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June 2026 • Vol. 27 Num. 6

Hometown Treasure



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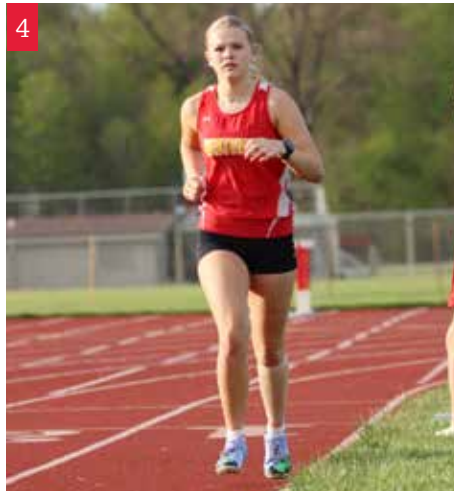
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4



5

- 1) Justin Miller's long strides eat up the distance in his race.
- 2) Chayenne Diaz takes her turn in the discus throw.
- 3) Santiago Alarcon flies through the air on his long jump attempt.
- 4) Tenley Groves sets a steady pace in her race.
- 5) Gloria Miller readies for her pole vault attempt.

Photos by the Westview Yearbook Staff.

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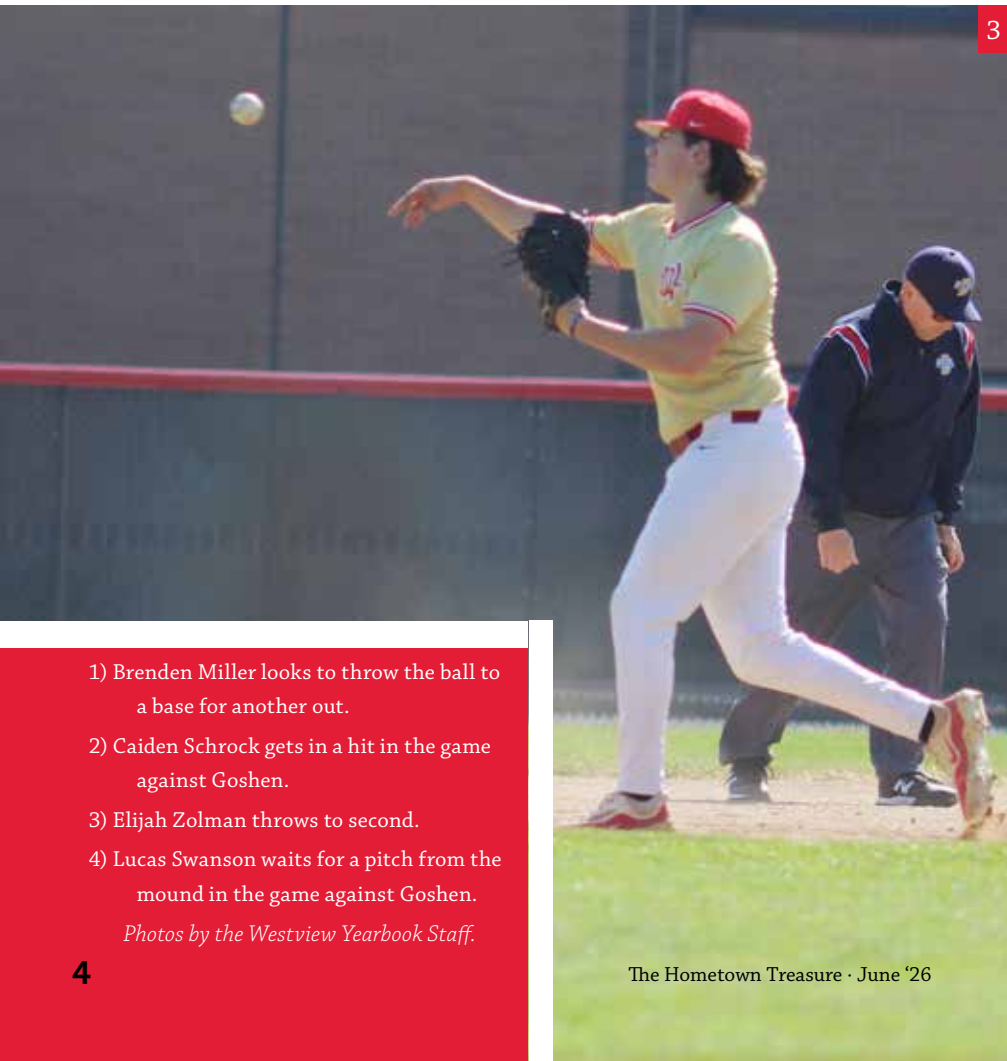
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5

- 1) Janissa Lehman winds up for the pitch.
- 2) Alisyn Tetzloff picks up a ground ball and throws to first.
- 3) Breanna Garrett sprints toward third.
- 4) Sara Bontrager returns a catch to the mound.
- 5) Bri Kaufman takes her turn at bat.

Photos by the Westview Yearbook Staff.



- 1) Brenden Miller looks to throw the ball to a base for another out.
 - 2) Caiden Schrock gets in a hit in the game against Goshen.
 - 3) Elijah Zolman throws to second.
 - 4) Lucas Swanson waits for a pitch from the mound in the game against Goshen.
- Photos by the Westview Yearbook Staff.*



- 1) Damon Lambright completes the baton exchange in his relay.
- 2) Luke Bontrager clears a hurdle.
- 3) Audrey Schlabach goes for her high jump attempt.
- 4) Tyler Mast competes in the long jump event.
- 5) Kayla Schwartz sprints toward the finish line after clearing her last hurdle.

Photos by the Westview Yearbook Staff.

The Hometown Treasure · June '26

The Hometown Treasure

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Photo Submitted

Photo by Abby Wenger

Childlike Faith

Several years ago, I struck up a conversation with twin boys at a local movie theatre while their grandmother ran to the concession stand quickly. I will never forget the sweet exchange I had with them. They began by introducing themselves to me as Anthony and Daniel.

Anthony said, "We have a little baby brother named Jonathon."

Daniel added, "But he was just a baby in my mommy's tummy, and now he is borned."

I asked. "Oh, so you are big brothers?" "Yes, and we are twins," they replied. They also let me know they were 5 years old.

"Will you go to Kindergarten this year?" I inquired.

Anthony replied, "No, we don't go to school, but we aren't babies anymore."

Daniel piped in, "We were babies in our mommy's tummy, but that's just how God made us.... Do you know God?"

Quite shocked by his innocence and boldness all rolled into one, I answered, "Why yes, I do, very well!"

Anthony pressed me further, "Well, do you know His book?"

"Oh yes, I do, and I read it a lot."

"My momma has His book, and she reads it a lot too," added Daniel.

Wow! Their mama had testified to them by her actions – the reading of God's word - and now they were testifying to me! Testifying has the domino effect!

In John 4, we find this to be true in the story of the Samaritan Woman. She came upon Jesus, alone at



the well, when she went there to fill her water jar. Jesus asked her for a drink of water. He had a plan to make her the first person he would identify himself to as the promised Messiah.


Jesus knew the woman had a sordid past. On this day, he called out all the past sins in her life. He then

offered her more than well water to quench her physical thirst. He offered her the living water of salvation, a gift only he could give to quench her spiritually.

The woman was so moved by her encounter with Jesus that she ran back into the town, leaving her pitcher behind, and claimed to all she saw that she had met the Messiah. Feeling free from her guilt and shame, she testified, bringing many more to believe.

Like my twin friends above, the Samaritan woman had seen, believed, and shared the good news. This makes me wonder if my words and actions set a good example for those who are hearing or watching me. Am I testifying to what I believe by the way I walk, talk, and love others?

I can certainly learn from those sweet little boys. Am I bold enough to ask, as they were? Like the Samaritan Woman, am I bold enough to tell everyone I have met that I have met someone who has changed my life? What about you?

My takeaway is this: boldness comes in replacing fear with innocence. Be bold...testify with a childlike faith! 

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Help Your Graduate Use Credit And Debit Cards Wisely

As your new graduate prepares to step into the next chapter of life – whether that’s more education or starting a career – one of the best things you can do is help them understand how to use credit cards, debit cards and prepaid cards wisely. They can be powerful financial tools, but without some basic knowledge, they can also lead to trouble.

Here are a few things for graduates, whether from high school or graduate school, should know.

