

## GROVER HILL LIONS CLUB HOST RIBBON CUTTING OF NEWLY RENOVATED COMMUNITY CENTER



On May 6th a ribbon cutting/dedication was held for the Grover Hill Lion Club Community Building. To reserve the building contact Lions Club President, Jay Denny, at 419-786-0767.

On Saturday, May 6th, the Grover Hill Lions Club opened up the newly renovated Community Center building on S Main St. in

Grover Hill. Grover Hill Lions Club has had this building for many years and knew it was time to make a bigger investment into their community by

providing an updated facility that will be usable for groups, organizations, or private events in the area. The up-  
*(Continued on Page 2)*

## ANTWERP HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2023 ANNOUNCES VALEDICTORIAN & SALUTATORIAN SELECTIONS



Rayni Rister

**Rayni Rister** has been named as valedictorian of the 2023 graduating class of Antwerp Local School. Her parents are Jon and Jodie Rister. She earned a GPA of 4.0 during her high school career. After high school, Rayni plans to attend Ohio University to double major in Aviation Flight and Management. "I aspire to be a commercial airline pilot or air traffic controller."

Her extracurriculars include 4-H, Junior Leaders, Girl Scouts, National Honor Society, JV Volleyball, High School Band, United Way Student Advocate, Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory volunteer, Buy the Book volunteer, and Peer-to-Peer Tutoring

Rister earned the following awards and recognitions  
*(Continued on Page 2)*

## PAULDING HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2023 ANNOUNCES TOP SCHOLARS!



Haley Manz

**Haley Manz** has been named as valedictorian of the 2023 graduating class of Paulding High School. Her parents are Scott and Sara Manz. She earned a GPA of .0 during her high school career.

After high school she plans to attend Defiance College to obtain a bachelor's degree in Graphic Design and a minor in Fine Arts.

Manz's extracurriculars include choir, soccer, track, and Apostolic Christian Youth  
*(Continued on Page 2)*

## NEW DANCE STUDIO OPENING IN ANTWERP THIS FALL!

Ignite Dance Academy will be opening its doors this fall and offer ballet, tap, jazz, lyrical, contemporary, and musical theater for boys and girls age 3-18. A parent tot class will also be offered for ages 1-3. Owner, Allison Banks is a 2023 graduate and has studied dance her whole life. She was a ballerina at the Fort Wayne Ballet, and trained under



many world renowned ballet instructors, also studying under Broadway actress/Tony award nominee, Jane Lanier, in musical theater. Allison achieved the top tier pre-professional status at the Fort Wayne Ballet for three years. She shifted her focus in 2021 and left the ballet to attend a 35 time National Champion competition studio. There she fine tuned her contemporary, tap, lyrical, jazz, and musical theater skills through competitions throughout the last two years, keeping up with her ballet skills privately at Grant Training Program in Fort Wayne, IN.

Allison has always  
*(Continued on Page 4)*

## WAYNE TRACE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2023 TOP SCHOLARS



Kara Stoller

**Kara Stoller** has been named as valedictorian of the 2023 graduating class of Wayne Trace High School. Her parents are Neil and Sandy Stoller. She earned a GPA of 4.0.

After high school, Stoller plans to attend Purdue Fort Wayne for secondary Spanish education because she is passionate about language learning and experiencing new cultures.

Her extracurriculars include volleyball, basketball, cross country, track, student council, national honor society, church youth group. She earned several awards while in high school including Accounting Award, and Volleyball Most Improved.

Stoller has the following hobbies and interests outside of school: reading and art.

Her most memorable high school experience was senior homecoming.

**Rylee Miller** has been named as valedictorian of the  
*(Continued on Page 2)*

## PAULDING COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS

The Paulding County Retired Teachers Association has announced the 2023 Hall of Fame inductees. They are Nancy Wehrkamp, Mark

Stuck, and Beth Norbeck. These teachers have 25 or more years of service to the students of Paulding County. Their names will be added to a plaque in the Paulding County Historical Society Museum.

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Payne Am Leg Poker Run	3
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PC Court notice CI23-035	9
PC Court notice CI23-045	9
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TAZ Construction	1
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**Support local Organizations & Businesses making this issue of the West Bend News**

**Community Calendar**

**MON & WED**

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

**May 16**

- Celebrating 50 Magical Years @ PC Senior Center, 10:30am-1:30pm
- Narcotics Anonymous @ Antwerp Comm. Church, 6pm

**May 18**

- P.E.N. Social Media Etiquette meeting, 103 E Perry, Paulding, 8:15am
- Relay for Life Dance & Dinner Fundraiser @ PC Sen. Ctr., 5-7pm
- Jazz Night at PHS, 6-8:30pm

**May 19-20**

- PC Master Gardener Volunteer Annual Plant Sale @ PC Fairgrounds, 7:30am-5pm & 8am-12pm

**May 20**

- NRL22 Rifle Event @ Ant. Cons. Club, Sight-in, 9am
- Golf Scramble @ Pleasant Valley GC, 9am
- Make & Take Card Party @ Ties & Bows, Antwerp, 10a-4p
- Food Pantry @ Cecil Comm. Church, 12-3pm

**May 21**

- Special Speaker: Karen Wahl @ Cecil Comm. Church, 6p

**May 23**

- Narcotics Anonymous @ Antwerp Comm. Church, 6pm

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Add your event to the calendar  
info@westbendnews.net

# OAKWOOD ELEMENTARY ENTREPRENEURS



The 4th graders at Oakwood Elementary became entrepreneurs. They took out a loan to open a bracelet company. They designed, manufactured, marketed, and sold their product: bracelets. Of the 7 companies, 6 of them made a profit. Nice Job!

# EAST ALLEN COUNTY SCHOOLS CELEBRATES NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH HERO DAY



On May 5, 2023, East Allen County Schools administrators visited each building and delivered a token of appreciation to every food service staff member in honor of National School Lunch Hero Day! Superintendent Hisson said, "It was a pleasure to thank our hard-working food service staff for their daily dedication to our students and staff as they provide nutritional meals. It was an awesome day." Dan Krleski, Director of Food Service said, "We thank our Central Office staff for taking the time and effort to deliver these tokens to Food Service staff! Many have expressed their gratitude for thinking of them today!"

(PHS Top Scholars ... cont'd from Page 1)

Group. She earned the following awards and recognitions in high school: McMaster Symposium and Academic Colloquium Award; and Defiance College Dean's Scholarship

Outside of school Haley enjoys painting, drawing, traveling, and reading. When asked about her most memorable high school experience, she stated, "Participating in track and hanging out with my teammates."

**Hayden Mullen** has been named as salutatorian of the 2023 graduating class of Paulding High School. His parents are Chad and Heather Mullen. He earned a GPA of 4.190 during his high school



**Hayden Mullen** career. After high school Mullen plans to attend The Ohio State University majoring in neuroscience. "I plan to do this because I intend to someday help improve the lives of others and better their states of mind as a neurologist." Hayden's extracurricular

activities include 2019-2020: Paulding Football Team Manager; filming all season games, carrying equipment on and off buses, totaled 60+ hours between 2 years. 2019-2022: Nature Center Community Service: Collected trash

Awards and recognitions that Mullen earned include: Salutatorian, honor roll 2019-2023, Franklin B. Walter Scholarship, Paulding Putnam Electric Company Scholarship, OSU land grant scholarship, and honors diploma.

Outside of school Mullen enjoys exercising/lifting and playing video games.

Reflecting about the past, Hayden had this to say about his most memorable high school experience, "When COVID-19 first came around, me and my friends were put in quarantine and were able to play video games together more often than before."

## PARSON TO PERSON

**By: Dr. James Bachman**  
Dear Parson,  
What does I Timothy 2:15 mean when it says, "...she shall be saved in childbearing?"

The passage states that Eve was the one deceived in the garden. "And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety." - I Timothy 2:14-15.

Though she (as do all of us) deserved hell immediately because of disobedience, God in His mercy and grace wanted to provide a means of salvation. God announced His plan in

(Antwerp Top Scholars ... cont'd from Page 1)

during high school: OHIO Excellence, OHIO Forward and Russ Vision scholarships from Ohio University, College Board Rural and Small Town Recognition Scholar, Northwest State Community College Part-time Dean's List, High Gold Honor Roll, Archer Superintendent's Award, American History Student of the Quarter, American History Top Student, Geometry Student of the Quarter, Geometry Top Student, Northwest Ohio Consortium of Coordinators of Gifted Scholarship, and Franklin B. Walters Scholarship.

Outside of school Rayni enjoys being a Paulding County Volunteer, Reading, Music, Painting, and Baking.

She stated that her most memorable high school experience was the Senior Trip to NYC.



**Gavin Clevinger**

**Gavin Clevinger** has been named as valedictorian of the 2023 graduating class of Antwerp Local School. His parents are Rodney and Amanda Clevinger. He earned a GPA of 3.7 during his high school career.

"After high school I plan to go to BGSU for a major in art and animation. In the meantime I'll probably take a variety of small jobs before I reach a profession I'm comfortable with," Clevinger stated.

He participated in band for quite a few years. Gavin earned the University Freshman Academic Scholarship. Outside of school Clevinger enjoys drawing, analyzing media and collecting pieces of old obsolete technology in his free time. "I also occasionally engage in writing, usually for videos my friends and I make," Gavin commented.

