

The

March 2026 • Vol. 27 Num. 3

Hometown Treasure



**A Night to Remember
with Hilliard Gates
and the Zollner
Pistons**

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Avian Influenza: Staying Safe



Indiana
Department
of
Health



Avian influenza, known as bird flu, is a virus that can infect birds, other animals, and sometimes humans. **The risk of humans becoming infected with avian influenza is low.**

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) and the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) are working together to monitor for avian influenza and the overall risk to the public.

How Avian Influenza Spreads

People can become infected when the avian influenza virus is inhaled or gets into a person's eyes, nose or mouth. People who have close contact with sick birds have the highest risk of becoming infected with an avian influenza virus.



Steps to Protect Yourself:

• Avoid Contact with Wild Birds

- Do not touch sick or dead waterfowl
- Observe wild birds and other animals from a distance. Avoid touching or feeding wild birds, even if they don't look sick
- Avoid coming into contact with bird droppings or surfaces that may contain bird droppings
- If you keep birdfeeders and birdbaths on your property, clean them regularly with a 10% bleach and hot water solution, rinse thoroughly, and then allow them to completely dry before refilling. Clean up birdseed that has fallen below birdfeeders.
- Do not feed wild birds, especially waterfowl, near domestic flocks. If you come in contact with any bird that appears unhealthy, wash your hands with soap and water and change clothing and shoes before coming in contact with a domestic flock or captive birds.

• Backyard Flock Guidance

- Hobby poultry owners are encouraged to be aware of the signs of avian influenza and report illness and/or death to the USDA Healthy Birds Hotline: 866-536-7593. Callers will be routed to a state or federal veterinarian in Indiana for a case assessment. Dead birds should be double-bagged and refrigerated for possible testing. Keep dedicated boots/footwear in the chicken coop and don't wear them other places.

• Report Sick or Dead Birds

- Report any cases of sick or dead wild birds to the DNR at on.in.gov/avian-flu.

• Practice Good Hygiene

- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after any contact with birds or their droppings
- Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands
- If wild birds must be handled, protective equipment such as safety goggles, disposable gloves, and an N95 mask should be worn

• Keep Pets Away

- Keep domestic animals, especially poultry and cats, away from wild birds and areas where wild birds congregate

• Avian influenza does not present a food safety risk

- Cooked poultry and eggs and pasteurized dairy products are safe to eat. Pasteurization and cooking kills avian flu viruses.



If You Develop Symptoms:

If you experience flu-like symptoms, such as fever, chills, cough, sore throat, or conjunctivitis after handling birds, contact your healthcare provider for guidance and inform them about your contact with birds.



Online Resources:

- Indiana Department of Health - Avian Influenza: https://www.in.gov/health/idepd/respiratory-disease/influenza/avian-influenza/#How_are_avian_influenza_viruses_spread
- DNR - Avian Flu (Bird Flu): <https://www.in.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/wildlife-resources/wildlife-diseases-in-indiana/avian-flu-bird-flu/>
- Updates are available from BOAH at: <https://www.in.gov/boah/species-information/avianbirds/highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza/>



1



2



3



4



5

- 1) Pierce Yoder looks for an open teammate.
- 2) Nicola Giroldi is caught in a double team as he passes the ball to a teammate.
- 3) Cooper Schwartz gets shoots a free throw.
- 4) Asher Sanquist brings the ball across half court.
- 5) Bryce Yoder makes an easy pass to an open teammate.

Photos by the Westview Yearbook Staff.

The Hometown Treasure · March '26

7th Girls Basketball



1



2



3



4

- 1) Rylan Spencer moves towards the half court line and closer to the Westview basket.
- 2) Lynsey Yoder goes for an uncontested layup.
- 3) Brinley Kraft fights for possession against her Fremont opponent.
- 4) Kate Mauck lines up for a shot at the basket.

Photos by the Westview Yearbook Staff.



8th Girls Basketball



- 1) Hadley Yoder makes a break around her Fremont opponent.
- 2) Trinity Antal brings the ball across the half-court line.
- 3) Kierra Roose goes for a layup.
- 4) Brooklyn Stutzman watches her teammates work the ball down the court.
- 5) Ashby Yoder gets ready for the jump ball.

Photos by the Westview Yearbook Staff.

The Hometown Treasure · March '26

The Hometown Treasure

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 Just west of Shipshewana

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 e-mail: news@lagwana.com

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

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or (Horizontal)	4 ⁷ / ₈ " x 2 ³ / ₈ "	
1/3 page (Vertical)	2 ³ / ₈ " x 9 ⁷ / ₈ "	\$160
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Call for details! **260-463-4901**

Or email htads@lagwana.com

Other sponsorships available. Call for details.

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April Issue Date is Tuesday, Mar. 31.

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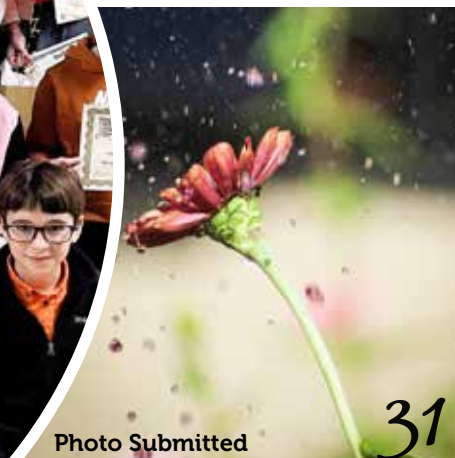


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Choosing To Love

Even though they are sappy and predictable, I enjoy Hallmark movies. Probably because they always have a happy ending. My husband, not so much. At last, he endured viewing one with me. Knowing how uncomfortable he was with the plot, I began poking fun at the predictable storyline, I commented in my “dreamiest” voice, “Oh, here’s the part where they fall in love!” This is when dear husband let me know why he doesn’t like these movies.

He has a problem with two people moving headlong into their future based on the idea of “falling in love.” The definition of falling, after all, is a sudden, uncontrollable descent. And yes, love can happen suddenly and certainly cause you to lose control. But falling into a pit can do this also. The difference is in how you respond. Once you fall into a pit, you desperately want to get out. Once you fall in love, you desperately want to stay in.

Concerned, I inquired whether hubby had fallen in love with me. His reply: “I didn’t marry you because of feelings, I married you because I chose to love you.” Good reply, husband! Whether in marriage or friendship, we choose to be in a relationship with

someone because we want to love the other person well. Basing a relationship, of any kind, on feelings alone, is setting ourselves up for a fall. Feelings come and go but commitment is forever. For example, I have big feelings for all my kids and grandkids. But if I loved



them because of my emotions alone, then on the days they disappoint me, it would be easy to be resentful towards them because of what they have done to me. But because I am committed to loving them, those difficult times are just that. I might feel hurt, but my love won’t change. I can move forward because my commitment to love them is greater than my discouragement in

the moment.

The Bible’s love chapter, 1 Corinthians 13, verses 4-7, says: Love is patient, kind, and not envious, boastful, arrogant, or rude. It does not insist in its own way, is not irritable or resentful, and does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.

Turns out that love is a selfless act where we choose the other person over ourselves. How often have you sat through an event a loved one is involved in, even though you didn’t want to? That’s choosing to love. How often has a loved one honored you with random acts of kindness, not expecting anything in return? That’s selfless love.

Choosing to love someone is a daily choice. On hard days you may question your choices but there is no remorse in the commitment to love! Jesus didn’t regret his choice to lay down his life for you. The ultimate act of selfless love.

Choose to love and love your choice! 📌

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Unlock The Full Potential Of Your 401(K)

Your 401(k) is one of the most powerful tools for securing your financial future. The question is: Are you using it to its full potential?

Here are some strategies to help you maximize its benefits:

- **Earn your employer's match.** It's a good idea to contribute as much as you can afford to your 401(k) plan. (In 2026, you can put in up to \$24,500, or \$32,500 if you're 50 or older. If your plan allows, there's also a "super catch-up" contribution of \$11,250 for people aged 60 to 63, for a total contribution limit of \$35,750). At least put in enough to earn a matching contribution if one is offered. Otherwise, you're shortchanging yourself. For example: Your employer matches 50% of your contribution up to \$5,000. If you put in \$8,000, your employer's 50% match is \$4,000, and you're leaving \$1,000 "on the table."

- **Give your plan a raise.** When your income increases, consider increasing contributions to your 401(k). When you get a bonus or a tax refund, you could use some or all of that to boost your retirement savings.

- **Evaluate the Roth option.** When you invest in a traditional 401(k), you contribute pre-tax dollars, lowering your taxable income that year. Your earnings grow tax-deferred and are taxed when you withdraw. If your

employer offers a Roth 401(k), you contribute after-tax dollars, so your taxable income doesn't drop that year. However, withdrawals in retirement, contributions and earnings alike, are generally tax-free. (Employer matching contributions and related earnings remain taxable.) If you expect a higher tax bracket in retirement or want to diversify tax treatment for




flexibility in retirement, consider the Roth option. In 2026, the Roth option must be used for catch-up contributions if you earn more than \$150,000 and you are 50 or older. Consult your tax advisor before deciding.

- **Build an appropriate investment mix.** You may have multiple investment options in your 401(k). The driving principle early on is growth so your plan can fund a long retirement. But growth-oriented investments are naturally

riskier than fixed-income vehicles. When starting your career, you may prefer a portfolio weighted toward aggressive growth, as you have years to recover from downturns. Nearing retirement, though, consider shifting to a more conservative mix. A financial advisor can help you choose an appropriate mix at different stages, based on your risk tolerance, time horizon and goals.

- **Keep your plan intact.** At times, you may feel a financial pinch that leads you to consider taking out loans or early withdrawals from your 401(k). However, this can cause you to incur taxes and penalties and will likely slow the growth needed to help reach your retirement savings goals. Taking steps to prepare for unexpected expenses, such as building an emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses, can help you avoid dipping into your 401(k). You may also be able to find other ways to access cash.

By following these steps, you can unlock the full potential of your 401(k) and position it as a cornerstone of your retirement income. 

