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Coaching Runs In The Family!

By Kelly Copeland

Starting Young

Sports were the backdrop of my entire childhood, starting when I was little and growing up as the youngest of five,

My dad, Tony, was the fixture on the field, coaching all of my siblings with my mom, Terri, helping out along the way.

By the time I turned five and stepped onto the diamond for the first time, my dad was right there in the dugout as my coach, just as he had been for the rest of our family, before me.

Mentor, Hero

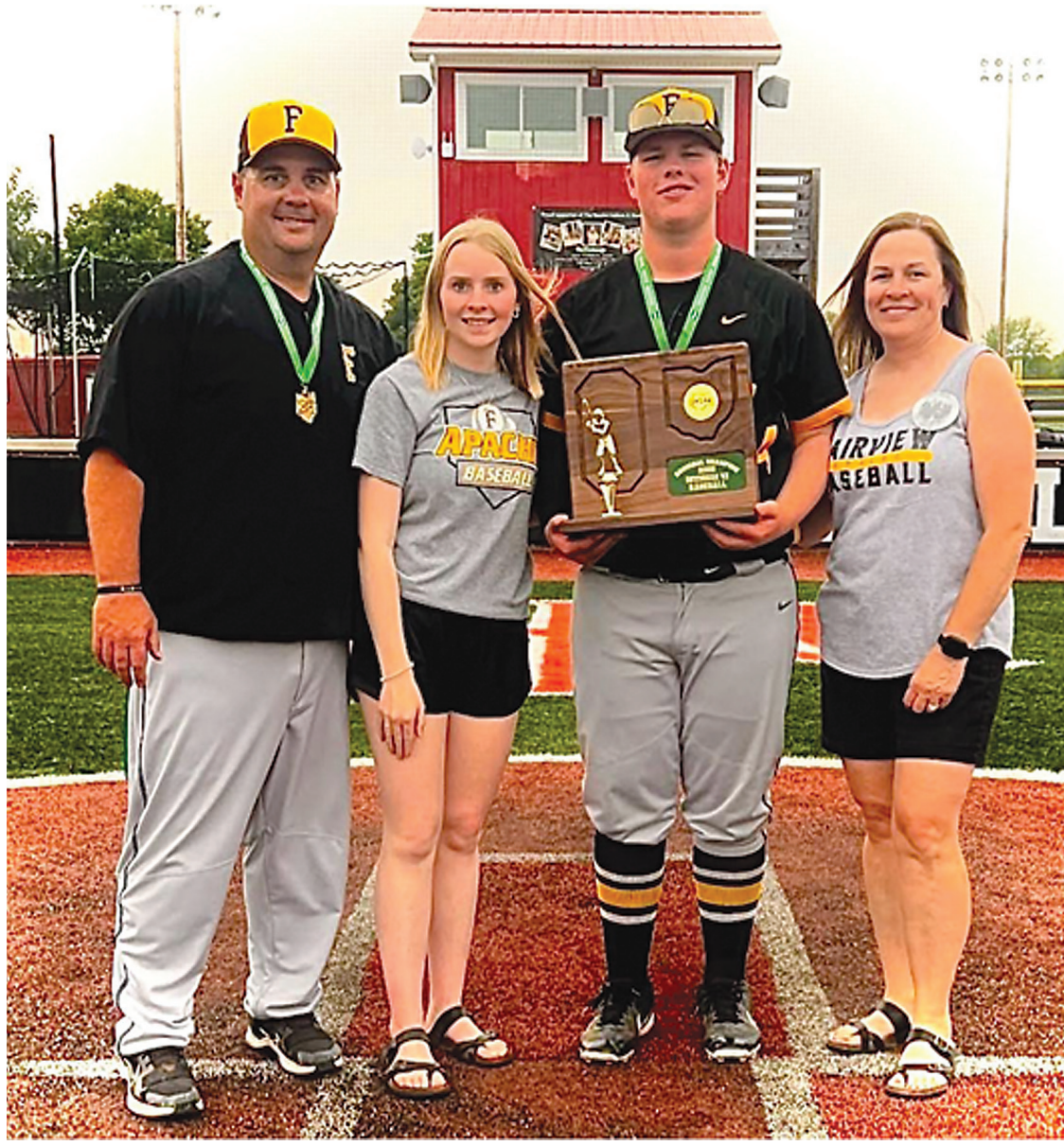
My first mentor and lifelong hero has always been my father.

He taught me the value of sound decision-making and the importance of doing what's right for the situation at hand.

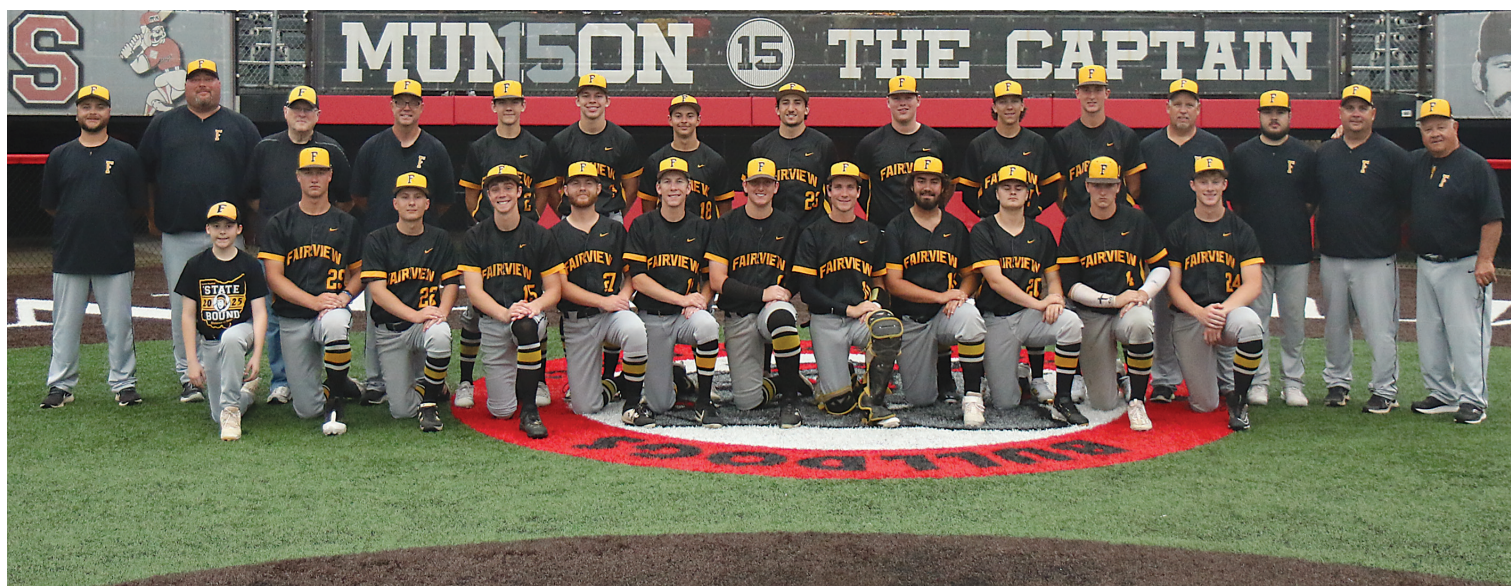
I saw firsthand what it means to put others first by watching him coach and how he handled being a dad and husband.

I've often said that if I can become even half the father he is, I will have lived a truly happy and fulfilling

(Continued on Page 8)



Andy, Bethany, Anthony, (holding the trophy) and Beverly celebrating after the Regional Championship game.