When asked what Gavin's most memorable high school experience was, he stated, "Throughout high school, by far, I had the most fun making videos with my friends from driving to Celina, filming in the park and getting to go to a ramshackle house on 424. Those were, for sure, my most memorable experiences."

Genesis 3:15 when He proclaimed that the seed of the woman would bruise Satan's head. He was referring to the coming Saviour, Jesus Christ, God's Son. "But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law that we might receive the adoption of sons" - Galatians 4:4-5.

Though having children in no way gave Eve any merit towards salvation, it did help God bring about His plan. If Eve did not bear children, Christ, her Saviour, would not have come according to God's plan.

Send questions and comments to: jamesbachman@juno.com

# Scripture of the Week

"A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies."  
— Proverbs 31:10,27-28



The newly renovated Grover Hill Lions Club Community Center is open for rentals and events to the public, complete with kitchenette and restrooms for guests.

(GH Lions Club cont'd from Page 1)

dated facility has a fully functional kitchenette as well as restrooms and even drinking fountains and a water bottle filling station. The building will comfortably hold approximately 65 people for events or

meetings. Maumee Valley Planning Commission as well as some of the COVID funds that were offered to organizations was used to fund this project. To reserve the building contact Lions Club President, Jay Denny, at 419-786-0767.



**Rylee Miller**

(WT Top Scholars ... cont'd from Page 1)

2023 graduating class of Wayne Trace High School. Rylee's Seth and Amber Miller. She earned a GPA of 4.0.

After high school Rylee plans to attend Defiance College to earn a middle childhood education degree for sci-

ence and math. "To put it simply, I have chosen this career path because I love kids and I love school. I have excelled in my science and math classes and have a passion for these subjects, which is something I want to pass on to the next generation. I work well with children and have decided that this is something that I would love to devote my life to, so I am beyond excited to start my journey in education."

Her extracurriculars include four year high school choir member; three year participant of the spring musical; seven year member of Firehouse Youth Group, in which I've been a worship leader for the past three years; Two year member of the National Honor Society. Awards and recognitions she earned are the following: Best New Talent (2021), and Best Supporting Actress (2022); scholarship education degree for sci-

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**JUST DO IT ONLINE**

**Penny For Your Thoughts**

**By: Nancy Whitaker**

I am a big fan of the being online and also social media, and so is a lot of people. Through the wonders of a computer and the internet, I can see pictures of my new great-grandbabies (yes I am that old), talk with my family and friends, plan an event, join various groups, play games, post and see recipes and even buy tickets to an event. You can even quit your job or get fired via online.

I have been online for 25 or 30 years and it seems as if I learn something new each day. If someone I know goes to the hospital, one of my friends will post a prayer request. I can look at maps, plan a trip, book a hotel and make reservations for dinner.

Some people ask, "Why do you need the internet. Back in my day we did not have it." They also comment, "Well, even if I got it free, I still would not want it."

Yes, some bad things have happened on social media and the internet. Someone even video taped himself committing a crime. (not too smart). We can also get news from anyplace in the world as it happens.

Social Media also has some community standards. For one thing you can have your account suspended if you don't obey the rules. I usually get online to see pictures of my family and to see how "my friends" are doing. I also love reading and sharing recipes and I am finding out I really have no use for a cookbook.

The other day when I checked my social media page I had a message from Facebook. (FB) It said, "We have removed a post of yours because it doesn't meet community standards." They had a picture of my post and it was

Chicken and Noodles. I was absolutely floored because there was nothing I could see that would offend anyone and I had copied from a Cooking Blog. So I messaged the security team and asked them why a chicken noodle recipe was considered unfit? In about 10 minutes they responded that they had looked it it wrong and they had reposted it. The way social media



works is that someone will request you be their friend on social media and you can say "Yes" or "decline."

I usually make my decisions on friends by checking to see if they have any mutual friends that we both know.

Another thing I do on the internet is check theaters around the area and see what is playing at the movies. This is a handy tool because you can watch the trailer and also read reviews. I am not sure how to do it, but you can also watch movies online.

If you know most of your friends, you can wish them "Happy Birthday" because social media will remind you when the date is.

Now, I realize the internet has taken a toll on post offices, because cards and letters can be emailed. I believe it has also hit some retail stores as now you can order gifts, food and shop online. Instead of facing Black Friday shopping, I can sit here in the comfort of my own home and shop.

Don't get me wrong, I still love reading the newspaper the old fashioned way, shopping in a store, ordering in a restaurant from a hand held menu and talking to my family and friends in person.

Our cell phones can do most things also. There is something called texting, but that is a whole other subject.

I get so happy when I see my younger grandkids have a cell phone (or a duplicate toy one) and sit there playing games. They learn at a young age.

Yes, I am a big internet lover, but I also cherish the history of earlier times and I still consider myself "Old

Fashioned". If you can be that anymore. You know the things I used many years ago are now considered antiques (me too).

Are you on the internet or have a cell phone? Do you ever look up or "Google" any subject online? Let me know and I'll give you a Penny for Your Thoughts.

**PAULDING COUNTY COMMUNITY BOOSTS CARING & SHARING CLOSER TO ITS BUILDING GOAL**



**Caring & Sharing Food Pantry board members receive check from John Paulding VFW Post 587. Left to right: John Daeger, Dan Wilder, Nova Saigo and Rita Diaz.**



**Pantry building fund thermometer displayed on Paulding County courthouse lawn.**

On Tuesday, May 3, the fundraising thermometer for the Caring & Sharing Food Pantry building fund was posted in the county courthouse lawn showing just about 10 percent left to go to its goal! The campaign, which started in April 2022 with the Sing into Spring concert, has generated nearly 90 percent of the budget for the new building with the help of a very giving community and several special events.

The second annual Sing into Spring concert was hosted March 26, 2023, by St. Paul Lutheran Church in Paulding and raised more than \$15,000 for the fund. Raffle items were donated by Gloria Craig, Paulding Putnam (Zoo tickets), Ann Shuherk and Steph's Cupcakes.

The John Paulding VFW Post 587 was the lead sponsor of the concert and donated \$5,000. The Paulding Fraternal Order of Eagles also donated \$1,000. Other sponsors included Paulding County Hospital, Dooley Funeral Home, Williamson Insurance, R.K. Brady Corp and Schlatter Plumbing, Heating and AC.

In addition, the Paulding Knights of Columbus sponsored a fish fry on April 14, 2023, that raised \$3,200 which included a significant donation from the organization and lots of volunteer time to prepare and serve the food.

Over the past 12 months, financial donations have come from all corners of the county, totaling more than \$505,000 to date. Gifts from businesses, families, memori-

als, churches and community organizations have added up quickly.

"The mission of Caring & Sharing Food Pantry is to engage the local giving community and volunteers in helping us serve our neighbors and work against food insecurity in Paulding County," said Marge Schlatter, the pantry board's treasurer. "We are so grateful for the many gifts and the broad community support of our work."

The new food pantry will be located at 318 N. Walnut Street in Paulding. Due to inflation, the fundraising goal has been adjusted to \$560,000. Construction planning is underway and is expected to begin this summer. Hartzog Construction has been selected as the general contractor for the project.

Additional 2023 fundraising events in the works include the 3rd Annual Scott St. John Memorial Cruise In on July 22, 2023, 5-8 pm. Caring & Sharing will also participate in the 127 Yard Sale Aug. 3-6; this year hosted inside at the First Presbyterian Church of Paulding.

Building Fund donations can be sent in care of the Paulding County Area Foundation at 101 E. Perry Street, Paulding, Ohio 45879.

For more information about the pantry, volunteering opportunities and fundraising activities, follow the Caring & Sharing Food Pantry on Facebook. You also can contact the pantry, at (419) 399-9562 or info@caring-and-sharing.org.

**ANTWERP CHAMBER TO SPONSOR GEM OF THE YEAR AT ANTWERP DAYS**

Do you know someone in Antwerp who is a real "gem". Someone who goes above and beyond for the people within their community? Pick up a GEM nomination form at Petals and Vines, Antwerp Pharmacy or Antwerp Exchange Bank today! Forms need to be completed & returned to Antwerp Pharmacy by May 16th. Winners will be announced at Antwerp Days on June 3rd. Get your gears turning & find that hidden gem of Antwerp. People need to know!

**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**

Oliver Raymond Bissell was born in Antwerp, October 22, 1894 he was the son of Oliver Peter, born August of 1860 in New York and Clara C. (Cluts) Bissell born in 1866 in Ohio. They were married September 14, 1884 in Paulding.

By 1900, Oliver and Clara were raising four children, William E. born July 9, 1886, Clara A. born January 30, 1890, Oliver R. October 22, 1894, and Harry N. born August 6, 1900. This family was living in Crane Township on a farm. By 1910, this family added a daughter, Blanche, born August 12, 1906.

The Bissell family was living on River Road on a farm. I believe this road to be road #192 outside Antwerp. Oliver had quit school after the eighth grade. He was not living with his parents at his time. Oliver was living with Ervin and Elizabeth Edward in Emerald working as a farm laborer. By 1915, or so, Oliver had been working for the Hicksville Township in Defiance County as a farmer, County farm land? Oliver was living outside Antwerp, Route 3, when on June 5, 1917 at Crane Precinct in Paulding County, Oliver registered for the draft.

Listed as 5'10", medium

weight, blue eyes and brown hair. He became a "doughboy" in the army July 22, 1918. He was sent to serve 158th Depot Brigade for training. He served until August 14, 1918. September 3, 1918, he was shipped out from Brooklyn, New York on the ship, "Vasari" to go to France. Then sent to Company A., 325 Machine Gun Battalion, serving until November 1, 1918. Serving in Company B., 112 Machine Gun Battalion until he was Honorably Discharged June 2, 1919.

