

March 2024 • Vol. 25 Num. 03

The Hometown Treasure



Uncomplicated

The Book Inspired by the
Back-to-Basics Lifestyle

Honor Roll Lists

**Hoosier Hysteria
and the 1954
Shipshewana Miracle**

**3-on-3
Basketball Forms**

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GIVING THANKS TO

Westview High School's Applied Skills Program director and staff are feeling thankful, and the Oakley Squad would like to send some much needed shout-outs to agencies and businesses that have positively impacted our program over the past few years. Without the help and support of Views on Learning, National Society of High School Scholars, LaGrange County Community Foundation and local businesses, the success of our program would not be possible. Applied Skills is a program for students who earn an alternate diploma and multi-disciplinary daily living skills training in the high school setting.

VIEWS ON LEARNING

Thank you to Mr. Tim Tahara at Views on Learning for the VEX Robotics grant. Our students have thrived with creating robots and learning what it means to work together as a team. Students have learned to brainstorm, plan, adapt, and create their own projects. Mrs. Stephanie Oakley's Applied Skills class and Mrs. Kaija Kauffman's Cultural Appreciation class teamed up to create model

robots in an effort to promote collaborative learning across settings. This has allowed our school to promote a more inclusive culture, which benefits all learners!

NATIONAL SOCIETY OF HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARS

The Oakley Squad would also like to thank the National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS) for the School Supply grant. Mrs. Oakley and her students were able to purchase much needed personal hygiene items for her students to utilize.

"The NSHSS is an academic honor society where distinguished students are invited to join NSHSS based on their outstanding academic achievements, enabling them access to lifelong membership benefits that extend seamlessly from high school to college and beyond into their professional careers. NSHSS' commitment to recognizing and supporting academic



excellence is evident through the awarding of more than \$2 million in scholarships annually to our members from NSHSS and our partners. We also extend grant opportunities to educators who may qualify for helpful grants to enhance professional development or provide much-needed classroom resources. Beyond financial support, NSHSS strives to empower members by providing resources, experiences, networks, and opportunities that pave the way for a path to success."

LAGRANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Other projects funded by grants from the LIFE program of the Lagrange County Community Foundation (LCCF) included contributions for classroom library books, class store materials, and art supply materials. These grants have given the Applied Skills



Students from Mrs. Oakley's and Mrs. Kauffman's classes working together on their robots

THOSE WHO GIVE BACK



classroom the opportunity to promote better reading performance by providing reading materials to be read aloud daily and having students interact with books. The more contact students have with books, the better readers they become.

In addition, students had the opportunity to create and implement a class store called the Oakley's Squad Store that makes beaded lanyards, keychains, and custom made cards. Students have sold items at local businesses and around the community.

LOCAL BUSINESSES

Community businesses have gone above and beyond to support school-aged students through the Boomerang Backpack program. Boomerang Backpacks is a program that was established in Northern Indiana in March of 2008. The program has a very simple goal: feed hungry children on the weekends. Our students need to have their basic needs met in order to succeed. We would like to send out a huge thank you to the following LaGrange County organizations: Lights of Joy, LaGrange County Community Foundation, LaGrange County Chamber of Commerce and their Power of the Purse campaign, Tri-Kappa, Miller's Poultry, and Farm Credit Mid-America. Thank you for your kindness and support.



Items sold by the Oakley Squad Store



Applied Skills students working to fill Boomerang Backpacks with weekend food for families in need



Westview School Corporation Administrative Offices |
1545 S 600 W, Topeka, IN 46571 |
260.768.4404 | eashy@westview.k12.in.us

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The Hometown Treasure

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Phone: 260-463-4901 • Fax: 260-463-7257

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You may call or stop by during office hours:

Monday - Friday, 8 am-5 pm

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— ADVERTISING INFORMATION —

Deadline for April 2024 Issue:

12 noon, Tuesday, March 19

Thursday, March 14 if you need a proof.

April Issue Date is Tuesday, March 26.

— SUBSCRIPTION RATE —

One Year: \$35

The Hometown Treasure reserves the right to not print any submitted advertisement or press release. Refunds for errors on advertising shall be limited to the amount paid for the first insertion for such advertising.



Not Perfect, but We Do Our Best

I've always been quite a perfectionist. I like doing the best job that I can and nitpicking any small details to make my projects as flawless as possible. But at the end of the day, there is always something I miss—and often, it's something fairly obvious.

I used to be hard on myself but, up until recently, the motto "nobody's perfect" has been stuck in my mind. Try as we might, no one can do everything perfectly. We're human; we're bound to make mistakes, miss small details, not place 1st, and so on.

We're not perfect, but here in LaGrange County, we try our best. We see this throughout the local schools and businesses, and even in our day-to-day routines. We have promotions and new hires, awards given for excellence, and recognition for success. There are people stepping up to make our community better, whether we see it or not. We make mistakes and we have things to fix in our community, but we do our best to help where we can and get the job done.

As we can see in this issue, we have so much to celebrate. In the elementary schools, quarter two winners have been awarded and students have been recognized for their hard work on projects in learning fairs. In the Jr-

Sr high school, we are celebrating the Scholastic Art Award Winners as well as the FFA team who competed in the Small Engines Contest.

Be sure to take a look at Harold's contributions to the Hometown this month—basketball fans are sure to enjoy! The Historical Feature highlights the 1954 Shipshewana Miracle, a well-fought season by the local Shipshewana basketball team. Harold's bonus article highlights a Westview basketball family and how their legacy is continuing today.

As always, feel free to let us know what articles and content you would like to see. We love to hear from our readers and explore new topics! We'd also love to partner with area businesses to bring you editorial content that appeals to you. Please send your thoughts, comments, and recommendations to The Hometown Treasure, PO Box 70, Shipshewana IN 46565, or email them to news@lagwana.com.

Best Wishes,

Chloe Lovell
The Hometown Treasure Editor



Cover Photo by Chloe Lovell

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LaGrange Clinic	Shipshewana Clinic	Topeka Clinic
Monday & Wednesday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Tuesday 8:00 am to 3:00 pm	Wolfe Building Community Room <u>Only 1st & 3rd Thursday</u> 8:30 am to 1:00 pm.	Topeka Fire Station <u>Only 2nd & 4th Thursday</u> 8:30 am to 1:00 pm.

There are times when HD inspectors, vital records registrar, office staff, and nurses are engaged in field work, taking care of customers, or in satellite clinics. Please, feel free to call us before stopping in to make sure someone will be here to help you. (260) 499-4182

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Wound Lickers and Scab Pickers

I crashed my bike when I was seven years old. I went headlong over the front of the bike and cut my knee on the fender (yes, my little bike had fenders—I was that cool!). It was painful, there was blood, there were screams...you get the picture? The trauma of a seven-year-old at its finest. I remember nursing that wound for months, retelling my sad story to any aunt or uncle who cared to hear it, and trying to get sympathy from my teacher for the tragedy I had just been through. Let's face it, I had to get stitches...five of them to be exact!

It was the first of many "traumas" I would endure over the next 52 years. And I'm not talking about the puncture wounds of an offending bike fender. I'm talking about the ones that affected my spirit, soul, and heart. Have you experienced wounds like this?

Life is full of joy and sorrow. Both impact our lives. The birth of a child affects us just as much as the loss of one. One event delights us and the other is gut-wrenching. But both leave their mark on our souls.

I don't know about you, but when I'm on the other side of a struggle, I tend to keep looking back at it. Wound licking is an unproductive pastime of mine. I want the wound to heal. I do all the necessary things to seal it up. I

plead with God, seek wise counsel, and find things to divert my attention, and eventually, everything is all better. But just when the Lord has healed a wound in my heart, I have the terrible habit of picking at the scab until it bleeds again. It's a vicious cycle. Am I the only one who does this?

It's difficult to forget about things that have impacted us so deeply, whether they delighted us or broke us. Everything that happens in our lives is part of our stories. For instance, I always want to remember my wedding day or when I saw the Grand Canyon. And as much as I want to forget the pain of hardships, it is also part of my story.

However, just like the day I went headlong over my bike, there's an area I tend to tumble over regarding hardships. I allow them to conjure up bitterness when I look back at those times. I'm relentlessly guilty of recalling the pain of the moment instead of standing in awe of the healing that took place.

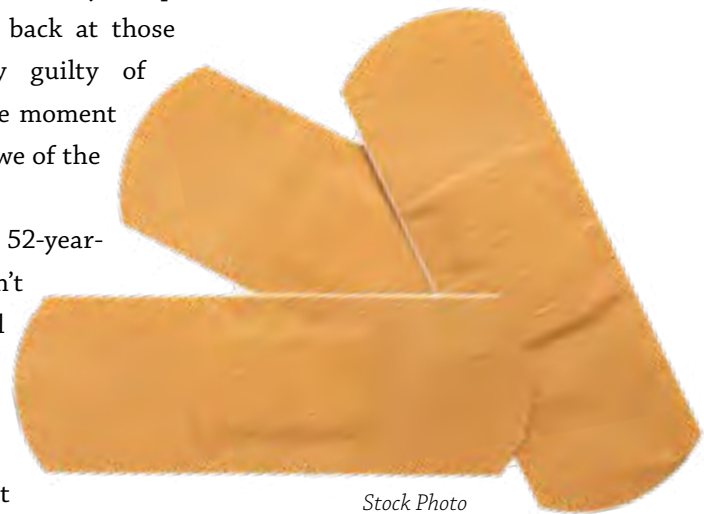
When I look at the 52-year-old scar on my knee, I can't remember the physical pain of it anymore. But I remember my dad encouraging me to ride my bike again. And so, it

should be for all of us scab pickers and wound lickers. Stop it! Stick a band-aid on the thing and move forward in the healing that has happened. Live life from the perspective of your lessons learned.

For me, as a believer in God, I'm reminded of this helpful verse:

"Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert" (Isaiah 43:18-19).

God encourages His people here to let go of the past and embrace His new works and blessings. When we look back at the scars of past hurt, we should also view them as the place where growth sprung up, not where pain remains. **i**



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LCCF Grant Workshop: February 28

The LaGrange County Community Foundation will host a grant workshop on Wednesday, February 28, from 10:00-11:00 a.m. at the Community Foundation's Community Room, 0045 N. 250 W., LaGrange.

The Community Foundation encourages nonprofit organizations who are considering applying for the Spring Community Impact grant cycle to attend the workshop. The Community Foundation's spring funding cycle is open, and applications are due April 3.

Each year, the Foundation seeks to fund innovative projects and programs that address the critical needs in LaGrange County. Leanna Martin, Program Director, will walk attendees through the Foundation's application process, grant funding opportunities, examples of what budget documents are required, and provide tips on how to tailor a strong story.

The workshop is ideal for first-time grant seekers, organizations that are not familiar with LaGrange County Community Foundation, and those who want basic knowledge about the Foundation's grant opportunities.

The Community Foundation aims to support nonprofit needs and provide innovative programs and services for residents through its grantmaking program. The grants are made possible through the generosity of donors who have supported the unrestricted charitable funds at the Community Foundation.



To register for the grant workshop, visit lccf.net/grant-workshop. 

Smart Choices

By Hannah Smith, PharmD Candidate at Topeka Pharmacy

Children's Pain: How to Save the Day, the Safe Way!

Choosing a medication for your little one is no small matter! Luckily, there are safe over-the-counter options. With cold and flu season on the horizon, we're here to provide a trustworthy guide for treating your little one's pain and fever.

Let's start with a medication that should NEVER be given to kids less than 14 years old. Aspirin, or any other medications containing aspirin, are not safe for kids. Aspirin increases the risk of Reye's Syndrome, a rare disorder associated with brain and liver damage that can occur during viral illnesses such as colds or the flu. Reye's Syndrome usually only happens in kids who are given aspirin during sickness. You can protect your child from Reye's Syndrome by avoiding aspirin.

Acetaminophen (Tylenol®) and Ibuprofen (Motrin® or Advil®) are safe options to provide relief of pain and fever for kids. Acetaminophen is especially good for treating fevers, and ibuprofen is especially good for pain and inflammation. It's important to remember the following when using these medications for kids:

Although the dosing directions on the box are often based on age, it's best to choose the dose based on your child's WEIGHT. Consult your doctor or pharmacist for help determining the correct dose when needed.


Acetaminophen and Ibuprofen are both dosed every 4-6 hours as needed. Ibuprofen and acetaminophen can be used together if they are staggered. For example, you

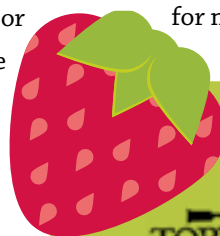
can give acetaminophen at 8:00am and noon and give Ibuprofen at 10:00am and 2:00pm. As long as you wait at least 4 hours before giving the next dose of the same medication, you will be able to give your child something for pain relief every 2 hours.

Pay attention to the formulation. Infant's Tylenol Drops and Children's Tylenol Suspension are the exact same medication, whereas Infant's Ibuprofen Drops are more concentrated than Children's Ibuprofen Suspension. Read labels carefully to avoid dosing errors.

Children's acetaminophen and ibuprofen are also available as chewable tablets. These work just as fast as liquid formulations and may be a better option for older kids.

Always use either an oral syringe or medication dosing cup to give your child their medicine. Never use household spoons, as there is no way to ensure your child is getting the right dose.

At Topeka Pharmacy, we are always happy to answer your questions and help with over-the-counter medication selection. We have free resources available at our store to help you determine the correct medication dose for your child. Call us at 260-593-2252 for more information. 



