

Merry Christmas

SWARY - FONT



Juliana Swary and Josh Font were married on November 19, 2005 at the Kingsley United Methodist Church. Parents of the bride are Ron Swary, Payne, and Don and Jewell Kurtz, rural Haviland.

Parents of the groom are Ron and Peggy Font of Van Wert. The bride is a 2004 graduate of Wayne Trace and Vantage Career Center. The groom is a 2004 graduate of Lincolnview and Vantage Career Center. The bride is employed at Studio A of Van Wert and the groom is employed at Federal Mogul of Van Wert. The new Mr. and Mrs. Font will be making their home in Mendon, OH.

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Using E85 instead of gas-
(Continued on Page 4)

A SPLASH BACK . . . RE-INTRODUCING PAULDING COUNTY'S WILLOW LAKE

Long time residents of Paulding County perhaps recall the one time swimming and fishing lake just east of the city of Paulding that had its "heyday" back in the 1940's and 1950's. Steps are being taken to allow families and groups to once again enjoy the beauty and serenity of Willow Lake.

A generation or so of Paulding County residents may recall outings to Willow Lake, a 10 acre spring-fed lake (also formerly known as Klingler's Beach), dating back to the summer of 1940 when it was first opened as the spot for a cool dip to beat the summer heat and the place for the fishermen of the family to cast a line. While the ownership of the property remained in the hands of the same family, over the years the lake and its facilities gradually transitioned from that of a recreation spot for the public to its most recent usage as a private farm residence. Given a recent change in ownership, the new owners are taking steps to again make Willow Lake available to the residents of Paulding and surrounding counties initially by offering a three bedroom vacation/get away cottage on the property.

"We just fell in love with the property when we first saw it after following up on

the for sale ad in the newspaper," said Mike Riebersal. "The top of the ad said "Own your own Lake!" so we jumped in the car that same day not certain what we might find. "Wow" pretty much summed up our thoughts. All of these years of living in Paulding County and not knowing that a body of water of this size and beauty existed so close to our home. It was a sunny summer day and the lake, the island and all of the mature shade trees surrounding the lake just made for a beautiful setting. Given my love of fishing and the outdoors, I was very intrigued with the property."

Riebersal thinks it makes sense to make the cottage available as a vacation/week-end rental. "As I've been educated about the historical usage of the property, I've also gleaned from individuals in the community that there is interest in again having access to the lake and property. It's a pretty, serene setting for a relaxing family and/or fishing getaway. The lake has a great reputation for bass, crappie, and bluegill. Also, we think there is an opportunity in Paulding County for there to be additional overnight/hotel like accommodations." Plans are for the cottage to be available to rent beginning early next year, and it will be available to rent on a weekly, weekend and/or nightly basis.

(Continued on Page 2)

CHRISTMAS IN HEAVEN

We've shared our hearts,
full of Holiday Cheer
and shopped for presents
for loved ones this year
The house is dressed up
with garland and lights
That sparkle and shine
through the Holiday nights

But even with all of this
Holiday bliss
There's someone we lost
that we terribly miss
And as this Christmas Day
draws near
We wish with all of hearts
he was here

He's living his life way up
past the stars
Somewhere past Jupiter,
Saturn and Mars
He's spending his Christ-
mas in Heaven, you see
And last night as I slept, a

dream came to me

He was standing before
me, happy and well
He said to me "I have
something to tell . . .
Heaven's more wonderous
than you would believe
It's the greatest gifts I
could ever receive

As you gather together,
I'm sure you'll find
The gifts deep within you
that I left behind
Each one is unique and
wrapped
brightly in love
They shine from your
hearts as
I shine from above"

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DATE CHANGE:

The West Bend News would like you to be aware that the next issue will be arriving on December 29 rather than December 28. Even printers like Christmas off!

SEARCH FOR A CLEANER, AMERICAN-MADE FUEL BRINGS E85 TO ANTWERP

Calling it "the fuel of the future," National Oil and Gas, Inc. is bringing a new choice to area residents who want an American made, environment-friendly fuel for their cars, trucks and SUVs. This week Antwerp Pit Stop (304 W. River St., Antwerp) began selling an alternative to gasoline called E85, a blend of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent petroleum that "flexible fuel vehicles" or FFVs can use. These vehicles are factory built to use either gasoline or E85 fuel. FFVs look and cost the same as other vehicles of their class, and the list of vehicles that can use E85 includes many new and used makes and models commonly used by farmers, hunters and families in western Ohio such as the Ford Explorer, Chevrolet Avalanche, and GMC Suburban.

There are more than 140,000 flexible fuel vehicles existing in Ohio according to Clean Fuels Ohio, a non-profit organization which promotes the use of E85 and other cleaner burning fuels as



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and
Happy Holidays

from Rodney, Carrie,
Joni, Pam, Kayla & Chris

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OBITUARIES

Edna G. Strahley, 91, Paulding, died December 13, at the Hawthorn Court Nursing Home, Paulding.

She was born in Peebles, OH, on September 24, 1914, the daughter of George and Tirza (Caplinger) Gorman. On July 29, 1928, she married Waldo G. Strahley, who preceded her in death on September 11, 1984. She was a homemaker and a clerk for the former Cassels Furniture, Hardware and Jewelry Store. She was a member of the V. F. W. Post #587 Auxiliary.

She is survived by three sons, Bill (Martha) Strahley, Paul (Sharon) Strahley, and Charles (Cara Lou) Strahley, all of Paulding; a sister, Pat Roberts, Dayton, OH; twelve grandchildren; nineteen great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

She is preceded in death by her parents; husband; three sons, George, Clarence "Bud" and Robert Strahley; two brothers, Edgar and Bill Gorman; and a sister, Lois Hunt.

Funeral services were December 17, at the Den Herder Funeral Home, Paulding. Burial was in Live Oak Cemetery.

Donations may be made to the Paulding V. F. W. Post #587 Auxiliary or the Paulding County Area Visiting Nurses.

Dewain Freshwater, 87, Paulding, died December 16 at the Dallas Lamb Foundation Home.

He was born in Paulding County on June 30, 1918 the son of Alonzo (Lonnie) and Lois D. (Franklin) Freshwater. On July 21, 1941 he married Kathleen Maxene (Schaffner) Freshwater, who died on May 12, 2000.

He retired in 1980 from La Farge Corp. formerly General Portland Cement Company of Paulding as a truck driver after 25 years of employment. He was a veteran of World War II serving in the U.S. Army. He was a Staff Sergeant with Company C 1874th Engineers Aviation Battalion where he was a construction foreman and a rifle expert, serving in New Guinea; Sou Philippines (Liberation). He was awarded the Victory Metal Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with two Bronze Stars, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one Bronze Star, Good Conduct Metal and Meritorious Unit Award. He was a member of the Paulding V. F. W. Post #587.

Surviving are one daughter, Kim (Dan) Sutton of Paulding; one son, Rex Freshwater of Marion, OH; one brother, Larry (Sharon) Freshwater of Minneapolis, MN; and one sister, Donna Jean (Russell) Flint of Paulding; two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his parents, his wife Kathleen Maxene, one brother, Howard Freshwater, and two sisters, Lola Laukhuf and Isabel Holtsberry.

Funeral services were conducted December 19, at Den Herder Funeral Home, Paulding. Pastor Jack Berry officiated. Burial was in Cooper Cemetery, Paulding. Military burial rites were conducted by the Paulding V. F. W. Post #587.

Memorials to Paulding V. F. W. Post #587, 214 North Water Street Paulding, Ohio 45879.

Betty Jane Searfoss, 80, Grover Hill, died December 16, at the Hawthorn Court Nursing Home, Paulding.

She was born in Melrose, OH on September 30, 1925 the daughter of Harry E. and Levena (Halsey) Jewell. On July 22, 1945 she married William J. Searfoss who died April 4, 1995. She was a homemaker and a self-employed Plasterer. She attended the Mt. Zion United Methodist Church of rural Grover Hill, OH.

Surviving are one sister, Edna Mason, Lima, OH and many nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her parents, husband, five brothers: Le Roy, Jim, Maurice, Artie, and Delbert; two sisters: infant Helen and Cydona Pratt.

Funeral services were conducted December 21 at Den Herder Funeral Home, Paulding. Burial was in Hedges Cemetery, Paulding.

Memorials to Mt. Zion United Methodist Church Building Fund.

Leo R. Headley, 80, Hicksville, died December 12 at Parkview Hospital, Ft. Wayne, IN.

Leo was born February 17, 1925 in Milford Township the son of Delta and Glatis (Close) Headley. He was a 1943 graduate of Hicksville High School.

Leo served in the United States Navy, aboard the USS Density during WWII.

On February 17, 1946 he was united in marriage to Gwen Limpert.

In the same year he began Headley Garage. Three years later, Leo, his dad and his brother-in-law, Kenny Wittig began Headley Motors. In 1962 H & W Automotive Parts was formed. H & W now has stores in Hicksville, Edgerton, Grabill, Antwerp, Sherwood, and Hamilton, IN.

Leo has been a lifelong member of First Church of Christ, Hicksville. While a member he has served as Sunday School Superintendent, Deacon and was Chairman of the Church Board and on the Stewardship Committee.

Leo has also been active in the community. He has been a Mason for fifty years, a member of the Rotary Club, being named Citizen of the Year in 1986. He has served as the president of the Boy's Little League and was involved in the Boy Scouts. He has served on the Village Council, Hicksville Chamber-past president, Defiance County Park Board, Hicksville Park Board and the Hicksville Development Corporation. Most recently he has served on the HBLS Bank Board of Directors and was named as an Honorary Co-Chairperson for the New School Levy.

Leo was a member of the Hicksville V. F. W. Post #3011, the American Legion Post 223 and the Eagles Aerie 2556.

