

The

April 2026 • Vol. 27 Num. 4

# Hometown Treasure



America 250:  
**Our Lives, Our  
Fortunes and Our  
Sacred Honor**

**Westview Boys  
Basketball Wins  
Semi-State**



*Postal Patrons*

The Hometown Treasure  
P.O. Box 70  
Shipshewana, IN 46565

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# 2026 STATE

## NECC 10-0

**Sectional**  
vs Churubusco: Won 85-24 • vs Lakeland: Won 66-43

**Regional**  
vs Gary 21st Century: Won 63-59

Photos by Michael Yeip (Michaelsmotionmedia.pixieset.com)



# RUNNERS UP



Semi-State

vs Lapel: Won 65-62 • vs FW Bishop Luers: Won 69-48

State

vs Parke Heritage: Lost 56-57

# 27-2



Shipshewana Auction  
**GOOD FRIDAY  
 HORSE SALE**



**FRIDAY, APR 3  
 9:00 AM**

9am - Driving, Work & Saddle  
 9am - Tack Auction  
 2pm - Pony / Mini Auction

Shipshewana  
**ANTIQU  
 TOY & MISC.  
 AUCTION**



**WEDNESDAY  
 APRIL 22nd  
 9:00 AM**

Enjoy our regular weekly auction with a special section of antique toy items!

Call 260-768-4129 to consign your items in our auction!



345 S Van Buren St  
 Shipshewana, IN  
 260-768-4129  
 ShipshewanaAuction.com



**Flea Market Season Opens May 5th, 2026**  
 Open Tues. & Wed. from 8am - 4pm thru September 30th

**ShipshewanaFleaMarket.com**  
 260-768-4129



**SHIPSHEWANA**  
*Antique Market*

**Fri & Sat, June 19-20, 8am - 4pm**

**LOCATED IN THE ANTIQUE & MISC BUILDING**  
 345 S VAN BUREN ST, SHIPSHEWANA, IN 46565

**Free Admission - \$5 parking per vehicle**  
 Dealers selling antiques, vintage items, furniture, jewelry, collectibles and more!

**SELL AT THE ANTIQUE MARKET**

Call 260-768-4129

**Shipshewana  
 Swap Meets**



**SAT., APRIL 25, 2026**

OPEN FROM DAYLIGHT - 1:00 PM

**ALL TYPES OF FLEA MARKET ITEMS!**

All kinds of fowl, poultry, small animals, pets, produce, baked goods, antiques & more.



345 S Van Buren St • Shipshewana, IN  
 260-768-4129

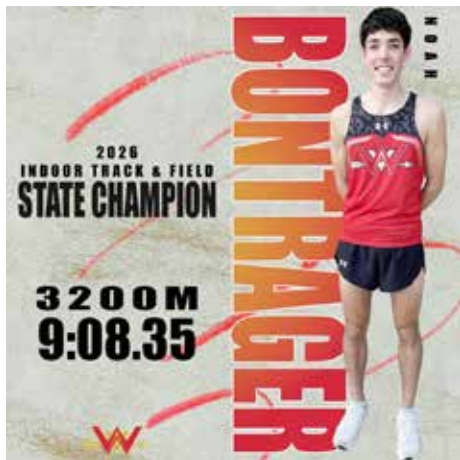


**Food Vendors**

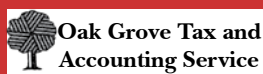
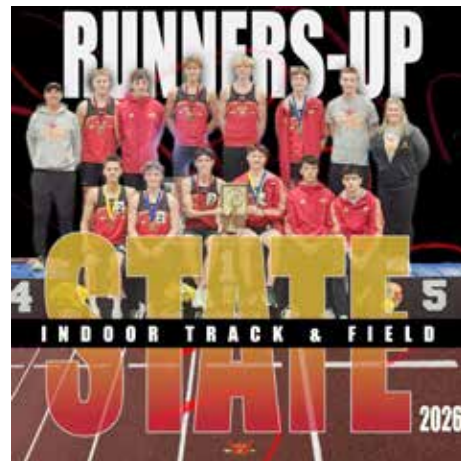
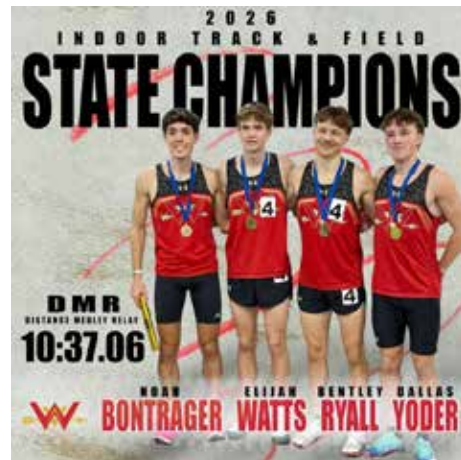
**Space size: 20' x 25'**  
**Cost per Space: \$25**  
**Parking/Vehicle: \$5**

**2026 Swap Meet Dates:**  
 Apr 25, May 16,  
 Jun 20, Aug 1,  
 Sep 19 & Oct 17

# State Champions!



Westview Jr-Sr High School Varsity Boys Track & Field were state champions in two events yesterday at the Hoosier State Relays indoor meet in Indianapolis. Noah Bontrager won the 3200 meter with a time of 9:08.35, and the Distance Medley Relay team of Bentley Ryall, Dallas Yoder, E.J. Watts, and Noah Bontrager won with a time of 10:37.06. Coach Matt Jones was named the Hoosier State Relays Class A Coach of the year. The team was state Runner-Up overall! Additional teams made it to the podium, including the 4x800 team of E.J. Watts, Bentley Ryall, Antonio Pedroso, and Noah Bontrager in 4th place with a time of 8:13.20; and the 4x400 team of Dallas Yoder, Tyler Stutzman, Kaiden Miller, and Noah Bontrager in 6th place with a time of 3:28.92. Congratulations, Warriors! (Photos by Michael Yeip, Michaelsmotion-media.pixieset.com)



## The Hometown Treasure

A Monthly Publication by  
**LaGwana** Circulation: 6,200

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

Mail: P.O. Box 70, Shipshewana, IN 46565  
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 Just west of Shipshewana

Phone: 260-463-4901 • Fax: 260-463-7257  
 e-mail: [news@lagwana.com](mailto: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
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or (Horizontal)	4 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub> " x 2 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub> "	
1/3 page (Vertical)	2 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub> " x 9 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub> "	\$160
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Full Page	7 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub> " x 9 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub> "	\$400
Inside Front	7 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub> " x 9 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub> "	\$500
Inside Back	7 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub> " x 9 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub> "	\$500
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\*Full bleed requested on full page ads. Add 5/8" background to all sides.

Discounts available for print-ready artwork and/or for running in multiple issues.

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

Or email [htads@lagwana.com](mailto:htads@lagwana.com)

Other sponsorships available. Call for details.

### — ADVERTISING INFORMATION —

Deadline for May 2026 Issue:

**12 noon, Tuesday, April 21**

Thursday, April 16 if you need a proof.

**May Issue Date is Tuesday, April 28.**

### — 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.

A



Publication



## Harold D. Gingerich County Council District 3



**Proven Character**



**Time Tested Leader**



**Understands the  
 Budgetary Process**



**Common Sense  
 Approach**



LaGrange County is facing unique challenges with the passage of Senate Bill 1. We need people on the County Council who understand the issues and the process. I pledge to bring a common sense approach.

*I respectfully ask for your vote on May 5th.*

*Paid for by the Committee to Elect Harold D. Gingerich*



**NOW HIRING FOR:**  
**FULL TIME | PART TIME | SEASONAL**

#### BLUE GATE RESTAURANT:

- Food prep worker
- Kitchen line
- Grill cook
- Buffet attendant
- Dish washer
- Banquet server
- Server
- Host

#### RETAIL STORES:

- Morning cleaner

#### BLUE GATE GARDEN INN:

- Housekeeper
- Breakfast cook
- Dining room attendant
- Dish washer
- Ice cream server/cashier

#### MAINTENANCE:

- Landscape assistant
- Maintenance tech

Apply in person on the second floor of the Blue Gate Restaurant or online at [thebluegate.com/employment](http://thebluegate.com/employment)

Call Marty Gates with questions. 260.768.4725 | 105 E. Middlebury St. Shipshewana, IN



Photo Submitted

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STUDIO | | The helpful place.®



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Premium Paints & Primers, Painting Supplies, Plumbing, Water Heaters, Bladder Tanks, Electrical, Heating Stoves, Tools, Lawn & Garden, Housewares, and More!



**Ace Hardware of Topeka**

118 North Main St  
Topeka, IN 46571  
(260) 593-2212

**“Always Essential,  
Forever Helpful.”**

## No Perfect People Allowed

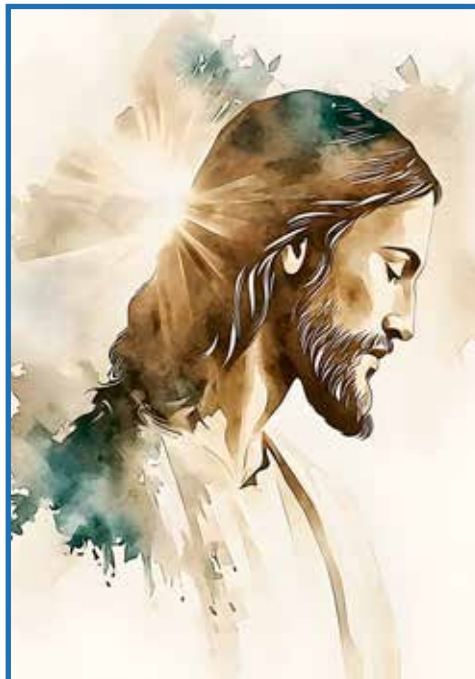
On vacation, my husband and I frequented a coffee shop in Peoria, AZ, housed in a church. The church opens its outdoor seating areas and lobby space to the community. All day long, these warm and inviting spaces are filled with people from the community from all walks of life, ages, ethnicities, and even a dog or two. They drink coffee, meet friends, sit quietly, study, etc. This church has an amazing outreach to its community.

