

July 2023 • Vol. 24 Num. 07

The Hometown Treasure



Making Summer Memorable Summer Activities To Do With Family and Friends



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An After-Death Encounter

Parkview Hospitals Receive A's for Safety

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Photos by Chloe Lovell
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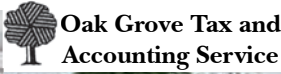


Photo submitted



2



3



4

- 1) The team poses for a photo after claiming the first regional title in school history. Congratulations Warriors!
- 2) Mason Wire catches the ball from a teammate at the top of the inning.
- 3) Micah Miller winds up his pitch in the first inning against Eastside.
- 4) Scott Yoder returns the ball to the mound after a catch.

Sports photos by Abby Wenger
These photos and more will be available for purchase at lagwanaphotos.com.

The Hometown Treasure

A Monthly Publication by
LaGwana Circulation: 6,000

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

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Located at the SE corner of 250N & 850W
Just west of Shipshewana

Phone: 260-463-4901 • Fax: 260-463-7257
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You may call or stop by during office hours:
Monday - Friday, 8 am-5 pm

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Celebrate and Appreciate

For the first time in a long time, I made it to the Courthouse Classic race in LaGrange. I didn't run in any of the races, but I enjoyed being on-site. Hearing the kids buzzing with excitement and anticipation as the race crept closer reminded me of all the times I ran the kids' mile fun run when I was younger. I relived a big part of my childhood as memories of stretching with friends before the race and sprinting down the last stretch to the finish line passed through my mind.

I loved running as a kid, and still enjoy going out for a jog occasionally today – I can thank my father for that. The feeling of crossing the finish line or ending a long run and knowing that I gave it my all to get there, is so satisfying. But additionally, crossing the finish line and knowing the race is done is a cause for celebration. No matter what type of race, whether a physical run or making it through the week, getting to the end is a relief. In time, we come to appreciate the journey that we took to get to the long-anticipated end.

As you'll see within our school pages, we have outstanding students in the Westview School Corporation who have finished a few "races" of their own this year. From completing the 2022-2023 school year to receiving End-of-the-Year Awards, students have a cause

to celebrate. As do the teachers: it's finally summer!

Be sure to check out this month's cover story for a few ideas and tips on how to spend the summer. And if you need a story to tell around the campfire one night, consider the historical feature this month. Harold Gingerich's great account of history gave me goosebumps to read, but the account also comes with a powerful reminder to be grateful and appreciate the sacrifices that soldiers have made – and continue to make – for our country.

As always, feel free to write us to let us know what 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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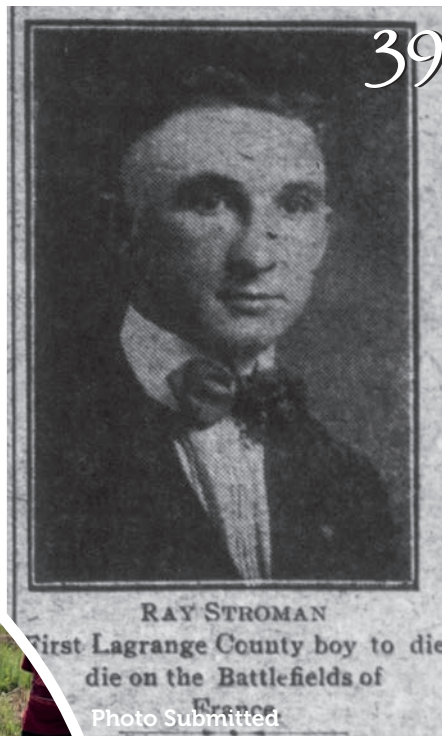
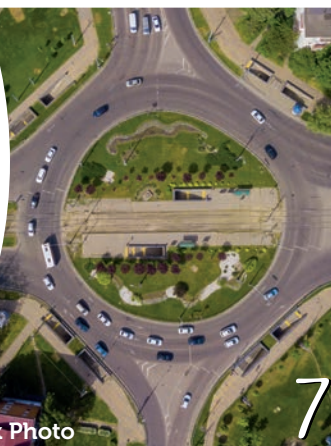


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Heart and Soul

by Kim Ray Mishler

Roundabouts and Revolving Doors

There are two things in life I don't understand: roundabouts and revolving doors. Both were designed to get you to your destination quicker. Both have a start and stop timing aspect that determines whether you get to the "said" destination sooner. If you don't exit appropriately, you must go around again.

Those living in big cities where roundabouts are common appreciate their handiness and maneuver them easily. Country folk like me tend to hit the panic button when they see one up ahead. Do I yield? Do I just hit the gas and hope for the best? Where revolving doors are concerned, well, they seem unnecessary to me. If I approach a building with a revolving and regular door, I will choose the regular door. What's the point?

I've never liked to go round and round with anything in life. It makes me dizzy. I'm a "stay in my own lane" kind of girl. I have a destination in mind and will stay on the course until I arrive. That's how I approach all of life. But just as I do when I see a roundabout up ahead, I panic when setbacks take place on my way to the destination. I like things to go as planned. But guess what? Sometimes they don't.

Many times in life, I've missed my exit – both literally and figuratively.

After running for miles but getting nowhere, like a hamster on a wheel, I come out defeated, discouraged, and distraught.

I don't know about you, but it feels like I have spent my whole life trying to get from one thing to the next. I wanted to be married. Once married, I wanted babies. Once I had babies...well, you get the picture. We reach one destination and then aim for another. We want to get there as quickly and uneventfully as possible. We don't have time to go round and round – we seek the fast track, the quickest time, and the simplest way. Even so, life can be full of missed exits.


Proverbs 16:9 says that the heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps. No matter how great our plans may seem or how incredible our goal is, we may miss opportunities or find unexpected hurdles. God has perfect goals for us and will help us get there – He is the ultimate GPS!

When things don't go your way, how do you respond? Do you stay on the course? Choose another road? Turn around and forget the whole ordeal?



Many times, I have not circled back well. I've had times when I've felt hopelessly lost and apt to stay there. I've had full-blown toddler-like tantrums – it's not pretty, friends! But when I focus on Jesus, the Author and Perfector of my faith, the result is always better than I could have imagined.

Maybe life has taken some twists and turns you didn't expect. Perhaps you feel like you're going round and round, feeling like you're forever stuck in a loop. Maybe you are just plain weary in your long journey.

I have good news for you! The one who establishes your steps is ABLE to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us. (Ephesians 3:20). Choose to circle back to Him; he is able to get you back on track in ways that far exceed your expectations! 

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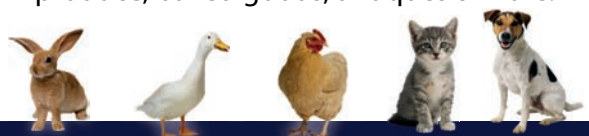


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Smart Choices

By Brandon Nguyen, PharmD Candidate at Topeka Pharmacy

Preventing Pneumonia

The diagnosis of “pneumonia,” a lung infection, usually strikes fear in people. Thoughts of bed rest, hospitalization, lots of antibiotics, and extended time for recovery come to mind. This article will cover the basics of what pneumonia is, how it spreads, and what steps can be taken to prevent getting this serious disease.

What is pneumonia?

The pneumococcal bacteria is the main culprit in causing pneumonia. This bacteria is usually associated with lung infections, but it can also be the cause of infections of the ear, sinus, bloodstream, and lining of the brain and spinal cord. Some common symptoms of pneumonia include fever, shortness of breath, coughing, chest pain, and fatigue. Pneumonia may present similarly to the cold or flu but is often more severe.

What can help prevent pneumonia?

Pneumococcal bacteria can be spread through droplets in the air by coughing and sneezing. For those at risk, there is good news. The pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV20) can decrease someone’s risk of getting pneumonia by offering protection against 20 different strains of pneumococcal bacteria. This vaccine can potentially save you a trip to the doctor or even the hospital.

Who is this vaccine for?


The PCV20 vaccine is routinely given to people ages 65 and older. However, people younger than 65 years old may also get this vaccine if they have a weakened immune system

or have medical conditions like asthma, heart disease, or diabetes.

What if I have already been vaccinated for pneumonia?

Children are routinely vaccinated for pneumonia starting at just two months old. This is because pneumonia is more common in children than adults due to their developing immune systems. Similarly, as adults age, their immune systems weaken. Because of this, it is recommended that adults ages 65 and older get a vaccination. Even if you have had pneumonia vaccines in the past as an adult, the CDC recommends the PCV20 vaccine because it covers more bacterial strains than other pneumonia vaccines you may have previously received.

Who can help me figure out if I need this vaccine?

We at Topeka Pharmacy can help! The pharmacy team can look at your vaccine history and evaluate your current medical conditions to determine if you need the PCV20. Feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns about this topic. The PCV20 vaccine is available anytime and is also offered for free at our First Friday vaccination clinic. Contact us today at 260-593-2252 or stop in and say hi! 



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MONEY Wise

Retirees: Talk Finances With Your Grown Children

When you're retired, you'll likely have some financial concerns — just like all retirees. However, if you've invested regularly and followed a long-term financial strategy, you should be able to address most issues that come your way. But there's one important action that's sometimes overlooked by retirees: sharing their financial situation with their grown children. And this knowledge can benefit everyone in your family.

You might be surprised by the concern your children have for your financial well-being. Consider these findings from a 2023 study by Age Wave and Edward Jones:

- 66% of millennials (generally defined as ranging from 27 to 42) worry that their parents or in-laws may not have enough money to live comfortably in retirement.
- 83% of millennials would rather know their parents are financially secure in their retirement, even if it means their parents pass on less money to them.

If you have children in this age range or older, or who soon will be,

how can you address their concerns and potentially improve your financial outlook? Communication is the key. By openly communicating with your family about your financial status, you can reduce anxieties and misperceptions.

If you're in good financial shape, your adult children may be reassured that you won't be needing their assistance. And if you are feeling some financial pressure, you can inform your children of the steps you are taking to improve your situation.

One such step may be to reduce your cost of living — the less you spend day to day, the better your ability to preserve your investment and retirement accounts. You may be able to reduce costs in many small ways, such as ending streaming services you no longer use, but you could make an even bigger impact by downsizing your living arrangements.


In fact, 72% of today's retirees have downsized or are willing to downsize to reduce their housing costs, according to the Age Wave/Edward Jones survey. Downsizing isn't for everyone but if it's a possibility for you, it may be worth considering because the savings could be significant.

