

**Baseball Preview** See Sports

# April 14, 2025 the l'ess

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Phones down! See Health

### Alexander's work highlights Genoa's art program

By Nicholas Huenefeld Press News Editor nick@presspublications.com

Sammi Alexander, a fourth-grade student at Genoa Elementary, was honored April 3 with an art show at the Genoa Branch Library, where she has her work on display for the month of April.

For Alexander, the honor was ex-

I didn't know I was this talented," she said with a smile. "My art teacher (Stephanie Combs) is the one who selected me for it. She thought I was really gifted in art. It was pretty hard to believe at first."

Alexander has several pieces of art on display, including a Leaning Tower of Pisa made out of recycled bottle caps, a 3D portrait of Rapunzel's Tower and an oil pastel painting of a flamin-

Two that she developed in school include a guided self-portrait and an Andy Warhol-inspired drawing of fox-

Alexander has taught herself how to cross stitch, and she has her own sewing machine. She wants to further develop her sewing ability with plans on becoming a fashion designer when she grows up.

"Sammi's artwork is always outstanding," Combs said. "She goes above and beyond. She has a level of creativity that really drives her, and she's intrinsically motivated.

Combs, who teaches art at Genoa Elementary, said Alexander thinks in terms of creative parts usage (CPU). People use the term in reference to Lego sets, and it is a mindset that encourages builders to think outside the box and find unconventional uses for

"That's how Sammi thinks," Combs said. "She thinks how she can creatively use a part. And that's what really sends her over the edge of being

Continued on page 2



Hatred can never be satisfied.

**Steve Cherry** See page 7



John Hughes, pictured inside his Northwood Tax Service office on Woodville Road, has decided to retire after 37 years of serving the community. (Press photo by Nick Huenefeld)

### **Hughes to retire from Northwood Tax Service after 37 years**

By Nicholas Huenefeld Press News Editor nick@presspublications.com

John Hughes, who has spent the past 37 years managing Northwood Tax Service, plans on retiring at the end of this tax sea-

"He's good at what he does, and he's a friendly guy," said Candy Sendelbach, who serves as the office manager and a tax preparer for Hughes. "He has a very loyal following. We still have people that started coming to see him when he worked out of his house in 1988.

'We've had to tell our clients that we're closing after this season and a lot of them are pretty heartbroken because it's generational. We've had grandparents whose kids came and now their kids are coming so it's kind of sad to know that we're leaving all these friends behind.

Hughes, who is a 1975 graduate of Lake High School where he played football, baseball and basketball, went to Penta for carpentry and originally spent those next few years in that field. When a recession hit, his uncle got him a job in 1978 as a machine operator at Libbey Glass, where he spent the next 20 years.

However, beginning in 1988, Hughes started doing taxes on the side out of his home for friends, neighbors and co-workers at Libbey Glass. He took classes at the University of Toledo and did a tax course

I'm not going to miss working 16 hours a day, but I'm going to miss my clients.

through H&R Block before that.

"He's just willing to go the extra mile," Sendelbach said. "He listens to people, and they know if they give him a complicated tax situation, he'll probably be able to handle it without a problem."

A passion for working with numbers ultimately led Hughes down his career path, but he's ready to dial it back.

"I'm certainly going to miss my clients, I know that," he said. "I'm not going to miss working 16 hours a day, but I'm going to miss my clients. It definitely makes me feel good (knowing that I've served my community this long). I was able to help a lot of people out of some bad tax situations, but at the same time, I'm ready to travel, enjoy my life and maybe go somewhere warm in the winter.'

Sendelbach estimates that Northwood Tax Service had upwards of 2,500 clients at the height of the business, and that was when they had more preparers working for them. The last couple of years have just been the two of them, and she estimates they have around 1,400 clients.

Hughes does small businesses and personal returns.

"He will do some smaller corporations and LLCs," Sendelbach said. "We don't have many of those now as he's gotten closer to retirement. He's kind of cut some of those off so that they could get settled in with somebody new.3

After doing taxes out of his home while concurrently working at Libbey Glass, Hughes built up enough of a client base to move into the tax business full-time, opening his first brick-and-mortar office for Northwood Tax Service, which began operation in December 1997 adjacent to Freeway Restaurant in Oregon.

After Freeway closed, and the plaza was going to be torn down, Hughes moved to his current location at Woodway Plaza at 3401 Woodville Road in 2016.

"They gave us 30 days to leave, and I had to hurry up and find a place and move over here," he said.

Another reason for Hughes in the decision to retire was Sendelbach initially deciding she wants to retire.

"Ĭ can't do it without her," he said. "We were both working an awful lot of hours with two of us, and I sure can't do this by

Continued on page 3









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### Art program

Continued from front page

extraordinary."

#### More than just talent

Combs recommended Alexander to the North Point Educational Service Center (NPESC) as part of the organization's gifted services program that looks for unique art talent beyond the typical for the same age group. In turn, the NPESC decided Alexander ranked high enough on an artistic behaviors checklist provided by the state of Ohio, which led to the art show at the library.

In a typical year, there could be up to a dozen students selected, according to NPESC's gifted services supervisor, Brandi Goodwin. However, the NPESC, which provides gifted coordination services for Sandusky, Erie, Ottawa and Huron counties, had just one selection this year – Alexander.

Susan Capucini, the gifted services coordinator for the NPESC, said they look for more than just talent.

"We're not just looking at technical ability, but their ability to improvise, (as well as) their ability to reflect and respond as an artist would in appreciating art or critiquing art," Capucini said. "So it's more than just talent."

With Alexander being the lone selection, the NPESC and Combs worked with Meghan Parker, the branch manager at the Genoa Library, to host the art show, which is typically held in the Norwalk Performing Arts Center.

"(Sammi) has a high level of skill and craftsmanship for somebody who's nine," Goodwin said. "There's a lot of storytelling that goes on behind the artwork. She can speak the art jargon. She talks about texture and perspective. And she validates the choices that she made when it came to composition and why she layered things the way she did or obscured things the way that she did."

Goodwin, who has a 20-plus year background as an art teacher and gifted intervention specialist, was on hand April 3 to grade Alexander's artwork with the state's rubric. She was impressed, especially with the Leaning Tower of Pisa made out of recycled Tropicana bottle caps.



Sammi Alexander holds her Leaning Tower of Pisa creation, which she put together out of bottlecaps. The piece of art, along with other works of hers, is on display through the end of April at the Genoa Branch Library at 602 West St. in Genoa. (Press photo by Nick Huenefeld)

"That's completely constructed on her own with found materials except the platform that it sits on," Goodwin said. "(Sammi is) inventive, and she's creative. To give you a good idea, when we identify kiddos in the reading and math areas, we're looking for kids that typically score in the 95th percentile or higher. That means there are only five percent of kids their own age that would score above them.

"We're looking for something along the same lines when it comes to the art. And for that, that's why we stick to the rubric, so it's not subjective. We know specific things that we're looking for, and that's in the language, the decision making and the skill."

### **Developing talent**

Alexander isn't the first elementary student from Genoa to receive the recogni-



Rapunzel's Tower, a piece of art created by Genoa Elementary student Sammi Alexander.

tion. She joins Gia Carroll and Andrew Nutter from a couple years ago, giving Combs three students in three years honored at the elementary level.

Carroll, who is now in middle school, currently works via an independent study with Jessica Cable, who teaches sixth, seventh and eighth grade art at Genoa Middle School. While Nutter is homeschooled, Combs said she recently spoke with his mom, who is helping to further his talent.

Capucini said teachers like Combs, Cable and Genoa High School's art instructor, Jean Gidich-Holbrook, not only have a keen ability to recognize talent but that the district's art department does a great job growing and expanding their talent.

"I have to say in working in multiple districts across four counties, Genoa's art department at all three levels is phenomenal," Capucini said. "They are just phenomenal artists and teachers. They bring some incredible work out of these students."

And it's not just elementary and middle school students excelling at Genoa as Capucini also said there were five high school students of Gidich-Holbrook that were identified last year.

Continued on page 3

### \*ATTENTION\*



Any citizen of Oregon, Jerusalem Township or Harbor View interested in running for office as a Democrat

Mayor Trustee

City Council School Board

Is invited to come to the May 1 Oregon Democratic Club Meeting held at the Oregon Senior Center starting at 7 PM.

### \*ATTENTION\*





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Metro Edition Vol. 41, No. 30 Suburban Edition Vol. 53, No. 50

### **Hughes to retire**

Continued from front page

myself, so I figured it was time."

When tax season isn't in session, Hughes said the office has remained open four hours per day on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

"Just so people can come in, pick things up, get questions answered or drop something off," Hughes said. "Then we have four-day weekends in case we want to go out of town or something. It gives us time for little getaways.'

During tax season though, which encompasses between 13-14 weeks of the year, Hughes works seven days per week. From Monday through Friday, he does one client per hour from 9 a.m. through 8 p.m. On Saturdays, he goes from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sundays are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"He's always at the office by nine o'clock in the morning," Sendelbach said. "Most of the time he has a client at nine, and he doesn't come in early. He gets every last bit of sleep he could possibly get."

With those hours, Sendelbach said doing taxes is a form of fun for Hughes, but he enjoys other things, such as supporting the University of Toledo women's basketball

Hughes and Sendelbach were two of the original founding members of the Lady Rockets Fan Club. He's still a fan, and he really enjoys the new head coach, Ginny Boggess, who took over for long-time coach Tricia Cullop prior to this past season.

'I love her," Hughes said. "She is wonderful. I thought I was going to miss Tricia Cullop, but boy I really love Ginny. The players really love her, too.'

When the office does close for good, Hughes plans on getting some sleep.

"At least the first two days," he said. "Then, we're going to take some vacations. My wife and I are going to go to Branson in June, and we're going to go to Shipshewa-

A final day for the office hasn't been

set just yet, but it's coming.

"We have to clean out the office and sell everything," Hughes said. "That's going to take some time.'

### **Board of Elections** to meet

The Ottawa County Board of Elections will meet Monday, April 14, at 10 a.m. for a regular board meeting and to address any other business that comes before them.

The meeting will be held at the Board of Elections office located at 8444 W. SR 163, Oak Harbor, in the Veterans Memorial Building.

For more information, call 419-898-3071.



St. Mark Lutheran Church, 1884

The original wooden St. Mark Lutheran Church is pictured here on the northeast corner of Woodville Road and Elmore (then called Baker) Street the year it was built, in 1884. The congregation grew rapidly during the 40-year ministry of Pastor August

**History Corner** East Toledo **Historical Society** by Larry Michaels

Burman. When the current beautiful stone church was opened for worship in 1917, this little building was moved to the back of the lot on the corner of Leonard Street. It was razed in 1950 to make room for the large Sunday School and gymnasium addition to the church. In 1926, the stone parsonage (now attached to the church since 1975) was built on the site of the old house in this photo. The congregation reached a membership of 2,600 people in the 1960s when Pastor Rennix Van Scoy was there, and St. Mark is still going strong today under the leadership of Pastor Beth Giller.

### Art program

Continued from page 2

Those students - Paige Hornyak, Sophia Campbell, Avery Maluchnik, Brae Diebert and Hannah Bertok – were featured on district social media and have done some murals in the high school.

"They have done phenomenal work," Capucini said.

Capucini said one of the important things in being able to provide an art exhibit like Alexander's is that it helps open potential doors for students who either don't have exposure to bigger city museums or students who never even knew art career paths existed.

She made note of a high school junior from another school district a few years back that was honored at an exhibition. With the experience, she decided to take College Credit Plus coursework as a senior

and ultimately decided to attend the University of Cincinnati and study art, where she discovered there's a thing called art restoration.

'That's what really appealed to her," Capucini said. "It opened a lot of doors for her as far as what's out there beyond our tiny little four-county region."

And that's what makes what Genoa has done over the past several years all the more impressive. Goodwin said that teachers can't just submit a portfolio based on the artwork they've done as a class. They have to coach the kids during the school day and also outside of the normal classroom projects.

This is extra work for the art teachers," Goodwin said. "The kids are obviously built differently when it comes to art, but talent development is a huge part of it. It's being able to recognize it and wanting to coach the kids."

