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VOLUME 1 - ISSUE 18 Serving All of Paulding County - (419) 258-2000 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2005

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

We the Paulding Lions would like to clarify a few facts concerning the recent letter in the December 21 issue of your paper. While our club would gladly take credit or criticism concerning the Paulding Area Food Bank, our club unfortunately has nothing to do with this fine project.

This fine service is provided through the generosity of the Paulding Kiwanis Club who provide a building to house the food bank. The food bank is stocked through the generous donations of food and monetary contributions by neighbors and friends of Paulding County. The monetary contributions are used to purchase needed items for the pantry for distribution.

The food bank is manned strictly by volunteers and the day to day operations are supervised by the Paulding Ministerial Association and a steering committee, composed of one person for each of the member churches. Our

local food bank works with the West Ohio food bank to establish guidelines on what recipients are to receive. While the Food Bank tries to help as many families and individuals as possible it would be noted they do not have an endless supply of food or financing.

The members of the Paulding Lions Club strongly encourages the residents of Paulding County to continue their support of the Paulding Food Bank. The Lions THANK the Ministerial Association and it Volunteers for their fine but often thankless efforts to help those in need.

--The Paulding Lions Club

## LUNCH MENUS

Are you interested in seeing the school lunch menus printed each week? If you are then we would need people or businesses who would be willing to sponsor the menus. Of course, your name or business would be listed and people would be seeing it. Please call 419-258-2000

## PHS STUDENTS ARE SELECTED FOR DISTRICT III HONORS CHOIR AND BAND



Paulding H.S. Band from left to right: Zack Davis, Brittini Bechtol and A.J. Wolford

By: David Brown

Brittini Bechtol and A.J. Wolford will represent Paulding High School at the combined District III Honors Choir and the District Band events.

Brittini Bechtol, soprano, and A.J. Wolford, alto, auditioned for District III Honors

Choir. Of the 300 students who auditioned, only 120 students were chosen for both choir and band.

Zack Davis, a clarinet player, will be part of a select group of 120 band members.

Both groups will perform in a combined concert on January 15, 2006.

## VIRGINIE STOPS AT PHS ON HER WAY TO SPAIN



Virginie Eeman with the Paulding Panther

By Chris Shoup

Virginie Eeman is from Genval, Belgium. Her mom is a journalist, and her dad is the director of a chain of supermarkets. Virginie has a sister, Morgane.

Virginie has already graduated from high school in Belgium. She came to America to learn how to speak English.

Virginie thinks of herself

as being strong-minded. She said, "Things can affect me, but not much can change me. I know where I'm going, and nothing can stop me."

This Belgium girl loves apple pies from McDonalds, our school spirit, the malls, Mr. Messick and hockey games.

Virginie says she misses her friends, family, and the food from Belgium. She also misses the public transport system. She explained that places in Belgium are not as spread out as they are here. Another thing she misses is driving in Belgium. She said she doesn't like all the stop signs in America.

Virginie plans to attend college and eventually go into movie making. She explained that everybody goes to college in Belgium.

Second semester of this year, Virginie will live and work in Spain for a few months. She hopes to learn to speak Spanish fluently and to

## WAYNE TRACE N.H.S. DODGE BALL TOURNAMENT

The Wayne Trace National Honor Society will be hosting a dodge ball tournament on Saturday, January 14 in the high school gym. There will be three divisions of teams: Beginners (grades 1-6), Intermediate (grades 7-12), and Expert (out of high school). The Beginners will start at 10:00 a.m., the Experts at 11:00 a.m., and the Intermediates at noon. Each team should have six to eight players and should wear the same color of shirts.

To enter a team, you must complete a registration and waiver form (and pay an entry fee), which can be obtained by calling Wayne Trace and asking for the NHS advisor. On the back of the form will be the list of rules for the tournament; all participants are expected to read through the rules and be familiar with them.

The winning team from each division will receive free t-shirts. We hope to see you there!

maybe teach French in Spain some time next year.

While in Paulding, she has been living in the home of the Carter's.