You may also be able to reduce or consolidate your debts. Start by understanding how much and what kinds of debt you have. Then, consider ways to lower your payments, such as refinancing. For

example, if you're carrying a balance on multiple credit cards, you might be able to transfer the amounts you owe onto a single card with a more favorable interest rate.

Here's another move to consider: adjust your investment mix to possibly provide you with more income in retirement. During your working years, you may have invested primarily for growth — after all, you could be retired for two or more decades, so you'll need to draw on as many financial assets as possible. But once you're retired, your investment focus may need to shift somewhat toward income-producing opportunities. Keep in mind, though, that you'll still need some growth potential to help keep ahead of inflation.

One final suggestion: let your children know if you already have a strategy in place to meet the potentially high costs of long-term care, such as a nursing home stay. This burden is certainly something you won't want your children to take on.

By informing your children about your financial picture, and how you're trying to improve it, you can ease everyone's minds — so keep the lines of communication open. 



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LaGrange County Library

Below are the events planned for July 2023.

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

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

Facebook Page - m.facebook.com/lagrangelibraryindiana

Shipshewana Branch

250 Depot St. • 260-768-7444
M - F • 11:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.
Saturday • 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

LaGrange County Public Library

203 West Spring Street • 260-463-2841
M - Th • 9:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m.
Friday • 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
Saturday • 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Topeka Branch

133 North Main Street • 260-593-3030
M - F • 11:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.
Saturday • 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Youth Department

Children's Summer Reading Program! (All Ages)

All Branches • Runs through July 31

Watch our website, Facebook page, or in the branches for fun programs and activities all summer. *Reading Challenge* (age 5-18) includes prizes.

Preschool Story Time (Ages 0-5) Theme: All Together Now!

LaGrange • Tuesdays, July 4, 11, 18 and 25 • 10:30 a.m.

Shipshewana • Tuesdays, July 4, 11, 18 and 25 • 1 p.m.

Topeka • Wednesdays, July 5, 12, 19 and 26 • 11 a.m.

Oculus VR Headset, Nintendo Switch, Wii Gaming Systems

LaGrange • One hour time slots in July • **MUST CALL TO SIGN UP**

Ages: Must be 13 or older to play VR Headset and **MUST** have signed parent release form. Nintendo Switch and Wii for ages 11 and up only.

Family Monday Movies (All Ages)

LaGrange • Mondays, July 3: *Ice Age*, 10: *Big Hero 6*, 17: *Madagascar*, and 24:

How to Train Your Dragon • 1 p.m. • All movies Rated PG.

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

Teen Monday Movies (Ages 13+)

LaGrange • Monday, July 3: *Jumanji: The Next Level* and 17: *Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves* • 6 p.m. Movies Rated PG-13.

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

Friendship Jewelry Program (Ages 8+)

LaGrange • Wednesday, July 5 • 2 p.m. or Friday, July 7 • 10:30 a.m.

Shipshewana • Tuesday, July 11 • 2 p.m.

Topeka • Monday, July 10 • 2:30 p.m.

Must register on our website or by calling. There will be supplies, patterns, and instructions to make different types of bracelets and necklaces.

Lego Free Play! (All Ages)

LaGrange • Thursdays, July 6, 13, 20 and 27 • 2-5 p.m.

Shipshewana • Thursdays, July 6, 13, 20 and 27 • 11:30-5 p.m.

Topeka • Thursdays, July 6, 13, 20 and 27 • 11:30-5 p.m.

Kids under 11 years old must have a parent/adult stay. No registration required.

Teen Games (Grades 6-12)

LaGrange • Monday, July 10 • 4-7:45 p.m. *Note the longer playing time!

Please register on our website or by calling. Come enjoy some non-electronic games while snacking and chatting with other teens!

Lego Stop Motion Camp (Ages 11-18)

LaGrange • July 18, 19, 20, and 21 • 10-12 p.m. • **MUST REGISTER!**

Make your own stop motion movie with Legos! Each child must have a tablet or smartphone with the free Stop Motion Studio App installed. We have a few tablets for kids who don't have access to their own to borrow – first come first served. Class size limited. We will show the movies in the library Friday, July 21 at 6p.m.

Teen Book Chat & Craft (Grades 8-12)

LaGrange • Monday, July 24 • 4-5:30 p.m.

We will discuss "The Forgotten Book" and make a fun craft. Sign up by checking out the book in the youth department.

Elementary Book Club (Grades 1-3)

LaGrange • Tuesday, July 25 • 4-4:45 p.m.

We will discuss "Anna Hibiscus" and do a fun activity. Sign up by checking out the book in the youth department.

Movie and Popcorn (All Ages)

LaGrange • Friday, July 28 • 6 p.m. • Movie: "Super Mario Brothers," Rated PG.

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

Youth Department (continued)

Middle Grade Book Club (Grades 4-7)

LaGrange • Tuesday, July 25 • 4-4:45 p.m.

We will discuss "Inkheart" and do a fun activity. Sign up by checking out the book in the youth department.

Harry Potter Escape Room! (Grades 4+; Adults too!)

LaGrange • July 25, 26, and 28 • **MUST REGISTER FOR A TIME SLOT**

Bring your family or friends to see if you can escape the classroom in 30 minutes or less! We will have a Harry Potter craft to make while you wait.

Children's Summer Reading Finale Block Party (Families)

LaGrange • Saturday, July 29 • 10-12 p.m.

Bring the whole family and celebrate your hard work reading and earning prizes this summer! All Library Branches will gather together for a block party! We will have games to play, crafts to make, and popcorn, snow cones & ice cream to eat!

Book, DVD, and Audiobook Sale (All Ages)

LaGrange • Thurs., June 29 • 9-8 p.m. • Friends Members Only;

Fri., June 30 • 9-5 p.m. • Open to the Public;

Sat., July 1 • 9-1 p.m. • Public – Bag Sale (\$2/bag, books only).

Memberships can be renewed or purchased the day of the sale.

Adult Interest

Adult Summer Reading Challenge: All Together Now

All Branches • June 1 – July 31

Bee Kind! Select and complete three tasks from our entry form, then return your entry to any branch for a chance to win a prize!

Five-Minute Life Savers (Ages 16+)

LaGrange • Mondays, July 3: *Make a Pot of Coffee*, July 10: *How to Fold a Paper Cup*, July 17: *How to Make an Emergency Candle*, and July 24: *How to Make a Quick Pie Crust* • 10 a.m. • Stuff you need to know in a five-minute lesson.

Second Saturday Book Club (Ages 16+)

LaGrange • Saturday, July 8 • 11 a.m.

This month we'll discuss "American Princess" by Stephanie Marie Thornton. Alice may be the president's daughter, but she's nobody's darling. *Copies of the book are available at the LaGrange Library's Adult Desk.*

Caregivers' Circle

West Lake Park, Topeka • Thurs., July 13 • 1-2 p.m.

Delt Church Park, Wolcottville • Thurs., July 27 • 1-2 p.m.

Taking care of an aging or ill loved one can be overwhelming. Take time to get out of the house and talk with other people who understand the struggles you face.

Classic Cinema: Hollywood Weddings (Ages 12+)

LaGrange • Select Tuesdays, July 11: *High Society* (1956), July 18: *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* (2002) and July 25: *The Princess Bride* (1987) • 2p.m. • Free movie and popcorn!

Patchwork Trails – David Rogers Memorial Park (All Ages)

2355 W 550 S, Wolcottville • Tuesday, July 18 • 6 p.m.

No fees or registration, just meet at the designated starting point.

Painting with Carl Mosher (Ages 12+)

LaGrange • Friday, July 21 • 1-4 p.m. • Cost is \$25 payable to Carl at class. Carl will supply all the materials. Please register at 260-463-2841 x1030.

Cookbook Club

LaGrange • Saturday, July 22 • 11 a.m.

Choose a recipe, cook it, and bring it to the Cookbook Club Carry-In. Plates, silverware, coffee, and tea will be provided. Families welcome.

July Events

Sewing Group

Wed., July 26 • 9:30 am–3:30 pm

Maple Wood Nature Center

Fee: \$5, given back to Parks

What is a UFO? If you answered an unfinished object, this is the perfect sewing group for you! Open to anyone! Bring your sewing machine. Get help and direction with a project, share ideas with others, and make new friends. Please bring a sack lunch and munchie to share. RSVP to Linda Grobis at 260-351-3609.

Make-n-Take Crafts

Saturday, July 8 • 10 am or 2 pm

Maple Wood Nature Center - **Free!**

Nature Center Scavenger Hunt! Prizes awarded! (This hunt will be different from June's).

Patchwork Trails

Tuesday, July 18 • 6 pm

David Rogers Park

2355 W 550 S, Wolcottville, IN

This free walking program is a partnership between LaGrange County Public Library and LaGrange County Parks and Recreation. Each walking location was chosen for low-impact, easy trails. Patchwork Trails is designed to combine exercise with education, good company, and good fun. To learn more, contact Public Library Adult Services at 260-463-2841.

Folk Jams

Sunday, July 23 • 1:30–5 pm

Maple Wood Nature Center

Jams are mostly folk, country, and bluegrass music with other styles occasionally added. Bring a snack to share, if you'd like. For more information, contact Erv Troyer at 260-463-2247 or by email at reo43@aol.com. 



Fitness Walking Club

Nature Bound

July 24 – 28 • 9 am – 3 pm

Dallas Lake Park • Registration is \$50

Grades 1-6 can have fun outside each day with nature games, environmental education, outdoor skills, and hands-on activities. Enjoy swimming, hiking, games and crafts, led by a Park Naturalist. Please register with the Park Office at 260-854-2225.

Conservation Camp

July 17 – 21 • 9 am – 2 pm

Pine Knob Park - **Free!**

2825 E SR 120, Howe, IN

In cooperation with LCYC and Indiana DNR, youth (ages 12-15) can enjoy fishing, archery and shooting, hunter ED, and more! Call the Park Office to register at 260-854-2225.

East LaGrange County Butterfly Count

Saturday, July 22

Do you live in LaGrange County, east of SR 9, north of Big Long Lake, and west of SR 327? You live where we want to count butterflies! You can count anytime during the day, for a minimum of 30 minutes. You need to know how to identify the most common butterflies in our area or have the ability to take clear photos of the butterflies you see. To join the count, or for more information, contact Leslie Arnold at 260-854-2225 or larnold@lagrangecounty.org. RSVP required by July 14 to receive free butterfly ID handouts and count paperwork.

Every Trail Fitness Walking Club


Join us in the Every Park Every Trail Fitness Walking Club for 2023!

There are five trails that will be used on designated days throughout the year until November. The next upcoming trail walk date will be **July 8 at Mike Metz Fen, 2825 E SR 120, Howe, IN**, starting at the Pine Knob Clubhouse at 9 am.