Credit cards have benefits — and risks. About 69% of Americans ages 18-29 have at least one credit card, according to the Federal Reserve. They can borrow money up to a set limit, pay it back and borrow again – a cycle known as revolving credit. Used responsibly, credit cards can help build their credit history, cover unexpected expenses and even earn rewards like cash back or travel discounts.

On the cautionary side, if your child or grandchild doesn’t pay the full balance each month, interest charges can accumulate quickly. Carrying a high balance relative to the credit limit can hurt their credit score. Perhaps most importantly, it’s easy to fall into a debt cycle in which they charge more than

they can pay, interest can add up to more than the original purchases cost, and they might even open new cards to cover old ones. It creates a hole that’s hard to climb out of.

The key message is simple: pay



off the balance monthly, pay on time and treat the card as a convenience, not a lifeline.

Debit cards can be a good option. Since debit cards draw directly from a bank account, they naturally limit overspending. But they aren’t risk-free. Overdrawing the account can trigger fees, and debit cards generally offer fewer fraud protections than credit cards. Additionally, since you’re spending your own money rather than borrowing, debit cards don’t help build a credit score. Still, for a young person just starting out, a debit card can be a practical way to manage day-to-day spending.

Prepaid cards can help teach the basics. Money is loaded onto the card before use, and your young adult can only spend what’s already on the card. Because of this, there’s no risk of debt, no credit history needed and no bills to pay.

Prepaid cards come in several forms. General purpose reloadable cards can be used anywhere cards are accepted. Payroll cards are sometimes used by employers to distribute wages. Gift cards are another option.

The downside is that prepaid cards typically don’t help build a credit history, since transactions usually aren’t reported to credit bureaus. Some also come with fees for activation, reloading or transactions. These fees can add up, so it pays to read the fine print.

Teaching your graduate the difference between these tools, and how to develop good habits for each, can help them build financial confidence for decades to come. 📌

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 June 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.lagrange.lib.in.us or call 260-463-2841.

Facebook Page - m.facebook.com/lagrangelibraryindiana/

Summer Reading Has Started!

Special summer programs start June 1. You can sign up at any library branch until July 16 to be able to earn prizes for reading. First day to turn in your reading log and get a prize is June 10. Join us as we "Unearth a Story" this summer!

Youth Interest

Monday Movies!

LaGrange • Every Monday • 1:00 p.m.

We will show a kid-friendly movie and have free popcorn. Bring a covered drink if you wish. June movies: Moana 2, Zootopia 2, PBS Walking with Dinosaurs, GOAT, and Spongebob: The Search for Squarepants.

Preschool Story Time (Ages 0-5) Theme: Alphabet: Letters K, L, M

LaGrange • Tuesdays • 10:30 a.m.

Shipshewana • Tuesdays • 11:00 a.m.

Topeka • Wednesdays • 11:00 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 • 2:30 - 7:00 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.

Friday Family Games! (All Ages)

LaGrange • Fridays in June • 10:00 am-4:00 pm

Bring the whole family and join us for board games, Nintendo Switch or Wii! We will have tables and games, and TVs set up to play video games together. Come and go as you are able during this time. Parents must stay with children ages 10 and under.

Teen Games (Grades 6-12)

LaGrange • Monday, June 8 • 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 and water provided!

Book Clubs

Books & Banter Book Club: (Grade 7-12)

LaGrange • Monday, June 15 • 4:00-5:00 p.m. Discussing: *Matched* by Ally Condie. Come to the library in May to get your book to read and discuss in June. Stay after for our Teen Book Bedazzling program!

Teen Book Bedazzling: (Grade 6-12)

LaGrange • Monday, June 15 • 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Bring your own book or choose one of ours and decorate a section of the cover with diamond art beads. Supplies included and snacks & water provided.

Book Buddies Book Club: (Grade 1-3)

LaGrange • Tuesday, June 16 • 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Reading: *Rider Woofson, The Very First Case* by Walker Syles. 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)

LaGrange • Tuesday, June 16 • 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Discussing: *Lemonade War* by Jacquelin Davies. Come to the library in May to get your book to read and discuss in June. 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 (TTRPG) (Grades 7-12)

LaGrange • Monday, June 22 • 4:00-7:30 p.m.

Join us for Nintendo Switch, Wii and VR. 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!

LaGrange Co. Arts Summer Arts Festival Kids Creation Station

Outside LaGrange Library and at the Courthouse

LaGrange • Saturday, June 27 • 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Events include local and regional artists, music, food, and a kid's creation station! Kids

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.

- come prepared to possibly get messy creating some great art!

Adult Interest

America 250: Unearth a Story

Adult Summer Reading Challenge through July 25. All LaGrange Co. Public Library Branches and Bookmobile. For every 3 books read and/or library programs

attended, participants can put an entry into a drawing for one of 3 metal detectors!

Culinary Adventures: Sower House Shoppe and Tea Room

Friday, June 5 • 1:00 p.m. 8983 N 350E, Rome City, IN

The historic home, built in 1888, now offers coffee and tea, as well as an assortment of locally crafted goods. Meet at the house for a delightful snack, then - if you wish - travel just down the road to join our Patchwork Trails group at the Gene Stratton - Porter State Historic Site. Food and drink at your own expense. Please register at the LaGrange Main Library or by calling 260-463-2841 x 1030 so we'll know how many to expect.

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

Friday, June 5 • 2:00 p.m. • 1205 Pleasant Point, Rome City, IN

Wander the glorious gardens at the home of northern Indiana's most famous author. Meet the group in the parking lot, or register to enjoy a Culinary adventure at the nearby Sower House before the walk.

Second Saturday Book Club (Ages 16+)

LaGrange • Saturday, June 13 • 11:00 a.m.

This month we'll discuss "*Moloka'i*" by Alan Brennert. Rachel Kalama, a spirited seven-year-old Hawaiian girl, dreams of visiting far-off lands, but when a rose-colored mark appears on her skin, those dreams are stolen from her. Taken from her home and family, Rachel is sent to a quarantined leprosy settlement on the island of Moloka'i. Here her life is supposed to end—but instead she discovers it is only just beginning..

Copies available at the LaGrange Library Adult Information Desk."

Patchwork Trails - Historic Topeka (All Ages)

133 N Main St., Topeka, IN • Tuesday, June 16 • 6:00 p.m.

Meet at the Topeka Branch Library. Historian Harold Gingerich will lead a walking tour of the downtown area, sharing stories of the town's past.

Make & Take - Patriotic Firecracker Porch-Sitters (Ages 12+)

LaGrange • Wednesday, June 24 • 6:00 p.m. • Cost: \$25 per person

Participants will make a set of 3 firecracker porch-sitters in a patriotic theme. All supplies included. Sample on display at LaGrange Main Library. Register with non-refundable deposit of \$15 at the LaGrange Main Library by June 17.

Archi-Trek: South Bend (Ages 12+)

Depart & Return: LaGrange Co. Public Library

Thursday, June 25 • Depart: 8:30 am - Return 5:00 pm

South Bend is many things at once: Historic, educational, crossroads, industrious, world stage, artistic. All of these things influence its architecture. There are mansions large even by mansion standards. Is there a dominant architecture style at Notre Dame University? Let's find out. We might even find evidence of an architectural visionary, if we look in the Wright place. This is a walking and riding tour. Cost \$12 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, June 27 • 11:00 am

This month's cookbook is "*Historic National Road Yard Sale Cookbook*". 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.

Coming in October!

Explore the nation's capital in our 250th year on a 6-Day

Motorcoach Trip to Washington D.C. & Gettysburg!

Complete information available at the Library or watch for details!

June Events

Quilt Class

Saturday, August 22 • 9 am–3 pm
Maple Wood Nature Center

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

Join us for some fun as we start our Leaves of Fall pattern. Here is a table topper with leaves. 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, June 24 • 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.

Every Park Every Trail

Wednesday, June 3 • 6 pm
Dallas Lake Park

505 W 700 S, Wolcottville, IN

The walk will begin at 6 pm 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; For more information, visit the Parks website at www.lagrangecountyparks.org or call 260-854-2225.

Breathe & Wander: A Mindful Nature Walk

Relax, Reset, and Reconnect

June 25 • 6 am-9 pm • Dallas Lake Park
Office Parking Lot

Take a break from the busy pace of life and join us for a relaxing Nature



& Yoga Walk in the park. This gentle, guided experience combines a slow nature walk with simple stretches, mindful breathing, and quiet moments to notice the beauty all around you—just come ready to unwind and enjoy the calm of nature. Free wildflower packet at the end!