Virginie thinks of herself as being strong-minded. She said, "Things can affect me, but not much can change me. I know where I'm going, and nothing can stop me."

## WINNERS OF OAKWOOD CHRISTMAS LIGHTING CONTEST

The Oakwood Park Board would like to announce the winners of the Christmas Lights contest. First place winner was Martin and Wanda Taylor on Harmon Street--\$65, second place winner Bob and Julia Weisenburger on Burt Street--\$45, and third place Gary and Tonya Fisher on Chapel Lane--\$30 Judging the contest was Richard and Sandy Mastin from Sherwood and Wayne and Vicky Lawson from Defiance. Donors for this Oakwood Park Board event were: TDS Telecom, Dr. Saxton, Dr. Rhees, Dr. Bartley, Dr. Wine, State Bank and Trust, Postmaster, Rhees' Meats & Groceries, Fullers, Backyard Boutique, Landing Strip, Morningstar Express, BJ's Beauty Salon, Bob Weisenburger, Heitmeyer Funeral Home, Brentwood Elevator, C C & D, R & B Fabrication, Fenter Flooring, American Legion, Nolan (Tucker) Shisler, Oakwood Branch Library, Taylor Brothers, and Sheer Joy. We would like to thank all those that helped make this first annual Christmas Lights contest a success.

## THANK YOU . . .

Thank you for all the prayers and visits during my recent illness and surgery. You care and concern mean a lot. You thoughtfulness is appreciated.

John A. Meyer

## DATE CHANGE:

The West Bend News would like you to be aware that the next issue will be arriving on January 5th rather than January 4th.

Even printers get a day off!

GET YOUR MESSAGE OUT IN THE WEST BEND NEWS.

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**OBITUARIES**



Memorials to American Cancer Society.

**Pascual M. Barajas, Sr.**, 84, Paulding, died December 21, 2005 at his residence.

He was born in Foster MI, on October 5, 1921, the son of Antonio D. and Eusebia (Morales) Barajas. On February 24, 1949, he married Antonia Ordaz, who preceded him in death on January 19, 1999. He was a U.S. Army Veteran serving during WWII, where he was awarded the Purple Heart and Two Bronze Stars. He was employed by G.M. Powertrain, Defiance, retiring in 1982. He was a member of the D.A.V. Post #36, Defiance.

He is survived by three sons: Pascual M. (Gloria) Barajaz Jr. (correct spelling), Findlay, OH, Antonio (Joyce) Barajas, Paulding, and Luis Barajas, Hicksville; five daughters, Linda (Lauri) Sanchez, Lillian (James) Genero, Elizabeth (Charles) Murray, and Sonya (Richard) Geckle all of Paulding; Mary Jane - Clifton, MI; four brothers, Antonio M. Barajas, Port Huron, MI, Luis M. Barajas, and Gilbert Barajas, both of San Antonio, TX and Armando M. Barajas, Lapeer,

MI; six sisters, Angela Barajas, Capac, MI, Lupe Torres, Flint, MI, Maria Davila, Rosa Rodriguez and Mary Helen Trevino, all of San Antonio, TX, and Isabel Guzman, Port Huron, MI; twenty-nine grandchildren; and thirty-nine great-grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his parents; wife; son, Augustine O. Barajas; and a brother, Augustine M. Barajas.

Funeral services were December 23, at the St. Joseph Catholic Church, Paulding. Reverend G. Allan Fillman officiated. Burial was in Live Oak Cemetery, Paulding with military graveside services provided by V. F. W. Post #587.

Donations may be made to Masses; American Red Cross; or the Salvation Army.

**Walter M. Jordan Sr.**, 87, Paulding, December 25, died at Hawthorn Court Nursing Home, Paulding.

He was born July 28, 1918 in Ft. Wayne, the son of Guy Walter and Marcella (Carr) Jordan. On August 27, 1939, he married Leona M. Heron, who survives. He was employed in the maintenance department by the former Blue Creek Schools, retiring in 1969. He was also formerly employed by Bunn Heating and Airconditioning of Paulding.

