

May 2023 • Vol. 24 Num. 05

The *Homestead* Treasure



**Westview
Alumni Returns
to Court and Classroom**

**Heart of Gold
Nominations**

**Meals of Hope
Food Delivery
Program**



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HANDS-ON EDUCATION

The 8th Grade Introduction to Agriculture Food and Natural Resources (AGFNR) took learning outside the walls of Westview with a new maple syrup lesson. Students collected close to 600 gallons of sap and worked with Steven Miller at High Point Maple in Shipshewana to process the sap to syrup. The process began by tapping the trees the first week of February. By the time the 8th grade Ag parent night rolled around on March 22, the classes had enough syrup to serve about 350 people. The turnout of parents and community supporters was impressive.

While talking about the project, Mr. Rich Bender, co-teacher of AGFNR said, "I'd like to thank Steven Miller of High Point Maple for lending us his equipment, processing the sap, and

working with the school to make this project a reality."

While High Point Maple processed the majority of the sap, Intro to AGFNR teachers Rich Bender and Morgan Alexander wanted to incorporate the

process into the food science portion of the classroom and allowed students to cook a portion of the sap during class.

In the future, the goal is to expand the operation and produce more sap next year.



Parents and students enjoying the pancake dinner for 8th Grade Ag Night.



Far left: Daniel Yoder collecting sap from the trees outside Westview

Students collected close to 600 gallons of sap.



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Westview School Corporation Administrative Offices
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IN WESTVIEW'S WOODS

"I'd like to thank Steven Miller of High Point Maple for lending us his equipment, processing the sap, and working with the school to make this project a reality."

— Mr. Rich Bender



Left: Alivia Miller
Right: Janie Fry, Emily Bontrager, and Diane Miller make pancakes for the parents



Left: Andrea Lehman, Lachelle Miller, and Tresa Lambright taking a break from making pancakes on parent night.



The classes had enough syrup to serve about 350 people.



The Hometown Treasure

A Monthly Publication by
LaGwana Circulation: 6,000

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

Mail: P.O. Box 70, Shipshewana, IN 46565
Located at the SE corner of 250N & 850W
Just west of Shipshewana

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

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Monday - Friday, 8 am-5 pm

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12 noon, Tuesday, May 23

Thursday, May 18 if you need a proof.

June Issue Date is Tuesday, May 31

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From the Editor



Community and Traditions

I lived in Dayton, Ohio for about a year and a half after I graduated from college. I love the hustle and bustle of big cities and how there are always new things to see and places to go. Regardless, I have a soft spot for the country and I missed quite a few things from home.

I missed driving down the backroads I grew up on and seeing horses grazing, and I missed being able to see the stars at night. More importantly, I missed my family and my friends. Because of the distance and the requirements of my job at the time, I was unable to come back for special occasions and certain holidays. I made some amazing friends in Dayton who included me in some of the city's festivities, but even then, I struggled to feel at home there.

I felt a sense of belonging when I came back to Shipshewana. It was easy to get settled in because I spent many years learning the area growing up, but even more so because of the people here. This community is filled with kind and welcoming neighbors; maintaining such bonds with our friends and neighbors keeps our county connected as a whole.

In the Historical Feature this month, Harold describes a past

tradition that formed a strong bond in the community regarding Handel's Messiah. Even today, we uphold traditional events, like the upcoming Mayfest Celebration, that allow us to continue to connect with each other and get involved in our community. Be sure to check out the Mayfest insert within the issue to get all the information about the celebration. There are many fun activities planned and talented entertainment groups to see!

As always, feel free to write us to let us know what kinds of articles and content you would like to see. We love to hear from our readers and explore new topics! We'd also love to partner with area businesses to bring you editorial content that appeals to you. Please send your thoughts, comments, and recommendations to The Hometown Treasure, PO Box 70, Shipshewana IN 46565, or email them to news@lagwana.com.

Best Wishes,

Chloe Lovell
The Hometown Treasure Editor



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Don't Sink

A sinkhole was discovered in the concrete parking lot of a local entity. The excavator who was called on to repair the hole was shocked at his findings. Digging 30 by 60 feet wide and some 9 feet down, it appeared the area may have been a burial ground for debris from the 1965 tornado. Amongst the treasures were an 8,000-pound tree, a mangled bicycle, and a trailer hitch. Over 58 years, these items began to rot and shift. Air pockets formed, causing the earth around them to give way, concrete and all.

A life lesson stared back at me as I stared into that big hole. Debris, buried and forgotten for 58 years, had caused considerable destruction. I imagine the farmer who dug the hole worked tirelessly to eliminate every reminder of that horrific day. Palm Sunday 1965,

when twin twisters ripped through our community, leaving a swath of death and destruction. He shoved the debris down into the earth and rebuilt his life.


I thought about past “storms” in my life and the destruction they have left behind. Have I buried that wreckage deep into my soul, thinking they will no longer harm me, only for them to be unearthed later? Or worse yet, do I occasionally go back to the hiding place and dig them up? The bitterness I haven’t dealt with, people I haven’t forgiven, unhealed wounds of broken relationships?

Can you relate? Do you have any past hurts that you’ve shoved down deep? The items in the sinkhole eventually wreaked havoc – will our hidden pain finally do the same in our lives? Well, I’m not a psychologist, but in my experience, anything that I have shoved down deep and not dealt with has eventually returned to haunt me. Why? Because instead of learning from it or getting rid of it, I have just stored it away in my heart for a while.

Sure, it’s difficult to not remember hard things that

happen in life. The loss of a loved one, financial demise, beating cancer, and the list could go on. A friend once told me that she can forgive and forget but never forgets the lessons she learned from the experience. She doesn’t want to. Those lessons are the fruit that has sprouted from the hurt we have planted. The lessons learned when cleaning up the debris from our personal storms are what propel us forward into a future filled with wisdom and hope.

When Israel became stuck between the past and the future, God revealed himself to them through Isaiah the prophet, giving them great hope. He says in Isaiah 43:18, “Forget the former things, do not dwell on the past. See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”

This is a great word for me as I deal with the junk I have buried and refuse the lesson it speaks into my life. Dwelling on the former things doesn’t do me (or you) any good. They may cause us to sink. Let our focus be on the hope that springs eternal from the solid foundation of Jesus Christ! He is doing a new thing! 



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Smart Choices

By Connie Lehman, RD at Topeka Pharmacy

Functional Foods: More Than Just Fuel

The term “functional foods” has recently been used to categorize foods that help create optimal health by decreasing the risk of chronic disease development, optimizing digestion, decreasing inflammation or improving mental health. Some examples follow.

Decrease the Risk of Chronic Disease

Vegetables and Whole Fruits are loaded with fiber, vitamins, minerals and antioxidants, many of which have important health benefits. People who eat more vegetables and fruits tend to be at lower risk for heart disease, stroke, diabetes, certain cancers and obesity, and also tend to display better mental health. Adding even one or two more servings a day would provide health benefits.

Whole Grains eaten daily also are linked to better heart health and a lower risk of developing a stroke or certain cancers. Whole grains include whole wheat items, rolled oats, quinoa and brown rice.

Fish eaten twice weekly provides Omega-3 fatty acids which are important in lowering inflammation in the body, improving brain health and decreasing the risk of heart disease and stroke.

Optimize Digestion

Fiber in foods provides our digestive system with what it needs to function optimally. Whole grains, Vegetables, Whole Fruits and Beans are examples of foods high in fiber. Fiber functions to feed the healthy bacteria in the gut and to provide enough roughage to avoid constipation.

Cultured and Fermented Foods are foods with good bacteria added. Yogurt, Kefir, Kimchi and Kombucha all help increase the healthy levels of good bacteria in the gut, called the microbiome. Eating functional foods increases the health of the microbiome and so provides wellness to the whole body.


Decrease Inflammation

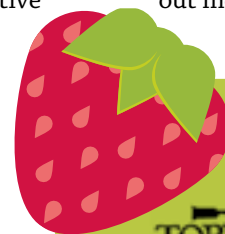
While a healthy diet generally helps fight inflammation, there are certain foods that make most lists of anti-inflammatory foods, including *berries, broccoli, leafy greens, almonds and walnuts, fatty fish, green tea, tomatoes and dark chocolate.*

Improve Mental Health

Leafy Greens, Fish, Fruits and Vegetables have been linked to feeling happier with less depression and better thinking skills when eaten more frequently. Getting patients to include functional foods for mental health is sometimes referred to as “nutritional psychiatry.”

Every day we have a choice to eat foods that feed our bodies well. Topeka Pharmacy is here to help you learn about better food choices with our wellness program. Call us at 260-593-2252 to find

out more! 



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Take Advantage of Higher IRA Limits

Over the past year, the rising cost of living has certainly been challenging. But for investors, there's at least one silver lining to inflation: a higher IRA contribution limit.

IRAs have been around for nearly half a century, but they've only been pegged to inflation since 2001. The contribution limit has risen every few years since then, with the last increase coming in 2019. Now, in 2023, the annual IRA contribution limit has moved up from \$6,000 last year to \$6,500. If you're 50 or older, you can put in up to \$7,500 a year, up from \$7,000 in 2022.

If you've already established an automatic investment plan for your IRA, you could consider bumping up your payments to accommodate the new, higher limits. However, if you can afford it, you may want to fully fund your IRA as soon as possible so the money can potentially grow throughout

the year. The last day to contribute to your 2022 IRA was April 18 of this year, but you can contribute to your 2023 IRA any time from now until April 15, 2024.

If you haven't opened an IRA yet, you might want

to do so now to take advantage of the higher contribution limits. Depending on your situation, you could contribute either to a Roth or traditional IRA. Here are the basics for each one:

Roth IRA

When you invest in a Roth IRA, your earnings and withdrawals are free from federal taxes, provided you've had your account for at least five years and you don't start taking money out until you're 59½ or older. In 2023, you can contribute the full amount to a Roth IRA if you are single and your modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) is less than \$138,000. Above that amount, your contributions will be reduced until they are phased out completely at \$153,000. If you're married and file jointly, this "phase-out range" is \$218,000 – \$228,000.

Traditional IRA

Generally, you can invest in a traditional IRA regardless of your income level.


If you and your spouse don't have a 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan, your contributions are typically tax deductible. If you or your spouse do have such a plan, the tax de-

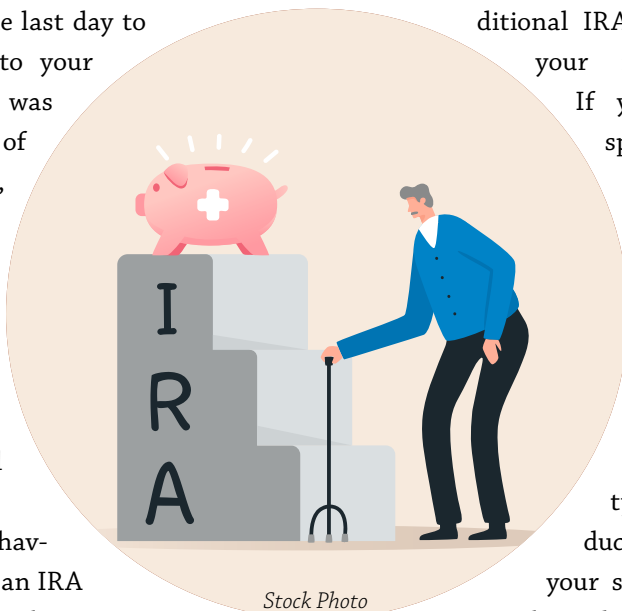
ductibility will depend on your income level. But regardless of whether your contributions are deductible, your earnings can grow on a tax-deferred basis.

