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VOLUME 19 - ISSUE 1

Good News for Good Communities - Serving Northwest Ohio and Northeast Indiana

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2022

MUSEUM WORKS WITH LOCAL GROUPS TO SEND TROOPS HOLIDAY CARDS



John Paulding Historical Society had more than 1,800 Christmas cards signed for troops stationed overseas. Most were signed during the society's Festival of Trees in November. Paulding VFW paid for postage to mail the signed cards to a national organization for distribution. From left are Paulding VFW member John Daeger (left) and John Paulding Historical Society members Elizabeth Miller, Mike Bevis, John Pier and Eileen Kochensparger.

PAULDING - The John Paulding Historical Society participated in a program to make Christmas a little brighter for American service men and women.

During its annual Festival of Trees, held in November, the historical society asked

visitors to sign cards for deployed troops who wouldn't be home for Christmas, as part of the USASOA Christmas Cards For Our Troops Program. The cards were donated by the Bargain Bin of Paulding County Inc.

With the help of the Oak-

wood Arbor #759, residents at Payne VanCrest, Grover Hill Lifewise Academy and the guests who came to view the Festival of Trees, more than 1,800 cards were signed.

The Paulding VFW paid

(Continued on Page 3)

NEW YEAR, NEW ADVENTURES AT IMAGINATION STATION

TOLEDO, Ohio - Let your imagination, creativity and excitement run wild at Toledo's Science Center. Spend a day going on a 3D adventure in the KeyBank Discovery Theater, catch science in action during an Extreme Science Demonstra-

tion or simply wander around and discover the wonders of science.

EXTENDED THROUGH APRIL:

The Science of Guinness World Records

Imagination Station will host The Science of Guinness World Records through April of 2023! Families now

(Continued on Page 4)

NSCC RECEIVES \$720,000 "CHOOSE OHIO FIRST" GRANT

Archbold, Ohio - Northwest State Community College received a "Choose Ohio First" grant in the amount of \$720,000 for fiscal year 2023, from the State of Ohio and the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE). The award letter, dated December 5, 2022, noted that the State is providing \$28 million to various educational institutions for this funding cycle, and that they have committed more than \$161.3 million over the past four years to STEM and STEM Education scholarships.

"A DIVERSE, HIGHLY-SKILLED WORKFORCE

(Continued on Page 5)

PAYNE RESIDENT LOSES HOME IN FIRE JUST PRIOR TO THE HOLIDAY



Late in the evening of December 23, 2022 a devastating house fire in Payne, OH resulted in the total loss for Paulding County resident, Dennis Stabler. Due to the high winds and sub-zero temperature, fire departments were unable to put the fire out, leading him to lose his home and everything inside. Thankfully he and his dogs were able to make it out safely. A volunteer fireman also sustained a leg injury from a fall.

He is currently working

with his insurance company on a claim to replace his home and belongings and is staying with family. Friends of Stabler have set up a Go Fund Me (organizer Rachel Nicelley) to assist him in rebuilding his life after the fire. Any funds raised through the site will go directly to him to assist in this financial burden. Dennis Stabler is best remembered in Paulding County for his volunteerism at local high schools with football and wrestling coaching.

LEHMKUHLE BOOK SIGNING



Erik R. Lehmkuhle will be holding a book signing event at the Paulding VFW on January 7th from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Erik Lehmkuhle, 2000 Wayne Trace graduate, has just released his debut book, *From The Mouth*. It is an "Average Joe" moderate

conservative perspective of what is wrong with the current government and how Lehmkuhle feels it can be fixed.

From The Mouth is available through Dorrance Publishing and via Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

Synopsis:

Today's America is fraught with a dangerous social agenda. The far-left agencies, from politicians to corporate leaders to educators, are turning American democracy on its head. As an average American from Ohio, Erik R. Lehmkuhle dives deep into the issues plaguing our once-prideful nation and demonstrates where we went wrong and how we can rise again to the top by placing taxpayer money back into the United States through improving ed-

(Continued on Page 2)

Community Calendar

MON & WED

• Antwerp Comm. Food Pantry @ Antwerp UMC, 9a-12p

January 3

• Grand Opening & Ribbon-cutting @ Speice's Barbershop, Paulding, 10am

January 4

• Walk Through Winter @ OSU ext. Office, 12-1pm

January 7

• Erik Lehmkuhle Book Signing @ Paulding VFW, 11a-2p
• NSCC Game Con 23 @ NSCC, 9a-3:30p, Tournament, 5pm

January 12

• WBESC meeting @ Paulding office, 5:30pm

January 13

• Holiday Make, Take & Sip @ Fuel Good Energy, 5-6pm

January 15

• Paulding KofC Free Throw Contest @ PHS, 1pm

January 16

• PC Libraries CLOSED in observance of MLK Jr.

January 20

• Battle of the Bands submission deadline



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OBITUARIES

PAULDING, OH:

Darlene L. Slane, age 88, passed away on Sunday, December 25, 2022 at the Gardens of Paulding.

Darlene was born on January 14, 1934 in Paulding, OH to the late John and Madge (Morrow) Klingler. On February 9, 1963, she married the love of her life, Floyd Slane, who survives. Darlene spent her life providing a loving home for her family. She loved to crochet and solve crossword puzzles.

Darlene is also survived by her children: Carla (Steve) Wittenmyer, Arlington, OH; Katherine (Raul) Vielma, Paulding, OH; Russell Slane, Oakwood, OH; Rick (Cindy) Slane, West Unity, OH; Darla (Joe) Meyer, Defiance, OH; Colleen Fulton, Sherwood, OH; son-in-law, Louis Beregszazi, Antwerp, OH; sister, Ladene (Osborn, Leo, IN; many loving grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

Darlene is also preceded in death by her daughters, Lisa R. Beregszazi and Lora Michaelis; brothers, Dwight Klingler and Duane Klingler.

Graveside service will be held at 2:00 P.M. on Wednesday, January 4, 2022 with Pastor Todd Murray officiating at Wiltzie Cemetery, Payne.

Online condolences may be shared at www.wendherderfh.com.

WOODBURN, IN:

David Arens, 63, of Woodburn, passed away Thursday, December 22, 2022 at his home. Arr by Dooley Funeral Home, 202 W. River St., Antwerp, Ohio, 45813.

ANTWERP, OH:

Martin J.W. Hunt, 79, of Antwerp, Ohio, passed away at home on Tuesday, December 27, 2022. Arr by Dooley Funeral Home, 202 W. River Street, Antwerp, Ohio 45813.

SONYA SELHORST NAMED PRESIDENT OF MERCY HEALTH - DEFIANCE HOSPITAL CAMPUS

Mercy Health is pleased to announce that Sonya Selhorst has been named president of Mercy Health - Defiance Hospital campus. Sonya had been serving as interim president of the hospital since July and recently accepted the permanent position.

"Sonya has served Mercy Health throughout her career and has shown both clinical and administrative expertise in these roles. I am excited to officially welcome her to this new role of president of our



Mercy Health - Defiance campus and look forward to her continued advancement of initiatives in the region," said Bob Baxter, president, Mercy Health - Toledo.

Sonya has served in a variety of roles since joining Mercy Health, most recently as chief operating officer and chief nursing officer at Mercy Health - Defiance Hospital, a position in which she has served since 2016. She started her career in nursing at Mercy Health - St. Rita's Medical Center in Lima and assumed leadership roles in Lima before coming to Defiance in 2013.

Sonya earned a Master's in Business Administration from Walden University in Minneapolis and a Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Administration from the University of Northwestern Ohio in Lima and a Bachelor of Science Nursing from Western Governors University in Salk Lake City. Sonya is also a Fellow with the American College of Healthcare Executives.

"I have enjoyed serving Defiance and surrounding community over the past 10 years. The Mercy Health team in Defiance has had the opportunity to celebrate some national awards and recognitions for the high quality, compassionate care provided to the community, and I am honored to work alongside these dedicated professionals," Sonya said. "I look forward to continuing to serve the team at Mercy Health - Defiance as well as the entire Defiance community in my new role."

Mercy Health - Defiance Hospital consistently rank among the nation's best in a variety of areas, including quality, clinical outcomes, and patient and associate experience. In October, Defiance Hospital made its debut among healthcare providers

and insurers in Modern Healthcare's 2022 Best Places to Work award program with a number ranking of 75. Also, Defiance Hospital was awarded an 'A' grade in The Leapfrog Group fall Hospital Safety Grade, a national distinction recognizing these hospitals' achievements providing safer health care.

PARSON TO PERSON

By: Dr. James Bachman

*Dear Parson,
The Jehovah Witnesses pass out their literature which asks, "What does the Bible really teach?" Is their teaching right?*

Neither their interpretation nor mine should be the supreme authority, but the Scripture itself. They themselves have always said the Bible was accurate and authoritative. They started out with the same King James Version of the Bible I still use today.

However, it was contrary to many of their doctrines. They have made thousands of changes in five different editions since 1961. God gives strong warning against changing His Word. "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you." - (Deuteronomy 4:2). "Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar." - (Proverbs 30:5-6). "But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." - (Matthew 15:9). "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." - (Galatians 1:8). "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book." - (Revelation 22:18-19). I believe you should let the Bible change our doctrine rather than your doctrine change the Bible.

Some years ago I met with two local leaders of the Jehovah Witnesses in one of their homes (they were really nice guys). I spent two evenings simply reading from my Bible about one hundred passages of Scripture that clearly taught the deity of the Son of God. After each passage I simply asked them to explain the meaning. Almost without exception they would say, "Our Bible doesn't say that," or "but He is not God Almighty." When we finally got to Revelation 1:8 where Christ is called "The Almighty," I asked

them who it was talking about. They said, "We don't know, but it can't be Christ." I then asked if I could pray before I left. They said, "No, because we don't pray to the same God." I agreed and left. I still think they were nice guys, just seriously wrong in their doctrine and perverted Bible. Send questions and comments to: jamesbachman@juno.com

(Continued from Page 1)

education in at-risk areas, focusing once again on family units, and promoting true equality for all races, sexes, and religions.

About the Author

Erik R. Lehmkuhle is an operations manager for a facility in Stone Mountain, Georgia. He and his wife Chantell have been married

for six years, and together, they have seven children and three grandchildren. In his spare time, Lehmkuhle enjoys weightlifting, long-distance running, and spending his weekends watching football, but he finds the most joy in spending time with his family in any aspect, especially conducting debates on current events.

FIELD REPORTS FROM OHIO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE OFFICERS

Central Ohio - Wildlife District One

During the 2022 white-tailed deer gun hunting season, State Wildlife Officer Brad Kiger, assigned to Franklin County, received a call from a landowner who found deer remains on their property. The landowner had not given anyone permission to hunt the property. Officer Kiger found drag marks going from the remains onto an adjacent property and contacted a hunter on that property. It was determined that the hunter tracked his harvest onto the neighboring property without permission. It was also found that the hunter was not wearing hunter orange and the deer was not game checked properly. The hunter received two citations and was ordered to pay \$376 in fines.