It is free to participate! Each trail is approximately two miles; walk at your own pace and do your best! Remember to bring a water bottle and dress for the weather. Not only is this a good opportunity to meet new friends, but there are various health benefits such as boosting heart health, mood, immunity, sleep quality, and more.

There will be a fun reward for those who participate! On each trail walk day, a Park Naturalist will be present at the trailhead at 9 am to record participation and to answer questions. If you walk at least once at each of the five trails, you'll receive a fun participation reward. These rewards will be handed out at the last walk to those who qualify.

Trail maps may be found at the trailhead, on the AllTrails App, or on the LaGrange County Parks and Recreation website, www.lagrangecountyparks.org.

For more information, contact the Park Office at 260-854-2225. 



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LCCF Presents Heart of Gold Award and Community Impact Grants

Amy Whited of LaGrange received the LaGrange County Community Foundation's highest volunteer honor, the Heart of Gold Award, at the Foundation's Annual Celebration Monday evening at the Farmstead Inn & Conference Center.

Whited, an art teacher at Lakeland Intermediate School, was nominated for the award by her mentor and friend, Mary Woodworth. Whited credited her mentor for encouraging her to pursue a creative path.

Known to serve quietly in the background, Whited is involved in volunteer activities for youth – especially in art. She is a 25-year member of Tri Kappa Mu, a local women's sorority focused on philanthropy, and helps organize the annual Tri Kappa Art Month. A board member of LaGrange Communities Youth Centers, she leads and instructs an annual summer art camp for elementary students. She volunteers with Camp Watcha Wanna Do and LaGrange Night to Shine. This past year, she was instrumental in helping support a new arts organization, LaGrange County Arts.

Whited was one of 10 Heart of Gold nominees honored at the Foundation's annual event. Other honorees included: Alexis Grossman of Wolcottville; Alice Bremer of LaGrange; Heather Even-son of Wolcottville; John Schmidt of LaGrange; Keith James of Howe; Kevin Myers of LaGrange; Mike Brudney of LaGrange; Randy Merrifield of LaGrange; and Samantha Davis-Kania of LaGrange.

In addition to presenting the Heart of Gold award, the LCCF gathering was a celebration of all the good work done by volunteers, nonprofits, donors, and community partners in helping advance the Community Foundation's mission of inspiring generosity, leadership and service in LaGrange County.

The event, with the theme of "Let's Rise," featured a panel of nonprofit directors sharing how their organizations are rising to meet community needs. Featured nonprofits included Kathy Dunafin of Elijah Haven Crisis & Intervention Center, Jared Beasley of Community Health Clinic and Portia Amstutz of Rainbow Years Learning Ministry.

Jason Schackow, principal of Lakeland Jr/Sr High School, shared the keynote address about "Rising to the Challenge." He noted how amazing LaGrange County residents are at this already but encouraged us to take that one additional step and do one more thing that will set you apart. Face challenges head-on because "we were born for such a time as this."

The Community Foundation also announced the recipients of its spring Community Impact Grants cycle. Four organizations will receive grant funds totaling \$71,736:

- LaGrange County Arts will receive \$5,000 for the second annual LaGrange County Arts Festival. The June 24 event will showcase artists specializing in theatrical, literary, visual and musical arts.
- St. Martin's Healthcare will receive \$25,000 for its mobile health clinic. The organization provides healthcare to uninsured and underinsured people in LaGrange, Noble, Steuben and DeKalb counties. Their mobile clinic will visit LaGrange County at least once a week to see patients.
- Community Dental Clinic in Topeka will receive \$20,000 to help purchase an oral scanner to help their organization provide more effective dental care.
- Rainbow Years Learning Ministry will receive \$21,736 to put toward purchasing materials, furniture, equipment, toys/activities for the childcare's upgraded facilities. Rainbow Years Expansion Project will be adding 25 more childcare seats. 📍





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4:30pm Softball Tourney Begins on the East Park Diamonds

7:30pm Homerun Derby

JULY 4th

7-10am Pancake & Sausage Breakfast at the Topeka Fire Station

8:00am Road Race & Fun Walk register at East Park Pavilion
3-on-3 Basketball Tourney & 3 Point Shootout
sponsored by LaGwana

Softball Tourney Continues

10:00am Kid's Games in East Park Pavilion

Garden Tractor Pull on Babcock St.

11am-1pm Juggler Lamar Yoder find him around the park

Noon Mousetrap Theatre at East Park Pavilion

3:00pm Watermelon Eating Contest in parking lot near Pavilion
Sign up begins at 2:30

5:30pm PARADE Theme: "Light Up America"

Sign up and line up begins at 3:45 in Nisco Parking Lot.

Line up is as you arrive so if you want to be close to the

beginning, come early. No entry fee. Be creative. Have fun!

6:45pm LaGrange Community Band near East Park Pavilion

8:00pm Free Concert in East Park with "Full Measure"

10:15pm FIREWORKS



Topeka Fourth of July Parade Marshal Announced



The 2023 Parade Marshal for Topeka's 4th of July parade is Stan Strater! Stan is Topeka's Police Marshal and a standout in our community. Stan was born and raised in Albion and graduated from Central Noble in 1989. After graduating, he attended Indiana-Purdue of Ft. Wayne and received an associate degree in criminal justice.

Stan began his law enforcement career with the LaGrange County Sheriff's Office in 1992 as an intern and was soon hired as a 911 dispatcher. Over the years, he also served as a reserve Officer for the Topeka Police Department, a K-9 Officer, and a general instructor, until being appointed Town Marshal in 2017.

"I soon realized that my new position became more administrative,"

Stan remarks. "I work more now in the office and attend meetings. However, now working during the day I get to do more community policing and communicate with business owners."

Stan's father, Stan Strater Sr., was a Noble County Sheriff's Deputy, and Stan wanted to follow in his father's footsteps. However, Stan joined the local law enforcement team for another reason: "I wanted to make a difference in my community and hope to help make a change for the better," Stan states. "I know that a law enforcement officer is either 'loved' or 'hated,' there is no in-between. We help save lives but also take someone's freedom when a crime is committed. The key to success is listening, understanding, and communication." This is a tough

job and the people of Topeka appreciate Stan's willingness to take on such a demanding occupation.

"I grew up in a small community and when I moved to Topeka I still felt at home," Stan explains when asked why he chose Topeka. "I have my family, law enforcement family, and the Town of Topeka family. I like that Topeka is a close community and comes together in times of need."


Let's celebrate Stan this 4th of July with an ovation and applause. We love that you are a part of this community and "family," and you are appreciated more than you know. Thank you for all that you do for Topeka! 

Photo Caption: Stan with his wife, Jessica, his daughters Shania (26), Savana (19), and Shayla (9), and grandson, Nolan (7). Photo Submitted


SAHS Presents Prominent People in Shipshewana

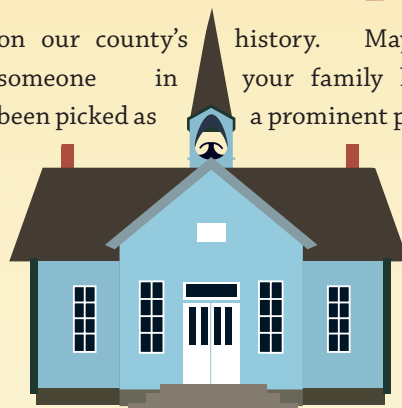
Join the next SAHS meeting at the Farver School Museum, 315 N Morton St. in Shipshewana on Monday, July 17 at 6:30 p.m.

Bryan and Carolyn McCoy of the LaGrange County Historical Society will be presenting "Prominent People of Shipshewana and the Area." Bryan and Carolyn are our county historians who have a wealth of information

on our county's history. Maybe someone in your family has been picked as a prominent per-

son—come to the meeting and find out! We welcome all to come and enjoy the evening.

The SAHS will be selling King's BBQ chicken on Saturday, July 15 beginning at 10 a.m. until it's gone. Due to the construction on State Road 5, we'll be on the west side of the road in the same area by the Shipshewana Auction Barn and the Town & County Hardware. 



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Receives National Honor



Through its contribution of 1,635 volunteer hours during the 2021-2022 school year, Lake City Bank employees influenced countless young people as they shared Junior Achievement's work-readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy activities across northern Indiana. In recognition of this valuable contribution, Lake City Bank will be honored with the U.S. President's Volunteer Service Bronze Award on June 13 in Washington, D.C.

Created by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, Lake City Bank is one of only 65 companies across the nation honored with the award. Lake City Bank is also the first regional business to receive this award. Todd Bruce, Senior Vice President, Commercial North Regional Manager at Lake City Bank, will be in Washington, D.C. to accept the honor during the Junior Achievement national summit.

"Lake City Bank is proud to support the hands-on learning that helps our young people develop financial literacy, explore the world of educational and work opportunities, and to create a great future for themselves," said Bruce. "JA is a perfect match for our employees' time and our corporate partnership. Together we are helping youth set career and economic goals that will offer them future economic security and self-sufficiency."

"The investment of time and talent the Lake City Bank team makes each

year through its volunteer commitment to Junior Achievement of Northern Indiana is immeasurable," says Steve Helser, Chief Operating Officer, Junior Achievement of Northern Indiana. "By sharing their personal experiences during JA activities in the classroom, at JA BizTown®, and in JA Finance Park®, Lake City Bank volunteers are bringing classroom learning to life, encouraging career exploration, and reinforcing the connection of education, work, and life."

Junior Achievement of Northern Indiana will deliver over 166,000 education experiences to students and young adults during the current 2022-2023 school year. These experiences foster work-readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy skills and use experiential learning to inspire students to dream big and reach their potential.

Lake City Bank, a \$6.4 billion bank headquartered in Warsaw, Indiana, is the seventh largest bank headquartered in the state, and the largest bank 100% invested in Indiana. Lake City Bank operates 53 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.

lakecitybank.com ⓘ



Yoder's Shipshewana Hardware Shopping Spree Winners Announced

This summer just got a bit hotter for Yoder's Shipshewana Hardware customers John M. Yoder and Kate Irene Bontrager.

On June 2, 2023, John Yoder and Kate Bontrager were chosen as winners of Yoder's Shipshewana Hardware \$500 Shopping Giveaways. They were chosen at random from more than 1,000 entries submitted between February 20 and May 31, 2023.

Nathan Jones said that Yoder's Shipshewana Hardware is delighted to provide two of its customers with the opportunity to make their Spring/Summer projects a little more exciting.