By 1920, after coming home, he lived with his parents. He met a gal named Jessie Leona Gorman, born October 30, 1904. They married February 25, 1925 in Coldwater, Branch County, Michigan. The couple moved to Antwerp.

By 1930, Oliver was making furniture as an upholsterer in Antwerp. The couple lived at 307 West Washington Street, Antwerp. By 1940, Oliver and Jessie were still at 307 West Washington Street, Oliver was a carpenter. In 1942, Oliver, at the age of 47, had to register for the World War Two draft. He was not chosen to serve. By 1950, Oliver and Jessie were living at the same address. Oliver had his own construction business.

Not sure what happened to his health, but on December 20, 1952, Oliver passed away. He was buried at Maumee Cemetery. His wife, Jessie, applied for Oliver's Military tombstone. The stone was shipped to the Cottrell-Boylan American Legion in Antwerp. Jessie filed for Social Security death benefits, January 31, 1953. Jessie never remarried and passed away, April 5, 1988 in Paulding, at the Hospital. Oliver and Jessie never had children. She was buried alongside Oliver in Maumee Cemetery.

... Until next time!

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**ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS**  
sponsored by Payne American Legion Post #297

- Veterans Breakfast @ 7am
- Parade begins @ 9:30a.m., line up @ Divine Mercy Catholic Church
- Memorial Service @ Lehman Cemetery, following parade
- Lunch for Veterans & their families @ 12Noon @ the Legion; guests to bring covered dish & place settings; meat provided by Legion

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**American Legion Post 297 Memorial Day Weekend Poker Run**

**When:** May 27, 2023  
**Registration starts at 9:30 AM**

**Where:** Reuben J. Smith American Legion Post 297  
220 N Main St, Payne, OH 45880

**Cost:** \$15 per rider, \$20 with passenger

**Food will be available at the Legion Free will donation**

**Contact:** Matt Reighter with any questions probullrider2u@gmail.com

# NWEC DONATION TO THE HICKSVILLE SPLASH PAD PROJECT



NWEC Round Up board member Roxie Timbrook is shown presenting the grant to Hicksville Community Fund trustees Greg Slattery and Kirk Collins.

The Northwest Electrical Cooperative "Round Up" program has donated \$1500 towards the Hicksville Park Splash Pad project. Participating NWEC members "

round up" their monthly bill to the nearest dollar each month. Those donations are then donated to approved grant requests in the NWEC service area.

# PAULDING ELEMENTARY APRIL MINDSET MARVELS



Paulding Elementary recently announced their Mindset Marvels for April 2023. Pictured here are (front row, l-r): Natalie Mericle, Adrie Smith, Ellie Branch, Ariya Lockwood, Lyndon Thompson, Savannah Coil, and Mason Eddy; (middle row, l-r): Landen White, Venicia Rodriguez Reyes, Nolan Rosalez, Kaden Wiechart, Aylen Schlegel, Alonzo Miles, and Boston Foltz; (back row, l-r): Gia Wagenhauser, Brady Dunham, Logan Dunson, Drew Fry, Cierra Smith, Chandler Fitch, and Bayla Bortel. Missing from picture: Kenley Miller

# PAULDING HIGH SCHOOL ANNOUNCES APRIL STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Paulding High School announced their April Students of the Month. They are the following (l-r): Freshman Lilian Daniels, Sophomore Alexis Wharry, Junior Lucas Kennedy, and Senior Wyatt Pessefall.

Call or Email your classified ad today!  
419-258-2000 • info@westbendnews.net

# 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.

Our office hours are Tuesday thru Friday, 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Arrangements can be made for after office hours appointments

Any questions, please call 419-399-8285

(Continued from Page 2)

ships from Defiance College, including their Dean's scholarship and the Discover Defiance grant, and Alumni Trustee scholarship.

Outside of school Rylee enjoys music. "I love music! I play guitar and piano and am on the worship team in my youth group. I spend a large majority of my free time trying to better myself on these skills.; I have a bit of a coffee obsession. Trying different coffee shops with my friends is always a fun way to spend my spare time. I love Jesus! Studying his word and bible journaling are a favorite pastime of mine, as well."

When asked what her most memorable high school experience, she stated, "Last year, my choir journeyed to Orlando, Florida, where we went to Universal Studios for a few days. It's one of the best trips I've ever been on and is packed full of unforgettable memories."



Sydnee Sinn

**Sydnee Sinn** has been named as valedictorian of the 2023 graduating class of Wayne Trace High School. Sydnee's parents are Joshua and Christina Sinn. She earned a GPA of 4.0.

After high school, Sydnee plans to attend Michigan State University to major in biology. She chose Michigan State because she received a scholarship to run on their cross country and track and field teams. She wants to enter the medical field with her biology degree and enter the radiology field.

Sinn's extracurricular activities include basketball, volleyball, and track and field. She is two-time State Champion in track, in the 400m and 4x400m. She has also been part of the All-Ohio Track Team for the past two years. Throughout high school she has also been a member of Student Council (Senior Class President), National Honor Society (Vice-President), and Yearbook Staff.

Awards and recognition she has earned are College Board National Rural and Small Town Recognition Program member, and Franklin B. Walter Scholarship.

Outside of school Sydnee enjoys running, reading, and other physical activity such as biking, swimming, and skiing.

(Continued from Page 1)

dreamed of opening up a studio and sharing her love of dance and creativity to others in a loving, challenging, and positive environment. This dance academy will be one of the three businesses (the other two being CCBanks Productions Dinner Theater and RED Letter Photography) that is located within Studio 211, which is located at 211 S. Main Street, Antwerp, Ohio. You can find Allison's web page at IGNITE DANCE

# WT GROVER HILL ELEM. ANNOUNCES APRIL STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Grover Hill Elementary April Student of the Month are the following (front, l-r): Aleyah Stoller, Eli Lowe, Henry Thomas, Avalyn Beining, Izzy Hicks, Kinsley Dunderman and Emily McClure; (back, l-r) Easton Jay, Carlen Ludwig, Jocelyn Adkins, Kendyl Hurd, Piper Densmore, Ellie Wilt and Dakota Miner. Absent Grayson LaBounty.

# LAST PERFORMANCE OF THE YEAR FOR OAKWOOD ELEM. 5TH/6TH GRADE BAND



Oakwood Elementary 5th and 6th grade band held their last performance of the school year on Thursday, May 4th at 1:30 pm for the students in the school and again at 7:00 pm for parents, family members and friends. The students are under the direction of Mrs. Nancy Wehrkamp.

She also enjoys all outdoors activities and other events where she can interact with others.

Her most memorable high school experience was this: "My most memorable high school experience was winning two State Championships in track my junior year. I won the 400m dash and was part of the winning 4x400m relay. This had always been a major goal of mine, so to see it come true was an amazing experience."



Kiara Bahena

**Kiara Bahena** has been named as valedictorian of the 2023 graduating class of Wayne Trace High School. Sydnee's parents are Ramiro and Katrina Bahena. She earned a GPA of 4.0.

After high school Kiara plans to attend the University of Saint Francis and majoring in nursing and become a pediatric nurse practitioner. "I want to be a source of comfort for others when times are hard," she commented.

Her extracurriculars in-

clude varsity cross-country and track and field; Spanish Club President; Student Council Vice-President; Secretary of National Honors Society; Head of 5k Beneficiary; Head lifeguard at Paulding Pool; PCA at Country Inn

Kiara earned the following awards and recognitions: State Champion 4x4 2022; State Runner-up 4x4 2021; Horatio Alger State Scholar; NHS Scholarship National Semi-Finalist; Robin G. Thomas Sizemore Scholarship winner; St.Rita's Medical Center Scholar; Zonta Scholarship Winner.

Outside of school Kiara stated the following about her

interests and hobbies, "I enjoy staying active outside school by running or lifting. I also enjoy relaxing by doing puzzles or watching cooking shows. I also love reading poetry and adventure books." Bahena continues about her most memorable high school experience, "My most memorable high school experience was going to the Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium in Columbus with my teammates and winning a state championship."

**Laura Thornell** has been named as valedictorian of the 2023 graduating class of Wayne Trace High School. Sydnee's parents are Jason and Beth Thornell. She earned a GPA of 4.0.

After high school Laura plans to attend the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wane, Indiana and major in Biology-Pre-Physician Assistant Studies after graduation. "I have always been interested in medicine, I enjoy working with people, and I want to improve the lives of others, which is why I want to become a physician assistant," stated Thornell.

Her extracurriculars include being a member of the



Laura Thornell

(Continued on Page 5)

# PAULDING COUNTY WMEA RECYCLING

*New Schedule For Large Villages*

1st Weekend- Paulding , Fair Grounds

2nd Weekend- Grover Hill , VFW

3rd Weekend- Payne ,

(Paved lot east of Homier's)

4th Weekend- Antwerp ,

(13744 CR 43, sewer treatment plant)

*New Schedule For Smaller Villages*

3rd Wednesday of each month

Cecil 11:30-12:00 (Fire Station)

Junction 12:30-1:00 (Catholic Church)

Haviland/Scott 1:30-2:00 (SR 114 at Haviland Park)

Latty/Briceton 2:30-3:00 (Latty Park)

For Questions Call : 419-399-3630

or Visit : www.pauldingcountywmea.com

ACADEMY, ANTWERP OHIO,

email her at ignitedanceacademyohio@gmail.com , or send her a text or phone call at 419-258-0852, also like her facebook page at IGNITE DANCE ACADEMY. She would be glad to help with any questions you may have.

