



Lima gets ready for 'Six' musical
LIFESTYLE • 1D



Soto case can head to trial
REGION • 1B



Putnam County teams face off
SPORTS • 1C

Serving up smiles

Going only by the name Loutfi, the hibachi cook at Yamato steakhouse on Elida Road in Lima delights customers with flames, food and his non-stop banter.



Photos by J Swygart | The Lima News

Lima hibachi chef is equal parts cook, comedian

By J Swygart
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LIMA – Not unlike any number of other entertainers (think Madonna, Cher, Elvis or Liberace), a Lima hibachi chef prefers to be known only by one name: Loutfi.

And make no mistake, Louthi is indeed an entertainer; he's equal parts

hibachi chef and comedian.

Hibachi, or more accurately teppanyaki, is a Japanese style of cooking on a flat iron grill called a teppan. The method involves the chef cooking ingredients like meat, vegetables and seafood on the griddle in front of the guests, creating an entertaining and interactive dining experience.

An onion volcano — where rings of uncooked onion are stacked and then lighted with vodka to produce smoke and a flame — is a favorite among customers. So, too, is flipping small pieces of chicken or beef into the mouths of patrons or squirting a little saki their way ... after

See SERVING | 6A



Flipping small pieces of chicken or beef into the mouths of waiting customers takes skill and confidence.



J Swygart | The Lima News
Nicholas Stemen, 34, of Elida, was sentenced Monday to at least 22 years in prison for driving while drunk and causing a fire inside his vehicle that killed his 2-year-old daughter.

Dad drove drunk, gets prison time

By J Swygart
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LIMA — Nicholas Stemen admitted in court during his sentencing hearing Monday that he was drunk and had “no recollection” of the events that led directly to the death of his 2-year-old daughter in September 2024.

Stemen, 34, was sentenced to a minimum of 22 years in prison for the series of events that led to the death of his daughter, Lillyanna, who perished in a fiery blaze in the back seat of her father's car.

According to law enforcement reports, at approximately 9:50 p.m. Sept. 25, 2024, dispatchers with the Allen County Sheriff's Office received a call that a vehicle on Zion Church Road was driving erratically, leaving the roadway and crossing the center line. The caller said the vehicle, which was missing a tire, came to rest near Shenk Road and then caught fire.

See DAD | 6A



Submitted photo

Lillyanna Stemen

Victim's stepson testifies in murder trial

By Scott Giebel
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LIMA — Witnesses and law enforcement testified in court on Tuesday for the continued murder trial of Marcus Tyson.

The first witness to take the stand was the stepson of the victim, Anthony Townsend. Darvion Young stated that on the day of the incident, he was in his room playing video games when his

mom yelled for his help with a large tree limb that had fallen.

He said that he tried to move it, but could not, so he went back inside the house to wash his hands. Young claims that while he was washing his hands, he heard his stepdad and another man yelling, and when he looked outside, he saw his stepdad fall to the ground, but did not see the stabbing.

In response to these claims,

defense attorney Zachary Maisch showed photos in court that showed the window had glass that protected the bathroom from a direct view, and in the pictures, the window was only pulled up three or four inches with limited visibility.

Patsy Hale, who lives a few houses over from 658 N. Elizabeth St., took the stand and stated that she was on her deck when she heard yelling with one

of the men saying, “You owe me money.” She then described how she saw a big guy fall.

Lima Police Department patrolman Dylan Thiessen was on desk duty when he received a call from the suspect at the time, Marcus Tyson. In the phone call, Tyson claimed that police were looking for him, but wanted to know why, and Thiessen acted like he

See STEPSON | 6A

OHIO LOTTERY
MEGA MILLIONS (Friday)
1-8-11-12-57
Mega Ball: 7
Jackpot: \$50 million

POWERBALL (Saturday)
6-7-12-47-53
Powerball: 21 Power Play: 4
POWERBALL (Monday)
7-33-50-57-66
Powerball: 23 Power Play: 5
Jackpot: \$593 million

CLASSIC (Saturday)
6-20-26-28-34-37
KICKER: 458970
CLASSIC (Monday)
10-13-15-22-24-30
KICKER: 519475
Jackpot: \$10.7 million

A NEWS
Opinion: 4A
Reminisce: 5A

B REGION & OHIO
Obituaries: 2B
Weather: 6B

C SPORTS
Classified: 6C

D 360
Puzzles: 3D

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