Archery Trail Pine Knob Park

Pine Knob Park, 2835 E SR 120, Howe The 3D archery targets are set for the 2026 Archery Trail season! The archer fee remains the same - \$5 per person. You can always donate more - this is our only source to purchase targets! Please pay at the trailhead in the green post when you sign in. Remember - field points ONLY. Be safe & have fun!

Serving Up Something New

Big things are on the horizon at Dallas Lake Park, and we're excited to finally share the news! Thanks to secured funding, we're getting ready to bring two brand-new pickle ball courts, additional playground equipment, and an expanded picnic area to life.

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Summer Adventures Await

Call or email us today to reserve a spot 260-854-2225, 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.





Mayfest 2026

Parkview LaGrange Hospital hosts Check-Up Day May 14

Parkview LaGrange Hospital and Parkview Center for Healthy Living invite area residents in need of lab testing to sign up for Check-Up Day at the hospital on Thursday, May 14.

Check-Up Day makes it convenient to obtain common lab tests at a reduced cost. The event will take place from 7 to 9:30 a.m. in Conference Rooms A and B on the lower level of Parkview LaGrange.

Packages

Participants have a choice between two blood test packages.

1. The Green Package includes a lipid profile and glycohemoglobin A1C for \$50. Also, any of these tests can be added for an extra charge: • Comprehensive metabolic profile (CMP), \$25 • Complete blood count (CBC), \$20 • Thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH), \$35 •

Prostate-specific antigen (PSA) for men, \$35

2. The Diamond Package includes the two tests in the Green Package PLUS the four optional tests listed above for a total cost of \$130. The Diamond Package can also be purchased without the PSA for \$110.

Individuals who choose either package can also add any of these tests:

- Iron, \$30
- Vitamin B12, \$30
- Vitamin D, \$55

Either package requires a 10- to 12-hour fast before the appointment. During fasting, it is OK to drink water to avoid dehydration and take regular medications as prescribed. Questions may be directed to 260-347-8125.

Single Tests

Apart from the packages, three single tests are available. Fasting is not

required for these tests:

- Glycohemoglobin A1C, \$35
- TSH, \$35
- PSA, \$35

Pre-registration is required

Participants must register for a Check-Up Day event in advance by calling 260-347-8125. Make sure to leave a voicemail if a Parkview Center for Healthy Living team member is unavailable to take your call. Payment may be made in advance, or by cash, check or credit card at the event.

Please talk with your medical provider about which lab test options may be appropriate for you.

Information about this event and other Check-Up Days can also be found at parkview.com/checkupdays. Parkview LaGrange Hospital is located at 207 N. Townline Road in LaGrange.



Topeka Area Historical Society

Members of Topeka Elementary School's 3rd grade classes enjoyed a Wednesday morning tour of the Topeka Area Historical Society's Depot Museum on May 13th. Topeka 3rd graders study local history and each receive copies of the Historical Society's quarterly newsletter over the course of the school year. Each class was able to spend 45 minutes at the Depot with the first class arriving at 8:15 am.

"The kids absolutely love being able to climb around inside of our historic 1943 Wabash Railroad caboose," observed Harold Gingerich, Historical Society president. "And what is really fun is watching their eyes get big and their mouths drop open when we introduce Noah Cleveland, and he tells them, 'Six



years ago I was standing where you are standing; and today, I am in charge of the production on the historical society's YouTube channel."

Noah, a Westview freshman, does a great job for us, and he has learned so much about local history. Having him conduct a portion of the tour really helps the kids connect with Topeka history.



Photos submitted.

Historical Society board members Dennis Hollis and Harold Gingerich were on hand to help conduct the tours.

The Depot Museum is open on Saturday mornings from 9 am to noon. Admission is free.



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Bachelor's & Graduate Scholarships Available for Current Students

The LaGrange County Community Foundation is offering multiple Bachelor's and Graduate Scholarships for the Fall 2026 semester. These scholarship opportunities are designed to support current undergraduate and graduate students who are enrolled full-time in accredited colleges and universities.

Among the scholarships offered are the Natalie Kauffman Memorial Nursing Scholarship and the Ignite Your Future Scholarships, each created to invest in the future of LaGrange County students and workforce.

The LaGrange County Community Foundation encourages eligible students to apply online at LCCF.net/scholarships. The deadline for application submissions is May 25, 2026.

"Scholarship support shouldn't end after high school graduation," said Beth Retterbush, Scholarship and LIFE Program Manager. "Students already working toward their bachelor's degrees and those continuing on to graduate programs still face significant financial demands as they advance in their education."

Natalie Kauffman Memorial Nursing Scholarship

The Natalie Kauffman Memorial Nursing Scholarship honors the life and legacy of Natalie Kauffman, a 2010 Lakeland High School graduate and lifelong resident of Wolcottville.

This scholarship is a one-time \$1,000 award for aspiring nurses who share a commitment to care and service.

Applicants must be enrolled in or accepted into a nursing program. They must also either have graduated from a LaGrange County high school or currently live or work in LaGrange County.

Ignite Your Future Scholarships

With the support of the Don Wood Foundation, the LaGrange County Community Foundation is offering several one-time \$5,000 Ignite Your Future Scholarships.


These opportunities include both bachelor's and graduate-level scholarships. The bachelor's scholarships are intended for students who are currently enrolled in college and working to-

ward their bachelor's degree, while the graduate scholarships are designed for students pursuing a master's degree.

Ignite Your Future scholarships are intended for students who live or work in LaGrange County. Eligible applicants must be pursuing a degree in one of the following fields of study: advanced manufacturing (including machine tool technology, industrial technology, computer science, and engineering), technology education, sales or marketing, organizational leadership, or entrepreneurship.

For more information about the scholarship opportunities and criteria, visit Lccf.net/scholarships.


About LaGrange County Community Foundation

The LaGrange County Community Foundation inspires generosity, leadership, and service by connecting donors with community needs. Through grants, scholarships, and partnerships, the Foundation helps build lasting charitable resources that strengthen LaGrange County now and in the future. 

LaGrange County Historical Society

The LaGrange County Historical Society will meet on Thursday, June 11, 2026, at 6:00 pm at the First United Methodist Church, Fellowship Room, at 209 W Spring St., LaGrange, IN.

The amazing Sharla Thompson,

a retired teacher of the Westview School Corp. will be portraying Madame de LaFayette, taking us back to the American Revolutionary War. This is part of the 250th Birthday of America. Everyone is invited, and ask a guest to attend with you. 



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LaGrange County Community Foundation awards \$48K in Community Impact Grants

Funding from the LaGrange County Community Foundation will help three local nonprofits serving youth expand their work through facility upgrades and childcare programs.

The LaGrange County Community Foundation awarded \$48,000 in Community Impact Grants during Cycle I of its competitive grant program in April.

Applications will be accepted again for Cycle II on June 25 and Cycle III on September 25.

“These grants help fuel meaningful projects and programs that make a difference in our community,” said Octavia Yoder, Executive Director. “From increasing the support for quality childcare to improving local 4-H facilities, we’re proud to support nonprofits that strengthen LaGrange County every day.”

The LaGrange County 4-H Association received \$15,000 to support renovations to restroom facilities at the fairgrounds.

“This grant is greatly appreciated and will support youth participating in our 4-H program, serve families in our community, and enhance the experience of families visiting our county for camping, recreation and enjoying the fair,” said Sally Hall, LaGrange County 4-H Association Treasurer.

The grant will help cover the costs of a new water heater, flooring, shower fixtures, and baby changing tables.

A grant of \$25,000 will support the GO Foundation as it launches GO Explore Childcare & Preschool this fall, a daycare and preschool program located at the LaGrange County Innovation Center in LaGrange. The childcare program will be housed at the Innovation



GO Foundation



LaGrange County 4-H Association



Rainbow Years Learning Ministry
(Photos submitted)

Center, which is owned and managed by the LaGrange County Economic Development Corporation.

“This generous \$25,000 grant supports the launch of GO Explore Childcare & Preschool, creating a high-quality, inquiry-based environment and expanding access to safe, engaging care. We are truly grateful for this investment in our children’s fu-

ture,” said Jeannie Owsley, GO Foundation CEO.

