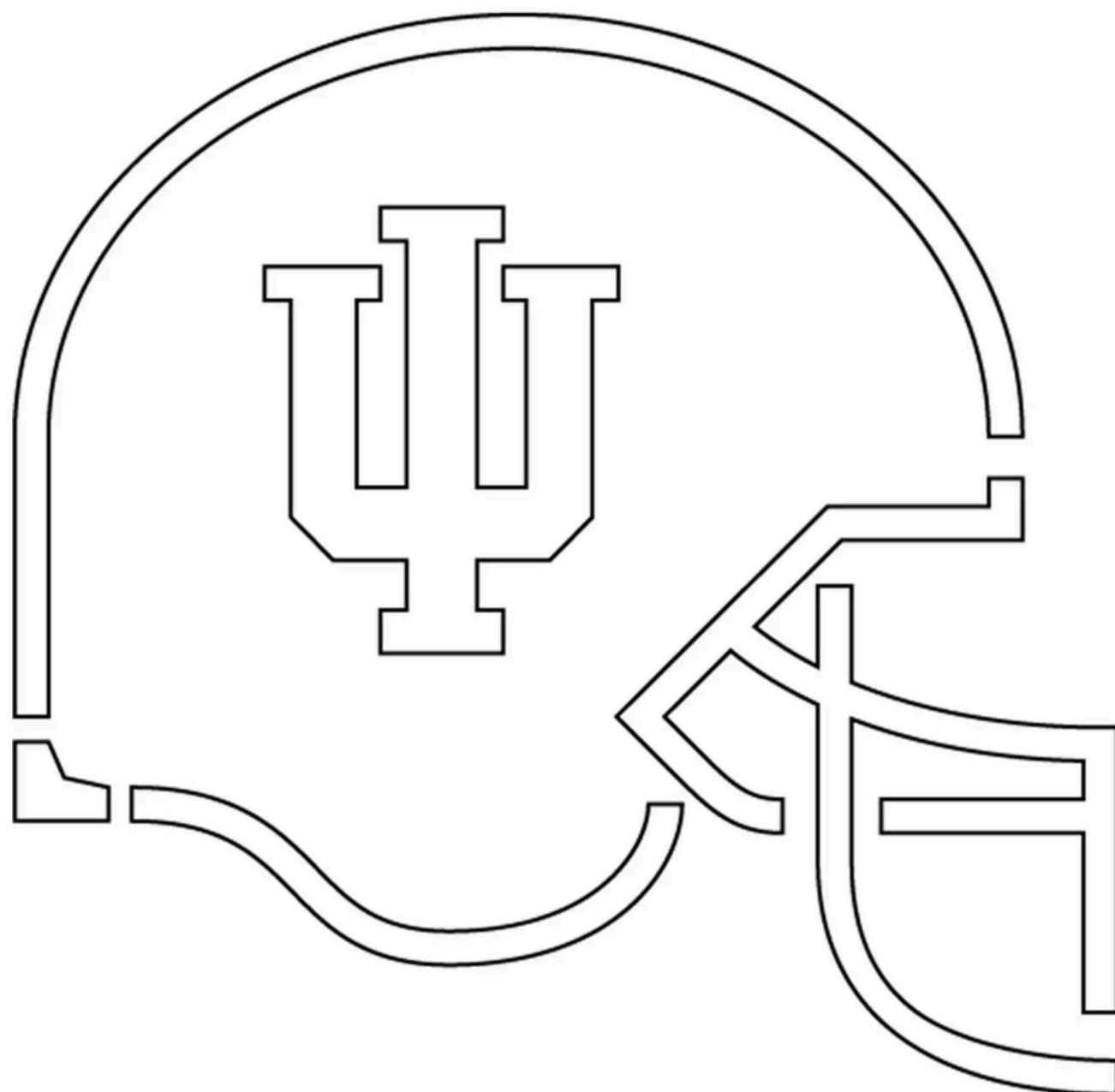
► App Store

# Sudoku Daily Game #27 SOLUTIONS

# Coloring Sheet