The 2025 Fairview baseball team that advanced to the final four.

Poor Will's Farmland News Almanack

Copyright © W.L. Felker

April 29 - May 5

Poor Will's Almanack For the Fifth Week of Middle Spring

*From the moist meadow to the wither'd hill,
Led by the breeze, the vivid verdure runs,
And swells and deepens, to the cherish'd eye.*

James Thomson

Phases of the Robin Chorus Moon And the Goose Nesting Moon

April 1: the Moon is full.

April 10: The Moon enters its final quarter.

April 17: The Goose Nesting Moon is new.

April 24: The moon enters its second quarter.

May 1: The Moon is full.

The Weather in the Week Ahead

Late Spring arrives this week, the warm weather creating unmistakable markers in the progress of spring.

Among those landmarks: The 26th and the 30th record freezing temperatures less than five percent of the time, the first time that has happened since late September.

After the 22nd, chances of snow drop below five percent.

Chances of a cold day in the 30s or 40s fall to only ten percent on the 22nd, then plummet another eight percent on the 26th.

Beginning on April 27th, highs in the 90s become possible, and the chances of a high in the 80s pass the 20 percent mark.

The chances of a high above 70s degrees are now 50/50 or better for the first time this year.

April 29th and 30th are usually the mildest days this week, with the 30th bringing a 90 percent chance of highs above 60 degrees for the first time since late September.

The driest days this time of year are April 26 and 27, each with just a 20 percent chance of rain.

The wettest days: April 29th and 30th - both carrying a 55 percent chance of precipitation.

Natural Calendar

The season of Late Spring usually has five gentle cool fronts and stretches from the end of April until the end of May in the Lower Midwest and Middle Atlantic region (occurs at least a month earlier in the South).

Most spring woodland flowers complete their bloom during this time, and almost all the trees leaf out.

Frost season ends, and gardeners sow tender garden flowers and vegetables.

Farmers put in all the corn and soybeans and prepare for the first cut of hay. The day's length grows until it surpasses fourteen hours along the 40th Parallel.

During Late Spring, the time of flowering fruit trees slowly comes to a close, and the great dandelion bloom of Middle Spring turns to gray and fragile seeds just as dogwoods open.

Bamboo stalks have reached at least three feet tall, and peony buds are as big around as pennies.

All the gold disappears from Middle Spring's forsythia as daisies bud, and ferns unravel.

The six-petaled white star of Bethlehem and the four-petaled pink and purple sweet rockets tell the time of year throughout the pastures.

Lilies of the valley have their bells, and the first bright yellow cressleaf groundsel opens in wetlands.

Rhubarb pies are growing everywhere as the first strawberry flowers, as Virginia creepers get their new shiny leaves, as azaleas brighten and as honeysuckle leaves turn the undergrowth deep May green.

Earliest grasses go to seed.

Migrations of the white-throated sparrow, ruby-crowned kinglet, yellow-rumped warbler, black-and-white warbler, palm warbler,

Nashville warbler, swamp sparrow and hermit thrush reach as far north as Lake Erie.

Average Blooming Dates for Wildflowers and Weeds

April 20: Greek Valerian, Standard Lilac, Azalea, Raspberry

April 21: Snowball Viburnum, Early Meadow Rue, Wild Blue Phlox

April 22: Wild Geranium, Bridal Wreath Spirea, Late-Season Tulips and Daffodils

April 23: Miterwort, Celandine, Garlic Mustard

April 24: Clematis, Wood Hyacinth, Golden Seal

April 25: Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Wild Ginger, Red Horse Chestnut

April 26: Meadow Parsnip, Wood Betony, Honeysuckle, Buckeye,

In the Field and Garden

The high leaf canopy casts the first shade on the flower and vegetable garden.

It's time to be planting in the sunniest part of your property.

Haying is often underway below the Ohio River.

Some orchard grass and rye may be ready to harvest in southern Ohio. Transition your livestock slowly from last year's old hay to this year's fresh hay.

Fight armyworms and corn borers. Attack carpenter bees around the barn.

Journal

Journal: More Spring Fever

Ever since spring started, I haven't wanted to cook anything. I haven't wanted to go to church either.

My seasonal religious indifference is not a new thing.

I have noticed through the years, especially my later years, that when the days get short in November, and the clouds move in, I gravitate neurotically to ritual and sacraments.

Even though I don't care much for the Christmas holidays, I feel pulled into the Advent cycle, and I continue say my prayers through the middle of Lent.

Then, when the days brighten and the equinox passes, my interest in worship weakens, and I fall happily into sin until November.

Often I try to do some serious kitchen work.

But after a fair-to-middling winter start at bread baking, and the practice of chicken soup, pasta sauce and stew, I watch my fledgling domesticity decline in almost exact proportion to the decline of my need for spiritual structure and the increase in the day's length.

Friends and acquaintances look at me askance when I broach the possible relationship between the sacred and culinary arts.

And so without a social context, I overreact.

I wonder if my feelings announce a new wave of mid-life crisis.

Could this be another surge of existential, pious doubt?

Am I losing my grip again?

But really the answer comes readily enough. It's just spring fever!

The world outside is telling the ancient wanderer and gatherer in my brain that if I stay at home and cook, I won't see the great migrations or the flowers.

And the land has already risen from the dead. Myth and scripture pale in the brilliant green of April.

This is Paradise. Faith gives way to certainty. God is right here in the redbud trees.

The days are so long. The sun pushes away the clouds.

Everything is possible. We will live forever. Winter will never come again.

ALMANACK LITERATURE

A Good Mouser

By Myrna Glass, St. Marys, Ohio

I have an unusual story to tell you. I was not treed by a hungry carnivore or threatened by stampeding elephants on an African. In fact, it all happened in my own back yard.

I decided to donate a box of used clothing to charity. I had the box stored in a shed in my back yard. Accompanied by my cat, Smokey (a good mouser), I dragged the box about three feet from the shed. The box was about four-feet long.

Smokey and I were at one end of the box when a mouse ran out the other end. I grabbed Smokey and threw her at the mouse. She recovered quickly and caught the mouse about a foot from the shed.

Smokey really is a good mouser!

Follow the month of May in Bill Felker's
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The Resurrection Changes Our Relationships

Words of Inspiration

By Associate Pastor Brandon Bettcher

Alleluia!
Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed, Alleluia!
The celebration of Easter continues.
Jesus is risen from the dead.
Sin, death, and the power of the devil are defeated.
Eternal life is for us and it has already begun when we were united to Christ in the waters of baptism.
We look forward to the day when Christ returns and calls us out of our graves to live with Him forever, and we begin to live out that reality here and now.
The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead changes our eternal destiny, but it also changes our lives now.
The Bible says that all of us like sheep have gone astray.
We have turned away from God and instead of loving others have turned inward.
Yet we have been reconciled to God by the work of Christ.
By His life, death, and resurrection, that relationship has been restored.
But it also brings healing to our relationships with one another as

we have been brought together in Christ.

We live out that resurrection reality by living in a new way towards those around us.

Christ came not to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.

Jesus was mocked, rejected, spit on, beaten, flogged, and nailed to a cross.

By His sacrifice on the cross, we have been reconciled with God, our relationship healed completely as we stand fully forgiven.

His resurrection from the dead is

God's declaration that the conflict is over and there is peace.

As those who are connected to Christ in our baptism, we then live that resurrection reality of humble service to others.

Of patiently enduring suffering all the while provided a witness to the Gospel message.

The call for us is not to simply roll over and allow wickedness to win, but rather to overcome it by following the way of Jesus.