If you have a choice, which IRA should you pick? The decision largely revolves around this question: Would you benefit more from the traditional IRA tax deduction (assuming you qualify for it) or the tax-free withdrawals of a Roth IRA? And the answer mostly depends on whether your tax rate will be higher or lower during your retirement.

If you are confident you'll be in a higher tax bracket when you retire, the Roth IRA might be the better choice because of its tax-free withdrawals. But if you think you'll be in a lower tax bracket, you might benefit by taking the upfront tax breaks of a traditional IRA.

Of course, if you're still many years away from retirement, it can be difficult to estimate your future tax bracket. Your tax advisor may be able to provide some guidance.

An IRA is one of the most popular retirement savings vehicles around — and for good reason. Consider putting one to work for you in 2023. 



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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 May 2023.
All activities are In-Person unless noted. If you have any questions, please call the LaGrange library for further information.

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.—6:00 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.

Find more information at www.lagrange.lib.in.us or call 260-463-2841.

Facebook Page - m.facebook.com/lagrangelibraryindiana

Youth Department

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

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

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

Topeka • Wednesdays, May 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 • 11 a.m.

Teen Games (Grades 6-12)

LaGrange • Monday, May 8 • 4-5:45 p.m.

Please sign up—either by calling or registering on our website.

We will be learning new board or card games and playing our favorites. Come enjoy some non-electronic games while snacking and chatting with other teens!

Homeschool Group (All Ages)

Dallas Lake Park • Friday, May 12 • Register by May 5 • 10 a.m.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED! Register on our website or by calling.

One meeting all together this month at Dallas Lake Park!

Leslie at the LaGrange County Parks Department will meet us at the Sweetgum Shelter at the park to lead us down to the pond boardwalk and do a water critter study and water quality testing. Dress for the weather, as we will possibly get wet and dirty. Bring your own lunch to eat together after the program before we take a break for the summer. Meet in the Dallas Lake Lodge if it is too wet or cold.

Elementary Book Club (Grades 1-3)

LaGrange • Tuesday, May 16 • 4 p.m.

We will discuss "Stick Dog," do a fun activity, and pass out the next book club book. Sign up in the youth department by checking out this month's book.

Middle Grade Book Club (Grades 4-7)

LaGrange • Tuesday, May 16 • 4 p.m.

We will discuss "Nevermoor, the Trials of Morrigan Crow," do a fun activity, and pass out the next book club book. Sign up in the youth department by checking out this month's book.

Teen Book Chat & Craft (Grades 8-12)

LaGrange • Monday, May 22 • 4 p.m.

We will discuss "The False Prince," make a fun craft, and pass out the book for next month. Sign up in the youth department by checking out this month's book.

Lego: Build an Escape Room! (Ages 10+ or Grades 4+)

LaGrange • Wednesday, May 17, 24, and 31 • 4-5:30 p.m.

A 3-week program with a set up/test day June 26. MUST REGISTER ON OUR WEBSITE OR BY CALLING. SEATING IS LIMITED!

We will be using the book "Build Your Own Lego Escape Room" to build a Safari Adventure Escape Room to be used in the library on June 26-30. Note that participants who help design the escape room are encouraged to come help set-up, run, and test the room in June but will not be able to try the escape room as they will know all of the solutions. You can tell all of your friends about the great room you designed and invite them to come try it! You are welcome to sign up even if you are unable to attend all sessions, just notify us upon sign up.

Movie and Popcorn (All Ages)

LaGrange • Friday, May 26 • 6 p.m.

Movie: "Meet the Robinsons," Rated G.

Free popcorn provided. Bring your own covered drink if desired.

Youth Department (continued)

Children's Summer Reading Program! (Ages 5-18)

All Branches • June 1 - July 31

Sign up starts June 1 at any library branch. Watch our website, Facebook page and in any library branch for fun programs and activities all summer as well as a reading challenge to earn prizes for reading! Programs and activities will be available for kids of all ages.

Adult Interest

Win a 2023 Indiana State Park Pass!

All Branches and Bookmobile • May 1 - May 31

Each time you visit the library during May 2023, put your name in a drawing to win a State Park Pass! Enter at any LaGrange County Public Library branch or on the bookmobile. Must be 18 or older. One entry per visit.

Second Saturday Book Club (Ages 16+)

LaGrange • Saturday, May 13 • 11 a.m.

This month we'll discuss *The Sound of Gravel* by Ruth Wariner. Ruth Wariner was the 39th of her father's 42 children. Growing up on a farm in rural Mexico, authorities turned a blind eye to the practices of her community, where preachers taught that women can only ascend to Heaven by entering polygamous marriages and giving birth to as many children as possible. As Ruth begins to doubt her family's beliefs and question her mother's choices, she struggles to balance her fierce love for her siblings with her determination to forge a better life for herself. Copies of the book are available at the LaGrange Library's Adult Desk.

Patchwork Trails - Lonidaw Nature Preserve (All Ages)

987 N Allen Chapel Road, Kendallville • Tuesday, May 16 • 6 p.m.

Patchwork Trails combines exercise, education, friendship, and fun! We'll look at what's blooming, what's singing, what's flying, and what's underfoot. Walks will be led by Leslie Arnold of LaGrange Co. Parks & Recreation. No fees or registration required, just meet at the designated starting point.

Make & Take with Deb (Ages 12+)

LaGrange • Wednesday, May 17 • 6 p.m.

Cost is \$20, registration & \$10 deposit due by May 10.

We will make two different pieces of "scandi-style" décor from unfinished wood. Some also describe it as "Ikea Style." One is a budvase-type taller container and the other is a round bowl or vase. All materials will be supplied.

Painting with Carl Mosher (Ages 12+)

LaGrange • Friday, May 19 • 1-4 p.m.

Even if you've never painted before, you'll be amazed at what you're capable of! Carl will supply all the materials. Cost is \$25 payable to Carl at class. Classes fill fast - Call today to sign up! Please register at 260-463-2841 x1030.

Cookbook Club

LaGrange • Saturday, May 27 • 11 a.m.

Cookbook Club is a great way to meet new people and try new things! Check out the cookbook of the month at LaGrange's Adult Services Desk. Choose a recipe, cook it, and bring it to the Cookbook Club Carry-In. Plates, silverware, coffee, and tea will be provided. Families welcome.

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The Hometown Treasure • May '23

Surviving Loss by Suicide

Support Group Invites Survivors to Heal Through Connection

If someone you love has lost their life by suicide, you may feel alone as you try to cope with complex and difficult feelings. But you don't need to stay in that lonely place. Reaching out to others can help you process your grief and find strength in community.

The Surviving Loss by Suicide support group offers a compassionate, healing environment where you can connect with others on a similar journey.

Support group leaders Jeff Helmuth, EMS supervisor and paramedic with Parkview LaGrange EMS, and his wife, Tonya, understand how important it can be for survivors to lean on others as they deal with complicated emotions. The couple lost their son to suicide in 2015.

Now they have a passion for suicide prevention and family support after a suicide, particularly for rural residents who may live far from such services in larger metropolitan areas. Both have completed American Foundation for

Suicide Prevention training to lead group discussions, and they launched the Surviving Loss by Suicide support group several years ago. Unfortunately, the arrival of COVID-19 meant having to suspend the group temporarily.

Now the Helmuths are hoping people will once again come to find solace and healing in this support group.

"As suicide survivors, we need emotional support after our worst day," said Helmuth. "Grief is grief, but suicide adds a whole other dimension to it."

Helmuth also serves as a trainer for the QPR (question, persuade, refer) suicide prevention training offered by Parkview LaGrange.

The group held its first meeting of 2023 on April 18 in the LifeBridge Room on the lower level of Parkview LaGrange Hospital. The next meeting will



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be held on May 16, with meetings continuing to be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month.

Surviving Loss by Suicide is appropriate for anyone age 18 or older whose life has been affected by the loss of a loved one due to suicide. Children ages 14-17 may participate when accompanied by a parent or guardian. New members may join at any time.

For more information, contact Jeff Helmuth at 260-463-9492 or jeffrey.helmuth@parkview.com.

Parkview LaGrange Hospital is located at 207 North Townline Road in LaGrange. ①

Thrive By 5 Launches and Seeks Emerging Providers

Thrive by 5, the Early Childhood Coalition serving LaGrange and Noble Counties, is ready to launch! For the past several months, the early childhood coalitions in each county have been working together to create one combined coalition. With support from the Northeast Indiana Regional Early Childhood Coalition and Gensyn Design, the Thrive by 5 Steering Committee has developed a strategic plan and action teams that will support the work in both counties to increase the capacity, affordability, and quality of child care and early learning programs throughout the communities.

Those in the community can either take an active role in the coalition by joining one of the action teams to address a specific issue, or can take a passive role by being a supporter and receiving communications from the coalition as the work continues. There will also be opportunities announced to invest in the work of the coalition, which will not only support the role of the coordinator, but will help provide funding.

Thrive by 5 wants to meet people they are calling "emerging child-care providers." To start the search for emerging providers, we are host-

ing a meeting for anyone interested in talking with Thrive by 5. It will be held on Thursday, May 4 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Linder's Tavern on Main (211 S. Detroit St., LaGrange). Thrive by 5 will be providing a buffet of Linder's Tavern specialties.

Please RSVP at <https://bit.ly/EmergingProviders2>. If you aren't able to make it but still want to talk with us, send an email to jenna@thriveby5coalition.org, or call coalition coordinator Jenna Anderson at 260-445-3369.

Learn more about Thrive by 5 at www.thriveby5coalition.org. ①

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LaGrange County Community Foundation Accepting 2023

Heart of Gold Nominations

The LaGrange County Community Foundation is seeking nominations for its 14th annual Heart of Gold award, an honor given to an individual making a difference in the lives of others through volunteerism.

The Heart of Gold award honors LaGrange County citizens who embrace a volunteer spirit and unselfishly give of themselves to serve others.

Previous Heart of Gold recipients are

Allisa Brown, 2022; Shanon Staton and Dean Domer, 2021; Erica Cook, 2020; Richard Yoder, 2019; Larry Strayer, 2018; Kevin Lambright, 2017; Steve Sherck, 2016; Sue Keenan, 2015; Jack Miller, 2014; Randy Packer, 2013; Colton Strawser, 2012; Rhonda Bartlett, 2011; and Dave Clark, 2010.