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.

LaGrange County Library

Below are the events planned for March 2026.

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 Interest

Preschool Story Time (Ages 0-5) Theme: Alphabet: Letters E, F, G!

LaGrange • Tuesdays • 10:30 a.m.

Shipshewana • Tuesdays • 11 p.m. (New Time)

Topeka • Wednesdays • 11 a.m.

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

Makerspace (Ages 5+) Registration not required

LaGrange • Wednesdays • 2:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Makerspace is a collaborative space with a variety of tools and materials to have fun making and creating! Parents must stay with children ages 10 and under.

Come any time during the event.

Lego Play (Ages 5+)(Registration not required)

LaGrange • Thursdays 2:30-7:00 p.m.

Parents must stay with children ages 10 and under. Use our collection of Legos and idea books to create, build and complete the challenges for the month.

Teen Games (Grades 6-12)

LaGrange • Monday, March 9 • 4:00-7:30 p.m.

Drop in any time, stay as long as you can. Play some Larger group party type games or play something longer. Free Pizza provided!

Homeschool Hangout: (All Ages) Registration not required

LaGrange • Friday, March 13 • 10:30-Noon

Join other homeschool families for a laid-back time to hang out, play games, relax together, share ideas and make new friends.

Book Clubs

Books Buddies Book Club: (Grade 1-3) (formerly Elementary

B.C.)LaGrange • Tuesday, March 17 • 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Isla of Adventure: Welcome to the Island by Dela Costa. You will get your book at the meeting. No registration required. At each meeting we will start reading our book together and do a fun activity, then you will take the book home with you to finish reading and bring back next month.

Page Turners Book Club: (Grade 3-7) (formerly Mid-Grade B.C.)

LaGrange • Tuesday, March 17 • 4:00-5:00 p.m.

The Area 51 Files by Julie Buxbaum. Come to the library in January to get your book to read and discuss in February. At each meeting we will discuss the book we read this month and do a fun activity or craft related to the story.

Books & Banter Book Club: (Grade 7-12) (formerly Teen B.C.)

LaGrange • Monday, March 16 • 4:00-5:00 p.m. The Bletchly Riddle by Ruta Sepetys. Come to the library in February to get your book to read and discuss in March. At each meeting we will discuss the book we read for this month and do a fun activity or craft related to the story.

Teen Video Games and Table Top Roll Play Games

(TTRPG) (Grades 7-12)

LaGrange • Monday, March 23 • 4:00-7:30 p.m.

Join us on the 4th Monday of each month for Nintendo Switch, Wii and

VR. Come and go as you are able during this time. If you enjoy TTRPG's like Dungeons & Dragons, we will have some premade games to play through. We will have snacks and TV's set up to play!

Teen 5th Monday Program! (Grades 6-12) Pickle Forensics

LaGrange • Monday, March 30 • 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Oh, no! There has been an incident with several local pickles and we need your help as pickle forensic pathologists to help determine the cause of death for each pickle. You will enter to a "crime scene" (Pickles with fake blood and various injuries) and work together to perform autopsies. Pickle flavored snacks and drinks! Registration on website or at library is appreciated but not required.

Adult Interest

Tai Chi (All Ages) Free!

LaGrange • Mondays • 11:00-11:30 a.m.

Learn Tai Chi with videos from International Tai Chi Master David-Dorian Ross. These gentle workouts focus on slow movement, balance, and deep breathing.

Walking Well-Read (All Ages) - Free!

LaGrange • Mondays & Thursdays • Noon-12:30

Come to the library for 30 minutes of cardio! We'll walk up and down stairs, around the book stacks, and through some behind-the-scenes areas. It's great exercise. Drop in and join us!

Second Saturday Book Club (Ages 16+)

LaGrange • Saturday, March 14 • 11:00 a.m.

This month we'll discuss "Julius Caesar" by William Shakespeare. Julius Caesar is the ultimate story of political intrigue, ambition, betrayal, and the fall of the Roman Republic. First performed in 1599, it remains one of Shakespeare's most enduringly popular and influential works. Copies available at the LaGrange Library Adult Information Desk."

Cord Making (Ages 10+)Free

LaGrange • Tuesday, March 24 • 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Learn how to turn yarn, string, or thread into sturdy cord using a simple tool called a lucet. This method of cord making is believed to date back to the Viking and Medieval periods. It takes just minutes to learn. Make your own drawstrings, belts, shoelaces, and more. Registration is needed by March 17 at the LaGrange Library or by calling 260-463-2841x1030

Make & Take with Deb - Large Jute Bowl (Ages 12+)

LaGrange • Wednesday, March 25 • 6:00 p.m.

Participants will construct a large decorative bowl from jute rope. Embellishments may be added. A plastic bowl liner will be included. Cost is \$20 per person. Register with non-refundable deposit of \$10 by March 18 at the Main Library in LaGrange.

Cookbook Club

LaGrange • Saturday, March 28 • 11:00 a.m.

This month's cookbook is Betty Crocker Found Recipes. Check out the cookbook of the month at the Main Library Adult Service's Desk. Choose a recipe. Make it 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. Families welcome!

March Events

Best in Indiana

Pine Knob has won Best Park in Indiana, according to Midwest Traveler Magazine.

Also - The Mike Metz Trail in Pine Knob Park ranked as the #354 top trail of 1,421 trails in Indiana on the AllTrails App. This puts the fess trail in the top 25% and is based on user ratings.

Summer Employment

The Parks Department has a few openings for this summer! We are looking for Summer Maintenance Technicians and a Day Camp Assistant.

2026 Maple Syrup School Tours

**Maple Wood Nature Center
4550E 100S, LaGrange, IN**

Weekdays February 23-March 13

Morning Tours 9:00 am - 11:00 am

Afternoon Tours 12:00 - 2:00 pm

**Cost: LaGrange Co Residents - Free
Out of county residents - \$3 per student**

LaGrange County Parks & Recreation is now scheduling maple syrup field trips for school children.

Space is limited! To reserve your field trip: Call: 260-854-2225 or Email: parcs@lagrangecounty.in.gov.



2026 Maple Syrup Home School Tours

**Maple Wood Nature Center
4550E 100S, LaGrange, IN**

Monday, March 2

Morning Tours 9:00 am - 11:00 am

Afternoon Tours 12:00 - 2:00 pm

**Cost: LaGrange Co Residents - Free
Out of county residents - \$3 per student**

LaGrange County Parks & Recreation is now scheduling maple syrup field trips for school children. Contact the office to reserve and to confirm group size. Groups of 25 or more may be scheduled on a different day.

To Register: Call: 260-854-2225 or Email: parcs@lagrangecounty.in.gov ⓘ

2026 Sap Run & Syrup Stroll

Hosted by the Friends of LaGrange County Parks

5K Fun Run and 1 Mile Walk

Saturday, March 14 • 10 am start time

(9:15 am begins packet pick-up)

Registration information coming soon

Maple Syrup Days

Mar 21 & 22, 2026

**Maple Wood Nature Center
4550E 100S, LaGrange, IN**

It's Maple Syrup season! Dress for the weather. Most everything is outside!

7 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. both days

- Pancake Meals served.
Pancake Breakfast served Both Days
Meal tickets are:
\$10 for Adults
\$10 each for Children ages 12+
\$5 each for Children ages 4-11
(cash or check only)

While supplies last. All listed prices are subject to change

8 a.m. - 2 p.m. both days

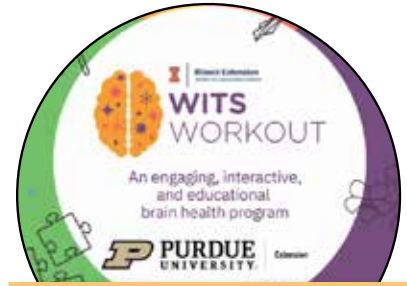
- Sugar Shack Open.
- Outside syrup-making demos.
- Horse-drawn wagon rides
- Entertainment Tent open
- The Syrup Store will sell a variety of items 8 am - 2 pm both days. Cash, check or charge are accepted (credit cards have a convenience fee)
- Maple kettle corn and maple sap tea will also be available for purchase (cash only-small bills).

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



Council on Aging Events

The LaGrange County Council on Aging offers many opportunities for local residents to participate in. See the below ongoing events. For more information, feel free to call their office during business hours at 260-463-4161.



BRAIN HEALTH PROGRAM
Every Tuesday • 10:45am
Life Care Center



FOOD PANTRY
Mon-Fri 8-4
No age limit or ID required



VETERANS BREAKFAST
Every 3rd Tuesday • 8am
Free • Life Care Center



LOW VISION SUPPORT GROUP
Every 3rd Wednesday • 11am
the-league.org • 260-441-0551

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LaGrange County Child Abuse and Neglect Collaborative Responds to Teen Suicide

Working group partners to share information and create partnerships for youth safety.

The LaGrange County Child Abuse and Neglect Collaborative continues to advocate for child and youth safety in LaGrange County by highlighting local suicide prevention initiatives and sharing best practices from the Center for Disease Control.

As we seek to build connective networks and link teenagers with positive resources in LaGrange County, community partnership emerges as a key strategy to long-term prevention. Economic stability, proactive community-based substance misuse strategies, access to suicide care, opportunities for healthy connection, and partnering with parents to build resilience and social-emotional learning all come together to form a community that proactively works to eliminate suicide.

Through the hard work of the LaGrange County Child Abuse and Neglect Collaborative and area providers sharing resources, LaGrange County is uniquely positioned to answer these factors in multiple ways.


Parkview LaGrange Hospital is offering free suicide prevention trainings using the QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) technique throughout 2026. These classes are offered virtually and online. More information can be found at <https://www.parkview.com/medical-services/behavioral-health/suicide-prevention>.

Parkview LaGrange Hospital also offers a Surviving Loss by Suicide group on the third Thursday of each month at their location, providing a compassionate, healing environment for survivors.