Upon entering, a sign boldly announces the church's mission statement: "No Perfect People Allowed." The sign made me snicker. I gave hubs a playful jab and said, "Oh, good, you'll be welcome here!" But all kidding aside, the statement touched my heart. I entered the building, and that's just what I saw. A lot of imperfect people. I instantly felt welcome and at home.

I often hear people say they don't feel welcome at church because they fear being judged or not fitting in. Sadly, somewhere along the way, someone has made them feel they need to have it all together before coming to church.

If someone (or I) has made you feel unworthy of a seat in the pew, please accept my apology on behalf

of Christians everywhere. This is proof of our imperfection. Now, to the Christian: may I suggest that you remember the gift of redemption you've so graciously received, and be mindful of how you walk that out in your life? I'm speaking to myself here as well.



You see, perfectionism stems from self-reliance rather than God's grace. If others view me as a "perfect" person, then I've done a poor job of representing a God whose grace is sufficient for all my needs. To clarify, according to 2 Corinthians 12:10, God's strength and power are made

perfect through my weakness. In fact, it was my weaknesses that sent Jesus to the cross. For this reason, my witness to the world should be one of gratitude for the great gift of God's grace and forgiveness in my messed-up life.

Romans 3:23 says that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Heavy emphasis on the word "all" here. Christians included.

I once heard it said that churches are hospitals for sinners. People with chronic illnesses enter hospitals to get better or to get relief. Likewise, church pews are filled with people with the chronic condition of humanism! Flawed, imperfect people who are seeking God's peace in their broken lives. Christians are forgiven, not flawless. We make mistakes. We rely on the grace of God every single day.

Jesus, however, is perfect. He made the perfect sacrifice to perfect imperfect people. He doesn't care about your condition; He cares about the condition of your heart! And that is all that matters – period! Come just as you are. No perfect people allowed. 📌

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**YOUR LOCAL CREATIVE SERVICES PROVIDER.**

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# GRILLED CHICKEN SMOKED PORK CHOP DINNER FUNDRAISER

**April 11th**

**3:30 – 7:00**

9  
0  
7  
4

**Raffle Drawing For  
A Henry .17 HMR**



**Reflective Address  
Signs Available \$25**



**Dinner Includes:  
Grilled Smoked Pork Chops, Grilled  
Chicken, French Fries, and Cupcakes**

**Michiana Event Center (MEC)  
455 E. Farver St. Shipshewana**

**Proceed support the Shipshewana Firefighters Nonprofit  
through training, supplies, and community outreach.**

## Ease The Squeeze On Your Retirement Income Plan

Rising prices may not dominate headlines the way they did a year or two ago, but if you're retired, you're probably still feeling them. Even when overall inflation cools, the costliest expenses — like health care, utilities, insurance and property taxes — tend to rise faster than broad inflation numbers suggest. That creates a squeeze that can make you question whether your income plan is built to last.

Fortunately, you often can adjust without drastic cuts that affect your lifestyle. Start by understanding where the pressure comes from and how to build more flexibility into your plan.

**Inflation hits retirees differently.** You've likely noticed your grocery bill, prescription drug costs and heating expenses haven't returned to "normal." Even small increases compound over time and can chip away at your buying power.

If your income plan was created years ago, it may assume lower inflation or relatively stable price increases over time. Recent years have shown that's not always the case.

**Why some income plans feel strained.** Any plan relying on fixed withdrawals or rigid budgets can feel tight when living costs rise. If you're drawing from investments, you may hesitate to increase your withdrawals because of market volatility. And if you depend on fixed income sources like Social Security or a pension, yearly cost of living increases may

not keep pace with your expenses. You might live 25 to 35 years in retirement, giving small annual cost increases decades to add up.

**What you can do without sacrificing stability.** A few adjustments can help you stay ahead of rising costs and maintain your financial confidence.




review your withdrawal strategy. Ask your financial advisor about flexible approaches that increase income when markets and portfolios perform well and pull back during tougher times. This protects your long-term plan with room to respond to rising prices.

Next, rebalance your portfolio. You may uncover opportunities to shift toward investments with more consistent income or better tax efficiency. Sometimes a small tweak can generate extra cash flow without increasing overall risk.

Finally, look at your income sources. You may be less affected by

rising costs if you delay taking Social Security, work a part-time job, add inflation-protected bonds or create predictable lifetime income with annuities, if they're appropriate for your situation.

**Don't overlook health care:** Health care costs often grow faster than general inflation. Medicare premiums and out-of-pocket expenses can rise annually, and the need for long-term care remains a big financial uncertainty for retirees. Building health care-specific inflation into your plan now can help prevent surprises later. Any savings you have in a health savings account can help you cover health care costs. And many pharmaceutical companies offer financial assistance programs to help pay for costlier medications.

**Stay flexible and informed:** Today's retirements look different from those of even a decade ago. The key is staying flexible, reviewing your plan regularly and making small adjustments before pressure builds. A financial advisor can help you find the right approach to navigating rising costs without disrupting the life you've worked hard to build. 

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*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 April 2026.

Please call the LaGrange library at 260-463-2841 for further information.

Find more information at [www.lagrangelib.in.us](http://www.lagrangelib.in.us) or call 260-463-2841.

Facebook Page - [m.facebook.com/lagrangelibraryindiana](https://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.

All LaGrange County library locations will be **CLOSED Friday, April 3** in observance of Good Friday.

## Youth Interest

### Preschool Story Time (Ages 0-5) Theme: Alphabet: Letters G, H, I

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 AND Lego Play (Ages 5+) Registration not required

LaGrange • Wednesdays and Thursdays in April • 2:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Special Spring Break Days: April 1, 2, 7, 8, 9: 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

April 10: noon - 4:00 p.m.

Makerspace is a collaborative space where you can use tools and materials to create, learn and share. New special projects every week! AND we will have all of our Legos out to build what you want or complete the monthly challenge.

Parents must stay with children ages 10 and under.

### Homeschool Hangout: (All Ages) Registration not required

LaGrange • Friday, April 10 • 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.

### Teen Games (Grades 6-12)

LaGrange • Monday, April 13 • 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!

### Book Clubs

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

LaGrange • Monday, April 20 • 4:00-5:00 p.m. *The Testing* by Joelle Charbonneau.

Come to the library in March to get your book to read and discuss in April. At each meeting we will discuss the book we read for this month and do a fun activity or craft related to the story.

**Book Buddies Book Club: (Grade 1-3)** (formerly Elementary B.C.)

LaGrange • Tuesday, April 21 • 4:00-5:00 p.m.

*Our Friend Hedgehog: The Story of Us* by Lauren Castillo. 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, April 21 • 4:00-5:00 p.m.

*City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau. Come to the library in March to get your book to read and discuss in April. At each meeting we will discuss the book we read 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, April 27 • 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!

## Adult Interest

### Living with Low Vision

LaGrange • Thursday, April 9 • 2:00 p.m.

Join us in a support group gathering created especially for those with low vision and the families who support them. Together, we'll share simple tips to live more independently, including Tips & Tricks, Living Skills, Navigating with low vision, and Advice Regarding Technology. Families are encouraged to attend so everyone can learn ways to support one another. Presented by The League.

### Second Saturday Book Club (Ages 16+)

LaGrange • Saturday, April 11 • 11:00 a.m.

This month we'll discuss "*Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murderers*" by Jess Q. Sutanto. A lonely shopkeeper takes it upon herself to solve a murder in the most peculiar way in this captivating mystery. Copies available at the LaGrange Library Adult Information Desk."

### Seed Starting: Medicinal Herbs (Ages 12+) Free!

LaGrange • Saturday, April 18 • 10:00 a.m.

Plant three varieties of safe, essential medicinal herb seeds in recycled containers. Take them home and put them on a sunny windowsill to start your herbal first aid kit! Register by April 10 at the LaGrange Library or by calling 260-463-2841x1030

### Patchwork Trails – Dallas Lake Park (All Ages)

0505W 700S, Wolcottville, IN • Tuesday, April 21 • 6 p.m.

Patchwork Trails combines exercise, education, friendship, and fun! Each walk will showcase seasonal beauty unique to each property. We'll look at what's blooming, what's singing, what's flying and what's underfoot. No fees or registration, just meet at the designated starting point.

### Make & Take with Deb - Spring Flower Wreath (Ages 12+)

LaGrange • Wednesday, April 22 • 6 p.m. • Cost: \$25 per person

Participants will construct a spring flower wreath of poly burlap. All supplies included. Samples on display at Main Library in LaGrange. Register with a non-refundable \$15 deposit by April 15 at LaGrange Library.

### Archi-Trek: Fort Wayne (Ages 12+)

Depart & Return: LaGrange Co. Public Library

Thursday, April 23 • Depart: 8:30 am - Return 5 pm

Our first Fort Wayne Archi-Trek focuses on the southwest quarter of downtown, including the Lincoln Tower, the Embassy Theatre, the Bell Mansion, houses of worship and one of the largest genealogy collections in the world! Lunch at Big Apple Pizza. Cost \$13 per person, Must register at LaGrange or call 260-463-2841 x 1030 as space is very limited. pay online at eventbrite.com, or by cash or check at the LaGrange Main Library (payable to Green Bus Tours)

### Cookbook Club (Families Welcome)

LaGrange • Saturday, April 25 • 11 am

This month's cookbook is "Make the Bread, Buy the Butter" by Jennifer Reese. Check out the cookbook of the month at the LaGrange Adult Services 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.

## SPECIAL PRESENTATION

In conjunction with the LeGrange Co. Arts and the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, the LaGrange Co. Library will host: STORIES IN MUSIC: A Free Community Ensemble Show LaGrange: Wednesday April 8 at 2:00 p.m.

The Fort Wayne Philharmonic's Lakeside Wind Quintet will present "Peter and the Wolf" in music and narration. This is a free community program. Registration appreciated but not required at: [fwphil.org/event/stories-in-music-peter-and-the-wolf-3/](http://fwphil.org/event/stories-in-music-peter-and-the-wolf-3/)

# April Events

## Quilt Class

Saturday, April 18 • 9 am–3 pm  
Maple Wood Nature Center

Fee: \$25 (\$5 is given back to Parks)

Join us for the final block in the Underground Railroad Series: Carpenter's Square. During the class, we'll also discuss options for finishing your quilt if you'd like to bring your project to completion. An alternate block will also be offered. Registration is required. Instructions are provided upon registration. Instructors will be available during class to answer questions and offer guidance. To register, call Julia 260-367-1449 or Ira 260-463-1438.