Nominations are sought for individuals who: recognize needs and fulfill them; share time and energy for the sake of others; render a service which changes lives; work to create positive change; and inspire others to volunteer.

"Every year we are humbled by the generosity in our community. We are humbled by the hearts of individuals who continue to give their time to volunteering without an expectation of anything in return. They serve because they care and have a passion for their mission. The Community Foundation admires their hearts,


and it is our honor to recognize those who serve in LaGrange County," said Executive Director Octavia Yoder.

While many people go above and beyond and do great things on the job, the Heart of Gold award is designed to honor the many volunteers who make a difference serving LaGrange County nonprofits and community programs.

Nominations for the 2023 Heart of Gold award will be accepted through Monday, May 1, 2023. The Community Foundation Board of Directors will select the 2023 recipient from the submitted nominations.

All nominees will be recognized at the LaGrange County Community Foundation Annual Event on Monday, June 12. The

2023 Heart of Gold recipient will be announced at the evening event and will have the opportunity to direct a \$1,000 grant to the LaGrange County charity of his or her choice from a list approved and provided by the Community Foundation.

The 2023 Heart of Gold award nomination form is available at the Community Foundation office or online at www.lccf.net/heart-of-gold-nomination-form. Nominations can be submitted online or sent to the Community Foundation at 0045 N 250 W, LaGrange, Indiana 46761. For more information, please call 463-4363. 



Rhodes Promoted to Vice President

Lake City Bank is pleased to announce that Allie L. Rhodes has been promoted to Vice President, Retail Banking Regional Manager, a position in which she leads the bank's Central Region Retail team. The region includes nine branch offices across Elkhart, LaGrange, Noble and Marshall counties.

Rhodes joined the bank nine years ago as a part-time Retail Banker. She worked her way up as an Assistant Retail Banking Manager of the Elkhart East branch and as a Retail Banking Officer at the Jimtown and South Bend Downtown branches prior to her new role.

"Allie is an excellent leader and has proven to be a strong team player in her time at the bank," said Stephanie R. Leniski, Senior Vice President, Chief Retail Banking Officer. "We're looking forward to her influence and leadership in our Central Region."

Rhodes volunteers with Lake City Bank's Reality Store Program and teaches Money Smart classes.

Lake City Bank, a \$6.4 billion bank headquartered in Warsaw, Indiana, is the sixth largest bank headquartered in the state, and the largest bank 100% invested in Indiana. Lake City Bank operates 52 branch offices in northern and central Indiana, delivering technology-driven solutions in a client-centric way to individuals and businesses. The bank is the single bank subsidiary of Lakeland Financial Corporation (Nasdaq Global Select/LKFN). For more information visit lakecitybank.com. 



Preschool Enrollment

Shipshewana Cooperative Preschool
 Preschool enrollment has opened for the
 2023 - 2024 school year at
 Shipshewana Cooperative Preschool.

We have been located at the Shipshewana
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 Mechele Schlabach,
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Food Delivery Program

Summer break is an exciting time for students but for some parents, it is a struggle to make ends meet. Meals of Hope Inc. wants to help ease the stress on these families. Meals of Hope is a non-profit organization that works to aid families experiencing food insecurity in the community.


The organization began its food delivery program in the summer of 2020 when the pandemic kept many people from working. Meals of Hope began focusing on the youth of the Topeka area, providing meals to kids during summer break when students were not receiving meals at school.

The organization found that food insecurity is common among families in the county. With this food delivery program, Meals of Hope found a way to better connect with people in LaGrange County. The program has since grown to serve students that attend schools within the county and provide more meals for each child during additional school breaks like Spring Break and Christmas Break.

For each delivery season, Meals of Hope members buy food to be packed into meals for kids. Using one of the two pre-determined delivery routes, members then deliver the packaged meals straight to the family's doorstep. Every family served receives a week's worth of meals and snacks for each child in the household. These meals and snacks consist of various prepackaged foods like macaroni and cheese cups, crackers, fresh fruits and veggies, and more.

The organization set several goals for delivery in 2023. These goals include adding a third delivery route, expanding their services to kids who are home-schooled, and increasing the number

of meals given to each child. The overall goal, however, is to reach all those who need these services.

Meals of Hope will begin food delivery for summer break on June 6 this year and will continue each week on Tuesday. There are several opportunities available for those in the community who are willing to help, such as sponsoring a child, donating food or money, or helping pack meals. If you have any questions or are in need of this service, you can reach out to mealsofhopeinc2022@gmail.com or contact Sonja Giggy at 260-336-3528. 

MEALS OF HOPE, INC.

A food delivery program for youth in LaGrange County dealing with food insecurity



You can donate any amount or sponsor a child:

(based on recent delivery averages)

\$10/week

\$40/month

\$90/summer

Donations payable to:

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PO Box 73-LaGrange

Would you rather donate from our food list:

contact us to see what specific food needs you can help provide for our deliveries

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Do you have time to spare?

You can help pack meals:


to volunteer to pack contact: Dawn Christner @ 463-1170

Questions or in need of service ?

contact Sonja Giggy @ 336-3528
email: mealsofhopeinc2022@gmail.com



Westview Spring Play

Caffeine overload; class project deadlines; cafeteria food; teacher's pet; standardized tests; college applications; trying to fit in but still stand out; burned-out teachers. If any of these stir a hesitant shudder of memory, come join us in appreciating the comedic side of them as Westview Theatre presents *The Perils of Modern Education*, a comedy by Matt Webster. Presented in the Wilson Auditorium on April 29 at 7:00pm and April 30 at 2:30pm. Tickets are \$5.00 at the door. 

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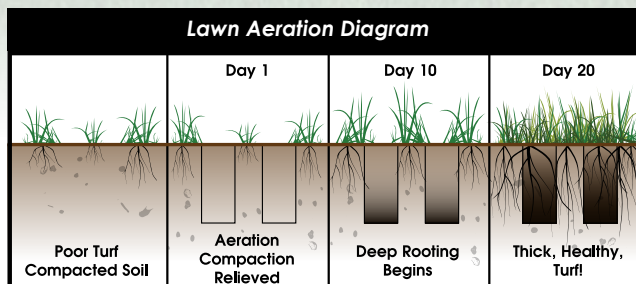


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- Stimulates root growth and fertilizer absorption rate
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- Helps defend your lawn against drought and weeds
- Promotes a thicker, healthier and greener lawn

Farver School Museum Seasonal Opening

The Shipshewana Area Historical Society's (SAHS) Farver School Museum will have its seasonal opening on Friday, May 5 and Saturday, May 6 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. The building, located across from the Shipshewana Post Office, will be open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays during the summer from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Tours may be scheduled during the summer months by contacting Steve Frisk (260-336-1501) or Sharon Bowen (260-768-4777). The SAHS will be selling King's BBQ chicken again this summer for a fundraiser starting in July.

The first meeting this year will be on Monday, May 15 at 6:30 p.m. in the Farver School Museum; the public is invited to attend. The guest speakers will be the Indiana Society of the Chil-

dren of the American Revolution (CAR), where Melany Weaver of Shipshewana is the Senior President of the Jacob Leer chapter.


CAR was founded in 1895 and is the oldest patriotic youth organization in our country. Membership is open to descendants (from birth to 22 years of age) of patriots of the American Revolution. They are supported by the Daughters of the American Revolution and Sons of the American Revolution. Members can participate at the local, state and national levels. The organization supports the military, practices conservation and has fun learning about history. The national website is nscar.org. Anyone with questions about joining or speaking engagements can call Melany at 260-350-9776. 

Free Homeschool Woodworking Workshop



Come to the Dallas Lake Lodge (0505 W 700 S, Wolcottville, IN, 46795) for a Woodworking Workshop on Thursday, May 4, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Join members from the Northeast Indiana Woodworkers to make an adorable wooden flower for Mother's Day or spring decoration. Minimum age is 8 years old. Children must be accompanied by an adult over 18.

Each child will get to cut dowel rods, sand, drill holes, and paint their flower. For safety, please have long hair tied back, no baggy clothing, and wear clothes suitable for painting. Flowers will be a variety of sizes; the tallest is 7.5 inches.

Space is limited to 20! RSVP by April 26, at 260-854-2225. This workshop is FREE! (Cash donations for supplies appreciated.) 

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- 5 Party on the Patio
- 11 Janie's Donuts*
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May Kids Club Birthdays

- 1 Jesse Hostetler, Emmalyn Smith, Aaliyah Martin
- 2 Kendra Bontrager, Harvey Hudson, David Miller, Chloe Swanson, Olivia Yoder
- 3 Megan Bruce
- 4 Brooklyn Stutzman, Brylee Wilson
- 5 Landyn Harvey, Alyssa Miller, Janessa Stutzman
- 6 Allyse Miller, Nicole Miller, Janessa Wingard, Jayonna Wingard, Kellan Winquist, Allison Yoder
- 7 James Bontrager, Nova Ethell, Rachel Troyer
- 8 Lucas Bontrager, Sharon Hochstetler, Autumn Lehman, Maram Omer, Thomas VanderRoest
- 9 Azhar Fadil, Jana Miller, Nicole Miller, Zoey Miller, Jack Stemm, Logan Vogt
- 10 Ayden Kloth, Maria Miller, Steven Miller
- 11 Ava Bontrager, Caleb Miller, Freya Ohweean, Obadiah Raber, Kenton Yoder
- 12 Kalaya Hostetler, Rory Lambright, Neil Miller, Kara Troyer, Trinity Wirick
- 13 Ethan Eash, Navviah Norris, Brent Troyer, Brooklyn Troyer
- 14 Glen Bontrager, Kylee Hostetler, Lanae Miller, Micah Miller, Dale Siples
- 15 Hadleigh Cotheman, Jacob Miller



- 16 Iliana Alviso, Jaylen Bontrager, Lyle Bontrager, Elena Bostain, Jeyden Howard, Victoria Lambright, Maci Miller, Holden Rheinheimer
- 17 Kobe Bell, Isaac Graber, Karina Yoder
- 18 Maverick Calvillo, Caroline Schlabach, Reese Troop
- 19 Remi Howard, Ethan Mast, Mackenzie Rodriguez, Myron Troyer
- 20 Colton Bender, Aaron Bontrager, Celise Bontrager, Janelle Bontrager, Alisyn Tetzloff, Todd Troyer
- 21 Winchester Altimus, Adrian Beechy, Jayda Beechy, Jude Gingerich, Aiden Miller, Hayden Moon, Bryson Trowbridge, Maddox Wolfe
- 22 Kirsten Slabach
- 23 Natalie Fillmore, Addalyn Miller, Layla Miller, Tanner Porter, Lance Stutzman, Jared Yoder
- 24 Ethan Bontrager, Malachi Bunch, Carter Cranor
- 25 Xaviah Howard, Ronnie Mast, Eric Miller
- 26 Kameron Meyers, Ryland Neeley
- 27 Dalton Brown, Ethan Kemp, Jerrick Schrock, Lanzae Slabach
- 28 Rylie Beechy, Dustin Mast, Grayson Miller, Jana Miller, Maciah Miller, Penelope Smokewood
- 30 Melissa Miller, Bethany Raber, Brayden Schlabach, Sapheria Wolf



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Gaga Ball Comes to Meadowview

Over spring break, Meadowview principal Nikki Helmuth had a gaga ball pit installed on the playground for kids to play at recess.