Rainbow Years Learning Ministry at Shore Church in Shipshewana received \$8,000 for equipment for the daycare’s large motor room, providing children with play-based opportunities to stay active and use their energy.

The 2026 Community Impact Grant Cycle I grant recipients are:


- LaGrange County 4-H Association, LaGrange County 4-H Fairgrounds Restroom Remodel, \$15,000;
- GO Foundation, Inc., GO Explore Childcare & Preschool, \$25,000;
- Rainbow Years Learning Ministry, Large Motor Room Equipment and Gates, \$8,000;

These grants are made possible through the generosity of donors who support the Foundation’s Caring Community Fund, field of interest funds, and community funds.

“Our Community Impact Grants reflect the passion of local nonprofits and the generosity of donors who care deeply about LaGrange County,” said Yoder. “It’s inspiring to see these investments at work, supporting neighbors, helping youth, and strengthening families.”

To learn more, visit LCCF.net/grants

About the LaGrange County Community Foundation:

The LaGrange County Community Foundation inspires 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. 

Annual Benefit Trail Ride Raises Needed Funds

By Harold D. Gingerich



In keeping with the Amish lifestyle, the people around Topeka, IN, know how to get creative when it comes to community fund raising events. The Amish community came together on Friday evening, May 15th for the annual horse and rider trail ride and haystack supper. But there was also some delightful entertainment waiting for those who attended.

The annual benefit trail ride was started six or seven years ago. The goal was to raise money to help a community member who was facing a significant financial need because of a medical condition. This year's recipient was Fannie Miller. As of this writing the donation totals have not been announced. However, given the size of the crowd and the community's history of generosity, the amount will be substantial.

The event kicked off with a one-and-a-half-hour trail ride starting and ending at the Topeka Auction. Over 200 mounted riders, escorted by the



Photos submitted.

Topeka Police Department, headed east on the main road out of town before following several off-road trails. Each of the riders donated for the privilege of riding.


Meanwhile people were lining up to enjoy the haystack supper. An unof-

ficial estimate put the crowd at around 1,000.

The trail ride concluded with the riders parading around the large auction arena. That was followed by an auction for stud service by several magnificent stallions. The top bid, assuming I understood the auctioneer correctly, was for over \$1,300.

The evening concluded with three different mounted drill teams. Amish young people, with boys and girls dressed in matching outfits, put their horses through a variety of synchronized maneuvers. The crowd was delighted. One older Amish couple was there from just east of Goshen to see two of their granddaughters perform.

One non-Amish lady in attendance told this reporter, "This has been wonderful ... it is almost like going 50 years back in time when no one was distracted by cell phones and television."

It was truly a night to remember and all for a good cause. 



We are excited to announce that the Westview Music Department will be performing *Into the Woods Jr.* for this year's Junior High Musical. Tickets are now available for \$10 at <https://cur8.com/25776/project/139795> or at the door. All proceeds fund future productions and keep the arts alive in our school. The performance will take place in Westview Jr-Sr High School's Wilson Auditorium on Friday, June 12th at 7:00 PM EST. Please join us to encourage and support our young performers!



Scan here to purchase tickets.
 Questions? Contact Scott Carter at
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- 1 Ninna Neely, Mila Smith
- 2 Kaitlyn King, Aiden Miller, Amber Miller, Jenise Miller, Caleb Schwartz, Jaxon Stutzman
- 3 Darian Baldwin, Stephen Graber, Austin Lamar Schlabach
- 4 Shaylene Miller, River Rheinheimer, Austin Luke Schlabach, Michelle Wengerd
- 5 Bashi Dular, Lisa Hershberger, Caliya Troxel, Melena Yoder
- 6 Megan Riehl
- 7 Kinsley Myers
- 8 Luke Miller
- 9 Bella LaMere, Everett Michael, Kristyn Miller, Preslee Rahn, Sophia Weidow
- 10 Kimmie Blackburn, Jediah Hertzler, Grayson Woodworth
- 11 Wyatt Slabach
- 12 Eathan Bontrager, Kevin Bontrager, Keaton Calhoun, Brantley Lambright, Crystal Miller, Hannah Miller
- 13 Braxton Baker, Johnathan Bontrager, Caleb Miller, Olivia Miller
- 14 Derek Fry, Kadence Jones, Jayna Miller, Jace Schrock
- 15 Keri Bontrager, Lily Dalga, Charlotte Grossman, Annalyse Hershberger, Lila Wingard

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- 16 Oliver Clark, Isaac Ellis
- 17 Seth Yoder
- 18 Janae Miller, Lance Nissley, Abdulla Omar
- 19 Benjamin Chupp, Cash House, Maitha Saleh
- 20 Isabelle Briggs, Carter House, Austin Riehl
- 21 Gavin Detweiler, Bailey Hochstetler, Thomas Yutzky
- 22 Wyatt Beechy, Clearic Hall, Adrienne Ropp, Vincent Vogt
- 23 Addalyn Burgess, Ellie Fry, Nora Howard, Adrian Miller, Joshua Miller, Jameson Williams
- 24 Maria Bontrager, Miranda Bontrager, Jadyne Russell, Jeryl Yoder
- 25 Kenton Slabach, Derek Yoder
- 26 Joshua Bontrager, Brentlee Elmore, Lukas Miller, Trevor Miller, Conner Rohm, Landon Troyer
- 27 Joyce Barkman, Avery Leonard, Ethan Rainsberger, Kiptyn Wagler
- 28 Noah Feipel, Malia Miller, Avery Schwartz
- 30 Ivan Dominguez, Isaac Hershberger, Madison Lambright, Thea McGuire, Declan Weidow

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★ MUSTANGS OF THE MONTH ★



Back Row (left to right): Isaac Hershberger (3rd), Kevin Bontrager (3rd), Jenna Miller (3rd), Allison Stutzman (4th), Lincoln Yutzy (4th). **Middle Row:** Kyla Thompson (6th), Kelsey Slabach (2nd), Evan Bontrager (2nd), Malena Yoder (2nd), Seth Troyer (1st), Reagan Beechy (1st), Gavin Detweiler (1st). **Front Row:** Kenton Slabach (K), Allison Miller (K), Rosetta Yoder (K). 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 April of the 2025-2026 school year. Go Mustangs! 🏆

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Westview
-class of-
2026

Grossman and Springer: Your 2026

Co-Valedictorians



Madison Grossman

Westview Jr. Sr. High School is proud to announce the Class of 2026 Co-Valedictorians, Madison Grossman and Brett Springer. These outstanding students have demonstrated exceptional academic achievement, leadership, and dedication throughout their high school careers.

Co-Valedictorian: Madison Grossman

Grossman earned the highest cumulative GPA with the highest number of dual credits (23) in the graduating class, a testament to her hard work and commitment to academic excellence. Madison is the daughter

of Matthew and Mallory Grossman of Wolcottville. She participated in National Honors Society, Girls Basketball, Girls Volleyball, and the musical. She also helps to teach Sunday School at her church.

Looking ahead, Madison plans to attend Purdue University to study engineering. She looks forward to the opportunity to explore the different fields of engineering and find which one she enjoys the most.

Co-Valedictorian: Brett Springer

Springer also earned the distinction of Co-Valedictorian by achieving



Brett Springer

the highest cumulative GPA and the same number of dual credits (23) in the Class of 2026. Brett is the son of Dr. Ross and Amy Springer of Millersburg. He is President of the Senior Class and President of National Honors Society and is actively involved in Student Council, Varsity Golf and Basketball. In addition, he has his private pilot license.

Brett plans to attend either Grove City College or Indiana Wesleyan University to study biochemistry. He plans to become a doctor.

