

## BUSTED KNUCKLES HAS A NEW LOOK



Mural painted by Perry Lifsey

By: Sue Knapp

If you're in Paulding be sure to go north on Williams Street and look at the side of the Busted Knuckles building. Owners Gary English and Keith Vennekotter decided to do something different and something different they did. The mural is right up a guy's alley with bright colorful cars.

Keith bought the business in 1997 and Gary bought into it in 2000. They employ three full time mechanics and three full time body men. They do everything from oil changes to rebuilding motors. They retune the computer on your car by hooking their computer up to it. This Hi-Performance job will cause your car to sound like the '60 and '70's muscle

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Visit Gary at Busted Knuckles and mention the wall and let him give you an estimate on whatever you need.

*Happy Thanksgiving!*

## JOURNEY AT JUNCTION

*Editor's note: This article is a summary of what has happened in Junction concerning the St. Mary's Catholic Church. The Paulding Progress has done quite well of informing people of the situation. We were late in learning of the conundrum and hope that we can get up to speed as well as present it truthfully and accurately for the benefit of this county.*

The people of St. Mary's Junction learned their parish was on a closure list by reading it in the Defiance Crescent News on September 17, 2004. The oldest Catholic Church in this area began here in 1846 and never had a resident pastor. In January of 2005 Bishop Blair, Sr. Joyce and Mike Wasserman came to Junction for a public forum to answer questions. When asked why Continental was being allowed to build and they were to close, Bishop Blair said that had not been decided. At this time the people of Continental had already prepared their property and were in the midst of designing the building. To the Bishop's credit all of this took place before Bishop Hoffman passed away and before Bishop Blair took charge of the Toledo Diocese.

On February 27 the fateful news was delivered to the congregation that their church would be closed by July along with many other small churches in the Diocese with priest shortage being the reason given. The people were told to attend Mass in Continental, Defiance, or Paulding.

A request of a meeting with the bishop was granted, and on May 6 a nervous delegation drove to Toledo reciting the rosary. These suggestions

were asked of him: 1) Allow Father Scherger to remain at Junction until he decides to retire, 2) Since being divided into Continental territory, and there was no Continental parish, allow it to stay open until that issue was decided, 3) Allow it to stay together and do a feasibility study for a one county church, 4) If none of these were an option allow it to be named a Chapel of Ease thus permitting the historical building to be saved for funerals and weddings.

Also attending the meeting was Father Tim from St. Mary's Defiance who had made the generous offer of taking Junction as a Chapel of Ease. Most of the delegation was unaware of this and had no idea he would be present.

On May 20, 2005 the bishop's decision was read at Mass: 1) Junction would become a Chapel of St. Joseph Paulding with Father Scherger becoming the associate 2) Junction would be responsible for Father Scherger's salary, 3) Continental had until January to come up with the

money to build, 4) The feasibility study would begin for a county church.

Continental did indeed raise the funds to begin their new church, the people of Junction continued to worship together and were able to pay the salary, and the study of the one county church was completed and voted on. After a vote of all the churches in the county the option of one church was soundly defeated. Those reports were sent to the bishop and the people were told the final decision would be the bishop's.

In February of 2007 Father Fillman announced to the Junction people that since Continental was getting their parish and that Father Scherger had reached retirement age it was his recommendation the church be closed July 1.

From the beginning people began to ask about the contents of the church. Many Sundays there were visitors there taking pictures of the windows and asking what would happen to them or

(Continued on Page 7)

As Thanksgiving time grows ever near, we'd like to thank you all for stopping here!

*With best holiday wishes to all.*

**Thank You for enjoying your treats here!**

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Thank you for making our website one of the most visited in Paulding County. Be sure to stop every week to see the latest news, information and weather for the area.

www.westbendnews.net

## OBITUARIES

**Dorothy Ruth Merritte**, 87, of Oakwood, died November 12, 2007 at Hawthorn Court Nursing Home, Paulding.

She was born August 11, 1920 in Melrose, OH, the daughter of William John and Marie Velma (Wilson) Finnegan. On November 23, 1945 she married William C. Merritte, who preceded her in death on June 25, 1983. She retired from Dana Corporation in 1981 and was a former member of Melrose United Methodist Church and Auglaize Chapel Church of God, Oakwood.

She is survived by a daughter, Glenda (Jeff) Ferris of Paulding; a son, Dennis Merritte of Melrose; two brothers: Ed Finnegan of Oakwood, and Paul Finnegan of Defiance; seven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her parents; husband; a daughter, Dorothy Elaine; three brothers: Harold "Hap"

Finnegan, Dale Finnegan, and infant, Forest Finnegan; and three sisters: Violet Vance, Irene Doster, and Ilene Doster.

Funeral services were November 16 at Den Herder Funeral Home, Paulding, with Reverend Bob Merriman officiating. Burial was in Little Auglaize Cemetery, Melrose.

Donations may be made to Hawthorn Court Nursing Home Activity Fund.

**Dorothy M. Hobeck**, 97, of Paulding, Ohio, passed away November 12, 2007 at Manor House Assisted Living, Antwerp.

Dorothy was born in Allen County, Indiana on March 25, 1910, the daughter of the late Walter G. and Ruby R. (DeLong) Stevenson.

She was a homemaker and a member of Antwerp United Methodist Church and Payne Grange.

On October 29, 1928 she married Dale Hobeck, who died in 1994.

Dorothy will be sadly missed by her daughters:

Marjorie (George) Underwood and Donna (Mike) Molitor both of Antwerp; sons: Harley (Rita) of Edgerton, Bill (Sue) of Hicksville and Leland (Frances) of Fort Wayne; brothers: Frank Stevenson of Muncie, IN and Robert of Springfield, OH; 19 grandchildren; 50 great-grandchildren and 21 great-great-grandchildren.

Preceding her in death are her brothers: Arthur, Henry, Edgar and Walter Stevenson; and grandson, Stanley Underwood.

Funeral services were at Antwerp United Methodist Church on November 16, with Rev. Michael Schneider officiating. She was laid to rest at Maumee Cemetery, Antwerp.

The family requests donations to the church; Paulding Area VNA or Paulding Senior Center. Condolences and fond memories may be shared at [www.dooleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.dooleyfuneralhome.com)

**William A. Reynolds**, 46, of Paulding, died November 17, 2007.

He was born May 3, 1961 in Columbus, OH the son of Leo R. and Velma M. (Booher) Reynolds. He was a U.S. Army Veteran and worked as a carpet and flooring installer. He was a member of the Paulding Eagles Lodge and the Grover Hill VFW Post #2873.

He is survived by three brothers: James (Kay) Reynolds of Paulding, Steven Reynolds of Texas and Michael (Marsha) Reynolds of Wisconsin; one sister, Bonnie Reynolds of Wisconsin.

He is preceded in death by his parents.

Funeral services will be at 11:00 a.m. on November 21, 2007 at the Den Herder Funeral Home, Paulding with Pastor Michael Harper officiating. Burial will be in St. Paul Cemetery, Paulding.

Visitation will be at the Den Herder Funeral Home one hour prior to funeral services on Wednesday.

The family suggests that memorial contributions be made in William's memory in care of Den Herder Funeral

Home, Paulding.

**Doyle J Sanderson**, 85, of Paulding, passed away November 16, 2007 at Hawthorn Court Nursing Home, Paulding.

He was born August 24, 1922 in Paulding county, OH the son of Dewey and Gladys (Meyers) Sanderson. He was a graduate of Grover Hill High School. In 1945 he married Esther Florence (Hartwig) Sanderson, who survives. He was a lifelong farmer, a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church of Paulding, and served on the church council and a choir member. Doyle was a member of the Paulding County Republican Committee, a Jackson Township trustee for three terms, and a member on the Paulding County Soil and Water Conservation board. He worked at the Paulding Lumber Company, the Paulding County Highway Department, managed the former Broughton Grain Elevator, hauled fuel oil for Consumers Oil Company of Paulding, and worked at the Boughman Tile Mill, Paulding. He was an avid deer hunter and woodworker and also restored antique tractors.

He is survived by his wife, Florence Sanderson of Paulding; two sons: Dennis (Cheryl) Sanderson of Paulding and Delmar Sanderson of Willoughby, OH; a sister, Hilda (Paul) Cummings of Lima, OH; a brother, Vaughn (Jean) Sanderson of Broughton, OH; four grandchildren: Craig (Ranae), Kurt, Brett, and Carrie Sanderson; and two great-grandchildren: Logan and Ethan Sanderson.

He is preceded in death by his parents.

Funeral services were November 20 at St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Paulding, with Rev. Mary Beth Smith Webb officiating. Burial was in Paulding Memorial Cemetery.

Donations may be made to Alzheimer's Research Foundation, the Hawthorn Court Nursing Home Activity Fund, or to a charity of the donor's choice.

## CURVES® OF HICKSVILLE IS MAKING STRIDES AGAINST BREAST CANCER

Local Women's Health Club Teams with American Cancer Society to Help Eliminate Breast Cancer. Curves® of Hicksville, part of the world's largest franchisor of fitness clubs, announced it has teamed with the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer fundraiser during October Breast Cancer Awareness month to create awareness of breast cancer and to raise funds to help eliminate it. Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in women in the United States.

Curves of Hicksville had plenty of ways for everyone to get involved. New members who joined between October 8 and 20 paid only a reduced service fee when they brought in a matching donation to the American Cancer Society or showed proof of a current mammogram.

Current members who made a minimum donation to the American Cancer Society received a donation certificate that hung in the club, and was filled out "in honor of" or "in memory of" a loved one. Each of those donations also entitled the member to put her name in a treasure chest and be eligible for weekly prize drawings all through October. Current members also had the opportunity to buy a Making Strides Against Breast Cancer t-shirt, which \$5 from every t-shirt sold went to the American Cancer Society.

"Curves of Hicksville is committed to helping the women in our community live healthier, stronger lives," said Jerrica Steffens. "Breast cancer will touch about one in every eight women, but breast cancer death rates are going down. This decline is probably the result of finding the cancer earlier and having access to improved treatment. By encouraging women to get mammograms and rewarding them for doing so, we are helping to fight and even eliminate breast cancer in our lifetime. That's something we take very seriously."

Curves of Hicksville is located at 143 E. High Street. The Curves of Hicksville raised \$295 to be donated to the American Cancer Society.

### PAULDING COUNTY HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS AND DISMISSALS

**Admissions:**  
11/12 - LaVern Ward, Payne  
11/15 - Penny Guerra, Paulding  
**Dismissals:**  
11/12 - Paul Cramer, Paulding  
11/13 - George Bright, Defiance  
11/14 - LaVern Ward, Payne, transferred to Lutheran  
11/16 - Penny Guerra, Paulding

## THE OHIO HOME OF MINE

By: Don Parson "The Bard of Flatrock"

There's a stream in old Ohio  
That goes flowing through the land  
And tilled are the golden acres  
Stretching far on either hand.

O I feel my heart a-throbbing  
At the ripple of each wave,  
And my thoughts, they go a-soaring  
For the pleasures that it gave.

Yes, I've lived along the Flatrock  
And 'tis there my thought took wing  
As I heard the ol' owls hooting  
And I heard the song birds sing.

O 'twas there my thoughts were fashioned  
And 'twas there my dreams were born,  
Far up in the clouds a-floating  
O'er the rustle of the corn.

Now I weren't much for labor  
In the tilling of the sod;  
I just left that to the farmers  
While I watched the work of God.

O I saw Him in the orchard,  
In the field of golden grain,  
When the sun was shining brightly  
And the falling of the rain.

So I wrote the words like music  
'Cause my heart was full of song  
And I let my dreams take fancy  
As the Flatrock rolled along.

O do not call it obscure...  
The ol' stream of Flatrock fine;  
For on its banks so long has stood  
The Ohio home of mine.

#### About the Author

The author was born in Paulding Ohio, along the obscure Flatrock Stream, which flows through the beautiful Maumee Valley.

He attended high school, normal school and college and became a teacher.

As a writer of verse, he was called Ohio's young poet. During these early years he met the Poet Laureate, Edward Markham, who encouraged him to write... and the good, gray poet fondly called him the "Bard of Flatrock". Soon after, he sought the long road and far places. He wandered from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from Mexico to Alaska, and from the Hawaiian Islands to the Bahamas... and all of these places and peoples are woven into his dreams.

Then one day on a desert road, in the Valley of the Sun, there came an hour of darkness... but, like the miracle of the Phoenix Bird, he rose from the ashes and came to the city by the sea... and here, along the shores of the rolling Pacific, he has fashioned the wings of song into a book... Whispering Winds.

He has woven into verse the potency of philosophical tones, the eloquence of romantic dreams, and the simplicity of soothing phrases, to lift the spirit of the weary... and to give an awareness of the master plan, that fashioned man to walk with his feet in the dust and with a soul to dream of the stars.

... it flows like wine from the well of life.

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**FALL**

**By: Rose Kever**

What a wonderful time of year. Fall is my favorite season. You can wear a nice sweatshirt and pair it with bermuda shorts, capris or jeans and be very comfortable.

Okay, now that we're dressed in our "fall" attire, let's go for a long walk. We'll start at the park and work our way around town. If you can't walk this far just let me and imagine you're with me.

The first place to go is down by the river. There are tow ways to get there. Down the steps or down the car ramp. I prefer the ramp! Walk on down right up to the river's edge. The water is moving along briskly on its long trip to Lake Erie.

Picture yourself in a canoe, traveling with the current calmly paddling your way down stream. Listen for the sounds of rushing water, and realizing there are small rapids to cross here and there. Exciting ride!

Now back to reality!

Turn to your left and follow the path to the clearing. There is a huge tree by the river's edge. I like to sit under it for a while and just listen to the sounds of the birds chirping, wondering what they are trying to say. The squirrels and chipmunks are busily gathering acorns for the winter and building their winter nests high in the trees. Looking toward the upper bank I spot a "puff ball" I'll come back later to pick it up for supper. They are absolutely delicious—from the mushroom family—easy to cook and really a kind of delicacy. Slice it, dip in flour, egg and

flour again. Fry it in a skillet and enjoy, salt and pepper to your taste.

There is a big, dense bushy area that travels all the way up to the roadway that is hard to get through, but we're gonna try anyway, we just need to go slowly and be extra careful as there are animals who nest in there and they don't exactly have the "welcome" sign hanging up!

Okay, we got through that mess and we're on the roadway again. I'm going to walk through the old Veteran's Cemetery and check out the grave stones. Lots of old, old dates on the ones we can still read.

Now we'll walk on towards town. We'll stop and remember the old Methodist Church and parsonage. What a stately mansion it was! Too bad they tore it down, but it probably had some structural problems or something.