He is survived by his wife, Leona Jordan, Paulding; a daughter, Joyce Truitt, Paulding, three sons, Reginald (Sharon) Jordan, Ft. Wayne, Bruce (Brenda) Jordan, Defiance, and Paul (Lewisene) Jordan, LaFayette, PA; and twelve grandchildren; eighteen great-grandchildren and one great-great grandson.

He is preceded in death by his parents; an infant daughter, Bessie M. Jordan; a son, Walter Jordan Jr.; a granddaughter LaTonja Deram Jordan; and three sisters, Gwendolyn Rogers, Dorthea Huckleby, and Elizabeth Jordan.

There will be no visitation or funeral services.

**Synchronize Your Holiday Planning**

(NAPSA)—Preparing for the holiday season can be a delightful task if you plan ahead. Between holiday parties, card mailings, kids' recitals, shopping for gifts, family gatherings and planning that perfect holiday meal, organization is key.

Forget the sticky notes and to-do lists posted all over the fridge and thrown into pockets and purses on your way out the door. More people are turning to handheld devices or PDAs to remember things for them. A PDA is a great place to keep all the little (and big) things in your life together. Many say the best part is that it does most of the work for you. All you have to do is fill in the blanks. Suddenly it's smooth sailing with everything in one place.

A PDA can make a perfect stocking stuffer. For example, the Palm Z22 at \$99 and just around three ounces is one of the smallest, lightest color organizers available. It weighs less than many traditional paper planners and holds years of appointments, thousands of addresses, to-do lists, and a Note Pad. No need to worry if you forget to charge the battery and it runs out; all the information is safe—nothing is lost.

Do you remember a time when you forgot to buy a gift or send a card to a friend or relative? With a PDA, your holiday to-do list, schedule and contacts can travel with you. Just organize your contacts using the handheld and create a category for those who receive holiday cards.

For the avid entertainer, a Palm Z22 organizer can keep track of guest lists, RSVPs and cocktail recipes. The included SplashShopper application has ready-made lists. Just select the items you need to pick up at the store.

Eight tips to ease into the New Year with a PDA:

- Set alarms for daily events and appointments.
- Use the calendar to block off holiday preparation time.
- Keep color-coded schedules for your entire family's holiday parties and events.
- Entertain the kids with games or eBooks while on the road.
- Show off holiday photos.
- Stay committed to the weight-loss resolution using Carb Counter.
- Use your contacts to make a list of holiday and thank you cards to send out.
- Start the New Year on the right foot—make the decision to get organized.

If you mailed 9000 Postcards (circulation of West Bend News) it would cost \$2070 not including printing cost. A postcard size ad only cost \$60

**Business Slow?**

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**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.

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Call 419-258-1616 or visit  
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The WEST BEND NEWS

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# No Matter the Weather, The West Bend News has your Business covered in all Seasons!



Be sure to get your advertisements  
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ANTWERP HISTORY

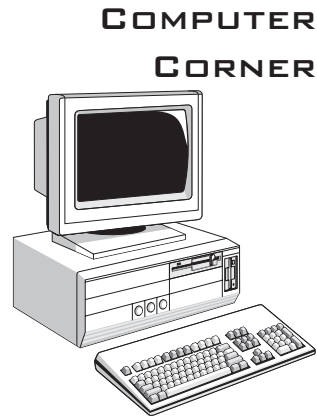
By: Stan Jordan
I was born in 1924 up on the Wentworth road in the old Doc Murphy house.

shack. An old Hungarian lived there called 'Frickie My Shoe', that I think came about when he went to Joe Barker's shoe repair shop...

room shack where an old man named Wright Godfrey lived. They claimed he was an old Indian fighter, he had a full size drum with printing on the sides and whenever there was a parade, he would march and beat the drum.

On the corner of Kroos Drive where Mrs. Jim Hahn now lives, was a Red Haw tree and a Crab Apple tree. There were no houses anywhere at that time and stayed that way until after WWII.