As Paul says in Romans 12:21: *"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good"*. (ESV)

This then applies to all of our relationships.

In all the relationships we have been called to, we follow the example of humble service.

Of putting the needs of others above our own because our identity is secure in Christ.

The Resurrection changes our relationships.

It makes us right with God and then that forgiveness overflows to others.

We serve and care for them, even enduring hardship, because we are connected to Christ.

Easter changes everything.

You are forgiven.

What a powerful reality and promise we hold on to.

This forgiveness that Jesus won for us is held on to by faith, and this faith is a gift that God the Holy Spirit works into our hearts, so that we may trust that this forgiveness of the sins of the world is for us as well.

Easter changes our relationship with God as we are declared righteous and holy in His sight on account of Christ, and it changes our relationship with one another. FN



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9:00 A.M. (Traditional)
11:00 A.M. (Informal Worship)

Blast From The Past...

SHOP HINTS

4/7/65

Dad's Buried Treasure 4/28/65

For a boy in the Spring there is nothing so sweet
As the marvelous feel of fresh soil 'neath his feet.

The smell of moist earth as it's turned by the plow,
Let's one nearly touch heaven as God can allow.

The clean ribboned slices turned up to the sun
Announce the rebirth of nature's begun.

"Keep an eye on the furrows," Dad always said,
"You might find an Indian arrowhead."

So round after round we would tag behind,
Peering and hoping a treasure to find.

Most of the arrowheads stayed in the ground,
But you just should have seen the nice worms that were found!

By: Eileen R. Rose

Three Cheers 2/18/69

Future Farmers
We hear about protesters and hippies,

Among the youth of our country today,

But there's many a boy pursuing his goal

Under the banner of the FFA!

In LEARNING TO DO, they learn leadership

Guided by those who provide

Not only the knowledge of farming,

But motivation toward personal pride.

In DOING TO LEARN, they conduct meetings,

Speak in public, and never shirk

Responsibility for proj-

ects and programs,
They are capably involved in their work.

In LEARNING TO LIVE, they keep records,

Earn money for chapter events,

Learning to be self-sufficient

By taking care of the dollars and cents.

The last part of their great motto,

is LIVING TO SERVE, and they do

Serve their chapters, schools and country,

Which means they also serve YOU!

by: Evelyn Head

***Originally Published In The Farmland News 2/18/69*

The Value Of One Cow 12/9/64

One cow, at the national average of 7,370 pounds of milk annually, could supply enough fluid milk and cream for 24 persons, enough American cheese to supply 120, and enough sweetened condensed milk for 8,375, at current consumption rates.

A VACUUM CLEANER can be used to thaw frozen pipes. Place the cleaner near the pipe, extend the hose to the frozen area. Flow of warm air does the rest.

IF YOUR WIFE DISLIKES helping you chase "ornery" pigs or cows in or out of the barn, furnish her with a 12 foot discarded bamboo fish pole for chasing animals.

TO RAISE EQUIPMENT, including a car or truck, so that you can work beneath it, use sand-filled burlap bags. Simply drive onto the bags. It's safer than blocks.

TO TIE BALES securely on a flat bed trailer, tie one end of a rope to the left rear corner, run it up the height of the load plus allowing about four feet ahead on the load, then tie the other end to the right rear corner. Follow the same procedure with the front. Use a wire stretcher to bring the ropes together on top of the load. They will stay taut.

A HANDY CATTLE back rubber can be made from used car, truck and tractor tires. Start by setting a sturdy post in the ground, then place the car tires on first, centered as near as possible. Add larger size tires. Put a smaller size tire on the very top to tie the others in. Fill the center with heavy rock and gravel. It could be filled with concrete. The back rubber's funnel shape allows use by calves as well as grown cattle.

FOR AN INSULATED WATERER without trouble in a loose housing barn, cut out the top half of a 50 gallon steel drum, thread a two foot long length of pipe through hole in bottom (bung of barrel), then attach pipe to a below ground water line. A drinking cup can be attached to upper end of two foot pipe, and sawdust packed around it to insulate against freezing.

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'Twas the Time'

Thoughts Remembered...

by Faye Harris

fayeharris77@yahoo.com

I recently read a book by Bill O'Reilly called *Old School*.

It was good to see that there are others who are as concerned about America and the irresponsible way of life that seems to have become the pattern of normal for many.

Old school was a time when most people accepted responsibility for their actions instead of believing that it was up to the government to supply all our needs...regardless of whether or not we could work.

It was a time when people like my crippled uncle still worked for a living and my friend, Mary, went to work every day even when she was disabled.

People of the old school way of thinking (and there are still many of us around) took pride in not having a lot of credit card bills...of organizing our weekly pay so that we didn't just go shopping to spend money, but actually figured the bills out before we spent money that could be saved for that extra house payment.

There was a time when...if one wanted something they slowly saved for it...even taking pop bottles back for their deposit instead of just tossing them along the road.

There was a time when credit cards were paid off instead of the way we seem to be doing today...and pay-

ing twice as much for a purchase because the interest is piled on top of the old interest as we just make the minimum payment.

There was a time when people didn't believe the government owes everyone a living...even when we just choose not to work.

Too many today haven't been taught how to conserve or to realize pride in NOT OWING bills for the things which we have such a surplus of, plus boxes of things still in their original container that have been purchased...and never used.

Our 6 year-old grandson brought this close to home when he was visiting.

The electricity went off due to a storm.

Carson looked at his grandfather and said, "No electricity. you'll just have to buy a new house."

We are teaching our children that this is a disposable society, whether we have the money currently or not...we can still have all of our needs met.

My friend and I overheard a conversation between two young home buyers.

They were waiting until the next day when they got paid.

They were laughing

about going shopping...right from work.

"What are you getting with your check?" one of them asked.

The other just said, "Who knows?"

I can remember my grandmother reusing her old envelopes.

She had marked them with 'home payment', 'food', 'electricity', 'car payment', etc.

The last two envelopes had her and grandpa's names on them.

They split whatever was left over...even if it was only a couple dollars.

Their wants came after the necessities were accounted for.

I remember when I first started teaching.

One of my envelopes was marked 'student loan'.

I didn't expect the government to pay a debt I'd made even though some government officials feel today's student loans should be paid for by the government.

(One of my students even told me he wasn't going to college because his parents didn't have the money.

When I suggested a student loan he just said, "I have better uses for my money than paying off an old debt.")

Today this great old country called the U. S. of

A. is so in debt it leaves one to wonder if we can even make the payment of interest without enlarging the debt even higher.

What kind of leaders are we putting into office if paying something on the national debt isn't a priority?

So many of today's elected officials are wealthy and don't know what it is to be responsible for even that extra loaf of bread or gas for the car just to get to work...plus if they cater to the right people, they'll keep getting elected and have a fat retirement.

It would be nice if...we would stop thinking about what we can get for free...and begin electing smart, responsible people to even the smallest office. (We gotta start somewhere.)

It would be nice if America would once again take a leadership role in showing people of the world just what voters can do when

they elect the best people for the job instead of electing the ones who spend the most on getting elected.

Let's get back to the basics of life (as an old song says) and add freedom from debt to our other freedoms.

To quote another old song..."I'm proud to be an American..." let's show the world what pride really is by expecting those we put into office to realize this isn't about being the most popular person around but in letting them know we EXPECT some positive result in lowering out national debt and realizing what a privilege it is for them to be representing AMERICA.