Leo is survived by his wife, Gwen; four sons—Mike (Roxanne), Mitchel (Marie), Greg (Christine), and Randy (Beth) all of Hicksville; also surviving are five grandsons—Mike, Matt, Jared, Brandon, and Nathan; five granddaughters—Michele, Molly, Melissa, Jennifer, and Megan; two great-granddaughters—Ashley and Malory; and one great-grandson—Lucas. He has a sister Lila Wittig, Hicksville.

He is preceded in death by his parents.

A Hicksville Masonic Lodge service was held on December 16. The funeral was at the First Church of Christ, Hicksville on December 17. Pastor Ken Wellman officiated.

Burial was at Forest Home Cemetery, Hicksville. Military honors were conducted by Hicksville American Legion Post 223.

Preferred memorials to First Church of Christ—funding from the Heart Fund.

THANK YOU . . .

The family of Janet C. DeLong wish to express their sincere appreciation for those that shared in our time of loss. Our hearts ache to have her back in our lives again, but it does bring us comfort that she is once again back home with her soulmate, Zeb. Thanks to those who sent cards, flowers, angels, food, or even just a phone call.

A special thanks to Rev. James Edwards. Snow or shine, day or night, you were always there for our family. Your kind words at the hospital and at the service will remain in our hearts and minds for a lifetime.

A special thanks to Shawn and Michelle Dooley. You truly have a gift of taking a very sad moment for a family and making it almost like a celebration of the life that has passed. You go above and beyond to help families take care of everything, even those things that may not seem important at the time.

She will be sadly missed, but in time we will all meet our beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother again. Until then, we can rest assured that we have one very special guardian angel watching over us and guiding us through life.

All our love and special thanks,
Lana & Steve Peters
Gina & Bob Phlipot
Stacie & Keersten Kelley
Brad & Charie
Andy & Robbie

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PASTOR: Scott Marsee
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Antwerp, OH 45813

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10:30am Worship
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Wednesday: 7:00pm
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Middle School thru High School Student Ministry

CHANGES TO REDICARE SERVICES

Beginning January 1, 2006 RediCare services will be offered by appointment only. Individuals coming to the hospital for treatment without an appointment will be treated as Emergency Room visits.

CMH reserves the right to transfer RediCare patients to ER services based on the extent of symptoms/complaints. RediCare services are for those minor aches and pain, colds, flu, minor injuries. Chest pain, severe abdominal pain, open wounds are all emergency room services.

No one should be surprised by the way your visit is billed. Please ask questions at the time of service for clarification.

Mount Calvary Lutheran Church
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10:00 Christmas Sunday Service 12/25
Pastor William E.D. Barlow, Interim

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Sun. PM Bible Study 6:00 • Service 7:00

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Antwerp United Methodist Church

9:00am Sunday School
10:00am Worship/Children's Church
Nursery Available

Christmas Services
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Dec. 22, 7p.m.
Christmas Eve
8:00 p.m.

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GILLMOR INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO PROTECT GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

Congressman Paul Gillmor (R- Old Fort), Chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials, today introduced legislation to protect the global environment. Gillmor's legislation will implement the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and two other measures aimed at curbing international pollution.

Under the three treaties which would be implemented by Gillmor's legislation, the United States would join countries around the world in reducing or eliminating the production of 12 pollutants known as the "dirty dozen". Through Gillmor's bill, the United States will join with the global community in phasing-out certain PCB's, DDT, and pesticides.

Without this legislation becoming law, U.S. officials will be relegated to observer status- no better and no worse than any private interest attending meetings on these pollutants. This will force our officials to rely on the officials of foreign countries to represent our national interests. Congressman Gillmor's legislation would allow the United States to become a full partner in environmental negotiations. "It is unacceptable that the United States

could simply be an observer at environmental meetings," Gillmor said. "Neither individual corporations nor non-governmental groups should carry equal or greater standing than our own government at these international conferences."

"Moving legislation which protects both our environment and our sovereignty is essential if the United States is to remain an important player in the global environmental debate," Gillmor said. "Implementing these agreements should not be a partisan fight. The Clinton Administration began negotiations on many of these agreements and when the Bush Administration came into office, they sought to finish the job," Gillmor concluded.

"Implementing these important global environmental treaties is a priority for President Bush and EPA, and I appreciate Chairman Gillmor's leadership in moving them to ratification," said EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson. "The United States has already taken extensive steps to address these environmental threats, and through these treaties, we can further protect the health, not only of our fellow Americans, but of all those who share our planet."

Legislation introduced in the House of Representatives must be passed by the House and the Senate before it can be forwarded to the President for his signature.

SPECIAL SERVICE TIMES AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN ANTWERP

The First Baptist Church in Antwerp will be having Christmas Eve services at 6:00 p.m. and Christmas Day services at 10:00 a.m. On New Year's Day services will also be at 10:00 a.m. Services will be back to normal times starting January 8, 2006.

The West Bend News is published weekly for residents of Paulding County. Subscription information for the West Bend News follows:

If you live within the circulation area, the West Bend News is delivered for free. If you reside outside the circulation area, subscriptions are \$30.00 per year (for Defiance, Van Wert and adjoining counties). Subscriptions outside of the surrounding counties are \$40 per year. Newstand price is \$.25 per copy.

ANTWERP CONSERVATION CLUB NEWS

On Sunday, December 11 we had our last trap shoot of the year. Thanks to Joe Smalley and Dennis Steele who cleaned out the snow so we could shoot. It was a windy cold day. But it didn't bother Kenny Donat who broke a 50 straight. What a day! But we all had a lot of fun. So, the traps will be closed til the second Sunday of April through November of 2006. We plan to start some youth programs and for adults as well who are interested in rifle and shot gun sport.

Our club meetings are the second Thursday of each month. We have over 300 members, and you are sure welcome to join us. Our club is growing thanks to our good members that make it work.

Bryon Rasey



Sophomores Lynn Haller, Jacqueline Thomas, Liz Foust, Anthony Smith, and Zach Arnold. Together, these students alone donated 135 items.

CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS DRIVE AT ANTWERP LOCAL SCHOOL

Sophomores alone brought in approximately 650 products.

The high school as a whole donated approximately 1,000 products, an extraordinary feat considering the entire high school has only around 250 students.

The entire school total passed 1,200 items.

Students brought in various items, including new toys, canned foods, toiletry products, baby food and diapers, and laundry/cleaning supplies.

Student donations were extremely generous, including brand new toys and stuffed animals from various stores (such as the Walt Disney Store, for example).

For more information, call Kayla Stoller or Dan Lehman at 419-258-5421.

PAULDING COUNTY COOKS

Kelly's Potato Soup

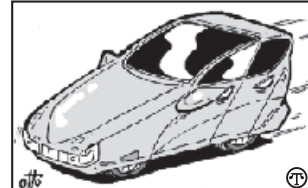
- 6-8 regular sized potatoes
- 1 pkg. of cubed ham (dinnerbell or cumberland)
- 1 or 2 cans condensed celery soup
- 1 can cheddar soup
- 1 can onion soup (optional)
- milk
- salt & pepper

Peel potatoes and dice them, put into boiling water (about 4 cups water, maybe more). Add diced or cubed ham to water and potatoes. When done drain most of the water off I leave enough to cover the ham and potatoes and then add soups. And thin out with milk to your desired consistency. Salt and pepper to taste.

Kelly Ankney

Automakers Reach Technology Milestone

(NAPSA)—Automakers have more than 60 cutting-edge, advanced technology autos either on sale now or in development. These include hybrids, clean diesels and biodiesels, alternative fuel vehicles, hydrogen-powered cars, fuel cells and electric vehicles.



Automakers invest billions of dollars to develop and introduce new fuel-efficient automobiles. The auto industry spends more than any other industry on research and development.

Automakers are committed to help consumers fight high gas prices, reduce the environmental footprint of autos and address America's dependence on foreign sources of energy.

Because new technologies often cost more than ordinary cars, consumer tax credits for advanced technology vehicles can help accelerate the movement of these products into the market. Recently passed energy legislation will provide between \$600 and \$4,000 in tax incentives for consumers who purchase advanced technology vehicles.

For more information on advanced fuel-savings technology, visit www.autoalliance.org.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

As I sit down to write this letter, it seems a little out of place because we have quite a bit of snow on the ground so no one at this time is even thinking about the upcoming summer ball season. But the Grover Hill Park Board is planning their first board meeting on January 5, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Fire Station in Grover Hill and they are requesting that interested people from the Grover Hill and surrounding areas attend this very important planning session.

The Grover Hill Park has been a focal point of this small county town for as long as I can remember and a lot of good things have happened here. One of the highlights of my school years and church youth groups was going to the park and having picnic and parties back in the log cabin.

My children and grandchildren have also benefited from this park and I would hope that it continues for many more years but it needs input from neighbors, families, and friends to put on programs that will benefit the Park Board.

At the present time, the park is owned by the Grover Hill Lion's Club and the Park Board works under their authority. Jay Denny, president of the Park Board, states that the park is for the children of the community and the goal of the Park Board is to do things that will help to make the times of children and their parents at the park more enjoyable.

In the past couple of years the following things have been

added: a new ball diamond, a home run fence, new bleachers, dugouts were painted and a new swing set was added.

The summer ball season is not under the auspices of the Park Board but does benefit from the efforts of this group as they focus on how to make the park more of a family friendly place.

The Summerfest, which is held in July, is one of the money makers for the Park Board. The highlight of the weekend is a PeeWee Tournament along with a variety of other activities. The park is also made available to the fall schedule of the Wayne Trace Cross Country Teams and the concession stand is open for their enjoyment. All of these activities are supervised by volunteers who care about their children and grandchildren and the continuing of the success of the Grover Hill Park.


A very "special" thank you from the Park Board members to those who have helped in the past with the Park Board activities.

I couldn't have been done without you.

Won't you please consider coming to the meeting on January 5, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Grover Hill Fire Department. Make it your New Years resolution to become an active member of the Grover Hill Park Board. We need your ideas and input on how to make the park an important part of Grover Hill for many years to come.