Gaga ball is a type of dodgeball played in an octagon-shaped fence, or "pit." Players may only hit the ball with their hands, and if a player is hit by the ball anywhere below the knee, they are out. The game is played until only one player is left.

Students learned how to play the game the week they returned from spring break. PE teachers Taylor Eash and Kim Mays taught the rules to students during their classes so students would be able to play gaga ball at recess the following week.

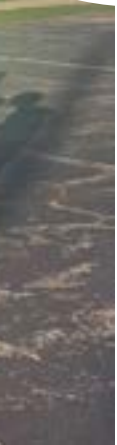
Although kindergartners are too young to play gaga ball, the rest of the grades thoroughly enjoy the game. A majority of students in each grade run straight to the pit at the beginning of recess and play until they are called back into the building. Gaga ball is an exciting new addition to Meadowview's playground! 



This page made possible by the



Meadowview Elementary Home of the Mustangs



Third Quarter

Shipshe-Scott celebrated the end of the third quarter with an award ceremony to honor students who exhibited positive behaviors the past nine weeks. Each class handed out awards for Shining Citizens as well as



Kindergarten Personal Best: Back (left to right): Alivia Schlabach, Brooklyn Troyer, Taya Yoder and Aliyah Bunton. Front: Cameron Miller, Weston Troyer, Nolan Lambright and Sullivan Rahn.

Photo Submitted



Kindergarten Shining Citizens: Back (left to right): Alex Yoder, Owen Weimer, Michael Kline and Beckham Shepard. Front: Kais Forbes, Brylee Wilson, Cora Carman and Addalyn Burgess.

Photo Submitted



Second Grade Personal Best: Back (left to right): Janae Stutzman, Abigail Abney, Noelle Amsden and Finley Berkey. Front: Ryan Schwartz, Isaiah Miller, Colin Troyer and Brent Troyer.

Photo Submitted



Second Grade Shining Citizens: Back (left to right): Austin Miller, James Bontrager, Blake Miller, Lucas Yoder and Micah Miller. Front: Sadie Mast, Autumn Lehman, Janessa Wingard and Abigail Abney.

Photo Submitted



Third Grade Personal Best: Back (left to right): Preslee Rahn and Chloe Swanson. Front: Austin Schlabach, Bryson Mullet and Zach Mullins.

Photo Submitted



This page made possible by the
Shipshe-Scott Elementary Home of the Scotties

Awards Ceremony



First Grade Personal Best: Back (left to right): Ava Miller, Danielle Mehrey, Bella Horner and Brynlee Wingard. Front: Ethan Mast, Tyler Lambright and Cameron Bontrager. Photo Submitted



First Grade Shining Citizens: Back (left to right): Evan Mast, Roarke Brohm and Daniel Lancour. Front: Bethany Miller, Kinsley Lambright, Lilly Miller and Lily Dalga. Photo Submitted

awards for students who always do their personal best. The staff thanks these students for being positive role models to their peers and helping our school be such a great place to be! 🏆



Third Grade Shining Citizens: (left to right): Krystal Schlabach, Lydia Long, Jariah Lehman and Cameron McDonald. Photo Submitted



Fourth Grade Personal Best (Left Photo): Back (left to right): Alicia Bontrager, Kaitlyn Yoder and Mariah Miller. Front: Jamin Yoder, Kole Moon and Austin Yoder. Photo Submitted



Fourth Grade Shining Citizens (Right Photo): Back (left to right): Tyson Yoder, Andrew Yoder and Kenlin Mast. Front: Sofia Martinez-Diaz, Janice Miller and Brinley Kraft. Photo Submitted



This page sponsored by



Putting the Fun in Fundraiser...And Everything Else

As part of its Bears that Care initiative, Topeka Elementary collected money for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's program Pennies for Patients. At the end of the two weeks, the students raised a total of \$1,098.05.

The students also enjoyed participating in "Fun Fridays" throughout the month of March to beat the winter blues and jump into spring! They celebrated Seuss Day, Twin Day, Sports Day, Class Color Day, and Beach Day. The staff and students loved getting to dress up and celebrate the coming of Spring together!

Meanwhile, third grade students spent many weeks working hard to research, write an informational essay, and create a poster about an animal. They then invited their families to the school to share their presentations. The

students did an amazing job and all of the guests learned so much about all the different animals! 🐾





3rd Grading Period Outstanding Citizens: (in no particular order): Melody Yoder, 5A; Cash Miller, 5B; Kendall Lambright, 5C; Maci Miller, 5D; Jayla Lehman, 5E; Trynten Faulkner, 5F; Kayla Schwartz, 5G; Brooklyn Stutzman, 5H; Olivia Yoder, 6A; Lucas Swanson, 6B; Karla Miller, 6C; Janelle R. Bontrager, 6D; Tyrone Baccol, 6E; Kaydence Mosher, 6G; Alyssa Miller, 6H and Ana Wingard, 6I. Photo Submitted

Busy Days of Fun & Learning

Students have been busy with projects and fun as they continue to learn.

The outstanding citizens are chosen based on the following: They are responsible for their behavior, responsible for their assignments, show respect for adults and peers, serve as role models for other students, respect the property and rights of others, display good manners, participate in the classroom and other school activities, are honest and trustworthy, and they are courteous and cooperative.


PTO provided coupons to JoJo's Pretzels and Kitchen Cupboard along with various food treats. Congratulations to the winners for the third grading period!

S t u -
dents in 6I

spent the first part of the new year doing their required research paper over a famous person. As an extension to their paper, they had to write a two to three minute speech and dress up as their famous person for our annual Wax Museum. Other classes were invited to come see our Wax Museum exhibit!

Students in Mr. Yoder's sixth grade class are building ecosystem dioramas and food webs. They had to research the

organisms in their assigned ecosystem to see what lives there, what the organisms consume or get their energy from, and create a food web from their research.

On Tuesday, March 21 the fantastic fifth graders of Westview Elementary performed an amazing show, "Pirates." These students were energetic and sounded wonderful! We are so proud of them! 



This page made possible by the



Westview Elementary

Home of
the Warriors



Westview Girl's Tennis

The Warriors Girl's Tennis team played the Angola Hornets at Westview on Thursday, April 13. Both JV and Varsity teams triumphed over Angola; Varsity, 5-0 and JV, 3-1. These wins raise Westview to 2-0 in their regular season and 1-0 in the NECC. Congratulations to our Lady Warriors!

Varsity:

- 1 singles Paige Riegsecker defeated Ava Harris; 6-1, 7-5
 - 2 singles Maddie Stults defeated Maya Harris; 6-1, 6-1
 - 3 singles Bailey Kenner defeated McKenna Powers; 6-3, 6-4
 - 1 doubles Ella Clark & Ava Brown defeated Alli Christman & Frances Krebs; 6-3, 6-1
 - 2 doubles Ella Yoder & Jen Osorio-Luna defeated Evelyn Stoy & Reese Weber; 6-3, 6-0.
- JV Westview:
- 1 singles WV Kristen Bender defeated Makayla Zeeb; 6-0
 - 2 singles WV Miley Mast defeated Anya Shannon; 6-0
 - 1 doubles WV Lanita Mast & Ava Hostetler defeated Jhuri Cassidy & Karly Nelson; 7-5
 - 2 doubles WV Lexi Warren & Danika Yoder lost to Shay Vought & Giada Costain; 2-6.

On Saturday, April 15, Westview's Girls Tennis competed at the East Noble Invitational. The schools at the tourney included Concord, East Noble, New Haven, Columbia City, Canterbury, Chesterton, South Adams, and Westview. Chesterton won the tournament,

but Westview finished 2nd out of the 8 teams.

Westview's Maddie Stults won the 2 singles championship match by defeating Esther Williams from Concord; 6-0, 6-0. Maddie only dropped two games total the entire day.

The following are the overall tourney scores for the tennis team:

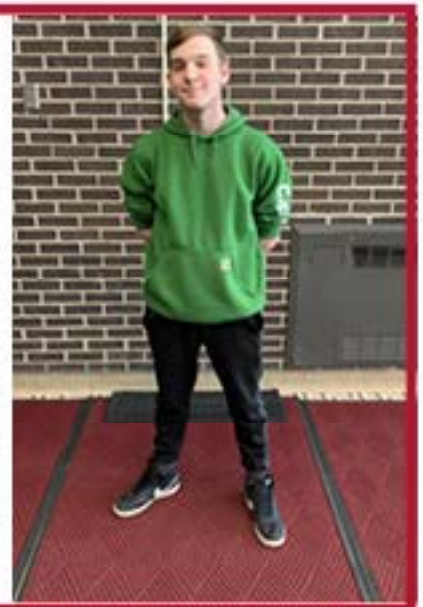
- 1 Singles: Paige Riegsecker finished 3rd overall.

- 2 Singles: Maddie Stults finished 1st overall.
- 3 Singles: Bailey Kenner, later substituted by Kristen Bender, finished 3rd overall.
- 1 Doubles: Ella Clark & Ava Brown, after a tough 5-7, 4-6 loss to Concord in the first round, finished 5th overall.
- 2 Doubles: Ella Yoder & Jen Osorio-Luna finished 4th overall. 🏆



Student Ambassador

Westview High School has selected one student to receive "Student Ambassador of the Month" honors for March 2023. This outstanding student, Dayton Boyer, was selected by his teachers for making a noteworthy accomplishment, a generous act, displaying great improvements, or having an outstanding individual achievement. Students like these make Westview a great place to attend. 🏆



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Westview Jr./Sr. High

Home of the Warriors



JH BOYS TENNIS


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JH Boys Tennis Team: Back (left to right): Coach Tyler Miller, Lucas Swanson, Ethan Miller, Luke Stults, Hudson Yoder and Pierce Yoder. Middle: Keegan Norberg, Carter Cranor, Avery Christner, Kaden Hostetler and Evan Roth. Front: Tanner Trittipo, Durrel Frey, Grady Yoder, Jaxon Miller, Blake Hostetler and Cameron Yoder-Martin.

Photo by Stopher-King Studios



JH GIRLS TENNIS

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JH Girls Tennis Team: Back (left to right): Alayah Hostetler, Karla Yoder, Camryn Christner, Addy Kauffman, Ava Chupp, Aurora Miller and Coach Tyler Miller. Front: Graci Engle, Jenna Miller, Kya Roose, Josie Ryall, Karleen Bender and Savannah Yoder.