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**Ship-Chic Spring Craft & Vintage Show
 Saturday, April 20th, 9AM - 3PM**

Shop gifts, vintage items, home decor, crafts,
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 baked goods, signs and more!

Admission: \$5, Kids 14 & Under are FREE

**Antique Toy & Misc. Auction
 Wednesday, April 24th @ 9AM**

Come shop the regular WEEKLY Antique &
 Misc. Auction and enjoy an added special
 section of antique toy items at this sale!



**Shipshewana
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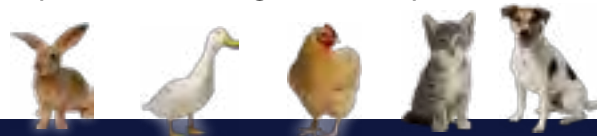


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Can You Save Too Much for a Rainy Day?

“Save for a rainy day” is an old piece of advice—and a good one. But is it possible to save too much?

To begin with, what defines a “rainy day” in terms of financial needs? It could be any number of things: a temporary loss of employment, a major home or car repair, a large medical bill, and so on.

If you did not have the money readily available to pay for these types of expenses, you might be forced to dip into your IRA, 401(k) or other retirement accounts, incurring taxes and possible penalties as well as lowering the amount of money you’d have available for retirement. That’s why it’s a good idea to build an emergency fund containing up to six months’ worth of total expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account that’s separate from the accounts you use for your daily spending needs.


An emergency fund is valuable, but many

people may be overfunding it. And while this isn’t the biggest financial mistake one can make, it could result in some missed opportunities.

For one thing, when you keep money in a low-risk account, you can generally count on your principal being protected, which means the money will be there for you when you need it—but the flip side is that this money likely won’t grow very much, if at all. And if you’re going to achieve your long-term goals, such as a comfortable retirement, you need your investment portfolio to provide you with significant growth potential within the context of your individual risk tolerance. So, any excess dollars kept in your rainy-day fund might be used to help fuel some growth-oriented investments.

You could also use these dollars to help diversify your investment portfolio. If you only owned one type of investment, your portfolio could take a big hit if a market downturn affected just that asset class. But by owning a mix of stocks, bonds, government securities and other investments, you can help reduce the impact of market volatility. (Keep in mind, though, that diversification by itself can’t protect against all losses.)

Still, before deciding on what to do with extra money you might have in your emergency fund, how will you know if you indeed have too much? Up to six months’ worth of total expenses may be adequate for most people—but everyone’s life is different. For example, if you have reason to believe your employment or that of your spouse may be in jeopardy in the near future, or if you anticipate the need for some renovations to your home, but not for a year or so, you might want more than six months of expenses tucked away in your emergency fund. Also, once you’re retired, you may well want to keep a year’s worth of expenses in the fund. If you need cash, you don’t want to be forced to sell investments when their price may be down, especially since you have less time for them to recover.

Ultimately, when thinking about how much to keep in your emergency fund, review your situation carefully and weigh as many variables as you can. And if you do decide your rainy-day fund is abundant, use any “overflow” in a way that can help you keep moving toward your financial goals. 

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LaGrange County Library

Below are the events planned for March 2024.

All activities are *In-Person* unless noted. If you have any questions, please call the LaGrange library for further information.

Find more information at www.lagrange.lib.in.us or call 260-463-2841.

Facebook Page- m.facebook.com/lagrangelibraryindiana

Shipshewana Branch

250 Depot St. • 260-768-7444

M - F • 11:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.

Saturday • 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

LaGrange County Public Library

203 West Spring Street • 260-463-2841

M - Th • 9:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m.

Friday • 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Saturday • 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Topeka Branch

133 North Main Street • 260-593-3030

M - F • 11:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.

Saturday • 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Youth Department

Preschool Story Time (Ages 0-5) Theme: Owls

LaGrange • Tuesdays, Mar. 5, 12, 19, and 26 • 10:30 a.m.

Shipshewana • Tuesdays, Mar. 5, 12, 19, and 26 • 1 p.m.

Topeka • Wednesdays, Mar. 6, 13, 20, and 27 • 11 a.m.

Enjoy stories, songs and rhymes with a fun craft or activity.

Homeschool Group (All Ages) Theme: Intro to Martial Arts

LaGrange • Friday, March 8 • 10:30–Noon

We will have a special guest from Hoosier Taekwondo teach us the history of Taekwondo, why self-defense is important and a few self-defense moves. Dress comfortably. REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

Pokémon Club (Ages 8-18)

LaGrange • Monday, March 11 • 6–7 p.m.

Have fun playing Pokémon, trading cards and learning strategies for improving your game. Sign up appreciated but not required.

Teen Games (Grades 6-12)

LaGrange • Monday, March 11 • 4–7 p.m.

We'll be learning some new games and deciding what to add to our future games for all library patrons. Registration appreciated but not required.

Teen Dungeons & Dragons (Grades 6-12)

LaGrange • Monday, March 11 • 6–7:30 p.m.

Join us to play Dungeons & Dragons. The group will decide who is Dungeon Master and how long each campaign will be. Please sign up online.

Elementary Book Club (Grades 1-3)

LaGrange • Tuesday, March 19 • 4–4:45 p.m.

We'll discuss "The Soccer Ball Monster Mystery," do a fun activity and pass out next month's book.

Middle Grade Book Club (Grades 4-7)

LaGrange • Tuesday, March 19 • 4–4:45 p.m.

We'll discuss "Maya and the Robot," do a fun activity and pass out next month's book.

Family Movie Night (All Ages)

LaGrange • Friday, March 22 • 6 p.m.

Wonka (2023) Rated PG. Free popcorn! Bring your own covered drink.

Teen Book Chat (Grades 8-12)

LaGrange • Monday, March 25 • 4–4:45 p.m.

We'll discuss our favorite genre of books that everyone has chosen to read and look at choices for our next genre.

Teen Advisory Group (Grades 6-12)

LaGrange • Monday, March 25 • 5–6 p.m.

Join us to discuss plans for teens at the library, prep for future activities, choose books in our YA collection, and make the teen space more comfortable.

Teen Night Activity: Sip & Paint! (Grades 6-12)

LaGrange • Monday, March 25 • 6–7:15 p.m.

Join us to paint a picture on canvas and mix up some flavored soda or boba refresher soda to sip while you paint. REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

Youth Department (cont.)

STEAM Makerspace! (Ages 5+) (Ages 5-8 require parent in the room)

LaGrange • Wednesday, March 27 • 2–5:30 p.m.

Come create with Legos. You can use our idea books or build whatever you want.

Adult Interest

Loose Ends (12+) - Free!

LaGrange • Fridays, Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 • 10–11 a.m.

Bring a craft project you've been meaning to work on or come color and chat!

The Walking Well-Read (All Ages) - Free!

LaGrange • Mon. & Thurs., Mar. 4, 7, 11, 14, 18, 21, 25 and 28 • Noon

Come to the library for 30 minutes of cardio! We'll walk up and down stairs, around the book stacks, and through some behind-the-scenes areas.

The Artist's Way Creative Cluster (Ages 16+)

LaGrange • Mondays, Mar. 4, 11, 18 and 25 • 4–5 p.m.

The library is partnering with LaGrange County Arts for an exploration of "The Artist's Way" by Julia Cameron. "The Artist's Way" has inspired millions of readers to embark on a creative journey and find a deeper connection to process and purpose. *Participants will need a copy of the book. You may bring your own, or obtain a copy at the first meeting.*

Classic Cinema: Westerns (Ages 12+) - Free!

LaGrange • Tuesdays • 2 p.m. • Free Popcorn

Mar. 5: *High Noon*—Starring Gary Cooper & Grace Kelly (1952) Rated TV-PG. 85 min.

Mar. 12: *Shane*—Starring Alan Ladd, Jean Arthur & Van Heflin (1953) Rated TV-PG. 118 min.

Mar. 26: *Rio Bravo*—Starring John Wayne, Dean Martin & Ricky Nelson (1959) Rated TV-14. 141 min.

Second Saturday Book Club (Ages 16+)

El Zorrito Mexican Restaurant, Topeka • Saturday, Mar. 9 • 11 a.m.

This month we'll discuss "El Paso" by Winston Groom. Full of shootouts, daring escapes, and an unforgettable bullfight, this novel brings to life a crucial moment in history and creates an indelible portrait of the American Southwest in the final days of the wild frontier. *Copies of the book are available at LaGrange's Adult Desk.*

Painting with Carl Mosher (Ages 12+)

LaGrange • Friday, March 15 • 1–4 p.m.

Even if you've never painted before, you'll be amazed at what you're capable of! Carl will supply all the materials. Cost is \$25 payable to Carl at class. Call today to sign-up at 260-463-2841 x1030.

Cookbook Club

LaGrange • March 23 • 11 a.m.

Check out the cookbook of the month ("101 Morning Treats" by Sarah Kieffer) at the LaGrange Adult Services desk. Choose a recipe to make and bring it to the Cookbook Club carry-in! Plates, silverware, coffee and tea will be provided. Families welcome.

Friends of the Library Book, DVD, and Audiobook Sale

Topeka • Thurs., March 7 • 11–2 p.m. FOL Members Only; 2–6 p.m. Open to the Public

Fri., March 8 • 11–6 p.m. • Open to the Public

Sat., March 9 • 9–1 p.m. • Open to the Public

Memberships can be renewed or purchased the day of the sale.

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March Events

Sugar Shack Tours

Saturdays, March 2 and 9 • 9 am–3 pm
Maple Wood Nature Center

The sugar shack will be open for free public tours to share how sap becomes maple syrup. Programs will be every half hour; the shack will be closed from 12-12:30 pm each day. Remember to dress for the weather! The Syrup Store will be closed, but taste samples may be available.

Sap Run & Syrup Stroll


5K Fun Run and 1 Mile Walk

Saturday, March 9 • 10 am start time
(9:15 am begins packet pick-up)

Maple Wood Nature Center

Sponsored by the Friends of LaGrange County Parks, the Sap Run and Syrup Stroll is open to walkers and runners of all ages and skill levels! The course will be over handicap accessible limestone trails and the adjoining paved road. This event is limited to the first 100 participants.

\$15 includes registration and a coupon for maple kettle corn or maple cotton candy. **\$30** includes registration, event neck gaiter, pint of maple syrup, and a coupon for maple kettle corn or maple cotton candy at Maple Syrup Days.

Online registration can be found on the Friends of LaGrange County Parks Facebook page, www.facebook.com/FriendsOfLaGrangeCountyParks. Hard copies are available at the park office at Dallas Lake Park Office. Proceeds benefit LaGrange County Parks. 

Photos Submitted



Maple Syrup Days

Maple Syrup Days

Sat. & Sun., Mar. 16 & 17 • 7 am–2 pm
Maple Wood Nature Center


It's Maple Syrup season! Dress warm and enjoy a day with all things maple syrup with the LaGrange County Parks!

7 am–1:30 pm:

South Milford Lions Club "All You Can Eat" Pancake & Sausage Breakfast! Meal tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 10 and under (cash or check only), while supplies last.

8 am–2 pm:

- The DeKalb Horsemen's Association will provide free horse-drawn wagon rides into the sugar bush.
- Roz Puppets will offer six shows in the Puppet Tent each day to entertain all ages, free to the public.
- There will be free Sugar Shack Tours and backyard syrumping demonstrations to show the process of making maple syrup.
- The Syrup Store will sell a variety of items like maple syrup, maple cotton candy, maple suckers, maple-themed activity books, and more. Cash, check or charge are accepted (credit cards have a convenience fee).
- Maple kettle corn and maple sap tea will also be available for purchase (cash only).

To learn more, call 260-854-2225 or visit www.lagrangecountyparks.org. 



Maple Syrup School Tours

Weekdays, February 27–March 13

Morning Tours: 9–10:30 am

Afternoon Tours: 12–1:30 pm

Maple Wood Nature Center

The LaGrange County Parks are

scheduling maple syrup field trips for all schools: public, private, and homeschool. Students will take a short walk through the woods to learn about the tapping process, then visit the sugar shack to learn about evaporation. The tour is nearly 100% outside so

dress for the weather! Tours are free for LaGrange County Schools, and \$3 per student for out-of-county schools. To schedule your trip or to learn more, contact the park office at 260-854-2225 or at parks@lagrangecounty.org.

Breakfast With the Birds

Wednesday, March 20 • 8–10 am


Maple Wood Nature Center

Coffee, doughnuts and nature conversation. For all ages.

Folk Jams

Sunday, March 24 • 1:30–5 pm

Maple Wood Nature Center

Jams are mostly folk, country, and bluegrass music with other styles added in occasionally. Bring a snack to share if you'd like. For more information, contact Erv Troyer at 260-463-2247 or by email at reo43@aol.com. 

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Darci Stanner Gaff has been hired as the Director for LaGrange County Together, a countywide collaboration to develop a bold, comprehensive plan for the growth and prosperity of the communities of LaGrange County. The LaGrange County Commissioners approved Gaff's contract position in December 2023 to aid with the implementation of the county's plan. Gaff will work with LaGrange County organizations to lead implementation efforts.

Gaff has extensive experience in community outreach, resource development and public relations. She previously worked as Executive Director for United Way in both LaGrange and Steuben County as well as on the Fremont Area Chamber of Commerce, and has served on numerous local and regional executive boards, fundraisers, and committees.

"Darci will be a vital link between the comprehensive plan and LaGrange County stakeholders. She brings enthusiasm, but most importantly, planning experience and a desire to see action for LaGrange County. We are thrilled to bring on a director to help coordinate and share the good work happening in our communities," said Octavia Yoder, Executive Director of the LaGrange County Community Foundation and member of the LaGrange County Together Steering Committee.