Going on into town, passing Doc Bazalis' old house, the IGA, and Pop 'n Brew stopping at the middle light.

Ah, decision time! Which way should we go now? Let's go to the north, up Main Street. The valley where the tennis court is, brings back some old memories for me. Back in the early '60's we used to hold record hops down there. The school principal would run the record player that was usually supplied by one of the students along with our 45s.

Okay, enough of that! We'll go on down to Park Avenue (entrance) to the Marilyn-Doris addition that everyone call the "new" addition. Going back to the Dutchman's Cove and looking at the beautiful trees and admiring nature's fall colors. Red, orange,

yellow and some still green leaves. Some of the homes are stately, some are ordinary ranch types, but all have nice landscaping. It's really pretty in the Christmas season when they line all the streets with the milk jug candle.

Now we'll go over one street, and watch the buzzards. I have never seen so many buzzards in one place. Nesting in the very tall tree tops. I could watch them for hours, but we must trudge on.

I think it's time to head back to the park now. Let's go back out the entrance and go to Woodcox Street and turn left, we'll go down into the valley. Going down is fairly easy, but going up is kind of hard on these old knees. Around the curve and back in the park. We'll sit at one of the cement tables to rest. Hey, while we're here, let's watch the squirrels and chipmunks collect their acorns.

I hope you enjoyed this little trip as much as I did. If you couldn't walk it with me, go the same way I did—in my imagination!

**LOOK WHO'S COMING TO DINNER**

**By: Rich Phelan, Pastor of Living Water Ministries**

Fall has always been my favorite season, partly because it contains two of my favorite things. Football and Thanksgiving. Now, it doesn't get much better than that for this Michigan bred boy—lots of great food and football, or is it football and lots of great food? No matter the order, it's all good.

When I was growing up Thanksgiving was a bigger affair than Christmas because this was the holiday when we would all get together. Aunts, uncles, plenty of cousins, friends of cousins and distant relatives I never knew I had. Our house would be absolutely bursting at its seams. I was always on my best behavior with everyone because one couldn't afford to be sent to one's room without supper on this big day—that would be a disaster.

My folks would start the preparations pretty early, and they usually started with putting the big leaf in the dining room table. By the time they were done with it you could've landed a medium sized air-

craft on it—it was massive! Then we'd set every chair that wasn't nailed down around its huge perimeter. Naturally we kids were banished to the far confines of the family room, where we sat around some old rickety card table one of my uncles had brought. Being banished to the "kiddie table" wasn't all that bad though, but what really stunk was that we were then forced to go to the "big table" to replenish our plates. To do this we would have to reach through one of the grownups to get whatever it was that we wanted seconds of. And you'd better pray that the tray of turkey wasn't sitting in front of my uncle Charlie. If it was, then you had a better chance of seeing that bird sit up on the serving platter and fly away than you had of getting seconds on white meat.

Back at the "kiddie" table we would eat our meal in an atmosphere somewhere between a Roman feast and the cafeteria scene in Animal House. Eventually mom or one of my aunts would come out and warn us to behave. We always would, at least for a minute, there was pie at stake if you didn't listen. We'd finish our meal in relative passivity, staring up at the "big table" just counting the years until we could sit there. I still remember when my big sister Patty made it to the "show," she was called up to the "big table." We were happy for her, we were proud of her. Man, were we jealous!

Now that I'm an adult I sit at the "big table" at my own family gatherings. But you know, there's still a part of me that longs for the simpler days when I was a kid at that rickety old card table. We grow up so fast today that we don't even slow down long enough to enjoy life as we're living it. The cares and concerns of being a "grown up" roll in like the oceans tide, washing away any remnants of childlike wonder and innocence that remain. Where do we lose that? When exactly does this happen? Does it go away when we get our drivers license? Maybe when we have our first kiss? Or is it when we say "I do?" Maybe for some of us it was when we were invited to sit at the "grown up" table. When we did, we had to "conform" and behave like a grown up. We had to "sit up straight," "keep your elbows off the table," and my favorite, "chew with your mouth closed." I know there's nothing wrong with those things, God knows, I've said them to my own kids a time or two. But, these things also hasten the end of our childhood.

I often wonder what the meals Jesus attended looked like? I know He had a knack, an affinity for doing the unexpected, and for ticking people off because of the company He chose to have dinner with. (In that culture who you ate dinner with said a great deal about who you were). Even Jesus' closest friends were shocked to see who was sitting next to them come meal time. Prostitutes, "sinners," and tax collectors to name a few were constant dinner companions. The only ones who didn't seem to mind who Jesus ate with were those listed above and Jesus Himself. His disciples were always being asked, "why is your teacher eating with a...." The reply from the disciples went something like this, "that's a good question.

But if Jesus is doing it, there must be something for us to learn." I've often wondered what it would look like if Jesus had come to Thanksgiving dinner at our house when I was growing up. I think it would've looked something like this.

I was awakened early one Thanksgiving morning by loud bangs and crashes coming from the kitchen. I got up and went into the hallway, I was heading for the kitchen to see what was going on. Normally the preparations for Thanksgiving dinner started hours later. On the way I ran into my little sister Alina who had come out of her room; apparently I wasn't the only one awakened by all the noise. So together we crept down the hallway and peeked into the kitchen. We saw my mom and several of my aunts, racing around our kitchen in an absolute furry of manic like activity. There were pots, pans, cranberries and turkey dressing covering every square inch of counter space available. We didn't get any closer, mom looked at us and shooed us out of the kitchen with a quick word "there's no room for another person in this kitchen." Alina and I walked back into the hallway, clearly our answer as to what was happening wasn't going to come from anyone in the kitchen. But who could we ask? Dad would still be asleep. Finally Alina looked at me and said, "lets ask Patty, she'll know." I thought about it for

a minute. Patty was our older sister, she was scheduled to sit at the "big table" for the first time, surely she'd know what was going on. "Yeah, lets go ask Patty," I replied.

Very quietly we walked into Patty's room. She was of course sound asleep, apparently the activity in the kitchen hadn't fazed her in the least. I gently nudged the lump under her blanket I took to be her shoulder. "Patty," I said in a quiet voice. Nothing, she didn't even move. I nudged her a second time, still nothing. I looked at Alina, she shrugged her shoulders. Clearly she had nothing helpful to offer as to what to do now. I took a deep breath, grabbed her shoulder hard, shook her and yelled, "Patty, get up!" This was the day I found out where Warner Brothers got the idea for the Tasmanian Devil! Alina and I flew off the bed and watched Patty from a safe distance of three feet, she had caught herself up in her blankets, she could do little damage to us now. Finally she opened her eyes, saw us. Then she flopped back down on her bed and covered her head with her pillow. Since she was now awake I asked her, "Why is everyone making such a fuss, why is everyone here so early?" in a muffled voice she answered. "Mom said someone special is coming to dinner and they want everything to be just right." "Who is it?" Alina and I asked in unison.

(Continued on Page 4)

**The Paulding County Veterans' Service Commissioners' December Board Meeting will be held Monday, December 10th, 2007 at 9:00 am at the Veterans Service Office 419-399-8285**

Advertorial

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Just months ago, James Schneider suffered from debilitating back and leg pain caused by a herniated disc in his lower back. Like millions of back pain sufferers, James tried everything, but nothing helped get rid of the pain.

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James Schneider of Convoy was determined to gain relief for his back injuries without undergoing surgical treatment. Through the DRS System's treatment he was able to receive complete relief.

no hope, some even had prior surgery," said Dr. Hughes D.C.

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Fri. 11/23 - BANDS - Relative Insanity" & "The Wannabees"  
Sun. 11/25 - 2:00pm - FREE MOVIE (Call for Title)  
Sat. 12/1 - CHRISTMAS MOVIES ALL DAY - HUBER CHORUS PERFORMANCE - MARY KAY OPEN HOUSE in The Community Room  
Sun. 12/2 - 2:00pm - CHRISTMAS MOVIES ALL DAY - MARY KAY OPEN HOUSE in The Community Room  
Tues. 12/4 - 2:00pm - ROTARY CHRISTMAS PARTY  
Fri., Sat., Sun 12/7-9 - Village Players present "THE BEST LITTLE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER" (Watch for Times)  
Sat. 12/15 - 10-12 - Casting Call for "SHOWBOAT"  
Sun. 12/16 - 3-5pm - Casting Call...in Auditorium. This Rogers & Hammerstein Musical was produced in the Huber 30 years ago. Directed by Keith Countryman. It will again grace the stage February 8-10th.

## THE RESULTS OF RUSHING

By: Pastor Joel DeSelm

A food editor of the local newspaper received a telephone call from a woman inquiring how long to cook a 22-pound turkey.

"Just a minute," said the food editor turning to consult a chart.

"Thank you very much," replied the novice cook, who immediately hung up!

Talk about being too quick on the draw. That turkey would have been so under-cooked that he probably still gobbled! As I chuckled over that story I got to thinking about the phone-caller.

You know, I'm an awful lot like that lady. Speaking and acting too quickly. Zipping through life at breakneck speed and finding myself with under-cooked turkeys because I just didn't take the time to listen.

Living in a hectic, fast-paced world is part of the problem. We want instant answers, instant results, instant EVERYTHING! And too often, in our hurry to rush and get it all done, we end up hurting ourselves and hurting others too.

When was the last time you truly took time to listen to your kids? I'm not talking about the listening-to-my-son-while-I'm-reading-the-paper trick—that I'm especially good at. I'm referring to taking some time to sit, relax and talk with your son or daughter eyeball to eyeball without having to rush, hurry, or move on to the next thing to do.

Better yet, when was the last time you had a good conversation with your spouse? I mean really spending some concentrated time hearing the other person out and entering into his/her world.

Isn't it funny how days turn into weeks, weeks turn into months, and the time just keeps grinding away—and we KNOW we should be spending more quality time with those we love most but... well, you know how it is. How will I get everything done that needs to be done and cover all

my bases and...?

Tell me about it. I live there too. But I'm beginning to realize that unless I intentionally TAKE the time to give undistracted attention to my wife and family it probably isn't going to happen. You see, I know myself too well.

The only way it's likely to happen is if I DETERMINE to do it. Today. Or when I get home tonight. Because if I don't start doing it today, it probably won't happen tomorrow. Or the next day. Or the day after that.

(Continued from Page 3)

"I don't know, just get out of my room!" Apparently we weren't going to get any more intel out of her today. Alina and I sat down at the foot of Patty's bed and started to discuss who the special guest could be. "Do you think it's another relative we've never met?" Alina asked. "No, they wouldn't be making this much of a fuss," I replied. Just then we felt Patty beginning to stir under her covers. Suddenly she sat up, hair askew, her pillow clutched tightly in her fist. "Get out of my room!" she yelled. I was able to out run the pillow as it screamed in our direction. Alina however wasn't fast enough, the pillow bounced off her head. That's one tough kid, my little sister. Most of the swelling would be gone by dinner time. I guess we'd just have to wait to see what the fuss was all about.

Shortly before noon the family began to arrive. My aunts had gone home to clean up and were now returning with my uncles and cousins in tow. My dad and my uncles performed their Thanksgiving ritual of staking out the prime seats in front of the TV. They immediately began the debate as to whether the Lions would tease us and make us think they might actually win a game. Or would they do the decent thing and get blown out from the beginning?

As the ladies set the big table with the fine china, Grandma and I set the kiddie table. She walked around the card table grinning from ear

to ear. I swear I even heard her humming. All the preparations were done, everything was ready. The bird was done, dad had taken the special carving knives from their case. All we needed now was this mystery guest. We didn't wait long.

We all froze and stared at the front door when we heard the doorbell ring. Dad and mom walked to the front door together. Dad reached out and opened the door. Bright sun light streamed into the room, rare for late November in Michigan. "Hello, welcome to our home," I heard Dad say to our guest. I strained to see, but the entryway was clogged with the adults. Finally the room cleared a little and I got my first gaze at our dinner guest.

I remember He was about my dad's height and build. He was a little thinner, but He was clearly in good shape, my uncles and cousins were farmers so I recognized someone who worked with his hands. His brown hair matched His beard. What I remember most vividly of Him was his eyes. They were the kindest, deepest eyes I'd ever seen. I watched Him as Dad introduced Him to the family. His eyes always met those He spoke with. He was kind and personable. He even laughed politely at one of my uncles' jokes. There was something familiar about Him, but I couldn't put my finger on it. Next my grandmother was introduced to Him. She started to walk to Him, and somewhere about halfway, she sat down in a chair, it was if her legs couldn't carry her any further. I had always known her to be strong and resourceful, and I had never seen her cry. But that's what she was doing now. Great big tears were running down her face, and all she could say was, "oh my..." She never took her eyes from His. She pulled the handkerchief from her sleeve and began to wipe her eyes. Our guest walked to her and knelt down in front of her, with a big smile he gently took the hankie from her hand and very gently wiped her tears. "I've waited so long to meet you," she said. "You've always known me Fern, and I've always known you," He said. Grandma composed herself, stood up and said to Him, "I'd like to introduce you to my grandchildren. I was toward the end of the line so I had to wait another few minutes for Him to get to me. He greeted each kid the same way He had with the grown ups. Finally He was standing in front of me. "Hello Richie," He said. I don't remember hearing Grandma tell Him what my name was. Right then, I realized who He was. "Jesus?" I said quietly. He nodded and winked at me, like it was our little secret. It was like we were the only two people in the room.

After the introductions were made, Mom showed us to our seats. We kids headed for our family room exile. Our guest was placed at the seat of honor, grandma was right at His side. I don't think she ate very much, all she could do was stare at Him.

While we kids ate our food we kept looking up at the big table. We could hear a little of their conversations. Our guest was very polite, He would nod and laugh. Yet, He kept looking over at

us at the kiddie table. Once when I caught His eye, I had to do a double take. "Did He just stick His tongue out at me?" I thought. I kept looking, and sure enough, as He was passing the potatoes to my aunt He looked at me and stuck out His tongue at me again. I started to laugh, I couldn't help it. Then I heard Alina who was sitting next to me say, "He just made a face at me." "You too?" said our cousin Billy who sat on Alina's other side. We all started to laugh. We also started to make faces back at Him. He of course "fired back" at us from the big table. The funny thing was, the adults around Him didn't seem to notice, except for grandma. She was sitting there with a little smile on her face.