Registration is open now! Help your child be the best dancer they can be, while having a fun and rewarding year while making life-long friends.

# YES DAY FOR HICKSVILLE ELEMENTARY STUDENTS



On Friday, May 5th students at Hicksville Elementary had a YES Day to celebrate the conclusion of testing. In its second year, the idea for the YES day was suggested in an elementary leadership group as something fun to do. The idea became a reality in 2022 and the tradition continues.

To earn the YES day, 3rd and 4th graders had to meet specific expectations during testing like utilizing test taking strategies that they were taught.

To plan the day, students were given the opportunity to provide their ideas of what they would enjoy. Students suggested a wide variety of activities and suggestions. Behind the scenes, staff and administration began working on making as many of the suggestions a reality.

This year's activities included a kick-off assembly for grades K-4 in which all elementary teachers competed in a 'Revenge of the Students' challenge. Teachers had to complete 5 challenges to earn their class an ice cream party and extra recess. The chal-

lenges included a dance off, a BeanBoozled surprise, Scooter Dodgeball, Feed a Duck, and the final challenge was to eat a freeze-dried cricket! ALL teachers successfully completed the challenges much to the delight of the students!

After the assembly, the 3rd and 4th graders took a road trip to the Bryan Theater to watch Mario Brothers. After the movie, students went to Recreation Park in Bryan for a lunch of their favorites (tacos, pizza, cookies, chips, pop). Mr. Countryman, came with a small bus to pick up the teachers and they were surprised with lunch to reward them for all of their efforts during testing as well! Throughout the afternoon, students were able to participate in a wide variety of activities, including volleyball, tennis, and disc golf. A surprise guest came to the amphitheater to host a dance party. The Dance Party with Mr. G was a huge success!

When the students returned to school, they were able to pick an activity of their choice that included getting their nails painted, making

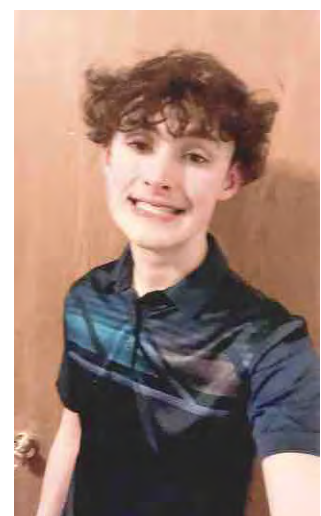
slime, playing a game with high schoolers, extra gym time, or the opportunity to bring in their own technology devices and spend time on those.

This day is designed to build excitement about testing and give students the opportunity to feel successful for working hard and trying their best.

Hicksville Schools would like to thank the Bryan Movie Theater, Bryan Parks and Recreation, and the Fountain City Amphitheater for being so great to work with and providing amazing facilities for our students to spend the day outside of our building. Also, a special thank you to Four County Career Center and the Cosmetology department. Additionally, many Hicksville community members and organizations helped make this day a success for students.

## PAYNE AMERICAN LEGION SPONSORS STUDENTS FOR BUCKEYE STATE

The Payne American Legion Post 297 is sponsoring the following students for Buckeye Boys & Girls State.



Lucas Kennedy attends Paulding High School, and will go to Buckeye Boys State at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio in June.



Ava Foltz, from Paulding, attends Vantage Career Center, and will go to Buckeye Girls State in June at Bowling Green State University.

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(Continued from Page 4)

National Honor Society and student council, softball for 4 years, volleyball for 3 years, and cross country for 1 year. She also participated in 4-H and her church's Y-Disciple youth group.

Laura earned the following awards and recognitions in high school: a Presidential scholarship from the University of Saint Francis as well as Legacy and Catholic Faith scholarships; Artwork awards: 2023 Scholastic Art Competition - Silver Key, 2023 Ohio Governor's Art Competition-Regional Winner and 2023 Huntington University Show - Honorable mention; Leadership award - cross country.

Outside of school she enjoys reading, biking, and spending time with my friends and family. She also raises dairy/beef feeders for 4-H and spend lots of time outdoors.

When asked what her most memorable high school experience, she commented, "My most memorable High School experience was lighting an accidental fire in Physics as a class and having to use the fire extinguisher to put it out."

## OHIO LAKE ERIE COMMISSION REQUESTS PUBLIC COMMENTS ABOUT MAUMEE AREA

The Ohio Lake Erie Commission and Ohio EPA are accepting comments through May 22, 2023, on the proposed removal of the "Degradation of Aesthetics" beneficial use impairment within the Maumee Area of Concern (AOC).

Beneficial use impairments (BUIs) identify specific problems that can prevent a waterbody from meeting its full water quality potential. The Ohio Lake Erie Commission and Ohio EPA are accepting comments through May 22, 2023, and should be emailed to Cherie Blair, Maumee AOC Coordinator at Cherie.Blair@epa.ohio.gov.

The Ohio Lake Erie Commission was established to preserve Lake Erie's natural resources, protect the quality of its waters and ecosystem, and promote economic development in the region. The director of the Ohio EPA serves as the Commission's chairperson. Additional members include directors of the state departments of Transportation,

## 5 REASONS YOUNG FAMILIES NEED LIFE INSURANCE NOW



When it comes to money matters, young parents who are just starting out have a lot to juggle: They may be paying off student debt and saving for their first home, all while raising kids. But it's also a time when young families may be the most financially vulnerable should the unexpected strike. To ensure that they have financial protection when they need it most, purchasing a life insurance policy should be top of mind.

Here are five reasons why young families need life insurance:

1. You just never know. While it's not the most pleasant thing to ponder, an emergency situation could quickly put your family's finances under water. In fact, only 44 percent of Americans have enough savings to cover an unexpected \$1,000 expense. And when you're starting out, not having protection in case something happens to a family's breadwinner is even scarier.

2. The earlier you opt in, the more affordable it is. Because age is one of the factors that affects the cost of your premiums, the younger you are when you purchase a pol-

icy, the less you'll be paying each year.

3. It may not be as expensive as you think. If you're on a budget and are convinced you can't afford life insurance, consider term life insurance. It guarantees protection for a set amount of time provided premiums are paid when due. Since it's not designed to last a lifetime, the annual premiums are considerably lower when you are younger.

4. It lets you concentrate on other goals. Once you have the peace of mind and financial protection that life insurance grants you, you may feel secure enough to fund long-term goals, like buying a home, saving for your nest egg, or going back to school.

5. You can always upgrade at a later date. Don't let the fear of making the wrong decision deter you from purchasing a policy now. The policy you purchase today isn't intended to be set in stone. As your family's needs change, you have the option of considering other policies.

We know it's not easy for young families to make their life insurance needs a priority, given all their competing financial obligations. However, permanent life insurance is a vehicle for protection that is not only affordable, but can also help families accumulate cash value and can ultimately propel them toward reaching both their immediate and far-reaching goals.

This educational, third-party article is provided as a courtesy by Anthony Marlin, Agent, New York Life Insurance Company. To learn more about the information or topics discussed, please contact Anthony Marlin at 260-704-3272

## READER PICK-UP LOCATIONS

### OHIO LOCATIONS

**Antwerp:** 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

**Chantrel:** 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, Village offices

**Key:** 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

**Payne:** 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, Willies Cafe II

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# COOPER SCHOLARSHIPS PRESENTED TO STUDENTS



**Pictured here is the Oakwood Bobcat Scholarship in honor of Dianne Cooper by her children recipient: Joseph Estle.**



**Pictured here are PHS recipients of Virgil H Cooper Scholarship: (l-r) Olivia Porter, Carter Manz, Caydence Rue, Vincente Cantu and Cassandra Weller. Missing: Hayden Mullen.**



**Pictured here is the Oakwood Alumni Scholarship recipients from Paulding High School: (l-r) Caydence Rue, Joseph Estle and Cassandra Weller. Missing Hayden Mullen**



**Pictured here is the Oakwood Bobcat Scholarship in honor of Dianne Cooper by her children recipient: Joseph Estle.**

Virgil H Cooper Scholarships were presented on May 9, 2023 to several area students from the Cooper family scholarship funds: Virgil H Cooper Scholarship, Oakwood Alumni Scholarship and Oakwood Bobcat Scholarship.

## WILDCATS CRUISE TO WIN OVER PANTHERS

**KALIDA** - Colin Hoffman struck out seven over six innings of work and limited Paulding to a pair of unearned runs in leading host Kalida to an 8-2 victory over the Panthers Monday night in non-league baseball action.

The Wildcats jumped in front early, scoring a run in the opening frame, and added to the lead with a five-run third to push the margin to 6-0.

After Paulding got one run in the fourth, Kalida answered with a run of its own to keep the margin at 7-1.

The maroon and white scored again in the fifth to trim the deficit to 7-2 but the Wildcats wrapped up the scoring with a single run in

the sixth to set the final margin at 8-2.

Drew Buss singled three times and scored to lead the Wildcat offense with Braylon Smith singling once and scoring a trio of runs. Jaden Smith scored twice for Kalida while E.J. Miller touched home plate once but drove in a pair of runs.

Dyllan Bendele also had a single for the Putnam County squad and Carson Klausing scored once.