## Sewing Group

Wednesday, April 22 • 9:30 am–3:30 pm  
Maple Wood Nature Center

Fee: \$5 donation for Parks

**What is a UFO?** If you said Unfinished Object—this sewing group is for you! This gathering is open to everyone. Bring your sewing machine and work on a project while getting help, sharing ideas, and connecting with fellow sewing enthusiasts. Please bring a sack lunch and a snack to share. RSVP with Linda Grobis at 260-351-3609.

## Enchanted Fairy Door Trail

Saturday, April 25 • 9:00 am–11:00 am  
Maple Wood Nature Center

Step into a world of woodland wonder! Hidden along the trails, tiny fairy doors are waiting to be discovered. Join us for a magical spring adventure at Maple Wood Nature Center where families of all ages can explore nature, create fairy doors, and let their imaginations bloom!

## Every Park Every Trail

Wednesday, April 22 • 6 pm  
Maple Wood Nature Center  
4550 E 100 S, LaGrange, IN



The first trail date for the 2026 Every Park Every Trail Walking Club will be April 22 at Maple Wood Nature Center 4550 E 100 S, LaGrange, IN. The walk will begin at 6 pm at the Trailhead. 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; Rewards will be handed out at the last walk to those who qualify! A Park Representative will be present for check-in. For more information, visit the Parks website at [www.lagrangecountyparks.org](http://www.lagrangecountyparks.org) or call 260-854-2225.

## Patchwork Trails

Tuesday, May 19 • 6 pm  
Dallas Lake Park

Patchwork Trails combines exercise, education, friendship, and fun. Each walk will showcase seasonal beauty unique to each property. Mark your calendars with the following dates. Each guided walk will begin at 6 pm. Stay tuned! Locations to be determined! Check our Facebook Page or website for location updates.

April 21	July 21
May 19	August 18
June 16	September 15

## Summer Adventures Await!

Invest \$10 a day in your child and give them a summer full of adventure, friendships, and discovery with LaGrange County Parks Summer Adventures! Our camps and programs offer safe, engaging experiences where kids can explore the outdoors, try new activities, build confidence, and create memories that last long after summer ends. Class sizes are limited, so get signed up early!

## Summer Adventures Await cont.

Call or email us today to reserve a spot 260-854-2225, [parks@lagrangecounty.in.gov](mailto:parks@lagrangecounty.in.gov).

## By Gone Days

June 8-12 • 9 am–3pm Daily • \$50

David Rogers Memorial Park

Step back in time at By-Gone Days at David Rogers Park, where **1 to 5 graders** experience history through hands-on activities, old-fashioned games, and simple fun from days gone by.

## Adventure Bound

June 15-19 • 9 am–3pm • \$75

Send your **6 to 9 grader** to Adventure Bound at Dallas Lake Park—packed with hands-on outdoor fun! Explore nature, dive into all things outdoors, make new friends, and head out on exciting field trips nearly every day.

## Nature Bound I

June 22-26 • 9 am–3pm Daily • \$50

Nature Bound I Summer Camp for **Grades 1-3** offers playful outdoor exploration, simple nature activities, and lots of hands-on fun designed just for curious little learners at Dallas Lake Park.

## Nature Bound II

July 13-17 • 9 am–3pm Daily • \$50

Nature Bound II Summer Camp for **grades 3-5** offers hands-on outdoor exploration, engaging nature challenges, and plenty of active fun that builds confidence and curiosity at Dallas Lake Park.


## Nature Bound III

July 20-24 • 9 am–3pm Daily • \$50

Nature Bound III Summer Camp for **grades 6-8** challenges campers to explore the outdoors, build leadership skills, and connect with nature through active, hands-on adventures at Dallas Lake Park.

## Conservation Bound

July 27-31 • 9 am–3pm Daily • \$50

Conservation Camp at Pine Knob Park, for **grades 6-9** empowers youth to protect the outdoors through hands-on projects, outdoor skills, and meaningful conservation experiences. 

# LaGrange de Lafayette Chapter DAR



Photos submitted

The LaGrange de Lafayette Chapter Inc., NSDAR, is pleased to announce the county winners of the annual JAC contest. Students from Westview Elementary School submitted entries in Creative Expression, Art, and Community Service Projects.

This year's theme was "The 250th Anniversary of the founding of the United States of America". Students submitted entries in Poetry, Short Story, Poster and Stamp Design, and Banners. Submissions were evaluated by a panel of judges. The following students received first-place honors and the opportunity to compete at the State Level.

## 5th Grade:

Poem: Maverick Geigley

Story: Ave Bontrager, Arianna Lehman, and Lilleigh Mast

Poster: Jada Nissley, Alyse Bontrager, and Sadie Mast

Stamp: Lillian Thomas and Mason McDonald

Banner: Emmery Spencer and Averie Stutzman; Micah Whetstone, Austin Miller and Ryan Schwartz

## 6th Grade

Poem: Michelle Yoder & Reema Alziadi

Story: Max Reffett

Poster: Naveah Norris and Lincoln Dalga


Stamp: Lyndon Bontrager

Community Service: Mrs. Gongwer's Class

Congratulations to all the students in Ms. Huyvaert, Mrs. Gongwer, and Mr. Stump's classrooms. Your entries were creative and well done!

If you are interested in learning more about DAR membership, contact [darlagrange@gmail.com](mailto:darlagrange@gmail.com) or visit us on Facebook.

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is a women's service organization whose members can trace their lineage to an individual who contributed to secur-

ing American independence during the Revolutionary War. Today's DAR is dynamic and diverse, with over 185,000 members in 3,000 chapters in the United States and abroad. DAR members annually provide millions of hours of volunteer service to their local communities across the country and world. DAR chapters participate in projects to promote historic preservation, education, and patriotism. Over one million members have joined the organization since its founding in 1890. 



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# Shipshewana

## Annual Spring Garage Sale

### May 8 & 9, 2026



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**Shipshewana**

**Annual Spring  
Garage Sale**

**May 8 & 9, 2026**

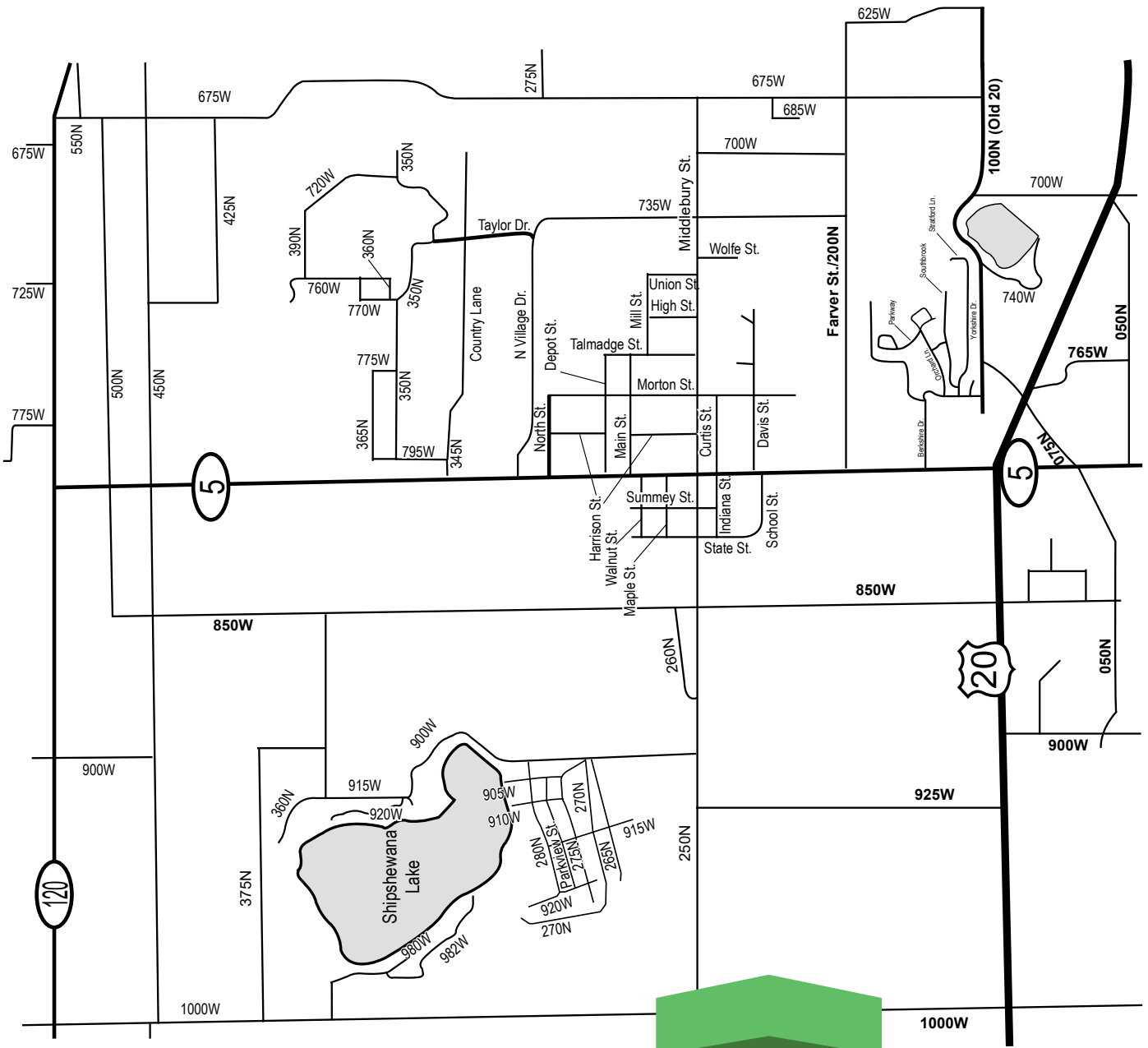
#### IMPORTANT INFO

The maps and yard signs will be ready for you to pick up on May 5 at LaGwana.