### Library to welcome Paterson Joseph

Registration is still open to meet actor and author Paterson Joseph at the Wood County District Public Library. Joseph will discuss his work and his debut novel, "The Secret Diaries of Charles Ignatius Sancho, Thursday, April 17, at 7 p.m. in the Atrium at Bowling Green Library, 251 N. Main St. A beloved British actor and writer,

Joseph has been on "Vigil," "Naughts + Crosses," "Wonka" and "Boat Story," and has also starred in "The Leftovers" and "Law & Order UK."

'The Secret Diaries of Charles Ignatius Sancho" is a story that begins on a slave ship in the Atlantic and ends at the center of London life. It is an immersive tale of adventure, artistry, romance and freedom set in 18th-century England and based on the true story of the first Black person to vote in Britain, who led the fight to end slavery.

Books will be available for purchase for \$20, payable by cash or check made out to the WCDPL Friends of the Library. He will sign books after the presentation.

To register, call 419-352-5050 or email woodref@wcdpl.org.

### **Toledo Toy Show**

The New Toledo Toy Show is back this spring, bringing joy, nostalgia, and excitement for all ages. Join us Saturday, April 19, at the TOCA Soccer & Sports Center, 10020 S. Compass Dr. in Rossford – just behind Meijer on SR 20. The center offers plenty of free parking. Concessions will be available.

The show will feature more than 250 tables of collectible, vintage and pop culture toys. Organizers expect the hottest collectibles for spring to be Pokémon cards, Promo Cars, dolls and miniatures, movie figures, action figures, comics, games and more.

For updates, sneak peeks and more information, visit midmichigansupershow.com and follow The New Toledo Toy Show on Facebook.

Admission is \$5; kids 12 and under will be admitted free. Early bird entry is available from 7:30-9 a.m. for

### Grand opening set

A Grand Opening will be held for the Family Advocacy Center Central Station Thursday, April 24, at 4 p.m., 268 W. Water St., Oak Harbor (the former Rocket Shop).

For more information, call 419-301-0225 or visit ocfamilyadvocacy. org.





### Once upon the Portage, there was 'gold' in the water

**By Lou Hebert** Special to The Press

It's April, and you don't need a calendar to tell you that if you are anywhere near the Maumee River as the walleye and the anglers who chase them have returned. This year, once again, the edges of the river are jammed by a proverbial army of hopeful fishermen trying to get their limit, or at least one of the prized monsters to take home to a waiting stove.

This early spring pilgrimage to the Maumee is a reminder that once upon a time, in another nearby waterway, the prize was not the coveted walleyed pike, but the humble goldfish. Yes, goldfish.

And the river was the Portage River in Ottawa County.

From about 1920 and many years later, large schools of mystery goldfish invaded the Portage River. These were not the small minnow-sized goldfish we put into glass bowls for thoughtful gazing, but large ones, averaging about as big as a good-sized yellow perch, or bigger.

During my frequent free-range research of several yellowed local newspapers, I've discovered numerous old articles about this curious goldfish phenomenon, which surfaced from Elmore to Port Clinton along the Portage in the 1920s.

The sightings and catches of these col-

Week ending March 28, 2025

**Benton Township** 

3/25: Brett S. Kneeskern and Samantha G. Kneeskern to Leighann Szymanski and Joshua Szymanski, 1690 North Stange Rd, \$406,000. 3/28: Aaron N. Blevins and Kassidee Jo Blevins to Robert W. Salcedo, 4105 N. Nissen Rd., \$309,000.

Carroll Township 3/28: Joyce Philips to Michael J. Linhart, 0

Humphrey Rd. (Lot 23), \$5,000.

Catawba Township
3/28: Douglas E. & Kimberly A. Kearns to Williams
W. Yark, 3126 NE Catawba Rd., \$200,000. 4/3: Betty Easton to Allan Detrich & Mary Bower, 53 Harbors End, \$210,000.

Clay Township 3/28: Robert W. Salcedo to Candice Jordan, 23348 West Centerfield Dr., \$211,000.

**Danbury Township** 

3/24: The Dress Company to Jean Paul Pepple, Sara E. Pepple & Xavier A. Pepple, 8335 Reserve Way, \$1,055,803.

The local fishermen said they had been catching them in their nets for several years at various times, and would take them in as novelties.

orful carp-like fish were not isolated, but rather a massive crypto-zoological phenomenon of such magnitude that commercial fishermen descended on the mouth of the river near Port Clinton to harvest the invaders as curious culinary delicacies.

According to one article from Dec. 20, 1920, the carp-like goldfish were being taken by the ton at the Portage River and many of them were several inches long and weighing up to a half pound. They were "highly colored in yellow and gold" with sprinkles of red, making them "very attrac-

The local fishermen said they had been catching them in their nets for several years at various times, and would take them in as novelties. It wasn't until this particular year, 1920, that their numbers were so abundant they were being caught and put "live" into railroad tank cars then shipped to retail and wholesale markets in New York City.

The lucrative practice continued for at least five more years on the river.

From where these exotic golden carplike fish had come was somewhat of a mystery, although there were theories.

Most popular was that may have gotten into Lake Erie during the great floods of 1913 when many backyard ponds and aquariums flooded over and thousands of the little gold fish escaped into the flood waters. It was speculated that thousands of these colorful swimming ornaments might have been refugees from the Belle Isle Aquarium near Detroit when the floodwaters of 1913 overtook the outdoor ponds.

They continued to flourish in the warm waters of Lake Erie and multiplied by the millions and may have interbred with carp. In the winter months, they would move from the shallow water of the marshes and into the deeper waters of the Portage River.

True or not, that is difficult to determine. But wherever they came from, this copious crop of large golden-colored fish remained in the waters of Western Lake Erie and the Portage River for many years

In 1964, while fishing in the Portage near Elmore one spring, I recall catching a large gold-colored fish that was almost two feet in length. Was it an ancestor of the famed mystery goldfish of 1920? I don't know, but I like to think it was.

Recounting this story with Ottawa County locals who are familiar with the river, numerous folks said they too have had similar encounters over the years through the years with these large goldfish.

It's not unusual, said state fishery experts in Ohio, who are quick to point out that the goldfish is common scrap species found throughout much of the Western watershed of Lake Erie. A hardy fish, it is able to adapt to changing temperature and ecosystems and likely contributed to the demise of native species such as the blue pike, the sauger and the northern pike in Lake Erie – a true invasive species which competes for habitat and food and often carry disease.

Their presence today can likely be traced to people carelessly disposing of their pet fish into lakes and streams. Thus, the "wild" goldfish problem is now reported over a wide area of the nation, and their culinary charm has faded.

No one any longer seems to be eager to bring home a mess for Sunday dinner.

### **Real Estate Transfers**

3/28: Joyce G. Burchfield to Robert & Melanie Woodruff, 342 N Perryview Dr., \$230,000. 4/1: Raymond B. Wise & Carol Ann Wise to

Cypress Row Hospitality Group LLC, 398 N Erie

4/1: Raymond B. Wise & Carol Ann Wise to Cypress Row Hospitality Group, 406 N Erie Beach Rd., \$500,000.

4/3: Richland Bank Park National Bank Successor Trustee of the G&M Revocable Trust Living Trust dated Jan. 29,1998 to EMCHLO LLC, 628 Parkside Dr., \$325,000.

**Erie Township** 3/25: Cindy A. Vollmer (Trustee of The Kleinhans Family Trust) to Matthew J. Cleaver, 5540 Erie St., \$65,000

3/28: Michael A. Bishop and Christine F. Barker to Robert J. Porter and Chris Ann Porter, 1220 W.

Richey Rd. Unit #50, \$45,000. **Genoa Corporation** 

3/25: Barbara V. Tersigni to Lazur JSG LLC, 918 Washington St., \$90,000.

4/1: Eulan G. Tucker Jr. (Trustee) to Jose Carlos Mendez, Juan Cesar Garcia and Begnain Reyes, 1514 W. St., \$119,900

**Marblehead Corporation** 

3/28: Colleen P. Wright (Trustee) to Patricia E. Bockrath and Frederick Bockrath, 137 Clemons

3/31: James N. Crutchfield & Becky J. Hoover, Co-Trustees to Chad & Jacqueline Varanese, Co-Trustees, Lots 272 & 273 Bay Haven Estates, \$150,000.

4/1: Laurence E. Drake & Deborah S. Drake to David Eugene Szalay, 3555 Memorial Shoreway Dr. Lot 297, \$125,000.

Oak Harbor Corp 3/26: Sean Siwa to Juan A. Broadstock, 111 East Main St., \$190,000.

3/31: Caroline M. Warnke to Evelyn J. McKitrick, 342 Country Meadows Unit #1,\$225,500.

Portage Township 3/24: Florann Hatfield to Jesse Gooslin and Marie C Gooslin, 1950 East State Rd., \$90,000

**Port Clinton Corporation** 

3/24: Linsey Heckerd & Olivia Heckerd to Hinesh & Jasmine Patel, 421 Monroe St., \$100,000.

3/28: Jonathan Killion to E & A Rentals - Port Clinton, LLC, 630 Madison St., \$153,000. 3/28: U.S. Bank National Association to Jeff

Morgan Realty Group LLC ,142 East Second St., \$260,000. 3/31: Patti A. & Paul F. Sandrock to Daniel &

Sessely Maciejewski, 711 Second St., \$175,000. 4/3: OKD Properties LLC to Christina Dague, 905 Maryland St., \$15,000. **Rocky Ridge** 

4/4: Victoria LaPlante to Julie Greer, 0 West Third St., \$18,000.





# 

Salutes Woodmore High School's March Student of the Month



### Megan Vogelpohl

Megan has a GPA of 4.124 and is ranked 4th in her class. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club, Student Council and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Megan participates in Varsity Soccer (captain).



Megan, the daughter of Marc and Gail Vogelpohl, plans on attending the University of Toledo to major in Radiation Therapy.

As part of our continuing commitment to the communities we serve, GenoaBank is proud to sponsor this outstanding Woodmore High School Student by awarding each winner \$25 FREE in a new Deposit Account at GenoaBank.

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### **Bulletin Board**

#### **Bulletin Board policy**

As a service to our community, The Press publishes Bulletin Board items at no cost, as space permits. There is no guarantee that items submitted will be published. To ensure publication of events/ news items, speak to one of our advertising representatives at 419-836-2221. A complete listing of events is available at presspublications.

#### Toledo

Lake Erie Perch Fish Fry, April 18, from 5-7 p.m. or until sold out, VFW Post 4906, 2161 Consaul St. Shrimp, frog legs or combo dinners are also available. Dinner includes fries, slaw, bread and dessert. Carryouts available. Dinners \$18/ sandwiches \$10 (includes chips). 419-698-4411.

Card Party, May 13, 12 p.m., First St. John Lutheran Church, 2471 Seaman St. Donation \$15. Lunch, door prizes, raffles. Men and women welcome. For reservations, call 419-276-1264 or 419-691-5506.

### Oregon

MOMSurviving Our Ultimate Loss, a group for moms who have lost a child to the opioid epidemic, meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Intersection Church, 1640 S. Coy Rd. For info, email Laurie Clemons at momssoul@yahoo.com, call 419-346-6082 or visit moms-soul.com.

St Paul's Episcopal Food for Thought Food Pantry is open the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 3-5 p.m. at 798 S. Coy Rd. Easy access; help is available to get groceries to your cars. Please bring a picture ID.

### Northwood

Northwood VFW Weekly Fish Fries, Fridays from 5-7:30 or until sold out. All-you-can-eat fish for \$14. Weekly Sunday Breakfasts, from 8-11:30 a.m. Cost \$8. The VFW also has karaoke every

Friday from 7:30-11:30 p.m.

Spaghetti Dinner, second Friday of every month, 4-7 p.m., Northwood Church of God, Coy and Curtice roads. Adults, \$9; children \$5.

### Jerusalem Twp.

Jerusalem Township Board of Trustees meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 7 p.m. in the township hall at 9501 Jerusalem Rd. The meetings are also accessible via Zoom. Meeting dates, phone numbers and Zoom links are

available at twp.jerusalem.oh.us/trustees/ Jerusalem Township Zoning Commission meets the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the township hall, 9501 Jerusalem Rd.