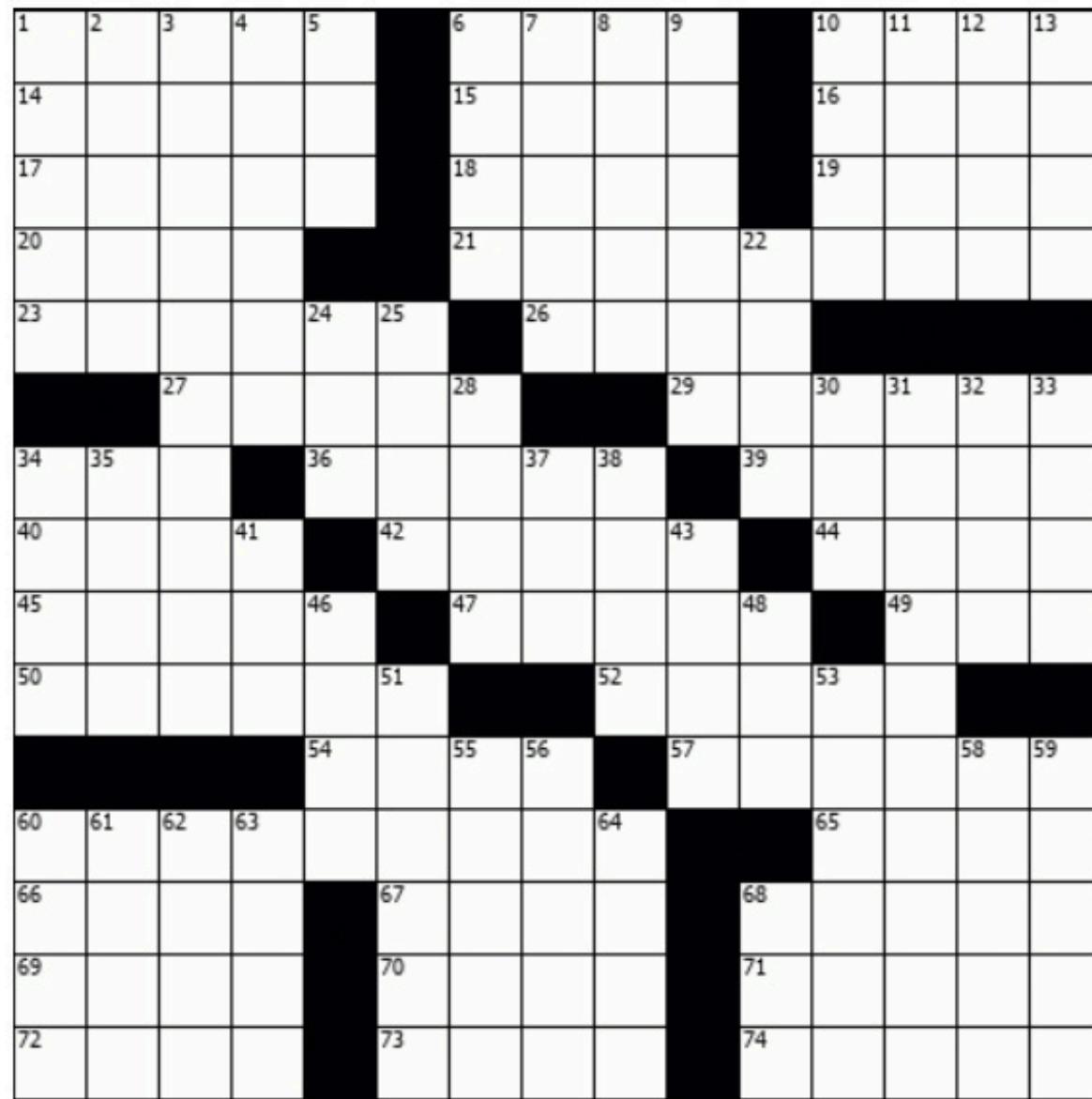
“HOO, HOO, HOO, HOOSIERS!”

YOUR 2025 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS!

