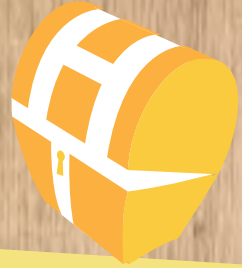


Hometown Treasure



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Shipshewana Mayfest

3 - ON - 3 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

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.**

You can also fill out the registration form online at:
<https://lagwana.com/events/>



You may contact me via:
check all that apply

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- Text: _____
- Fax: _____
- Regular Mail: _____

Shipshewana Mayfest

3 - ON - 3 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

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)

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

Facility Rules: shorts must be fingertip length or longer.

Boys 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.



You can also fill out the registration form online at:
<https://lagwana.com/events/>

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The Hometown Treasure

A Monthly Publication by
LaGwana Circulation: 6,200

Serving the towns of Shipshewana, Topeka, & the entire Westview School Corporation since 2000.

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Just west of Shipshewana

Phone: 260-463-4901 • Fax: 260-463-7257
e-mail: news@lagwana.com

You may call or stop by during office hours:
Monday - Friday, 8 am-5 pm

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Call for details! **260-463-4901**

Or email htads@lagwana.com

Other sponsorships available. Call for details.

— ADVERTISING INFORMATION —

Deadline for May 2024 Issue:

12 noon, Tuesday, April 23

Thursday, April 18 if you need a proof.

May Issue Date is Tuesday, April 30.

For information regarding advertising in the Mayfest tab, please email htads@lagwana.com

— 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.



It's the Little Things

Since it's been getting warmer out, I've been taking my dog, Elaine, on more walks down our road. Although she takes her sweet time warming up to people, she loves other animals, especially horses. We'll be on our walk, passing a field with horses by the fence and Elaine will stop dead in her tracks to stare at the horses. Although upset I won't let her meet the horses, she can be convinced to move along on our walk with a treat.

What strikes me is how the horses often take to her as well. As we move on, they'll follow us—or rather, Elaine—until the fence stops them. They'll often walk alongside us as Elaine and I go back home as well. The first time it happened, I was a bit shocked. But the more walks we take, the more I get used to it and the more I appreciate the friendships my dog has formed. It really is the little things in life that make the day just that much brighter.

We have so many good things happening in the Westview schools and the community. To name a couple, Meadowview Elementary is celebrating several awards and rewards within the school systems, one of the Westview Junior High School students has been steadily advancing through the levels of competition for archery, and the Bark in the Park event is coming up to

celebrate and support the furry friends at the Ark Animal Shelter.

Good things are happening beyond our area too, as is shown in our cover story this month detailing Harold Gingerich's recent travels to Israel. Although this account shows us the struggle and the hurt others are enduring, it also displays a sense of hope—what seems like a small act of kindness to us may mean the world to someone else.

Appreciating the little things matters, and doing the small things for someone else matters even more.

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



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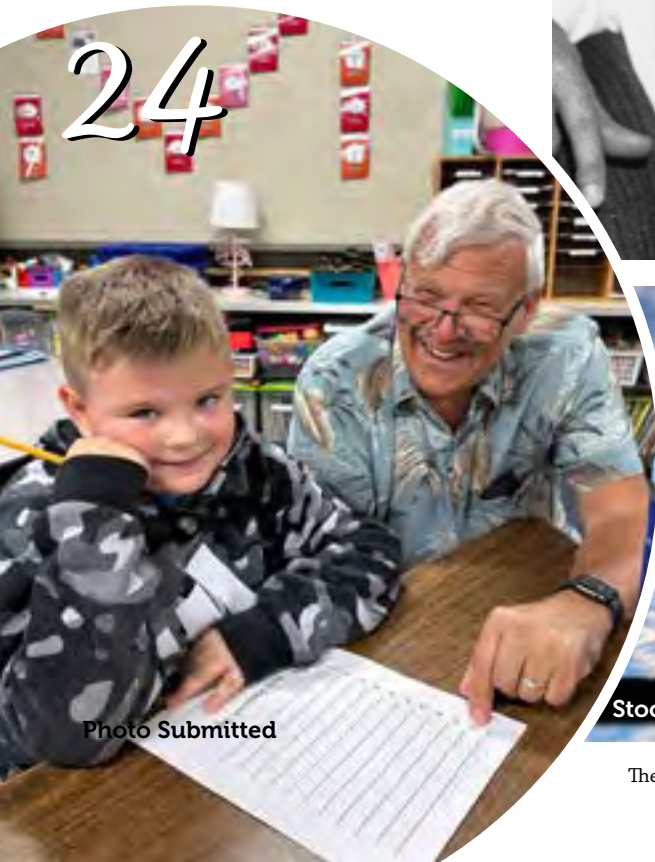


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Humility = Contentment

It might be weird, but I have a favorite spatula, deodorant brand, and stovetop cap. If that isn't strange enough, I also have a favorite human characteristic trait. And that trait is... drumroll please...humility.

It's true; those who are humble are my favorite people. In fact, if I wrote a list of the 10 most influential people in my life, humility would be one of the top virtues that put them on the list.

Confucious said, "*Humility is the solid foundation of all virtues.*" I couldn't agree more. I typed "humble" and "humility" into my search engine. I compiled a list of words that speak to this characteristic: not arrogant, not prideful, respectful, meek, modest, patient, gentle, long-suffering, compliant, temperate, honest, and grateful. Need I say more? In a nutshell, humble folk are selfless.

These descriptions may beg the argument that a humble person has low self-esteem or doesn't think enough of themselves. But I think Pastor Rick Warren hit the nail on the head when he said, "*Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it's thinking of yourself less.*"

Those who are humble put others first. Although their lists of accomplishments might be long,

they simply let their achievements speak for themselves. They don't "ring their own bell," so to speak. But oh boy, do they like to "ring your bell." They are great at calling out the good in others and encouraging them to use their gifts.


A humble friend called out the gift of writing in my life. If he hadn't done this, I would never have had the confidence to publish a novel. My friend was a published author several times over. And yet, he was encouraging this gift in me. He genuinely cared about me, and I am grateful for him. It would have been easy to sit and talk about all his successes on that warm night, but I left there encouraged by him to pursue a talent he saw in me.

Have you ever encouraged someone in this way? Humility is gracious and conscious of other's feelings. The Apostle Paul exhorts the people of Philippi to live a humble life.

Philippians 2:3-4 says, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."

Do you know someone whose behavior and spirit are marked by meekness? Have you ever found yourself grumbling about something only to be humbled by the stellar attitude of another person? Do you ever feel more concerned about being right than doing what is right?

Jesus said in his Sermon on The Mount that the *meek shall inherit the earth*. Those who exhibit these attributes will gain his favor and blessing. He affirms the selfless and lowly many times over in His word, just as He condemns the arrogant and power-hungry.

Humility is focused outward and not inward, thus removing the desire to satisfy selfish pleasures. Humility says that what I have is enough, who I am is the best I can be, and who I aspire to be is in alignment with the character of Christ. Humbleness leads to contentment. And contentment, my friends, is the coziest den to settle into. 



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Smart Choices

By: Priya Patel, PharmD Candidate at Topeka Pharmacy

Statins Exposed: The Truth About Side Effects



Westview Theatre: Spring Play

What if Snow White's hosts in the forest each remembered her visit slightly differently? Come see a mayhem mash-up of seven different stories—in seven different theatre styles—with Snow White, the Evil Queen, a hag, a huntsman, a mirror, and, of course, a prince. They are joined by our hosts and story tellers: Grimmly, Clumsy, Daring, Plucky, Scarlett, Twinkle Toes, and Spindiana Jones. Westview Theatre presents "Snow White and the Seven Endings" by Tracy Wells, with shows on April 26 and 27 at 7 pm. Tickets will be available at the door for \$5. 



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What are statins?

Lipitor (atorvastatin) and Crestor (rosuvastatin) are examples of statin medications, named so because the names end in "statin." Statins lower cholesterol and make the heart healthier in people with heart problems or those who have had a heart attack or stroke. Multiple studies have shown that people experience at least a 25% decrease in bad heart events when taking a statin!

How do statins work?

Did you know the liver actually makes cholesterol? Statins work by blocking a substance that the liver needs to make cholesterol. This lowers the amount of cholesterol in the body and helps reduce the risk of heart attack and strokes.

Who should consider taking a statin?

- People with blood tests showing they have high cholesterol
- People who have heart disease or have had a heart attack or stroke
- People who are between 40 and 75 years old with type 2 diabetes
- People with a 10-year risk of heart disease of 7.5% or higher (your healthcare provider or pharmacist can check this for you). Things that increase the 10-year risk of heart disease include: high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, smoking, obesity, unhealthy diet, and physical inactivity


What about side effects?

Some people worry about getting muscle aches from statins, but most people who take them don't get these pains! A study discovered that some

people who stopped taking statins because of side effects might have been feeling something called the "nocebo effect." This is when people expect bad things to happen from a medicine, and then they start feeling side effects even if the medicine itself isn't causing it. This study found that only 10% of the people who reported side effects actually experienced them from the statin.

What can I do if I do actually experience muscle pain?

- Request a statin that is less associated with muscle pain, such as rosuvastatin.
- Talk to your healthcare provider about trying a different dosing schedule, like every other day or once a week. A little statin is better than nothing!
- Low vitamin D levels can also cause muscle pain. People with low levels may benefit from taking a vitamin D supplement along with their statin.
- Some people have found relief by taking a coenzyme Q10 supplement along with their statin.