Jerusalem Township Food Pantry is open the 2nd Wednesday of every month from 9-11 a.m. at the township hall, 9501 Jerusalem Rd.

### Elmore

Bake Sale sponsored by American Legion Auxiliary Unit 279, April 19, 10 a.m., Ory Park. Proceeds benefit the American Legion.

Egg Hunt sponsored by Elmore American Legion,

April 19, 10:30 a.m., Ory Park.
Elmore American Legion Post 279 Monthly Euchre Tournament, April 19, 1 p.m., 279 Veteran St. Cost is \$10. All are welcome.

### Genoa

Genoa American Legion Hall, 302 West St., is available for rental for events and parties of up to 100 people. Full kitchen and ample parking available. The Legion meets the second Wednesday of month at 7 p.m. For membership and hall rental information, call 419-205-1942. The Legion Auxiliary meets the first Tuesday of each month (except holidays, then meetings are held

the following day) at 7 p.m.

Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto Gift Shop open every Sunday after Mass at 11:30 a.m., 204 Main

Al-Anon Family Group, Genoa Giving and Getting, meets Mondays at 7 p.m. Genoa Christian Church, 415 Main St.

Trinity Thrift Shop, 105 4th St., open Friday 9:30

a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturday 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Clothes and small household items available at reasonable

prices. Proceeds benefit mission projects. Elmore and Genoa Senior Centers have combined. Seniors meet at the Ed Griswold Senior Center, 514 Main St., Genoa. Hours are Monday-Friday 10 a.-m.-2 p.m.; lunch served at 11:30 a.m. Stop in to pick up a newsletter, which lists menus and activities. Call 419-855-4491 for reservations

### Gibsonburg

Gibsonburg Branch Library offers a number of programs, including Preschool Storytime Thursdays at 11 a.m.; National Poetry Month Observance - Stop in and create your own poetry with various mediums; Foodies Night: Big Vegan Flavor, by Nisha Vora, April 14, 6:30-7:30 p.m.; Basics of Genealogy: Where to Start (registration required), April 23, 6-7 p.m.; Adult Book Chat, April 28, 6:30-7:30 p.m. — Discuss "The Humans," by Matt Haig. Lockers available for after-hours pickup of library materials.

### Graytown

LIGHT Neighborhood Pantry at Elliston Zion UMC, 18045 W. William St., off Elliston Trowbridge Road, is open the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 5-7 p.m. to residents of Ottawa County who struggle with food insecurity. Staples include meat, bread and eggs; hygiene items also available. Donations of non-perishables welcome.

### Luckey

Luckey Food Pantry is open the last Wednesday of the month from 1-3 p.m. and the last Thursday of the month from 6-8 p.m. at 247 Oak St. in the former Loft Youth Center (behind the post office). Open to families residing in the Eastwood School

#### Oak Harbor

Lake Erie Yellow Perch Fry, April 18 from 4-7:30 p.m. until sold out, Oak Harbor American Legion Post 114, 221 Park St. Public is welcome. Dine in or carry out.

### Pemberville

Community Food Pantry at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 220 Cedar St., is open Tuesdays from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and the 2nd and last Saturdays of the month from 8-11 a.m. Eastwood School District residents may visit the pantry once monthly. ID and proof of residency required. Info available at Pemberville churches.

### **Stony Ridge**

St. John's Lutheran Church Free Thrift Shop, "Shared Bounty," is open the 1st Saturday of each month, 10 a.m.-noon, 5520 Fremont Pike.

### Walbridge

Chicken Paprikas Drive-thru Dinner, April 19, 4 p.m. until sold out, Walbridge VFW 9963, 109 N. Main St.

Sunday Euchre Tournaments, first and third Sundays of the month, Walbridge Tap Room, 413 N. Main St. Doors open at noon. Play starts at 4 p.m. \$10 entry 100% payout. Call 567-315-8451. **Crimson Lights Band** will perform at Walbridge VFW Post 9963, 109 N. Main St, 2-5 p.m. on April 13 and 27 and May 11 and 25 (dates are subject to change). The bar will be serving beer and wine coolers, along with water and soft drinks Contact Carolyn at 419-260-0464 for info.

### Woodville

Woodville Library, 101 E. Main St., programs include Spring Storytimes, Thursdays in April, 10 a.m.; Crafts & Crochet, April 14, 6:30-8 p.m.; Fungi Fanatics, April 16, 6:30-8 p.m.; Earth Day Crafts, April 22, 4-5:30 p.m.; Sew a Potholder (registration required), April 26, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Button Bouquets (registration required), April 28, 6:30 p.m. Learn more at birchard.org or call 419-



### Smells like spring

A curious otter sticks its head out of water at the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge. (Photo by Tony Everhardt)

### **Tenant Tuesday Housing Clinic set**

Registration is open for the City of Toledo's next Tenant Tuesday Housing Clinic, which will be held for Tuesday, April 29, from 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Toledo Lucas County Main Library.

The community event provides legal assistance to tenants facing a wide range of housing concerns. It is a collaborative effort among the City of Toledo, Legal Aid of Western Ohio (LAWO), the Fair Housing Center, Advocates for Basic Legal Equality (ABLE), the Toledo Bar Association, and the University of Toledo Law School Advocacy

Each attendee can meet with an attorney for about 20 minutes. Legal experts are available to offer advice on lease reviews, rent escrow, housing conditions, eviction records and landlord-related concerns. Attendees are asked to bring a copy of their

Registration closes on Tuesday, April 22. Once registered, attendees will be

contacted with their specific appointment

Register by calling 419-245-1400 or visit toledo.oh.gov/tenant-tuesday.

### Health dept. clinics

The Ottawa County Health Department, 1856 E. Perry St., Port Clinton, has issued a schedule of clinics for the week of April 14-18. Appointments may be made by calling 419-734-6800.

April 14: Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Clinic, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

April 15: WIC Clinic, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; 60+ Clinic - Put-in-Bay, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.;, Immunizations - Allen-Člay Fire Station, 8 a.m.-12 p.m.; Tuberculosis Clinic, 3-4 p.m.

April 16: Family Planning Clinic, 7:30-9 a.m.; Immunization Clinic, 12-5:30 p.m.

April 17: Reproductive Health/Health Chek, 7:30-10 a.m.; Tuberculosis Clinic, 3-4

April 18: 60+ Clinic - Genoa, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.; Īmmunization Clinic, 8 a.m.-12 p.m.





### This week in Toledo's past:

### Events in the Toledo area over the past 150 years



Professional baseball player Addie Joss.

#### April 13

1918: Three men accused of talking badly about Liberty Bonds are publicly tarred and feathered in downtown Toledo and put on display for a Liberty Bond rally. Eight men, including Toledo Vice Mayor Claude Kilbury, are accused of the assault.

1926: A thousand men and boys called the "Brotherhood" assemble at Port Clinton for a mass meeting on "today's youth" and what is wrong with them. Speakers voiced opinions on sex, speed, idleness and religion

1934: A strike begins at the Auto-Lite plant in North Toledo as workers walk off the job demanding union recognition and an end to some of the harsh conditions.

**1984**: Toledo underworld character Billy Scott goes to federal prison for racketeering in a massive bookmaking operation in the Toledo area.

#### April 14

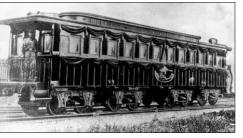
1911: Professional baseball player and Toledo resident, Addie Joss, dies at his home from tubercular meningitis at age of 31. The Hall of Famer threw baseball's third perfect game in 1908.

**1965**: President Lyndon Johnson comes to Toledo to tour the areas devastated by the deadly Palm Sunday tornadoes. He meets with numerous survivors and promises federal help.

**1979**: A planned implosion brings down the old Willys administration building on North Cove Boulevard. Thousands of curi-

### Toledo Historical Museum by Lou Hebert





Lincoln's funeral train car.

ous residents watch as the historic building is turned into a pile of smoking rubble.

#### April 15

**1865**: Toledoans are stunned by news of the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. Residents hang black crepe and patriotic bunting draped from porches and store fronts. Myron Lamson of Toledo, the father of the brothers who started Lamson's department store, designs Lincoln's funeral train car.

**1936**: A powerful bomb explodes at the home of prominent East Toledo attorney Mark Winchester on Euclid as a warning from mobsters. No one was injured.

**1964:** Frank Emmick, an international "seafood salesman" from Rossford, is sentenced to 30 years in prison in Cuba after being accused of espionage by Fidel Castro. He was later released in 1977.

#### April 16

**1900**: Rev. H.F. MacClane of a Norwood Avenue church warns his congregants that Toledo is an immoral city and is known everywhere as a city that is "wide open" to every kind of vice.



Funeral gathering for Officer George Zientara.

1928: Toledo police officer George Zientara is killed in ambush by robbers on Upton Avenue. The suspects are known killers but never brought to trial for the officer's death. 1931: It was a deadly day in Bowling Green as Billy "The Killer" Miller and his partner "Pretty Boy Floyd," get into a gun battle with police on streets of BG. Patrolman Ralph "Zeke" Castner is shot dead, and Miller also dies in the hail of bullets. Floyd escapes.

#### April 17

1916: Ground is broken for the new six story Mercy Hospital on Madison. It opened in 1918 just as the Spanish Influenza pandemic was starting to spread through the Toledo area.

1946: U.S. Labor Department statistics report that more than 145,000 people are employed in Toledo, with 1,630 job openings. Most jobs are paying over 75 cents an hour. 1965: Baseball returns to Toledo as the Mud Hens restart their legacy in Toledo as a farm club for the New York Yankees. The new home park will be the Lucas County Stadium at the fairgrounds in Maumee.

#### April 18

1905: A group of Toledo officials hold a banquet in an Oakdale sewer to celebrate its construction. The 19 men, in hip boots, completed an inspection and then in 12 inches of "clean" water they sat down to a surprise meal hosted by the contractors. **1932**: Married teachers in Toledo launch a battle with TPS administrators over plan to fire the married women in favor of single female teachers who can be paid less.

**1941**: The U.S. Navy says the Bay View Park Armory in Toledo will start a school for 2,400 sailors to train on non-combat duties.

**1943**: Lucas County Commons Pleas Court Judge Paul Alexander grants a divorce to a couple who didn't make it through their honeymoon because the new bride was sneezing too much.

**1949**: The Ottawa County Co-op Elevator is destroyed by flames at Oak Harbor.

#### April 19

**1909**: Wood County officials decry public drunkenness on electric railcars passing through their county. No more "passing of the bottle" will be allowed by passengers.

1915: Toledo mothers complain that vacant lots are becoming dangerous public dumps after two children die from eating spoiled foods thrown into those lots on Vance Street.

1917: Twenty doctors at Toledo Hospital resign their positions after they have disagreement with trustees over the economics of the hospital versus the quality of care. 1933: Toledo mother and daughter, Julia Fields and Evelyn Long, make national news in "Ripley's Believe it or Not" as they both observed 50th wedding anniversaries on the same day.



The Bay View Park Armory.





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Letters should be about 350 words. Deadline Wed. Noon. Send to news@presspublications.com

### Issue No. 2 on primary ballot

To the Editor: We are once again being asked to vote on Ohio spending in the form of a bond referendum.

In Ohio we have an \$85 billion a year budget. In the 2024 lame duck session, HB Joint Resolution 8 was passed after it sailed through our legislature and was placed on our May primary ballot.

Issue #2 is asking for authority to sell bonds to the tune of \$2.5 BILLION! Our legislature wants to spend up to \$250 million of that amount per year for the next 10

Some have called this the "stealth issue."

I personally become leery when a bill makes it all the way through legislature and most people have heard nothing about it.

That amount (\$250 million) is about .2 percent of the total budget. Why do we need new spending? Why do we need to take on new debt? If we are replacing expiring issues, are the expenditures still necessary? These questions need to be answered publicly before we try to push through a 'stealth issue.'

We are tired of overspending. We are tired of our tax burden being so high in Ohio! Since Ohio's constitution requires a balanced budget, this issue would change Ohio's constitution to allow the state to borrow via bond issue and not include it in the budget.

To me this is a dangerous precedent for future spending. We need to send a strong message to Columbus that they cannot do

"stealth" spending in Ohio.

