

KINDLY KRIS KRINGLE MAGNANIMOUS IN MELROSE



Shown here is Holly May-Long sitting on Santa's lap showing to the kids that even moms appreciate Santa!

Saint Nicholas arrived at Melrose at 6:00 p.m. on December 13. The children poured in to tell Santa of their Christmas wishes. He gave to each child a bag full of tasty treats including a round, ripe, red apple.

Toby Plotts, mayor of Melrose, was behind the Polaroid taking pictures of the young-

sters. He said that more than 30 kids went through to see the jolly holiday fellow. Toby was delighted with the turnout and loved seeing the kids with big smiles on their faces.

Be sure to keep reading the West Bend News for upcoming events in Melrose and the other towns of Paulding County.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

FINAL SECTION OF US 30 PAVEMENT COMPLETED

LIMA—A short section of four-lane pavement on new US 30 west of Upper Sandusky opened to traffic December 12.

With the opening, US 30 from Ohio 235 to Upper Sandusky will now be entirely a four-lane highway.

"The favorable weather conditions allowed us to complete this section of pavement before the end of the year which was our intention. We wanted to eliminate the barrier wall and the traffic restrictions prior to winter for the benefit of motorists as well as our maintenance crews," said Burkepile. Work on the pavement could not begin until the new highway was opened and traffic was switched onto the new lanes of US 30, he said.

Construction on an interchange with County Highway 330 will continue until next summer and will require occasional, short-term lane closures on US 30. County Highway 330 at the US 30 junction west of Upper Sandusky will

remain closed until the interchange is completed.

The 26-mile stretch of four-lane highway between Ohio 235 and Upper Sandusky opened to traffic on November 9. The \$100 million project, which began in 2005, eliminated the last two-lane section of US 30 in northwest Ohio.

For information on additional lane and road closures caused by construction, accidents, flooding or other related traffic events visit buckeyetraffic.org.

NOTICE TO READERS OF THE WEST BEND NEWS

Our offices will close for the Christmas holiday on Christmas Eve, December 24 at 12 noon. We will reopen on Wednesday, December 26 at 8:00 a.m.

The first issue of 2008, #1, will have a changed deadline due to the holidays, but will have the same publish date of Wednesday, January 2, 2008.

The deadline is **Friday, December 28, 2007 at 12 noon** for ADS and classifieds.

REV. AND MRS. ROBERT FRAKE CELEBRATE 25 YEARS OF MARRIAGE



Rev. and Mrs. Frake on the Mediterranean Sea.

Robert Frake and Ann Gustafson married 25 years ago on August 7, 1982. They have two daughters, Jacqueline Danielle, a senior at BGSU, and Gabrielle Kath-

ryn, a freshman at NWSCC. They celebrated with a family trip to Europe.

VILLAGE OF ANTWERP SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Antwerp Town Council will have a special meeting on December 26 at 4:00 p.m.

Words cannot express how thankful my family and I are to our friends and family for the support and encouragement that I received during my recent health issue and surgery. The cards, phone calls, hugs, and words of comfort have been very humbling. Your prayers and concern have been greatly appreciated!

*God Bless!
Cindy Kauser*

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OBITUARIES



Levi "Cowboy" Cain Jr., 98, of Paulding died December 12, 2007 at Lutheran Hospital of Indiana, Ft. Wayne, IN.

He was born December 6, 1909 in Paulding, the son of Levi and Lola (Jackson) Cain. On March 5, 1982 he married Elsie Cain, who survives.

He was a millwright for GM Powertrain, Defiance, retiring in 1973 and an avid pool player at the local pubs.

He is survived by his wife, Elsie Cain of Paulding; two sons: Douglas Keith (Beverly) Cain of Ft. Wayne, IN, and Wayne "Boogie" (Alice) Cain of Fostoria, OH; three daughters: Leona Mae (Harvey) Brown of Ohio City, OH, Phyllis Melvina Baxter of Paulding, and Debra Bess Cain of Ft. Wayne, IN; stepchildren: Hester Jackson, Nonnie Perry both of Paulding, Mattie Davis, Pearl (George) Harris, and James Davis all of Ft. Wayne, Lucy Price and Rashell Hogan both of West Point, MS, and many grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his parents; a son, Johnnie Cain; three daughters: Patricia Wells, Karen Rau,

and Janice Salter; a stepson, Roy Davis, and five brothers: Lorenzo, Earl, Lyle, Howard, and Orville Cain.

Funeral services were December 15 at the Den Herder Funeral Home, Paulding. Burial was in Rochester Cemetery, Cecil.

Donations may be made in memory of Levi Cain to Den Herder Funeral Home.

Walter Keith Fruchey, 75, of Grover Hill died December 13, 2007 at Van Crest Nursing Home, Van Wert.

He was born in Paulding County on August 20, 1932 to the late Cloyd L. and Lois H. (Knerr) Fruchey.

He was a retired custodian at Wayne Trace School. He was a member of Middle Creek United Methodist Church.

Surviving are his wife, Marilyn Miller of Grover Hill; also a longtime companion and friend, Margaret Craft; four foster daughters: Beverly Sulfridge and Melissa Martinez both of Van Wert, Dianna Jewell of Grover Hill, and Sandi Thompson of Defiance; 11 foster grandchildren; 3 foster great-grandchildren; and one brother, Bill Fruchey of Killeen, TX.

He was preceded in death by a foster son, Bill Kling-shirn.

Funeral services were on December 17, 2007 at Middle Creek United Methodist Church, Grover Hill. Rev. Bo Chrisman and Rev. Bill Sherry officiated. Burial was in Middle Creek Cemetery, Grover Hill.

Memorials are to the Grover Hill EMS or charity of donor's choice. Condolences may be sent to www.lovefuneralhome.com. Arrangements were handled by Heitmeyer Funeral Home, Oakwood.

David "Fat Albert" Larry, Sr., 53, of Hicksville died December 12, 2007 at Community Memorial Hospital, Hicksville.

He was born on September 7, 1954 in Fort Wayne, Indiana the son of Madison and Margaret (Rhoades) Larry. He married Linda Schwab on February 5, 1974, she survives.

He owned and operated D & L Sales and Albert's Arcade. He was a CB radio enthusiast. He attended the Assembly of God, Hicksville; was a member of Eagles Aerie 2556, Hicksville.

He is survived by his wife, Linda; parents, Virgil and Margaret Terrill of Hicksville; a son, Josh (Tina) of Hicksville; a daughter-in-law, Dena Larry of Decatur, IN; two granddaughters: Kiya and Sierra; four brothers: Joe Sr. of Edgerton, Virgil Terrill Jr. of Hicksville, Mike and Paul Larry of Fort Wayne, IN; and a sister, Trina.

He was preceded in death by his father, Madison; a son, David Jr.; two brothers: John and Tommy.

Funeral services were at the Assembly of God, Hicksville on December 15, 2007 with Rev. David Long officiating. Burial was at Forest Home Cemetery, Hicksville.

Memorials may be made to the family. Arrangements were handled by Smith & Brown Funeral Home, Hicksville.

Clair R. Leslie, 86, of Hicksville died on December 8, 2007 at Defiance Regional Medical Center, Defiance.

He was born on May 28, 1921 in Paulding the son of Raymond and Zelta (Anspaugh) Leslie. He was a 1939 graduate of Paulding High School and attended The Ohio State University. He married Sarah Price in 1939. She survives. He was a Major in the U.S. Air Force serving in WWII and retiring in 1981 after 38 years of service. He was an Engineer at Dana/Weatherhead, Antwerp retiring after 31 years. He was a member of St. John Lutheran Church, Hicksville.

He is survived by his wife, Sarah; two sons: John D. of Stryker, OH and Dennis C. (Nancy) of Sedalia, CO; a daughter, Ellen R. Leslie of Mt. Vernon, OH; three grandchildren: Christine Summers, Michelle Raush and John D. Leslie, II; three great-grandchildren; two sisters: Ellen Louise (Mel) Ross of Port Richey, FL and Grace Feeny of Defiance.

He was preceded in death by two brothers and two sisters.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Food for Children.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Ron Who?

July 2, 1776 Congress declared the independence of the United States. On July 4, 1776 the Declaration of Independence was signed. We now celebrate the Fourth of July as a significant day of U.S. history. Our freedom. Many people, from all walks of life, played a huge role in making the American dream a reality. These people were referred to as patriots. The patriots wanted to help defend the rights of Americans. The British Crown had a strong grip on America and wanted total control over the people. The patriots wanted freedom from the British Empire and sought to fight for their freedom.

Some 232 years later a similar war is being fought. Not a war with weapons. No one is getting killed. It is a war with the media, and the government officials that influence the media, versus our freedoms. Did you know there is a man that is a patriot of today's America? He stands for America's freedoms and rights. He is a champion of the Constitution. His name is Ron Paul.

Ron Paul (RP) is originally from Green Tree, Pennsylvania. He attended Duke University to study medicine. During the Cuban missile crisis, he was drafted in to the U.S. Air Force. He served as a flight surgeon during the Vietnam War. Although he never served in Vietnam, he tended to pilots from Korea, Iran, Ethiopia and Turkey at Kelly AFB in Texas. It was during the Vietnam War that he took his stance on foreign policy. He served as a night shift ER doctor for a church hospital in San Antonio until he separated from the military. He finished his college at the University of Pittsburgh and later moved to Texas where he became an OB/GYN doctor and delivered over 4,000 babies. His practice refused Medicare and Medicaid payments. He arranged discounted or custom-payment plans for needy patients. He would make sure all patients were taken care of.

In 1974 RP became a Republican Congressman in Texas. He does not apply for the congressional pension plan and donates a portion of his salary back to the U.S. Treasury. Below are some of his stances and issues he is concerned with...

Brings the troops home now.

Stop the looting of social security.

End forced health screening and vaccinations.

Reduce taxes by \$1 trillion overseas.

Stop the national I.D. card.

Fight for freedom to choose health care.

END THE IRS.

Stop the financial dependency on China, Saudi Arabia and other foreign governments.

Protect our constitutional rights and end the Patriot Act.

Secure our borders and end illegal immigration.

No welfare for illegal aliens.

Never considered performing an abortion in 40 years of medical practice.

Believes life begins at conception.

End Roe v. Wade.

No government funds for abortions.

Never has voted to raise taxes.

Never voted for an unbalanced budget.

Never voted to raise congressional pay.

Never taken a government-paid junket.

Never voted to increase the power of the executive branch.

Voted against regulating the internet.

Repeatedly has been named the "Taxpayers Best Friend" in Congress.

Against NAFTA, NAU, WTO, CAFTA, the UN.

RP has been endorsed by the NRA his entire service as a Congressman. He is a strong supporter of the 2nd Amendment and wishes to restore it with no strings attached.

He wishes to restore our entire Constitution back to the way our forefathers intended it to be used.

He is very supportive of farms and wishes to open free trade with all countries to help farmers expand their market and make it more profitable for them.

He also seeks to end the taxation on kids who sell livestock through 4-H.

He wishes to stop the taxation of tips on waiters and waitresses.

He also wants to restore all Veteran rights and healthcare and restore the VA.

He wants to end the income tax; we currently give a big chunk of our salaries back to the government through income tax.

RP has the biggest grassroots supporters than any other candidate. Recently

Paulding County Hospital
sponsoring
Blood Drive
American Red Cross

- **Thursday, December 20**
- **1:00 to 5:00 p.m.**
- **Blood Drive held at the hospital**
- **Multipurpose Room**
- **Watch For Signs**
- **Public Welcome**

For more information call
419-399-1199 or 800-741-1743
and ask for laboratory.



www.pauldingcountyhospital.com

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www.winanmri.com
Under select a hospital, scroll down to Paulding County Hospital, view the video and *vote daily through Dec. 31st.

Blessings Of The Season

May your home be filled with His light and love this holiday season and may the spirit of Christmas burn brightly in your heart for a long time to come.

For your good will, we are deeply grateful.

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VOTE DAILY THROUGH DECEMBER 31ST

This is a great asset for our community!

he raised over \$4.3 million in one day. His contributions raised, as of December 2, was almost \$10.5 million. He has raised more money than any other Republican candidate. All his contributions have come from people like you and me. Unlike all the other candidates, he has no corporate sponsors and he doesn't loan money to his campaign. There are currently 72,000 members in 1300 meet-up groups in support of RP. A meet-up group basically does campaigning for the candidates. Meet-up groups take their own directive and plan certain events to educate the public on RP. Why meet-up groups? Because our government-influenced media won't report on RP. He gets little or no coverage through the mainstream media. He has won the majority of the internet polls and has won the majority of straw polls. You never hear it though. Very seldom will any network talk about RP. However, times are changing. He has had a little more airtime on Fox News, CNN and will be on The View. He has appeared on the Jay Leno show. RP is a threat to the way our government operates and they do not want to see him as the President.