Please talk with your doctor before making any changes to the medicines you take. Reach out to Topeka Pharmacy at (260) 593-2252 or stop by with any questions or concerns! 



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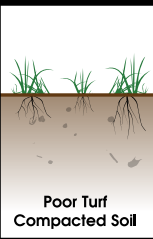
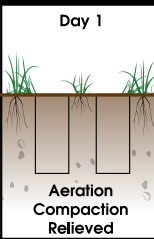
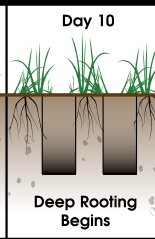
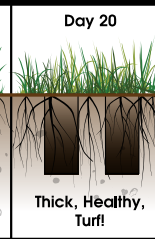
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- Helps defend your lawn against drought and weeds
- Promotes a thicker, healthier and greener lawn

Lawn Aeration Diagram

	Day 1	Day 10	Day 20
 <p>Poor Turf Compacted Soil</p>	 <p>Aeration Compaction Relieved</p>	 <p>Deep Rooting Begins</p>	 <p>Thick, Healthy, Turf!</p>

When Should You Take Social Security?

One of your important sources of retirement income will likely be Social Security—but when should you start taking it?

You can start collecting Social Security benefits at 62, but your checks will be considerably bigger if you wait until your full retirement age, which is likely between 66 and 67. You could even wait until you're 70, at which point the payments will max out, except for yearly cost-of-living adjustments. But if you need the money, you need the money, even if you're just 62 or any age before full retirement age.

However, if you have adequate financial resources to meet your monthly needs, whether through earned income, your investment portfolio or a combination of the two, you could have some flexibility in choosing when to take Social Security. In this case, you may want to weigh these considerations:

Life expectancy

For all of us, it's one of life's great mysteries: How long will we live? Of

course, we can't see into the future, so the question can't be answered with total confidence. But to make an informed decision on when to take Social Security, you don't need to know your exact lifespan—you just need to make a reasonably good estimate. So, for example, if you're approaching 62, you're enjoying excellent health and you have a family history of longevity, you might conclude it's worth waiting a few years to collect Social Security so you can receive the bigger payments. Conversely, if your health is questionable and your family has not been fortunate in terms of longevity, you might want to start taking your benefits earlier.

Employment


You can certainly continue working and still receive Social Security benefits. However, if you're under your full retirement age for the entire year, Social Security will deduct \$1 from your benefits for every \$2 you earn above the annual limit of \$22,320. In the year you reach your full retirement age, Social

Security will deduct \$1 in benefits for every \$3 you earn above \$59,520. So, you may want to keep these reductions in mind when deciding when to begin accepting benefits. Once you reach your full retirement age, you can earn any amount without losing benefits.

(Also, at your full retirement age, Social Security will recalculate your benefit amount to credit you for the months you received reduced benefits because of your excess earnings.)

Spouse

Spouses can receive two types of Social Security benefits: spousal and survivor. With a spousal benefit, your spouse can receive up to 50% of your full retirement benefits, regardless of when you start taking them. (Your spouse's benefit can be reduced by the amount of their own retirement benefit and whether they took Social Security before their full retirement age.) But with a survivor benefit, your decision about when to take Social Security can make a big difference. A surviving spouse can receive the larger of their own benefit or 100% of a deceased spouse's benefit, so if you take benefits early and receive a permanent reduction, your spouse's survivor benefit may also be reduced for their lifetime.

When to take Social Security is an important—and irrevocable—decision. So, consider all the factors before making your choice. 

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor, Sheldon Q Shrock AAMS®, 120 N Harrison St, Shipshewana, IN 46565, PH: 260-768-4348. Edward Jones, Member SIPC. Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.



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LaGrange County Library

Below are the events planned for April 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.lagrangelib.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: Sun, Moon, and Stars

LaGrange • Tuesdays, Apr. 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 • 10:30 a.m.

Shipshewana • Tuesdays, Apr. 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 • 1 p.m.

Topeka • Wednesdays, Apr. 3, 10, 17, and 24 • 11 a.m.

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

Teen Games (Grades 6-12)

LaGrange • Monday, April 8 • 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.

Pokémon Club (Ages 8-18)

LaGrange • Monday, April 8 • 6–7 p.m.

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

Teen Dungeons & Dragons (Grades 6-12)

LaGrange • Monday, April 8 • 6–7 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.

Homeschool Group (All Ages) Theme: Science Fair

LaGrange • Friday, April 12 • 10:30–Noon • REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Choose your project, either one project as a family or each student doing their own. We'll have a table available for each project and possibly judging for those that want to win a ribbon. Register on our website or call 260-463-2841.

STEAM Through the Seasons! (Grades K-3)

LaGrange • Monday, April 15 • 4–5 p.m.

Join us for a fun exploration of the Spring season with Miss Brittany from Purdue University Extension! Registration appreciated, but not required.

Elementary Book Club (Grades 1-3)

LaGrange • Tuesday, April 16 • 4–4:45 p.m.

We'll discuss "The Puppy Problem," do a fun activity and pass out next month's book.

Middle Grade Book Club (Grades 4-7)

LaGrange • Tuesday, April 16 • 4–4:45 p.m.

We'll discuss "Strangeville School is Totally Normal," do a fun activity and pass out next month's book. We'll also vote for our favorite Young Hoosier Nominee book!

Embryology Program - Registration Required

LaGrange • Apr. 17, 22, 24, and 29; May 1 and 8 • 4–5 p.m.

Join us as we explore chicken eggs, watch the chicks grow inside, and hatch! Purdue University Extension will provide eggs and instruction for each day. Please plan to be at as many dates as possible to catch each stage of development.

Teen Book Chat (Grades 8-12)

LaGrange • Monday, April 22 • 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 - TAG (Grades 6-12)

LaGrange • Monday, April 22 • 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.

Family Movie Night (All Ages)

LaGrange • Friday, April 26 • 6 p.m.

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

Adult Interest

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

LaGrange • Mondays, Apr. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 • 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 - Free!

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

Apr. 2: *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*—Starring James Stewart & John Wayne (1962) Rated TV-14. 123 min.

Apr. 9: *Treasure of the Sierra Madre*—Starring Humphrey Bogart (1939) Rated TV-PG. 126 min.

Seed Starting - Heirloom Tomatoes (12+) - Free!

Shipshewana • Thursday, April 4 • 2 p.m.

Topeka • Friday, April 5 • 2 p.m.

LaGrange • Saturday, April 6 • 10 a.m.

Stop by your local library and plant three varieties of heirloom tomatoes in recycled containers. Take them home, put them on a sunny windowsill, and imagine your delicious harvest! Register by Mar. 28 at the LaGrange Adult Services Desk or by calling 260-463-2841 x1030.

Eclipse Viewing Party

All Library Branches • Monday, April 8

Eclipse begins: 1:54 p.m. • Greatest totality (97.9%): 3:10 p.m.

Feel free to bring lawn chairs to the library to watch the eclipse. We will supply eclipse-viewing glasses and snacks!

Second Saturday Book Club (Ages 16+)

LaGrange • Saturday, April 13 • 11 a.m.

This month we'll discuss "1984" by George Orwell. Big Brother is watching you! Copies are available at LaGrange's Adult Desk.

Patchwork Trails - Gene Stratton-Porter Historic Site (All Ages)

1205 Pleasant Point, Rome City • Tuesday, April 16 • 6 p.m.

No fees or registration, just meet at the designated starting point.

Make & Take with Deb - Framed Chicken Wire Suncatcher (Ages 12+)

LaGrange • Wednesday, April 17 • 6 p.m. • Cost: \$25 per person

We will have a variety of frames with chicken wire attached to choose from. Add colorful beads in a pattern or randomly to make a beautiful suncatcher. Register with a non-refundable \$10 deposit by April 10 at LaGrange Library.

Cookbook Club

LaGrange • April 27 • 11 a.m.

Check out the cookbook of the month ("The Official Downton Abbey Cookbook" by Annie Gray) at the LaGrange Adult Services desk. Choose a recipe to make and bring it to the Cookbook Club carry-in!

Saugatuck Adventure: One-Day Motorcoach Trip

Saturday, July 20 • Register with S&S Travel by July 7 • Cost: \$207/person

This adventure will include a ride on the Dune Schooner, lunch and shopping on your own in downtown Saugatuck, a narrated cruise of the Kalamazoo River on an authentic sternwheeler, and a stop at Oval Beach, recognized as one of the "Top 25 Beaches in the World." We'll stop for supper at Culver's in South Haven.

Stop in at the LaGrange Library or check our website for full details!

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The Hometown Treasure • April '24

HEART OF GOLD AWARD NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

The LaGrange County Community Foundation is seeking nominations for its 15th annual Heart of Gold Award, an honor given to a LaGrange County individual making a difference through volunteering.

The Heart of Gold Award honors LaGrange County citizens who embrace a volunteer spirit, serve others and work to create positive change. Nominations are sought for individuals who recognize needs and fulfill them; share time and energy for the sake of others; render a service which changes lives; work to create positive change; and inspire others to volunteer. Any person, regardless of age, who enhances the quality of life of others is eligible for nomination.

Nominations for the 2024 Heart of Gold Award will be accepted until May 1, 2024. A review committee of

the Community Foundation Board of Directors will select the recipient from submitted nominations.