The LaGrange County Plan Commission and County Commissioners adopted the LaGrange County Together plan in September 2022. The plan represents the insight

of hundreds of residents who shared their thoughts, ideas and hopes for the communities of LaGrange County.

The adopted plan includes 75 recommendations organized around five topics of community interest: land use and development, local economy, natural environment, roadways and infrastructure, and quality of life. As the process shifts towards implementation, Gaff's role will be important to help keep the plan on track and to engage with partners and stakeholders needed to help support LaGrange County Together.

Some actions, like the zoning ordinance update, development of a tourism strategy, and launch of a small business development program, are already underway while others will require long-term efforts by the LaGrange community. Residents with questions, or those interested in serving on a committee related to community interest topics, should contact Darci Stanner Gaff at darcigaff@gmail.com. To learn more about the adopted plan, visit LaGrangeCountyTogether.org. ¹

Lake City Bank Promotes and Hires

Lake City Bank is pleased to announce a promotion and a new hire within the bank. Imelda Herrera has been promoted to Retail Banking Officer at the bank's Goshen Downtown branch. In this position, Herrera leads sales and service efforts in the branch, manages the



daily operations of the office and supports office staff in their efforts to provide quality service and build customer relationships. She has been with the bank for eight years. Herrera volunteers with Junior Achievement and Goshen Community School's Spring Into Reading program.

Chad P. Douglass has joined the bank as Vice President, Commercial Banking Officer serving Elkhart and the surrounding areas. Douglass is responsible for developing business relationships with commercial clients to provide financing and other banking solutions. He has 33 years of experience in financial services. Douglass earned his bachelor's degree at Western Michigan University and his master's degree in business administration at Indiana University South Bend. He holds the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) and Certified Public Accountant (CPA) certifications. ¹



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Parkview LaGrange Hospital EMS Offering CPR Classes For 2024

Life is unpredictable, so it's important to be prepared. During American Heart Month, Parkview LaGrange Hospital is reminding area residents that learning CPR is an important way to be prepared in case of a cardiac emergency.

CPR, or cardiopulmonary resuscitation, is an easy-to-pick-up skill that could help you save a life when medical assistance is not immediately at hand. Since 2022, Parkview LaGrange Hospital's EMS team has been offering quarterly classes of the American Heart Association's Heartsaver CPR for the public, and classes are again available in 2024.

"In a heart attack, accident or drowning situation, every second counts because when a person's heart stops beating, their brain is being deprived of oxygen," said Logan Ison,

EMS manager for Parkview LaGrange and Parkview Noble hospitals. "If someone present knows CPR, they can begin chest compressions on the person immediately to get the blood circulating again until our EMS team or other first responders arrive. The more area residents who know CPR, the better the chances that a life in jeopardy can be saved."

2024 classes will be held at the EMS station, 982 N. Townline Road, LaGrange, on these dates:


- Thursday, March 14, from 2 to 4 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 4, from 9 to 11 a.m.
- Thursday, Sept. 19, from 2 to 4 p.m.
- Tuesday, Dec. 17, from 9 to 11 a.m.

Instructors will help participants become familiar with the technique for performing CPR on someone whose heart has stopped beating. Participants will practice on training manikins,

so class size is limited to 12 people per session to ensure everyone gets to practice. In addition, basic first aid is covered in the class.

Anyone age 13 or older may participate. Cost for the class is \$20 per person. Participants will receive American Heart Association certification in the form of an official CPR card, delivered electronically.

Pre-registration and pre-payment are required. Visit www.Parkview.com/CPR for information and to register.

Registration and payment must be completed no later than five days ahead of the class date. Please email christina.blaskie@parkview.com or call 260-463-9389 to make payment arrangements. 



Stock Photo

Early Childhood Educator Award Winner Announced

Thrive by 5 is excited to announce that Stephanie Sanders of Ruth Stultz Preschool in Ligonier is our latest Outstanding Early Childhood Educator! Stephanie received several glowing recommendations during the nomination process.

"She is so positive and uplifting. She's always helpful, and always has great ideas. She is always helping others,

and does it with no questions asked."

"She puts in extra effort with each and every child. The compassion and understanding she exhibits is amazing and you can tell she genuinely loves her job and her students."

"My son has been having difficulty this year and she has been super understanding and compassionate. She has made the introduction to kindergarten better for the upcoming year."

For the amazing work she is doing to care for and educate young children in our community, Stephanie received a \$100 gift card and a commemorative plaque from Thrive by 5.

This award is sponsored by Black and Ramer Insurance.

Congratulations to all nominees this round, which included:

- Ashley Gray of Rainbow Years Learning Ministry in Shipshewana
- April Beitz of Kendallville Day Care Center
- Jenny Hicks of Lighthouse Childcare and Learning Service in Ligonier
- Tabitha Chupp of Lighthouse Childcare and Learning Service in Ligonier
- Erica Moser of Ruth Stultz Preschool in Ligonier
- Ashlee Hogan of Kendallville Day Care Center


Nominations for the next Early Childhood Educator Award opens in early April. 



Photo Submitted

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THE LATEST FROM THRIVE BY 5



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Placing books in the homes and hands of young children is a proven strategy that promotes early literacy and numeracy, key skills essential for kindergarten readiness. Studies show that children who start school with these skills are better able to meet third grade reading benchmarks, maintain grade-level learning and remain in school. Access to early learning is critical to increasing high school graduation rates, especially for children in low-income and marginalized communities.

The Imagination Library reaches children from birth to age five with free, age-appropriate books and

supplementary learning activities each month. Through the Imagination Library, children receive their own books mailed directly to them at home.

The Imagination Library is available for free to every family in Elkhart, LaGrange, and Noble County with children under five years of age. To learn more, one can visit crossroadsuw.org/dolly-parton-imagination-library.


Grants

Through the Community Foundations in LaGrange and Noble Counties, Thrive by 5 was awarded a total of \$76,250 in Employer Sponsored Child Care Fund Grants. \$50,000 was awarded in LaGrange County; as businesses invest in the work of Thrive by 5, a matching amount from the grant will be deposited into a fund supporting programs and projects to advance early care and education in LaGrange County. \$26,250 was awarded in Noble County;

this grant will match an employer's investment in the Tri-Share Program, increasing support for their employees in the first year.

In addition, the Noble County Community Foundation dedicated \$50,000 from the Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow (GIFT) VIII Planning Grant to focus on Thrive by 5's Early Childhood work.

On My Way Pre-K

On My Way Pre-K is available to four-year-olds at high quality early learning providers in our area. This school year, 15 children are enrolled in Noble County and 10 are enrolled in LaGrange County. Eligibility increased in August to 150% of the Federal Poverty Level (\$45,000 for a family of four) and limited eligibility is available up to 185% of the Federal Poverty Level (\$55,500 for a family of four). 

Junior American Citizen Contest Awards

The LaGrange de Lafayette Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) chapter is pleased to report that students from four Westview Elementary School classes have participated in the Junior American Citizen (JAC) contests in Art, Creative Expression, and Community Service Projects. Sixty-four entries were received from students in Ms.

Huyvaert's, Mrs. Gongwer's, Mr. Davis's, and Mr. Yoder's classes. The annual theme, "Sparkling in the Stars with the 50th Anniversary of the NASA Space Shuttle Program," was enthusiastically embraced by these sixth-grade students.

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution is committed to education; the local chapter is pleased

to have the opportunity to showcase the work of students in LaGrange County. The judges commented on how difficult it was to select the winners out of so many wonderful entries.


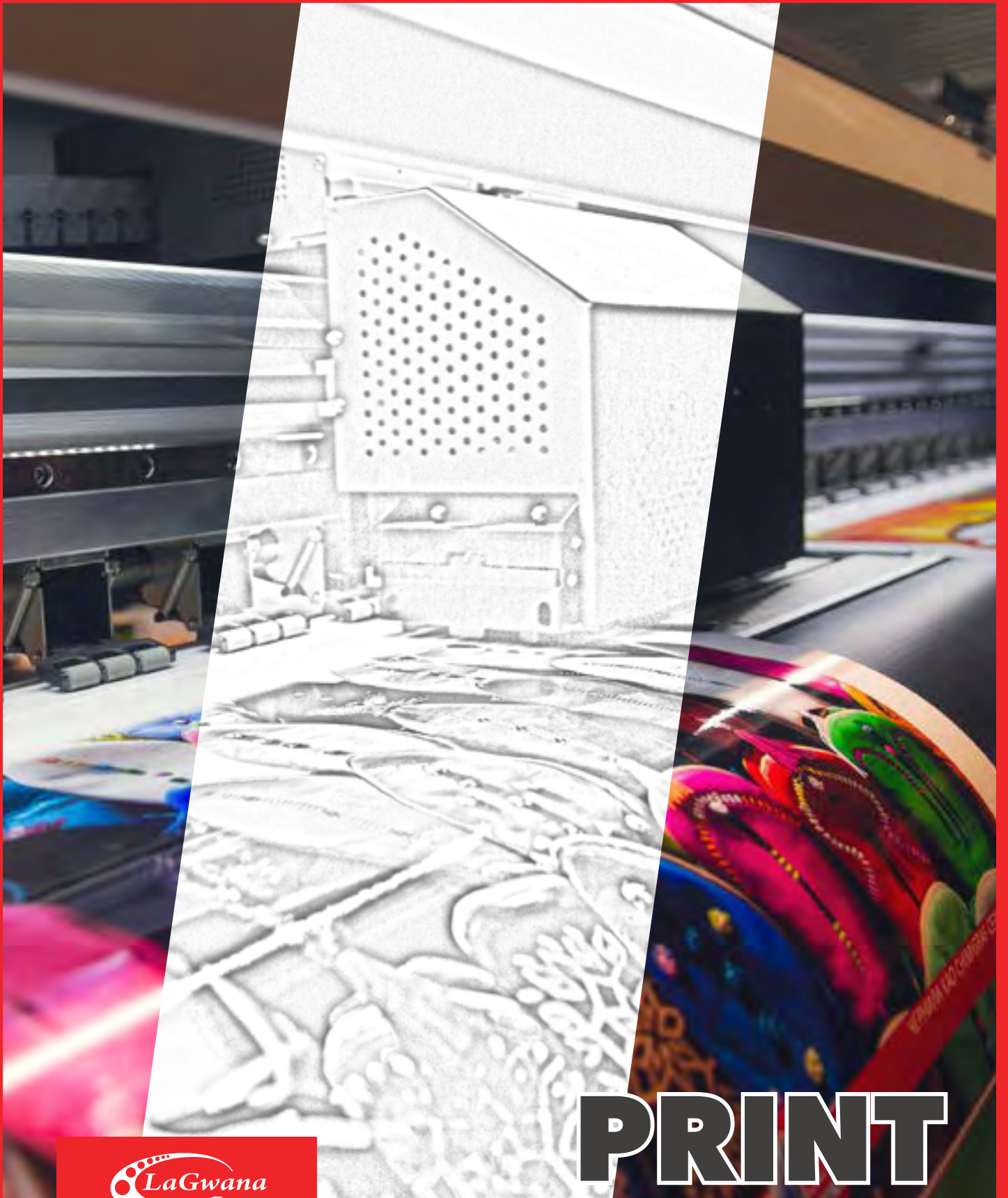
If you know others who would like to get involved with JAC contests and activities, please contact us at DARLaGrange@gmail.com. We would love to get more children involved. 

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Lex Thompson Qualifies for NASP State Tournament



Congratulations to Lex Thompson on qualifying for the Indiana NASP State Tournament in both the Bullseye and 3D categories. Lex, an eighth grader at Westview Jr-Sr High School, scored 276/300 for Bullseye and 264/300 in 3D. He will be competing at the State Fairgrounds on March 9.

NASP stands for National Archery in the Schools Program. During the season, archers compete in local, state qualifying, and regional events. At the State tournament, teams and individuals attempt to qualify for the Eastern and Western National Tournament.

The Archery team is coached by Jason Stacy of Westview Jr-Sr High School. 



Photos by Westview High School student Michael Yeip and Jason Stacy

When a loved one passes away, grief can be bewildering and isolating. While each person experiences grief in their own way, getting support to help you understand your grief and find companionship with others dealing with similar struggles can be important in helping you navigate your feelings and move forward.

Parkview Hospice counselors facilitate bereavement support groups across the area. Any community member who has experienced the loss of a loved one, recently or longer ago, and is seeking a compassionate, supportive environment in which to heal is welcome to attend.

The groups focus on concepts in the book, "Understanding Your Grief," by noted author, educator and grief counselor Alan D. Wolfelt, Ph.D. Wolfelt's exploration of grief, self-compassion and practical steps toward healing has been a helpful guide for thousands of people nationwide.

Support group members will receive a free copy of the book, which they will read and discuss during the meetings as they explore the normal emotional responses to illness and death and ways to cope.

Groups meet 4–5:30 p.m. in LaGrange, DeKalb and Noble counties.

The LaGrange County support group meets on Tuesdays through Mar. 12, at First Presbyterian Church, 200 W. Michigan St., LaGrange. The DeKalb County support


Experienced hospice social workers encourage group members on their grief journey. Rev. Ken Weaver, LCSW, LMFT, hospice chaplain, and Cathy Petrie, LCSW, bereavement counselor, have led support groups together in Noble and LaGrange counties for 15 years. Petrie is joined by Angela Beer-Walker, LCSW, hospice social worker, in facilitating the Garrett group.

