

The
**Hometown
Treasure**

July 2025 • Vol. 26 Num. 07



The Disneys of Eddy



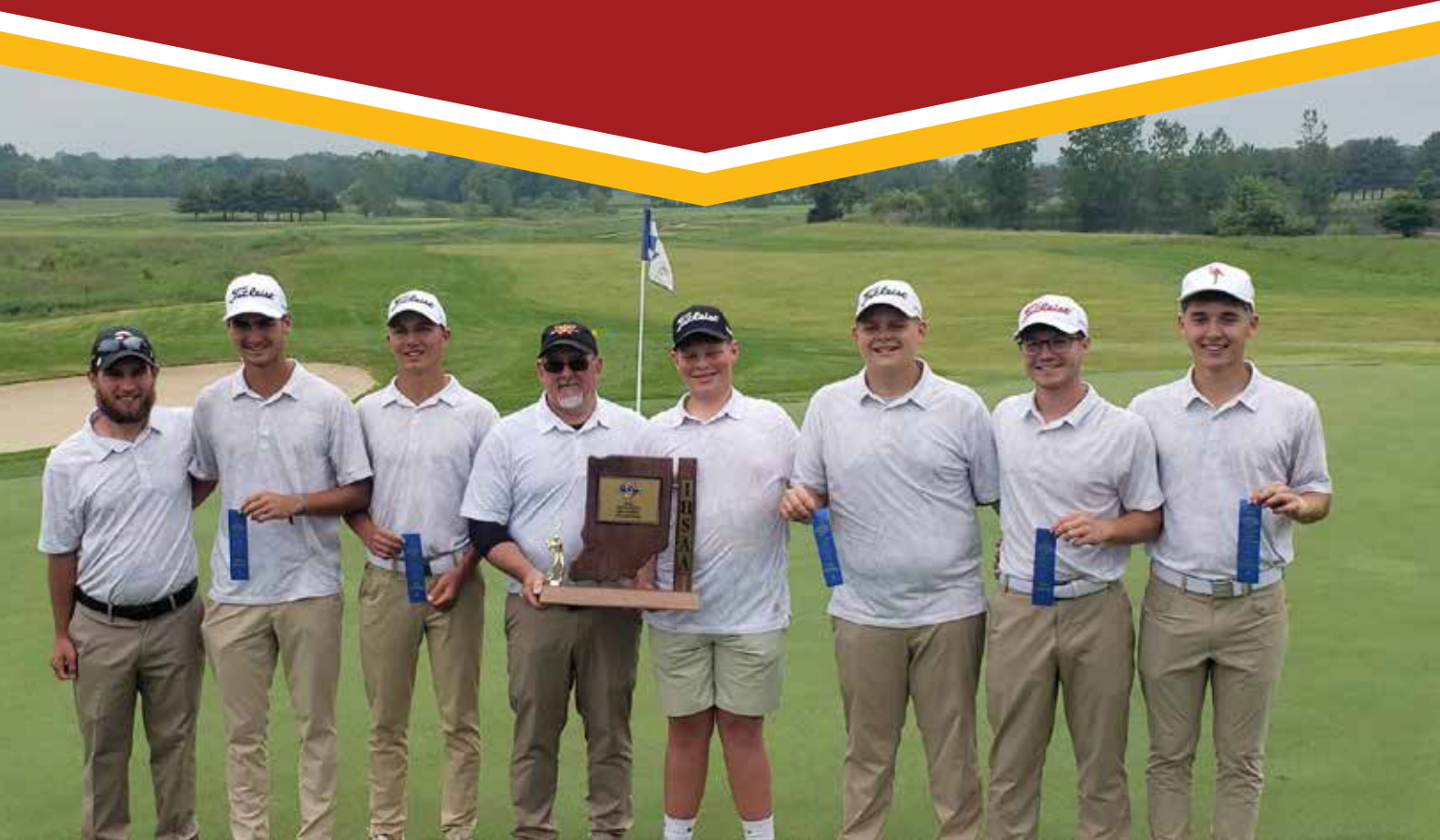
Happy Fourth of July

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2025 SECTIONAL CHAMPIONS



Westview Varsity Boys Golf won Sectionals on Friday, June 6, at Meadow Valley Golf Course. Silas Haarer was the individual Sectional Champion and will advance to State, and Luke Haarer was the individual runner-up.

The Varsity boys golf team is carrying on the record-breaking torch for Westview. Not only did the team win Sectionals on Friday, they broke the school record with a 301. Senior Silas Haarer also broke the individual

school record, the Sectional record, and tied the Meadow Valley Golf course record with a score of 63, which is 9 below par! Incredible work!



2025 REGIONAL CHAMPIONS



Regional Champs! Congratulations to the Varsity Boy's Baseball team.



WESTVIEW TENNIS

2025





- 1) Alex Stutzman waits to return a volley.
- 2) Mason Grossman serves to his opponent.
- 3) Justin Wallace watches to see if his hit will be returned.
- 4) Hallie Stults waits for a serve from her opponent.
- 5) Mia Stemm starts her pre-serve routine.

Photos by Kristen Bender.

The Hometown Treasure

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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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— ADVERTISING SIZES & RATES —

Size	width x height	Rate
1/12 page	2 ³ / ₈ " x 2 ³ / ₈ "	\$45
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or (Horizontal)	4 ⁷ / ₈ " x 2 ³ / ₈ "	\$85
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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 August 2025 Issue:

12 noon, Tuesday, July 22

Thursday, July 17 if you need a proof.

August Issue Date is Tuesday, July 29.

— 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.

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Publication

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36



Photo Submitted

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Photo Submitted



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Cover Photo by Abby Wenger



Trailblazing Towards Tomorrow

Saturday August 30 2025

BENEFIT RIDE

3-5PM HORSE/WAGON

HOMETOWN COOKOUT

3-6:30PM BENEFIT SUPPER

Topeka Auction Barn

50 Cooking Stations!

Grills • Flat Tops • Deep Fryers

Serving Steak, Ribs, Chicken, Sushi & More!

All You Can Eat – Ticketed Event

Call Now to Reserve – Limited Tickets Available!

Kids 6 and under no ticket needed!

BONUS: Participating Horseback Riders receive ticket with Ride Registration!

**All proceeds will go to TOPEKA TOGETHER INC,
a nonprofit committed to enhancing the vitality of Topeka!**



RSVP

**Call Larry Yoder for Tickets and
to sign up for the Ride!
260.593.2601**

**Grillers call Keith Kaufman
260.350.8365**



Exchanges

A friend recently stated, “When life comes crashing in on you, don’t exchange what you do know for what you don’t know.” This timely statement came at a moment when I was dripping wet with worry.

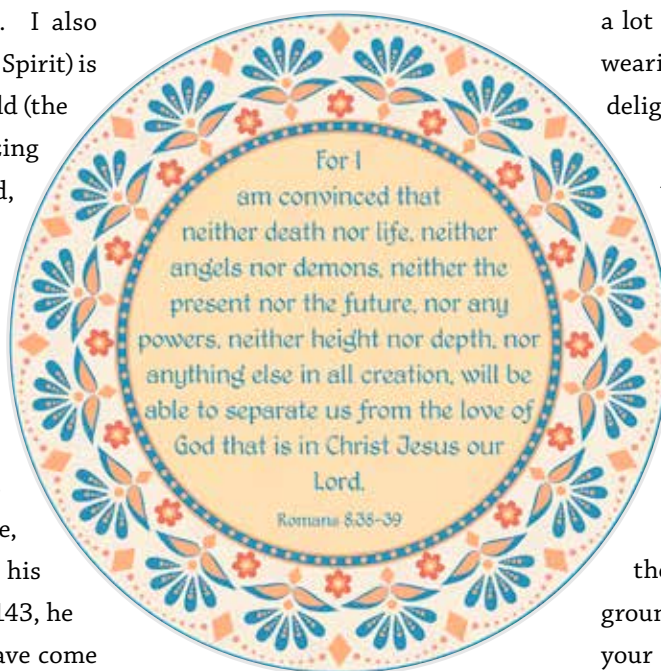
As a born-again Christian, what I do know is that God loves me and He’ll never leave me or forsake me. I also know that He who is in me (Holy Spirit) is bigger than he who is in the world (the enemy/worry). So, fraternizing with fret should be far-fetched, right? I wish it were that simple.

The Psalmist David often found himself in a real pickle. He spent a reasonable amount of time running from “literal” enemies who wanted to kill him. In the various battles thrown at him throughout life, David never strayed from his devotion to God. In Psalm 119:143, he writes, “Trouble and distress have come upon me, but your commands give me delight.”

Granted, I’ve never faced a real giant with a slingshot or run for my life, hiding in caves, but I have faced an occasional proverbial giant, a time or two. I’ve been known to hop aboard the worry-go-round and take a dizzy ride before I come to my senses. It’s typically after I’ve stewed and fretted a bit that I

find peace in exchanging the worry for worship. Returning to what I know to be true always brings peace, assurance, rest, comfort, joy...and...delight as King David said.

Focusing on the things I have no control over makes matters worse rather than better. ALWAYS! Moving forward




in truth brings peace of mind. ALWAYS!

Let’s say you order a new shirt online. When it arrives, you are very pleased with the shirt’s color, shape, and quality. But it doesn’t fit well. It’s a bit snug. You dicker with the idea of returning it, but you don’t because of the hassle. You may even think you’ll lose a few pounds, or it will look good with a sweater over it. So,

what typically happens in this scenario? Well, in my world, it stays in the closet. I lost the money I spent on it, and every time I see it in the closet, I regret the purchase, but don’t have the heart to sell it or give it away because of the “what ifs”? If only I’d taken the time to make the exchange, I would have saved myself a lot of unnecessary trouble, and I’d be wearing my awesome new threads with delight!

The same is true when the hard things of life happen, making me wonder about the future or getting me all tangled up in the unknown. If I made the effort, right away, to exchange all these things I don’t know for the truth that I do know, I’d feel better sooner!

What keeps you from making the exchange? What truths keep you grounded when life’s unknowns stir your sleep at night? Here’s what I know to be true in my life: I am a child of God first and foremost. And according to Romans 8, because of this, nothing can separate me from His love—not death, demons, future unknowns, evil powers, height, depth, or anything else in creation. Nothing! And that, my friends, is a hope-filled promise to exchange for the hardships of life that get delivered to your door! 