Peyton Adams singled twice and picked up a run batted in for Paulding with Kane Jones adding a double. Greyson Harder and Nick Manz each added a single for the Panthers with Jacob Martinez and Casey Agler scoring runs. Manz also drove in a run for the maroon and white.

Jones suffered the loss on the mound, tossing three innings giving up one hit and three walks while striking out four. Jacob Martinez pitched the remaining three frames, surrendering four hits and five walks with three strikeouts.

## 2023 GMC ALL CONFERENCE SPRING SCHOLAR ATHLETES

Green Meadows Conference Announces "All Conference Scholar Athletes" Spring of 2023.

To be eligible for this honor, the athlete must be a senior, participate and letter in a recognized sport or cheerleading and have a 3.5 GPA or better after 7 semesters.

**ANTWERP:**  
Autumn Zuber, Lydia Krouse, Aerial Snyder

**AYERSVILLE:**  
Kaylee Dockery, Tyson Schlachter, Neva Sheets, Trisen Frederick, Alyssa Burke, Meling Bond, Owen Berner, Jenna Brown, Mikala Schindler, Blake Hauenstein

**EDGERTON:**  
Quentin Blue, Elissa Bowen, Corey Everetts, Allee Hug, Kadyn Picillo, Noelle Ritter, Charlotte Blalock, Addison Cape, Warren Nichols, Cooper Everetts, McKenna Warner, Blake Flower

**HICKSVILLE:**  
Zachary Bell, Katie Chapman, Morgan Fogle, Reyna Mazur, JR Mendoza, Gabe Rodriguez, Tatum Sheets, Madison Stairhime, Kelton Stone, Michael Villena

**PAULDING:**  
Jacob Martinez, Ethan Foltz, Nick Manz, Olivia Porter, Cassie Weller, Miranda Iler, Caydence Rue, Luis Cortes Becerra, Sheridan Matty

**TINORA:**  
Paige Carpenter, Anna Frazer, Logan McQuillin, Luke Harris, Eli Plassman, Trenton Wiemken, Cole Anders, Steven Bohn Jr., Jaxen Durfey, Gavin Eckert, Jacob Guisinger, Shea McMaster, Nicholas Sweinhagen, Isabel Ferguson, Emilee March, Clara Westrick

**WAYNE TRACE:**  
Kara Stoller, Laura Thornell, Sydnee Sinn, Kiara Bahena, Gracie Shepherd, Lane Morehead, Elizabeth Mohr, Macy Doster, Alyssa Greathouse

## KNIGHTS TOO MUCH FOR ARCHERS

Host Crestview scored three runs early and cruised the rest of the way to an 8-3 victory Tuesday evening.

The Knights plated three

# JEWELL SIGNS LETTER OF INTENT TO SIENA HEIGHTS



**Pictured with her are Antwerp High School varsity girls' basketball coach Scott McMichael, Hayleigh's parents Susan and Michael Jewell, and a representative from Siena Heights University.**

**ANTWERP, OHIO** - Senior Hayleigh Jewell signed to continue her academic/athletic career with the Siena Heights University Women's Basketball Team at Antwerp High School.

Thank you to Antwerp Athletic Director Drew Al-

timus, Head Girls Basketball Coach Scott McMichael and members of the Antwerp girls basketball team, along with Siena Heights University Assistant Coach Niesha Lowe for being apart of this special day for Hayleigh Jewell.

## WARRIORS WIN BIG ON SENIOR NIGHT!



**Woodlan Junior Blake Reed has perfect contact with the ball and hits the ball to the outfield, landing first base and an RBI! More pictures at westbendnews.net**

Thursday night, May 11th, Senior Night for Warrior Baseball was also their final conference game of the 2023 season. Woodlan found this to be an easy win playing a shut out game against Southern Wells Raiders. Woodlan's conference stands at 5-1. Their conference ranking for the 2023 season is 2nd place.

Warriors had an easy win this spring evening ending the game 11-0.

Score by the inning:  
Southern Wells - 0 0 0 0 0=0;  
Woodlan - 1 1 4 5=11

with two singles and a run batted in while Reid Lichty, Altimus and Aiden Lichty all singled for Antwerp.

## PANTHERS BEAT INDIANS IN SECTIONAL ACTION

Paulding hit the road to Mercer County to open Division III softball sectional action with the Lady Panthers recording a 10-4 victory over host Fort Recovery.

The maroon and white took control early with a four-run second before adding a three-run third, seizing an early 7-1 advantage.

After the Indians got one run back in the third, Paulding expanded the margin with single runs in the fourth and fifth for a 9-2 lead.

Paulding held on from (Continued on Page 7)

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# COUNTY TRACK MEET — RAIDERS DOMINATE!



ANTWERP'S high jumper, Gracie Shepherd takes 1st in her event at the County Track meet on Monday, May 8th.



Antwerp's Cami McAlexander



Paulding's Lucy Breier

## LADY WARRIORS TAKE HOME WIN FROM ARCHERS



Antwerp's Emma Townley, junior, revis Antwerp hope on this hit against the Warriors, and earns second base! More pictures at westbendnews.net

High School Softball met up at Archer Field on Monday evening, May 8th. Antwerp played host to the Woodlan Lady Warriors.

Woodlan were in the zone and started the game in the 1st scoring 2 runs. Archers came back in the 2nd with 2 runs of their own. Warriors hit back in the 5th inning with 2 more



Antwerp's Kamren Johnson

Archer Field hosted the annual County Track Meet on Monday May 8th. Wayne Trace Raiders swept up the competition earning 1st place team status in both the men and women's divisions.

### MEN:

Team - 1st Wayne Trace 85.5; 2nd Paulding 45; 3rd Antwerp 38.5

### WOMEN:

Team - 1st Wayne Trace 85.5; 2nd Paulding 45; 3rd Antwerp 38.5

runs and 1 more in the 6th and holding off the Archers from scoring again before the ending of the 7th inning. Final score: Woodlan (IN) 5, Antwerp 2

### Score by Innings:

Woodlan - 2 0 0 2 1 0=5

Antwerp - 0 2 0 0 0 0=2

Winning Pitcher - Abby Horn (3-2/3 innings, 1 hits, 6 strikeouts, 0 walks)

Other Woodlan Pitcher - Olivia Roney (3-1/3 innings, 3 hits, 3 strikeouts, 1 walk)

Losing Pitcher - Elle Clem (5 innings, 6H, 5SO, 0 walks)

Other Antwerp Pitcher - Lydia Krouse (2 innings, 1H, 3SO, 1 walk)

Woodlan Hitters - Alyssa Harvey (2 singles, home run, 2 runs, 2 RBI), Avah Smith (home run, 1 run, 2 RBI), Lexi Metzger (home run, 1 run, RBI), Victoria Crozier (single), Mya Jones (single, 1 run), Antwerp Hitters - Caroline Rohrs (single, RBI), Emma Townley (single, double, run), Madison Berenyi (single), Raelynn Zuber (run)

## HARDER LEADS PANTHERS OVER WILDCATS

Greyson Harder led the Paulding offense with three hits and pitched the Panthers to a 6-1 victory over Miller City Thursday night in high school baseball non-league



Paulding Senior Nick Manz ends the Miller City third inning at bat, catching the ball in left field, and getting the third out! More pictures at westbendnews.net

action.

Harder tossed a complete game for the maroon and white, scattering five hits and two walks while striking out a dozen Wildcat hitters.

At the plate, Harder ripped three singles while driving in a pair of runs and scored one. Kane Jones singled and doubled for Paulding to go along with two runs batted in and Blake Rhonehouse scored twice, singled and drove in one run.

Jacob Martinez also singled for the Panthers.

## WARRIORS STOMP A SHUT OUT ON LADY RAIDERS



Woodlan wins their senior night game on Thursday against the Southern Wells Raiders when senior Austin Gaff gets this hit with bases loaded, and Alyssa Harvey scores from third base! More pictures at westbendnews.net

Lady Warrior, Abby Horn, pitched a shut out Thursday evening May 11th while striking out 12. She also had her 100th strikeout finishing the game with 110. Horn and her teammate, Cowan, have teamed up for a great season! Jade Lichty went 3/3 to lead the offense and numerous Warriors with multiple hits!

Final Score: Woodlan 10, Southern Wells 0

Score by the inning: Southern Wells - 0 0 0 0 0=0

Woodlan - 0 6 0 3 1=10

(Continued from Page 6)

there to advance to sectional championship softball action at Van Buren on May 12.

Tia Mendez picked up the win on the mound for the Lady Panthers, tossing the

# PANTHERS SWEEP GMC JH TRACK TITLES



Congratulations to the Paulding JH boys and girls track teams who both won the Green Meadows Conference track meets Tuesday night in Hicksville! The Lady Panthers racked up 97 points to win the championship over second place Fairview (86-1/2) and third place Ayersville (79). Paulding's boys squad totaled 120 points in getting past second place Fairview (106) and third place Wayne Trace (74).

The Paulding boys and girls junior high track teams swept the Green Meadows Conference championships Tuesday night in Hicksville.

The Lady Panthers scored 97 points to win the meet with Fairview second at 86-1/2 and Ayersville third with 79 points. Wayne Trace took fifth with 59 points while Antwerp placed seventh with 46.

Paulding's Kayleigh Dunham was a triple winner for the maroon and white, placing first in the 100 hurdles (18.08), 200 hurdles (32.13) and high jump (4-10).

