

The Berry Bulletin



A MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MATT JONES

As I reflect on this spring, one thing stands out more than anything else: the strength of the Logansport alumni community.

Our Felix 100 and 155-Year Alumni Gala was more than just an event. It was a powerful reminder of what makes the Logansport Community School Corporation (LCSC) so special. Generations of Berries came together to share stories, reconnect, and celebrate the traditions that have shaped Logansport High School (LHS) for 155 years.

Because of that support, the Alumni Association continues to make a meaningful impact across LCSC. Over the past four years, we have proudly awarded more than \$25,000 in teacher and staff grants, directly supporting the people and programs that help make our schools such special places for students today.

What excites me most is what lies ahead. We remain focused on expanding alumni connections, growing support for our schools, and creating opportunities for future generations of Berries.

Thank you for staying connected and supporting LHS and LCSC.

There is a place for every Berry in this story.

Matt Jones
Executive Director
Alumni Association, '91



CELEBRATING THE PAST.
CONNECTING THE PRESENT.
BUILDING THE FUTURE.

Vision

To connect and support all who are passionate about Logansport Community Schools.

Mission

To build a lifelong global Berry network focused on tradition, communication, education, and development of the Logansport Community School Corporation.

SAVE THE DATES

May 31, 2026 Commencement

Join LHS as we celebrate the 155th Commencement Ceremony of Logansport High School at 2:00 PM in the Berry Bowl. We look forward to honoring the Class of 2026 and continuing a proud tradition that spans 155 years. The ceremony will also be streamed live on the [LHS YouTube channel](#) for those unable to attend in person.

September 25, 2026 Homecoming

Show your Berry Pride as Berry Football takes on Tipton at 7:00 PM! Come cheer on the Berries and celebrate this proud Homecoming tradition. Before kickoff, join the Block Party sponsored by the Alumni Association and Berry Boosters.

The Logansport High School Alumni Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.
EIN #84-3804235



DON J. SCHMIDT '55 **2026 Hall of Distinction Inductee |** **Commencement Speaker**

Don J. Schmidt has led a remarkable life defined by excellence in athletics, education, public service, and community leadership, reflecting the very best of Logansport High School.



At LHS, he distinguished himself as an outstanding athlete and earned the prestigious John Price Award during his senior year. After graduating in 1955, he continued his academic and athletic pursuits at DePauw University and later earned degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Mathematics from Purdue University. Don went on to a distinguished 41-year career at Indiana University–Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW), where he served as a professor in Mechanical Engineering Technology and as the university's NCAA representative.

A lifelong competitor, he achieved extraordinary success in tennis. He won state and national titles and more than 120 championships across the Midwest and South. He was later inducted into the Fort Wayne Tennis Hall of Fame. In addition, he dedicated 45 years to officiating high school and small college basketball and football. Beyond athletics, Don served 37 years on the Fort Wayne City Council, the longest tenure in the city's history. He later continued his service on the Planning Commission.

Don J. Schmidt's legacy of leadership, service, and achievement represents the enduring strength and pride of the Berry community.

Once a Berry. Always a Berry.

[Full LHS Press Release](#)



REUNIONS

June 20, 2026 - Class of 2001

Details: Black Dog 116 S. 6th Street
7:00PM-11:00PM.

June 27, 2026 - Class of 1966

Details: Beth Perrone Schwanke —
eamartin1@comcast.net or [here](#).

July 25, 2026 - Class of 2006

Details: Updates are posted in the [Class Facebook Group](#), or [here](#). You can email Andy Muehlhausen at andymule@gmail.com.

August 15, 2026 - Class of 1971

Details: Sheila Bruck Jackson at smj53dogs@yahoo.com or [here](#).

August 22, 2026 - Class of 1969

Details: bethRRonk@gmail.com or
765-427-1005 or [here](#).

September 26, 2026 - Class of 1976

Details: **Michele Long at 574-721-6992**, the [Class Facebook Group](#) or [here](#).



Felix 100 and Gala

What a Night to Be a Berry!

Generations of alumni and friends came together for a full weekend of celebration, honoring 100 years of Felix the Cat and 155 years of Logansport High School. The festivities began the night before at the Berry Bowl, where Berries filled the stands to celebrate Felix's birthday and cheer on LHS basketball.



Don Oriolo helps Felix celebrate his 100th birthday in the Berry Bowl.

The celebration continued the following evening at our Alumni Gala at the Vibrant Event Center, where the pride in the room was unmistakable. Stories were shared. Connections were rekindled. New memories were created.

The evening featured:

- Alumni entertainment and live performances
- Silent auction and fundraising initiatives
- A special guest appearance by Don Oriolo

Because of this incredible support, the gala generated meaningful funding for the Teacher Grant Program, directly impacting classrooms and students.

It was more than a celebration. It reflected our shared pride, enduring traditions, and the strength of the Berry community.