“Every year we are humbled by the hearts of individuals who continue to give their time to a cause in LaGrange County—they serve because they care and have a passion for their mission. The Community Foundation admires their sacrifice and dedication, and it is our honor to recognize those who volunteer in LaGrange County,” said Executive Director Octavia Yoder.

While many people go above and beyond and do great things on the job, the Heart of Gold Award is designed to honor the volunteers who make a difference serving with LaGrange County nonprofits and community programs. Nominations cannot be made for family members or groups; nominations will only be accepted for

individuals.

All nominees will be recognized at the LaGrange County Community Foundation’s Annual Celebration of Philanthropy on June 13 at the Farmstead Inn & Conference Center. The recipient will be announced at the event.

Each Heart of Gold nominee will receive the opportunity to direct a \$500 grant to the LaGrange County nonprofit of their choice (from an approved list provided by the LaGrange County Community Foundation). The 2024 Heart of Gold Award recipient also will have the opportunity to direct a \$1,000 grant to their LaGrange County nonprofit of choice.

The 2024 Heart of Gold Award nomination form is available on the LCCF website. To make a nomination, visit Lccf.net/Heart-of-Gold-Award. 

Bark in the Park

Ark Animal Rescue and Adoption is excited to host their first annual Bark in The Park event on April 27. Thanks to the LaGrange County Park Board, the event will be at Pine Knob, located at 2825 E US 120 Howe, IN. Fur babies are welcome! This event will be a 5K Run/Walk fundraiser.

The run will kick off at 12:30 p.m. and will be a timed race for those serious runners who are looking to improve their times—medals will be provided to the top contestants! The walk will start soon after. The first 100 people to pre-register will receive a t-shirt, and all doggie participants registered will receive a “doggy bag” full of goodies. It costs \$35.00 to pre-register or \$45.00 after April 17. Registration will be available day of, opening at 11:30 a.m.

The Ark will have raffle tickets and prizes available for purchase, a Bake


Sale, and fun surprises at pit stops throughout the trail. Hilty’s BBQ food truck will be on site with their amazing chicken dinners. All proceeds will help support Ark Animal Rescue and Adoption with their mission to care for all the animals they receive, to the best of their ability. For more information about the event, one can call 260-463-4142.

The Ark took in over 70 animals in the month of February alone. Due to Indiana State Law, the Ark is required to spay, neuter, and provide rabies shots to all animals that come to them. Adoption fees alone do not cover the expense of providing this care, hence all the fundraising! If you would like to get involved, but are unable to attend this event, please reach out to volunteer, foster, or do a doggy day out. The Ark loves visitors, at both the



Photos Submitted



adoption facility and in the Paws and Claws bookstore in Howe. The Ark appreciates all support! For updates of important events, dates, times and locations, or to find your forever friend, one can visit the Ark’s website at www.arkanimalrescue.net, or follow their Facebook at www.facebook.com/lagrangearkanimalrescue. 

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LaGrange County Council on Aging: Tina's Tea Time

You are cordially invited to join LaGrange County Council on Aging for afternoon tea on Friday, April 26, 2024 from 12-2p.m. Dust off your party hats and meet at Council on Aging (410 E Central Avenue, LaGrange, IN 46761) for a cup of delightful tea and delicious goodies. Coffee will also be served. Please call the office at 260-463-4161 to R.S.V.P. 

LaGrange County DAR Good Citizens Honored

The LaGrange de Lafayette Chapter NSDAR held a luncheon in honor of Good Citizen Award winners: Aiden Tuttle, Lakeland High School; Emma Crites, Prairie Heights High School; and Karly Miller, Westview High School. Special recognition was given to Aiden Tuttle for his essay entry.

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is a volunteer service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education for children. Each year, DAR Good Citizen Awards are presented to high school seniors in recognition of their dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism exhibited in their schools and communities.

Aiden Tuttle is the son of Tom and Jennifer Tuttle of Wolcottville, IN. When Aiden is not busy with his academic endeavors, you might find him performing in show choir, jazz band, theater, or the school musical. His music director, Delaina Conway says, "Aiden is cooperative, respectful, adaptable, and dedicated to schoolwork and extracurricular activities." His commitment to challenging work is also seen in his participation in cross country and track & field.

Aiden plans to attend Indiana University and major in epidemiology. His interest in immunology and pathology points to a career in the

medical field. "He is quick to volunteer his talents for the benefit of others," states English teacher Brittany Cowley.

Being a good citizen highlights his desire to improve his surroundings. Aiden's winning essay, entitled "Our American Heritage and Our Responsibility for Preserving It," is a testament to his belief in democracy and love of history. DAR wishes him success in his future endeavors.


Emma Crites is the daughter of Liz Crites of Orland, IN. While attending Prairie Heights, she has been active in National Honor Society, soccer, theatre, choir, and the LIFE program where she is secretary of the team.

Emma plans to attend college in the fall and pursue a degree in theatrical arts. Her English teacher, Mike Schmidt, says, "Emma is outstanding with time management and strives for understanding and perfection." These attributes will serve her well in the future.

Karly Miller is the daughter of

Glen and Michelle Miller of LaGrange, IN. In addition to her studies, her time at school is filled with NHS, Student Council, Plus Program, Yearbook, soccer and Senior Class President duties and activities. Outside of school, she is busy going on mission trips to Louisiana and Kentucky to rebuild homes.

"Karly is a caring and compassionate individual who consistently puts the needs of others first," says her Principal, Tim Wilson. Her qualities of good citizenship, as seen in her dependability and leadership, will serve her well as she attends college to study Communication.

DAR is honored to present these three outstanding young people with a certificate, lapel pin, and monetary award in recognition of their achievements. 

The DAR Good Citizen Award and Essay Contest is open to all county seniors. Please check with the guidance counselor each fall for information, requirements, and deadlines.



Photo Submitted



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Experienced Nurse Practitioner To Serve Noble County

Sandra Charles, MSN, APRN, FNP-C, is joining the Parkview Physicians Group (PPG)—Family Medicine team in the Kendallville office at 326 Sawyer Road.

“It’s a pleasure to welcome Sandra to Noble County,” said Jordi Disler, market president, Parkview Health North. “Her wide-ranging experience in nursing has really prepared her well to provide expert primary care for local families. I’m sure patients will find her extremely knowledgeable and compassionate as she guides them on their health journey.”

Charles, a nurse practitioner, comes to the area with more than 20 years’ experience in nursing. Most recently, she worked as a research nurse practitioner at a Fort Wayne medical practice, enrolling patients in cancer clinical studies; tracking progress, medications and outcomes; and educating patients and their family members. Prior to that, she provided care for patients at a primary care office in South Bend.

Earlier in her nursing career, she was a research nurse at several northern Indiana health facilities, working with patients in cancer, women’s health and other clinical studies. She has also worked as a hospice home visit nurse, an IV therapist and an interventional radiology nurse, handling prep and recovery for a variety of interventional procedures—such as stenting, or gan biopsy, and angioplasty. In

addition, Charles served as an adjunct clinical instructor for Bethel University, Mishawaka, Indiana.

Charles received her Master of Science in Nursing (Family Nurse Practitioner) degree from Chamberlain University College of Nursing & Public Health, Downers Grove, Illinois, and her bachelor’s degree from Bethel University. She began her nursing studies with an associate degree from Southwestern Michigan College, Dowagiac, Michigan.

Charles is certified as a family nurse practitioner by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. She is a member of the Coalition of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses of Indiana. Charles was motivated to forge a career in healthcare by family members’ experiences.

“I always wanted to be involved in helping people, which is what piqued my interest in nursing,” she said. “Having a younger brother with heart issues and a mother who had a heart attack at a young age, I wanted to help people learn about diseases to remain as healthy as possible.”

Outside of work, Charles stays busy with her family. She and her husband of 31 years have three daughters and two sons-in-law, two grandchildren and a dog, Bear. Charles also enjoys crafting and card-making. In addition, she is very involved with her church family.

Charles and the P P G — F a m i l y Medicine team can be reached for questions at 260-349-9166. 📞



Photo Submitted

God Calls Little Children Home: Are We Ready?

by Amos Miller

This story is about my Amish nephew Nelson and his wife Lois Miller who live in the Vermontville, MI area. On September 18, 2019, their four children went to school with a pony cart like any other day. When school let out, Nelson’s girls went around to the other girls in their class to say good-bye. Their son started to go to the barn to hitch up the pony, but he stopped suddenly and ran back to the schoolhouse to say good-bye to the teacher.

God had a reason that he sent them back to say good-bye. Less than 30 minutes later, a pickup truck hit them. Three of the children were killed instantly at just 13, 10 and 8 years old. These good-byes were forever. The 6-year-old was critically injured, had brain surgery and lived. Now the family has only four children left.

The driver was 81 years old, and he shared with Nelson why he hit the children: there was a curtain hanging from the sky so he couldn’t see them. He said after he hit them, the curtain disappeared. One of God’s miracles reminding us He is in control. They thought the sunset might have been the cause, but the driver said it wasn’t.