Down further on Canal Street, about where Hazen Kennedy's new house sits, and where Pudge Kennedy's barn stands, was a little one



COMPUTER CORNER

By Cyreb Reniets

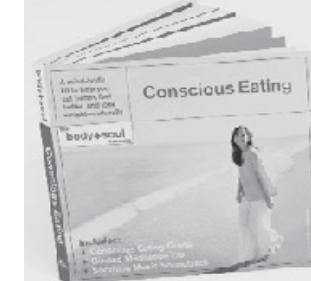
Today, cameras are a part of the computer world. Who would ever have thought that there wouldn't be a need for film? You may have given or received a new digital camera for Christmas and that's great.

Most digital cameras allow you to connect the camera directly to your computer. Plugging the camera into the computer should show up as a drive in My Computer (Windows) or as a drive on the desktop (Macintosh - Finder).

You will also want to get extra storage cards. Having at least one extra memory card on hand is a great idea. Being out on vacation or in the field with the greatest shot the world has ever seen would be nothing if your camera ran out of memory.

DO IT & DIET

NAPSAs-If you're concerned about your weight and vitality, a new approach may be just what you need. The idea is something called "Conscious Eating."



Approach food from a mindful point of view and your body knows just how much to eat, says one new program.

ANTWERP JUNIOR HIGH BASKETBALL

By: Toni Winslow
Antwerp Archer's 7th grade girls' basketball season has had a decent season. Right now we are 5-3.

Their team consists of Megan Koppenhofer, Darcie Reinhart, Kelsey Bashore, Erin Hughes, Ali Metz, Stephanie Stultz, Rose Doctor, and Christina McKeever.

Winslow. Our coach is Heather Barnhouse along with our two little water girls, Avery Barnhouse and Kayla Woodcox.

JUNIOR HIGH ARCHERS TAKE DOWN THE ACES

On December 21 the junior high Antwerp Archers hosted the Hicksville Aces in two excellent games.

The Antwerp 7th grade boys got into the win column defeating arch rival Hicksville. The boys continued to improve their efforts of becoming more of a "team oriented" team rather than a bunch of individuals and it paid off.

Winslow. Our coach is Heather Barnhouse along with our two little water girls, Avery Barnhouse and Kayla Woodcox.

MRS. DOBBELEARE DRAWS THE ATTENTION OF THE OAEA

Mrs. Sandy Dobbelaire, PHS Art Teacher.

While at the conference, art teachers were offered workshops in the how to's of glass blowing, metal making, jewelry making, beading and many other areas.

During the awards ceremony as each teacher was called to the stage to accept

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Happy Holidays See you January 3rd. Tuesday - Friday 10-6 Saturday 10-2 Antwerp Jewelers A jeweler you can trust.

their award a slide show of each nominee and his or her students projects were shown to let everyone know what they did to receive such an outstanding award.

Northwest Ohio Boys Basketball Standings

Table with 4 columns: Conference, Team, W, L. Includes Blanchard Valley, Western Buckeye, Midwest Athletic, Northwest, Buckeye Border, Greater Buckeye, Green Meadows, Putnam County, Northwest Ohio Athletic, and Northwest Central leagues.

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Happy Holidays See you January 3rd. Tuesday - Friday 10-6 Saturday 10-2 Antwerp Jewelers A jeweler you can trust.

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The West Bend News has the WIDEST circulation of any newspaper in Paulding County

And it's growing!

# YOU THOUGHT THIS WAS BIG?



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

Just wait until  
January 5th!

*The* WEST BEND NEWS

# Personal Finances

## Resolving To Get Your Financial House In Order

by John Addison  
(NAPSA)—Anytime of year can be the right time to resolve to make changes in your life—particularly when these changes concern money.

Here are five resolutions that are likely to improve your financial health.

• Resolved: I will eliminate revolving debt. Start by buying only what you can afford. Paying off purchases made with credit cards and the interest that accompanies them can sap the life—and cash—from a personal savings system.

• Resolved: I will create an emergency fund. This can come under the rule of “pay yourself first.” Start by saving 5 to 10 percent of your paycheck until you have a cushion of three to six months salary saved. If self-discipline is an issue, ask your bank to automatically withdraw the amount you want and deposit it in a savings account.