At Iris Family Support Center, case managers stand ready to walk

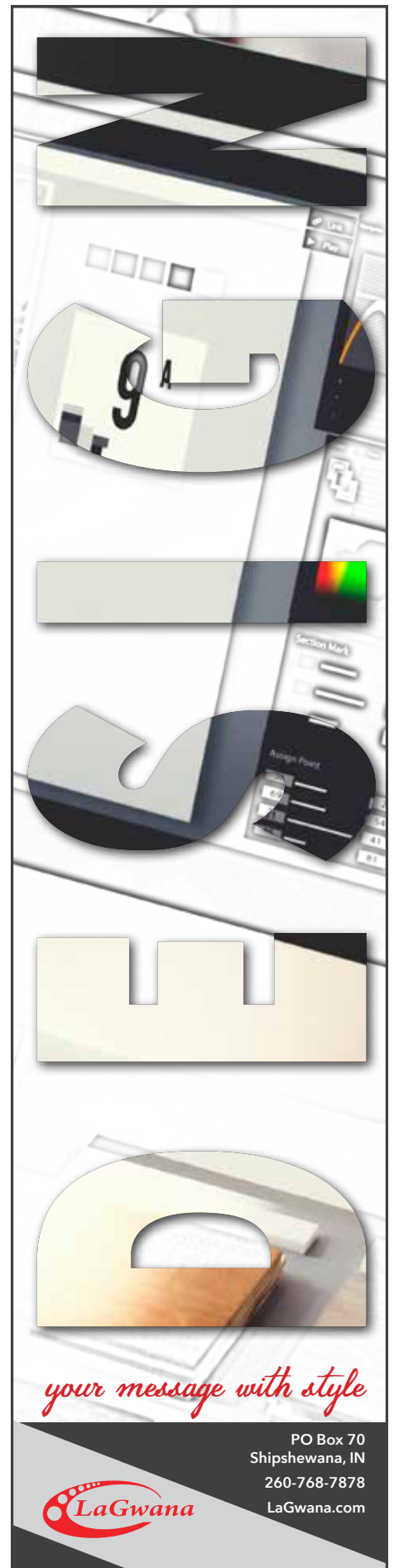
with families through crisis moments and relational challenges through the Community Partners for Child Safety program, free and available to any LaGrange County family with children 18 or younger living at home. More information can be found at www.irisfamily.org/community-partners.

A leading cause of suicide in youth is online bullying and harassment. At Iris Family Support Center, Community Outreach Coordinators offer the NetSmartz curriculum, coaching kids and caregivers on online safety and smart decision making. This training is available by request at www.irisfamily.org/prevention-education.

Those who are interested in learning more or getting involved can join the LaGrange County Child Abuse & Neglect Facebook group or attend monthly meetings. Members of the collaborative are also available to give 30-minute presentations to local businesses, churches, and community groups about how to identify and report child abuse, neglect, and human trafficking and how to connect families to resources. To schedule a presentation, please email Julie Poertner, poertnerj@crossroadsuw.org. 



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In Shipshewana North Village just east of SR 5
Hrs: Mon.-Thur. 8-5:30, Fri. 8-7:00, Sat. 8-4:30



your message with style

LaGwana
PO Box 70
Shipshewana, IN
260-768-7878
LaGwana.com

Be prepared: Learn CPR from Parkview LaGrange Hospital's EMS team this year

During American Heart Month, Parkview LaGrange Hospital (PLH) is reminding area residents that learning CPR is a simple, important way to be prepared in case of a cardiac emergency.

CPR is an easy-to-learn skill that could help save a life when medical assistance is not immediately at hand. Since 2022, Parkview LaGrange's EMS team has been offering quarterly classes of the American Heart Association's Heartsaver CPR, and classes are available again in 2026.

Classes will be held at the EMS station, 0982 N. 00 EW, LaGrange, just west of the CVS, on these dates:

- Tuesday, March 17, from 9 to 11 a.m.
- Thursday, June 25, from 2 to 4 p.m.
- Thursday, Sept. 10, from 9 to 11 a.m.
- Friday, Dec. 10, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Participants have praised the class for providing great training, clear answers and confidence to provide aid in a crisis.

Why should you learn CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation)? In only two hours, you can be prepared for a cardiac emergency. Consider these facts from the American Heart Association:

- In a year, 436,000 Americans die from a cardiac arrest.
- More than 350,000 cardiac arrests happen away from a hospital, many in places where no AED (automated external defibrillator) is readily available.
- If someone on the scene starts CPR right away, the chances the victim will survive can double or triple.
- Only around 40% of people who

have a cardiac arrest outside the hospital receive needed CPR from a bystander in the precious minutes before professional first responders arrive.

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


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

Instructors will help participants become familiar with the technique for performing CPR on someone whose heart has stopped beating. Participants will practice on training manikins, so class size is limited to 10 people per session to ensure everyone gets to practice. In addition, basic first aid is covered in the class.

Anyone age 13 or older may participate. The cost for the class is \$20 per person, paid at the time of the class. Participants will receive American Heart Association certification in the form of an official CPR card, delivered electronically, and a CPR pocket mask. This mask reduces the risk of disease transmission while rescue breaths are being performed by creating a barrier between the rescuer and the victim.

CPR pocket masks are being provided thanks to a partnership between the PLH EMS team and the LaGrange County Health Department. This part-

nership is possible through the Health First Indiana initiative, which enables health departments across the state to work toward improving health outcomes by supporting public health services.

Pre-registration is required. Visit www.Parkview.com/CPR or call 260-347-8194 for information and to register. Registration must be completed no later than five days ahead of the class date. 

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Building Hope: A Mission to South Africa

Mission Overview This year, a team from our community is heading to South Africa with a clear mission: to provide stability, nourishment, and the message of hope to a village in need. We are inviting you to be a part of this journey by joining us for a **Haystack Supper Fundraiser**.

Strength in Every Brick The heartbeat of our trip is a local **village drop-in center**. For many children in the area—many of whom are orphans—this center provides their only reliable meal of the day and a safe place to learn about Jesus. However, the land the center sits on is at risk.


Our team will be working to build a **retaining wall** to ensure the structural integrity of the building. This isn't just a wall; it's a way to keep the doors open for the children who depend on it.

More Than Construction While the cement dries, our team will be busy in the community:

- **Vacation Bible School:** We will be hosting a high-energy VBS program for the local children, filled with stories, songs, and laughter.
- **Visiting the Vulnerable:** A portion of our team will venture into the village to visit the elderly and shut-ins, delivering essential supplies and a reminder that they haven't been forgotten.

You Can Help (And Eat!) To make this mission possible, we need your support. There is no better way to help than by enjoying a delicious meal with friends and neighbors.

- **What:** Haystack Supper Fundraiser
- **When:** March 21, 3-7pm
- **Where:** FarmStead Event Center, Shipshewana
- **Cost:** "Free Will Offering"

Every bite you take helps us buy the bricks, food, and supplies needed to serve this village. Come hungry and leave knowing you've made a difference across the globe! 



All photos submitted



Parkview Health Foundation Accepting Applications for Healthcare Scholarships

Parkview Health Foundation is now accepting applications for the Karen Denney Nursing Scholarship (Noble County) and the Parkview LaGrange Hospital Scholarship (LaGrange County). These educational funding opportunities are made possible by the generosity of foundation donors and their desire to support students wishing to begin a career in healthcare or advance their current skill level.

Applications are now available for these scholarships and will be accepted through April 1, 2026.

Karen Denney Nursing Scholarship

The Karen Denney Nursing Scholarship provides up to \$2,000 in scholarship funding to a high school student who best fulfills the stated qualifications and career aspiration requirements. Candidates must meet the following criteria to be considered for the scholarship:

- Be a current high school senior preparing to enter an accredited nurse training program with the intent of completing an RN (registered nurse) program.
- Currently participating in, or have completed, the Impact Institute's Health Occupations Education program at either Parkview Noble Hospital or Parkview LaGrange Hospital.
- Have a "B" average or higher. Extracurricular and volunteer service activities will also be considered.
- Provide one letter of recommendation from a teacher, an employer, a church or community leader, an extracurricular coach

or a mentor.

- Submit an official high school transcript showing grades through the first semester or trimester of their senior year.

More about the scholarship

Karen Denney was a caring, compassionate nurse who dedicated her 35-year career to patients at McCray Hospital and Parkview Noble Hospital. During her career, she was the manager of the OB department — now the Family Birthing Center — for more than 25 years. In addition, she served as an infection control and employee health nurse and worked in a number of other departments. Denney was an inspiration to many who worked with her, demonstrating an uncommon love for nursing and the patients she treated.

She was instrumental in starting the Health Occupations Education program. Managed by the Impact Institute, this year-long program introduces high school students to the healthcare field and prepares them for healthcare careers, including nursing.

One of Denney's final wishes before she passed away in 2007 was to institute a scholarship to encourage young people to study nursing.

Access the scholarship application via the online portal in the Parkview Health Foundation section of parkview.com.

The Parkview LaGrange Hospital Scholarship

The Parkview LaGrange Hospital Scholarship provides \$1,000 scholarships for up to three students and one adult pursuing a degree or licensure in a healthcare-related field.

Up to three one-time scholarships


will go to high school seniors, each residing in one of the three school corporations in LaGrange County. The fourth scholarship will be awarded to an adult who is enrolled in a healthcare-related training program. Qualified applicants must reside in LaGrange County and be accepted or currently enrolled in an educational program leading to licensure or a degree in a healthcare-related field.

Applicants may be required to attend a personal interview with the scholarship committee.

More about the scholarship

The Parkview LaGrange Hospital Scholarship was established upon the recommendation of hospital volunteers as a means to give back to the community with funds raised from the hospital's gift shop and Parkview Health Foundation donors.

Access the scholarship application via the online portal in the Parkview Health Foundation section of parkview.com.

For questions regarding either of these scholarships or the application process, please email scholarships@parkview.com. 



