

"A SMALL TOWN  
NEWSPAPER WITH  
A BIG LION HEART"

# The Loogootee Times

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VOLUME II EDITION VIII • LOOGOOTE, INDIANA'S TOP NEWSPAPER • WEEKLY EDITION • FEBURARY 25, 2026 • FREE

## Former Martin County Dispatcher Charged After Drunk Driving Incident

A 28-year-old Bedford man, Justin P. Minton, is facing criminal charges in Lawrence County following a destructive late-night crash that occurred last August. Official court records state that Minton was employed as a 911 dispatcher for Martin County at the time of the incident.

### The Incident:

On August 23, 2025, at approximately 3:28 a.m., Lawrence County deputies responded to a single-vehicle wreck on Rabbitsville Road, just north of Woodville Road. They arrived to find a tan 2000 Toyota Corolla in a ditch with heavy front-end damage and deployed airbags.

The investigation revealed the vehicle had:

Snapped a Duke Energy utility pole.

Destroyed a mailbox.

Plowed through a fence.

### The Investigation:

The driver, Justin P. Minton, initially told deputies he swerved to avoid a deer. However, officers noted several signs of intoxication, including slurred speech and unsteady balance. According to court records, Minton admitted to consuming "five to six shots of tequila" at a bar in Mitchell before driving.

### The Numbers:

Preliminary Breath Test (PBT):  
.226% at the scene.

## Martin County Community Foundation Donates Nearly \$250,000 in Grants to Specified Local Organizations



### The Following Photos Are Courtesy of the Martin County Community Foundation

The Martin County Community Foundation announced the distribution of nearly \$250,000 in grants to 17 organizations through its yearly Designated and Field of Interest Fund. These funds, designated by the founding donors, support a variety of local nonprofits and community projects. Beneficiaries include the St. Vincent de Paul Society, which received \$4,925 for mission support and \$2,335 for the Food Pantry; Shoals Community School Corporation, granted \$991 for operations and \$1,359 for baseball field maintenance; and the Loogootee Public



Library, awarded \$2,045. Other recipients include the Martin County Humane Society, the Martin County Historical Society, local libraries, cemeteries, and charitable organizations such as Shoals United Methodist Church and Loogootee Methodist Church, which received \$85,732 and \$85,989, respectively. Several organizations, including Loogootee Community Schools and the Whitfield Men's Club, also received funding to support scholarships and community programs. Some of these groups were present during the grant distribution event to accept their awards.

## Lawmakers Eye Road Spending Review as Big Southern Indiana plans Face Opposition

State lawmakers are considering a new requirement that would give the Legislature a formal review of major highway projects.

According to the [Indiana Capital Chronicle](#), a provision added to Senate Bill 27 would require the Indiana Department of Transportation to present any project with a price tag of at least 250 million dollars to the State Budget Committee. Supporters say the move is about oversight as the state balances new construction with maintenance of existing roads.

The proposal comes as planning continues for the Mid-States Corridor. The 54-mile route would link Interstates 64 and 69 and largely follow the current U.S. 231, with bypasses planned for Jasper, Huntingburg and Loogootee. Current estimates place the total cost at more than three billion dollars.

[The Indiana Capital Chronicle](#) reports that Representative Jim Pressel, who chairs the House Roads and Transportation Committee, says lawmakers want to understand how large projects would affect funding for other road work. Budget Committee member Representative Jeff Thompson says projects of that size should receive legislative review and expects most would still move forward.

INDOT is continuing its

LOOGOOTE HIGH  
SCHOOL GEARS UP FOR  
THE IHSAA SECTIONALS  
MARCH 3-7

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

EMBARGOED STATEWIDE  
POLL RESULTS — MID-  
STATES CORRIDOR AND  
GOVERNOR BRAUN  
APPROVAL

OBITUARIES  
WEEKLY OBITUARIES  
BROUGHT TO YOU BY  
THE BLAKE FUNERAL  
HOME

# Loogootee Pre-Sectional Banquet Details for 2026

LOOGOOTE, Ind- The annual Pre-Sectional Banquet will be held at the Lower Level of the St. John's Center on Saturday, Feb. 28, at 6 PM Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the door for \$20 and include a meal catered by Dutchman's Diner.

This year's guest speaker is Coach Scott Davenport, who served as head coach at Bellarmine University for 20 seasons before retiring in 2025. Davenport,

who previously served as an assistant at Louisville and VCU, led Bellarmine to the 2011 NCAA Division II Championship and was named NABC Division II Coach of the Year that same year. He has also been recognized as a four-time GLVC Coach of the Year and led the ASUN team to the 2022 championship. The IHSAA Boys

Basketball Sectionals Tournament will begin on March 3-7.

Loogootee will be apart of Sectional #62 in the south region of the state hosting the following schools at Loogootee High School:

Barr-Reeve, Loogootee, Medora, North Daviess, Orleans, Shoals, Vincennes Rivet, Washington Catholic.

## Join Us for a Community Mobile Golf Tournament on March 24th! All Ages Welcome

Join us for an exciting mobile golf tournament scheduled for March 24th in our community room, running from 3:30p.m to 5:00p.m This event is open to all ages, so bring your family and friends for an enjoyable afternoon of friendly competition. Whether you're a seasoned golfer or a beginner, everyone is welcome to participate. Participants will have the chance to win both adult and children's prizes, awarded at the conclusion of the tournament.

Refreshments, including snacks and drinks, will be provided to keep everyone energized. We encourage you to register in advance through the link below to secure your spot. Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy a fun and engaging community event. We look forward to seeing you there! For registration, please visit:

<https://docs.google.com/.../IFA1pQLSfXUOQF.../viewform...>

## Official Fishing Tournament Fundraiser at West Boggs Lake Hosted by Martin County Youth Football League

Martin County Youth Football League announces upcoming fishing tournament fundraiser at West Boggs Lake. The event, scheduled for April 18 from 10 AM to 2 PM., aims to raise funds for safety equipment, program improvements, and expanded youth opportunities.

## Join Us for Mingle with the Mayor – February 27 at the Senior Center

Residents are invited to join the Mingle with the Mayor event on Friday, February 27, at 10 AM at the Senior Center. The gathering offers an opportunity for community members to engage in conversation, ask questions, share ideas, and connect with local leadership in a casual and welcoming environment. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

**LUNCH & LEARN**

**BUILDING STRONG SCHOOL-EMPLOYER PARTNERSHIPS**

WORK-BASED LEARNING: STUDENT INTERNSHIPS AND APPRENTICESHIPS

Is your employer interested in learning more about student internships and possible ways to collaborate with the local school corporations? Join the lunch and learn to acquire more!

Tuesday, March 31, 2026  
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Bowling Manufacturing Building  
99 W. Washington St.  
Loogootee, IN 47553

**FREE EVENT! LUNCH PROVIDED**

**TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:**

- Understanding Work-Based Learning & Student Internships
- Benefits for Employers & Building a Local Talent Pipeline
- Collaboration & Support Between Schools and Employers

To RSVP: Option 1: Scan QR code  
Option 2: Click this link [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1EaM0K5e4t9R0XfR2epYcIBU0rvaekSRvM3ou7\\_QISvKkUZZ16QVlEwform?use=header](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1EaM0K5e4t9R0XfR2epYcIBU0rvaekSRvM3ou7_QISvKkUZZ16QVlEwform?use=header)

RSVP By: March 24

For questions, contact Jessica Potts: 812-295-4800  
jessica.potts@martinalliance.org

# Embargoed Statewide Poll Results – Mid-States Corridor and Governor Braun Approval

I am writing to offer your organization an embargoed advance look at a statewide poll of Indiana registered voters with significant implications for the Mid-States Corridor debate and Governor Braun's political standing. Many of you covered our December 2025 Dubois County poll, which found 81% local opposition to the corridor and Governor Braun's approval at just 16% in his home county. That poll generated significant statewide and out-of-state coverage, contributed to legislators drafting an oversight bill, and put the Mid-States Corridor on the political map as a major liability for the governor. This statewide poll is the next chapter, and the numbers are even more striking. The poll was conducted February 20-21, 2026, by Public Policy Polling (554 registered Indiana voters, cell and landline). I commissioned the poll; it was funded primarily by the Property Rights Alliance through individual donations, with additional support from the Coalition to Stop the Mid-States Corridor. Key findings:

- Governor Braun job approval: 25% approve / 53% disapprove
- Mid-States Corridor: 65% oppose (41% strongly), 11% support
- Redirect MSC funds to local projects: 88% yes vs. 3% keep MSC
- Cancel MSC: 74% yes vs. 7% no
- Override

- governor's veto to cancel: 74% override vs. 5% let stand
- Opposition crosses party lines: 69% of Trump voters and 65% of Republicans want the project canceled

Full toplines and crosstabs (by party, 2024 vote, gender, age, race, education, and media market) are attached. Embargo terms: This data is provided under strict embargo. The embargo lifts at the adjournment of the Dubois County Council meeting on Monday, February 23, 2026. The meeting begins at 4:30 p.m. Eastern. The Mid-States Corridor is on the agenda beginning at 5:15 p.m. (INDOT presentation), followed by the opposition's presentation of the statewide poll results and formal withdrawal request at 5:45 p.m., and the Property Rights Alliance at 6:15 p.m. Attendance is required to lift the embargo. A reporter or representative from your organization must be physically present at the Dubois County Council meeting to publish under the embargo lift. The meeting is expected to include a formal vote on whether Dubois County will withdraw from the Mid-States Corridor Regional Development Authority, as well as presentations from INDOT, the opposition coalition, and the Property Rights Alliance. The speech presenting the statewide poll results will not be distributed and will only be delivered

live at the meeting. Those of you who attended our December press conference know what to expect: a significant news event with strong data and real political consequences. This time the stakes are higher. The council is expected to vote on formal withdrawal from the RDA, the statewide numbers dwarf the county results, and the Indiana Legislature is preparing to vote on a fiscal oversight bill that would effectively end the project's funding. The full story can only be told by someone who is in the room.

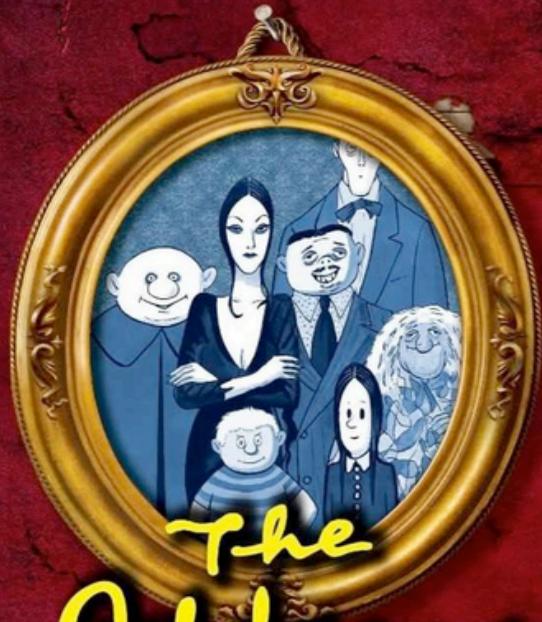
By accepting this embargo, you agree not to publish, broadcast, post, or otherwise disseminate any of the poll data or findings prior to the embargo lift. You may use the pre-embargo period to prepare your coverage, conduct background research, and seek comment from relevant parties, provided that you do not share the specific poll numbers with those parties before the embargo lifts.

Availability and access: Affected property owners, coalition members, and Property Rights Alliance representatives will be present at the meeting and available for interview. I am happy to correspond in advance by email to answer background questions and help you prepare your coverage.

To accept this embargo, please reply confirming your agreement to the terms above, including the attendance requirement. If you prefer to speak to someone by telephone, please call Maggie Marystone at 773-837-6670.

To check out the survey visit our website on [www.loogooteetimes.com](http://www.loogooteetimes.com)





# The Addams Family

## SCHOOL EDITION

Book by **MARSHALL BRICKMAN** and **RICK ELICE**  
 Music and Lyrics by **ANDREW LIPPA**  
 Based on Characters Created by **CHARLES ADDAMS**

Friday, March 13, 2026 @ 7:00 PM  
 Saturday, March 14, 2026 @ 2:00 PM  
 Saturday, March 14, 2026 @ 7:00 PM  
 Sunday, March 15, 2026 @ 2:00 PM

General admission tickets may be purchased 30 minutes prior to each performance for \$10 for adults and \$8 for students.



### Attention all Staff!

Who do you know that is looking for a great place to work?  
 This is your opportunity to get some extra cash!

Open Positions as of 02/24/26:

#### \$4,000.00 Referral Bonus

- Full time Night CNA 5p-5a  
<https://easyapply.co/a/58420662-9cc3-4b21-901b-7f246e7a2ccb>
- Full time Day CNA 5a-5p  
<https://easyapply.co/a/58420662-9cc3-4b21-901b-7f246e7a2ccb>
- Full time/ Part time RN 7a-7p, 7p-7a  
<https://easyapply.co/a/be2dce93-484c-4c1b-a872-de79da14d0a4>

#### \$1,000.00 Referral Bonus

- Part time Dietary Cook/ Aide. Shifts 6a-9a, 3:30-7:30 – Aide  
 5a-1:15p, 10:30a-7:30p – Cook  
<https://easyapply.co/a/87287e84-52a6-4de6-8e9c-e96db770dd20>
- Full time Housekeeping/Laundry. Shift 6a-2p. Every other weekend.  
<https://easyapply.co/a/90d1f2c0-7cc4-4c33-bdfd-0734a63013ec>

**\*\*Keep checking back for open positions\*\***

Come see Stacy Meade in HR with any questions regarding positions and referral bonus payouts.

**“Hoosiers Helping Hoosiers”**

**CONT.D STEM (from pg.1)** environmental review of the Mid-States Corridor. A previously expected request for proposals has been delayed while the agency completes an internal timeline. The governor's office has not commented on the proposal. The project has drawn local opposition. A poll released in December by opponents found most Dubois County residents surveyed were against the plan.

Loogootee Schools has a long-standing commitment to STEM education, emphasizing real-world applications and preparing students for future careers. The participation of Knepp, Tippery, and Walton in this fellowship underscores the district's dedication to academic excellence and technological innovation.

The fellowship also includes opportunities for networking with experts and peers nationwide, providing valuable insights and collaboration possibilities. "We look forward to seeing how their newfound knowledge will impact our classrooms," said Principal John Doe.

More information about the Noyce Microelectronics Master Teacher Fellowship can be found at <https://www.scalek12.org/noyce>.

**TAS**  
LAWN CARE

**TODD STURGIS**  
812-360-8834

#### Join Jasper Indiana Travelers on The Harmony Dinner Theater X-mas bus trip to Hillsboro, IN on Thursday, December 10, 2026

\$ 105.00/per person

7:15am EST Departing from BIG LOTS parking lot- 195 US-231 S. Jasper, IN behind Tropical Smoothie Cafe & BB's Pizza  
 7:45am Pick up Travelers in the Wal-Mart Parking Lot in Washington, IN  
 9:30am Stop in Terre Haute for restroom break  
 11am Arrive @ The Harmony Dinner Theater  
 Noon Enjoy a delicious Lunch- Family Style Meal/ Buffet - made from scratch in Harmony Dinner Theater Kitchen  
 1:30-3:45pm Enjoy MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET CHRISTMAS in the Performing Arts Theater  
 4pm Depart for Jasper  
 5:15pm Stop in Terre Haute for restroom break  
 6:30pm Drop of Travelers in Washington  
 7pm Back in Jasper

\*Toady bags will be provided



**Million Dollar Quartet Christmas**

Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and Elvis Presley come together again to celebrate the holidays! This live music show takes place at Sun Records, now festively decorated with a Christmas tree, garland, and mistletoe, rings with sounds of the season and the chart toppers that made the "Million Dollar Quartet" famous. The gang is up to their usual antics as we journey through stories of Christmas past, present, and future. It's a jam-packed evening of holiday hits and celebration!