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Co-President

Co-President



Hunter Egli



Brett Springer

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer



Noah Bontrager



Audri Martin



Lanita Mast



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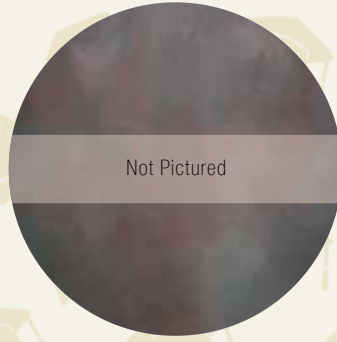
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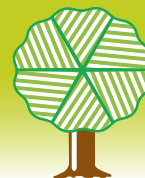
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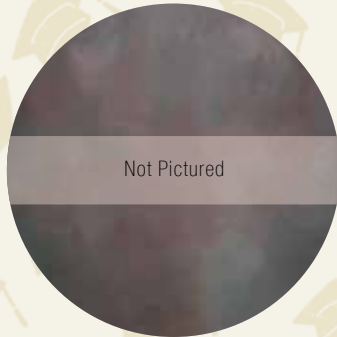


Aiden Norberg



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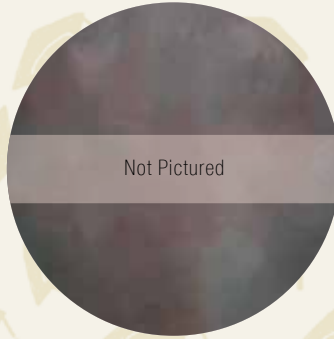
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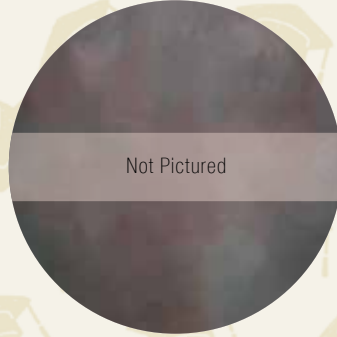
Kayla Yanke



Alex Yoder



Dallas Yoder



Not Pictured

Drew Yoder



Elijah Zolman

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Exchange

During the 2025–2026 school year, Westview welcomed four foreign exchange students who brought unique cultures, experiences, and perspectives to the school community. Riccardo Acs and Nicola Giroldi from Italy, Antonio Candido Pedrosa from Brazil, and Santiago Queralt Alarcon from Spain each spent the year learning about American life while sharing stories from their home countries.

Riccardo Acs is from Italy, where his father owns a dog breeding business and his mother runs a cleaning company. At Westview, he lived with host parents Leon and SuEllen Yoder and their children Grace, Essie, and Carson. Riccardo enjoys soccer and video games and chose to become an exchange student to experience a different way of life, meet new people, and make new friends.

Also from Italy, Nicola Giroldi lives with his parents, Elisa and Fabrizio, and his sisters Claudia and Cecilia. His mother works as a nurse, and his father is an engineer. Nicola stayed with Crist and Ida Miller of Topeka during his exchange year. He enjoys basketball and also plays both the guitar and saxophone. Becoming an exchange student had always been one of his dreams.

Antonio Candido Pedrosa came from Ribeirão Preto in São Paulo, Brazil. He lives there with his parents, Tharley and Valeria, and his siblings Elisa, Laura, and João. His mother works as both a therapist and architect, while his father owns a used car dealership. Antonio stayed with Dave



Hostetler Host Family (left to right): son Tim, daughter-in-law Elizabeth, granddaughter Miriam, Dave, Santi (Spain), Dorothy, Antonio (Brazil) and son Dominic.

and Dorothy Hostetler alongside host sibling Dominic Hostetler and fellow exchange student Santiago Queralt. Antonio enjoys soccer, Formula 1 racing, and fishing. He wanted to become an exchange student to experience a new culture, improve his English, and strengthen his problem-solving skills.

Santiago Queralt Alarcon is from Barcelona, Spain, where he lives with his parents, Frank and Mar, and his two brothers. He admires his parents' success in business and hopes to follow a similar path in life. Santiago described his older brother as both protective and supportive, while he tries to guide his younger brother in a posi-

tive direction. Like Antonio, Santiago lived with Dave and Dorothy Hostetler and host sibling Dominic Hostetler.

Each student experienced culture shock after arriving in Indiana. Riccardo noticed that the American school system was very different from Italy's, though he said he liked it somewhat better. Nicola explained that nearly everything about daily life felt new to him. Antonio found the abundance of fast food difficult to adjust to and missed the warm greetings common in Brazil, where people often greet each other with hugs or handshakes. Santiago reflected on the emotional challenge of arriving in a new country

Students



Yoder Host Family (left to right): Essie, Riccardo (Italy), Leon, SuEllen, Carson and Grace.

and realizing how quickly his life had changed after stepping off the plane without his parents by his side.

The students also shared opinions about American food. Riccardo loved macaroni and cheese but disliked cafeteria meals. Nicola enjoyed Raising Cane's but did not care for BBQ pizza. Antonio liked Panda Express, Culver's, Chick-fil-A sauce, and Amish pancakes, though he thought the bananas and sushi were not as good as back home. Santiago enjoyed dirt pudding, chicken wings, and smoothies but disliked school lunches.

Among the experiences they plan to share with family and friends back home are trips to Florida, Westview basketball games, and Indiana's cold winter weather. When asked what they would miss most, all four students

mentioned the friendships and connections they made during their time in the United States. What they said they would not miss was the food.

Looking ahead, all four students plan to complete their education and attend college. Santiago added that after college he hopes to travel the world, make new friends, and help make the world a better place.

The students also shared thoughtful reflections about life in America. They encouraged Americans to appreciate the present and be grateful for what they have. They emphasized the importance of enjoying life, spending time with others, and making the most of the limited time people have in the world.



Miller Host Family (left to right): Christ, Nicola (Italy) and Ida.

Commencement

Friday, May 29 at 7:00

Location: High School Gymnasium

Class Motto

"Be what you can be!" - Mr. Wilson

Class Sponsors

Ms. Jennifer Klaassen
& Ms. Jesse Martin

Class Flower

Sunflower

Gown Color

Boys: Red
Girls: White

Number of Grads

84

Class Song

"Better Together"
by Jack Johnson

Tassel Colors

Red, White & Gold

**Creativity is
intelligence
having fun!**

- Albert Einstein



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06/18/2026 Parkview Physicians Group, 8175 W US 20, Shipshewana, IN 46565



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The LaGrange County Health Department will be hosting a [immunization clinic](#).

Tuesday, June 16, 9:00 AM to Noon
(5700 W 700 N, Shipshewana, IN 46565)

Dayspring Christian Healthcare Clinic

Monday, June 22, 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM
(1155 N 1200 W, Middlebury, IN 46540)


These vaccine clinics are open to all LaGrange County and surrounding residents. Donations welcome, most health insurances accepted.

David Rogers Park

The first graders went to David Rogers Park to explore some colonial times. The Parks Department put some activities together for the kids to do as well! 📌




Fort Wayne Zoo

Our Kindergarten classes spent the day at the Fort Wayne Zoo and had a great time. 



South Bend Chocolate Company & Howard Park

Our Third Graders visited the South Bend Chocolate Company and Howard Park. They learned about how chocolate is made, how it starts from a cacao bean and ends up as a product in a store! And of course they sampled some sweets!

They also had the opportunity to hike the Continental Divide trail, where they saw buffalo, old Studebaker cars, and even some dinosaur fossils. They ended the day eating lunch and playing at Howard Park! 

All photos submitted.

Tuesdays at TES!

Join us every Tuesday at 3:00
June 9th - August 4 at TES Park!



Each week a different staff member will share a favorite read aloud!

Bookmobile visits every other week!

Popsicles provided by TES PTO!

Children's Book Week

A huge thank you to our community volunteers for making Children's Book Week so special at TES. You didn't just read books; you helped plant these seeds for a new generation of book lovers! It reminded students that we are all readers. We even had some furry friends join us! 🐾



This page made possible by the



Topeka Elementary

The Hometown Treasure · June '26

Home of
the Bears

Family Picnic & Kickball

Families joined the students and staff of TES at our yearly family picnic. It is always a pleasure to relax and enjoy the company. It ends with a staff vs. 4th grade students kickball game. The staff was looking for redemption after last year's loss. It ended in a tie. 📌



All photos submitted

House of Representatives & Museum



Nolan Privett and Kane Sells sitting in the comfy seats of the House of Representatives.



Aiden Grant, Nolan Privett, and Beckett Troxel posing in front of the famous state museum elk statue.



All smiles at the museum.