Antwerp's Kora Zuber won the 100 dash in 13.88 seconds while Paulding's Jayla Griffith was first in the 1600 run with

a time of 5:50.74.

Wayne Trace's 400 relay team of Amber Stoller, Miley Jacobs, Karsyn Troth and Lilly Shepherd was victorious in 56.32 seconds and Antwerp's 800 relay quartet of Emily Laker, Allison Rice, Allison Sproles and Zuber recorded a time of 2:00.43 to take first.

Paulding racked up 120 points to capture while Fairview finished second at 106 and Wayne Trace placed third with 74. Antwerp posted 18 points to take eighth place.

Eli Treece of Wayne Trace took first in the 800 run with a time of 2:19.32 and 1600 run, posting a time of 5:11.80.

Paulding's Bolu Omanayin won the 110 hurdles in 18.70

seconds while the Panther 400 relay team of Jalen Manz, Jack Daeger, Jason Manz and Avery Cooper was first in 53.24 seconds.

Achilles Mead, Jordan Manz, Max Daeger and Jojo Miranda-Guerra combined to win the 3200 relay in 10:01.05, setting a new meet record.

Mead also won the high jump with a leap of 5-4 and the Panthers' Jalen Manz took first in the pole vault after jumping 10-9. Jordan Manz also placed first in the long jump with a leap of 18-4.

Wayne Trace's foursome of Braxton Schnipke, Jaxon Cook, Ben Gurney and Reece Olwin placed first in the 800 relay with a time of 1:53.04

complete game with five strikeouts while allowing seven hits, four runs (one earned) and four walks.

Mendez also was a threat at the plate for the Lady Panthers, finishing with three singles and two runs batted in while scoring once. Maci Kauser chipped in a single and a double while driving in three and scoring twice for the maroon and white.

Jocelynn Parrett, Samantha Leal, Riley Stork and Ryleigh Sanders all singled twice while Jalyn Klopfenstein, Olivia Franklin, Marley Parrett and Eternity Bassett singled once each.

## BLUE JAYS RALLY LATE TO NIP PANTHERS

Delphos St. John's scored

four times in the bottom of the sixth to rally for a 5-2 high school baseball victory over visiting Paulding Monday night.

Brayden Conley pitched four innings in relief to get the win for the Blue Jays, scattering three hits and two walks along with one run while striking out one. Austin Moenter pitched the first three frames, giving up four hits and one run.

Collin Feathers singled twice for the Blue Jays with Grant Ulm and T.J. Werts picked up one single each.

Landen Grothaus, Braylon Metzger, Griffin Mericle and Feathers all scored for Delphos St. John's while Cam Elwer, Feathers and Ulm picked up runs batted in.

Ethan Foltz suffered the loss for the Panthers, surrendering four hits, five runs (one earned) and one walk while striking out nine in six innings of work.

Foltz also recorded a single and a double at the plate for Paulding with Kane Jones singling twice. Nick Manz and Blake Rhonehouse singled once each and Jacob Martinez had a double.

Foltz and Rhonehouse touched home plate for the maroon and white with Martinez and Manz driving in the Panther runs.

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# THE LEFT TURN



Cap Henry in his 33w, passing Zeth Sabo on his way to the feature win at Fremont. Photo Credit: Action Photos

By Ron Burt

I will start with the big announcement from Anderson Speedway and the upcoming Little 500. It's been confirmed USAC winner and 2023 Chili Bowl Champion, Logan Seavey has entered the 75th Annual Lucas Oil Little 500, presented by UAW. In his rookie attempt, Seavey will look to be the first driver ever to win the Chili Bowl and the Little 500 in the same year! It all starts Wednesday, May 24th at the historic Anderson Speedway. The race will be on Saturday, May 27th. Race day, fans will see all 33 non-wing sprint cars that qualified on track at 4:30 p.m. for a brief warm up session before they are gridded on the front stretch. A full field autograph session will take place at 5:30 p.m. and driver introductions will start at 7:15 p.m., before the drop of the green flag. 33 sprint cars in eleven rows of three will take the green flag at 8:00 p.m. 500 laps will be contested with a minimum of two pit stops taking place. The 75th Annual Lucas Oil Little 500 presented by UAW will

pay over \$136,000. The full schedule of the week's activities is on the Anderson Speedway web page. So far, thirty-two of the best Non-wing Sprint Car drivers in the country have signed up to try and make this year's field.

Two races and two wins in a row at Attica Raceway Park this season for McClure, Ohio's Rusty Schlenk in his #91. Most fans would say Rusty has his car dialed in but does he? The three-time national UMP champion used a different line to win Friday, May 5th. Schlenk is a rim-rider, but he powered around the top and dominated the feature. Whatever it takes! He qualified 3rd with a time of 14.756. Rounding out the top 5 in the Late Model feature was 2. Casey Noonan, 3. JR Gentry, 4. Matt Irely, and 5. Devin Shiels. The 410-Winged Sprints were racing at Eldora, so the 305's were the only open wheel class. The A-main went to Fremont Ohio's Jamie Miller. Jamie is a former Attica track champion. It wasn't easy. Miller had his work cut out for him in the 25 lap 305

Sprint feature. With two laps remaining, Kasey Jdrzejek was racing inside of Miller challenging for the lead when he hit one of the infield tires, ending his run. Miller cruised the final two laps for his 36th career division win at Attica Raceway Park. Dustin Stroup, Brandon Moore, Seth Schneider, and Jimmy McGrath rounded out the top five. In Dirt Truck action, Jamie Miller saw double duty as he got out of his 305 and into his truck. May 5th was the only appearance of the season at Attica for the Dirt Trucks. Jamie Miller and Keith Sorg put on a fantastic battle, racing side by side for many laps. Miller led laps 1-5 with Sorg taking over on lap six. Miller suffered a flat tire on the last lap and Sorg scored his third career Attica win over Dan Hennig, Brian Arnold, Jarel "Butch Latte" Perry and Dustin Keegan. Remember Friday, May 19th, the World of Outlaws (Sprints) are coming to Attica Raceway Park. The Kistler Engine Classic will pay \$10,000.00 to win.

Saturday, May 6th at Fremont Speedway, Jamie Miller continued where he left off the night before in spectacular style, sweeping the weekend in the 305-Sprint division. Miller had to hold off several challenges from Mike Keegan and a late race restart to get his 39th career win at Fremont, putting him 12th on the track's all-time win list. Finishing behind Miller, 2. Mike Keegan, 3. John Ivy, 4. Paul Weaver, and 5. Seth Schneider. In 410 Winged-Sprint action, Cap Henry racing for a new team (Jeff Ward of Sandusky), opened historic Fremont Speedway's 72nd year on Johnny Auxter Opening Night. Henry, started seventh in the feature, took the lead from Travis Philo with just four laps to go in the non-stop 30-lap A-main, and drove to his 13th career win at "The Track That Action Built". Finishing behind your leader 2. Travis Philo, 3. Michael, 4. Chris Andrews, and 5. Zeth Sabo. The Dirt Truck A-main was won by Jim Holcomb. For the complete rundown of 17 area Tri-state race-tracks, go to Ohio Sports Blitz on Facebook. Until next week, keep your wheels down. Ron out!

### JOHN HOUPPT PROMOTED TO CHIEF CREDIT OFFICER



Premier Bank is pleased to announce that John Houppt has been promoted to Executive Vice President, Chief Credit Officer.

Houppt joined Premier Bank in April of 2022 as Deputy Chief Credit Officer where he was responsible for credit underwriting, approval and portfolio administration. In his new role as Chief Credit Officer, Houppt is responsible for oversight of the Bank's established credit risk appetite, developing credit risk policies and strategies, credit delivery, portfolio management and

# PAULDING FFA ATTENDS THE 95<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL OHIO FFA STATE CONVENTION



Pictured here are the 41 Paulding FFA members who attended the 95th Annual Ohio FFA Convention in Columbus May 3-5.

By: Grace Goyings, Paulding FFA Reporter

The Paulding FFA Chapter recently took 41 students to the Ohio FFA State Convention held on May 3-5 at the Ohio State Fairgrounds.

The chapter left on May 3rd and toured Mercer Landmark Latty Facility on the way down to the convention. On the tour the students learned about how their operation runs, the process of fertilizer distribution, and how they import and export grain and even got to see how the rail-cars were loaded and sent to be made into poultry feed.

After the tour, they headed to the hotel to unload the bus and then they went and ate dinner at the Cheesecake Factory. After they finished up eating they had the opportunity to go shopping at the Polaris shopping center.

On May 4th, in the morning, the students attended the first general session where they listened to the Keynote Speaker, Lasada Pippen who talked about determination and gave a very inspirational speech to our members.

The chapter then received the Charitable Giving Award

for contributing at least \$500 to a charitable organization in our community. After this, the students headed to the Expo Center and Career Show, to eat lunch and explore all of the different booths. Then the students went back in to listen to the second session. During this session they listened to the Keynote Speaker Zoe Kent and our chapter received the Gold Rated Chapter Award.

Paulding was 1 of 26 chapters out of the 360 chapters in Ohio to receive this award. After the session ended the students went to Dave and Busters where they ate and played games. Friday was day 2 of the FFA State convention, in the morning the students attended session 4 and listened to Keynote Speaker Ryan Williamson, who is a National Officer. Three of our FFA officers received their state award for their gold rated officer books, and those students were: Jamy Hunt, Jalyne Klopfenstein and Cay-dence Rue. Carter Manz was also recognized during this session for placing 1st as an individual in the Aquarium Management CDE, our chapter also received several plaques for our placings in

state CDE events.