State Wildlife Officer Austin Levering, assigned to Knox County, participated in the first annual Pumpkin Shoot at the Knox County Fairgrounds' natural resources area. The event was a great way to introduce the public to the newly constructed archery range, which was funded through Ohio Department of Natural Resources grants. It offers 10- to 70-yard archery opportunities and is open to members of the public from sunrise to sunset daily. Officer Levering instructed students on basic archery skills and safety. Participants were able to shoot compound bows at various targets, including pumpkins.

Northwest Ohio - Wildlife District Two

During last year's waterfowl season, State Wildlife Officer Levi Farley, assigned to Paulding County, was patrolling after a heavy snowfall. Officer Farley contacted a group of four waterfowl hunters in layout blinds and checked for licenses, Ohio Wetlands Habitat Stamps, HIP certification, and federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamps. Later, Officer Farley noticed a mail carrier's vehicle stuck in a deep snow and activated his overhead lights to inform oncoming drivers of the hazard. With help from the waterfowl hunters he had just checked, Officer Farley pushed the vehicle back onto the roadway. The mail carrier was grateful for the officer's and hunters' help.

In mid-November 2022, (Continued on Page 3)

Scripture of the Week

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you:

You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.' Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.'"

— Luke 2:11-14

MATT'S MISHAPS

"Serving overseas as a small-town boy in America has been intense, stressful and humorous! Enjoy a light-hearted story with me from our last 20 years overseas!"

—Matt



Splattered at Sporting Events

Growing up with in a small-town with no Major League Baseball team nearby, it seemed that most people had to go to neighboring areas to find a team. Some people went west to the Cardinals, northwest to the Cubs, north to the Tigers, or east to the Indians. I went southwest to the Reds. My Dad was a Los Angeles fan, and one of my most memorable boyhood events was going to a Reds vs. Dodgers game together with my brother and Grandpa at Riverfront Stadium in Cincinnati.

We got into the stadium well before the start to watch the teams warming up. It was too good to be true that the Reds' George Foster threw a baseball to me and the Dodgers' outfielder Dusty Baker signed the ball a short while later.

A more memorable event was the celebrations after each time the Reds scored a run. We had what we thought were great seats in the lower deck, right under the edge of the upper deck. After the Reds' first run, I was cheering with all my might, when all of a sudden, a waterfall of beer came splattering down on us. We learned that the fans in the upper deck threw any beer left in their cups up into the air after each Cincinnati run. Let's just say that the Reds scored many runs that game. I remember the wet sticky ride home to Indiana as much as the game itself.

Twenty years later my parents were visiting us overseas

and there were no baseball games to take them to, but we had a more eventful sport - bull fighting. There were no animal rights groups, and bulls and goats seemed to play a role in most of their lively local festivals. As my wife and I drove my parents to the bull fight, we stopped at a gas station to find the way there. A local told us that he knew the way. Instead of pointing the way, he just opened a back door of the car and got in. I think my mom about jumped out the other side of the car not expecting a hitchhiker and navigator to be joining us.

Well, our hitchhiker knew the way quite well as he was the man who ran the chute to let the bulls out into the arena! The bull fight was well received by the locals and the last bull fighter did an exceptional job with a dangerous bull. He received the high honor of being walked around the arena on the shoulders of two men. They cut an ear off the dead bull for him to hold up for all to see as a high honor. Having seen this done



Can you notice the blood splatters on me from catching the bull's ear?

before at another event, I yelled out to the bull fighter, "The ear please!" Without hesitation, he threw the ear up into the stands to me. Being an American baseball fan trained me well to catch flying objects from the infield, and I caught the hairy bull's ear easily. However, I did not calculate the quantity of blood that would be in the ear. On impact of the ear smacking my hand, it splattered blood across my face and beyond.

I have learned to not wear my best clothes to sporting events in America or abroad.

Something similar ever happen to you? Contact me and let me hear your story!

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A CHRISTMAS DINNER

Penny For Your Thoughts

Christmas dinner does not have to be ham, potatoes and pies. For the past 3 years I have ordered Sub sandwiches with toppings and a cookie platter. Everyone brings something and it is not a formal deal, it is just simple and good.

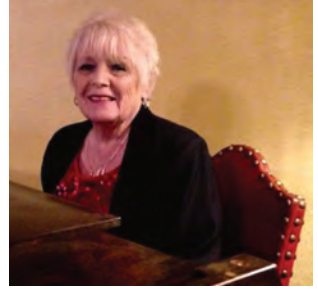
What we cook for the Christmas holidays certainly has changed over the years. When we compare what is served on our own holiday tables now, to what our ancestors were eating a century ago, it is quite different. Christmas dinners 100 years ago, while every special, were sometimes cobbled together from what was on hand. Opossum and wild game stuffed with dressing was a food that our ancestors cooked and were thankful to have. Then they try to serve Consommé, tomato soup, game soup, or oyster stew. However, it is rare that you find soups and stews currently being served at Christmas dinner today.

We serve foods such as turkey, lots of pie, and a variety of cookies and candy. I used to try and cook something a little different each year. One year it was rabbit and another year, a turducken. We even tried a buffalo pie one year. I tried to get my kids to at least try something different, but no way would they ever eat a bite of rabbit. They said it reminded them of "Bugs Bunny."

I remember one year when I was about 8 or 10 years old, my grandpa went hunting on Thanksgiving. He didn't carry a gun, but he had one of the biggest slingshots I had ever seen. In his coat pocket he had little steel balls to use as ammunition. Well he came back with a pheasant. The details of seeing grandma cook the poor thing will haunt me forever.

But we all bowed our heads and listened to Grandpa's lengthy prayer thanking God for our nice dinner.

As we think back over our old memories, a lot of us still have some of our ancestors spirits in us. We all have some sort of traditions when it comes to Christmas. Every year we add to our memories good and bad. They are something to think about and remember as we grow older. The history of our ancestors celebrations is something to think



Elizabeth Miller, festival chairman of the John Paulding Historical Society, is shown in a portrait.

about, because our memories become another generations history. Have you ever cooked a different type of Christmas dinner? What are your traditions and favorite memories of Christmas? Does your family have a favorite dish for Christmas?

Let me know and I'll give you a Penny for your Thoughts.

Oh! I ran across this interesting recipe. Maybe you can try it for the next holiday:

Hot Jezebel
(The recipe does not say how much of each ingredients are used)

With apricot preserves serving as the heart of this dish, only four other ingredients are added. They are Dijon mustard, horseradish, salt and pepper. You make it what it is and make it yours.

Once the sweet and spicy sauce is done, you can do any number of things with it.

Most cooks take the traditional route and pour it over a block of cream cheese. It has been said " We love the cooling and creamy tanginess of the cheese, but this Jezebel sauce would also be good poured over a roasted pork loin or pork chops (I believe I may just have to try it).



John Paulding Historical Society had more than 1,800 Christmas cards signed for troops stationed overseas. Most were signed during the society's Festival of Trees in November. Here, festival chairman Elizabeth Miller accepts a contribution from Paulding VFW member John Daeger to mail the signed cards to a national organization for distribution.

(Continued from Page 1)

for postage for the historical society to send the cards to the volunteer USASOA organization, which distributed them to various military bases

around the world in time for Christmas. The VFW also sent a donation to help USASOA cover the cost to ship the cards overseas.

(Field Reports ... Cont'd from Page 2)

State Wildlife Officer Ethan Bingham, assigned to Williams County, attended the Williams County Pheasants Forever youth hunt. A handful of young hunters from the area participated in the event, a fantastic way to get the next generation of hunters involved in upland hunting. Officer Bingham gave a safety talk and shared the duties of a wildlife officer with the group.

Northeast Ohio - Wildlife District Three

State wildlife officers from northeast Ohio partnered with Future Farmers of America Camp Muskingum, the Carroll County Doublebeards Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, and Carroll County's 4-H Shooting Sports to provide a range day for the University of Akron Women's Swimming and Diving Team. The athletes were provided a firearm safety and marksmanship class followed by pistol, rifle, and trap shooting. Many thanks to Ohio Division of Wildlife Chief Kendra Wecker for attending, as well.

State Wildlife Officer Scott Cartwright, assigned to Carroll County, discovered a group of people at a public fishing area after hours in Carroll County. The group was consuming alcohol, operating a vehicle off-road, and littering. Five individuals were charged with multiple violations and were found guilty in the Carroll County Municipal court. They were ordered to pay a total of \$1,475 in fines and court costs.

Southeast Ohio - Wildlife District Four

During the 2022 white-tailed deer gun hunting sea-

son, State Wildlife Officer Mark Basinger and Wildlife Officer Supervisor Dan Perko investigated a hunting complaint in Perry County. A doe was harvested and retrieved on private property by someone who did not have permission to be on the property. The individual was charged with hunting without permission and the deer and gun were forfeited as evidence. The individual pleaded not guilty and the case is pending in Perry County Municipal Court.

Southwest Ohio - Wildlife District Five

State Wildlife Officers Matt Roberts, assigned to Highland County, Houston Wireman, assigned to Shelby County, Jason Keller, assigned to Warren County, K-9 Scout, and Matt Bourne, assigned to Clark County, as well as Wildlife Officer Supervisor Dave Warner, participated in Show with a Cop events in Highland, Adams, and Brown counties. They were assisted by Fish Management staff Kelsea Downs and Deb Walters and Business Manager Gail Cope. Shop with a Cop provides meaningful experiences around the holidays for underprivileged and at-risk children in local communities and builds relationships with law enforcement.

State Wildlife Officer Trent Weaver, assigned to Montgomery County, was contacted by hunters who found a set of keys in Sycamore State Park. The keys had a trap tag and wildlife Customer ID on them. Officer Weaver used the customer ID to call the trapper who had lost them. He helped the hunters coordinate returning the keys to the owner. The trapper later called Officer Weaver to thank him for the return.

The deadline for the West Bend News is THURSDAYS at 5pm for the following issue. Send your news, ads, and classifieds to info@westbendnews.net Call 419-258-2000 for information or printing quotes.

MILITARY HISTORY IN PAULDING COUNTY



By: Mark Holtsberry

Three Brothers

This tragic story is about three brothers from Carryall Township: Jonathan, Reynolds and George Gordon. The Gordon boys were the sons of George and Lucinda Rachel (Shaw) Gordon. This couple was married in Williams County, October 6, 1839. Both were born in New York, Lucinda in 1823 and George in 1812. In 1850, the couple were the parents of six children, three boys and three girls. They were living in Crane Township on a family farm. Jonathan, the oldest, was born in 1840, Reynolds was born in 1842 and George in 1846. In 1860, the family was living in Carryall Township. The amount of children had grown to twelve. As America was drawn into a Civil War, the Gordon family changed forever.