We do this by voting NO ON ISSUE #2. Early voting is beginning so let's get out the

Fred Lewis

Oregon

### Agree to disagree

To the Editor: Most of us can disagree with friends and still remain friends. We all have our reasons for voting the way we do. But if we are to criticize we should be

Calling someone a name like "idiot" or another general name does not explain one's disagreement. This does nothing but

Many people wanted some change to help the climate. Elon Musk created the Tesla company, which builds electric cars. He should be lauded by those who are really concerned about the climate. Now, because they disagree with his proposals to point out waste in the government, he has become their enemy.

Musk just helped two stranded astronauts return home after being stranded in space, and he still builds electric cars. Hatred can never be satisfied.

Of the three things aforementioned, which one is bad for the country? Pointing out waste, building electric cars or saving people stranded in space?

I'm perplexed!

**Steve Cherry** Oregon



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# **Opinion**

The columns that appear on this page and Letters to the Editor are the opinion of the author

They do not reflect the opinion of The Press Newspaper.

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### Northwood Block Watch to host CarFit event April 16

Northwood Neighborhood Block Watch Meeting will meet Wednesday, April 16 at 5 p.m. at the 2100 Tracy Rd. Fire Station.

Guest speaker, Sandy Weichman, Safe Communities of Wood County Coordinator, will discuss the CarFit program. CarFit is a community-based educational program created in 2006 in collaboration by AARP and the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) to promote continued safe driving and mobility among older drivers by focusing on safety, comfort, and fit in a driver's personal vehicle. Learn more at car-fit.org

Weichman and a State Highway Patrol officer assistant will help ensure drivers are properly fitted into their vehicle with optimum seat placement and mirror adjustments.

Visit facebook.com/NorthwoodNeighborhoodBlockWatch for updates.

### YMCA offers 'Brain Savers'

The Eastern Community YMCA will present a 12-week Brain Savers: Brain Body Fitness Program for Healthy Aging.

This evidence-based brain and body program is designed to help participants maintain independent living while improving overall physical and mental well-being.

Classes begin April 21 and meet Mondays and Wednesdays at 11 a.m. at the Eastern Y, 2960 Pickle Rd., Oregon. The cost is \$25 (YMCA membership required for registration).

To register, or for more information, email healthyliving@ymcatoledo.org or call 419-725-7844.

#### **Blood** drive set

A Red Cross Blood Drive will be held Tuesday, April 15 from 12-6 p.m. at Hope Community Church, 5650 Starr Ave.

### Virtual Dementia Tour

Take advantage of an opportunity to increase your understanding of Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia through first-hand experience at a Virtual Dementia Tour, being offered Wednesday, April 16 at Genoa Retirement Village, 300 Cherry St.

Call 419-855-7755 to schedule an appointment between 4 and 6 p.m.

### Ask the Expert

Mercy Health's virtual Ask the Expert series continues Thursday, April 17, when Dr. Kayla Curlis, DPM, Mercy Health podiatry resident physician, will share the importance of foot health, how to care for our feet and how foot health impacts our overall health

The presentation, held in observance of National Foot Health Month, will also include a live Q&A, allowing participants to ask questions and get expert advice on foot care.

The one-hour, monthly sessions are held the third Thursday of every month



from 12:30-1:30 p.m. via Zoom. To join, participants can call 646-931-3860 or zoom meeting ID: 975 5220 8436. There is no need to pre-register.

Ask the Expert is the result of Mercy Health's efforts to address factors that influence the health and wellbeing of the community.

### Mercy Health Mobile Mammography Van

Mercy Health's mobile mammography unit has several visits scheduled in the coming weeks throughout the region.

The mobile mammography unit delivers mammograms to women age 40 and older. It is equipped with the newest 3D technology and offers the option of self-compression, meaning the patient will have the ability to control the compression once she is in position.

The mammography van will make a stop Monday, April 21 at Mercy Health – Perrysburg Primary Care, 1103 Village Square Dr. To view the full list of dates and locations, visit mercy.com/toledomobilemamm.

While mammogram screenings may be covered by insurance, for best coverage, patients should verify if Mercy Health – St. Charles Hospital is an in-network provider with their insurance carrier. Financial need-based assistance programs are available to help those who are uninsured or underinsured (have high deductibles). Call 1-800-929-6626 for more information.

Screenings at the Mercy Health Mobile Mammography unit are by appointment only - call 833-MAMM- VAN to schedule a screening on the mobile unit.

### Jake & Cooper's program, fundraiser

Jake & Cooper's Bark Park, will host its April Tough Topic Discussion Wednesday, April 23, from 7-8 p.m. at the Eastern Community YMCA, 2960 Pickle Rd., Oregon.

Laurie Clemons, Moms S.O.U.L. (Surviving Our Ultimate Loss) will be the guest speaker.

#### st speaker. **Fundraisers set**

Jake & Cooper's will also present a 5K-9 Walk & Run and 1-Mile Mutt Strut Sunday, May 18. The event will begin at 9 a.m. at the East YMCA, 2960 Pickle Rd., Oregon.

The entry fee is \$30 for the 5K-9 Walk & Run or the 1-Mile Mutt Strut. A T-shirt is included with early registration (by April 19).

The event will also include a Best-Dressed Dog Competition. All proceeds raised will benefit Jake & Cooper's Bark Park, a 501(c)3 organization.

Sign up at runsignup.com (search Jake & Cooper's 5K-9 Run and 1-Mile Family Mutt Strut)

Jake & Cooper's Bark Park is located at 2960 Pickle Rd., Oregon. For membership and other information, email membership@jakeandcoopersbarkpark.com or visit jakeandcoopersbarkpark.com.

### Magruder cancer support, off-site lab draws

The next Magruder Cancer Get-Together will be Wednesday, April 23, at 1 p.m. in the Magruder Conference Center, 615 Fulton St., Port Clinton.

The free get-togethers are for anyone who has been impacted by cancer, including patients, caregivers and family members. Participants need not be patients of Magruder Oncology to attend.

The topic for April will be "Cancer and Nutrition Issues," with Tracy Stadler, RD, LD, CDCES.

RSVP by calling 419-734-3131, ext. 3729, or email tarmstrong@magruderhospital.com.

#### Off-site draw location

The Magruder Hospital Laboratory offers off-site lab draws at RW Minick Medical Center in Oak Harbor Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Lab draws at Magruder Hospital continue to be available Monday through Friday from 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Saturday from 7 a.m.-2 p.m.

### Fremont MS Support

The National MS Society, along with WalkMS Fremont, hosts a support group meeting the second Monday of each month at Hayes United Methodist Church, Fangboner Road, Fremont.

The group is open to all those with MS and their caregivers. The April 14 meeting will focus on connecting with other MS support groups. The group will also focus on planning for WalkMS Fremont, which will take place Saturday, May 10, at 9 a.m. at the Sandusky County YMCA in Fremont.

MS self-help groups bring people together who share common life experiences for support, education and mutual

aid. Benefits of participating in a self-help group include:

• Learning new information and strate-

- Learning new information and strategies for confronting problems.
  - Finding support from others.
  - The opportunity to help others.
- Feeling empowered and more self-confident in coping with challenges.

Multiple Sclerosis is typically diagnosed in the prime-of-life years – ages 20-50. Twice as many women as men have MS. An estimated 20,000 Ohioans are living with the unpredictability of this disease of the central nervous system. Symptoms range from numbness and tingling to blindness and paralysis. The progress, severity and specific symptoms of MS in any one

person cannot yet be predicted. The cause is still unknown and there is no known cure.

To become a sponsor of WalkMS Fremont 2025, contact Dana Roca, ambassador from the NMSS, at 804-467-9881, events.nationalmssociety.org/team/WalkMSFremont.

For more information, visit msohio-buckeye.org.

#### Walking through Grief

Community members are invited to attend an interactive support group aimed at helping adults adjust to the loss of any loved one.

Walking through Grief will be held the second and fourth Friday of each month, May through September, from 10-11 a.m. at the Perrysburg Hospice Center, 30000 East River Rd.

The walking route will include the Hospice grounds and path to the W.W. Knight Nature Preserve – a distance of less than one mile.

Attendees will have the opportunity to express and receive support, adapt to this life-changing event, discover healthy coping skills and gain support in understanding grief.

The sessions are free and open to anyone in the community, whether or not they have had a prior relationship with Hospice of Northwest Ohio, however, advance registration is required. Attendees should wear comfortable shoes. For more information or to register, call the Hospice Bereavement Department at 419-661-4001.

To learn more about grief and loss or Hospice of Northwest Ohio, visit hospicenwo.org.

### Walk for Mental Health

On Saturday, May 17, hundreds of Greater Toledo residents will lace up and show up for NAMIWalks Greater Toledo, a free, inclusive, and high-energy event that supports mental health awareness and builds community around the message: "Mental Health for All."

The event will begin at 10 a.m. at Middlegrounds Metropark, 111 Ottawa St., Toledo. It is open to all and accommodates individuals of all physical abilities. Registration is free. Participants who raise \$100 or more receive an event T-shirt.

To sign up, donate or start a team, visit namiwalks.org/greatertoledo.

"Our aim is, 'Know us before you need us,' because mental health touches all of us—whether we're ready or not," said Marriah Kornowa, executive director of NAMI Greater Toledo.

The event will also include local vendors, community partners, food trucks, games, face painting, photo booths, etc.

Funds raised during the walk support NAMI Greater Toledo's no-cost, education programs, peer-led support groups and advocacy efforts.



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\*A limited number of Walleye Dinners are available, so calling ahead to reserve is recommended.

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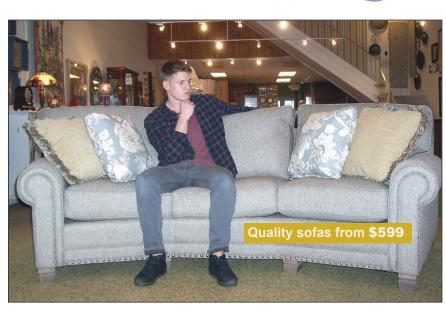
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# April 20, 2025

May the spirit of this holy season fill your heart and soul with peace, joy and inspiration. Alleluial Join us for Easter week services at

**April 17 - Maundy Thursday** with communion & stripping of the altar at 7:30pm

April 18 - Good Friday Service of Nails at 7:30pm

**April 20 - Easter Celebration** with communion at 10:30am

GRACE LUTHIERAN CHURCH

All services take place in Grace's Sanctuary. Services are also broadcast for those who wish to remain in their vehicles.

19225 W. Witty Road, Elmore, Ohio

### **Trinity Lutheran Church**

412 Fremont Street Elmore, OH 43416

Email:tlcelmore1@gmail.com Phone: (419) 862-3461

Sunrise Service: 6:30a.m.

Easter Breakfast: 8:00a.m.

Egg Hunt: 9:00a.m.

Sunday School: 9:30a.m.

Communion Service: 10:45a.m.



### SUNDAY, **APRIL 20TH**

Morning Service begins at 10 am

"Jesus paid it all. No tricks, no lucky charms, just forgiveness - full and free. Come celebrate Easter with us!"

### **Living Word Baptist Church**

5157 Seaman Rd., Oregon Pastor Jim McCourt



Refreshments after Service



7:00am



### We Invite You to Join Us Holy Week

### **Holy Week Schedule**

April 13th - Palm Sunday 10:15am April 17th - Maunday Thursday 6:00pm

April 18th - Good Friday 6:00pm Cross carry from St. Peter's UCC to St. Paul's Únited Methodist Church

SR 795 & Main St., Millbury Community Worship at St. Paul's 6:30pm

April 20th - Easter Sunday

Outdoor Sunrise Service St. Peter's Shelter

Fellowship Breakfast 8:15am Worship 10:15am

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!"

St. Peter's United Christ / Eastminster United Presbyterian Church

Main St., Millbury, OH 43447



## Join Us for Worship Holy Week and Easter

Maundy Thursday, April 17th 11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 18th 12 Noon

CHRIST IS RISEN

Easter Sunday, April 20th 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

First St. John Lutheran Church 2471 Seaman Street - Toledo, Ohio 43605 www.firststjohn.com - 419-691-7222

### Celebrate Holy Week with us!

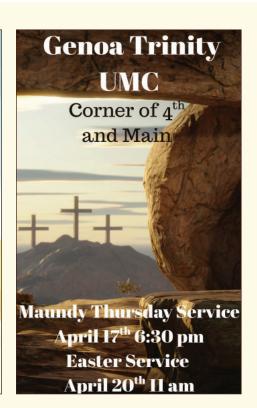
Maundy Thursday Noon-7 PM Take a self guided tour of the Journey to the Cross with prayer and meditations.