To enroll in the LaGrange, DeKalb, Noble or Steuben group or ask questions, call 800-292-9894.

Bereavement support groups are also available in Allen and Huntington counties on an ongoing basis.

The Allen County group meets 5:30–7 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month in the PACH Conference Room at Parkview Randallia Hospital, 2200 Randallia Drive, Fort Wayne. Participants should use ground floor entrance 2 to access the PACH room.

The Huntington County group meets 5:30–7 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month in the Parkview Home Health office at 2806 Theater Avenue, Suite A, Huntington.

For information about the Allen or Huntington County groups or other bereavement support, call 260-373-9800 or toll free 800-363-9977. 

Bereavement Support Groups Offer Help Coping With Grief

group meets on Wednesdays through Mar. 13, at Miller's Merry Manor, 1367 S. Randolph St., Garrett. The Noble County support group meets on Thursdays through Mar. 14, at the Kendallville Public Library, 221 S. Park Ave., Kendallville. In addition, a Steuben County location has been added at the Stroh Church of Christ, 4540 S. 1100 W., Hudson. Anyone attending this support group should enter door 2 and go to Room 208. Meetings take place from 1–2:30 p.m. on Wednesdays until Mar. 13.

A 5th Yoder Joins the 1,000 Points Club

by Harold D. Gingerich

Any time a basketball player can score 1,000 points or more in their high school career it is a cause for celebration. Within the past weeks another Yoder has surpassed that milestone, and he is still a junior. But what makes his accomplishment unique is that he is the fifth member of the family to become a member of the 1,000 Points Club—and Richard Yoder has every right to be “one proud grandfather.”

Richard’s grandson, Ty Yoder, is a junior at Resurrection Christian High School in Loveland, Colorado. Ty, who has been a starter on the varsity team since he was a freshman, was named first team All-State as a sophomore. He has also earned All-Patriot Conference honors in each of his first two years.

Ty is coached by his father Ryan Yoder, a 1990 Westview H.S. graduate who scored 1,594 points in his high school career. Ryan went on to become a standout at Colorado State University and made it to the final week of tryouts with the NBA Denver Nuggets.

Last year Ryan guided Resurrection Christian to state runner-up honors in the Colorado state tournament.

The first Yoder in the family to reach the 1,000 points plateau was Richard’s younger brother Gary. Gary, a 1973 Westview graduate, scored 1,711 points for the Warriors. He went on to play basketball at the University of Cincinnati where he earned All-American honors.


Richard’s youngest son, Russ, who graduated from Westview in 1994 comes in second in the Yoder scoring parade with a total of 1,698 tallies. Last year Russ’ son Brady closed out his Westview scoring career with a total of 1,211 points.

Westview basketball fans are

well aware of the fact that there are several other Yoders who graced the hardwood. Rob Yoder, Richard’s nephew by marriage, is a 1988 Westview graduate who only scored 374 points in his career—but he holds the distinction of being the winningest Westview coach (2003-2021) with 303 wins. Rob’s son Charlie, Class of 2021, holds the career scoring at Westview with 2,163 points.

It is easy to understand why Richard and his late wife Sharon chose to incorporate the name Hoopland in the family’s farming operation. And given all these outstanding Yoder basketball players, it makes a person wonder... Have we discovered

something new in the genetic code? Is there something in the Yoder DNA, something that the rest of us don’t seem to have? While there is no scientific evidence, we might just call it the “Yoder gene.”

Oh, and did I mention that Russ has another talented son in junior high at Westview? He just might be the next Yoder to reach 1,000. 



Richard Yoder’s grandson Ty Yoder recently reached 1,000 points scored in his high school basketball career. Photo Submitted

Gary Yoder '73



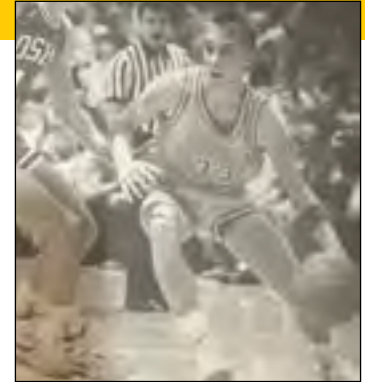
Gary Yoder, Richard's brother, scored a total of 1,711 points throughout his high school basketball career.

Rusty Yoder '94



Russ "Rusty" Yoder graduated from Westview in 1994 with a high school basketball career scoring record of 1,698.

Ryan Yoder '90



Ryan Yoder graduated from Westview in 1990, ending his high school basketball career with 1,594 points. Ryan played basketball at Colorado State University, and now coaches the team at Resurrection Christian High School.

Brady Yoder '23



Photo by Abby Wenger

Richard Yoder's grandson Brady Yoder graduated in 2023, with a high school scoring career of 1,211 points.

Charlie Yoder '21



Photo by Abby Wenger

Descendant of a separate Yoder family, Charlie Yoder is related to Richard Yoder by marriage. Charlie currently holds Westview's career scoring record with 2,163 points.

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- 10 Finley Berkey, Emelia Engel, Kyla Miller, Hudson Moon, Ava Wingard
- 11 Darcy Baker, Erika Mast, Kinley Yoder
- 12 Jasmine Graber, Micah Otto
- 13 Kathleen Halderman, Kierra Slabach
- 15 Molly Grimmer, Aaron Hochstetler, Saadia Omar, Cole Stutzman, Nora Yoder
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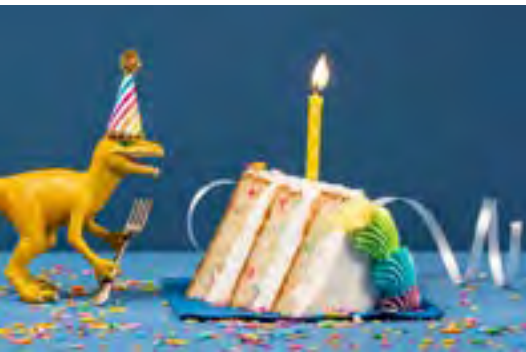


Look No Further!

We will book your flight and take your puppy to the airport! We also offer nanny flights as well!

**PICTURE PAWFECT PUPPIES
TRANSPORTATION**

SAMUEL & RACHEL CHUPP 269-625-5099 USDA LICENSE



- 17 David Bontrager, Krista Bontrager
- 18 Jamie King, Kristal Miller
- 19 Jacob Mast
- 20 Finley Hill, Eden Otto, Joshua Ropp, Renee Yoder
- 21 Adrian Frey, Kingston Miller
- 22 Haroun Muharram, Jada Nissley, Makenna Stutzman
- 23 Cora Carman, Jerry Troyer
- 24 Kiana Detweiler, Ryan Eash, Raeola Gingerich, Kenzie Hochstetler, Derrick Martin, Addelyn Miller, Sheila Miller, Noah Schlabach
- 25 Brantley Dunker, Leon Hershberger, Austin Yoder
- 26 Jacob Duke, Jessica Hostetler, Kristen Lambright, Kipton Schrock
- 28 Ava Bontrager, Jayna Bontrager, Sadie Colley, Tanner Gingerich, Anthony Otto
- 29 Coltin Bontrager, Heidi Bontrager, Richard Brinager, Arlie Sparkman
- 30 Avalei Grice
- 31 Kristen Bontrager, Grayson Fry, Benson Hochstetler, Austin Martin, Jillian Schlabach, Allison Slabaugh, Leah Tuholski

**Sponsorship
Space Available**

Students Rewarded for Good Bus Behavior

Westview SRO's and the Transportation Department rewarded students that had great behavior on the bus first semester. They were nominated by their bus driver for being a good leader, well behaved, and always on time. The students will be rewarded with a drink from 5 Lakes. Great job Warriors!



Westview Elementary Students: Back (left to right): Officer Flowers, Katie Mishler, 5th; Jessica Hostetler, 5th; Cindy Schwartz, 6th; Alyssa Barkman, 6th; Brooklyn Stutzman, 6th; Officer Conwell and Director of Transportation Yvonne Eash. Front: Jaylin Lehman, 5th; Micaiah Bontrager, 5th; Jacob Mast, 5th; Ava Yoder, 5th; Kayla Bontrager, 6th; and Akhila Reed, 6th. Not Pictured: Serena Miller, 5th.



Westview Jr. High Students: Back (left to right): Charlie Double, 7th; Darin Yoder, 7th; Jaylen Bontrager, 7th; Britton Miller, 7th; Jeremy Nisley, 8th; Lukas Yoder, 8th; Karla Miller, 7th; Jessica Miller, 7th; Mustafa Shahbain, 8th; and Cheyanne Daniel, 7th. Front: Officer Flowers, Jayna Riehl, 7th; Bayli Smith, 8th; Tyson Bontrager, 7th; Kevin Bontrager, 8th; Lyle Hershberger, 8th; Andrea Whetstone, 8th; JoLinda Otto, 8th; Ava Mishler, 8th; Mason Walz, 8th; Landon Raber, 8th; Lacey Ramey, 7th; Officer Conwell and Director of Transportation Yvonne Eash. Not Pictured: Karl Bontrager, 8th.



Westview High School Students: (Left to right): Officer Flowers, Devyn Whetstone, 9th; Jacob McCoy, 9th; Hallie Staub, 9th; Taylor Bryan, 10th; Ava Hostetler, 10th; Johny Henard, 12th; Patrick Trethewey, 12th; Officer Conwell and Director of Transportation Yvonne Eash. Not Pictured: Abriana Suddarth, 12th.

All Photos Submitted

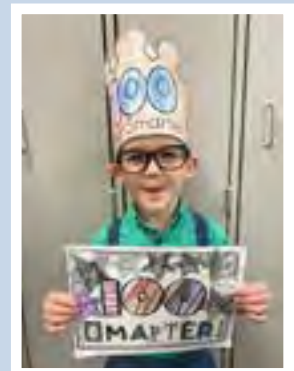
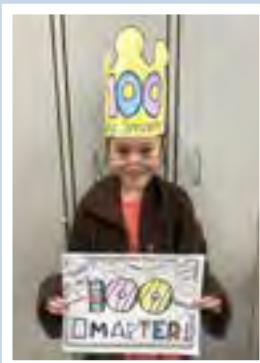
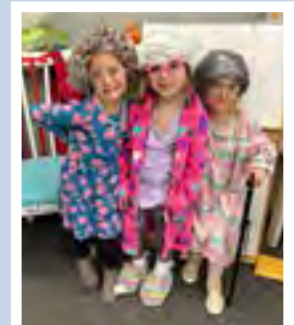
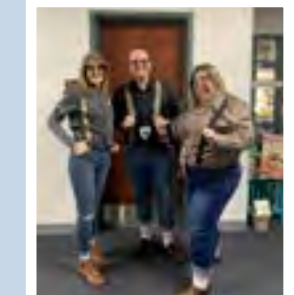
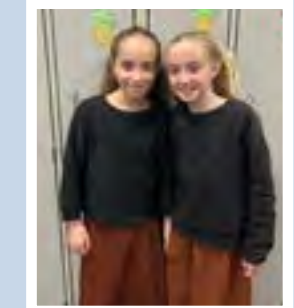
Awards, Learning, and Dressing Up

Kindergartners celebrated the 100th day of school at Meadowview Elementary, and the 4th graders dressed up for Twin Day! Mrs. Willard's 2nd grade class made Valentine holders for Valentine's Day.

Students in 4C studied moon phases and used cookies as a visual reference for each phase. Students needed the filling so they were able to eat the part of the cookie that didn't have frosting. Science and cookies? Best day ever!

4th grade students participated in Super Bowl Monday the day after the Super Bowl. Students completed a variety of math, English, and reading activities that were all football themed. In "tackling the main idea," students read a short passage together and found the main idea. With foam fingers, students practiced their long division skills. Students also followed step-by-step directions to make a paper football, and then "kicked" the paper football through the field goal. The snacks and decorations caught the students' attention right away! It was a perfect review for upcoming NWEA tests.

Meadowview students were chosen for the 2nd Quarter Mustang Awards. A maximum of two students are chosen by the classroom teacher every nine weeks. Winners are chosen based on their display of effort, attitude, improvement, respect, and responsibility. Winners spend the afternoon playing a game with Principal Helmuth, and receive a Mighty Mustang tag on a chain and a sweet treat from Resource Officer Conwell. Go Mustangs! 🏆



This page made possible by the



Meadowview Elementary

Home of the Mustangs



Kindergarten Winners: Back: (left to right): Jolyn Bontrager, Devon Bontrager, Thomas Miller and Shawn Miller. Front: Kurtis Miller, Jenna Fry, Lydia Miller and Sharon Miller.



First Grade Winners: Back: (left to right): Leah Mast, Logan Bontrager and Miciah Slabach. Front: Kenlin Bontrager, Janae Miller and Lilah Miller. Not Pictured: Caleb Miller.



Second Grade Winners: Back: (left to right): Isaac Raber, Jenna Yoder and Lincoln Yutzy. Front: Derek Lehman, Heidi Borntreger and Kinsley Myers.

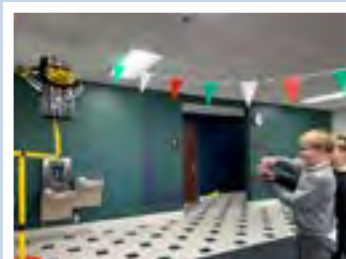


Third Grade Winners: Back: (left to right): Seth Troyer, Brandon Miller and Landon Slabach. Front: Sherri Kauffman, Laylah Lambricht and Allison Bontrager. Not Pictured: Vonda Mishler.