The students left and went to tour the Anthony Thomas Candy Factory. They watched how candy was made and packaged. Every student even got \$2 to buy anything they wanted from the gift shop. They returned back to attend session 5 where the Ohio FFA president gave her retiring address and the 2023-2024 Ohio FFA Officers were announced.

During Session 5 there were 9 Paulding FFA members who received their State FFA Degree, the highest degree a state can bestow upon their members. Students who received this degree were Katie Beckman, Kobe Foor, Jamy Hunt, Paige Jones, Tytus Manz, Ally Jo Merriman, Jocelynn Parrett, Janae Pease, and Tyler Schlatter.

The Paulding FFA Chapter definitely had a lot of fun during these 3 days and they want to thank the Paulding FFA Alumni for their support of this trip. We are very grateful for the support of our community and school district as we celebrated the many accomplishments and awards of our chapter.

**Chase J. Fadley,** Hicksville, OH; Distracted driving; Seat belt/drive; Failure to control; Case was waived by defendant

**Josephina Salinas,** Defiance, OH; Seat belt/drive; Guilty; Case was waived by defendant

**Julia J. Snyder,** Defiance, OH; OVI/under influence; Failure to control; Case dismissed without prejudice. Costs waived

**Katrina Shaw,** Van Wert, OH; Attempt-offense; Guilty; Defendant to pay all fines and costs; Pay restitution in the amount of \$116.17; Placed on standard probation; Complete 20 hours of community service; Write a letter of apology; Maintain general good behavior

**Jennifer L. Thomas,** Paulding, OH; Confine of dog; Guilty; Defendant to pay all fines and costs

**Brandon M. Keckler,** Piqua, OH; Driving under suspension; Left turn @McDonalds; Guilty; Show proof of insurance by 5/11/23; Defendant to pay all costs and fine

**Patrick M. Elkins II,** Ce-

leading the credit administration team.

"John has over 25 years of dedicated credit underwriting and credit administration experience with regional banks operating within our markets," said Gary Small, President & CEO, Premier Bank. "His leadership skills and demonstrated knowledge in community banking is invaluable to the Bank as we position ourselves for future success."

He earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Real Estate and Management from the University of Cincinnati's Lindner College of Business; as well as a Master of Business Administration in Corporate Financial Management and Real Estate from The Ohio State University's Fisher College of Business.

"I am excited to join the Premier Bank leadership team," Houppt remarked. "I will work to continue to uphold our strong credit culture and deliver local solutions to our clients while building relationships that make us truly a community bank."

### PAULDING COUNTY COURT RECORDS

**Criminal/Traffic Disposition Report**  
**Michael J. Washington,** Detroit, MI; OVI/under influence, Defendant to appeared without counsel, Pled guilty,

3 days to remain in jail until time is served, License suspension from 5/3/2023 to 5/3/24, Pay or collection 7/28/23, Warrant and warrant block to be removed; Driving under non FRA suspension; No tail lights; Seat belt/drive; Defendant appeared without counsel, Pled guilty; Defendant to pay all fines and costs

**Aaron T. Powell,** Defiance, OH; Zoning violation; Count B dismissed

**Robert L. Bair III,** Leipsic, OH; Domestic violence, Cast dismissed per state, without prejudice; Costs to be taken from bond; Traffic drugs, Defendant waived the preliminary hearing; Case shall be bound over to the Paulding Common Pleas Court

**Barbara A. Landers,** Oakwood, OH; Driving under suspension; Defendant to appeared without counsel, Pled no contest; Pay or collection 12/29/23; Show proof of insurance 5/11/23

**Mantoreha K. Crumrine,** Greenville, OH; Traffic device/signs, Guilty; Case was waived by defendant; Traffic device; signs, Case dismissed

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# McCOLLEY HONORS STATE CHAMPION WRESTLERS



State Senator Rob McColley (R-Napoleon) honored three 2023 Division III State Wrestling Champions today by presenting resolutions recognizing their accomplishments. Liberty Center High School junior Xander Myers won in the 175-pound class; Archbold High School junior Brodie Dominique took the 144-pound title; and Delta High School sophomore Adam Mattin garnered the 106-pound trophy.

McColley. "It was my honor to recognize them for their accomplishments today."

Brodie said he learned from last year's loss in the finals that the key to success was turning his nervousness to excitement right before the match. Xander had to overcome a bloody nose that stopped the match three times for treatment before he prevailed. It was a family affair for Adam. His three brothers and their father have all won state wrestling championships. "Now I know what they were feeling," he said, "pure joy."

## PEVS 2023 ACADEMIC HALL OF FAME RECIPIENTS

The 2023 Paulding Exempted Village Schools Academic Hall of Fame induction will take place at the PHS Graduation ceremony on Sunday, May 21, beginning at 2:30 in the High School Gym. The following former PHS students will be inducted:



**Harvey D. Hyman - Paulding High School Class of 2003**

Harvey D. Hyman was born and raised in Paulding, Ohio. He attended Paulding Village Schools from kindergarten through his senior year.

He graduated from Hillsdale College in 2007 with a BA in Political Science and

earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Toledo School of Law in 2009. He went on to earn an MBA from Defiance College in 2016. Harvey was admitted to practice law in the state of Ohio and Federal Bankruptcy Court in 2010 and joined his father's law firm, Hyman and Hyman, Ltd. that same year.

Harvey is a member and past president of the Paulding County Bar Association, and a member of the Ohio State Bar Association. Harvey also serves on the Northwest Ohio Bar Association Grievance Committee and has represented the attorneys in the Third District of Ohio in the Ohio State Bar Association Counsel of Delegates. Harvey has also worked as the Village Solicitor for the villages of Haviland, Latty, Melrose, Paulding, Payne, and Sherwood, Ohio. He has served as the Vice-President of the Paulding Chamber of Commerce and as President of United Way of Paulding County.

He has also been a member of the board of Hands of Hope, a local crisis pregnancy center focused on assisting expecting and new mothers in

completing their pregnancies and meeting the needs of their children, respectively. He has taught law classes as an adjunct instructor for pre-law and paralegal classes at both Defiance College and Northwest State Community College.

Harvey graduated from the OSBA Leadership Academy in 2019 and is a Fellow with the Ohio State Bar Foundation, a charitable organization which works to enhance public understanding, access to, and appreciation for the law as it applies to individual's lives. Other volunteer work has included: serving as a board member of the Community Improvement Corporation of Paulding, Community Corrections Planning Act Board, and the local Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative panel.

While in law school, Harvey worked in United States Congressman Robert Latta's Bowling Green office as a congressional intern. In 2023, he was appointed Judge of Probate and Juvenile Court for Paulding County by Ohio's governor, Mike DeWine. Harvey resides in Paulding with his wife, Caci (Craig) Hyman (also a PHS graduate) and their four children.

Harvey credits his achievements to the support of his family, particularly his wife and parents (David and Jackie Hyman), his church family, as well as the community, teachers, and opportunities which were all present in Paulding High School. He participated in Advanced Placement classes, learning material at the college level in history and chemistry, as well as the chance to participate in extracurricular activities like the National Honor Society, Engineering Team, Buckeye Boys State, National Chemistry Olympiad Finalist, Science Olympiad, and varsity football and track.

Of his time at Paulding Harvey says: "Attending Paulding High School was a great blessing for me. It gave me opportunities to participate in academic and athletic activities, learn from excellent, dedicated teachers, and make lasting friendships. I will always appreciate the breadth of opportunities that I enjoyed because I attended PHS."



**Major James Hyman - Paulding High School Class of 2005**

Jim Hyman graduated from Paulding High School with the Class of 2005 as the Salutatorian and with highest honors. After graduating, he accepted an Army Reserve Officer Training Course (ROTC) four-year scholarship at The Ohio State University.

While a Cadet, Jim earned numerous awards and distinctions, including the Superior Cadet Decoration Award for military writing twice, and being named a Distinguished Military Graduate for finishing in the top 5% of Army ROTC cadets nationally. He also served on the OSU

Ranger Challenge team and participated in the Sandhurst Competition at West Point. Jim graduated OSU in 2009 with a Bachelor of Arts in History (cum laude, with Distinction in the Arts and Sciences) and a Minor in Military Science. Upon graduation, he was commissioned as an Infantry Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

Jim deployed to Afghanistan as a Rifle Platoon Leader with the 101st Airborne Division in 2010-11. Later, he successfully attended the Special Forces Assessment and Selection Course and graduated the Special Forces Qualification Course in 2014, earning his Green Beret. He has held Detachment Command, Company Command, and several staff positions and has multiple combat and operational deployments as a Special Forces officer.

In 2019, Jim was afforded the opportunity to attend the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. He earned his Master of Science degree from NPS in 2020 and published his thesis on biological warfare. He also successfully completed the Advanced Operations Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. His military schooling includes: Infantry Basic Officer Leader Course (Commandant's List); Ranger School; and Army Special Operations Forces Common Core (Commandant's List).

While at Paulding High School, Jim took AP classes and was involved in NHS, Buckeye Boys State, Student Government, Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership, Science Olympiad, Quiz Bowl, football, baseball, cross country, and track.

Jim continues to serve as an Active Duty Army officer at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He and his wife Katherine have four children. He is the son of David and Jackie Hyman. He would like to thank his parents and his church family for their continued support.