Photo by Stopher-King Studios



JH BOYS GOLF

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JH Boys Golf Team: *Back (left to right): Devyn Whetstone, Liam Brill, Luke Haarer, Caedmon Gates and Coach Landon Bennett. Front: Cooper Fry, Christopher Ferguson, Tyler Brewer, Cooper Schwartz, Markus Garrett and Jace Kaufman.*

Photo by Stopher-King Studios



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- Registration Fee - \$20.00 (on or before 6/1/23). Late Registration Fee - \$30.00 (6/2/23-7/1/23).
- **Absolutely no registrations accepted after 7/1/23.**
- The season begins first week in August (first game Saturday, Aug 5th)
- The season ends September 30th (preschool ends Sept 23rd)
- Practice starts first week in August (your volunteer coach will contact you on time/location)



JH BOYS TRACK

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JH Boys Track Team: Back (left to right): Coach Don Williams, Jakob Seneca, Austin Schlabach, Kaine Reinhold, Isaac Drake, Jacob McCoy, Daniel Yoder, Keegan Hershberger, AJ Martin, Coach Lyle Bontrager and Coach Erica Mohr. Third: Tyler Stutzman, Isaiah Radcliff, Justin Miller, Gavin Rainsberger, Chris Terrones, Austin Miller, Charlie Double, Seth Lambricht, Jarius Lambricht and Jaylen Schwartz. Second: Coach Rusty Niccum, Cole Donat, William Yoder, Cole Miller, Evan Beechy, Brendan Miller, EJ Watts, Aydan Kloth, Kasen Yoder, Dalton Brown and Coach Mike Brown. Front: Luke Miller, Noah Cleveland, Micah Wingard, Ethan Gellar, Landon Gingerich, Saul Moreno, Gavin Yeip, Remington Helmuth and Carson Niccum.

Photo by Stopher-King Studios



JH GIRLS TRACK

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JH Girls Track Team: Back (left to right): Coach Rusty Niccum, Coach Don Williams, Amanda Herschberger, Janae Yoder, Eva Bates, Faith Stump, Gloria Miller, Madi Miller, Madi Yoder, Coach Lyle Bontrager and Coach Erica Mohr. Third: Merrill Warrener, Jada Mauck, Amanzis Palmer, Peyton Miller, Lindsey Schlabach, Emilia Mendoza, Sara Bontrager, Serenity Tennant, Laine Bortner and Coach Mike Brown. Second: Keera Hostetler, Alana Donat, Mila Geyer, Emily Yoder, Paige McDonald, Grace Yoder, Mal Steider, Laura Yoder and Bryndle Bontrager. Front: Jaylynn Brown, Katie Martin, Erica Lambricht, Marilyn Yoder, Eva Miller, Lexy Bennett, Memphis Bontrager, Amber Miller and Angela Miller.

Photo by Stopher-King Studios



1



2



3



4

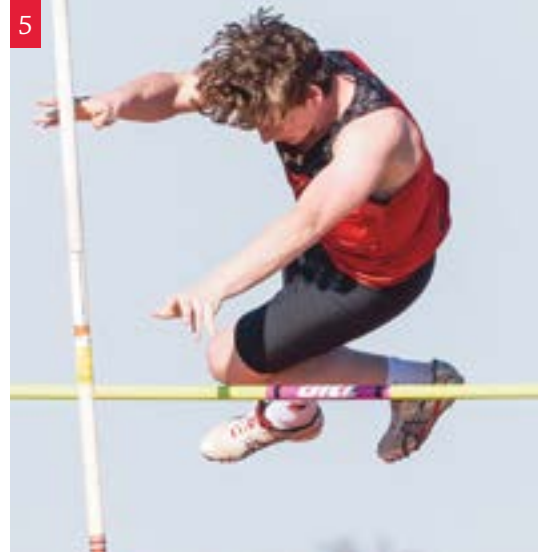
- 1) Curtis Miller clears his high jump attempt.
- 2) Lyndon Miller is close behind a Bethany opponent in his leg of the relay race.
- 3) Chase Miller completes his first long jump attempt.
- 4) Jacob Peruski competes in the 100 meter hurdles.
- 5) Milan Miller easily clears his pole vault height.

Photos by Abby Wenger

These photos and more will be available for purchase at lagwanaphotos.com.

The Hometown Treasure · May '23

5



HS Girls Track

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2



1



3

- 1) Brina Williams takes off on her long jump attempt.
 - 2) Jasmine Litton and Natalie Privett clear their hurdles side by side.
 - 3) Kamryn Miller gets ready to hit the sand on her long jump attempt.
 - 4) Annagail Warrener starts out her leg of the relay.
 - 5) Gwen Owsley starts her pole vault attempt.
- Sports photos by Abby Wenger
These photos and more will be available for purchase at lagwanaphotos.com.*



4



5



1



2



3



4



5

- 1) Ella Williams winds up for the pitch.
- 2) Kyiah Michels rounds third and heads for home.
- 3) Myra Miller sends the ball to the outfield.
- 4) Karlie Schrock catches a pitch.
- 5) Sara Lapp catches the ball for an easy out.

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The Hometown Treasure · May '23

HS Girls Tennis

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- 1) Jennifer Osorio serves to the Angola court.
- 2) Maddie Stults returns a serve.
- 3) Paige Riegsecker volleys with her Angola opponent.
- 4) Bailey Kenner returns a serve from her Angola opponent.

*Sports photos by Abby Wenger
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purchase at lagwanaphotos.com.*

It's nearly time for Westview's High School Graduation ceremony, and it's both an exciting and scary event for students. With graduation comes the question, "What's next?" There are many paths a high school senior can take after graduating, and it can be overwhelming to choose which one. Some may move away from our community to make a life for themselves, but others, like Sidney (Byrnett) Bontrager,

Playing three different sports gave me the opportunity to connect with and get to know so many unique people."

Out of the three, however, basketball is her favorite sport, largely because of the fun she had with her teammates on the court. Sidney thoroughly enjoyed her senior year in basketball, where she broke two records during the season. She broke "Most Assists in a Season" with 185 assists and



Photo Submitted

Westview Alumni Returns to Court and Classroom

by Chloe Lovell

may return to their hometown.

Sidney graduated from Westview Jr. Sr. High School in 2015. She kept busy every school year between her classes, sports, and spending time with her friends. Sidney took various college courses and maintained over a 4.0 GPA throughout high school. As a result of her hard work, she was the Salutatorian for her class. Some may remember her taking a selfie on the stage following her speech.

In addition to thriving academically, Sidney played three varsity sports throughout her high school career. She began playing basketball and softball her freshman year and later picked up soccer, playing the sport for two years. "I absolutely loved the camaraderie and friendships that came with each sport.

"Most Three-Pointers in a Season" with 61 three-pointers. Now, Sidney still holds these records; but she knows she may not keep them for long. "We've got some great girls in the program," Sidney states about the Westview girls' basketball team. "Records are meant to be broken, so we'll see what happens!"

In high school, Sidney knew that she wanted to go to college to study Speech-Language Pathology; she was even accepted at Ball State University to do so. Despite this news, Sidney's love for basketball won out when she received an offer from Glen Oaks Community College. Glen Oaks, a Junior College in Centerville, MI, approached Sidney to resume her basketball career with them. She took the offer and attended Glen Oaks to continue playing



basketball while working towards a general studies degree. With Glen Oaks a relatively short distance away, Sidney remained at home and commuted to the college.

However, this decision to stay local came with a harsh reality. Because Sidney stayed at home to attend Glen Oaks, she watched most of her friends leave the area to attend college farther away. “I really had to stop comparing my journey with everyone else’s,” Sid-

ney expresses, reflecting on this difficult time following high school. “I chose to make the most out of the experiences I was getting and the new people I was meeting.” Sidney graduated a year later from Glen Oaks, receiving her associate degree in general studies.

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Photo by Abby Wenger



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Photo by Abby Wenger

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With her first degree down, Sidney made the decision to move four hours away to continue her education at Indiana University Bloomington (IUB), majoring in Speech-Language Pathology. “I decided to study Speech-Language Pathology because I knew I loved language and literature, but I didn’t want to be a teacher,” Sidney explains. “I have a great mentor in the community, Whitney Rahn, who introduced me to the wide impact speech therapy has on the world. Speech therapists work in a

up, and Sidney had an interview with Westview set up two weeks before graduation. The two returned to their hometown to live closer to family, believing “it was perfect timing and we felt like it was time to come home.” Shortly after, Sidney began a full-time position with the Westview School Corporation as a Speech Language Pathology Assistant.

Although she could have stopped there, Sidney decided to continue her education once again. She attended online college courses at the University of Akron while working full-time, and in August 2022, she graduated and obtained her master’s degree in Speech-Language Pathology. Having a college degree isn’t always necessary to create a career, but Sidney finds having three college degrees essential for her chosen

communicate through methods other than speaking. She also screens students to add to her caseload, collaborates with teachers to discuss how to meet student’s needs in the best way possible, holds case conferences, and writes IEPs, or individualized education plans.

For now, Sidney utilizes her summers to see clients privately, but she eventually wants to expand this work into a year-round private practice alongside her position with Westview. “There is such a need for affordable, quality speech therapy services within our community for all age groups outside of the school environment,” Sidney states. “To be able to give back and provide that service for LaGrange and surrounding counties would be a dream

come true.”

Sidney’s return to Westview opened the door to a career she loves. It also brought her back to the basketball court as a coach for Westview’s JV girls’ basketball team. “It is such a fulfilling feeling to be pouring into a program that so greatly influenced my life and time at Westview,” Sidney explains. She hopes to help coach the JV girls’ team to victory in the basketball tourney “a handful of times” in the future.

They trained for eight months for the big race and enjoyed the experience. “I’d run another marathon in a heartbeat. It was so fun!” Sidney exclaimed. “It stretches your mental and physical endurance, and it’s something only less than 1% of the world’s population can say they’ve done.”

Sidney enjoys going out and being active in the community with her husband. They enjoy participating in the annual Mayfest festivities, visiting

and enjoys playing tennis today. There are many clubs and organizations to try out in college, and there are many opportunities within the community to get involved in. Don’t be afraid to join in; you’ll never know if you like it unless you give it a shot.

Sidney hopes to continue traveling and exploring the world with Clay in the future and to read many books and make fun memories. In the distant future, she aims to find her and Clay’s



Photo Submitted



Photo Submitted

When not in the classroom or on the court, Sidney likes to go running with Clay. They often frequent the Pumpkinvine Trail and have even traveled down to Indy in November 2022 to run the Indianapolis Monumental Marathon.




Photo Submitted

Yup’s Dairyland, and attending Maple City Chapel in Goshen, where they are involved in the small group. Sidney is also involved in a women’s Bible study with several friends from high school. Sidney advises graduating students to be conscious of who you spend time with. “Your friends help shape you into the person you will become,” she explains, “so be wise when choosing friends.”