• Resolved: I will open an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) and make the maximum contribution allowed. IRAs make it possible to accrue tax-deferred earnings on your retirement savings. Depending on the kind of IRA account you open, there may be additional benefits, which can add to your incentive to catch up on your retirement savings.

In addition, the federal government recently increased IRA contribution limits to \$4,000 or \$4,500 if you are age 50 or older.

• Resolved: I will start a college savings plan for my child. With the increases in college costs outpacing most annual raises, it's never too early to start a college savings plan. Consider the tax advantages offered by an Education Savings Account (ESA). This type of account can be a valuable ally in the battle against rising tuition costs.

• Resolved: I will create a will. Without a will it can be difficult to guarantee your family and dependents will be cared for in the manner you desire after you are gone. You will also need a durable power of attorney and a living will to ensure your wishes are carried out should you become terminally ill or critically injured in an accident.

The guidance of financial professionals can often be useful when making resolutions such as these. For example, the financial professionals at Primerica have created a guide that shows you how to take control of your financial life. To get a copy of “How Money Works,” write to Primerica, 3120 Breckenridge Blvd., Duluth, GA 30099, ATTN: Corporate Relations, call 770-564-6329 or visit [www.primerica.com](http://www.primerica.com).

*John Addison is Co-CEO of Primerica, a subsidiary of Citigroup, Inc.*

### CLASSIFIED ADS

Sell it in the classifieds!  
Classifieds are \$4.00 for 25 words or less and \$.10 for each additional word.  
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**PRE-ADDRESSED envelopes are printed at West Bend Printing either for mailing or return mailing. Call us for all your printing needs. 419-258-2000.**

**WILL BABYSIT** in my Latty home. 1st shift only starting January 1. 419-399-2078. 17-18

**FOR RENT:** Mobile Home. W. Daggett St., Antwerp. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$300/month and deposit. No pets. Call 419-542-8992. 17-18

**SCRAPBOOKERS**—need copies of your photos? West Bend P & P. can copy your b & w and color photos onto a heavy paper for archival use. 419-258-2000.

**FOR RENT** in Hicksville: two bedroom upstairs apartment. References and deposit required. Call (419) 258-2622. 15-18

**AUCTION:** 1st and last Saturday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Baker Auction held north of Antwerp off Hwy 24; go north on 49 to CO RD 192 to Baker Farm, 14597 RD 31, Antwerp, OH. Each month we sell large selection of merchandise. All buyers and sellers welcome. Call us 419-258-5605 or 419-542-7530. 17-4

**FOR SALE: TWO semi-formal dresses. One is black w/sequins, knee length; the other is red w/sequins, full length, halter straps and shawl. \$70 each obo. Call 419-258-1809. tf**

**SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL businesses.** Their advertising pays for your paper!

**FOR SALE:** 500 gal. propane tank. Call 419-542-8276 pd

**PAULDING WRESTLING CLUB registration on January 2, 2006 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Blue Bldg. at fairgrounds in Paulding, OH.**

**DO YOU LIKE HIGH quality, fashionable, affordable jewelry?** Premier Designs™ High Fashion Jewelry! Contact Stephanie Miller at 419-258-2534 or 419-786-0103 to set up a home show today! You'll also find out how you can receive at least \$100 in FREE jewelry!! 18,1

**WANT TO FEEL totally stretched and relaxed?? Try Yoga!** It's for everyone! Group or Private Classes available. Call Judy McCalla, certified instructor, Hicksville 419-542-6182.

**For Rent in Hicksville** 3 Bedroom with 1 car attached garage. References and deposit required. Call (419) 258-2622. 16-18

**4-SALE:** 2000 Mobile Home with central air, covered porch, 2 bdr. and storage building. Located at Noltes Lot 17 in Hicksville. \$18,500. Call 419-542-5729. 18,1pd

**FREE PUPPIES:** Border Collie Mix. Call 419-258-1300. p

Let West Bend News announce your engagement, wedding or anniversary. It's only \$3 per column for the photo and the announce is news (free).