Book by Colin Escott. Originally developed and produced by Madison Wells Live

**LUNCH: Family Style Meal/ Buffet** - made from scratch in Harmony Dinner Theater Kitchen  
 1<sup>st</sup> Course: Tossed Salad, Broccoli Salad & Fresh Baked Rolls  
 Buffet Main Course: includes 3 meats and 4 vegetables  
 Dessert: includes 2 desserts  
 Drinks: Coffee, Tea and Water

FOLLOW our Facebook Page: **Jasper Indiana Travelers** for info on ALL of our bus trips or go to [www.grouptripsjasper.com](http://www.grouptripsjasper.com) for info on our Diamond Tours bus trips

For more information call or text Susan Kraft @ 812-639-4012



#### CONT.D Former Loogootee Dispatcher Arrested (from pg. 1)

Official Toxicology (Blood Draw): .246% BAC—over three times the legal limit.  
 Timeline Update:

While the crash happened in August and toxicology was returned in November, the formal criminal case was officially opened in Lawrence County on February 5, 2026.

Minton is facing charges related to Operating a Vehicle While Intoxicated. According to Martin County Sheriff's Dept Minton was terminated from the department following the arrest warrant.

**The Following Mugshot (above) was Provided By The Lawrence County, Ind. Police Department Based Out of Bedford, Ind.**

**2026 ELECTION  
ANNOUNCEMENT  
MAY 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2026  
PRIMARY  
(6:00 a.m. to 6:00  
p.m.)**



Voters: Absentee Ballot Applications to vote by mail are now being accepted at the Clerk's Office until April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026. Absentee Ballots will be mailed out starting Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. Since this is the primary election, you do need to make a choice between a Republican Ballot and a Democrat ballot on your application. Please include either your driver's license number or the last 4 digits of your social security number.

Absentee Voting in Person will start Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> and will be Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Martin County Courthouse located at 129 Main Street, Shoals. In-person voting will end Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. NOON.

Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> we will be open at the courthouse for in person Absentee voting from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Please make sure you are registered to vote at your current license/ID address no later than April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026. You can update/register to vote at the clerk's office, BMV, or online at <http://www.indianavoters.com/>.

INDEPENDENT and MINOR PARTY candidates' filing period will be open until June 30<sup>th</sup> by NOON and will only appear on the 2026 General Election ballot in November.

Currently filed candidates include:

Independent, Brenisha (Nisha) Carrico for Crane Town Clerk/Treasurer.

***Martin County Historian***

**History Lesson Every Month By The Martin County, Ind. Historical Society**



L to R, back row, Earl Sargent, daughter Elsie, wife Laura. Front row, daughter Loretta, sons Ward, Hubert, and grandson Denny. Elsie married Earl Grashem. Loretta married Paul Marley. Taken at the old home place 1 mile north of Cale by my grandmother, Pearl Sargent in 1929. The house is on top of the ridge above where the Roach school was located. It still stands today, unoccupied since 1945.

**Discover the Historic 200 West Main Street Building in Loogootee, Indiana**



Did you know? This charming red brick building at 200 West Main Street in Loogootee, Indiana, started life around 1905 as a livery stable for horses and carriages. Over the years, it evolved into the town's fire department hub (as early as 1907), then became the full-blown City Hall and Police Department by the 1950s! Fast-forward to today: after the city moved to a new spot in 1978, this historic gem is now in it's goth phase, painted black as The Ink Spot Tattoo Shop. From stabling steeds to inking sleeves – what a wild transformation! It's even part of the Loogootee Commercial Historic District, added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2025.

**Bloomington Man Arrested After Police Allegedly Found Child Sex Abuse Material at His Home**



BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — The Bloomington Police Department said a detective received a tip on Jan. 5 of a person in the area potentially having child sex abuse material.

A Bloomington man has been arrested after police allegedly found child sex abuse material at his home. The Bloomington Police Department said a detective received a tip on Jan. 5 of a person in the area potentially having child sex abuse material (CSAM).

Police said the detective was able to determine that the CSAM involved an image of a nude child, believed to be under the age of 12, exposing their genital area in a "sexual manner." Bloomington PD said detectives traced the owner of the account linked to the IP address in which the photo was associated to and traced it back to a 55-year-old man.

(NOTE: 13News has a policy not to name suspects until formal charges are filed by a prosecutor.)

On Feb. 24, investigators searched the suspect's home and found a "media storage device" that had several images of CSAM.

The suspect was taken to the Monroe County Jail and was preliminarily charged with possession of child sex abuse material.

The Monroe County Prosecutor's Office will make the formal charging decision.

# MID-STATES CORRIDOR SECTION

Published Weekly by Mr. Jim Arvin



To the Editor,

Monday, February 23, 2026, evening's Dubois County Council meeting was an interesting show of force. This was supposed to have been a "special" Council meeting for the Property Rights Alliance's rebuttal to the Mid-States Corridor RDA's "special" Council meeting last December. Apparently, fairness is meaningless to the Dubois County Council.

Kyanna Wheeler (INDOT) and Jason Dupont (Lochmueller Group) presented an update of the project. They made a feeble attempt to justify the project by citing questionable data about the nebula's connectivity, vehicle hours saved and the safety of J-turns. Mr. Dupont stated the Corridor would remove 88% of the truck traffic from city streets. They gave no data for this figure. They also announced they had hired contractors, which is surprising as INDOT has no money and the Corridor has no funding. Ms. Wheeler made comments, inferring that the project was a done deal and land acquisitions and construction would start later this summer.

The opponents to the Mid-States Corridor were at the Council meeting in force. They were calm and respectful throughout the entire meeting.

Mark Nowotarski, Jason McCoy and Brad Hochgesang made statements opposing the project, with plenty of facts.

Mr. Nowotarski stated that over 10,000 signatures opposing the project have been handed over to INDOT. He also stated that people from Martin, Daviess and Spencer counties have been asking where they can sign the petitions. He said in addition to petitions around the area, there is an online petition available on [change.org](http://change.org). Since this online petition went live last Saturday over 1,200 people have signed it.

Mr. McCoy told the Council that it was time for them to do their job. They asked the people of Dubois County to elect them. The people elected them to represent them, the people, not to represent the special few who want the Corridor.

Mr. Hochgesang wrapped up the opposition's presentation with powerful data. He stated he was a Democrat running for the local Senate seat, thus showing the opposition really is bipartisan. He informed the Council, and the public, that the December Public Policy Poll did not just show that Dubois County was overwhelmingly opposed with 81% against the project. He presented data from a recent statewide poll that shows 74% of Hoosiers are opposed to the Mid-States Corridor, that 88% want any

funds allocated to the Corridor to be redistributed to the over 400 canceled or postponed INDOT projects. The poll showed that 85% said the State should respect the local population opposition and stop the Corridor project. And, 74% of Hoosiers want the legislature to over-ride a veto by the Governor. Mr. Hochgesang summed up his remarks by stating that the current and future quality of life will be harmed by the Mid-States Corridor. That inaction by the Council would be a blatant and obvious vote for the project.

Mr. Hochgesang presented the Council with the letter to not renew the RDA with the appropriate law attached. All the Council had to do was to take a vote last night. Instead they chose to table the action until the County Attorney could review the document. They chose inaction, again.

Colten Pipenger, Mark Schroeder and Bill Kaiser all made comments during the Public Comment time. As to be expected, they repeated propaganda that has been debunked often.

The State Legislature will be voting and sending to Governor Braun a bill that will end the Mid-States Corridor before the end of the current session. It is expected that Governor Braun will veto this bill. If that happens, 74% of Hoosiers statewide want, and are now demanding, that the veto be overridden.