Good Friday Service & Candle Liturgy 7 PM

Easter Sunday
Fellowship Breakfast 8:30 AM
All are welcome!
Easter Sunday Worship 10 AM

Elliston Zion
United Methodist Church
18045 W William St. Graytown
(off Elliston Trowbridge Rd)
Pastor LisaAnne Gregg

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are WELCOME at Elliston Zion!









### Genoa's Gracie Sprague awarded \$3,000 Ohio Soybean Council Foundation Scholarship

By Press Staff Writer

The Ohio Soybean Council Foundation (OSCF) is pleased to announce that Gracie Sprague of Genoa, Ohio has been awarded a \$3,000 Ohio Soybean Council Foundation Scholarship for the 2025-2026 academic year.

Sprague, a 2023 graduate of Genoa High School, is a sophomore at The Ohio State University ATI studying agriscience education. She is one of 15 students to receive a scholarship from the Ohio Soybean Council Foundation.

Sprague, who grew up on her small family farm in Genoa with her parents and younger sister, Lyla, said her family is her greatest support system. Along with her sister, Sprague created her own show pig business, Sprague Show Pigs. She said she chose her college destination because of its strong sense of community, its hands-on agricultural education, and the people who make it feel like home.

This past November, Sprague was among seven winners of the National FFA Agricultural Proficiency Awards, which were announced during the second session of the 97th National FFA Convention & Expo in October in Indianapolis, Ind.



Gracie Sprague

At that awards ceremony, Sprague was recognized as the national winner of the Agricultural Sales – Entrepreneurship Proficiency award. She is a supplement dealer selling three products for eight different livestock species. She learned to operate independently and is responsible for ordering inventory and monitoring sales, customer communication, marketing, and more. Primarily serving livestock exhibitors as customers, Sprague has also served as a mentor and teacher to young people in the industry.

More recently, Sprague had the

More recently, Sprague had the chance to join Ohio State's STEP (Second-Year Transformational Experience Program) on a trip to the nation's capital.

"I'm honored to serve on the scholarship selection committee for the first time this year, and I am truly impressed by the caliber of these recipients," Jeff McKanna, Hancock County soybean farmer and scholarship selection committee member, said. "These students are the future of our industry, and I'm confident they will make meaningful contributions to its growth and success."

This is the 18th year for the OSCF Scholarship Program, which was created to encourage undergraduate students to pursue degrees in various fields that support the future of the soybean industry, including agriculture, business, communication, economics, education, science, and technology, as well as to support ongoing graduate-level research. Since 2008, the OSCF Scholarship Program has awarded over \$680,000 in scholarship funds to students studying agriculture or a related field at Ohio colleges or universities.

### **About OSCF**

Established by the Ohio Soybean Council in 2007, the Ohio Soybean Council Foundation is a 501c(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the improvement of the soybean industry through the support of scientific research and education. www.soyohio.org/scholarship

#### **About OSC**

Headquartered in Worthington, the Ohio Soybean Council is governed by a volunteer farmer board, which directs the Soybean Promotion and Research Program. The program's primary goal is to improve soybean profitability by targeting research and development, education and promotion projects through the investment of farmer-contributed funds (checkoff). www.soyohio.org.

### Ask the Ag Expert - Ohio Department of Agriculture

By Press Staff Writer

### **H2Ohio Enrollment Open**

Together with local farmers, we're helping clean Ohio's water. H2Ohio is Gov. Mike DeWine's water quality initiative which continues to support the work of local farmers to reduce agricultural runoff into Ohio's waterways. Enrollment is now open to farmers with cropland in ten counties of the Western Lake Erie Basin. ODA Director Brian Baldridge is available to talk about the support from Ohio farmers who are working to keep our soil, water, and Earth clean.

For more information, contact Carissa Cochrane via email at Carissa.co-chrane@agri.ohio.gov or by phone at 614-372-9164.

### **Gardening Guide**

Agriculture isn't just about hundreds of acres of farmland. Your potted plants and gardens play an important role too. ODA's Plant Health team has years of gardening knowledge to help Ohioans produce fruitful yields. We even have a plot on our Reynoldsburg campus.

We're available to talk about when to start, how to start, and how to maintain your plants

For more information, contact Bryan Levin via email at bryan.levin@agri-ohio. gov or by phone at 614-563-6974.

#### **Creepy Crawlies**

We're the not only ones emerging as spring nears. ODA is tracking invasive insects across the state that can damage crops and vineyards. Some of these pests are slowed by aerial spraying, others by traps. See what we're targeting and how you can play a role.

For more information, contact Bryan Levin via email at bryan.levin@agri-ohio. gov or by phone at 614-563-6974.

At top right is an Asian longhorned beetle, which is one of the invasive species that Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) officials are tracking. At the bottom left is a garden. For those taking care of plants, you can learn more about maintaining them in the gardening guide brief to the left. At the bottom right, an H2Ohio official

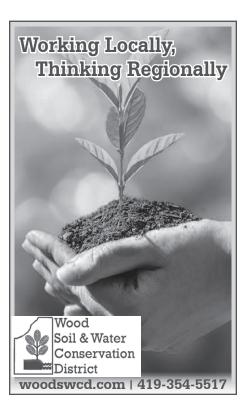
Photos courtesy of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Ohio Department of Agriculture

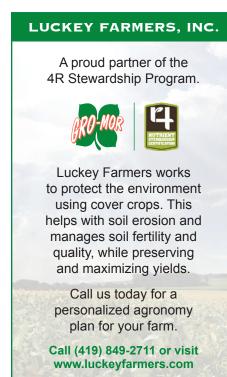
speaks to a farmer.













Health The Press

### 'Phone's down'

### Ohio's efforts to drive down distracted driving paying off

April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month, and while distracted driving remains a significant concern in Ohio, new data indicates that two years after the state's "phones down" law took effect, Ohio is seeing positive, lifesaving

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine signed Senate Bill 288 in 2023. The bill strengthened the state's distracted driving laws by making it a primary offense to use handheld electronic devices while driving.

According to the Ohio State Highway Patrol, the average number of crashes in Ohio has dropped by 8%, injuries are down 3%, and traffic fatalities have declined by 4% since the law took effect in April 2023.

Data from Cambridge Mobile Telematics (CMT) continues to show about a 10% drop in cell phone use in Ohio among drivers who share their device data as part of employer-based safety programs or in exchange for insurance discounts. CMT estimates the law has saved Ohio at least \$337 million in economic damages.

We're certainly seeing less distracted driving than before the law went into effect, but we still have a long way to go," said DeWine. "I appreciate all the drivers who have chosen to stay focused on the road, and I encourage more drivers to do the same. Distracted-driving crashes are completely avoidable."

**2024** recap

While underreported, there were 8,571 distracted-driving-related crashes on Ohio roadways last year. These crashes resulted in 29 people killed and 4,458 people in-

Of the distracted driving-related crashes, 36% occurred at an intersection, which emphasizes the importance of drivers paying attention at intersections where vehicles are turning and people are crossing.

Cell phone data in Ohio and nationwide typically shows that drivers are more distracted Monday through Friday during the afternoon commute. Weekends also see steady distractions after 10 a.m.

### Ohio's hands-free law is saving lives

The Ohio State Highway Patrol has put enhanced focus on distracted driving over the past two years and will continue to do so during Distracted Driving Awareness

"Ohio's hands-free law is saving lives," said Col. Charles A. Jones, Patrol superintendent. "With increased enforcement, we are seeing fewer crashes - but the responsibility on the road starts with every driver. No distraction is worth the risk."

Distracted driving demographics. Younger male drivers are more likely to drive distracted than young female drivers. From 2019-2024, 63% of the distracted driving crashes involved drivers 35 or younger with 60% being males.

Location matters. Most distracted driving crashes occurred on roads with a speed limit of 35 MPH, followed by roads with posted speeds of 25 and 55 MPH. The most distracted-driving-related fatalities occurred on 55 MPH roadways.

The top five counties with the highest number of distracted-driving crashes between 2020 and 2024 were Cuyahoga,



New data indicates that two years after the state's "phones down" law took effect, Ohio is seeing lifesaving results.

Hamilton, Franklin, Montgomery, and

Driving distracted has a cost. Fines under the state's distracted driving law start at \$150 and increase to \$500. Fines are doubled if the violation occurs in a work

According to NerdWallet, a driver with an at-fault crash on their record pays \$1,110 more per year for a full-coverage policy than a driver with no violations.

Beyond the dollar figure, the loss of a life has a ripple effect that can't be calculat-

Public education and awareness. More than 25,000 distracted drivers have completed the state's online distracted-driving safety course since enforcement started in October 2023. This free course, created by the Ohio Traffic Safety Office (OTSO), allows first-time offenders to be eligible for reduced fines and points when they submit their course completion certificate to the

The top 10 cities for course completions are Columbus, Toledo, Cincinnati, Lorain, Youngstown, Elyria, Akron, Lima, Ashtabula and Mansfield.

Avoiding distracted driving. The best

way to combat distracted driving is to put away distractions. Drivers should let a passenger act as a co-pilot to read and send texts or adjust navigation apps.

As a general rule, activities that take your eyes off the road and your mind off driving for longer periods of time are the most dangerous. Wait to complete these activities when you can stop in a safe place.

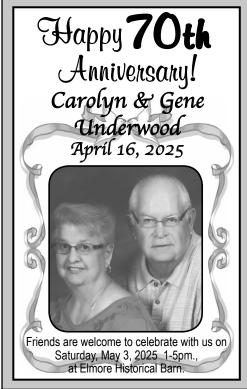


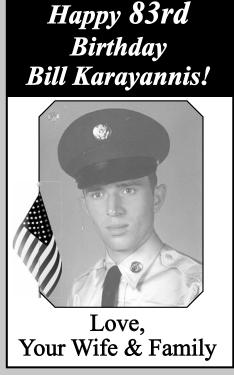
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# **Sports**

### Area baseball preview

### Seasoned coaching veterans leading area teams

Six area coaches have been leading their respective programs for at least a  $\,$ decade, most notably Gibsonburg's Kyle Rase, who is in his 20th season at the helm.

Gary Nissen has 15 years leading Genoa over two separate stints, while Eastwood's Kevin Leady is in his 13th season leading his alma mater, and Clay's Jim Phillips is in his 12th season leading his alma mater. Mike McGee is in his 10th season at Cardinal Stritch and Oak Harbor's Nick Lance is in his 10th season.

Casey Witt nearly led Lake to a Division III state championship last season, and while he lost some key players, his team should be equipped to make another run in the postseason as he enters year four.

First-year Waite coach, Paul Lambrecht, has the task of rebuilding the program, and so far, he's getting kids out for the team as he's assembled 31 players.

Woodmore coach Mason Beachler is in his first season leading his alma mater after being an assistant for four years.

And Eastwood alum Clay Rolf, who played baseball and football at Bowling Green in college, is in his fifth season leading Northwood.

Coach: Jim Phillips, 12th year Last year: 21-6 (13-2 NLL Cardinal)



Paul Lautzenheiser

Key returning players: Landon Eversman (Sr., P/3B); Ian DeWitt (Sr., OF)

Clay must replace eight starters from a team that won 21 games, claimed a sectional championship and secured a Northern Lakes League Cardinal Division title.

The last four seasons have seen the Eagles win four sectional titles and three



Gavin Kohlhofer

league championships (one NLL Cardinal; two TRAC) while advancing to the district finals two years ago.

Last year, Clay was upset by Southview in a Division I district semifinal, and two years before that, the Eagles fell to Northview in a district semifinal. The Wildcats went on to win the state champi-

Gone from last year is Vinny Gallaher, the Cardinal Division Player of the Year, who is playing at Cuyahoga Community College, and C.J. Boudreaux, who is pitch-

Landon Eversman, who plays third base when he's not pitching, is the only senior pitcher on the team. He is joined in the rotation by Darin Fussell, George Edwards and Bryce Besgrove. Four sophomores — Ray Compos, Max Sutton, Max Morrison and Jayce Derr — join junior Alex Goetz in the bullpen.