Fourth Grade Winners: Back: (left to right): Jared Yoder, Bryan Lehman and Jaxon Stutzman. Front: Myra Bontrager and Kaylee Yoder. Not Pictured: Kensley Barker.

So Much To Celebrate



All Photos Submitted

Quarter 2 Awards

Shipshe-Scott students recently celebrated the end of the first semester with Quarter 2 awards. Each classroom handed out awards for Shining Citizens as well as Attentiveness. School staff appreciate all the good choices these students make on a daily basis. Thanks for being positive role models in our school community! 



Kindergarten Attentiveness Awards: *Left to right:* Mariah Yoder, Melissa Bontrager, Alyse Slabach, Kaden Miller and Josiah Jones.



Kindergarten Shining Citizens: *Back:* (left to right): Jennifer Miller, Hannah Yoder, Malia Yoder and Bethany Nisley. *Front:* Jace Miller, Asher Eash, Joshua Ropp, Lynn Miller and Peter Stemm.



First Grade Attentiveness Awards: *Back:* (left to right): Asher Raber, Braden Hochstetler, Nolan Lambright and Brock Stout. *Front:* Vanessa Miller, Brooklyn Troyer, Keanan Byroad and Freya Olweean.



First Grade Shining Citizens: *Back:* (left to right): Renee Yoder, Bristol Brandenberger, Maeve Berkey and Kayla Beechy. *Front:* Austin Yoder, Archer Glassman and Michael Kline.



Second Grade Shining Citizens: *Back:* (left to right): Lucille Duzan, Lilly Miller, Brynlee Wingard and Brooklyn Miller. *Front:* Maverick Calvillo, Trevor Detweiler and Jared King.

This page made possible by the



Shipshe-Scott Elementary

Home of the Scotties



Second Grade Attentiveness Awards: Left to right: Makyla Schwartz, Jordan Schrock, Brooklyn Hochstetler, Jordan Troyer and Melanie Fry.



Third Grade Shining Citizens: Left to right: Aliyah Watts, Crystal Miller, Tyler Miller and Isaiah Miller.



Third Grade Attentiveness Awards: Left to right: Lincoln Miller, Gemma Riggio and Beckett Troxel.



Fourth Grade Attentiveness Awards: Back: (left to right): Carson Miller, Colton Bender and Asher Kauffman. Front: Beverly Foulk and Ava Bontrager.



Fourth Grade Shining Citizens: Back: (left to right): Darin Stutzman, Salia Bontrager and Griffin Brohm. Front: Kristen Lambright, Kenady Miller and Chloe Swanson.

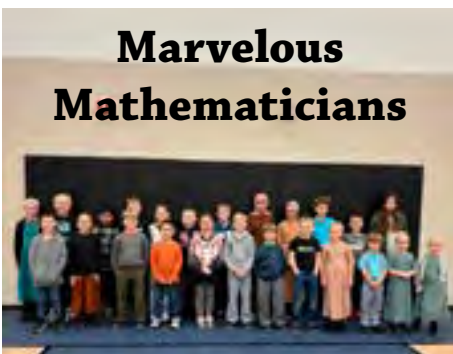
All Photos Submitted

Awards and SEEK Screening

On Monday, January 8, TES had their quarter 2 awards to welcome everyone back from break and celebrate all the hard work students put in over the last nine weeks! Marvelous Mathematicians, Radical Readers, and Paws-itive People from each class were recognized and celebrated. They even got a special treat!

The TES Learning Fair was held on Monday, February 12. Students were able to submit up to two projects from several categories. The staff, parents, and judges were blown away with the creativity and time put into the projects this school year. We have very creative students at our school and are proud of their hard work! Congratulations to the grade level winners!

SEEK Screening for incoming kindergarten students will be held at Topeka Elementary School on Monday, April 29 only. It is a one-day event this school year. Please contact the school if you have a child who will be starting kindergarten in August of 2024. Call the school secretary at 260-593-2897. Your child must be 5 years of age or before August 1, 2024. 📍



Marvelous Mathematicians



Radical Readers



Paws-itive People



This page made possible by the



Topeka Elementary

Home of
the Bears



3-Dimensional Art: (left to right): Elliana Kaufman, Darin Bontrager, Isaiah Hershberger, Lilliegh Mast, Brentlee Miller, and Brian Miller.



Math: (left to right): Lachelle Bontrager, Amy Miller, Derek Bontrager, and James Mast.



2-Dimensional Art: (left to right): Adrian Miller, Andrea Barkman, Jada Nissley, Lila Wingard, Lincoln Bortner, and Kingston Miller.



Social Studies: (left to right): Sawyer Hamm, Edison Martin, Sean Williams, Elijah Flores, Case Grossman, and River Rheinheimer.



Science: (left to right): Nathan Martin, Kelsey Smith, and Bayzli Turner.



Books Are Fun: (left to right): Emily Yoder, Jenise Eash, Skylee Doty, Caleb Lehman, and Malachi Bunch.



Baking: (left to right): Kadence Jones, Macy Matney, Krista Bontrager, Ava Hostetler, Dena Lambright, Everett Michael, Audrey Yoder, and Rylie Beechy.



Poetry: (left to right): Jared Mast, Lachelle Bontrager, and Jenise Eash.



Short Story: (left to right): Case Grossman, Maverick Geigley, Easton McDonald, Miley McDonald, and Andrea Barkman.



Sewing: (left to right): Kelsie Hochstetler, Evelyn Brown, Olivia Everage, Heidi Miller, and Addelyn Miller.
Not Pictured: Gracelynn Noble.



All Photos Submitted

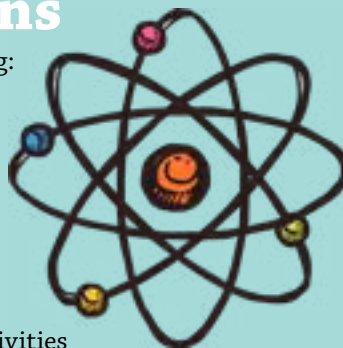
Awards, Science Fair, the

2nd Grading Period Outstanding Citizens

The outstanding citizens are chosen based on the following:

1. They are responsible for their behavior
2. They are responsible for their assignments
3. They show respect for adults and peers
4. They serve as role models for other students
5. They respect the property and rights of others
6. They display good manners
7. They participate in the classroom and other school activities
8. They are honest and trustworthy
9. They are courteous and cooperative

PTO provided coupons to JoJo's Pretzels and Topeka Pizza along with various food treats. Congratulations to the winners for the second grading period! 🎉



2nd Grading Period Outstanding Citizens: (In no particular order): Tyson Yoder, 5A; James Fender, 5B; Maria Miller, 5C; Weslee Steider, 5D; Ryleigh Weimer, 5E; Elijah Wingard, 5F; Obadiah Raber, 5G; Jalayna Fry, 5H; Kalyn Bontrager, 6A; Julian Warrenner, 6B; Maci Miller, 6C; Katy Miller, 6D; Adrian Bontrager, 6E; Curtis Miller, 6G; Anthony Otto, 6H; and Joshua Troyer, 6I



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Westview Elementary

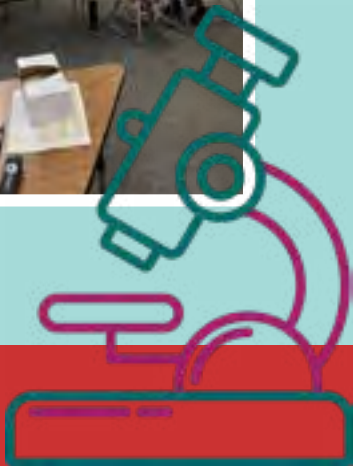
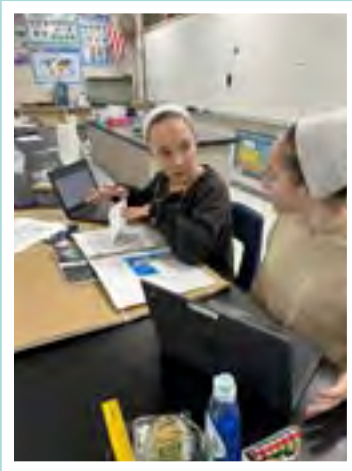
Home of
the Warriors

Circus, and More!

Science Fair

Students are working with a partner of their choosing on science experiments. They were able to find an experiment to do and find a way to make it their own. Right now, students are finding background information to better understand what and how their experiment works.

Students in Mrs. Geng's and Mr. Williams' classes are working on their science fair projects! 📌



Extracurricular Awards

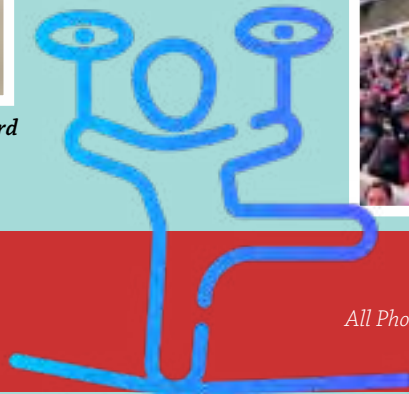
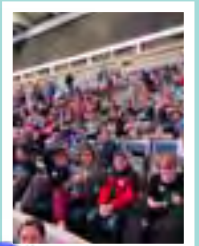
Every semester, two students from each classroom are eligible to receive the Art, Music, and Physical Education awards. 📌



Kendall Lambright and James Wingard spreading Valentine's Day cheer!

Shrine Circus

5th grade students traveled to Fort Wayne and attended the Shrine Circus! 📌



All Photos Submitted

2024 Scholastic Art Award Winners

Congratulations to the 2024 Scholastic Art Award winners! Six Westview students had their artwork receive honors at the Scholastic Art and Writing Competition. The Scholastic Art Competition is a Regional competition in which students are awarded a Gold Key, Silver Key or Honorable Mention for their work in any medium. Oftentimes, Visual Voice and Technical skill are highly awarded in this highly competitive competition.

Nevaeh White earned top honors for Westview receiving four awards in total, one Gold Key and three Honorable Mention awards for her work in Painting and Printmaking. Cheyenne Diaz earned a Silver Key for Painting. Jennifer Osorio Luna received a Silver Key for Drawing. Tetiana Jones and Scott Yoder also earned a Silver Key for Ceramics, and Judson Hershberger received two honorable mentions for his work in Ceramics. Tristan Pearson

and Michael Yeip both received awards for their photography. This is a highly competitive competition for our visual artists. Nevaeh White's Gold Key pieces will go on to be judged at the national level. National awards will be announced in late March. All artwork will be displayed at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art starting in February and on display through April 7.

Congratulations to the talented artists at Westview High School! 📌



FFA Competes in District 3 Small Engines Contest

Congratulations to the Westview FFA Boys teams who competed at the District 3 Small Engines Contest on Tuesday, January 30, 2024 at Central Noble High School.

For the engine contest, contestants competed as teams of two in four skill stations that had to do with engines: a specification test on information about their engine, a small engine test, tool and parts ID that you would use and have on engines, and then they had an hour and fifteen minutes to assemble an engine and have it run.

Way to go boys! 📌



Ryan Yoder and Benton Hershberger placed 2nd overall, qualifying for State in April.



Keegan Norburg and Aaron Williams placed 19th overall.



Keegan Hershberger and Wyatt Murray placed 21st overall.

Creativity Abounds



Westview Jr./Sr. High

Home of the Warriors

Westview Jr. High Students of the Semester

Each quarter, a 7th and 8th grade student from each department are chosen as an Outstanding Student for going above and beyond in their classrooms. These students have been chosen based on their work, words, actions, or a combination of all three. Congratulations to these Jr. High Semester 1 Outstanding Students! 📢



Winter Academic Awards

In the interest of recognizing academic excellence, Westview High School is in their 32nd year promoting an incentive program that provides students the opportunity to earn specially designed academic blankets, stars and rings. Eighty-seven Westview scholars were honored.

Twenty-six sophomores have established a GPA of at least 3.75 cumulative for the first three semesters of their high school careers and received their academic blanket:

Hyde Al Yahiri, Noriah Aldhuraibi, Kristen Bender, Katana Bibbee, Noah Bontrager, Breann Cory, Hunter Egli, Kaden Grau, Madison Grossman, Ava Hostetler, Dakota Hubbard, Kaleb Iddings, Briana Kaufman, Hailey Lambright, Janell Lambright, Audri Martin, Lanita Mast, Eden Mauck, Milan Miller, Myra Miller, Aaron Roth, Bentley Ryall, Brett Springer, Jordynn Wasson, Jalayna Whetstone, and Brina Williams.

Thirty-four juniors received a star or an academic blanket for having established a GPA of at least 3.70 cumulative for five semesters:

Sarah Alshuga, Cole Bontrager, Ian Bontrager, Lilly Bontrager, Clarinda Byler, Mason Clark, Gavin Engle, Jaxon Engle,

Max Engle, Zach Fry, Ava Gilbert, Silas Haarer, Grace Heyerly, Hussein Hussein, Olivia Jasso, Asher Kennedy, Kiana Mast, Curtis Miller, Tristan Pearson, Morgan Rich, Morgan Riegsecker, Jonathan Roth, Alexander Sanchez, Victoria Sandquist, Lindsey Schwartz, Dylan Shrock, Kelsie Ward, Alexis Warren, Annagail Warrener, Jacob Watts, Ava Williams, Ella Williams, Bryan M. Yoder, and Kamden Yoder.