Collected Over 73,000 Aluminum Cans

The students of Westview Elementary have been busy! During the third week of April, they collected over 73,000 aluminum cans! A local facility recycled the cans, and the proceeds, about \$900, will be donated to Riley Hospital for Children. Mrs. Sheets's fifth-grade class brought in the most

cans this year with a total of 10,320. To reward students for their hard work, a school-wide drawing was held for a pizza party at each grade level. The Westview Elementary PTO will provide a pizza party for Miss Hayes's 5th-grade class and Mrs. McCoy's 6th-grade class. Good Job Westview Elementary! 📌

How Wetlands Help Our Environment

6th graders had the chance to explore the marsh at Camp Amigo! Be sure to ask a 6th grade student about how wetlands help our environment. 📌



This page made possible by the



Westview Elementary

Home of the Warriors

Ecosystem Dioramas

Mr. Yoder's students are building ecosystem dioramas and food webs. Students were assigned a specific ecosystem where they needed to research what organisms can be found there. Then, students were to create a food web of organisms from that ecosystem.



Chicago Field Trip

6th Grade students enjoying their field trip in Chicago.

Indy Field Trip



Noah Schlabach learns how rocks helped shape the earth during a 5th grade trip to Indianapolis.



Alyssa Bontrager, Kylee Hostetler, Kierra Slabach, and Janae Stutzman enjoyed seeing the bears at the Indianapolis zoo.

All photos submitted.



Sponsored by



2025-26 Jazz Band: Back (left to right): Chris Terrones, Gavin Rainsberger, Luke Hall, Sage Mercer, Tyler Stutzman, Paige McDonald, Destiny Mercer. Second: Lanita Mast, Noah Bontrager, Isaiah Radcliff. Front: Audri Martin, Isaac Yater, Matt Bibbee, Kaleb Iddings

Photo by Stopher-King Studio



Sponsored by



2025-26 Concert Band: Back (left to right): Ayden Kloth, Tyler Stutzman, Noah Bontrager, Brody Barton, Dalton Brown, Luke Hall. Third: Chris Terrones, Isaiah Radcliff, Matt Bibbee, Sage Mercer, Isaac Yater, Makenna Feipel, Gavin Rainsberger, Winchester Altimus, Durrel Frey. Second: Tyronne Baccol, Carter Cranor, Noah Cleveland, Evan Roth, Logan Miller, Destiny Mercer, Audri Martin, Chloe Briggs. Front: Avionna Duke, Ellianna England, Paige McDonald, Cyota Ferrera, Kaleb Iddings, Faith Stump, Kaylee Nuzum, Lanita Mast. Not Pictured - Carver Stump.

Photo by Stopher-King Studio



CONCERT CHOIR

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2025-26 Concert Choir: Back (left to right): Victoria Grise, Lexi Sweet, Tyrone Baccol, Kylin Meadows, Mabel Fisk. Front: Maggie Mast, Breanna Garrett, Kaylee Nuzum, Savannah Nelson, Kailen Meyers. Photo by Stopher-King Studio



DYNAMIC SINGSATIONS

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2025-26 Dynamic Singers: Back (left to right): Jarrett Dunker, Sage Mercer, Kaleb Iddings. Third: Brina Williams, Bailey Manns, Gavin Rainsberger, Isaac Yater, Jada Mauck, Miley Mast. Second: Lilly Mullet, Josie Eash, Alyssa Hooley, Aiden Norberg, Laine Bortner, Janell Lambright, Mari Jo Mast. Front: Lanita Mast, Josie Ryall, Lilian Bennett, Ava Hostetler, Kya Roose, Merrill Warrener, Eden Mauck. Photo by Stopher-King Studio



JH CHOIR

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by



2025-26 Junior High Choir: Back (left to right): Chandler Engle, Marsha Miller, Layla Lengacher, Brayden Walz, Weslee Steider, Lillian Bechtel, Marissa Childers, Jessica Hostetler, Calista Bolinger. Third: Aubrie Gibson, Maci Miller, Kimber Helmuth, Zachariah Jones, Kaleb Liechty, Hunter Szymanowski, Grace Yater, Julian Warrener, Valentina Mendoza. Second: Ryleigh Weimer, Mercy Buckley, Raigen Bryant, Skylynn Weeden, Ryan Mast, Obidiah Raber, Genesi Perillo, Ashleayn Blackburn, Kate Mauck, Adelyn Raber. Front: Hadley Abney, Joanie Bontrager, Brinley Kraft, Ashlin Rockey, Abigail Hershberger, Terra Harlow, JulieAnna Kuhns, Mia Stemm, Zienna Yoder.

Photo by Stopher-King Studio



JH BAND

Sponsored by



2025-26 Junior High Band: Back (left to right): Ashlyn Lay, Terra Harlow, Hunter Withrow, Carson Tyler, Hadleigh Cotherman, Julian Warrener, Marissa Childers, Kenlin Mast. Third: Malachi Lambright, Lyric Miller, Josiah Radcliff, Warrick Owsley, Willard Yoder, Rugger Altimus, Jessica Hostetler, Miles Glassman, Brayden Walz, Declan Ryall. Second: - Archer Geigley, Landyn Harvey, Samantha Fender, Daniel Schrock, Valentina Mendoza, Kendyl Reinhold, Janessa Caldwell, Baily Yoder, Derrick Martin, Weslee Steider. Front: - Lillian Bechtel, Joanie Bontrager, Chandler Engle, Erickson Mullet, Serena Miller, Lydia Bloom, Dale Siples. Not Pictured - Zach Jones, Trenton Villardo.

Photo by Stopher-King Studio



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The Amazing People Behind Westview's Senior Awards

By Harold D. Gingerich



All photos submitted.

Every year at Westview High School's commencement ceremony two awards are presented to deserving members of the Senior Class. The presentation of these annual awards started in 1979. These awards, based upon academic and athletic achievement, are presented to an outstanding female and male member of the graduating class. While the awards bear their names, virtually none of the award recipients today have any idea of who the people were in whose names these awards are given nor why. Very few of Westview's current faculty and staff knew them or taught with them. In addition to that, thousands of people attending Westview basketball home games walk past the plaques in the hallway bearing the names of the award winners without noticing. Yet, there for all to see are plaques bearing the names of the Ruth Johns and LeRoy F. Yoder award winners. But who were these outstanding homegrown educators who left such a legacy?

Ruth (Gnagy) Johns was born on March 19, 1909, to Ingoldsby "Goldy" and Clara Belle Patterson Gnagy. Ruth graduated from Topeka High School in 1927. Ruth's next stops were at Goshen College and Ball State (then known as Ball State Teachers College) where in three terms she earned Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees. Ruth went on to the University of Iowa to do her Master's degree. She always spoke fondly, and with pride, about her time at Iowa City.

On Christmas Eve in 1938, she married Ward S. Johns. On January 21, 1940, they welcomed their only child, a son, David, into the world. Tragically on May 26, 1953, her beloved husband Ward died of a massive heart attack. One of her former students who attended the funeral said, "It was just so sad; I can still see her bending over the casket saying her last 'Good-byes' ... her grief was beyond words." Ruth never remarried.

In the years that followed Ruth poured her heart into raising her son

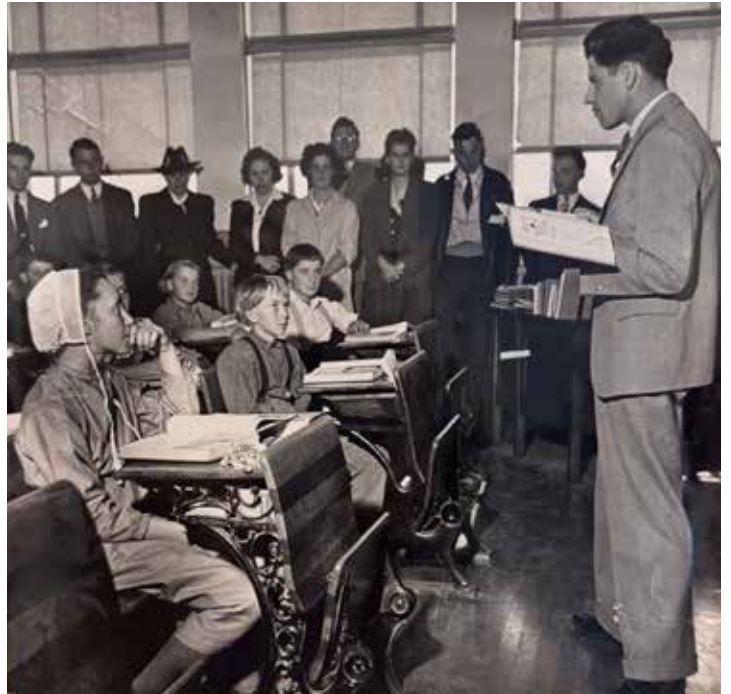
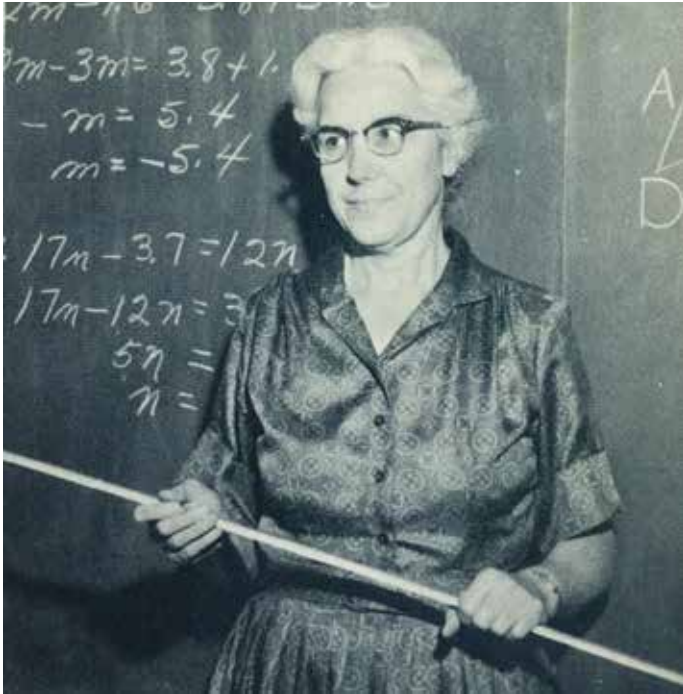
David, her high school students, and the MYF youth group at Maple Grove Mennonite Church in Topeka.