A few minutes later, we saw Him stand up from the table, He picked up His plates and said "would you all excuse me?" With that he walked over to us and said, "do you mind if I eat with you?" We were ecstatic. "Sure!" we yelled. He sat down across from Alina and I. When we talked He listened intently, He smiled and laughed as we told Him our silly jokes. When my cousin Kyle belched, we all froze, looked in horror at Kyle and then back at our guest. No one moved or said a word. Oh man, the adults would nail us for that! Just then we heard another belch come from our table. We all stared in disbelief at our guest who had a mischievous smile on His face. "Excuse me," He said. Our table exploded in laughter. I don't know how long our meal was, it seemed like forever. At one point I looked up and saw my grandmother standing over our table. "Uh-oh, we're in for it now," I said. Without a word she set her plate of food down on our table. She pulled up a folding chair and sat down with us. Our guest gave her a

huge smile.

Once during the meal I saw our guest reach out and quickly pick His spoon off the table. I wondered what He was doing. Then with His other hand He picked up a pea off His plate. With both of His hands under the table He started to slyly look around the table. When our eyes met, He got a big grin on His face. "No!" I yelled. "Oh yes," He said. With that He flicked the pea off my forehead. We all just howled at His prank. While we were still laughing my grandma banked a pea off His head. He pretended to be hurt, then He laughed and put His arm around her.

By the time the meal was over everyone was at the kiddie table. Whether they were sitting at the table or on the floor it didn't seem to matter. We were all together and that's what mattered. Of course no one wanted that meal to end. But He said He had to go. There were tears and hugs at the door. Finally He gave a wave, a smile, then turned and was gone.

There have been a lot of changes since that special Thanksgiving. Mom and Dad, and my aunts and uncles are all grandparents now, and they've moved to warmer climates. My cousins and I have our own families, and my sisters are dotting aunts to my kids. Grandma is gone, she passed away years later. But, I take great comfort knowing that she is having dinner with Jesus every night now.

I often think about the promise that day sets before all of us. Just as grandma enjoys it now, we all have a place at His table. We're all invited to a banquet. A banquet where there is no "big table," or "kiddie table," there's just the head table. And we'll be with Him forever.

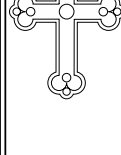
## THE DANCE DOLLS TO PERFORM AT THE EMBASSY THEATER

One of the local dance studios, the Dance Dolls, have received an invitation to dance on the Embassy Theater stage (Fort Wayne, IN) on November 23 at 3:00 p.m. They will be performing seven numbers from last season's recital during the theater's annual Festival of Trees.

The 50 advanced students attending (along with director Julie Hall and staff) would like to extend an open invitation to their supporters to enjoy the Festival and help to celebrate the honor of being one of the seven dance studios chosen to perform.

## LEOTA DAVIS CELEBRATES 88 YEARS OF LIFE

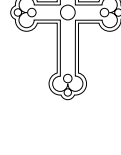
Leota Davis will be celebrating her 88<sup>th</sup> birthday! Family and friends are invited to an Open House at the Paulding United Methodist Church (321 North Williams Street) from 2:00-4:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 24.



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The annual T.G.I.F. give away will be held on Saturday, December 1, 2007. The give away will be at the First Presbyterian Church and the Paulding Extension Office by the Methodist Church.

Drop off for the First Presbyterian Church will be Monday, Nov. 26 through Thursday, Nov. 29 from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Drop off for the Methodist Church will be at the Extension Office Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.


Clean, gently used clothing, household items and toys will be accepted for the give away, as well as NEW items. Please NO furniture or large items.

Twin Oaks United Methodist Women present...

# Holiday Bazaar

Come have a scrumptious lunch of our famous homemade noodles in our Fellowship Hall. Enjoy a desert item from our bake sale then shop to your little heart's content. We have the one-stop shopping experience in our multi-purpose facility for all of your Christmas shopping needs.

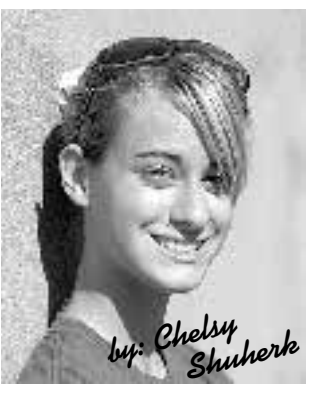
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# RAIDER REPORT



by: Chelsy Shuherk

In life, we are always judging people, and I am definitely guilty of doing that. The biggest way we judge in high school is by putting people in groups. We put people in these groups based on assumptions. Some of the groups are the jocks, the preps, the emos, the geeks, and the band people, and each of these groups have certain characteristics that tag along. The real question though is why do we judge people? Well, today I will tell you these groups' characteristics, and I will tell you my opinion on why we do this.

The first group is the jocks, which are the athletic people. According to their stereotype, they are dumb and mean. Next, are the preps, which are suppose to be the popular girls. Then, the emos are people who wear punk or skater clothes. The geeks are the nerdy and smart kids. The band people are self-explanatory, people in band. As can be seen, the people are put in these groups based on assumptions only, but I think I know why we do this.

I judge people all the time, and I believe I most likely

always will. I do not do it to be mean, but I think that in a way it is human nature. I know that things that are unfamiliar scare me. I like to know things. I feel lots of people do too, so that is why we put people in these groups. If we do that, then there will be nothing unknown about them. It will not be unknown because these groups have characteristics. I have realized that I should not judge people, and that the unknown is okay. People can not be grouped together because everyone is unique. Now do you not think I am going to let you go without a quote because I have a quote by Elisabeth Kubler-Ross.

She said, "People are like stained-glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light from within."

This to me means the age old saying, "Don't judge a book by its cover." Readers, I am asking you to think about that during your week.

## KARATE TOURNAMENT

There will be a Thanksgiving Karate Tournament on Sunday, November 25 at Ottawa-Glandorf High School. The tournament is open to all styles of Karate. Tae Kwon Do, Kempo, and Kung Fu. Registration will start at 9:00 a.m. and go till noon with the Black Belt meeting starting at noon. The events will include forms, sparing and breaking.

If you need more information then contact Mike Maag at 419-532-3308 or at 419-796-9790. This year's tournament will benefit the Red Cross for flood relief.

## "FROM THE VANTAGE POINT": 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS EXPLORE CAREERS AT VANTAGE



Rustin Adams, a junior from Crestview in the Ag Diesel Mechanics program at Vantage Career Center, is surrounded by 8<sup>th</sup> graders from Antwerp as he explains and demonstrates what students learn in the Ag lab. The students were at Vantage for 8<sup>th</sup> grade tours.

"What do you want to be when you grow up?" Children are often asked this question. Nearly 700 eighth graders from area schools got to take a peek at what the future might look like in several different career areas, as they visited the career technical labs at Vantage Career Center.

Each school in our district is invited to bring their 8th graders to Vantage for a career exploration activity, which involves a two-hour hands-on demonstration tour. Eighth graders receive a "mini-brochure" which describes the career-technical programs and explains what a typical day is like for students at Vantage. The eighth graders visit each lab and get to go home with a better idea of what goes on behind those big doors off the hallway.

Steven Carlisle, a senior from Antwerp in the Network Systems program was glad to see the 8<sup>th</sup> graders. "The students who were most excited about being in our lab liked learning "hands-on". I really enjoyed showing the 8<sup>th</sup>

graders what I do in my lab each day. I'm glad they came to visit."

This career exploration activity is especially helpful by informing and demonstrating all the options available to the students. During the visit, the 8<sup>th</sup> graders are able to see what skills are being used in different career areas and that helps them to begin thinking about developing their own skills. Students may also become more aware of how their interests and abilities can be cultivated into a rewarding career.

It's always a pleasure hosting the 8<sup>th</sup> graders and giving them a chance to learn a little more about Vantage Career Center and all the different career opportunities that are available.

A reminder that Vantage Parent/Teacher conferences will be held on Monday, November 19 from 3:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. and on Tuesday, November 20 from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Please call 419-238-5411 ext. 126 to schedule your appointment.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### A Note of Concern for Caring Parents

There has been a small amount of media attention concerning the soon to be released movie "The Golden Compass" (in England it is called "Northern Lights"). I have seen a few of the movie trailers for this film, which stars Nicole Kidman, and it is obviously being marketed toward our children.

However, as I told my youngest son David the other evening, you cannot always tell how good (or bad) a book is by its appearance.

The movie is based on a series of books written by an atheist by the name of Philip Pullman. The books include "Subtle Knife" and "The Amber's Spy Glass" in addition to the aforementioned movie

title. Each book, as well as the movie, is extremely critical of Christianity and the movie ends with the killing of God. In a 2003 interview Mr. Pullman is quoted as saying that his books are about "killing God." It is my understanding that this series of books received "The Carnegie Medal" for children's literature.

Unbelievable! There is a big push for parents to buy these books for their children for Christmas. These books were on display for our children to purchase at the recent Book Fair at the Paulding Elementary School. They were also prominently publicized in the recent book order catalog that my children brought home from school.

Many parents may have bought these books for their children unaware of the attack on the Christian faith that is the undoubted impetus behind them.

Shame on those parents who purchase these books or patronize this movie for their children knowing the truth behind what is the true agenda. This is yet another attempt by the secular progressives of our society to attack and rid our culture of God and Christianity. We cannot stand by and let them get away with it yet again. We must make our voices heard!

—Timothy L. Dooley

## PAULDING COUNTY HOSPITAL MAKES A MOVIE TO WIN A MRI

One day in late October, a Siemens Medical Solutions salesman stopped by Paulding County Hospital. While casually talking to the chief operating officer, Randy Ruge, he mentioned that PCH should try to win the MRI machine that his company was going to give away. Ruge was astounded that any company would even consider giving away almost a million dollar machine, but he did some research and discovered it was true. Actually the contest started in the last week of October so Paulding County Hospital is a bit behind to gather votes. Gary Adkins, CEO decided to ask his employees to make the movie and make the best effort to win. Adkins stated, "This is a great opportunity to obtain a MRI system for our hospital and improve the diagnostic level of care that we can offer to our community." What is fantastic about this MRI machine is that it is a fixed and permanent fixture so the mobile unit would not have to be used any more.

The movie was conceived

and filmed within two weeks of the initial contact. A lot of criteria had to be met to submit a video, but the completed movie has been uploaded to the website and the public votes for the movie. Paulding County Hospital employees are the stars of the movie and it was filmed with the help of a local videographer. A public awareness campaign is in full force to make everyone in the community aware of the voting. One vote can be counted from each computer daily so please vote every day at [www.winanmri.com](http://www.winanmri.com). Under Select a hospital, scroll down to the Paulding County Hospital and view the video. The entire video must be viewed before you can vote. With the community's help Paulding County Hospital can become the proud owners of a fixed MRI machine.

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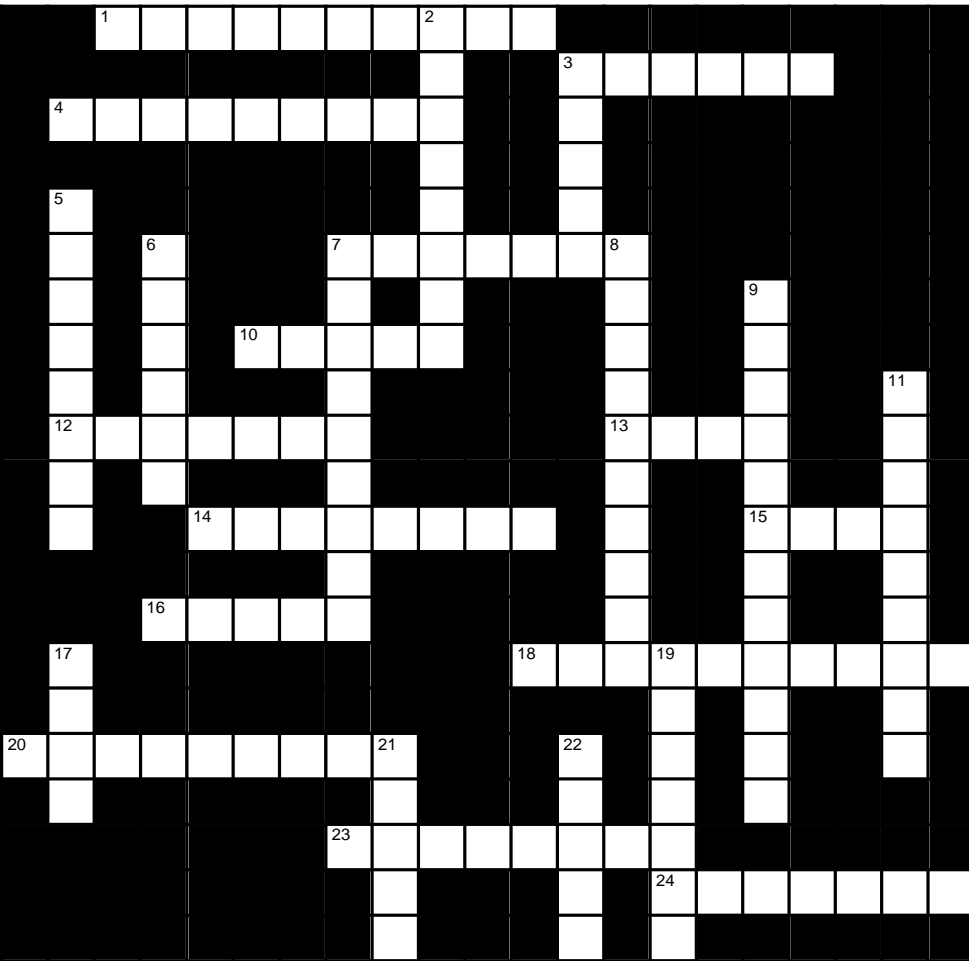
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# Crossword Puzzle



**Across**

1. They did not eat this food at the first Thanksgiving.
3. The biggest day of the year for THIS is on Thanksgiving.
4. The name of the ship the pilgrims came over on.
7. The Plymouth rocked is WHAT.
10. This utensil wasn't invented yet at the first Thanksgiving.
12. At the first Thanksgiving, there were more of these people than pilgrims.
13. Turkeys can drown if they look up into THIS.
14. The name of the famous rock credited to where the pilgrims first landed.
15. Only this many women survived to celebrate the first Thanksgiving.
16. The last name of the Mayflower's captain.
18. This poet wrote "The Courtship of Miles Standish".
20. The last name of the President who established Thanksgiving to be the fourth Thursday in November.
23. This part of the turkey is saved and snapped for good luck.
24. This U.S. president made Thanksgiving a national holiday.

**Down**

2. The original name of the pilgrims.
3. The first Thanksgiving lasted this many days.
5. At the first Thanksgiving, the early settlers bet on this kind of contest.
6. This country, besides the U.S., celebrates Thanksgiving.
7. The Thanksgiving Parade is a kick-off to this season.
8. Indian corn is used for THIS.
9. The meaning of the word "cornucopia". (3 words)
11. Captain John Smith founded this colony in Virginia.
17. By 1690, this became the priority at Thanksgiving.
19. The first department store to hold a Thanksgiving Day parade.
21. This is the best place to put the meat thermometer in a turkey.
22. This team put on the first Thanksgiving football game.