Jonathon C. Gordon travels to Toledo to enlist in Company G. 14th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, August 26, 1861. He was appointed Corporal then appointed Sergeant. While in Nashville, Tennessee, Jonathan contracted Typhoid Fever and passed away at General Hospital #7 in Nashville, Tennessee. He was buried in the Nashville National Cemetery, Tennessee, plot A., Grave 4630.

Brother Reynolds joined Company G. 14th Ohio Volunteer Infantry December 14, 1863 as a private. Reynolds, on July 9, 1864, while on the Georgia Campaign, received a

shoulder wound, this become fatal. On August 3, 1864, Reynolds passed away in General Hospital #1 at Nashville, Tennessee. He also was buried in Nashville National Cemetery, Nashville, Tennessee.

The third brother, George, also joined Company G. 14th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, on February 11, 1864, as a private. On August 8, 1864 near Atlanta, Georgia, George was captured and sent to Andersonville Prison in Georgia as a prisoner of war. After Andersonville was under threat from Sherman's march to the sea, prisoners were sent to Florence Stockade, Georgia, a walking distance from the Florence railroad line. As many as 18,000 northern troops and a small number of sailors were imprisoned there. On November 18, 1864, George passed away, probably from disease.

Trench burials were common. One military stone placed alongside one burial trench is marked by saying 131 unknown burials. Could George be one unknown soldier in that burial site? Sad lesson of war for the Gordon family from Carryall Township. George and Lucinda had two more sons born into the household after 1864. The father George passed away in Paulding, June 6, 1871 and was buried in Banks Cemetery. His wife Lucinda, filed for Reynolds' pension, September 23, 1879, and filed for Jonathon's pension July 18, 1888. Lucinda passed away December 3, 1891 and was buried with her husband in Banks Cemetery.

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PANTHERS DIAL LONG DISTANCE FOR WIN OVER WAUSEON



Paulding Senior Ethan Foltz gets under the basket and keeps his options to the left, protecting the ball from his opponent, then shoots and scores! More pictures at westbendnews.net

PAULDING - The Paulding Panthers used the three-point field goal to nip visiting Wauseon 52-51 Thursday night in non-league boys basketball action.

Paulding hit 13 three-point field goals in the contest as a team, led by six from Peyton Adams, as the maroon and white improved to 5-4 overall on the season.

The Panthers led 13-9 at the end of eight minutes of action before visiting Wauseon rallied to post a 26-20 half-time advantage.

Paulding then answered in the third quarter, putting up 21 points compared to 14 for the Indians, as the Panthers seized a 41-40 lead going into the final stanza.

Each squad then scored 11 more points in the fourth quarter as Paulding held on to

take the 52-51 win.

Peyton Adams hit six three-point field goals in the contest to lead the way with 18 points while Ethan Foltz added a trio of treys in adding 13 markers.

Luke Zartman, Casey Agler, Nick Manz and Kane Jones also hit three-point field goals for Paulding.

Manz recorded six points to aid the Panther cause with Zartman and Agler finishing with five apiece. Jones also had three points for Paulding. Landon Hines and Jack Leatherman each paced Wauseon with a dozen markers each and Tyson Rodriguez chipped in ten points.

Other scorers for the Indians were Jude Armstrong (seven), Trey Parsons (five) and Elijah McLeod (five).

and others to be the best!

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has allowed us to delve further into the unknown than ever before. From the coastal shallows to deeper, more mysterious worlds, we reveal the spectacular stories of life beneath the waves.

Backyard Wilderness 3D

Spanning a seasonal year around a suburban home, the film displays a stunning array of unique wildlife images and behavior - all captured by cameras mounted inside dens and nests, and moving along the forest floor and bond bottom, to reveal its inhabitants in rare and breathtaking intimacy.

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All Month Long

With a few simple parts you can make your own electronic greeting card. Copper tape, button battery, LED and a sheet of paper are all you need to make the basic card. Add in your message and creative twists to make the card your own.

January 1 - Celebrate the First Day of 2023

OPEN - Noon - 5:00 p.m.

Experiment with circuits and programmable robots in the Coding Corner at Imagination Station. This pop-up activity is free with admission and uncovers the exciting, technical world of coding.

January 2 - Special Hours

OPEN - 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Experiment with circuits and programmable robots in the Coding Corner at Imagination Station. This pop-up activity is free with admission and uncovers the exciting, technical world of coding.

January 7 & 8 - Rubik's Cube Competition

The World Cube Association will be hosting a Rubik's Cube tournament over two days at Imagination Station. Watch as some of the best compete against one another to solve the world's most famous puzzle.

At its core, the Rubik's Cube is all about math and the logic behind solving it is based on geometrical symmetry, permutations and combinations. It tests a player's ability to recognize and remember patterns and apply spatial intelligence. Not only is it a fun game, but

this puzzle can improve problem-solving skills, concentration and help develop an interest in math.

January 11 - Homeschool Workshops

Seats are available in both the morning and afternoon sessions. Reserve your spot online.

Chemistry: Grades K-3

Become a chemist and discover substances with strange and surprising properties while experimenting with physical and chemical changes as well as exothermic and endothermic chemical reactions.

Robotics: Grades 4-8

Discover the world of robotics as you learn about their functions and parts. Then practice programming a robot to complete a task!

January 16 - School's Out - We're Open!

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Imagination Station is open 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

January 28 - Gaming Tournament

Calling all gamers! Imagination Station is your next stop for tournament play! Contestants will bring their own game systems, monitors and controllers to battle it out in Guilty Gear: Strive, Guilty Gear Xrd REV2 and Super Smash Bros. Ultimate. The finale will take place on the GIANT screen of the KeyBank Discovery Theater.

Doors open at 5pm and brackets begin at 5:30 p.m. Register online.

WHAT: January Events

WHEN: All Month Long

WHERE: Imagination Station, 1 Discovery Way, Toledo, OH 43604

On Saturdays, all Lucas County residents receive a \$2 discount and FREE admission for kids, 12 and under with paid adult admission, limit two children per adult.

Visit their website for more information at imaginestationtoledo.org

Imagination Station provides a critical layer of science enrichment by serving as an enrichment partner for teachers, schools and parents. It's with a thoughtful blend of exhibits, experiences, education and excitement that Imagination Station inspires visitors to pursue STEM careers in Northwest Ohio.

COVID UPDATE FROM PAULDING COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

This week Paulding County had 15 New Cases
2 New Hospitalizations
1 New Death
Ranking is 81st in the state of Ohio

In Paulding County, transmission level is currently High and community level has increased to Medium

Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines and booster shots.

Call (419) 399-3921 to schedule your vaccination appointment.

Get tested if you have symptoms.

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LADY WARRIORS SLIP PAST RAIDERS BY ONE



Brooke Kneubuhler, Woodlan sophomore, nails a two point basket to the scoreboard from just inside the three-point line. More pictures at westbendnews.net

By: Joe Shouse, Sports Writer

WOODBURN - In a tight state line rivalry the Woodlan Warriors squeaked past Wayne Trace 45-44 in girls' action two days after Christmas. The game was settled in the closing seconds when Woodlan hit some crucial free throws.

The first half belonged to the home team scoring 32 points. The second half saw the Raiders hold the Warriors to just 13 to make the contest in doubt to the end. The Lady Warriors took a 15-11 lead after one quarter of play. The second period saw Woodlan expand their margin to nine at 22-13. However, the Raiders would respond to cut the lead to five on back-to-back baskets from Lexi Moore and Gracie Shepherd. Most of the contest would see Woodlan answer any of the Raiders come-back efforts. Woodlan would have an answer in the second period with a 10-2 run to go in at the break on top 32-19.

Trailing by as many as 15 in the third period the Raiders would not quit. A three-point goal by Caroline Winans followed by a Lexi

Moore bucket along with two Shepherd free throws pulled the Raiders a little closer --still trailing 34-26. Wayne Trace would continue to chip away on baskets from both Caroline and Careen Winans. After trailing by as many as 15 the red, white, and blue were within striking distance, trailing by three 34-31.

Woodlan's Taylor Kneubuhler finished the third period scoring a three-point goal giving the Warriors a little breathing room; leading 37-31 heading into the final quarter. The Lady Raiders would again mount a comeback early in the fourth, using an 8-2 run to cut the Woodlan lead to just two 39-37. But, like earlier in the contest, Woodlan would answer with the next five points on three Kneubuhler free throws and a Kaitlyn Crosby bucket to push the Warriors back to a 44-37 advantage.

The never-say-die Raiders would not give in as the Paulding County visitors would respond with a Lexi Moore hoop and two free throws each from Shepherd and Careen Winans. The Raiders were down just one

The Paulding County Veterans' Service Office

The Paulding County Veteran's Service Office is dedicated to aiding Paulding County veterans and their families in time of need.

There are two basic services the agency provides:

- 1 - EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE - Provide short term financial assistance to eligible veterans and their families who demonstrate a need. This includes, but is not limited to, food, gas, mortgage/rent and assistance with utility payments.
- 2 - CLAIMS ASSISTANCE - Provide services for veterans and other claimants for help with VA claims for any federal, state, or local benefits.

We also provide reimbursement for the cost of transportation to VA medical facilities in our area, or in the case where the veteran cannot drive himself, we will provide a driver.

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Wayne Trace's Lexi Moore scores the 2 points, freshman, and is fouled on the shot by Taylor Kneubuhler for an additional point from the line. More pictures at westbendnews.net

44-43 in the final minute. In the closing seconds Woodlan's Addie Goheen connected on a free throw to push the Warriors up to two 45-43. With just a couple of ticks remaining on the clock Caren Winans was fouled going to the hoop. Needing both free throws to tie Winans hit the first but came up short on her second attempt to end the game. The Raiders managed to hit 10-16 from the free throw line while the Warriors connected on 17-19. Leading scorer in the contest was Taylor Kneubuhler with 24 including 14-15 from the

free throw line. The Raiders won the rebound battle 31-20 but committed 20 miscues to 13 for Woodlan. Other scorers for the winners were Addie Goheen with six and a trio with five each including Gabi Klopfenstein, Brooke Kneubuhler and Kaitlyn Crosby. The Raiders were led by Lexi Moore who chipped in 16 to go along with 16 rebounds. Others scoring for the Raiders were Gracie Shepherd adding 10, Caren Winans nine, Caroline Winans seven and Harper Myers with two.

SECOND HALF PLAY LIFTS RAIDERS PAST LCC

By: Joe Shouse, Sports Writer

LIMA - Avoiding a quick moving winter storm the Wayne Trace Raiders made their way to Lima on Thursday night and used solid second half play to down the Lima Central Catholic Thunderbirds 49-41. After dropping a couple of games the previous week-end the Raiders took a little time to get untracked but it was the second half that helped lift the Raiders to their fourth win of the season.

Managing just four points in the first quarter the Raiders fell behind 8-4. Both teams picked up their offensive effort in the second frame but the red, white, and blue still found themselves down 23-18. After the break and making the right adjustments, the Raiders owned the third period with 17 points while holding the Thunderbirds to just six. The 11-point turn around propelled the Raiders to a 35-29 lead heading into the final eight minutes of play. Again, the Raiders kept the upper hand down the stretch not allowing LCC to recover and outscoring their opponent 14-12.