"Everyone has home and outdoor projects this time of year and we're glad that John and Kate will be able to choose the tools and products they need to help get those projects done. We want to thank all those who entered the giveaway for their participation. Remember, the more times you visit our store, the better your chances of winning!"

Yoder's Shipshewana Hardware is located in the Yoder Shopping Center and has been serving local and visiting customers in Shipshewana since 1979. ⓘ



Jonas Miller is pleased to present John Yoder and Kate Bontrager with their Shopping Spree checks.

Photo Submitted

Happy Paws

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PARKVIEW

Hospitals Receive A's for Safety

Four Parkview Health hospitals have been awarded an “A” in the spring 2023 Hospital Safety Grade by The Leapfrog Group, a national nonprofit focused on patient safety in hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers.

This national distinction celebrates Parkview’s achievements in prioritizing patient safety by protecting patients from harm and errors. The Leapfrog Group assigns an “A,” “B,” “C,” “D” or “F” grade to general hospitals across the country based on over 30 national performance measures reflecting errors, accidents, injuries and infections, as well as hospital processes to prevent harm.


“Parkview Noble Hospital takes the Leapfrog Group grade seriously as we see it as a measurement of how well we are doing in our journey to provide zero patient harm or injuries,” said Gary Adkins, market president, Parkview Health North. “This ‘A’ grade from Leapfrog reflects our ongoing progress toward the quality goals to which our team is committed. This is the second such grade we’ve received in the past calendar year, a point of pride for our co-workers.”

An “A” grade was awarded to Parkview DeKalb Hospital, Parkview Huntington Hospital, Parkview Noble Hospital and Parkview

Whitley Hospital. This marks the fourth consecutive “A” for Parkview Huntington Hospital, and second consecutive “A” for Parkview DeKalb Hospital and Parkview Noble Hospital.

Parkview Regional Medical Center & Affiliates received a “B” grade for the spring period. Grades were not calculated for Parkview LaGrange Hospital or Parkview Wabash Hospital. The new grades reflect performance primarily during the height of the pandemic, from the fall of 2021 through the spring of 2022.

“We are extremely proud of our co-workers for achieving these high grades, especially during the most challenging months of the pandemic,” said Jeffrey Boord, MD, MPH, chief quality and safety officer, Parkview Health. “We strive to continuously improve and monitor performance measures from Leapfrog and other national standards. We are already seeing improved clinical outcomes from changes we implemented as a result of feedback from this grading period, and we appreciate our co-workers’ commitment to excellence.”

To see full grade details, visit hospitalsafetygrade.org. 

Diabetes Support Group’s Trivia Challenge


Trivia is back to entertain and educate at the June 29 meeting of the Parkview Center for Healthy Living’s Diabetes Support Group.

Put on your game face, test your reflexes, and join Terri Clark, RN and certified diabetes care and education nurse at Parkview Noble Hospital, as she hosts the Diabetes Trivia Challenge and tests your knowledge about this chronic disease.

Questions such as “What are three treatments for low blood sugar?” will help participants better understand diabetes and how to manage care. Prizes will be available for winning participants.

Anyone who has diabetes, who wants to support a loved one, or who just wants to expand their health knowledge is invited to participate. The quiz will take place Thursday, June 29, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at The Community Learning Center, 401 Diamond St. in Kendallville.

Support group meetings are free, but registration in advance is required. Please call the Parkview Center for Healthy Living at 260-347-8125 to register. Anyone seeking support and information for living with diabetes is welcome to attend the monthly meetings of the Diabetes Support Group, which is facilitated by Clark.

Individuals with diabetes may also receive one-on-one consultations with a certified diabetes educator through Parkview Noble Hospital. Certified diabetes educators include a registered nurse and a registered dietitian. A physician’s order is required, and insurance is billed. For questions, and to schedule an appointment for a consultation, call 260-347-8301. 





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- 1 Damon Grant, Marcus Slabaugh
- 2 Daniel Lancour, Anna Spillers
- 3 James Bailey, Avery Christner, Kimberly Mast, Ava Yoder
- 4 Brooklyn Miller
- 5 Ethan Miller, Reese Yoder
- 6 Orley Beachy, Adrian Hostetler, Eric Riehl, Jordan Troyer, Adrianna Wingard, Josiah Yoder
- 7 Salia Bontrager, Jenean Hochstetler, Ethan Mast, Evan Mast, Isaiah Miller, Meghan Otto
- 8 Averie Brandenberger, Michelle Yoder
- 9 Micah Miller, Brayden Walz
- 10 Kendall Lambright, Allison Miller, Andrea Miller, Seth Schlabach, Micah Whetstone
- 11 Leila Fry, Leila Mast, Colleen Whetstone, Trentlyn Wingard
- 12 Amy Miller, Kailey Miller, Trevin Reynolds
- 13 Zachary Detweiler, Jeremy Troyer
- 14 Austin Hostetler, Jayna Yoder
- 16 Sariah Detweiler, Noah Howard, Jenna Schrock, Mason Sweet, Jordan Trowbridge
- 17 Daelynn Bryan, Skylynn Weeden
- 18 Jerome Lehman, Brent Yoder, Rylan Yoder
- 19 Jackson Byers, Jesse Mishler, Grady Yoder

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- 21 Makiah Lambright, Jaylin Lehman, Edison Martin, Jesse Miller
- 22 Justin Miller, Lucas Miller, Journey Wilbourn, Carson Yoder
- 23 Kaiser Bontrager, RyLynn Matney, Alivia Miller, Devon Miller, Joshua Troyer, Logan Yoder
- 24 Landon Beachy, Jayla Lehman, Clayton Moon, Justus Ponce Marin, Allison Stutzman
- 25 Ashlin Rockey, Joshua Schlabach, Tanner Trittipso
- 26 Caleb Miller, Easton Miller, Saul Vargas, Jayden Yoder
- 27 Constance Killian, Isaac Raber, Joshua Riehl, Joshua Slabach, Beckett Troxel, Bayzli Turner, Janae Yoder
- 28 Sytenyan Sornross
- 29 Arienette England, Josiah Radcliff, Kohbey VanHoozer, Hadley Yoder
- 30 Brayden Bontrager, Owen Carman, Mason Sivits
- 31 Izaiah Balyeat, Riley Slabaugh, Maciah Yoder



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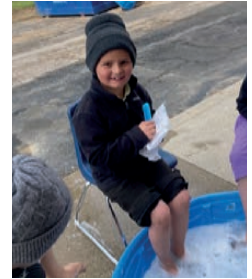
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Meadowview Citizenship Award: *(in no particular order): Ashley Yoder, Ethan Miller, Mila Yoder, Austin Bontrager, Glen Bontrager, Sara Miller, Camden Brewer, Leah Petersheim, Jenna Yoder, Easton Hostetler, Analeya Garcia, Kurtis Bontrager, Ethan Miller, Ava Miller, Austin Bontrager, Emmery Spencer, Nicholas Bontrager, Samantha Yoder, Lynn Miller, Audrey Lambright, Sariah Detweiler, Zachary Miller, Zachary Detweiler, Nora Yoder, Hadley Keim, Davey King, Abigail Hershberger, Ethan Bontrager, Ava Yoder, Travis Miller, Graison Yoder, Kalaya Hostetler, Timothy Schrock, Adrianna Wingard, Brent Miller, Tidus Schrock, Harvey Hudson and Jaydon Hershberger.*



4th graders with all A's throughout the 2022-23 school year: *Abigail Hershberger, Obadiah Raber, Emily Otto, Joshua Otto, James Lambright, Kate Mauck, Travis Miller, and Graison Yoder.*



PE "Top Athlete" Award: *Travis Miller, Derek Hochstetler, Zienna Yoder, Travis Bontrager, Tyler Yoder, Martha Beachy, and Emily Otto.*

All Photos Submitted


End of Year

Awards, Labs, Confetti

Meadowview Elementary School would like to acknowledge the following students of the 2022-23 school year for their academic achievements and outstanding citizenship. The following fourth-grade students received the PE "Mental Attitude" award: Obadiah Raber, Emmalyn England, Ethan Bontrager, Kinley Hershberger, Jaylin Lehman, and Salena Gingerich. Several fourth-grade students also received awards for earning all A's throughout the 2022-23 school year and for being a "Top Athlete" in PE. Additional fourth-grade students were also recognized and awarded for receiving all A's & B's this year. Many students also were recognized and awarded for reading and passing 20 AR tests for the Young Hoosier Program as well as our Tri-Kappa finalist and winners for the 2022-23 school year. Finally, each classroom awards one boy and one girl from their class for the Meadowview Citizenship award. Congratulations to our Meadowview Mustangs!

Meadowview's Reading and Math Labs celebrated the end of the year with a party! Students enjoyed popsicles, while using their "toe" motor skills to pick up marbles in a pool of soapy water.

3A celebrated the end of third grade with confetti. This confetti was made by writing down our testing worries and then ripping them up into confetti. What better way to celebrate?

It was a great school year! 



Kindergarten Shining Citizens: *Back (left to right):* Kaiser Bontrager, Dawson Williams, Noah Lehman and Zayne Yoder. *Front:* Landon Schlabach, Colt Patrick, Vanessa Miller and Gwendolyn Burgi.



First Grade Shining Citizens: *Back (left to right):* Ethan Mast, Tyler Lambright, Riley Slabaugh, Gabriel Troyer and Brooklyn Miller. *Front:* Caroline Schlabach, Brooklyn Hochstetler, Alaina Clark and Jenna Beechy.



Second Grade Shining Citizens: *Back (left to right):* Jacob Miller, Nolan Privett, Isaiah Miller, Elijah Lambright and Hudson Moon. *Front:* Kristen Yoder, Abigail Abney, Jared Yoder, Sara Chupp, Grant Bontrager and Alayna Miller.



Third Grade Shining Citizens: *Back (left to right):* Kinley Yoder, Jayce Nichols, Sadie Hostetler and Avery Mast. *Front:* Lisa Hershberger, Lucas Raber and Brantley Miller.



Fourth Grade Shining Citizens: *Back (left to right):* Zoey Moon, Jessica Hostetler, Ryleigh Weimer, Warrick Owsley and Weslee Steider. *Front:* Treva Miller, Ava Hochstetler, Elijah Wingard and Allison Miller.