Nomination forms for future Academic Hall of Fame candidates can be found on the school website, www.pauldingschools.org, under the Academics tab, along with all past inductees.

## 22<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER PLANT EVENT

**By: Sarah Noggle, OSU Extension Agriculture, and Natural Resources, Paulding County**

Plants, plants, and more plants will be available at the 2023 Paulding County Master Gardener Volunteer plant event on Friday, May 19th, 2023, from 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 20th from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. or until the plants are gone. The event will take place at the Paulding County Fairgrounds inside the Block Building at 503 Fairground Drive, Paulding, OH 45879.

This annual event will include perennials, annual flowers, herbs, vegetables, trees, and shrubs. This is a fundraiser for the community Master Gardener Volunteer projects and programs. Past projects include benches at the Black Swamp Nature Center, Antwerp Local School hydroponics system, trees for Oakwood Park and Payne Park, trees at Divine Mercy School, planting the bed at

## ANTWERP ELEMENTARY ANNOUNCES APRIL STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Antwerp Elementary recently announced their choices for April Students of the Month. Pictured here are (front row, l-r): Emberly Dunderman, Deana Miller, and Jonathan Cruz Melgar; (middle row, l-r): Max Klender, Mo Reyes, Anna Wiechart, Olivia Kosch, and Jameson Reeb; (back row, l-r): Quinne Bradbury, Conley Bissell, Lane Sensabaugh, and Briggs Zartman. Not Pictured: Grady Stairhime, Quintin Reyes, and Hannah Bradbury.

## DOE-C-DOE MEMBERS OF THE MONTH



Pictured are the Doe-C-DoE 4-H members of the month from April, March, and May. On the left is Cami McAlexander who was selected for April. In the middle is Mackenzie Muir who was selected for May (this last meeting). On the right is Anneliese Zijstra who was selected for March.

the Reservoir Park, assisting with the landscaping at the Habitat for Humanity projects, plants for the fairgrounds and 4-H club projects, assisting the Friends of the Paulding Park Board, the native garden at the Black Swamp Nature Center, downtown Antwerp Village flowerpots, Fort Brown, and MGVMemorial garden.

"Volunteering is a great way to give back to our Paulding County community," stated the Master Gardener Volunteers, "without this event, our program would not have funds to develop

projects within our county."

During the event, the Master Gardener Volunteers will be on hand to answer horticulture and gardening questions. Factsheets and general plant brochures will be available for free. Special items are available to youth, under the age of 10. Bring a child or a friend to experience this great community event. Finally, come early for the best selection of our plants.

For additional information on the Master Gardener Volunteer program contact Sarah Noggle, Paulding County Extension Educator,

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# BOHN SPEAKS TO KIWANIS



The Kiwanis Club of Paulding County was privileged to have Ed Bohn (Director, Paulding County Emergency Management Agency) as the guest speaker at the May 11, 2023, club meeting. Ed came at the invitation of Lisa McClure (Paulding County Commissioner). Ed spoke to the Kiwanians about the Total Solar Eclipse that will happen on April 8, 2024.

# INVESTIGATION LEADS TO 116-COUNT FELONY INDICTMENT FOLLOWING CONVEYANCE AT NUMEROUS PRISONS



COLUMBUS - Three suspects have been indicted in the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas on a combined 116 counts of conveyance-related charges after an investigation by troopers from the

Ohio State Highway Patrol's Office of Investigative Services and investigators from the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation & Correction's Chief Inspector's Office.

The investigation began on

May 28, 2021, when a drone containing contraband was located inside the perimeter fence of the Toledo Correctional Institution. Through the several months-long investigation, troopers and investigators identified three suspects, Robert A. Faulkner, 33, Columbus; Cory A. Sutphin, 28, Grove City; and Charles Gibbs, 33, Sandusky, who were utilizing drones to convey illegal drugs, phones and other contraband onto the grounds of the Toledo, Mansfield, Richland, and Ross correctional institutions, and the North Central Correctional Complex.

As part of the investigation, a search warrant was executed at Faulkner's Columbus residence on November 16, 2021, where a total of \$319,820 worth of illegal drugs, weapons, cell phones and contraband were located and seized. Troopers and investigators believe the contraband was suspected to be used in future conveyance operations at correctional institutions across the state.

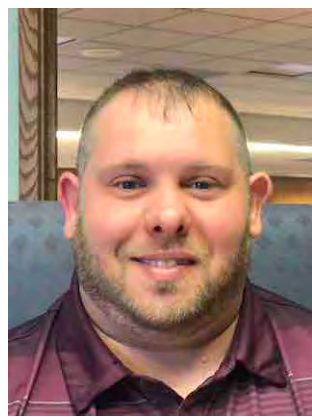
On April 7, 2023, Faulkner (60 felony counts), Sutphin (26 felony counts) and Gibbs (30 felony counts) were indicted. The indictment included engaging in a pattern of corrupt activity, trafficking and possession of cocaine and a fentanyl-related compound, possession of criminal tools, aggravated possession of drugs, and having weapons under disability.

If convicted, Faulkner could face a maximum of 142 years in prison; Sutphin could face a maximum of 69 years in prison; and Gibbs could face a maximum of 83 years and six months in prison.

The ODRC and the OSHP ask you to call 833-DR-C-TIPS to report illegal acts of contra-

band conveyance into Ohio prisons.

# COUNCILMAN JOSHUA DUSLAK TO RUN FOR VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD MAYOR



Village of Oakwood City Councilman, Joshua Duslak, has pulled papers to run for Mayor in the Fall election on November 7th. Duslak, who is a graduate of Paulding High School, has served on the Oakwood City Council since October 2020. He has been a resident of Oakwood since 2005 where he met his partner of 17-years, Britney King. They have two active children, Brooklyn (15) and Jaxson (8).

"I have deep family roots in Oakwood and have always called it my home," says Duslak. "However, over the years I have seen the Village slowly deteriorate losing businesses, jobs, and other opportunities for residents. It's my love for the community that brought me to the City Council, and I believe now it's time for me to step-up to lead Oakwood to a better and brighter future." Duslak added.

Like Paulding County, Oakwood has seen a decline in population over the last several

decades. In the early 1980's, the population of the Village of Oakwood was approximately 900 residents. In 2020, the U.S. Census placed the population at 546.

"There are several different reasons why Oakwood has struggled over the past several decades. The loss of local businesses and jobs would be at the top of that list. And though it would be shortsighted to just blame local leadership for the decline, I do believe it's time for a fresh perspective and a new approach to turn things around in our unique Village," Duslak says.

Duslak is currently employed as an Operations Warehouse Manager for ValuePoint Solutions in Toledo. He is active on many different committees for the Village of Oakwood including serving as vice-president of the Oakwood Ball Association, participating on the committee of the Oakwood Hometown Heroes program as well as facilitating the annual Village of Oakwood Garage Sale event. Duslak is also a member of the Oakwood Development Company, Inc.

Oakwood has a very distinguished history dating back to the initial construction of the original trans-continental railway in the mid-1800's. Today, Oakwood community challenges include business and family residential growth, neighborhood revitalization and improved infrastructure and municipal water, just to name a few.

"I'm bullish on the future of the Village. I believe that strong municipal leadership promotes civic pride - and through civic pride and working together we can bring change that makes the Village

of Oakwood better for all its residents and businesses," Duslak said.

# PAULDING CHAMBER ANNOUNCES BUSINESS WORKSHOP NEW SERIES

The Paulding Area Chamber of Commerce is hosting the Destination Business Workshop series for small businesses in partnership with the Great Lakes Community Action Partnership (GLCAP). The Destination Business Course teaches the proven 14-point business success strategy developed by business consultant Jon Schallert who created this methodology after three decades of coaching independent business owners to make their businesses irresistible to customers. Businesses that follow Schallert's process can attract both local consumers and customers from far beyond the typical geographic market of a business. Representatives from GLCAP are certified facilitators of this course.

The Destination Creation Course consists of 8 downloadable webinars by Schallert, along with interviews with top business authors on topics vital to small businesses and a digital workbook.

This 3-part series of workshops will be held on June 6th, June 20th and July 11th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Paulding. The workshop is FREE to attend but RSVP's are required. You may contact the Paulding Area Chamber of Commerce at 419-399-5215 or by email at pauldingchamber@gmail.com.

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**\$5.75 EACH OR 5/\$25**

Your Choice:  
**ANNIE'S MAC & CHEESE DINNERS:**

- CHEESE PIZZA
- SHELLS & WHITE CHEDDAR
- CHEDDAR & BROCCOLI

**99¢ EA**

IDAHO  
**SCALLOPED POTATOES**  
4 OZ BOX

**\$1.29**

KRAFT  
**OLD ENGLISH SPREAD**

**\$1.59 EACH OR 2/\$3**

**SNAPPLE 6PK**  
1/2 & 1/2  
**TEA & LEMONADE**

**\$3.49**

# SUPER SPECIAL OF THE WEEK

**JUMBO WINGS**

**\$1.99**  
PER LB  
5 LB OR MORE

**BULK OSSIAN BACON**

**\$3.99**  
PER LB

JIMMY DEAN  
**ALL NATURAL SAUSAGE**  
3 LB TUBE

**\$5.99**

**RUSSET POTATOES**  
10 LB BAG

**\$3.99**

CHEF PIERRE  
**THAW & COOK PIES**  
APPLE, CHERRY, PECAN

**\$5.99**