Completed maps & listings will be printed in:

- May issue of *The Hometown Treasure*
- April 30 issue of *The People's Exchange*

\* If you are within town limits, we will file for your garage sale permit at the Town Office for you



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# Shipshewana Annual Spring Garage Sale

**May 8 & 9, 2026**

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# LaGrange County 4-H Fair Announces 2026 Mural Contest

The LaGrange County 4-H Fair Board is proud to announce the 2026 LaGrange County 4-H Fair Mural Contest. Local artists of all ages are invited to submit original designs that capture the spirit, traditions, and memories of the LaGrange County 4-H Fair.

One winning design will be selected and painted by the artist onto a 4' x 8' panel to be displayed at the 2026 LaGrange County 4-H Fair from July 2026 through April 2027. This contest marks the beginning of what organizers hope will become an annual mural tradition at the fairgrounds.

### Key Details:

- Submission Deadline: May 1, 2026

- Mural Completion Deadline: July 1, 2026
- Eligibility: Open to students and adults able to complete a 4' x 8' mural
- Only one design will be selected

Designs must fit the 4' x 8' format and clearly show intended color, style, and paint application. Artists may use colored pencil, marker, paint, or similar media to present their concept. Minor adjustments may occur during execution, but the final mural should closely reflect the submitted design.

The winning artist will be recognized through a formal press release and an unveiling ceremony at the fairgrounds. Poster prints of the mural

will be sold during the fair to support future years of the contest.

Materials provided to the selected artist include a 4' x 8' sheet of 1" plywood, exterior latex paint (artist-selected colors), and a brush set.

To submit a design or request additional information, contact:

Jesse Martin, Westview High School Art Teacher – 260-336-0509

Benjamin Beard, Horse & Pony President and Fair Board Member – 260-336-2807

Artists of all ages are encouraged to participate and help launch a lasting community. 📍

## Tri Kappa Art Contest Winners



Meadowview winners (All photos submitted)



Shipshewana Scott winners



Topeka winners

All students in Grades K-4 from Shipshewana Scott, Meadowview, and Topeka Elementary worked hard to create a drawing of their choice for the annual Tri Kappa Art Contest. Judges

from Tri Kappa then chose three students from each grade level to receive a ribbon and have their work displayed at the Topeka Library for several weeks. Students, friends, and family were in-

ited to a reception to view their artwork and enjoy refreshments. Thank you, Tri Kappa, for supporting the Arts, the community, and Westview students! 📍

## Comedy for a Cause!



*Photos submitted*



*Bailey Hostetler*



*Jessica Downey and Jeannie Owsley*



*Gwen*

In 2011 sisters, Jeannie Owsley and Jessica Downey, opened a licensed day care in LaGrange. They continued to pursue their education and passion for providing licensed, quality childcare and early education, to the families they served. Gwen, Jeannie's daughter, was impacted by this experience. She saw the difference a loving environment made in the lives of the children who came to the daycare and approached her mom about growing the program. Jeannie and Gwen began working on a grant to support this idea to build a learning center that would support families. Sadly, neither of them could have predicted that within a few months of completing the grant application, Gwen would pass away, unexpectedly, from an undetected heart condition.

The GO Foundation was then created in her memory. It is Gwen's compassion and strength that propels the mission forward and inspires the dedication which shapes the work they do with families in our community.

Many of you have participated in the Scholarship fundraiser in Gwen's

honor. That was the initial undertaking Jeannie and the Go Foundation took on, to gift a scholarship in Gwen's honor. Now, after developing a partnership with the Economic Development Corporation, the two entities have acquired a building and have moved forward with renovations. This newly renovated space will be called; The Innovation Center and is on SR 9 in LaGrange, in the former surgery center.

The Innovation Center, could not be a better name, to house the state of the art GO Explore childcare and preschool, which The GO Foundation has envisioned.

As you can imagine, this endeavor has substantial financial needs. The GO Foundation and its board of directors have been diligently acquiring applicable grants, and we also need our community's support!

On May 9th, from 6-9pm, the GO Foundation will be hosting Comedy for a Cause. Held at the beautiful Blue Gate Garden inn, you will enjoy a fabulous dinner provided by Fireside, and settle in for some laughs, with home grown talent Bailey Hostetler. There will be

a cash bar, fabulous raffle items, and three trips for which you can bid. Come see if you can post the winning bid for a chance to enjoy Hawaii, Gatlinburg or an all-inclusive beach experience!


Our featured entertainment for the evening is the hilarious Bailey Hostetler. Bailey brings some light-hearted, "clean", comedy that is sure to bring on some laughs. Check him out @ [bailey\\_host](#) for a preview.

Tickets for the event are \$65 for a single or \$100 for two. So, grab a friend, treat the mother of your children, or maybe even your own mom, to a night out. Come join the fun at Comedy for a Cause!

Any questions or interest in donating a raffle item please contact; [gofoundation15@gmail.com](mailto:gofoundation15@gmail.com)

For ticket information or to make a tax deductible donation please visit their website; [www.gofoundationearllylearning.org](http://www.gofoundationearllylearning.org)

You can also find ticket information on their Facebook events page!

Hope to see you all there! 

# Town of Topeka

## Annual Spring Garage Sale

### May 7, 8 & 9, 2026



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Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (for office use only) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Town of Topeka**  
**Annual Spring Garage Sale**  
**May 7, 8 & 9, 2026**

#### IMPORTANT INFO

The maps and yard signs will be ready for you to pick up on May 4 at Gathered (Main & Lake).

Completed maps & listings will be printed in:

- May issue of *The Hometown Treasure*
- April 30 issue of *The People's Exchange*

\* If you are within town limits, we will file for your garage sale permit at the Town Office for you

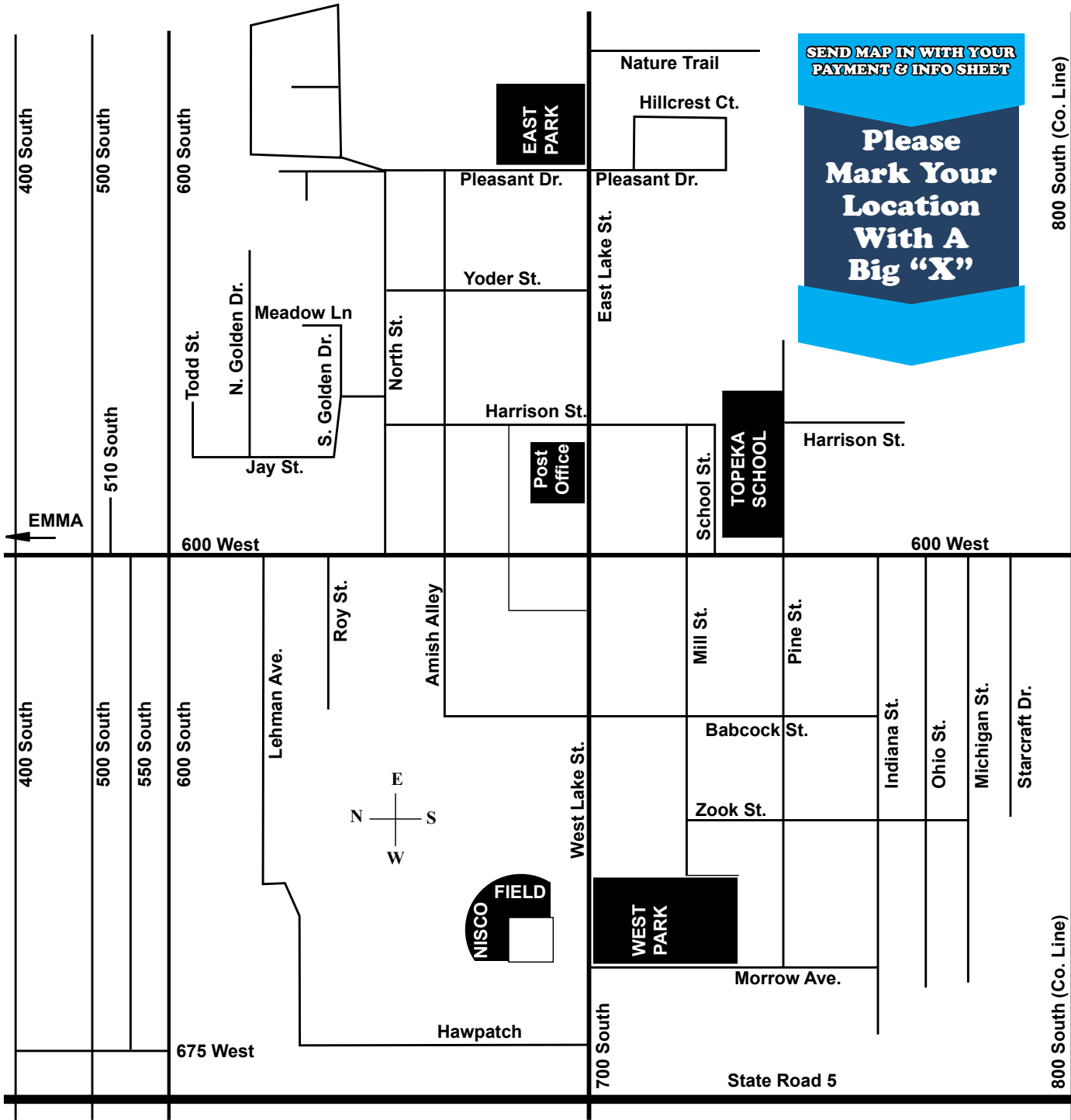
# Town of Topeka Annual Spring Garage Sale

**May 7, 8 & 9, 2026**

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# Shipshewana Table Tennis League Winners

The Shipshewana Table Tennis League recently completed its 21st season.

Approximately 55 players met each Tuesday evening at the Shipshewana-Scott School gymnasium for hours of competitive play. A big THANK YOU goes out to the players and parents for their continued support of this league and to Shipshewana-Scott School for providing the venue. Yoder's Shipshewana Hardware is the proud sponsor of this event.

The Shipshewana area has a ton of young talent in the sport of Table Tennis, and it was on full display this year

during the 8-week league. The public is always welcome to come watch and support these players. It's great family entertainment!