For more information please contact Jay Denny at 419-587-3143.

Eileen Kochensparger

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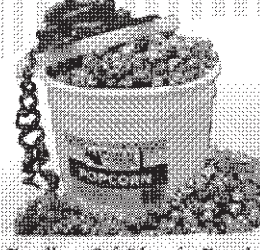
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THE GREATEST GIFT

By: Eileen Kochensparger

At this time of the year our minds are all focused on what would be the most perfect gift to give to family and friends. As I think back to my childhood years I remember the doll house that I received when I was the age of four. I still have that doll house and in fact displayed it this year at the John Paulding Historical Society Festival of Trees. The next year I received a doll that had real hair and a bassinet that my grandparents made for me.

Since then I have received many lovely gifts but how strange that it is difficult for me to recall what they all were. I still tease my youngest daughter about the pair of 88 cent hose that she gave me for Christmas. I don't remember if that is all the money she had or she spent the rest on herself.

I'm sure you can recall gifts that you have received over the years. Maybe it was a doll, or a train, or even a bike. Maybe it was something extravagant like a diamond ring. Or you were expecting something glamorous like a piece of jewelry or a fur coat and instead received a set of pots and pans. The important thing is, did you receive it with a smile and say thank

you. Yes, Christmas is a time for giving. Giving with love in our hearts and giving willingly, not always expecting something in return. And not always getting what we want. But there is one gift that can be received and is freely given. And that is the gift for what Christmas is all about. The gift of God's son, Jesus. When you accept Him into your life, it is a gift that you will never forget. This gift does not rust or decay. It can't be broken. The gift of Jesus has a life time warranty and will remain with you as long as you allow him to be in your life.

I, personally, asked Jesus into my heart many years ago and I am so thankful that I did. In April of this year I came close to dying. Had I not accepted Jesus as a teenager I could have been lost. Because when I was dying I was in a coma and knew nothing about the seriousness of my illness. I am a miracle thanks to the prayers that went to God on my behalf. I was healed and now I am witnessing to everyone who will listen. If you have not received the greatest gift of all, please do.

Ask Jesus to come into your heart. What a way to celebrate this Christmas season. Jesus is the reason for the season you know.

CANDIDATE FOR AUDITOR OF STATE VISITS PAULDING COUNTY



Pictured above are Kay Langham, candidate for Paulding County Commissioner in 2006; Bill Bolenbaugh, Paulding County Auditor; Mary Taylor; and Paulding County Commissioner Tony Burkley, candidate for State Representative in 2006.

A reception was held for Mary Taylor, State Representative of the 43rd Ohio House District, at the 401 Kafe in Paulding on Thursday, December 15. Representative Taylor is currently serving

her second term in the Ohio House and is making a run for state auditor in 2006. In addition to her work as a legislator, she has 15 years' experience as a certified public accountant.

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Holiday Happenings

Ringing In A New Year Of NASCAR Fun

(NAPSA)—When the checkered flag drops on the 2005 NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series season, the roar of engines will be replaced with holiday bells and songs. NASCAR fans can get a jump start on their holiday shopping with gifts that can be used throughout the year.

Fans can stay in the know with a subscription to NASCAR Scene, which follows all the details of the NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series, including driver and crew chief changes, race schedules, new teams, paint schemes and new sponsorships. One-year subscriptions (50 issues) are available to fans at www.scedaily.com at 52 percent off the newsstand price. Once the dust settles from the off-season, fans can revamp their wardrobes with all-new NASCAR collectibles. T-shirts, hats, jackets and more are available in NASCAR Scene, all designed to keep fans looking their best throughout the year.

Any racing fan knows it's never too early to order tickets for next season and NASCAR.com is there to help. Fans can check with their favorite tracks to find out when race tickets will be available or log on to the "RACES" portion of www.NASCAR.com to find race tickets throughout the 2006 season. While planning for next year, fans can explore the abundance of new NASCAR.com tailgating offerings including games, grills, flags, coolers and more.

Fans can download Sprint Nextel Driver Voice Tones so they can hear Dale Earnhardt Jr., Tony Stewart and six other NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series stars every



A NASCAR-themed gift can help you stay on track with the racing fans on your gift list.

time their phones ring. Driver Voice Tones make for a delightful stocking stuffer. NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series teams are working hard in the off-season with the latest technology to gain a competitive edge and fans can update their own race day gear with a Nextel 2-Way Communication Headset. This device can be plugged into most scanners, letting fans hear live, in-race communication between drivers and their crews. The product is simultaneously linked to the fan's wireless phone, enabling people to chat, even during the noisiest race moments, thanks to a noise-canceling device. For more information on voice tones, headsets and other racing-inspired Sprint Nextel products and services, visit www.sprint.com.

Sticking with the tech theme, fans with a need for speed must get the EA SPORTS (www.easports.com) game, "NASCAR 06: Total Team

Control" for the Microsoft Xbox and Sony PlayStation 2 gaming systems. The interactive video game puts fans in the driver's seat of four authentic NASCAR series including the NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series racing machines. For the first time in a racing game, players can radio to teammates for assistance while managing on-track partnerships, or even take the wheel of a teammate's car in the middle of a race to fend off rivals. With all-new game controls, including real-time voice command, communicate with your crew chief, spotters and on-track allies to help punch your team through the pack.

And for the fan who has everything? How about helping out a charity by purchasing an authentic item from NASCAR Champion's Week in New York City? An autographed quarter-scale race car hood and numerous photographs from some of the most talented photographers in motor sports will be featured at an exclusive, invitation-only industry party in New York City when NASCAR invades the Big Apple to celebrate the 2005 NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series Champion. The items will later be sold on eBay with proceeds going to Victory Junction Gang Camp. Sprint Nextel arranged for a child from the Victory Junction Gang Camp to draw a unique design for the hood of the Nextel show car at the NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series season finale in Homestead, Fla. The one-of-a-kind hood will be autographed by the series champion and will be available on www.ebay.com during the holiday season.

GOOD HYGIENE TIP FROM TIPS-N-TAN

Have you ever wondered what's on your make-up?

Did you know that your make-up should be replaced often? Mascara should be replaced every two months. Because of it being around your eye you want to keep your mascara as germ free as possible.

Germs are everywhere even though you don't see them. We have germs on our hands then we touch the make-up. As you get more germs from touching things your shadows should be kept no longer than one year.

For more information ask the spa experts at Tips-n-Tan Day Spa, Inc. 419-258-2023.

West Bend Printing & Publishing will be closed on Monday, December 26.

SANTA VISITED ANTWERP FIRESTATION

On Saturday, December 17, Santa made an early visit to the Antwerp fire station. There was a steady crowd the entire time with about 125 children in attendance. The children all enjoyed treats and seat on Santa's lap. While the children were having their fun, the parents had time to relax with coffee and donuts and homeade cookies. A fun time was had by all.

GET YOUR MESSAGE OUT IN THE WEST BEND NEWS.

NEWS ITEMS ARE ALWAYS FREE!!!

Upgrades Help Computer Users Stay Current

(NAPSA)—With the number of computers and other digital gizmos on the rise—and frequently given as gifts—it could be said that the holidays are all about upgrades. That's because many users find their computers are just too slow or poorly equipped to keep up with the latest hardware, software, and other peripherals.

Instead of tossing out their old PCs and buying new ones, many people would be served just as well by upgrading some key components. Imagine what that means: greater capacity for digital photos, computer games that run faster, extra storage for digital songs, and much more.

For example, you can upgrade a PC with more system memory or RAM, add a faster processor, a more spacious hard drive, or a more powerful video card. A backup device such as a CD- or DVD-burner can make storable copies of irreplaceable data.

And if you're giving the gift of upgrades, it's usually a good idea to have a professional install them. One convenient service, Geeks On Call, has certified, trained specialists who can help optimize computer systems with added memory and other accessories.

These professionals may also be of service when you're trying to get those new gadgets to work. You know, the ones that are labeled "just plug and play," but never seem to play just right. Whether it's a video game system, a digital camera, or an MP3 player, having tech support on your side (and at your home or business) can help ensure that gift recipients get the full enjoyment



Thanks for the memory: Surprisingly, a computer system upgrade may be well within your gift-giving budget.

from those bubble-wrapped goodies—all for a fraction of what you might expect. The result is up-to-date computer systems that help the recipients ring in the new year in style.

This information comes from the certified technicians at Geeks On Call, who deliver prompt, expert PC service on-site at homes and businesses around the country. With approximately 340 franchises nationwide, they're handy for small or home offices that can't afford to hire a full-time IT staff. Whether you want to improve your computer's performance, upgrade the components, install a wireless network, or just learn how to use your PC more effectively, the company can help. Its network of trusted, industry-certified technicians has years of technology experience and training.

You can learn more online at www.geeksoncall.com or by calling 1-800-905-GEEK.

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NOTICE

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We apologize for any inconvenience.

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TRAVELING WITH YOUR DOG

To make your travels more pleasant for your dog here are some tips to keep them safe and sound.

If you put your dog in a carrier put it in the back of the car but not where he/she will be exposed to direct sunlight. If you like your dog beside you, they make special seat belts for your dog. Don't use a leash for a seat belt as it could cause injury if you have to stop quickly.

Do not put your dog in the back of a pickup truck without being hooked as close to the cab part of the truck and in the middle. That way they don't jump out or are thrown out if you have to make a sudden stop or turn.

When you make a rest stop put a leash on your dog before you get out of the car. Give him/her some fresh water and maybe a dog snack for being a good dog. Unless they get car sick, don't feed them but do give them a little bit of water. Make sure they have time to go potty—that will make the rest of the trip much better for your dog.

Here is one tip that everyone should know, just like children never leave your pet in a closed car especially in summer months. The heat and insufficient air circulation can lead to heat stress and even a possibility of death. In winter time they can get cold and be uncomfortable. Never leave the car running with pets or children in it, even if it is just

for a couple of minutes.