The Raiders big gun on the night was lone senior Tyler Davis who poured in 22 points to lead all scorers. Davis also collected eight rebounds in a solid effort on the glass. Brooks Laukhuf finished with 12 followed by Tanner Laukhuf chipping in five. Rounding out the Raiders scoring were Hudson Myers and Kyle Stoller each with four and Cale Winans adding two. Stoller added 10 rebounds and six assists to lead his squad in both categories.

Leading the T'birds with 18 was Carson Parker followed by Willie Foster with eight. A trio of LCC players finished with four including Matthew Quatman, Parker Judy, and Billy Bourk. Payne Cutlip finished with three to complete the scoring for the Thunderbirds who stand at 3-2 on the season.

QUICK START LIFTS WARRIORS PAST CADETS

WOODBURN - Host Woodlan jumped on top early and never looked back as the Lady Warriors cruised past visiting Concordia 71-60 Wednesday evening in non-league girls basketball action.

The host Warriors took a 20-11 advantage after one

quarter before Concordia cut the deficit to 38-31 at the intermission.

In the third period, the Lady Cadets sliced the deficit to 49-45 but Woodlan responded with a 22-point fourth quarter to put the game away.

Taylor Kneubuhler paced a quartet of Woodlan players in double figures with 24 points while Avah Smith added 17 markers. Briana Roney and Addie Goheen each chipped in 11 points for the Lady Warriors.

Kaitlin Crosby and Brooke Kneubuhler both picked up points as well for Woodlan.

Avah Smith topped off her double-double with 14 rebounds and Taylor Kneubuhler posted four rebounds and four assists. Goheen dished out four assists as well while Roney, Smith and Brooke Kneubuhler each totaled three.

Smith picked up five steals for Woodlan and Taylor Kneubuhler had one.

(Continued from Page 1)

PIPELINE

The target populations for Northwest State Community College's (NSCC) Choose Ohio First (COF) program will include women, youth aging out of foster care, and long-term unemployed individuals, focusing on people of color from rural northwest Ohio counties. The proposed project will increase accessibility for underrepresented populations to enroll and attend NSCC, to earn certificates and/or degrees that lead to great, local in-demand career opportunities. It will also support a diverse, highly-skilled workforce pipeline that spurs growth and prosperity while providing students with opportunities for upward mobility.

The certificate and degree programs that were included in NSCC's Choose Ohio First application will provide the training that students need to gain employment in advanced manufacturing, cybersecurity, agricultural, and design, among other fields. The selected academic programs include:

- Associate Degree Programs:
- Electrical Engineering Technology
- Electro-Mechanical Engi-

THIS WEEK ON PCBW: AL-CO PRODUCTS



Located in downtown Latty, Ohio Al-Co Products has been creating quality products at an affordable price for over 50 years. With a large selection of designs, colors, and customizable options for bathroom countertops, shower/wall panels, window sills, backsplashes, and more, Al-Co has what your home needs! In this episode of PCBW, you'll hear from owner, Bret Busch. Bret shares the history of how Al-Co got its name, business trends, and

the challenges and successes of being a small business owner in Northwest Ohio. Tune in to MY102.7 on Tuesday and Thursday at 8 am and 5 pm to hear the episode or find it online at <https://www.my1027.org/paulding-county-business-weekly>, or wherever you get your podcasts! A special thank you to Tiffany Goings with OhioMeansJobs Paulding County for making this program possible.

neering Technology
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Certificate Programs:
Plastics Manufacturing
Computer Technician
Cybersecurity
"The continued support for the Choose Ohio First program translates to continued success for Ohio's STEM students," Ohio Department of Higher Education Chancellor Randy Gardner said. "This new award demonstrates Northwest State's con-

tinued commitment to these critical fields of study and, more importantly, to its talented STEM students." Ashley Pere, NSCC Director of Grants Development, added "NSCC proudly offers numerous certificate and degree programs that fill immediate and future employer need in many industry sectors, and this Choose Ohio First grant enables us to provide more support to underserved populations in our six-county service area. Access to education, training, and services is vital to NSCC, and is well-represented in our mission and our Strategic Plan."

READER PICK-UP LOCATIONS

OHIO LOCATIONS

Antwerp: Corner Cafe, Antwerp Pharmacy, H2O, Antwerp Exchange Bank, Pop-N-Brew, Pit-Stop, Antwerp Manor, Library, Genesis House, G-Mart, Ties & Bows
Bryan: Chief, Town&Country, Walmart, Bryan Hospital, CVS, 4 Seasons, Dollar General
Cecil: 127 Maramart
Charloe: Charloe Store
Continental: Okuley's Pharmacy, Dollar General, ACE Hardware
Defiance: Newman's Marathon Carry Out, Smoke Stop, Chief, Dollar General, Senior Center, Walmart, Cabbage Patch, Advanced Auto, Main Stop Marathon, Rite Aid
Edgerton: Kaiser Supermarket, USPS, Utilities Dept., H & W Napa, Marathon Main Stop, Marathon (East)
Grover Hill: N&N Quick Stop, GH Branch Library
Hicksville: Sailors, Hickory Creek Nursing Home, Shell Station, Lassus Handy Dandy, Marathon, Dollar General, Subway, Senior Center
Ney: Marathon
Oakwood: Oakwood Market, The Oakleaf, Dollar General, Library, Landing Strip
Paulding: Stykemain, Chief, Corner Market, Integrity Ford, Holly, Wood & Vine, Napa True Value, Maramart, Dollar General, Dairy Queen, Rite Aid, Ace Hardware, Gorrell Bros., Albert Automotive, Paulding Courthouse, Paulding VFW Post 587, Paulding Co. Sheriff's Office, Board of Elections, Gardens of

Paulding, Paulding County Hospital, Kwik Mart, Library
Pavne: Village office, Panchos, Vancrest of Payne, Dollar General, Lichty's Barber Shop, Antwerp Exchange Bank, Puckerbrush Pizza, Maramart, Library
Sherwood: Post Office, Village Food Emporium, Sherwood Bank
Scott: Scott Post Office
Van Wert: CVS, Ace Hardware, Chief, Walmart, Family Video, Orchard Tree
INDIANA LOCATIONS
Fort Wayne: Hahn Systems, Walmart, Walgreens, Great Clips & Goodwill (Maysville Rd.), Golden Years Nursing Home, Golden Years Assisted Living
Grabill: Save-A-Lot, Grabill Hardware, Grabill Country Sales
Harlan: Marathon, Harlan Donuts, Dollar General, Harlan Cafe, Antwerp Exchange Bank
Hoagland: Mel's Town Market, Hoagland Pizza Pub
Milan Center: Milan Center Feed & Grain
Monroeville: Mel's Deli, Phillips 66, The Village of Heritage Assisted Living, Dollar General
New Haven: ACP Library, McDonalds, Ken's Meat Market, Paterson Hardware, Crumback Chevrolet, McDonalds, CVS, Clips, NH Bakery, Old City Hall, Richard's
Woodburn: Clip-N-Tan, Woodburn Hardware, Woodburn Xpress, Country Oasis, Financial Partners, Heckley Automotive, S&V Liquors, Post Office, Dollar General, Phoenix Manor, Chop Shop, ACP Library

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RAIDERS USE SECOND HALF BLITZ TO GET BY WARRIORS



Wayne Trace senior Tyler Davis takes a shot from behind the 3 point line to score for the Raiders in the second half of Monday night's game. More pictures at westbendnews.net

By: Joe Shouse, Sports Writer

HAVILAND - Playing a high school basketball game the day after Christmas can be a challenge. Not knowing how a team will respond is often times an unknown until the tip-off and sometimes it's not until the second half. For the Wayne Trace Raiders the response the coaching

staff was looking for came in the second half.

Wayne Trace hosted cross state rival Woodlan and after a less than stellar performance in the first half managed to put it together in the second half to come away with a 62-44 win. The Raiders improve their season mark to 5-2. For the Warriors, who entered the con-



Woodlan's Trey Yoder has not given up the game to the Raiders as he adds 3 points to the Warriors side of the board. More pictures at westbendnews.net

test with a five-game winning streak, falls to 8-2.

Both teams played even in the first half with the Warriors holding a slight two-point lead at 12-10 at the end of the first quarter. The second period was close throughout with the visitors from Indiana clinging to a three-point advantage at the break 22-19. However, the Raiders responded in the second half to quickly grab the lead and post the 18-

point win. The third period had the red, white and blue scoring more points in the quarter then in the previous half. Wayne Trace outpointed the Warriors in the third 22-11 and nearly duplicated the score in the fourth frame when they outdistanced the Warriors 21-11.

The winners from Paulding County had a trio hit for double figures. Brooks Laukhuf hauled in 26 points on 6-14 shooting from the two-point area and 4-6 behind the arc. Kyle Stoller totaled 20 points on 6-9 shooting inside the arc while hitting his only three-point attempt. Stoller connected on 5-6 from the charity stripe and grabbed seven rebounds. Senior Tyler Davis contributed 12 points in a solid effort. Rounding out the Raiders scoring were Tanner Laukhuf and Cale Winans each with two points.

For the Warriors, Trey Yoder put together a nice performance registering a double-double. Yoder finished with 20 points and 10 rebounds. Shooting from the field, Yoder was perfect on his two-point tries, hitting all five, and 3-7 behind the three-point arc. Team mate DeJay Gerig finished with nine, Alex Miller chipped in six, Braden Smith added five and Drew Fleck rounded out the scoring with four.

MANURE BENEFITS SOIL HEALTH

Manure is a great fertilizer for improving soil health, commonly used before commercial fertilizer. If manure is applied correctly, using the 4R's (right source, right rate, right time, right place) and proper best management practices, manure greatly improves crop growth and also increases biological activity, leading to improved soil health. Some of the environmental benefits include: increasing soil carbon and reduced atmospheric carbon, reduced soil erosion and runoff, reduced nitrate leaching, and reduced demand for commercial nitrogen fertilizer derived from natural gas.

Manure increases soil organic matter because it has nutrients plant require for adequate growth (N-P-K, micronutrients), so plants grow better and faster, producing more roots and crop residue to build soil carbon. Manure consists of carbon residues which the plants can use in the form of carbon dioxide for increased photosynthesis. Adequate soil carbon is limiting plant growth, so manure and carbon may boost plant growth significantly. Building soil organic matter is the best way to gauge soil productivity. The organic carbon in manure provides the energy and nutrients for active, healthy soil microbes; not only stabilizing those nutrients so they are not lost to the environment (leaching, runoff, volatilization) but also providing those nutrients to the plant in a form they can use.