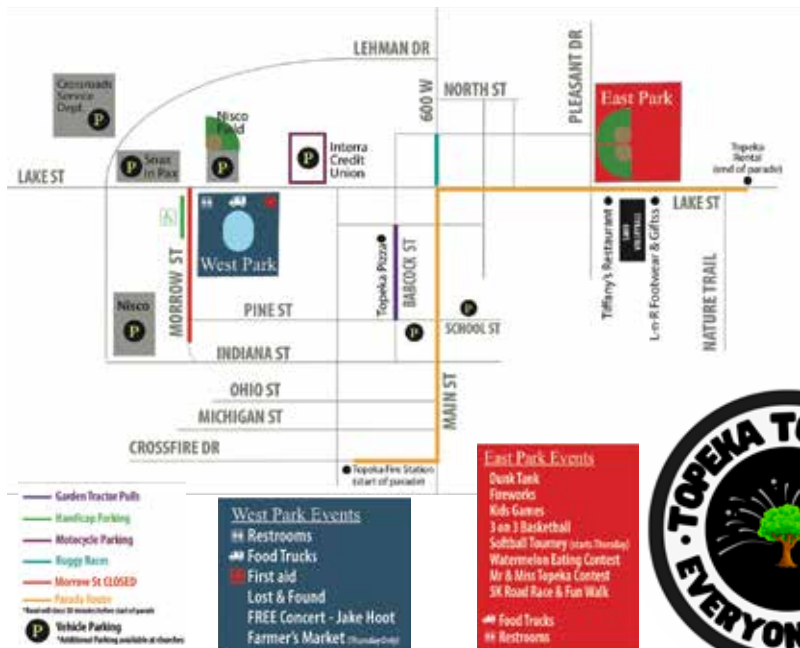
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The Hometown Treasure · July '25



FARMER'S MARKET

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WEST PARK MARROW ST TOPEKA IN 12-7PM THURSDAYS

We invite you to experience the best HOMEMADE or HOMEGROWN our locals have to offer. We encourage everyone to support local FARMER'S MARKETS for fun and sustainability!



TOPEKA'S JULY 4TH 2025

7-10am Pancake & Sausage Breakfast Fire Station

Food Trucks & Events ALL DAY at East Park

3:30pm PARADE
5pm BUGGY RACES
7pm GREG RHODES
8pm JAKE HOOT
10pm FIREWORKS

LaGrange County
14 Tiffany's
102.5

Friday, July 3rd

11 AM - 7 PM ...Farmer's MarketWest Park
 5PMSoftball TourneyEast Park Diamonds

Saturday, July 4th

7-10 AMPancake & Sausage BreakfastTopeka Fire Station
 8 AM5k Road Race & Fun WalkEast Park Pavilion
 8 AM3-on-3 Basketball TourneyEast Park Basketball Court
 8 AMSoftball TourneyEast Park Diamonds
 8 AMSand VolleyballTiffany's Lot
 10 AMKid's GamesBig Tent
 10 AMGarden Tractor PullBabcock Street
 10 AM - 2 PMDunk TankEast Park
 NoonWatermelon Eating ContestBig Tent
 2 PMLittle Mr. and Miss TopekaBig Tent
 3:30 PMParadeCrossfire Dr to Lake St to Main St
 5 PMBuggy RacesMain Street
 7 - 9:30 PMFREE Concert - JAKE HOOTWest Park
 10:15 PMFireworksEast Park

Topeka Together Inc

Hi All!

Can you feel the excitement? July 4th is just around the corner and it's going to be BIG this year! For my newsletter I'm just going to include a letter I received with all the information of the events.

Happy 4th! Connie Gadson

We're thrilled to invite you to Topeka's 4th of July Extravaganza full day of fun, food, music, sports and community as we come together to celebrate our great nation!

This year's event is shaping up to be a memorable day, with exciting additions like a 30 x 60 tent for the Watermelon Eating Contest, Little Mr. & Miss Contest, and plenty of tables and chairs for everyone to relax and enjoy. Kids will love the games, Big Wheel Races and a 14-barrel Train giving rides throughout the day! Buggy Races are BACK, right after the PARADE!

We have a huge list of food vendors signed up and will be serving all day!

New this year: Our 1st Annual Sand Volleyball Tournament in the lot next to Tiffany's, and a FREE concert at WEST PARK featuring opening act Greg Rhodes and headliner JAKE HOOT, winner of Season 17 of The Voice! Don't forget your lawn chairs and blankets, we'll cap off the night with a spectacular fireworks display at East Park.

We're grateful to our amazing sponsors who help make this event possible:

LaGrange County CVB, Tiffany's Restaurant, Freedom Finish Works, Topeka Graphics, Hostetler Farms, LaGwana Printing, Farmers State Bank, Topeka Pizza, Heartland Pet Supply and Scott Yoder, Jr. Family. Thank you for your generous support! Not to mention, WE HAVE AMAZING VOLUNTEERS!

We have a 90 second commercial playing all month on THUNDER COUNTRY 105.5 and THEY WILL BE BROADCASTING LIVE FROM TOPEKA ON JULY 4TH!! We're looking forward to a fantastic day with our wonderful community!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP SPONSOR THIS EVENT, PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO CONTACT US! We are 501(c)3 and any contribution is tax deductible.

THANK YOU!

See you all on the 4th!

*This page
sponsored by*



Work Toward Your Own Financial Independence Day

We're getting close to the Fourth of July, our national Independence Day. This celebration may get you thinking of the many freedoms you enjoy. But have you thought of what you might need to do to attain financial freedom?

Your first step is to define what financial independence signifies to you. For many people, it means being able to retire when they want to, and to enjoy a comfortable retirement lifestyle. So, if this is your vision as well, consider taking these steps:

- **Pay yourself first.** If you wait until you have some extra money "lying around" before you invest for retirement, you may never get around to doing it. Instead, pay yourself first. This actually is not that hard to do, especially if you have a 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan, because your contributions are taken directly from your paycheck, before you even have the chance to spend the money. You can set up a similar arrangement with an IRA by having automatic contributions taken directly from your checking or savings account.

- **Invest appropriately.** Your investment decisions should be guided by your retirement goals, along with how long you have before you need the money and how comfortable you are with different levels of investment risk. If you deviate from these guideposts —

for instance, by taking on either too much or too little risk — you may end up making decisions that aren't right for you and that may set you back as you pursue your financial independence.

- **Avoid financial "potholes."** The road to financial liberty will always be marked with potholes you should avoid. One such pothole is debt — the higher your debt burden, the less you can invest for your retirement. It's not always easy to lower your debt load, but do the best you can to live within your means. A second pothole comes in the form of large, unexpected short-term costs, such as a major home or auto repair or a medical bill not fully covered by insurance. To avoid dipping into your long-term investments to pay for these short-term costs, try to build an emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account.

- **Give yourself some wiggle room.** If you decide that to achieve financial independence, you must retire at 62 or you must buy a vacation home by the beach, you may feel disappointed if you fall short of these goals. But if you're prepared to accept some flexibility in your plans — perhaps you can work until 65 or just rent a vacation home for the summer — you may be able to earn a different,

but still acceptable, financial freedom. And by working a couple of extra years or paying less for your vacation home expenses, you may also improve your overall financial picture.

Putting these and other moves to work can help you keep moving toward your important goals. When you eventually reach your own "Financial Independence Day," it may not warrant a fireworks display — but it should certainly add some sparkle to your life. 🎉



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.

LaGrange County Library

Below are the events planned for July 2025.
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 Interest

Summer Reading Program! (All Ages)

All Branches • June 1 - July

Our theme this year is Color Our World! Sign up at any LaGrange Co. Public Library location to get your reading log and information about all of the fun colorful things we will be doing! Try to read every day in June & July to earn prizes and a chance for a prize bag at the end of July! come to the library for all of the activities listed below and more!

Monday Movies (All Ages)

LaGrange • Mondays • 1 p.m. • See fliers or website for shows. Bring a blanket or pillow. Come to Makerspace on Wednesdays and design your own cardboard car to watch the movie at the drive in! Free popcorn. Bring your own covered drink.

Preschool Story Time (Ages 0-5) Theme: Gardening!

LaGrange • Tuesdays • 10:30 a.m.

Shipshewana • Tuesdays • 1 p.m.

Topeka • Wednesdays • 11 a.m.

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

Makerspace (Ages 5 & Up) (Registration not required)

LaGrange • Wednesdays • 10 am-7 p.m.

Parents must stay with children ages 10 and under.

Drop in anytime between 10:00 and 7:00.

We will have new special projects every week!

Lego Play (Ages 5 & Up) (Registration not required)

LaGrange • Thursdays in July • 11 am -7 p.m.

Topeka • Thursdays in July • Noon - 5 p.m.

Parents must stay with children ages 10 and under. Drop in anytime between 2:30 and 7:00. Use our collection of Legos and idea books to create or build the challenges for the month.

Teen Games (Grades 6-12)

LaGrange • Monday, July 14 • 4-7:30 p.m. • Board Games

LaGrange • Monday, July 28 • 4-7:30 p.m. • Video Games

Play larger group party games or settle in for something longer.

Pokemon Club (Ages 8-18)

LaGrange • Monday, July 14 • 6-7:30 p.m. (2nd Monday each month)

Have fun playing, trading cards, and learning strategies. Bringing cards to trade is optional.

Book Clubs

LaGrange • Tuesday, July 15 • 4-5 p.m.

Elementary: Grades 1-3 Discussing: *I Survived the sinking of the Titanic*

We will begin reading the book together and do a fun activity related to the book.

Mid-Grade: Grades 4-7 Reading: *Explorer* by Katherine Rundell.

Come to the library to get your book. We will discuss the book and do a fun related activity.

Family Movie Night (All Ages)

LaGrange • Friday, July 25 • 6 p.m.

Paddington in Peru Rated PG. Free popcorn provided! Bring your own covered drink.

Stephen's Puppets Marionette Show

Performing Goldilocks and the Three Bears

Topeka: Saturday • July 26 • 9 a.m.

All ages welcome for this family friendly show! Stay after the show for school supplies, lunch and other great information from Reason 4 Hope!

Stephen's Puppets Marionette Show

Performing Goldilocks and the Three Bears

LaGrange: Saturday • July 26 • 11:30 a.m.

All ages welcome for this family friendly show! Hang around for ice cream and collect any prizes you have left to collect from Summer Reading.

Adult Interest

2025 Adult Summer Reading Challenge: Color Our World

All Library Branches • June 1 - July

For every 3 books you read during June & July, you can put your name into a drawing for one of three \$100 Hobby Lobby gift cards! Open to all LaGrange Co. Public Library cardholders, Age 18+.