Carry recent photos of your dog to help identify if your pet gets lost. Having an ID tag with information of where you are going to be and your home address will help. You can also have a micro chip inserted into your dog just in case they are lost.

Make sure all vaccinations are up to date and your pet is in good health to travel. Take health and proof of rabies certificates, especially when traveling across the boarder.

What to pack for you dog: bowls, extra leash, favorite toys, crate, all medicine, brush, comb and a first aid kit for your dog, its own food and if possible take some water from home. Sudden diet changes may lead to digestive upsets and could spoil the trip.

Check with hotel, motel or relatives to make sure its OK to bring your pet with you.

Safe travels, Merry Christmas and a Happy wonderful New Year.

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ANTWERP'S HISTORY

By: Stan Jordan

The Weatherhead Plant was built in 1951. It has a number of additions since then. Just to the west of Weatherhead, some people built a restaurant called The Cup. It was in business for a few months, but it didn't survive and was bought and changed a number of times.

Going on down U. S. 24 prior to W.W. II, just past the curve was the Antwerp Gun Club. It was fairly active with Skeet and blue rock contests. That lasted until into the 1960's. It was the forerunner of the Antwerp Conservation Club.

Going on down the highway just past what is called the Zuber Cut-off, on the left side of the road, Harve Gordon had a Sinclair filling station. It sat just about where Brooks Pendergrast lives, maybe a little past that.

After you passed that, the highway moved over closer to the river, but when U.S. 24 was concreted, it was moved over to the south where it is now. As you know, it is a long sharp curve. If you drive west of the Forder's Bridge road towards Antwerp, they claim you are going from the longest curve in Ohio to the sharpest curve in Ohio. It has been called Dead Man's Curve. It has been aptly named because I recollect 6 fatal accidents there. The light 1935 and 1937 Fords could not hold the road. You were allowed to drive 65 M.P.H. But the V8's were to light for that much speed on such a long sharp curve, a number of them would roll over.

The road going east at the end of the curve brings back a couple memories. If you would turn right and go south past Sanders' Body Shop on down to that railroad crossing, there was a grocery store and depot called Knoxdale. I think that years ago there was a small settlement there.

Going back north to road number 206 going east from U. S. 24 which takes you on to Cecil, where the Wabash railroad crossed the road, a little old house sat right by the crossing. Homer Hargrave's grandpa lived there and this road was called The Hargrave's Pike.

About the only thing left on U.S. 24 is a few miles down the road and it is called Rochester. It was the first Paulding County Seat about 1830. I have heard said that Fort Brown was just a big settlement. The county seat was then moved to Paulding because Paulding is more centrally located.

John Paulding, Isaac Van Wert and Reuben Putnam were the men who helped capture Major Andre', a British Spy back during the Revolutionary War, these counties were named in there honor. I think this came about during the period called The Firelands, when a lot of those veterans were given land for their service. That is way back in Ohio's history. Any veteran of the Revolutionary War could get 160 acres of free land for his service to the government. They were called the Firelands, and the biggest part of these were in northeast Ohio, because the rest of Ohio was more primitive.

GILLMOR SAYS BORDER SECURITY BILL PROTECTS AMERICA

Congressman Paul E. Gillmor (R- Old Fort) voted for legislation on Friday to stem the flow of illegal immigrants into the United States. The Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 239 to 182.

"Our nation was founded as a nation of immigrants. The intention of the House was not to end our tradition as a welcoming nation but rather to ensure the safety of all our residents—whether born in America or abroad. Unfortunately, the days of Ellis Island have long past. Today, too many immigrants are crossing our borders illegally because they would be denied entry otherwise. This legislation to restrict illegal immigration is long overdue and I was pleased to see the House take a great step forward," Gillmor said.

Among the many provisions of the Border Security bill is the requirement that the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security coordinate with the Border Patrol to ensure widespread state-of-the-art border surveillance is employed. This will ensure complete coverage of the borders through cameras, sensors, radar, satellite, and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles. In addition, the House has authorized the hiring and training of 1,000 new, full-time port of entry inspectors and 1,500 additional K-9 units in the next five years.

The House has also voted to end the practice of "Catch and Release." In the past, the Border Patrol was forced to release illegal aliens which had been apprehended due to a lack of detention space. In October of 2006, the Border Patrol will be required to detain all illegal immigrants and keep them in custody until they are removed from the country. Other measures passed by the House include an increased penalty for alien smuggling and increased penalties for aliens reentering the U.S. illegally. The House passed provisions which would render members of alien street gangs and violent felons inadmissible and deportable from the United States. Lastly, the House made multiple DUI offenses a deportable offense for all aliens.

"Our world today is much different then when our country was young. While maintaining our nation as a country which welcomes 'your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,' we must remain vigilant against the enemies of America who would use our generosity and care to harm us. Requiring foreigners to enter America lawfully is a commonsense and fair approach to immigration reform," Gillmor said. "I am pleased that the House has moved to pass legislation which will help secure our borders and I look forward to the coming debate regarding comprehensive immigration reform," Gillmor concluded.

The Border Security Bill awaits debate and passage in the U.S. Senate before it can be forwarded to the President for his signature.

SOMETHING YOU MAY NOT HAVE HEARD RECENTLY: WE ARE WINNING IN IRAQ

If you open a national newspaper or watch the evening news, you may get the feeling that our efforts in Iraq have not been successful. While many of the successes in the War in Iraq have gone unreported in national newspapers and magazines, our accomplishments have been numerous. Certainly we can all agree that this war has been harder and longer than many expected. However, the lives of the Iraqi people have improved exponentially. Just this week, the people of Iraq went to the polls and, for the first time in decades, elected their parliament. This historic move is just one of the many great accomplishments of the Iraqi people in the past few months.

While the U.S. military presence in Iraq remains strong, the growing Iraqi army is providing the necessary support for our commanders to reduce troop strength in the region. With over 97 Army battalions and 214,000 trained security forces, the Iraqi people are quickly becoming able to police themselves. In addition, 75,000 Iraqi policemen are patrolling their cities while another 5,700 are in training. With more than 87 percent of all operations in Iraq conducted with Iraqi forces, the management and policing of Iraq has become an Iraqi duty.

The life of Iraqis has also improved beyond expectations as a result of U.S. action. Clean water for 3 million Iraqis, sewage disposal for 4.5 million Iraqis and almost half of the electric power in Iraq has come as a result of American projects. We have built or renovated 700 schools and provided the money to train more than 36,000 teachers. Since April 2003, 30,529 new businesses have been created in Iraq and GDP is expected to grow by 17% next year.

Beyond the Baathist elites, the life of a common Iraqi under Saddam Hussein was harsh and brutal. Throughout Iraq, sewage ran down the streets and most Iraqis did not have more than 4 hours of

electricity per day. In America, the average person watches more than 4 and a half hours of television per day and at least one television is on in the average U.S. household more than 7 hours each day. This is just one contrast which has existed as a result of the reign of Saddam Hussein. However today, millions of Iraqis have clean drinking water for the first time and more than 5 million children have been vaccinated against disease. Iraqis are buying televisions, air conditioners, cell phones and refrigerators. Iraqis have been empowered to begin benefiting from the life of freedom which Americans enjoy.

The war in Iraq has been long and difficult. The insurgents, many of whom come from beyond the Iraqi borders, have not cared who their targets were. They have been callus in their attacks on innocent Iraqi women and children. But make no mistake; the lives of the people of Iraq are better because of our efforts. This war reached a turning point this week as the people of Iraq voted for their new parliament. The direction of the 275-member parliament will no doubt relieve U.S. forces of some of their responsibilities and expedite the restoration of power to the new Iraqi government and the safe return of our forces.

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(NAPSA)—All aboard for a magical journey with a new holiday classic, available for the first time on DVD.

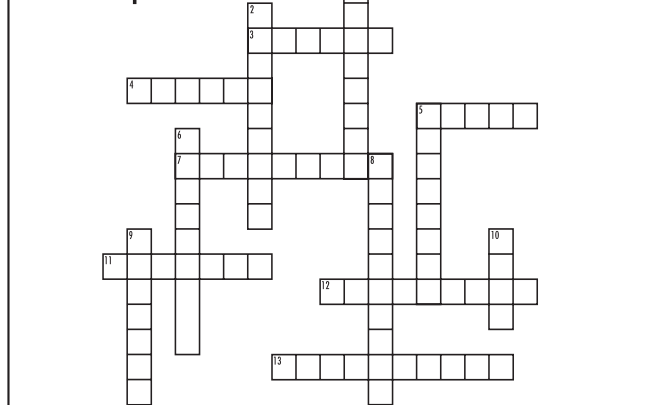
"The Polar Express," which has the Academy Award-winning duo of Tom Hanks and director Robert Zemeckis teaming up again, is an awe-inspiring tale about the power of belief—one that transcends generations and cultures. Based on the best-selling novel by writer/illustrator Chris Van Allsburg.

It's the ride of Hero Boy's life on Christmas Eve, as he, Hero Girl, Know-It-All and other children board the titular train and roller-coaster up and down mountains, slip-slide over ice fields, teeter across mile-high bridges and are served hot chocolate by singing waiters more astonishing than they can imagine.

"The Polar Express" is available as of November 22 in a two-disc Special Edition DVD from Warner Home Video that offers such extras as the theatrical trailer, a never-before-heard song, behind-the-scenes secrets, music videos, a discussion with Van Allsburg, menu challenges for kids, Christmas memories from the filmmakers, video sequences highlighting the animation process and a demo of "The Polar Express" video game. The single-disc DVD will contain only the movie.

See what you know about "The Polar Express," its cast, characters and more with this crossword puzzle.