We can and we are fighting City Hall; but, we still need everyone's help. Please sign a petition, if you can't find one at the store, then go online. We need to keep striking the iron while it's hot. Together, we can beat City Hall and the Cabal.

Jim Arvin  
Rutherford Township  
Martin County

## Upcoming Events:

- **Thursday, March 5th, 6pm at the Schnitzelbank Restaurant, Pfaffenweiler Room. Bring friends!**

# SPORTS

## Loogootee Sports Schedules

BASKETBALL (BOYS JV) - NORTH KNOX HIGH SCHOOL (A)  
2/26/2026 6:00 PM

BASKETBALL (BOYS V) - NORTH KNOX HIGH SCHOOL (A)  
2/26/2026 7:30 PM

# LOOGOOTEE HIGH PREPARES FOR THE IHSAA BOYS SECTIONAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT



Loogootee basketball has long been more than just a sport; it is the heartbeat of the community. From early mornings in the gym to late-night games under the bright lights, the team's dedication and passion inspire residents of all ages. The sport fosters a sense of unity and pride, bringing together families, students, and neighbors alike.

The community's support is evident on game days, when the sidelines bustle, and cheers echo through the town, while local businesses thrive on fans' enthusiasm. Youth clinics

and charity tournaments led by the team create lasting bonds and promote healthy, active lifestyles among young residents.

This Sectional Tournament is special as this is Josh Thompson's first Sectional Tournament at Loogootee High School, and Jack Butcher Arena will be hopping with fans decked out in black and gold. Loogootee Basketball is a religion that goes far beyond just the city of Loogootee. People now know Indiana for Curt Cignetti and the IU Football team, but basketball came to Indiana first.

The players serve as role models, and their achievements uplift the town's spirit, proving that the true victory lies in the community's unwavering support and shared passion for the game.

However, this Sectional Tournament will be full of surprises and possibly upsets, especially in Sectional 62. How about this for Heath Howington's introduction to this section with Barr-Reeve? The No. 2 Vikings get rival Loogootee. The winner likely faces North Daviess. That's a gauntlet path for an always competitive group. No. 4 Orleans, the defending state champion, was fortunate to avoid all three until the championship.

## LYDIA AND ALAINA NAMED TO BLUE-CHIP ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM



Lydia and Alaina have been named to the Blue-Chip All-Conference team, marking a significant achievement for both players.

Alaina, making her second appearance on the team, averaged a double-double over six games this season, with 20 points on 55% shooting.

Lydia earned her spot as just the fourth freshman in Lady Lion history to achieve this honor, joining Ashley Fraley Salmon, Leslie Wade VanHoy, and Tyanna Graber.

THIS ADVERTISING SPACE CAN BE YOURS!

Contact Our Editor for more information and to order a Media at [braydyn\\_bearlents@loogooteetimes.com](mailto:braydyn_bearlents@loogooteetimes.com)

With the snow melting and warmer weather today, we're dreaming of Spring!

Call or text us, at Kickin' Grass Lawn Care

812-675-2882

to talk about mowing, landscaping, aerating, and all your lawn needs!



Hey Past and Present Martin County Residents, WE NEED YOUR HELP!

In the past few months, we have been remodeling the front offices of the Bowling Manufacturing Building.

We will be ready to share pictures soon but would love to add one last finishing touch first. This is where you come in!

We would like to celebrate the past with a historic photo of the building's Perfect Fit days to use as a wall mural.

If you or someone you know has one you would be willing to share, please let us know!

Thanks! Pat and Lana Beck - ShedEscape Designs

# Here Are The IHSAA Boys Basketball Sectional Pairings For Southwestern Indiana



EVANSVILLE (Evansville Courier & Press) — The possible path to Indianapolis is now official for every boys basketball team in Southwestern Indiana.

My thoughts on the sectional draw format is well documented at this point. Zero complaints with everyone making the field — it's one reason why sectional week is among my favorites on the calendar. It's still not difficult to seed the field, even just the top two teams, for most fields across the state.

Anyway, the fun begins March 3. A more encompassing preview, which is everyone's favorite bulletin board material, drops closer to that date. Here's a few quick thoughts on which teams the ping pong balls favored or hated this year.

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

Sectional 16: This unfolded as it would if seeding was a viable option. North is the strongest team in the field and receives a rematch with Castle. That's no gimmie, given the Knights are among the most improved over the second half of the season, but the Huskies won by 24 in Newburgh last week.

Reitz-Harrison is an intriguing semifinal. Panthers won by two on Feb. 13 but nearly surrendered a 16-point lead in the fourth quarter. Either could challenge North.

Sectional 31: No. 3 Princeton got the best draw. The defending champions received a bye and avoid Gibson Southern or Jasper until the championship round. Washington, a potential semifinal opponent, has won five straight under interim coach Brandt Schuckman. The other half of the bracket is loaded, starting with the Titans-Wildcats first-round battle and Southridge waiting on Friday night.

Sectional 32: Two clear lines formed by this draw. The bottom half is stacked Boonville, Mount Vernon and Heritage Hills (all have 12 wins or more). The latter gets the benefit of a bye — a rematch against Boonville would be entertaining after splitting the regular season meetings. The Pioneers won in Lincoln City with a wild fourth quarter comeback.

The other half is all Evansville schools: Bosse vs. Central with the winner playing Memorial in the semifinal. The Bulldogs, winners in six of their last eight, would be the choice on paper from this group.

Sectional 47: The two favorites, Sullivan and No. 9 Linton-Stockton, avoid each other until Saturday night. The latter doesn't have an easy first-round matchup against county rival Eastern Greene.

Sectional 48: The choice might be Mater Dei or the field. The Wildcats have the only winning record and on a notable upswing with five wins in six games. The winner of the draw might be whoever emerges from the top half. South Spencer got the bye and might face defending champion Forest Park. Note: this sectional is hosted by Forest Park but being played at Memorial Gymnasium in Huntingburg.

Sectional 62: How about this for Heath Howington's introduction to this sectional with Barr-Reeve? The No. 2 Vikings get rival Loogootee. The winner likely faces North Daviess. That's a gauntlet path for an always competitive group. No. 4 Orleans, the defending state champion, was blessed by avoiding all three until the championship. Sectional 64: Wood Memorial and Northeast Dubois avoid each other until the championship round. The former has an interesting path despite being the favorite here. A rematch first with Evansville Christian, who has played well at times this season. The winner gets Tecumseh, who has its most victories since 2020, in the semifinal.

Class 4A at North  
 Game 1: North (17-4) vs Castle (7-15)  
 Game 2: Reitz (10-9) vs Harrison (11-9)  
 Game 3: Championship Class 3A at Washington  
 Game 1: Washington (10-10) vs Vincennes Lincoln (10-13)  
 Game 2: Jasper (12-8) vs Gibson Southern (16-6)  
 Game 3: Princeton (4-3) vs Game 1 winner  
 Game 4: Southridge (12-10) vs Game 2 winner  
 Game 5: Championship  
 Error! Filename not specified.  
 Class 3A at Boonville  
 Game 1: Bosse (13-8) vs Central (8-13)  
 Game 2: Mount Vernon (12-9) vs Boonville (16-5)

Game 3: Memorial (8-12) vs Game 1 winner  
 Game 4: Heritage Hills (17-5) vs Game 2 winner  
 Game 5: Championship Class 2A at North Knox  
 Game 1: Linton-Stockton (19-4) vs Eastern Greene (12-9)  
 Game 2: West Vigo (14-7) vs North Knox (6-14)  
 Game 3: South Knox (10-11) vs Game 1 winner  
 Game 4: Sullivan (16-6) vs Game 2 winner  
 Game 5: Championship Class 2A at Memorial Gymnasium (hosted by Forest Park)  
 Game 1: Pike Central (3-19) vs Forest Park (9-13)  
 Game 2: North Posey (7-14) vs Perry Central (8-14)  
 Game 3: Tell City (2-20) vs Mater Dei (12-8)  
 Game 4: South Spencer (9-13) vs Game 1 winner