Having written for newspapers since I was in school in the 50's, in my retirement I am now writing for posterity... and enjoy getting and sharing news about the "olden days." FN

Having written for newspapers since I was in school in the 50's, in my retirement I am now writing for posterity... and enjoy getting and sharing news about the "olden days." FN

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A Dessert Staple To Cap Off Your Next Dinner Party



Dessert may be served last, but it still comes first in the hearts of many devoted foodies.

Home cooks have many options to choose from when picking a dessert for a home-made meal, but sticking with a staple might be the way to go when serving lots of hungry dessert lovers.

Cheesecake is a popular dessert option that's hard to resist.

This recipe for "Cheesecake With Fresh Maine Blueberries" from Lines +Angles can satisfy a crowd and ensure your next dinner party ends on a delightful and decadent note.

Cheesecake with Fresh Maine Blueberries Makes 12 servings

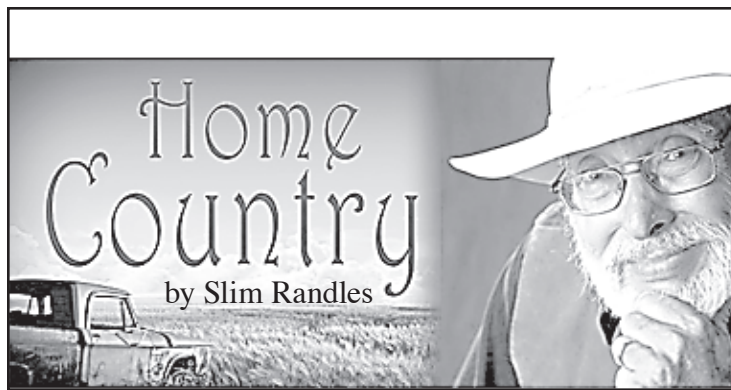
For Graham Cracker Crust:
2-1/3 cups graham cracker crumbs

1/2 cup unsalted butter; melted
1/4 cup sugar

For Cheese Filling:
2 lbs. cream cheese, room temperature
11/2 cups granulated sugar
1/4 cup unbleached all-purpose flour
5 large fresh eggs
2 cups sour cream
3-1/2 tablespoons milk
2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
2 tablespoons fresh lemon zest

For Blueberry Topping and Glaze:
3-1/4 cups fresh Maine Blueberries
3 tablespoons apricot preserves
1 teaspoon water
Granulated sugar, for sprinkling

For the graham cracker



Dud was especially quiet this morning, sitting in his usual seat at the philosophy counter of the *Mule Barn* truck stop.

He was doodling with his napkin and a feed store ball-point pen.

Doc looked over to see if he could make it out.

He couldn't.

Bert adjusted his glasses and looked over.

"Murder?" said Bert.

"What?"

"You wrote murder on the napkin," Bert said.

"Did I say something wrong?"

"Naw," Dud said, blushing a bit.

"It's my book, that's all."

"Still having trouble trying to figure it out?" Doc

said, kindly.

"The publishing company suggests I outline it first to kinda get to know where everything goes before re-writing it this time.

And you know what they said about the murders..."

"Eight are too many ..." said Doc. "... in the first chapter," said Doc and Bert simultaneously.

"That's right," said Dud.

"My problem is, I can't figure out who to kill first, the duchess or the truck driver?"

Bert looked at Doc.

"You have a duchess and a truck driver?"

"They met at the opera, or maybe the truck stop.

I'm not sure yet," Dud said.

"Now I need to kill both

of them to make this work, you see, but then there are my other victims, and some of them really need killing pretty bad, but I'm going to have to slip those murders in a little bit at a time."

"A duchess and a truck driver?"

"Well, yeah," Dud said, "but no one is supposed to know about the affair they had back when they were both in college, see?"

And then when their daughter shows up ..."

"The duchess and the truck driver have a daughter?"

"Sure.

But she doesn't know her dad's a truck driver until after he's dead, and by then, see, she's on a killing spree... and her half brother, the dukelet, he tries to get her to join Adult Children of Murdered Parents ..."

"Hold it right there!" said Doc.

"I'll wait for the book. I don't want you to spoil it for me."

Brought to you by "Sun Dog Days," a novel of crazy cowboys by Slim Randles.

FN

crust:

Preheat oven to 375 F.

Butter the bottom of a 9-inch springform pan.

Combine crust ingredients in a food processor and pulse until crumbs are just moist.

Press crumb mixture firmly onto the bottom and up the sides of prepared pan.

Bake until crust begins to turn golden, about 8 minutes.

Remove from oven and transfer pan to a wire rack to cool.

Maintain oven temperature.

For the cheese filling:

In a large bowl, combine cream cheese and sugar, using an electric mixer, until

well blended.

Beat in flour. Add eggs, one at a time, beating each one until well combined.

Beat in sour cream, milk, vanilla, and lemon zest, mixing until smooth.

Pour cheese filling over crust.

Bake cheesecake until center is just set and top is slightly puffed, about 1 hour.

Turn off oven, keep oven door closed and let cheesecake stand in oven for 1 hour.

Transfer cake to a cooling rack and let cool completely.

Cover and refrigerate to cool further for at least 8 hours or overnight before serving.

For the blueberry topping and glaze:

Rinse blueberries and pat dry.

Put apricot preserves and water in a small saucepan.

Cook over medium heat until preserves have completely melted.

Strain to remove any fruit pieces or lumps.

Let cool slightly.

Arrange blueberries on top of cheesecake. Gently brush the blueberries with the apricot glaze. Sprinkle with granulated sugar.

Remove sides from springform pan.

Serve.

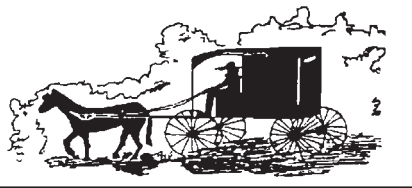
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The Amish Cook

by Gloria Yoder



A Day To Celebrate
 "I am pleased to present to you Mr. and Mrs. Stoll." It was my dad.

The wedding ceremony for my younger sister Keturah had just been performed, there was a special time of prayer, and now we beamed through teary eyes.

The weather had been totally, absolutely gorgeous for the outdoor wedding.

Hand in hand they sprinted down the lush, green, grassy aisle.

The witnesses followed. My heart swelled in joy.

Much had happened in order for this to actually occur.

Yes, it was the prep of hosting and feeding 430 people, but even more than that was the miracle God did to prepare and unite these two hearts.

They were born and raised in different states, and over the last years got to know each other better.

No one but God knows what their future will hold, and no one but Him will provide for each moment of their lives.

They love children and say they'd love to have a dozen of them.

Oh my, we'll see.

At any rate, Keturah has blessed me many times over by simply being available to help me with my children through some of those more intense moments of our lives when our hands were filled to the brim, or when I needed help settling little ones down for the night.

We'll miss her when we go to Grandpa's house; on the flip side, we're eager to go visit her in their cozy little cabin.

But it's like I assured

them, we'll give them all the space they need.

My dad would call that honeymoon salad: let-us (lettuce) alone!

My mother did tops in coordinating all the food for those helping before the wedding, then of course the noon wedding feast.

Getting recipes and ingredients together, and making list after list with instructions.

At night she would keep a pen and paper next to her where she could jot down notes of things she thought of throughout the night.

Bless her heart.

She did superb.

They had a full course meal of mashed potatoes, gravy, grilled chicken, noodles, dinner rolls with cinnabutter, salad, three kinds of pie, and ice cream.

A highlight for all of us was when Jonathan and Keturah served coffee for anyone who wanted seconds.