Isn’t it amazing how God uses people to call his little children home. We are reminded again we need to be ready when God calls us home to heaven. We are only promised today, and tomorrow may never come. This is the first time I was at a funeral in which there were three caskets. I shared with Nelson that perhaps God needed more little angels to

Continued on Pg 19

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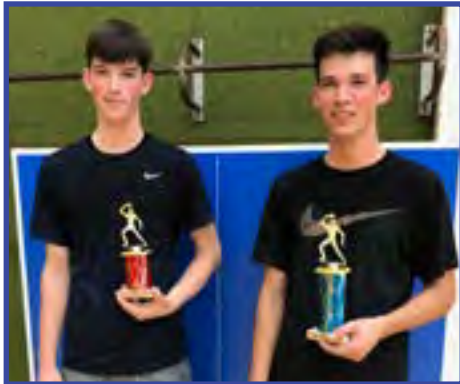
Shipshewana Table Tennis League Championship

The Shipshewana Table Tennis League recently completed its 19th season. Approximately 68 players met each Tuesday evening at the Shipshewana-Scott School gymnasium for hours of competitive play. A big THANK YOU goes out to the players and parents for their continued support of this league, to Shipshewana-Scott

School for providing the venue, and to East of Chicago Pizza for providing free pizza to all players and fans on the final evening! Yoder's Shipshewana Hardware is the proud sponsor of this event.

A double-elimination tournament was held on the final evening. Players were divided into six groups for the tournament based on skill level

and their regular season records. In a repeat of 2022, the dynamic duo of brothers Anthony and Aaron Lambright put on a show for friends and family as they finished 1st & 2nd in the top division. Anthony battled his way out of the loser's bracket to beat his brother and claim the title of Overall Grand Champion. 📌



Group 1 Winners: (left to right): Aaron Lambright, 2nd; and Anthony Lambright, 1st. Not Pictured: Jason Yoder, 3rd.



Group 2 Winners: Brian Bontrager, 1st. Not Pictured: Karl Troyer, 2nd; and David Yoder, 3rd.



Group 3 Winners: (left to right): Daniel Yoder, 1st; and Daryl Bontrager, 2nd. Not Pictured: Devon Yoder, 3rd.



Group 4 Winners: (left to right): Andrew Miller, 2nd; and James Lambright, 1st. Not Pictured: Lucas Miller, 3rd.



Group 5 Winners: (left to right): Dale Yoder, 2nd; and Jordan Troyer, 1st. Not Pictured: Isaiah C. Lambright, 3rd.



Group 6 Winners: (left to right): Jaylin Lehman, 2nd; and Timothy Nisley, 1st. Not Pictured: Josh Chupp, 3rd. Photos Submitted

Continued from Pg 17

God Calls Little Children Home: Are We Ready? *by Amos Miller*

fill his kingdom, and I assured him that his children are in a better place than we are. I told him to cherish the memories of the time God gave to enjoy them. I am sure this has helped the family draw closer together.

Nelson said they received 1100 greetings, some as far away as

California. Some days, they received 100 greetings at a time. After their meals, the family would sit around the table and share the greetings and encourage each other. They also received a lot of support from local businesses and the people of the community.

On June 12, 2023, God blessed

them with another daughter, four years after calling the other three children home. We are reminded God's ways are not our ways. In this school season, I remind all parents to keep praying for your children's safety. Build cherished memories as you never know when God may need more little angels. 📌

GOSPEL ECHOES TEAM

APRIL 12 & 13, 2024



AUCTION



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17746 County Road 34 - Goshen, IN 46528

Open House

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2024

4:30-9:00pm

Haystack Supper 4:30pm to 7:30pm
Fellowship & Praise Concert 6:00pm
with the Gospel Echoes Teams
Auction of Selected Items 7:30pm

Sale Day

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2024

Biscuits & Gravy, Fried Mush & Tomato Gravy,
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Auction 9:00 am

All announcements made the day of the sale take precedence over any printed material or website info. Some photos are item samples.

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- 4 Jerel Bontrager, Ruby Davis, Kristopher Fry, Bradley Hochstetler, Michael Manns, Asher Raber, Roland White, Elijah Yoder
- 5 Jenna Slabach
- 6 Justin Bontrager, Makayla Hershberger, Jamin Miller, Leila Wingard, Lincoln Yutzky
- 7 Leyton Christner, Salena Gingerich
- 8 Ryder Lambright, Tyler Miller
- 9 Dakota Garl, Mateo Gomez, Miley McDonald
- 10 Kenlin Bontrager, Corbin Hershberger, Austin Schrock
- 11 Darin Fry, Melanie Fry, Bella Horner, Benjamin Schlabach
- 12 Kenlin Stutzman, Elijah Waterhouse
- 13 Riley Duncan, Addyson Lambright, Lydia Long, Natalie McDonald, Lennon Webster
- 14 Marowah Algeradi, Jenna Beechy, Case Grossman, Madelyn Miller, Ashton Yoder
- 15 Savannah Anderson, Jenna Fry, Grayson Gephart, Shayla Strater

Preschool Enrollment

Shipshewana Cooperative Preschool
Preschool enrollment has opened for the
2024 - 2025 school year at
Shipshewana Cooperative Preschool.

We have been located at the Shipshewana
United Methodist Church on the corner of
Talmadge/Middlebury Street since 1985.

Enrollment forms
are available by calling
Mechele Schlabach,
Director/Teacher,
at 260-499-1683





ISSMA Solo and Ensemble Participants

This past January and February earned gold or silver medal ratings, several of Westview's finest musicians participated in ISSMA Solo and Ensemble. Fifty-five students in grades 7-12 from both band and choir placed their entries in November and began selecting music. These students spent their own time preparing solos and ensembles to be performed for judges at the district sites. All of these musicians

and fifteen of the entries qualified for ISSMA State Solo and Ensemble in Indianapolis. At the state level, Westview musicians brought home thirteen gold medals and two silver medals, including six who earned "Gold With Distinction" and two who earned perfect scores. Congratulations to all who participated! 🎉

- 16 Grace Beechy, Brian Hochstetler
- 17 Grayson Buchanan, Hazem Omar, Mila Yoder
- 18 Jackson Hochstetler, Brenda Miller, Brynnley Scheuneman
- 19 Abigail Abney, Keith Bontrager
- 20 Austin Miller, Lynn Miller
- 21 Oliver Bert, Tarah Hochstetler, Layla Hostetler, Mason McDonald, Lincoln Slabach, Weston Stutzman
- 22 Leah Mast, Jared King
- 23 Vanessa Hershberger
- 24 Griffin Brohm, Adrian Yoder
- 25 Landon Bontrager, Christopher Miller, Jordan Miller, Grace Yater
- 26 Lincoln Dalga, Elliana Kaufman, Brooke Mahon, Tyler Mast, Caleb Yoder, Tyra Yoder
- 27 Bentley Duke, Parker Miller
- 28 Kelsie Hochstetler, Colten McAninch, Brigham Rahn, Ryan Schwartz, Jordan Troyer
- 29 Arianna Lehman, Kenleigh Miller, Colin Troyer
- 30 Addalyn Creek, Nolan Gonser, Kennedy Stutzman, Melanie Slabach



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Awards Galore...

3rd Quarter Mustang Awards



Kindergarten Winners: Back: (left to right): Jaxyn White, Jaxsen Chastain, Bryson Miller, Evan Bontrager and Jariah Yoder. Front: Jayna Yoder, Emily Bontrager, Julianna Lambright and Julayne Otto.



First Grade Winners: Back: (left to right): Jeremy Miller, Justin Bontrager and Brian Hochstetler. Front: Madison Lambright, Shaylene Miller and Deborah Bontrager.



Second Grade Winners: Back: (left to right): Carsyn Haines, Theodore Frey, Jamie King, Leon Hershberger and Tidus Schrock. Front: Allison Stutzman, Alayna Kurtz and Savannah Lambright.



Third Grade Winners: Back: (left to right): Casper Hershberger, Lucas Miller, Myron Schlabach, Blake Hochstetler and Kara Lower. Front: Meghan Otto, Brenna Mauck and Maicee Witham.



Fourth Grade Winners: Back: (left to right): Zachary Miller, Ethan Rainsberger and Evan Hochstetler. Front: Kristen Bontrager, Audrey Schlabach and Nicole Miller.


This page made possible by the



Meadowview Elementary

Home of the Mustangs

Students that participated in an optional reading assignment were treated to a game of Fast Break as a reward.

For the quarterly Mustang Awards, a maximum of two students are chosen by the classroom teacher every nine weeks. Winners are chosen based on their display of the following characteristics: effort, attitude, improvement, respect, and responsibility. Winners receive a Mighty Mustang tag on a chain, a sweet treat from resource Officer Conwell, and spend the afternoon playing a game with principal Mrs. Helmuth. Pictured are the winners for the 3rd quarter of the 2023-2024 school year. Go Mustangs! State leaders recognized educators from 241 schools with scores of 95% or above on the 2023 administration of the IREAD assessment at a ceremony at the Indiana Statehouse on Thursday, February 15. Meadowview Elementary was proud to be honored at this ceremony, with a pass rate of 96.7%. Congratulations to the Meadowview students and staff on this amazing achievement! 

Fast Break Reading Reward



IREAD Achievement Award

*(Left to right): Nikki Helmuth, Meadowview Elementary Principal; Dr. Katie Jenner, Indiana State Secretary of Education; and Dr. Randy Miller, Westview School Corporation Superintendent.
All Photos Submitted*

Shipshe-Scott Celebrations

Students at Shipshewana-Scott recently held two school-wide celebrations that brought all kinds of fun and exciting activities! In February, Shipshe-Scott held its annual Grandparents' Day where hundreds of grandparents, family members, and family friends came to see what school is like for students. There were interviews, crafts, read alouds, cookies, and even a little homework for our special guests! Students were thrilled to show the adults all that they have learned and all that they can do! A special thanks to all the adults who attended and to the Shipshe-Scott PTO for providing treats.