Twenty-seven seniors participated and received awards. Twenty-five seniors received an academic ring. They must establish a GPA of 3.75 or better for seven semesters. There were also two seniors who established a GPA of least 3.65 cumulative for seven semesters (marked with *). They received a blanket or star. These students are:

Eli Atra, Caleb Bontrager, Nicholas Bontrager, Hope Bortner, Carson Brown, Katie Engelage, Luke Helmuth, Benton Hershberger, Judson Hershberger, Stephen Jones, Karly Miller*, Braden Kauffman, Jace Lang, Wiley Minix, Teague Misner, Christien Noward, Kaitlin Nuzum, Jacob Peruski, Braden Rogers, Wade Springer, Madeline Stults, Audrey Taylor, Nevaeh White, Mason Wire, Kjersten Yater, Melissa Yoder, and Scott Yoder.*

Great job, Westview Warriors! 📢



All Photos Submitted

2023-2024 Quarter 2: Regular Honor Roll (3.0-3.499)

In addition to the GPA requirements for Honor Roll, students must be enrolled in at least 5 credit hours and have no grades lower than a C-

Grade 7

Dunia Al Gurmi, Ibrahim Algaradi, Tyson Bontrager, Megan Bruce, Carter Cranor, Cheyanne Daniels, Charlie Double, Avionna Duke, Zayne Geigley, Ayden Kloth, Riley Lambright, Kylin Meadows, Destiny Mercer, Adrian Miller, Caydon Miller, Justin J Miller, Caleb Mullet, Lance Mullet, Lacey Ramey, Holden Rheinheimer, Jorge Rimola, Dante Schmucker, Cooper Schwartz, Serenity Tennant, Tanner Trittipio, Justin Wallace, Bella Williams, and Marilyn Yoder.

Grade 9

Karleen Bender, Matthew Bibbee, Kayla Bontrager, Janessa Miller, Austin Schlabach, Jakob Seneca, Luke Stults, Owen Weinberg, Aaron Williams, and Gavin Yeip.

Grade 8

Zakaria Algaradi, Derek Bontrager, Edward Bower, Emma Cummins, Alana Donat, Gavin Eicher, Cyota Ferrera, Adam Frey, Marcus Garrett, Payton Hargrove, Lyndon Helmuth, Jeremiah Lambright, Azriel Lehman, Kimberly Linn, Karen McDonald, Adison Miller, Justin D Miller, Trenton Miller, Justin Slabach, Bayli Smith, Malarie Steider, Emma Stinnett, Mabel Trethewey, Mason Walz, Cole Wanamaker, Madalyn Yoder, and Logan Yutzy.

Grade 10

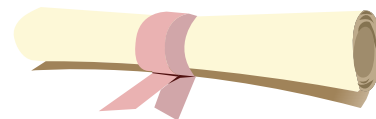
Logan Conklin, Luke Hall, Jasmine Litton, Miley Mast, Samuel Miller, Becky Moore, Corra Owens, Ben Schmidt-Burr, Lili Terrones, Levi Trethewey, Alex Yoder, and Dallas Yoder.

Grade 11

Emily Bontrager, Dawson Crittendon, Maverick Deveau, Micah Geyer, Christopher Irons, Dena Miller, Madison Penick, Adelyn Rainsberger, Karlie Schrock, Leigha Schrock, Caitlyn Sites-McKowen, Alayna Suddarth, Chloe Wagner, Michael Yeip, Bryan R. Yoder, Kylie Yoder, and Ryan Yoder.

Grade 12

Chloe Hagerman, Alammari Hamood, Riley Helman, Johny Henard, Quincy Lehman, Ciara Mikel, Ariel Owens, KeeLee Palmer, Thomas Raley, Mackenzie Smith, Jordan Williams, and Colin Yoder.



2023-2024 Quarter 2: High Honor Roll (3.5 or above)

In addition to the GPA requirements for Honor Roll, students must be enrolled in at least 5 credit hours and have no grades lower than a C-

Grade 7

Tennley Amsden, Tyrone Baccol, Adrian Beechy, Bryndle Bontrager, Brynn Bontrager, Isaiah Bontrager, Janelle K Bontrager, Janelle R Bontrager, Jaron Bontrager, Jaylen Bontrager, Justin Bontrager, Karl Bontrager, Kathleen Bontrager, Kevin Bontrager, Michael Bontrager, Sara Bontrager, Hadleigh Bontreger, Hope Brandenberger, Chloe Briggs, Avery Christner, Jaxon Christner, Kristen Chupp, Cassidy Detweiler, Ellianna England, Madalyn Everage, Durrel Frey, Braden Fry, Deric Fry, Jared Fry, Karla Fry, Micah Fry,

Breanna Garrett, Lukas Gingerich, Addison Hershberger, Jenean Hochstetler, Karina Hochstetler, Lisa Hochstetler, Blake Hostetler, Keera Hostetler, Tyler Hostetler, Hannah Jasso, Ethan Kemp, Abigail King, Andrea Lambright, Jewel Lambright, Kenlyn Lambright, Lucas Lambright, Megan Lambright, Spencer Lambright, Victoria Lambright, Adrian Lehman, Jonah Lehman, Katelyn Martin, Ethan Mast, Kailey Mast, Kylie Mast, Lisa Mast, Allyse Miller, Alyssa Miller, Brandon J Miller, Britton Miller, Darin J Miller, Emma Miller, Eric Miller, Ethan Miller, Gavin Miller, Hailey Miller, Jessica Miller, Josiah Miller,

Kari Miller, Karla Miller, Kirsten Miller, Laura Miller, Logan Miller, Melody Miller, Merle Miller, Micah Miller, Sandra Miller, Anisa Omarouf, Hailey Otto, Serena Otto, Kandice Parker, Belen Quiroga, Jayna Riehl, Evan Roth, Sofia Ruiz, Asher Sandquist, Kenlyn Schlabach, Lyndora Schrock, Joshua Slabach, Makayla Slabach, Faith Stump, Janessa Stutzman, Lucas Swanson, Tori Taylor, Alisyn Tetzloff, Kaci Troyer, Rachel Troyer, Chloe Turner, Jakoby Whetstone, Ana Wingard, Brendon Yoder, Bryce Yoder, Darcia Yoder, Darin Yoder, Dustin Yoder, Erik Yoder, Grady Yoder, Josiah Yoder, Lyndon Yoder, Maciah Yoder, Olivia Yoder, and Deanna Yutzy.

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Westview Jr./Sr. High

Home of the Warriors

2023-2024 Quarter 2: High Honor Roll (3.5 or above)

In addition to the GPA requirements for Honor Roll, students must be enrolled in at least 5 credit hours and have no grades lower than a C-

Grade 8

Baylor Atra, Makenna Bender, Alayna Bontrager, Amy Bontrager, Caleb Bontrager, Evan Bontrager, Jalen Bontrager, John Bontrager, Joshua Bontrager, Laban Bontrager, Loraine Bontrager, Melissa Bontrager, Laine Bortner, Tyler Brewer, Liam Brill, Kari Chupp, Noah Chupp, Luke Eash, Anthony Fry, Cooper Fry, Myra Fry, Mila Geyer, Travis Gingerich, Hailey Graber, Morgan Grossman, Remington Helmuth, Amy Hershberger, Caleb Hershberger, Katelyn Hochstetler, Alayah Hostetler, Jenisa Kauffman, Rylan King, Alexis Lambright, Jacob Lambright, Julie Lambright, Melody Lambright, Elizabeth Lehmer, AJ Martin, Karson Mast, Maggie Mast, Mari Mast, Jada Mauck, Paige McDonald, Amber Miller, Anna Miller, Brandon L Miller, Brendan Miller, Brent Miller, Cole Miller, Cory Miller, Darrin

L Miller, Derek Miller, Hannah Miller, Jaxon Miller, Kaylee Miller, Keith Miller, Landon Miller, Madilyn Miller, Michael Miller, Neil Miller, Nicholas Miller, Ryan Miller, Steven Miller, Ava Mishler, Saul Moreno, Laura Mullett, Shelby Mullett, Jeremy Nisley, Kaylee Nuzum, Fisher Oakley, JoLinda Otto, Landon Raber, Gavin Rainsberger, Zuriyah Reed, Kya Roose, Josie Ryall, Emily Schlabach, Shawn Schmucker, Aiden Slabach, Jerica Slabach, Allison Stutzman, Tyler Stutzman, Alexandria Sweet, Lex Thompson, Bryan Troyer, Curtis Troyer, Hannah Troyer, Merrill Warren, Rylee Watson, Elijah Watts, Kaitlyn Weimer, Andrea Whetstone, Seth Whetstone, Aaron Wingard, Amy Yoder, Brandon Yoder, Braydon Yoder, Ethan Yoder, Grace Yoder, Hudson Yoder, Janae Yoder, Kameron Yoder, Karla Yoder, Kasen Yoder, Melanie Yoder, Naomi Yoder, and Will Yoder.

Grade 9

Nada Algaradi, Ibrahem Alrasheed, Grace Atwater, Eva Bates, Evan Beechy, Lexy Bennett, Jillian Bontrager, Memphis Bontrager, Olivia Bontrager, Camryn Christner, Isaac Drake, Jarrett Dunker, Josephine Eash, Graci Engle, Caedmon Gates, Landon Gingerich, Luke Haarer, Makenna Helman, Boe Helmuth, Amanda Hershberger, Keegan Hershberger, Alyssa Hooley, Thomas Hoover, Kaden

Hostetler, Ryan Hunsberger, Ibraheem Hussein, Rayna Jackson, Addison Kauffman, Erica Lambright, Ashlyn Martin, Jacob McCoy, Emilia Mendoza, Sage Mercer, Angela Miller, Ethan Miller, Gloria Miller, Peyton Miller, Travis Mitchell, Lucas Mullet, Wyatt Murray, Amani Omar, Wafa Omarouf, Isaiah Radcliff, Kaine Reinhold, Carver Stump, Chris Terrones, Devyn Whetstone, Kendra White, Daniel Yoder, Marilyn Yoder, Pierce Yoder, and Savannah Yoder.

Grade 10

Hyde Al Yahiri, Noriah Aldhuraibi, Kristen Bender, Katana Bibbee, Noah Bontrager, Ilias Cherif, Breann Cory, Chayenne Diaz, Gabbie Duran-Hall, Hunter Egli, Kaden Grau, Madison Grossman, Landon Harris, Ava Hostetler, Dakota Hubbard, Kaleb Iddings, Briana Kaufman, Hailey

Lambright, Janell Lambright, Janissa Lehman, Bailey Manns, Audri Martin, Lanita Mast, Eden Mauck, Braxton Miller, Kaiden Miller, Katie Miller, Milan Miller, Myra Miller, Lilly Mullet, Majid Omer, Nathan Peruski, Aaron Roth, Bentley Ryall, Brett Springer, Savannah Vliet, Jordynn Wasson, Jalayna Whetstone, Brylee White, and Brina Williams.

Grade 11

Hudhaifa Almhn, Sarah Alshuga, Faith Beechy, Cole Bontrager, Ian Bontrager, Lilly Bontrager, Owen Brill, Clarinda Byler, Mason Clark, Charlie Duke, Gavin Engle, Jaxon Engle, Max Engle, Lakota Everitt, Alberto Fernandez, Zackary Fry, Kyla Fryer, Ava Gilbert, Silas Haarer, Grace Heyerly, Hussein Hussein, Beau Jackson, Olivia Jasso, Tetiana Jones, Asher Kennedy, Kiana Mast, Curtis Miller, Rebecca Miller, Shanna Miller, Tristan Pearson, Morgan Rich, Morgan Riegsecker, Jonathan Roth, Omar Saleh, Alexzander Sanchez, Victoria Sandquist, Amelie Schilt, Kirsten Schumacher, Lindsey Schwartz, Dylan Shrock, Kelsie Ward, Alexis Warren, Annagail Warren, Jacob Watts, Karis Weinberg, Ava Williams, Ella Williams, Bryan M. Yoder, and Kamden Yoder.

Grade 12

Maram Algaradi, Eli Atra, Caleb Bontrager, Maryah Bontrager, Mia Bontrager, Nicholas Bontrager, Hope Bortner, Jayce Brandenberger, Carson Brown, Katie Engelage, Khatab Fadil, Joshua Heidorn, Luke Helmuth, Benton Hershberger, Judson Hershberger, Stephen Jones, Braden Kauffman, Jace Lang, Hope Miller, Karly Miller, Micah Miller, Wiley Minix, Teague Misner, Izaak Moore, Christien Noward, Kaitlin Nuzum, Noor Omar, Mahasen Omarouf, Jennifer Osorio, Jacob Peruski, Braden Rogers, Taven Schrock, Wade Springer, Madeline Stults, Skye Stump, Kirstin Stutzman, Abriana Suddarth, Audrey Taylor, Lauren Vanderpool, Westan Walker, Nevaeh White, Mason Wire, Kjersten Yater, Danika Yoder, Melissa Yoder, Quinton Yoder, Scott Yoder, and Wyatt Zepp.