This page made possible by the



Fourth Quarter Award Celebration

It has been a great year at Shipshe-Scott! We celebrated the end of the year with our awards for the fourth quarter. Students were selected from each class to receive Shining Citizen awards. These students consistently exhibited positive behaviors and life skills that contributed to the well-being of the school community. Each class also gave an award to one boy and one girl for exhibiting valuable problem-solving skills when working with others. Congratulations to all of these Shipshe-Scott Scotties on their well-deserved certificates! We hope all students and staff have a safe, relaxing, and fun summer break! 📄



Kindergarten Problem Solvers: Back (left to right): Richard Brinager, Logan Lambright, Keanan Byroad and Asher Raber. Front: Kinsley Miller, Parker Miller, Adra Miller and Jayden Yoder.



First Grade Problem Solvers: Back (left to right): Ava Miller, Jaydon Miller, Jenna Slabach and Kenlin Stutzman. Front: Molly Long, Charlie Gingerich, Jared King and Maverick Calvillo.



Third Grade Problem Solvers: Back (left to right): Harper Yoder, Kurtis Miller and Seth Schlabach. Front: Gage Miller, Beverly Foulk and Kyla Miller.



Fourth Grade Problem Solvers: Back (left to right): Alex Detweiler, Adelynn Raber and Janice Miller. Front: Taiba Aldhuraibi, Miles Glassman and Cole Stutzman.



Second Grade Problem Solvers: Back (left to right): Sadie Mast, Landry Miller, Kyrie Mauck and Lincoln Miller. Front: Jayonna Wingard, Royce Yoder, Beckett Troxel and Kylie Wingard.


All Photos Submitted

Wrapping up the School Year

All year, second graders at Topeka Elementary have been working hard to raise money for Black Pine Animal Sanctuary to help support the animals there. The local Topeka businesses Gathered, Do-It Best Hardware, Topeka Pharmacy and Topeka Pizza allowed the second graders to place donation buckets in their businesses for patrons to make donations.

The second graders collected and totaled the money and went to Black Pine to donate it together. They raised a total of \$375!

Students loved seeing and learning about all the animals they helped and were so excited that they were able to make a difference for their community!

Before breaking for the summer, fourth quarter awards were given. Congratulations goes to the Quarter 4 Award winners at for PAWSitive Person, Marvelous Mathematicians, and Radical Readers! 

All Photos Submitted



This page made possible by the



Topeka Elementary

Home of the Bears



Packing in the Fun Before Summer

Westview Elementary's sixth grade stayed busy until the end of the year. In April, the class visited Chicago where students got to see The Bean and have lunch in Millennium Park.

They also visited Camp Amigo. Students got to do fun outdoor activities, like going on a marsh hike.

In music class, students enjoyed the keyboard unit. The keyboards were partially funded by a gracious grant from the L.I.F.E (LaGrange County Community Foundation).

Finally, Westview Elementary held their first ever "Warrior Round-Up." Students and staff competed in differ-

ent field day activities. Mr. Yoder's class received the most points throughout the day, and won the trophy! 🏆



All Photos Submitted



Westview Elementary

Home of the Warriors

The Hometown Treasure · July '23

Spring Academic Awards

3.5 Academic Awards Recipients

9th Grade: Gurmi Al Gurmi, Hyde Al Yahiri, Noriah Aldhuraibi, Kristen Bender, Katana Bibbee, Noah Bontrager, Breann Cory, Chayenne Diaz, Hunter Egli, Madison Grossman, Ava Hostetler, Dakota Hubbard, Kaleb Iddings, Briana Kaufman, Hailey Lambright, Janell Lambright, Audri Martin, Lanita Mast, Miley Mast, MyKayla Mast, Eden Mauck, Milan Miller, Myra Miller, Lilly Mullet, Kailey Nissley, Nathan Peruski, Aaron Roth, Bentley Ryall, Brett Springer, Jordynn Wasson and Brina Williams. **10th Grade:** Sarah Alshuga, Cole Bontrager, Ian Bontrager, Lilly Bontrager, Clarinda Byler, Mason Clark, Gavin Engle, Jaxon Engle, Max Engle, Zackary Fry, Micah Geyer, Ava Gilbert, Silas Haarer, Grace Heyerly, Hussein Hussein, Olivia Jasso, Asher Kennedy, Kiana Mast, Curtis Miller, Shanna Miller, Gwendolynn Owsley, Tristan Pearson, Morgan Rich, Morgan Riegsecker, Jonathan Roth, Alexzander Sanchez, Lindsey Schwartz, Dylan Shrock, Kelsie Ward, Alexis Warren,

Annagail Warrener, Jacob Watts, Ava Williams, Ella Williams, Bryan M Yoder and Kamden Yoder. **11th Grade:** Eli Atra, Layna Avila, Kristie Bolling, Caleb Bontrager, Maryah Bontrager, Nicholas Bontrager, Hope Bortner, Katie Engelage, Joshua Heidorn, Luke Helmuth, Benton Hershberger, Judson Hershberger, Stephen Jones, Braden Kauffman, Jace Lang, Ciara Mikel, Karli Miller, Karly Miller, Douglas Minix, Teague Misner, Christien Noward, Kaitlin Nuzum, Mahasen Omarouf, Jennifer Luna Osorio, Jacob Peruski, Braden Rogers, Taven Schrock, Wade Springer, Madeline Stults, Skye Stump, Audrey Taylor, Lauren Vanderpool, Nevaeh White, Mason Wire, Kjersten Yater, Danika Yoder, Melissa Yoder and Scott Yoder. **12th Grade:** Mohamed Aamer, Ashwaq Aldhuraibi, Kylene Bender, Ava Brown, Andrew Byler, Brianna Caldwell, Isabella Carmona, Ella

Clark, Kaylee Cleveland, Alyssa Cory, Kaitlyn Cupp, Braden Eash, Skye Growcock, Hope Haarer, Courtney Hall, Chadwick Hershberger, Ethan Hibbs, Savannah Hoover, Isaiah Hostetler, Jethro Hostetler, Bailey Kenner, Ethan Konkle, Sara Lapp, Bianca Leonard, Precious Litton, Evan Litwiller, Adrian Miller, Andrea Miller, Chase Miller, Cora Miller, Justin Miller, Kaci Miller, Kamryn Miller, Katelyn Miller, Lyndon Miller, Maria Miller, Matthew Mortrud, Linda Mullett, Brandt Norberg, Lucille Rensberger, Paige Riegsecker, Logan Schwartz, Paige Schwartz, Dawson Shrock, Emily Stutzman, Stacy Stutzman, Caden Suddarth, Christian Uresti, Brady Yoder and Ella Yoder.



This page made possible by



Westview Jr./Sr. High

Home of the Warriors

Senior Scholarships

Department Awards

4-H Ten Year Members:

Asher Bontrager, Faith Christner, Jace Everitt, Skye Growcock, Courtney Hall, Collin Martin, Gaven Miller, Brandt Norberg, Taylor Sherman, Stacy Stutzman and Brady Yoder

American Red Cross: Chad Hershberger

College Board Big Future:

Emily Stutzman

DAR Good Citizen: Kamryn Miller

Delta Theta Tau: Skye Growcock

Goshen Hospital Auxiliary: Ashwaq Aldhuraibi and Paige Riegsecker

John Philip Sousa Award: Ethan Hibbs

LaGrange County Rotary: Maria Miller

Parkview LaGrange Hospital:

Skye Growcock

Tri Kappa English Cup Award:

Sara Lapp

Tri Kappa Scholarship: Skye Growcock

Marine Corps:

- *Distinguished Athlete:* Lyndon Miller, Lucy Rensberger
- *NROTC:* Ethan Konkle
- *Scholastic Excellence:* Linda Mullett
- *Semper Fidelis (Music):* Ethan Hibbs

LaGrange County Community

Foundation:

- *Allread-Rife Family:* Paige Riegsecker
- *Craig D and Rhonda S Neff Memorial:* Skye Growcock
- *James F. Kalb Memorial:* Ella Yoder
- *Keith and Arline Davis Memorial:* Ella Yoder
- *Kerry Wilt-Spradlin Memorial:* Paige Riegsecker
- *Lambright Leadership:* Ella Clark, Ethan Hibbs and Paige Riegsecker
- *LIFE:* Ella Yoder
- *Lyle Smith:* Ella Yoder
- *Mike Farmwald:* Ella Yoder
- *Morgan Hunter:* Skye Growcock
- *Rheinheimer Family:* Skye Growcock and Emily Stutzman

Music Department:

Kylen Bender, Faith Christner, Ella Clark, Kaylee Cleveland, Jordan Collyer, Kaitlyn Cupp, Skye Growcock, Hope Haarer, Ethan Hicks, Kyle Hochstetler, Isaiah Hostetler, Jethro Hostetler, Justin Kindig, Cole Mast, Kamryn Miller, Lucy Rensberger, Paige Riegsecker, Dawson Shrock and Stacy Stutzman

National School Choral Award:

Lucy Rensberger

Next Generation Hoosier Education:

Emily Stutzman

Hyde Al Yahiri, Sarah Alshuga, Johnna Bailey, Kylen Bender, Katana Bibbee, Caleb Bontrager, Ian Bontrager, Lilly Bontrager, Nick Bontrager, Hope Bortner, Clarinda Byler, Brianna Caldwell, Isabella Carmona, Faith Christner, Kaitlyn Cupp, Braden Eash, Gavin Engle, Lakota Everitt, Micah Geyer, Thibault Gillet, Madison Grossman, Skye Growcock, Luke Hall, Benton Hershberger, Judson Hershberger, Grace Heyerly, Ava Hostetler, Isaiah Hostetler, Dakota Hubbard, Hussein Hussein, Kaleb Iddings, Olivia Jasso, Briana Kaufman, Bailey Kenner, Justin Kindig, Janell Lambright, Jace Lang, Sara Lapp, Evan Litwiller, Audri Martin, Kiana Mast, Lanita Mast, Chase Miller, Kaci Miller, Kamryn Miller, Karly Miller, Katelyn Miller, Maria Miller, Milan Miller, Myra Miller, Lilly Mullett, Linda Mullett, Kailey Nissley, Tori Persing, Jacob Peruski, Lucy Rensberger, Morgan Riegsecker, Paige Riegsecker, Braden Rogers, Jonathan Roth, Bentley Ryall, Alexander Sanchez, Leigha Schrock, Lindsay Schwartz, Paige Schwartz, Wade Springer, Samantha Stump, Emily Stutzman, Kirstin Stutzman, Stacy Stutzman, Caden Suddarth, Julia Tretheway, Annagail Warrenner, Jordyn Wasson, Jalayna Whetstone, Ava Williams, Kjersten Yater, Ella Yoder and Scott Yoder.



Perfect Attendance: Ethan Hibbs, Jonathan Roth, Emily Stutzman, Jacob Watts, Kjersten Yater and Dallas Yoder.