For 36 years Mrs. Johns taught business, math, and typing classes. She helped students at Topeka High publish the Student Echo newspaper and yearbooks. Following the consolidation with Shipshewana, Mrs. Johns continued to help Westview students with the publication of the student newspaper and the yearbook. Countless times over her teaching career, she was the students' choice as class sponsor.

Mrs. Johns loved teaching and she loved her students. If it had been her choice, she would have taught longer. However, Westview's mandatory age limit policy forced her to retire in 1985.

Mrs. Ruth Johns stepped into eternity on December 10, 1994, leaving a legacy that lives on in the Westview community and especially in the hearts of all who knew her. She was laid to rest next to her beloved

HISTORICAL FEATURE



husband Ward in the Maple Grove Cemetery.

LeRoy Freeman Yoder also left a lasting mark on the Westview community, especially the students at Honeyville School. Born to an Amish couple, Henry and Mary (Wingard) Yoder, LeRoy entered this world on May 17, 1909. LeRoy grew up in LaGrange County where he attended and graduated from Shipshewana High School in 1927.

Following high school, Yoder attended Goshen College where he earned his bachelor's degree. That was followed by a Master of Science degree from Ball State. In 1934 he married Florence Mae Buzzard from Elkhart County. They had one adopted daughter, Linda Lee, born in 1947.

Mr. Yoder taught social studies and 8th grade at Honeyville Elementary School in Eden Township starting in 1938. He also coached the athletic teams. In 1941 he became principal of the school and served in that position until his tragic death in the Palm Sun-



day Tornado on April 11, 1965.

LeRoy Yoder was a man of faith and integrity who lived his values and taught them by his example. It is impossible to overstate how much love and respect he had in the eyes of his students and members of the staff.

There is a humorous story about Mr. Yoder. One day as he was giving a lecture on history and social studies,

one of the students raised his hand. When called upon he said, "Mr. Yoder, that is not what the textbook says." According to the student, Mr. Yoder came to his desk and said, "Let me see the book." Totally unimpressed by the textbook's modern revisionism, Mr. Yoder slammed the book down on the floor and said, "Not in my classroom!" and went on with the lecture.

HISTORICAL FEATURE



LeRoy Yoder loved sports. While his first love was baseball, he enjoyed coaching the Honeyville “Honeys” boys’ basketball teams and for many years served as the scorekeeper and timer for Topeka High School’s basketball games that were played in the Honeyville gym. He was also either the scorekeeper or timer for the area sectional tournaments.

Yoder was involved in the community giving back to any group or organization of which he was a part. He was a member of the Topeka Chamber of Commerce. LeRoy and his family attended Forks Mennonite Church near Middlebury, where he was active as Sunday School superintendent. According to his daughter Linda, he often opened the Sunday School gathering with one of his favorite Bible verses, “Oh Lord, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!” Psalm 8:1.

Tragically his life was cut short on April 11, 1965, at the age of 55, when the Palm Sunday tornados ravaged Northeast Indiana. LeRoy and


his wife Florence were among the six victims who died in the home of Willis Bontrager near the Shore Mennonite Church which was also destroyed. Their daughter Linda’s life was spared because she was sick and had remained at home in Topeka.

Funeral services for LeRoy and Florence Yoder were held on Wednesday, April 14th at the Forks Mennonite Church. The following afternoon at 2 pm a second memorial service was held in the Honeyville gym with the students, members of the faculty, and Linda’s classmates from the THS Class of ’65 in attendance. Burial was in the Forrest Grove Cemetery south of Middlebury.

It is hard to put into words the shock, the devastation, and the sense of loss that the community felt over the death of LeRoy Yoder. Then again, so many others also perished in that horrible storm. Suffice it to say, the community was numb.

In 1979 the Westview School Corporation took steps to ensure that the legacies of Mrs. Ruth Johns and

LeRoy F. Yoder would live on. Westview established the LeRoy F. Yoder Chapter of the National Honor Society to recognize the academic excellence of Westview students. They also established the LeRoy F. Yoder Award and the Ruth Johns Award which are voted by the faculty and given out each year to outstanding female and male members of the graduating class.

For those of us who knew and respected Ruth Johns and LeRoy F. Yoder, it can confidently be said that they were the two people that you never wanted to disappoint in the classroom or in life. May their legacy continue to live on. 

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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.

 _____!

This month I want to talk about a flower I'm very excited to see blooming in my own patch of native plants. Hairy Beardtongue! Bumblebees, butterflies, and hummingbirds get some fine dining from the light purple trumpet shaped flowers on this plant.

It blooms from late May to late June, and can tolerate varied amounts of shade and sun, which makes it a nice versatile plant if you have some tricky patches in your flower gardens. Note that if you plant them as seeds, you'll likely be waiting a couple years to actually see any flowers.

If you're wondering about the name, it is in reference to both the stems and the lower "lip" of the asymmetrical flowers, which are, well, hairy!  Solution on page 58.

Word Search

(find all the underlined words) by Erika Byler

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

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

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

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

RULES:

- 1) Identify farm shown by owner's name, by address, or by road and nearest intersecting road.
- 2) Mail to *Hometown Treasure - Mystery Farm*, P.O. Box 70, Shipshewana, IN 46565. **Please include your name and address.**
- 3) Entry deadline: **June 23, 2026.** Please allow time for mail delivery.
- 4) Winners will be drawn and prizes mailed. Next month's winner will receive a 1 year subscription to *The Connection* and more!
- 5) Correct entries listed in our next issue!

LAST MONTH'S WINNERS


Wyman S Yoder, 300W, LaGrange correctly identified last issue's farm as being owned by **Jerry & Irene Miller, 900W, Ligonier.**

Congratulations! They won a \$25 Gift Certificate from Tiffany's Restaurant, a pen, a notepad set, a letter opener, and a copy of *The Honeyville Journal* from LaGwana. Second prize went to **Vernon & Wanita Miller, 1200N, Ligonier.** Third prize went to **Orla & Esther Miller, 350S, Topeka.**



There were 20 correct entries this month. **Others that guessed correctly were:** Marlin & Mary Fry, Mahlon & Mary Yoder, Dennis & Amy Fry, Willard & Leona Yoder, Mary Jo Miller, Cletus & Rosetta Miller, Ruby Miller, David H & Marlene Miller, Harley & Wilma Schlabach, Mark & Sue Marie Lambright, Mark & Kristina Lambright, Daniel & Edna Lehman, Tim & Marietta Miller, Sammy & Regina Miller, Paul & Linda Miller, Lamar Bontrager, Ervin & Linda Bontrager.

MORE FARMS NEEDED!

Please mail to:
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 Shipshewana, IN 46565.
Please include your name and address. 