Are you interested in joining the Ron Paul Revolution? Do you want to make a difference and help elect a man that stands for constitutional freedoms? You can do this several ways. Visit www.meetup.com/ronpaul/1162 and join the Williams/Paulding County group. We started over three weeks ago with

seven members and are at almost 30 members. We have walked in parades handing out information, walked the corner of U.S. 24 and U.S. 49 with signs, handed literature out at gun shows, and gone door to door with literature and yard signs. We welcome everyone that wants to help; no one will be turned away. We have all age groups represented, from teenagers to senior citizens volunteering their help. You can also call Tim at (419) 796-9464 or Chuck at (419) 506-1998 for more information. And by all means, please visit www.ronpaul2008.com for all the issues RP believes in and stands for. Unfortunately, I was only able to list a few.

"Our country's founders cherished liberty, not democracy." —Ron Paul

—Tim Dauten

THANK YOU

The family of Gloria M. Hook would like to thank all their family and friends for the support you showed us during Mom's illness and death.

Everyone who sent food, flowers and donations; thanks to the Payne Nazarene Church for the luncheon; Pastor Harper for all he has done; Shawn and Michelle Dooley—you're the best; and to the Dallas Lamb Nursing staff—Thank you again for being part of her life.

God Bless You all,
—Wendy & Larry Zuber,
Jeff Hook,
Chad Hook,
Rick & Lee Ann Hook,
Kerry & Jody Hook

VETERANS SERVICE TO COUNTRY AND COMMUNITY KEY TO OHIO'S SUCCESS

Capitol Letters Weekly Column by: Senator Steve Buehrer

We owe our veterans a great deal of respect and thanks for their dedicated, selfless service to our country, as well as their role as leaders in our communities. Through the years, these brave men and women have stormed the beaches of Normandy, trekked through the jungles of Vietnam and patrolled the deserts of Iraq and Afghanistan, risking their lives and limbs to defend our freedom and preserve our way of life. Then, after their service, many have returned home to become civic leaders, businesspeople and humanitarians, once again giving of themselves to improve the lives of others. These folks have been there when their country and community needed them the most. They are heroes in every sense of the word.

While we can never repay our military personnel for making such a tremendous sacrifice, it is important that we do all we can to let them know how much we appreciate their contributions and work to better their lives and the lives of their families. This past week, just days after our nation recognized the 66th anniversary of the attacks on Pearl Harbor and this event's impact on an entire generation of Americans, the General Assembly took a few important steps in honoring the service of all Ohio's military veterans.

For instance, the Ohio House passed Senate Bill 25, legislation that would create a "Gold Star Family" license plate in Ohio for families who have lost a loved one in military service. In addition, I introduced SB 263, a measure that would prohibit the unauthorized use of a fallen soldier's persona for a commercial purpose. There have been similar efforts in a handful of other states following pleas from military families upset that their loved ones' names and photos were being used to make a profit on T-shirts, phone cards and other products.

On Wednesday, the Senate passed House Bill 372, a comprehensive, legislative package which seeks to strengthen benefits for military retirees and their loved ones, while working to keep these valuable individuals living and working in the state. First, the bill would eliminate the state's income tax on military pensions, saving approximately 38,640 Ohio veterans more than \$23 million annually. There are 35 other states that exempt some or all of military pensions from the state income tax.

In an effort to ease the transition for Ohio veterans from their military service back into a civilian career, HB 372 would also give soldiers returning home from service, a six-month window to renew any professional licenses that may have expired. In addition, the bill would waive probate court costs, which can

total up to \$500, for military families who have a loved one killed in action.

The impact of our veterans' military service is seen everyday in the freedoms we enjoy and often take for granted, but what is often overlooked is the tremendous role they can and have played in Ohio's economic growth and success. These individuals carry with them leadership and career skills that are a key to attracting research and innovation, business investment and new job opportunities to Ohio.

For example, Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton employs thousands of military personnel, as well as several non-military employees. The base is a hub for research into areas such as propulsion, energy, sensors, and aircraft. These are fields that could spawn innovation, and consequently, bring new business investment into the state.

Unfortunately, because of Ohio's unfriendly tax structure on military pensions, many skilled servicemen and women choose to live and work outside of the state after they retire. This bleeding of skilled labor could have tremendous economic consequences. HB 372 is a step in the right direction, but more can and should be done to encourage all retirees to stay in Ohio.

Even though they may be out of the workforce full-time, Ohio's retirees contribute greatly to our economy and communities—shopping, dining and volunteering. Not to mention, the have developed invaluable career knowledge that can be passed on to the next generation of workers. So, as we continue to position Ohio's economy for long-term success, it is imperative that we not forget about our retirees and all that they have to offer.

I encourage all residents of the 1st Senate District to contact me with any questions, thoughts or concerns, or if you need assistance working with a state government agency. You can write me, Senator Steve Buehrer, Ohio Senate, Statehouse, Columbus, Ohio, 43215, or contact me by phone at (614) 466-8150. In addition, I can be reached by e-mail at SD01@mailr.sen.state.oh.us.

CARD OF THANKS

In loving memory of Dorothy M. Hobeck.

We thank "all" who thought about us, sent cards and flowers, graciously provided food, gave gifts, prayed for us or supported us in any way.

Also, we wish to thank everyone who helped to make Mom's last days enjoyable! God bless you.

- Merry Christmas from:
—The Dale & Dorothy Hobeck Family,
Marjorie & Geo Underwood Family,
Leland & Frances Hobeck family,
Harley & Rita Hobeck family,
Donna & Mike Molitor family,
Bill & Sue Hobeck family

CALLING ALL YU-GI-OH DUELISTS TO THE LIBRARY'S TOURNAMENT

HICKSVILLE—Do you have what it takes to become a Yu-Gi-Oh Master Duelist? Find out on Wednesday, January 2 at 10:00 a.m. The Johnson Memorial Library will be sponsoring its third Yu-Gi-Oh Tournament for middle school and high school youth.

The Yu-Gi-Oh tournament is free and is open to all teens and pre-teens. To participate, stop by the library and fill out a deck sheet. Deck sheets may be picked up at the library or downloaded at www.ude.com. Deck sheets must be turned into Youth Services Librarian Dustin Harris or to Tournament Official Matt Greutman by Friday, December 28. The tournament will follow the traditional deck building rules found at www.ude.com/policy. Matt will be coordinating the event as a part of his senior project at Hicksville High School.

All duelists must be at the library to sign in on January 2 at 9:30 a.m. with the tournament at 10:00 a.m. The tournament will run for most of the day, so duelists should plan on spending the day at the library. The Friends of the Hicksville Library will provide refreshments and prizes for the top two players.

If you have any questions or would like additional information about the Yu-Gi-Oh Tournament, please call Youth Services Librarian Dustin Harris or Tournament Official Matt Greutman at the Johnson Memorial Library at (419) 542-6200 or stop by the library to talk with one of them.

Wishing You...
Peace
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all the keys
to a great
holiday season!
With best wishes and
many thanks from
all of us.
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O Come Let Us Adore Him!



This Christmas season, we'd like to join you and yours in a prayer for harmony, understanding and peace.
As we give thanks to the Lord, we'd also like to acknowledge all the people who have given to us their friendship and generous support. Merry Christmas!

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"The patriot is a scarce man; hated, feared, and scorned—until his cause begins to succeed. Then the timid join him because there is no longer a cost to being a patriot."
Presented by Phillip Piersma —Mark Twain

Peace On Earth
May health, harmony and happiness surround you and your loved ones, this holiday season and beyond.
We sincerely appreciate your trust in us and wish you the very merriest holiday season on the planet!
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Bring Christmas Home
As we welcome the holiday and all that it represents, we're reminded of the many people who have pulled for us this year, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. With warm wishes for a wonderful Christmas and a happy and successful New Year.
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CHRISTMAS IS COSTLY

By: Pastor Joel DeSelm,
Woodburn Missionary
Church

Christmas is a costly holiday for most American families. Statistics have shown that even those families who are in debt, behind on bills, and financially troubled will still spend money on Christmas gifts.

Yes, Christmas will be costly for most Americans this year. But, interesting enough, the first Christmas was a costly one. There would have been sizeable financial layout for Mary and Joseph to not only travel to Bethlehem, but also flee to Egypt.

There would have been considerable monetary investment on the part of the wise men who travelled for months in order to see the child King.

But beyond the realm of financial cost, that first Christmas was a costly Christmas.

It cost Mary and Joseph the comforts of home during a long period of exile in Egypt to protect the little babe.

It cost mothers, in and around Bethlehem, the massacre of their babies by the

cruel order of Herod.

It cost the shepherds the complacency of their shepherd's life, with the call to the manger and to tell the good news.

It cost the wise men a long journey and expensive gifts and changed lives.

It cost the early Apostles and the early church persecution and sometimes death. It cost missionaries of the Christ untold suffering and privation to spread the good news.

It cost Christian martyrs in all ages their lives for Christ's sake.

More than all this, it cost God the Father His own Son—He sent Him to the earth to save humankind.

It cost Jesus a life of sacrifice and service, a death cruel and unmatched in history.

What has Christ's invasion into your world cost YOU? What will be the cost of Christmas this year for you? Perhaps it will cost you your pride, being willing to forgive another person for a wrong in the past. Perhaps it will cost you some humility, in showing some kindness and compassion toward a person you've been bitter toward for years. Perhaps it will cost you some time visiting an older person or calling someone who needs encouragement.

Christmas, indeed, will be costly this year. But then, it always has been.

WOODBURN LUTHERAN SCHOOL SUPPORTS TWO FAMILIES FOR CHRISTMAS



Pictured above are students and a teacher from Woodburn Lutheran School as they packed Principal Dexter Hoyer's vehicle with gifts and food items for two families through the Fort Wayne Christmas Bureau. In the back row, left to right, are: Mrs. Bonnie Hoffschneider, Dylan Gerig, Josh Maroney, Caroline Hoepfner, Elliott Gunderman, and Spencer Osborn; in the middle row are Jacob Gentz, Cody Bratten, Mara Kitzmiller, and Maggie Clark; in front is Tori Mathews.

Mrs. Hoffschneider was the coordinator for this mission project. \$370.00 in chapel offerings for October and November was used to purchase gift certificates for perishable food items and Pizza

Hut gift certificates for a meal out for each family. Also, each Kindergarten through Grade 8 class held mini fund raising events to earn money to purchase items for the families. Items purchased for each family included pots and pans, dishes, towels, bedding, non-perishable foods for their pantries, and other items on their "wish lists". Each person received a new outfit and each child received a new winter coat and a toy. The non-perishable foods and many of the other items were donated by the students and parents of WLS, along with members of Christ and Zion Lutheran Churches. Principal Hoyer delivered all of the items to the Christmas Bureau on December 12.

WESTERN BUCKEYE GOVERNING BOARD APPOINTS NEW BOARD MEMBER

The Western Buckeye ESC Governing Board held their regular monthly Board meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 13, 2007 in the Van Wert ESC Board office. Board President Mr. Ron Treece welcomed Board members and school personnel to the meeting.

The Board members approved the agenda for the evening, which included a resolution to appoint Mr. Nick Miller as a member of the Western Buckeye Educational Service Center Governing Board. Miller lives in the Crestview School District with his wife Lisa and four children Mark, Jennifer, Brad, and Scott. Miller was sworn in by Western Buckeye Treasurer Mrs. Linda Clark and will serve out the unexpired term of Mr. Ned Young, which ends on December 31, 2009.

The Board heard from Superintendent John Basinger regarding a proposal to begin a comprehensive review of the Governing Board policies. The Board agreed with the proposal and instructed Basinger to proceed with the Policy Revision process. Basinger also reviewed recent Western Buckeye activities and discussed the need to purchase computer equipment to allow for FBI fingerprinting in the Western Buckeye offices.

In the business portion of the meeting, the Board:

**Approved the minutes from the regular November 8, 2007 meeting.

**Approved the November financial reports as presented by Treasurer Mrs. Linda Clark.

**Approved a 2.5 % salary increase for Mrs. Clark effective for the 2008 calendar

year.
**Set the mileage rate for all Western Buckeye employees at standard IRS rate, effective January 1, 2008.

**Re-employed Sharon Lawley to the NOACSC position of Manager of Office/Fiscal Services with a one year administrative contract. Contract starting date will be 12/4/07 and the salary prorated for the time period ending 6/30/08.