Culinary Adventures: East Meets West (Ages 12+)

Tuesday July 1

Miso Japan • 203 W Pike Street, Goshen

La Michoacana • 304 N Main Street, Goshen

Meet at Miso Japan: 6 p.m. All food purchases will be at your own expense. Enjoy a Japanese supper and a Mexican dessert! Must register at LaGrange or call 260-463-2841 x 1030.

Culinary Adventures: Vegan Brunch (Ages 12+)

Thursday, July 10 • **The Rooted Vegan** • 30 N Public Square, Angola

Meet at the restaurant: 10:30 a.m. All food purchases will be at your own expense. By popular demand, we are returning to this delightful vegan restaurant! Must register at LaGrange or call 260-463-2841 x 1030.

Second Saturday Book Club (Ages 16+)

LaGrange • Saturday, July 12 • 11 a.m.

This month we'll discuss "*The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store*" by James McBride. In 1972, when workers in Pottstown, PA, were digging the foundations for a new development, the last thing they expected to find was a skeleton at the bottom of a well. Who the skeleton was and how it got there were two of the secrets kept by the residents of Chicken Hill, the dilapidated neighborhood where immigrant Jews and African Americans lived side by side and shared ambitions and sorrows. Copies of the book are available at the LaGrange's Adult Desk.

Patchwork Trails - David Rogers Memorial Park (All Ages)

2355 W 550 S, Wolcottville • Tuesday, July 15 • 6 p.m.

Patchwork Trails combines exercise, education, friendship, and fun! No Registration or fees required, just meet at each designated starting point.

Make & Take with Deb: Watermelon Trio (Ages 12+)

LaGrange • Wednesday, July 16 • 6 p.m. Cost is \$20 per person, registration & non-refundable \$10 deposit due by July 10 at LaGrange Library Adult services desk. Participants will paint a set of 3 columns to resemble watermelon. They can welcome visitors on your porch, in the garden, or in the house.

Archi-Trek: Ligonier (Ages 12+)

Depart & Return: LaGrange Co. Public Library

Thursday, July 24 • Depart: 8:30 am - Return 5 pm

With more than two dozen murals and large Jewish mansions scattered throughout the historic downtown area, Ligonier offers surprises nearly everywhere you look. Though mostly a riding tour, there will be some walking. Cost \$10 per person, pay online at eventbrite.com, or by cash or check at the LaGrange Main Library (payable to Green Bus Tours) Must register at LaGrange or call 260-463-2841 x 1030 as space is very limited.

Cookbook Club (Families Welcome)

LaGrange • Saturday, July 26 • 11 a.m.

This month's cookbook is *Taste of Home Copycat Favorites*. Check out the cookbook from the library, choose a recipe to make and bring it to the Cookbook Club carry-in! Plates, silverware, coffee and tea will be provided. Cookbook Club meets the 4th Saturday of each month.

Culinary Adventures: A Taste of Vietnam (Ages 12+)

Thursday, July 31 • **Goshen Noodles** • 1303 College Ave, Goshen

Meet at restaurant: 12 p.m. All food purchases will be at your own expense. Join us on this adventure to sample pho, banh mi, and more! Must register at LaGrange or call 260-463-2841 x 1030.

Chicago Architecture by Land and River

Saturday, August 16 • One Day Motorcoach Trip

Depart LaGrange Town Hall 7:30 a.m., return approximately 7:30 p.m.

Cost \$264 per person. Registration and \$25 deposit due to S&S Travel by July 16, 2025. Information & registration forms at all library branches.

July Events

Breakfast With the Birds

Wednesday, July 16 • 9-11 am

Maple Wood Nature Center

Topic: Basics of Bird Watching

Coffee, donuts and nature conversation.

Folk Jams

Folk Jams at Maple Wood Nature Center are taking a break for the summer. Check back this fall!

Sewing Group

Wednesday, July 16 • 9:30 am–3:30 pm

Maple Wood Nature Center

Fee: \$5 donation for Parks

Bring your sewing machine and supplies, and get help and direction with your project! This is a wonderful opportunity to socialize and share ideas with others. Please bring your own lunch/drink, and a snack to share. Please RSVP with Linda Grobis at 260-351-3609.

Every Park Every Trail

Saturday, July 12 • 9 am - End

Pine Knob Park, 2835 E SR 120, Howe. The walk will begin at 9am. Trail maps may be found at the trailhead, on the LaGrange County Parks website, or on the AllTrails App. It is free to participate. Walk at your own pace; there will be a fun reward for those who participate! A Park Representative will be present for check-in. For more information, visit the Parks website at www.lagrangecountyparks.org or call 260-854-2225.

Patchwork Trails

Tuesday, July 15 • 6 pm - 7 pm

David Rogers Memorial Park, 2355W 550S, Wolcottville, IN. Patchwork Trails combines exercise, education, friendship, and fun! The 2025 Patchwork Trails Walking Season shares six guided nature walks in area parks. A detailed description of each walk will be put on the Parks website calendar prior to each walk, at lagrangecountyparks.org. No fees



or registration are required, just meet at the designated starting point. Make sure to dress for the elements! Each walk lasts approximately one hour.

Canoe at Pine Knob

Friday, July 11 • 12 pm - 5 pm

Pine Knob Park, 2835 E SR 120, Howe. Borrow a park canoe and life jacket for 30 minute timespan to paddle on Meteer Lake. Canoes and jackets available on a first come basis. Children ages 15 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Event will be canceled for high wind or storms.

Free Swim Lessons

Dallas Lake Park Beach
505 W 700 S, Wolcottville, IN 46795

For children ages 5 - 12 years old in swim levels 1-4

Summer 2025

SESSION 1	SESSION 2	SESSION 3
July 13 and 20 9 classes @ 35 minutes each	July 26 and 27 9 classes @ 35 minutes each	July 27, 28 and 29 10 classes @ 30 minutes each
Class 1 • 10:00 - 10:35 am	Class 1 • 10:00 - 10:35 am	Class 1 • 10:00 - 10:30 am
Class 2 • 11:00 - 12:00 pm	Class 2 • 11:00 - 12:00 pm	Class 2 • 11:00 - 11:30 am
Class 3 • 2:30 - 3:05 pm	Class 3 • 2:30 - 3:00 pm	Class 3 • 1:30 - 2:00 pm
Class 4 • 4:15 - 4:50 pm	Class 4 • 3:15 - 4:00 pm	Class 4 • 2:30 - 3:00 pm

Swim Lessons are free for Summer 2025!
Made possible by grant funding received from the Indiana Department of Health.

Call the Park Office to register: 260-854-2225

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8 am-noon & 12:30-3:30 pm
505 W 700 S, Wolcottville IN parks@lagrangecounty.in.gov

Swim Lessons

How to choose a swim level.

Be sure your child can confidently do all items in one level before choosing the next level.

Level 1 Beginner: Water Acclimation
Learn to: enter and exit water safely, blow bubbles, holding open eyes under water, front float, back float, back float, roll, tread water, alternate leg and arm action, staying safe around water.

Level 2 Beginner: Water Movement
Learn to: enter and exit water safely, fully submerge and hold breath, bubbling, open eyes under water, underwater objects, front float, penguin float, neck float, front and back glides, back float, roll, tread water, change direction while swimming, arm and leg actions, staying safe around water.

Level 3 Intermediate: Water Stamina
Learn to: jump into water, submerge, and return to surface; headfirst entry, holding while moving, rotary breathing, survival float, back float, tread water, change from vertical to horizontal position on front and back, push off and begin kicking, swim front crawl 15 yards, swim elementary backstroke 15 yards, flutter kick, scissor kick, breaststroke, and dolphin kick, staying safe around water.

Level 4 Intermediate: Stroke Introduction
Learn to: headfirst entry, front crawl entry, swim underwater, tread water using two different kicks, survival swimming for 1 minute, front crawl 15 yards, elementary backstroke 15 yards, breaststroke 15 yards, butterfly stroke 15 yards, sidestroke 15 yards, any stroke or combination of strokes 35 yards, open turn front and back push off and begin kicking, staying safe around water.

2025 Summer Day Camp!

To register your child for a summer camp, please call the Park Office at 260-854-2225. Mon-Fri 8 am-12 pm & 12:30-3:30 pm

Nature Bound

June 23-27, July 7-11, or July 14-18

9 am–3pm • \$75 • Dallas Lake Park or

Delt Church Park

Grades 1-6 can have fun outside each day with nature games, environmental education, outdoor skills, and hands-on activities. Enjoy swimming and hiking.

Simplicity Day

Saturday July 12 • 10 am–11:30 am

• Pine Knob Park, 2835 E SR 120, Howe. Celebrate Simplicity Day with us at the front pavilion at Pine Knob Park. Meet at 10 am. We will learn about Henry David Thoreau's life as an author and naturalist, and share bits of his literary work.

It's Beach Time!

We have three public beaches to enjoy this summer - when it finally gets warm! Summer hours through Labor Day, 8 am - 9 pm. No Lifeguards - swim at your own risk. Dallas Lake Park Beach has a \$1 per person daily fee or a \$40 Summer Family Pass.



LaGrange County Community Foundation awards \$70,000 in Community Impact Grants

The LaGrange County Community Foundation has awarded \$70,000 to seven local nonprofits through the spring cycle of its Community Impact Grants Program. These grants support programs and services that improve the quality of life in LaGrange County.

The largest grant—\$25,000—was awarded to the LaGrange County Council on Aging for the construction of a new garage to house vehicles for its LaGrange County Area Transit (LCAT) program. The garage will protect the fleet from weather, extend the life of the vehicles, and improve service reliability. LCAT is the county's only public rural transportation provider, helping residents—especially seniors—get to medical appointments, work, and essential services both in and outside of the county.

"The need for a new garage is critical to maintaining and expanding the transportation services that many LaGrange County residents rely on for their daily needs," said Cheri Perkins, LaGrange COA Executive Director. "Community support through donations and advocacy is essential to the success of this program."

Ark Animal Rescue and Adoption Center received \$20,000 for its Bark at the Ark Barn Initiative, a meet-and-greet space for adoptive families and rescue animals. The barn will also be used for youth programs and community outreach. A no-kill shelter, Ark rehomed 700 animals in 2024 and provides animal control services throughout the county.

"Through community support and all of our programs, Ark Animal Rescue fosters a compassionate community dedicated to the well-being of animals,"



Photos submitted

said Jill Hostetler, Interim Executive Director of Ark Animal Rescue.

LaGrange County Hope was awarded \$10,000 to expand its youth food delivery program, which provides weekly meal packs—including fresh and cold items—to nearly 450 children across all three LaGrange County school districts.