The first week of March was "Read Across America" week, so we enjoyed specially themed days to celebrate our love of reading. On Monday, in honor of "Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type", students and staff dressed up like farmers. Everyone wore bright, colorful outfits on Tuesday to celebrate Eric Carle and "The Very Hungry Caterpillar." Then on Wednesday, students celebrated all the characters developed by Mo Willems and dressed as their favorite: Piggie, Elephant, or Pigeon. Thursday had everyone dressing up as Dr. Seuss characters while Friday, students brought a stuffed animal in honor of "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie." Classrooms enjoyed many guest readers throughout the week as well as some special treats. The cafeteria staff even dedicated an entire lunch to Dr. Seuss! Thank you to everyone who helped make this such a fun week at Shipshe-Scott! ①



This page made possible by the



Shipshe-Scott Elementary

Home of the
Scotties



Photos Submitted


Sports, Learning, and Fun!

Students in Mrs. Grant's and Mrs. Mowery's Club 56 classes are hard at work on fraction task cards. They're strengthening their math skills and having fun at the same time!

6th grade students had the opportunity to attend the high school basketball game. Junior high teachers got to know the 6th graders by serving them dinner. What a fun night for them!

The 6th grade girls basketball team finished their season last week with a record of 9-1. Great season, girls!

Students at Westview Elementary compete in a grade level volleyball tournament. The championship teams played the staff on February 26th. The winning 5th grade team consisted of students from Mrs. Sheets' and Miss Bruncz's class, 5G. The winning 6th grade team consisted of students from Mrs. Geng's class, 6I.

Students at Westview Elementary participated in the 2024 Science Fair, creating projects within one of several categories: Animal and Earth Sciences, Materials Sciences, Biomedical Sciences, Behavioral and Social Sciences, Chemistry, and Engineering. Congratulations to the 1st place Science Fair winners!  *Photos Submitted*



Back: Chandler Engle, Coach Jasso, Marsha Miller, Ava Hufnagle, Hadley Yoder, Ashby Yoder, Jessica Yoder, Coach Sirk. **Front:** Aubrey Young, Skylynn Weeden, Brooklyn Stutzman, and Trinity Antal.

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Westview Elementary

Home of the Warriors



Animal and Earth Sciences: Chandler Engle and Dena Schlabach.



Behavioral and Social Sciences: Jake Chupp and Nasser Yahya.



Biomedical Sciences: Toby Miller and Coltin Bontrager.



Chemistry: Declan Ryall.



Engineering: Jerel Bontrager and Gabe Chupp (not pictured).



Materials Sciences: Jessica Yoder and Jayni Drake.




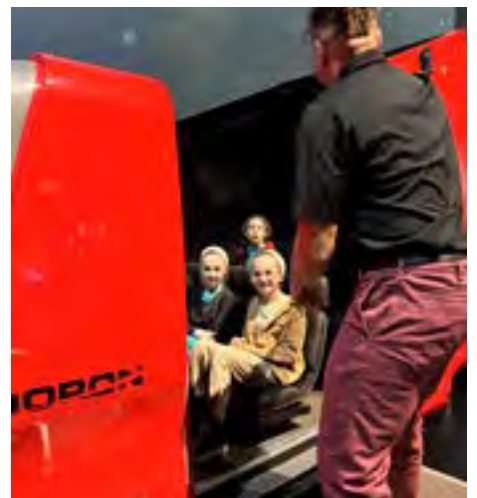
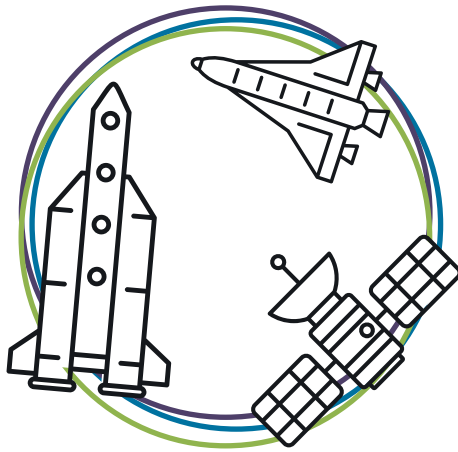
5th Grade Team



6th Grade Team

Air Zoo Field Trip

Topeka Elementary fourth graders had a fun day visiting the Air Zoo Aerospace and Science Museum in Michigan. They were able to experience two different flight simulators, enjoy amusement park rides, and view many different types of aircraft from the past and present. It was a fun and educational experience for everyone who went.  Photos Submitted



This page made possible by the



Topeka Elementary

Home of the Bears


Lex Thompson Competes at NASP State

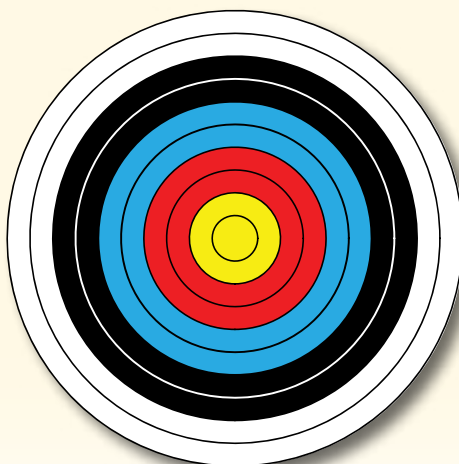


Congratulations to Lex Thompson, a Westview Jr-Sr High School 8th grader, who competed at the NASP Archery State meet at the Indiana State Fairgrounds on Saturday, March 9, 2024. Lex participated in two events—the Bullseye and the 3D—and performed well in each. In the Bullseye competition, he scored 286/300, ranking him 3rd of 506 middle school boys (2nd of all 8th grade boys). In the 3D event, Lex scored 275/300 and ranked 9th out of 131 middle school boys who competed in

that event. Overall, Lex ranked 23rd out of 1,118 competitors, qualifying him for Eastern Nationals in May.

NASP stands for National Archery in the Schools Program. During the season, archers compete in local, state qualifying, and regional events. At the State meet, they attempt to qualify for Nationals, which Lex was successfully able to do.

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




Photos Submitted

January and February 2024 Student Ambassadors Recognized

Westview High School recognized eight students in January and two students in February for outstanding acts of generosity or

kindness, individual achievement or improvement, or for contributing as a mediator or leader among their peers. Students are nominated by school

teachers or staff each month, and each will receive a certificate of recognition and a gift certificate. Congratulations to these Student Ambassadors! 



February Student Ambassadors: (left to right): Carson Niccum, 9; and Becky Moore, 10.



January Student Ambassadors: (left to right): Wiley Minix, 12; Austin Schlabach, 9; Milan Miller, 10; Hudhaifa Almhn, 11; Taven Schrock, 12; Lilly Mullet, 10; and Kaitlin Nuzum, 12. Not pictured: Luke Helmuth, 12.

Photos Submitted

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Westview Jr./Sr. High

Home of the Warriors



Congrats 2024



Wiley Minix



Luke Helmuth



Wade Springer



Sectional Champs!



Austin Schlabach

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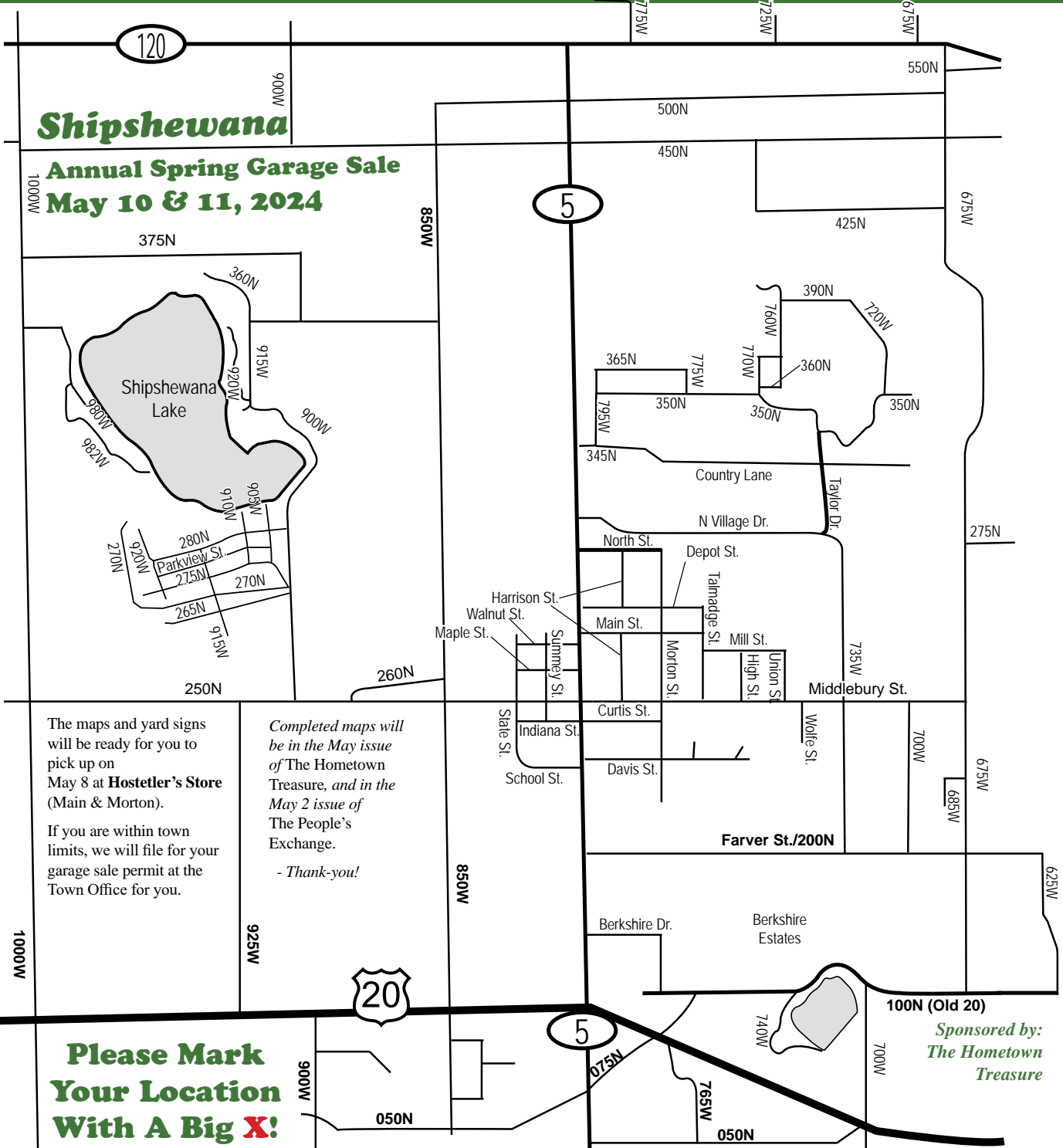
(Up to 28 words. Use form at right →)