A double-elimination tournament was held on the final evening. A new champion was crowned this year as Adrian Lambright dominated his matches on his way to win his first ever championship in Shipshewana. He defeated up-and-coming youngster Matthew Mullet (last year's Group 2 champ) in the final round.

Players were divided into 6 groups for the double-elimination tournament based on skill level and their regular

season records. Winners of each group are as follows:

**Group 1:** 1st Adrian Lambright, 2nd Matthew Mullet, 3rd Jared Mullet

**Group 2:** 1st Brian Bontrager, 2nd James Lambright, 3rd Adrian Yoder

**Group 3:** 1st Lyle Whetstone, 2nd Ethan Bontrager, 3rd Curtis Hershberger

**Group 4:** 1st Jaden Yoder, 2nd Austin Lehman, 3rd Dale Yoder

**Group 5:** 1st Curtis Hochstetler, 2nd Jessiah Miller, 3rd Ronnie Mast

**Group 6:** 1st Jordan Troyer, 2nd Ryan Yoder, 3rd Lucas R Miller 🏆



Group 1: Matthew Mullet, Adrian Lambright



Group 2: Brian Bontrager, James Lambright



Group 3: Ethan Bontrager, Lyle Whetstone



Group 4: Austin Lehman, Jaden Yoder



Group 5: Curtis Hochstetler, Jessiah Miller



Group 6: Jordan Troyer, Ryan Yoder  
All photos submitted

# Deer Ticks and Lyme Disease: The ticks are active now

My neighbor's dog came home from a romp through the woods last week covered in deer ticks. Just minutes later, my dog ran off after a squirrel. Hours later, between the burrs and stickers in her fur, we found deer ticks, 17 of them! The dog groomer and a veterinarian confirmed the deer ticks seemed to come out of nowhere when our temperatures rose about freezing.

Deer ticks (also known as black legged ticks) are becoming a serious issue. They are known to carry several diseases, the most notable being Lyme Disease.

Adult deer ticks are small—about the size of a sesame seed when unfed. Younger ticks, called nymphs, are even smaller, closer to the size of a poppy seed. Because they are so tiny, they can easily go unnoticed on your body.

I have personal experience with deer ticks. Last November, while raking leaves, I was apparently bit. A rash appeared on my back, near my beltline, but no attached tick. I got to the doctor and received meds. It appears I caught it in time. I never saw or felt the tick.

The life cycle of the deer tick takes about two years to complete. It begins when an adult female lays thousands of eggs in the leaf litter. Those eggs hatch into larvae during the summer. These larvae are tiny, six-legged ticks that typically feed on small animals such as mice or chipmunks.

After feeding, the larvae drop off their host and molt into the next stage, called a nymph. The following spring and summer, nymphs become active and look for another host. Nymphs are small, they often are re-

sponsible for many human tick bites, with the person having no idea they were bit.

After that second meal, the tick molts again and becomes an adult. Adult ticks are most active in the fall and again in early spring when temperatures rise above freezing. At this stage they often feed on larger animals, especially deer—hence the name deer tick. That host could be a mouse, a bird, a pet, a deer, or sometimes a person.

While deer are an important host for adult ticks, they are not the main source of disease. The bacteria that cause Lyme disease is commonly associated with small mammals, espe-



*Photo submitted*

cially mice. If a young tick feeds on an infected animal, it may carry the bacteria into later stages of its life.

In addition to Lyme disease, deer ticks can also transmit other illnesses such as Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis, and the rare but serious Powassan virus disease. The good news is that ticks usually need to be attached for hours before disease transmission becomes likely. That's why one of the best habits is simply to do a tick check after spending time outdoors.

Check clothing and skin careful-

ly. Showering after going indoors can help wash off unattached ticks. It's also important to check pets, since dogs can carry ticks inside the house.


Once the tick grabs hold, it begins looking for a good place to feed. Ticks prefer warm, protected areas of the body—places like behind the knees, along the waistline, under the arms, or around the hairline.

A pair of fine-tipped tweezers is the best tool for tick removal. If you find a tick, grasp the tick close to your skin and pull steadily upward. Avoid twisting or squeezing the tick's body. Watch the area for rashes or discoloration or itchiness, and get to a doctor if symptoms arise.

As for dogs, veterinarians and friends who have experienced pets with Lyme say it's an awful way to go, and it's getting more common. A map covered with pins in my vet's office shows a growing number of locations in our community where dogs have been affected. There is a vaccine for dogs, which must be administered annually. There are also flea and tick meds that keep the pests in line.

As for people, there is no vaccine currently. Humans have to rely on tick checks, plus using repellents, or physical barriers like pulling your socks over your pant legs, or wearing long sleeves. I have friends who have contracted Lyme. They seem like they are constantly battling something. Most are not sure exactly when they contracted it.

For more information on ticks: <https://extension.entm.purdue.edu/publications/E-71/E-71.html>

For more information on Lyme Disease <https://indianalymeconnect.org/lyme-in-indiana/> 

# LIFE Grants Awarded to Youth Educational Projects in LaGrange County



The LaGrange County Community Foundation has awarded \$5,775 in LIFE Grants to seven projects supporting student growth, creativity, and community connection across LaGrange County.

The following nonprofit organizations and schools have been selected as LIFE Grant recipients for the 2025-2026 LIFE Program Year:

- LaGrange County Department of Parks & Recreation, Maple Syrup Days, \$2,000
- Reason 4 Hope, Bus Stops, \$1,000
- Prairie Heights High School, Photography Camera Fund, \$685
- Prairie Heights Elementary School, Math Through Play Centers, \$500
- Prairie Heights High School, Prairie Thrifted Treasures, \$500
- Topeka Elementary School, Air Zoo Aerospace & Science Museum, \$715
- Prairie Heights Elementary School, Readers Theater Title I Intervention, \$375

These projects were chosen for their ability to enrich students' academic, social, and creative devel-

opment while fostering meaningful community engagement.

LIFE Grants are reviewed and recommended by high school student members of LIFE, a youth philanthropy program of the LaGrange County Community Foundation. Students represent Lakeland, Westview, Prairie Heights, and local homeschool communities. Their leadership ensures funding decisions reflect the needs and interests of young people across the county.

“LIFE Grants give our young leaders the powerful opportunity to shape their own community,” said Beth Retterbush, Scholarship and LIFE Program Manager. “Their decisions spark positive change and make a real impact on their peers.”

Grant awards typically support projects that help students grow, build connections, spark innovation, and create lasting benefits.

This year's recipients met those goals through hands-on learning, literacy development, STEM engagement, arts enrichment, and outdoor education.


Organizations interested in applying or learning more are encouraged to contact Beth Retterbush at



*Photos submitted*

bretterbush@lccf.net or (260) 463-4363. The LIFE Youth Philanthropy Program follows a school-based calendar, with LIFE Grant applications reopening during the 2026–2027 school year.

## About the LaGrange County Community Foundation

The LaGrange County Community Foundation works to inspire generosity, leadership, and service by connecting donors to community needs. Through grants, scholarships, and partnerships, the Foundation helps build permanent charitable resources that strengthen LaGrange County now and for generations to come. 



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- 1 Micah Stickler
- 3 Elijah Bontrager, Kay-Lynn Ferrin, Braelynn Miller, Bryson Miller, Sullivan Rahn, Jordan Yutzy
- 4 Ruby Davis, Kristopher Fry, Noah Miller, Asher Raber, Harper Stutzman
- 5 Andraya Detweiler, Daniel Omer, Jenna Slabach
- 6 Makayla Hershberger, Amy Miller, Leila Wingard, Lincoln Yutzy
- 7 Leyton Christner
- 8 Ryder Lambright, Tyler Miller
- 9 Miley McDonald, Michelle Reyes
- 10 Kenlin Bontrager, Corbin Hershberger, Serenity Smith, Ana Yoder
- 11 Dakotah Blankenship, Melanie Fry, Bella Horner, Alex Miller, Benjamin Schlabach
- 12 Ramsie Lambright, Josh Mast, Kenlin Stutzman
- 13 Hope Chupp, Addyson Lambright, Lydia Long, Natalie McDonald, Lennon Webster
- 14 Jenna Beechy, Case Grossman, Madelyn Miller, Isaiah Riehl, Grayson Smith, Ashton Yoder
- 15 Savannah Anderson, Jordan Dakai, Shayla Strater
- 16 Grace Beechy, Brian Hochstetler, Shehab Shahbain
- 17 Grayson Buchanan, Zane Mahan, Hazem Omar, Cody Smith, Mila Yoder



- 18 Jackson Hochstetler, Brenda Miller
- 19 Keith Bontrager, Lila Bontrager, Jacob Clarkson, Melanie Wengerd
- 20 Austin Miller, Lynn Miller
- 21 Oliver Bert, Mason McDonald, Brayden Slabach, Lincoln Slabach, Weston Stutzman
- 22 Leah Mast, Jared King
- 23 Sawyer Barkman, Vanessa Hershberger, Alex Hochstetler, Audrey Yoder
- 24 Griffin Brohm, Silas Ford, Adrian Yoder
- 25 Brinley Aspy, Easton Lambright, Jordan Miller
- 26 Habe Bola, Lincoln Dalga, Zachariah Guzman, Elliana Kaufman, Mason Patka, Remingtyn Schermerhorn, Alison Wingard, Caleb Yoder, Tyra Yoder
- 27 Audrey Bontrager, Carter Delagrange, Bentley Duke
- 28 Kelsie Hochstetler, Colten McAninch, Ryan Schwartz,
- 29 Sadie Bontrager, Kenleigh Fry, Marcel Garcia, Cody Lambright, Piper Lambright, Arianna Lehman, Jevan Slabach, Colin Troyer, Ivy Wingard
- 30 Addalyn Creek, Nolan Gonser, Charlotte Horner, Owen Long, Amelya McClain, Alex Miller, Melanie Slabach, Emily Young
- 31 Grayson Fry, Matthew Miller, Jillian Schlabach, Allison Slabaugh

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Back Row (left to right): Derek Miller (2nd), Kenlin Bontrager (3rd), Janae Miller (3rd), Sadie Miller (4th), Jamie King (4th), Audrey Bontrager (1st). Front Row: Joshua Bontrager (1st), Derek Mishler (K), Allison Slabaugh (2nd), Kyle Bontrager (1st), Elijah Yoder (K), Malinda Bontrager (K), Roseanna Yoder (K), Anakin Bower (K).