The Polar Express



- ACROSS**
- 3 "The Polar Express" was nominated for three of these awards.
 - 4 All _____! (2 Down yells it).
 - 5 The Polar Express is this kind of transport.
 - 7 Where The Polar Express goes (2 words).
 - 11 They serve the hot chocolate.
 - 12 The movie takes place around this holiday.
 - 13 He sang the song "Believe" (2 words).
- DOWN**
- 1 Nona Gaye provides the voice for this character (2 words).
 - 2 He checks your ticket on The Polar Express.
 - 5 He lent his voice to five different characters (2 words).
 - 6 This character has a lot of facts in his head (hyph).
 - 8 Bonus features found on the "Polar Express" DVD (2 words).
 - 9 Performance _____ (animation technology used to make the film).
 - 10 The movie was released in this jumbo-screen format.
- ANSWERS**
- | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|---------|-------------|
| 3 Across | Oscars | 1 Down | Hero Girl |
| 4 Across | Aboard | 2 Down | Conductor |
| 5 Across | Train | 5 Down | Tom Hanks |
| 7 Across | North Pole | 6 Down | Know It All |
| 11 Across | Waiters | 8 Down | Easter Eggs |
| 12 Across | Christmas | 9 Down | Capture |
| 13 Across | Josh Groban | 10 Down | Imax |

PROTECT YOURSELF THIS TIME OF YEAR

By: Kristi Bowersock

Shop, shop, shop. This is a virus born to every female. It usually hits hard during the month of December, even broadening its scope to the male species. So what can you do to protect yourself? How do I defend against this bug? Here are some things to help you, so you don't get the virtual end of the shopping bug, aka the shopping mugger.

First of all, how many of you shop alone at Christmas time? I know you don't want everyone to know what gifts you are buying. But play it safe . . . don't make one loaded trip to the car. Try to make several trips say, when at the mall and you know you have a lot of shopping to do. Try to park as close as you can and in a well lit area. Try not to park way, way out off by yourself in Row "Z"

You should try to shop with someone. Escorting each other to and from the car. Remember to pay attention to people around you. Around exit doors to the parking lot and to your car. When putting packages in the vehicle, put them in the trunk or covered in the back. Let's not invite the bug to break in. Always have keys ready and unlock clicker in hand for either trunk or doors. Constantly monitor the parking lot on your way to the car. Attackers will hurry to get from one aisle to another. Especially if you look like a victim.

Try to dress for the occasion. I realize it's cold, but your not going to be outside for long periods of time. Use undershirts, turtle necks, and sweaters. Coats and scarfs are bulky and easy to grab. Making you easier to take down.

Your scarf could end up being used against you as a restraint. Remember they could be after a lot more than Christmas gifts. If your coat is heavy and bulky, it will make it harder for you to get away once they grab onto it. By leaving the coat in the car, you have more freedom for self-defense and more shopping.

When buying jewelry, expensive watches and etc. Try to make only one shopping trip for just those items. Ladies please don't put them in your purse. Keep items on your person or disguise them. I once bought a pair of very expensive earrings in the mall. I put the box in my purse and put the earrings on my ears. My hair and stocking cap concealed my purchase. A purse is a great weapon. Please carry money and credit cards in two different jeans or pants pockets. Separate your funds in different places. I knew someone who carried a small change purse in her boots. I commend her for the effort.

Once your purse is nabbed so is your money, keys, checkbook, credit cards and maybe a purchase. Muggers will watch you sometimes at the jewelry counters or follow you in the mall. Pay attention not just in the parking lot but as you do your shopping. Those attackers with a PhD in mugging will stock you at times. Not always are your attackers male. Yes, it could be a female. This time of the

year brings all types to the game. They might even have helpers, children included. Desperate teens on the street make a profit by helping or tag teaming their prey.

When shopping somewhere new or inner city multi-level shopping malls look at the mall maps located in all shopping centers. Always ask security officers for directions or information centers. Try not to ask store assistants for directions, some could overhear you, thus you've just been tagged an easy mark. You have just proven you're from out of town and not sure of your surroundings. Having

a cell phone when shopping is always a good idea. Make sure it's charged well.

I hope these little tips help you in your adventures in shopping. Always watch out for the shopping bug aka . . . shopping mugger no matter what time of year or where you are.

From all of us at the Dragon's Den Martial Arts Academy, we wish you a very safe and Merry Christmas.

We will be offering a women's self-defense course after the first of the year. Stop by and let us know if you're interested. Happy shopping.

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name JESUS, because he will save his people from their sins." *Matthew 1:21*

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Investors should carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses of any mutual fund distributed by AIG SunAmerica Capital Services, Inc. before investing. This and other important information is contained in the prospectus, which can be obtained from your financial adviser or from the AIG SunAmerica Sales Desk at 800-858-8850, ext. 6003. Read the prospectus carefully before you invest.

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PC WORKSHOP CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES



PC WORKSHOP'S CHRISTMAS DINNER

PC Workshop held their annual Christmas Dinner on Thursday, December 15. After eating lunch catered by Grant's, Santa made a special visit. Workers enjoyed sharing their wish lists. Helper Mr. Lane made this an enjoyable afternoon and put many smiles on the faces of employees and staff.

PARC LANE TRAINING CENTER CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The PARC Lane Training Center had a Christmas Program and Potluck on Wednesday, December 14. A very special visitor attended and brought large bags with gifts. Elves that helped with this project included the St. Paul's United Methodist Youth Group, Payne; the Bethel United Methodist Mission Outreach Group, Cecil and the PCBMRDD Transportation Department. A very special helper and elf were Larry and Marcia Pressler.

Cardiac Arrest Survivor Says, "Every Day's A Joy Now"

(NAPSA)—More than 450,000 Americans suffer from cardiac arrest, which is when the heart stops pumping, resulting in a loss of blood flow and consciousness. Jim Murphy was lucky. He survived thanks to New York's Lake Mohegan Fire District (LMFD) paramedics and a device called the ZOLL AutoPulse, which does what humans can rarely do—perform near-perfect CPR.



The device compresses a victim's entire chest and automatically does CPR chest compressions.

Studies show that even when done well, traditional manual CPR only provides minimal blood flow needed for survival. Additionally, CPR is tiring and hard to do in some places. The AutoPulse, from ZOLL Medical Corporation, is a device comprised of a backboard and a LifeBand fastened across a victim's chest. Once fastened, the LifeBand adjusts automatically to the patient before starting automated chest compressions. "I'm glad the fire department had it," Murphy said. "Otherwise, I would be dead. Every day's a joy now."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Are you guilty? I wonder how many other physically challenged people feel as I do, about the handicap parking place at the Post Office. It never fails for me, any time day or night. Either a person that is not handicapped parks in the spot or right behind so you can't get in or out, until they move. They even have the nerve to ask you to wait on them til they check their mail, or insult you.

Also people that "borrow" Mom & Dad's or grandpa's place card so they can park in the handicap parking. I would gladly trade my handicap plates and sticker for their healthy legs and feet!

Thank you for letting me get this off of my chest.

L. E. Rothgeb

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"BLESSSED IS HE WHO IS NOT OFFENDED BECAUSE OF ME"—LUKE 7:11-23

"And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to Jesus, saying, 'Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?' When the men had come to Him, they said, 'John the Baptist has sent us to You, saying, 'Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?' And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight. Jesus answered and said to them, 'Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.'"

The other day my wife and I were shopping in Defiance and needed to stop at Sears. As we walked up to the door I saw a curious sight—a plain, characterless sign in black & white that read "Merry Christmas" with the company logo in the lower right corner and a barcode in the lower left. I thought to myself, "Man, that's an odd looking sign, what's the story?" My answer came Thursday evening when I received an e-mail, The Pastor's Weekly Briefing from Focus on the Family. The lead story was titled, "Christmas Under Attack."

The opening paragraph read... "While the trend to replace the word 'Christmas' with 'holiday' or 'winter' in retail stores and public schools has been steadily growing over the years, it seems that this year, the assault on public expressions of Christmas has risen to an unprecedented level..."

The city of Boston recently renamed its Christmas tree in Boston Commons a 'holiday tree.'

In Memphis, Tennessee, a public library manger scene had the animals and the shepherds displayed, but baby Jesus, Mary, and Joseph were conspicuously absent.

A Seattle-area school district recalled its December lunch menus for 23 elementary schools because they were printed with the greeting 'Merry Christmas.' The greeting on the 11,500 menus was changed to 'Happy Holidays' at a cost to the school district of \$494.

For about 25 years, Auburn University in Alabama has lit a Christmas tree in De-

ember. This year the Student Government Association in a press release announced the lighting of the 'Holiday Tree' on December 1.

In 260 pages of newspaper inserts, Target, Kroger, Office Max, Walgreen's, Sears, Staples, Lowe's, J.C. Penney, Dell and Best Buy failed to mention Christmas a single time according to research by the American Family Association.

The article goes on... "The situation is bleak but there are positive changes." So I ask myself, 'Oh, o.k., what's the good news?'

"Walgreen's distributed a letter that read "Next year, our advertising will better incorporate Christmas and our holiday trees will be called Christmas trees."

A spokesman for Target told the New York Times this week that it might, it might make reference to Christmas in advertising later this year.

Sears announced recently that it has placed Merry Christmas signs at the front entrances to all their stores nationwide."

And I suppose in light of everything these can be considered positive changes. But the more I thought about that black & white sign the more I thought it was a concession to the demands of the market with little of the Spirit of Christmas expressed. And not in very good humor either.

Well, as I did my research for this message I came across the following. Here's how you wish someone Merry Christmas in a post-modern, pluralistic, politically correct society...

Please accept with no obligation, implied or implicit, our best wishes for a socially conscious, low-stress, non-addictive, gender neutral celebration of a holiday on or near the date of the winter solstice, practiced within the most enjoyable traditions of the religious and/or secular persuasion of your choice, with respect for the religious/secular persuasions and/or traditions of others, inclusive of the choice to not engage in any religious or secular traditions.