"There are so many ways to contribute to this vital program," said Sonja Giggy, President of LaGrange County Hope. "Whether it's a monetary gift, donating food, or helping pack meals, we can all make a difference."

Additional grants include:


- Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana

– \$5,000 for client advocacy and support in LaGrange County

- Community Harvest Food Bank – \$1,500 to support the Farm Wagon mobile pantry
- Fort Wayne Philharmonic Orchestra – \$5,000 for music education programs and live ensemble performances in local schools
- McMillen Health – \$3,500 for preventative health education programs for LaGrange County youth

These grants are made possible by generous donors who support the Foundation's unrestricted and field-of-interest funds. Contributions to the Caring Community Fund are currently matched 2-to-1 through Lilly Endowment's GIFT VIII Initiative, tripling the impact of every gift through December 31, 2025. A \$100 donation becomes \$300 for community grantmaking.

Donors can also create a named unrestricted fund to support future community grants. A new fund can be started with a gift of \$3,500 and matched to reach the \$10,000 minimum for a permanent endowment. The Foundation has until December 31, 2025, to raise \$262,500 in eligible gifts to unlock the full match.

"Our Community Impact Grants reflect the passion of local nonprofits and the generosity of donors who care deeply about LaGrange County," said Octavia Yoder, Executive Director of the Foundation. "It's inspiring to see these investments at work—supporting neighbors, empowering youth, and strengthening families. With the matching opportunity, it's a powerful time to invest in the future of our community." 

NEPAC Crop Diagnostic Workshop Set for June 24

Crop advisors, pesticide applicators, and growers will learn more about crop management at a workshop on Tuesday June 24. Specialists and Educators from Purdue Extension will share the latest research and practical advice.


The NEPAC Crop Diagnostic Workshop will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (8:30 a.m. registration) at the Northeast Purdue Agricultural Center (NEPAC), 4821 E. 400 S. Columbia City, IN.

Topics and speakers are:

- “Anhydrous Ammonia Safety” by Ann Kline, Purdue Extension Educator – Noble Co.
- “Corn Early-Season Development, N Inhibitor Research, and Diagnostics” by Dan Quinn, Purdue Extension Corn Specialist
- “Early Season Crop Diseases/Disease Management Updates” by Darcy Telenko, Purdue Extension Plant Pathologist
- “Updates from IN State Chemist” by John Woodmansee, Purdue Extension Educator
- “Sprayer Clean Out & Maintenance” by Fred Whitford, Purdue Pesticide Programs
- “Spray Drones – Capabilities and Challenges Discussion / Demo to Compare Spray Patterns” by Mark Carter & James Wolff, Purdue Extension Educators, and Erich Eller – Forefront Ag Solutions
- “Research Demo at NEPAC - Biological Activity on Crop Residue Break-

down” by Mark Carter & Ed Farris, Purdue Extension Educators; Chris Lake – NEPAC Farm Superintendent

Recertification credits have been applied for by workshop coordinators including: Commercial Category 1, 11, 14 and RT credits (CCHs); Private Applicator Recertification Program (PARP) credits; and crop advisor credits (CEUs).


Registration is due by June 17 online at: <https://cvent.me/G1vAAX>. The cost to attend the workshop is \$80 per person. Lunch is provided. 

Shipshewana Area Historical Society


The Shipshewana Area Historical Society will meet Monday, July 21, at 6:30 pm, in the Farver School Museum at 315 N Morton St, in Shipshewana.

The program for the evening will be “LaGrangeCounty of 1934 to 1940” presented by Bryan McCoy, President of the LaGrange County Historical Society. His mother, Carolyn McCoy, will be narrating the stories.

Everyone is welcome to hear the unusual stories of our county.

The SAHS Museum is open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 1:00 to 3:00. Come and see the history of our area. 

Free Community Supper

Wednesday, July 16th, 5-7 p.m., at the Shipshewana Nazarene Church, 2695N 900W, Shipshewana. 

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- 4 Brooklyn Miller, Audrey Troyer
- 5 Reese Yoder
- 6 Eric Riehl, Jordan Troyer, Adrianna Wingard
- 7 Ethan Mast, Evan Mast, Austin Miller, Meghan Otto, Jenat Sowaileh, Christopher Wirtz
- 8 Averie Brandenberger, Michelle Yoder
- 9 Kayla Miller, Harmony Starrett
- 10 Allison Miller, Seth Schlabach, Micah Whetstone
- 11 Leila Fry, Leila Mast, Samuel Ruiz Gonzalez, Colleen Whetstone, Trentlyn Wingard
- 12 Amy Miller
- 13 Zachary Detweiler, Jeremy Troyer
- 14 Madix Collyer, Austin Hostetler
- 15 Zen Castaneda, Jameson Keim, Molly Lehman
- 16 Sariah Detweiler, Noah Howard, Jenna Schrock, Mason Sweet
- 17 Daelynn Bryan, Mariah Lehman
- 18 Brent Yoder, Rylan Yoder
- 19 Jackson Byers, Kate Engle, Timothy Lovely, Braelee Miles,



Jesse Mishler

- 20 Remington Craig, Teagan Lesperance, Samuel Reffett, Carson Slabach, Wyatt Steider
- 21 Jaylin Lehman, Edison Martin, Isaiah Yoder
- 22 Eric Bontrager, Justin Miller, Lucas Miller, Carson Yoder
- 23 Kaiser Bontrager, RyLynn Matney, Devon Miller, Logan Yoder
- 24 Landon Beachy, Madelyn England, Justus Ponce Marin, Allison Stutzman
- 25 Josh Lambright, Ashlin Rockey, Abigail Yoder
- 26 James Fender, Easton Miller, Jackson Sivits, Jayden Yoder
- 27 Matteo Guevara, Kylan Hershberger, Constance Killian, Isaac Raber, Joshua Riehl, Beckett Troxel, Bayzli Turner
- 28 Josiah Jones, Sytenyan Sornross
- 29 Annalise Hershberger, Lexiss Mast, Kevin Miller, Sirena Rupert
- 30 Brayden Bontrager
- 31 Glendon Miller

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Tin Caps Baseball Game

Meadowview 4th Graders earned a trip to a Fort Wayne Tin Caps baseball game by reading books for the "Read of Red and Gold" contest. 



Community Businesses



Meadowview 4th graders learned about the importance of businesses in our community and how we depend on them to provide services and products. Students discovered what it takes to be an innovative entrepreneur. Thank you to Josh Sturgill from the Howe Fire Department for presenting the Junior Achievement lessons! 



This page made possible by the



Meadowview Elementary

Home of the Mustangs

The Hometown Treasure · July '25

Carnival Day



Meadowview 4th Graders earned a Carnival Day by working together to solve math story problems. Students earned tokens to play the games based on their precise calculations! 🎉



End of Year Awards

Where has the time gone? Shipshe-Scott celebrated their end of the year awards to wrap up the 2024-2025 school year. Each grade level handed out Shining Citizen Awards as well as Respectful, Responsible, and Safe Awards for the final quarter. Mrs. Whittern, the librarian, also handed out some special awards for reading 20 “Red and Gold” books and the top three leaders in AR points.

Mrs. Garber recognized a few students who had perfect attendance for the entire school year! Mrs. Conwell, our school resource officer, was on hand to pass out special treats to all the award winners. Thanks everyone for making this a wonderful school year! We hope all students and staff have a relaxing, safe, and memorable summer! 📖

Shining Citizens



*K: Back: Jake Slabach, Thea McGuire, Habe Bola, Jarius Schmucker.
Front: Ethan Schlabach, Zachariah Guzman, Amber Yoder, River Yoder.*



*1: Back: Seth Bontrager, Austin Miller, Andrew Unternahrer, Kenlyn Miller.
Front: Hannah Yoder, Kendra Hochstetler, Sadie Yoder, Kinley Vogt.*



*2: Back: Kaiser Moon, Colt Patrick, Archer Glassman.
Front: Keanan Byroad, Leila Wingard, Kaia Forbes.*



2: Zayne Yoder.



*3 & 4: Back: Samuel Ruiz, Kinsley Lambright, Isaiah Miller, Dahlia Smith, Jennica Hershberger. Middle: Molly Long, David Schrock, Cameron Bontrager, Sean Slabach, Roarke Brohm.
Front: Jacob Miller, Kyrie Mauck, Jeneva Yoder, Lucille Duzan.*

Reading Award



Back: Braden Detweiler, Jack Stemm, Micah Miller, Jared Yoder, Lucas Yoder. Front: Jennica Hersherberger, Gabby Bontrager, Sadie Mast, Janessa Wingard, Jayonna Wingard.

Respectful, Responsible, and Safe awards



K: Back: Ethan Schlabach, Emerson Lewton, Isaac Miller, Jevan Slabach. Front: Sophia King, Sara Schlabach, Abigail Yoder, Delaina Beechy.



1: Back: Nicolas Wilkins, Peter Stemm, Gunnar Barkman, Alex Miller. Front: Janice Miller, Cali Troxel, Sheryl Yoder, Jaisyn Calvillo.



2: Back: Landon Schlabach, Michael Stutzman, Brock Stout. Front: Zoey Miller, Aliyah Bunton, Kinsley Miller.



3: Back: Carter House, Larson Frey, Isaac Yoder, Tyler Lambright. Front: Caroline Schlabach, Addie Creek, Danielle Mehrley, Bethany Miller.



4: Back: Micah Miller, Hudson Moon, Knox Cripe. Front: Gabby Bontrager, Crystal Miller, Sadie Mast.

Perfect Attendance awards



K: Audrey Lambright



1 & 2: Brylee Wilson, Nicolas Wilkins, Gunnar Barkman



3 & 4: Wyatt Steider, Cameron Bontrager, Brantley Lambright, Eric Yoder

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Cookie Sales



“First graders at Topeka Elementary School sold cookies for a quarter, one time per month, to raise funds for the Ark Animal Sanctuary. This year, \$454.24 was collected and donated from TES through this program. This was our 9th year to run this program, and we have donated over \$4,000 total. This means we have sold over 17,000 cookies in the past 9 years! Way to go, Topeka Bears!” 

FREE Vaccine Clinics



Love them, Protect them, Immunize them!

Please call (260) 499-4182 Extension 1
If you have any questions.

APPOINTMENT REQUIRED

The LaGrange County Health Department will host an immunization clinic on Monday July 28th.

Dayspring Christian Healthcare Clinic
(1155 N 1200 W, Middlebury, IN 46540)

9:00 to 11:00 AM

This clinic is open to all LaGrange County and surrounding residents. Donations welcome, most health insurance accepted.