Manure often is not as concentrated as commercial fertilizer, but it tends to have less salts and have more plant available nutrients. Salts are positive and negative charges on crop nutrients. Because manure nutrients tend are tied up with organic carbon, these charges are neutralized which allows the plants to use them efficiently. Too many salts may burn or desiccate a plant, requiring more water for the plant. Some "hot manures" do occur, where animals are fed a highly concentrated diet that produces manure high in salt content. Generally, small doses of manure are beneficial while large doses may cause plant stress.

Dr. Mark Risse, University of Georgia did an extensive literature review on the environmental benefits of manure. Risse found "The ability of manure to maintain or build soil organic matter levels has a direct impact on enhancing the amount of carbon sequestration in cropped soils. Manure organic matter contributes to improved soil structure, resulting in improved water infiltration and greater water-holding capacity leading to decreased crop water stress, soil erosion, and increased nutrient retention. An extensive literature review of historical soil conservation experiment station data from 70 plot years at 7 locations around the United States suggested that manure produced substantial reductions in soil erosion (13%-77%) and runoff (1%-68%). Additional studies during years following manure application suggest

a residual benefit of past manure application." Other studies have found that surface application of residue is similar to crop residue on the soil surface. Both surface applied manure and surface crop residue significantly reduce soil erosion by reducing raindrop impact from detached soil particles. Surface applied manure tends to coat the soil surface and reduce rainfall impact similar to crop residue. In the short-term, surface manure applications reduce soil erosion. Again, use some common sense here. Small applications of manure can be beneficial with very light rains, but either large manure applications or heavy rains can negate these benefits. When dealing in soil health and environmental benefits, everything needs to be applied in moderation.

Organic N (N tied to carbon) in manure is more stable than the inorganic N (bare N) in commercial fertilizer. Organic N is released slowly as the soil warms and follows crop growth and crop needs for additional N. Commercial fertilizer applied as nitrate or ammonia (inorganic N sources) which easily converts to soil nitrates, are easily leached from the soil. Nitrate-N is quite soluble and easily moves with the water, so it is quite mobile, subject to leaching and runoff. Heavy rains, melting snow, or excess irrigation often lose soil nitrates. In heavy clay soils, denitrification or loss of N to the atmosphere can result in 40-60% loss of soil N in saturated soils. Manure is a slow-release N source which is more closely timed to plant growth and plant needs.

Commercial N fertilizer is expensive to produce from natural gas and also contributes to greenhouse gases. A 200# N application from anhydrous ammonia requires 3300 cubic feet of natural gas to supply the N requirements for corn per acre. Substituting manure saves not only natural gas, but also mined phosphorus and potassium, significantly reducing energy costs. Manure is a great source of crop nutrients and offers some environmental benefits only if producers use the 4 R's and best management practices to minimize losses. Apply manure to a cover crop with 90% crop residue mimics Mother Nature. Source OSU Manure Newsletter, Mary Wickes. —James J. Hoorman Hoorman Soil Health Services

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LADY ARCHERS WIN ROUTE 49 TITLE



Antwerp's Aewyn McMichael scores a 3 point basket in the final game against Edgerton! More pictures at westbendnews.net

ANTWERP - Leading by two entering the final stanza, the Antwerp Lady Archers connected on 13 of 17 free throws in the fourth quarter to pull away for a 44-34 victory over Edgerton Wednesday night in non-league girls basketball action.

The victory also gives Antwerp the Route 49 girls basketball championship as Antwerp improved to 5-5 overall on the season.

The blue and white led 11-6 at the end of eight minutes of play but Edgerton responded in the second

and McMichael hit five of six. Antwerp ended the night 18 of 29 overall at the foul line (62 percent).

Caroline Rohrs also added nine points for Antwerp and Emma Townley connected on a pair of free throws.

Alivia Farnham scored 13 points to lead Edgerton, which was four of five as a team at the free throw line.

Addie Cape chipped in nine markers followed by Taylor Smith (five), Noelle Ritter (four), Ava Swank (two) and McKenna Warner (one).

HOW NO-TILL IMPROVES LAND VALUES

No-till Farmer (farming magazine) recently put together a report: How No-till Improves Land Values. This report put an economic value on conservation farming practices that improve the environment, but also preserves our soil. While farmers own the land and have the right to farm it how they choose; long-term, society has an interest in preserving the land for future generations. Here are some results of research on the benefits of no-till to society.

An organization called Rural Investment for Protecting our Environment (RIPE) came up with \$112 per acre as the value associated with no-till farming. This included \$7 for increased carbon sequestration, \$16 for improved air quality and human health, \$25 for better water quality, and \$44 for improved soil nutrient management; all on a per acre basis. No-till Farmer has been documenting farmer benefits for 25 years with farmers indicated they saved \$25-\$90 per acre in reduced production costs. A conservative figure is \$30/A on average for reduced fuel, equipment, labor, and nutrient (fertilizer) costs and higher water use efficiency, especially for irrigated farmland. Altogether, no-till farmers gain at least \$142 per acre in economic benefits. This value represents \$16 billion dollars of value to the 110 million acres in the USA that are using no-till farming practices.

RIPE recently received an \$80 million dollar grant from the USDA farm programs to develop Climate Smart Programs. They are doing a pilot project in four states: Arkansas, Minnesota, North Dakota, and Virginia. RIPE pays famers up to \$100/acre to adapt conservation practices like no-till, cover crops, and strip till based on the stewardship value to society. They will compare these conservation practices to farmers that nothing (no conservation practices). RIPE will document changes in carbon sequestration, reduction in greenhouse gasses, increases in soil health, improved water quality, and other environmental benefits (reduced flooding, reduced water usage, wildlife benefits, etc.).

RIPE says that their rec-

ommended conservation practices would guarantee a fair return to farmers for their voluntary practices that deliver public benefits for clean water, land preservation, healthy soil, climate mitigation, and other environmental services. This pilot program may be an indication of how USDA farm programs may be handled in the future, based on public service or benefits to society.

North Carolina University also did an economic study comparing the value of no-till on land values. They used government satellite data which is generated every 5 years to determine how the land is farmed and compared that to actual current land sales. Their results showed that for every 1% no-till in an Iowa county, land values increased \$15 per acre. In other states, which covered a much larger area with more diversity of land productivity, the value was about \$8 per acre.

The researcher's theory is that the more productive the land, the higher the benefits to no-tilling. Also, Iowa has much better information while the other areas had less information and it covered a much greater diversity of soil types and soil productivity, so the results were about half as great. The value of cover crops was also studied but the difference was not significant, probably because cover crops are only used on about 3.9% of USA cropland.

Is it possible that if an Iowa county or a county outside Iowa increased no-till to 10% to 50%, that could increase land values in Iowa by \$150/A to \$750/A or about \$80 to \$400 outside of Iowa? The answer is probably a big YES! Consider what happens when land is put into the government Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) for 10-20 years. That land is usually the least productive, highly erodible land, and the least profitable to farm.

After 10-20 years of CRP rest in long-term grass, soil health improves and the soil begins to heal. Many farmers seek out this CRP land because it becomes highly productive and highly profitable once the soil has been restored. As an example, for the same inputs, a soybean farmer may go from 30-bushel soybeans to 70-80 bushels soy-

ARCHERS ADVANCE TO FINALS



Antwerp freshman Zaine McMichael drives in under the basket, shoots and scores for the Archers. More pictures at westbendnews.net

EDGERTON - The opening round of the Route 49 boys basketball tournament took place at Edgerton High School Thursday night with Antwerp recording a 50-29 victory over Edon to move on to the championship game.

The Archers led at every stop, taking an 11-9 advantage at the end of one period before dominating the second quarter. Antwerp scored 19 points in the second eight minutes of action while limiting Edon to four, expanding the Archer lead to 30-13 at the midway point of the contest.

Edon did win the third quarter, outpointing the Archers 14-12, to trim the

deficit to 42-27 but Antwerp held the Bombers to two fourth quarter points to wrap up the 50-29 victory.

Landon Brewer paced a trio of Antwerp players in double figures with 19 points while Carson Altimus added 14 and Reid Lichty chipped in 11. Zaine McMichael also had five markers and Parker Moore hit a free throw for the Archers, who improve to 4-2.

Carter Keiss topped Edon with 11 markers and Peyton Trausch chipped in ten points. Briggs Gallehue (four), Max Radabaugh (two) and Cohen Hulbert (two) also scored for the Bombers, who fall to 3-7.



Hickville freshman Kennedy Adams draws into the lane, shoots and scores, though falling short against Edon 43-47. More pictures at westbendnews.net

stanza, scoring 14 points compared to Antwerp's ten to trim the Archer lead to 21-20 at halftime.

Antwerp then scored six points in the third quarter while the Bulldogs picked up five markers, giving the Lady Archers a 27-25 lead entering

the final stanza.

Aewyn McMichael topped Antwerp with 17 points in the contest and Hayleigh Jewell chipped in 16 markers. The duo also combined to hit 11 of 12 foul shots in the final period as Jewell was a perfect six of six

beans (40 bu * \$13/bu, 50 bu * \$13/bu) or \$520-\$650 in increased value. For a corn farmer, from 120 bushels corn on highly eroded sloping soil to 180-200 bushels corn, a gain of 60-80 bushels (\$6/bushel) or \$480-\$640 per acre.

Current Ohio 2022 government conservation practices payments for a new farmer adapting no-till (\$16.22/A), conservation crop rotation (\$10.39/A), basic nu-

trient management plan (\$6.98/A), precision ag pest management (\$46.43/A), and cover crops (\$51.05) total \$131.07/A (No-till Farmer, 2022). Conservation practices do pay, but it's a long-term investment similar to investing in tile. It takes some time and patience to recover your investment.

—James J. Hoorman
Hoorman Soil Health Services

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WT GROVER HILL ELEMENTARY 2022 SPELLING BEE WINNERS



Wayne Trace Grover Hill Elementary School held its annual Spelling Bee on December 21, 2022. Griffin Miller was the winner, spelling the word "apartment" correctly. Tristan Lands was runner-up.