**Accepted the resignation of Jennifer Simon as a NOACSC employee effective 10/24/07.

**Reassigned NOACSC employee Janell Del Vesco to the position of Student Services Liaison effective 10/29/07. Salary per salary schedule will be prorated for the period 10/29/07 thru 6/30/07.

**Accepted the resignation of NOACSC employee Christine Keller from the administrative position of DASL Program Manager effective end of day 11/11/07 and rehired her for the position of DASL Student Services Liaison effective 11/12/07 - 1 year non-certified contract, salary prorated for the period 11/12/07-6/30/08.

**Employed Scott Schaffner for the NOACSC position of Developer/DBA effective 11/19/07 - 1 year contract as per NOACSC salary schedule with salary prorated for the period 11/19/07-6/30/08.

**Approved a motion to join Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) for 2008 and to subscribe to the OSBA Briefcase.

**Joined the OSBA Legal Assistance Fund for 2008.

**Set FY08 Fiscal Agent Fees for NOACSC at \$21,375.55 (3% increase).

**Accepted the FY08/09 eTech/Ohio Professional Development Grant in the amount of \$2070 and approve appropriations for the grant.
**Converted Rosanah

BUEHRER WORKS TO PROTECT THE HONOR OF OHIO'S FALLEN SOLDIERS

COLUMBUS—State Senator Steve Buehrer (R-Delta) recently took an important step toward protecting the honor and reputation of all Ohio's military men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedoms.

Yesterday, Sen. Buehrer introduced Senate Bill 263, legislation that would prohibit the unauthorized use of a fallen soldier's persona for a commercial purpose. The bill comes on the heels of similar efforts in a handful of other states, following pleas from military families upset that their loved ones' names and photos were being used to make a profit on T-shirts, phone cards and other products.

For instance, a man in Arizona has been selling T-shirts online that list the names of the more than 3,150 U.S. military personnel who have bravely given their lives during the War on Terror. The shirts use the names to spell out anti-war messages.

"Regardless of your view on the war, the names and faces of our fallen military heroes should never be used to advance some political agenda or make a quick profit," said Sen. Buehrer. "This is dishonorable to our nation's soldiers, disrespectful to their friends and family and downright anti-American."

SB 263 would make the unlawful use of a deceased soldier's persona a first degree misdemeanor. Arizona, Louisiana and Florida have already passed similar legislation.

Foster's previously approved Family Medical Leave to an intermittent Family Medical Leave for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year.

**Approved an additional 25 contract days for Sandra Freeman for the purpose of grant coordination for the Ohio Core Dual Credit Grant at her present rate.

**Employed Julia McGrath as speech therapist on a part time as needed basis for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year.

**Approved a revision to policy no. 4421.1 Group Health Insurance as presented.

**Set the 2008 Organizational Meeting for January 10, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. with the regular January meeting to immediately follow and appointed Ron Treece as President Pro-tem for the Organizational meeting.

The Board meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. with no additional Board action. The next regularly scheduled Governing Board meeting of the Western Buckeye Educational Service Center is on January 10, 2008 starting at 7:00 p.m. in the Paulding ESC Office.



SEA CADET BOTTERON PASS SEAMAN COURSE

Sea Cadet Brad Botteron has been informed that he has passed his seaman course with a score of 3.3 out of a possible 4.0. As of now Brad has advanced to the status of being a seaman Cadet. His family is very proud of Brad because he has worked hard to get this rating on top of his regular school work.

VIDEO GAME DAY ON DECEMBER 28 AT THE LIBRARY

HICKSVILLE—To break the winter blues, the Johnson Memorial Library is sponsoring a Video Game Day on Friday, December 28 beginning at noon. The Video Game Day is free and is open to everyone.

"We'll have big screen, 4-player action," explained Youth Services' Librarian Dustin Harris. "The current video game line-up includes MarioKart Double Dash on the GameCube and Fuzion Frenzy on the X-Box. 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.

SILENT NIGHT HOLY NIGHT



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8:30 Contemporary Worship
9:30am Sunday School
10:30am Worship/Children's Church

Christmas Services
"Blue Christmas"
Dec. 20, 7p.m.
Christmas Eve
7 and 11 p.m.

202 E. River St. (419) 258-4901

St. Mary's Catholic Church

303 S. Monroe St.
Antwerp

Weekend Mass
6 P.M. Saturday • 8:30 A.M. Sunday

PASTOR: Scott Marsee
704 S. Erie Street
Antwerp, OH 45813

Sunday: 9:30am Sunday School
10:30am Worship
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*Jingle Bells...
Jingle Bells...
Jingle All The Way.*

Hope your holiday leaves you laughing every day!

It's been a joy to serve you and we look forward to sharing more good times together in the year ahead.

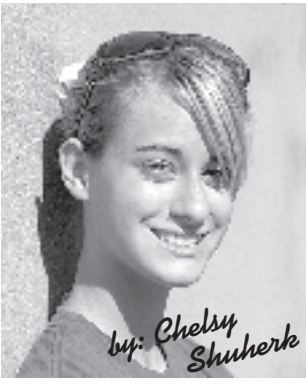
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RAIDER REPORT



by: Chelsy Shuherk

Telling the truth

You know that music they play in scary movies? They do that because sometimes telling the truth IS a scary and hard thing to do. I know I have been in situations, where I was not sure if I should or should not tell the truth. It is definitely a hard decision to make because there are many things that make it hard to do, but there are also many reasons why you should do it.

The main reason that telling the truth is hard is because we cannot predict the future and do not know the outcome. This, for me, is hard because I do not like not knowing. Sure, the outcome could be great, but on the other hand it could be devastating. I mean you could potentially hurt someone emotionally, and the pos-

sibility of that happening makes me want to choose the other option. Of course, that option being the option of not telling the truth. The word for that option is lying, and if you are caught doing that then you could end up worse off. Which leads to the reasons why you should tell the truth. So, here is a quote by Eleanor Roosevelt: "You must do the things you think you cannot do."

She hit the nail right on the head because that is a fact of life. You do have to do things you think you can not do because it makes you a better person. I know telling the truth is sometimes a thing many people think they cannot do, but you have to buckle your seatbelt and go for it full throttle. If you do not, you could really hurt someone worse than if you did tell them. Especially, if that person is a friend, and you should know that friends will stick with you through everything so tell them the truth. It is not right to lie to a friend because sooner or later they will find out, so you might as well tell them. Also, telling your friend the truth could possibly make them trust you more and help your friendship grow. So, listen to Eleanor and do what you think you cannot do.

Holiday Hints

Give Those Fat Pants To Santa This Holiday Season Five Defense Tips For Holiday Overfeasting

(NAPSA)—"I'm so stuffed I couldn't possibly eat another bite," we mildly insist before taking a bit more. Then out come the "fat jeans" and, in more severe cases, the elastic-waist pants. At every turn, women face tinsel temptation: cookies, pies and eggnog. Throughout this two-month holiday time "moment of truth," one anxiety lurks in our thoughts—how to undo the damage the holiday season imposes on weight-management goals.

A recent survey confirms that most overindulgent holiday moments are as predictable as getting the itchy wool sweater from Aunt Edna. It's no secret that many people gain weight during the holiday season. The average weight gain during the holiday season is almost 5 pounds.

To help take the guesswork out of staying committed to weight-management goals during the tempting holiday season, Special K partnered with registered dietitian Lisa Cohn. Cohn offers the following five strategies for consumers to stay committed to their weight-management goals during the holidays:

Don't Skip Meals

Eat small, healthy snacks such as fresh vegetables regularly so you're less likely to overindulge during meals.

Bring Your Shopping List And A Snack

When you go shopping, take along a Special K Protein Snack Bar. Waiting in line for gift wrap



can take a long time and a sensible snack bar will help keep you from snacking on less than healthy choices.

Graze, Don't Gorge

Eat a sensible salad before attending a holiday dinner party so you will be less likely to overindulge while at the party.

Don't Ignore Your Sweet Tooth

Choose a smart indulgent snack before baking cookies in the evening, such as Special K Chocolatey Delight cereal. The chocolatey bites in the cereal will satisfy the desire for something sweet.

Have A Cookie, But Not All The Cookies

Some people use the "I break off small pieces of cookies because they have fewer calories" excuse. But having bits and pieces of 12 cookies can add up quickly. Indulge by having a cookie, but remember to enjoy everything in moderation.

Learn more by searching for "Special K" on Yahoo!

MR. AND MRS. JACK SCHMIDT CELEBRATE 40 YEARS OF MARRIAGE



Jack and Roberta Schmidt of Fort Wayne, IN, will be celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary on December 23, 2007.

Jack is the band director at Antwerp Local Schools. They have three children: Doris (Bob) Hawley of Antwerp, Jeremy and Kathryn, both of Fort Wayne. They have five grandchildren.

They will be celebrating

their special occasion on December 23 with an Open House at the Leo-Cedarville Park pavilion in Leo, IN (on the corner of State Road 1 and Elsworth St.), from 1:30 - 5:30 p.m. Anyone wanting to wish them a "Happy Anniversary" is welcome to stop by.

Jack and Roberta reside at 5533 E. Tillman Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46816.

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LADY LANCERS PIERCE THE RAIDERS

On Monday night, December 10 the Lincolnview Lady Lancers faced off against the Wayne Trace Lady Raiders in varsity basketball action.

The final score for the evening was Lincolnview 49, Wayne Trace 41. Lincolnview moves to 3-2, Wayne Trace falls to 3-3.

Leading Players:

Lincolnview - Kylie Honigford (16 points, 6 rebounds, 5 steals), Lauren Evans (10 points), Brittany Katalenas (9 points, 9 rebounds), Katie Honigford (8 points, 5 assists, 5 rebounds, 5 steals)

Wayne Trace - Renee Bidlack (14 points, 6 rebounds), Elyse Myers (12 points, 5 rebounds)

The West Bend News website has many pictures of area events. Be sure to visit www.westbendnews.net

Community Memorial Hospital
Hicksville, OH
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"STAR" members of our Team

| | | |
|------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Kelly Brown | Jeff Rode | Russ Cummins |
| Randi Smith | Dr. Chesler | April Rock |
| Camie Stallbaum | Tiffanie Baird | Carly Miller |
| Rita Bodenbender | Martha Carr | Stacy Kosha |

PATIENT COMMENTS:

"CMH in Hicksville is a real nice hospital to be in if you're sick. All the doctors and nurses are really good to you. It is always clean and the food is great I will tell every one I know to go to Community Memorial Hospital in Hicksville."

"I just completed physical therapy and everyone treated me wonderfully. Kelly is a perfect receptionist - great personality for the job and always friendly. All of the PT team was great. CMH is doing a great job. I am extremely satisfied."

"I spent three days in a Ft. Wayne hospital then spent many days at CMH in Hicksville. Which would I choose for the best care? CMH of course. Your nurses are the best!"

"From the time I registered to my wheelchair ride to the car, I was treated with respect and a high level of professionalism from all staff members. My toast was warm and my fruit was chilled - not the other way around as it could have been."

"The best thing about CMH is the very personal care and attention I received. I was mainly in the ER. My doctor called ahead and I was treated like royalty. Everyone was very pleasant and tried hard to make me comfortable."

"I have been in and out of the hospital quite a few times. Some small, some large hospitals. I cannot pick any one of them that gave me such care and treatment as I received at CMH. The nurses were cheerful, helpful, and very informative. Keeping me informed of what was going on made me feel more relaxed and comfortable. Thanks again for a job well done!"

"Dr. Kooistra, in Edgerton, is a compassionate and caring doctor. He always puts me at ease and I have confidence in him."