# MUSTANGS OF THE MONTH

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 February of the 2025-2026 school year. Go Mustangs! 📌



## No Taxation Without Representation

Fourth graders have begun studying the American Revolution. Students participated in their own taxation activity to fully understand the phrase, “No taxation without representation!”. Each student began with 10 candy pieces. As the King made new laws, he taxed the colonists and the King’s loyal tax collector collected the candy as tax. 📌

## National Tortilla Chip Day

Feb. 24 is National Tortilla Chip Day. Hard to believe those addictive chips have been being mass produced since the late 1940’s. Students have all had tortilla chips before, so we added some salsa to go with them. We are all hoping there is a National Queso Day sometime soon! 📌



## Salad Bar

Harvest of the Month from Parkview brought salad greens. With salad greens, we made a salad bar! With the help of some parents that donated salad toppings, 4C was able to enjoy a tasty salad. 📌



# Maple Syrup

When the foggy weather forces a field trip cancellation, we brought Maplewood to Meadowview. Applied skills TW and 4C decided the foggy weather wasn't going to stop their classes from learning about maple syrup. Students watched a video about the process of making maple syrup. Then, working together, students used maple syrup and made a tasty fruit dip and maple butter. 📌



## Westward Expansion

Second grade students enjoyed celebrating the end of their Westward Expansion unit with hands-on activities and dressing up as pioneers. It was a day full of learning, laughter, and living history. 📌



*All photos submitted*



## Fort Wayne Mobile Zoo

The first graders just finished up a unit on habitats and the Fort Wayne Mobile Zoo came with some unique animals to show the students and talk about their habitat and different adaptations.

The animals that they saw were a Madagascar hissing cockroach, a mossy frog and a gecko. 📍



This page made possible by the



# Grandparents Day

On February 26th Shipshewana Scott welcomed grandparents to join their grandchildren here at school. Each grade level had several games and activities planned for the students and their grandparents to do together.

There was also a book fair set up for them to shop at as well. We enjoyed having our grandparents spend part of the day with us! 📖



*All photos submitted*



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# Fourth Grade Trip to Air Zoo

TES fourth graders had a chance to visit the Air Zoo thanks to a grant from LIFE and the LaGrange County Community Foundation. 



## The Olympic Flame

The Olympic flame was burning bright at TES! We stayed active and inspired through olympic activities for both students and staff. We also had a first grade Olympic reading challenge. It all culminated in a building-wide closing ceremony. 



*This page made possible by the*




# Topeka Elementary

Home of the Bears


The Hometown Treasure · April '26

# First Grade Dr. Seuss Day

Dr. Seuss day was celebrated in First Grade at TES. The students went to 3 different stations to do an activity with different Dr. Seuss books that they read. There were socks, flowers, elephants and more! 



## NED Visits TES

The program offered the message of Never give up, Encourage others, and Do your best. It did all of this while entertaining the crowd and teaching yo-yo tricks. 



*All photos submitted*



## Pickleball

Emmery Spencer from 5F is practicing her pickleball skills in Phys Ed! 📍



## Spring Program *Treasure Island*

5th Grade students are working hard preparing for their spring program *Treasure Island*. 📍



## Westview Jumpers

The Westview Jumpers performed at Westview Elementary on Monday, March 2nd. Students and staff were invited to jump rope with the group! 📍



## Problem Solving Skills

6th graders have had a big semester in Music class studying Broadway and keyboards. 📍

This page made possible by the

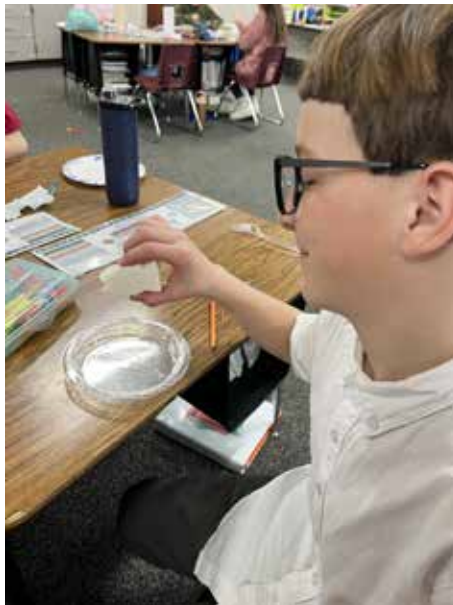


# Westview Elementary

Home of  
the Warriors

# Soap Sculptures

5th Grade students are learning about famous artists from the Renaissance in language arts classes. They got to experience what it might have felt like to be Michelangelo when he painted the Sistine Chapel ceiling. Classes also created amazing sculptures out of soap like Michelangelo sculpted masterpieces out of marble. Student's pictured are from Mrs. Jasso's language arts classes and Ms. Huyvaert's language arts classes. 📍



# Broadway & Keyboards

6th graders have had a big semester in Music class studying Broadway and keyboards. 📍



# Renaissance


Students in Mrs. Jasso and Mr. Miller's class channel their inner Michelangelo as they learn about the Renaissance. 📍



*All photos submitted*

# Noah Bontrager 1st Place at NB Nationals

At the 2026 New Balance Nationals Indoor championships, March 12–15, 2026, at The Track at New Balance in Boston, Noah Bontrager became the thirty first high schooler in history to break four minutes in the mile.


Noah Bontrager is now the FIRST ever Indiana high school student to break the 4-minute mile time, with a run time of 3:59.48 at the New Balance Nationals. His time earned him first place at Nationals, set a new meet record (previous best was 4:00.47), and he now holds the fastest indoor mile time in Indiana history. 



*Photos submitted*



## Bri Kaufman signing

She will be attending Indiana Wesleyan this fall to play softball. 

*Sitting is father Justin, Bri and Mom Mindy Kaufman. Standing is Westview Head Softball Coach Brittney Wilson, brothers Jace and Quade Kaufman, Jeremy Williams, Roger Witham and travel coach Donnie Waldron. Photo submitted.*

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with the Gospel Echoes Teams		7:00 am
Auction of Selected Items .....	7:30PM	Auction .....
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# HS BASEBALL

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**2026 HS Baseball Team:** *Back (left to right):* Evan Roth, Owen Weinberg, Elijah Zolman, and Caiden Schrock. *Middle:* Jaxon Christner, Baylor Atra, and Jaxon Miller. *Front:* Lucas Swanson, Hudson Yoder, Lucas Lambright, and Blake Hostetler. *Not Pictured:* Head Coach Jason Rahn, Asst. Coaches Matt Jones and Michael Christner.

Photo by Abby Wenger



# HS SOFTBALL

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**EQUIPMENT**

**2026 HS Softball Team:** *Back (left to right):* Asst. Coach Mike Antal, Janissa Lehman, Breanna Garrett, Myra Miller, and Asst. Coach Nichole Streby. *Middle:* Head Coach Brittney Wilson, Alexis Diehl, Maggie Mast, Ellie England, Paige McDonald, and Alisyn Tetzloff. *Front:* Sara Bontrager, Malia Shafer Weaver, Bri Kaufman, Brynn Bontrager, and Jill Bontrager.

Photo by Abby Wenger



# HS BOYS GOLF

Sponsored by



**2026 HS Boys Golf Team:** Back (left to right): Head Coach Jeff Marchant, Luke Haarer, Labon Bontrager, Ethan Fry, Caedmon Gates, and Liam Brill. Middle: Marcus Garrett, Kasen Yoder, Tyler Brewer, Karson Mast, and Matt Bibbee. Front: Jace Kaufman, Jakoby Whetstone, Cooper Fry, Cooper Schwartz, Remington Helmuth, and Brett Springer. Photo by Abby Wenger



# HS GIRLS TENNIS

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**2026 HS Girls Tennis Team:** Back (left to right): Head Coach Carrie Clark, Manager Mia Stemm, Mari Jo Mast, Miley Mast, Addy Kauffman, Camryn Christner, Lanita Mast, and Asst. Coach Hallie Mast. Middle: Alayah Hostetler, Ava Hostetler, Graci Engle, Kya Rose, and Manager Hallie Stults. Front: Manager Janessa Miller, Tori Taylor, Savannah Yoder, Karleen Bender, Kristen Bender, Brina Williams, and Janell Lambright. Photo by Abby Wenger



# HS GIRLS TRACK

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**2026 HS Girls Track Team:** Back (left to right): Head Coach Lyle Bontrager, Madi Miller, Faith Stump, Jordynn Wasson, Katie Martin, Gloria Miller, and Asst. Coach Macallister Seitz. Middle: Asst. Coach Erin Bontrager, Angela Miller, Chayenne Diaz, Bayli Smith, Emilia Mendoza, Peyton Miller, Alexis Riggio, and Manager Makayla Slabach. Front: Keera Hostetler, Jasmine Litton, Hailey Lambright, Merrill Warrenner, Tenley Groves, Sara Bontrager, and Marilyn Yoder.

Photo by Abby Wenger



# HS BOYS TRACK

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**2026 HS Boys Track Team:** Back (left to right): Riccardo Acs, Keegan Hershberger, Jacob McCoy, James Steglich, Isaac Drake, Antonio Pedroso, and Adrian Hostetler. Third: Head Coach Matt Jones, Dalton Brown, Logan Miller, Ayden Kloth, Noah Bontrager, Lucas Mullet, Charlie Double, and Asst. Coach Mandy Stone. Second: Jorge Rimola, Kaiden Miller, Tyler Stutzman, Dallas Yoder, Landon Gingerich, Kaleb Iddings, and EJ Watts. Front: Bentley Ryall, Santiago Queralt Alarcon, Justin Miller, AJ Martin, Gavin Rainsberger, Evan Beechy, and Alex Yoder.