Game 5: Game 2 vs Game 3 winner  
 Game 6: Championship  
 Error! Filename not specified.  
 Class 1A at Loogootee  
 Game 1: Orleans (18-3) vs Washington Catholic (0-20)  
 Game 2: Vincennes Rivet (6-14) vs Medora (12-10)  
 Game 3: Loogootee (14-8) vs Barr-Reeve (20-1)  
 Game 4: North Daviess (13-8) vs Shoals (7-14)  
 Game 5: Game 1 winner vs Game 2 winner  
 Game 6: Game 3 winner vs Game 4 winner  
 Game 7: Championship Class 1A at Wood Memorial  
 Game 1: Wood Memorial (14-7) vs Evansville Christian (8-13)  
 Game 2: Day School (6-13) vs Cannelton (6-16)



Game 3: Springs Valley (7-13) vs Northeast Dubois (14-7)  
 Game 4: Tecumseh (10-11) vs Game 1 winner  
 Game 5: Game 2 winner vs Game 3 winner  
 Game 6: Championship

## RSVP

Retired Senior Volunteer Program  
 of Daviess & Martin Counties • 501(c)3 Nonprofit

### WE'RE ACCEPTING DONATIONS OF

### ART & CRAFT SUPPLIES!

Donations support senior volunteers serving Daviess & Martin Counties.

Donations will be used in the annual  
**Art & Craft Supplies Sale**  
 March 12-14 at the Washington Community Building.

#### We accept:

- Fabric
- Yarn
- Paint & brushes
- Craft kits
- Scrapbooking supplies
- Beads
- Paper goods

Unused art supplies of all kinds!

Please drop off donations at  
**Washington Community Building**  
 Eastside Park  
 501 Burkhart, Washington, IN

Donations will be used in the annual **Art & Craft Supplies Sale** March 12-14 at the Washington Community Building.

Questions? Call **812-254-1996**

Annual fundraiser for the Retired Senior Volunteer Program of Daviess & Martin Counties

**Martin County Alliance Spotlight Series 2026 Features Dr. Shelley Christmas, Assistant Superintendent at Loogootee Community Schools**



The Martin County Alliance has announced its 2026 Spotlight series, highlighting its board members. This week's featured member is Dr. Shelley Christmas, assistant superintendent at Loogootee Community Schools. The organization expressed gratitude for her service and for all board members, praising their leadership, collaboration, and commitment to the community.

**Senior Spotlight: Brooke Carrico**

**LION SHOUTOUT!**

**Weekly Shoutouts & News From The Loogootee Community School District**



**Kindergarten Screening Success at LES with Daviess County Volunteer Center**

Kindergarten Screening at Loogootee Elementary School was a success! Thank to RSVP Volunteer Center of Daviess County, Ind. for the kindergarten readiness bags!

*Photo (Above) Courtesy of The Loogootee Community School District*

**BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG MIX PUPPIES**

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Contact Our Editor for more information and to order a Media Kit at [braydyn\\_bearlents@loogooteetimes.com](mailto:braydyn_bearlents@loogooteetimes.com)

**Tickets Now Available for the Martin County Alliance Annual Dinner 2026**

Tickets are now available for the Martin County Alliance Annual Dinner. The event, set to take place soon, aims to bring the community together for an evening of connection, celebration, and vision. This year, attendees can purchase tickets online, including individual seats or table sponsorships, to support local initiatives. The keynote speaker will be Shellie Phelps, a nationally recognized leader in community revitalization and author of *Becoming a Big Fish*. Phelps played a significant role in transforming Wetumpka, Alabama, which was featured as HGTV's Home Town Takeover winner. The event encourages residents to mark their calendars and join in supporting the future of Martin County. Tickets are available at <https://martincountyallianceeconomic.betterworld.org/>.

**NOW HIRING – Middle/High School Band Teacher**

Barr-Reeve Community Schools seeks a passionate, creative, and student-focused Band Director to lead its middle and high school band programs starting in the 2026–27 academic year.

The district values a strong community, academic excellence, and arts education. This position offers the chance to develop a dynamic instrumental music program, foster student growth, and promote school spirit through concerts and pep band events.

Interested candidates who want to inspire young musicians and leave a lasting impact are encouraged to apply.

For more details and to submit an application, visit: <https://barrkl2.bamboohr.com/careers>

# Martin County & Courts 9

Monday, February 16, 2026

1:10 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 Medical Center.

2:40 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.

6:03 a.m.- Received a message from Shoals Community Schools advising they will be operating on a two-hour delay today due to dense fog.

8:08 a.m.- Received an accidental 911 call.

8:26 a.m.- Received a report of a disabled vehicle Southeast of Loogootee. Captain Gibson responded.

8:28 a.m.- Received a call from the requesting assistance in Loogootee. Loogootee Fire Department and LPD Assistant Chief Stuckey responded.

11:04 a.m.- Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance Northeast of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 and Indian Creek Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Deaconess Memorial Medical Center.

11:11 a.m.- Received a 911 call requesting a welfare check in Loogootee. LPD Assistant Chief Stuckey responded.

11:28 a.m.- Received a call requesting a vehicle unlocked East of Loogootee. Captain Gibson responded.

1:30 p.m.- Received an accidental 911 call.

1:39 p.m.- Received a call requesting a Vehicle Identification Number check North of Shoals. Deputy Clark responded.

4:04 p.m.- Received a call requesting an officer in Loogootee. LPD Assistant Chief Stuckey responded.

4:51 p.m.- Received a report of a possible traffic hazard in Loogootee. LPD Assistant Chief Stuckey and Loogootee City Utilities responded.

5:04 p.m.- Received an accidental 911 call.

5:59 p.m.- Received a call requesting an officer in Loogootee. LPD Assistant Chief Stuckey responded.

6:17 p.m.- Received a report of a car-deer accident South of Shoals. Deputy Clark responded.

10:11 p.m.- Received a call requesting an ambulance Northwest of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 responded and transported one patient to Deaconess Memorial Medical Center.

10:33 p.m.- Received a call requesting a deputy North of Loogootee. Major Reed responded.

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

9:51 a.m.- Received a 911 call reporting an accident with no injuries South of Loogootee. Sergeant Hawkins responded.

11:19 a.m.- Received a call advising they will be testing fire alarms at the Martin County Courthouse today.

1:33 p.m.- Received an accidental 911 call.

1:33 p.m.- Lawrence County on station with Nathan Hoffman, a 45-year-old male from Shoals, arrested on a Martin County warrant. He was being held without bond.

4:15 p.m.- Received a call requesting an officer in Loogootee. LPD Assistant Chief Stuckey responded.

5:37 p.m.- Received a 911 call requesting a deputy North of Shoals. Deputy Clark responded.

6:25 p.m.- Deputy Clark on station with Kayla King, a 24-year-old female from Shoals, arrested by Marshal Copeland on a Daviess County warrant. She is being held without bond.

7:27 p.m.- Received a 911 call reporting a possible traffic hazard South of Loogootee. Deputy Clark responded.

8:14 p.m.- Received two 911 calls with no one on the line from Crane Naval Base. Notified Crane Naval 911.

8:27 p.m.- Marshal Copeland on station with Christy Stone, a 58-year-old female from Shoals, arrested for Operating a vehicle while intoxicated-controlled substance with a prior. She was being held on \$15,000 10% bond.

9:19 p.m.- Received a call requesting a vehicle unlocked in Shoals. Deputy Clark responded.

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

1:20 a.m.- Received a call from Johnson Control advising of a commercial burglar alarm in Loogootee. LPD Officer Purcell responded.

6:01 a.m.- Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 and Loogootee Fire Department responded. No one was transported.

6:30 a.m.- Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 responded and transported one patient to Deaconess Memorial Medical Center.

6:49 a.m.- Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 2 and Loogootee Fire Department responded. Medic 2 transported one patient to Deaconess Memorial Medical Center.