Then of course there is Blue-Collar TV on the WB and Comedy Central with Jeff Foxworthy, Bill Engvall, & Larry the Cable Guy. There's a video clip making the rounds on the Internet featuring Larry the Cable guy sitting in a rocking chair in front of a fireplace surrounded by a group of young children. He is agitatedly telling a famous

Christmas story, saying, "Now, they wanna 'politically correct' up Christmas stories so they don't offend nobody, and ev'rybody ev'rywhere can enjoy 'em. So, this is the story formerly known as 'Twas the Night Before Christmas.' It is now known as 'Twas the Night Before a Non-denominational Winter Holiday.'" And on he reads...

"'Twas the night before a non-denominational winter holiday; and all through the house not a creature was stirring; not even a mouse. The neutral gift sacks were hung by the chimney with care in hopes that a non-specific holiday figure would soon be there. Children of every race, creed, and nationality were restin' all snug in their beds while visions of sugar free plums danced in their heads. When out on the lawn, there arose such a clatter I got up out of bed to see what was the matter—and to see who was violating the neighborhood sound level ordinance. But what to my wandering eyes should appear; than an emissions free vehicle and eight size challenged reindeer. Holiday Figure was so lively and quick; I knew in a moment it must be... ..Holiday Figure..."

This would really be funny if it weren't so sad. You know, the secularization of the celebration of Christmas isn't a recent occurrence. Consider the message of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol—or the message of A Charlie Brown Christmas where Charlie Brown cries out "Can anyone tell me what the real meaning of Christmas is?" Thankfully Linus is able to give him the answer from Luke chapter 2; "Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."

As society had no room for Jesus in the days when he was to be delivered it seems society has little or no room for him today—unless of course it is going to affect the bottom line and we need to put up a black and white sign that says Merry Christmas. When I first saw it I was encouraged, saying to myself "Oh this is good!" But the more I thought about it the more I thought that it might as well say 'Merry Stinkin' Christmas'. It seems secular society finds the life and ministry of Jesus just plain too offensive to be even culturally considered. And in the scripture text for this message (Luke 7:11-23) there is a marvelous demonstration of the power of God as Jesus interrupts the funeral of a widow's only son. The passage concludes with an interesting statement "...blessed is he who is not offended because of Me." I think that is a telling thing for us to hear Jesus say in this season and in the environment in which we live culturally these days—"...blessed is he who is not offended because of Me." A warning perhaps—an admonition for sure—speaking to our fallen human condition of being offended in spite of the beauty of his life!

John the Baptist has asked the question, "Are you the One?" And the text is clear in its declaration... He is the one! Jesus is the one promised to come! Since he IS the one the question is... are you offended or blessed? Which we will discover with four points... Examination, Exhibition, Injunction, and Invita-

tion. John's disciples return to him and report Jesus' miracle of raising this man from the dead. You can almost hear their voices... "Man John, you should've seen it. There was this widow woman whose son died. They were on the way to bury him. Jesus shows up and the next thing you know he is sitting up and speaking to his mother. Then all the people with awe and wonder began to glorify God saying, 'A great prophet has risen up among us' and 'God has visited His people.'

How does John react to this news? He called two disciples and sent them to Jesus to ask, 'Are You the Coming One, or should we look for another?' So they go as they are told and they examine Jesus. It's an examination—it's a test—and there is only one question on the test—"Are you the One or should we look for another?" And don't you know that behind all of this hoopla about mega-churches being open (for services on Christmas morning) and Christmas not being mentioned in the public square—underlying all of that, subconsciously for many people, the question is, "Are you the one?" "Is he the one?" Or maybe it's a statement: "I don't believe he is the one!"

We are not going to take the time to try to discover all of the reasons why John sent these disciples to Jesus with this question. Suffice it to say that he was in prison for preaching the truth and pointing to the Christ of God. The key is, how does Jesus respond to the test question? He does so with an exhibition.

Does Jesus jump right in and give them a direct answer? Saying, "Yes indeed, I am the one and you can tell John." How does he answer? The scripture text says, "And that very hour He cured many infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight." "And that very hour." In the moment that the question was posed it says "and that very hour." When that doubt started to float around—"and that very hour." In that moment, how telling are those words, "and that very hour." He doesn't answer with words but with an exhibition of the power of the Spirit of God. Satan's ability to afflict humanity through illness was broken and defeated in the presence of Jesus.

So Jesus gives John's disciples first, an exhibition—showing the power of God—and then, an injunction. He gave them an order, directing them back to John. "Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard." "Go and tell John!" "Go and tell John what you've seen." "Go and tell John what you've heard." And what is it that they should tell him? The essence of Luke's gospel as told in chapter four—blind see, lame walk, lepers are cleansed, deaf hear, dead are raised, poor have the gospel preached to them.

You should remember how Jesus returned to his hometown of Nazareth in Luke chapter four and how he went to the synagogue and was asked to read the scroll of Isaiah from what we know as the sixty first chapter. And the attendant handed him the scroll and he stood up and he began to read... "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anoint-

ed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." Then he rolled the scroll back up, handed it back to the attendant, and sat down. And every eye was fixed on him wondering if he was going to give commentary on this passage of scripture he had just read. But there was a supernatural, spiritual element at work in that place. It wasn't just waiting for a commentary but the word had spread about this Jesus. So he looked at them and he said in verse twenty-one of Luke chapter four, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

Now those folks present knew this passage from Isaiah chapter sixty-one prophesied about the coming kingdom on earth as established by Messiah. So when Jesus said this scripture was fulfilled in him they rose up in anger, drove him out of the synagogue, drove him to the edge of a cliff, and attempted to kill him. Why? Because for him to make that claim was blasphemy.

So Jesus gives John's disciples an injunction to go and tell John essentially the same thing; "Tell John what you have seen—me—fulfilling that passage of scripture from Isaiah that nearly got me killed back in Nazareth." Go and tell John the things that you have seen and heard. Go and tell John your experience of the miraculous and divine. Go and tell John that Good News is proclaimed to the weary and burdened—and the year of the Lord's favor has arrived.

Then Jesus offers this unusual aside which is something of an invitation. "And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me." This saying brings us full circle from where we began. If we were to state this negatively

(Continued on Page 9)

ANTWERP JUNIOR HIGH BASKETBALL

On December 13, the Junior High Antwerp Archers travelled to Ottoville High School to face off against the Big Green.

In seventh grade action the leading scorers were: Ottoville—N. Turnwald 11, S. Pohlman 6, A. Menke 6, T. Gasser 4, J. Fischer 2, L. Kaverman 2

Antwerp—Logan Lucas 8, Jordan Koppenhofer 6, Tanner Copsey 3, John Brown 2, Anthony Reid 2

The Antwerp 7th grade boys got into a hole early but worked hard to climb out. They closed the gap to four points before yielding to a physically stronger Ottoville club. "The boys improved from their first game and if that continues it will be just a matter of time before we get over the hump," stated Antwerp coach Kevin Taylor.

Final score was a defeat for the Archers: 21-31.

In the eighth grade arena the leading scorers were:

Ottoville—Byrne 14, Schimmoeller 10, Beining 6, Manns 5, Altenburger 4, Koester 2

Antwerp—Travis Woodard 18, Isaac Yenser 9, John Rindahl 8, Justin Johnson 4, Aaron Hughes 2, Mike Stuart 1, Beau Koober 1

The Antwerp 8th grade boys pounded the ball down low and it paid dividends as Travis Woodard (18 pts, 13 rb) and John Rindahl (8pts, 8 rb) accounted for 26 of the teams 43 points and a combined 21 rebounds. "The boys definitely executed what we have been stressing in practice today, and it showed that it can and will work," stated coach Tim Copsey.


The final score was 43-41 with the Archers coming out on top.

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Ron's last day of full time employment will be December 31, 2005. He is going to continue working part time as the Safety Director for Lutterbein Lumber for a while.

Please come to the open house on Saturday, December 17, at Lutterbein Lumber Company from 12:30 to 3:00 p.m. and congratulate Ron while sharing some of your memories with him of his last 48 1/2 years at Lutterbein's.

(Continued from Page 8)

we would say, "Cursed is he who is offended because of me." And in this season perhaps more than any other the scandal of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ come to the forefront of people's thinking—the offense that is felt because of Jesus come to the forefront of people's thinking. I mean, after all, how is it possible that a baby born in a manger, in a stable, two-thousand years ago, to a woman who purportedly was a virgin when she conceived—how is it possible that this one grew up to be called the Son of God? How is it possible that that baby born there could claim to be God? That's an offense to our sensibilities—so that commercial establishments who depend on Christmas for 25% of their annual gross profits suddenly seem bent on removing all traces of Christ and the celebration of the humble story of his birth from their displays and advertising. Even from employee greetings—a manager was overheard telling a clerk at K-Mart, "You will not wish our customers Merry Christmas but Happy Holidays" or something like that.

If they were students of the scripture—these companies I mean—rather than of marketing surveys or opinion polls they would know that Jesus said blessing comes when a person isn't offended because of him. In our text, Jesus invites those who have overheard this discussion with John's disciples into the place of blessing and rest—where they're not scandalized by the miraculous and divine. Where they're not in doubt about who he is or why he came and what God's purpose is in him. And the invitation is in a very simple turn of phrase; "And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me." Blessed is the one whose moral sensibilities aren't offended by the gracious life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Who don't fall victim to the fallen human condition of being offended in spite of the beauty of his life!

So, you may be reading this as one who really wrestles with the claims of Jesus Christ. Or you may be wrestling with the claims of the church of Jesus Christ that that one born in that manger is indeed God in the flesh. And therefore would be an unbeliever at worst, or at best only marginally a believer, or a cultural, notional believer. For you then, the question boils down to the one posed by John. Are you the one? Is Jesus the promised Messiah and deliver of the world? When the people saw the demonstration of the Spirit's power in the raising of the widow's son they cried out, "A great prophet has risen among us" and "God has visited His people." So you might be inclined to say as they did, "I am prepared to accept Jesus as a prophet—a great moral teacher—but not as Lord, Master, Savior. Not as God come in the flesh."