Besgrove was recently named Ohio's No. 1 left-handed pitcher for his class (2028) by Prep Baseball Ohio.

Eversman's fellow senior is Ian Dewitt,

who is an outfielder. "Landon is someone who has put a lot of work in over the last calendar year, both

on the field and in the weight room," Clay coach Jim Phillips said. "I expect him to be a leader for this team on the mound and at the plate this year.' Clay plays in the Cardinal Division

with Springfield, Southview, Bowling Green, Napoleon and Fremont Ross. The Buckeye Division features Whitmer, Perrysburg, Findlay, Anthony Wayne and North-

"In the (Buckeye Division), Anthony Wayne and Perrysburg will both be very strong this year," Phillips said. "In the (Cardinal Division), I think there are several teams that will be in the hunt for a league championship, including us."

 $P\bar{h}illips\ \hat{k}nows\ just\ \check{h}ow\ fine\ the\ line\ is$ 

between winning and losing.

Coach: Kevin Leady, 13th year

Last year: 21-5 (10-4 NBC)

**EASTWOOD** 

"We want to compete for a league championship and be playing our best baseball come tournament time," he said.



Derek James Besgrove, 43, of Oregon, Ohio, passed away coaching every sport his children parunexpectedly due to a medical emergency on Saturday, April 5, 2025

He was born on December 5, 1981, to James and Kathy (Kovesdi) Besgrove.

Derek began pursuing the love of his life, Erin Morrissey, as far back as elementary school. After years of missed chances and persistence, their lives finally aligned, and they were married on August 5, 2009. Together, they built a beautiful life and family, welcoming Bryce, Aubree, and Maya.

Family was Derek's world. He was a devoted husband and a passionate father who poured his heart into providing for and guiding his loved ones. His love, presence, and dedication shaped the foundation of their lives and will remain with them always. One of his strengths was his ability to plan and strategize ways to set up his children for success and opportunity in every area of their lives. His devotion to their future knew no limits.

Derek was an extremely passionate person, and that passion spilled into every corner of his life. He was a natural leader, someone who made things happen, stepped up in times of need, and was always ready to support his family and community. He had a special gift for connecting with people. He was quick to sense someone's energy, understand their humor, and meet them where they were. Derek had a unique ability to connect deeply with others and make them feel truly seen and understood.

He was fiercely protective of his family, a steadfast guardian whose sisters often joked that no boy stood a chance of getting past him on the phone. Despite his seriousness and deep sense of responsibility, Derek was also the fun uncle. He brought laughter and joy to every gathering, effortlessly balancing wisdom with wit. He was known for having the last word, and more often than

As a young boy, Derek stood on the sidelines with his dad, where a lifelong love of sports began to form. He went on to have a storied sports career, and his athletic accomplishments were many. He earned First Team All-Ohio honors in football at Clay. To this day, he holds the national NAIA collegiate career rushing record with 5,738 yards. He also holds the Walsh career touchdown record with 71 touchdowns. After graduating from Walsh University, he was inducted into both the Clay High School Hall of Fame and the Walsh University Hall of Fame.

Outside of his time on the field, Derek built a strong and steady career at Cenovus, formerly BP, where he worked for 19 years. His reliability, drive, and leadership made him a respected presence among his colleagues, qualities he carried into every

Derek was shaped by many influential coaches throughout his athletic journey. Their guidance helped mold him into not only a standout athlete but also a natural coach and mentor. Despite his impressive accomplishments, Derek never sought the spotlight for himself; instead, he found joy in shining it on others. That selflessness, paired with the discipline, commitment, relentless drive, and focus that defined him, became the foundation of his coaching

He carried the lessons of his mentors forward with pride,

ticipated in and investing deeply in their development—and that of every athlete he coached—both on and off the field. Always bringing energy, encouragement, and heart to every practice and game.

One of Derek's greatest joys was coaching alongside his dad, a full-circle moment that meant the world to them both. After years of standing by his father's side as a young athlete, Derek eventually had the honor of switching roles and having his dad serve as his as-

sistant coach at Fassett and Clay. It was a testament to their shared love of the game and the deep bond they had built through it.

Derek's fierce devotion and passion, both on and off the field, are what he will forever be remembered for. He lived with purpose, heart, and humility. He was driven by a desire to give his best to the people and causes he cared about. A saying that resonated with him was, "It's not about being perfect, it's about being better today than you were yesterday." He also believed in focusing on what could be controlled and often reminded those around him to "control the controllables." That steady wisdom, lived out in words and actions, will continue to guide those who knew and loved him. His legacy lives not only in the memories he leaves behind but in the example he set: to show up with integrity, lead with love, and keep moving forward.

Those who will forever hold Derek in their hearts include his wife, Erin; children, Bryce, Aubree, and Maya; parents, Jim and Kathy Besgrove; sisters, Ashlee Pax and Kendyll (Chaz) Bobbs; parents-in-law, Bob and Patty Morrissey; sisters-in-law, Carolyn (John) Berryman, Kaddie Morrissey, and Darah Morrissey; and aunt and uncle, Joe and Robin Kovesdi. He is also lovingly remembered by many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Derek was preceded in death by grandparents, Joseph and Dorothy Kovesdi, and Frederick "Bill" and Dorothy Besgrove; uncles, Richard Besgrove and Robert Kovesdi; sister-in-law, Katie Morrissey; brothers-in-law, Max and Ben Morrissey; and special godmother, Barb Shellhammer.

The family will receive friends at the Eggleston Meinert & Pavley Funeral Home, Millbury Chapel, 1111 Woodville Road, Millbury, Ohio, 43447, on Sunday, April 13, 2025, from 1:00 to 8:00 pm. A Celebration of Life Service will be held Monday, April 14, 2025, outdoors at Clay Memorial Stadium, 5665 Seaman Road, Oregon, Ohio, beginning at 4:00 pm. Guests are welcome to arrive at the stadium starting at 3:30 pm. As school will be in session earlier in the day, we kindly ask that no one arrive before

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in honor of Derek may be directed to:

Derek Besgrove Memorial Fund Croghan Colonial Bank 4157 Navarre Ave. Oregon, OH 43616 Or online via https://www.gofundme.com/f/the-derek-besgrove-family-memorial-fund

If your philosophy works, why change

Key returning players: Drew Kachmarik (Sr., 1B/P); Connor Norton (Sr., C/IF);

Kadyn Donnell (Sr., P/OF); Paul Lautzenheiser (Sr., P/1B/DH)

For Eastwood coach Kevin Leady, the approach has always been about keeping things simple and getting his team to focus on working hard and taking care of the little things while trusting that the result will take care of itself.

Most recently, the Eagles won a district title in 2022, which followed an appearance in the regional semifinals, and they have won sectional titles in the two years since then. That mindset has helped Eastwood win multiple sectional and league titles during Leady's 13 years as the coach of the team, during which the team has gone 227-91.

'We want to get better every day, win the league title and go on a tournament run," Leady said.

Gone from last year are Brandon Falls, Xander Greulich and Andrew Badenhop, but the Eagles return some very good players, including seven starters.

The ace of the rotation is senior Paul Lautzenheiser, who went 7-2 with a 2.00 ERA last season. Kadyn Donnell is also back after posting a 5-0 record with a 0.98 ERA. Fellow senior Drew Kachmarik went 3-1 with two saves and a 2.00 ERA in '24.

Erich Hepler, Andre Lantigua and Jack Sensenig are the relievers.

At the plate, Kachmarik hit .372 to go with 12 doubles and 26 RBIs. Donnell batted .314 to go with eight doubles, 14 RBIs and 37 runs. Lautzenheiser hit .311 to go with a home run, 16 RBIs and 19 runs. Colton Woodward batted .314 to go with 15 RBIs and 37 runs.

Kachmarik also plays first base, Norton is an infielder, Woodward is a shortstop, Lautzenheiser also plays first and sometimes serves as the DH and Donnell is also an outfielder.

Fellow seniors Brock Messinger and Austin Bonfiglio play left and right field, respectively.

#### Continued from page 14

Some newcomers to the team are outfielder Cam Schumacher and second baseman Drew Luidhardt.

Leady sees Eastwood and Lake as the top teams in the Northern Buckeye Conference with Oak Harbor and Otsego close behind.

"This group has worked extremely hard all year to prepare for (the season)," he said. "We have a great core returning and are excited to see how we gel throughout the season. Expectations are high for this group, but we understand the work needed to be successful."

#### **GENOA**

**Head coach**: Gary Nissen, 15th year **Last year**: 9-18 (3-11 NBC)

**Key returning players**: Alex Spencer (Sr., SS); Isaac Ewersen (Sr., 2B/C); Caleb Klatt (Sr., P); Toby Karl (Sr., OF)

Genoa returns a number of key contributors from last year's squad, inspiring hope to make some noise in a quest for a Northern Buckeye Conference title.

Gone from last year are Denver Stewart, Jagger Magnone and J.J. Hartman, who is pitching at the University of Findlay, but there are nine returning starters.

The rotation features Caleb Klatt (2-3, 3.25 ERA), Jaxon Magnone, Elijah Welling (1-1, 3.35 ERA), Hunter Reed and Evan Millner. Joel Gittus and Vinny Pasty are the relievers.

"We are deep," Genoa coach Gary Nissen said of his pitching staff. "We have a mix of experience and youth with the starters, and we hope to keep developing throughout the season."

Klatt is joined by three other seniors in shortstop Alex Spencer (.341, 1 HR, 17 RBIs, 27 R), second baseman/catcher Isaac Ewersen and outfielder Toby Karl.

Millner (.253, 14 RBIs), a junior, is an infielder when he's not pitching. Jaxon Magnone (.246, 14 R), whose father Jason was the starting catcher on Lake's 2001 state semifinalist baseball team, plays catcher and is an infielder.

Welling plays first base and could see some time in the outfield.

Nissen sees Spencer, Magnone and Welling as having the potential to do quite well this season and possibly surprise some people.

"We hope to get better every day in games and in practice, and compete in a very tough NBC," said Nissen, who has overseen some very good teams during his tenure as the coach of the Comets. "Our team was very young (last year), and we look forward to improving in all three phases of the game this season."

### GIBSONBURG

Coach: Kyle Rase, 20th season Last year: 18-11 (8-10 SBC River)

**Key returning players**: Grant Dawson (Sr., OF/P); Brady Hill (Sr., OF/P); Thomas Hockenberry (Sr., C); Nolan Hoover (Sr., SS/P)

Gibsonburg can expect eight upperclassmen, including five seniors, to be key contributors this season.

Nolan Hoover, who plays shortstop when he's not pitching, is one of the team's top players, as he went 9-4 with an ERA of 1.26 and 114 strikeouts last season. The senior broke the program record for career strikeouts in 2024, while hitting .389 and driving in 27 runs at the plate.

Gone from last year are first baseman Jake Hall and catcher Corey McKnight.

There are a number of other pitchers on the team like Brady Hill (4-3), Grant Dawson (.300), Spencer Waugaman, Jeff Linton, Chuy Rodriguez (.291, 28 RBIs) and Reece Walby (.262).

Rodriguez's 28 runs batted in led the Sandusky Bay Conference River Division last season.

Hill and Dawson join Aidan Morant in the outfield, Hockenberry is the catcher, Waugaman plays first and second base, Linton plays first, Rodriguez is a third baseman and Walby plays short.

Dawson, Hill, Hockenberry and Waugaman are the other seniors in addition to Hoover, while Linton, Morant and Rodriguez are juniors. Walby is a sophomore.

"There's not one particular player that could have a great season, there are a lot (that could)," 20th-year Gibsonburg head coach Kyle Rase said.

Last year's squad won 18 games and lost to Tiffin Calvert in a Division IV district final.

Rase, who led Gibsonburg to a state championship during his rookie campaign in '05, wants to keep it simple for now.



Evan Millner

"We would like to improve every game, be competitive in our league and make a tournament run," he said.