## HIGHWAY SAFETY

### Safe, Sober, Buckled Up

(NAPSA)—This holiday season, the roads can be much safer with everyone's help. Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) asks motorists to pledge to drive safe, sober and buckled up by tying a ribbon to their vehicles. The campaign, Tie One On For Safety, is one of MADD's longest-running and most visible and includes a silver commemorative ribbon this year, instead of red, to mark MADD's 25th anniversary.

The good news is that alcohol-related deaths Thanksgiving to New Year's dropped from 1,579 in 2003 to 1,316 in 2004. Additionally, year-round seat belt use

is now up to 82 percent nationally. Unfortunately, the number of unrestrained and/or alcohol-related traffic deaths increased in 2004 over Thanksgiving to New Year's Eve to 2,237.

Tie One On For Safety helps save lives and prevent injuries and more than six million ribbons are distributed annually.

Takata, the world's largest seat belt manufacturer and national presenting sponsor of Tie One On For Safety, helps MADD bring the message home that seat belts are the best defense against a drunk driver. Takata and MADD are committed to road safety and passage of primary seat belt laws in every state.

Tie One On For Safety, silver commemorative edition ribbons are available at local MADD offices. For more information, visit [www.madd.org](http://www.madd.org).

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All items may not be accepted and will be considered by owners depending on what item is!!!!

<http://stores.ebay.com/Heavens-Gifts>

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**Recognizing And Treating A Strep Infection**

(NAPSA)—Strep throat is more common in children and teenagers, especially during the school year when they are in close contact and are exposed to sneezing and coughing.

The infection, known as pharyngitis, is caused by the bacteria streptococci (strep), which grows at the back of the throat or on the tonsils. Tonsillitis often follows pharyngitis, so both conditions could be present at the same time. If it's tonsillitis, the tonsils may be reddish and enlarged and coated with a white, yellow or gray substance.

A sore throat is less likely to be strep if it's part of a cold. Doctors can distinguish strep from a viral sore throat by a throat culture and general examination to determine treatment.

- Common symptoms include:
- sore or red throat
  - white or yellow dots at the back of throat
  - difficulty swallowing
  - tender, swollen lymph nodes
  - fever (101 degrees Fahrenheit or greater) or chills
  - loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting or stomach pain
  - rash
  - headache or body ache.

If a child has these symptoms, it is important to contact a pediatrician. The doctor may recommend parents watch their child and wait to see if symptoms worsen but if a throat culture is



positive for strep, antibiotics are often prescribed. Among the most common are cephalosporins or penicillin, which are effective against this type of infection.

If a doctor prescribes an antibiotic, the symptoms usually begin to diminish within a few days. Even if the child is feeling better, it's important to take the full course of treatment to prevent development of more serious infections. To make treatment easier, ask your doctor for an antibiotic that tastes good, has easy dosing schedules and does not require refrigeration.

Other ways to comfort a child with strep throat include giving liquids or soft foods, including milkshakes, ice pops or pudding. Older children can gargle with warm salt water.

Strep throat can be prevented by hand washing, especially after coughing and sneezing and before eating. Talk to your doctor about strep throat or other children's health issues.

**GRANDCHILDREN**

**By: Sue Knapp**

Steve and I were just blessed with our 16th grandchild. Shawn and Amy from Michigan just had their 7th child the end of November. I just got back from spending a week in Michigan with them. It was fun.

Michigan is a beautiful state. Shawn and Amy live by Lake Michigan so it snows about everyday. But because of the lake, there's usually cloud cover and not much sun. It is beautiful up there with all the snow.

I got to hold Titus (the baby) a lot. Every day I could see his cheeks filling out and wrinkles begin where we try to hide them when we're older.

I helped Amy by fixing supper each night. I had a different kid help me. They also helped me do some baking. They usually eat pretty healthy, so their systems got a shock that week.