JH WRESTLING

Sponsored by



2024 JH Wrestling Team: Back (left to right): Coach Jonathan Fennell, Jace Kaufman, Malachi Lambright, Caleb Miller, Chris Rauguth and Charlie Double. Middle: Jeyden Howard, Chris Ferguson, Winchester Altimus, Dalton Brown and Dreyke Howard. Front: Ayden Kloth, Serenity Tennant, Deni Whan and Jaylynn Brown. Not Pictured: Edward Bower and James Steglich. *Photo by Stopher-King Studios*

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7TH GIRLS BASKETBALL

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2024 7th Grade Girls Basketball Team: Back (left to right): Kathleen Bontrager, Faith Stump and Tori Taylor. Middle: Kaci Troyer, Kylie Mast and Bryndle Bontrager. Front: Brynn Bontrager, Madi Everage, Andrea Lambright and Deanna Yutzy. Not Pictured: Coach Kim Mast. Photo by Stopher-King Studios



8TH GIRLS BASKETBALL

Sponsored by



2024 8th Grade Girls Basketball Team: Back (left to right): Andrea Whetstone, Katie Weimer and Morgan Grossman. Middle: Coach Kellie Bontrager, Paige McDonald and Maggie Mast. Front: Josie Ryall, Mari Jo Mast and Janae Yoder. Photo by Stopher-King Studios

Shipshewana Mayfest

3 - ON - 3 BASKETBALL TOURNEY

OPEN & CENTURY DIVISIONS

Saturday, May 4, 2024

At The Cove: 705 N. Morton St. Shipshewana

Team Name _____
(Not A Player's Name)

Team Captain _____

Phone _____ Ext _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Email _____

Division: Open Century

CAPTAIN Age _____
(as of May 4)

Player 2 Name _____ Age _____
(as of May 4)

Player 3 Name _____ Age _____
(as of May 4)

Player 4 Name _____ Age _____
(as of May 4)

T-Shirts for all pre-registered teams!

All games will have refs!

Open and Century Divisions \$75

Entry Deadline April 19, 2024

Make checks payable to LaGwana.

Send completed form and entry fee to:

LaGwana, PO Box 70
Shipshewana, IN 46565
phone: 260-768-7878

Facility Rules: shorts must be fingertip length or longer.

Shirt Size:

S M L XL

S M L XL

S M L XL

S M L XL

STARTS AT 1 PM

Cash Prizes

STARTS AT 2 PM

Must keep 100 years of experience on the court.

CENTURY DIVISION: Teams limited to 4 players (Century Division must keep 100 years on the court with 3 players at all times). **Deadline is 12 o'clock noon**, games start at approx. 1.

For anyone over 18 who still wants to play.

OPEN DIVISION: Teams limited to 4 players, can be over 18 (but don't HAVE to be). **Deadline is 12 o'clock noon**, games start at approx. 2.

Players cannot play in both the Century and Open Divisions.

Guidelines:

Referees will call the games (their decisions are final). Tournament is double elimination. Cash awards of \$200 (first place) and \$100 (second place) will be awarded. Entries (in these divisions only) will still be accepted until day of tournament. Must be at least three paid entries for

competition to take place. Each team to pay \$75 entry fee with pre-registration (in our office by April 19). **All pre-registered teams will get T-shirts.** After that, please bring your \$75 to the tournament site during the younger teams' tournaments. **Make checks payable to LaGwana.**

Sponsored by:



Shipshewana Mayfest

3 - ON - 3 BASKETBALL TOURNEY

Friday, May 3

Saturday, May 4, 2024

At The Cove

705 N. Morton St. Shipshewana

Team Name _____
(Not A Player's Name)

Team Captain _____

Phone _____ Ext _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Division: Boys Girls Ages: 10 - 12 13 - 15 16 - 18

CAPTAIN Age _____
(as of May 3)

Player 2 Name _____ Age _____
(as of May 3)

Player 3 Name _____ Age _____
(as of May 3)

Player 4 Name _____ Age _____
(as of May 3)

Facility Rules: shorts must be fingertip length or longer.

T-Shirts for all pre-registered teams!
All games will have refs!

Teams limited to 4 players. Tournament is double elimination. Must be at least 2 entries in a given division for competition to take place.

Trophies will be awarded to 1st and 2nd place teams in student divisions. Also, top two teams in 16 - 18 division may play in the open division FREE!

Entry Deadline April 19, 2024

Student Division \$60

Make checks payable to LaGwana.
Send completed form and entry fee to:

LaGwana, PO Box 70
Shipshewana, IN 46565
phone: 260-768-7878

Shirt Size (all adult sizes):

S M L XL

S M L XL

S M L XL

S M L XL



Boy's 16 - 18 division will be played Friday evening starting at 6. Boys 13 - 15 division will start Friday evening at 6 and finish up on Saturday morning. Both divisions need to check in by 5:45pm (doors open at 5pm).

Saturday games will start at 8am with Boys 10 - 12, Girls 10 - 12, Girls 13 - 15, Girls 16 - 18 until the parade. After the parade we will finish up as needed.

Schedule for Saturday games will be available at the Friday evening tournament, at lagwana.com.

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Uncomplicated:

*The Book Inspired by the
Back-to-Basics Lifestyle of
Shipshewana*

by Chloe Lovell

Stock photo



There's no denying that Shipshewana has a “wow” factor that separates it from other parts of the world. As a tourist destination, the town is embraced by visitors as a place of rest and escape from their hectic contemporary lives. People travel here from all over the world to experience the “back-to-basics” culture lived out daily by those in our community. These daily routines in Shipshewana demonstrate a simpler way of living that replicates that of our grandparents. The “wow” factor, the simpler way of living, is that something that others outside of our bubble need.

When the pandemic shut the world

down in 2020, people panicked. Cities ran out of toilet paper, bottled water and staple foods; our communities relied on canned goods from the pantry and fresh produce from the garden. Shipshewana experienced the same pandemic as other areas with the same tragic losses. But our tight-knit community experienced those losses together, grieving with and caring for those who were negatively impacted by the pandemic. Life seemed to stop in other areas of the world, but people within our area stuck to their daily routines.

The community's connection to nature, to each other, and the

back-to-basics lifestyle formed by our forefathers kept Shipshewana afloat during the world shut-down, where others who are disconnected were shipwrecked. When people visit Shipshewana, they get a taste of those connections. They desire for their own lives a resemblance of the daily routines that allow our community to manage big, unexpected changes.

Important life skills are practiced and strengthened through our culture's lifestyle and daily routines—life skills that those with modern, chaotic lifestyles have forgotten because the skills aren't regularly practiced. Those outside of our community need to be



Photo by Abby Wenger



Photo by Chloe Lovell



Photo by Abby Wenger

reintroduced to these important life skills, and Shipshewana provides the key to help them.

Local author Brenda Yoder has come out with a new book to guide those living a contemporary life to get back to the basics of humanity. *Uncomplicated: Simple Secrets for a Compelling Life* provides readers with ten valuable life lessons that they can learn and exercise to simplify their lives. An excerpt from Brenda's book states that "visitors flock to our area because the rural Amish lifestyle reminds them of that something or someone that will ground them, returning them to what they know," (page 169). Yoder pulls ten virtues and mindsets—such as contentment, resourcefulness, and practicality—that are demonstrated in the daily lives of those living in Shipshewana, in particular, the Amish and Mennonite cultures.

At the core, the ten lessons in the book derive from the basic life skills identified by the WHO, such as problem solving or self-control. Yoder develops these skills into specific virtues and mindsets that have a deeper meaning and understanding. In order to better define the lessons, Yoder researched various life skills and virtues learned on a farm and asked people within her circle of influence what skills they learned growing up.

Many of the skills overlapped, ranging from hard work to taking care of themselves and others to connecting with nature and more. Yoder narrowed the list down and developed ten separate life lessons practiced today by many in Shipshewana that have been passed down from past generations. Each chapter discusses a new life lesson, providing the reader with an initial story to introduce the lesson and how to

make the virtue a lifestyle by adjusting one's mindset and daily actions.

Having grown up in Shipshewana and raising a family here, Yoder enriches each chapter with examples from her life and the lives of those who have heavily impacted her. Examples like finding a way to milk cows twice daily despite natural disasters and driving in the middle lane of a three-lane highway help to illustrate the life lesson of the chapter.

Although names and situations are modified to protect the identities of those mentioned, Yoder creates a sense of vulnerability that readers can relate to. The reader may face entirely different struggles than the examples given, but they can apply the lesson in each chapter to their own struggles to find a solution.

Yoder also includes scriptural references in each chapter that supports the virtue and encourages the reader. "Biblical principles are lived out in everything we do and help us to understand what we do," she explained. In the Anabaptist culture, "we read scripture and we do it." Yoder uses biblical verses that have helped her to learn and apply the life lessons to her own life.

The scripture application section in each chapter is followed by *Simple Secrets: Next Steps*, a bullet point list giving readers a wealth of activities to incorporate into their lives to practice the new virtue. This allows the reader to pick and choose which activities work the best for them as they apply the lesson to their life, showing that each life lesson is attainable by all, no matter where they live or how they live their life. Each chapter is wrapped up with four reflection questions to prompt readers to reflect on the lives

of the people who impact them, and to reflect on how they may impact others in the same way.

Where the book is geared towards people outside of the Shipshewana area, *Uncomplicated* has a message for the local population. Shipshewana is not perfect, but what we do matters. How we care for the animals on the farm, our neighbors, our future generations, and ourselves demonstrates the lifestyle set forth by our grandparents. It creates a ripple effect that impacts those outside of our community.

Within the book, Yoder summarizes a passage from Viktor Frankl, an Austrian Holocaust survivor on our sphere of influence: “We can either exist in our space or color it in with our presence and the good we can do within it,” (page 136-137). Whether we realize it or not, the lifestyle and culture we

maintain in Shipshewana impacts others—both within our community and far beyond, now and in the future. Faithfully continuing this sustainable lifestyle preserves Shipshewana’s authenticity. This authenticity shows through as we open the town to tourists and serve as a place of rest to visitors.

“We have something tangible that is full of hope... something we take for granted that we share generously with others,” Brenda explains. “The world needs what we have. What we do is a big deal.”

Brenda Yoder’s book *Uncomplicated: Simple Secrets for a Compelling Life* will be released March 19, 2024 and be available at local stores in Shipshewana, including Seasons in the Davis Mercantile, Light of Grace Bookstore, Glow, and the Blue Gate, as well as at Fables in Goshen. The book is

also available by online order through Ingram, APG, Herald Press, or Amazon. To learn more about her upcoming book, one can visit Brenda’s website at brendayoder.com.

Brenda L. Yoder is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor, elementary school counselor, speaker, former teacher, and author of Uncomplicated: Simple Secrets for a Compelling Life; Fledge: Launching Your Kids Without Losing Your Mind; and Balance, Busyness, and Not Doing It All. She has been featured in Guideposts Mornings with Jesus devotionals; Chicken Soup for the Soul books and The Washington Post. She hosts the Midlife Moms and Life Beyond the Picket Fence podcasts and the Midlife Moms Facebook Group. You can connect with Brenda on Instagram or at brendayoder.com, where she writes about life, faith, and family beyond the storybook image. 



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HISTORICAL FEATURE

Hoosier Hysteria and the 1954 Shipshewana Miracle

by Harold D. Gingerich

Seventy years ago on March 20th, Indiana basketball fans marveled at what came to be known as the Milan Miracle. The Milan Indians, with an enrollment of only 161 students, defeated the powerful Muncie Central Bearcats 32-30, becoming the smallest school to ever win Indiana's single class state tournament. With the score tied at 30-30 and 3 seconds remaining in the game, Bobby Plump's jump shot found its mark and an Indiana legend was born. It was the kind of thing they make movies about, and in 1998 they did. It was called "Hoosiers." But that same year another team, the Shipshewana Indians, had their own miracle on the hardwoods.

A series of games preceded the miracle night. On Friday night, January 19, the Shipshewana Indians played host to their archrivals the Topeka Bears. Shipshewana led throughout

the entire game because, to quote the Topeka Journal, "the locals (Topeka) did not hit the hoop to any percentage." The paper went on to report that, "The game was ragged for both teams and constant fouling kept either team from playing a preferred type of basketball." Fouls really were the story of the game, Topeka committed 25 and Shipshewana 27. At the free throw line, the Bears only converted 24 out of 42 attempts. The Indians were only slightly better making 26 out of 42. With the game at 54-48, it appeared as if Topeka might be mounting a comeback, but six straight free throws put the game on ice. Unfortunately, the Topeka Journal did not print the box score, so we have no record of the individual scoring. We do know that the final score was 60-50 in favor of the Indians.

However, the January 27, 1954, issue of the South Bend Tribune (page 28) carried the story of Shipshewana's humiliating defeat at the hands of the Howe Military Cadets. It was the championship game of the LaGrange County Basketball Tournament. At the end of three quarters, the Indians held a slim three-point lead over the Cadets with the score at 40-37. But the final eight minutes proved to be disastrous for the boys from Shipshewana. Paced by 23 points from sharp shooting Dick Neidballa, the Cadets erupted with 24 points. The Indians only tallied seven. The final score was Howe Military 61, Shipshewana 47.



Another humiliation was soon to follow for the Indians when they traveled to Wolcottville to take on the Bulldogs. The story actually made the papers as far away as Anderson and Tipton, Indiana (The Tipton Daily Tribune, page 4). While we do not know the score of the B Team game, Wolcottville's A Team defeated Shipshewana 65-63. It was reported that Wolcottville head coach, Norman Minich, had told his varsity and junior varsity teams that if they both beat Shipshewana he would walk from Wolcottville to LaGrange. True to his word, Coach Minich walked the 10 miles to LaGrange in two hours and 15 minutes.

The Shipshewana Miracle took place on Friday night, February 12, when the Indians played host to the LaGrange Lions. The South Bend Tribune (February 13, 1954, page 6) described the game as "one of the most amazing basketball comebacks along the Northern Indiana front." In the first quarter, LaGrange came out hitting on all cylinders both on offense and defense. They upped the scoreboard



HISTORICAL FEATURE

with 22 points while holding the Indians to a mere four points. At halftime Shipshewana trailed 31-10. By the end of the third quarter Shipshewana had narrowed the margin to seven with the score being 40-33. The miracle was complete when Frank Schrock, with 28 seconds remaining in the game, sank two free throws to give the Indians the 56-54 win.