#### LAKE

Coach: Casey Witt, fourth year Last year: 28-5 (11-3 NBC)

Key returning players: Drew Tajblik (Sr., P/SS); Jay Blazevich (Sr., P/2B); Gavin Kohlhofer (Jr., C), Jack Sobczak (Jr., IF/P)

Last season, Lake came excruciatingly close to winning a Division III state championship, falling 3-1 to Heath in the title tilt.

While the team lost the likes of Ryan Wagner, Caleb Tobias, Aiden Young and Connor Eck to graduation, Lake is once again expected to contend for a Northern Buckeye Conference title and make another run in the tournament.

"As is normal in the NBC, I think that there is a lot of good competition and that it will be a battle every night," Lake coach Casey Witt said. "I expect our team to have

Continued on page 16



### Sandwisch



Daniel James Sandwisch, 41, of Woodville, Ohio, passed away unexpectedly at his home on April 4, 2025. He was born on October 10, 1983 in Toledo and graduat-

ed from Clay High School in 2002. While in high school, Dan received a prestigious statewide award in computer technology from the University of Toledo, which helped launch his entrepreneurial career.

Dan was co-owner of the Delving Company in Elmore and had previously worked for SleepTite and ADN Safety Solutions. Known for his passion for technology and building friends through his work, he dedicated his life to creating businesses that supported his community.

A member of Solomon Lutheran Church in Woodville, Dan served on the church council as the treasurer.

He is survived by his daughter, Makayla Sandwisch; mother, Cindy (Michael) Breeze; father, Jim Sandwisch; brother, Greg Sandwisch; sister, Julianna (Craig) Assenmacher; nephews Obadiah, Broderick, and Theodore; and many cousins and extended family. He was preceded in death by grandparents Willis and Ruth Sandwisch, and Ward and Evelyn Logsdon.

Visitation will be held Friday, April 11, from 9–11 a.m., followed by an 11 a.m. service at Solomon Lutheran Church, Woodville, officiated by Pastor Alan Brown.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the family (c/o Cindy Breeze) via check or Venmo @ Cindymbreeze ("Makayla Education Fund"; last 4 digits for verification: 5623).

Those wishing to express a word of encouragement, share a memory, or upload a photo may do so at

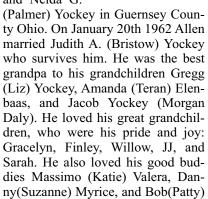
www.marshfuneralhomes.com

### Yockey

Allen Palmer Yockey, age 88 entered the loving arms of Jesus on April 4, 2025.

On February 14th, 1937 Allen was born to Donald W. and Nelda G.

Herrick.



Allen is also survived by his brother Richard Yockey along with nephews Don (Patricia) Yockey, Jerry (Roxanne) Yockey, and Jim (Terry) Yockey.

Allen served proudly in the United States Army. After his time in the military, Allen started working for CSX where he retired after 41 years. He loved all things to do with trains. Allen and Judy spent many years traveling in their motorhome and on their motorcycle. They traveled all over the US, Canada, Mexico and parts of Europe. Allen loved gardening, antiquing, and was the best cook.

He is preceded in death by his father and mother, his son Gregg A. Yockey Sr., and siblings Wayne Sr., Paige, Dolores, and Patricia.

A Celebration of Life will take place Saturday April 12th at 10am at St. John Church in Williston OH. There will be a private family graveside service following. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that donations be made to St. John Lutheran Church Williston, OH.

Freck Funeral Chapel is assisting the family with arrangements.

### Lohr

Debbie S. Lohr, 71, of Walbridge, OH, passed away peacefully April 4, 2025, in Oregon, Ohio. Debbie was born October 18, 1953, in Toledo, Ohio, to John and Norma (Cline) Zenk.



She married Harold Lohr May 1, 1970, and they were married 40 years until his passing in 2010. Debbie and Harold were active members of Cooley Canal Yacht Club and enjoyed boating on Lake Erie. She enjoyed sharing a cup of coffee with frequent visitors to her home. Debbie was loved and appreciated by her many neighbors who she cared for and became her second family. As a loving grandmother, Debbie treasured the time spent with her grandchildren and sharing ice cream treats. Debbie had a large vegetable garden and canned her famous tomato soup for family and friends. In addition, Debbie enjoyed sewing and caring for animals.

Debbie is survived by her children, Gary Lohr, Tammy (Corey) Partin, and Heather (Steve) Truman; grandchildren, Riley & Danyon Lohr, Sara & Nicole Partin, and Emmett & Debbie Truman; loving nieces, Norma (Ken) Millen and Nikki (Tom) Bee; siblings, Carol (Jeff) Peake, Kim (Walt) King, John (Sandy) Zenk, Jeannie (Chuck) Poorman, Eugene (Judy) Bookenberger, Vicky (Jeff) Poling, Teresa Harkness, and Cheryl (Bill) Mitchell; along with many nieces, nephews, loving family members and friends. Preceded in death by her parents, husband, and siblings, Kathy Wise, Linda Olmstead, and Rusty Mohn.

Funeral services were held Saturday, April 12, 2025. Interment: Lake Township Cemetery. Preferred memorials to Wood County Humane Society or Nickens Family Rescue. Eggleston Meinert & Pavley Funeral Home.

www.egglestonmeinert.com

**Sports** 

### The Press

Continued from page 15

a say in how the league shakes out."

Wagner, who led the team in RBIs and was on the mound for some of the team's biggest postseason wins last year, will be tough to replace, but there are several pitchers on this year's squad – highlighted by reigning First Team All-Ohio selection Drew Tajblik, who has committed to continue his career at the University of Toledo. He went 12-0 with a 1.31 ERA and 113 strikeouts last year.

Tajblik, who also hit .369 with 37 stolen bases last year, will be joined on the mound by Jack Sobczak (.358) and Jay Blazevich (.336). That trio also finished 1-2-3 in batting average for the Flyers last year. All three play the infield, as well.

Blazevich's father, Jason, was a member of Northwood's state semifinal baseball

Gavin Kohlhofer, the team's starting catcher, finished fourth at .330.

Korbin Adkins, Jaxson Rymers and Grady Snoderly could also see time on the mound. Snoderly and Kaiden Cousino are two others that will be in the mix to pitch, and Cousino will help roam the outfield along with Adkins and Rymers.

"The batting order is pretty fluid right now as we are so early in the season," Witt said. "A lot of things can change and change quickly based on who gets off to a hot start. As cliche as it sounds, we just want to get better each day that we practice

"We don't talk too much about goals, rather we talk about handling our business every opportunity we get and that if we do that, goals and achievements will take care of themselves at the end of the season."

#### **NORTHWOOD**

Coach: Clay Rolf, fifth year Last year: 3-21 (1-7 TAAC)

**Key returning players**: Ryan Kovacs (Jr., 1B); Bryceson Laurell (Jr., C/OF); Jayden Zuraski (So., C/3B)

In its final season in the Toledo Area Athletic Conference, Northwood would like to return to its winning ways and go out with a bang.

Coach Clay Rolf's Rangers only return three starters - Ryan Kovacs, Bryceson Laurell and Jayden Zuraski.

Last season, Kovacs hit .231 and Laurell finished with a batting average of .227.

The pitching staff includes Laurell, Ethan Leonard, Gabe Hicks, Jaxon Marlowe, Evan Rodriguez, and Brett Reichow.

Reichow, who plays center field when he's not pitching, is the leadoff hitter. Following him is Laurell, who usually catches. Leonard, who also plays short, hits third. Zuraski, who plays third, is the cleanup hitter.

Kovacs, who plays first and hits fifth, is followed by Rodriguez, leftfielder Mason Hurley, second baseman Marlowe, and rightfielder Hicks.

"Our goal is to consistently get better every game," Rolf said. "We have three to four freshmen that will regularly be in our lineup and pitching. I am excited to watch them grow and learn high school baseball at the varsity level."

Now in his fifth season leading the

Rangers, Rolf brings with him a great deal of credibility. He is a 2010 graduate of Eastwood, where he played football, basketball and baseball for the Eagles before playing football and baseball for BGSU.

Rolf sees Ottawa Hills as the favorite and Toledo Christian as the second-best team in the TAAC, followed by Northwood, Cardinal Stritch and Emmanuel Christian.

Next season, the Rangers will join the Sandusky Bay Conference River Division, and Ottawa Hills will follow them the season after.

#### OAK HARBOR

Coach: Nick Lance, 10th year Last year: 19-7 (9-5 NBC)

**Key returning players**: Brayden Butzin (Sr., C); Michael Lalonde (Sr., IF/P); Karson Lash (Sr., IF/P); Caleb Baker (Sr., P)

With Brayden Butzin and Michael Lalonde leading the way, there's reason for optimism in Oak Harbor. Butzin, a catcher who occasionally sees action out of the bullpen, was a Division III Honorable Mention All-Ohio last season after hitting .449 to go with two home runs and 27 RBIs.

Lalonde, who is the ace of the pitching staff when he's not playing shortstop, is committed to continue his career at the University of Findlay. Lalonde earned league and district honors last season, going 5-1 with a 1.21 ERA and hitting .329 with 16 RBIs and 32 runs.

Led by the now graduated Brayden Myerholtz, Tim Marquette and Jacob Sandwisch, the Rockets won 19 games last year and advanced to the district finals - falling just one win shy of making it to the regional tournament for the first time since the 2011 regional-final squad.

"We want to win the league and break into the regional," Oak Harbor coach Nick Lance said. "It has been a hurdle of ours."

With a starting rotation like the one the Rockets have, anything is possible.

Lalonde will be joined in the rotation by Nolan Bickelhaupt and Caleb Baker while Karson Lash, Brennan Butzin, Gavin Witt and Fischer Conn are the relievers.

Centerfielder Cooper Schultz leads off, and he is followed by Lalonde and Butzin. Lash plays second base, Rife is the first baseman, and he is followed by Bickelhaupt, designated hitter Garrett Perkins, third baseman Brennan Butzin and right-fielder Jaxson Overmyer. Gavin Witt plays

Lance sees what most of the coaches in the NBC see, which is Lake and Eastwood as the top two teams with Oak Harbor, Maumee and Otsego being in the mix.

The Rockets are one of the biggest teams in Division V after the OHSAA expanded to seven divisions during the offseason.

"That obviously gives more teams a shot at a state title, but the early road might be more difficult," Lance said of the chang-

### STRITCH

Coach: Mike McGee, 10th year Last year: 15-8 (6-2 TAAC)

Key returning players: Wyatt Allen (Sr., P/3B); Mario Alonzo (Sr., CF); David Crook

Cardinal Stritch, coming off a 15-win

season, has been tabbed to finish third in the TAAC behind Ottawa Hills and Toledo Christian

Coach Mike McGee, now in his 10th season leading the Cardinals, will see Wyatt Allen and David Crook do the bulk of the pitching on the mound, while Chico Nino and Simon Ross – both freshmen – will see time, as well.

The batting order is still in a state of flux because of youth.

"Having six freshmen in the starting lineup, I can't give you a batting order until we figure out who can do what well," McGee said. "Our goal is to get better with every game."

McGee sees the Green Bears as the team to beat in the TAAC.

"The league is looking like Ottawa Hills will be tough to knock off the top," he said. "They have a great feeder program along with a first-class facility and coach."

The Cardinals will compete in Division VII after being in Div. IV for years as the OHSAA has decided to expand from four divisions to seven.

"The state going to seven divisions should help the smaller schools compete," McGee said. "It will be an exciting time."

#### WAITE

Coach: Paul Lambrecht, first year Last year: 4-13 (2-8 CL)

**Key returning players**: Jordan Gladney (Sr., SS); Josh Arenz (Sr., CF); Delfino Moya (Sr., P/CF); Wayland Holland (Sr., P)

Former Bowsher coach Paul Lambrecht has a rebuilding project on his hands at Waite, and he's already making progress.

He's got 31 kids in his program, but only about 10 had played in a real baseball game before this season.

There are five pitchers on the roster: Delfino Moya, Wayland Holland, Zerius McGowan, Bryce Jennings and Duncan Holland.

As far as the batting order is concerned, they are, according to Lambrecht, "still mixing things around."