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Senior Scholarship Chicken BBQ



Westview Music Association will be hosting their 33rd Annual Senior Scholarship Dinner, also known as the Chicken Barbeque. The event will take place on March 13th from 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM with performances from the Bands and Choirs starting at 5:30 PM. A Nelson's chicken dinner cost \$12 and \$6 for Pit-Tatoes. Pre-Order is available until March 5th by contacting Scott Carter at carters@westview.k12.in.us or through any Westview Music student. All proceeds provide scholarships for seniors who have been in band and/or choir for all four years of high school. Please join us in supporting our seniors as they near graduation. 



- 1 Scarlett Hall, Carlyle Schwartz, Harper Yoder
- 2 Raghad Aljaradie, Kendra Hochstetler, Carson Miller, Heidi Miller, Lacy Rodriguez, Jordan Schrock, Gracelyn Slee
- 3 Ariel Miller, Jaxon Walton, Josiah Yoder
- 4 Isaac Bontrager, Addison Gray, Ethan Hilty, Shari Mast, Janice Miller, Natalie Nuzum
- 6 Lelia Hall, Ryker Mosher, Jessica Schrock
- 7 Karissa Hershberger, Andrea Miller, Owen Weimer
- 8 Darin Bontrager, Damion Hites, Everett Lewton
- 9 Emma Miller
- 10 Finley Berkey, Emelia Engel, Danielle Mehrley, Kylah Miller, Hudson Moon, Landon Yoder, Leah Yoder
- 11 Darcy Baker, Alex Troyer, Kinley Yoder
- 12 Timothy Beechy, Micah Otto, Kaden Plank, Faith Slee
- 13 Santiago Ruiz Gonzalez, Kierra Slabach
- 14 Tyler Fry, River Yoder
- 15 Oliver Burgi, Scarlett Dohnal, Lisa Stutzman, Nora Yoder

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Financial Advisor
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260-894-9912

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- 16 Kaiser McDonald, Julayne Otto, Mazlynn Siples
- 17 Krista Bontrager
- 18 Walker Aspy, Jamie King, Kristal Miller
- 19 Mary Miller, Liliana Rojas Zarate
- 20 Finley Hill, Eden Otto, Joshua Ropp, Everly Stout, Renee Yoder
- 21 Arie Gongwer, Kingston Miller
- 22 Jada Nissley, Makenna Stutzman
- 24 Kiana Detweiler, Ryan Eash, Raeola Gingerich, Kenzie Hochstetler, Addelyn Miller, Sheila Miller, Noah Schlabach, Megan Smith
- 25 Brantley Dunker, Leon Hershberger, Ryan Schlabach
- 26 Jacob Duke, Benjamin Delucenay, Kristen Lambright, Allen Walter
- 28 Ava Bontrager, Sadie Colley, Tanner Gingerich, Noah Yoder
- 29 Richard Brinager, Sadie Bontrager
- 30 Bayan Alamari, Avalei Grice, Alex Miller, Kiana Wingard
- 31 Kristen Bontrager, Grayson Fry, Matthew Miller, Jillian Schlabach, Allison Slabaugh

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DR. JAIME CARROLL



SUPERINTENDENT

By Erika Byler

I had the opportunity to sit down with Dr. Jaime Carroll, Westview's new superintendent, a couple of weeks ago, to chat about her first impressions of our community and her first steps in this new role.

Dr. Carroll had officially started on February 2nd, just a few days before our conversation. When asked about her first impressions so far she said the entire community has been "welcoming, kind, and warm...It just feels like home already."

Dr. Carroll was raised on Sylvan Lake in Rome City, graduated from East Noble High School, and while all of her central office experiences have been at Whitko Community Schools, she spent all of her teaching experiences and principalship experience in the East Noble School Corporation, so she is not completely unfamiliar with Westview and the surrounding communities, but she looks forward to building relation-

ships here.

When asked about her priorities for her first year, she was clear. "Building relationships. I'm a people person. People by day, paper by night...I'm a firm believer in servant leadership, and that starts with relationships and getting to know people." Dr. Carroll emphasized that she wants to get to know not just staff, but students, families, the community, and local businesses as well.

Dr. Carroll explained the Listen and Learn Tour she is currently doing. She has spent her first week at Westview having conversations with everyone in the central office and board members. Over the next week she will be meeting with building administrators, then she will take three weeks to visit each of the schools, setting up time for 15-minute rotations with all of the staff there.

Dr. Carroll noted that Westview's slogan is "Excellence is our Tradition" and so she is eager to find out exactly

what those traditions are. When asked about her five-year plans for Westview, her plan is to listen to make sure the focus is kept on creating opportunities for all students to be successful. She is interested in learning "Where does this community, staff, families, want to take Westview. Where do they want to see Westview in the future?"

As I had previously met Dr. Carroll at an event hosted by the LaGrange County Chamber of Commerce, I was curious if she has any set plans for collaboration with local organizations and businesses. She answered, "I want to get out and start with the PTOs, the parent groups, and branch out and meet people that way. I am really excited about being a part of the Chamber and community events. I have had a lot of local pastors reach out who want me to come meet with them."

I asked how Dr. Carroll approaches decision making when there are diverse

viewpoints within a community.

“Whenever people come together, there will naturally be different viewpoints and perspectives,” She said, “I view that as a strength. I want every individual to feel that they have a voice at the table and that their input is valued. By listening to one another and working collaboratively, we can move forward collectively in ways that best support student success.”

Dr. Carroll also said, “In the world of education today it can get very competitive, especially with test scores and state mandates. I want to create an environment that is collaborative more than it is competitive. It comes back to being a team. [We have] many voices, and I want them to feel heard.”

When thinking about test scores and academic requirements, I asked what student success looks like to Dr. Carroll. She answered that it looks like

preparing students for wherever they want to go after high school. She mentioned the changes made on a broader level by the state of Indiana and the move away from pushing all students toward college. “It’s the three Es: Enrollment, Enlistment, Employment,” She said, “It has to be individualized, and it isn’t cookie cutter. It can’t be.”

I asked Dr. Carroll what she wants Westview’s families to know about her. She said, “I come from a lot of different worlds of education. I started as a special educator, I have taught many different grade levels, I worked in an instructional role capacity, I worked as a dean of students, I was a building principal for eight years, I’ve worked in curriculum and instruction and assessment. I was also an adjunct professor for Ivy Tech Community College in the Education Department for 8 years and I was a mentor for principals across the

state of Indiana for 4 years through the Indiana Principal Leadership Academy. My career has provided me with diverse experiences across multiple areas of education. I look forward to leveraging those experiences as I begin this new chapter at Westview and work alongside this community.”

“I want them to know I’m a servant leader. I want them to know that, even though it sounds cliché, I always have an open door. I’m here to listen, I’m here to work as a partner.”

She also mentioned that she is married and has four children and is very family oriented. “I hold family near and dear to my heart.”

Dr. Carroll ended our conversation by reiterating, “I couldn’t be happier with the decision to come here and with how everyone has welcomed me. Thank you to the community for welcoming me.” 📍

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★ MUSTANGS OF THE MONTH ★



Back Row (left to right): Martin Jones (3rd), Miciah Slabach (3rd), Deborah Bontrager (3rd), Carson Yoder (4th), Addyson Lambright (4th), Harleigh Wilson (4th), Karissa Hershberger (2nd). Front Row : Eli Davis (1st), Emma Schlabach (1st), Rachel Helmuth (K), Ian Glick (K), Timothy Yoder (K), Ava Miller (2nd), Shawn Miller (2nd), Casper Hershberger (6th). Photo submitted.

Each month 15 MES students are recognized during the monthly school wide Family Meeting assembly. These students have shown safety, responsibility, and respect throughout the month. Winners receive a certificate, a

Mighty Mustang medal, and get to participate in a game during the assembly. Pictured are the winners from January of the 2025-2026 school year. Go Mustangs! 🏆

This page made possible by the



Meadowview Elementary

Home of the Mustangs

Back Outside

The weather this winter has been brutal! It has not stopped the Topeka Bears from enjoying their time at recess! 📍



Cookie Sales

First grade is having their annual cookie sale! All proceeds are donated to the Ark Animal Rescue and Adoption in LaGrange. This is an example of TES Bears living out the life skills of kindness, service and citizenship. 📍

Student Chefs

TES has up and coming chefs in the making! Students are able to submit recipes in third grade for them to appear on the menu in fourth grade. Here are a few of our featured chefs. 📍



All photos submitted



Second Quarter Awards

We came together to celebrate our accomplishments from the second quarter. We awarded students for their

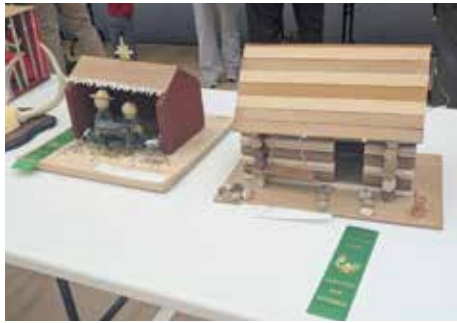
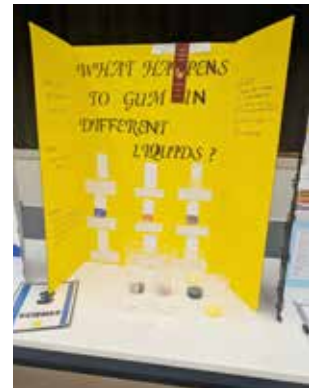
Lifeskills, academic achievement and growth. We are proud of our Topeka Bears! 🏆



All photos submitted

Learning Fair

Topeka students shared their talents during the annual Learning Fair. This is a time for them to share their skills from outside of the classroom. Projects ranged from 3D-Art to Social Studies projects to Science experiments. 📌



Responsible, Respectful and Safe Awards

Here are our students who were chosen for being Responsible, Respectful and Safe.



Kindergarten



1st Grade



2nd Grade



3rd Grade



4th Grade

All photos submitted

This page made possible by the



Shipshe-Scott Elementary Home of the Scotties

The Hometown Treasure · March '26

Shining Citizen Awards

Below you will find the pictures of our Shining Citizens for quarter 2.
These outstanding students were selected by their teachers.