Sidney also urges graduating students to remember to have fun and do everything you have an interest in. During her senior year of high school, Sidney would play tennis after soccer practices because she thought it looked fun. Although she couldn’t play the sport in high school because it conflicted with softball, Sidney still liked prac-

dream home in the area, maybe have a few kids, and continue working at Westview with an established private practice on the side.

Not every high school graduate will find their way back to their hometown. Each graduate’s journey will differ, and that is the beauty of graduation: no one path is the same. Some will move away, but, like Sidney, some will return. From a Westview student and Varsity basketball player to a Westview employee and basketball coach, Sidney ended up where she began. More importantly, she’s on a path that she loves.

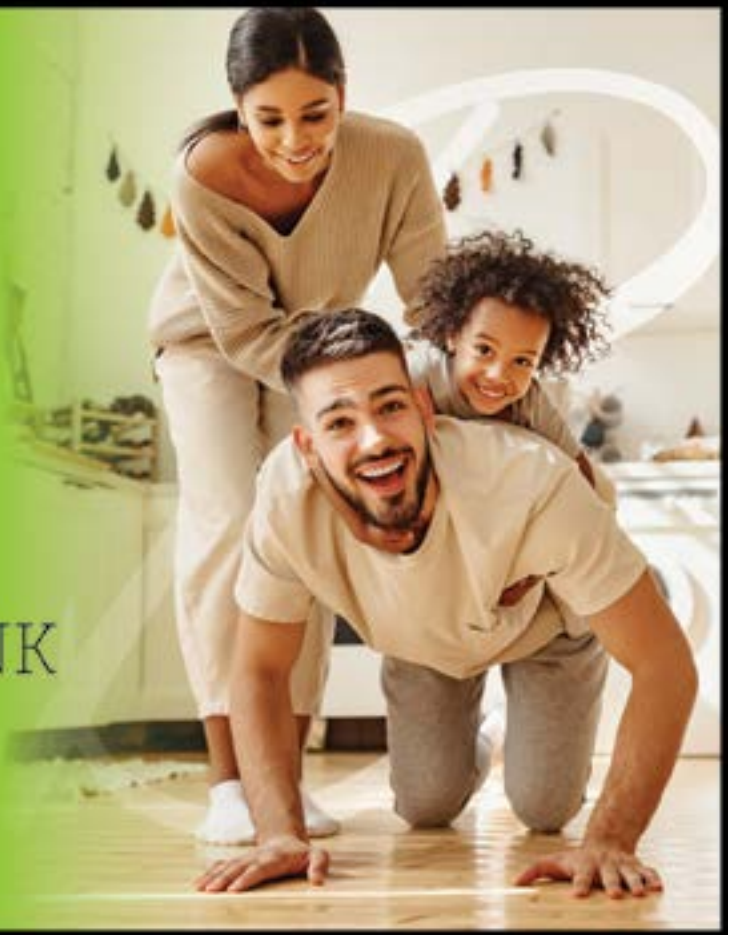
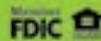
“My job is truly a passion of mine,” Sidney states. “It’s something I’m really proud of.” 



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HISTORICAL FEATURE

Awakening the Echoes of Handel's *Messiah*

by Harold D. Gingerich

It has been far too many years since the melodious strains of Handel's *Messiah* echoed across the Westview community. What the younger generation and folks who are new to the Shipshewana and Topeka community do not realize is that performing *The Messiah* was a local tradition, dating back to the 1930s. Local musicians and singers would come together and rehearse for months. Frequently, college professors from Goshen and South Bend would be the featured conductors or soloists. But the chorus was always made up primarily of local people like Mrs. Marietta Yoder, Mrs. Phyllis Hartzler, Merritt Hostetler, McKinley Woodworth Jr.,

and a host of others who loved to sing, and could do it well.

German-born English composer George Frideric Handel was born on February 23, 1685, in Brandenburg, Prussia. He received his formal training in Halle, Germany, and worked as a composer in Hamburg and Italy before moving to London in 1712. Handel became a naturalized British subject in 1727. He died in London on April 14, 1759, and was buried in Westminster Abbey.

Handel is best known for his 1741 sacred oratorio *The Messiah* which he composed in only 24 days. I found it interesting that *The Messiah* was first performed in Dublin, Ireland, on April 13, 1742, (at Easter) where it received a very warm reception. The Dublin theater only seated 600 people.

Jonathan Kandell, in an article for *Smithsonian Magazine* (December 2009) wrote, "It burst onto the stage of Musick Hall in Dublin on April 13, 1742. The audience swelled to a record 700, as ladies had heeded pleas by management to wear dresses 'without Hoops' (men were asked to not wear swords) in order to make 'Room for more company.' Handel's superstar status was not the only draw; many also came to glimpse the contralto, Susannah Cibber, then embroiled in a scandalous divorce."

Kandell continued writing, "The

men

and women

in attendance sat mesmerized from the moment the tenor followed the mournful string overture with his piercing opening line: 'Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.' Soloists alternated with wave upon wave of chorus, until, near the midway point, Cibber intoned: 'He was despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.' So moved was the Rev. Patrick Delany that he leapt to his feet and cried out: 'Woman, for this be all thy sins forgiven thee!'" The London audience, one year later, was far less enthusiastic. Today, Handel's *Messiah* is the most frequently performed of all the oratorios.

The custom of standing for the Hallelujah chorus originated from the popular belief that, at the London premiere, King George II was so moved by the glorious anthem that he stood up. Since the king was standing, the entire audience was obligated to stand as well. Unfortunately, there are no "fact checkers" still alive who can verify that King George II stood or that he even attended the performance. Nevertheless, the tradition continues to this day. And a fine tradition it is.

The January 2, 1936, edition of the *Topeka Journal* reported on one of the earliest performances of *The Messiah*



HISTORICAL FEATURE

in the Westview community. The Baptist, Methodist, and Topeka Mennonite churches came together to sponsor the sacred concert. The chorus of between 50 to 60 voices, under the direction of Prof. B. F. Hartzler, came from Napanee, Goshen, Middlebury, and Sturgis. The concert was free, but a freewill offering was taken for the chorus.

It wasn't until 1951 that things got organized locally. The December 5, 1951, edition of the Topeka Journal (page one) reported that the newly formed Topeka Choral Society would be presenting The Messiah under the direction of John Bechtelheimer. Bechtelheimer taught music at Topeka High School from 1951 to 1955.

"This is the first effort in the Topeka community to present the great oratorio by Handel," the article stated. The news item ended by saying, "The choir officially organized naming themselves the Topeka Choral Society. Officers of the Society are Mrs. Garth Stoltz, president; Rev Esko Loewen, vice president and Mrs. Maynard Yoder, secretary-treasurer." It appears that members of the Topeka Mennonite Church were the ones to take the initiative because all of the choral society officers were members of that church.

The Topeka Journal (December 19, 1951, page one) reported that despite zero-degree weather, nearly every seat in Sycamore Hall was filled. Soloists and an 80-voice choir thrilled the audience that had come from Goshen, Shipshewana, Millersburg, Wolcottville, and Topeka. The Journal described the closing Hallelujah chorus as "a note of adoration and triumph as though the gates of heaven are open."


The evening ended with the choir

singing several Christmas carols as the audience left the hall. Cash gifts were given to the soloists and accompanists (Mrs. Clyde Oplinger and Mrs. Esko Loewen.) John Bechtelheimer was also presented with a gift of appreciation by the choir for his efforts.

Phyllis (Oesch) Hartzler, who graduated from Topeka High School in 1950, still has fond memories of the rehearsals and the performance. Phyllis didn't remember the zero temperatures. A photograph of the choir was taken; unfortunately, as of this writing, I have been unable to find a copy.

The following year on December 14, the choral society, under the direction of John Bechtelheimer, again presented the Messiah. In 1952 they presented the oratorio on Sunday afternoon at the Ligonier Methodist Church and in the evening at the Topeka Mennonite Church. Two pictures of the choir appeared in the December 10 issue of the Topeka Journal, however, both pictures are too dark for there to be any facial recognition of choir members.

It is unknown when the Topeka Choral Society disbanded. We do know that into the 1960s Handel's Messiah was still being performed in the community. I graduated from high school in 1965 but remember singing in The Messiah.

It would be my sincere hope that some enterprising people in the community would rekindle the tradition. Were that to happen, some of us would be delighted to come out of retirement and make a joyful noise once again proclaiming "And He shall reign forever and ever ...Hallelujah, Hallelujah ... AMEN!" 

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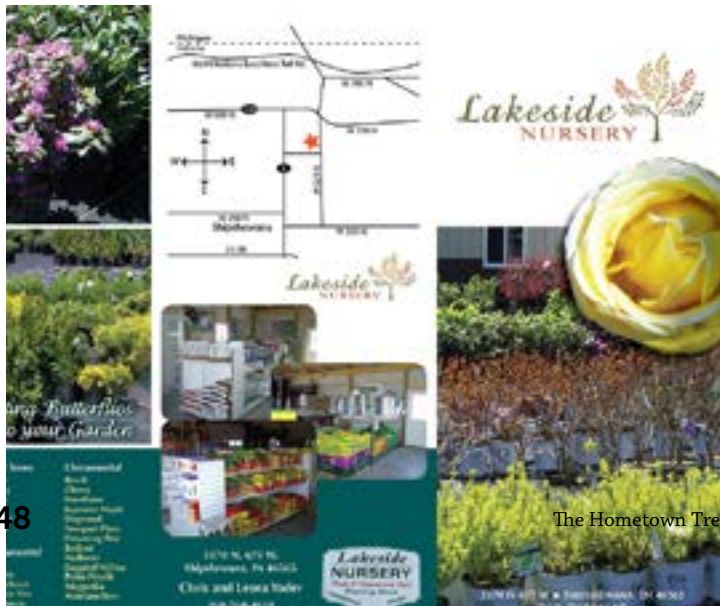
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 Sausage, Ham, Bacon, Ground Beef, Wheatbuds, Salami, Olives, Onions, Green peppers, Tomatoes, Banana Peppers, Mushrooms, Jalapeno Peppers

	14" - \$13.99	16" - \$19.99
GARDEN	Onions, Mushrooms, Green Peppers, Spinach, Black Olives, Mozzarella, Red Sauce	
CHICKEN BACON PANCA	Chicken, Bacon, Mozzarella, Ranch	
CHICKEN GARLIC	Chicken, Mushrooms, Onions, Tomatoes, Mozzarella, Garlic Spread	
GARLIC BILT	Bacon, Larders, Tomato, Garlic, Onions	
CHICKEN ALFREDO	Chicken, Alfredo Sauce, Mozzarella	
SWEET & SPICY	BBQ, Peppercorn, Sausage, Jalapeno, Mozzarella, Drizzled with Mango Rubanese	

Onions, Green Peppers, Red Sauce

Middlebury Summer Festival

3 - ON - 3 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Saturday, June 24, 2023

Next to the Fire Station

Check-in/Registration: 7:15-7:45 am

Games start at approximately 8 am.