Want to list some items?

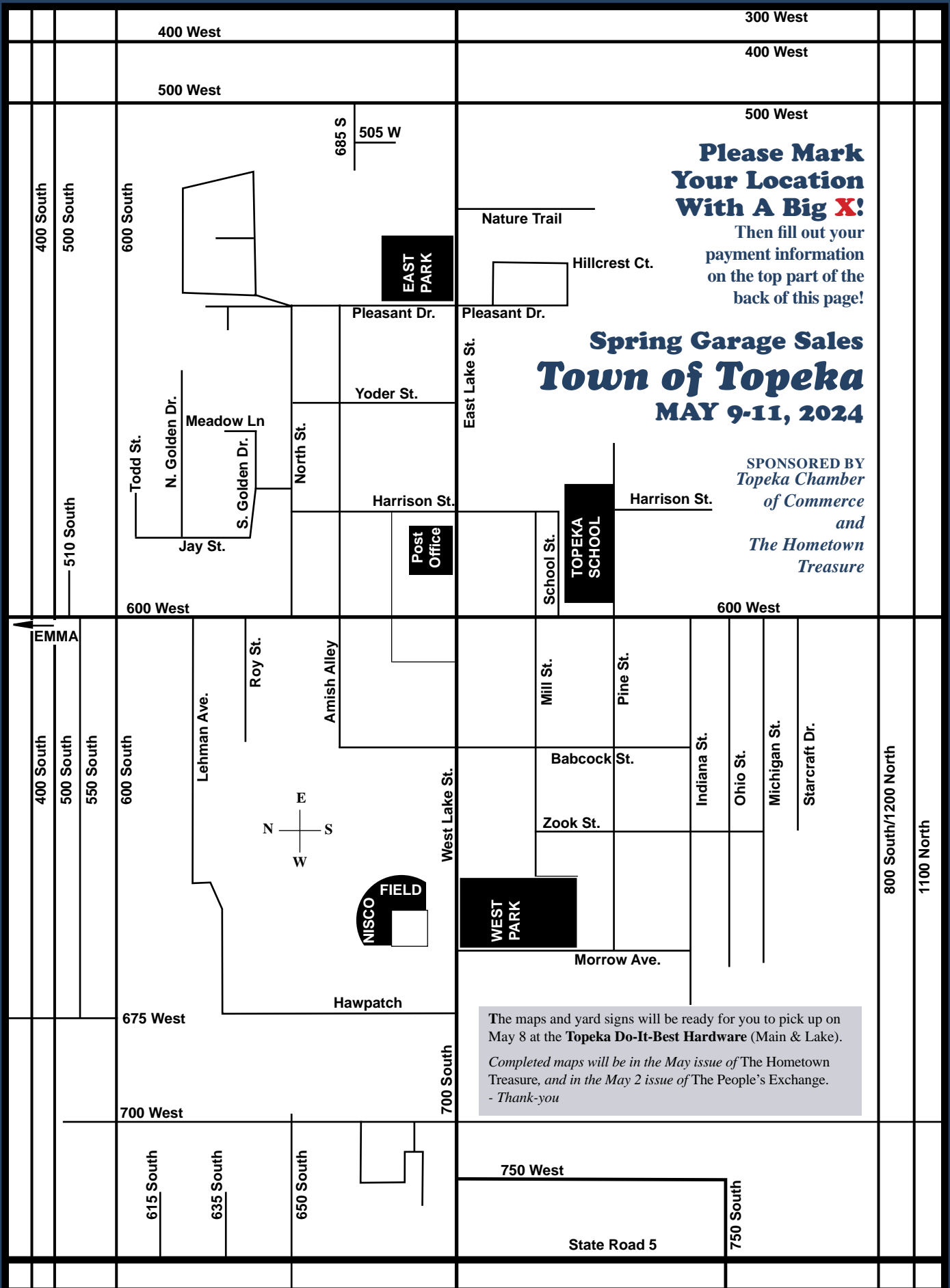
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1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28

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Topeka Chaplain

Leads Delegation to Israel

by Harold D. Gingerich



International Conference of Police Chaplains (ICPC) International Committee Chair, Harold D. Gingerich, recently returned from Israel where he led a delegation of 24 police chaplains from across the United States on a solidarity mission to the Israel National Police. The delegation, four of whom were Jewish rabbis, was in Israel from February 19 to 29 and was hosted by the Israeli police. Each of the chaplains

traveled at their own expense. Gingerich has been the Topeka Police & Fire Chaplain since 2005. He has also been an Indiana State Police Chaplain since 2017.

“New York Transit Authority Chaplain Rabbi Harry Berkowitz called me not long after the Hamas terrorist attack on Israel on October 7 of last year,” Gingerich said. Over 60 Israeli police officers were killed

that day; the war has been the worst single event since the Holocaust. “We began discussing ways to encourage the Israeli police and their chaplains who were laboring under extremely traumatic circumstances. One of those options was putting together a group of chaplains who would go to Israel to provide emotional and spiritual support.”

The idea quickly began to





gather momentum. Gingerich received permission to proceed from the Executive Committee of the International Conference of Police Chaplains. Rabbi Berkowitz started talking with his counterpart Chief Chaplain Rabbi Rami Brackyuahu in Israel. With the help of Yitzhak Almog, a retired 40-year veteran of the Israel National Police, plans were set in motion.

One of the group's first stops was at the Knesset where they were given a guided tour and received a briefing from the deputy speaker of the Parliament, Moshe Turpaz. From there the group visited the Holocaust Museum and participated in a wreath laying ceremony. The following day the delegation traveled to the southern district and the temporary police station at Sderot less than a mile from the Gaza Strip.

On October 7, Hamas overran the police station killing nine officers. Once

the authorities knew that all remaining police officers inside the building were dead, a decision was made to level the building because the terrorists were so firmly entrenched. "I confess that it was pretty emotional for me," Gingerich said, "because in October of 2022 I visited that station with the Police Unity Tour.

Now watching the surveillance footage and seeing brutality of the terrorists on October 7 was not easy."

"Two things stand out for me from that morning in Sderot," Gingerich continued. "First was the briefing from Superintendent Mali Shoshana, a 52-year-old single mother. Two of her fellow officers were killed, one on either



side of her and she was sure that she was going to be killed as well. Using her cell phone, she sent out a message saying, 'Tell my son that I love him.' Although she was wounded, she killed five of the terrorists.

"The second thing that stands out was what followed after Chaplain Rabbi Reuben gave his briefing



of his activities on the day of the attack. When he finished, I expressed appreciation on behalf of the group for his faithful service and stated that our whole purpose in coming to Israel was to encourage and support them. I will never forget the tears in his eyes as he came over to me and put his arms around me. But he didn't just give me a hug...he held me!"

Later in the day the group toured the field where over 1,000 burned and bullet-ridden vehicles from the terrorist attack were being stored for forensic purposes. Officers at that location described how each vehicle had to be processed.

From there they went to the site of the Nova Music Festival where over



400 were killed. “We were briefed by the officer who was in charge that day,” Gingerich said. “He described the events of October 7—how they were pinned down by gun fire, not knowing where it was coming from. There were times when he simply had to turn around and regain his composure because the horrific scenes from that day were still so raw.”

On Saturday morning the delegation went to Jaffa Institute in Tel Aviv where they did a service project—boxing food parcels for people in need. “After all that we had seen and heard, it was good therapy to be able to do something tangible for people suffering from the war.”

