

## WBESC BOARD MEMBER RETIREMENT OF JERRY ZIELKE



Pictured (L-R) are WBESC Treasurer/CFO Tricia Taylor, Jerry and WBESC Superintendent Thomas Taylor.

Western Buckeye ESC School Board Member Jerry Zielke has retired after 40 years of school board service.

Jerry served on the Paulding County School Board, which merged with the Van Wert County School Board to form

(Continued on Page 2)

## OUTGOING BOE MEMBERS RECEIVE GIFT OF APPRECIATION



Paulding Exempted Village Schools presented a gift of appreciation to two outgoing board members at their December meeting.

James Foltz has served on the BOE for 12 years and Brian Egnor served for 8 years.

They each received a charcuterie board made by Mr. Kennedy's woods class.

## PECA OAKWOOD GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY



After years of praying, months of fundraising, weeks of waiting, it all came together on Tuesday, and The Paulding Exempted Character Academy (PECA) received permission to start on the PECA Oakwood Building! Thursday morning December 14th, PECA held a Groundbreaking

Ceremony at the Oakwood site (317 First Street Oakwood, Ohio) which was very well attended by the PECA Board, Schimmoeller Construction Inc., LifeWise Paulding Exempted Teachers, LifeWise Paulding Exempted School Administra-

tion, Oakwood Elementary Students, Oakwood Village Representatives, Oakwood Community Church Leadership and Oakwood Community Members.

During the Groundbreaking Ceremony Kevin Stahl, PECA Board President,

(Continued on Page 3)

## PAULDING COUNTY CARNEGIE LIBRARY TIME CHANGE

The Paulding County Carnegie Library is pleased to announce that beginning January 2, 2024, the Main branch of the library will be extending its hours and opening at 9:00 a.m. every day. Closing hours remain the same, Monday to Thursday closing at 7:00 p.m., Friday at 5:00 p.m. and Saturday at 1:00 p.m. The Antwerp, Payne, Grover Hill and Oakwood branches will continue to open at 10:00 a.m.

## DPLS HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Defiance Public Library System (DPLS) Defiance and Hicksville locations will close early at noon on December 29. All three library locations will be closed December 30 and January 1 for the New Year.

The libraries will reopen January 2 at 10:00 a.m.

## 2023 ANTWERP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WRAP UP

The Antwerp Chamber of Commerce is wrapping up 2023. Chamber began by growing their membership to 48 businesses, 19 non-profits, 9 home-based businesses and 6 friends of the chamber memberships. Home-based

(Continued on Page 4)

## Local Advertisers appreciating local news

Aderman Dental	2
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Ron Burt Ohio Sport Blitz	8
Schmucker Construction	1
TAZ Construction	1
TLREA House For Sale	11

## Support local Organizations & Businesses making this issue of the West Bend News

## Community Calendar

### MON & WED

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

### December 26

- NA meeting @ Cecil Comm. Church, 5pm

### December 27

- Breaking Free @ Cecil Comm. Church, 6pm

### December 31

- Celebration @ Cecil Comm. Church, 6pm

### January 11

- Inspirational Leadership Training @ Defiance College, 8a-4p

### January 12

- Inspirational Leadership Training @ Defiance College, 8a-4p

### January 18

- Chamber Energy Program Webinar, 12-1pm

### January 23

- Farm Outlook Meeting @ Jewell Comm Ctr, 5:30-9pm

### January 29

- Backyard Maple Production Workshop @ Warren Co. Fairgrounds, 6:30-9pm

### February 9

- Purses for a Purpose Bingo @ NSCC, 6pm

### February 22

- Blood Drive @ First Church of Christ, Hicksville, all day



Add your event to the calendar:

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**OBITUARIES**

**LIFEWISE ANTWERP 1<sup>ST</sup> SEMESTER COMPLETE**

**Scripture of the Week**

“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.”

— Luke 2:8-11



ANTWERP, OH:  
**Sue Jordan**, 75, of Antwerp, passed away Tuesday, December 19, 2023, at her home.

Sue was born in Defiance on January 22, 1948, a daughter of the late Margaret (Bakle) & Delbert Jeffery.

Sue cherished moments spent with her family camping, celebrating holidays, and pursuing her passions in genealogy, scrapbooking, gardening, and cooking. Her heart overflowed with love for animals, especially her beloved cats. Sue remained a steadfast supporter of Antwerp Archer Athletics, maintaining her loyal cheers long after her grandkids graduated. Sue's legacy will forever be remembered through the love and warmth she shared with her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

She will be sadly missed by her children, Joni (Patrick) Miesle, Amy (John) Griffin, & Andy (Deanna) Jordan; sister, Judi Parker; grandchildren, Bryant, Erik, Annie (Chad), Christopher, Kyle (Emily), Colt; great grandchildren, Callie, Owen, & Charlotte; & beloved cats, Ivy & Clara.

Sue was preceded in death by her brother, David Jeffery.

Viewing will be Wednesday, December 27, 2023 from 4-6:30, when the Rosary will be recited, at Dooley Funeral Home, 202 W River St., Antwerp.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Thursday, December 28, 2023 at 10 AM at Divine Mercy Catholic Church, 203 W. Townline St., Payne, OH 45880. (PLEASE MEET AT CHURCH).

She will be laid to rest in Maumee Cemetery, Antwerp. Memorials are to the Friends of the Feline Rescue Center or the Antwerp Police Dept.

Fond memories may be shared at dooleyfuneralhome.com.

What an incredible year! We are so thankful to each of our donors, volunteers, and parents for the support you've shown us this year. We wanted to share some updates about what God has been doing this year in the LifeWise Antwerp Classroom.

**The Impact of LifeWise Antwerp**  
At the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year LifeWise Antwerp launched as a pilot program in the Antwerp 6th grade, meeting at the Antwerp Global Methodist Church on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. We started the year with 12 students coming to LifeWise one day a week for 45 minutes. As

of this month, we have grown to 21 students, which is almost half of the Antwerp 6th Grade!

LifeWise staff and volunteers are grateful for you being a part of what God is doing in the lives of these students! Because of you, we at LifeWise Antwerp are able to share the gospel with these students, some of whom have never heard the gospel before walking through our doors.

The LifeWise Antwerp students have made many thought-provoking comments this year. In reference to Eve one student said, “She was called woman, because she was taken from man, but woven by God, wo-man.” When

asked about the Bible a student said, “It is one glorious story of God’s love for us!” As we were reviewing what we have learned, LifeWise Teacher: “Remember this is the land that God promised to Abraham way back in Genesis.” Student: “Oh, that’s why it’s called the Promised Land.” Another student recently told us, “My family is reading the Bible again!”

**The Goal of LifeWise Antwerp**

As we approach the start of a new year, we need a 15-passenger van. As the program has grown, the 12-passenger van that we are currently borrowing to transport students is full for both classes! To share the gospel with more students we need a bigger van, so more students can attend a LifeWise class. To accomplish the goal of purchasing a van, we need to raise \$30,000. We have already raised just over \$7,000 toward our goal! Then we need to locate a used 15-passenger van that is reliable enough to transport our LifeWise Students.

Will you make a special year-end gift? Your gift will allow us to share the gospel with more 6th graders this year. It will also move us one step closer to our long-term goal of sharing the gospel with even more students in the Antwerp Local Schools and having a building closer to the school. Thank you so much for your support!

**THE FIRST CHRISTMAS**

**By: Doris Applegate**

“Twas the night before Christmas,  
On a hillside so bleak,  
The shepherds watched over

A great flock of sheep.  
Many people were coming,  
They had to pay tax.  
Business was booming,  
No merchant was lax.  
Mary and Joseph,  
Tired from the day,  
Sought hard to find shelter,  
But no place to stay.  
“Please,” Joseph said,  
“A stable, a barn,  
The baby is due and  
It sure won’t be long.”  
“Come now, I’ll give you  
A place for the night.  
It is nothing fancy  
And has a dim light.”  
How little they knew

That before very long,  
The place would be lit  
With a light and a song!  
The cattle were quiet,  
The donkeys stood still.  
The sheep, they were settled,  
Mary’s heart felt a thrill!  
At last, oh, at last,  
The baby was born.  
So gently, so softly,  
They were not alone!  
The presence of God,  
“The Father of Lights,”  
Hovered around them,  
Oh, what a sight!  
Angels were singing  
To the shepherds nearby,  
The song was so lovely  
A strong man could cry!  
“Peace, goodwill,  
To men on the earth!”  
A babe born from God,  
Was this really a truth?  
The shepherds they worshipped,  
The Christ, and they

prayed.  
By now it was truly  
The first Christmas Day!  
Many a Christmas  
Has come and has gone.  
Many a people  
Do not have a song.  
Only by coming to Jesus,  
the Christ,  
Believing that He is the  
real sacrifice,  
Can people be happy,  
Peaceful and blest!  
Then will the angels’ song  
Sung on that night,  
Make men of the earth,  
Want to do right.  
The tears and the  
heartaches  
Will all pass away,  
Life worth the living,  
Night turned to day!  
The answer is Jesus,  
The Life, Truth and Way.  
It all came to pass,  
On that first Christmas  
Day!

(WBESC ... continued from Page 1)

the Western Buckeye ESC. He had also served on the Vantage Career Center School Board at one point in his career.

Jerry was recognized for his years of service at the

Western Buckeye ESC’s December meeting. The board and administration expressed a heartfelt thank you to Jerry for his many years of service. There have been many changes locally in education during his tenure, and his impactful service during this time was greatly appreciated.

**OHIO STATE MAPLE SYRUP AVAILABLE**



Still pondering which gift to give to that hard-to-shop-for friend? Are you a Buckeyes fan looking for a unique item to add to your collection? Or, maybe you’re someone who wants pure, fresh maple syrup to go with your breakfast tomorrow morning?

If so, The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) may just have the perfect thing for you—Ohio State Maple Syrup.

It comes from The Ohio State University at Mansfield, where students and faculty with CFAES’ School of Environment and Natural Resources (SENR) run a nearly 20-acre sugarbush. A sugarbush is a maple tree forest used to produce maple syrup.

Now in its fifth year of production, the official Ohio State-branded syrup sales proceeds support CFAES student internships, scholarships, and research projects at the Mansfield campus EcoLab, of which the sugarbush is a part, said one of the project’s co-leaders, Kathy Smith, director of the Ohio Woodland Stewards program.

Each year, the Maple Syrup team—which is made up of SENR faculty, staff, and student interns—typically harvests about 200 gallons of syrup from the Mansfield sugarbush, she said. This year, the team harvested only 123 gallons.

The maple project began as a capstone project, authored by CFAES forestry, fisheries, and wildlife students back in 2018. During a condensed “Maymester” course, the students proposed that the woodlands on the Mansfield campus would make a great sugarbush.

“Students calculated the number of taps they thought the woods would sustain, we then had some maple producers come in, and they agreed that the location would be great for tapping,” Smith said.

The project will soon become a full semester SENR course in 2025, Smith said. Students will learn everything about maple syrup production, including learning what

trees to tap, how to run a sugarbush, how to collect sap, and how to produce the syrup including using an evaporator and a reverse osmosis machine.

Student will also learn about sustainability of maple production, said Gabe Karns, SENR visiting assistant professor and the maple syrup project’s other co-leader.

“Sustainability is a big word that academics use often, but the gravity of what it means at the boots-on-the-ground level is not always clear,” Karns said. “Maple sugaring, done properly, is as sustainable a practice as exists anywhere on the landscape, and we are excited to bring maple under the new university general education course offerings portfolio through the Sustainability Theme lens.”