PAULDING COUNTY COURT REPORTS

Bill J Hale, Cloverdale OH; Zoning violation; 3 counts, Dismissed per state

William J Hale, Cloverdale, OH, Criminal damage, Defendant to pay all fines and costs, maintain general good behavior, make restitution in the amount of \$375.00 to the victim, Washington Township through the Clerk's office

Raliza V Pashova, Butler, IN, Assault, Guilty, defendant to pay all fines and costs; maintain general good behavior, placed on standard probation, no contact with victim, no unlawful contact with minor victim, submit an evaluation, risk assessment

Jalen R Welch-McClain, Van Wert, OH, Drug parapherna, Guilty, Defendant to pay all fines and costs, maintain general good behavior, all contraband shall be forfeited and destroyed; OVI/under influence; Dismissed; left of center, No Contest

Irvin Wright, Chicago, IL, Poss marijuana, Guilty, Case was waived by defendant

Aaron M Lugabihl, Wauseon, OH; Doc w/persis, guilty, defendant to pay all fines and costs, maintain general good behavior

Kenneth Butler, Paulding, OH, Disorderly Conduct, Defendant to pay all fines and costs; maintain general good behavior

Bethany N Greutman, Scott, OH, Stop School Bus, No contest

Jahnessa T LaFountain, Payne, OH, Fail Control, Guilty, Case was waived by defendant

Bedford H. Miller, Defiance, OH, Fail Control, Guilty, Case was waived by defendant

Patrick M Elkins, Cecil, OH, Hunt w/o Permission, Guilty, Case was waived by defendant

Mitchell G Osting, Defiance, OH, Seat Belt, Guilty, Case was waived by defendant

Cierra K. Douglas, Hicksville, OH, possession marijuana, guilty, defendant to pay all fines and costs, maintain general good behavior, all contraband shall be forfeited to the arresting to be destroyed or put to lawful use; Drug parapherna, dismissed, case dismissed per state, costs to defendant; OVI/Under Inf, guilty, proof of insurance not provided; OVE/Breath (low), Dismiss; No OL, Dismiss; Loud Exhaust, Dismiss

Laura A Yanez, Hicksville, OH, Interf w/custody, guilty, defendant to pay all fines and costs, placed on standard probation, 4 days jail, no contact with victims, 20 hours community service, write a letter of apology to the officer, risk assessment, probation to determine online classes

Raychel R. McGill, Grover Hill, OH, possession schedule I/II, pre-l-waive, defendant waived the preliminary hearing, case shall be bound over to the Paulding Common Pleas Court

Wilfredo A Ponce, Freder-

FUTURE HOME OF PAULDING EXEMPTED CHARACTER ACADEMY



"The Paulding Exempted Character Academy is committed to building two buildings, one in Paulding and one in Oakwood to support Bible-based education which will be carried out by LifeWise Academy Paulding Exempted," said Kevin Stahl, PECA President. "PECA would like to recognize Robert and Gretchen Noneman for donating the property in Paulding and Rhonda Bakle for donating the Oakwood property in memory of her mother Marge Kesler. We have already had substantial donations to support the projects, but this event marks the official campaign kickoff. If you would like to support the building projects, please reach out to a PECA board member for more information."

Paulding Exempted Character Academy
PO Box 264 Paulding, Ohio 45879
PECharacterAcademy@gmail.com

The Paulding Exempted Character Academy (PECA) is a 501c3 tax exempted organization that owns property in Paulding (the corner of Emerald Road and Caroline Street in Paulding) and in Oakwood (315 First Street Oakwood, Ohio 45873).

PECA Board Members:
Kevin Stahl – President
Blane Fickel – Vice President
Richard Kipp – Secretary
Kelly Pracht – Treasurer

Brandon Manz, Travis McGarvey, Tam Stoller, Rhonda Bakle, Bruce Erford
LifeWise Academy Paulding Exempted
PO 226 Paulding, Ohio 45879
pauldingoh@lifewiseacademy.org

lic school students.
LifeWise Paulding Exempted Board Members:
Traci Koenig – Program Director
Amanda Andrews – Paulding Elementary Teacher
Charles Moran – Oakwood Elementary Teacher



Paulding Exempted Character Academy
Corner of Emerald Road and Caroline Street Paulding, Ohio
2300 Square Foot with 2 Classrooms for K-12th Grade



Paulding Exempted Character Academy
315 North 1st Street Oakwood, Ohio
1450 Square Foot with 1 Classroom for K-6th Grade



LifeWise Academy is a Released Time Religious Instruction program which provides character focused, Bible-based education to public school students. Shellie Clapsaddle, Mary Ellen Holbrook, Jan Commers, Jennifer Workman, Cheri Estle

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NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF PAULDING COUNTY, OHIO
LOU ANN WANNEMACHER, PAULDING COUNTY TREASURER
Plaintiff,
vs.
RUSSELL L. BAKER ET AL.
DEFENDANTS,
Case No. CI-22-190
Judge Tiffany R. Beckman
TO: Russell L. Baker; Unknown Spouse of Russell L. Baker; Unknown heirs, administrators, executors and assigns of Russell Baker; Unknown heirs, administrators, executors and assigns of Unknown Spouse of Russell L. Baker;
LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: 214 Maple Ave., Payne, Ohio 45880
Please take notice that a captioned action against you seeking a foreclosure of tax liens and a public sale of real property owned by Russell L. Baker to pay delinquent real estate taxes owed on said real estate recorded in Volume 541 Page 0516 of the Paulding County Records. The real property in question is situated as follows:
Sited in the County of Paulding, in the State of Ohio, and in the Village of Payne:
Lot Number One Hundred Sixteen (116) of GIBSONS FIRST ADDITION to the Village of Payne, Paulding County, Ohio as platted and recorded in Plat Vol. 1 pp. 28-29 (Sleeve A-12), Paulding County Recorder's Office.

FILED PAULDING COUNTY ANN E. PEASE CLERK OF COURTS
2022 DEC -5 PM 4:06
ALSO, the West Half (1/2) of an alley vacated on July 11, 2001, as filed in O.R. Vol 470, page 11, Paulding County Recorder's Office which half of an alley is located adjacent to the entire easterly side of said Lot 116 aforesaid.
Auditor's Parcel: #19-09S-073-00
Property Address: 214 Maple Street, Payne, Ohio 45880
You are required to answer in the above-captioned cause twenty-eight (28) days after the last publication hereof, or a default judgment seeking sale of the real estate will be sought. Your answer should be filed with the Clerk of Courts, Courthouse, 115 N. Williams St., Paulding, Ohio 45879.
Ann Pease, Clerk Court of Common Pleas Paulding, County, Ohio
By: Kay J. Ponce, Deputy
Respectfully submitted,
Joseph R. Burkard, (#0059106) Paulding County, Ohio Prosecuting Attorney 120 S. Walnut Street Paulding, Ohio 45879 419-399-8270

icksburg, VA, Poss heroin, Prel-Waive, defendant waived the preliminary hearing, case shall be bound over to the Paulding Common Pleas Court

Kyle T Kneubuhler, Woodburn, IN, seat belt/drive, guilty, Case was waived by defendant

Pamela S Wilson, Sherwood, OH, seatbelt/drive, guilty, case was waved by defendant

Rae J Bigham, Van Wert, OH, Fail Control, J-No Cont

Tyson N Schilt, Paulding, OH, Assault, Guilty, defendants fines and costs to come from bond, placed on standard probation, evaluation at Westwood, no contact with victims, 40 hours community service, mental health evaluation, risk assessment, online classes, write a letter of apology; resisting arrest, guilty, same conditions as Count A;

DOC w/presistence, guilty, fines and costs to come from bond, addition to rules of probation, submit an evaluation, complete recommended treatment, no alcohol, no drugs, mental health evaluation
Kelly L Zartman,

Antwerp, OH, OVI/Under inf, guilty, May attend DIP in lieu of 3 days jail, ALS vacated, standard probation, evaluation at Westwood, risk assessment, 20 hours of community service, work on getting a valid OL, probation to deter-

LEGAL NOTICE

Samuel Mitchell whose last place of residence/business is 7690 Road 87, Paulding, OH 45879, Tricia D. Mitchell whose last place of residence/business is 7690 Road 87, Paulding, OH 45879 but whose present place of residence/business is unknown will take notice that on August 25, 2022, Freedom Mortgage Corporation filed its Complaint in Case No. CI22149 in the Court of Common Pleas Paulding County, Ohio alleging that the Defendant(s) Samuel Mitchell, Tricia D. Mitchell have or claim to have an interest in the real estate described below:
Permanent Parcel Number: 28-34S-009-00, 28-34S-011-00; Property Address: 7690 Road 87, Paulding, OH 45879. The legal description may be obtained from the Paulding County Auditor at 115 North Williams Street, Suite 101, Paulding, Ohio 45879, 419-399-8205

The Petitioner further alleges that by reason of default of the Defendant(s) in the payment of a promissory note, according to its tenor, the conditions of a concurrent mortgage deed given to secure the payment of said note and conveying the premises described, have been broken, and the same has become absolute.

The Petitioner prays that the Defendant(s) named above be required to answer and set up their interest in said real estate or be forever barred from asserting the same, for foreclosure of said mortgage, the marshalling of any liens, and the sale of said real estate, and the proceeds of said sale applied to the payment of Petitioner's Claim in the proper order of its priority, and for such other and further relief as is just and equitable.

The Defendant(s) named above are required to answer on or before the **31st** day of **JANUARY**, 2023.

BY: REIMER LAW CO.
Douglas A. Haessig, Attorney at Law
Attorney for Plaintiff-Petitioner
P.O. Box 39696
Solon, Ohio 44139
(440)600-5500

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mine online course, show insurance by 12/29/22; fail to re-instate, dismiss; left of center, dismiss; seat belt/drive

Brandy L. Hale, Defiance, OH, Stop Sign, Guilty, Case was waived by defendant

Scott Egly, Defiance, OH, Pass bad check, A-Dismissed, case dismissed

Bobby J. Thompson, Antwerp, OH, FRA Suspension, Guilty, Proof of insurance not provided

Tommi Hurley, Paulding, OH, Child restraint, Guilty, Case was waived by defendant

Jeffrey C. Dix, Defiance, OH, Stop Sign, Guilty, Case was waived by defendant

William T. Endicott, Payne, OH, Registration violation, Guilty, Case was waived by defendant

Steven L. McNeely, Oakwood, OH, Fail Control, Guilty, Case was waived by defendant

OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE WEEK IN REVIEW: FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 23, 2022

Follow @VerifyOhio

Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose announced on Tuesday the launch of a new digital outreach initiative aimed at educating Ohioans on two of the core functions of his office: the elections and entrepreneurship.

The new messaging platform, called @VerifyOhio, will be used throughout the 2023 and 2024 election cycles to fact-check myths and answer common questions, as well as provide a “rapid response” resource during the voting period around Election Day, when misinformation is often at its peak.

“The abuse of the internet

to manipulate public opinion is crippling confidence in our elections and eroding trust in government,” said Secretary LaRose, whose office garnered national media attention for its efforts to combat election misinformation. The Brookings Institution recently profiled efforts by several states to counter the rising skepticism in election integrity.

“We owe it to Ohioans to set the record straight and counter the misinformation with facts,” LaRose added. “This is an opportunity to build confidence by hitting false claims head-on, verifying accurate information, and, most importantly, helping to educate our fellow citizens on what we do as an office, from overseeing the integrity of our elections to helping entrepreneurs start a business.”

Post-Election Audits Show 99.9% Accuracy RateOhio’s county boards of elections have finalized their post-election audit of the November 2022 general election. The results show a 99.9% accuracy rate.

Upon taking office, Secretary LaRose directed all county boards of elections to conduct a post-election audit after each and every election. Doing so ensures our elections are secure, boosts voter confidence in the results, and holds each board accountable for the integrity and accuracy of the election results.