I personally didn't want more, but I asked for a warm-up just for the special feel of being served by them!

I'm not big on coffee, but I do like putting a little splash in my vanilla ice cream then whipping it up with a fork for a coffee smoothie effect.

My children were excited about the event.

They all had a job of some kind.

The four middle ones were dessert servers for the bridal table.

Hosanna wore her new sage green dress.

It was her first time wearing a cape dress with a belt apron.

I loved watching her beam with delight, her eyes dancing with utmost accomplishment.

How well I remember when it was my first time to wear a big-girl dress.

The boys wore white shirts with black or gray pants.

Joshua was pan passer with nine more adorable little nieces and nephews.

He took his job seriously.

When I explained his job, he repeated back to me

Recipe Of The Week

Skillet Pork Chops

- 4 pork chops (1 inch thick)
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 cup chicken broth
- 2 to 3 tablespoons grape jelly
- 1/4 teaspoon ground ginger
- 4-1/2 teaspoons cornstarch
- 3 tablespoons cold water

In a skillet over medium heat brown chops in oil. When done, drain and add onion, and cook until tender. Pour broth around chops and bring to a boil. Reduce heat, cover and simmer for 12 to 15 minutes or until meat is tender. Remove chops and keep warm. Stir jelly and ginger into broth. Combine cornstarch and water until smooth, add to broth and bring to a boil. Cook and stir for 2 minutes. Serve.

This Recipe of the Week is from Eva George, McComb, Ohio

what each step would be before he would get to fetch his card and gift from the gift table in the corner.

After the pans were passed, he came announcing his completion and showing his gift — a large candy bar and a compass, flint, whistle combo.

Ah, the sweetness of a five-year-old crowned with curls.

Julia and I matched in cream along with the others who served the main course to those at the bridal table.

It was special to have everyone sing Daniel's favorite song, "The Best is Yet to Come," after lunch.

Yes, regardless of what life may hold for any of us, with Christ the best is yet to come!

Tonight I furrowed my eyebrows, trying to decide which wedding recipe to give to you.

Really, all of the meal was tops according to my specs.

Since I am a fan of cream cheese desserts, I'll settle on the cream cheese black raspberry pie. Mmm.

They were phenomenal.

Take this, my aunt by marriage, who is known for her cooking and baking, was hired to bake all 60 pies for the wedding.

I stopped by her house when she was in full swing.

There were pies every-

where.

Wow, it smelled as good as it tasted the day following.

Cream Cheese Black Raspberry Pie

- 1 unbaked 9 inch pie shell
- 2 cups black raspberry pie filling

Cream Cheese mixture:

- 1/2 cup cane sugar
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1/3 cup sour cream
- 2-1/2 oz. cream cheese
- Beat together sugar and flour then whip in sour

cream and cream cheese.

Crumbs:

- 2/3 cup flour
- 1/3 cup white sugar
- 2-1/2 tablespoons butter
- Mix until crumbly
- Layer cream cheese mixture in pie shell.
- Spread filling on top.
- Sprinkle with crumbs.
- Bake at 425 for 15 minutes...reduce heat to 350 for 25 minutes or til done.

Readers may write Gloria with culinary or cultural questions at: Gloria Yoder, 10510 E. 350th Avenue, Flat Rock, IL 62427. FN

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Andy and Anthony prior to the 2025 season.

COACHING

(Continued From Page 1)

life.

Another key lesson from my dad is to always surround yourself with good people.

I have carried that advice with me from my playing days into my coaching career, and it has made all the difference.

This past October, Dad turned 80 and is nearing his 75th team of coaching in the Fairview Baseball/Softball system, a total that includes seasons coaching multiple teams and numerous All-Star Squads.

It is incredible to think of the number of youth that

he has mentored and taught the game of baseball/softball, as well as the life lessons they all learned along the way.

He was recognized by the Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association as an Assistant Coach of the Year in 2009.

Teachable Moments, Life Long Passion

My father has been my right-hand man throughout my entire coaching career.

I often tell our players he has forgotten how much knowledge he has about baseball, more than we will ever know.

My education in the game began on childhood

family vacations, where I'd sit in the co-pilot seat and pepper him with questions about complex rules while the rest of the family slept.

His early lessons and his lifelong dedication to studying the game are the bedrock of my coaching philosophy today.

My sister, Teresa, still recalls me as a four-year-old at the ballpark, explaining the infield fly rule to confused parents—a testament to a passion that started before I could even reach the dugout bench.

At age 12, I began playing travel baseball for the Columbus Cobras under Coach Harry Huskey, where I played for three years.

I then continued for another year in Cincinnati under Coach Ron Roth.

Once I reached high school, I was a 4-year starter for Fairview from 1993 to 1996.

Throughout my baseball playing career, I played Pitcher, Catcher, Third Base, and Shortstop.

In one memorable tournament game in Dublin, I played every defensive position in the same game.

As a player at Fairview, I was a 4-year letter winner, earning All-Conference and All-District honors.

As a coach at Fairview, I have received recognition from the Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association (OHSBCA) for years of service and career victories, as well as the Crescent-News Coach of the Year two times (most recently in 2025).

Recently, I was honored to have been voted into the ACME Baseball Hall of Fame.

Following high school, where I played under Coaches Dave Miller and Ron Renollet, I continued my career at Ohio Wesleyan University under Coach Roger Ingles.

Unfortunately, my playing days were cut short during my sophomore year following two consecutive years of Tommy John surgeries, however this setback marked the beginning of my coaching career.

Life Long Partnership

I graduated from Fairview High School in 1996 and went on to earn my de-



Coach Tony giving Anthony a blessing before we started the State Semi-final game.

gree from Ohio Wesleyan University graduating in 2000.

While completing my degree, I served as a varsity assistant baseball coach for three seasons and a basketball coach for two seasons at Buckeye Valley High School in Delaware, Ohio.

My wife, Beverly (Rethmel) Singer, graduated from Tinora High School in 1997 and later from Defiance College in 2001.

We were married on November 30, 2002.

I majored in Comprehensive Social Studies, which qualified me to teach Political Science and History for grades 7-12.

I later earned my Master's Degree in Education in 2003.

Beverly majored in Elementary & Mathematics Education and earned degrees in both Elementary Education and grades 7-12 Math.

She went on to complete a Master's Degree in Administration and another Master's Degree in School Counseling.

She started teaching middle school math at Fairview in 2001 and is now our current School Counselor grades 6-12.

Back Home – Double Duties

In the summer of 1996, I returned to Fairview and coached the Babe Ruth team with my Dad and my brothers Thom and Ken as assistants.

The following summers, I coached the Fairview ACME team alongside my Dad.

I began my teaching career in the fall of 2000 at Edgerton High School, where I taught Social Studies and coached Football, Basketball, and Softball.