But that’s not all the CFAES maple syrup program does.

The team also works with maple syrup producers statewide, providing research and information on best practices in maple syrup production and woodland management. The team offers workshops and boot camps that teach how to assess a sugarbush and all the steps that follow, from collecting sap to boiling, bottling, and selling.

That includes working with producers to teach which trees to tap; how to install a tap; how many taps to have; how and when sap flows; how to collect sap; how to store and filter sap; how to make value-added products such as maple cream, maple candy, and granulated maple sugar; and also how to market what they make.

And for those folks who have maple trees on their property and want to learn how to tap them, the maple team has programing for you, too.

A Backyard Maple Production workshop will be held Jan. 29, 2024, from 6:30-9 p.m. at the Event Center on the Warren County Fairgrounds, 665 N. Broadway St., in Lebanon, Ohio. The workshop will feature information on what, when, and how to tap a maple tree, how to handle sap, how to boil sap, and how to finish and package the resulting syrup. The class fee is \$20 and includes materials and snacks for the evening.

The deadline to register for the workshop is Jan. 24, 2024. Register online at woodlandstewards.osu.edu. Visit , view the CFAES maple blog at u.osu.edu/ohiomaple.

**Thank you**

We want to thank everyone that called, sent cards, words of sympathy, flowers sent and food dropped off.

Archie was a father, grandfather, husband, step-father, step-grandfather and a great-grandfather.

*The family of Archie N. Jackson, Hicksville, OH*

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# THE LIGHTS OF JINGLE BELL HILL



Payne Elementary's 4th, 5th and 6th grade students presented our Christmas program "The Lights of Jingle Bell Hill" on Friday December 15. The Nativity scene was displayed by 3rd graders Layne Delgado, Henry Childs, Dodger Boyd, Hank Mullins, Nellie McMillan, Mary Gerardot, Maylee Stoller and Aubree Philpot.

## OHIO STATE LIMA ANNOUNCES NORTHWEST CONFERENCE SCHOLASTIC BOWL TOURNAMENT 2023 RESULTS



From left: Quinn Tomlinson, Sam Boroff, Jacob Pawlick, Levi Ludwig, Saxton Short and Dean Margaret Young.

Bluffton took home top honors at the 2023 Northwest Conference Scholastic Bowl Tournament held Friday, December 15, at The Ohio State University at Lima. Van Wert

County rivals Crestview and Lincolnview tied for runner-up in the varsity division. Spencerville won the junior varsity division and Lincolnview took home runner-up.

The winning varsity team from Bluffton included Cole Bowers, Asa Clingerman, Caitlyn Couch, Carly Hanum, Alyssa Hoffman, Liam Jordan, Avery Kinn, Ethan Nickel, Tesa Stricklen and John-Paul Yoder. The team finished with a 7-1 record to win the tournament. The runner-up varsity team from Crestview finished with a 6-2 record and included Sam Boroff, Jacob Pawlick, Quinn Tomlinson, Saxton Short and Levi Ludwig. The Lincolnview team also finished with a 6-2 record and included Clayton Priest, Lindsey Hatcher, Ashley McKenzie, Siska VanWynsberghe and Evan Elling.

The winning JV team from Spencerville included John Holtzapple, Nathan Hemker, Beau Kyler, Ayden Briggs, Max Wiss and Noah Eutsler. The team finished with an 6-1

record. The runner-up JV team from Lincolnview included Delana Rank, Kendall Hoffman, Abby Dannenfeler, Olivia Moonshower, Ella Elling, Abby Jones, Zach Newell, Gavin Priest, Grace Custer and Tyler Eddy. Their record was 5-2.

The Bluffton coaches are Brigitte Hoff and Scott Hoff. Lincolnview coach is Deb Stetler, Crestview is Aimee Bassett and Spencerville is Joshua Vasquez.

The Northwest Conference Scholastic Bowl All Tournament Team was chosen by the coaches and made up of one member from each school. The 2023 All Tournament Team members are Dakota Gossman from Ada, Ransom Holman from Allen East, John-Paul Yoder from Bluffton, Simon Zimmerly from Columbus Grove, Sam Boroff from Crestview, Charlie Wagner from Delphos Jefferson, Gavin Bryan from Leipsic, Clayton Priest from Lincolnview, and Ashton Peters from Spencerville.

High school teams went head-to-head in the round-robin scholastic bowl tournament. Varsity and junior varsity teams from Ada (Gary Wells), Allen East (Kristin Dixon), Bluffton (Brigitte Hoff and Scott Hoff), Columbus Grove (John Vennekotter), Crestview (Aimee Bassett), Delphos Jefferson (Rebekah Dubey and Marie Groch), Leipsic (Robb Cupp), Lincolnview (Deb Stetler), and Spencerville (Joshua Vasquez) competed. Coaches' names are in parentheses.

The competition is hosted and sponsored by The Ohio State University at Lima.

### PCED BOARD CLOSES OUT 2023 STRONG

The Paulding County Economic Development Board of Directors recently held their final meeting of 2023. The lunch meeting was a culmination of what was a very strong business year in the county including a reported \$95,559,296 in new capital investment in the county.

The main topic of discussion was the upcoming changes within the board. Two of the board members, Paulding Mayor Greg White, representing the Paulding County Mayors Association, and Bud Koenig, representing the Paulding County Planning Commission, had their respective terms expire. Both indicated they will not renew their terms to allow the opportunity for new members to participate on the board. The board of directors will be setting up interviews for the open positions very soon.

The board was presented minor changes to the business by-laws by the Governance Committee. The recom-

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### MILITARY HISTORY IN PAULDING COUNTY



By: Mark Holtsberry

Frederick F. Johnson was born in Antwerp, Ohio in 1883. The son of James L. born December 31, 1858 in Ohio and Carrie S. (Goshorn) Johnson born in 1864 in Ohio. Her father, Andrew Jackson Goshorn, was a Civil War Veteran who served with 147 Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

Anyway, I went down a rabbit hole... James and Carrie were married September 4, 1881 in Paulding. On September 2, 1884 a daughter, Eva M. was born, followed by a son, Thomas W. July 27, 1886, Flossie May, September 14, 1891, and Charles E. March 14, 1892.

By 1900, the Johnson family was living in Antwerp. James was a blacksmith. All the children were in school. On October 24, 1904, Carrie's father, Andrew passed away he was buried in Riverside Cemetery, Antwerp. By 1910, it is unclear where Frederick took off too, but, I believe he went to work for the cement plant quarry.

On May 31, 1917, Frederick signed up for the National Guard out of Toledo. His occupation was listed as a metallurgist.. He stood 5'7" tall, brown hair, brown eyes, light complexion. He was assigned to serve in the 1st Ambulance Company Ohio National Guard and then he was promoted to Corporal, November 5, 1917. Assigned to regu-

lar Army to serve in the 148th Ambulance Company 112th Sanitary Train, 37th Division. Promoted to Sergeant March 21, 1918. On June 28, 1918 Frederick boarded the ship, "Plassy" at Brooklyn, New York and set sail for France. He will serve in the Muese-Argonne, Ypres-Lys defensive sector. Wounded in action November 1, 1918. Honorably Discharged April 12, 1919.

What is very interesting, Frederick's brothers, Thomas and Charles also served overseas in France, and yes, they made it home also. Returning home Frederick got married in Monroe, Michigan May 1, 1919 to a gal named Agnes K. Courtner, born February 26, 1896 in Alabama.

In 1920, Frederick and Agness moved back to Antwerp, living on Main Street. Frederick worked at the stone Quarry as an Engineer. That same year, March 3, 1920, a daughter, Vilhetha Samantha Johnson was born. By 1930, Frederick, Agnes and Vilhetha, were still living in Antwerp. Frederick was working as a manager at the furniture factory in Antwerp.

On May 10, 1933, Frederick's father, James passed away. By 1940, Frederick, Agnes and Vilhetha were living at 413 South Main Street in Antwerp. On June 4, 1940, Frederick passed away. He was buried in Maumee Cemetery in Antwerp. Section A., lot 517, grave 6. On September 23, 1943 in Indiana, Vilhetha married a fella named, George Samuel Jump. They moved to Virginia where George served in World War Two. Rising to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Agness moved to Arlington, Virginia to be with her daughter. Agnes passed away December 8, 1982 and was brought home to be buried with Frederick in Maumee Cemetery. Vilhetha, a retired nurse, passed away in 2010 and is buried in Arlington, Virginia.

...Until Next Time!

mended changes will be reviewed by individual board members and voted on at the 2024 reorganizational meeting on January 9. Also presented for review was the proposed budget and meeting dates and times for 2024. The board will together be reviewing and updating the office strategic plan after the first of the year.

2024 membership investment information has been distributed. The board would like to thank all that have in-

vested into PCED office in the past and look forward to serving Paulding County and the region in the future.

Board members around the room each presented updates for the entities they represent. This created great business dialog. The roundtable discussion ends each board meeting and allows opportunity for members to learn about other entities and local business within the county.

move forward with its mission to share the gospel with public school students. Chuck Moran, LifeWise Paulding Exempted - Oakwood Elementary Teacher prayed for the project, construction workers, students, and ministry that will leave a legacy in this community. The ceremony ended with Kevin Stahl, Traci Koenig and Jackie Schimmoller turning over the first shovels of dirt for the project.

A Groundbreaking attendee commented, "This is the most exciting thing to happen in Oakwood since I have been alive!"

Shortly after the Ground-breaking Ceremony, Schimmoller Construction Inc. began working and construction is officially underway. If the weather is good through the winter, PECA Oakwood should take 6 months to complete. The Paulding Exempted Character Academy and LifeWise Paulding Exempted plan to have a Grand Opening in August as the LifeWise Paulding Exempted - Oakwood Elementary students officially begin holding classes in the building for the 2024-2025 school year.

(LifeWise ... continued from Page 1)

shared a few words about the project and his thankfulness for the support and donations of the Oakwood Community that are making the building possible. Then Traci Koenig, LifeWise Paulding Exempted Director, expressed her excitement that the LifeWise Paulding Exempted - Oakwood Elementary Students will have a building that is closer to the school, a sentiment shared by the LifeWise Classroom Volunteers, and will allow LifeWise Paulding Exempted to

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# SOLAR ECLIPSE UPDATE



## SAVE THE DATE!

In 2024, a total eclipse will go through Ohio. Start planning for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!"

**Eclipse.Ohio.Gov**

On April 8th, 2024 the State of Ohio will be the center of attention, not only in the United States but the whole World, as the Total Solar Eclipse occurs after 3:00pm, and will last the longest period of time of any state in the United States. It is being estimated that the population of Ohio could nearly double, with the amount of people coming from other state and other countries. That's right twice the number of people from all walks of life, and that includes right here in, Paulding County! We are estimating 5,000 to 8,000 additional people that day. 70 percent of the United States population lives within a one day's drive of Ohio.

The Paulding County Emergency Management Agency has been planning for this event since September of 2022. There is already a task force of county leaders that are working on making the once in a lifetime event be a success and more importantly, as safe as possible. Some of the areas of concern are; established locations for

view, managing the increase in traffic, having enough food, refreshments and fuel on hand for the weekend. Organization of businesses and retail, including merchandising of items to remember the event by, Paulding County's EMA Director, Edward Bohn stated.

First Responders, Fire, EMS the Sheriff's Office and the Paulding County Hospital are coordinating efforts to provide service throughout the entire weekend. Schools will be taking part in the special occasion, with the teachers planning activities leading up to the eclipse and discussions following it as well. The State of Ohio has a statewide taskforce in place and has been in contact with a number of state and federal agencies to gear up for the overwhelming number of people, Director Bohn said.