By: Chelsea Vail

Lace up your athletic shoes and schedule that hard-earned pedicure! Between those running up and down basketball courts and those running up and down mall corridors, there are bound to be some tired tootsies around town this week. Yes, the basketball and shopping seasons are upon us. We have lots of box-outs and fast breaks to look forward to, not to mention the sales—I'm speaking of the Black Friday shopping craze, of course! As for the basketball, well, observing from the stands at a safe distance from the action may be a refreshing escape from the perils of trying to beat out fellow consumers to the best sale items.

Remember that it's back to school we go on Monday, to embark on the downhill (ski?) slope towards the end of the semester. Bittersweet, surely, but inevitable. Remember, if we indulged in all the fixings of a great Thanksgiving dinner every day, it would lose some of its appeal... Yeah, I'll just keep telling myself that. Onward, now, onward to the week's athletics!

JH Girls Basketball: November 26, 5:00, Paulding; November 27, 5:00, Edgerton

Freshman Boys Basketball: November 24, 1:00, @ Lincolnview; November 26, 5:00, Edgerton

Varsity Girls Basketball: November 27, 6:00, @ Edon

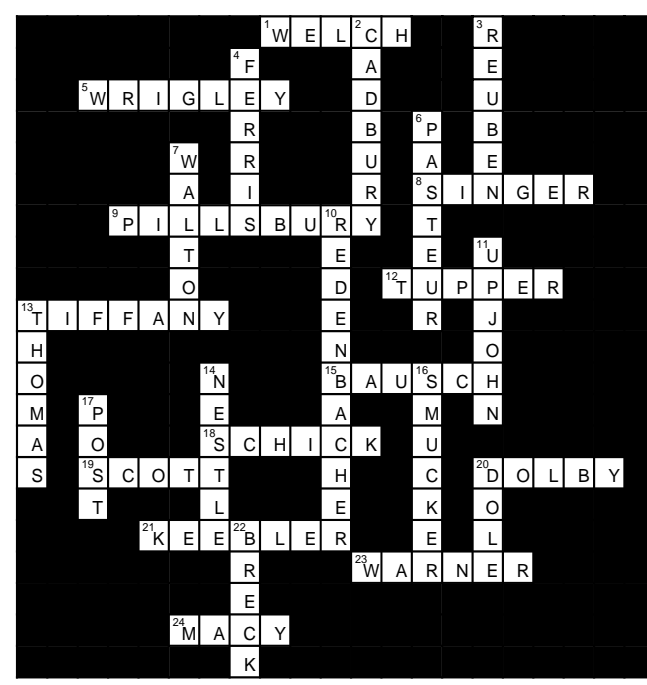
Varsity Boys Basketball: November 24, 6:00, @ Paulding

**Word of the Week:**  
Comport \kum-PORT\ verb  
1. To conduct or behave oneself in a particular manner  
2. To be fitting; to agree - usually followed by "with"  
Example: "The hunt for good deals on Christmas gifts could possibly be rendered less primal if only people would choose to comport themselves with more dignity."  
Ah, yes - the hunt. As per usual, I will be sitting this excursion out. Tucked into a warm bed whilst the braver (crazier?) shoppers of the world take each other on, one 75% off gadget at a time. Good night and good luck!

**STOLLER RE-ELECTED TO PAULDING SWCD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

PAULDING—An election was held during the Paulding Soil and Water Conservation Districts 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on November 13, 2007 which resulted in Jim Stoller being re-elected to serve his 6<sup>th</sup> term on the Board of Supervisors for the Paulding Soil and Water Conservation District. The Board of Supervisors consist of five individuals who are responsible for setting program goals and priorities for the Paulding Soil and Water Conservation District. Board meetings are held the second Monday of each month and are open to the public.

November 14<sup>th</sup> answers to "Familiar Names"



**WOODBURN DAIRY SWEET SOLD**



By: Sue Kanpp

Zelda Mayers worked at the Woodburn Corner Cafe. The Dairy Sweet sign is down and remodeling has started. The west side drive-up will be closed in for seating. The east side drive-up will still be open. Zelda will be open for breakfast and serve sandwiches, ice cream and a coffee bar with lattes, mochas and more. Zelda projects the opening to be this January.

Dairy Sweet will become the Woodburn Corner Cafe. The Dairy Sweet sign is down and remodeling has started. The west side drive-up will be closed in for seating. The east side drive-up will still be open. Zelda will be open for breakfast and serve sandwiches, ice cream and a coffee bar with lattes, mochas and more. Zelda projects the opening to be this January.

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# JOURNEY AT JUNCTION

(Continued from Page 1)

if they might be able to buy them, or would the church be for sale? The answer always was "No decisions have been made!"

On July 1 the church was filled with a grieving parish family. Joining in the celebration of the last Mass were two previous pastors Father George Wenzinger and Father David Tscherne, along with Junction's one and only parish son to be ordained, Father Jacob Gordon. Following the Mass a dinner and reception were held at the K of C Hall in Defiance and families were gifted with a CD of beautiful music from their own choir, a laser engraved magnet of the beautiful building, and the presentation of a slide show that was later made to DVD for the people and also included the entire day's activities.

The close-knit Junction faith community came from many directions so it was clear they would find many new churches to become a part of, not just one that would allow them to stay together. What was feared from the beginning, and slowly began to happen was they were feeling more like lost sheep. Granted, a few went right to another parish and registered, some because they were afraid of not having a Catholic burial, some because of the convenience of the CCD program, some because they actually lived nearer other parishes. People would run into each other on the streets and share their feelings of being lost and losing their desire to attend Mass, or going to Mass and still not feeling right. Most thought they were alone in their feelings but soon began to learn many of their parish family had the same feelings. They were all still very much

in the grieving process.

Soon after the last Mass the locks on the church doors were changed. As fall approached it was decided to hold a raffle on Sunday, October 14 to rid the church of all goods not considered sacred. As always people still asked about the windows and were told as late as October 14 that no decision had been made.

On October 16 a contractor from Cleveland called to gain access to the church to begin taking the windows. In shock and disbelief a call was made to a member of United Parishes asking what could be done. (United Parishes arose out of several other parishes that closed in 2005.) File an injunction was the reply. No one was willing or even able to do that on such short notice. In hopes the people didn't get such a painful shock when opening the newspaper the next day, a phone chain was activated explaining the windows were being removed the next morning.

At 7:00 in the morning of the 17th a parishioner got a call from United Parishes telling them to get people there the media was coming. Shortly after that call the news media including the Toledo Blade and Lima WLIO TV phoned the same parishioner, who had no intention of going to Junction that morning. But the curiosity was rising. Only a couple of calls were made, but from the phone chain activated the night before and the fact fog had cancelled school, there were many people arriving by 10:00. Two ladies from the United Parishes drove 90 miles to be there and one asked the contractors, "What would you do if we blocked the door?" And he replied he'd go home. So that was the peaceful end of the first at-

tempt. The contract was witnessed by parishioners and it was signed on September 17 to take the windows at a cost of over \$14,000 and they had been inspected in the month before that.

As the contractors left people stood around in disbelief at what had just unfolded. Now you not only have a congregation that is grieving, they are beginning to feel betrayed. But the nagging question was still what would they even do with the building? They knew their church was gone forever, but how could the building be preserved for its historical value. Or why couldn't there be dialog about selling the church. Anything to prevent the dismantling before it could be discussed. Grasping at straws, it was suggested giving the building to the library.

An e-mail from the diocesan attorney to a local attorney was received October 24 stating, "I left you a voice mail message this afternoon suggesting that there are local plans for the building, once the Sacred Objects (including the stained glass windows) are removed." It went on to state that "parishioners plans to donate the building to the local library would have to be supported by the Paulding St. Joseph Parish."

Another letter was received from the diocesan attorney dated November 6 stating "I am not willing to recommend to the Diocese that it agree in writing to delay removing anything from the Junction church building until the other pending cases are over, because those approaching finality in the trial court, yet appeals may follow. However, at this point I am willing to ask the Diocese to leave the stained glass windows at the Junction building until we explore the possibility of some transfer to the county library, which was the suggestion originating with the Junction former parishioners. In any event, the stained glass would have to be removed before any property transfer would take place."

During the time following the first attempt to take the windows parishioners began receiving much support and guidance. Could it really be possible they were being lied to? Small doubts turned into huge questions and answers were not adding up. These are people still grieving and along the way they have spoken with many priests both in and out of the Toledo Diocese. And time after time they were hearing this just isn't right. But because of the structure of the Catholic Church the bishop has the final say.

This coupled with the recent explosion stories of sexual abuse by the clergy and huge financial drain, the cover up of evidence against Father Robinson in the Sister Pahl murder case and his conviction, and local observance of how another parish was dismantled all came crashing down. And as time passed more public scandals were revealed causing many to search deeply. Does one continue to obey? Or do you make known the facts as you understand them? How many children might not have been abused had people decided not to 'obey'? How can you live with yourself if you truly feel things are not right and you turn your head?

Information was com-



ing in daily and doubts were turning into sincere mistrust. United Parishes, who had asked to come and speak from the first day were finally given the opportunity. They came and spoke to a standing room only crowd at the Junction Fox Club on Sunday, November 11. People were hearing for the first time some of the things that have been happening in the Toledo Diocese and throughout the country. There are grass roots efforts nationwide addressing the unrest in the church. This is not just a problem in a little church in Northwest Ohio. As people begin to talk and compare notes it becomes harder for them to accept everything they're being told. People attending the meeting on Sunday and reading newspaper articles might be shocked at some of the statements. Those who have seen the documents are shocked anyone can turn a blind eye.

On Monday, November 12 people just needed time to digest the information. On Tuesday, November 13 a phone call came in that there was a truck and trailer backed up to the church. Word spread and long story short the contractors had returned to re-

move the windows and were sent home again. Proceedings began for a legal injunction.

On Wednesday, November 13, with just a night's notice many former parishioners joined for a prayer session again at the Junction Fox Club. People shared and vented and prayed.

The injunction was signed by the judge on November 16. What is known is that the people in the small faith community of Junction are only asking for the courtesy of answers to questions. Questions like, can we buy the windows? Have you already sold them? If so, who will get the money? If they are not sold, why can't they remain in place until there is a purpose for them? Why was a church in Fostoria offered to the Ecumenical council for \$1 and other churches aren't allowed to be sold? Why are some windows deemed sacred and other churches were allowed to keep theirs and cut them up? Why is there such a rush to take the Junction windows and not windows from the other closed parishes?

It would be wonderful if the church were ran as God intended and not as a big business. A great show of

heart would be to allow the windows to remain in an historical building that means so much to the entire Catholic and non-Catholic communities. What a surprise to get some good publicity out of the Toledo Diocese for a change. Just a straight forward answer that would turn out to be true would be welcome. The ball is in their court. Their actions will speak volumes to the people of this community, town and county.

*Editor's note: The following letter has been printed in other local newspapers several weeks ago, but the author submitted it to us and we are putting it in for this special section all together.*

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The turn of events at St. Mary's Junction last Wednesday (October 17) has forced some serious soul searching, as well as just plain searching for answers. When we were notified about 5:00 on Tuesday that the windows would be removed on Wednesday morning, shocked doesn't begin to describe how we felt. Betrayed might be a better (Continued on Page 8)

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(Continued from Page 7)

adjective. As late as Sunday we were told, "There has been no decision made about the building or the windows. You will be notified."

There was so much publicity and so much support coming forth it looked as if we were at an important crossroad. It was becoming overwhelming to discern what the 'right' thing to do was. So I asked for guidance from some clergy. One suggested I read the book, "Faith That Dares to Speak" by Donald Cozzens. In a nutshell, from what I could find on the internet about the book, it explains how the "hierarchy is working out of the model of the feudal world. The feudal system demands absolute loyalty, and there is no accountability except to the person above you. And this culture is now clashing with our modern democratic culture. A feudal system does not work when the serfs (laity) become educated."

The hierarchy is banking on loyalty for the survival of the church. And it's no secret the loyal followers are dwindling. With each new controversy the 'serfs' become more educated, thus making it harder to remain loyal. In today's world, when people are able to communicate so rapidly, secrets are harder to keep. A contract was signed to take our windows on September 18. We know they were inspected before that contract was signed, possibly a month before. It's possible no one could be contacted until October 16, but it's just not probable. Isn't it more probable that the windows in Junction are far more valuable than anyone realizes? And all the faithful 'serfs' at Junction ever asked was the courtesy to be informed of the plan. We were ready to move on. Many still are. But the vast majority of the population sees this as yet another bad move on the part of this Diocese.

All we asked for is an open discussion of what would happen to the windows, or could the building be preserved for its historic value. Just that one courtesy would have ensured they keep some 'loyal serfs'. If the windows are removed without further dialog, hopefully, more 'serfs' will become educated. This has come down to a matter

of principle. But that concept probably won't be found in the laws of the feudal system.

—Sue Brown

## VIEWS FROM THE OUTSIDE

by Brad Dysinger,  
Opinion Columnist



### What's behind Window Number Three?...\$\$\$\$\$

A lot of readers have been calling about the election and have been wondering what I thought about the results. The only thing I'm going to say about the election right now is that I was happy to see the MRDD levy pass by the same percentage that the jail levy failed by. Paulding County voters aren't automatic no votes on taxes if they are convinced the money goes for what it's supposed to. Transparency and accountability go a long ways with County voters and it's important to answer questions when the public asks them honestly, especially about money.

Unfortunately I've come to believe money, or the love of money, is in fact the root of all evil. This past Sunday Ann and I attended a meeting at the Junction Fox Club concerning the Junction St. Mary Chapel. I went just because I'm nosey and I wanted to see for myself what was happening and what the real story was about the closing of the Church. I don't think there is any doubt that money is what drives politics and the government today but this past week I've seen the love of money creep into the last place that descent people would expect, into the fabric of a local church and the head honchos that run the church's governing body, the Toledo Diocese.

I'm not Catholic and in fact the only times I've ever been in a Catholic Church

is for weddings and funerals, which should make most Catholics happy since they don't have to claim me as one of their own, but saying that I can spot a rat and greed along way off and there is a greedy rat up high in Toledo, at least in my opinion that is.