The sectional that year was held in Kendallville. The sectional

on the docket: Topeka vs Wolcottville, Rome City vs Kendallville, and the late game featured Howe Military vs Wolf Lake. Two games were slated for Friday morning: Lima vs Ligonier at 9 o'clock followed by LaGrange and Albion at 10.


In the opening round the Indians downed Cromwell 46-42. That was followed by a 51-44 win over Brighton. Shipshewana's season came to an end with a 61-45 defeat at the hands of Avilla. Ironically,

LaGrange, who Shipshewana had defeated earlier in the season with a miraculous comeback, battled the Ligonier Red Raiders for the sectional title. The game went into two overtimes before LaGrange eked out a 73-71 victory.

While the boys from Shipshewana (enrollment 98) did not have the storybook finish like Milan in the state tournament, they did have an exciting season. No doubt they found solace in having defeated

rival Topeka and in their miraculous comeback victory over eventual sectional champion LaGrange.

The 1954 Shipshewana Indians were coached by William H. Barnard. The roster was comprised of Seniors Fred Schrock, Frank Schrock and Dave Glick; Juniors Henry Bontrager, Jay D. Hostetler, Carroll Miller, Gerald Miller and Warren Troyer; and Sophomores Ernie Easterday and Dour Gruber. The

student managers were Al Miller and Bob Dillon. The cheerleaders were Betty Mishler and Ruth Dillon. 



Back Row—Fred Schrock, Carroll Miller, & Bontrager, Hostetler, P. Miller, Dillon, Manager
Front Row—Barnard, G. Miller, Gruber, Troyer, Coach

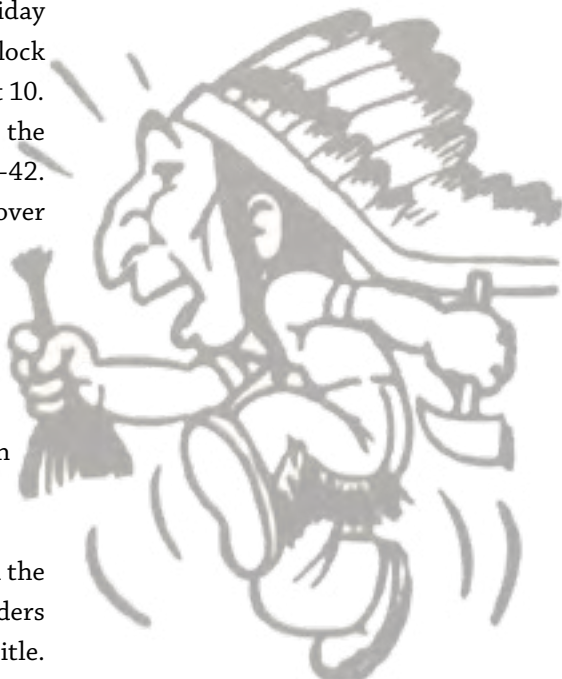
Manager: Perry J. Miller
Coach: Wm. H. Barnard
Student Managers: Al Miller, Bob Dillon

		The Leaders		
		Betty Mishler / Ruth Dillon		
Player	Pos.	Height	Weight	Class
30	F	5'7"	150	So.
34	F	5'7"	145	So.
40	F	5'10"	140	So.
53	F	5'7"	130	So.
45	F	5'7"	130	So.
43	F	5'7"	130	So.
44	F	5'7"	130	So.
33	F	5'7"	130	So.
50	F	5'7"	130	So.
42	F	5'7"	130	So.
41	F	5'7"	130	So.
46	F	5'7"	130	So.

Back Colors: Red and Black. (From 1954 Yearbook, Enrollment: 98)

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back then was a brutal affair involving 16 teams from Noble and LaGrange Counties. A team had to win two games on Friday and two more on Saturday to win the title. In the opening round on Wednesday night the 6:00 pm match up was Cromwell taking on Shipshewana followed by Brighton and Springfield Township. The third game of the evening was Avilla vs Wawaka. Thursday night also had three games



The Horse Shoe was a traveling trophy that went to the school who won the County Basketball Tournament. The winning school got to keep the trophy until they lost to another county school. The plaque was a very big deal, and moved around a lot throughout the county schools.

All Photos Submitted

This article sponsored by




Left-Over Letters Spell Out A Message From Erika!

Enter remaining letters starting at the top and going left to right.

 -----!

We are in the metaphorical "Eye of the Storm" right now. I'm writing this in the two week break between the winter play and auditions for the spring play. Every year my winter and spring are a bit of a whirlwind thanks to two plays on top of it being our busy season at work.

I frequently have to stop and remind myself to take time to rest, even in the midst of the hectic hubbub and chaos, because I know if I do not allow my body to rest when it is convenient, it will choose a day of rest that is inconvenient. A saying I heard once that seems to apply very well this time of year is "If you don't schedule your machine for regular maintenance, it'll schedule it's own." 

Solution on page 53.

Word Search

(find all the underlined words) by Erika Byler

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

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2nd Prize(s): A pen, notepad set, a letter opener, and *The Way I See It* from LaGwana.

3rd Prize(s): *The Way I See It*.

*Additional 2nd and 3rd prizes will be awarded for every 50 entries over 100 received.

RULES:

- 1) Identify farm shown by owner's name, by address, or by road and nearest intersecting road.
- 2) Mail to *Hometown Treasure - Mystery Farm*, P.O. Box 70, Shipshewana, IN 46565. **Please include your name and address.**
- 3) Entry deadline: **March 19, 2024.** *Please allow time for mail delivery.*
- 4) Winners will be drawn and prizes mailed. *Next month's winner will receive a 25\$ Gift Certificate to Tiffany's Restaurant and more!*
- 5) Correct entries listed in our next issue!

LAST MONTH'S WINNERS

Marty & Alice Miller

of 200 S correctly identified last issue's farm as being owned by **Orley & Vonda Miller, 900 S 900 W, Shipshewana.**

Congratulations! They won a 1 Year Subscription from **The Connection**, a pen, a notepad set, a letter opener, and a copy of *The Way I See It* from LaGwana. Second prize went to **Jerry & Jaynee Yoder of 600 S, Topeka.** Third prize went to **Sharon Hochstetler of 100 S, Shipshewana.**



There were 12 correct entries this month. **Others that guessed correctly were:** Dale & JoEllen Yoder, Jr. & Martha Yoder, Amos Hochstetler, Orley & Norma Lambright, Freeman & LeAnna Miller, Mervin Miller, Eugene & Linda Miller, Richard & Fannie Bontrager, and Elmer & Loretta Lehman.

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THE CONNECTION
 P.O. Box 603
 Topeka, IN 46571

Coloring Contest Winners

Six-year-old Nathan John Miller of 900 W, Shishewana was our winner for the February Coloring Contest. He won a free treat basket at Shishewana Popcorn Co. in Shishewana.

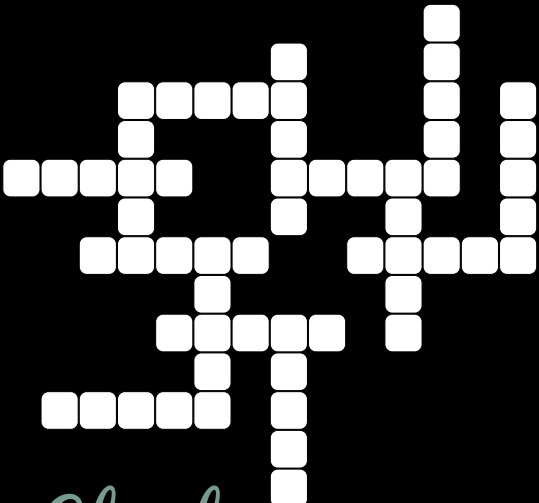
Everyone else that sent in a page can stop by Shishewana Popcorn Co. for a free treat through March.

Runners-up were Trenton Miller, age 6; Melanie Jo Wingard, age 5; Melissa L. Miller, age 4; Jeana Bontrager, age 3; and Luke Williams, age 2. Honorable Mentions: Morgan Brooke Lehman, age 5; Jolena Miller, age 6; Derek James Yoder, age 6; Kaden Bontrager, age 6; Dahlia Smith, age 6; and Janessa Hershberger, age 6.

Be SURE to include all your information on the coloring page, even your age! We do not want you to miss out! Remember, the contest is only for children up to six years old. 



Bench
Board
Break
Clock
Court
Cross
Fouls
Guard
Layup
Point
Shoot
Swish
Three
Throw



*Solution to Clueless
Crossword is on pg 53.
by Chloe Lovell*

Clueless Crossword

Use the words listed to fill in the spaces!

Where does
a fish work?



Solution on page 53

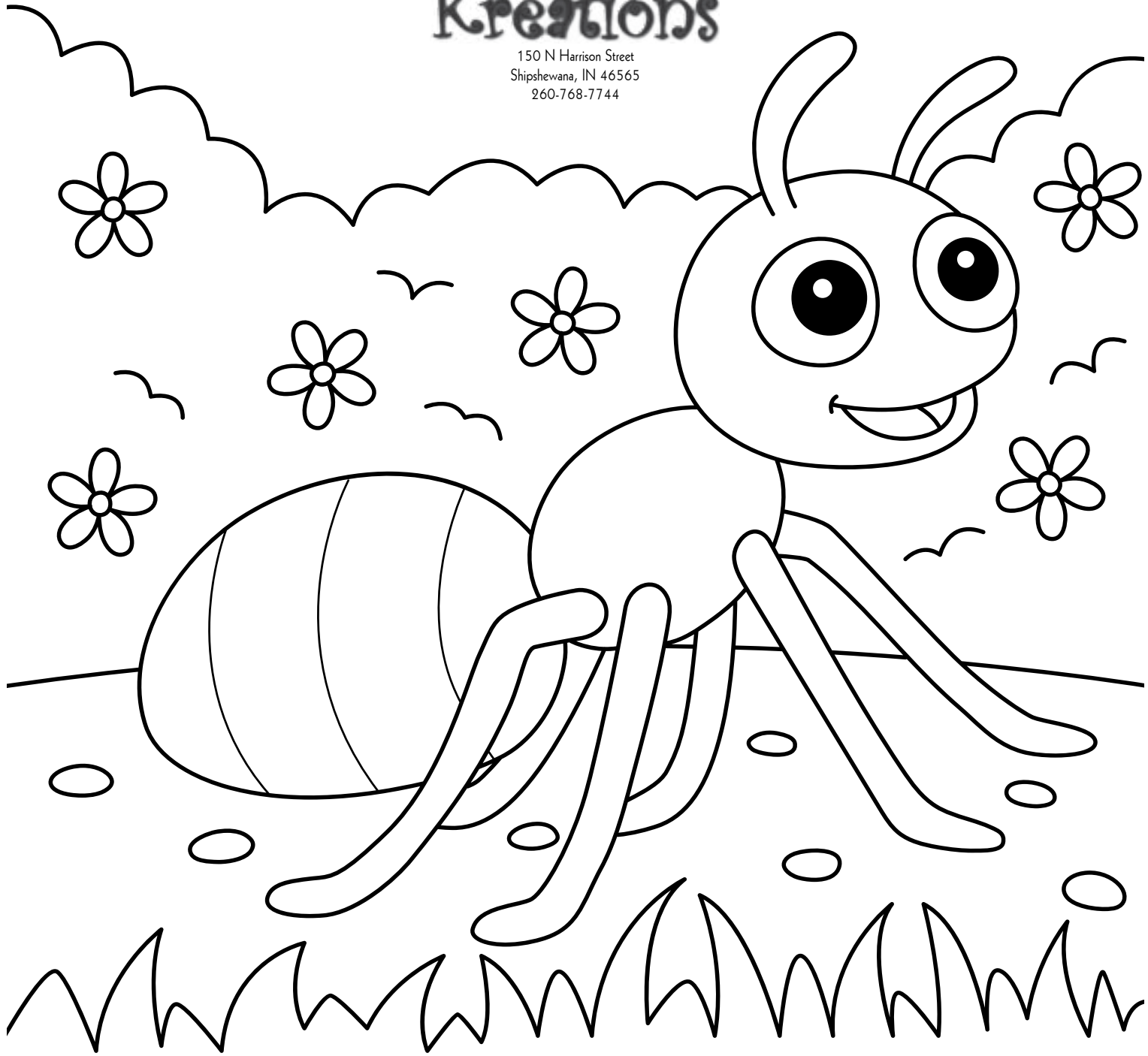
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260-768-7744



Name: _____

Age: _____

Coloring Contest: kids age 6 and younger. Sponsored by Kids Kreations in Shipshewana this month! Winner gets a **FREE PENCIL BOX AND CRAYONS** at Kids Kreations. The Winning Drawings will be on display. **ALL PARTICIPANTS** claim your drawing for a **FREE PENCIL BOX** at Kids Kreations in April. Mail submission to: LaGwana, Coloring Contest, PO Box 70, Shipshewana, IN 46565. **Entry deadline is March 19, 2023.**

Address: _____

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Clueless CROSSWORD Solution

By Chloe Lovell

to the puzzle on page 50.

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BREAKEARDBOARDS
GUARD
THREECLOCKBOARD
COURT
SMISH
FOULS
POINT
HAYUP

Answer:

In an offish



Riddle on page 50

<https://www.ezschoool.com/Riddles/Riddle172Ans.html>

Solution to puzzle on page 49



Left-Over Letters Spell Out A Message From Erika!

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the top and going left to right.

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