The mayors of the eleven villages are deciding on locations for viewing in Paulding County. We hope to have those locations established in January. We are encouraging organizations, clubs, sports

teams, to establish fundraising ideas. Anyone thinking about serving food and beverages, can get with the Paulding County Health Department, and find out what the recommendation will be to have food stands set up, what environmental guidelines one has to go by and so on. There will be a monthly and bi-monthly article in the Paulding Progress to keep the public informed of updated information, pertaining to the April 8th, 2024 Total Solar Eclipse.

In the meantime, we will be having two public meetings at the OSU Extension Hall, Thursday January 25th at 7:00 pm and February 22nd at 7:00pm. I will be more than happy ,if any club, organization, school, church group etc., would like a 30-minute presentation along with a Q&A, about the eclipse, they can contact EMA Director Edward Bohn, at (419)399-3500 or email the office at [ema@pauldingcounty-oh.com](mailto:ema@pauldingcounty-oh.com).

—Edward Bohn Director Paulding County EMA

(Continued from Page 1)

business category ranges from local crafters to direct sales representatives. Business spotlights were completed and publicized for More Than Boutique, Pin-A-Rama, Five Star Deck Building and Fencing, and Puckerbrush Pizza of Antwerp. Grand Openings and Ribbon Cuttings were held for 2 new businesses/business owners this year: Ignite Dance Academy and The Upper Nine golf simulation business.

For the fifth year Antwerp Chamber awarded the Antwerp Chamber Scholarship to Lance McKeever, who graduated from Vantage Career Center in the Industrial Mechanics program. He plans to attend Purdue University,

Fort Wayne seeking a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering. Lance was paired with Mark Greenwood to be a source of information for Lance as he continues in his career. Cutie Pie Contest during Day in the Park supports this scholarship fund each year. Scholarship was increased this year from \$500 to \$750 due to the generosity of the community support.

In May Antwerp Chamber celebrated Mother's Day with a Ladies Day Out. Community businesses ran special sales and home-based businesses were open at the VFW Community Room. Chamber handed out punch cards to shoppers and encouraged them to stop at a minimum of 3 businesses to have their card

entered in a drawing to win a Mother's Day Gift Basket.

In April Chamber sponsored a dinner theatre with the play No Compromise written by local author, Jane Nice and directed by Renee Boss. The story is the dynamism of the Three Mile Reservoir which is a rich part of Antwerp History. Local actors, business leaders and interested county residents participated in the play which raised \$4,446.00 for the Downtown Mural Project.

In June Antwerp Days returned thanks to the hard work and dedication of the members of Antwerp Community Development Committee. This two-day event was held at the Fire Station/VFW and along Cleveland St. The Chamber sponsored the GEM of the Year Award and also a Silent Auction with all proceeds going to the Downtown Mural Project. Denise Coleman was selected by the community as the GEM of the Year for 2023.

In July Antwerp Chamber sponsored a Kiddie Parade and Candy Bar Bingo with the theme of 4th of July. The parade of decorated bikes, scooters, wagons and strollers proceeded through town ending at the VFW pavilion for a rousing game of Bingo. Winners received candy bars donated by Chamber member, GenFed Financial Credit Union.

The Chamber donated a Chamber Choice plaque for the Boy Scouts Car Show in July. The award is chosen by a Chamber member who attends the event and browses the long line of cherished vin-

tage and antique vehicles that were displayed along South Main St.

The downtown mural was completed in July. Total cost of the mural was \$15,827.00. The Chamber raised \$18,557.00 for the project. Donations were received from Rollie and Ruth Clem, Jean Detmon Family, Geenex Solar, Therma-Tru, ACDC, VFW Post 5087 and the Paulding Putnam Round up program among other anonymous donations. Chamber activities with proceeds to the project were the Wine Bus Tour, the No Compromise Play and the Silent Auction. The excess monies were donated to the proposed Basketball Court at the Antwerp Ball Fields. The Antwerp Chamber of Commerce are so thankful to everyone who assisted in this awesome project - especially the artist, University of St. Francis instructor, Tim Parsley. The mural is displayed on the side of the Friend Flooring building.

In August Antwerp Rotary Club took over sponsorship of Day in the Park and did a fabulous job with is annual event. The Chamber continued to support the event by holding the Cutie Pie contest that day. It was a beautiful day and the event was enjoyed by those that attended.

In October Antwerp Chamber held its first Chocolate Walk. Punch cards were distributed and 13 businesses participated. Chocolates were prepared by Antwerp Global Methodist ladies. People could purchase a chocolate only ticket or a chocolate and wine ticket. 44 people participated with raving reviews.

In early November Chamber sponsored a Wine Bus Trip to 3 wineries in Indiana. 37 tickets were sold and the proceeds were given to the Basketball Project at the Antwerp Ball Fields.

Small Business Saturday, held on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, was a huge success with many businesses having a very profitable day. Thank you to the Antwerp Global Methodist Church for allowing us to use their facility that day for the Welcome Center. A thank you to all the Chamber members was placed in the West Bend News with a reminder to Shop Small.

Next, we held a Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony at Greenway Park next to the police station. The evening event was enhanced by the Antwerp Band and Choir and the Antwerp Show Choir helping usher in the holiday season. The tall tree next to Town Hall is no longer able to support the lights and star so the arbor area behind the tennis court was decorated with the nativity scene and some reindeer and the small live pine tree planted 3 years ago by Chamber volunteers. It is the Chamber's hope that this tree will grow into the future Antwerp Christmas tree.

Santa's Secret Shop was again an enjoyable event for our kiddos and a chance for businesses to show off a few gifts. For \$5 per gift, a child could shop in Santa's Secret Shop for their family members, teachers or friends. Once again, Chamber members, Antwerp VFW, allowed their space to be used for this event. All items are provided by our local businesses and all monies went back to the businesses. This year \$1,015.00 went back to local businesses.

We wrapped up 2023 with Santa's Mailbox set up next to

the Town Hall. Busy little elves helped Santa answer over 100 letters to Santa!

Chamber Bucks continue to be a hit with gift givers. Many businesses, groups and individuals purchased Chamber Bucks to show their appreciation. For more information about Chamber Bucks and how to get them or use them, contact Chamber treasurer, Sue Fowler, and she will stop in your business and reimburse you for the amount of the Chamber Buck.

Chamber Gift Certificates are also available at the Antwerp Exchange Bank. Gift Certificates make a great gift or a nice way to pay it forward for a person or family in need. The certificate, in the form of a check, can be used anywhere in Antwerp. The check cannot be used for cash.

The Antwerp Chamber of Commerce continues to be committed to Preserve, Pro-

mote and Protect all the businesses in the Antwerp community. We welcome any feedback from individuals or businesses with the purpose to promote business in Antwerp. We also encourage anyone interested in promoting or expanding the Antwerp business community to join us at Antwerp Chamber Monthly Meetings on the third Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. at the Pin-A-Rama: Bowling, Diner & Pizza. You do not need to own a business to be a member of the Chamber. There is an Individual Membership category as well, we invite you to join us.

Antwerp Chamber recognizes all Antwerp businesses and appreciates the support they all have for each other, and the board of the Antwerp Chamber of Commerce is looking forward to serving in 2024.

## PAULDING AREA CHAMBER ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF HOLIDAY WINDOW DECORATING CONTEST



Shannon Ruschel at PC WMEA office.



Limitless by PC Workshop crew.

By: Erica Noggle

Paulding, OH: The Paulding Area Chamber of Commerce proudly reveals the winners of this year's Holiday Window Decorating Contest.

Limitless by PC Workshop secured the People's Choice Award, captivating the community with its imaginative and festive display. WMEA of Paulding County earned the Judge's Choice Award for their remarkable blend of creativity and holiday spirit.

The Chamber extends

heartfelt congratulations to both winners and deep appreciation to all participating businesses for contributing to the festive atmosphere in Paulding County.

A special thank you goes to our distinguished panel of judges for the Judge's Choice Award: Angie Stokes, Kinsey Miller, and Gabbie Stahl. Their expertise and discerning eyes added immeasurable value to the contest, making the selection process even more meaningful.

## 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

## 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](http://www.pauldingcountywmea.com)

# RAIDERS TOP TIGERS IN FRIDAY NIGHT BOYS BASKETBALL



Liberty Center Tigers attempts to block this shot by Brady Miller but miss and gives the Raiders another 3 points! More pictures at westbendnews.net

Friday night basketball at the Palace saw Wayne Trace Raiders go head to head with Liberty Center Tigers on December 15th. Raiders paced the game putting 17 points on the scoreboard at the end of the first quarter and the Tigers only earned 4. Liberty Center matched Raider momentum in the 2nd quarter and third quarter. It was the final quarter that took the Raiders to the

top of the scoreboard at the buzzer sounded: 61-40.

Score by Quarters:

Liberty Center (0-1) - 4 15 14 7 = 40

Wayne Trace (5-0) - 17 15 14 15 = 61

Liberty Center Scoring:

Hunter Spangler 1-0-0-2;

Mason Like 0-1-0-3; Seth

Navarre 4-0-0-8; Max Walker

1-0-0-2; Camden Robinson 0-3-0-9; Gavin Geahlen 7-0-2-

16

Wayne Trace Scoring:

Hudson Myers 2-0-2-6;

Tanner Laukhuf 1-0-0-2;

Brady Miller 1-1-0-5; Caden

Sinn 0-1-0-3; Tyson Gerber 1-

0-0-2; Brooks Laukhuf 7-2-2-

22; Kyle Stoller 10-0-1-21

Junior Varsity - Wayne

Trace 49, Liberty Center 31

## SUPER 10 TOURNAMENT @ NEW HAVEN



New Haven Wrestling hosted the Super 10 at New Haven High School on December 16th. New Haven came in second place out of 10 teams. Avon High School won the tournament over New Haven. Pictured above is NH Bulldog, Timmy Rocha. Photo by Melissa Amstutz

### PARSON TO PERSON

By: Dr. James Bachman

Dear Parson,

*My pastor keeps saying every Christian should witness, but I am afraid and a poor talker. Is it O.K. if I just pray and give so others with more speaking ability can witness?*

Your pastor is right. God expects all Christians who can speak at all to witness and teach (Matthew 28:19-20). The end of the world has not come and the apostles are not here. The Lord was speaking to us and not just the apostles.

Moses used the "poor talker" excuse when God commanded him to go and speak for Him. The Lord knew he was slow of speech because He made him that way (Exodus 4:10-11). However, in verse 12 God said, "...go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say." He has made the same basic promise to you and me in Matthew 28:20, after He gave us the great commission. He said, "...lo, I am with you always." Eloquence is not required, but willingness is. You are merely the instrument and He is the musician. Don't resist His desire and ability to speak through you.

Paul learned his weakness, given over to God's grace, made him stronger than if he had no weakness (II Corinthians 12:7-10).

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Send questions and comments to: jamesbachman@juno.com

### ARCHERS OUTLAST BIG GREEN FOR A WIN

A quick start put Antwerp in front and the Archers held on at the end to record a 46-42 victory over host Ottoville last Tuesday evening in non-league boys basketball play.

The blue and white took a 19-11 advantage at the end of one quarter and the Archers extended the margin to 30-21 after two quarters.

Ottoville sliced into the deficit in the third quarter, picking up 13 points in the period compared to seven for Antwerp as the Big Green trimmed the deficit to 37-34 entering the final stanza.