Team 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 June 24)

Shirt Size (all adult sizes):

S M L XL

Player 2 Name _____ Age _____
(as of June 24)

S M L XL

Player 3 Name _____ Age _____
(as of June 24)

S M L XL

Player 4 Name _____ Age _____
(as of June 24)

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 10, 2023

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



Sponsored by:



Topeka 4th of July

3 - ON - 3 BASKETBALL TOURNEY

Tuesday, July 4, 2023

At Topeka Town Park

Check-in/Registration: 7:15-7:45 am

Games start at approximately 8 am.

Team 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 4)

Shirt Size (all adult sizes):

S M L XL

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

S M L XL

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

S M L XL

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

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 16, 2023

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



Sponsored by:



LaGrange 4-H Fairgrounds

3-ON-3 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Friday, July 14, 2023

Fee required to enter fairgrounds. Forms received by **June 30, 2023** will receive a voucher in the mail to get into the fairgrounds for free.

Games start at approximately 1:30 pm.

Team Name _____

Team Captain _____

Phone _____ Ext _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Division: Boys Girls Open Ages: 10 - 12 13 - 15 16 - 18

Shirt Size (all adult sizes):

CAPTAIN Age _____
(as of July 14)

S M L XL

Player 2 Name _____ Age _____
(as of July 14)

S M L XL

Player 3 Name _____ Age _____
(as of July 14)

S M L XL

Player 4 Name _____ Age _____
(as of July 14)

S M L XL



For anyone over 18 who still wants to play. *Cash Prizes*

OPEN DIVISION: Teams limited to 4 players, can be over 18 (but don't HAVE to be). Referees will call the games (their decisions are final). Tournament is double elimination. Cash awards of \$200 (first place team) and \$100 (second place) will be awarded. Entries (in this division only) will still be accepted until day of tournament. Must be at least six paid entries for competition to take place. Each team to pay \$75 entry fee with pre-registration (in our office by June 30). **All pre-registered teams will get T-shirts.** After that, please bring your \$75 to the tournament site during the younger teams' tournaments (**deadline is 2 o'clock**, games start at approx. 4) **Make checks payable to LaGwana.**

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 3 entries in a given division for competition to take place. Each team to pay \$60 student/\$75 open division entry fee with registration.

Sponsored by:



Shipshe Townwide Garage Sales • May 12 & 13, 2023

1. **Kendra Miller**; 4073N SR 5
2. **Floyd & Ruby Knepp**; 1400N SR 5
3. **Merle Christner**; 405 E. Middlebury St.
4. **Hank & Treva Yoder**; 7500W 390N, antiques, glassware, toys, tools, household, quilts
5. **Joel & Leah Bontrager**; 4350N SR 5
6. **Nate & Lanita Slabach**; 7215W 350N, carseat stroller combo, bouncy, highchair, boys clothes 0-3T, girl clothes 0-24 mon., woman's bike, some decor
7. **I Sell Fabric**; 5520N SR 5, craft & sewing supplies, needle point kits, quilts & quilt tops, 9am-4pm
8. **James & Jeanan Yoder**; 7810W 450N, Multi-family, household misc, some new bonnets, mop & tile brush set for Rainbow sweeper, farm toys, 72" stainless wood top tool chest, Mossberg 12ga, Marlin 22
9. **Michael & Calla Patka**; Excellent Kitchenware appliances, men's clothes, women's clothes, huge DVD collection
10. **Kevin & Lisa Miller**; 7180W 350N
11. **Cole Schwartz**; 415 Davis St.
12. **Mike Troyer**; 7045W 100N
13. **Keim**; 3220N 600W, multi family garage sale including indoor & outdoor furniture, home decor, kitchen items, baby clothes & items, kid's clothes, toys, maternity clothes
14. **Eugene & Charlene Bontrager**; 7400W 200N, open at 7:30, multi family, coffee bar, keyboard, shampooes for Rainbow sweeper, baby clothes
15. **Marlin & Eloise Yoder**; 1105 Taylor Dr, Toro tiller, microwave, air fryer, slider shower door, day bed, lamps, decor, rug pcn, pander, much more
16. **Betty Miller Estate Liquidation**, 1670N 1100W, scrapbooking supplies & equipment, cookware, Tupperware, glassware & china, decor, antiques, small table w/ chairs, custom lawn chairs, yard items, kitchen appliances (small), Sharkion, misc.
17. **Christina Miller**; 3650N SR 5, Tupperware, Norwex, Lemongrass, Princess House, Lush Body Boutique, Anovite, Young Living, Clean Craft, Reign, Heartland Snacks, Doterra, Arbonne, Better World Botanicals, Thirty One & more
18. **Elmer J. Mast**; 925 E. Country Lane
19. **Richard Slabach**; 3945N 1000W, Furniture, Decor, glassware, antiques, tools & lots of misc.
20. **James & Carol Schlabach**; 3835N 720W
21. **Crist & Linda Troyer**; 7135W 250N, multi family, Black Stone grill flat top combo, E-U 2000 generator, 2 Fuji bikes, men & women clothes, wakeboard, snow boarding boots, bed sheets, lots of misc.
22. **Orville Miller**; 2070N 700W, decor, 2-5 yr old dresses, Dial and Sew sewing machine in cabinet, 4 piece old bedroom suit, lots & lots more, old Readers Digests, purses, bags
23. **Kenny & Kaylene Miller**; 7290W 200N, multi family, playhouse, 8x10 shag rug, crib & changing table, lots of misc, open at 7:30
24. **David & Arlene Miller**; 7045W 200N
25. **Ray & Ruthie Lapp**, 7600W 350N, multi family, LulaRoe clothes, new Pampered Chef Quick cooker, Tupperware, lots of clothes, kid's bike, toaster oven, too much to list, come check it out Fri. 7:30-3, Sat 8-12
26. **Steve & Vickie Fletcher**; 1355 Yorkshire Dr., kid's clothes, toys, bikes, power tools, trombone, picnic table, power tower, misc household
27. **Moss & Amy Miller**; 3005N SR 5
28. **Dan Yoder's**; 2050N 675W, multi family & estate sale, beautiful library tables, upstairs furniture, lawn tractor, gardening, shop, household items, 3 wheel stroller, sm. animal cages, tubs full of craft items, sewing, card making, Cricket, stamps, painting, knitting, play furniture, trikes, indoor/outdoor decor, bake sale, macrame, free stuff & priced to sell, 1 mile east of the MEC, "Hope 2 C U?"
29. **Jamie Thompson**; 5955N 1000W, Saturday May 13th only, household items, women and men's clothing, books, home decor, toys, chest cooler, shoes
30. **Joe Bontrager**; 6505W SR120, lots of teen girl clothes, cash & carry Tupperware, Friday only