What does money have to do with it? It seems that the head man in Toledo wants money and the fastest way to get it is to close down little Catholic churches that have money in their account under the old consolidation theory. Paulding County residents that have been around here for 35 years can remember when consolidation of the schools was someone's brilliant plan for Paulding County Schools and we can see just look how well that turned out. When our towns gave up their high schools they gave up their souls and the little Churches across Northwest Ohio that are being consolidated are having the same done to them, their communities are losing their identities too.

What I want you to remember also is that in Putman County when they were told to consolidate their schools (at the same time Paulding County was) Putman County towns told the State that they'd just as soon run their own schools thank you and kindly butt out. This in itself is ironic to me since Putman County Schools and towns are mostly Catholic, and now someone in the Catholic hierarchy has made the discussion that this small church with the valuable windows in Junction, Ohio is a worthwhile target, so consolidate, and oh yes, give us your windows as you're leaving.

What this has to do with God and religion I don't know, it makes me think more of a big country invading a small country to gobble up their oil wells. What are they after? They are after Texas T, cash. In this case, not oil but stain glass windows paid for by the ancestors of the St. Mary Chapel. I think it's the Toledo diocese that thinks their dealing with a bunch of Hillbillies, not Beverly Hillbillies

like the TV show, but Paulding County Hillbillies, small town hicks, that won't fight for their church and stand up to unreasonable oppression. I hope they're wrong, the good people of Junction Saint Mary Chapel deserve better and they deserve our support.

What the Toledo crowd is doing to these people is just plain wrong. After all "No Compromise" is the motto of Paulding County and is our county's heritage. What would the founders of Junction Saint Mary think if the county stands by and does nothing to help, what would any of our forefather's think? Any county that still has the Ten Commandments on the courthouse lawn knows what the right thing to do is. So happy Thanksgiving everyone, and best wishes to all of you in Junction and the rest of Paulding County, and good luck with that fight for your church.

### PAULDING COUNTY PARISH FIGHTS ON ABOUT 25 AT CLOSED CHURCH THWART STAINED-GLASS REMOVAL

By: David Yonke  
BLADE RELIGION EDITOR

JUNCTION, OH—More than 25 members of a rural Catholic parish closed by Toledo Bishop Leonard Blair in July blocked the doors of their former church yesterday to prevent workers from removing its stained-glass windows.

"We're trying to find some way just to prolong the inevitable," said Sue Brown, 58, a lifelong member of St. Mary Catholic Church.

Two employees of Klimo Inc., a Cleveland-based construction and restoration company, arrived yesterday morning at the small Paulding County church, about 70 miles southwest of Toledo, with a truck and trailer and orders to remove St. Mary's tabernacle and stained-glass windows.

Ginny Hull, who has been battling the diocese over the closure of her parish, St. James in Kansas,

Ohio, raced over to Junction, about 80 miles west of her hometown, to try to help the parishioners.

"There were about 25 or 30 people here," she said. "I asked them, 'You want them to do this?' When they said no, I asked the workers, 'What would you do if we all stood on the steps and blocked the doors?' They said, 'I guess we'd leave.' So that's what we did."

The workers "were very nice" and left without incident, according to Ms. Hull and Ms. Brown.

Colleen Buckman, a spokesman for the Toledo diocese, said church officials are "following standard procedure with all closed parishes." That procedure is to hire professionals to evaluate the items in the church and then to photograph, measure, crate, and remove anything of value, she said. Most of the items are then placed in storage.

The stained-glass windows and tabernacle from St. Mary's are considered sacred objects and will be preserved "for future use and only for sacred use," Ms. Buckman said.

Each diocese decides which objects are considered sacred, but in Toledo the list includes stained-glass windows, Ms. Buckman said. The sacred items removed from closed parishes are made available to other churches within the diocese, and after that to churches

in other dioceses that have endured a tragedy, such as damage from fire or flood.

St. Mary's was founded as a parish in 1846, and the cornerstone for the present building was laid in 1907.

Ms. Brown said the church has approximately 27 stained-glass windows, all featuring Bible scenes, that were installed during the 1907 construction. Some of the windows are as large as 6 feet wide and 15 feet tall, she said.

"They are beautiful; they are priceless," Ms. Brown said. "Everybody who steps into the church comments on the stained-glass windows."

Ms. Buckman said the diocese will go ahead with its plans to remove the windows and place them in storage, although after yesterday's incident she said there is no timetable for the process.

Asked if the diocese would seek help from area law enforcement officials to enter St. Mary's, Ms. Buckman said,

(Continued on Page 11)



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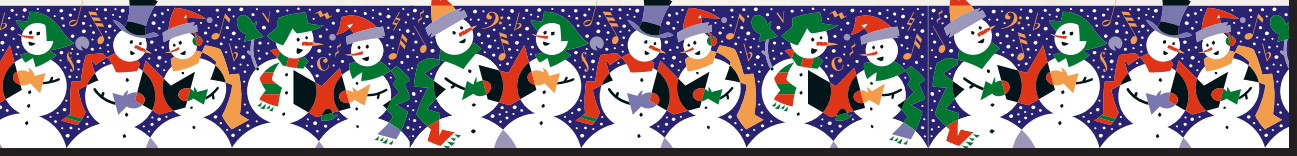
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**ANTWERP HISTORY**

By: Stan Jordan

Tomorrow is Thanksgiving and it is time for us to pull over to the side of the road and let the busy, insecure, chilly beautiful world speed on by. While we are sitting here enjoying everything we have, let's talk about the blessing that we here in Antwerp have to be thankful for in the last few months.

First, last Memorial Day we had a fine parade and nice crowd, as we hung the wreath on the Senitath at The Riverside Cemetery. It was one of the best turn outs in recent years.

In our Antwerp High School, the girls Softball team had an excellent season. They had 14 wins and only 2 defeats. I knew some of these girls and they all play ball and excel in the basics of softball. They lose one regular player and they should do well next spring. It looks good for our

people and I am proud of them and thankful too.

Our football team had a good season. They went 7 and 3 and then lost one more in the play-offs. In those three losses, the boys played hard and looked very good. They played some tough teams this year and—fellows we're proud of you and thankful too.

I know the Antwerp track team done very well this year. As I sit here and write, the track team is still active, the season isn't over yet. We are certainly proud of you and hope you do well the rest of the season. I know the girls volleyball had a good season also, I don't know if that season is over yet or not.

Some of the churches have started an instructional soccer league. I know that the 8-12 age group Orange team had a fairly good season, but all eight of them are on the Honor Roll at school as well. How do you like them apples?! All eight on the Honor Roll! That speaks good of our children, parents, coaches and teachers. We are thankful for our fine school system and mighty proud too.

Last spring Charles "Chuck" Wiedman had a bad accident on his tractor and was near death for many days. With a lot of prayers and fine doctoring and care, he started to do better. The people in Antwerp had a benefit for him on the streets of Antwerp and it was a success. His friends with the classic cars came and drew a large crowd that evening. What I'm saying is, the Antwerp people pulled together to help one of their own.

I'm proud of our people and all that helped with that benefit. It just made you feel good that evening. It's another thing to be thankful for and we are also thankful for the fact that Chuck is alive and doing well.

In that terrible accident on July 20, we lost three of our fine EMS people. After the shock and sadness, the townspeople really pulled together. New Haven loaned us a new

unit for Squad 41. The La-Farge plant and the Paulding County Hospital just recently donated the funds to reproduce the Defibrillator for the Squad. The monetary value of that unit is around \$25,000. We are certainly thankful for that. We are all still in sorrow about our loss, but the remaining EMS are on hand and doing a good job.

On August 11, we had "A Day in the Park" along with a first class parade. It was a pretty warm day, but we had a large crowd all day. We all went home tired that evening, but we all had a good time and we are "thankful" for the nice day.

The farmers in the area tell me that even though we had a six week period with only six inches of rain, the crops turned out pretty good. Kenny Hahn said that's because the corn and beans rooted down deep early and Paulding County clay holds moisture pretty good. Then that seven inches of rain that came just in time, made the crops produce good averages. You bet we are thankful for that.

The Manor House opened for business this spring and it is a beautiful place. The people who live there are happy and enjoy it there. I have been there and have seen all of it, and I'm thankful that we have it here.

One day a week ago, Karen Sanders took some shop towels, a bucket of white paint and a brush and started painting the stone edifices that stand at the two openings in Veterans Memorial Park. After many hours, Mary Pierce came along and volunteered to help her. There they were toiling and sweating and getting blisters, also using all their own gear.

Don Pierce, a city employee, came along and inquired about their supplies. He said, "By golly, I'll go see the mayor and see if the town won't buy the paint." It takes five gallons for each stone gateway and there are four big units.

Well what I'm getting at is that girls took it on themselves to beautify our park. Boy, it sure looks better, and I'm proud of them. And that gives us another thing to be thankful for.

Another group of hard working, dedicated people are the A.C.D.C. That stands for Antwerp Community Development Committee. They have done many things that you don't know about. The big High School Reunion last year. Cleaning and beautifying the old Varner's Station. They have done a lot towards



the old Railroad Depot.

I know they have done more and are still doing, but that's what comes to my mind as I sit here at the kitchen table. Please add that to your list of things to be thankful for.

This picture, courtesy of Barbara Reeb Cleland is of the first block on the east side of South Main. Mr. Ehrhart must have been in or on the Haver Building or the first building south of The Ice Cream Parlor.

The 1870 building on the left that advertises Shaffer Brothers is now The Oasis. A man named Henry George built a grocery store here in 1870. I think in the 1920's, the Shaffer Brothers bought it and added dry goods to their selection. Then in the early 1930's the Hertel Brothers had a jewelry and ice cream and some drugs there.

Then in the mid-1930's, Frank Knight moved his saloon into that building and renamed it The Oasis. It was soon owned by Ab Greysinger and a number of owners since. Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Bragg are the owner and operator now.

Across the street, just lately that building was Merl's and then The Playa restaurant at that time it was The Champion Hotel. Then later, shortly after 1900. I have also seen old photographs of that block that showed this Hotel under the name of Harris Hotel. This building was built by Frank Lamb.

In 1896 the council authorized the Paulding Phone Company to maintain phone service in Antwerp. It also authorized an Electric Company for Antwerp. In a few years, it was called the Ohio Standard Telephone Co. The top floor of their Hotel was remodeled and it was the office of the Telephone Co. An outside stairs was added and it was the phone office till up in the 1950's. Ruth Nelson, Mrs. Cowell, Mrs. Wilson and Miss Chaney was some of the operators called "Central" at that time.

The bottom part of that building has had a multitude of renters. I know it was a bank, a music store. Dutch Michelson's Modern Upholstery, a number of taverns and restaurants.

The next building going north was the Post Office for many, many years until 1968. The next building north was a ladies Hat and Apparel shop. This went out of business in the early 1930's and Jim Powers opened a Bar and Grill and this lasted for many years. Now Mr. Ed Glass owns these two buildings and we will come back to him in a minute.

If you look at the picture, the next is a small wooden building that is a Steam Dry

Cleaning shop owned by Jim Sexton. He was in business for years, then this building was razed and that was a vacant lot until Frank Smith had that brick building built and he moved his Drug Store over to that location. It was that until Frank died after about 25 years. It has been a flower shop by different owners for about 30 years.

The next building that I remember was a watch repair and jewelry store by Fred and Mike Hertel. Later on Mike became Postmaster.

The next door north was the office of Dr. Caine. Everyone in those days had a story about Doc. He was from England and a veteran of WWI. I have covered Doc before and probably will again. He was a grand old man that will never

have a replacement.

The next building that I remember was Battershell's 5 and dime store. That too lives in everybody's memories. It had three counters of candy. You just don't forget that soon.

If you take your magnifying glass and look, you will see another old building just north of Battershell's, I'm not sure but I think it was a "Tin Shop", maybe for Hartwells.

Well, anyway, that was torn down and that became a gasoline station and was managed by a number of people. It was also a restaurant and a doctor's office. Now it is a Driving School operated by Mr. Zartman.

This picture of this block, had to be taken after 1900. I

(Continued on Page 10)



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There's nothing we would rather say, Than "have a happy Thanksgiving Day!" And there's nothing that we'd rather do, Than give our thanks to all of you!

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*We will be giving free micros with a mini facial, hand paraffin dips and our licensed massage therapist will be giving chair massages, come in and have some refreshments and sign up for our holiday basket giveaway.*

(Continued from Page 9)

don't know how much before. This photo is the property of Barbara Reeb Cleland and we appreciate her loaning it to us.

Now let us go back to Ed Glass. He owns the building of The Dog House Diner and the one to the north. He has spent a lot of money and many, many hours of labor and it has paid off. The center of that block really looks nice now. Just stop across the street and look at the big change that Ed has made there. Here is a little info on Ed Glass.

He was born in 1955. His parents were Glen Dale and Rosemary Glass. They died when The Zuber Cut off Bridge fell in in 1983. He, Ed, graduated from Antwerp High School and married Liza Billman, Pinky and Darlene's daughter. They have two daughters.

Adrienne graduated out of Eastern Michigan and is an RN at Fort Wayne Orthopedic in the old Powers Building. She is a very necessary part of that operation.

Amanda graduated from Bowling Green, and is now seeking another degree at Cleveland State. While doing all this, she works with autistic children.

The reason I'm talking to you about Ed Glass and his family reverts back to the first of my column about Antwerp having things to be thankful for. And we are very thankful to Ed for all he has done to beautify the center of that block. Ed, a tip of my ball cap to you.

I would like to use this way of saying thanks to some people who have helped me with information, pictures, or dates. Cord Ehrhart, Barbara Cleland, Kathy Smith Wilson, Paul Smith, Lucille Seslar, Leota Davis, Mike McKeever, Clay Coleman, and my two old schoolmasters, Lain and Eloise.

See ya!

**STAN & SUE ON THE ROAD**

By: Stan Jordan & Sue Knapp

This week we traveled to

The Manor House and interviewed Vernon and Ruth Johnson. They are the only married couple residing at The Manor House.

Vernon was born in 1917 in the Hicksville area. He is 90 years old.

Ruth was born in 1920 in Pleasant Township over in Van Wert County. She attended a one room school for years and then graduated from Van Wert High School in 1938.

Vernon grew up with his grandparents and attended school in Hicksville. Ruth was also raised by her grandparents, as her mother died when she was two years old.

They were married in 1939 and lived in Hicksville but attended the Lutheran Church in Sherwood. The Pastor of that church still calls on them at The Manor House at least once a month.

In WWII, Vernon served in the Navy. He returned home in 1946.

In their family life they had two boys and a girl.

Elaine Brown lives in the Hicksville area and has two children, Greg and Laurie. William lives around Hicksville and has two children, Tina and Matthew. Edward lives over around Woodburn and has Russ, Mike and Kim.