Jenni Bowser and Wendy Squires, daughters of 1928 graduate and cheerleader Henry "Hank" Muckenfuss—who often carried the original Felix onto the court—join mascots to celebrate 100 years.



Superintendent Michele Starkey '87 addresses the crowd at the Alumni Gala, celebrating Berry pride and tradition.



Felix the Cat artist Don Oriolo performs live at the Alumni Gala, blending music with Berry tradition.



Alumni gather to reconnect and celebrate a night of Berry pride.

Explore Our History

[Discover the rich history of Logansport High School and Felix the Cat.](#)





History Lesson

The Story of the Berry Bowl

For generations of Logansport High School students, athletes, and fans, the Berry Bowl has been more than just a gymnasium. It has been the heartbeat of Berry pride.

But the story of the Berry Bowl begins long before the name ever existed.

At Logansport High School #4, located at 13th and Broadway, basketball was played in a modest gymnasium tucked inside the school building. With seating for approximately 1,540 spectators, it served its purpose for a time. But as basketball rapidly grew into Indiana's most beloved sport in the 1920's, that small gym could no longer contain the community's passion.

By January of 1925, the need for something larger was undeniable. An estimated **500 fans were turned away** from a game against Rochester, a pattern that became common. Community interest surged, and petitions circulated throughout Logansport calling for a new gymnasium. After a year of discussion and planning, the school board officially **approved** construction on **February 2, 1926**, with an estimated **cost of \$125,000**. Excavation began on May 28 at 13th and Market Streets.

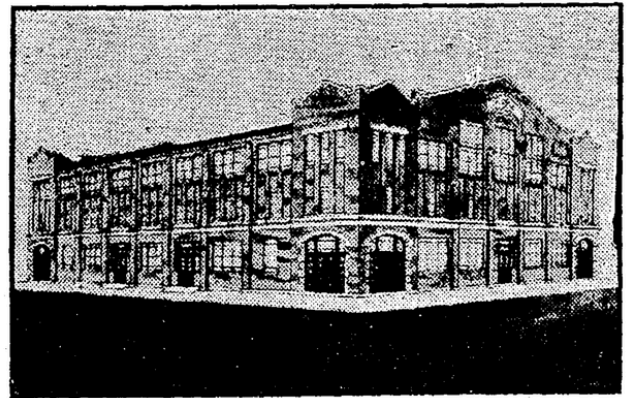
Meanwhile, the excitement around Berry basketball only continued to grow. Under the leadership of Coach Cliff Wells, the Berries emerged as one of the top teams in the state. Crowds swelled with each passing season as fans packed the stands, lined the walls, and filled every available space just to catch a glimpse of the action. It was clear: **Logansport needed something bigger—something worthy of its growing pride.**

That vision became reality in 1927.



LHS Gym in 1915

NEW HIGH SCHOOL GYM



—Photo by Grigson
The above is a reproduction of a sketch of the proposed new high school gymnasium for which a concerted financial campaign has been inaugurated in Logansport.

From the Pharos-Tribune archives



History Lesson

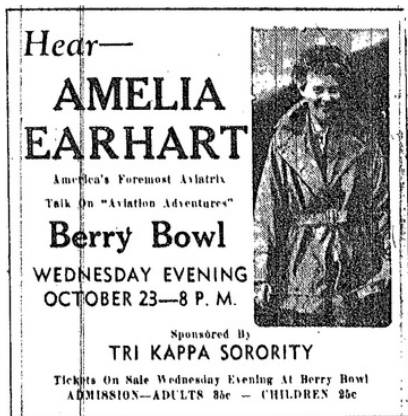
The **first game in the new gymnasium was played on January 14, 1927, against Rochester.** Just weeks later, on **February 8,** the facility was **formally dedicated during a game against LaPorte,** with IHSAA Secretary A. L. Trester presiding over the ceremony. The new gym seated approximately 4,268 fans, nearly tripling the capacity of the original facility. But it still needed a name.

In the days leading up to the dedication, Kokomo Dispatch sportswriter Jean Graffis suggested that the new name be called the "Berry Bowl." The name quickly caught on. In a February 3, 1927 Pharos Tribune article, Logansport player "Lefty" Evans, speaking on behalf of the team, said they would be proud to compete in a gym known as the Berry Bowl. **The name stuck, and a tradition was born.**

From that moment on, the original Berry Bowl became one of the most electric environments in Indiana basketball.

On winter nights, the gym came alive. The pep band echoed through the rafters, students packed the stands, and the entire community rallied behind the Berries. But the Berry Bowl was more than just a basketball venue. It was a gathering place for moments that reached far beyond the game.

One such moment came on October 23, 1935, when **world-renowned aviator Amelia Earhart spoke in the Berry Bowl.** Sponsored by the Tri Kappa Sorority, Earhart delivered a presentation titled "Aviation Adventures." Admission was 35 cents for adults and 25 cents for children. At the time, Earhart was also serving as a career counselor and adviser to the Department of Aeronautics at Purdue University, further connecting her visit to Indiana's growing role in aviation history.