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End of Year Awards



Perfect Attendance

Four students out of 19 who had perfect attendance this school year were drawn to receive a gift card from the PTO. There were 11 fifth graders and 8 sixth graders.

They are: Karson Plank (Shipshewana), Chloe Swanson (Topeka), Jesse Hostetler (Topeka) and Abigail Hershberger (LaGrange).



Outstanding Citizens of the Year

Caleb Yoder (5B, Shipshewana)

Chloe Swanson (5H, Topeka)

Jorden Troyer (6G, Shipshewana)

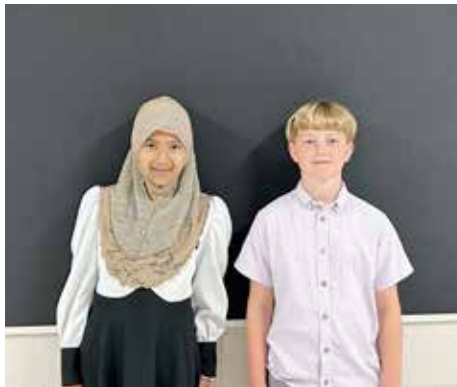
Ryleigh Weimer (6E, Shipshewana)

These students received a gift card and plaque from the Westview Elementary PTO.



Roger Brenneman Math Award

Tarah Hochstetler, Shipshewana won the Roger Brenneman Math Award. Mr. Brenneman retired from Westview School Corporation after 36 years of dedicated teaching. He exemplified excellence in his teaching.



Two students who had at least 95% attendance were drawn for a gift card. They are: Brian Bontrager (Wolcottville), Maitha Saleh (Shipshewana).

Samuel L. Miller Excellence in Reading Award

This Media Center Award is given to the top reader(s) in the fifth and sixth grades who participated in the Indiana Young Hoosier Book Program for this school year.

Fifth Graders – Nathan Martin & Jaxton Horner

Sixth Graders – Adelynn Raber & Miles Glassman



5th & 6th Grades Year-end Celebrations

5th and 6th grade students each had a special celebration day at the end of the school year. 5th grade participated in metric olympics and 6th grade participated in POW WOW! ❶



4th 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. These are the win-

ners for the fourth grading period: Nicole Miller (5A), Bryan Bontrager (5B), Lydia Long (5C), Kaitlyn King (5D), Natalie McDonald (5E), Jason Schrock (5F), Reagan Wilson (5G), Gabriel Eicher (5H), Landon Bontrager (6A), Emily Otto (6B), Katy Mishler (6C), Javon Whetstone (6D), Mason Grossman (6E), Kimberly Mast (6G), Reese Yoder (6H), Jana Troyer (6I). ❶

Honor Roll

Quarter 4

High Honor Roll (3.5 or above)

Westview Jr-Sr High School, 2024-2025 Quarter 3

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

Adam Alamari, Trinity Antal, Alyssa Barkman, Adrian Bontrager, Coltin Bontrager, Dale Bontrager, Heidi Bontrager, Janie Bontrager, Jayna Bontrager, Jerel Bontrager, Kalyn Bontrager, Kathlyn Bontrager, Kayla Bontrager, Leon Bontrager, Luke Bontrager, Harrison Bontreger, Janessa Caldwell, Marissa Childers, Claire Coleman, Jayni Drake, Chandler Engle, Erin Frey, Keturah Fry, Abigail Hershberger, Dominick Krantz, JulieAnna Kuhns, Andraya Lambright, Kendall Lambright, Kevin Lehman, Mahweensa Marks, Austin Martin, Tyler Mast, Valentina Mendoza, Cash Miller, Curtis Miller, Dena Miller, Hailey Miller, Jacob Miller, Jamin Miller, Jennifer Miller, Justin Miller, Katy Miller, Kenlin Miller, Landon Miller, Lynn Miller, Maci Miller, Mariah Miller, Sammy Miller, Toby Miller, Beckham Misner, Clayton Moon, Erikson Mullet, Alexandria Olweean, Anthony Otto, Genesis Perillo, Josiah Radcliff, Brigham Rahn, Kendyl Reinhold, Kierra Roose, Declan Ryall, Dena Schlabach, Joshua Schlabach, Aleya Schrock, Micah Schrock, Cindy Schwartz, Kayla Schwartz, Isla Slabach, Jaden Slabach, Amber Stoltzfus, Hallie Stults, Alex Stutzman, Brooklyn Stutzman, Heather Troyer, Joshua Troyer, Lisa Troyer, Trenton

Vilardo, Julian Warrenner, JuLayne Whetstone, Caleb Wingard, Nasser Yahya, Amy Yoder, Ashby Yoder, Carson Yoder, Hadley Yoder, Heidi Yoder, James Yoder, Jessica Yoder, Juliana Yoder, Matthew Yoder, Melody Yoder, Miles Yoder

Grade 8

Bryndle Bontrager, Brynn Bontrager, Isaiah Bontrager, Janelle K Bontrager, Janelle R Bontrager, Justin Bontrager, Karl Bontrager, Kathleen Bontrager, Kevin Bontrager, Sara Bontrager, Tyson Bontrager, Chloe Briggs, Avery Christner, Jaxon Christner, Kristen Chupp, Cassidy Detweiler, Eillianna England, Madalyn Everage, Braden Fry, Deric D Fry, Karla Fry, Micah Fry, Breanna Garrett, Lukas Gingerich, Tenley Groves, Jenean Hochstetler, Karina Hochstetler, Lisa Hochstetler, Keera Hostetler, Hannah Jasso, Ethan Kemp, Abigail King, Andrea Lambright, Jewel Lambright, Lucas Lambright, Megan Lambright, Victoria Lambright, Adrian Lehman, Katelyn Martin, Ethan Mast, Kailey Mast, Kylie Mast, Lisa Mast, Destiny Mercer, Adrian Miller, Allyse Miller, Alyssa Miller, Darin J Miller, Emma Miller, Eric Miller, Ethan Miller, Gavin Miller, Hailey Miller, Jessica Miller, Karla Miller, Laura Miller, Logan Miller, Melody Miller, Micah Miller, Sandra Miller, Lance Mullet, Hailey Otto, Serena Otto, Kandice Parker, Jayna Riehl, Jorge Rimola,

Evan Roth, Sofia Ruiz, Asher Sandquist, Kenlyn Schlabach, Lyndora Schrock, Tanner Singleton, Joshua Slabach, Makayla Slabach, Faith Stump, Janessa Stutzman, Lucas Swanson, Tori Taylor, Kaci Troyer, Ana Wingard, Brendon Yoder, Bryce Yoder, Darcia Yoder, Darin Yoder, Dustin Yoder, Erik Yoder, Grady Yoder, Josiah Yoder, Lyndon Yoder, Maciah Yoder, Marilyn Yoder, Olivia Yoder, Deanna Yutzy

Grade 9

Zakaria Algaradi, Baylor Atra, Makenna Bender, Laban Bontrager, Laine Bortner, Tyler Brewer, Liam Brill, Cyota Ferrera, Cooper Fry, Marcus Garrett, Mila Geyer, Morgan Grossman, Alayah Hostetler, Elizabeth Lehmer, AJ Martin, Maggie Mast, Mari Mast, Jada Mauck, Paige McDonald, Adison Miller, Brendan Miller, Madilyn Miller, Saul Moreno, Shelby Mullett, Fisher Oakley, Gavin Rainsberger, Kya Roose, Josie Ryall, Emma Stinnett, Tyler Stutzman, Lex Thompson, Mabel Trethewey, Merrill Warrenner, Rylee Watson, Elijah Watts, Grace Yoder, Hudson Yoder, Janae Yoder, Karla Yoder, Will Yoder

Grade 10

Eva Bates, Evan Beechy, Karleen Bender, Lexy Bennett, Memphis Bontrager, Olivia Bontrager, Camryn Christner, Isaac Drake, Graci Engle, Landon Gingerich, Luke Haarer, Makenna Helman, Amanda Hershberger, Keegan Hershberger, Kaden Hostetler, Ibraheem Hussein, Addison Kauffman, Erica Lambright, Ashlyn Martin, Jacob McCoy, Emilia Mendoza,

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Westview Jr./Sr. High

Angela Miller, Ethan Miller, Gloria Miller, Janessa Miller, Peyton Miller, Lucas Mullet, Wyatt Murray, Keegan Norberg, Kaine Reinhold, Carver Stump, Chris Terrones, Devyn Whetstone, Kendra White, Daniel Yoder, Marilyn Yoder, Pierce Yoder, Savannah Yoder

Grade 11 Noriah Aldhuraibi, Kristen Bender, Katana Bibbee, Noah Bontrager, Taylor Bryan, Breann Cory, Chayenne Diaz, Hunter Egli, Makenna Feipel, Kaden Grau, Madison Grossman, Luke Hall, Kyleigh Hershberger, Ava Hostetler, Dakota Hubbard, Kaleb Iddings, Briana Kaufman, Hailey Lambright, Janell

Lambright, Janissa Lehman, Jasmine Litton, Bailey Manns, Audri Martin, Lanita Mast, Miley Mast, Eden Mauck, Braxton Miller, Kaiden Miller, Katie Miller, Milan Miller, Myra Miller, Majid Omer, Corra Owens, Aaron Roth, Bentley Ryall, Kylie Singleton, Brett Springer, Lili Terrones, Jordynn Wasson, Jalayna Whetstone, Brina Williams, Alex Yoder

Grade 12 Hyde Al Yahiri, Sarah Alshuga, Faith Beechy, Andrey Bergeron, Cole Bontrager, Ian Bontrager, Lilly Bontrager, Owen Brill, Clarinda Byler, Mason Clark, Maverick Deveau, Charlie Duke, Gavin Engle,

Jaxon Engle, Max Engle, Lakota Everitt, Zackary Fry, Ava Gilbert, Silas Haarer, Grace Heyerly, Hussein Hussein, Olivia Jasso, Tetiana Jones, Asher Kennedy, Kaiden Liechty, Kiana Mast, Kyiah Michels, Curtis Miller, Tristan Pearson, Madison Penick, Adelyn Rainsberger, Morgan Rich, Morgan Riegsecker, Jonathan Roth, Alexander Sanchez, Victoria Sandquist, Karlie Schrock, Leigha Schrock, Kirsten Schumacher, Lindsey Schwartz, Dylan Shrock, Savannah Vliet, Kelsie Ward, Alexis Warren, Annagail Warrener, Jacob Watts, Karis Weinberg, Ava Williams, Ella Williams, Bryan M Yoder, Kamden Yoder, Kylie Yoder