They both worked at Weatherhead about from the time it opened. Vern worked in the tool room as a tool and die man. Ruth was a machine operator. They both retired from Dana-Weatherhead.

They both liked to travel. They journeyed to California and visited the place Vern served in WWII.

In addition, Ruth liked to garden and spent a lot of her off time there.

They came to The Manor House early in 2007. They were allowed to bring their own furnishings, even some antiques.

They enjoy the activities and the Bible Study on Thursdays. They love the food and the staff and it's just like living in a fancy apartment.

God Bless You, Ruth and Vern.

**STAN & SUE ON THE ROAD**



By: Stan Jordan & Sue Knapp

Stan: Sue and I journeyed to Payne to see Jeff Tempel. Boy, was I impressed. Jeff is a collector of memorabilia of tokens of remembrance, back mostly of Payne in the days of yore.

He has pictures of Payne High School sports of all types. Pictures of old railroad scenes and just about anything you can think of.

At the present he has a lot of his artifacts on display in the Chamber of Commerce Building. He is very appreciative of the Chamber members and President, Chad Bensch-

neider, for letting him use their building.

Now make note of these dates. The display will be open at this time: Sunday, Nov. 25 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. and Tuesday, Nov. 27 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. There is no charge at any time.

Jeff has been a Payne resident all his life. He was born on November 15, 1959. He graduated from Wayne Trace in 1978. His wife's name is Sheila and they have three children: Stefany, Megan and a son, Elliot. Megan has a daughter, Chase, and Stefany has two boys, Jacob and Boston. Jeff is employed by a local

machine shop.

Jeff has more than a thousand pieces in his collection. He has been at it for over 25 years.

He has other hobbies—he likes to golf and fish. He collects antiques also and likes to go to auctions and sales that carry his type of memorabilia.

What he is looking for now is high school rosters and players lists, any school yearbooks or annuals, any school uniforms or bits of clothing from any school.

This man is sincere and very knowledgeable. Even if you're not from Payne, I know that you would enjoy looking at his collection and you are welcome to do so.

Sue: Although most of Jeff's memorabilia is from Payne he has things from all over Paulding County.

He is very appreciative of the things that people donate to him. I saw some things that I didn't know what they were. He has a few Dely High-Speed Forks. I thought they were manufactured huge diving rods, that's what they looked like. They are used for messages. A person will stand and hold it up and as a train passes and the person on the train will lean out a window and take the message off as

the train is rolling down the tracks.

He has an old bank ledger that is in tip top shape. The entry's on the pages are all hand written. I was really interested in the dance cards, the pencils were still with them. I had never seen one before, only read about them in books. He has brochures for the class of 1891 (one graduate), 1892 (six graduates) and 1893 (three graduates).

He also knows the history behind some of his things. He has a picture of Lamb's Store. Mr. Lamb built the store and lived upstairs. The legends is that he would walk around with \$1,000 bills in his pockets. He put up the money for Perma-Glass (Taylor Made Glass) in 1949 and he donated money to start the Dallas Lamb Nursing Home.

Another item of interest is the blueprints and estimates of putting in brick streets on Merrin and Main Streets of Payne. They were built in 1915 for a cost of \$15,000.

He has an old cloth bank bag that has a lock on it; pictures of ice cutters and people standing at the depot waiting for the train; also a collection of yardsticks and calendars. He has much much more to browse over and remember.

*Paulding County Hospital Foundation*



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*You can help brighten this holiday season and give the gift of health to your friends and neighbors*

- Each tribute you fund may be designated to:*
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  - ★ *Celebrate a singular occasion such as a marriage, a birth, or an anniversary*
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*The tributes will be displayed in the outpatient lobby of Paulding County Hospital. Those individuals and occasions being honored, and those contributing, will be recognized in two ways:*

- 1. Publication in the newspaper (if received by December 3rd);*
- 2. Displayed in the outpatient lobby of Paulding County Hospital.*

*Yes, I want to help support Paulding County Hospital Foundation with a gift to — Bright Lights for a Bright Tomorrow*

one tribute - \$5  three tributes - \$10  five tributes - \$15

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- In honor of  In memory of \_\_\_\_\_
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(Continued from Page 8)

**JOHN PAULDING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS**

There is good news and bad news from the John Paulding Historical Society to report. Which should I tell you first? Oh, I see a hand from Aryn and Kelli that I should tell you the good news first, so here goes. Well, as you know there were some exciting times at the historical society this past weekend. Trees of all kinds were decorated inside the main building along with the decorations in barn #1.

We had several questions about some of the displays in both buildings and I know the answers.

The log cabin, in the barn, was built by the Myers family in the 1870's and then donated to the historical society in the 1990s by Betty Bradford. It had sat on the banks of the Little Auglaize, just north of Melrose, for quite some time having come from the Kings Cemetery just to the east of the river. We had a visitor at the festival who said he had lived in it for a time but it was much larger with a lean-to on each side. We had pictures and a short history on display of the family in 1901 and at that time it looked as if there were two stories to the house.

The mystery of the replica of the court house was also resolved. It was built by J.W. Smith and Charles Pepper of Paulding. What a talent these fellows had. If we missed anyone else who helped, I apologize. Let us know at JPHS and we will get the word out. Somewhere in the barn is a replica of the LaFarge plant. Maybe next year we can get it out and decorate it.

We found a wooden Christmas tree in the barn. What a challenge to put it up. Rose Munger, a member of the committee, took it to task after it was assembled and made it very sturdy. The decorations were wooden and re-

flected characters on TV and in the comics, such as Snoopy and Garfield. Again we went on a mystery trip and discovered that the tree had been made by Charles Williamson of the Paulding area.

Several people went through and commented on the carvings of Bob Franklin of Antwerp. What a talent he had until his hands just wouldn't let him carve anymore. I understand there is a canoe with some Native Americans in it that never got finished. I could maybe give it a try but the people would probably not look anything like a Native American.

A family member of the George Philips family came through and was telling her guests about the heritage in the main building. She noted that her husband had built the cradle that was being used in the log cabin. The family who donated Clem and his best buddy, the dog, also came to the JPHS festival of trees to visit and say Hi to Clem. Clem was sitting in front of the shoe cobbler shop watching the people go by. Looked as if he might have had a nip or two from his jug which was sitting at his feet.

Every year I comment on the barber pole and the fact that it does not work. There is a gear that is broken in it. I wish before next year's festival someone would step forward and repair it for us. There is the neatest carousel in the barn that needs repaired also. De we have any volunteers?

We had a decorator who could not do a tree this year, so instead of taking it down we decided to use as many of the antique ornaments and lights that have been donated to the JPHS and decorate a tree with those. Maybe you discovered one or two that was from your family. We hope so. The two silver trees were also from the JPHS and were donated by someone from the area.

Oh, and one more thing. To the children and teachers from the Oakwood and Paulding schools and to Mr. Miller, who came just for the cookies and punch, according to the Talking Tree, to the Headstart children and the Good Sam school from Defiance and were so excited to see you and to share this time with you. Christmas is for children you know. And I hope between now and next Christmas the Talking Tree will learn his part in the song Jingle Bells. McDonalds donated the juice and helped to make 300 plus children very happy. We hope to have even more children come through next year. Get practiced up, Talking Christmas Tree.

For those of you who missed the Friday night, Saturday noon and Sunday afternoon entertainment, shame on you. It was wonderful!! The Oakwood Alumni band entertained at the Friday eve session, Jared Ross played some beautiful music on the piano during the noon meal on Saturday and Sunday was filled with barbershop entertainment. Dave Clapsaddle brought a girls and boys quartet with him and also his own quartet that he has been working with since the young men were in high school. Now they are in college but still going strong with Dave at the helm. Dave, you are doing a great job with these quartets. Also present were the Color 4 Tunes who filled in the gaps and did the emceeing of the afternoon. Did I mention that

I am the lead in that quartet and we have been together for 18 years just singing and having a good time. Barbershop does that to you.

Did you happen to hear 105.7 the Bull on Friday at the JPHS? They broadcasted for two hours and we were so excited to have them here with us this year. Neighbors in Need was begun by the Bull Radio station several years ago and I hope that each of you will donate food and/or money to this much, much needed program. All the monies and food donated in Paulding County stays in Paulding County. There are approximately 10 food pantries in our county that will benefit from these donations. They will serve hundreds of people who are in need of food. The need is great but the food supply is low in all of the food banks.

So for those of you who missed this weekend, there are some highlights. Now to the bad news or maybe you thought I forgot.

Well, as of 4:00 p.m. on Sunday the 18th of November, the festival was over. It is time now to take down all of the trees, and put everything back where we found it. The horse will go back in his stall and there will be no mail delivered by him until next year and the historical society will take back the original state of being a place of history and wonder. The Talking Tree will return to the woods and patiently wait to come back again next year and will be a little taller.

We had several come to us and ask us to leave up the trees another weekend but not knowing what kind of a crowd we would have and we are limited on our committee members we question the feasibility of this. We couldn't have done it this year without the help of the husbands who manned the barn along with members of the JPHS

who also braved the cold as our visitors browsed the barn area.

We appreciate all who decorated a tree and put up a display. Every tree was unique in its own way. We had the Lucy tree again this year and she was up to her old tricks. Just wouldn't keep her lights lit, but the problem was finally corrected and Lucy minded her own business the rest of the weekend and was quite the talk of the visitors as were all of the trees. We already have a list started for next year for those who came through and want to be a part along with those who have been so dedicated to us these past several years. We can always use more on the committee. Just let us know.

We would like to get more decorators from the Payne, Grover Hill, Oakwood, and Scott area. JPHS is for the whole county and not just locally. If you have a nice tree that you would like to donate just drop it off at the JPHS any Tuesday. The Society will be closed the months of December and January.

Next week I will put in the winning "Peoples Choice Award" for the most popular tree and will also include the winners of the Silent Auction items. See you next year at the John Paulding Historical Society Festival of Trees.

—Eileen Kochensparger

**LUNCH MENUS FOR ANTWERP SCHOOLS FOR THE WEEK OF 11/26 & 11/27**

11/26 - Cheeseburger on bun or tex mex chili w/crackers, french fries, dill pickles, applesauce cup, milk; PLUS: salad bar or cook's choice

11/27 - Corn dog or chicken fajitas, baked beans, warm apple slices, milk; PLUS: salad bar or deviled eggs

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**OHIO'S HUNTING TRADITION STRENGTHENS FAMILY BONDS, PROMOTES CONSERVATION**

Capitol Letters Weekly  
Column by: Senator Steve Bueher

Hunting is a tradition that stretches back for centuries, when our ancestors trekked through forests and fields in the heat and cold to find food to feed their families. These survival skills were passed down from generation to generation. However, as the country becomes more urbanized, our hunting tradition is losing participants. No longer is necessary strictly for food when most nourishment is conveniently packaged and sold a few minutes away at the local grocery store. It is hard to deny that our world is changing, but what many

do not realize is that hunting continues to have a tremendous impact on our economy, environment and the strength of our families and communities.

According to the most recent statistics from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, there are 12.5 million hunters in this country, down from more than 14 million in the early 1990s. Still, this group of outdoorsmen injects millions of dollars into local economies each year from the purchase of hunting equipment, hotel stays and restaurant meals. Along with these economic impacts, hunters are valuable contributors to local, state and national conservation efforts through the sale of hunting and fishing licenses. In fact, last year, more than \$1.2 billion from license sales was used to help state wildlife agencies acquire, maintain and improve fish and wildlife habitat.

In addition, several national hunting advocacy organizations help raise millions of dollars annually for conservation projects, including Ducks Unlimited and Pheasants Forever, two groups in which I am actively involved. For instance, in 2006, Ducks Unlimited brought in \$162.1 million and invested more than 80 percent of it on conservation efforts.

While these statistics demonstrate some of the positive impacts of hunting, what is often overlooked and not easily captured through numbers or words is the significant role hunting continues to play in strengthening families and communities. Just as it was centuries ago, the thrill of the hunt and quality time outdoors continues to be shared between fathers and sons, mothers and daughters, grandparents and grandchildren, bringing families together under a

*(Continued on Page 16)*

**PETS IN PAULDING SIT WITH SANTA**



This was the first year of "Friends of the Paulding County Dog Shelter" Pet Picture Day with Santa. And they plan on it becoming an annual event that works to raise funds for the homeless dogs in Paulding County.

Lynne Mansfield along with many others volunteered on Saturday, November 17 out at her Dog Grooming and Boarding business on CR 144 between Payne and Antwerp. She expected that more than 30 pets would come that day to get their pictures taken with Santa. The goal was to raise \$1,000 for this project. www.archerpics.com donated their time and photography services for this special day.

The proceeds go to the vetting and \$25 pull fee per dog to get them out of the pound. Specifically to get the dogs prepared to be more appealing to rescue groups and new owners. They have vaccinated, wormed, treated them for heartworm, had mammary tumors removed and skin conditions treated. They have also helped multiple stray dogs who have been hit by cars. They do the best they can, with the funds that are available to them.

Lynne says the reason she decided to do this was because of her love of dogs and she has seen firsthand how many dogs end up in the local shelter. Too many homeless dogs and not enough spaying and neutering.

She also says the community support is great. When there has been a need

published in the West Bend News, someone has always come through. The cooperation with Dave Cline, Paulding County Dog Warden, made much of this possible. Petfinder.com has also been a tremendous help.

Friends of the Paulding County Dog Shelter have saved over 160 dogs this year. Donations are still being accepted. Call Lynne Mansfield 419-258-1442 if interested.

She also stated how thankful she is for the foster homes and transport people. It's a team effort and everyone plays a significant role.

Those who also volunteered this year are: Terri Deel, Ronnie Landfair, Scott Mansfield, Houston Mansfield, Mandy and Kent Lichty (Santa Claus), Dennis Howard, Gayle Price, Kay Bereszazi, Brenda Smith and www.archerpics.com John Rindahl and Ralph Cornely.

**ANTWERP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FINALIZES PLANS FOR PARADE OF LIGHTS**

The Antwerp Chamber of Commerce has finalized plans for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Holiday Parade of Lights. This year's event will take place the Saturday following Thanksgiving, November 24.

The public and businesses are invited to participate by decorating an entry. The only requirement is that it have lights on it. Farm tractors and wagons, lawn tractors, golf carts, bicycles, cars and trucks, use your imagination and be creative. There are no entry fees and no prizes, it's just for fun!

The line-up prior to the parade will be in front of the Manor House Assisted Living on Archer Drive, (the old school), at 6:00. The parade will begin at 6:30 following this route, east on Archer Dr., south on Main Street to the community Christmas Tree on the lawn north of the Antwerp Insurance Agency. Santa will light the tree and visit with the children. The Chamber will provide treats for Santa to give to all the girls and boys.