From the Pharos-Tribune archives



Bill Cuppy, Indiana All-Star, shooting in the Berry Bowl in 1959.

WELLSMEN FAVOR NAME "BERRY BOWL"

"Lefty" Evans acting for the entire Loganberry squad called the Pharos office today and stated that the boys would be very pleased if the new \$125,000 gymnasium be called "Berry Bowl." This name was suggested by Jean Graffis, sports writer of the Kokomo Dispatch and was later adopted by the Pharos Tribune.

With the dedication of a new building it is usually the custom of the board to dedicate it to some individual person. There are many notable persons who could have this honor but at present no certain one has been named.

From the Pharos-Tribune archives





Felix Files

History Lesson

By the early 1970s, the need for a more modern high school had once again become clear. The 1972–73 season marked the final chapter of the original Berry Bowl. In a standing-room-only atmosphere, **the Berries defeated North Judson in the final game ever played there.** When the lights were turned off that night, the community said goodbye to a place that had meant so much to so many.



The following season, a new chapter began.

Basketball moved into the current Berry Bowl, opened as part of the new Logansport High School at 1 Berry Lane, with a capacity of approximately 5,830. The dedication took place on January 12, 1974.



While the building changed, **the name and the tradition endured.**

Today, the Berry Bowl stands as a symbol of everything that makes Logansport special: community, pride, and a deep connection to its past. It is a place where generations have gathered, where memories are made, and where the legacy of the Berries continues to grow. Over the decades, the Berry Bowl has hosted unforgettable athletic events, graduation ceremonies, concerts, school celebrations, and community events that have brought people together across generations.

Nearly fifty years later, after Amelia Earhart spoke in the “old” Berry Bowl, in July of 1983, as part of the Iron Horse Festival, country music legend **Johnny Cash performed a concert in the “new” Berry Bowl,** drawing a large crowd and further showcasing the venue’s role as a cultural centerpiece for the community. From aviation pioneers to music legends, the Berry Bowl has long been more than just a home for LHS sports. It has been a gathering place for the entire community.



Pharos-Tribune
Cash performs at Berry Bowl
June 25, 1983

Because at Logansport High School, the **Berry Bowl isn’t just a place. It’s part of who we are.**



(Digitally enhanced from an original Pharos-Tribune newspaper archive photograph.)



Always a Berry Wall

CELEBRATING THE PAST. CONNECTING THE PRESENT. BUILDING THE FUTURE.



Leave Your Mark on LHS!

For more than **155 years**, thousands of Berries have walked the halls of Logansport High School. Along the way, generations of students, staff, parents, grandparents, and community members have supported the growth and development of our beloved LHS.



Now, you have the opportunity to leave a lasting legacy with a commemorative brick tile on the future **Always a Berry Wall**, located at the entrance of the historic **Berry Bowl**.

Your purchase directly supports the **Logansport High School Alumni Association**, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing opportunities for students and staff. Over the past four years, the Alumni Association has provided more than **\$25,000 in teacher and staff grants**, funding classroom projects, programs, clubs, and enrichment opportunities that help Berries thrive in and out of the classroom.

Thank you for being part of this special initiative.

Go Berries!

Our Options:

- 4x8 Brick Tile - \$100 - This includes up to 3 lines of text, 18 characters per line.
- 8x8 Brick Tile - \$200 - This includes up to 6 lines of text, 18 characters per line.
- 8x8 Granite Tile - \$350 - This includes up to 6 lines of text, 18 characters per line.

Felix and school-related graphics are available.

Personalize your brick with:

- Your favorite LCSC student
- A special LHS graduate
- A graduating class
- A special teacher or coach
- A future Logansport Berry
- In memoriam of a loved one
- Your family name
- In honor of a team, club, organization
- Your business, or group of Berries



To order, scan the QR code or visit: <https://www.bricksrus.com/donorsite/alwaysaberry>

Stay Connected

There are many ways to stay connected and continue celebrating Berry pride throughout the year. Follow the Logansport High School Alumni Association on social media for event updates, photos, and stories that highlight our shared history and ongoing impact.

Visit our website to learn more about upcoming events, alumni initiatives, sponsorship opportunities, reunions, and ways to support LHS. Our site is also home to important updates, historical features, and links to all Alumni Association programs.

We also encourage all alumni to sign up for our [360Alumni Hub](#), our central connection point for news and alumni communications. **Creating a free profile** helps us stay connected, share opportunities that matter to you, post jobs, and strengthen alumni connections across generations.

No matter where life has taken you, you'll always be a Berry. Thank you for staying connected and supporting the past, present, and future of LHS and LCSC.

LHS Alumni Association
2829 George Street
Logansport, IN 46947

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Scan or visit to sign-up for free at
<https://logansportberries.360alumni.com>