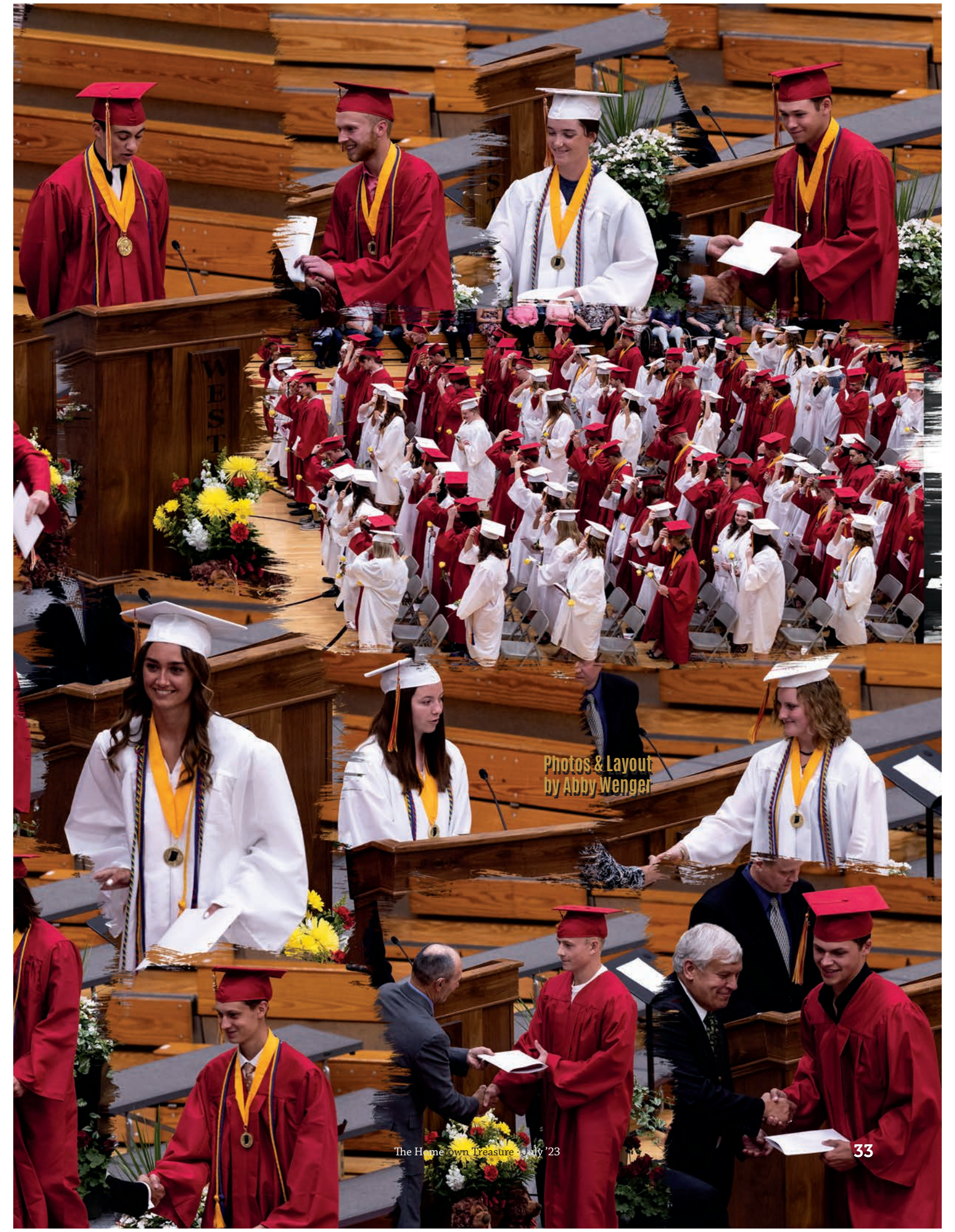
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2023 Westview Graduation

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MAKING SUMMER MEMORABLE

Article and photos
by Chloe Lovell





Summer Activities To Do With Family and Friends

"MAKE LASTING MEMORIES"

Summer is meant to be a fun time of year to get out of the house, with breaks from the school year and vacation trips. However, sometimes it can be hard to enjoy the season or even fully remember it. The constant lawn mowing and blazing heat creates a sense of limbo where time stands still until fall arrives and students begin heading back to school. Finding little ways to get out of the house, spend time with family, and make lasting memories is important in these times. There are numerous ways to do so this summer while staying active and keeping cool despite the heat.

To start, one fun outdoor summer activity to do with a group of friends is hiking. Growing up, my family would take day trips to Pokagon State Park in Angola. Although it is a long drive to get there, it was a great way to spend a day with the family. With various lengths of hiking trails, we could choose how far we wanted to go and could even cut onto an intersecting path in case we wanted to take a shortcut back.

There are several parks in LaGrange County that offer hiking paths, such as Dallas Lake Park, Delt Church Park, Maple Wood Nature Center, and Pine Knob Park. These parks, overseen by the LaGrange County Department of Parks and Recreation, provide trails with varying conditions and environments; where some parts of the trail are out in the open, other parts run through the shade to keep hikers cool on their hike.

In addition to these trails, the Parks Department hosts various events for the public throughout the year. Such events include a monthly sewing group, make-n-take crafts, a band jam night, and nature days for kids, to name a few. More information about the Parks Department events can be found in the online events calendar at: https://www.lagrangecounty.org/egov/apps/events/calendar.egov?eGov_searchDepartment=33.

A second summer activity that can be done with friends is going for a bike ride. Biking is a good way to get active without sweating too heavily, depending on your exertion level. There are a few trails in our area to use, such as specific LaGrange County Parks (Delt Church Park and the green trail at the Maple Wood Nature Center) and the Pumpkinvine Trail. Similar to the hiking trails at the county parks, these trails provide shaded areas to keep users out of the sun for extended periods of time.

Growing up, my family would take bike rides together during the summers. We would grab a couple of water bottles and ride a few miles down the road until we reached our designated turnaround spot. We eventu-

ally switched to riding on the Pumpkinvine Trail, as there are fewer opportunities to cross paths with a car.

We liked how the majority of the Pumpkinvine is shaded, and how we can ride longer distances on a very smooth path. The Pumpkinvine also has bathrooms and refreshments along the trail to stop at if desired, which my family appreciated greatly; the Dairy Queen in Goshen became our designated turnaround spot for that trail. All in all, biking the Pumpkinvine, or any trail in our area, is a great way to spend a summer day, whether on your own or with a group of people.

Another good way to bond with a group during the summer is to go disc golfing. As the name suggests, it is merely golfing with frisbees, or discs, and the hole





you are aiming for is a standing metal basket with chains attached. Disc golf courses tend to cover large areas, so there is a large amount of walking if you choose to complete the whole course. Within this large area, the course path will often lead into heavily shaded areas to create natural "obstacles" for players while allowing them a chance to cool off.

A few courses are scattered across the surrounding areas like Middlebury, Kendallville, Sturgis, and Ligonier, but the 18-hole course at Delt Church Park is the only course in LaGrange County. The course was recently renovated with significant changes to the hole locations, tee markers, course signs, and more to ensure players have the best disc golf experience. Discs are not supplied at the course though, so you'll need to bring your own to play with.

Activities like hiking, biking, and disc golfing are great ways to get active this summer while spending time with friends and family. However, one of the best ways to spend quality time with a group of people is to simply sit down

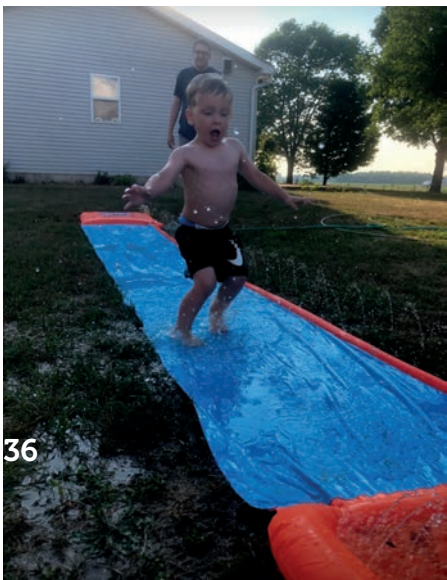
and talk. Consider going on a picnic or hosting a cookout with your friends. Set up lawn chairs and canopies so people can sit and talk in the shade, and prepare food ahead of time that people can snack on while they talk. Some of my

cookout favorites with friends and family are pasta salads, watermelon, grilled hot dogs and hamburgers. We

"SIMPLY SIT DOWN AND TALK"

usually pull out a couple of yard games to play while we wait for the food to finish cooking, typically cornhole, bocce ball, and Yard-zee. And of course, once it gets darker and cooler out, responsibly starting a campfire to huddle around and make s'mores is a summer memory staple.

Because of the intense heat and humidity, sitting out in the shade isn't always enough to keep cool. Because of this, some of the best outdoor activi-



ties involve spending time in the water. One of my favorites is to have a lake day with my friends and family. We usually bring food to eat on the beach as we tan, go swimming, pass a beach ball around in the water, and kayak around the lake. However, lake days can be whatever you want them to be. Whether it be fishing, canoeing, water games, and more, there are many ways to spend a day at the lake with family and friends.

If you would prefer to stay at home though, you can still enjoy water activities. One of my favorites is to put together a slip-n-slide; all you need is a tarp, a sprinkler, and a little bit of dish soap. Start by laying out the tarp on a slight decline outside and drizzle a small amount of dish soap over it. A little really goes a long way in this situation, so start small with the soap. You can always add more soap later if needed. Lastly, position the sprinkler so the water will fall over the tarp and mix with the soap.

Once the tarp is wet and slippery enough, the slip-n-slide is ready! Where only one or two people may be able to enjoy using the slip-n-slide at one time, spending part of a hot summer day sliding down a tarp under a sprinkler can



Photo by Molly Lovell

be a lot of fun – especially watching your friends slip and slide down.

To get a larger group of people involved, evolve the slip-n-slide into slip-n-slide dodgeball. The game is played with normal dodgeball rules and setup except players must run along the slip-n-slide that lines the path to each base, the bases being inflatable kiddie pools filled with water. Taking breaks is inevitable to refill the kiddie pools with water but you are guaranteed to have a fun time slipping and sliding around with friends.

Where it is important to make memories and to find ways to enjoy your summer, it is also important to take care of yourself and stay safe. For one, be sure to apply sunscreen when spending long periods of time out in the sun. Excessive sun exposure without a protective layer will not only burn the skin, making it sensitive and tender, but overexposure can also lead to sun poisoning and skin cancer. Applying sunscreen diligently when going out in the sun will help decrease your chances of burning and harming your skin.