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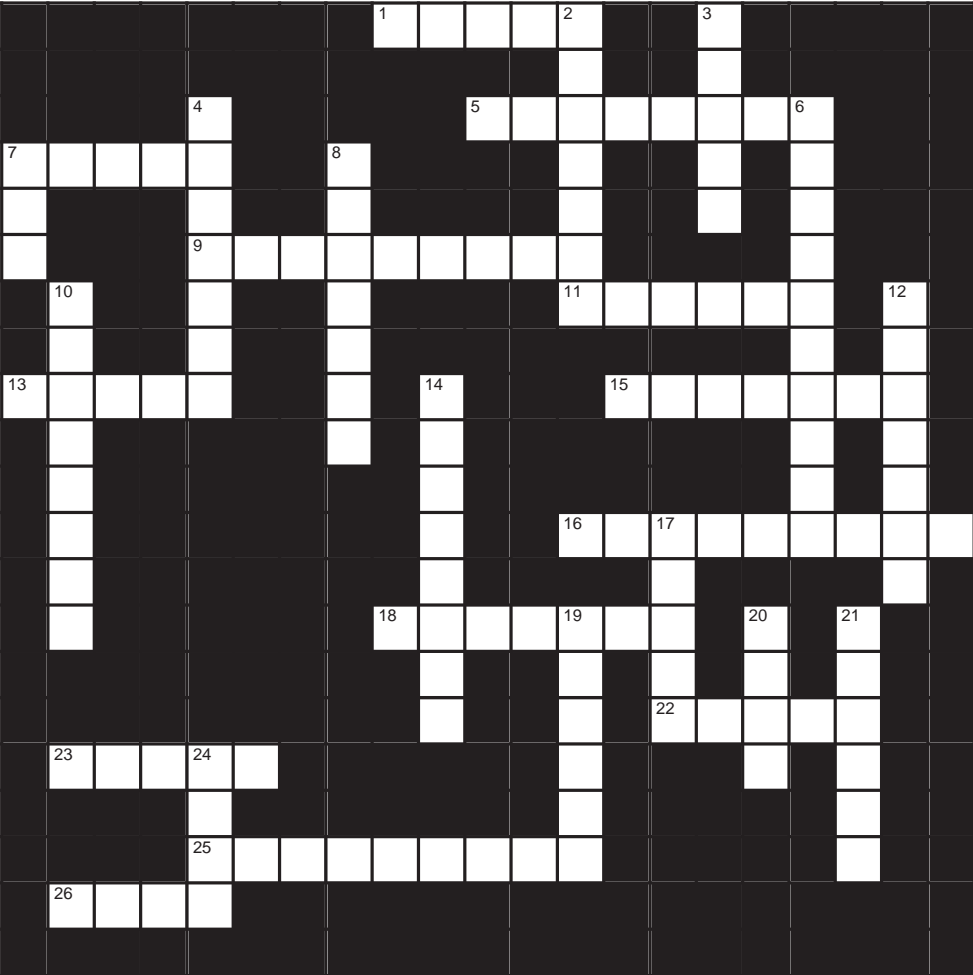
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Crossword Puzzle

Directions: Test your knowledge about the poem/story " 'Twas The Night Before Christmas".

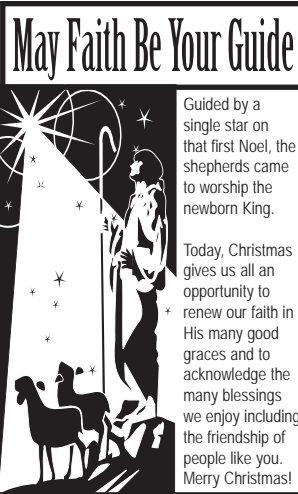


Across

- 1. The description of St. Nicholas's mouth.
- 5. These came more rapid than eagles.
- 7. I flew like this to the window.
- 9. His sleigh was this.
- 11. The first reindeer mentioned in the story.
- 13. His bell was like a bowl full of this.
- 15. The children were like this and snug in their beds.
- 16. His clothes were this.
- 18. This facial feature of St. Nick's was described as 'Merry'.
- 22. This encircled his head like a wreath.
- 23. St. Nicholas came with this.
- 25. These were hung with care.
- 26. He held the stump of this tight in his teeth.

Down

- 2. In spite of myself, I did this.
- 3. After a wink and a twist, I had nothing to WHAT?
- 4. He gave a nod before he went up this.
- 6. These were dancing in the children's head (two words)
- 7. He was dressed from head to foot in this.
- 8. He gave his team one of these.
- 10. This was not stirring.
- 12. St. Nick looked like one of these.
- 14. Mamma was wearing one of these.
- 17. The description of his cheeks.
- 19. These fly before the hurricane
- 20. This gave a mid-day lustre.
- 21. The description of St. Nick's nose.
- 24. St. Nicholas laid his finger aside here.



PAULDING COUNTY HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS AND DISMISSALS

Admissions:
 12/10 - Francis Fulk, Payne; Waneta Sanders, Payne
 12/12 - Don Egnor Jr., Antwerp; Candyce Hawk, Oakwood; Hobart Kuhn, Payne
 12/13 - Jessica Acosta, Paulding; Debra Stallbaum, Paulding
 12/14 - Michael Zuber, Payne; Joyce Miller, Antwerp
Dismissals:
 12/11 - Doris Kohart, Payne
 12/12 - Shelly Kessler, Paulding
 12/13 - Don Egnor Jr., Antwerp; Renee Dickey, Paulding

12/15 - Jessica Acosta, Paulding; Waneta Sanders, Payne
 12/16 - Candyce Hawk, Oakwood

THANK YOU

Thank you to all of our friends for all of your thoughts and prayers during the loss of Carl. The cards, food, flowers, throws and donations to the Woodburn Fire Department were greatly appreciated. Special thanks to all of his buddies at the Antwerp Card Room. You are a great bunch, thanks for being such good friends to Pops.
 —Barb Mason, Mike & Julie Mason, Ryan & Nicole, Xander & Jaxson Jewell



By: Chelsea Vail

Joy to the world - exams are done! With semester assessments over, a nice long break on the horizon, and a White Christmas fairly well ensured, there is little left to do except relax and enjoy the holiday festivities. A two-hour early dismissal on Thursday marks the end of the second quarter, leaving students to look forward to nothing but freedom (and net, at the numerous basketball games over the break). Speaking of basketball games...

JH Girls Basketball: December 20, 5:00, @ Lincolnview
 Freshman Boys Basketball: December 20, 4:30, @ Edgerton

Varsity Girls Basketball: December 21-22, TBA, @ Edon (Route 49 Classic)

Varsity Boys Basketball: December 20, 6:00, @ Edgerton

Word of the Week: Besmirch \bi-SMURCH\ verb

- 1. To stain; sully; tarnish
- 2. To detract from the honor or luster of

We can thank Bill Shakespeare for this tasty little morsel of a word; the term was first employed in his Henry V production as a variation of "smirch," which has essentially the same meaning. A friendly piece of advice: using besmirch in a sentence is one thing; taking action with the idea of it is quite another. Family gatherings can be crazy enough without those cloyed skeletons making their way to the dinner table. That being said, I'll see you on the flip side of the Silent Night. Merry Christmas!

RECYCLING SET FOR DECEMBER 22

The Boy Scouts recycle the fourth Saturday of every month. December's date is set for the 22nd.

They take cardboard, glass, newspapers in brown bags, and aluminum and steel cans.

The scouts will be at the Antwerp Fire Hall from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

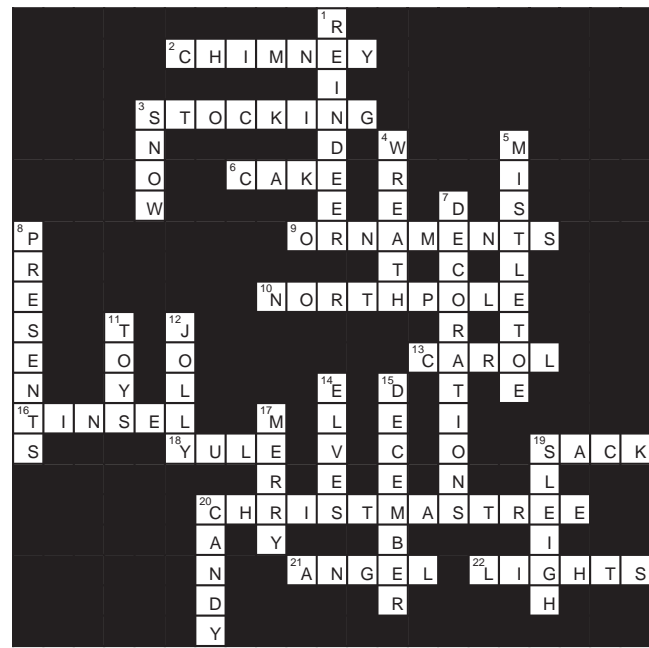
A WINTER WONDERLAND OF READING IS AWAITING YOU AT THE LIBRARY'S STORY TIME

HICKSVILLE— A winter wonderland of reading is awaiting you at the Johnson Memorial Library's December 27 Story Time. The story time is scheduled for 2:00 p.m.

The winter story time is free and is open to everyone, both the young and the young at heart.

"This is a special story time," explained Branch Manager Amy Murphy. "This is a chance for kids to get out of the house during Christmas break and to get past that cabin-fever feeling. It's also special, because it will be led by a Hicksville High School student as a part of her senior project at the library."

If you have any questions or would like additional information about the Winter Story Time, please call the Johnson Memorial Library at (419) 542-6200.



MASONS PLAN FOR INSPECTION

WB Kline opened a Lodge of FellowCraft and the Pledge was given. Birthday cards were signed and sent to Terry Derck December 25, Robb Holt December 26, Tod Perry December 20, Bing and Bryon Rasey December 15, Dick Savage December 24, Earl Walters December 29, Wm. Kenny Wonderly December 14, Calvin Worden December 16, and Jim Wonderly January 4.

Members in attendance included 50-year members Gene McClellan, Doyle Johnson, Wayne Carr, Elmer Woodcox, Estel Cottrell, Charles Carey, and Derrill Kline. Others making up the 25 total were Tim Betts, RWB Cecil Rasey, RWB Trent Dominique, Russell St. John, Hanson Lilly, Ron Farnsworth, Dick Savage, Randy Brooks Sr., George Underwood, Walter Schilb, Robert Stotler Jr., Scott Ruppert, Norm Byers, Jim Kline, Lee Kallsen and our newest FellowCraft. These included 17 Past Masters.

The Carpet Committee was reinstated with members Ron Farnsworth, Joe Stotler, and Scott Ruppert making up the roster. It was decided that the roof was fixed and an inspection should be initiated twice a year to prevent further leaks. There currently is money in

donation earmarked for the project. This, along with further donations will completely cover the expense of adding the 266.6 square yards of carpet need to completely re-carpet the entire Lodge including the steps and platforms! This will be a tremendous improvement since the old stained carpet was put down in 1981, 28 years ago.

It was moved and seconded to purchase a Bicentennial Flag and Banner for the Lodge. This is the 200th year of Masonry in Ohio. These new additions to the Lodge will add to its beauty. You can see a picture of these in last month's Beacon. Every Mason should receive this bulletin from the Grand Lodge every couple months. You can also see information about Ohio Masonry on line at www.freemason.com

There was a report given on the Past Master's Convocation held at Hicksville December 8. RWB Dominique thanked Hicksville Lodge for hosting this well planned event.

With that WB Kline called for a special meeting to take place on January 4 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of conducting our annual Inspection. We will confer the Entered Apprentice degree on yet another new candidate. EA practice is scheduled for officers tonight December 19 at 7:00 p.m.

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ANTWERP COUNCIL MEETING

By: Sue Knapp
Antwerp Village Council met on Monday, December 10 at 6:30 p.m. with all but Dan Gordon present. Mayor-elect Ray Delong was present observing. There were no visitors.

Police Chief, George Clemens reported 165 calls and 27 offenses in Mayor's Court.

Administrator, Sara Keeran, reported that the new water line for Shaffer Road should be done this week. Individual water service will be connected next week, depending on the weather. Final grading and seeding will be completed in the spring of 2008.

The W. Daggett Waterline Replacement Application - Issue 11 was not funded. Sara Keeran was told by PC Engineer, Travis McGarvey, that the Village would have to pay half which would be a match of 50% or \$96,687.50. This is tabled until next year to see if the water fund has enough surplus to fund 50% of the cost.

A change in utility billing is being discussed. Instead of the sewer, water and storm being billed individually and the different bills being due in consecutive months, one bill that includes all three departments would be sent and the total due in 45 days. This would save time, money, paper, supplies and manpower for the utility department. If this change is approved it will be instituted by the second quarter of 2008.

The Sidewalk Committee decided to go with removing 18 trees on Main Street that are dead or causing damage to the sidewalks. Residents affected by the tree removal will be notified before the work is done and they will have the choice to keep the wood. This is the first phase of the sidewalk replacement program. It is anticipated that in 2008 the sidewalks on Main Street will be sur-

veyed to determine what sidewalks will need to be replaced or repaired.

The 2008 budget was reviewed. The budget is less than 2007's because of the completion of the water tower/waterline project, etc. With the increase in EMS runs the funds should be able to stay within budget next year. The EMS and Police Department's budgets are both in the red causing a fiscal watch. It is anticipated that the EMS will be operating in the black by the end of 2008 and the Police Department after that. The State Auditor's Office is helping the village to get out of its current fiscal watch.

The council members discussed possible projects for 2008 including a water casing project on Wentworth Street, repair of a well, treatment of sludge at the sanitary sewer plant, oxygen testing at the plant, and street repaving.

An ordinance was passed to raise some of the police and EMS employee's pay. Raises were approved for part-time police officers, police reservists and the EMS coordinator.