The Paulding County squad then put the game away with a nine-point fourth quarter while holding Ottoville to eight, setting the final margin at 46-42.

Carson Altimus led a trio of Antwerp players in double figures with 18 points while Landon Brewer added 13 markers and Reid Lichty chipped in 11. Ben Savina had the remaining four points for the Archers.

Landon Horstman topped (Continued on Page 6)

## ARCHERS CRUISE TO THIRD WIN



Archer Senior Landon Brewer goes up & gets the dunk! Photo by Harlee Moore.

Visiting Antwerp improved to 3-0 on the season as the Archers posted a 57-40 win over Continental in non-league boys basketball action Saturday.

The Archers took a 15-6 lead following eight minutes of action in the contest before adding to the margin in the second quarter. Antwerp picked up 16 points in the second stanza compared to 13 for the Pirates, widening the gap to 31-21 at the half-way point of the game.

Antwerp put the game away in the third quarter with an 18-point outburst as Continental scored just ten for a 49-29 Archer lead entering the final stanza.

Zaine McMichael scored

23 points to lead the way for the Archers with Landon Brewer also reaching double figures with 15 points.

Also finding the scoring column for the blue and white were Reid Lichty (five), Aiden Lichty (four), Carson Altimus (four), Syris Gale (two), Ben Savina (two) and Camden Fuller (two).

Jonathan Etter scored 15 points and Monty Rayle added 13 to lead the Pirates while Carson Etter posted six markers. Quinn Tegenkamp and Tyson Clementz chipped in three points apiece for Continental.

Antwerp's junior varsity also was victorious, defeating the Pirates 47-20.

### READER PICK-UP LOCATIONS

#### OHIO LOCATIONS

**Antwerp:** Antwerp Corner Cafe, Antwerp Pharmacy, H2O, Antwerp Exchange Bank, Family Dollar, 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, Defiance Public Library

**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, Citgo, Marathon, Dollar General, Subway, Senior Center, Village offices, Johnson Memorial Library, Red Angel Pizza

**Key:** Marathon

**Oakwood:** Oakwood Market, The Oakleaf, Dollar General, Library, Landing Strip

**Paulding:** Stykemain, Chief, Corner Market, Integrity Ford, Holly, Wood & Vine, Napa Do It Best, Maramart, Dollar General, Dairy Queen, Rite Aid, Ace Hardware, Gorrell Bros., Albert Automotive, Paulding Courthouse, Paulding VFW Post 587, Paulding Co. Liquors, Post Office, Dollar Sheriff's Office, Board of Elections, Gardens of Chop Shop, ACP Library, Paulding, Paulding County Willies Cafe II

Hospital, Kwik Mart, PC Carnegie 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, Sherwood Library

**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 Post 587, Paulding Co. Liquors, Post Office, Dollar Sheriff's Office, Board of Elections, Gardens of Chop Shop, ACP Library, Paulding, Paulding County Willies Cafe II

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# ARCHERS POST SWEEP OF EAGLES



Junior Faith Clem picks up the rebound and shoots the ball back in for two more points, helping the Lady Archers in this decisive victory. More pictures at westbendnews.net

The Antwerp boys and girls varsity basketball teams swept to victories over visiting North Central Tuesday evening in non-league play.

The Lady Archers opened a 19-7 lead after one quarter and flew past the visiting Eagles 55-25. Antwerp led 33-14 at the halfway point of the contest and took a 43-23 advantage into the final period.

Addyson Turner topped North Central with nine points and Mallory Groves

added six markers. Mireya Cruz chipped in five points for the Lady Eagles while Ava Gruber and Amara Wright added a bucket each. Addie Burger also hit one free throw for the Williams County squad.

Caroline Rohrs paced Antwerp with 18 points and Aewyn McMichael chipped in 16 for the Lady Archers. Other scorers for the blue and white were Emma Townley (eight), Faith Clem (six), Tay-



Antwerp senior Reid Lichty is passed the ball and drives to in score two points for the Archers on this layup! More pictures at westbendnews.net

lor Shull (three), Madisyn Peters (two) and Maylynn Carnahan (two).

On the boys side, Antwerp jumped out to a 25-8 advantage at the end of eight minutes of action in coasting to a 69-54 victory.

The blue and white took a 36-21 lead at the midway point of the contest before recording a 53-36 margin at the end of three periods.

Pacing the way for the blue and white was Landon Brewer with 24 points and Reid Lichty chipped in 17 markers. Carson Altimus and Zaine

McMichael also reached double digits as well for Antwerp with 11 points apiece.

Aiden Lichty also finished with four points and Camden Fuller picked up a basket for Antwerp.

Johnny Hicks and Joey Burt led the way for North Central with 11 points apiece while Gage Kidston and Ben Pettit both scored nine points for the Eagles.

Other scorers for the Williams County squad were Cohen Meyers (eight), Zach Whitley (four) and Anton Hegler (two).

# LADY PANTHERS CLAIM VICTORY OVER HOLGATE



Tuesday, December 18th, the Lady Panthers of Paulding played host to the Holgate Lady Tigers. Paulding laid claim to the court in this game and won by a large margin: 52-29- Paulding senior Ellie Barton is fouled and sent to the line. Ellie Scores both points, contributing to a solid win for the Lady Panthers! More pictures at westbendnews.net

(Continued from Page 5)

the Big Green with 16 points and Michael Turnwald chipped in ten markers.

Other scorers for Ottoville were Jace Langhals (six), Ashton Miller (four), Garrett Trentman (three) and Adam Brinkman (three).

## SECOND QUARTER SHUTOUT LIFTS PARKWAY OVER ANTWERP

After a tight first quarter that saw Parkway post a two-point advantage over visiting Antwerp, the Lady Panthers blanked the Archers in the second quarter to break the game open on the way to a 41-17 win over the blue and white Saturday, December 16.

Parkway led just 6-4 at the end of one stanza but it was all Panthers in the second quarter. The black and gold bucketed 11 markers in the second period while blanking Antwerp as the Mercer County squad posted a 17-4 advantage at the midway point of the contest.

The Lady Panthers added to the lead in the third quarter, bucketing a dozen points in the period while holding Antwerp to seven to record a 29-11 margin entering the final quarter.

Paige Williamson paced Parkway with 15 points in the contest while Megan Hughes added nine and Audrey Nichols chipped in eight.

Adria Miller posted four points for the Lady Panthers followed by Madelyn Stover (3) and Cali Bollenbacher (2).

Antwerp was led by Aewyn McMichael with nine points while Caroline Rohrs posted six and Faith Clem picked up a basket.

## ROUTE 49 HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT OPENING NIGHT

Antwerp and Hicksville girls basketball kicked off the 2023 Rout 49 Holiday Tourna-

ment at Edon High School on Thursday night, December 21st. The Lady Archers took charge and ruled the court in this first game match up. Rohrs and McMichael were high scorers for this game, with 17 and 22 markers respectively. Final score: 61-32.

Score by Quarters:  
Hicksville - 6 10 3 13 = 32  
Antwerp - 11 19 18 13 = 61

Hicksville Scoring:  
Kennedy Adams 3-0-1-7;  
McKenna Baird 2-0-1-5; Adelyn Radford 1-0-0-2;  
McKenna Rice 1-1-1-6; Evy Porter Alexander 2-0-1-5; Lilly Miller 1-0-0-2; Hayden Neidhardt 1-0-3-5

Antwerp Scoring:  
Caroline Rohrs 6-1-2-17;  
Raeley Franklin 1-0-0-2; Gracie Stoller 1-0-0-2; Faith Clem 2-0-0-4; Aewyn McMichael 5-4-0-22; Emma Townley 1-1-3-8; Madisyn Peters 1-0-0-2; Briley Bagley 1-0-0-2; Allison Sproles 1-0-0-2

## BIG WIN FOR LADY RAIDERS

The Lady Raiders of Wayne Trace High School traveled to Cougar Country in high school girls basketball on Tuesday night December 19th. Wayne Trace dominated the Cougars' court in this match up with a final score of 42-27 for the Raiders to take back home.

Score by Quarters:  
Wayne Trace (5-2) - 13 7 8 14 = 42

Van Wert (2-5) - 6 6 7 8 = 27

Wayne Trace Scoring:  
Ava Zartman 1-1-0-5;  
Tianna Sinn 1-1-0-5; Harper Myers 1-0-2-4; Careen Winans 0-3-0-9; Lexi Moore 2-0-1-5; Caroline Winans 3-1-3-12; Kathleen Stoller 1-0-0-2

Van Wert Scoring:  
Kendra Deehring 6-0-0-12; Katie DeAmicis 1-1-3-8; Jazzlyn Florence 1-0-2-4; Amaya Dowdy 0-1-0-3

Junior Varsity - Wayne Trace 33, Van Wert 15



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*The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;  
the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. —Numbers 6:24-26*

# THE LEFT TURN



Can Jesse Love repeat as ARCA/Menards Champion in 2024. *Charlie Orns photos*



Look for Outlaw Late Model driver Trevor Berry back at Toledo and Flat Rock. *Charlie Orns photos*



Trey Osborne will compete in a Midget at The Rumble in Fort Wayne. *Randy Crist photos*

By: Ron Burt

Race fans that made the trip to the Dome in St Louis to watch the 7th Annual Gateway DIRT Nationals weren't disappointed with the action during the Super Late Model and Modified events. The 1/5-mile dirt oval inside the former home of the NFL Rams was a challenge for drivers in both classes even though they were some of the biggest names in racing. This year the A Feature for the Modifieds was won by Drake Troutman. Rounding out the Top-5, 2nd Mike Harrison, 3rd Jordan Grabowski, 4th Michael Ledford, and 5th Kyle Steffens. During the Late Model feature many drivers fell victim to the inside wall as faster drivers tried to work their way through the field during heats, semi's, and the feature. When the dust cleared, and competi-

tive tempers started to settle down Brandon Sheppard held the checkered flag and winners check. Right behind your winner was, 2nd Ricky Thornton (Jr), 3rd Tanner English 4th Devin Moran, and 5th Chris Simpson. This has become such a big event, tickets are now on sale for next year's race December 5-7, 2024.

Toledo and Flat Rock Speedway made some big announcements this week as the 2024 schedules came out. This is Toledo's 67th season and the track will host 8 races highlighted by the ARCA/Menards Series, USAC Silver Crown Series, 500 Sprint Car Tour, Midwest Modified Tour, ASA STARS National Tour, and ARCA sanctioned racing for it's Late Model Sportsman and Factory Stock divisions. The USAC Silver Crown Cars

will open the new season with the Rollie Beale Classic 100 along with Late Model Sportsman and Factory Stocks on Saturday, April 20th. The annual Rollie Beale Classic 100 has always been a mid-summer event but USAC made changes to its schedule. The 36th running for the Glass City 200 for the ASA STARS National will be Saturday, September 14th. The last race on Toledo's calendar will be Saturday, October 5th. It will be the season championship for the ARCA/Menards Series.

Flat Rock Speedway will start the new season on Saturday, May 4th. This will be the first time four divisions will compete on opening day. ARCA sanctioned Outlaw Super Late Models, Street Stocks, Figure 8's, and the new Factory Stock 500 Series will make its debut. For the second year in a row Flat Rock will host the ARCA/Menards East 150 on May 18th. The Joy Fair Memorial 100 will be May 25th. Adding to a busy spring, the Outlaw 350 Supermodifieds will make their first appearance on the speedway June 1st. Race fans Flat Rock Speedway has one of the most exciting schedules I've ever seen for a short track. They host a major event almost every week. You need to check out their Facebook page.