10:29 a.m.- Received a report of a vehicle repossession in Loogootee.

11:38 a.m.- Received a 911 call on Crane Naval Base. Notified Crane Naval 911.

11:40 a.m.- Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Medic 1, Shoals Fire Department, Marshal Copeland and Sergeant Hawkins responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Deaconess Memorial Medical Center.

11:57 a.m.- Received a report of a reckless driver on US 231N traveling South into Loogootee. LPD Chief Cummings responded.

12:10 a.m.- Received a request for a welfare check in Loogootee. Captain Gibson and Corporal Erwin responded.

12:38 p.m.- Received a call requesting to speak with a deputy. Captain Gibson responded.

12:58 p.m.- Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Medic 2 responded and transported one patient to Deaconess Memorial Medical Center.

1:12 p.m.- Received a 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.

1:28 p.m.- Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 3, Daviess County EMS, Loogootee Fire Department and Coroner Abel responded.

1:42 p.m.- Received a 911 call reporting a reckless driver on US 231N traveling South. Indiana Conservation Officer Graber responded.

1:53 p.m.- Captain Gibson transported one inmate to court.

2:02 p.m.- Received a report of a neighbor dispute Southeast of Shoals. Corporal Erwin responded.

8:00 p.m.- Received a report of a possible identity theft North of Loogootee. Deputy Droke responded.

9:33 p.m.- Received a call requesting a vehicle unlocked in Loogootee. Deputy Clark and LPD Officer Seals responded.

Thursday, February 19, 2026

1:08 a.m.- Received a call from Johnson Control advising of a commercial burglar alarm in Loogootee. LPD Officer Seals responded.

7:26 a.m.- Received a call advising that the weight limit on county roads has been lifted.

9:18 a.m.- Received an accidental 911 call.

10:22 a.m.- Captain Gibson transported two inmates to court.

10:22 a.m.- Received a call from Shoals Community Schools advising they will be dismissing students early due to potential severe weather.

10:42 a.m.- Received a call from Loogootee Community Schools advising they will also be dismissing students early.

11:45 a.m.- Received a report of a possible traffic hazard in Crane Village. Major Reed responded.

11:50 a.m.- Captain Gibson transported two inmates to court.

11:50 a.m.- Jail Commander Gregory transported two inmates to court.

11:59 a.m.- Received a report of a possible dispute East of Loogootee. Chief Deputy Keller responded.

12:13 p.m.- Received a 911 call reporting a possible gas leak in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Medic 3, Loogootee Fire Department and LPD Chief Cummings responded. No one was transported.

1:26 p.m.- Received a call requesting a deputy North of Loogootee. Captain Gibson responded.

3:00 p.m.- Received a call requesting a deputy North of Loogootee. Deputy Branham responded.

4:43 p.m.- Received a call requesting an ambulance North of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 and Shoals Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to IU Paoli.

5:29 p.m.- Received a 911 call requesting an officer in Loogootee. LPD Chief Cummings responded.

5:39 p.m.- Received a report of lines down in Loogootee. LPD Officer Seals responded. Frontier was also notified.

8:04 p.m.- Received a call requesting officers North of Loogootee. LPD Chief Cummings and

Deputy Branham responded.

8:38 p.m.- Received a call requesting officers North of Loogootee. Deputy Branham, Chief Cummings and Indiana Conservation Officer Hembree responded.

8:56 p.m.- Received a call requesting a welfare check Northeast of Shoals. Deputy Branham responded.

9:34 p.m.- Received a report of a reckless driver in Loogootee. LPD Officer Seals responded.

10:55 p.m.- Received a report of an accident with no injuries in Loogootee. LPD Chief Cummings, LPD Assistant Chief Stuckey and Deputy Branham responded.

Friday, February 20, 2026

1:03 a.m.- Received a call from WH International advising of a commercial burglar alarm in Loogootee. LPD Chief Cummings and Deputy Droke responded.

1:10 a.m.- Received a call from WH International advising of a commercial burglar alarm East of Loogootee. Deputy Droke responded.

7:19 a.m.- Received a 911 call on Crane Naval Base. Transferred the call to Crane 911.

9:12 a.m.- Received a call requesting a welfare check in Shoals. Corporal Erwin responded.

9:50 a.m.- Received an accidental 911 call.

10:23 a.m.- Received a 911 call from a Daviess County address. Notified Daviess County 911.

11:30 a.m.- Received a 911 call reporting an accident in Shoals. Martin County Medic 1, Chief Deputy Keller, Corporal Erwin and Big John's Towing responded. No one was transported.

11:48 a.m.- Received a request to speak with a deputy. Corporal Erwin responded.

12:55 p.m.- Chief Deputy Keller transported one inmate to court.

1:48 p.m.- Received a report of a wallet being found in Loogootee. Sheriff Greene responded.

3:11 p.m.- Received a call requesting a deputy Southeast of Shoals. Corporal Erwin and Indiana Conservation Officer Fuhrman responded.

4:33 p.m.- Received a call requesting an ambulance Northwest of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 responded and transported one patient to Deaconess Memorial Medical Center.

4:46 p.m.- Received a 911 call from a Daviess County address. Transferred the call to Daviess County 911.

5:26 p.m.- Received a report of a suspicious vehicle in Loogootee. LPD Assistant Chief Stuckey responded.

6:11 p.m.- Received a report of suspicious vehicles in Loogootee. LPD Officer Purcell responded.

6:30 p.m.- All on-duty units will be doing extra patrols in Loogootee until further notice.

7:53 p.m.- Received a 911 call with no one on the line in Shoals. Deputy Branham and Deputy Droke responded.

8:46 p.m.- Received a 911 call reporting an accident in Daviess County. Transferred the call to Daviess County 911.

9:41 p.m.- Received a request for an ambulance South of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, LPD Officer Purcell and Big John's Towing responded. No one was transported.

Saturday, February 21, 2026

1:30 a.m.- Received a 911 call reporting possible illegal activity North of Shoals. Deputy Droke and LPD Officer Purcell responded.

4:13 a.m.- Received a call reporting a possible trespasser in Loogootee. LPD Officer Purcell and ISP Troopers responded.

5:15 a.m.- LPD Officer Purcell on station with Jessica Howard, a 37-year-old female from Loogootee, arrested for Trespassing and Public intoxication. She is being held without bond.

10:06 a.m.- Received a call requesting a deputy Southwest of Shoals. Corporal Erwin responded.

12:03 p.m.- Received a 911 call reporting a reckless driver on US 231N traveling South. ISP Master Trooper Lents, Corporal Erwin and LPD Officer Stuckey responded.

12:15 p.m.- Received a report of a suspicious vehicle in Loogootee. LPD Assistant Chief Stuckey responded.

12:20 p.m.- Received a call requesting a welfare check in Loogootee. LPD Assistant Chief Stuckey responded.

1:27 p.m.- Received a call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 responded and transported one patient to Deaconess Memorial Medical Center.

3:34 p.m.- Corporal Erwin on station with Marlin Johnson, a 41-year-old male from Shoals, arrested for Possession of methamphetamine, Possession of paraphernalia. He is being held on \$15,000 10% bond.

6:54 p.m.- Received a report of a suspicious vehicle in Loogootee. LPD Officer Purcell, Deputy Branham and Deputy Droke responded.

(CONT.D Police, pg. 7)

6:55 p.m.- Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance South of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 responded and transported one patient to Deaconess Memorial Medical Center.

8:38 p.m.- Received a 911 call reporting a reckless driver traveling toward Daviess County. Transferred the call to Daviess County 911.

9:03 p.m.- Received a 911 call reporting a reckless driver on US 231N traveling South. LPD Officer Purcell, Deputy Branham and Deputy Droke responded.

10:03 p.m.- Received a 911 call reporting a reckless driver on US 231S traveling South toward Dubois County. Transferred the call to Dubois County 911.