Ordinance 2007 39 to transfer to the Police Department \$20,000 from the general fund for the months of November and December.

Ordinance 2007 30 the second reading to raise the EMS user fees. If passed, the new fees will go into effect on January 1. A special council meeting will be held on December 26 at 4:00 p.m. to have the third reading.

Melanie Farr proposed ordinances that may change the policies on litter, weeds and junk vehicles.

Mayor Womack gave a farewell to her eight years as Mayor. She thanked the council for their support and encouragement. She stated that she felt they accomplished much, but she was ready to enter another chapter in her life. Mayor-elect Ray Delong will be sworn in on December 31 at 3:00 p.m.

NEW STATE OF THE ART LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY AT PAULDING COUNTY HOSPITAL LAB



The clinical laboratory at Paulding County Hospital has enhanced its laboratory capabilities to respond to physician requests for blood tests with new equipment. The laboratory has recently unveiled the new instrument at a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by lab and hospital employees. This new system, called the cobas® 6000 analyzer series, analyzes blood samples for routine and innovative chemistry tests ordered by physicians.

"The cobas 6000 analyzer series will make our lab much more efficient," said Laura Roth, laboratory manager. "This system provides broad testing capability to continue to enhance our practice of laboratory medicine for years to come." "This is just another step in our commitment to continuously improve our quality of patient care, while providing our medical staff with the tools they need." The hospital decided to upgrade the laboratory as demand for more tests continued to grow. This highly compact system consolidates more than 95% of routine testing, therefore requiring fewer analyzers, which optimizes lab staff efficiency.

"Paulding County Hospital can run over 10,000 "chemistry" tests in a given health fair while maintaining our normal workflow. This instrument can process these tests in a fraction of the time while allowing immediate interruption of our more priority tests", said Laura Roth. "With this increased demand, we knew we needed to make improvements in order to maintain our goal of producing fast and accurate test results."

Manufactured by Roche Diagnostics, the cobas 6000 analyzer series integrates multiple technologies to give

us efficiency and the flexibility to grow as our needs change. Upgrading the laboratory was a tremendous task, however, according to Laura Roth, the transition was so smooth that few people in the hospital noticed it was going on.

About Roche

Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, Roche is one of the world's leading research-focused healthcare groups in the fields of pharmaceuticals and diagnostics. As the world's biggest biotech company and innovator of products and services for the early detection, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases, the Group contributes on a broad range of fronts to improving people's health and quality of life. Roche is the world leader in in-vitro diagnostics and drugs for cancer and transplantation, a market leader in virology and active in other major therapeutic areas such as autoimmune diseases, inflammation, metabolic disorders and diseases of the central nervous system. In 2006 sales by the Pharmaceuticals Division totaled 33.3 billion Swiss francs, and the Diagnostic Division posted sales of 8.7 billion Swiss francs. Roche has R&D agreements and strategic alliances with numerous partners, including majority ownership interests in Genentech and Chugai, and invests approximately 7 billion Swiss francs a year in R&D. Worldwide, the Group employs about 75,000 people. Additional information is available on the Internet in the U.S. at www.roche-diagnostics.us or globally at www.roche.com.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A Death in Paulding County

After I had read about the murder of Teresa Smith-Shay in the Paulding paper, I thought of a lot of questions that will probably not be answered. Now, mind you, these are just my questions and observations!

What did Ms. Smith-Shay do to deserve to die in such a disrespectful manner? From the articles sent in by her friends and family, she had paved a rough road for herself.

I realize she probably created most of it herself, but that isn't reason enough to give up on her. Was she, "too trusting"? Was she lured away by people promising her the next hit of crack, (or whatever drug she preferred)? What if the person in the alleyway told her a huge lie to get her away from her friends' home? She probably trusted the woman, and agreed to go with her.

As we all know, she was someone's daughter, sister, mother and friend. From what I read, she makes it very hard for her family and friends to love her 'unconditionally'. But they did, no matter what she did.

Why do so many murders go unsolved in this county? If the police or the investigators have any leads, even the smallest, who don't they let the public know about it? Somebody might have seen something that would help in their case! Are they actually investigating these tragedies or did they just put it aside, thinking people would forget about it, and then, let the case go cold? And the biggest question is, "Do we have a killer running around out there, and are we safe? Is he/she planning his next victim's demise or just planning to do a dump job in our county? The man who was found dumped on the tracks west

of town—did anyone find out who shot and threw him away like some piece of litter?

I have a friend whose brother was stabbed in the back with a hunting arrow. The people involved with his killer have solid evidence of who did it, but they never actually arrested anyone, nor did they do a follow-up on the case. To this day, the persons involved are still running free and they can actually say, "We got away with murder."

I know I'm not the only one who thinks this—if you want to dump a body or kill someone, this is the place to do it, because no one will hunt you down!

We may be the most "affordable" county (if someone's life hasn't any value), but are we the "safest" county to live in? I don't think so and I'm sure you probably feel the same, if you value peoples' lives over money.

When will Teresa or any other person murdered around here get their rightful justice if their cases continue to go unsolved? The constitution states, "With justice for all". I'd like to see this happen before I die!

My thoughts and prayers go out for the families and friends of each of these victims, and to the victims themselves. We should all pray to God that it doesn't happen to anyone else, but we know it will.

—Rose Keever

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For your business, we are truly blessed.
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FRIENDS OF A.C.D.C. PLAN BUS TRIP
By: Denny Lee
Friends of the Antwerp Community Development Committee are hosting a bus trip to the Greek Town Casino in Detroit Michigan on Sunday, January 20, 2008 as a fundraiser for the committee. The bus will be departing from the Ice-Cream Depot on Main St. in Antwerp at 7:30 a.m. and returning at 8:00 p.m.
The bus holds fifty-six passengers and we would like to have every seat filled! This promises to be a fun-filled day. Those desiring to go should make your reservations with Julie Pendergrast or call 419-258-7621.

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Everyone here is hoping that your Christmas delivers everything you've been wishing for. Merry Christmas and heartfelt thanks for your continued support.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

As Mayor of Antwerp for the past eight years I want to say Thank You for all the support the residents gave me.

As a small village we are very blessed to have a Council that works for the good of the people and have accomplished much in the past few years, I wish them the best as our village grows with the new 24 south of town. It is going to be a challenge but a very positive step for our town.

When I became Mayor one priority I had was to have a beautiful playground at our Riverside Park. That became reality with several devoted mothers who formed a committee, did lots of money raising projects and within less than one year raised \$80,000 and the playground was constructed and opened for the children of our community. Thank you ladies for all your hard work and efforts. I will always be indebted to you for all your efforts and continuing work to make our park a nice place to visit (pictured above)

While I am on the park, thank you to all community and town residents that painted the entrance to the park and decorated it for Christmas. It looks just beautiful. And it is also nice to see the tree by the Antwerp Insurance Agency decorated again.

It has been my pleasure to work with all the departments in our village.

Our Police Department is one of the best for a village our size. It has been a pleasure to work with Chief Clemens and Victoria and all the reserve officers. We are very fortunate to have a department that handles calls 24/7.

Our Fire Department and EMS Squad are second to none. We had a very sad year

in 2007 that will always be in our memories. I have enjoyed working with both departments. Keep up the good work guys.

Then there is the Utility Department - all these employees have worked so hard to keep our town with the best water that was possible while doing repairs and getting the new tower in service. These guys deserve a lot of credit for being on call 24/7 and doing repairs in the middle of the night. They also take care of our streets and keep them in good repair.

Last but not least, thank you to Luanne and Carole for the years we worked together. And thank you to Sara and Loretta who are now very capable filling the positions of Administrator and Fiscal Officer. These ladies are great.

The last eight years was a real learning experience and I will treasure all the good and bad times. My family and I will always stay in this village and community and are proud to call this home.

Our community and village are very special because of all the support that is shown and working together to make our town a special place. So please continue to support the new Mayor and council and make Antwerp a better place to live.

Happy Holidays to all and may God bless all of you.

—Margaret Womack

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Make Tonight a Family Night!
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Happy Holidays
Merry Christmas
Season's Greetings
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holiday is perfect in every way.

With thanks for your generous support.

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Greetings of the Season

from your friends at Den Herder Funeral Home

Our family wishes your family the warmth and peace of this holiday season. As you celebrate life in the coming year, consider prearranging your final wishes as the ultimate gift of all.

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PEACE

Hallelujah!

At this season of His Holy Birth,
We'd like to join you in prayer for peace on earth;
And send a message of hope and joy your way
For a deeply satisfying holiday!

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"It's like a modern miracle," raves Donald Lippi of Van Wert. "Heck, even my orthopedic surgeon was surprised. It saved me from back surgery." "In many cases, the DRS® System is better and safer than surgery," says Dr. Drake Hughes, the first doctor in the local area to utilize the DRS® System. "Since I be-

After a failed back surgery, Carl Johns of Van Wert still suffered from severe back pain. After undergoing treatment on the DRS System® Johns claims his back is 99% better.

gan using this technology, I have performed over 2,500 treatments on patients who thought there was no hope, some even had prior surgery," says Dr. Hughes D.C. "In one preliminary study, up to 86 percent of those treated with this technology had significant relief following therapy." Treatment for the patient is extremely comfortable and most patients fall asleep during their 30-minute treatment session. In some cases, the pain resolves within the first few minutes of being on the machine.

"Most patients I see have tried everything from medication to surgery. Thanks to this technology, I am able to help patients quickly without any of the risks or side effects of surgery," explained Dr. Hughes.

For a free information CD call (419) 232-3322.

It's Christmastime!

We appreciate all the time you've spent with us this past year and hope that lots of good times are in store for you this holiday season.

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Living Water Ministries

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For more info:
We can be reached at 419-263-2728 or, by email - richjuliephelan@hotmail.com

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At the Payne Youth Center the "Rock"
104 S. Main St. • Payne, OH

Join us for:
worship - bible lessons - games - food- and lots of fun

ANTWERP HISTORY



Picture by Mike Renno, Antwerp Pharmacy

By: Stan Jordan

This beautiful picture is of the Chuck Wiedman Benefit. Mike Renno climbed up on the roof of his Village Hardware and snapped this photo. He finished it off and gave me one to use for our column. I was as tickled to get this picture as a kid with a new toy. Now Mr. Renno has finished off another print and we are going to give it to Chuck. He has not seen this photo as he was in intensive care at the time of the benefit. I say to you, Mr. Renno, many, many thanks.

If you will use your magnifying glass you will be able to see a lot of new things each time you look. Just like a Courier and Ives painting. The first lady on the left end is my fine wife, Pauline. You can pick out a lot of your friends.

Let me tell you about the school bus sitting there. After Chuck retired from maintenance on the buses, to keep busy he drove the morning route to Vantage. That is bus #6 sitting there in sort of remembrance of his dedication to the school.

He would drive the bus to Vantage about 7:45 a.m., he would drop off some students to the Catholic school in Payne.

In order to save gas, he would leave the bus at Vantage and drive the school's little green compact car back. Then in the afternoon, about 1:45 or so he would take the car back and bring the students home in the bus, old #6. I think Mrs. Nancy Derck drives that bus now on both trips.

If you look close you can see Tony Billman down in front of Floyd Ramsier's Law Office. The fellow with the white shoes is Bicycle Bob. I know you will see some more of your friends. Chuck will be able to pick out some of his buddies with their classic cars.

I could go on and on about how great the Antwerp people came out and helped with this big endeavor, but we have some other things to talk about that we are thankful for!

I enjoy both sides of Christmas time. The real live meaning of Christmas and also the commercial side.

I don't make any waves. I know many people make a living on the commercial side of Christmas and the way we live. I believe in Santa Clause, Frosty the Snowman, Rudolph, Jack Frost, The Tooth Fairy, Ground Hog Day, Punxsutawney Phil, the Sandman, Ichabod Cane, the Man in the Moon and Charlie Brown.

What I mean is I really enjoy seeing the people decorate their homes and things with lights and other paraphernalia. Some folks go all out and I, for one, like to see the pretty lights and decorations. I enjoyed the Parade of Lights and the lighting of the Village Christmas Tree down by the old Masonic Building. Lots of people put in quite a few hours for us to enjoy that tree.

I enjoyed Santa when I was a kid and I still enjoy it when the little kids see Ole' Santa down at the firehouse. He was there from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Saturday, December 15. Even have coffee and donuts for the grandmas and grandpas.

If you drive by Veteran's Memorial Park now after dark you will see what a fine

job of putting up decorations and lights the folks have done. Mrs. Karen Sanders and Mrs. Don Pierce and a lot of their children and grandchildren helped out. You have heard me say many times how proud I am of the people here in Antwerp. They jump in and do things on their own. I'm not going to mention any names because I don't want to.