The Ohio Wheelman Modified Series has increased the purse for 2024. Feature winners will be paid \$2,000.00, 2nd \$1,500.00 and 3rd \$1,000.00. This will entice a few drivers to leave their home tracks and go after the possibility of bigger paydays. Will and his staff have worked hard to build this series.

Who's ready for the Silver Anniversary of The Rumble in Fort Wayne? December 29th and 30th in the Expo Center at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum. The Midgets will headline both nights. Joining them both nights will be winged and non-winged 600cc Midgets, Quarter Midgets, and multiple divisions of kart racing. The Left Turn will be on-site both days. The Rumble in Fort Wayne is one of several big indoor events for the Midgets before the grand daddy of them all, the Chili Bowl Nationals, two weeks after Christmas in Tulsa, OK. It will be carried live on FLORACING. Let's see if the 2023 Champion Logan Seavey can repeat or will 2020 & 2021 back-to-back champion Kyle Larson work through the field for a 3rd win. I hope everyone has an amazing Christmas and great holiday. Until next week, keep your wheels down. Ron Out! ohioSPORTSBLITZ@yahoo.com

## JETS FLY PAST WARRIORS



Friday night, December 15th. High school basketball action was in full swing and Woodlan hosted Adam Central. Adam Central came to play and they tapped the high score at the end of the 4th quarter: 70-77. Pictured above: It's the fourth quarter and Woodlan is attempting to keep up, With the help of this shot Braden Smith adds three points to the Warrior score! More pictures at westbendnews.net

## LADY RAIDERS DOMINATE MUSKETEERS



Sophomore Lexi Moore gets smacked in the back of the head, still manages to score, and picks up the foul shot! More pictures at westbendnews.net

The Lady Raiders took on Fort Jennings on Thursday evening, December 21st at the Palace. Wayne Trace took a well developed lead over the Musketeers in the first three quarters but the Fort Jennings girls were able to claw back their way by the end of the fourth but not enough to take the game.

Wayne Trace Lady Raiders kept another win on the home court: 37-30.

Score by Quarters:  
Fort Jennings (1-7) - 8 5 3 14 = 30  
Wayne Trace (6-2) - 9 10 9 9 = 37  
Fort Jennings Scoring:  
Autumn Calvelage 1-5-0-

17; Khloe Browning 0 points, 3 assists; Hannah Grote 1-0-0-2, 3 rebounds; Abigail Browning 0 points, 5 rebounds, 3 steals; Maggie Pothast 4-0-3-11, 10 rebounds

Wayne Trace Scoring:  
Ava Zartman 2-1-0-7, 3 steals; Harper Myers 2-0-1-5, 3 rebounds; Careen Winans 0-4-0-12, 5 rebounds, 3 assists; Lexi Moore 2-0-4-8, 14 rebounds; Caroline Winans 0-1-2-5, 5 rebounds; Kathleen Stoller 0 points, 3 rebounds  
Junior Varsity - Wayne Trace 15, Fort Jennings 11 (two quarters)

## ON-LINE SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Ohio Revised Code, Section 2329.153  
**U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff,**  
vs.  
**CYNTHIA J. MOULDER, ET AL., Defendants,**  
Case No. CI 22 040

Pursuant to an Order of Sale in the above-entitled action, the following real estate will be offered for sale:

**5014 Road 33, Payne,  
Parcel Number: 03-10S-026-00**

A full legal description of this property is on record at the Paulding County Recorder's Office located in the Courthouse or at: [www.uslandrecords.com](http://www.uslandrecords.com)

Said premises appraised at Forty-eight Thousand and No/100 (\$48,000.00) Dollars and cannot be sold for less than two-thirds of that amount on the first sale date.

The first sale date will be on the January 4, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. All bidders must be registered with RealAuction for on-line bidding at:

<https://paulling.sheriffssaleauction.ohio.gov>.

**Registration and deposits must be completed at least one week before the date of sale.**

In the event this property does not sell on the above date, a second on-line auction will be held on January 11, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. On this date, there will be no minimum bid. However, the purchaser will be responsible for any costs, allowances, and taxes which the proceeds of the sale are insufficient to cover.

The appraisal of this property was completed without an interior inspection. Neither the Sheriff's Office nor the appraisers are responsible for the condition of the property at the time the purchaser takes possession.

Purchasers are advised they have no legal right to access this property until the Sheriff's Deed has been filed with the Paulding County Recorder's Office.

**TERMS OF SALE:** A deposit of Five Thousand and No/100 (\$5,000.00) Dollars will be due at the time of the sale. Balance of the purchase price shall be paid before the deed is recorded.

The successful bidder will have Thirty (30) days from the sale date to obtain an examination of title at their expense, if so desired. Should such examination disclose the title to be unmarketable by any defect in the court proceedings or the existence of any outstanding interest rendering the title unmarketable, the successful bidder has Thirty (30) days to file a written motion requesting the sale be set aside. If the court finds the title unmarketable, the court will refuse to confirm the sale or fix a reasonable time, not to exceed Ninety (90) days, within which the defect of title may be corrected.

Taxes shall be prorated to the date of the sale and paid from the sale proceeds.

Sheriff Jason K. Landers  
Paulding County, Ohio  
[www.paullingohsheriff.com](http://www.paullingohsheriff.com)  
Chris Manolis, Attorney for Plaintiff

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Tim & Victor Klopfenstein 19718 Notestine Road  
657-5700 shop Woodburn, IN 46797

**DEFIANCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES**  
The Board of Defiance County Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 21, 2023, in the Commissioners' Conference Room. President Kern called the meeting to order. Also present were Commissioners Dana Phipps and Mick Pocratsky; County Administrator, Sherry Carnahan; HR Coordinator, Emily Meyer; and Clerk, Liz Stuart.  
The Commissioners met in General Session to approve and sign various resolu-

tions, contracts, and documents. The Commissioners also reviewed the calendar of events and discussed upcoming meetings.  
The Commissioners met with County Engineer Warren Schlatter and Operations Deputy Jeff Timbrook to discuss the status of the Defiance County Landfill. This has been a record high year for the Landfill, and the sales revenue has stayed well above current costs. The Board is not planning to change the rates for Landfill use at this time. They also discussed the long-term future of both the Engineer's office and Landfill based on the anticipated retirement dates of key staff members.



# PAYNE ELEMENTARY ANNOUNCES DECEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



December Students of the Month at Payne Elementary School were recognized for displaying the character word "JOY". Congratulations to the following students. Pictured here is (front row) Aydenn Good, Emma Ringler, Emersyn Showalter, Demiriana Goings, Demi Boyd, Greyson Vogelpohl, Braylee Tempel, Kraeton Tempel, Theo Hartzler, Benson Hitchcock; (back row) Gabe DeWaard, Thayer Zartman, Kohen Fore, Hudsyn Burkley, Mailey Stoller, Charley Blackmore, David Light, Jayce Buehrle, Logan Cozart, Zoie Rogers.

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



Grover Hill November Student of the Month are: Front: Mack Sinn, Brevan Sinn, Emberlee Collins, Tessa Stoller, Logan Holbrook and Natalie Heir. Back: Jocelyn Mabis, Mason Evans, Bentley Wright, Makenna Miller, Sawyer Schlatter, Lyla Stoller and Grayson LaBounty.

# DOBOS, KLOPFENSTEIN INTRODUCE LEGISLATION EXEMPTING MILKWEED SEED DISTRIBUTION



State Reps. Dave Dobos (R-Columbus) and Roy Klopfenstein (R-Haviland) recently introduced legislation that exempts certain non-commercial seed-sharing activities from laws governing seed labeling, inspection, and advertising. The legislation will allow the Ohio Prairie Association (OPA) to distribute milkweed seeds non-commercially among its members to promote habitats, especially for monarch butterflies around the state. "The bill will exempt the distribution of milkweed

seeds when its purpose is for the conservation of threatened species or the planting, creation, and propagation of native plant habitats," said Dobos. "Monarch populations have declined rapidly in the last decade," said Klopfenstein. "By allowing OPA to distribute milkweed seeds, food sources for monarch caterpillars and a place for monarch butterflies to lay eggs will increase." The proposed legislation awaits a bill number and committee assignment.

### LEGAL NOTICE

## NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR RESPONSE

Erin Ryan Shober, plaintiff  
-VS-

Mervin Devon Swartzentruber, defendant

Marvin Devon Swartzentruber, whose present place of residence is unknown, with last known address is 152 N Summit St., Nappanee, IN 46550-2050. Please be advised that you are requested to contact Erin Ryan Shober immediately: 4894 CR19, Auburn, IN 46706 in reference to a lost vehicle title.

**CASE #: 17D02-2310-SC-000348**

HOLLY A. ALBRIGHT,  
CLERK OF COURTS,  
DEKALB COUNTY SMALL CLAIMS COURT,  
100 S MAIN ST.  
AUBURN, IN 46706  
260-925-5126

# CHP ANGEL FOUNDATION GRANTS WISHES TO TERMINALLY ILL ADULTS

Back in 1995, the staff at CHP Home Care & Hospice noticed the need to fulfill wishes for adults in its hospice program who had limited time remaining in their lives. The idea was expanded to include individuals from throughout the state of Ohio, and the Angel Foundation was established.

Over its 28 years, the Angel Foundation has fulfilled wishes for hundreds of terminally ill patients, most of whom are from our area. What makes the Angel Foundation unique is that it's wishes are granted exclusively to adults.



In October, the CHP Angel Foundation fulfilled a wish for Brian Stahl, a retired firefighter with 23 years of service on the Van Wert Fire Department. Stahl, his wife, Sandi, and their daughter and her boyfriend completed a four-trip to New York City to visit Ground Zero, One World Tower, and the 911 Memorial and Museum.

After retiring from the fire department, Stahl moved to Tennessee for a time and became a United Methodist minister. He became active in missions-oriented volunteering, continuing to help those in need. The family moved back to the area and settled in Payne.

He treasured the brotherhood of firefighters and he remained close with many of his fellow firefighters. He was a member of the International Association of Firefighters.

So, it was fitting that his wish include a tribute to the profession to which he dedicated most of his life.

Stahl succumbed to colon cancer on Nov. 29 at the CHP Defiance Area Inpatient Hospice Center at the age of 60.

Earlier this month, the Angel Foundation completed a wish this week for John Thompson, a U.S. Navy veteran and a former pilot. His



friend and former flight instructor, Barry Behnfeldt, had the idea to take John on one last flight and asked CHP Defiance Area Inpatient Hospice Center staff if they could help him make it happen.

Chief Bill Wilkins, Lt. Craig Vogel, firefighters Tod Liffick, and Tyler Flory from the Defiance Fire Department, and CHP Hospice nurse, Patty Bussing provided assistance.

The Angel Foundation is a 501c3, nonprofit organization affiliated with CHP that receives support from the United Way of Van Wert County for administrative costs. Wishes are funded solely by donations from individuals, businesses, and organizations and are needed to continue this program. Give online at [ComHealth-Pro.org/angel-foundation-make-a-donation](http://ComHealth-Pro.org/angel-foundation-make-a-donation).

# DPL TO HOLD SUPPLY DRIVE FOR HUMANE SOCIETY

Defiance Public Library will hold a supply drive to benefit Fort Defiance Humane Society from Jan. 8-22.

Donation stations will be located both upstairs and downstairs at the library, 320 Fort St. All supplies collected will be presented to a representative from the humane society during the library's Paw Patrol Party, set for Tues. Jan. 23 from 10:30 a.m.-noon.