Regular Honor Roll (3.0-3.499)

Westview Jr-Sr High School, 2024-2025 Quarter 3

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 Jared Beechy, Jason Bontrager, Morgan Bontrager, Cayden Coleman, Samantha Fender, Darin Fry, Cody Hill, Jaycen Howard, Damon Lambright, Jesse Lambright, Brooke Mahon, Michael Manns, Blake Miller, Marsha Miller, Avery Myers, Akhila Reed, Drayden Slabach, Kennedy Stutzman, Janae Yoder

Grade 8 Adrian Beechy, Jaron Bontrager, Michael Bontrager, Hope Brandenberger, Noah Cleveland, Avionna Duke, Zayne Geigley, Seth Hochstetler, Blake Hostetler, Tyler Hostetler, Kenlyn Lambright, Spencer Lambright, Kylin Meadows,

Kameron Meyers, Britton Miller, Caydon Miller, Josiah Miller, Lacey Ramey, Holden Rheinheimer, Emily Smith, Serenity Tennant, Alisyn Tetzloff, Chloe Turner, Jakoby Whetstone

Grade 9 Gavin Eicher, Silaimaan Fadil, Remington Helmuth, Cole Miller, Kaylee Nuzum, Zuriah Reed, Alexis Riggio, Mustafa Shahbain, Kaitlyn Weimer, Kasen Yoder, Madalyn Yoder

Grade 10 Matthew Bibbee, Jillian Bontrager, Kayla Bontrager, Jarrett Dunker, Josephine

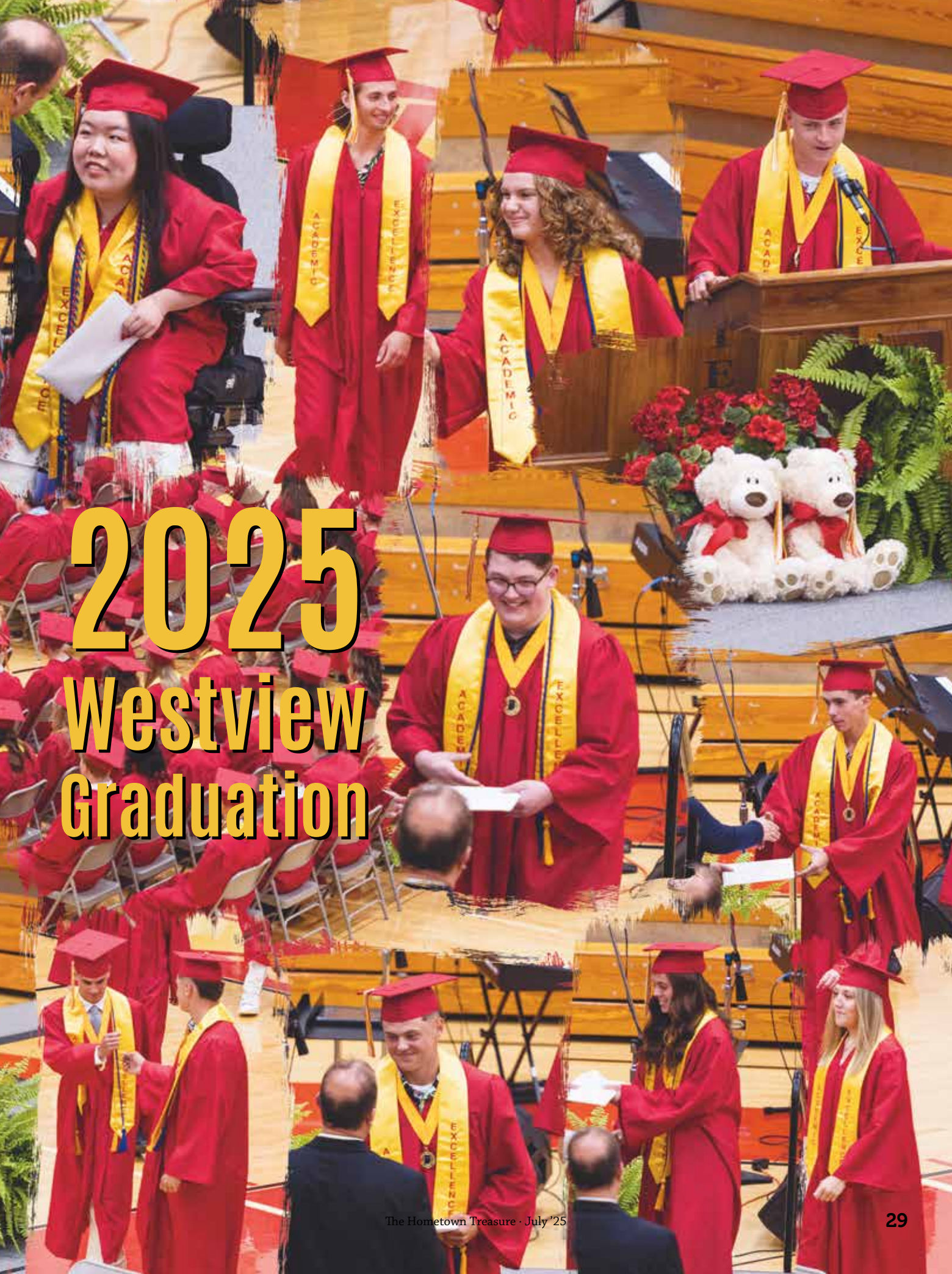
Eash, Caedmon Gates, Alyssa Hooley, Ryan Hunsberger, Sage Mercer, Travis Mitchell, Carson Niccum, Isaiah Radcliff, Luke Stults, Owen Weinberg, Aaron Williams, Gavin Yeip

Grade 11 Lilian Bennett, Chandler Johnson, Mearl Miller, Samuel Miller, Becky Moore, Lilly Mullet, Austin Troyer, Brylee White, Dallas Yoder

Grade 12 Emily Bontrager, Patricia Clemons, Dena Miller, Rebecca Miller, Michael Schwartz, Michael Yeip, Ryan Yoder 🏆

Photos & layout
by Abby Wenger





2025 Westview Graduation

Community Scholarships Provide \$254,000 in Support for Students

Through the 2025 Community Scholarship Program at the LaGrange County Community Foundation program, a total of \$254,000 in scholarships will be provided to area students.

Scholarship awards were presented in May to students during school ceremonies for Lakeland, Prairie Heights and Westview schools.

Three new scholarships were awarded for the first time this year, including the Eldon Hostetler Family Scholarship, the GO Shine Like Gwen Memorial Scholarship and the Hug-gins Family Scholarship.

The Community Foundation manages more than 50 individual scholarship funds created by individuals, families and businesses to benefit a specific school or field of study. The scholarship funds support a variety of career paths such as education, agriculture, health, science, nursing, and more. Awards range from \$500 to \$40,000 per award; several scholarships are provided for four years.

"Each year we look forward to awarding our Community Scholarships to high school seniors. These scholarships recognize the accomplishments the students have achieved in the last four years," said Executive Director Octavia Yoder.

"We are grateful to the individuals, families and businesses who created these scholarship funds and have worked alongside the Community

Foundation. We aspire to welcome new donors and fund more students as the program continues to grow. We are extremely appreciative of the community volunteers who take time to help read and evaluate scholarships. The process is quite an undertaking and is truly a community partnership of donors, volunteers, schools, and Community Foundation staff. It's rewarding to help support the educational goals of students in our community," Yoder added.

Westview Jr-Sr High School scholarship recipients:

Ian Bontrager

Holly Petersen Memorial Science Scholarship
Keith and Arline Davis Memorial Scholarship

Mason Clark

Eldon Hostetler Family Scholarship*

Gavin Engle

Farmwald Scholarship*
Lambright Leadership Scholarship
Rheinheimer Scholarship*

Max Engle

Partners in Education Scholarship

Grace Heyerly

Lambright Leadership Scholarship

Tetiana Jones

GO Shine Like Gwen Memorial Scholarship

Kiana Mast

Allread-Rife Family Scholarship
Morgan Hunter Memorial Scholarship

Adelyn Rainsberger

Schlemmer Scholarship

Morgan Rich

Lyle Smith Scholarship

Morgan Riegsecker

James F. Kalb Memorial Scholarship
Kerry Wilt-Spradlin Memorial Scholarship
LIFE Scholarship
Lambright Leadership Scholarship

Ava Williams

Rheinheimer Scholarship*
Virgil & Florence Hardin Memorial

Kamden Yoder

Ignite Your Future Scholarship*
J.O. Mory Company Scholarship
Joseph Willard Memorial Scholarship



This page made possible by



Westview Jr./Sr. High

Westview 7th Grade Orientation

Westview Jr. Sr. High School will be hosting 7th grade orientation on Monday, August 4th. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. with the event starting promptly at 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Wilson Auditorium. Please come in through Door 19 (South parking lot).

Registration for grades 8-12 will be the following dates /times:

- Tuesday, August 5th, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, August 6th, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Thursday, August 7th, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The first day of school for all students will be Tuesday, August 12th, starting at 8:10 a.m. Students will report to assigned rooms where they will receive their schedules, student handbooks and other pertinent information.

School picture day for Westview Jr.-Sr. High School this year will be Thursday, August 21st 📸



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NECC Tournament

Westview Junior High golf team won the NECC tournament played at Lake James in Fremont.

Cooper Schwartz was the NECC leader with a score of 36. 📸



Winning Warriors



Track & Field State Meet

Recap: Noah Bontrager was the State Champion in both the 1600 meter and the 3200 meter and set the new State meet record in the 1600. He also broke both Westview school records in those races. Curtis Miller cleared 14'3" in the pole vault at State and placed 14th. Adelyn Rainsberger ran the 800-meter dash in 2:17.11 and placed 20th overall.