Kindergarten



1st Grade



2nd Grade

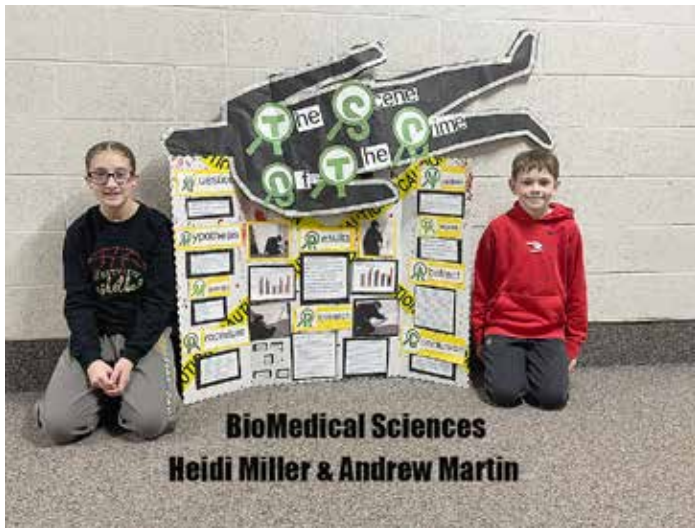


3rd Grade

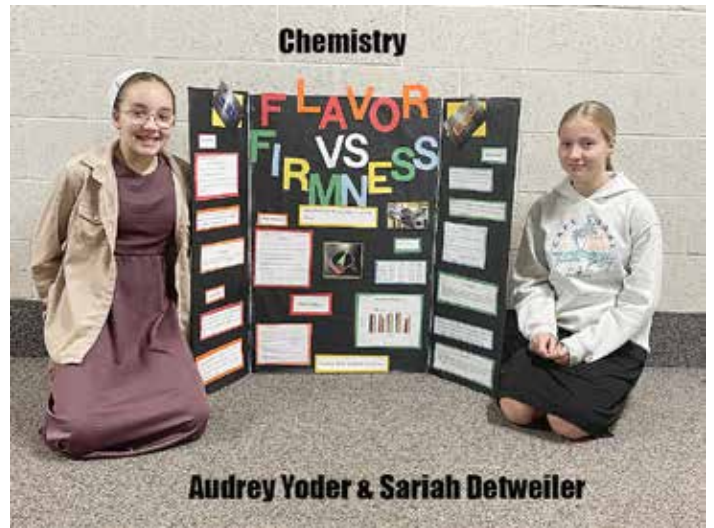


4th Grade

Science Fair Winners



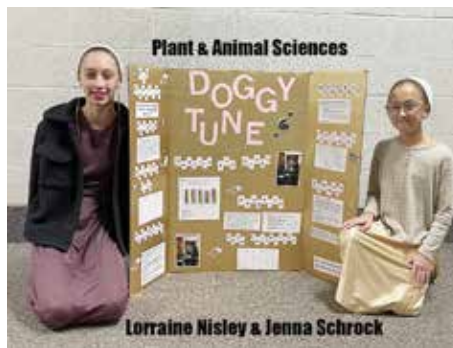
BioMedical Sciences
Heidi Miller & Andrew Martin



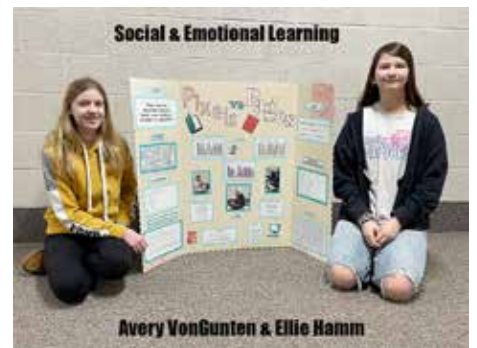
Chemistry
Audrey Yoder & Sariah Detweiler



Engineering & Materials
Aaron Hershberger & Austin Schlabach



Plant & Animal Sciences
Lorraine Nisley & Jenna Schrock



Social & Emotional Learning
Avery VonGuten & Ellie Hamm

Q2 Citizenship Awards

- 5A - Kyrie Mauck(not pictured)
- 6A - Jayda Stutzman
- 5B - Ryan Mast
- 6B - Caleb Yoder
- 5C - Jenise Miller
- 6C - Lydia Long
- 5D - Finley Berkey
- 6D - Aaron Hershberger
- 5E - Ellie Fry
- 5F - Myron Schlabach
- 5G - Nicholas Bontrager
- 6G - Rahaf Hussein
- 5H - Alayna Schlabach
- 6H - Chloe Swanson
- 6I - Lisa Hershberger



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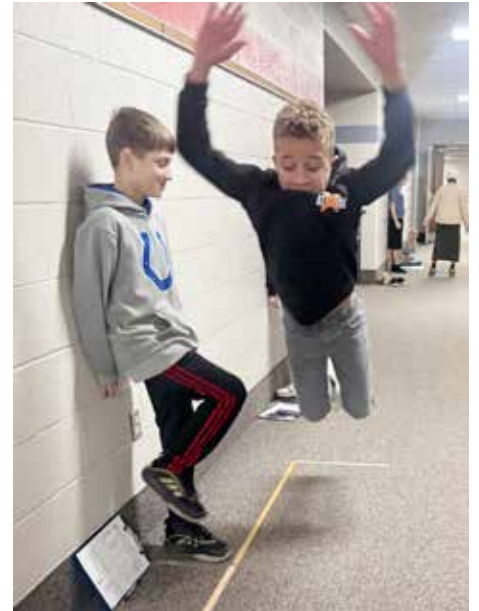
Westview Elementary

Home of
the Warriors

Gravity Exploration

Students in 6I were doing gravity exploration and determining how much they would weigh on other

planets and the moon, along with how far they would be able to jump! 📌



Red Day

Students and staff celebrated “Red Day,” at Westview Elementary to chase away the winter blues! The hall-

ways were decorated in red, and each student received some red snacks. 📌



All photos submitted

College Signings



Seated is mom Molly, Bentley and dad Drew. Standing is Westview track Coaches Matt Jones and Mandy Stone. Bentley will be attending Trine University



Seated is dad Ryan, Kristen and mom Mary Ellen Bender. Standing is brother Kyle, Taylor University tennis coach Jason Grubbs, Westview tennis coach Carrie Clark and sister Karleen

District 3 FFA Event

Westview FFA members competed in the District 3 FFA Small Engines Career Development Event on Tuesday, February 3rd. The contest brought together 25 teams from across the district to test students' knowledge and hands-on skills.

Aaron Williams and Keegan Norberg led the Westview teams with a

strong performance, earning 4th place overall and advancing to the State Small Engines CDE, which will be held on April 24th. Additional Westview teams included Wyatt Murray and Keegan Hershberger, who placed 13th, and Winchester Altimus and Matthew Bibbee, who finished 17th.

The Small Engines CDE consists of

a written examination, tool and parts identification, multiple skill practicums, engine specification analysis, and a timed small engine teardown and rebuild completed within one hour and fifteen minutes. The event provides students with practical experience and career-relevant skills related to the mechanics and power systems industry. **1**



Scholastic Art and Writing Awards

Congratulations to the following students for their placement in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards for 2025: Carver Stump, Faith Stump, Ava Hostetler, Chayenne Diaz, Bailey Manns, Savannah Yoder, Sofia Martinez-Diaz, and Liliana Terrones. Between the 8 students, they received 15 Scholastic recognitions: 2 Gold Keys, 5 Silver Keys, and 8 Honorable Mentions.

Liliana Terrones received 2 gold keys for her photography pieces titled "Under Pressure" and "Nature's Ruby".

Bailey Manns received 3 silver keys for her drawings titled "Believe," "Frosty," and "imy."

Savannah Yoder received a silver key for her drawing titled "Sister and I" and an honorable mention for her drawing titled "My Good Friend Janae."

Sofia Martinez-Diaz received a silver key for her drawing titled "Humble" and an honorable mention for her drawing titled "Oak Tree."


Ava Hostetler received 3 honorable mentions; 2 for flash fiction and one for a short story.

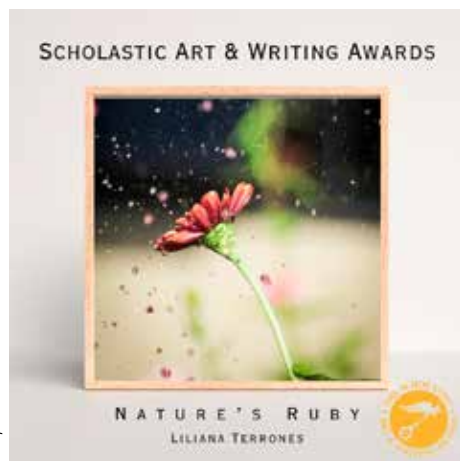
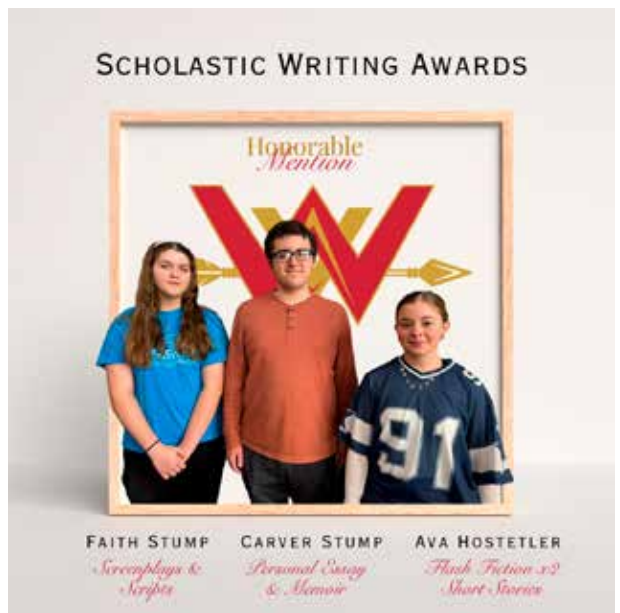
Carver Stump received an honorable mention in the personal essay and memoir category.