(Continued on Page 10)

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Believe In The Magic!



For your belief in us, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts as we wish you a most merry and miraculous holiday season.

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Blessings At Christmas

At this joyous time of year, we'd like to join you and your family as we give thanks unto the Lord for the precious gift of our Holy Saviour.

For the gift of your loyal and generous support, we offer our sincere thanks.

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We Wish You A Merry Christmas...
We Wish You A Merry Christmas...

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Your patronage and referrals have provided us with another year of prosperity, and for this we are very thankful.

Jane, Brenda, Erin, Denny and I promise to continue doing our best for you in every way possible.

May we convey warm season greetings, and extend our best wishes for good health and happiness in the coming year.

Happy Holidays!

Nolan Shisler
Nolan Shisler



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(Continued from Page 9)

know all of them, but after dark drive you car up and down all the streets and see all the Christmas spirit. Possibly half of those men that put up those lights were Wise Men or Shepherds in their Sunday School Nativity Play. To each his own but I really do enjoy the Christmas season, all parts of it.

The beautiful Santa that stands in the window of Friend's Furniture place is an old resident. I talked to Ray and Anita and they tell me that Santa is over 50 years old. When J. Ray "Budd" Schilb had a funeral home in Hicksville that Santa was there for years. When Ray Friend bought the furniture store Santa came along, that was part of the deal. Ray says that Santa has to be repaired every once in awhile, but he is part of the family.

I started writing a column called Antwerp History for the West Bend News a little over two years ago. I have rewritten for 117 issues. I just now purchased my tenth legal pad to write on. I never figured I would last that long, but our paper, the WBN has been greatly accepted throughout the county area. I have made a lot of new friends and heard from a lot of old ones.

Here at the paper we have heard from about six places in Florida, and a number of other states including: Illinois, Colorado, Virginia, Michigan, Indiana, Arizona, Missouri and I know of some other places. Some people get it off the Internet after 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday night.

I am very pleased to be associated with The West Bend News. It is with pride that I approach a person to be interviewed and say, "I am Stan Jordan of TWBN." Heck, I even have my own business cards now. How about those apples?!

To all of you fine people who read us every week, I say thank you very, very much. I also say "Merry Christmas" and "Season's Greetings" and the very best to you and yours.
See, Ya!

PAULDING COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

On December 11 JV and Varsity Boys Basketball had the Antwerp Archers pitted against the Ottoville Big Green. The Big Green brought it, but the Archers got the bulls-eye in the end. The JV score was 48-43 and the Varsity score was 57-46.

On Friday, December 14, a final score in the Wayne Trace Lady Raiders vs. the Hicksville Lady Aces was WT 56, Hicksville 44.

Records now stand at Wayne Trace (5-3 overall, 1-0 Green Meadows Conference); Hicksville (4-4 overall, 0-1 GMC)

Leading Players:
Wayne Trace - Sara Priest 10 points, 3 assists; Elyse Myers 12 points, 11 rebounds, 4 steals; Renee Bidlack 13 points, 6 rebounds, 5 steals; Becky Ruble 10 points.

Hicksville - Kendra Katschke 10 points, 9 rebounds

Wayne Trace JV also pulled in a victory with a score of 28-21. There record now stands at 6-1.

Paulding Panthers varsity boys faced off against the Columbus Grove Bulldogs on December 14. The Panthers were fierce with a final score

of 63-52. Friday also saw the Lady Archers play host to the Edgerton Lady Bulldogs. Their final score saw Antwerp victorious in a score of 42-22.



Sophomore Megan Koppenhofer is dribbling down court approaching the goal, keeping it from her Edgerton opponent.



Sophomore TJ Short shown here with an incredible vertical jump. The Archers won against Ottoville. More pictures at www.westbendnews.net

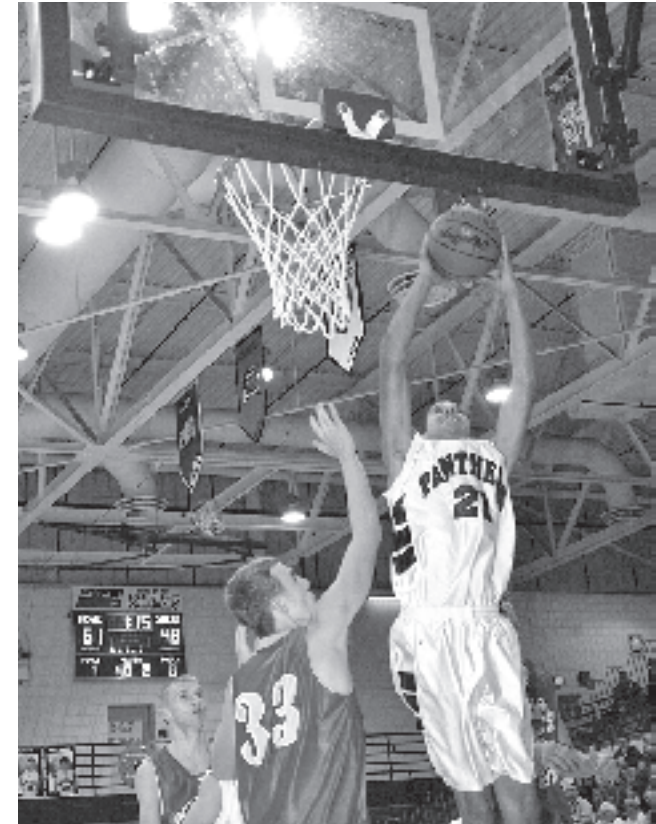
May Faith Be Your Guide



Guided by a single star on that first Noel, the shepherds came to worship the newborn King.

Today, Christmas gives us all an opportunity to renew our faith in His many good graces and to acknowledge the many blessings we enjoy including the friendship of people like you. Merry Christmas!

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Paulding Senior Jacob Perl scores against Columbus Grove. More pictures at www.westbendnews.net



Raiders' Elyse Myers goes for the lay up against the Hicksville Aces December 14. More pictures at www.westbendnews.net

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FROM THE PAULDING COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Charloe Store Robbery
On Saturday, December 15, 2007 at approximately 9:53 p.m., the Charloe Store located at the intersection of Rd. 138 and Rd. 171 in Brown Township, was robbed by two white male subject's wearing black ski masks. One suspect was wearing a carhartt type coat with a hood, and the other suspect was wearing a blue and white plaid coat with a hood.

The subjects assaulted the female clerk and made off with an undisclosed amount of cash and several cartons of cigarettes. The clerk received minor injuries as a result of the attack. The incident is under investigation by the Sheriff's Office...

Update...
The Paulding County Sheriff's Office has arrested Eugene Bartley, age 20, in connection with the Charloe Store robbery. They have recovered some cash and cigarettes, as well as other evidence. Bartley will appear in the Paulding County Court this week. Another suspect is also being sought concerning the robbery. The investigation

continues into this violent crime.
—David I. Harrow,
Paulding County Sheriff

Delivering Our Best



To all our readers, advertisers, friends and associates go our best wishes for a season filled with good news and good times. Your support makes it all worthwhile. Merry Christmas & Happy New Years and may God Bless You!

THE WEST BEND NEWS

WAYNE TRACE LOCAL SCHOOL'S NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTION



Tapped at an impressive induction ceremony on November 9, 2007, the following students were inducted into the National Honor Society at Wayne Trace High School: Kristy House, Jeremy Zartman, Sara Priest, Paul Kipfer, Angelo Harris, Renee Bidlack,

Kristi Wenninger, Arthur Stoller, Chelsea Williamson, Lynn Bidlack, Whitney Mullins, Elyse Myers, Shelby Critten, Krista Germann, and Marla Sinn. Each inductee received a NHS pin and certificate.

8TH GRADE LADY RAIDERS HOST PAULDING

On Thursday, December 13 the eighth grade Lady Raiders saw the Lady Jr. Panthers in basketball play. Final score for the evening was Wayne Trace 36, Paulding 16. Wayne Trace is now 6-2

Leading Scorers for WT - Ashley Saylor 11, Rebecca Habern 10, Sarah Feasby 8

Leading Scorers for Paulding - Speelman 7

LADY RAIDERS CRUSH THE COMPETITION

The varsity girls of Wayne Trace went in the Thursday night, December 13, game with a 3 and 3 record against Fort Jennings. Wayne Trace was on fire as they scored shot after shot. The Raiders raised their record to 4 and 3 after soundly defeating the Musketees 64-49.

Records - Wayne Trace 4-3, Fort Jennings 1-8

Leading Players: Wayne Trace - Elyse Myers - 15 points, 9 rebounds; Becky Ruble - 11 points; Jo Ellen Fickel - 10 points, 6 rebounds

Fort Jennings - Katie Von Lehmden - 17 points, 4 assists; Leah Kimmet - 16 points

The Wayne Trace JV girls won their game 29-21. Their record now stands at 5-2.

WAYNE TRACE JH BOYS BASKETBALL AT CRESTVIEW

On Thursday, December 13 the JH Raiders traveled to Bulldog country for basketball action.

In Seventh Grade - Wayne Trace 28, Crestview 26
Records - Wayne Trace 4-0, Crestview 4-1

Wayne Trace Leading Scorers - Dalton Sinn 14, Grady Gudakunst 12

In Eighth Grade - Crestview 61, Wayne Trace 32
Records - Wayne Trace 0-4, Crestview 4-1

Wayne Trace Leading Scorer - Austin Speice 15
Crestview Leading Scorer - Dallas Gibson 14

Have Something to sell?

Classified ads are \$5.00 for 25 words or less and only \$.10 for each additional word.

True Broadband Internet Access On The Go

(NAPSA)—Laptop owners looking to connect to the Internet while outside the home until recently had to drive around searching for a coffee shop or library with a wireless "Hot Spot." Thanks to new wireless services being rolled out in cities and towns across America, anyone with a laptop and special accessory card can get on the Internet in their car, in a neighbor's house, at a backyard barbecue, at a job site, a client's office or a restaurant—just about anywhere.

Small-business owners, real estate agents, contractors, outside salespeople and other professionals who must travel around town on business have been among the first to embrace this new technology, which is available from several types of wireless service providers with monthly plans similar to that of cellular phone service plans.

"As a lawyer, this is a powerful tool that enables me to do last-minute case research that previously would have been inaccessible once I was at the courthouse," explains Angela Hermosillo of Boise, Idaho. Hermosillo uses the pc card service from Seattle-based Clearwire, the newest entrant into the mobile Internet market. "I love that I can take Clearwire's pc card anywhere and use it wherever I am to access the Internet."

But sports fans, moms on the go, high school and college students, video gamers and Internet junkies of all stripes are also joining the mobile Internet revolution.

Roller derby enthusiast Sorrell Joshua of Bellingham, Wash., says when her roller derby league sponsored a Walk for Life fundraising event, "we needed Internet information while we were registering participants." Joshua, also a Clearwire user, explains that she used Clearwire's pc card service to access the Internet and look up the information while at a location that did not otherwise have online access. "It's made a big difference to be able to take my computer everywhere and be able to conveniently use the Internet."

Shopping for the right mobile Internet service plan can be confusing. Use these tips to find a plan and a service that meet your needs.



Clearwire pc card provides city-wide wireless broadband access.

What to look for when shopping for a mobile Internet service plan:

• **Speed:** Probably the most important factor in considering a mobile Internet service plan. Average connection speeds available from various service providers range from a low of around 400 kbps (kilobits per second) to a high of around 1.5 Mbps (megabits per second). To get service similar to home broadband, you'll want to be at the upper end of that range.

• **Ease of Use:** Look for a provider with software that is easy to install on your laptop. Some service providers require complicated installation procedures that can be difficult for most people to follow. Before you buy, make sure your laptop meets the minimum requirements for the software.

• **Cost:** Service plans range from \$59.99 to \$80 per month. Keep in mind that the higher-priced plans don't necessarily offer faster service.

• **Security:** Most Wi-Fi or "Hot Spot" networks do not provide a secure connection; thus, your vital information can be captured by computer hackers. Look for a mobile Internet service provider that offers a secure network.

• **Dedicated Network:** Most traditional mobile service providers use cellular networks that were designed for voice calls rather than Internet access, so mobile Internet connection speeds can vary widely, resulting in slow page views. Look for a dedicated data network, which offers more consistent connections at higher average speeds.



The phrase "down in the dumps" is thought to derive from the Dutch word *domp* which means haze or dullness.

Health Awareness

Staying Well At Work

(NAPSA)—If your job has you sitting at a desk all day, it's important to work at protecting your body against strain and discomfort.