Zy'kale Hayworth is the first baseman, Zach Harrington plays second base, Jordan Gladney is the shortstop and Kaden Bates plays third. Wayland Holland is the catcher.

Phoenix Contos plays left fielder, Zerias McGowan is the right fielder and Moya and Josh Arenz will split time in center.

"My subs are three freshmen and two guys that haven't played a lot of baseball," Lambrecht said.

He has been working to get kids out for the team at the school, and things are certainly improving in that regard.

"Our wrestling program at Waite is very strong," Lambrecht said. "The kids are disciplined. Bryce Jennings and Phoenix Contos, I reached out to them and said, 'I need you to come out and show these kids how to work, and help us reset the culture. Wayland hasn't been on the team before, and I talked to him, and he brought his brother. Any kid that looked athletic, I said to them, 'Come out and play baseball."

Lambrecht also talked about getting kids playing the sport again when they're younger.

"I'm looking forward to building this program up," he said. "Toledo has no youth baseball. I talked to some coaches and hopefully we'll be bringing it back. Once a week over the summer, opening the fields, things like that."

The team has come a long way after having to forfeit some games last year when it didn't have enough players to field a team.

"Our goals are to go .500 in the City League and win two games that we're not supposed to win," he said. "We want to increase participation. I've just worked by talking to kids in the hallways (at school). We had that warm spell in October and November, asked kids to come out, and they stuck around."

#### WOODMORE

Coach: Mason Beachler, first year Last year: 8-17 (4-14 SBC River)

**Key returning players**: Michael Seeger (Jr., P/Util.); Trace Murphy (Sr., P/Util.); Keil Almroth (So., P/IF); Calvin Lipstraw (So., P/IF)

After four years as an assistant under former head coach Jake Huss, Mason Beachler is the new man in charge of his alma mater.

"I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to continue building the program back to a winning culture and be part of even more history on my home field," Beachler said. "I have an incredible staff leading the way with a great group of kids."

The Wildcats finished 8-17 overall and 4-4 in the Sandusky Bay Conference's River Division last season. This will be the team's second year in the league after previously being in the NBC.

Could they turn it around in 2025 while competing against the likes of Tiffin Calvert, Hopewell-Loudon and Gibsonburg, among others?

"It's extremely competitive," Beachler said. "What makes it such a tough league is the amount of returning players who led the league statistically last year. Each and every team is capable of winning on any given day. It's a testament to the other coaches on how well they are able to take young talent and apply it in the lineup where it benefits the team as well as the player.

player.

"I'm excited that we are able to compete in such a demanding conference that makes you bring your 'A' game, day in and day out. It's a very competitive league that could go in any direction on any given day."

The goals for the Wildcats are simple.

"Our goals are to have a winning record and eliminate mental mistakes," Beachler said.

Back to lead Woodmore are senior Trace Murphy and junior Michael Seeger.

Murphy, who can play multiple positions when he's not pitching, is one of four seniors on the team, with the others being Harry LaMunyon, Nick Horvath and Parker Hahn.

Centerfielder Michael Seeger, who is part of the starting rotation, hit .340 last year. The other starting pitchers are Trace Murphy, Keil Almroth and Wes Kayser while Horvath, Hahn, LaMunyon, Blane Overmyer and Calvin Lipstraw are the relievers.

The rest of the roster includes Gavin Donley, Cole Potridge, Collin Perkins and Robert Seeger.

### Church Worship Guide

### Woodville

#### Solomon Lutheran Church and School 305 W. Main St. 419-849-3600

05 W. Main St. 419-849-360 Sunday Worship 8:00am & 10:30am Sunday School 9:20am (adult & children)

The Rev. G. Alan Brown, II, Pastor School Open Enrollment Nursery thru 6th Grade

### Woodville United Methodist Church

201 W. First St. 419-849-2400 Sunday Worship - 10:30 am Sunday School 9:00

> Youth Activities Available Rev. Dee Baker, Pastor Ramp & Elevator Available

### Walbridge

### Athens Missionary Baptist

Sunday School - 9:45am Church Service - 11:00am Wednesday Night Bible Study - 6:00pm 101 W. Breckman St. Walbridge, Ohio 43465



### Weekend Masses Saturday Vigil: 4:30pr

Saturday Vigil: 4:30pm Sunday: 8am & 10am 300 Warner St., Walbridge

St.JeromeWalbridge.org

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### Toledo

First St. John Lutheran Church 2471 Seaman St. 691-7222 or 691-9524

> Sunday Service 8am & 10:30am

Jerald Rayl, Pastor www.firststiohn.com

Genoa

#### Trinity United Methodist

Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 11:00 am Ramp & Elevator Pastor Rachel Widdowson www.genoatrinity.com

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### Elmore

### Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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### Trinity Lutheran Church

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### Oregon

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### Lake Twp.

### ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH 26535 Pemberville Rd.

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We provide our local community a "trusted" way to buy and sell to each other through our classified ads section.

### CITY OF OREGON - PUBLIC NOTICE -

The City of Oregon, TREE COMMISSION MEETING for APRIL 2025 has been scheduled for TUESDAY, APRIL 15th, at 4:00 p.m.

at The City of Oregon, Community Room, at 5330 Seaman Road.

The Public is invited.

### XOOIII,

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

### BENTON Township Residents Only ONE DAY TRASH COLLECTION April 26, 2025 9am - 2pm

Acceptable Items Include:

Predominately-Metal Items: All Appliances, Microwaves, Air Conditioners, Engines, Bicycles, Lamps, Empty Paint Cans, and Scrap Metal. Batteries are accepted but must be kept separate!

Household Trash: Non-recyclable Glass and Plastics, Rinsed Pesticide Containers, Buckets, Light Bulbs, Cookware, Mirrors, Ceramics, Toys, and Misc. Junk.

### Items that will NOT be accepted include:

liquids, paint, garbage, yard waste, building materials, tires, and hazardous materials. NO Mattresses, NO Chemical Shuttle Totes. Recycle the following items in the green recycling container: Newspapers, Magazines, Corrugated Cardboard, Glass Jars, #1 & #2 Plastic Bottles, and Steel & Aluminum Cans. NO early drop offs accepted, metal containers will be present.

If you have any questions, call Dan Harder at 419-862-3774 or any of the Trustees listed below.

David Millinger 419-340-2584,

Joe Dusseau 419-350-5803 or Jim Buhro 419-707-2849

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### Village of Woodville ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The Village of Woodville (Owner) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project:

Elevated Tank Replacement Kleinfelder Project No. 20231187.001A

Bids for the construction of the Project will be received at the Village of Woodville located at **530 Lime Street, Woodville, OH 43469** until: **10:00 A.M.** (Local Time) **Thursday, May 15, 2025.** At that time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read.

The Project includes the following Work: Construction of a new 150,000 gallon elevated water storage tank and a new 12" waterline, cathodic protection, tank mixer, demolition of the existing 100,000 gallon elevated water storage tank, and other appurtenances.

Information and Bidding Documents for the Project can be found at the following designated website:

www.kleinfelderplanroom.com

Bidding Documents may be downloaded from the designated website. Prospective Bidders are urged to register with the designated website as a plan holder, even if Bidding Documents are obtained from a plan room or source other than the designated website. The designated website will be updated periodically with addenda, lists of registered plan holders, reports, and other information relevant to submitting a Bid for the Project. All official notifications, addenda, and other Bidding Documents will be offered only through the designated website. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the designated website. Failure to submit a complete set of documents could result in a bid that is determined to be nonresponsive and rejected by the Owner.

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is:

Becker Impressions 4646 Angola Road Toledo, Ohio 43615 419-385-5303

The cost of printing is to be paid to the printing company at the time the drawings are picked up. Shipping and tax charges are the bidder's responsibility and payable directly to Becker Impressions.

The bid guaranty may be of two forms:

 A Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond using the form in the Contract Documents. (The amount of the bid does NOT have to appear on this form.)

2. A certified check, cashier's check or letter of credit in favor of The Village of Woodville in the amount of 10% of the bid. If the contract is awarded, a Contract Bond will be required, which is a 100% payment and performance bond.

After the award of the contract let by competitive bid and prior to the time the contract is entered into, bidders shall submit the affidavit required under the Ohio Revised Code, Section 5719.042 that the bidder was not charged with any delinquent personal property taxes in Sandusky County, Ohio.

The Village of Woodville reserves the right pursuant to ORC.9.312 to reject any and all bids and to waive any non-material irregularity in determining the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.

This project is subject to the Build America, Buy America Act (BABAA) requirements under Title IX of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), Pub. L. 117-58, §§ 70901-70953. Absent an approved waiver, all iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in this project must be produced in the United States. This procurement is subject to the EPA policy of encouraging the participation of small business in rural areas (SBRAs).

The Engineer for the Project is Kleinfelder, Inc., 1168 North Main Street, Bowling Green, Ohio 43402.

All bids must be signed and submitted on the blanks which are bound in this booklet. Bids must state the unit prices in the blanks provided and be enclosed in a sealed envelope marked --- Elevated Tank Replacement --- and addressed to The Village of Woodville, Attn: Tom Brickley at 530

Lime Street, Woodville, Attn: 10m Brickley at 530

Lime Street, Woodville, OH 43469.

No hidder may withdraw his hid for a period of 60 day

No bidder may withdraw his bid for a period of 60 days after the scheduled closing time for the receipt of bids. The successful bidder will be required to pay federally-determined Davis-Bacon Wage Rates or Ohio Prevailing Wage Rates, whichever is greater.

For all further requirements regarding bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents.

The Engineer's estimate of probable cost for this project is \$1,800,000.00.

This Advertisement is issued by:
Owner: The Village of Woodville By: Tom Brickley
Title: Village Administrator
Date: February 10, 2025

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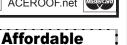
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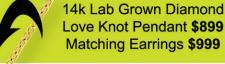


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M-W | June 2-4 • 9:00am-Noon Location: SFS Baseball Field - Kober Field For those entering grades 3-9 (Boys)



### **BASKETBALL CAMPS**

M−T | June 9−10 • 9:00am-10:30pm Location: SFS Main Gym For those entering grades 7-9 (Co-Ed)

M-T June 9-10 • 11:00am-12:30pm Location: SES Main Gym For those entering grades 3-6 (Co-Ed)



### **FOOTBALL CAMPS**

M-T | June 9-10 • 9:00am-10:30am Location: SFS Stadium - LaValley Field For those entering grades 3-6 (Boys)

M-T June 9-10 • 11:00am-12:30pm Location: SFS Stadium - LaValley Field For those entering grades 7-9 (Boys)



#### **FOOTBALL AND BASKETBALL COMBO CAMP**



### **GOLF CAMP**

M-Th | June 9-12 • 9:00am-Noon Location: McDivots Golf Cente For those entering grades 4-12 (Co-Ed)



### **CHEERLEADING CAMPS**

T-W | June 17-18 • 6:00pm-8:00pm Location: SFS Main Gym For those entering grades PreK-5 (Girls)

Th-F June 19-20 • 5:00pm-7:00pm Location: SFS Main Gym For those entering grades 6-8 (Girls)



M-T | June 23-24 • 10:00am-Noon Location: SFS Stadium - LaValley Field For those entering grades 1-5 (Co-Ed)

Th-F | June 26-27 • 10:00am-Noon Location: SFS Stadium - LaValley Field For those entering grades 6-9 (Boys)



### **ROBOTICS CAMP**

M-Th | June 23-26 • 9:00am-Noon Location: SFS Science Lab For those entering grades 4-8 (Co-Ed)



### ACROSSE CAMPS

Γ—W | July 8—9 • 4:00pm-6:00pm Location: SFS Stadium - LaValley Field For those entering grades 1-8 (Boys) For beginners - no experience necessary \$50

Th-F July 10-11 • 4:00pm-6:00pm Location: SFS Stadium - LaValley Field For those entering grades 1-8 (Boys) For current lacrosse players with full gear



#### **MUSICAL THEATER CAMP** M-W | August 4-6 • 9:00am-11:00am

Location: SFS Band Room For those entering grades 5-8 (Co-Ed)



### **WRESTLING CAMP**

T-W | August 5-6 • 9:00am-1:00pm Location: SFS Auxilary Gym For those entering grades K-9 (Co-Ed)



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