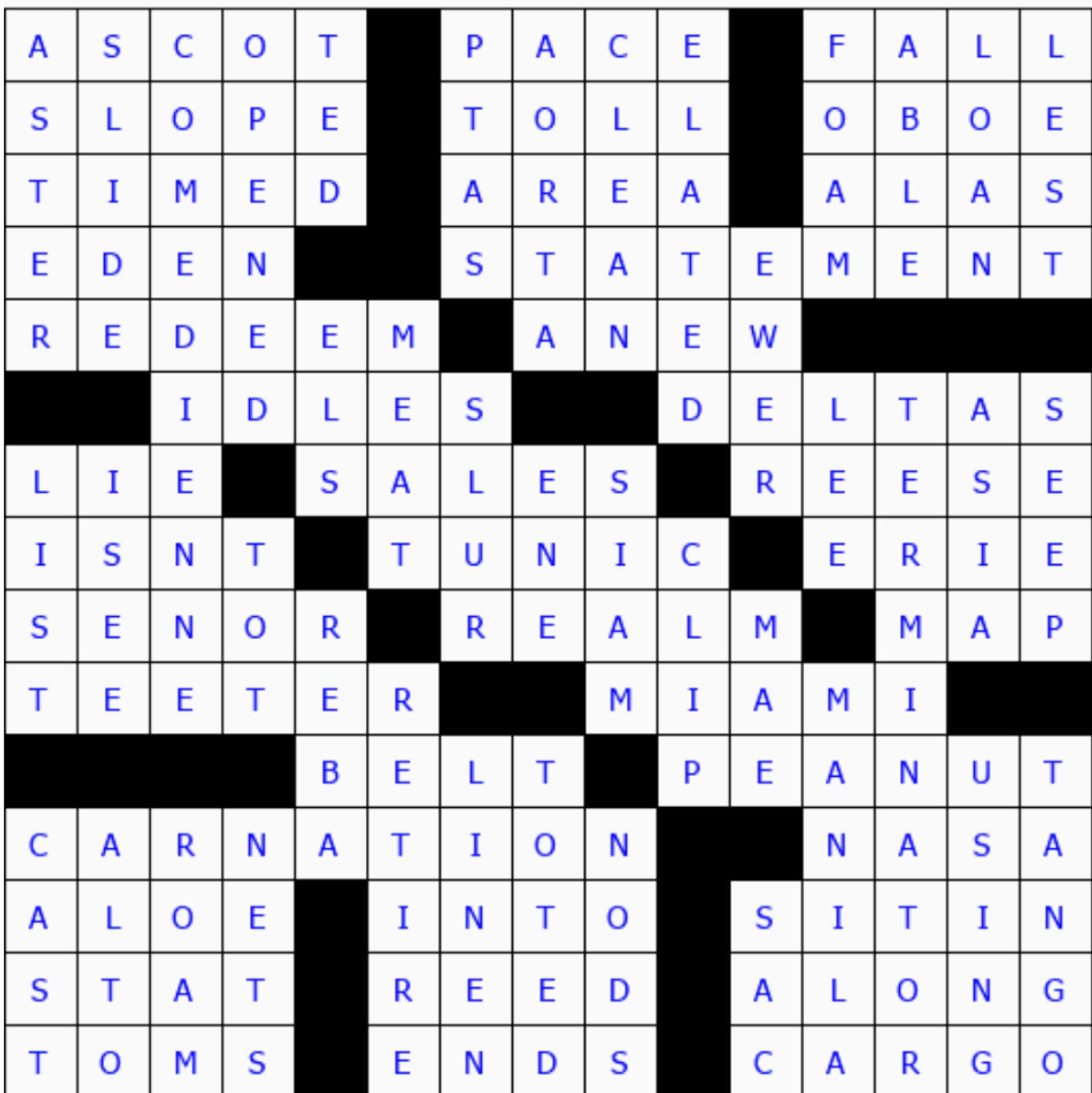


**Across**

1. Dandy's neckwear
6. Tempo
10. Autumn
14. Incline
15. Turnpike fee
16. Wind instrument
17. Clocked
18. Location
19. Lamenting cry
20. Genesis locale
21. Declaration
23. Cash in
26. Over again
27. Does nothing
29. River mouths
34. Untruth
36. \_\_\_ tax
39. Della \_\_\_ of "Touched by an Angel"
40. Doesn't exist
42. Roman gown
44. A great lake
45. Spanish title
47. Kingdom
49. Atlas chart
50. Wobble
52. Florida City
54. Sash
57. Goober
60. State flower of Ohio
65. Space gp.
66. Lotion ingredient
67. Interested by
68. Certain protest (hyph.)
69. RBI, e.g.
70. Hollow stalk
71. Beside
72. Cruise and Hanks
73. Conclusions
74. Freight

**Down**

1. Daisy's kin
2. Glide
3. Ellen DeGeneres, e.g.
4. Uncorked
5. Actor \_\_\_ Danson
6. School groups (abbr.)
7. Main artery
8. Immaculate
9. Thrilled
10. Froth
11. Talented
12. Borrowed money
13. "\_\_\_ we forget"
22. Wide-mouthed pitcher
24. Raised railways
25. Steak, e.g.
28. Defame
30. Grant's foe
31. Schwarzenegger role
32. Europe's neighbor
33. Leak
34. Roster
35. Got it! (2 wds.)
37. Compass reading (abbr.)
38. Thailand, once
41. Toddler
43. Snip
46. Country singer \_\_\_ McEntire
48. Bombshell \_\_\_ West
51. Go to bed
53. Capital of the Philippines
55. Fine fabric
56. Lugged
58. Utilizing
59. Ballroom dance
60. Playbill listing
61. Singing voice
62. Ramble
63. Clears as profit
64. Indicates assent
68. Cul-de-\_\_\_



# Crossword Puzzle #27 SOLUTION