"Often, sitting at a desk isn't viewed as anything that could be harmful," says Dr. Gerard W. Clum, president of Life Chiropractic College West, Hayward, California, and spokesperson for the Foundation for Chiropractic Progress. "But sitting still for long periods and performing repetitive tasks can result in injuries."



Sitting up straight at work could protect you from injury.

The Foundation offers these tips for avoiding neck, shoulder, arm and back pain:

- If you frequently talk on the phone, use a headset that allows your neck to remain in a neutral position.
- Be sure your computer monitor isn't much more than an arm's length away, and sit up straight when you type.
- Take a three-minute walk once an hour.
- Place the mouse pad close to, and at the same level as, the keyboard.

For more information, visit www.f4cp.com.

WAYNE TRACE WRESTLING



Wayne Trace competed against Fairview and Stryker on December 11. More pictures at www.westbendnews.net

The Wayne Trace JH Wrestling Team competed in the Wayne Trace Wrestling Invitational on Saturday, December 8 and had a tri-match with Stryker and Fairview on December 11. At the invitational Wayne Trace finished 6th out of 14 teams. Individually, out of eight wrestlers, Wayne Trace had seven wrestlers placed in the top four.

Joe Stahl, 4th; Aaron Harris, 3rd; Zach Cotterman, 3rd; Sawyer Temple, 2nd; Kameron Clemens, 2nd; Myranda Stahl, 2nd; Tyler Arnett, 1st.

Three wrestlers were one move away from being in the championship match.

On December 11 Wayne Trace defeated Fairview 36-3 and Stryker 30-0. Joe Stahl, Aaron Harris, Zach Cotterman, Sawyer Temple, Kameron Clemens, and Tyler Arnett all recorded pins for Wayne Trace. Myranda Stahl lost a tough match to her Fairview competitor and lost by decision.

All these wrestlers worked hard and they have the desire to win.

Photos by Margaret Philipot

Paulding, Ohio

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UPDATE ON JAMES DOUGHTY

James Doughty had his bone marrow transplant on December 13. He was released from the hospital that afternoon. He continues with his hospital clinical visits each day. Sera was told that they would have to stay till at least June or July following the transplant.

Sera still sells her jewelry at Tips 'N Tan to help cover their medical expenses. The web site is still available for donations (www.james-doughtyfoundation.com) as well as the Antwerp Exchange Bank/Sera & James Doughty account.

A note from Sera: "Good afternoon, Well, we made it through the transplant yesterday and were able to go home that same day! He ended up being admitted Wednesday afternoon because of the pain and not being able to get it under control despite all of the meds he is on. The transplant itself was actually quite uneventful in comparison to everything else we have been through. His new cells arrived from Europe late Wednesday night and they began the infusion at 10:30 yesterday and were finished by 10:45! Unbelievable! The cells came in a little bag, they looked like a combination of blood and platelets, and they hooked it up to his port and the infusion took all of 15-20 minutes! So he now has his new and improved immune system that will hopefully start to work, slowly but surely!

"He got thru the high-dose chemo okay last week, he is still having bone, joint and muscle pain, painful tingling sensations, shaking, nausea and loss of appetite. He is the weakest he has been throughout this whole thing, utterly exhausted. He has not been able to sleep in

five days, so obviously that hasn't helped. It is a huge effort for him to even stand up, or walk. It's hard for him to eat too because of the uncontrollable shaking and nausea, but I know these things will pass in time. The doctors started him on pro-graph a couple of days ago and that suppresses his immune system (even more than what it already is) therefore allowing the new immune system to go in and take over. He will stay attached to this bag for three weeks (it's connected to his port) and will then be put on oral pro-graph.

"The doctors changed his meds about three more times in the past week, so I am hoping they have the right ones now after spending over \$600 in prescriptions alone last week. They are telling us that more than likely he will have to go back into the hospital either next week or the week after due to mouth-sores, fevers, not being able to eat, etc. For now, we are just glad to be at the apartment together. We are back to coming to clinic everyday at 7:00 a.m. until around 3:00-4:00 and will have no days off for another 30 days. I just hope this time goes by quickly! We are more than ready for a day or two off... we are both so tired..."

Sera"

RESULTS OF SPECIAL DECEMBER 11TH CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION

On December 11, the Congressional 5th district special election took place.

Robert E. Latta received 56.87% of the vote district wide with Robin Weirauch only receiving 42.95% of the vote district wide.

Remember the Presidential Primary is on March 4, 2008. County candidates need to file by January 4 for the March vote.

LOCAL SCOUTS RECOGNIZED AT ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



Paulding Cub Scout Troop 317 recently held their annual Christmas program, where they issued awards to the scouts for the local popcorn sale held back in October. Scouts who sold over \$450 were recognized and will be attending a party at East of Chicago Pizza in Defiance.

The scouts who received this honor were (front row left

to right) Wyatt Miller, Brendon Lothamer, Scott Keeran, Matthew Coler, David Fisher, (back row left to right) Kyler Gardner, Christopher Adams, and Hank Sinn. Pictured with the scouts are their cub master Bob Gardner.

Scouts missing from the picture are Ray Kupfersmith and Kaleb Becker.

Cool Ways To Stay Warm Without Breaking The Bank

(NAPSA)—Here are tips to help keep your home comfortable without sending your heating bills through the roof.

- Take advantage of federal tax credits. Homeowners can receive a tax credit of up to \$500 per home for qualifying improvements made in 2006, 2007 and 2008. Tax credits are available for many home improvements including high-efficiency heating and cooling equipment, such as propane water heaters and furnaces. For more information, visit www.energystar.gov.

- Keep out the cold. Experts say the average American home loses between 10 and 50 percent of its energy through inadequate insulation and inefficient lights and appliances. Insulate, especially in attics and basements, replace old, drafty windows and weather-strip doors.

- A time-set thermostat can cut annual heating bills by as much as 10 percent per year by turning your thermostat back 10 to 15 percent for eight hours a day.

- Upgrade to an ENERGY STAR[®]-rated furnace or boiler to reduce heating bills by almost 30 percent.
- Always be prepared. Discuss fuel payment plan options with your propane retailer. Many retailers have budget payment plans that let you spread your projected annual cost of propane over many months, lowering the costs of seasonally higher bills. Arrange a regular propane delivery schedule with your propane supplier so you're never without fuel.

- Inspect and tune up your heating system regularly to keep it efficient.

- Switch to a propane water heater. Over time, propane water heaters can save up to a third



Here's a hot idea for homeowners: Heat your house efficiently to save money and energy.

compared to electricity and they heat more than twice as much water in an hour as a comparable electric model, reports the Propane Education & Research Council.

- Turn down your water heater from the standard 120 degrees to 115 degrees. You could save more than 10 percent on your water heating bill.

- Change your furnace filter monthly. Clean filters will increase efficiency. If you're on a monthly payment plan, use receipt of your monthly propane bill as a reminder.

- Wrap your water heater in an insulating blanket.

- Increase your water heater's efficiency by draining it every six months to remove mineral deposits and sediment.

- Install flow-restricting showerheads. You can cut hot water usage by up to 50 percent without affecting shower pressure.
- Run washing machines, clothes dryers and dishwashers only with a full load.

For additional tips and information or to learn more about propane, visit www.usepropane.com or call (202) 452-8975.

Turkey Fryers Go High Tech

(NAPSA)—Technology continues to advance at a record pace—impacting the office, the family living room and even the home kitchen.

For example, it's now possible to conveniently and safely fry a whole 14-pound turkey indoors in just 45 minutes. Not only is this option—using a turkey fryer—much quicker than traditional roasting, but it leaves cooks lots more oven space for baking side dishes and desserts.

The turkey fryer has been upgraded significantly in recent years. For instance, Masterbuilt's 28-quart Digital Electric Turkey Fryer features a push-button digital control panel and thermostat-controlled temperature—so users can cook at a precise temperature, without overheating the oil. This model also has a built-in timer on the control panel. And to make it really easy on the home-kitchen cook, it's equipped with a Turkey Tap drain valve, for quick and easy draining of oil or water.

The cooker also has a glass lid, stay-cool grips and a patented safety cord, along with a patented drain clip that allows the cook to lift the food basket out and latch it onto the edge of the unit so that oil or liquid can drain off. It's as simple as using your oven, but with superior results.

"These fryers can be used heavily to prepare holiday meals," says Keith Newton, marketing director at Masterbuilt. "But they can also be used to fry buffalo wings, batter-dipped mushrooms, onion



Turkey made in a fryer is not only a tasty alternative to roasting, but it's also done much faster, without taking up oven space.

rings, pickles, crunchy cheese sticks or other traditional party foods for get-togethers."

The fryer also does more than fry. It can be used for steaming and boiling all year round—so it's a cinch to prepare a big pot of perfectly steamed shrimp or freshly picked corn on the cob. Even a pot of steaming-hot chili, or a spicy Low Country Boil with sausage, potatoes, corn and more, could be the reason to have a backyard party. This electric fryer makes the process hassle-free and more user friendly than ever before.

The electric fryer is safe for use in the kitchen or wherever you have an electrical outlet. It is available in stainless steel and black, at select national and regional retail chains. For additional information, visit www.masterbuilt.com.

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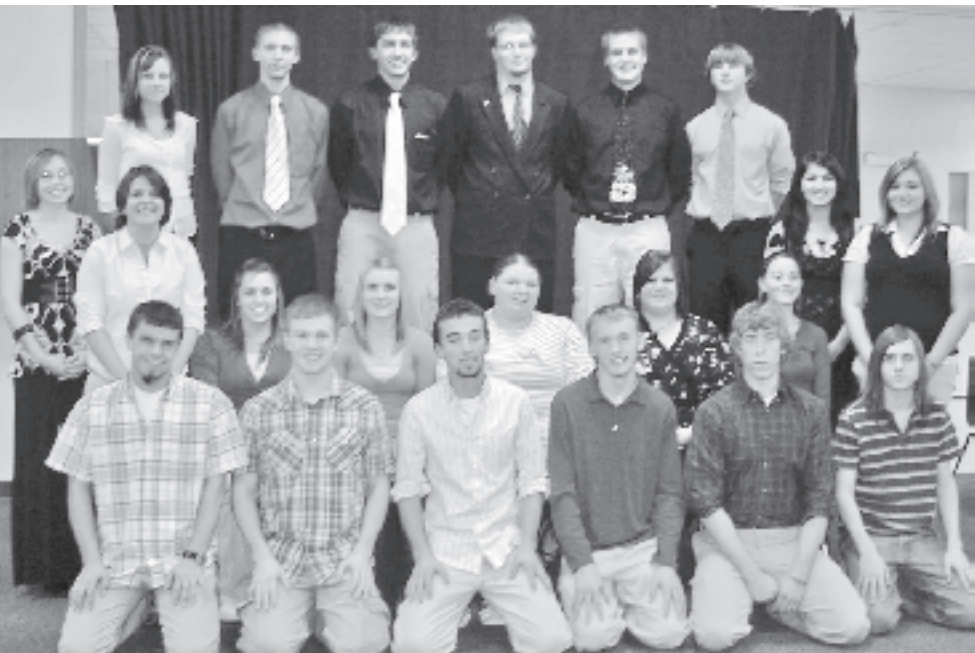
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"FROM THE VANTAGE POINT": VANTAGE INDUCTS 25 STUDENTS IN NATIONAL TECHNICAL HONOR SOCIETY



Newly inducted members of the Vantage 2007-2008 National Technical Honor Society. Front row: Nathan Arn, Jacob York, Chad Lobsiger, Steven Carlisle, Jonathon Young, Alex Burnett. Row 2: Kaitlin Lindeman, Jessica Johns, Chelsea Spryn, Andrea Freeman, Autumn Baldwin, Chelsea Foster, Katie Diment, Timna Klopfenstein, Casey Dull. Row 3: Janine Link, Adam Schnipke, Rusty Warnecke, Jeremy Ewing, Brent Hoersten, Tyler Miller. Unavailable for the picture were Christopher Bayus, Emily Erhart, Holden Profit and Jennifer Roberts.

Twenty-five Vantage seniors from eleven different home schools were selected as members of the Vantage Chapter of the National Technical Honor Society. They were introduced and inducted at the annual NTHS banquet on December 11, 2007, held in the Cup and Saucer restaurant. Guests in attendance at the banquet to recognize this elite group of students included parents, home school principals and counselors and Vantage teachers and administrators.