One day the kids and I took a hike through the woods behind their house. It was beautiful walking through the woods. If we would have crossed the creek and walked further we would have ended up at Lake Michigan. After we were done with the woods we weren't ready to go in so we walked down the street in front of their house. Because of all the snow some of the

driveways had quite a bit of snow built up at the end. At one house, the snow was piled up pretty good so I let the kids play "king of the hill." It was pretty much fun watching them roll and scoot down the "hill." I hope the owners of the house weren't upset.

The kids have a series of CD's called Captain Patch. When "Captain Patch" was in his late teens he lost one eye because of cancer. The kids at his church called him "Patch."

He started a ministry called Captain Patch. His wife and children help him in this ministry. They portray different characters and they make up stories they then put on CD's. The stories have action and adventure while teaching morals to children. They're really neat. You can reach this ministry by getting on the Internet under Majesty Music.

I would tease the 3 year old and call him "Dolly Do," he would then repeat it and sometimes he would say "I'm a boy". When they brought me home he would not repeat it he would always say "I'm a boy", he didn't want his grandpa to think he was a "Dolly Do."

They shop at one of the mega stores and when they brought me home I took some of the kids to Kammeyer's with me. When I walked in, one of the employees called

out "Hi, Grandma", the kids couldn't understand why she knew my name. When we finished, they called for the carry out, the kids started to grab the bags and I told them Matt would carry them out for us. They couldn't understand how I knew his name and they really didn't understand why he was carrying the bags out and not us. Don't you just love life in a small town. I love living in "Mayberry."

I wanted to stay up there with them but when I got home and Steve was waiting for me by the door and we went into the house, I knew this is where I belong. I went back to work on Monday ready to begin again.

**Let West Bend News announce your engagement, wedding or anniversary.**

**PARC LANE RECEIVES CHECK FROM HICKSVILLE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**



Duane Bassett, representing the Hicksville K of C presented a check to Superintendent Jane Gray for the PARC Lane Training Center. The money will be used for special programs for the students.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Paulding County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities will hold a Public Hearing to discuss its 2006 Annual Action Plan, (Comprehensive Service plan).

The document subject to this public hearing is that which reflects the goals, objectives, action steps and timelines established by the Board for implementation during the year 2006. The Annual Action Plan document is available for public review in the Office of the PCBMRDD, at the Parc Lane Training Center, located at 900 Fairground Drive. The hearing will be held on Thursday, January 19, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. in the conference Room of the PC Workshop Inc, at 900 W. Caroline Street, Paulding, OH 45879

Jane A. Gray, Superintendent  
Posted: December 20, 2005

**How Much Do You Know About Heating Your Home?**

(NAPSA)—Americans may face higher energy bills this year. Taking this quick quiz may help you understand what this could mean for you.

1. America's most popular heating fuel is a) oil, b) natural gas, c) electricity?
2. The average natural gas bill may increase by an average of a) 25 percent, b) 48 percent, c) 61 percent?
3. Natural gas prices go up and down because of a) heating demand, b) cooling demand, c) natural gas production?
4. Natural gas utilities are helping to stabilize prices through a) billing plans, b) storage, c) sales.
5. To help lower natural gas prices, Congress is promoting a) energy efficiency, b) a more diverse mix of fuels, c) construction of a pipeline from Alaska.

- Answers:
1. b) Natural gas is America's most popular home heating fuel, heating 52 percent of the nation's homes (more than all other forms of energy combined).
  2. b) Natural gas who heat with fuel oil, propane and electricity will pay more this year too.

3. All of the above. Weather is the biggest factor in how much you pay for natural gas. It can affect production and supply (hurricanes can force workers to leave the rigs), and also affect how much energy customers use (demand).

4. a) and b) Customers can also use energy more efficiently, such as replacing older furnaces, insulating their homes and installing programmable thermostats.

Natural gas utilities also use hedging in more than half the states. Hedging is a tool that allows utilities to use future contracts and weather risk insurance to stabilize prices.

5. All of the above. Congress passed a major energy law in 2005 to spur additional natural gas production while promoting energy efficiency and a more diverse mix of fuels to generate electric power.

To help further, experts at the American Gas Association say Congress should increase funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). They could also increase imports of liquefied natural gas and encourage more natural gas production.

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