It is the hope of The Chamber for this event to grow each year as we look forward to beginning our holiday celebrations.

**2007 IS A TRIENNIAL UPDATE FOR PAULDING COUNTY; WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR ME?**

By: Susan Simpson, Paulding County Auditor

In Ohio, during the third year of the six-year valuation cycle, the Ohio Tax Commissioner orders the county auditor (who is the tax assessor) to analyze and update real estate market values to reflect the current market prices based on property sales that occurred during the past three years in that auditor's county.

Often the auditor is ordered to make an across-the-board adjustment of property values by the percentage the county's sales indicate. This program is required by law to equalize values. It is not designed to necessarily increase or decrease taxes, but to keep property values up to date with current prices paid for properties in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio.

This year, 2007, is a Triennial Update year for Paulding County. The state's department of taxation and equalization will send out a "requested" average percentage increase/decrease to a county for their Triennial Update. The percentage of increase/decrease sent to the county by the state is divided into residential, agricultural, and commercial/industrial percentages.

The property type and the sales analysis relating to that property type for the past 36 months are the basis for this update.

The Paulding County auditor hires a mass appraisal company, Manatron, Inc., to perform various duties relating to the Triennial Update. This includes the complex analysis of the sales data and assisting the county auditor in working with the average

percentages of increase/decrease that the state requested to be applied to update that county's property values.

Manatron and I worked together to try and come up with the lowest and fairest percentages of increase that the state would accept.

The final percentages for updating the county's valuation MUST be approved by the state. In other words, the state has the last say, in their opinion, what the percentages need to be to update and equalize values.

Paulding County is in the final stages of the 2007 Triennial Update. By law, informal hearings were held the week of October 15-19, 2007. The purpose of these hearings are to allow property owners time to come into or call the auditor's office and discuss any questions that they may have about their updated values with an appraiser. These hearing dates were advertised in a local newspaper; however, property owners are always welcome to come into the auditor's office to review their property cards.

Presently, you can go to the Paulding County auditor's web site and view most of your property card information. The web site is www.pauldingcountyauditor.com.

The updated property values for the Triennial Update are available on this web site.

However, please be aware the property taxes reflected on the web site are NOT updated. The property taxes shown are taxes due or paid for tax year 2006, which were payable in 2007. Your updated taxes will not be available until AFTER the general election results are validated and the state has approved tax bills to be updated for tax year 2007, which will reflect your property taxes payable in 2008.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATRONAGE!**

As Thanksgiving time grows ever near, we'd like to thank you all for stopping here!

*With best holiday wishes to all.*

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*Thanksgiving Prices:*

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For more information, Please call 877-358-5099

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Friday, November 23rd, 2007  
Sign-In @ 7pm  
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**WOODBURN LUTHERAN SCHOOL HONOR ROLL AND NEWS**

Pictured above, left to right, are: Ella Smith, Mason Stevens, Elly Vardaman, Cailyn Volkert, 4-Day Preschool students at Woodburn Lutheran School, and their teacher, Miss Emma Hockemeyer, on a recent field trip to Kurtz Pumpkin Farm. The students enjoyed going on a hayride, picking out their own pumpkins to take home, and going to "pumpkin school" where they learned what is involved in growing pumpkins.

The following students achieved High Honors and Honor Roll status for the first quarter of the 2007-2008 school year at Woodburn Lutheran School: High Honors - grade 5 - Shawn Kitzmiller; grade 6 - Morgan Gerig and Samuel Hathaway; grade 8 - Elizabeth Burke, Logan Buuck, and Lily Keller; honor roll - grade 5 - Dylan Gerig, Caroline Hoepfner, and Madison Swanson; grade 6 - Tara Gerig; grade 8 - Caleb Hathaway, Jonathan Lindberg, and Joshua Maroney. These students received Honor Roll pins and ribbons after the November 14 Chapel Service.

Also given out after the Chapel Service were monetary awards to the following top ten selling families from the PTL fall fund raiser: 1st - Jonathan, Jason and Michael Lindberg; 2nd - Kyle and Kirk Nahrwold; 3rd - Logan Buuck; 4th - Morgan and Joshua Gerig; 5th - Brice and Emma Rewekew; 6th - Jordan Wells; 7th - Tara Gerig; 8th - Charles Douglas; 9th - Spencer and Nicole Osborn;

and 10th - Meredith and Tori Mathews. The top five families were also treated to lunch at Pizza Hut with Principal Dexter Hoyer.

Parent Teacher Conferences were held on November 8 and 9 at WLS. All Lutheran schools in the area will enjoy the whole week of Thanksgiving off, so our teachers can attend the Indiana Lutheran Teacher's Conference in Indianapolis November 19 and 20. We will not return to school on November 21, but extend the break through the Thanksgiving holiday, November 22 and 23. Grades 1 and 2 entertained their family members with a Thanksgiving Celebration of skits and songs on November 16.

Field trips in November and December include: the three preschool classes visited McMillen Health Center and grades 1-4 will attend Concordia Lutheran High School's production of "Charlotte's Web" on December 10. The popular PTL "Christmas Shop" will be open on December 10-13 for students to purchase gifts and have them wrapped to surprise family members on Christmas Day. All WLS students are now practicing for their Family Christmas Festival, "Joy For the World", to be held on Thursday, December 20, 2007, at 7:00 p.m.

The 4 and 5 boys and the 6,7, and 8 boys basketball teams have started their season and will play most of their games in November and December. The last day of school for WLS in 2007 is on Friday, December 21. School will resume on Thursday, January 3, 2008.

**PAULDING VILLAGE COUNCIL MINUTES**

Paulding Village Council met in Regular Session on October 15, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Municipal Building. Mayor Greg White called the meeting to order.

Finance Director Tope called roll call with the following members present: Roger Sierer, Ronnie Breedlove, Barb Rife, Sam Jeffery, and Kim Sutton. Administrator Wiebe and Solicitor Jones were also present. Councilman Randy Daeger was absent.

Rife motioned to approve the minutes of the October 1 meeting, seconded by Breedlove. Vote: all yea.

Jeff Hunt, owner of The Stake Company, was present to thank Council for listening to his concerns regarding his business located at 356 W. Wall St. and granting him an extension to enclose the company's dust collector. Wiebe noted the Village has borrowed the County Engineer's decibel meter and will attempt to perform a study this week. Wiebe will forward the results to Mr. Hunt.

Resolution 1207-07 re: A Resolution Estimating Active, Inactive and Interim Deposits to be Awarded, and Declaring an Emergency was read for the first time. Tope informed Council the State requires Bank Depository bids every two years. Jeffery motioned to suspend the rules and declare an emergency for the legislation, seconded by Sierer. Vote: all yea. Rife motioned to approve the legislation, seconded by Breedlove. Vote: all yea.

Breedlove presented the Buildings & Grounds Committee's October 9 minutes. The Committee discussed the following:

-Location and potential funding of a parking lot at the Stokley ponds.

-Repair of the Live Oak Cemetery's mausoleum.

Sutton requested the Village temporarily install plastic or plywood in the windows to keep the weather out.

Wiebe noted Sierer has spoken with a contractor from Celina regarding the necessary repairs needed for the building. Upon receiving the contractor's repair quote, the Buildings & Grounds Committee will meet with the Cemetery Board to discuss the mausoleum.

-Advertising of bids to farm the 66-acres owned by the Village.

Sierer presented the Salary & Allowance Board's October 10th minutes. The Board met with Water Plant Superintendent, Mike Winners, and Street Supervisor, Ed Carlisle, to discuss Jim Guelde's replacement. Carlisle suggested hiring an individual solely for the Water Plant to eliminate short staffing of the Utility Department. Hiring of a fourth full-time Water Plant employee would not only allow the Utility Department to work at full capacity five days per week, but also satisfy the new water plant's need for a fourth person. Winners anticipates hiring and training an individual prior to the new plant's startup. The Salary & Allowance Board recommended the hiring of a fourth water plant employee. Sutton motioned to approve the Salary & Allowance Board's report, seconded by Sierer. Vote: all yea.

Top requested Council release a fire escrow payment in the amount of \$5,860 to Al Griffiths for the property located at 814 W. Jackson Street. Brian Miller, Zoning Inspector, has approved the property and requested the monies be released. Breedlove motioned to approve the release of the fire escrow payment in the amount of \$5,860 to Al Griffiths for the property located at 814 W. Jackson Street, seconded by Jeffery. Vote: all yea.

Mayor White presented Kathie Roth's letter requested a curbside recycling plan be included as part of the Village's garbage pickup. White directed the request to the Safety Committee for their review. He also reiterated that "Trick-or-Treat" will be held in the Village on October 27 from 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Wiebe relayed he, Mayor White, and Mike Winners recently attended a MRBPLG meeting in Findlay.

Wiebe presented his Administrator's Agenda. He noted the agenda requested authorization from Council for him to sign Change Order No. 1 for the additional waterline connection between Hoover Avenue and Miller Parkway Drive to the new waterline on Garfield Avenue. Breedlove questioned the price and amount of materials (asphalt and seeding) needed to complete the project. Wiebe informed Council he would contact the project engineer to for an answer.

Solicitor Jones relayed he and Finance Director Tope had attended the Ohio Municipal League's Public Records Law seminar held on October 5. He noted that according to the Attorney General's presentation the Village must adopt a Public Records Policy and Retention Schedule, effective September 29, 2007. He directed the project to the Ordinance Committee. Rife motioned for Council to move into Executive Session for legal matters, seconded by Breedlove. Vote: all yea. Council returned to Regular Session.

Wiebe presented Council with a copy of the contractor's original bidding documents that reflect asphalt being billing in square yard (s.y.) increments rather than cubic yards (c.y.); therefore, believed a typo had been made on the Change Order. Jeffery motioned to approve the Administrator's Agenda, seconded by Rife. Vote: Sierer, yea; Breedlove, no; Rife, yea; Jeffery, yea; Sutton, yea.

Jeffery noted he has received complaints regarding pit bulls in town. Mayor White requested Jeffery provide the Police Department with addresses of the animals.

The following Committee meetings were scheduled:

Utility Committee - Monday, October 22 at 5:30 p.m.

Ordinance Committee - Monday, October 29 at 5:30 p.m.

Sutton motioned to pay bills, seconded by Daeger. Vote: all yea.

Daeger motioned to adjourn, seconded by Breedlove.



Mark Holtsberry, Tami AuFrance, Paul Clark and Terry Wilhelm.

**ACE ACADEMY: AN ALTERNATIVE**

By: Sue Knapp

Paul Clark had a vision. In his job as the Superintendent of Schools he saw the struggles that some students had in regular school. Some weren't able to keep up, some didn't get along and some needed something more than what the school was able to give.

He and Carol Swary applied for a grant, was awarded it and that was the beginning of ACE Academy (Alternative Center for Education).

The ACE Academy started with three students in December of 2000. By the time the school year was over an average of 18 students was attending.

The school offers opportunity for those who don't do well in a larger school, are in danger of dropping out, those who need to recover lost credits or are behind on credits, students who move from a different district and have problems with acceptable credits, those who are juvenile court ordered and students who have dropped out are under 18 and wish to get their diplomas.

A.C.E. also helps those who have been suspended for 1-10 days from regular school for a school violation. Students, while suspended, go there and work on their credits instead of laying off school during suspension.

It's like a one room school with the students working on their own level with a teacher and aide always there to help. They also receive one on one help. There are two classrooms and a break room. In the administrator's office there is a big board with each students name on it. The hours needed for credits in a subject are updated each week and the student then can see how they're doing. Responsibility is a key

factor in this school. The students are taught that they are responsible for their actions.

The students can participate in their regular school sports program and will graduate with their class.

To enroll in the school the parents and student will be interviewed. The students will have to be willing to take personal responsibility and want to enter the school. The principal of the regular school will have to recommend the student to A.C.E.

The students need to meet state requirements for hours and grades to graduate. They then have to pass the graduation tests that the State requires. How fast the student wants this to happen is up to the student.

Student services include: group counseling, individual counseling, tutoring, needs assessment, career development, job search, life skills development and community involvement is required.

The Academy also offers the AVA Program (Ace Virtual Academy). This is for students who cannot attend school can join the classroom via home computers.

The school has graduated 100 students with an 85%-90% graduation rate. A lot of the students go on for further education. Several come back to say hi and see how things are going.

Paul is the Director of Business and Administrative Services overseeing the school.

Terry Wilhelm is the Administrative Administrator who's been with the school from the beginning. Tami AuFrance has been teaching there for seven years. Mark Holtsberry has taught at ACE for seven years. Sherray Elliott is the teacher assistant.

The school now has 25-30 students per year.

Missing pictures? We have a stack of pictures here at West Bend News from previous publications.

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**VFW AUXILIARY STILL NEED ADDRESSES**

We still need addresses of service men and women so we can send them phone cards for Christmas. Please leave addresses at the VFW Canteen or contact Sue Moltor, 419-506-0390.

We are again going to have sandwiches and soup after the Parade of Lights, Saturday, November 24 from 5:00 - ? p.m. at the VFW.

—Ladies Aux. VFW post #5087



**ALEXIS GODEKE: RUNNING FOR SUCCESS**

By: Sue Knapp

No use trying to keep up with this one. She has held the record for Cross Country at Antwerp High School for three years. Alexis Godeke runs 3.1 miles in 20.07 minutes. She has been named Cross Country MPV for the last three years and has held the County Championship for the last three years. She also has been on the first team at GMC for the last three years.

She finished third out of the top 16 at Districts. At Regionals she finished 15<sup>th</sup> and at State at Scioto Downs in Columbus she finished 60 out of 150. The course was 3.1 miles and had a bumpy and hilly terrain.

Alexis also runs track in the spring. She likes to draw and run in her free time. She is a Junior now and plans to run her Senior year as well. She wants to study Geology and go on to Paleontology.

Her parents are Ken and Dawn Godeke. They also have twin boys, Jack and Jarrett.

Alexis is a girl who knows what she wants and goes after it. Run, Alexis, run.

**HICKSVILLE MASONIC MEETING MINUTES**

Last Wednesday night RWB Walter T. Schilb opened a Lodge of Master Masons in due form for the last time of the 2006-07 year. James P. Kline was elected Master of the Lodge for the 2007-2008 year.

Others assuming new positions are as follows: Senior Warden Robert L. Stotler Jr., Junior Warden Ron Farnsworth, Junior Deacon Mark Leavell, Senior Deacon Scott Ruppert, Stewards Dick Savage and Randy Brooks Sr., Chaplain Norm Byers, Tyler Charles Carey, Lodge Educational Officer RWB Walter T. Schilb, Treasurer Tim Betts and Secretary Bill Metz. RWB Trent Dominique was on hand for the Installation of Officers.