Similarly, make sure to apply plenty of bug spray when venturing into buggy areas. It's difficult to enjoy your summer when you're constantly feeling itchy due to mosquito bites. Using bug spray or bug repellent is important to deter bugs that are capable of spreading diseases, such as mosquitos, ticks and fleas.

Finally, it is important to hydrate! Your body needs water to function properly on a normal basis. With the heat of summer and any physical activity, your body needs more water to compensate for the sweat lost during the season. Being dehydrated is an awful feeling, especially in the hottest season of the year, so make sure to drink plenty of water.

The extreme heat can make it difficult to fully enjoy or remember the summer. An easy step to solve this is to find the activities you enjoy doing and to enjoy them with the right people. There are many ways to get the most out of your summer, from leisure sports activities to days in the water and more. Doing these fun activities with friends and family, while taking care of yourself, is a great way to make this summer one to remember. 📌



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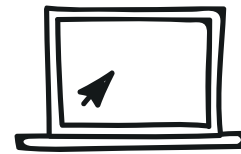
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"The Shocking Dream of Ocie Kauffman"

*A Dead Soldier. A Sick Sister.
An After-Death Encounter*

by Harold D. Gingerich

There are some things that simply defy explanation. One such thing was the dream in which Mrs. Ocie M. Stroman Kauffman claimed that her brother Ray Stroman had appeared to her. The Ft Wayne Sentinel ran the story at the top of page seven in the Saturday edition on October 12, 1918. But here is the thing: Corporal Ray Stroman had been killed in action while serving in France previously on August 28. Was Kauffman's dream fact or fantasy?

Thanks to the October 3, 1918, edition of the Topeka Journal, here are some facts that we do know. Corporal Ray A. Stroman was the first Topeka boy, and the first in LaGrange County, to make the supreme sacrifice in World War I. At about 2 o'clock on Wednesday morning, August 28, 1918, Stroman was killed when "a death missile from the enemy suddenly ended his courageous life as a soldier on the battlefields of France." The following evening, he was buried with military honors in Flan-

ders Field (the American cemetery) in Belgium. The newspaper reported that Stroman's entire company had been in attendance to pay their last tribute of respect to a fallen comrade.

It is worth noting that on the front page, the Topeka Journal regularly printed the names and addresses of the young men from the area who were serving overseas. Journal readers were encouraged to send these servicemen letters and notes of encouragement.

Ray Albert and his twin brother Roy Wesley were born on March 13, 1895, to Albert A. (1856-1908) and Phebie A. Davis (1861-1922) Stroman near South Milford, Indiana. (In the process of conducting the research for this article, I discovered documents with several variations in the spelling of "Phebie." I am using the spelling that appears on her headstone.)

Following Albert's death in 1908, the brothers, along with their mother, moved to Topeka. Phebie may have wanted to be close to her daughter, Ocie, who was living in Topeka with her husband Rolla Kauffman.

I can find no records to indicate

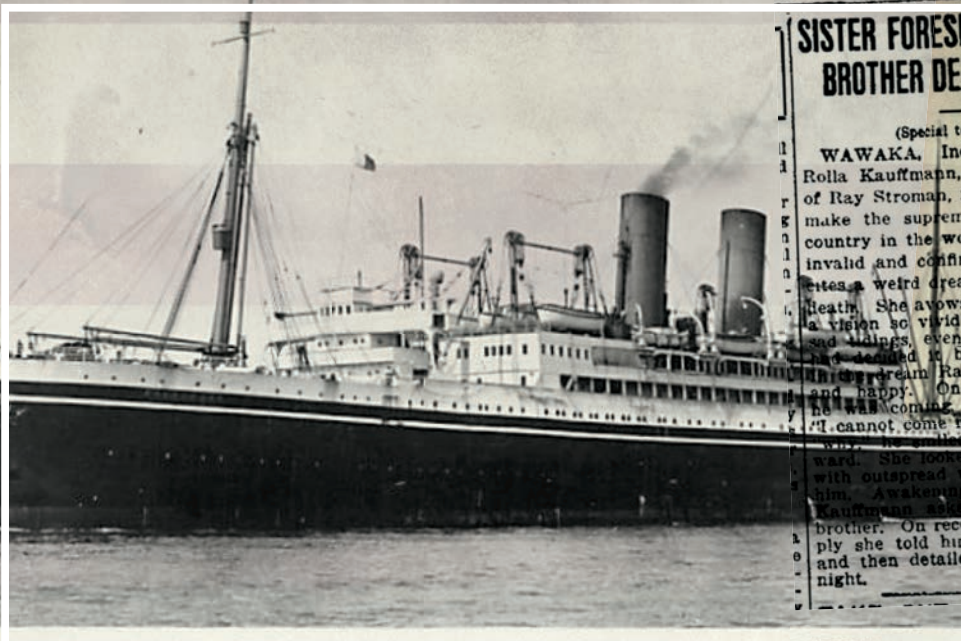
that either Ray or Roy attended school in Topeka. The boys did work as truck drivers for Rudy F. Miller to support their mother. Miller, the first principal of Topeka High School, owned and operated a creamery that shipped fresh cream by rail to major cities in the east. In the 1918 news article reporting on Ray's death, the Topeka Journal noted that Miller became "greatly attached to the young men" and that they had earned the respect of the community.

Reading the Topeka Journal article, it appears that both Ray and Roy enlisted in the U.S. Army on October 4, 1917, as mechanics. The boys entered the military at Camp Taylor which was six miles southeast of downtown Louisville, Kentucky. Roy, however, was honorably discharged because of medical reasons and returned to Indiana.

Ray was transferred to Camp Sevier in South Carolina. Following several months of training, he was relocated to Camp Mills on Long Island in New York. At its peak in September of 1918, over 31,000 troops were stationed at Camp Mills. A very large number of American soldiers shipped out from



File No. 17346 Rank STROMAN Organization 30th Div. Co. F, 105th Engineer Regiment



CANADIAN PACIFIC S.S. "MELITA" & "MINNEDOSA", 14,000 TONS.

Photos Submitted

SISTER FORESEES SOLDIER BROTHER DEAD IN A DREAM

(Special to WAWAKA, Ind., Oct. 12.—Mrs. Rolla Kauffmann, sister of Ray Stroman, first of the supreme sacrifice for his country in the war, who is an invalid and confined to her bed, relates a weird dream foretelling Ray's death. She avows a vision so vivid that she knew the sad tidings, even though the family had decided it best not to tell her. In the dream Ray appeared life-like and happy. On asking him when he was coming home he answered, "I cannot come now." She looked toward the sky and saw an angel with outspread wings standing over her husband, Mrs. Kauffmann, and her brother. On receiving an evasive reply she told him she already knew and then detailed her dream of the night.

REGISTRATION CARD
 No. 5, Row AA
 No. 2
 22
 TOPSKA, Indiana
 13 1895
 F. Miller Co.
 Topeka, Indiana
 Race (specify which): Caucasian
 Independent
 Ray Albert Stroman

Camp Mills bound for France on May 27, 1918. Among them was Ray who set sail aboard the S.S. Melita from New York City with the 30th Infantry Division (known as the "Old Hickory" in honor of President Andrew Jackson), Company F, 105th Engineer Regiment. In less than three months, Stroman was promoted to the rank of Corporal in recognition of his gallantry.

And now for Ocie Kauffman's dream. The specific details of how and when the Stroman family was informed of Ray's death are not exactly clear. It is clear from the October 12, 1918, Fort Wayne Sentinel article (page 7) that the family decided not to tell the tragic news to his sister Ocie, who was "an invalid and confined to her bed." Unfortunately, we do not know the exact date when Ocie had her dream.

Here is the account as it appeared in print. "She avows she was visited by a vision so vivid that she knew the sad tidings, even though the family had decided it best not to tell her. In the dream Ray appeared life-like and happy. On asking him when he was coming home he answered, 'I cannot come

now.' Again asking, 'why', he smiled and pointed backward. She looked and saw an angel with outspread wings, standing over him. Awakening her husband, Mrs. Kauffman asked for news of her brother. On receiving an evasive reply she told him she already knew and then detailed her dream of the night."

Ray Albert Stroman was 23 years, 5 months, and 15 days old when he was killed in World War I. His body was laid to rest in the Flanders Field American Cemetery and Memorial, Plot B, Row 2, Grave 23 in Waregem, West Flanders, Belgium. A cenotaph (a monument to someone buried elsewhere, especially one commemorating a person who died in war) was incorporated into Albert and Phebie's headstone in the South Milford Cemetery.

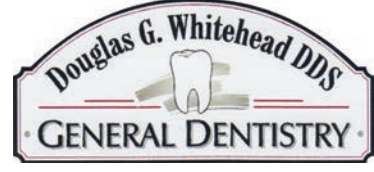
Roy Wesley Stroman (1895-1979) married Hazel Mae Schick (1898-1976) on November 23, 1918. They remained in the Ligonier-Topeka area for the remainder of their lives. Roy and Hazel are buried in Oak Park Cemetery in Ligonier.

Ocie M. Stroman (1889-1962) married Rolla R. Kauffman (1884-1966)

on July 6, 1907, in Wolcottville before taking up residence in Topeka. It is interesting to note that while the 1918 newspaper account of her dream says that she was an invalid and confined to her bed, she lived to the age of 73. We are not told the nature of her illness, however, the Spanish Flu which claimed thousands of lives would have been at its worst in 1918. Ocie and Rolla are buried in the Maple Grove Cemetery.

While the dream of Ocie Stroman Kauffman is hard to explain, the sacrifice of her brother Ray was very real. Like thousands of others before and after him, Ray Stroman gave his life in the service of his country so that we can enjoy the freedoms we have today. For that, we should be grateful. And so, be it Memorial Day, Independence Day, or Patriot Day, we must ensure that the memories of these fallen heroes are never allowed to fade into the annals of forgotten history. **1**

This article sponsored by



Left-Over Letters Spell Out A Message From Erika!

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

----- !

Sometimes you don't quite realize how easy certain appliances make your life until they stop working. Last Saturday, as I was getting ready to make myself a nice little breakfast burrito, I noticed something odd. My fridge was warm! It wasn't quite as warm as the outside air, but it was certainly not as chilly as I would like my fridge to be!

When I checked, the freezer was still working just fine, which was good, because for the week that we waited to get a technician out to us, we ate many frozen pizza and chicken nugget meals! We had plenty of food in the pantry, but with just the two of us, we always have leftovers, and we had nowhere to put them! Never underestimate the convenience of a working fridge! **!** Solution on page 45.