The next stop was Hostage Square where the group spent several hours talking with people who had gathered to remember and honor those still being held hostage. “So many people wanted to talk with us, and we wanted to talk with them,” Gingerich noted. “People kept thanking us for coming. I spoke with one young woman, Noa Reuveni, who allowed me to video tape the story of her two friends, Ziv and Gali Berman, who are still being held hostage. I was able to get a copy of the poster she was holding of her two friends, and I told her that it was going to my police station. I also gave her a business card with my email address on it and said, ‘I will be praying for their safe release; let me know when they get home.’ A day later she sent me a long email thanking me for my concern. She closed by saying, ‘I will forever remember your gesture. In times like this where hope is very hard to hold onto, these acts of kindness from people who are complete strangers to us, bring us back that hope.’” As you



read this, please pray for the safe return of her best friends, Ziv and Gali.


There was another moving moment when the delegation went to Zaka, the volunteer search and rescue group that has the unenviable task of cleanup and sifting through human remains. One of the members of the delegation, George Escalante, a police chaplain from Salem, Oregon, worked at Ground Zero following 9/11. Unbeknownst to anyone, one of the Zaka workers who briefed the group had been pulled from the rubble at Ground Zero. The reunion of the two was emotional to say the least.

“One of the impressive things about the people at Zaka,” Gingerich observed, “is that they are all volunteers and, because of the high value they place on human life, they treat the remains of the terrorists with the same dignity as those of the victims.”

He summed up the trip by saying, “We were told repeatedly that we were the first group to specifically come after the attack to support the police. The level of appreciation was beyond anything

we could have imagined. It made all the challenges and frustrations related to putting the trip together in such a short period of time worthwhile.”

While the delegation did come close enough to the fighting to hear the explosions and see clouds of smoke, they were never in danger. The Israeli police provided the group with security and to quote a smiling Chaplain Gingerich, “They had really big guns!”

There may be another trip to Israel in Chaplain Gingerich’s near future because the Israel National Police are considering entering into a memorandum of understanding with the International Conference of Police Chaplains to train Israeli chaplains. 



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 Sep 21 & Oct 19

HISTORICAL FEATURE

The Day Dillinger Came to Topeka

by Harold D. Gingerich

Americans have long had a fascination with gangsters, gunslingers, and outlaws. There is no end to the list of movies and television shows that have been produced to satisfy our appetite for the struggle between good and evil. And while outlaws like Billy the Kid, Butch Cassidy, the Sundance Kid, and Bonnie & Clyde have often been romanticized, in the end we want these villains to be brought to justice, and we want good to triumph over evil.

Following the end of World War I, Americans danced the Charleston, frequented speak-easies, and reveled in the carefree Roaring '20s in spite of prohibition. But those good times were followed by what some have called the Dirty '30s. The 1929 stock market crash ushered in the Great Depression, soup lines and the Dust Bowl. During the early 1930s gangsters like Bonnie & Clyde, Baby Face Nelson, and John Dillinger roamed the Midwest, robbing banks and striking terror in the hearts of people.

John Dillinger was born June 22, 1903, in Indianapolis, Indiana. In 1924 he robbed a grocery store, was caught, and sent to jail. He escaped and with his gang headed to Chicago to put together one of the most organized and deadly bank robbing gangs in the country. Dillinger and his gang were accused of robbing at least 24 banks and four police stations, were arrested several times, and escaped twice. It was his escape from the Crown Point, Indiana, jail that became legendary.

John Dillinger was a charismatic figure despite his criminal character. After all, he was good looking, he drove new cars, and was always surrounded by beautiful women. To some he was a folk hero who robbed the rich and gave to the poor. On several occasions he refused to take money from bank customers saying, "I only want the bank's money not yours."

He has been portrayed as a "captivating villain" who played up to the media and delighted in making

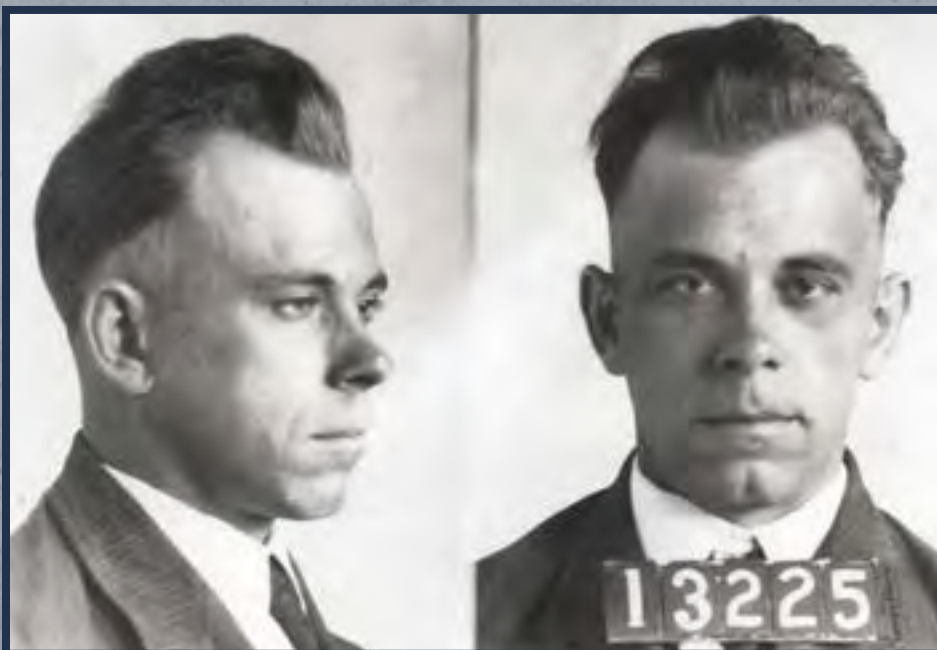


a mockery of the police. It seems he enjoyed taunting his nemesis, the Indiana State Police, with "wish you were here" postcards. By his 31st birthday, June 22, 1934, Dillinger had become Public Enemy #1. Ironically, one month later he would be dead.

On July 22, 1934, the long arm of the law finally caught up with John Dillinger. Betrayed by brothel maiden Anna Sage, he was shot and killed by agents of the FBI outside of a Chicago movie theater. There were reports that souvenir seekers dipped handkerchiefs and newspapers in the pool of blood that remained on the street. Dillinger's body was put on public display at the Cook County morgue. An estimated crowd of 15,000 people viewed the corpse over a period of a day and a half.

John Dillinger was buried at Crown Hill Cemetery in his hometown of Indianapolis. His gravestone has been replaced several times because of vandalism by people chipping off pieces as souvenirs.

We cannot verify the exact date when Dillinger drove through Topeka,



HISTORICAL FEATURE

but people had heard on the radio that he was headed this way... and they were terrified. It is not clear if Dillinger headed east out of Goshen on what is now State Road 4 or on some other dirt road. From eye witnesses we know that he came through Honeyville, passing by the Honeyville School (now Eden Worship Center) on CR 900 W on his way to Topeka.

Several people claimed that they saw him drive through the center of town. No one really knows for sure. But there are two stories that are at the top of the list.

The first is the story the late DeWayne Bontrager told me. His father Willis, who everyone called Willie, was working in the field on the family farm near Honeyville with a team of horses or mules. The farm was near to what is today the Townline Mennonite Church on LaGrange County Road 1000 West.

Dillinger was headed east from Goshen and was being chased by the police. DeWayne said, "In the distance you could hear the drone of the police siren. Then, here came this car down the road followed by a cloud of dust. It skidded to a stop right at the end

of our lane. (Dillinger had a reputation of using farm buildings as a place to hide from the police, especially if the farm had a lane and was off the road.) It just sat there... and then all of a sudden, the driver stepped on the gas, the wheels started to spin, the gravel went flying, and off he went. My dad was so scared that he left the team in the field and ran to the house."


One of the missing bits of information relates to the police pursuit. How far did the police chase him into LaGrange County? We don't know when or where the pursuit ended.

The second story involved the good folks of Topeka. Many Topeka residents had also heard the warning. Needless to say, people were quite nervous and felt the need for police protection. Merrill Mishler, whose wife Helen taught 2nd grade in Topeka for many years, was one of the people who claimed to have seen Dillinger drive through town.



With Dillinger headed toward town, everyone started looking for Town Marshal Pixley Wemple. But Pixley was nowhere to be found. In his defense, Dillinger had the reputation of shooting police officers on sight... which may or may not have been true. Apparently Pixley didn't want to be Dillinger's next target.

As the story goes, after the excitement was over Pixley was finally located east of town, sitting in a culvert, smoking a cigar.

How much of that is true, we will never know. But it certainly makes for a GREAT story! And for all who know the story it has become another memorable moment in Topeka history. 



Photos Submitted


This article sponsored by



Left-Over Letters Spell Out A Message From Chloe!

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

For as long as I can remember, my mom's side of the family would hold family get-togethers a few times a year. It's always a great time to be able to catch up with the cousins, aunts, and uncles that I rarely see. Plus, the food is always amazing! I only allow myself a sliver of pie each time, otherwise I would eat the whole thing! This past reunion, we celebrated two of my cousins: one who had gotten married since we last met and one who will be getting married later this year.

The only downside to family reunions is having to do the dishes afterwards. We usually use paper plates, but thirty people using real silverware leaves a lot to clean! Luckily, quite a few people pitch in so it's done quickly. 

Solution on page 45.