Shelter wish list items include laundry detergent, bleach, KMR (kitten milk replacement) liquid, dry dog/puppy food, dry cat/kitten food, canned cat/kitten food, garbage bags, paper towels, copier paper, bottled water (gallons and individual bottles), and new or gently used towels and blankets.

For more information about the drive, contact the library at 419-782-1456.

# PAULDING COUNTY COURT RECORDS

## Criminal/Traffic

### Disposition Report

**Mary J. Halsted**, Paulding, OH; Confine of dog; Guilty; Defendant to pay all fines and costs; Maintain general good behavior

**Joshua J. Helms**, Payne, OH; Disorderly conduct; Guilty; Defendant to pay all fines and costs; Maintain general good behavior

**Jessica D. McGuire**, Grover Hill, OH; Driving under non FRA suspension; Count A dismissed

**Michelle L. Byrne**, Cecil, OH; OVI/under influence, Guilty; 30 days jail, suspended, Operator's license suspended from 10/16/23 to 10/16/24, ALS vacated, Court suspension can be reduced with IID credit from 10/26/23, Proof of insurance provided; Left of center, Count B dismissed

**Phillip M. Lester**, Clyde, OH; Driving under non FRA suspended, Pled no contest,

The West Bend News

# Sudoku Puzzle

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

Answers to "Sudoku puzzle on Page 11"

found guilty, Defendant to pay all fines and costs, Provide proof of insurance by 12/22/23; Fictitious registration, Pled no contest, found guilty, Defendant to pay all fines and costs

**Jermey C. Bonner**, Indianapolis, IN; Drug paraphernalia, Guilty, Case waived by defendant; Possession of marijuana, Guilty, Case was waived by defendant

**Daman M. Keeran**, Fort Jennings, OH; Disorderly conduct; Guilty; Defendant to pay all fines and costs; Maintain general good behavior

**Ruthann Swary**, Paulding, OH; Disorderly conduct with persistence; Guilty; Defendant to pay all fines and costs; Maintain general good behavior; Shall have no contact with all parties and their families

**Tate A. Stiner**, Fort Wayne, IN; Reckless operation; Guilty, 30 days jail, 28 days suspended, Defendant to pay

all fines and costs, Proof of insurance provided; High beams, Guilty, Defendant to pay all fines and costs

**Kevin J. Manz**, Fort Wayne, IN; Seat belt/drive; Guilty; Case was waived by defendant

**Rayne M. Wymer**, Union City, IN; Seat belt/drive; Guilty; Case was waived by defendant

**Jeremy D. Baldwin**, Antwerp, OH; Seat belt/drive; Pled no contest, found guilty; Defendant to pay all fines and costs

**Noah A. Kline**, Haviland, OH; FRA suspension; Case dismissed

**Shelia R. Smith**, House Springs, MO; Seat belt/drive; Guilty; Case was waived by defendant

Call or Email your classified ad today!  
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# ON-LINE SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Ohio Revised Code, Section 2329.153

**CROSSCOUNTRY MORTGAGE, LLC, Plaintiff,**  
**vs.**  
**ANGEL R. OMONAYIN, ET AL., Defendants,**

Case No. CI 23 133

Pursuant to an Order of Sale in the above-entitled action, the following real estate will be offered for sale:

**725 North Main Street, Paulding,**  
**Parcel Number: 30-04S-021-00**

A full legal description of this property is on record at the Paulding County Recorder's Office located in the Courthouse or at: [www.uslandrecords.com](http://www.uslandrecords.com)

Said premises appraised at Fifty-four Thousand and No/100 (\$54,000.00) Dollars and cannot be sold for less than two-thirds of that amount on the first sale date.

The first sale date will be on the January 18, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. All bidders must be registered with RealAuction for on-line bidding at:

<https://paulding.sheriffssaleauction.ohio.gov>

**Registration and deposits must be completed at least one week before the date of sale.**

In the event this property does not sell on the above date, a second on-line auction will be held on February 1, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. On this date, there will be no minimum bid. However, the purchaser will be responsible for any costs, allowances, and taxes which the proceeds of the sale are insufficient to cover.

The appraisal of this property was completed without an interior inspection. Neither the Sheriff's Office nor the appraisers are responsible for the condition of the property at the time the purchaser takes possession.

Purchasers are advised they have no legal right to access this property until the Sheriff's Deed has been filed with the Paulding County Recorder's Office.

**TERMS OF SALE:** A deposit of Five Thousand and No/100 (\$5,000.00) Dollars will be due at the time of the sale. Balance of the purchase price shall be paid before the deed is recorded.

The successful bidder will have Thirty (30) days from the sale date to obtain an examination of title at their expense, if so desired. Should such examination disclose the title to be unmarketable by any defect in the court proceedings or the existence of any outstanding interest rendering the title unmarketable, the successful bidder has Thirty (30) days to file a written motion requesting the sale be set aside. If the court finds the title unmarketable, the court will refuse to confirm the sale or fix a reasonable time, not to exceed Ninety (90) days, within which the defect of title may be corrected.

Taxes shall be prorated to the date of the sale and paid from the sale proceeds.

Sheriff Jason K. Landers  
Paulding County, Ohio  
[www.pauldingohsheriff.com](http://www.pauldingohsheriff.com)  
Ronald J. Cherek, Attorney for Plaintiff

# WE ARE CONNECTED MINDSET MOTIVATORS



Paulding Junior High School uses a social-emotional curriculum called The 7-Mindsets to help students explore positive character traits. After each mindset unit is completed teachers at PJHS select Mindset Motivators who have actively participated in the lessons. Shown in the picture are the PJHS Mindset Motivators for the unit We Are Connected.

# FAIRVIEW FFA HOST ANNUAL STATE LEADERSHIP NIGHT



Back: L to R - Mason Hellemn, Brady Zeedyk, Brett Zeedyk, Dylan Randall, Miguel Garcia, Allison Beardsley, Addalyn Beardsley, Gabriel Bowers, James Smith, Brooke Pollard, Calvin Woodring, Althea Spagler, Alex Garcia, Samantha Mavis, Cheyenne Zeedyk, Emma Zeedyk. Front: L to R - Madisyn Michael, Asia Brubaker, Elizabeth Bok, Summer Hiler, Kortney Grinnell, Kayla Mavis, Kaitlyn McCord, Ruby Elston, Addalyn Zeedyk.

By: Elizabeth Bok

On November 30, 2023 the Fairview FFA Chapter hosted the annual State Leadership Night at the elementary school. Three Ohio FFA State Officers attended this Leadership Night to teach leadership skills, problem-solving, and teamwork. Many other chapters in the area traveled to Fairview to participate in this Leadership Night. The theme of the night was "On The Road to Leadership." The first activity that the FFA members participated in was planning a trip.

In small groups, they were asked to devise a destination, a driver, three songs to listen to, and snacks for the trip. After this, the groups had to solve various riddles to put together the night's quote. The quote was "Look at life through the windshield, not the rearview mirror." The following activity was for every group member, except one, to take one of their shoes off, and put it in a pile with all of the other groups' shoes. The one person who didn't take a shoe off had to get

each of their group members' shoes back and put them back on their feet. The last activity was a race between all of the groups. Each group had one steering wheel (a paper plate) and each member had to have one hand on the steering wheel at all times. One of the state officers stood in the middle of the room and each group had to touch all four walls and then return to the officer in the middle. To end the night everyone made their own driver's license certifying them to be a leader.

# WINTER READING PROGRAM AT PC CARNEGIE LIBRARY

The Paulding County Carnegie Library is offering something new this winter. "Reading Is Snow Much Fun" winter reading program. What better way to spend the winter months of January and February than reading and keeping track of your time, January 1 to March 1. Turn in reading logs by March 8, to be eligible for prizes. The program is for adults and children. Sign up will begin December 26, 2023. Stop by the library

and check out some books, sign up and get your reading log. Need a library card, no problem we can help with that as well.

# ACES DROP NON-LEAGUE BATTLE TO BLACKBIRDS

Host Pettisville outscored visiting Hicksville in each of the first three quarters as the Blackbirds rolled to a 52-33 win over the Aces Saturday night in non-league boys basketball action. Pettisville opened a 13-5 lead at the end of eight minutes of action and expanded it to 26-15 at the midway

point of the contest. The Blackbirds then widened the gap to 38-21 entering the final stanza.

Braxtyn Heisler topped the Aces with ten points in the contest and Brant Langham chipped in eight markers. Other scorers for Hicksville included Garrett Turnbull (five), Owen Stuckey (four), Austin Sanders (three) and Bronson Graber (three).

Joey Ripke led the way for the Blackbirds with 16 points with Jack Lepelmeier adding 15 markers for Pettisville.

Johnny Fenton (six), Caden Bishop (five), Creighton Aeschliman (four), Mason Wyse (four) and Kaleb Wyse (two) completed the scoring for the Fulton County squad. Hicksville did win the junior varsity contest, defeating the Blackbirds 26-21.

# WARRIORS CRUISE TO ACAC WIN

The Woodlan Lady Warriors rolled to a 65-41 victory over Southern Wells in ACAC girls basketball action Thursday night.

Taylor Kneubuhler led the Lady Warriors with 15 points, seven rebounds, two assists, two steals and two blocked shots while Reagan Widenhoefer and Alyssa Anderson both recorded ten markers. Widenhoefer chipped in two

rebounds, two assists and three steals while Anderson finished with five rebounds and two steals.

Brooke Kneubuhler posted eight points, two rebounds, four assists and one steal with Karina Peppler recorded eight markers and two boards.

Makenna Smith aided the Woodlan cause with seven points and four rebounds and Mariah Thullner contributed seven points, two rebounds and one assist.

In earlier action last week, Woodlan dropped an 84-33 decision to state-ranked Norwell at Ossian.

Brooke Kneubuhler topped the Lady Warriors with 11 points while grabbing four rebounds and dishing out one assist.

Taylor Kneubuhler recorded nine markers and six rebounds with Thullner totaling six points, six boards and one assist. Anderson chipped in five markers, nine boards and two assists for Woodlan.

Smith finished with one point, three rebounds and one assist and Widenhoefer recorded one point, two rebounds, one assist and one steal.

# WARRIORS STUNG BY HORNETS

Visiting Angola put a sting into host Woodlan Monday evening as the Lady Hornets recorded a 56-51 victory over the Warriors in non-league girls basketball play.

Senior Taylor Kneubuhler had an outstanding game for Woodlan, totaling 25 points while adding seven rebounds, two assists and one block to lead the way.

Sophomore Alyssa Anderson chipped in 14 points for the Lady Warriors and finished off a double-double with ten rebounds in the contest. Anderson also recorded two assists and two steals.

Junior Brooke Kneubuhler chipped in eight markers while grabbing six rebounds and dishing out six assists as well for Woodlan.

Junior Alix Jacquay picked up the remaining four points for the Lady Warriors to go along with five rebounds, one assist and one steal.

Junior Makenna Smith contributed six rebounds and two assists with sophomore Mariah Thullner picking up four rebounds. Junior Raegan Widenhoefer also hauled down three rebounds for the Lady Warriors.

# PASTOR FERGUSON SPEAKS TO KIWANIS



The Kiwanis Club of Paulding County was blessed at the December 21st holiday Christmas party meeting with a message from Pastor Ian Ferguson about the Story of Christmas.