Word Search

(find all the underlined words) by Erika Byler

P	T	R	E	A	L	I	Z	E	H	A	E
S	I	C	E	S	Y	A	W	L	A	N	G
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Mystery Farm JULY CONTEST

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1st Prize: The Connection, Topeka, 1 Year Subscription, a pen, notepad set, a letter opener, and a copy of *The Honeyville Journal* from LaGwana.

2nd Prize(s): A pen, notepad set, a letter opener, and *The Honeyville Journal* from LaGwana.

3rd Prize(s): *The Honeyville Journal*.

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

RULES:

- 1) Identify farm shown by owner's name, by address, or by road and nearest intersecting road.
- 2) Mail to *Hometown Treasure - Mystery Farm*, P.O. Box 70, Shipshewana, IN 46565. **Please include your name and address.**
- 3) Entry deadline: **July 18, 2023.** Please allow time for mail delivery.
- 4) Winners will be drawn and prizes mailed. *Next month's winner will receive a 25\$ Gift Certificate to Tiffany's Restaurant and more!*
- 5) Correct entries listed in our next issue!

LAST MONTH'S WINNERS

Lyle & Kristina Slabach of 650 S, Topeka correctly identified last issue's farm as being owned by **Martin & Gina Bontrager, 6355 S 700 W, Topeka.** Congratulations!

They won a 1 Year Subscription from *The Connection*, a pen, a notepad set, a letter opener, and a copy of *The Honeyville Journal* from LaGwana. Second prize went to **Richard & Pauline Yoder of 675 W, Topeka.** Third prize went to **Jared & LeAnn Miller of 600 S, Millersburg.**



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There were 20 correct entries this month. **Others that guessed correctly were:** Jerry & Lavera Fry, Dena Miller, Loren & Jolynne Miller, Nathan & Linda Yoder, LaWayne & Marie Lambright, Floyd & Sharon Lambright, Levi & Wanda Miller, Larry & Sue Anna Lambright, Lyle & Sharlyn Otto, Duane & Joanna Wingard, Gary & Sara Bontrager, Kenneth & Carolyn Bontrager, Matt & Cristina Troyer, Harley & Etta Fry, Kyle Yutz, and Karl & Glenna Bontrager.

MORE FARMS NEEDED!

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

Please include your name and address. !


SPONSORED BY:
THE CONNECTION
2465 N 850 W Shipshewana, IN 46565
P.O. Box 603 Topeka, IN 46571
Next Month Sponsored by: *Tiffany's*

Coloring Contest Winners

Six-year-old Emily Bontrager of 1100 W, Shipshewana was our winner for the June Coloring Contest. She won an ice cream treat of choice at Wana-Cup in Topeka.

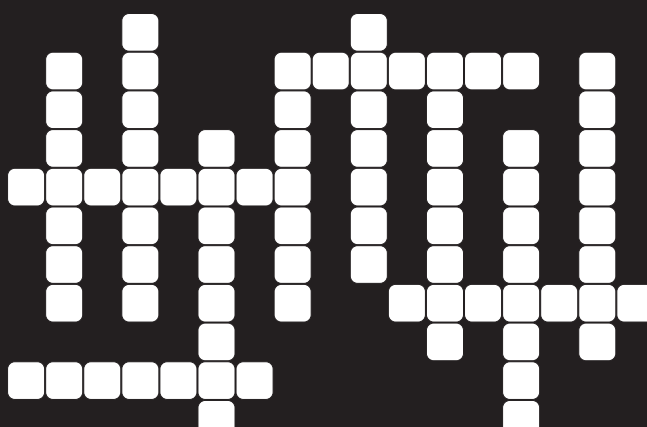
Everyone else that sent in a page can stop by Wana-Cup for a free small ice cream cone through July.

Runners-up were Cameron Miller, age 6; Faith Abigail Farmwald, age 5; Amy Rose Herschberger, age 4; Ava Otto, age 3. Honorable Mentions: Brandon Bontrager, age 6; Renae Jo Petersheim, age 6; Kevin Miller, age 5; Kristopher Jace Raber, age 6; Austin Lehman, age 6; and Brylee Wilson, age 6.

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. 



Bonfire
Canoeing
Firefly
Firework
Forever
Freedom
Freefall
Grazing
Grilled
Lemonade
Outdoors
Vacation



Clueless Crossword

Solution to Clueless
Crossword is on pg 45.
by Chloe Lovell

Use the words listed to fill in the spaces!

What is there more of the less you see?

Want a different way to advertise?

We are looking for sponsors for the Clueless Crossword on a month by month basis. Chloe 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.

Solution on pg 45.

Tiffany's

414 E. Lake Street
Topeka, IN 46571
260-593-2988



Name: _____ Age: _____

Coloring Contest: kids age 6 and younger. Sponsored by Tiffany's in Topeka this month! Winner gets a FREE ICE CREAM TREAT OF CHOICE at Tiffany's. The Winning Drawings will be on display. ALL PARTICIPANTS claim your drawing for A FREE ICE-CREAM CONE at Tiffany's in August. Mail submission to: LaGwana, Coloring Contest, PO Box 70, Shipshewana, IN 46565. **Entry deadline is July 18, 2023.**

Address: _____



**MILLER'S
ELECTRICAL
SERVICES**

CALL FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

ERIC MILLER 260-463-1558



Dora Martin-Eash, LCSW, LCAC
Mental Health & Addiction Counseling
260-383-2322

Available Locations: Topeka Physicians, Topeka and Shipshewana Fitness Center, Shipshewana

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- Personal Property Tax Returns
- Financial Coaching

Service you can trust!

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4430W SR 120 • Shipshewana, IN 46565
260-585-0081 • fax 260-408-5674
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10% Discount for first 15 new clients!
\$5 off for each client you refer.



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Vacation
Now**

ABOUT THE PROPERTY

Newly remodeled 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath open concept cottage located on Waldron Lake in Rome City, Indiana. Bring your boat and enjoy this beautiful northern Indiana lake with great fishing and swimming during the day and the fire pit and charcoal grill in the evening.

EXCLUSIVE FEATURES

- Boat Dock
- Outdoor Fire Pit
- 3 Bed / 1.5 Bath
- Laundry Room
- Modern Kitchen
- Charcoal Grill
- Access to a total of 4 lakes

Call Us For More Information

574-215-9335

Clueless CROSSWORD

By Chloe Lovell

Solution

to the puzzle on page 42.

Sponsored by

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

FIREWORK
 EVER FREEFALL
 GORILLAS
 FREEDOM
 CANNONBALL
 OUTDOORS
 FIREFLY
 GRAZING

Answer:
Darkness

Riddle on pg 42.

<https://www.ezschool.com/Riddles/Riddle9Ans.html>

Solution to puzzle on page 41

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

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

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

**THANKFUL
FOR MODERN
APPLIANCES**

B REWARDED

EARN UP TO

5.12% & CASH BACK
APY*

ON EVERYDAY PURCHASES WITH YOUR FIRST STATE BANK DEBIT CARD.

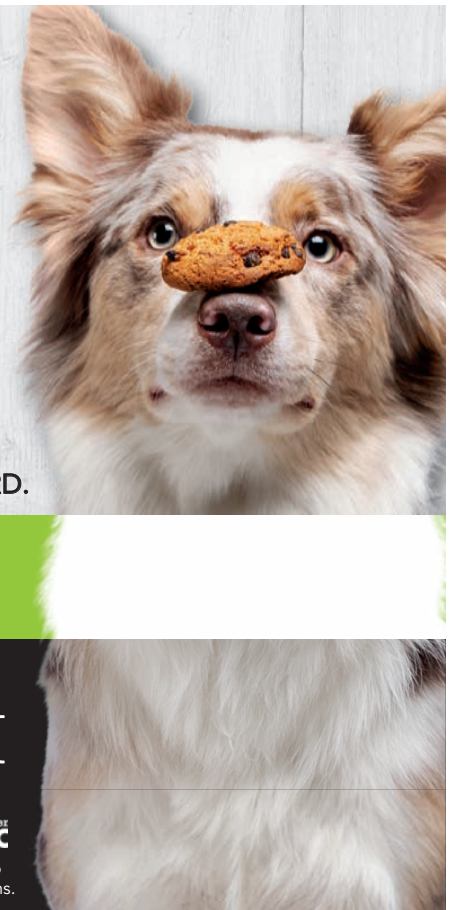
**OPEN A MAIN STREET REWARDS
CHECKING ACCOUNT TODAY!**

FS **B** **FIRST STATE | BANK**

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*Main Street Rewards Checking is a tiered account. Earn up to 5.12% Annual Percentage Yield on balances up to \$10,000. Based on a rate of 5.00% when qualifications are met. Earn cash back on qualifying debit card transactions.



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Many Thanks to Our Sponsors..

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3100 PSI

3 Year Warranty

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July 1-5

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M-F 8-4:30; Sat. 8-12

Building a New House or remodeling an Older One?

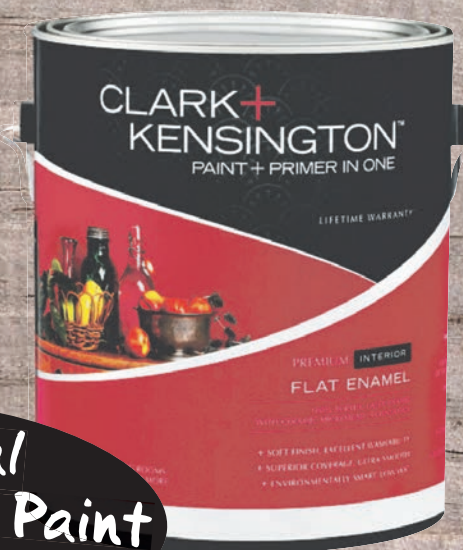
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**paint
+
primer
in one**

For Interior & Exterior



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& Primer**

Clark + Kensington interior flat starting at ***\$26.99.**

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NORMAL HOURS • ALL SERVICES**

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Hardware
of Topeka

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260-593-2212

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Extinguishers!**

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**Our area of expertise is designing
for your area of expertise.**

Let us set up your designs so they speak to your audience in the most effective method and then share it with the printers and publications you choose. By the way, did you read this ad top to bottom and left to right, like a book? OR did you read based on the size and placement of the text? The eyes of most readers follow the biggest text down to the smallest. We can help you choose what text goes where to keep your audience engaged and informed of what you want them to know!

**We believe designs
requested by you
belong to you. If
you pay for it, you
own it.**



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LaGwana.com