Word Search

(find all the underlined words) by *Chloe Lovell*

L	I	C	E	L	E	B	R	A	T	E	D
K	S	E	T	Q	U	I	C	K	L	Y	S
G	N	I	Z	A	M	A	H	E	L	D	Y
R	S	A	L	Y	M	Y	A	I	R	S	E
S	E	N	Y	V	T	Y	K	A	H	Y	D
N	A	V	L	R	E	C	W	N	D	A	I
I	H	S	I	M	U	R	D	A	K	W	S
S	C	H	M	L	E	I	W	E	E	L	N
U	T	L	A	T	S	I	G	A	N	A	W
O	A	H	F	H	C	T	I	P	R	O	O
C	C	A	E	T	M	A	R	R	I	E	D
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3rd Prize(s): *The Way I See It*.

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

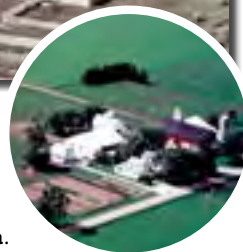
RULES:

- 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: **April 23, 2024.**
Please allow time for mail delivery.
- 4) Winners will be drawn and prizes mailed.
*Next month's winner will receive a 1 year subscription to *The Connection* and more!*
- 5) Correct entries listed in our next issue!

LAST MONTH'S WINNERS

Melvin & Mary Hershberger of 700 S, Topeka correctly identified last issue's farm as being owned by **Crist & Sara Miller and Perry & Katie Mast, 3860S700W,**

Topeka. Congratulations! They won a \$25 Gift Certificate from Tiffany's Restaurant, a pen, a notepad set, a letter opener, and a copy of *The Way I See It* from LaGwana. Second prize went to **Mike & Rosanna Lambright of 550 W, Shipshewana.** Third prize went to **Lavern Eash of SR 5, Topeka.**



There were 37 correct entries this month. **Others that guessed correctly were:** Perry & Carolyn Miller, Perry & Kathryn Miller, Junior & Mabel Miller, Calvin & Susan Miller, Loren & Eva Schlabach, Leon & Kaylene Bontrager, Darryl Lambright, Ruby Yoder, Homer & Erma Mullet, David & Susan Eash, Samuel & LorEtta Schrock, Edna Herschberger, Ida Lehman, Irene Petersheim, Marion & Miriam Miller, Treva & Jaylon Beachy, Elmer & Suetta Mast, Maynard & Betty Mast, Ida Frey, Kaitlyn Lehman, Owen Wingard, Steven & Marcia Miller, Ruby Miller, Bill & Lou Ida Miller, Vernon & Mary Etta Beechy, Daniel & Treva Miller, Jerry & Sara Yoder, Anita Lambright, Earl & Esther Mast, David & Alta Schrock, Glen Mast, Lyle & Katie Yoder, Daniel & Erma Miller, and Delmer & Sharon Bontrager.

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Coloring Contest Winners

Six-year-old Kenleigh Miller of 600 W, Topeka was our winner for the March Coloring Contest. She won a free pencil box and crayons at Kids Kreations in Shipshewana.

Everyone else that sent in a page can stop by Kids Kreations for a free pencil box through April.

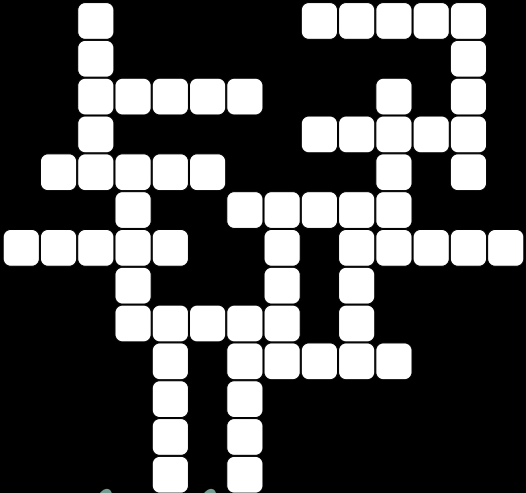
Runners-up were Suzanna Yoder, age 6; Morgan Brooke Lehman, age 5; Melissa Miller, age 4; Nicole Miller, age 3; and Drew Nissley, age 2. Honorable Mentions: Angie Bontrager, age 6; Faith Abigail Farmwald, age 6; Joshua Hershberger, age 5; Sarena Joy Lambright, age 5; Halle Stutzman, age 6; and Kyle Whetstone, 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. 



Camel
Cobra
Dingo
Gecko
Goose
Heron
Horse
Hyena
Koala
Llama
Moose
Otter
Quail
Shark
Skunk
Sloth
Snail

Use the words listed to fill in the spaces!



Clueless
Crossword

Solution to Clueless Crossword is on pg 45.
by Chloe Lovell

Forwards AND Backwards!

What building has the most stories?

Solution on page 45

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Coloring Contest: kids age 6 and younger. Sponsored by Country Garden Center in Topeka this month! Winner gets a FREE FLAT OF FLOWERS (mix and match!) from the Country Garden Center. The Winning Drawings will be on display. ALL PARTICIPANTS claim your drawing for A THREE PACK OF FLOWERS at the Country Garden Center in October. Mail submission to: LaGwana, Coloring Contest, PO Box 70, Shipshewana, IN 46565. Entry deadline is April 23, 2023.

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Clueless CROSSWORD Solution

By Chloe Lovell

to the puzzle on page 42.

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Answer:

The Library

Riddle on page 42

<https://www.ezschool.com/Riddles/Riddle131.html>

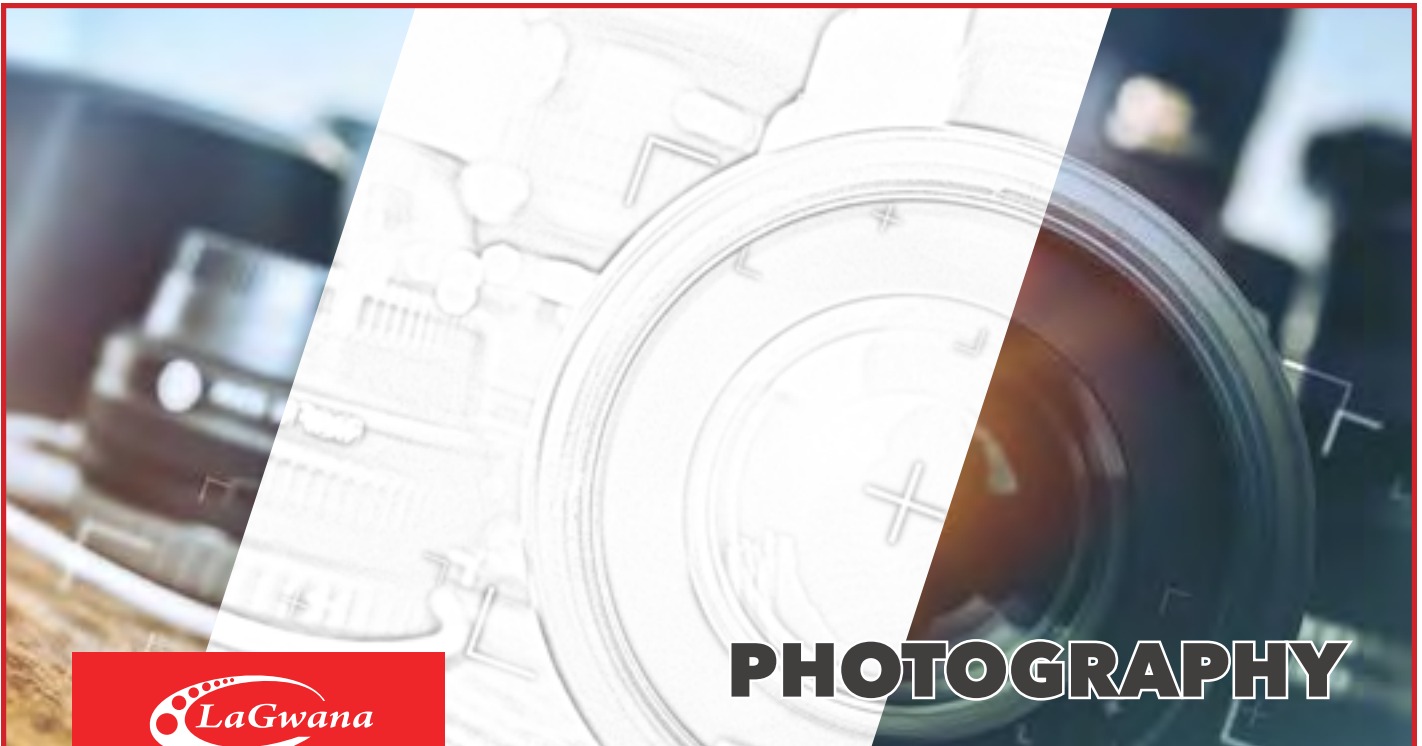
Solution to puzzle on page 41

L I C E L E B R A T E D
K S E T Q U I C K L Y S
G N I Z A M A H E L D Y
R S A L Y M Y A I R S E
S E N Y V T Y K A H Y D
N A V L R E C W N D A I
I H S I M U R D A K W S
S C H M L E I W E E L N
U T L A T S I G A N A W
O A H F H C T I P R O O
C C A E T M A R R I E D
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Spell Out A Message
From Chloe!**

Enter remaining letters starting at
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MANY HANDS
MAKE LIGHT
WORK!**



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