The main purpose of the National Technical Honor Society is to reward scholastic achievement in occupa-

tional and career technical education. The NTHS assists members in their pursuit of career and educational goals. Membership also encourages skill development, honesty, service, leadership, citizenship, and individual responsibility. In addition, students are selected for membership in NTHS as a reward for ex-

cellence in workforce education and is one of the most reliable indicators of performance and leadership in the American workplace. Students who achieved a 3.5 grade point average or better, while maintaining a 95% attendance rate at Vantage, were eligible to apply for membership. In addition to submitting a resume



Newly inducted members of the Vantage 2007-2008 National Technical Honor Society from Antwerp High School pictured with Antwerp principal Steve Arnold are Steven Carlisle and Chelsea Spryn. Holden Profit was unavailable for the picture.

cellence in workforce education; to develop self-esteem, pride and encourage students to reach for higher levels of achievement; and to promote business and industry's critical work-place values - honesty, responsibility, initiative, teamwork, productivity, leadership, and citizenship.

NTHS membership is the highest award for excellence

and writing a paragraph stating why they would like to be a part of the NTHS, the students also were required to obtain three teacher recommendations.

Students selected for membership in the National Technical Honor Society for the 2007 school year are Nathaniel Arn - Van Wert (Ag Diesel Mechanics), Autumn Baldwin - Van Wert (Health Careers), Christopher Bayus - Van Wert (Electricity), Alex Burnett - Crestview (Electricity), Steven Carlisle - Antwerp (Network Systems), Katie Diment - Parkway (Medical Office Management), Casey Dull - Wayne Trace (Cosmetology), Emily Erhart - Kalida (Early Childhood Education), Jeremy Ewing - Van Wert (Precision Machining), Chelsea Foster - Crestview (Cosmetology), Andrea Freeman - Crestview (Health Careers), Brent Hoersten - Ottoville (Electricity), Jessica Johns - Ft. Jennings (Interactive Media), Timna Klopfenstein - Wayne Trace (Health Careers), Kaitlin Lindeman - Delphos Jefferson (Health Careers), Janine Link - Paulding (Health Careers), Chad Lobsiger - Crestview (Electricity), Tyler Miller

- Lincolnview (Carpentry), Holden Profit - Antwerp (Network Systems), Jennifer Roberts - Wayne Trace (Early Childhood Education), Adam Schnipke - Ottoville (Ag Diesel Mechanics), Chelsea Spryn - Antwerp (Health Careers), Rusty Warnecke - Ottoville (Carpentry), Jacob York - Van Wert (Electricity), Jonathan Young - Lincolnview (Auto Body).

Congratulations to these National Technical Honor Society members!



Shop Safely

(NAPSA)—When heading out to the stores for holiday shopping, it's important to add something to your list: keeping an eye on the kids. Oftentimes, with children in tow, parents can become distracted amid the chaos of holiday crowds. Malls are filled to capacity, stores are packed and kids can get separated from parents in a matter of moments.

Here are three tips to keep kids safe at the mall:



When shopping with your children, it's important to know what to do if you get separated.

- **Keep your children in sight.** If children wander even a few feet from you, they can easily disappear into a crowd.
- **Establish a plan.** Before heading out, talk to your children about what steps they should take if they become separated from you. The OnGuard Kids Personal Safety Alert System (www.onguardkids.com) is a wristwatch with a built-in, 110-decibel alarm that children can activate if they become lost or the victim of an attempted abduction. It's available at Toys "R" Us and select Target stores.
- **Supply identification.** Prior to leaving the house, tuck your address, home and cell phone numbers inside your children's pocket.

ANTWERP'S FIREMEN WELCOMES SANTA



By: Sue Knapp

Saturday afternoon, December 15th, Santa Claus visited with kids at the Antwerp Fire House. The children lined up and each got their turn with Santa. Santa's helpers that day included local firemen and the fireman's

auxiliary. Randy Shaffer took pictures and Danielle Friend, Carla Woodcox and Tammy Price handed out treats.

Christmas music played as all enjoyed hot chocolate, coffee, cookies, rolls and fellowship.

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The **WEST BEND NEWS**

Caring For Caregivers

Thinking Ahead: Key To Reducing Caregiver Stress

(NAPSA)—The caregiving role, though among life's most important, is one that, according to a 2005 Opinion Research Corporation survey, inexperienced caregivers admit to being ill prepared to handle.



Despite their unpreparedness, according to the survey, an overwhelming majority of Americans—90 percent—say they're willing to make significant changes in their lives to ensure that an adult family member or friend gets needed care.

learning about subjects such as Medicare, living wills and powers of attorney.

"As a company specializing in the senior market, we know that seniors want to maintain their independence for as long as possible," explains John Wells, senior vice president of long-term care for Conesco and its subsidiary, Bankers Life and Casualty Company. "Many seniors are able to live in familiar surroundings and age with dignity because of the selflessness of their caregivers."

It's also important to talk to the person they may one day care for. Learning about a loved one's financial status—monthly income, investments, bank accounts and insurance—and their care preferences can help determine health care choices. Knowing who their physicians are and what medications they take and why can serve as clues about future health needs.

The Alzheimer's Association, which the national insurer Bankers Life and Casualty Company supports with an annual fundraiser, notes that 10 million Americans are caregivers for someone with Alzheimer's or another dementia.

Many national and local associations can help with specific conditions. The Alzheimer's Association, for example, offers programs and services that help those affected by Alzheimer's. These include a toll-free help line available 24/7 (800-272-3900); an informative Web site (www.alz.org), and local services, including information and referral, education and support groups.

"The Alzheimer's Association is unveiling even more resources, like its new online CareSource, to help caregivers care for themselves while caring for loved ones," says Beth Kallmyer, director of client services for the Alzheimer's Association.

Finally, it's also important to know the signs of caregiver stress: denial, anger, social withdrawal, anxiety, depression, exhaustion, sleeplessness, irritability, lack of concentration, and health problems. In addition to exploring stress-reduction techniques, caregivers should take steps to build a strong support network before the need for caregiving arises.

Empowering With Knowledge
The National Family Caregivers Association and the National Alliance for Caregiving say that the time to prepare for caregiving is before a loved one becomes ill.

For more senior topics, visit www.bankerslife.com and click on "Senior Resources."

That's the time, they say, that potential caregivers should start

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49-51p

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PAULDING listings in the West Bend News

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50-51p



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PAULDING COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The Paulding County Commissioners meet in regular session on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

The Commissioners approved placing a renewal of the 911-operating levy on the March ballot. The 1.2 mill-operating levy was renewed in 2003 and originally approved by the voters in 1999. The 911 program is operated in the Sheriff's Office in coordination with the Sheriff's county wide police, fire and ambulance dispatching system. The 911 program covers the entire county including residents of the villages, avoiding costly additional programs for each village. Bob Iler, the 911 manager, reports that the 911 program has expanded to include cell phones.

The appropriations for calendar year 2008 have been completed on schedule. The appropriations include the General Fund, the funds that are used for operating basic county services and numerous Special Funds created for specific purposes. The 2008 General Fund appropriations total \$4,284,833. This amount is less than the \$4,318,255 originally appropriated for calendar year 2007. The appropriations for 2008 equal the anticipated revenue for the year.

The jail operating tax money will be used to operate the new jail until the levy money is depleted toward the end of calendar year 2008. Once those dollars are gone the General Fund will have to absorb the full cost of the jail. In calendar year 2009, without additional revenue, the cost of operating the jail will pull dollars from the general fund. These dollars are currently being used for other county operations. The state imposes on Ohio's 88 counties the responsibility to house prisoners.

General Fund appropriations for the 2008 calendar year, with 2007 figures in parenthesis, include: Sheriff and Jail \$1,370,548 (\$1,427,954)

(Note that a Special Fund holding the voter approved jail operating money is not in this figure.); Prosecuting Attorney \$210,186 (\$203,618); Common Pleas Court \$143,075 (\$142,857); Juvenile Court \$130,076 (\$126,128); Probate Court \$38,509 (\$39,467); County Court \$235,475 (\$212,434); Court of Appeals \$6,500 (\$6,100); Law Library \$5,059 (\$8,419); Clerk of Courts \$112,310 (\$111,632); Recorder \$136,639 (\$140,215); Treasurer \$88,049 (\$83,301); Auditor \$168,972 (\$156,209); Election Board \$193,564 (\$156,789); Coroner \$45,650 (\$40,056); Commissioners \$201,002 (\$197,854); State Audit Costs \$51,000 (\$47,000); Veterans Services \$146,240 (\$142,125); Engineer/Tax Map Office \$56,955 (\$56,882); Health Insurance \$100,00 (\$100,000); Building/Vehicle Insurance/Retirement \$91,405 (\$121,297); Buildings and Grounds \$295,745 (\$293,000); Miscellaneous \$70,168 (\$74,121); Economic Development \$35,420 (\$35,420); Children's Services/Foster Care \$157,000 (\$157,000); OSU Extension \$90,000 (\$90,000); Soil and Water Conservation District \$68,810 (\$68,810); Paulding County Agricultural Society/Fair Board \$17,000 (\$17,000); EMA \$9,476 (\$9,476); Handicapped Children \$10,000 (\$10,000).

The Commissioners have accepted Stan Searing's request to retire effective at the end of January. Marty Harmon, Chairman stated, "We appreciate the work Stan has done with county financial reports, budget development and facilities. His work with two County Auditors has helped to improve accounting practices for the county." The Commissioners will not fill the vacancy due to the tight budget.

Citizens with questions are encouraged to contact the appropriate office for information. The Commissioner's Office is available for assistance in deciding which county office to contact with questions.

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2007 Baseball Team – First Row (L-R) Seth Smith, Jason Gaisford, Tom Derck, Mitchell Fowler, Holden Laney, Josh Hahn. Middle Row – Mark Parisot, Zoe Carr, Tim Ryan, Kyle Proxmire, Anthony Smith, Kary Waltz, Asst. Coach. 3rd Row – Coach, Tim Peffley, Holly Stuart, Amber Greenwood, Natalie Cottrell, Andy Hahn, Coach

By: Stan Jordan

Let's talk about the 2007 Antwerp High School Baseball Team. This picture was loaned to me by Mr. Drew Altimus, the Athletic Director for AHS—Peggy Savage was also a help. Whenever I go out to the high school for history, information or dates, she is always a help.

Last Thanksgiving I talked about how successful the other high school athlete teams were, but I forgot to mention the baseball team. Sorry about that fellas, so we'll do it now.

The baseball team done very well in the season. They went 11 and 9, then they won the Sectional but lost out in

the District Play-offs.

This team done well. Let me tell you some of their accomplishments. These boys: Mitch Fowler, Kyle Proxmire, Tom Derck and Josh Hahn made the All Green Meadows Conference Team. That's outstanding, to put almost half your team on the GMC Team.

Then Josh Hahn made the All District Team. Josh made no errors as a catcher for those 20 games. He made 133 ground pick-ups. Good work Josh.

I tell you boys, the whole town is proud of your accomplishments.

See, Ya

A SEASONAL STORY

By: Stan Jordan

This is an old story and might not be true.

A man went down to the United Methodist Church and asked if he could join the Church. The pastor said, "Sure we can use you, come on in. Sit down there and fill out your name and address because we send out a monthly newsletter." The pastor thought he would ask the man a few questions about his knowledge of the Bible.

"Can you tell me where the Baby Jesus was born?"

The man replied, "Pittsburgh?"

The Pastor thought, "my goodness, this man needs help now and we don't have a class starting until fall."

So the Pastor told the man all that and recommended that he go down to St. Mary's and maybe get in right away.

So the man did go down to St. Marys and asked if he could join the church. The priest said, "Sure, we got room for you, glad to have you! Just sit down and write out your name and address so you will receive out monthly newsletter. While you are doing that, I will ask you a

couple questions and see how you're doing. Okay, can you tell me where the Baby Jesus was born?"

The man replied, "Philadelphia."

The priest knew that the man needed help right away and he didn't have a class starting until fall. So the priest told him that and said, "Why don't you go on down to the Baptist church and they will have room for you."

So the man went down to the Baptist Church and asked the pastor if he could join his church.

The pastor said, "Sure, man, you're in."

"I'm in?"

"Yes, your in."

"Don't you want to ask me any questions?"

"Nope, you are in and just as good as you had been here for years."

"Well, great! Can I ask you a question?"

"Sure, go ahead."

"Well, where was the Baby Jesus born?"

The pastor replied, "Bethlehem."

"Oh, yes, Bethlehem!" the man replied. "Well, I knew it was in Pennsylvania somewhere."

See, Ya!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

from

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In The Holiday Mood

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One thing that we know is true,
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With Appreciation At The Holidays

Signs of Christmas are everywhere, bringing to mind all the kind people we've had the privilege to serve this year, and so we offer our best wishes to all the familiar faces that make the holiday season so special for us.

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SEASON'S GREETINGS

Before you go dashing through the snow, we'd like to take a moment to let you know how much we value and appreciate your business.
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