11:06 p.m.- Received a request for a deputy South of Loogootee. Deputy Droke responded.

Sunday, February 22, 2026

11:11 a.m.- Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Loogootee Fire Department and LPD Assistant Chief Stuckey responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Daviess Community Hospital.

5:27 p.m.- Received a call requesting a vehicle unlocked in Shoals. Sergeant Hawkins responded.

5:43 p.m.- Received a call requesting to speak with a deputy. Sergeant Hawkins responded.

9:27 p.m.- Received a report of a reckless driver on US 50 traveling West toward Loogootee. Deputy Clark responded.

## PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION

### NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION

In the Circuit Court of Martin County, Indiana. ~

Pursuant to I. C. '29- 1-7-7, notice is hereby given that Candace Embree was on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026, appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Viola Ruth

Embree, deceased, who died on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2025, and authorized to administer

\» this estate without Court supervision and without posting bond.

All persons having claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim

in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of first publication

of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred. .

Dated at Shoals, Indiana, this 29 day of January, 2026.

## Courts

*None This Week as Court Meets Monthly*

# PETS

## Storm Hits Monroe County Humane Association: All Animals Safe, Facility Damaged



BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (AP) — The campus of the Monroe County Humane Association (MCHA) was struck by a severe storm on Tuesday night, causing significant property damage but sparing all animals and staff from harm, officials said.

Andrew Krebbs, executive director of MCHA, confirmed in a statement that while the facility suffered damage, all animals were safely relocated and are currently in trusted care. "I'm relieved all animals are safe and in trusted care," Krebbs said.

Krebbs thanked board members, staff, and community partners for their swift response

in securing the facility and ensuring the well-being of the animals. He also extended gratitude to local officials, including Electrical Services personnel, the Bloomington Police Department, and Animal Care and Control, as well as The Ranch Cat Rescue for their assistance.

The campus remains closed as damage is assessed, and the association has asked the public to avoid the area until further notice. Community support will be sought once next steps are determined.

Individuals with upcoming appointments will be contacted in the



coming days. "May the only damage be to property, and no harm to animals or people," Krebbs said.

# Local Obituaries

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

## Helen "Elaine" Carrico

June 7, 1946- February 18, 2026

Helen "Elaine" Carrico, 79, of Loogootee, Indiana, passed away on Wednesday, February 18, 2026.

Born on June 7, 1946 in Washington, Indiana, she was the beloved daughter of Avery and Helen (Strange) Smith. Elaine lead a life of love and dedication to her family and those around her.

Elaine was a life-long teacher and a woman of deep faith. She was committed to her family and they were the center of her world. A member of St. John the Evangelist Church, it was important to her to pass that faith on to her children and grandchildren. She was a selfless person, always giving and doing for others. She taught junior high school at Washington Catholic for 20 years. Following her desire to share her faith with others, she went on to graduate from St. Mary's-of-the-Woods College with a degree in religious education. With her degree, she served as co-director of the religious education program at St. John the Evangelist Church in Loogootee for many years. After retirement, she continued to volunteer for the religious

ed program as much as she could.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her beloved husband, Robert "Bob" Carrico; three siblings: Raymond & Tom Smith, and Mary Ann Nolan; one daughter-in-law, Cheryl Carrico.

Elaine will be lovingly remembered by her children: Tom (Trish) Carrico & Bob Carrico; her grandchildren: Logan Carrico and Jacob (fiancé Shalyn) Carrico; several nieces and nephews and her constant companion, her dog Scarlett.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by Very Rev. J. Kenneth Walker at 10 a.m. on Monday, February 23, 2026 at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Loogootee, with burial to follow in St. John Catholic Cemetery. Visitation will be held on the same day from 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. at the church.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Martin County Humane Society, or to the religious education program at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church. Condolences may be made online at [www.blakefuneralhomes.com](http://www.blakefuneralhomes.com)

Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee, Indiana, is honored to serve the family of Helen Elaine Carrico.



## Malcolm G. Baker

October 23, 1933- February 24, 2026



Malcolm G. Baker, 92, of Loogootee, Indiana, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at Sycamore Care Strategies in Loogootee, Indiana, with his family by his side.

He was born on October 23, 1933, in Merville, Iowa. Malcolm was the beloved son of Ralph and Clara (Winger) Baker. On January 31, 1952, he married the great love of his life, Doris Jean (Hembree) Baker and they spent 72 years together.

## Pauline Wagler

February 14, 1948 - February 23, 2026

Pauline Wagler, 78, of Montgomery, Indiana, passed away on Monday, February 23, 2026, at Deaconess Memorial Medical Center in Jasper, Indiana.

She was born on February 14, 1948 to Albert and Lydia (Schrock) Knepp. Pauline was a member of the Old Order Amish Church. She married Herman Wagler.

Pauline was preceded in death by her parents; 2 grandchildren; and 1 great-grandchild; one brother, Albert Jr. Knepp.

She is survived by her husband, Herman Wagler; children: Rosina (Jonas) Graber, Larry (Susan) Wagler, Marlin (Martha) Wagler, Kevin (Miriam) Wagler, David (Lena Rose) Wagler, Jason (Rachel) Wagler, and Mary Lynn (Matthew) Knepp; Sister, Mary Catherine (Dave Deceased), Anna Mae (David G.) Knepp, Carolyn (Leroy) Miller, Ervin (Mary) Knepp, Laverne (Geraldine deceased) Knepp, Lester (Rosanna) Knepp, Willard (Linda) Knepp, Susie (John) Wittmer, Verda (Solomon) Graber, Omer (Dorothy) Knepp, Harvey (Marilyn Sue)

Knepp, Laura Rose (Norman) Wagler, and Mark (Dorothy) Knepp; sister-in-law Loretta Knepp; 46 grandchildren and 51 great-grandchildren.

A funeral service will be held Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at Parson Event Center, Montgomery, Indiana. Burial will follow in Southwest Cemetery.

Visitation will begin on Monday, February 23, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. at Parson Event Center in Montgomery, Indiana and will continue until the time of the service on Wednesday, February 25, 2026.

Arrangements provided by Blake & Wagler Funeral Home in Montgomery, Indiana.

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

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

He graduated from Alfordville High School in 1951 and carried a deep, unwavering faith in Jesus Christ throughout his life.

Guided by that faith and a heart for service, Malcolm became an active and devoted member of Alfordville Assembly of God Church, where he faithfully served as both Deacon and Treasurer.

His working years took him in many different directions. He was employed by the State of Indiana, worked in factory settings, and served as an EMT. No matter the role, he was known for his strong work ethic and willingness to help others. He was especially dedicated to assisting his son, Kevin, with his mowing business—so much so that many

said he would still be out mowing today if he were able.

Malcolm was also a devoted fan of I.U. and the Colts, and he found great joy in camping and gardening.

Malcolm was preceded in death by his wife, Doris; his parents; one infant son, Mark Stephen Baker; Brothers: Vachel E. Baker, Dallas E. Baker, Forest V. Baker, and sister Hazel L. Lyons.

He will be lovingly remembered by his two sons: Gene (Debbie) Baker and Kevin (Donna) Baker; grandchildren: Angela (Darrel) Smith, Paul Baker, Mandy (Josh) Fee, Allison (Dusty) Robinson, Jared (Patience) Baker; 8 great-grandchildren; and 1

great-great grandchild.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, February 28, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. at Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee, Indiana, with the Rev. Paul Hyatt officiating. Burial will follow in Alfordville Community Cemetery, Loogootee, Indiana.

Family and friends may visit on Saturday, February 28, 2026 from 9:00 a.m. to time of service at Blake Funeral Home, Loogootee.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alfordville Assembly of God.

The family would like to send a heartfelt thank you to the staff at Sycamore Care Strategies in Loogootee. They have been amazing in the care of Malcolm and Doris. We could see just how much they loved and cared for them both.

Condolences may be made online at [www.blakefuneralhomes.com](http://www.blakefuneralhomes.com).

Blake Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Malcolm G. Baker.