# NSCC FALL COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY AWARDS 109 DEGREES/CERTIFICATES



NSCC Kally Durham (President's Outstanding Student), Dr. Hernandez

Northwest State Community College celebrated the December 2023 graduating class at their fall ceremony last evening, held as an in-person ceremony in the Voinovich Auditorium. The ceremony recognized the awarding of 109 degrees and/or certificates to 102 students from the divisions of Arts & Sciences; Business & Public Services; Nursing and Allied Health; and Science, Technology, Engineering Technology & Math (STEM) and Industrial Technologies.

NSCC President Dr. Todd Hernandez announced the President's Outstanding Student: Kally Durham. Durham graduates with an Associate of Individualized Study in Health & Biology, with designs on transferring to the University of Toledo for Healthcare Administration. Dr. Lana Snider, NSCC Vice President of Enrollment Management & Student Affairs followed Dr. Hernandez, and provided a statistical snapshot of the graduating class. Dr. Snider noted that 88% of the graduating class lives in the College's six-county service area (Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Paulding, Van Wert and Williams counties), the average age of the graduates is 27, and the grade point average of the class is 3.36.

# BREAKOUT OF ACHIEVEMENTS

Of the 109 awards, 79 were associate degrees and 30 were certificates. Awards by academic division included Arts & Sciences (14), Business & Public Services (23), STEM & Industrial Technologies (43) and Nursing & Allied Health (27).

# STUDENT SPEAKER: FAITH MERAZ

The student speaker for this year's commencement ceremony was Faith Meraz of Paulding. Meraz started taking classes through NSCC in 2020 through the College Credit Plus program while attending Wayne Trace High School. Meraz is a recipient of

the Presidential and Toledo Edison scholarships, and is a member the Phi Theta Kappa honor society at NSCC. Meraz graduates with an Associate of Arts degree, pursuing an eventual Master's degree to become a school psychologist. Meraz concluded her address by noting "No matter what struggle you're faced with, big or small, please don't give up. If whatever you're facing knocks you down, get back up again. Have the courage or sheer willpower to go after what you want, no matter how long or how much work it takes you to get there. We're here today because we didn't give up."

# COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER: CONRAD WINKLER

The keynote speaker for this year's commencement ceremony was Conrad Winkler, President of North Star Bluescope Steel in Delta. Winkler, an MIT-educated Mechanical Engineer, relayed a few examples of his experience as a Nuclear Submariner in the U.S. Navy as part of his address to the graduating class.

# EMERITUS STATUS HONOREES RECOGNIZED

The College also recognized two individuals that were awarded Emeritus status, an honorary title awarded for distinguished service to the academic community. The recipients were Dr. Robert Hall (Board member), and Marsha Buehrer (staff member).

Dr. Hall served two terms on the NSCC Board of Trustees as a representative for Henry County, from 2008 to 2020. During his 12 years on the board, Dr. Hall held the positions of Chair and Vice Chair from February 2010 until February 2014. Dr. Hall is a Vietnam-era Veteran of the U.S. Navy. Buehrer started at the College in the Copy Center in 1993, and shortly thereafter transitioned to her role as Secretary for the Nursing Department in 1994. While providing administrative sup-

# NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given by Paulding Soil & Water Conservation District that sealed bids are being accepted for the sale of the following items:

- 1) 1997 16' Utility Trailer - Minimum bid \$1,200
- 2) 2000 14' Tracker Topper boat - Minimum bid \$350
- 3) 300-gal Water Tank - Minimum bid \$75
- 4) 1981 JD 4440 Tractor w/rims and hardware for duals-Minimum bid \$27,500
- 5) Hardee Boom Mower-Minimum bid \$1,500

Items are being sold as-is and are available for inspection at 13387 US 127, Paulding Ohio 45879.

Bids will be received by Paulding Soil & Water Conservation District at their office located at 451C McDonald Pike, Paulding, Ohio 45879 until 4:30 Tuesday, January 16, 2024. Bids will be opened at 8:00 a.m. Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at their regular monthly board meeting. Bids must include your name, address, phone number, item you are bidding on and the amount you wish to bid.

If you have questions, please call the office at 419-438-7149.

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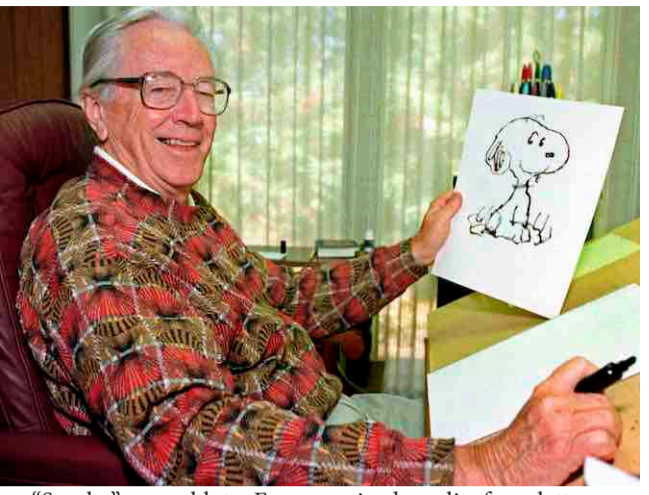
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port for the department, Buehrer completed her Asso-

ciate of Applied business in Office Services in 1999.

## SNOOPY VS THE RED BARRON



“Sparky” was a klutz. Even he would admit that he was a klutz. In fact Sparky kind of owned the fact that he would forever be a klutz. However Sparky was an eternal optimist, and believed things would work out in the end.

Sparky had been given his nickname, after a cartoon character, a horse named Sparkplug. He would own the nickname his entire life.

Sparky was terrible in school. He failed every subject in the eighth grade. In high school he got a 0 in physics—the worst student in history. He flunked Latin, Algebra, and English. He was a failure in sports. He made the school's golf team but lost every match. No one knows how he would have been at dating, because he never asked a girl out. He was too afraid of being turned down.

Sparky was a loser. He knew it, everyone knew it. But Sparky kept trying. When something bad happened he just dusted himself off and tried again. Somehow things would work out. He was content with his destiny. But there was one thing that Sparky enjoyed doing, he loved to draw pictures. Cartoons of his favorite characters, or anything he came across. But he was a failure at this.

Again no one else appreciated it. In his senior year he sent some cartoons to the editors of the yearbook and was rejected... they didn't use it.

This was just one more loss for Sparky to endure. But Sparky was undaunted, he enjoyed drawing so he would be an artist. After graduation he wrote a letter to Disney studios listing his qualifications—and again was rejected. He re-

## WAYNE TRACE PAYNE ELEM. CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE



Wayne Trace Payne Elementary community showed superior support of their recent Christmas Bake Sale. This was a Student Council led fundraiser in which students, parents, PTO members, and staff donated baked goods to sell at the Christmas program on December 15th. Student Council members would like to recognize all of the volunteers who donated & helped at the bake sale.

ceived a polite form letter, saying they hired only the best artists.

So he wrote his own cartoon strip. He wrote about himself. He made fun of himself. He wrote about a boy that had a difficult time in life. A boy that was a loser. He wrote his own autobiography in cartoons. He wrote about a boy that failed at everything he tried. He described himself in a cartoon which is now famous. The boy whose kite got caught in a tree, who missed the football every time he tried to kick it. The boy who loved the little red-headed girl, but she was always out of reach.

The Christmas program which you have watched every year since 1965. About a boy who picked out such a miserable Christmas tree, that it became a symbol of the simplicity of Christmas. The author of The beloved comic strip we call Peanuts. The character, Charlie Brown, written by Charles Monroe “Sparky” Schultz.

He was turned down by his only love interest, when she married another man. If you measure success by wealth, he made more money in a year than Judge Judy, or Oprah, with comic strips in 2,500 papers, and that was back when a dollar was real money. He won numerous awards, and was probably the most recognized cartoonist ever.

If you'll allow me one last Christmas story:

“The bloody red Baron had Snoopy in his sights,

“But he simply hollered out,

“Merry Christmas my friend.”

Merry Christmas!

# Classified Ads

## Sell it in the Classifieds!

Classified ads are \$8.50 for 20 words or less and \$.15 for each additional word.

**Bold is \$1.00 additional.**

Ph: (419) 258-2000 • Email: info@westbendnews.net  
P.O. Box 1008, Antwerp, OH 45813

**Classifieds MUST be paid up front!!**

**FORT DEFIANCE Antiques: 402 Clinton St. Downtown Defiance, OH. Hours M-Sat 10-5. 419-782-6003**

**NEED SIGNS NOW? Get plastic, metal, posters and more! Call West Bend Printing, 419-258-2000**

**FOR SALE: GENERAC Propane 16kw whole house generator, propane or natural gas - excellent condition. 419-506-1595. 51-1p**

**FOR SALE: 1979 John Deere 2040. Beautiful green tractor from 1979 WITH front end loader, runs well. Instant start up. Independent PTO. Weighs 6500lb w/wheel weights, Rear Hydraulic remotes, & quick hitch! Rear R1 Tires like new! only \$12000. Option for Skid Steer Quick attach and bucket bracket for another \$1000. Call 419-258-0127.**

### OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL INVESTIGATING SERIOUS INJURY CRASH

The Defiance Post of the Ohio State Highway Patrol is investigating a one-vehicle serious injury crash that occurred on December 8, 2023 at approximately 8:41 A.M. on Kramer Road west of Lake Road in Milford Township, Defiance County.

James M. Snow Jr., age 71, of Edgerton, Ohio, was in a 2006 Buick Lucerne east-bound on Kramer Road when he lost control going into a curve, went off the left side of the roadway striking a mailbox, and then spun off the right side of the roadway into a utility pole. Snow was not wearing his seatbelt. He was transported to Hicksville Hospital by Hicksville EMS. He was then flown to Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne, Indiana by Samaritan. He is listed in stable condition.

The Defiance Post was assisted by the Defiance County Sheriff's Office, Edgerton Fire Department, Hicksville EMS, and J and R Towing. Drugs or alcohol are not suspected to be a factor in the crash. The crash remains under investigation.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol wants to remind motorists to always wear their safety belts and to never drive distracted.

### 6 REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD TAKE YOUR MENTAL HEALTH SERIOUSLY

By: Stan Popovich

Many people underestimate the impact that mental illness can have on an individual or family. It can be difficult to admit that you have a mental health problem in your life. Secondly, it can be just as difficult in getting the people you know to understand your situation without making any kinds of judgments.

As a result, here are six reasons why you should make your mental health an

**FOR SALE: Two Uniroyal tires 215/65/R16, never been on vehicle. 260-466-2580.52-2p**

**FOR SALE: Shardor Anti-Static Coffee Grinder, NEW IN BOX. 120V, 60Hz 200W, stainless steel conical burr coffee grinder. Anti-static technology, 35 grinding settings, 2- 12 cup quantity selection, large capacity bean hopper 8.5oz. \$50obo. Call or txt 419-258-0656**

**TIMBER WANTED: Specializing in walnut trees and hardwood trees. Buyer of standing timber. Call Gary Keegan 517-296-4601 51-50p**

**DEADLINE FOR THE CLASSIFIEDS IS THURSDAYS AT 5PM!**

**RAIN TECH SEAMLESS GUTTERS, 419-258-1818 50-52**

important priority in your life.

1. Your situation will improve if you get help: Your anxieties and fears can be challenging to manage and more than likely you will need some help. Just as you talk to your doctor about your regular health, you should not be hesitant in seeking help for your mental health. If left untreated, your anxieties and fears may not go away.

2. Drugs and alcohol are not the answer: Drugs and alcohol can make your problems more complicated. Many people have said that drugs and alcohol will only add more problems to your situation. Be smart and learn how to cope with your mental health issues by talking to a qualified professional. There are many health professionals in your area that can give you some ideas on where you can go for assistance.