Photo by Abby Wenger

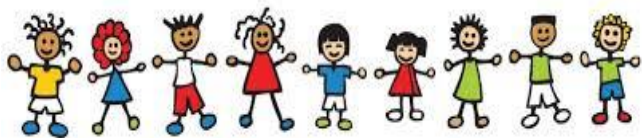
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welcome, most health insurances accepted.*



### America 250

## Our Lives, Our Fortunes and Our Sacred Honor

*By Harold D. Gingerich*

This year makes the 250th anniversary of the “America experiment”. The term refers to the founding of the United States as a unique and ongoing trial of self-governance, unlike the monarchs of their day. It was the radical idea that a nation could be governed by its people through a republic, not a king. Today, when according to recent polls 38% of the younger generation believes that we should embrace socialism, the American experiment has never been more in doubt. Will we survive as a republic? The Civil War tested that resolve, but today many have forgotten our history. Some were never taught. Most have never read the Declaration

of Independence or the U.S. Constitution. The final sentence in the Declaration of Independence contains some of the most amazing words ever recorded in our nation’s history. They are words that we as a people need to rediscover.

When the First Continental Congress (September 5, to October 26, 1774) met in Philadelphia, twelve of the thirteen colonies were in attendance. Georgia did not attend. On the second day there was a call to have the daily sessions opened with prayer. However, some of the delegates doubted that they could pray together since they were from different denominations. Samuel Adams brought an end

to the debate when he announced that he was not a bigot and that he would “hear a prayer” from anyone “who was at the same time a friend to his country.” With that, Adams nominated Rev. Jacob Duché, an Anglican, to conduct prayers.

The following morning, on September 7, 1774, the day after delegates had heard about the British cannonade of Boston, Rev. Duché read Psalm 35 and offered the first prayer in Congress. That prayer is readily available online. John Adams wrote to his wife Abigail saying, “I never saw a greater effect upon an audience. It seemed as if Heaven had ordained that Psalm to be

# HISTORICAL FEATURE

read on that morning.”

While the First Continental Congress did not accomplish much, it was significant because it was the first official gathering of delegates from the American colonies. The delegates did agree to boycott British goods beginning on December 1, 1774, unless parliament should rescind the Intolerable Acts.

It would be the Second Continental Congress that would unite support for independence from Great Britain and give us the Declaration of Independence. Congress convened in Philadelphia on May 10, 1775, less than a month after the April 19th battles at Lexington and Concord.

Thomas Jefferson is the person who is credited with writing the initial draft of the Declaration. The first paragraph makes no mention of England or the American colonies. It simply lays the foundation that the Laws of Nature and Nature’s God demand that at a certain point, action must be taken to sever political bands.

In the second paragraph, he penned these words. “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.” Initially Jefferson had written “the pursuit of Property,” but he later changed that to “Happiness.” The word “unalienable” is a word we seldom use today. Literally, it means something that cannot be sold, given away, or taken away by an outside force. Call it what you will, a rebellion or battle for independence. In the minds of the Founding Fathers, they sincerely believed that it was their Divine right and

responsibility to throw off the oppression of England.

The Continental Congress’s final vote to declare independence took place on Tuesday, July 2, 1776. The formal adoption was on July 4th; thus, it is celebrated as the nation’s birthday. However, the official copy was not signed by the 56 delegates until Friday, August 2nd.

Although July 4 is the celebrated



date, the Continental Congress did not officially move to print the Declaration of Independence with the signers' names for public circulation until January 1777. They also adopted the Articles of Confederation, which was a loose knit framework for how the new country was to be run. It would be another eleven years until the Articles of Confederation would be replaced by the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Eighty-seven years later, on November 19, 1863, at the dedication of a Civil War cemetery, the 16th president of the U.S. States would call the nation to remember why the struggle for liberty mattered. Abraham Lincoln’s 272-word Gettysburg Address, drawn from the Declaration of Independence, may be one of the greatest speeches ever given. Edward Everett, now long forgotten, was the main speaker and spoke for two hours, followed by Lincoln, who spoke for only two minutes.

Lincoln’s speech began with these immortal words. “Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure.”

On June 1, 1865, Senator Charles Sumner referred to the most famous speech ever given by President Abraham Lincoln. In his eulogy for the slain president, he called the Gettysburg Address a “monumental act.” Sumner said Lincoln had been mistaken when he said that “the world will little note, nor long remember what we say here.” Sumner was right! He continued by saying, “The world noted at once what he said, and will never cease to remember it. The battle itself was less important than the speech.”

Lincoln’s words echoed the Declaration of Independence and the vision of the Founding Fathers. The closing sentence in the Declaration sums up the entire document. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

As Nicolas Cage’s character Benjamin Franklin Gates says in the movie National Treasure, “People don’t talk that way anymore.” Truth be told, most people today don’t think that way anymore either. But we need to understand what their words meant in their day. For them, Divine Providence was not some sort of celestial luck of the draw. They understood that Divine Providence was a reference to God Himself.

## HISTORICAL FEATURE

From their perspective, God-given rights also came with God-given responsibilities. Their pledge to one another reflects that. Notice that their pledge to one another was in ascending order, not descending. The ultimate sacrifice is not one's life or fortune; it is one's sacred Honor. Unfortunately, sacred Honor is seldom, if ever, mentioned in our modern culture. We have a difficult time discovering what it really means.

So, let's try to understand what it meant to the men who wrote it. First of all, the term refers to a concept of virtue and the sincere effort to live and act according to that concept. Although our Founding Fathers came from very different backgrounds, they had a remarkable commonality in what they regarded as the components of virtue. Aristocrats and commoners, plantation-owners and city dwellers, members of diverse churches and varying professions, they held similar views about the code of conduct which should guide one's life.

Patrick Henry's words are a good example of what they understood to be their duty and sacred Honor. "To be true and just in all my dealings. To bear no malice or hatred in my heart. To keep my hands from picking and stealing. Not to covet other men's goods, but to learn and labor truly to get my own living, and to do my duty in that state of life unto which it shall please God to call me."

History bears out that almost every one of the original signers of the Declaration of Independence lost their fortunes and died in poverty. But they preserved their sacred honor and left us with a shining example of what duty and honor look like. They gave us liber-

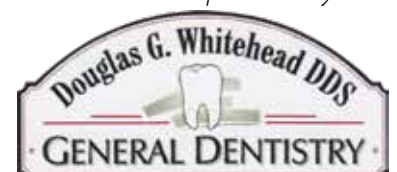


ty, a democratic republic, and the truth that with rights comes responsibilities. We have a responsibility to pass on to the next generation the inheritance of the rights and the freedoms that were entrusted to us.

And so, 250 years later, the question remains unanswered. Will this nation, so conceived and so dedicated, long endure? The answer is up to you

and me. A good starting point would be rediscovering the meaning of sacred Honor and then living it.

*This article sponsored by*





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**8-Noon**

**West (Pond) Park**

**Interested in being a vendor at Topeka's Farmer's Market this season? We'd love to have you join us for another great year!**

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Welcome April,

One of my favorite months of the year with all the new spring flowers popping up everywhere and the birds are all chirping.

Soon there will be a lot of activities coming and the Farmer's Market will be just around the corner. This year we will be setting up on Saturdays instead of Wednesdays. I'm excited! And not too long after that, the 4th of July events will be here. Watch for future announcements.

If you've noticed there's a lot of garage sales popping up, and soon we will have the neighborhood garage sales, so watch your Hometown Treasure for details.

That's it for this time, enjoy the Spring weather!

Connie Gadson

*This page sponsored by*



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# Word Search

(find all the underlined words) by Erika Byler

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L W M D E S F U E F L H

While we've been out of high school for over ten years now, my good friends and I have decided we would still like to have a Spring Break, so we put plans in place a few months ago. The two of us still in the area are heading out today, as soon as I can get home and finish packing.

Our first destination is Washington DC, where we plan to enjoy the cherry blossom festivals, a local yarn crawl, and (if the weather holds up) maybe even a day at the beach! The second half of the week we will be piling into our friend's cozy little apartment in NYC. Our schedule isn't as set for the days we are in The Big Apple, but I'm sure we will come up with plenty to entertain ourselves, even if the forecast is threatening rain while we are there! **i** Solution on page 50.

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## Mystery Farm APRIL CONTEST

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

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

**RULES:**

- 1) Identify farm shown by owner's name, by address, or by road and nearest intersecting road.
- 2) Mail to *Hometown Treasure - Mystery Farm*, P.O. Box 70, Shipshewana, IN 46565. **Please include your name and address.**
- 3) Entry deadline: **April 21, 2026.**  
*Please allow time for mail delivery.*
- 4) Winners will be drawn and prizes mailed.  
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- 5) Correct entries listed in our next issue!

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Next Month Sponsored By: **THE CONNECTION**

**MORE FARMS**

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**LAST MONTH'S WINNERS**

**Wilma & Susie Kurtz, 400S, Topeka** correctly identified last issue's farm as being owned by **Jason & Doris Lambright, 500W, Topeka.** Congratulations!

They won a \$25 Gift

Certificate from Tiffany's Restaurant, a pen, a notepad set, a letter opener, and a copy of *The Way I See it* from LaGwana. Second prize went to **Loren & Colleen Mullett, 735W, Shipshewana.** Third prize went to **Gene & Wanda Yoder, 050N, Shipshewana.**




There were 54 correct entries this month. **Others that guessed correctly were:** Steven Mullett, Aaron & Brenda Yoder, Elmer & Carolyn Bontrager, Orla & Sally Bontrager, Jerry & Jaynee Yoder, Kevin & Marla Miller, Ryan & Kristine Schlabach, Seth & Bethany Lehman, Glen Miller, Chris & Edith Lambright, Earl & Esther Mast, Daniel & Sara Schmucker, Jeryl & Clara Miller, Duane & Carolyn Yoder, Aaron & Jenada Miller, Mose Miller, LaVerne & Dorothy Whetstone, Alton & Katie Bontrager, Matthew & Linda Whetstone, Devon & Dora Lehman, Dave & Treva Lambright, Jason & Thelma Yoder, Wilbur & Treva Fry, Ada Lambright, Vernon & Marlene Miller, Dale Hostetler, Zachary & Sharon Eash, Aaron Fry, Marlene Miller, Jesse & JoElla Lambright, Daniel & Carolyn Otto, Kyle & Lily Lehman, Lyle & Linda Chupp, Mervin & Mary Miller, Christy & Eileen Petersheim, Jr. & Esther Beechy, Verlin & Mary Bontrager, Aaron & Doretta Wingard, Daryle & JoAlice Yoder, Glen & Sarah Mast, Mike & Ida Miller, Janita Hershberger, Galen & Wilma Yoder, Vernon & Kathryn Yoder, Fritz & Norma Bontrager, Delbert & Mary Bontrager, Lora Whetstone, Norman & Wanda Otto, Vernon & Edna Bontrager, Mark & Gina Miller, Ira & Marilyn Bontrager