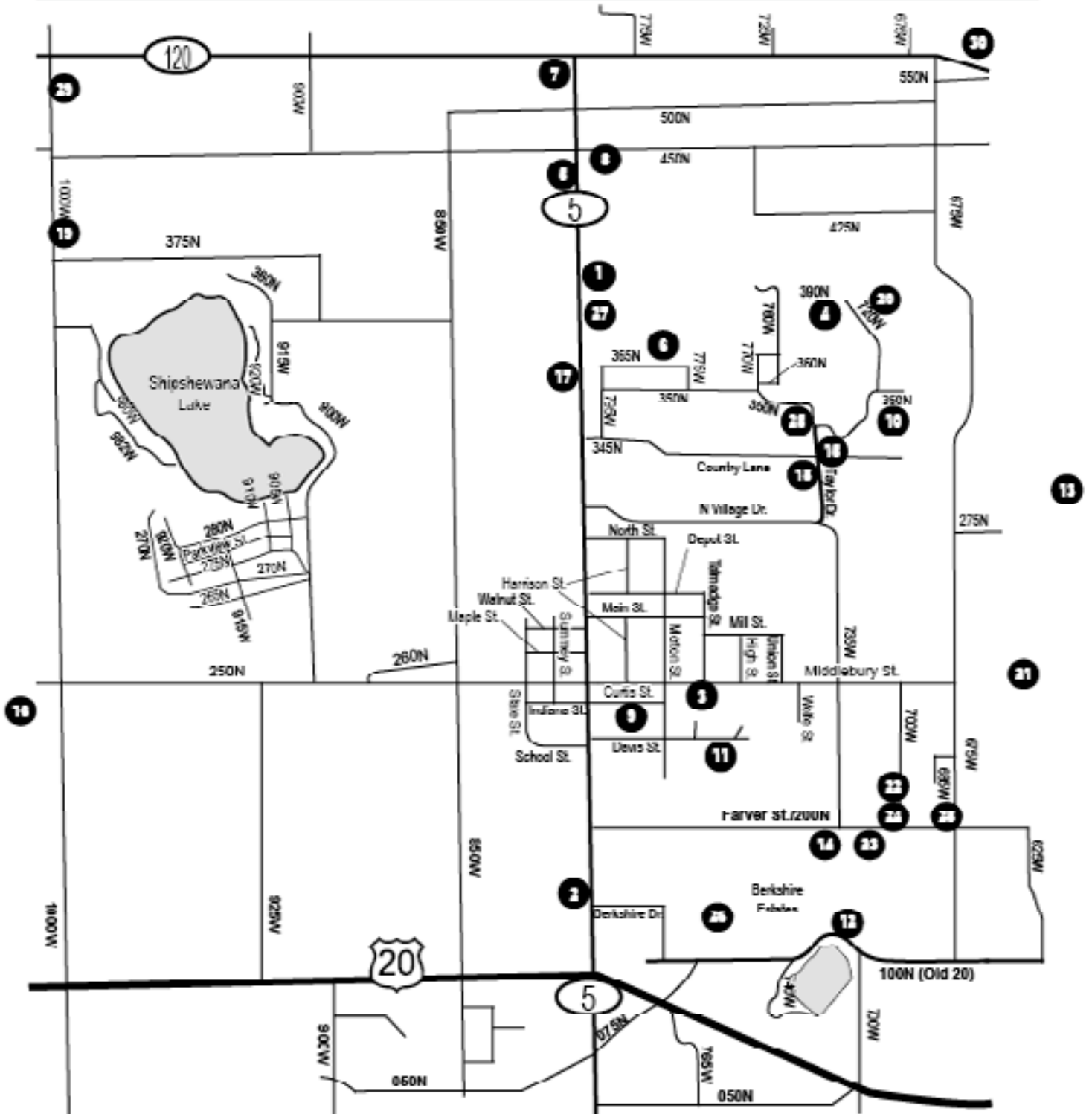
Shipshewana

Annual Townwide Spring Garage Sale

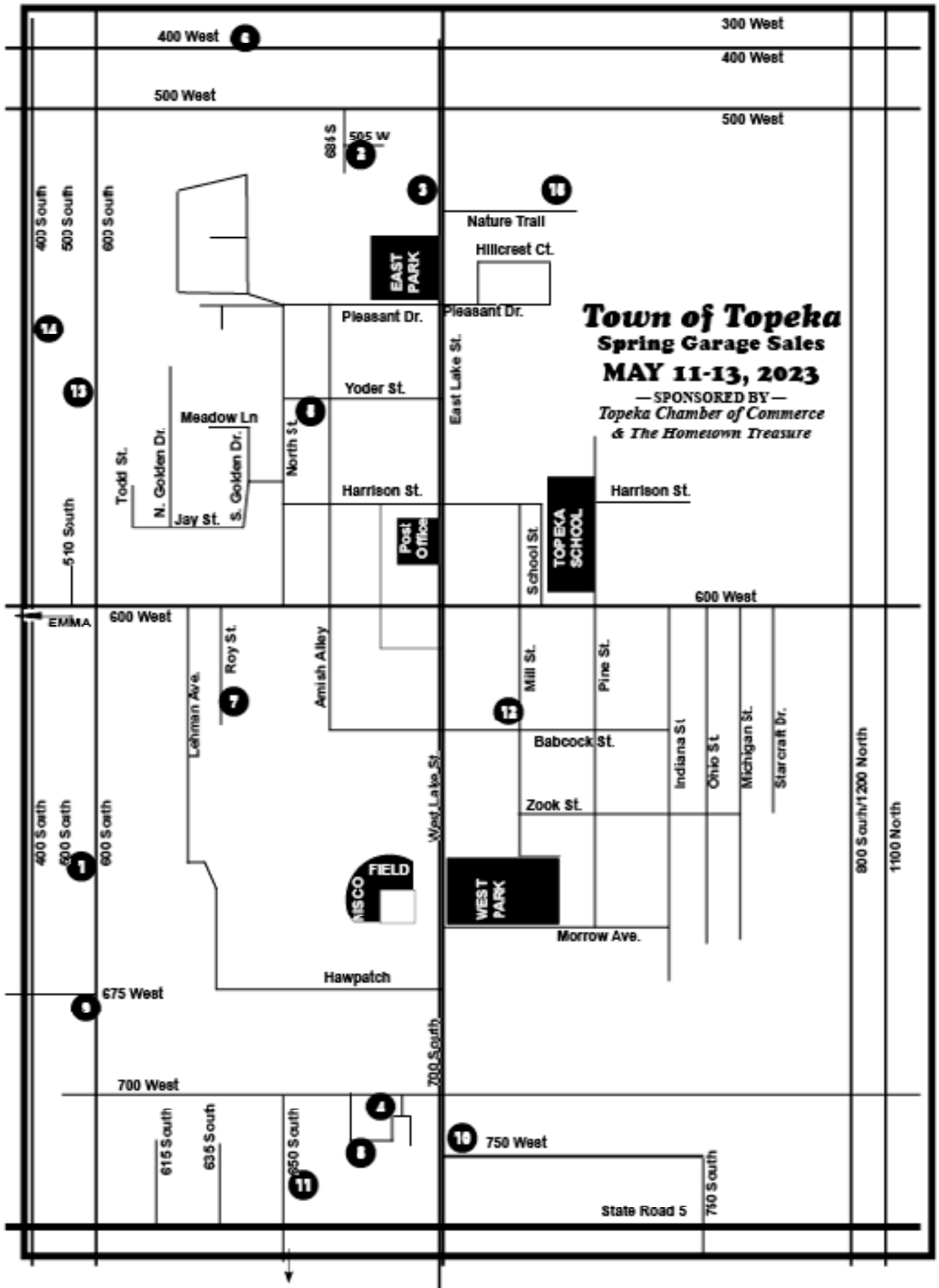
May 12 & 13, 2023

Sponsored by:

The Hometown Treasure



1. Dale & Diane Miller, Gerald & Ruth Miller; 6425W 550S, Turtle sandbox, some furniture, clothes, kitchen items, storage unit goodies plus lots more. Multi-family, 8-2
2. Brenda Swartzentruber; 6870S 505W
3. Irma Troyer & girls; 829 E. Lake St, decor, gently used baby clothes, carpet, antiques, air hockey table, fishing/hunting equipment, lots of misc., multi family sale, Thursday & Friday only, 7-5.
4. Pete & Jaime Kauffman; 7015W 690S
5. Gene & Cindy Hartman; 215 Yoder St.
6. Davy & Arlene Hostetler; 6505S 400W, baby bouncer, tabletop swing, baby seat, baby clothes NB-3/6 mon., lots of shoes different sizes, used copper, good condition round smoke stained table w/4 padded chairs plus lots more.
7. Laverna & Edna Fry; 217 Roy St.
8. Stan & Jessica Strater; 6710S 715W
9. Richard & Pauline Yoder; 5770S 675W
10. Laverna & Ruth Yoder; 1917 W. Lake St, Cricket w/ cartridges, coppa, Yamaha keyboard, dresses, shoes, decor, air fryer, boy's baby clothes
11. Daniel Mishler; 7380W 650S, storage unit sale, older things, some DIY projects, clothes, dishes, Ragedy Ann & Andy dolls, tools, knife set still in box/package, some antiques
12. Chris & Lea Parks, 126 West Mill St.
13. Joe Yoders; 5585W 600S
14. Dawn Christaer; 5550W 400S, multi family, kid's clothes, toys galore, much much more, Thurs & Friday 8:30-5
15. Carol Wingard; 295 Nature Trail, Huge garage sale, I-Z-Boy reclining sofa, 2 desks, 2 over the toilet storage, accent chairs, toys, clothes, shoes, boots, much much more! still adding items



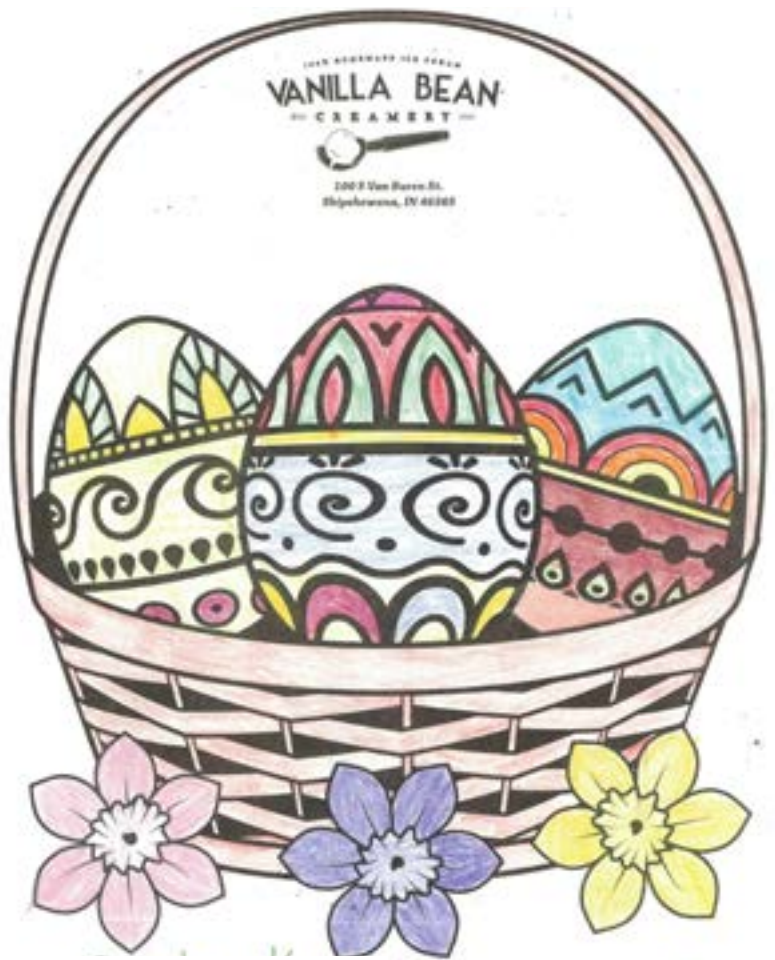
Coloring Contest Winners

Six-year-old Seth Kuhns of 500 W, Shipshewana was our winner for the April Coloring Contest. He won an ice cream treat of choice at Vanilla Bean Creamery in Shipshewana.

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

Runners-up were Lanita Lambright, age 6; Angie Bontrager, age 5; Alayna Faith Bontrager, age 4; Melanie Yoder, age 3; Mark Daniel Mishler, age 2. Honorable Mentions: Loren Eugene Lambright, age 6; Renae Jo Petersheim, age 6; Leah Grace Petersheim, age 6; Keri Yoder, age 5; Mariah Yoder, age 5; and Logan Lambright, age 4.

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



Blessed
Blossom
Chirps
Devotion
Election
Emerald
Flowers
Growth
Memorial
Mother
Primary
Sprout

Clueless
Crossword

Solution to Clueless
Crossword is on pg 61.
by Chloe Lovell

Use the words listed to fill in the spaces!

What is

EASY

to get into

but

HARD

to get out of

?

Solution on pg 61.



Name: _____ Age: _____

Coloring Contest: kids age 6 and younger. Sponsored by Brenda's Ice Cream in Wolcottville this month! Winner gets a FREE ICE CREAM TREAT OF CHOICE at Brenda's Ice Cream. The Winning Drawings will be on display. ALL PARTICIPANTS claim your drawing for A FREE ICE-CREAM CONE at Brenda's Ice Cream in June. Mail submission to: LaGwana, Coloring Contest, PO Box 70, Shipshewana, IN 46565. Entry deadline is May 23, 2023.

Address: _____

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Clueless Crossword

By Chloé Lovell

Solution

to the puzzle on page 58.

Sponsored by

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

ELECTION
CHIRPS
DEVIATION
DEVOTION
MEMORIAL
EMERALD
OTARY
OTHERY
THIRPS
GROWTH
BLOSSOM
MEMORIAL
EMERALD
OTARY
OTHERY
THIRPS

ANSWER:
TROUBLE

Riddle on pg 58.
<https://www.ezschool.com/Riddles/Riddle197Ans.html>

Solution to puzzle on page 57.

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

Left-Over Letters Spell Out A Message From Erika!

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

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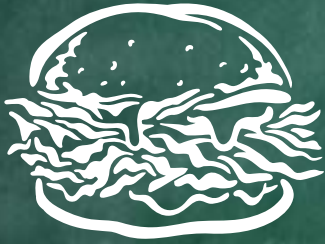
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\$1,000 minimum deposit to open

*The Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is accurate as of 4/18/2023 and may be changed at any time without prior notice. Must maintain an active Lake City Bank personal checking account for the term of the Companion CD. Interest may not be paid by check or to a non-Lake City Bank account. Penalty for early withdrawal. Go to lakecitybank.com/fees for a list of Personal Administrative Charges that may apply. See Personal Account Terms and Conditions and Personal Certificates of Deposit disclosure for more details or call our One Call Center at (888) 522-2265.

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