Faith Stump received an honorable mention in the screenplays and scripts category.

Chayenne Diaz received an honorable mention in drawing for her piece titled "Mini Me."

All of these pieces will be on display at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art. The exhibit runs from Feb. 14 through April 12. Liliana's Gold keys will move on to be judged at the National level.

The teachers who contributed to the development of these students in these area include Mrs. Amy Martin and Mrs. Kelly VonGunten who teach English/Language Arts courses, as well as Mrs. Jesse Martin and Miss Aubrey Nelson who teach multiple levels of art and photography classes at Westview Jr-Sr High School. 



All photos submitted

Honor Roll

Quarter 2

High Honor Roll (3.5 or above)

Westview Jr-Sr High School, 2025-2026 Quarter 2

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 Taiba Aldhuraibi, Mallory Antal, James Bailey, Landon Beachy, Alicia Bontrager, David Bontrager, Micaiah Bontrager, Travis Bontrager, Paisley Brandenberger, Raigen Bryant, Alex Detweiler, Ethan Eash, Adrian Frey, Jalayna Fry, Wilma Fry, Archer Geigley, Finley Gingerich, Jude Gingerich, Miles Glassman, Curtis Graber, Mason Grossman, Kimber Helmuth, Abigail Hershberger, Kinley Hershberger, Kyle Hershberger, Ava Hochstetler, Derek Hochstetler, Kari Hochstetler, Tarah Hochstetler, Jesse Hostetler, Jessica Hostetler, Layla Hostetler, Zachariah Jones, Brinley Kraft, Addison Lambright, James Lambright, Seth Lambright, Jaylin Lehman, Jennifer Lehman, Kaleb Liechty, Derrick Martin, Diaz Martinez, Erika Mast, Kenlin Mast, Kimberly Mast, Ryan Mast, Kate Mauck, Aiden Miller, Allison Miller, Grace Miller, Heidi Miller, Janice Miller, Jason Miller, Jayna Miller, Jeryle Miller, Justin D Miller, Lyric Miller, Mariah N Miller, Serena Miller, Travis Miller, Katy Mishler, Landon Nissley, Emily Otto, Joshua Otto, Adelynn Raber, Obadiah Raber, Hannah Riehl, Ashlin Rockey, Abrar Saleh, Brynneley Scheuneman, Austin Schrock, Daniel Schrock, Angie Slabach, Kirsten Slabach, Rylan Spencer, Weslee Steider, Mia Stemm, Ida

Stutzman, Hannah Troyer, Jana Troyer, Jordan Troyer, Ryleigh Weimer, Javon Whetstone, Ava Wingard, Trentlyn Wingard, Tyler Wingard, Austin Yoder, Ava Yoder, Bryce Yoder, Daimon Yoder, Darin Yoder, Graison Yoder, Logan Yoder, Lynsey Yoder, Reese Yoder, Tyler Yoder, Tyson Yoder, Willard Yoder, Zienna Yoder, Nicolas Yutzzy

Grade 8 Adam Alamari, Trinity Antal, Alyssa Barkman, Jared Beechy, Adrian Bontrager, Colt 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, Cayden Coleman, Claire Coleman, Jayni Drake, Chandler Engle, Erin Frey, Darin Fry, Kaitlyn Fry, Keturah Fry, Abigail R Hershberger, Cody Hill, Marshal Houser, Ava Hufnagle, Dominick Krantz, JulieAnna Kuhns, Andraya Lambright, Damon Lambright, Kendall Lambright, Kevin Lehman, Michael Manns, Mahweensa Marks, Tyler Mast, Valentina Mendoza, Cash Miller, Curtis Miller, Dena Miller, Hailey Miller, Jacob Miller, Jennifer Miller, Justin C Miller, Katy Miller, Kenlin Miller, Landon Miller, Maci Miller, Mariah K Miller, Marsha Miller, Sammy Miller, Toby Miller, Beckham Misner, Erikson Mullet, Avery Myers, Alexandria

Olweean, Anthony Otto, Genesis Perillo, Josiah Radcliff, Brigham Rahn, Akhila Reed, Kendyl Reinhold, Kierra Roose, Declan Ryall, Dena Schlabach, Aleya Schrock, Cindy Schwartz, Kayla Schwartz, Isla Slabach, Jaden Slabach, Amber Stoltzfus, Hallie Stults, Adriana Stutzman, Alex Stutzman, Brooklyn Stutzman, Kennedy 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, Melody Yoder, Miles Yoder

Grade 9 Ibrahim Algaradi, Tyrone Baccol, Bryndle Bontrager, Brynn Bontrager, Sara Bontrager, Hope Brandenberger, Chloe Briggs, Avery Christner, Jaxon Christner, Noah Cleveland, Charlie Double, Avionna Duke, Ellianna England, Madalyn Everage, Breanna Garrett, Tenley Groves, Addison Hershberger, Blake Hostetler, Keera Hostetler, Hannah Jasso, Lucas Lambright, Katelyn Martin, Kylin Meadows, Destiny Mercer, Caydon Miller, Josiah Miller, Logan Miller, Kandice Parker, Lacey Ramey, Evan Roth, Asher Sandquist, Lyndora Schrock, Makayla Slabach, Faith Stump, Janessa Stutzman, Lucas Swanson, Tori Taylor, Chloe Turner, Bryce Yoder, Grady Yoder, Olivia Yoder

Grade 10 Baylor Atra, Makenna Bender, Laban Bontrager, Laine Bortner, Tyler Brewer, Liam Brill, Cyota Ferrera, Cooper Fry, Mila Geyer, Morgan

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Westview Jr./Sr. High

Grossman, Alayah Hostetler, Elizabeth Lehmer, AJ Martin, Maggie Mast, Mari Jo Mast, Jada Mauck, Paige McDonald, Adison Miller, Brendan Miller, Jaxon Miller, Madilyn Miller, Saul Moreno, Shelby Mullett, Fisher Oakley, Santiago Queralt, Gavin Rainsberger, Alexis Riggio, Kya Roose, Josie Ryall, Emma Stinnett, Tyler Stutzman, Lex Thompson, Merrill Warrenner, Rylee Watson, Elijah Watts, Kaitlyn Weimer, Hudson Yoder, Janae Yoder, Karla Yoder, Kasen Yoder, Madalyn Yoder

Grade 11 Eva Bates, Evan Beechy, Karleen Bender, Lexy Bennett, Matthew Bibbee, Jillian Bontrager, Memphis Bontrager, Olivia Bontrager, Camryn Christner, Isaac Drake, Jarrett

Dunker, Graci Engle, Ethan Fry, Landon Gingerich, Luke Haarer, Makenna Helman, Amanda Hershberger, Keegan Hershberger, Kaden Hostetler, Ibraheem Hussein, Addison Kauffman, Erica Lambright, Ashlyn Martin, Emilia Mendoza, Sage Mercer, Angela Miller, Ethan Miller, Gloria Miller, Janessa Miller, Peyton Miller, Lucas Mullet, Keegan Norberg, Isaiah Radcliff, Kaine Reinhold, Austin Schlabach, Luke Stults, Carver Stump, Chris Terrones, Devyn Whetstone, Kendra White, Daniel Yoder, Pierce Yoder, Savannah Yoder

Grade 12 Riccardo Acs, Noriah Aldhuraibi, Kristen Bender, Katana Bibbee, Noah Bontrager, Taylor Bryan,

Antonio Candido, Breann Cory, Chayenne Diaz, Hunter Egli, Makenna Feipel, Nicola Giroldi, Kaden Grau, Madison Grossman, 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, Myra Miller, Becky Moore, Lilly Mullet, Majid Omer, Corra Owens, Aaron Roth, Bentley Ryall, Kylie Singleton, Brett Springer, Lili Terrones, Austin Troyer, Jordynn Wasson, Jalayna Whetstone, Brylee White, Brina Williams, Kayla Yanke, Alex Yoder

Regular Honor Roll (3.0-3.499)

Westview Jr-Sr High School, 2025-2026 Quarter 2

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 Lillian Bechtel, Joanie Bontrager, Justin Bontrager, Emmalyn England, James Fender, Salena Gingerich, Terra Harlow, Landyn Harvey, Alayna Hochstetler, Kalaya Hostetler, Christina Killian, Ronnie Mast, Makynzee McLaughlin, Gavin Miller, Nolan Miller, Zoey Moon, Saadia Omar, Jayna Otto, Kipton Schrock, Sovanda Schrock, Dale Siples, Elijah Wingard, Jace Wingard, Grace Yater

Grade 8 Aaron Hochstetler, Malachi Lambright, Layla Lengacher, Austin Martin, Bently Miller, Blake Miller, Sharon Miller, Erik Moore, Abdulla Omar, Anisah Omar, Jamal Omarouf, Micah Schrock, Drayden


Slabach, Skylynn Weeden, Kellan Winquist, Aubrey Young

Grade 9 Mohamed Aljulowb, Brodee Freiwald, Durrel Frey, Zayne Geigley, Shaylee Heintzeman, Aubrey Henderson, Spencer Lambright, Kylie Mast, Kameron Meyers, Kaydence Mosher, Jorge Rimola, Ahmed Saleh, Cooper Schwartz, Tanner Singleton, Alisyn Tetzloff, Shaffer Weaver, Jakoby Whetstone, Bella Williams

Grade 10 Hamzh Aljulowb, Yousef Aljulowb, Julie Christman, Gavin Eicher, Mabel Fisk, Marcus Garrett, Payton Hargrove, Remington Helmuth, Cole Miller, Justin R Miller,

Kaylee Nuzum, Alexandria Sweet

Grade 11 Caedmon Gates, Rayna Jackson, Jacob McCoy, Wyatt Murray, Aaron Williams, Gavin Yeip, Kloie Yoder, Marilyn Yoder

Grade 12 BLilyan Bennett, Kyleigh Hershberger, Krysta John, Samuel Miller, Wafa Omarouf, Nathan Peruski, Dallas Yoder 

FFA Proficiency Awards



This page made possible by



Photos submitted

Members of the Westview FFA recently competed in the District 3 FFA Proficiency Awards and earned top honors across multiple categories.