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6		7	8				4	

**Expert**

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

**Master**

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

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# Sudoku Daily Game #31

**Easy**

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

**Medium**

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

**Hard**

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

**Expert**

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

**Master**

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

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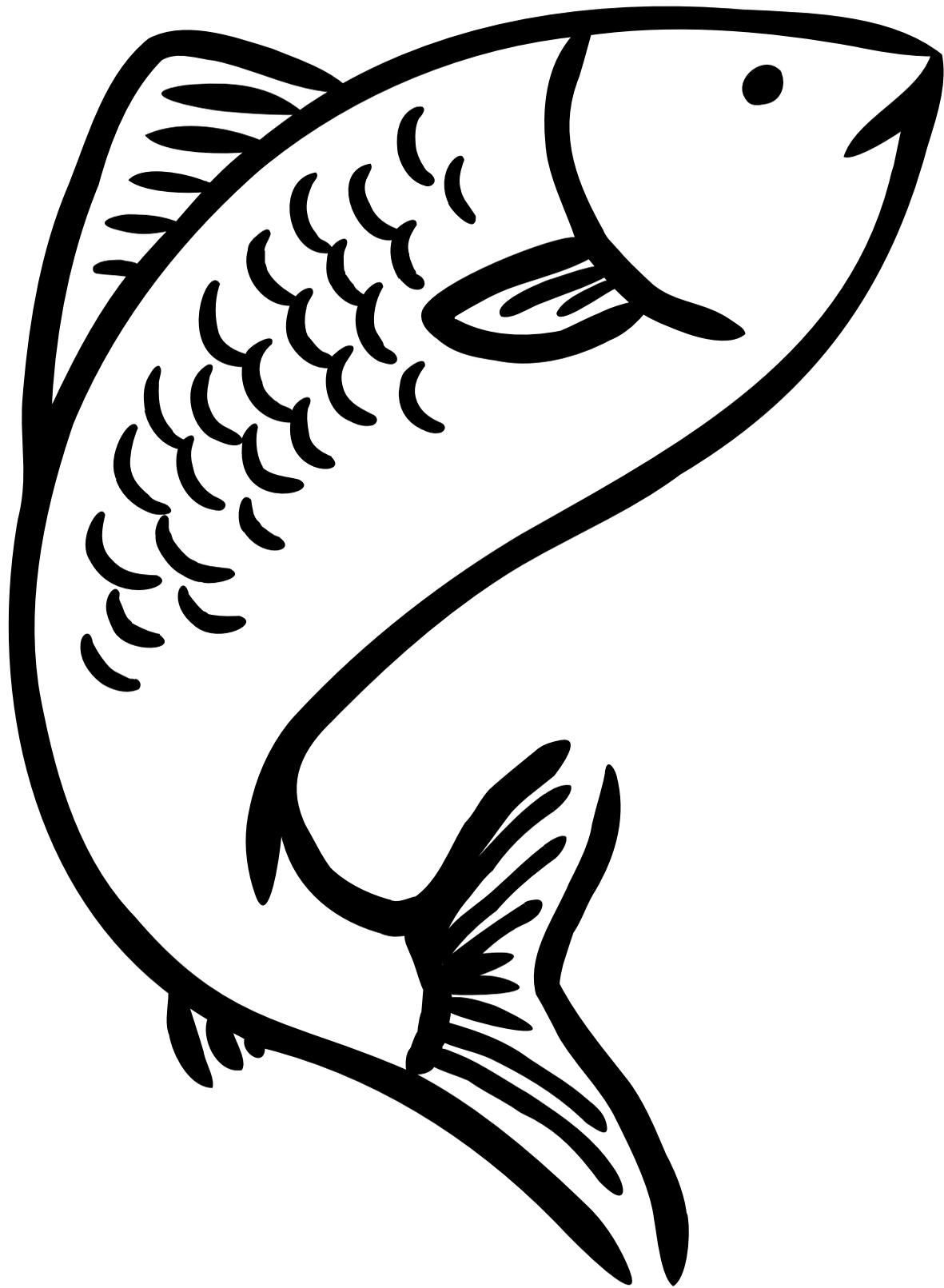
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# Sudoku Daily Game #31

## SOLUTIONS

**Coloring Sheet**  
**I Can't Wait For Fish Friday**  
**During Lent!**



**Across**

- 1. All-encompassing
- 5. Follow, as advice
- 10. Workout count
- 14. Land west of Nod
- 15. It's written in stone
- 16. Lamb's pseudonym
- 17. Like many stump speeches
- 19. 1998 Australian Open winner Korda
- 20. Mil. bigwig
- 21. Source of some psychiatry grants: Abbr.
- 22. Starbucks choice
- 23. Wipe clean
- 25. Like many stump speeches
- 28. Bun flavorings
- 30. Attention
- 31. British R&B artist Des'\_\_
- 32. Dapper guy?
- 33. Breakfast hrs.
- 34. Merchant vessel officer, briefly
- 35. Like many stump speeches
- 39. Easy pace
- 40. Singer DiFranco
- 41. Merkel of movies
- 42. Porridge plant
- 43. Mayo site
- 44. Lake Wobegon creator
- 48. Like many stump speeches
- 51. Duplicate
- 52. Hardly an asset
- 53. Actress Skye
- 55. Ring org.
- 56. Tiny bundle of energy
- 57. Like many stump speeches
- 60. Second opening?
- 61. 1980 running medalist Steve
- 62. Aust. state
- 63. River of Flanders
- 64. Dated
- 65. Some are pale

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17				18							19			
20				21				22						
23			24			25		26	27					
28					29			30				31		
			32				33				34			
	35	36				37				38				
39					40				41					
42				43				44				45	46	47
48			49				50			51				
52							53		54			55		
56					57	58					59			
60					61						62			
63					64						65			

**Down**

- 1. Borders
- 2. Hold fast
- 3. Regarded to be
- 4. Rubble creator
- 5. Cultural lead-in
- 6. Heads up
- 7. Danish astronomer Brahe
- 8. \_\_-Locka, Florida
- 9. Where the Stars play the Blues: Abbr.
- 10. Jobs for towers
- 11. Fundamental particle
- 12. Most concise
- 13. Crusader's foe
- 18. Type of band
- 22. Spoil
- 24. Camp David Accords figure
- 26. Office note
- 27. Pyrenees native
- 29. See 34-Down
- 33. Poetic pugilist
- 34. With "and" and 29-Down, central part
- 35. High seriousness
- 36. Organic insecticide
- 37. Turned on by
- 38. Worldwide relief org.
- 39. More than enough
- 43. Air rifle ammo
- 44. Fife player
- 45. Lite
- 46. Having reached safely, in a way
- 47. Areas of influence
- 49. Tabloid tidbit
- 50. Oenologist's expertise
- 54. Evening, in ads
- 57. Soda
- 58. Roe
- 59. "Give \_\_ rest!"

# Crossword Puzzle #32

V	A	S	T		A	C	T	O	N		R	E	P	S
E	D	E	N		G	L	Y	P	H		E	L	I	A
R	H	E	T	O	R	I	C	A	L		P	E	T	R
G	E	N		N	I	M	H			M	O	C	H	A
E	R	A	S	E		B	O	M	B	A	S	T	I	C
S	E	S	A	M	E	S		E	A	R		R	E	E
			D	A	N		A	M	S		B	O	S	N
	G	R	A	N	D	I	L	O	Q	U	E	N	T	
T	R	O	T		A	N	I		U	N	A			
O	A	T		B	L	T		K	E	I	L	L	O	R
O	V	E	R	B	L	O	W	N		C	L	O	N	E
M	I	N	U	S			I	O	N	E		W	B	A
A	T	O	M		P	O	N	T	I	F	I	C	A	L
N	A	N	O		O	V	E	T	T		T	A	S	M
Y	S	E	R		P	A	S	S	E		A	L	E	S

# Crossword Puzzle #32 SOLUTION