

ALL-AROUND SOLID EFFORT

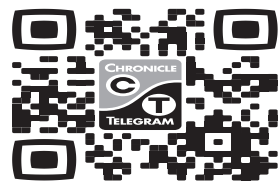
Guardians get all-around solid effort in 5-4 win over Twins while top prospect C.J. Kayfus makes his MLB debut, **SPORTS, C1**

THE CHRONICLE

T E L E G R A M

SUNDAY, August 3, 2025

\$2.50



**ACTIVATE
FULL
DIGITAL
ACCESS**

Available with your
Chronicle subscription



CARISSA WOYTACH / CHRONICLE PHOTOS

From left: Jozzie Mendiola, Kathleen Hopkins, Mike Hopkins holding 1-year-old Kaileigha, Ashley Taylor, Amanda Williams and Christina Kapek hold signs honoring the lives of individuals who died by fentanyl overdoses on Saturday in Oakwood Park.

Recognizing signs

Group hosts walk for lives lost to opioids

Carissa Woytach

The Chronicle-Telegram

LORAIN — In a bright blue shirt with “Forever 28” printed across the back, Ashley Taylor balanced her 1-year-old niece on one hip and held up a sign in her other hand.

The sign, which featured a smiling photo of Taylor’s brother, Luther, was in memory of the young man who died just shy of two years ago in the Lorain County Jail while going through opioid withdrawals.

Luther Taylor, 28, died Sept. 11, 2023, less than two weeks after he was booked into the jail on contempt of court and complicity charges. Another inmate alerted guards to Taylor’s condition — he was lying on his side, unresponsive with blood coming from his nose.

A half-hour later, the 28-year-old Avon Lake resident was declared dead. At the time, he had been going through withdrawals and had sought medical help from jail staff prior to his death, his family said.

See **OPIOIDS, A3**



Ashley Taylor holds her 1-year-old niece, Kaileigha, while walking in honor of her brother, Luther Taylor, who died in 2023 while incarcerated at the Lorain County Jail.

Already working on the next one

Lorain High School sophomore hosts book signing

Carissa Woytach

The Chronicle-Telegram

LORAIN — A Lorain High School sophomore spent his Saturday afternoon signing and selling copies of his first published book.

Shavar Patrick Jr., 15, sat at the Lorain Historical Society’s Carnegie Center surrounded by family, signing copies of his inaugural novella, “The Secrets Within.”

The 84-page, self-published work follows Martin, a young man working to uncover the mystery of his uncle’s murder. Shavar was acutely aware of the reputation his hometown can get, and wrote the book to hopefully break some of the stigma surrounding the International City.

“I do a lot of stuff to tell people, ‘This is the stuff we can do,’” Shavar said. “I really want to push forward and help other kids understand that you can do more.”

“The Secrets Within” started as a short story Shavar wrote in his fifth-grade class at Frank Jacinto Elementary, he said. At the urging of his teachers — including Alexis Simon who stopped by Shavar’s book signing on Saturday to pick up her own personalized copy — Shavar expanded the storyline into the novella he published via Amazon earlier this year and plans to follow it up with two other books in a series.

See **SHAVAR, A2**

In elementary school, Shavar Patrick Jr., now 15, would come home from school and his mother would instruct him to write in a journal every day, he said. He credited that consistency with helping him find his voice and love of writing.

VERMILION

Police: Firearms suspected in drive-bys are recovered

The Chronicle-Telegram

Two teens could face felony charges related to a spate of drive-by shootings in Vermilion late last month.

Between about 3:30 a.m. and 5:30 a.m. July 23 four separate shootings occurred in Vermilion involving a 20-gauge shotgun and a rifle, according to the city’s

police department.

Of the four shootings, one home was shot several times, though the sleeping homeowner was not injured according to police.

License plate camera systems from neighboring cities helped identify two suspects, a 16-year-old boy and an 18-year-old man.

The Lorain County Sheriff’s Office SWAT Team, Sheffield Lake and Lorain police assisted Vermilion police with search warrants in Lorain and Sheffield Lake.

Firearms believed to be used in the drive-by shootings were recovered from the two residences.

SHOOTING ON BEEBE AVENUE

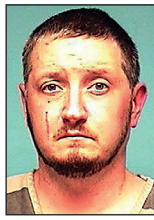
Elyria man charged with felonious assault

The Chronicle-Telegram

ELYRIA — A woman was injured and a man charged with felonious assault following a shooting Friday in Elyria.

Bruce Estep, 40, of Elyria, was charged with felonious assault and obstructing official business following an alleged shooting at a home in the 200 block of Beebe Avenue.

A woman was dropped off at University on Monday.



Estep

Hospitals Elyria Medical Center early Saturday morning with at least one gunshot wound. The shooting remains under investigation.

Estep remains at the Lorain County Jail. He is scheduled to appear in Elyria Municipal Court

U.S. OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL

Former Trump prosecutor Jack Smith being investigated

Maegan Vazquez and
Meryl Kornfield
The Washington Post

The U.S. Office of Special Counsel said Saturday it is taking the unusual step of investigating Jack Smith, the former Justice Department official who oversaw two federal prosecutions of Donald Trump, for potentially violating the law barring federal officials from political activity.

The independent agency tasked with overseeing investigations into

Kathleen Clark, a professor of law at Washington University in St. Louis and a government ethics lawyer, said she has never seen the watchdog investigate prosecutorial decisions.

partisan influence and coercion confirmed its investigation of Smith over potential Hatch Act violations.

The Hatch Act prohibits most federal employees from using their official authority to influence elections or engage in overt political activity on the job. If the office concludes a fed-

eral employee has violated the law, it refers the case to the president. Discipline can range from a reprimand to a removal from federal service.

Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Arkansas, on Wednesday called for an investigation into Smith, asking acting special counsel Jamieson Greer — who

is also serving as Trump’s U.S. Trade Representative and acting director of the Office of Government Ethics — in a letter to look into whether Smith “unlawfully took political actions to influence the 2024 election to harm then-candidate President Donald Trump.”

The investigation is out of the norm for the OSC, an office responsible for looking into federal employees’ potential violations of prohibited personnel practices. Trump has installed loyalists to lead the office, firing a Biden-appointed special counsel and installing Veterans Affairs Secretary Douglas A. Collins and, later, Greer to oversee the office on an interim basis.

See **SMITH, A3**



0 94922 66510 2

**SUNNY,
PLEASANT**

High of 79. Low of 57.
Forecast on A6

INDEX

ADVICE..... **B3**
CLASSIFIEDS **B3**

HOROSCOPES... **B3**
LOCAL&STATE ... **B1**

LOTTERY **A2**
OBITUARIES... **B2,4**

OPINION..... **A4-5**
TV **B3-4**

WWW.CHRONICLET.COM

cyan A1 magenta A1 yellow A1 black A1