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Next Month Sponsored By: **THE CONNECTION**

Coloring Contest Winners

Six-year-old Alanna Joy Miller of 300 S, Topeka was our winner for the December Coloring Contest. Shee won an ice cream treat of choice at Vanilla Bean Creamery in Shippshewana.

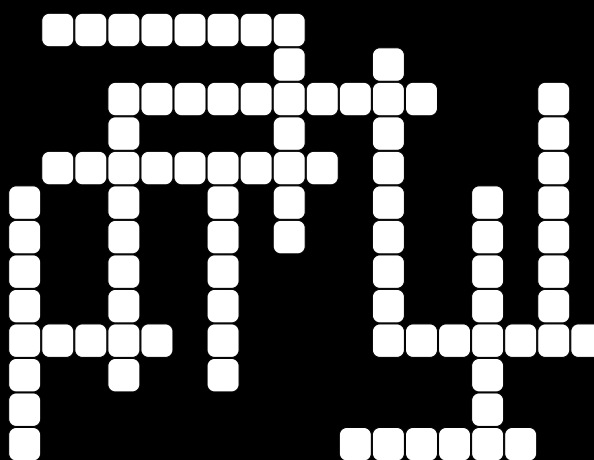
Everyone else that sent in a page can stop by Vanilla Bean Creamery for a free small ice cream cone through June.

Runners-up were Malinda Bontrager, age 6; Ava Alyse Yoder, age 5; Anson Bontrager, age 4; Julia Grace Hostetler, age 3; Amanda Miller, age 2. Honorable Mentions: Justin Miller, age 6; Madison Kate Lambricht, age 6; Bailey Hochstetler, age 6; Eloise Parker, age 5; and Sienna Fields, age 4. Check out page 57 for this month's coloring page.

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



- Barbecues
- Beach
- Camping
- Father's day
- Fireflies
- Gardens
- Ice Cream
- Lemonade
- Picnics
- Summer
- Sunshine
- Swimming
- Vacations



Clueless
Crossword

Solution to Clueless
Crossword is on pg 58.
by Marsha Patrick

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

WHAT HAS MANY KEYS BUT CAN'T OPEN A SINGLE LOCK?



Answer on page 58.

Want a different way to advertise?

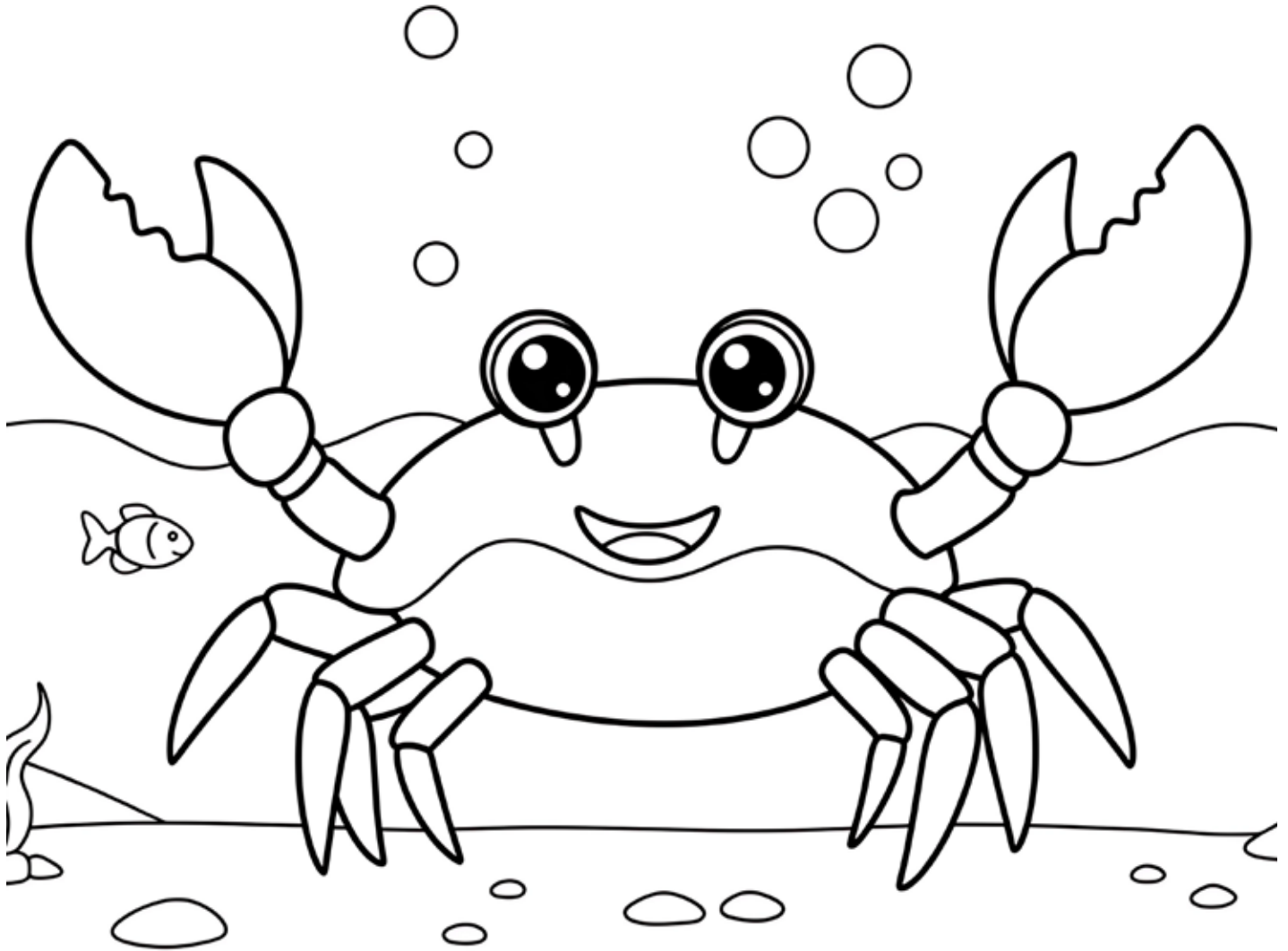
We are looking for sponsors for the Clueless Crossword on a month by month basis. Marsha would be happy to use words to do with your business as the words that get put in the puzzle. Call for more details! 260-463-4901.

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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 July. Mail submission to: LaGwana, Coloring Contest, PO Box 70, Shipshewana, IN 46565. **Entry deadline is June 23, 2026.**

Address: _____

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Clueless CROSSWORD Solution

By Marsha Patrick
to the puzzle on page 56.

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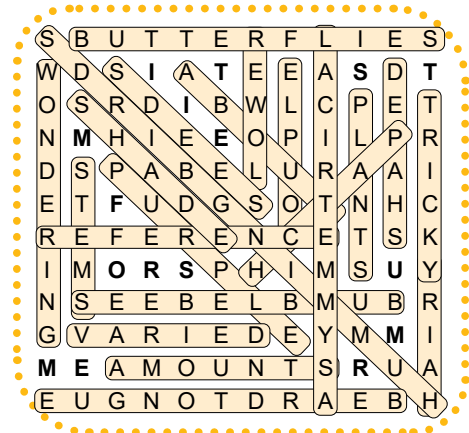
SWIMMING
FATHERSDAY
BARBECUES
SCIENCE
SUMMER
MAERCCEC
LEMONADE
VACATION
SCIENCE
SUNSHINE
DANCING
AMPS
SCIENCE
SUMMER

A PIANO!



Riddle on page 56.

Solution to puzzle on page 55



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

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

**IT'S TIME
FOR SUMMER!**

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Topeka 3rd & 4th of July

3 - ON - 3 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Friday, July 3, 2026

Check-in/Registration: 7:15-7:45 am
Games start at approximately 8 am.

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

Open Division *(no age groups)*

CAPTAIN Age _____
(as of July 3)

Shirt Size *(all adult sizes):*

S M L XL

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

S M L XL

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

S M L XL

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

S M L XL

Teams limited to 4 players. All games will have referees. (Their decisions are final!) Trophies will be awarded for first and second place teams in each division. Tournament is double elimination. Must be at least three entries in a given division for competition to take place. Each team to pay \$60 student/\$75 open division entry fee with registration.

Cash Prizes

STARTS AT APPROX. 2 PM

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.



T-Shirts for everybody!
All games will have refs!

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 June 12, 2026

Student Division \$60

Open Division \$75

Make checks payable to LaGwana.

Send completed form and entry fee to:

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

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

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