“Accessibility, security, and accuracy are the crucial elements of maintaining the confidence that voters should have in their elections, and in Ohio we have all three,” said Secretary LaRose. “Because of our dedicated bipartisan election officials, Ohio is devoid

of the drama and controversy we see in other states. Another important reason Ohioans know that they can trust our elections is because every election is audited by bipartisan teams of election professionals in our county boards, and the results prove definitively that our elections are run openly, accurately and honestly. As we wind down 2022, I am grateful for the hard work and dedication of thousands of Ohioans who run our elections and for the exemplary service they provide to Ohio voters and taxpayers.”

A post-election audit is a comprehensive review of the results of one or more contests in an election to ensure that the results reported by the board of elections are accurate. In auditing the November 2022 election, Ohio boards used percentage-based audits to determine the accuracy of the results. If an automatic county-wide recount was required, the results of the recount serve as the post-election audit.

Percentage Based Audits:

- Board of elections selects units to be audited (precincts, polling locations or individual machines) and randomly selects sufficient units to ensure review of 5% of the total votes cast for the county.

- At least three contests as follows: 1) top of the ticket, 2) statewide race selected at random by Secretary, and 3) at least one non-statewide race selected by the board of elections.

- The audit of voted ballots will reinforce accuracy and security of the voting system.

The November 2022 election resulted in a number of extremely close votes, and

eight races resulted in either a tie or were decided by two votes or fewer, proving once again that every vote matters. The mandatory audits and recount requirements are critical in ensuring that certified results are honest and accurate, and that voters maintain faith in the outcomes.

BROWN BETTY'S AND BUSTER BROWNS MEETING MINUTES

By: Emme Mast, reporter

The Brown Betty's and Buster Brown's in Oakwood, Ohio meet on the second Sunday of each month in the Oakwood Library Community room at 4:00 p.m. On Sunday December 11th, members were reminded to complete their 4-H registration and get project books ordered before January 1st. The next meeting will be January 8th at 4:00 p.m. in the Oakwood Community Room.

WBESC MEETING DATE SET

The next Western Buckeye ESC Governing Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 12, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in the ESC Conference Room at 900 Fairground Drive, Paulding, OH.

DEFIANCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES 12/29/22

The Board of Defiance County Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 29, 2022, in the Commissioners' Session Room. President Mick Pocratsky called the meeting to order. Also present were Commissioners David S. Kern and Dana Phipps; Sherry Carnahan, Finance Manager/Administrator, and Emily Meyer, Administrative Assistant.

The Commissioners met in General Session to approve and sign various resolutions, contracts, and documents. The Commissioners also reviewed the calendar of

The West Bend News

Sudoku Puzzle

5				3	7		6	9
4				5	8	3		1
								2
			3					
2	5							7
	7		9	4		2		
8		5						
	1	9			3	5		6
6	3	4			1		9	8

Answers to "Sudoku puzzle on Page 11"

events and discussed upcoming meetings.

The Commissioners approved the 2023 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$16,712,105.27, which is an overall increase of 6.67%.

Brad Fritch, Defiance County Wastewater Operations' Director, met with the Commissioners to provide a monthly update. Mr. Fritch reported billing \$85,293.19, collecting \$74,489.65, and having expenses of \$154,825.61.

On Thursday, December 22, 2022, the Commissioners held a Public Meeting to discuss the road vacation petition of portions of Banner School Road, Jewell Road, and Flory Road with approximately twenty-five citizens in attendance. After hearing public testimony regarding the petitioned road vacations, the Board approved the road vacations, as requested.

The petition was for the following:

Jewell Road: from Road 55A to the centerline of eastbound US 24;

The median crossing would be removed, as well as the portion of Jewell Road on the north side from US 24 to the 90° of Road 55A. The south side intersection with US 24 would be right in, right out. There would be no access to US 24 from the north side. This vacation was petitioned to become effective upon the opening of the proposed Independence Road overpass.

Flory Road: from the centerline of

westbound US 24 to the south limited access right of way; The median crossing would be removed, as well as the portion of Flory Road on the south side from US 24 to the first driveway. The north side intersection with US 24 would be right in, right out. There would be no access to US 24 from the south side. This vacation was petitioned to become effective upon the opening of the

Proposed Independence Road overpass Banner School Road: from the North limited access right of way line of US24 to the Defiance-Henry County Line;

The median crossing would be removed, as well as the south portion of the road to the first driveway. Banner School Road would be realigned and extended to the area that the road occupied when US 24 was a two-lane road, so the north portion would be removed between US 24 and the newly built Banner School Road. Banner School Road would be relocated and rebuilt to connect to Henry County Line Road and road N-1.

This vacation was petitioned to become effective upon the opening of the proposed CR 17D Interchange.

There will be no session on Monday, January 2, 2023, due to the Commissioners' Office being closed in observance of New Year's Day.



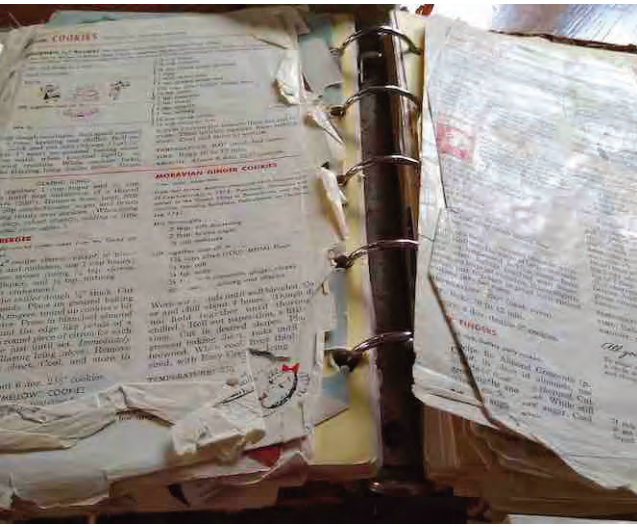
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GINGERBREAD MEN



By: James Neuhauser

Christmas has come and gone, as well as our annual gingerbread men sale. We gathered our ingredients together, found the recipe, and began baking. The recipe is a secret known only to a few older women. It originally came over from the old country.

The kiosk was placed on a street corner downtown, and the sign indicating the dates the cookies were available was posted and at the church. There were decorated gingerbread men of many different varieties, or you could bring your children to the church, and decorate their own gingerbread man. Tubes of icing was provided.

Thinking of Christmas brings to mind an old family tradition we have of baking Lubkuchen Cookies. My wife's ancestors are Dutch, and this is an old traditional Dutch recipe. Each year it becomes difficult to make because a main ingredient is Candied Citron. You used to buy Citron in nearly every store, but now it is getting scarce. If you look on your pocket phone there are many suppliers, even Amazon, but even then they might say it is sold out.

My wife just found a container of Citron that our son sent last year. Perhaps I'll get Lebkuchen Cookies after all. Citron keeps forever just like the cookies, and they get bet-

ter with age. Checking my pocket phone this was a quite popular item in the old country, and it could have been German.

The gingerbread event will have to include a gingerbread house decorating contest. There will be a contest for individuals, or if you like, come and add to our community house, which we all take turns working on. We'll need plenty of baby gumdrops and candy for decorating. I hope we make some Ginger Snaps, they are excellent dunkers.

Everyone has a favorite cookie recipe so I thought I might include a recipe for Snickerdoodle Cookies, but the pocket phone gives too many different varieties. Fun fact, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, was founded by Moravian people on Christmas 1741. Always wanted to study these people, because we saw their college in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Think we'll try Nurnberger, Moravian Cookies.

This reminds me, I haven't gotten a fruitcake this year. Fruitcakes are like cats, you either love them, or you hate them. I think I would do serious damage to get a hold of a fruitcake. If you look on your pocket phone you'll find them sold by Assumption Abbey monks and Travis Abby monks. Many contain rum but we will overlook that for now. They must be from recipes that have come over

from the old country. They were probably popular because they kept for long periods of time without refrigeration. I wonder what Butter Stolen is?

Instead, I'd like to tell you about a lady that started cooking for her family of five when she was 12 years old. Her mother would help on the farm so she became the cook. She had twin brothers two years younger than she. In high school she took Home Ec, and excelled in it. She still has her high school textbook. She received a big Betty Crocker Cookbook for a wedding present, and it is in shambles. I would have difficulty picking it up. The cookbook lies open and sure enough the recipe for the Lebkuchen Cookies is right at the top.

She is an excellent cook, I know because she cooks for me. I would eat out more often for convenience, but it is difficult, as we are both on low salt diets. I tell her to slow down, but it seems I can always find her in the kitchen. Well, I better go, I think I smell Molasses Crinkles baking.

34th IN PROSPERITY DESPITE PANDEMIC AND ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

Ohio ranks 34th in overall prosperity according to the American Dream Prosperity Index (ADPI), released by the Milken Center for Advancing the American Dream in partnership with Legatum Institute. The United States continues to see a rise in prosperity, even as we faced the long-term impacts of a pandemic and the economic realities of rising inflation and a shrinking economy. But while the overall trend points to a prosperous nation, prosperity continues to be unequally distributed regionally, often eluding rural communities and Black Americans.

Prosperity is a multidimensional concept which the American Dream Prosperity Index seeks to measure, explore, and understand. The framework of the Index captures prosperity through three equally-weighted domains which are the essential foundations of prosperity — Inclusive Societies, Open Economies, and Empowered People. These domains are made up of 11 pillars of prosperity, built upon 49 actionable policy areas, and are underpinned by more than 200 reliable indicators.

Ohio ranks 34th in overall prosperity. The state's has multiple strengths including ranking 11th in governance, 18th in business environment and 20th in education. According to the Index, Ohio's areas for improvement include natural environment (ranked 50th), personal freedom (ranked 49th), health (ranked 40th), social capital (ranked 34th) and economic quality (ranked 33rd).

"While our nation faces many challenges including record inflation, increased gun violence, and a deteriorating mental health landscape, we are encouraged by the resiliency of communities across our country as they work to create prosperous lives for their residents," said the Center's President Kerry Healey. "The American Dream Prosperity Index was founded on the principle that better data leads to better decisions and outcomes. It is our goal to make this report

one of the most important tools for local, state and federal lawmakers and civic leaders."

"We are encouraged by the steady rebound of prosperity post-pandemic, even in the face of unique regional challenges," said Legatum Institute CEO Philippa Stroud. "The foundations of the U.S. economy continue to stand strong, particularly due to the innovative entrepreneurial mindset that Americans are known for. This forward momentum highlights the genuine push towards prosperity in the face of continued adversity."

Across the country, millions of Americans are facing challenges that continue to threaten prosperity. According to the 2022 ADPI, since 2012, all states apart from North Dakota have increased their prosperity, but prosperity remains unequally shared across and within states. For most people, 2022 has been a year of progress as the nation continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and as the economy strengthens. However, this increase in prosperity is tempered by rising gun violence in nearly every state. Also detrimental to the nation's prosperity is the deteriorating mental health of America, marked by a rise in suicides and opioid-related deaths, even as Americans' overall health continues to improve.