One of the great minds of the last century wrestled with the question of Jesus' divinity—a man who was once a self-avowed atheist. He wrote the following: "I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about him:

"I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God." That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God; or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon; or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.

So then, I would simply ask you, are you offended, or blessed? Are you still in the state described in the book Mere Christianity by C. S. Lewis—author of The Chronicles of Narnia—the state of not accepting Jesus' claim to be God? If so, you would be living in a state of offense, your moral sensibilities offended by such a claim. And you can't honestly claim the blessing being offered in the invitation of Jesus.

So I would encourage you to go through this passage of scripture and see the steps it outlines of Examination, Exhibition, Injunction, and Invitation. Examine the evidence for Jesus' claims to divinity. Look to the scripture to see his exhibition of power over death and disease. Hear his injunction to go by going where you can hear The Good News preached. And then respond to his invitation knowing that Jesus is not offended by our doubt and unbelief as long as we genuinely desire to know.

And what if you are a believer and you're offended by the way society is driving Christ out of Christmas? Well, I recognized it's our choice how we are going to respond to society. So I did something a little foolish the other night to show people that I'm not going to let this secularism get the best of me. I bought a fuzzy, floppy, red Santa hat! And you know when you wear one of these it is easier to say to the clerk at the big box store, "Hey, now that I have one of these I can wish YOU a Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas!"

Come on and practice with me—with a big smile on your face say "Merry Christmas!" How hard is it to say? Why do we have to depend on the checkout clerk at K-Mart to say to us "Merry Christmas"? Why can't we in turn say to him or her or whomever "Merry Christmas"? "God Bless you this Christmas season!"

Many are grumbling about the fact that companies are urging their employees to wish folks "Happy Holidays." There are discussions on the Internet about how Honda Motor Company has subverted the song "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" to "We Wish You a Happy Holiday." (Or Happy Honda days.) But what does the word 'holiday' mean? It's from the Old English meaning 'Holy Day'. So if someone says to you Happy Holidays say, "Yes, indeed these are holy days, aren't

they?" And say it with a big smile on your face as you flip the fuzzy white ball of your fuzzy, floppy, red Santa hat to the other side of your head!

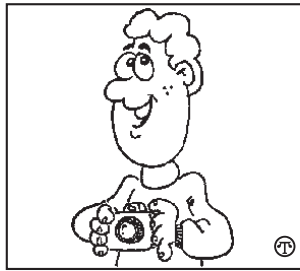
Be salt and light in a world that is so easily offended—a world whose moral sensibilities wonder whether or not there really could be a god come to earth to deliver us from sins. Be evidence of the reality of the fact that he has done that—in you and for you! Holy Days indeed! Make sure that you are not an offense—now I am not sure that a fuzzy, floppy, red Santa hat will work for me—but I am having fun wearing it and the joy of the Lord is my strength. And I try to cultivate in my life a joy-filled, infectious personality where people say "What a goofball! There's something about that guy I like! Man, it takes a lot of guts to wear a Santa hat like that!"

You know, the alternative is to be offended in spite of the beauty of the life of Christ. But I am here to say to you that he is the one! He is the one! Jesus is the one! You can go out into your communities, where you work, the place you shop, wherever you may go and say with confidence "He is the one! Merry Christmas! Happy Holy Days!"

Be blessed—but if you find you're still offended then respond to Jesus' invitation to you to come in and see, and hear, and know. Revisit the nativity narrative and see if there isn't room for him in the inn of your heart. Amen! Amen!

Grace and peace,
Bob Parker
Melrose United Methodist Church

Did You Know?



(NAPSA)—You can bring the coolest accessory to your party—the HP Photosmart 428 Photo Studio. You and your guests can easily take pictures with the included 5-megapixel camera and then print your favorite party photos on the spot via the printer's built-in camera docking system.

Racing fans can download Sprint Nextel Driver Voice Tones so they can hear Dale Earnhardt Jr., Tony Stewart and six other NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series stars every time their phones ring. Then there's the Nextel 2-Way Communication Headset. This device can be plugged into most scanners, letting fans hear live, in-race communication between drivers and their crews. The product is simultaneously linked to the fan's wireless phone, enabling people to chat, even during the noisiest race moments, thanks to a noise-canceling device. For more information on voice tones, headsets and other racing-inspired Sprint Nextel products and services, visit www.sprint.com.

To purchase jewelry with confidence, the nonprofit Gemological Institute of America (GIA) recommends buying from someone with recognized industry credentials, such as a Graduate Gemologist or Accredited Jewelry Professional.

Manufacturers are increasingly looking to reduce the weight of airplane seats, thus reducing the overall weight of the aircraft. This could lead to lower fuel costs and faster travel times, savings that may ultimately be reflected in ticket prices. In addition, weight savings gained will partially offset weight increases from in-flight entertainment and other features. To learn more about aircraft seating and safety, visit www.faa.gov.

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"I grew up in Hicksville and I must admit the hospital is a much better place than it used to be! Keep up the exceptional work! I am extremely impressed at the quality of food that was served. It's better than Lutheran and Parkview in Fort Wayne. Congratulations to those in charge of the kitchen to the cooks and the staff. Two thumbs up! Overall stay at hospital - I will definitely come back to CMH instead of Fort Wayne! Nurses all work as team players. The whole hospital had an "air" of confidence, compassion, warmth, and concern. It's a great place to be if you are sick! Thanks to everyone!"

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This is a photo of Ping Pong and not be confused with other look-alikes.

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January 5th!

The WEST BEND NEWS

ONE GOLD AND LONELY NIGHT . . .

The crisp, cold night sky was filled with twinkling stars and under my red rubber boots the snow crunched as I walked briskly to the barn. I could see my breath as I breathed in and out, like little puffs of clouds. I was in a hurry to get there so that no one in my family would see that I had left the house. I knew that they would not miss me once I was out of sight and if they did they would assume that I was in bed.

With a mighty shove, I pushed the sliding door open just enough to squeeze through and quickly shoved them closed again. Almost immediately, Patsy, my little brown dog was there by my side. I reached down to scratch her ears and her stubby tail wagged with delight. I followed Patsy up the ladder into the hay loft and followed her to the snug little nest she had dug for herself. Looking to make sure I could see the cows from there, I snuggled down next to her. I burrowed as deep in the straw for warmth as I could and put Patsy on my lap for even more warmth.

The sounds and smells of that barn are still with me today and I can close my eyes and visualize it just as it was back then. It was filled with the smell of dozens of cows and the sweet smell of hay and straw. Up on one of the barn beams a couple of chickens clucked contentedly. "Ruby," I scolded, "You know you're supposed to be roosting in the hen house." She fluffed her feathers, giving a few more soft clucks, and focused her

beady eyes on me as if to say, "Not tonight, I have something important to see." Her long-time sidekick, Ernest, directed his beady gaze to me but made not a sound.

The only sound to be heard was that of cows softly moving around in the pen; a perfect night to keep watch. I scooted under a blanket of straw with Patsy curled up in my lap for warmth. Soon she was snoring away contentedly confident that her best friend would keep her warm.

As I waited for the magic hour in silence, a lot of thoughts ran through my head. I wondered about the girls at school and what they were getting for Christmas this year. I did not have to wonder about what, if anything would be under our tree; it would be the same as in years before. There would be socks and underwear replacements (which were long overdue) and perhaps, if I were lucky, a new pair of pants. No use in dreaming of dolls and tea sets or perhaps a book because they would not arrive.

I had long since reconciled myself to the fact that we did not receive good presents at our house. I wondered if it had been different when Mom was alive but I barely remembered her so there was no way to know. I suspected deep inside me that the reason we didn't get presents was because we did not go to church. I was pretty sure that God didn't care about people who didn't go to church. Someone I thought was my friend had pretty much told me that at school one day when she told me I couldn't play with her friends because I didn't even go to church. When I stopped to think about it I was certain it must be true because our family was a mess. I desperately wanted to go to church but to even say that out loud would have brought on anger from my dad and scorn and humiliation from my brothers and sisters. Still I was determined to find out if there was a God in heaven and I could think of no better way to find out than to watch the cows at midnight.

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A few weeks before, one of the girls at school had told me that cows kneel down at midnight in honor of the birth of Jesus. I had never heard of this until, Martha informed me of this as we were working on drawing a manger scene. Certainly there was no better way to find out if God existed than to wait until midnight to see if cows really did honor Christ by kneeling down. But then I wondered if God even knew where we lived since His name was never mentioned in our house. There was no happiness in our house only anger and hurt. Kind words were not spoken only ones mean to ridicule and hurt.

I sat feeling so alone and unloved. The tears began to fall silently as I sat there. I tried furiously to wipe them away because I had always been told not to cry; that was for babies. Well, here I was nine years old and certainly didn't want to be a baby. I sat there for a long, long time feeling the silence all around me; shoulders drooped with the weight of the world and tears silently falling. Soon, it would be time to watch the cows but right now they were still calmly chewing their cuds.

I don't know the exact moment it happened but suddenly I felt a warmth and peace come over me that I could not explain. It was as if I were sitting in a beam of sunlight

even though the night was dark. I could feel such a sense of love and compassion. I didn't even have the presence of mind to question what was happening, just the sense that I wanted to stay right there for a very long time. I had the sensation of resting my head on someone's chest and being comforted and soothed. Time has no meaning at this point because I do not know how long I sat like this. I don't think I was asleep because I was aware of being in the barn with Patsy snuggled up in my lap. It was as if I were in another level of consciousness. I was acutely aware that I was not alone and that I was being comforted. Words came to me without sound saying, "do not be sad, for you are loved. I am always here with you, looking out for you in all things." "Your life may be painful right now but it will get better." "You can always look to me for comfort and love." "I will never leave you for I have been with you since before you were born." I know that in my entire life I had never felt so at peace and fully loved. I wanted to stay right there forever and not have to go back to reality but that was not to be.

My next awareness was straw poking and scratching me and my legs being cramped from being folded under me. There was lightness in the barn that made

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

My neighbor and I have been going to the Paulding Food Pantry at the Lion's Club for approximately a year now.