This caps off a very successful season for the boy's track and field team, with athletes in all but three events qualifying for regionals. "The work ethic is probably the best we've had overall, and that's what carried over into the success of the team," commented coach Matt Jones. ⁱ

New School Records:

Several new school records were set this track season. Sara Bontrager tied the school record for the 100 meter hurdles. Ian Bontrager, Dallas Yoder, Kaiden Miller and Keiden Liechty broke the school record for the 4x100 and the 4x400 relays. Adelyn Rainsberger and Kierra Roose broke the school record in the 800 meter. Noah Bontrager broke the school record in the 1600 meter and the 3200 meter. ⁱ





Junior High Track & Field State Meet: Congratulations to the Junior High Track and Field team for their performances at the State meet. The junior high boys 4x800 team of Michael Bontrager, Ayden Kloth, Karl Bontrager,

and Kevin Bontrager placed third overall with a time of 9:08.18. The co-ed 4x400 team of Sara Bontrager, Kevin Bontrager, Karl Bontrager, and Kierra Roose placed 5th at State. Well done, Warriors! 🏆



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(5700 W 700 N, Shipshewana, IN 46565)

Tuesday July 15th
(1850 E 600 S, Wolcottville, IN 46795)

9:00 AM to Noon

NOAH BONTRAGER



photo by Michael Yeip



Photo Submitted



Photo Submitted

2X State Champion

Congratulations to two-time state champion Noah Bontrager. Noah won both the 1600 meter race and the 3200 meter race a mere 90 minutes apart. Noah's time of 4:02.60 was also fast enough to set the state meet record and a Westview School record. He also set school records in the 3200 meter run and the 400 meter dash this season. "He's a once-in-a-lifetime runner we'll probably never see at Westview again," remarked Coach Matt Jones.

As of this writing, Noah was headed to

Philadelphia to compete in the New Balance Nationals in the 5000 meter run. Noah will compete again in cross country and track as a senior next year. Beyond high school, Noah is committed to continue his running career at the University of Notre Dame where he plans to study pre-med. Says Noah, "This has been my favorite season by far because of the people I'm surrounded with making the running experience better. I will never forget the great people and experiences I have had this year!" 🏃

The Disneys of Eddy

By Harold D. Gingerich



Pearl E. Disney and John Dillion

All Photos Submitted

Hear the name “Disney” and you immediately think of Walt Disney, the creator of the television series entitled the Wonderful World of Disney and the world-famous Disney theme parks. But Newberry Township and the community of Eddy, five miles east of Topeka, was home to another Disney family who are fascinating in their own right. Were they related to Walt Disney? Well, at this point we just don’t know.

What we do know is that the Disneys who lived in this area trace their ancestry back to Revolutionary War Captain James Disney (1755-1827). Capt. Disney was born in All Hallows PARISH, Anne Arundel, Maryland, to Richard and Elizabeth Guinn Disney. Around 1773, he married Rachel Pick-

ett. They would become parents to at least 5 sons and 3 daughters. One of those sons was Coven Disney (1781-1850). James died in 1827 at the age of 72 and was buried in the Disney Cemetery in Anne Arundel, Maryland.

Coven and his son, William (1816-1858), found their way to Newberry Township. We are not sure when they settled in this area, but their names appear in the 1850 U.S. Census. William married Eunice Poynter (1825-1913) on September 27, 1852, here in LaGrange County. Unfortunately, William would die at the age of only 37, but William and Eunice would have three children. Their daughter Mary (Pier-son) was born in 1853. Two years later George was born and two years after George they welcomed William Alex-

ander (1857-1921).

William Alexander Disney (Find a Grave #60085386) married Rose Reinhart. They had several children, one of whom was Pearl Eunice (1883-1951). Pearl married John Dillion. There are many in the Shipshewana area who will remember their son Robert Dillion who was a member of the Shipshewana Methodist Church and a regular for breakfast at Marner’s Six Mile Café.

It was George (Find a Grave #36439752) who found his way to Eddy five miles east of Topeka. On February 13, 1879, George married Matilda Hodge (1863-1912) the daughter of George and Elizebeth Hodge. Tragedy struck when their first child, a girl, died in early 1883 only seven days after birth. While not named, she was buried in the Beulah Cemetery north

HISTORICAL FEATURE

and east of Topeka. In the years that followed they would welcome Leonard (1884), Russell (1893), Blanch Mae (1895), Opal Ella (1898), Hazel Helen (1901), and Roy Murrell (1905) into their home.

The 1900 U.S. Census records George, Matilda and four children living in Clearspring Township, five miles east of Topeka. George is listed as being a farmer. I have not been able to discover how much land he owned, but he did own the farm without any debt.

Matilda Disney died at 8:15 on Thursday evening June 13, 1913, from a pulmonary thrombosis. Dr. Vaughn from Topeka signed the death certificate. Services were held at Green Chapel with burial in the cemetery across the road from the church.

Whether it was his mother Matilda's death that started Russell's downward spiral we will never know. But on August 10, 1912, he married Elizabeth Katherine Dorrier (1892-1968) in Paw Paw, Michigan. That marriage would not endure. On July 27th of 1920, The South Bend Tribune (page 2) published an announcement that Russell had filed for divorce on the grounds of abandonment. The article read: "The petition states that the couple was married at Paw Paw, Mich. Aug. 10, 1912, and that the wife abandoned her husband at Glenwood, Mich. in June, 1914." Legal notices were published on July 31, August 7, and August 14, 1920.

Most likely the divorce proceedings did not take place until 1920 because of Russell's prior legal problems. The Topeka Journal (February 3, 1916) reported on his arrest. Here is the page 4 story as it appeared. "Russell Disney, 22 years old, of near Eddy, was arrest Saturday evening by Sheriff Charles

Form 1 11743 REGISTRATION CARD 19 No. 3412

1 Name in full Russell Disney (Given name) (Family name)

2 Home address Topeka, Ind. (City) (State)

3 Date of birth Feb 13 1893 (Month) (Day) (Year)

4 Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which) Natural Born

5 Where were you born Topeka, Ind. U.S.A. (Town) (State) (Nation)

6 If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?

7 What is your present trade, occupation, or office? Domestic Ind. Ref.

8 By whom employed? Jeffersonville Ind.

9 Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 18, or a sister or brother under 18, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)? None

10 Married or single (which)? Single Race (specify which)? White

11 What military service have you had? Rank None Branch None years None Nation or State None

12 Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? None

I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

Russell Disney (Signature or mark)

Russel's WWI draft card

Russel Disney, 22 years old, of near Eddy, was arrested Saturday evening by Sheriff Charles Minnick, charged with attempting to break into the grainary of W. C. Strang. Disney was taken before Squire Minnick and will be given a hearing on Saturday. Young Disney denies the charge. He was caught by Mr. Strang's son Porter who does their farming and had been missing grain, chickens and other things about the place. He went to the barn about seven o'clock in the evening and decided to remain there for the night to apprehend the trespasser. He had been in the barn but a short time when another person came in and found it to be Disney when he turned his flash light upon him, having a grain sack and pail with him. These he dropped and ran from the barn. In following him Mr. Strang fired one shot at him but missed him in the dark.

Minnick, charged with attempting to break into the grainary of W.C. Strang. Disney was taken before Squire Minnick and will be given a hearing on Saturday. Youn Disney denies the charge. He was caught by Mr. Strang's son Porter who

shoe pegs and a bundle of lath.

Russel Disney residing about four miles east of Topeka was arraigned before Justice Minnich at Lagrange, Monday, charged with rape, pleaded guilty and was held to the Lagrange circuit court under \$2,000 bond. Young Disney is also charged with breaking into the W. C. Strang barn with felonious intent he being under bond on this charge.

Rev. Biers.

Russel Disney, 23 years old, was arraigned in Lagrange Circuit Court Tuesday, charged with rape, and on his plea of guilty was sentenced to pay a fine of \$500 and serve from one to twenty-one years at the Indiana state reformatory. Disney also has a charge of burglary hanging over him. Bert Trittipso was arraigned in circuit court Tuesday charged with larceny, and on his plea of not guilty, his trial was set for a later date and his bond was fixed at \$500.

D. W. Rose and family attend-

does their farming and had been missing grain, chickens, and other things about the place. He went to the barn about seven o'clock in the evening and decided to remain there for the night to apprehend the trespasser. He had been in the barn but a short time when another person came in and found it to be Disney when he turned his flashlight upon him, having a grain sack and pail with him. These he dropped and ran from the barn. In following him Mr. Strang fired one shot at him but missed him in the dark."

Even more disturbing were the charges of rape that were brought against him the following April. The April 13th Topeka Journal reported that once again, Disney appeared before Justice Minnich. Russell pled guilty to

HISTORICAL FEATURE

the rape charge and was held over to Circuit Court under at \$2,000 bond. No mention of the identity of rape victim was found in the newspaper.

On April 27, 1916, the Topeka Journal reported that Disney's guilty plea to the rape charge had been entered the previous Tuesday in Lagrange Circuit Court. Disney was fined \$500 and sentenced to serve one to twenty-one years in the Indiana State Reformatory.

From Russell's 1917 World War I draft card we learn some interesting facts, plus we have his actual signature. The draft card says that he was single, but in fact he was still legally married. It also says that he was an inmate in Jeffersonville, Indiana. He was listed as being "short" and "stout" with gray eyes and brown hair.

It is not known when he was released from prison. We presume that he was out of prison when he filed for a divorce from his wife Elizabeth in July of 1920. On September 21, 1922, he married Lillian "Lillie" Myers who was 22 years his elder. Lillie died on February 11, 1929, and was buried in the East Springfield United Methodist Cemetery.

Russell made his way to South Bend where his sister Opal was living. He would spend the last 32 years of his life in South Bend working at Hill's Restaurant on East Jefferson Boulevard. At 9 o'clock Monday morning December 1, 1946, he was discovered dead in his bed at 418 ½ South Michigan Street. His obituary and death certificate state that he had been suffering with a heart ailment for over a year.

Russell's next younger sister Blanche Mae (1895-1958) married Grant Anderson (1890-1962) in 1931. Following Blanche's death in 1958,



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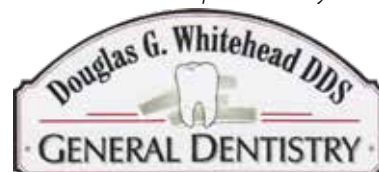
ELKHART, Ind., Oct. 4.—Funeral services for George Disney, age 75, a farmer living five miles east of Topeka, Ind., who died Friday night in Elkhart General hospital, will be held at 2:30 o'clock Sunday afternoon in Green's chapel, east of Topeka. Mr. Disney is survived by four sons, Leonard Disney, of Libertyville, Ill., Gene and Merle Disney of South Bend, and Russell Disney, of Lagrange, Ind., and three daughters, Mrs. Opal Eisenblotzer, of South Bend, Miss Blanche Disney of Mishawaka, and Mrs. Raphael Vaughn, of Topeka.

Grant married her younger sister Hazel (1901-1993) who's first two husbands had both died. Hazel Disney Vaughn Strang Anderson is buried in the Eden Cemetery west of Topeka.

George Disney died on October 3,

1930, in the Elkhart General Hospital. The death certificate gives the cause death as a hemorrhage from cancer of the bladder. It also lists his date of birth, not 1855, but as January 12, 1856. Funeral services were held on Sunday afternoon October 5th at Green Chapel five miles east of Topeka. He was laid to rest in the Lakeside Cemetery (across from Green Chapel) next to his wife Matilda. ①

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Left-Over Letters Spell Out A Message From Erika!