ADPI's key findings also point to waning social cohesion across the country as another roadblock to U.S. prosperity. This is seen in the decreasing number of Americans who have helped a stranger, donated money to charity, volunteered or frequently talked to a neighbor.

ADPI National Patterns toward Greater Prosperity:

- In 2022, 26 states have recovered to pre-pandemic levels of overall prosperity, with Oklahoma, New Jersey and New Mexico seeing the biggest improvement. Reasons for the improvement in these states vary, but economic factors such as the increasing number of entrepreneurs played a key role in the post-pandemic rebound and bodes well for further improvement.
- Over the past decade, Americans' physical health have improved. Since 2012, rates of smoking have fallen by nearly a third, excessive alcohol use has decreased by 17% and pain reliever misuse has decreased by 21%.
- The long-term downward trend in property crime is an encouraging development across the United States, with all but six states improving over the past decade.
- ADPI Key Findings:
 - While U.S. prosperity rebounded post-pandemic in 2022, current record inflation threatens this recovery
 - In 2022, Prosperity has increased in every state except North Dakota, but this progress remains unequally distributed within state and local communities and across ethnic groups
 - High and rising gun violence in nearly every state is impacting American's individual sense of security and prosperity
 - Mental health has deteriorated in every state, including increased deaths of despair
 - A continuing decline in social cohesion and group relationships at all levels of so-

ONE PROJECT SEES EARLY SUCCESS, ANOTHER PROGRESSES TOWARD CONSTRUCTION



The intersection of State Route 108 and Wabash Cannonball Trail, Wauseon, will receive a pedestrian hybrid beacon. The project is being funded through ODOT safety funds.

RCUT at U.S. 30 and Thayer Road, Allen County, ODOT District 1

Traditional intersections are being replaced throughout northwest Ohio with modern, safer designs.

Just over a year ago, an RCUT (restricted crossing u-turn) was constructed at U.S. 30 and Thayer Road in Allen County, east of Lima. Prior to the construction, 13 crashes over a five-year period occurred. Of those, two were fatal and five resulted in serious injury. Since the opening of the RCUT, only two crashes directly related

to the intersection have occurred, and none resulted in injuries.

Listen as ODOT District 1 Deputy Director Chris Hughes, explains the RCUT project and the future of innovative intersection design.

In the city of Wauseon, a fatal crash involving a pedestrian prompted city officials to improve the safety of the intersection at State Route 108 and Wabash Cannonball Trail. Here, Keith Torbet, safety service director, explains how through working with ODOT, their project will become reality.

ciety creates barriers to prosperity.

Although the data does highlight a substantial number of barricades to prosperity, ADPI can be used to craft unique solutions across all levels of government. A deeper examination of prosperity, prompted by the Index, can reveal individual issues that each state can tackle in order to advance the prosperity of its citizens. This push towards the development of local data-led initiatives, rather than a 'one size fits all' approach, is essential for transformation across the country.

RELIANCE ON MOOSE AS PREY LED TO RARE COYOTE ATTACK ON HUMAN

Wildlife researchers have completed a study that may settle the question of why, in October 2009, a group of coyotes launched an unprovoked fatal attack on a young woman who was hiking in a Canadian park.

By analyzing coyote diets

and their movement in Cape Breton Highlands National Park, where the attack occurred on a popular trail, the researchers concluded that the coyotes were forced to rely on moose instead of smaller mammals for the bulk of their diet – and as a result of adapting to that unusually large food source, perceived a lone hiker as potential prey.

The findings essentially ruled out the possibility that overexposure to people or attraction to human food could have been a factor in the attack – instead, heavy snowfall, high winds and extreme temperatures created conditions inhospitable to the small mammals that would normally make up most of their diet.

"The lines of evidence suggest that this was a resource-poor area with really extreme environments that forced these very adaptable animals to expand their behavior," said lead author Stan Gehrt, a wildlife ecologist at The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

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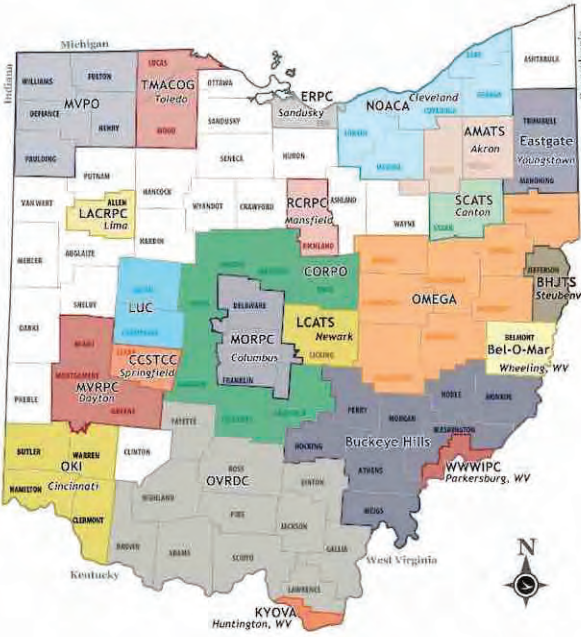
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NEW TRANSPORTATION ADVOCACY GROUP FORMING IN NORTHWEST OHIO

Map of MPO & RTPO Locations



A map displays the existing MPOs (metropolitan planning organization), and RTPOs (regional transportation planning organization). Northwest Ohio has the largest area not currently represented by either an MPO or an RTPO. Source: ODOT regional transportation planning website.

A map displaying the counties currently represented by a transportation planning organization shows a glaring fact — many northwest Ohio counties are excluded.

Chris Hughes, Ohio Department of Transportation District 1 deputy director, sought to remedy that and introduced the idea of forming a regional transportation planning organization (RTPO) to serve Van Wert, Putnam, Hancock, Hardin, Wyandot, Auglaize and Mercer counties.

The new RTPO will provide local public agencies access to more funding. "Within the BIL (Bypartisan Infrastructure Legislation), an RTPO may apply for federal grants. It's not a lot of money yet, but it's something. If you're not part of an RTPO, you don't have access to that. As time goes on, you will be

(CFAES).

"We're describing these animals expanding their niche to basically rely on moose. And we're also taking a step forward and saying it's not just scavenging that they were doing, but they were actually killing moose when they could. It's hard for them to do that, but because they had very little if anything else to eat, that was their prey," he said. "And that leads to conflicts with people that you wouldn't normally see."

The research is published in the Journal of Applied Ecology.

The death of 19-year-old folk singer Taylor Mitchell is the only fatality resulting from a coyote attack on a human adult ever documented in North America.

Gehrt, who leads the Urban Coyote Research Project that has monitored coyotes living in Chicago since 2000, was consulted by media for his expertise after the attack. In urban areas like Chicago, where thousands of coyotes live among millions of people, injuries from coyote-human encounters are very rare.

"We had been telling communities and cities that the relative risk that coyotes pose is pretty low, and even when you do have a conflict where a person is bitten, it's pretty minor," said Gehrt, a professor

more and more left out if you're not part of one of these organizations," said Hughes.

The RTPO will provide local entities assistance with planning their transportation projects. "The RTPO can bring their projects to us. It will truly help rural counties identify transportation issues and get those issues solved. It will provide them an avenue they don't currently have to get things done," said Hughes.

All seven of the counties have submitted resolutions stating they plan to be part of the new agency, titled West Central Ohio Regional Planning Organization (WORPO). WORPO will be administered by the Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission which is currently working to secure the needed staff. The new RTPO is expected to be operating in 2023.

in Ohio State's School of Environment and Natural Resources. "The fatality was tragic, and completely off the charts. I was shocked by it — just absolutely shocked.

Gehrt expanded an initial investigation of the fatal attack — and a few dozen less severe human-coyote incidents in the park before and after Mitchell's death — into a detailed field study. Between 2011 and 2013, he and colleagues captured 23 adult and juvenile coyotes living in the Cape Breton park and fitted them with devices to document their movement and use of space.

To obtain dietary information, the team also snipped whiskers from the live-captured coyotes and from the bodies of coyotes implicated in the fatal attack and in other human-coyote incidents. For comparison, the researchers collected fur from potential prey — southern red-backed voles, shrews, snowshoe hare, white-tailed deer and moose — and hair from local barber-shops that served as a proxy for human food.

Seth Newsome, professor of biology at the University of New Mexico and corresponding author of the study, analyzed stable isotopes of carbon and nitrogen in these whisker and hair samples to determine what the coyotes had been eating in the

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months before they were captured or lethally removed from the population.

The analysis showed that, on average, moose constituted between half and two-thirds of the animals' diets, followed by snowshoe hare, small mammals and deer.

"This dietary evidence was the critical piece to it," Gehrt said. "Their diets changed because they're taking advantage of whatever different food items are available at the time. We're used to seeing big oscillations across the segments of whiskers depending on the season. But in this system, for these coyotes, we don't see that — they're very flat line at the moose end, so there's very little variation in their diet."

Samples from the coyotes that were confirmed to have been involved in the fatal attack showed they had been eating only moose, "and their diet wasn't changing," he said. An analysis of coyote droppings confirmed the isotope findings. The researchers found only a few examples of individual animals having eaten human food.

Beyond the dietary analysis, Gehrt and colleagues did test for the possibility that coyotes were familiar with humans, and therefore not fearful around people. The movement patterns showed that while the coyotes' space use was extensive — likely related to the need to search far and wide for prey — the animals largely avoided areas of the park frequented by people and were more active at night during periods when daytime human use was at its highest. Prohibition on hunting and trapping in the park also removed a human threat.

"It's a big area for these coyotes to live in and never have a negative experience with a human — if they have

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any experience at all," Gehrt said. "That also leads to the logical assumption that we're making, which is that it's not hard for these animals to test to see whether or not people are a potential prey item."

In cities and most other wilderness areas where coyotes live, food of all types is plentiful — suggesting only areas low on natural prey, like islands and remote northern climates, would pose a similar risk for coyote-human interactions, Gehrt said. Their survival in Cape Breton, he said,

is attributable to their remarkable ability to adjust to their environment.

"These coyotes are doing what coyotes do, which is, when their first or second choice of prey isn't available, they're going to explore and experiment, and change their search range," he said. "They're adaptable, and that is the key to their success."

This work was supported by Parks Canada, the Nova Scotia Department of Lands and Forestry, and the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation.

Additional co-authors include Erich Muntz of Cape Breton Highlands National Park, Evan Wilson of Ohio State and Jason Power of the Nova Scotia Department of Lands and Forestry.

Sudoku solution from page 9

8	6	7	1	2	9	4	3	9
9	7	5	3	8	4	6	1	7
4	3	1	6	9	7	5	2	8
3	8	2	5	4	6	9	7	1
7	4	6	9	1	8	3	5	2
5	1	9	2	7	3	8	4	6
2	5	8	4	6	1	7	9	3
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6	9	4	6	3	7	4	6	9

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