(Continued on Page 9)

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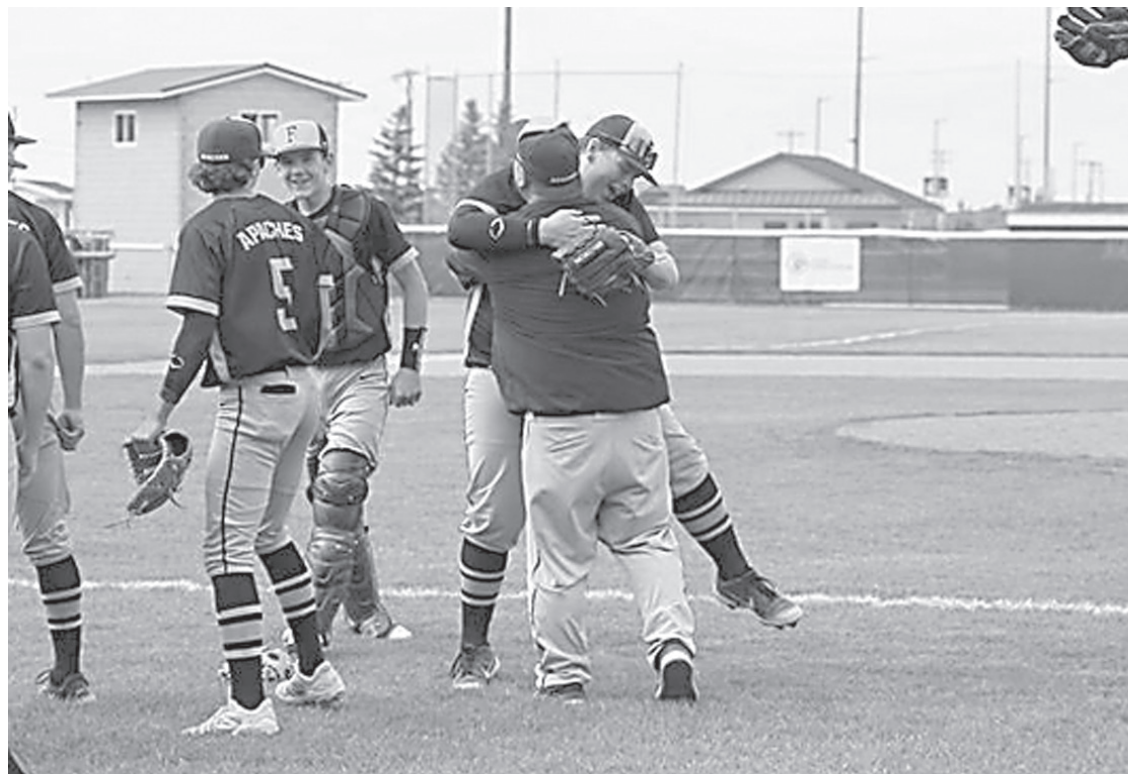
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Anthony throwing a hitter out at first during the District Final game vs. Lincolnview.



Andy congratulating Anthony after defeating Wayne Trace in the District semi-final game at Napoleon.

COACHING

(Continued From Page 8)

sity Assistant Football (1 year).

In 2001, I was hired at Fairview High School to teach Social Studies and began coaching Golf, Basketball, and Baseball and became the JV Baseball coach while Rob Bergman was the Varsity coach, with my Dad assisting.

In 2003, I became the Varsity Baseball coach, and Dad immediately became my assistant.

We are now heading into our 24th season as the Fairview Varsity coaching duo.

Over the years, I have taught a wide range of Social Studies courses, but my most consistent classes have been World History (Freshmen), American History (Sophomores), and Economics (Seniors).

I have also taught several electives, including Political Pathways, Archaeology, Geography, and Psychology/Sociology.

In addition to teaching, I have coached multiple sports throughout my career: Varsity Baseball (23 years, including the COVID year), Varsity Golf (25 years), Varsity Girls Basketball (2 years), Freshman Boys Basketball (9 years), Varsity Assistant Baseball (4 years), Varsity Assistant Softball (1 year), and Var-

Making History

Since 1959, Fairview High School Baseball has an overall record of 874-583-3 and has achieved six 20+ win seasons and 7 GMC titles in school history.

I have served as the Varsity Baseball coach since 2003, compiling a record of 378-179 (119-38 in the GMC) with five 20+ win seasons and five GMC titles.

During my tenure, our teams have been Sectional Champions 12 times, District Champions 3 times, and Regional Champions once, culminating in a State Final Four appearance in 2025, the first in school history.

One of the greatest joys of coaching is seeing good things happen to good kids.

Over the years, many talented baseball players have come through Fairview, and what brings me the most satisfaction is helping them grow into great men as well as athletes.

Coaches have a unique opportunity to shape tomorrow's leaders by showing how hard work pays off.

Players learn that the hours of preparation give us an edge over our competitors and that success rarely

comes without effort.

They see firsthand that achieving their goals requires dedication, discipline, and persistence—lessons that extend far beyond the baseball field.

Unique Rewards – High School Coaching

Coaching high school boys offers many unique rewards, especially the opportunity to help them grow into great role models and future leaders.

Our program emphasizes character, teamwork, and gratitude through a variety of experiences:

- **Youth Days:** Throughout the season, we invite youth teams to participate in games, practices, and camps.

This allows our players to mentor younger athletes and foster a love for the game.

- **Special Olympics:** Every year, Defiance County Special Olympics athletes come to Fairview.

Our players work with them on skills and enjoy the game together, gaining perspective on how some face limitations yet remain excited to participate.

This event helps our players appreciate what they have and the opportunities before them.

- **Impactful People:** Each player selects someone who has positively influenced

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L-R: Chayse (JV Coach), Braxton (JV Assistant), Anthony (Freshman), Tony (Varsity Assistant), Andy (Varsity Coach) with our team picture prior to the 2025 season.



Anthony and Andy playing catch before the 2025 State Semi-finals season. Also Coach Wes Hall playing catch with his son Josh, and Coach Arend playing catch with his son Elijah.

COACHING

(Continued From Page 9)

their life.

They write a letter of thanks, present an "Impactful Person" t-shirt, invite them to a game, stand with them for the National Anthem, and play catch afterward.

- **Field Work:** Players help maintain and improve our facilities, putting in the hours and seeing the tangible results of their effort.

This teaches responsibility and pride in their environment.

- **Yearly Tradition:** After graduation, our coaching staff takes our seniors and their dads on a two-day fishing trip to Lake Erie.

This special tradition gives us one final opportunity to make memories together and to share the experience with the fathers who have supported them along the way.

Other joys include:

- Watching players grow into strong young adults
- Building meaningful relationships with them
- Teaching baseball fundamentals, strategy, and attention to detail
- Helping players over-

come challenges and see the rewards of hard work

- Seeing former players succeed in life, knowing they developed into the individuals we hoped they would

Through these experiences, coaching becomes more than just teaching baseball; it's also about shaping lives.

Coaching Challenges

Coaching high school baseball today comes with several challenges:

1. Balancing different skill levels: At a small school, some players have years of experience while others are just learning the game.

Coaching everyone effectively at the same time can be difficult.

2. Motivating athletes with different levels of drive: Some players are naturally dedicated, while others need constant encouragement to put in the necessary effort.

3. Teaching discipline in an age of distractions: Phones, social media, and other outside influences compete with the values of hard work and commitment.

4. Keeping players mentally tough: Helping athletes bounce back from failure—strikeouts, errors, and

losing streaks—is an ongoing challenge.

5. Dealing with injuries: When players are injured, it can be difficult to find replacements and maintain team performance.

6. Emphasizing commitment: Players need to understand that success requires dedication in all areas—practice, games, scouting, field maintenance, and helping wherever needed.

7. Sharing athletes in the summer: Many players participate in multiple sports, which can pull them in different directions.

Unlike other sports, baseball requires summer games to evaluate JV players for Varsity.

Football and basketball have schedules that allow more separation between JV and Varsity, but baseball needs these summer opportunities to develop players for the next level.

Re-Entry Rules

One of the biggest challenges in coaching varsity baseball is that only 9–10 (w/ a DH) players can play at a time.

Unlike other sports, substitutions are limited by the re-entry rule, making it more difficult to get multiple players on the field while remaining competitive.