Jordynn Wasson placed 1st in the Fruit and Nut Proficiency, advancing to state competition. She also earned 4th place in the Goat Production Proficiency, demonstrating excellence across multiple supervised agricultural experiences.

Ashlyn Martin placed 5th in the Goat Production Proficiency, showcasing strong knowledge and dedication to goat production.

These students have put in countless hours caring for their projects and developing real-world agricultural skills. Westview is incredibly proud!

The chapter looks forward to cheering Jordynn on at the state level. **1**



Westview Jr./Sr. High



JH WRESTLING

Sponsored by



2025-2026 JH Wrestling Team: Back (left to right): Coach Jonathan Fennell, Carson Tyler, Mahweensa Marks, Javon Whetstone, Coach Tyler Prater, Josiah Radcliff, Malachi Lambright, and Ruggar Altimus. Middle: Jacob Mast, Kellan Winquist, Ariel Miller, Miranda Cochrane, Janessa Caidweil, and Jacob Duke. Front: Erickson Mullet, Lyan Ferrera, Warrick Owsley, Rylan Minshull, Lyric Miller, and Andrew Gibson.

Photo by Stoper-King Studios



7TH GIRLS BASKETBALL

Sponsored by

Dutch Blessing Floral

2025-2026 7th Grade Girls Basketball Team: Back (left to right): Mallory Antal, Brinley Kraft, Rylan Spencer, Coach Caleb Cory, Kate Mauck, Angie Slabach, and Kim Mast. Front: Reese Yoder, Ava Hochstetler, Lynsey Yoder, and Alicia Bontrager. Photo by Stopher-King Studios



8TH GIRLS BASKETBALL

Sponsored by

LAMERIGHT ALUMINUM
by Six Mile Welding, LLC

2025-2026 8th Grade Girls Basketball Team: Back (left to right): Brooklyn Stutzman, Hailey Miller, Ava Hufnagle, and Ashby Yoder. Middle: Manager Jayni Drake, Hadley Yoder, Trinity Antal, Manager Marsha Miller, and Coach Amber Radermacher. Front: Kierra Roose, Sky Weeden, Jessica Yoder, and Chandler Engle. Photo by Stopher-King Studios



Welcome March!

Winter is hopefully winding down, but I'm sure it's not done with us yet. With the recent weather changes, it's impossible not to start thinking about Spring. The days are getting longer, and oh the sunsets/sunrises have been so beautiful!

Daylight Savings Time starts on the 8th, so don't forget to set your clocks forward the night before!

The Farmer's Market will be starting up soon. Time to plan and connect with our Topeka Together administrators to get your name in to reserve your booth. As I'm typing this, I'm not sure of the exact starting date, but it'll be here before you know it.

Garage sales will be popping up once the weather cooperates. In May, we will be having our Topeka Townwide sales, so be sure to collect your items you would like to sell. Also, St. Patrick's Day is March 17th, so wear your green!

That's all I have for now. My April newsletter should have more information on upcoming events. I pray March brings you much health and happiness.

Sincerely,

Connie Gadson

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Shipshewana Mayfest

3 - ON - 3 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Friday, May 1

Saturday, May 2, 2026

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 2)

Player 2 Name _____ Age _____

(as of May 2)

Player 3 Name _____ Age _____

(as of May 2)

Player 4 Name _____ Age _____

(as of May 2)

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 17, 2026

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.

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

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

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

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

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You may contact me via: Email: _____
 Voicemail: _____
 Text: _____
 Fax: _____
 Regular Mail: _____
check all that apply



Shipshewana Mayfest

3 - ON - 3 BASKETBALL TOURNEY

OPEN & CENTURY DIVISIONS

Saturday, May 2, 2026

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 2)

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

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

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

T-Shirts for all pre-registered teams!

All games will have refs!

Open and Century Divisions \$75

Entry Deadline April 17, 2026

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 17). **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/>

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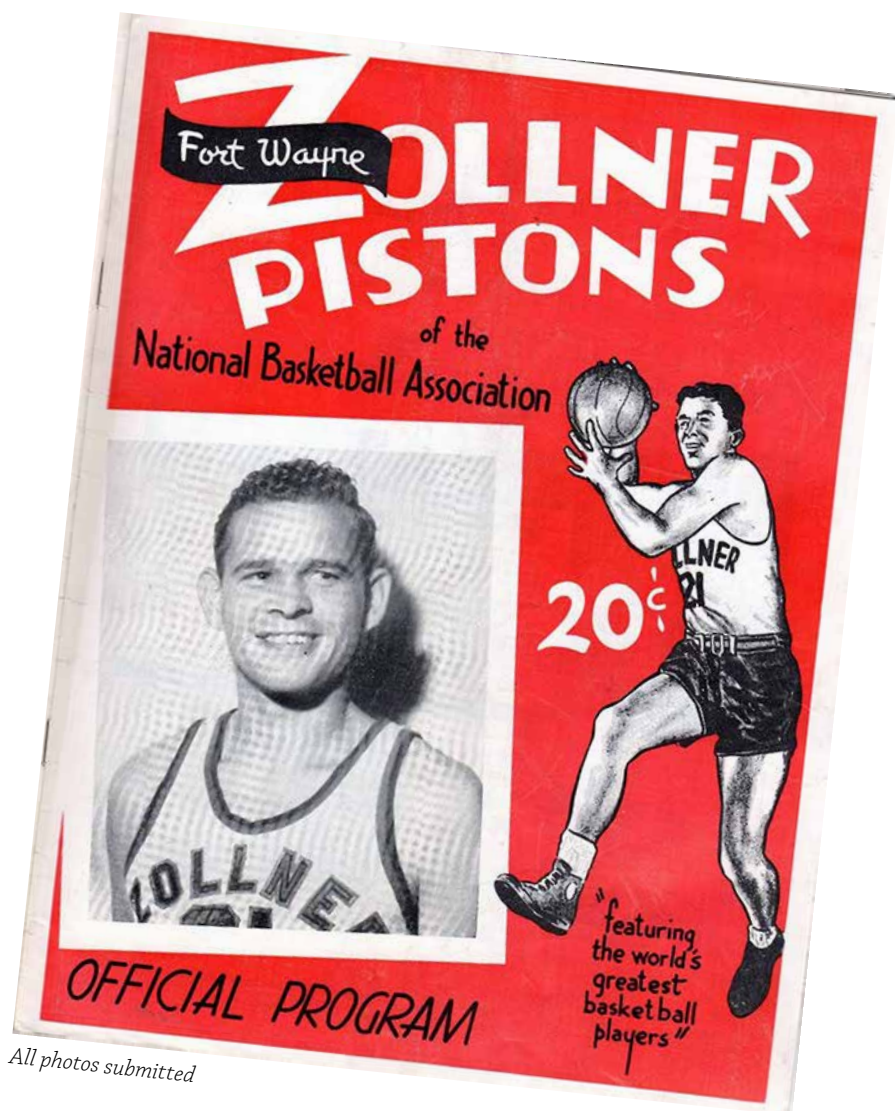
You may contact me via:
check all that apply

- Email: _____
- Voicemail: _____
- Text: _____
- Fax: _____
- Regular Mail: _____

HISTORICAL FEATURE



Hilliard Gates



All photos submitted

A Night to Remember with Hilliard Gates and the Zollner Pistons

By Harold D. Gingerich

April of 1946 was a great time to be a member of the Topeka Chamber of Commerce or the Topeka High School basketball team. Membership in either group meant a great meal at the Methodist Church, plus the opportunity to hear and meet WOWO radio sports personality Hilliard Gates and mem-

bers of the world champion Ft. Wayne Zollner Pistons basketball and softball teams. Many younger NBA fans are not aware that the Detroit Pistons actually got their start in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, as the Zollner Pistons.

It is hard for people born after 1960 to appreciate what a rare treat it

was to see in person someone that they had only heard about on the radio or read about in the newspaper. In 1946, only .05% of American households had a television. Most people listened to the radio for news and entertainment. So, to have the opportunity to spend an evening with sports and radio people

HISTORICAL FEATURE



Hilliard Gates

you had only heard about was indeed a special occasion. No doubt for the THS basketball players like Harvey Glick, Maurice Yoder, Merv Yoder and manager Bill Miller Jr., it was a night that they would cherish for a lifetime.

The front page of the April 18, 1946, Topeka Journal reported that on Monday, April 22nd, the Chamber of Commerce would be hosting the high school basketball teams (Varsity and JV) at 7 pm at the Methodist Church. The article stated that (as it appeared in print), "After the banquet two or more members of the Zollner Pistons of Fort Wayne, World's champion professional basketball team and Hilliard Gates, sports announcer on WOWO Fort Wayne, who Topeka fans have heard broadcast the state high school tournaments and professional games will give short talks, and will be followed by a showing of the 1945 College All Star-Zollner game sound film." While the banquet was limited to club and high school team members, the public was invited to the program beginning at 8 o'clock.

