

**Clyde's Lance Overmyer
places 2nd at State
Wrestling Championships**
See B10



**Seneca East Nathan
Parks Takes 5th at State
Wrestling Championships**
See B1

Attica-Bellevue-Bloomville-Republic Local News



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The Meaning Behind the Shamrock

When talking about Ireland and its culture and symbolism, many different images come to mind. Affectionately known as the Emerald Isle, Ireland is perhaps best known for its bright green hue. Irish flags and even harps are symbolic of the nation, but there is perhaps one symbol that most widely represents the country: the shamrock.

A shamrock, by definition, is a young sprig of clover. However, plant experts actually have said that shamrocks are a distinct species of the clover plant, believed to be the white clover. The word "shamrock" is derived from the Irish "seamróg," which translates as "young clover." Over the centuries, this diminutive plant has come to symbolize Ireland and many things Irish. The shamrock also is a popular symbol of St. Patrick's Day.

The shamrock and Irish culture are so intertwined thanks to Ireland's patron saint, St. Patrick. Legends attest to St. Patrick using the three petals of the shamrock to illustrate the mysteries of the Holy Trinity to the Celtic pagans. Each leaf represented the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The shamrock of Ireland has three leaves, not four as many people believe. The number three had significance in Ireland long before St. Patrick began to convert the masses. According to Blarney.com, the number three was believed to have magical properties and was a recurring theme in Celtic folklore. Because the Celts were familiar with the shamrock, it became easy to convert their knowledge of the shamrock to the magic of the trinity. The three leaves are also said to stand for faith, hope and love.

The four-leaf clover is a separate entity and a rarity. That is why the fourth leaf is deemed to be "lucky." But that lucky clover is not the traditional Irish symbol.

Thanks to their connection with Ireland, shamrocks are often gifted by the Prime Minister (Taoiseach) to the President of the United States in the White House each St. Patrick's Day. They are presented in a special Waterford crystal bowl featuring shamrocks in the design. This practice started in 1952.

Shamrocks also can be seen on Irish clothing designs, the Erin go Bragh flag and the uniforms of several Irish sports teams. Of course, they also are seen during St. Patrick's Day celebrations. The shamrock and Ireland will always be linked.

BSA Presents Willy Wonka Jr.

By Phil Wheeler, Staff Reporter

For two consecutive weekends, the Bellevue Society for the Arts is presenting the musical Willy Wonka Jr. Performances were March 10-12, and continues on Friday, March 17 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, March 18 at 2:30 p.m.

The musical, based on the book by Roald Dahl, tells the story of the famous candy inventor, Willy Wonka, and a poor child named Charlie Bucket. Finding a Golden Ticket in a chocolate bar, Charlie wins the chance to visit Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory along with four other children from around the world. The story follows Charlie's journey from poverty to winning the ultimate prize.

The production presented by the BSA features 70 kid actors, aged 7 to 12. No adults have parts in the show. All the parts are wonderfully played by local kids, and each one is obviously having tons of fun. Said Director Juliet Russell, "I am so grateful for the children in this show. They have worked incredibly



Charlie Buckets (Kaleb Franks) and Willy Wonka (Andrew J. Higgins) are surrounded by "squirrels" and Oompa-Loompas as they sing a joyful song.

hard to bring this production together. I am proud of each and every one of them."

Featured as the wild-eyed Willy Wonka, Andrew J. Higgins presents the character as a child-like dreamer. Equal parts humorous and bombastic, he brings us along on his search for a successor to his kingdom.

See Willy Wonka on B10

March is National Nutrition Month

Submitted by Erika Handru, Health Communications Specialist

Seneca County General Health District Each March, the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics encourages Americans to focus on healthy eating habits as part of National Nutrition Month. This year, Ohio Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program has chosen to use the theme: "Kids in the Kitchen Fuel the Future."

During the month, Seneca County WIC Health Professional staff will provide recipes that use foods from the WIC food package to prepare healthy dishes. The clinic will be focusing education efforts on providing guidance to teach children age-appropriate kitchen activities to help prepare healthy dishes.

Regardless of celebrating National Nutrition Month®, the nutrition staff at Seneca County WIC clinic:

- Assess and evaluate WIC participants' medical and nutritional conditions and habits.
- Provide counseling and

education to participants to address specific conditions.

- Answer nutrition-related questions.
 - Provide anticipatory guidance on healthy habits including safe sleep practices, breastfeeding, immunizations, and child development.
 - Present nutrition education on multiple subjects through several mediums.
 - Refer participants to food banks, health care and social service agencies, physicians, and other local agencies.
- Seneca County WIC can also assist YOU! You can:
- Schedule a health professional to provide an overview of the WIC Program, including what WIC is, what happens at WIC appointments, what foods are provided to participants, and what regulations must be followed.
 - Request a WIC health

professional schedule additional weight checks for WIC participants and follow-up with you.

- Request a small stock of nutrition and breastfeeding education materials on various topics.
 - Schedule with a health professional to discuss a nutrition topic.
 - Collaborate with a health professional to provide a WIC-approved formula for a medically fragile infant or child.
- For more information, contact Seneca County WIC at (419) 447-3691 ext. 6316.

Obituaries

Sandra L. Schriener, 76, Attica
Carl F. "Butch" Martin, 76, Attica

*With Deepest
Sympathy*