I commend the OHSBCA and OHSAA for allowing Free Defensive Substitutions at the sub-varsity level, which gives more players game experience without worrying about re-entry rules.

I hope this rule can eventually extend to the Varsity

level, especially when a position player needs to pitch on short notice.

While pitch count rules do a great job of protecting players' arms, additional measures could further support small schools, where we often rely on position players to pitch in unexpected situations on cold days and without properly warming up.

Tight-knit Community

Another challenge has been coaching in a tight-knit community like Fairview, where family ties run deep.

Early in my coaching career, tryouts required me to make difficult decisions, including cutting cousins from the team due to roster limits.

We have since been blessed to have an administration that is willing to add games to get players on the field to compete.

We do not have cuts, but are transparent with the players at the beginning of the season to make sure that they know their role at that time.

Best Season to Date

This past season, our team finished with a 28–4

record and advanced to the State Semi-Final game for the first time in Fairview High School history, played at Thurman Munson Memorial Stadium.

It was a season filled with memories, school records, and milestones.

One of the most meaningful aspects of this achievement was that it was a family affair.

Dad coached alongside me; my son Anthony played on the team; two nephews, Chayse and Braxton Singer, coached JV Baseball and assisted at the Varsity; Bethany served as our team photographer; and Beverly managed all the logistics, from meals and hotels to travel and team needs.

One of my favorite moments was sharing a three-way catch with Dad and Anthony.

This is a memory that I consider a true blessing.

At the state tournament, the support from the local community was overwhelming.

I remember standing with my Dad before the game, looking at the crowd, and seeing a tear in his eye, recognizing the culmination of decades of dedication and

(Continued on Page 11)

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L-R: Beverly, Anthony, Bethany and Andy enjoying Disneyland in California.

opportunities to spend time with them on the field and am thankful for the many hours that they have put in to make our facility what it is today.

Some memories of the kids that make me smile are:
 - Watching Bethany use a cup and dip water out of a hole in the outfield so that we could play our tournament game that day.

- Anthony - the age of 4, standing with his hands on his hips in the dugout during a game, saying to Brett Dietrich (my nephew and our starting catcher), "Brett, you cannot stand there and let the third strike go by without swinging! There was a runner on 3rd base!"

At that moment, I thought to myself that I had created a monster!

Family Vacation Time

Growing up, my family traveled every year, exploring different parts of the country. Beverly was the only child of a farming family and didn't go on many extended vacations, so once we were married, we made it a priority to travel as much as possible and give Anthony and Bethany a variety of experiences and destinations.

We enjoy camping, visiting Disney properties (Beverly and Bethany are huge Disney fans), and attending MLB games at new stadiums (Anthony and I are big baseball fans).

We also enjoy sports like fishing, hunting, and golf, as well as cards, board games, music, and learning.

Even my hobbies are closely tied to baseball.

I enjoy spending time at the Fairview Baseball field, looking for ways to improve and enhance our facilities.

Unlike other programs with large donations or city-supported fields, everything we have has been built and maintained through the dedication of our coaching staff, fundraising efforts, and community support.

Fundraising and facility improvements have become a true family endeavor.

Over the years, Beverly, Bethany, and Anthony have all contributed countless hours, helping turn ideas into reality.

While Beverly often jokes that I spend more time at the field than at home,

I've always said it's worth it—especially now that Anthony is old enough to enjoy and understand the work that goes into it.

This shared effort has made maintaining and improving our program not just a hobby, but a meaningful family experience.

Beyond the Field

Growing up, my parents emphasized that our primary focus during school was academics and extracurricular activities, not jobs.

This allowed my siblings and me to fully participate in sports, musicals, 4-H, and church activities, giving me a wide range of experiences and keeping me actively involved.

Today, I continue to be active in our community through the Ney Area JCs, the Fairview Athletic Boosters, Church Organizations, and as Assistant Commissioner for ACME Baseball.

Beverly is a 4-H advisor, so I get called to help with all sorts of 4-H projects as well.

These involvements allow me to give back to the programs and organizations that shaped me.

If Not Teaching, What Would I Do?

Coming from a long line of educators, I knew from a young age that my future was in the classroom.

Teaching felt like a natural calling, and it provided the ideal foundation to pursue my lifelong passion for coaching.

While my heart is in education, my experience teaching economics has sparked a strong entrepreneurial spirit.

If I hadn't pursued teaching, I could easily see myself managing a sports complex, operating a farm, or exploring fields like engineering and law enforcement.

My interest in economics even has me constantly brainstorming a lengthy list of potential business ventures I'd love to launch.

Proudest Accomplishment and Life Long Blessing

If I had to choose one accomplishment in life that I am most proud of, it would be my family.

I was blessed to grow up surrounded by love and togetherness, guided by our parents, Tony and Terri, and supported by my siblings—Thom, Teresa, Sarah, and Ken.

Their example taught me how to treat others and value relationships.

I am equally blessed to have married Beverly, who has supported me through so much and embraced the world of baseball, learning, and contributing alongside me.

Her parents, Don and Anita Rethmel, have also been a strong source of support.

All of these influences have shaped Bethany and Anthony, who have grown into compassionate, motivated, and exceptional individuals.

Watching them develop into people who want to make a positive impact on the world is the greatest source of pride in my life.

I am truly beyond blessed.

Note: Farmland News would like to thank Andy Singer for sharing his story.

Kelly (Wiemken) Cope-land was raised on a farm in Defiance County, Ohio and now resides with her husband Dave near Findlay, Ohio. She has been a life long vintage car enthusiast who has done free-lance work for several Vintage Car Club publications. FN

COACHING

(Continued From Page 10)

influence in Fairview baseball.

That moment on one of the biggest stages in high school baseball, was a tribute to his lifelong commitment to the sport and our community.

Memory of a Life-Time

Being able to share the State Semi-Final experience with my family was truly a blessing.

I was fortunate to have them right beside me throughout the entire season.

Experiencing it with such a special group of players, parents, coaches, and team assistants made it even more meaningful.

Currently, I am incredibly fortunate to be supported by a group of mentors and coaches specifically Tony Singer, Wes Hall, Howard Arend, Dave Marshall, Chayse Singer, Braxton Singer, and Brooke Haines.

They are the backbone of our program, dedicating countless hours to our players, and our success is truly a shared achievement.

There are so many other great coaches that have been with us along the way.

It truly took a village, and our small community came

together to make it all possible.

Our Family

Beverly and I have two children: Bethany, 19, is in her second year of college (with junior status), having attended Siena Heights University and now Defiance College, where she is majoring in Primary and Intervention Education and minoring in Music.

In high school, Bethany played Volleyball, Basketball, had the lead in the musical her junior and senior year and was involved in a lot of groups at Fairview as well as Defiance County 4-H and she sings regularly at church.

She has always spent a lot of time at the baseball field, running the concession stand, and taking photos.

Anthony, 16, is a sophomore at Fairview High School.

He plays Golf and Baseball (he previously played Basketball but decided to focus on baseball this year).

Anthony's goal is to play college baseball, and he earned All-State Honorable Mention as a freshman utility player.