At the risk of sounding like I am biting the hand that feeds me, I have a concern I would like answered.

We are both single senior citizens and what we get each month is usually the same, no matter if people give more at Christmas time or not.

In fact we were one day early, so we can't go the month of December. But my concern is, who decides the amount you receive? Following is a list of what we receive every month. Three cans vegetables, one can potatoes, three cans of soup, one small box macaroni or rice, three snacks—one oz. pkg, one can tomatoes, one pkg. of crackers out of the box, half dozen eggs, three pkg. of instant oatmeal out of box. All regular cereals and boxes are for families. Pudding snacks—two containers out of pkg. of four, no pancake mix or syrup—families only. Six pkg. strawberry and six pkg.

grape jellies (the size served with a meal in a restaurant), two cans of fruit, one can tuna, one can of meat providing you don't take hot dogs, a whole frozen chicken—for families only. No baking supplies—families only. Two bars motel-size soaps, one roll of toilet paper and (if they have it) one dish soap or laundry soap—but in the year we have been going we only received it once.

We do appreciate what we receive, but why do they figure we don't eat the same as a family? We can't go to the grocery store and tear open the packages for just what we want.

I donate every time someone in taking up a food collection. I try to give generously to the Boy Scouts every year.

I just am interested in knowing who sets the guidelines. I thank God there are programs like these out there.

Now if they can just stop the abusers of the system, those that give a fake name and fake income, we'll be all set! Thank you.

Tannie Rothgeb

me realize that it was long past midnight. Nevertheless, I sat up to look at the cows to see if they had changed any. No, they were just the same as when I had arrived at the barn.

At first I was sad that I had missed seeing them at midnight but then that sense of peace overwhelmed me and I knew all was well and that I was indeed a beloved child of God. I had experienced something a whole lot bigger that night. There was no questioning that I had been in the presence of God and that he had left me with a certainty and acceptance that made me feel so full of love and peace. No longer was I the sad little kid who doubted God's existence; I knew He was real and that I was loved. It didn't matter so much the family I had been born into. I knew that no matter what my life was like, God was right there beside me to see me through.

Patsy followed me back to the house and I slipped quietly in to my bedroom. I laid there thinking of the most wonderful evening I had ever spent. I still didn't know if cows kneel down at midnight or not, but suddenly it wasn't all that important.

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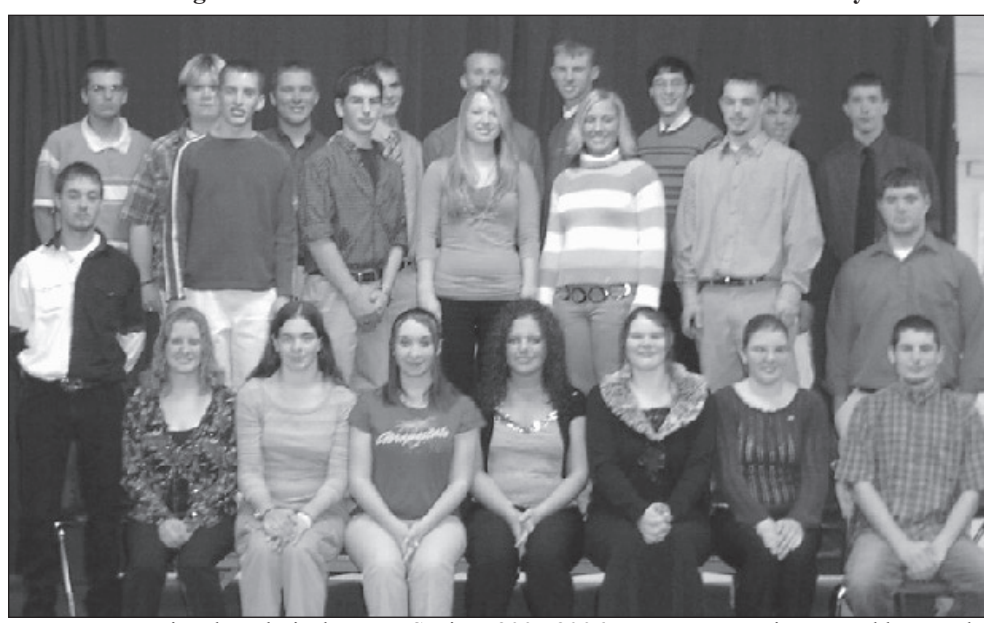
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"FROM THE VANTAGE POINT":

Twenty-six Vantage seniors from nine different home schools were selected as members of the Vantage Chapter of the National Technical Honor Society. They were introduced and inducted at the NTHS banquet on Thursday, December 8, 2005. Guests in attendance at the banquet to recognize this elite group of students included parents, home school principals and Vantage teachers and administrators. Speaker for the evening was Vantage Director, Mr. Bob Vennekotter.

The main purpose of the National Technical Honor Society is to reward scholastic achievement in occupational and career-technical education. The NTHS assists members in their pursuit of career and educational goals. Membership also encourages skill development, honesty, service, leadership, citizenship, and individual responsibility. In addition, students are selected for membership in NTHS as a reward for excellence in workforce education; to develop self-esteem, pride and encourage students to reach for higher levels of

Vantage Inducts 26 Students in National Technical Honor Society



Vantage National Technical Honor Society 2005-2006 - Front row: Lisa McNabb, Mandy Hoaglin, Ashley Farris, Sara Pitney, Crystal Robison, Heather Binkley and Brandon Woodruff. Row 2: Daniel Prowant, Greg Brown, Kevin Klinger, Karey Sams, Audree Lindeman, Mark Carrier, Blaine Dennis Row 3: Colton Knepper, John DeMuth, Michael Schnipke, Adam Schumacher, Steven Becker, Doug Eickholt, Josh Brueckner, Casey Hoersten and Adam Hoaglin. Not pictured: Deidra Basinger, Lucas Jewett and Matt Woodcox

achievement; and to promote business and industry's critical work-place values - honesty, responsibility, initiative, teamwork, productivity, leadership, and citizenship.

NTHS membership is the benchmark in career-technical education - the highest award for excellence - and is one of the most reliable indicators of performance and leadership in the American workplace. Students who achieved a 3.5 grade point average or better, while maintaining a 95% attendance rate at Vantage were eligible to apply for membership. In addition to submitting a resume and writing a paragraph stating why they would like to be a part of the NTHS, the students also were required to obtain three teacher recommendations.

Students selected for membership in the National Technical Honor Society for the 2005-2006 school year are Colton Knepper (Welding) and Matt Woodcox (Industrial Mechanics) from Antwerp, Deidra Basinger (Medical/Legal Specialist), Sara Pitney (Cosmetology) and Daniel Prowant (Ag Diesel Mechanics) from Continental, Greg Brown (Welding), Josh Brueckner (Interactive Media), Mark Carrier (Welding), Blaine Dennis (Industrial Mechanics), Adam Hoaglin (Welding), Mandy Hoaglin (Welding), Lucas Jewett (Network Systems), and Kevin Klinger (Network Systems), all from Crestview, Audree Lindeman (Interactive Media) from Ft. Jennings, Steven Becker (Precision Machin-

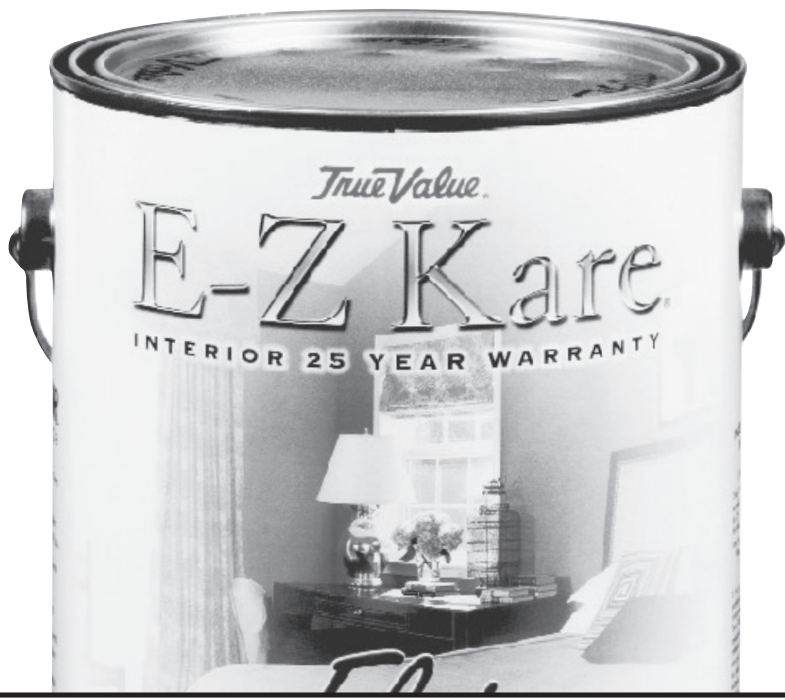
ing), and Adam Schumacher (Precision Machining) from Kalida, Doug Eickholt (Ag Diesel Mechanics), Casey Hoersten (Carpentry), and Michael Schnipke (Welding) all from Ottoville, John DeMuth (Network Systems), and Brandon Woodruff (Welding) from Paulding, Crystal

Robison (Culinary Arts) and Karey Sams (Health Careers) from Van Wert, and Heather Binkley (Culinary Arts), Ashley Farris (Cosmetology), and Lisa McNabb (Culinary Arts) all from Wayne Trace. Congratulations to the new National Technical Honor Society members!

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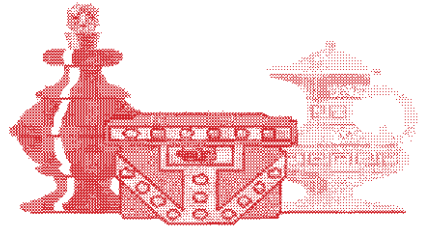
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