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_____ !

My husband knows that I've wanted to learn how to play a string instrument for years. I played piano, saxophone, clarinet, and trumpet in high school and college, but have never managed to learn any strings.

I tried to learn mandolin a few years ago, but turns out its a really hard one to start on. I've considered guitar, but can never really wrap my head around strum patterns and chords.

A couple weeks ago, we were at a friend's house, and I noticed his banjo sitting out. We got to talking about it and I wondered if maybe I should try banjo. It doesn't have double strings like mandolin, and is almost exclusively finger-picking.

Well, lo and behold a week later a banjo shows up at our house as an early anniversary gift! 📌 Solution on page 46.

Word Search

(find all the underlined words) by Erika Byler

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

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*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: **July 22, 2025**.
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!

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LAST MONTH'S WINNERS

**Dave & Lorene Beechy
on 400W, Topeka**

correctly identified last issue's farm as being owned by **Kenny & Wilma Miller on 400W, Topeka**.

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 **Marlin & Lori Hostetler on 400W, Ligonier** Third prize went to **Myron & Retha Miller on 100S, Topeka**



There were 13 correct entries this month. **Others that guessed correctly were:** Vernon & Katie Nisley, Kenny & Lorene Miller, Mervin H. & Mary M. Miller, John & LeAnna Kurtz, Lyle & Katie Yoder, Aaron & Brenda Yoder, Manas & Mary Alice Lehman, Glenn & Ruth Yutzy, Vonda Yoder and Perry & Thelma Hochstetler



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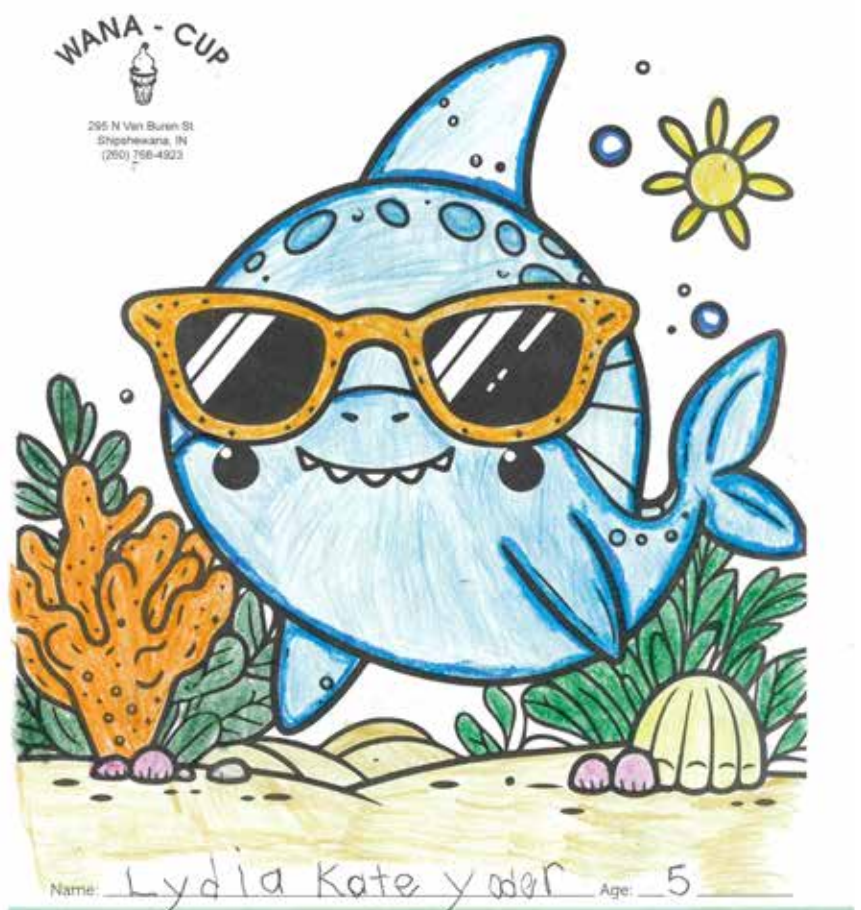
Coloring Contest Winners

Five-year-old Lydia Kate Yoder of 1125 W, Shipshewana was our winner for the June Coloring Contest. She won an ice cream treat of choice at Wana-Cup in Shipshewana.

Everyone else that sent in a page can stop by Wana-Cup for a free small ice cream cone through July.

Runners-up were Cadon Keim, age 6; Faith Bailey Hochstetler, age 5; Jennika Lyn Bontrager, age 4; Allison Nicole Miller, age 3; Adrian Luke Fry, age 2. Honorable Mentions: Keith Yoder, age 6; Wesley Yoder, age 6; Rahaf Hussein, age 5; Brendan Hochstetler, age 6; Drew Lam-bright, age 5; and Lori Bontrager, age 5. Check out page 45 for this month's coloring page.

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. 



Barbecues

Baseball

Celebration

Families

Festivities

Fireworks

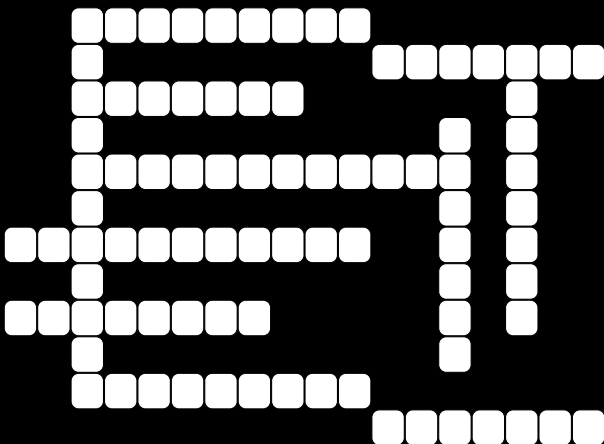
Freedom

Holiday

Independence

Parades

Picnics



Clueless
Crossword

Solution to Clueless
Crossword is on pg 46.
by Marsha Patrick

Use the words listed to fill in the spaces!
(Might be backwards)

Want a different way to advertise?

We are looking for sponsors for the Clueless Crossword on a month by month basis. We would be happy to use words to do with your business as the words that get put in the puzzle. Call for more details! 260-463-4901.

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SNACK TO EAT ON THE
FOURTH OF JULY?



Answer on page 46.

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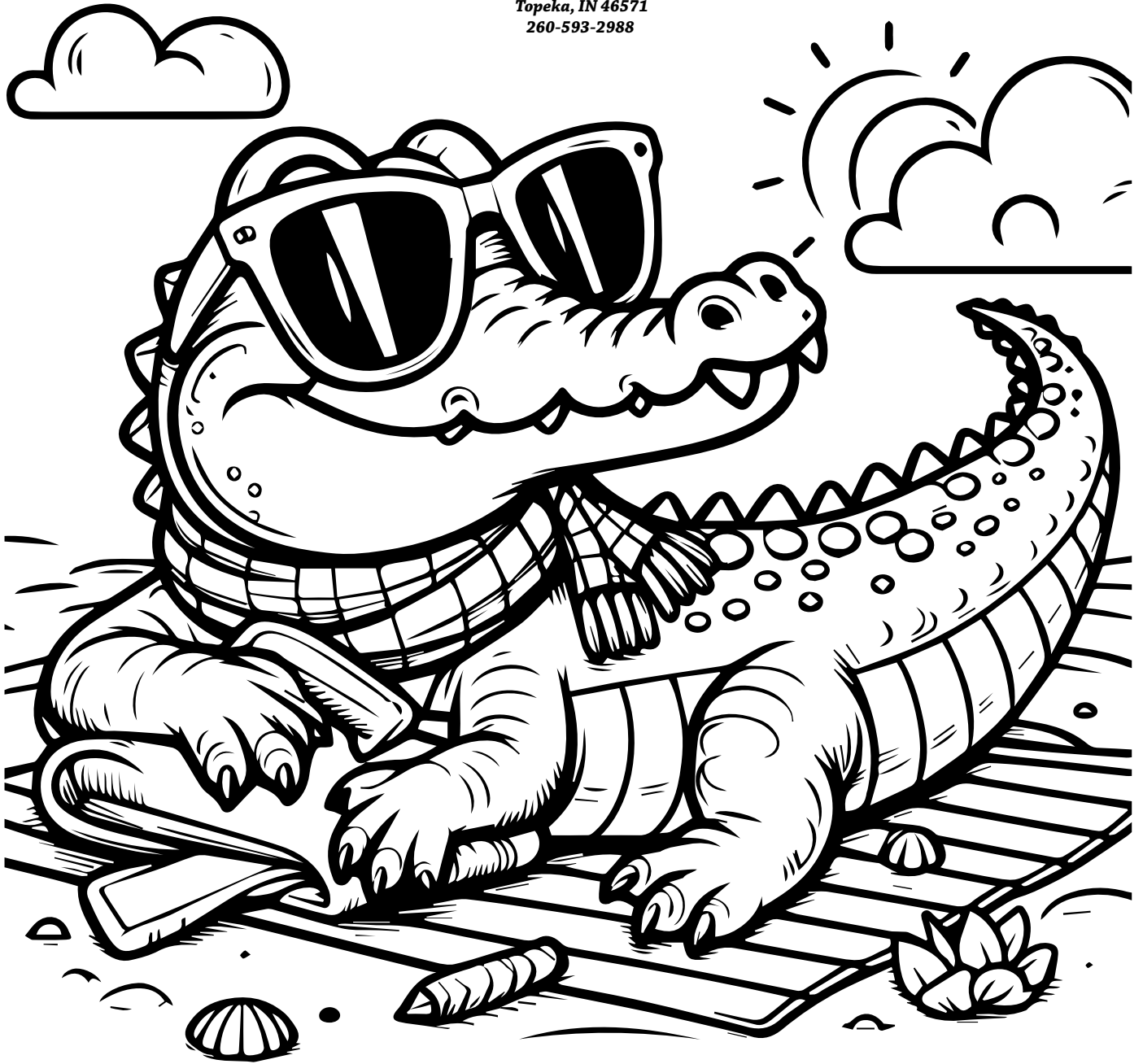
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Address: _____

Clueless Crossword Solution

By Marsha Patrick

to the puzzle on page 43.

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Riddle on page 43.

Solution to puzzle on page 41



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Gutwein Chiropractic.....	16	Precision Turf Care, LLC.....	17		
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