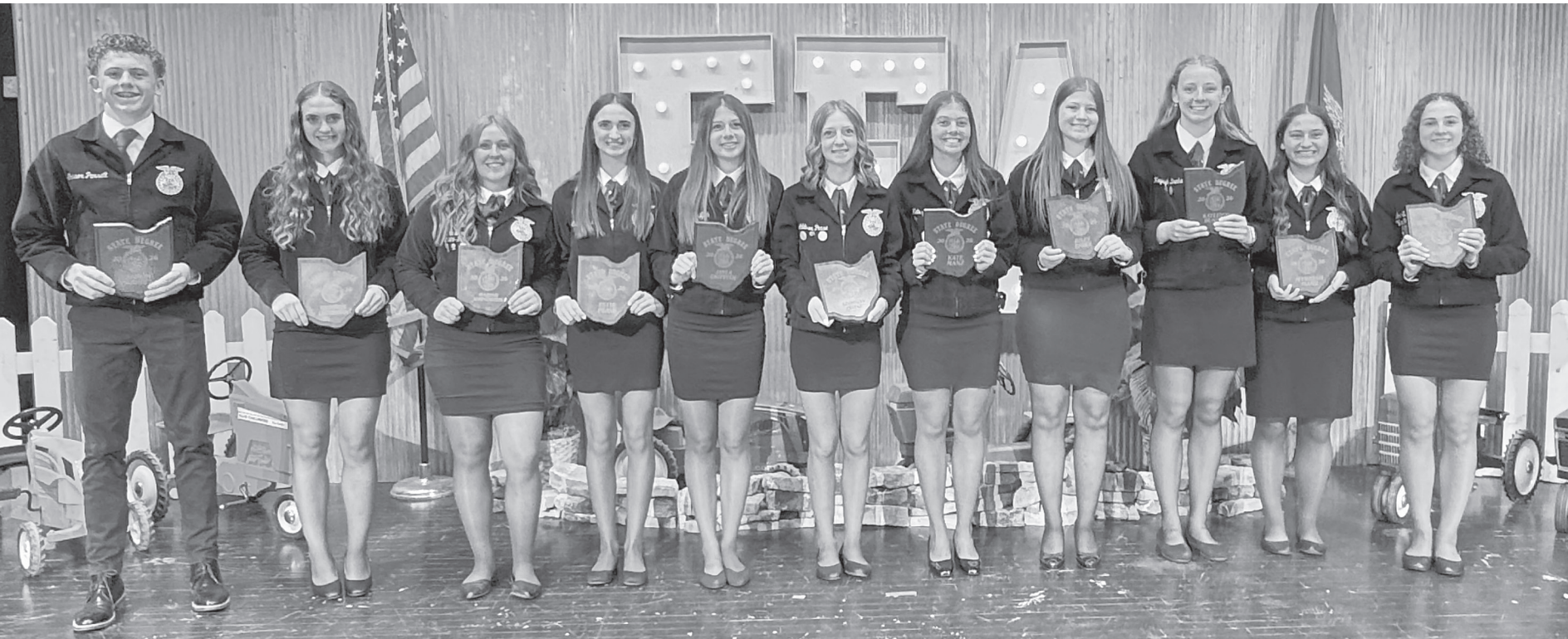
He is also involved in Student Council and Defiance County 4-H.

Both children have grown up at the baseball field.

I have cherished all the

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L-R: Gannon Parrett, Mackenzie Leatherman, Mariah Klopfenstein, Estie Pease, Jayla Griffith, Addison Pease, Kate Manz, Riley Stork, Kayleigh Dunham, Myrriah Manz and Tori Schlatter. Missing from photo is Avery Cooper

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Amya Hill, Asia Brubaker, Marissa Retcher, Renee Bok, Ethan Guilford, Owen Speiser, Ruby Elston, Sammy Mavis, Addy Zeedyk and Brooklyn Zeedyk.
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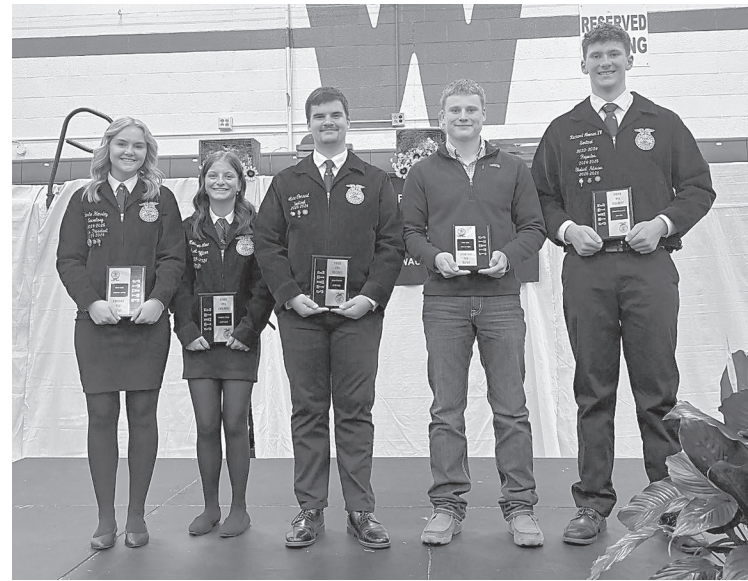
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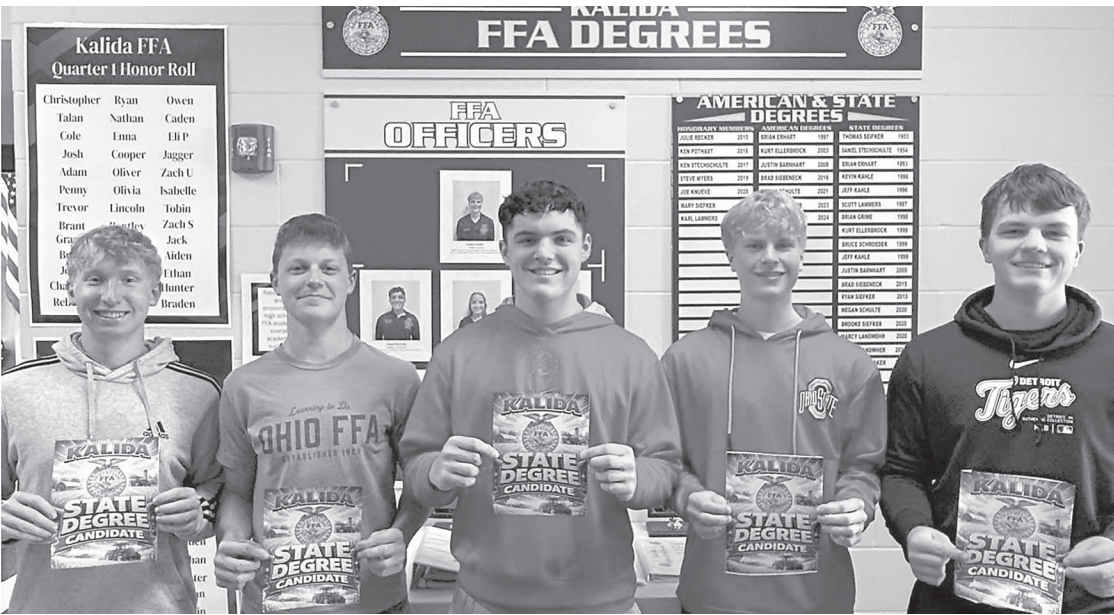
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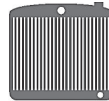


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Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 10 = C)

A. 11 19 20 15

Clue: Funny saying

B. 10 19 18 14 10

Clue: Funny person

C. 7 2 17 26 23

Clue: Expresses humor

D. 2 17 12 14 15 25 10 15

Clue: People watching a show

Answers: A. joke B. comic C. laugh D. audience

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to humor.

I L S E S M

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Answer: Smiles

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R	I	G	C	V	Y	T	S	N	I	C	K	E	R	D	D	Y	P	F	G
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- CHUCKLE
- COMEDY
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