The 23 member in attendance included Tim Betts, Doyle Johnson, Russell St. John, Jim Kline, Estel Cottrell, Ralph Brown, Dick Savage, Randy Brooks Sr., Derrill Kline, Robert L. Stotler Jr., Richard Wann, Justin Krohn, Dick Altman, Fred Leavell, Mark Leavell, John Gordon, Charles Carey, Scott Ruppert, Ron Farnsworth, Lee Kallsen, Norman Byers, Walter Schilb, William Metz and guest RWB Trent Dominique.

Standing to receive their well deserved applause were 50-year members were Doyle Johnson, Estel Cottrell, Derrill Kline and Charles Carey. There were 15 Past Masters in attendance.

Communications were read announcing the installation of our new 5<sup>th</sup> District DDGM. RWB Cecil Rasey will be installed at Bryan on November 30, 2007. The ceremonies will begin at 7:00 p.m. The Grand Lodge Report was read in its entirety.

The Altar was draped for 58 year member Ted Karageorge. Brother Karageorge was raised in 1949.

Birthday cards were signed and sent to Fred Leavell November 29, Larry McCurdy November 28 and John Olsson Jr. November 29. Get well cards were sent to Liberty Center Brother Ralph Creager and Hicksville member Gerry Shidler.

The 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Thanksgiving Master Mason Breakfast was the main item on the agenda. Word has been received that the Deputy Grand Master, Charles Murphy, will be in attendance for the MM Thanksgiving Breakfast. We will be presenting a 60-year pin to Robert L. Stotler Sr. and a 25-year pin to Gale Grenz.

It was decided to present Bob Cleland's 60-year pin at Hickory Creek where he now resides. All members wishing to attend are to meet at Hickory Creek on the meeting night November 28 at 7:00 p.m. We will make the presentation to Bob at that time.

Pre-Inspection will be December 12 with the Inspection to take place on January 4, 2008. The next stated meeting will be November 28.

As sure as it's going to rain, the classifieds sell.

**CHRISTMAS WALK PLANNED BY ANTWERP'S 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade class of Antwerp School is planning a Christmas Walk on Saturday, December 8. All proceeds are going to the students for their Washington D.C. trip in April. At this time we have six houses in the walk. They are Walter and Margaret Womack, Craig and Jeanette Womack, Jim and Rose Reinhart, Steve and Susie Arnold, Cindy Lyons, and Tonya Cottrell, whose home will be closing early that day.

The walk will be from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Pre-sale tickets and maps will be available starting November 23 at the Antwerp Bank, Antwerp Pharmacy and from any 8<sup>th</sup> grader that is going on the trip. You may also purchase tickets at Jim and Rose Reinhart's home or Craig and Jeanette Womack's home the day of the walk.

If you are interested in adding your house to the tour please contact Shelly Burns at 419-258-2373. You can add your home anytime before December 4. If homes are added you will be able to put up updated maps at the Reinhart home or Craig Womack's home.

In addition to the Christmas Walk the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class is also selling Antwerp Archer flip flops, shower sandals, knee high blue socks with Archers down the side and blue/white toe socks. The 8th grade class is also collecting old electronics that will be recycled. Such items are cell phones, MP3 players, I-pods, play stations, etc. These items do not have to work to be recycled. There are drop off boxes located in the Elementary office and in the lobby of the school.

The trip to Washington D.C. is an educational trip. The students learn about our capital and do have homework to do while they are gone. This is a great experience for our students.

**WAYNE TRACE LOCAL SCHOOLS BREAKFAST AND LUNCH MENUS FOR THE WEEK OF 11/21 THROUGH 11/27**

*Breakfast:*  
11/26 - Pizza, milk  
11/27 - Egg/cheese/bacon muffin, milk  
*Lunch:*  
11/26 - French toast sticks, hash brown, sausage, 100% juice, milk  
11/27 - Hot ham/cheese sandwich, smashed potatoes, fruit crisp, milk; WT: fajitas

**LIMA-PUTNAM YMCA WRESTLING CLUB**

The Lima-Putnam YMCA Wrestling Club will begin their season on Friday, November 23 at the Arthur-Lugibihl Center in Pandora. The practice will be from 10:00 a.m. till 1:00 p.m. You can join that day and it is open to all Putnam County students in grades 1-8. The club will be a part of the Northwest Ohio Bidy Wrestling Club which will include Cory Rawson, Bluffton, and Allen East. The club will also participate in a number of area tournaments too. Please call Mike Maag for more information at 419-532-3308 or at 419-796-9790.



**WAYNE TRACE CONCERT BAND PERFORMS IN COLUMBUS**

The Wayne Trace Concert Band traveled to Columbus, Ohio to perform for the Ohio School Boards Association Capital Conference on Tuesday, November 13. The performance took place in the Columbus Convention Center and was part of the OSBA Student Achievement Fair.

The band sent in an audition tape last April in addition to many other applicants all over the State of Ohio. The Wayne Trace Concert Band was selected to represent the NW Region of the State of Ohio. In addition, The Wayne Trace Concert Band also was the only band to perform at this prestigious conference with over 10,000 school board members, superintendents, and principals in attendance.

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1 Cor. 10:31 - whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

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**Happy Thanksgiving**

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# ST. JOHN CATHOLIC SCHOOL'S FUTURE BUILDERS



**By: Sue Knapp**  
Mrs. Green's 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade class from St. John's Catholic School is studying government. Along with their book work they built a city complete with courthouse, grocery, housing development and everything you need to have in any city or town in America. The kids not only did the exterior of the building but completed the interiors also, even with a prisoner in the jail to pets in the Vet's Office.

The children held an election in their classroom and voted who would be Mayor, Judge, Police Chief, Fire Chief and Treasurer. They also had a Park Department and School Board. They had to learn what each person or department is responsible for and what their function is.

The students got to pick from a list what business they

wanted to design.

In the book part, the students learned all about government, the three branches, the Constitution, steps of making laws, the Supreme Court, General Assembly and all about the House and Senate. They also studied local government. They learned how to make a community and all about Ohio as part of the Ohio Studies Program.

### RECYCLING NEWS

The Boy Scouts recycle on the fourth Saturday of every month. They take cardboard, glass, newspaper in brown bags, aluminum and steel cans. The scouts will be at the Antwerp Fire Hall on Saturday, November 24 from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Visit [www.westbendnews.net](http://www.westbendnews.net) for photos and back issues!

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### HOLIDAYS CATCHING UP with you! No time to clean! Give me a call, 419-393-2702 ask for Anne. 47-49p

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2001 MOBILE HOME FOR SALE. Asking \$28,000. Call 419-258-1809, evenings.

**FOR RENT IN ANTWERP: 2 brm house, 403 W. Canal, \$425. 3 brm house, 307 W. Washington, \$440, 419-399-4958.** B46-47

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GE XL GAS STOVE. WHITE w/black oven door. Like new. \$150. 419-399-5673.

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\$100.00 REWARD!! Said evidence (car damage). Said person, hit our camper, etc... at my Stafford St. home, Cecil, with his car on Fri. 16th. Please call 399-4276. p

NEED PHOTO PRINTS for those holiday scrapbooks? Call West Bend Printing & Publishing! 419-258-2000.

DEADLINES FOR CLASSIFIEDS IN THE WEST BEND NEWS IS MONDAYS @12 NOON!

### PAULDING EXEMPTED VIL-LAGE SCHOOLS BREAKFAST AND LUNCH MENUS FOR 11/26 & 11/27

HS/MS - Breakfast  
11/26 - Breakfast pizza, juice, milk  
11/27 - Cinnamon twist, juice, milk

HS/MS - Lunch  
11/26 - Popcorn chicken, broccoli w/cheese, roll or Sub sandwich, baby carrots w/dip, chips, assorted fruit, milk

11/27 - Ham & cheese, stromboli, potato cheese soup, assorted fruit, milk  
*Paulding Elementary*

- Lunch  
11/26 - Corn dog, baked beans, fruit cup, milk

11/27 - Chicken strips, whipped potatoes w/gravy, bread, fruit cup, milk  
*Oakwood Elementary*

- Lunch  
11/26 - Chicken noodle soup w/crackers, mini carrots, bread, fruit, milk

11/27 - Sloppy joe on a bun, corn, fruit, milk

### VIDEO GAME DAY AT THE LIBRARY

HICKSVILLE—The Johnson Memorial Library is sponsoring a Video Game Day on Friday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> at noon. The Video Game Day is free and is open to everyone. Refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the Hicksville Library.

"We'll have big screen, 4-player action," explained Youth Services' Librarian Dustin Harris. "The video games include MarioKart Double Dash, Donkey Kong Bongos, and Fuzion Frenzy. Come on out for a day of great gaming fun!"

If you have any questions or would like additional information about the Video Game Day, please call Youth Services' Librarian Dustin Harris at the Johnson Memorial Library at (419) 542-6200.

### NOTICE TO ALL CITIZENS FOR PATRIOTIC MEMORIAL

There is a patriotic group in the area that would like to erect a Memorial for any and all veterans who served their country. Deceased or alive, in time of peace or in time of conflict, overseas or not.

Please think this over and we will have a stated meeting in the near future.

If interested please call 419-258-1722.

**GET YOUR MESSAGE OUT IN THE WEST BEND NEWS.**

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**Photos by Margaret Philipot**

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# VETERAN'S MEMORIALS AT LOCAL SCHOOLS



Three Antwerp Students: Hailee Carothers, Seth Clair and Megan Marsee help Larry Wirtz with a "magic" show demonstrating what it means to be an American while the student body and Veterans from the Antwerp area watch.

## NOW READ THIS

By: Stan Jordan  
*Fun School Show*

On Tuesday, November 13, the Antwerp High School held a memorial and recognition for all veterans, at the High School in the gym. Besides the veterans and their wives, the entire student body was present. They were seated on one side of the gym and some of the elementary classes, had to sit on the floor.

After High School Principal Steve Arnold welcomed everyone to the ceremony, he

turned the proceeding over to the main speaker, Larry Wirtz.

He had a well-rounded program that lasted about 45 minutes. He used himself as a magician all through the lecture, talking about freedom, the flag and what it all stands for. Also the Bill of Rights and the Constitution. He got deep into loyalty, purity and bravery. The students were very attentive and they learned a lot.

He used three people from the elementary grades: Megan Marsee, Seth Clair, and

Hailee Carothers in some of his demonstrations.

Mr. Wirtz was born in Crown Point, Indiana. After high school he went to college to be a science teacher. He got his degrees alright but all he ever done was student teach. While doing that he realized instead of teaching science he wanted to bring Americanism and loyalty and impress on the young folks what a wonderful country we have to live in, to enjoy it, to help it and that it didn't come cheap or easy.

Mr. Wirtz is a great family man. He is married and has a 17 year old, a six year old and

a four year old. He has been bringing this message to grades 6 through 12 for 25 years and each meeting to him is as important as the last one.

He remarked to me about how disciplined the children were. He said that reflects good training from home, the teachers, the school and the area. He really enjoyed being in our school and meeting everyone and, by golly, we veterans enjoyed him too.

We veterans and our wives, want to thank the Antwerp High School faculty for the program and a nice afternoon.



Wayne Trace's Veteran's Memorial

## VETERANS HONORED AT WAYNE TRACE HIGH SCHOOL

On Monday, November 12, 2007 the Wayne Trace Junior/Senior High School hosted their annual Veterans Day assembly. Superintendent Brian Gerber and Principal Kevin Wilson delivered opening remarks of welcome and appreciation. Many local veterans attended the ceremony which included performances by the band and choir under the direction of Mr. Mike Archinal. Seven high school students read original poems and essays dedicated to the veterans. Mr. John Wistner played the national anthem, and the Grover Hill VFW col-

or guard presented the flags. Certificates were awarded to each veteran thanking them for their service to our country and community. At the end of the assembly, a plaque was presented to the veterans which will be displayed in the front of the high school. The guests of honor were then escorted outside to the flagpole area in front of the school where a group picture was taken near the newly dedicated stone monument cut by Mr. and Mrs. Bill Gordon. The plaque and the stone were funded by a Learn and Serve grant earned by the school to incorporate student-led educational programs with community outreach.

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## VETERAN'S DAY CELEBRATION AT OAKWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Oakwood Veteran's Day Service

On Friday, November 9, students at Oakwood Elementary observed Veteran's Day 2007. We invited local veterans to come to our school for a program, and we were pleased to host ten special heroes. As part of our program, 6th grade student council members shared a brief his-

tory of Veteran's Day. Also, fourteen students, one from each classroom, read a thank you message to our special guests. Pictured are 6th grade student council members: Sydney Provines, Jade VanCleve, Mallory Laney, and Tiffany Spangler, and the Veterans who visited our school.

(Continued from Page 12)

common bond.

Sadly, as I mentioned earlier, this hunting tradition and the positive benefits it has on our economy, environment, families and community is seeing fewer participants than in past years. Therefore, we must do everything possible to recruit young Ohioans to the sport. In the 126th General Assembly as a member of the Ohio House, I sponsored House Bill 296, which created an apprentice-hunting license program in Ohio. Introduced in an effort to promote hunting to a new, younger audience, the bill allows a person with an apprentice license to hunt before completing hunter education courses as long as they are accompanied by a fully licensed mentor, 21 years or older.

The first year of the program appears to be having an impact. According to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, more than 8,000 young hunters have taken advantage of the new apprentice-hunting license program and will hopefully continue to take part in outdoor sports. This influx of young hunters will be seen in a positive way when youth deer-gun season is held November 17-18th, more than 40,000 young hunters are expected to participate. I encourage all par-

ents to pass along the value of hunting to your children and urge them to get involved in the sport.

Ohio's regular deer-gun hunting season begins November 26 and runs through December 2. In addition, the upcoming season will include an extra weekend of gun hunting on December 15-16. Approximately 400,000 hunters are expected to participate in this year's season, and as in past years, deer hunting will provide a tremendous boost to Ohio's economy, bringing in an estimated \$266 million and creating thousands of jobs.

For centuries, hunting has helped shape our identity as a state, been a driver of our economy, an important part of conservation efforts and has helped bring families together. Even though the number of hunters has been on decline in recent years, Ohio's hunting tradition is still strong, and we must use this strong tradition as a springboard to recruit young hunters and grow the sport. If we take these steps, Ohio's hunting tradition will survive for generations to come.

I encourage all residents of the 1<sup>st</sup> Senate District to contact me with any questions, thoughts or concerns, or if you need assistance working with a state government agency.

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