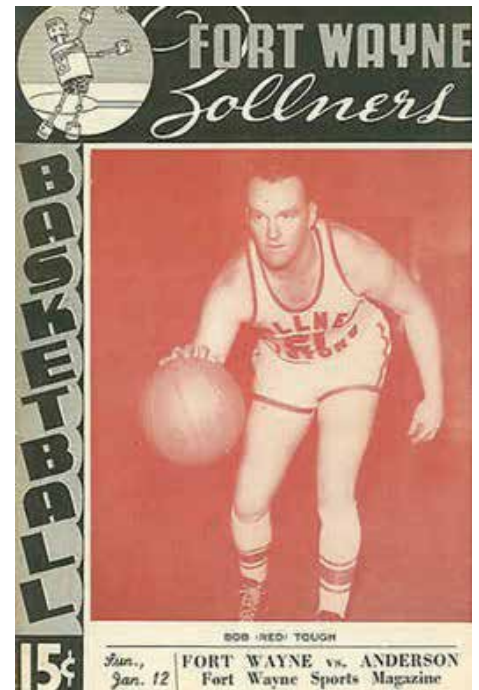
The Ft. Wayne Zollner Pistons were

founded in 1937 by Fred and Janet Zollner, who owned a foundry that manufactured pistons for cars, trucks and locomotives. The team started as semi-professional, but in 1941 turned professional as a member of the National Basketball League (NBL). The Pistons won back-to-back NBL championships in 1944 and 1945 before joining the Basketball Association of America (BAA) in 1948. It is said that Fred Zollner brokered the formation of the National Basketball Association (NBA) from the BAA and the NBL at his kitchen table in 1949. Unfortunately for Ft. Wayne area Piston fans, the franchise moved to Detroit in 1957

The Zollner Pistons are primarily remembered as a basketball team, but what many don't know is that the Zollner Pistons also fielded a World Champion men's fastpitch softball team. The Fort Wayne Zollner Pistons (1940-1955) were one of the greatest men's fast pitch teams in history. I remember my dad, Joe Gingerich, telling me about how he and his best friend Moses Shrock drove to Ft. Wayne numerous times to watch them play. The softball Pistons won five championships in a row leading up to 1953 before disbanding in 1955.

In 1946, during the national tournament in Cleveland, several of the Piston softball players were given tryouts by Cleveland Indians' manager Lou Boudreau. He wanted to sign them to professional baseball contracts, but they said "No" because they were making more money playing softball in Ft. Wayne.

Hilliard Gates (1915-1996) is an Indiana legend and considered to be the "founding father" of Indiana sports-casting. What many people do not know



is that his last name was not Gates; it was Gudelsky. He adopted his middle name as his last name when he started in broadcasting at WKBZ radio in his hometown of Muskegon in 1936.

In 1940 Gates moved to Ft. Wayne and joined the broadcast team at clear channel WOWO. This was a major step up for Gates since clear channel stations enjoyed the greatest level of protection from interference from the signal of other stations, particularly during the nighttime hours. This explains why area residents wintering in Florida would often rise before sunrise to listen to news from back home on WOWO.

Over his five decades in Ft. Wayne, Hilliard Gates became a legend. For ten years he was the voice of the Ft. Wayne Pistons basketball. He did the play by play for the first NBA All-Star Game in 1951, as well as several Rose Bowl games for NBC. Gates was also a member of the Jaycees committee that built the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in 1951. On November 23, 1953, he signed WKJG-TV33, the first televi-



THS 1945-46 basketball team (L to R) Front row: Mervin C. Yoder, Harvey Glick. Middle row: Paul Hostetler, Jack Ulmer, Wendall Hughes, Phil Thompson, Maurice Yoder. Back row: Bill Miller Jr. manage, Ralph Wiler, Jim Bouterse, Gordon Stoltz, and Principal/ Coach Dale Hughes

sion station in Ft. Wayne, on the air. He was the first broadcaster inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame, receiving the Silver Medal Award in 1969. In 1986, when the movie "Hoosiers" was being filmed, Gates was the logical choice to re-create his actual 1954 radio broadcast of the "Milan Miracle" state championship game.

I have been unable to discover how the Topeka Chamber of Commerce convinced Hilliard Gates and members of the Pistons to come to Topeka. But the April 25, 1946, edition of the Topeka Journal, reported the events of that extraordinary night. Here is a portion of the article as it appeared. Note the spelling of Zollner and other spelling errors. Keep in mind that every character, every letter in a line of type was still being hand-set.

Mr. Hillard Gates, sports commentator for station WOWO, Fort Wayne, was introduced as the principal speaker. Following this introduction music was furnished by Harriet Neuffer and Ned Diehl.

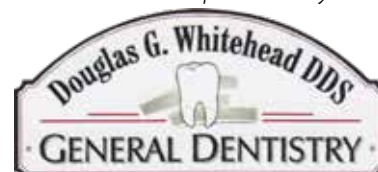
Mr. Gates introduced the following celebrities: Carl Bennet, manager of the World Champion Zollinger Pistons softball and basketball teams. John Pelkington and Jerry Bush, both members of the Piston basketball team, and George Bush, amateur basketball player and brother of Jerry. Mr. Gates gave an interesting talk on sports announcing over the air and the WOWO setup. Carl Bennett explained the Zollinger Pistons sports program and characteristics of his World's Championship teams. A sound film was shown covering the basketball game between the Zollinger Piston and the College All Stars played in Chicago Stadium last winter, before 23,000 spectators. The program was concluded by a question and answer discussion, during which many problems which had been questions in the minds of the audience were answered by our guests from Fort Wayne.

All in all, it was a memorable night in Topeka history!

As for the 1945-46 Topeka basketball team, I have not been able to find their season record. However, several members were awarded varsity sweaters that year. Senior co-captain Maurice D. Yoder was recognized for four years, co-captain Wendell Hughes three years, Harvey Glick and Ralph Wiler for two years, and Jim Bouterse one year. Juniors Paul Hostetler and Mervin C. Yoder received varsity letters. Student manager Bill Miller Jr. was also presented with a varsity sweater.

Note: Special thanks to Bob Miller, THS Class of 1948, for his help in identifying players in the team photo.

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Left-Over Letters Spell Out A Message From Erika!

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

Word Search

(find all the underlined words) by Erika Byler

Well, Mother Nature has not seen fit to oblige my pleas for stable weather, so I suppose I shall continue in my struggle to manage the atmospheric whiplash. Today it is set to get up to fifty degrees again! I guess I'll just have to take a walk along the Pumpkinvine during my lunch break to take advantage of the warmth, even though all the snow cover melting away has added allergies to the pressure on my sinuses.

My cats have greatly enjoyed the opportunity to stalk birds through an open window, since we've had them open to air out the house while we can. They've been taking turns sitting on the poor succulent I have in our living room window, because it gets the best sunlight, which both the cats and the plant enjoy. **i**

Solution on page 47.

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

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Mystery Farm MARCH CONTEST

OVER \$50 WORTH OF PRIZES!

1st Prize: **The Connection**, Topeka, 1 Year Subscription, a pen, notepad set, a letter opener, and a copy of *The Way I See It* from LaGwana.

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

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

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

RULES:

- 1) Identify farm shown by owner's name, by address, or by road and nearest intersecting road.
- 2) Mail to *Hometown Treasure - Mystery Farm*, P.O. Box 70, Shipshewana, IN 46565. **Please include your name and address.**
- 3) Entry deadline: **March 24, 2026.** *Please allow time for mail delivery.*
- 4) Winners will be drawn and prizes mailed. *Next month's winner will receive a 25\$ Gift Certificate to Tiffany's Restaurant and more!*
- 5) Correct entries listed in our next issue!

LAST MONTH'S WINNERS

Jake & Fannie Eash of 300W, Topeka correctly

identified last issue's farm as being owned by **Duane & Wanda Bontrager, 1100N, Rome City, IN.** 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 **LaVon & Lorene Miller, 600S, Topeka.** Third prize went to **Daniel & Louella Schrock, 050W, LaGrange.**



There were 11 correct entries this month. **Others that guessed correctly were:** Lonnie & Ruth Troyer, Elva & Velma Miller, Lavern & Leah Eash, Ira Jr & Marilyn Bontrager, Verna Miller, Ernest & Leona Mast, Vernon & Katie Nisley, Mervin & Mary Miller

SPONSORED BY:



Next Month Sponsored By: *Tiffany's*

MORE FARMS NEEDED!

Please mail to:
Hometown Treasure - Mystery Farm,
P.O. Box 70,
Shipshewana, IN 46565.


Please include your name and address. **i**

Coloring Contest Winners

Six-year-old Kari Yoder of 100 S, Topeka was our winner for the February Coloring Contest. He won an ice cream treat of choice at Vanilla Bean Creamery in Shipshewana.

Everyone else that sent in a page can stop by Vanilla Bean Creamery for a free small ice cream cone through March.

Runners-up were Madison Kate Lambright, age 6; Ava Elizabeth Yoder, age 5; Renae Miller, age 4; Ethan Malachi Miller, age 3; Bethany, age 2. Honorable Mentions: Ella Grace Miller, age 6; Zechariah Jace Farmwald, age 3; Jared Fry, age 4; Luke Allen Petersheim, age 4; Angelyn Miller, age 6; and Drew Gabriel Lambright, age 5. Check out page 12 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. 



Name: _____ Age: _____

Marry
Mayor
Maybe
Mazes
Meals
Meats
Medal
Mercy
Merge
Messy
Micro
Molar

Clueless Crossword

Solution to Clueless
Crossword is on pg 47.
by Marsha Patrick

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

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A FISH AND A GUITAR

Answer on page 47.

Want a different way to advertise?

We are looking for sponsors for the Clueless Crossword on a month by month basis. Emily 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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Name: _____ Age: _____

Coloring Contest: kids age 6 and younger. Sponsored by JoJo's Pretzels in Shipshewana this month! Winner gets A FREE PRETZEL at JoJo's Pretzels. The Winning Drawings will be on display. ALL PARTICIPANTS claim your drawing for A FREE PRETZEL at JoJo's Pretzels in April. Mail submission to: LaGwana, Coloring Contest, PO Box 70, Shipshewana, IN 46565. **Entry deadline is March 24, 2026.**

Address: _____

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Clueless Crossword
By Marsha Patrick
Solution
to the puzzle on page 44.

Sponsored by

We are looking for sponsors for the Clueless Crossword, a new advertiser each time. Call for more details! 260-463-4901.

YOU CAN'T TUN-A FISH

Riddle on page 44.

Solution to puzzle on page 43

Left-Over Letters
Spell Out A Message
From Erika!

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

I'LL GLADLY
DITCH MY
HEAVY WINTER
COAT!

Francine's
FRIENDS



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05/13/2026 LaGrange County Health Department 304 N. 00 EW, LaGrange, IN 46761



Francine's Friends is a partnership between Parkview Packnett Family Cancer Institute and Breast Diagnostic Center. Mammograms and follow-up diagnostics are made possible by funding from the Parkview Health Foundation.

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