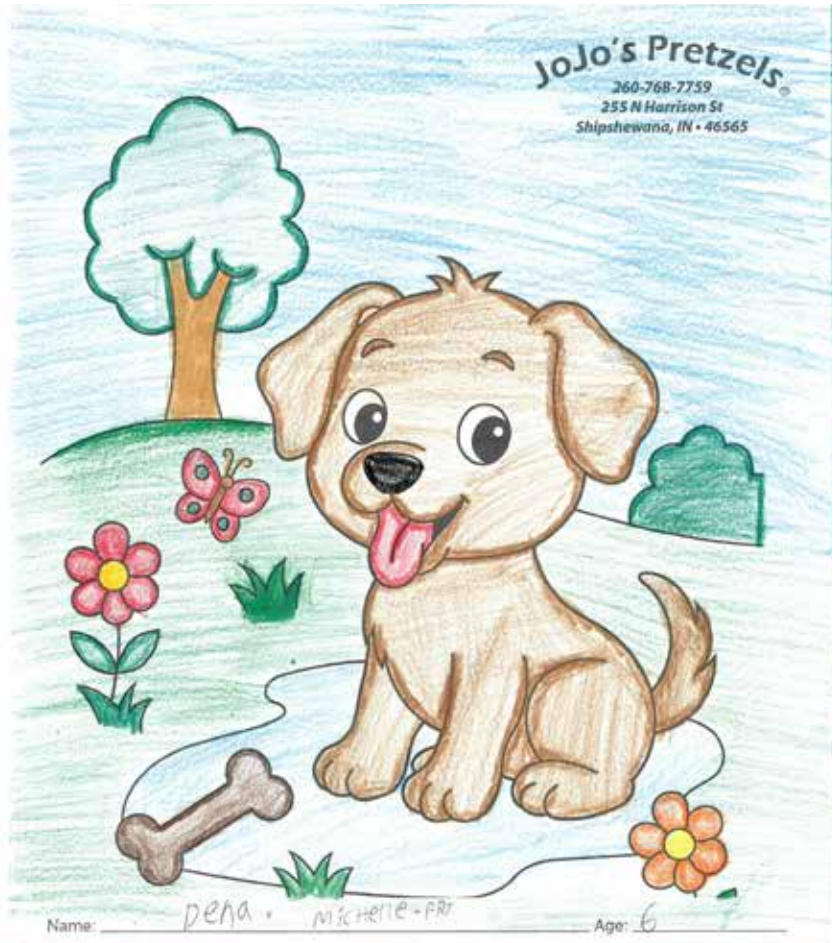
# Coloring Contest Winners

Six-year-old Dena Michelle Fry of SR 5, Topeka was our winner for the December Coloring Contest. She won a pretzel at JoJo's Pretzels in Shipshewana.

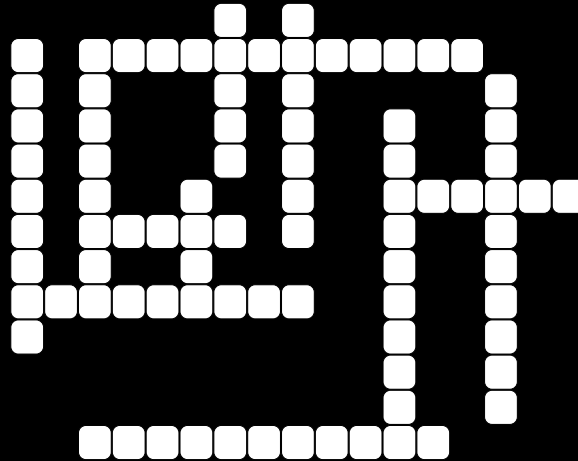
Everyone else that sent in a page can stop by JoJo's Pretzels for a free pretzel through April.

Runners-up were Hannah Joye Miller, age 6; Erika Lambright, age 5; Bethany Bontrager, age 4; Janessa Bontrager, age 3; Adrian Luke Fry, age 2. Honorable Mentions: Elijah Miller, age 6; Emily Jo Miller, age 5; Olivia Kate Beechy, age 5; Anson Bontrager, age 4; Audrey Bontrager, age 5; and Allison Miller, age 6. Check out page 49 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. 



Cross  
Crucifixion  
Empty Tomb  
Good Friday  
Jerusalem  
Jesus  
Last Supper  
Lent  
New Life  
Passover  
Resurrection  
Spring



Clueless  
Crossword

Solution to Clueless  
Crossword is on pg 50.  
by Marsha Patrick

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

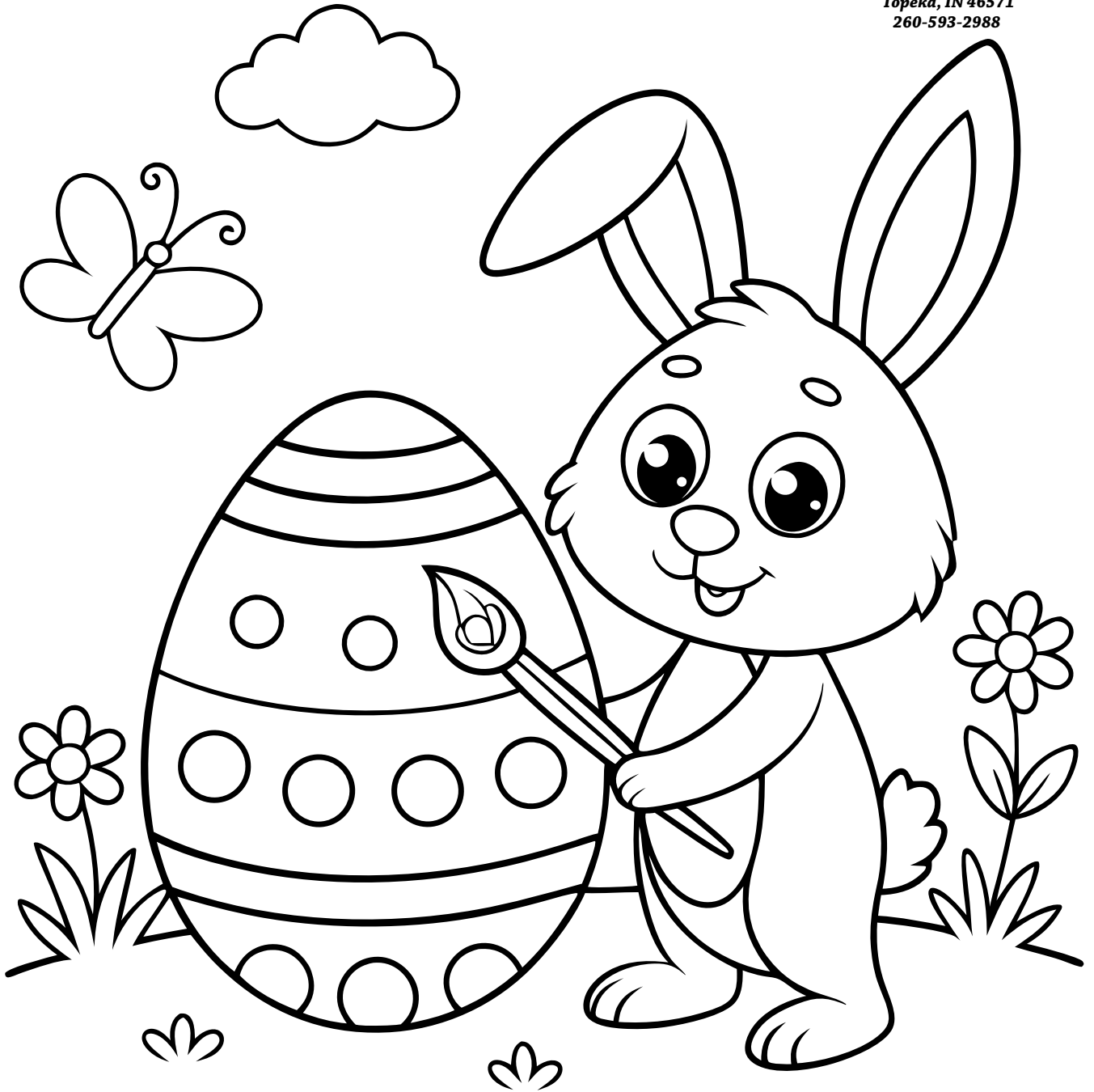
## WHY DID THE JELLY BEAN GO TO SCHOOL?



Answer on page 50.

Tiffany's

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

**Coloring Contest: kids age 6 and younger.** Sponsored by Tiffany's in Topeka this month! Winner gets a **FREE ICE CREAM TREAT OF CHOICE** at Tiffany's. The Winning Drawings will be on display. **ALL PARTICIPANTS claim your drawing for A FREE ICE-CREAM CONE** at Tiffany's in May. Mail submission to: LaGwana, Coloring Contest, PO Box 70, Shipshewana, IN 46565. **Entry deadline is April 21, 2026.**

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Many Thanks to Our Sponsors..

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Frontline Auto Tech	2	Southwind Flooring	3, 39		


**Clueless Crossword**  
By Marsha Patrick  
*Solution*  
to the puzzle on page 48.

Sponsored by

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

RESURRECTION  
CROSSWORD  
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TSD  
SUPPE  
NOIXIFICURC  
LIFE  
SEJ  
N  
EMPTITOMB  
D

**BECAUSE HE REALLY WANTED TO BE A SMARTIE!**



Riddle on page 48.

Solution to puzzle on page 47



**Left-Over Letters Spell Out A Message From Erika!**

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

**TIME TO REST, RELAX, AND REFUEL**

# 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/>

Sponsored by:



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



# Shipshewana Mayfest

## 3 - ON - 3 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

### 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/>

Sponsored by:



**You may contact me via:**  
*check all that apply*

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Voicemail: \_\_\_\_\_

Text: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Regular Mail: \_\_\_\_\_