3. You will save time and money: Eventually, you will have to confront your fears and mental health issues. Save yourself the time and heartache and confront your

problems now rather than later. You will save months of struggling by getting help right away. The sooner you get assistance the faster you will start getting some relief.

4. You are not alone: Everyone deals with fear, stress, and anxiety in one's life whether your friends and others care to admit it. In addition, do not be embarrassed that you are getting help. We all learn new things from others on a daily basis and learning how to manage your anxieties is no different. In addition, your goal is to get your life back on track and not to get everyone's approval. If people start asking you questions, just say your dealing with stress. Most people can relate to dealing with stress and anxiety!

5. Do not make the mistake of doing nothing: There are many people who struggled with anxiety and other mental health related issues, and they tried to ignore their problems. As a result, some of these people struggled on a daily basis and eventually things became more difficult. It can be scary asking for assistance, but the key is to take things one day at a time.

6. You have a variety of options: There are many mental health support groups, organizations, and counselors in your area that can help get your life back on track. Talk to your doctor to get more details on where you can go for some assistance. Help is available but you must be willing to make the choice of getting better. Remember that every problem has a solution. You just have to make the effort to find the answers.

### HICKSVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 18, 2023

Hicksville Board of Education held their regular monthly meeting on Monday, December 18 with members Jennifer Caryer, Minda Jones, Galen Methvin, Stephanie Mazur and Eric Vetter in attendance.

Retiring board member Minda Jones was recognized by Superintendent Keith Countryman on behalf of the district and the board. Mr. Countryman thanked her for her eight years service on the Board of Education as well as her 35 years as a

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

### Sudoku solution from page 9

classroom teacher at Hicksville Elementary School.

Principal reports from the elementary, middle school and high school, highlighted holiday programs recently presented and some programs which are on the calendar for early January.

Minutes and financials were approved. Treasurer Michael Ruen, in his report, commented that the school has applied for a \$2.5 million grant to upgrade and advance the district's ag education program. The grant will be announced in late January. Board member Jennifer Caryer asked about the possibility of paying off the field house early, as well as the financial ramifications of the possible closing of the local hospital. Mr. Ruen explained that financially it will make more sense to let the field house loan it run its course at this point. As far as the hospital situation, it remains to be seen what will happen there, however, the district will work with the situation, whatever it may be.

Approval was voted on for the employment of several certified and classified staff members.

Several community members were in attendance to address the board concerning the possibility of the district dividing the wrestling program into boys and girls teams to allow girls to participate in girls tournaments. Speakers Mary Green, Nadia King, Rod Conkle and Kurtis King noted that girls wrestling, at both the junior high and high school levels, is growing rapidly and the speakers advocated for the separation to allow for the matches to be more competitive and safer for both sexes. Girls tournaments tend to include Sunday wrestling in order to schedule when established varsity tournaments are not scheduled. Board president Galen Methvin thanked all in attendance for their interest and support of the matter. He noted that the information will be taken under advisement for future action.

The Board approved Monday, January 15, 2024 at 5:30 pm as the date and time for the 2024 Organizational Board Meeting and appoint Steph Mazur as President Pro-Tem. The regular monthly meeting will follow immediately.

**"Like" West Bend News & Print on Facebook & receive regular updates about what is happening throughout the week.**



**TLREA**  
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Beautiful 4 BR country home on 1 acre. Improvements include: Roof, Siding, Windows, Kitchen, Baths, Flooring, Furnace, A/C, etc, etc, etc. This home is like brand new! Call Tony Langhals Real Estate: 419-233-7911 to view this gorgeous home before it's too late!

# NOW HIRING!

West Bend News is seeking a reliable 2 day per week delivery driver for the newspaper. Less than 150 stops should take about a day and a half. Need to be able to lift 25 lbs, able to get in & out of a minivan - age not a factor! Email resume to info@westbendnews.net or stop in our office in Antwerp for an application.



**WB WEST BEND PRINTING & PUBLISHING**  
101 N. Main St., Antwerp, OH 45813

# SANTA VISITS ANN'S BRIGHT BEGINNERS PRESCHOOL



Shown here telling Santa what he would like for Christmas is Landon Brandenburg.

Ann's Bright Beginnings Preschool recently held their annual Christmas program. They sang several songs and enjoyed cookies and punch with their families. After

cookie time, Santa popped in for a visit! The preschoolers at Ann's Bright Beginnings would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas!

## 125+ COATS, SHOEBOXES, AND CARE ITEMS DONATED BY PPEC FOR HOLIDAYS

In a season marked by gratitude and compassion, Paulding Putnam Electric Cooperative proudly led three impactful community initiatives, leaving a trail of warmth, joy, and support across the region.

Clothes for Joes: Honoring Veterans on Veterans Day

On November 10, 2023, PPEC hosted a Veterans Day Donation Drive. Both members and the wider community donated diabetic socks, toiletries, men's and women's clothing, and more. The outpouring of support filled several SUVs, delivering



PPEC Member Service Representative Laurie Ford and Dispatcher Amy Waters deliver coat donations to Thomas Edison Preschool students in Van Wert, OH.

much-needed provisions to Clothes for Joes – an organization dedicated to supporting veterans in NW Ohio and NE Indiana. For more about their mission, visit [clothesforjoes.org](http://clothesforjoes.org).

Operation Christmas Child: Spreading Holiday Cheer Worldwide

This year, PPEC's employees showcased the spirit of giving by donating 32 shoe boxes to Operation Christmas Child. Collaborating with Samaritan's Purse, this international program sends Christmas presents to children in need around the globe. Each box is filled with care and hygiene items, school supplies, water bottles, toys, and more. To learn more about this initiative, visit [samaritanus.org](http://samaritanus.org).

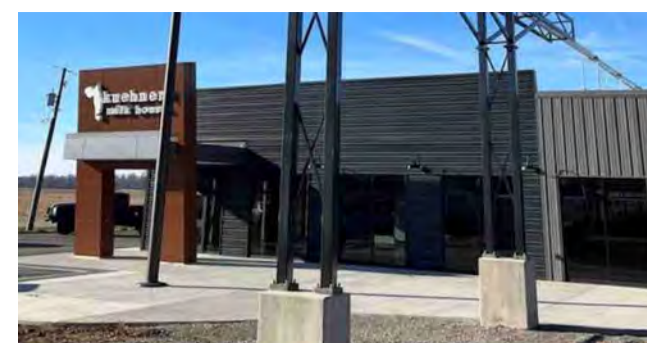
Winter Coat Drive: Wrapping the Community

in Warmth

PPEC's commitment to the community continued with a Winter Coat Drive, aiming to keep local families warm throughout the winter. The drive collected new or gently used coats, spanning sizes 2T to Adult XL, which produced an incredible donation of 128 coats. The coats were donated to Thomas Edison Preschool, Paulding County Opportunity Center, Paulding Senior Center, Continental Elementary, Putnam County Educational Service Center, New Haven Food Pantry, and New Haven Primary School.

As the season unfolds, PPEC demonstrates the cooperative principle of concern for community, highlighting that no matter how small, collective efforts can greatly benefit those in need.

# \$100,000 AWARDED TO INDIANA'S KUEHNERT DAIRY FARM



Pictured above is the Milk House at Kuehnert Dairy.

Recently announced, Kuehnert Dairy in Fort Wayne, Indiana, received a \$100,000 grant from the Dairy Business Innovation Alliance (DBIA) for a new value-added facility on their farm.

The Dairy Business Innovation Alliance (DBIA), a partnership between the Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association (WCMA) and the Center for Dairy Research (CDR), awarded 41 grants totaling nearly \$4 million to farmstead operations and dairy processing businesses across the Midwest.

The funding awarded to the Kuehnert's will be used to create a cheese curd manufacturing facility on their farm.

"We are incredibly grateful to the DBIA for selecting our project out of the hundreds they received this year," said Andrew Kuehnert, owner of Kuehnert Dairy.

Kuehnert Dairy has been a family owned and operated farm for over 125 years in Allen county. They milk over 300 cows, have an agritourism operation and, in early 2024, will open an on-farm retail site. Kuehnert was also the

2019 Indy 500 Milkman.

This funding will be used to purchase cheese making equipment, product packaging and marketing and promotion services.

Why Cheese Curds? Kuehnert dreamed of doing farm fresh cheese curds as he realized a void in Indiana for milk products like this. They hope to sell the products at their on-site retail store, to local grocers in the Fort Wayne area and sell directly to consumers via online retail.

The grants will be awarded through the DBIA's Dairy Business Builder and Dairy Industry Impact grant programs. The Dairy Business Builder grant program is targeted at small-to-medium size farmers or processors. Supported projects are aimed at diversifying on-farm activity, creating value-added products, enhancing dairy by-products or export programs. In the latest round, DBIA will be distributing 36 grants through the Dairy Business Builder grant program to farmstead and dairy processing business in nine of the 11 states covered by the DBIA.

*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](mailto:info@westbendnews.net) West Bend Printing & Publishing - 419-258-2000*

# THE CHOP SHOP

## MEAT MARKET

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Woodburn, IN 46797

**HOURS:**  
TUES-FRI, 9-7  
SAT-SUN, 10-6

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4422 Bull Rapids Rd. Woodburn, IN 46797  
Ph: 260-632-0707

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SALE PRICES WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

<b>GOLDEN KRUST</b> <b>JAMAICAN STYLE BEEF PATTIES</b> 5 OZ <b>\$1.49 EACH</b>	<b>CHEF PIERRE</b> <b>BLACKBERRY COBBLER</b> 5 LB <b>\$9.99</b>	<b>FRUITY PEBBLES</b> <b>CRUNCH'D</b> FAMILY SIZE <b>PEBBLES CRUNCH'D</b> <b>\$3.99</b>
<b>Old El Paso</b> <b>STACKED CRUNCH KIT</b> <b>\$2.99</b>	<b>CHEF BOYARDEE</b> 15 OZ CANS <b>ASSORTED VARIETIES</b> <b>\$1.99</b>	<b>UTZ POTATO CHIPS</b> ALL VARIETIES <b>\$3.99</b>
<b>CENSEA</b> <b>COOKED SHRIMP</b> PEELED & DEVEINED 32 OZ <b>\$14.95</b>	<b>LOUIS KEMP</b> <b>IMITATION CRAB MEAT</b> 2 LB BAG <b>\$3.99</b>	<b>WHEAT THINS</b> 2-20 OZ BAGS <b>\$5.49</b>

# SPECIALS OF THE WEEK

<b>FILET MIGNON</b> FROZEN 6 OZ <b>\$6.89 EACH</b>	<b>ECKRICH</b> <b>NASHVILLE HOT-STYLE CHICKEN BREAST</b> <b>\$3.99 PER LB</b>
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<b>TYSON</b> <b>CHICKEN FILETS</b> All Natural BONELESS SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST 25 OZ BAG <b>\$4.99</b>	<b>DAILY CHOICE</b> <b>APPLEWOOD CARVED HAM</b> <b>\$4.29 PER LB</b>	<b>FAMILY SIZE</b> <b>FROOT LOOPS</b> <b>\$4.29</b>
<b>BLUE RIBBON</b> <b>CHOCOLATE CHIP ICE CREAM</b> 48 OZ <b>\$3.99</b>	<b>STATE FAIR</b> <b>CORN DOGS</b> Classic 16 CT <b>\$7.99</b>	<b>ASSORTED FRENCH FRIES</b> 2.5 LB BAG <b>\$4.49</b>