

Happy New Year 2024!

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA 2023



The VFW, Veterans and those who helped place Wreaths for the 2023 Wreaths Across America Ceremony.

This year, National Wreaths Across America Day will be held on Saturday, December 14, 2024. More than two million volunteers and supporters gathered to Remember, Honor and Teach at more than 4,225 participating locations in all 50 states, at sea and abroad.

Wreaths Across America in Paulding County ordered 1200 wreaths this year and covered nine cemeteries. This was their 6th year of observing and serving this ceremony and they are looking forward to the seventh year

in 2024. They are hoping to cover more cemeteries in Paulding County.

The donations that keep them growing is much appreciated! Wreaths are available now till November 1, 2024.

About Wreaths Across America

Remember the fallen. Honor those who serve. Teach the next generation the value of freedom. Volunteers are the beating heart of the program and work year-round to share this important mission and inspire others to join.

Morrill Worcester, owner of Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine, was a 12-year old paper boy when he won a trip to Washington D.C. It was his first to our nation's capital and one that would change the trajectory of his life and the lives of millions of others across the country. Seeing the hundreds of thousands of graves and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery made an especially indelible

(Continued on Page 4)

BOYS ROUTE 49 TOURNNEY OPENING NIGHT



Senior Carson Altimus is under the basket picks up the rebound, shoots and scores for the Archers. More pictures at westbendnews.net

The Annual Route 49 Basketball Tournament happens each year around the holidays. In the boys tourney, in

the opening round Edgerton squared off with Edon. The Bulldogs clinched this vic-

(Continued on Page 7)

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For a few years, PCED

(Continued on Page 3)

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Deadline is January 31, 2024

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

Community Calendar

- MON & WED**
- Antwerp Comm. Food Pantry @ Antwerp UMC, 9a-12p
- January 2**
- Good morning Book Club @ Oakwood Library, 11a-12p
- January 11**
- Inspirational Leadership Training @ Defiance College, 8a-4p
 - Senior Bingo @ Oakwood Library, 11:30am
- January 12**
- Inspirational Leadership Training @ Defiance College, 8a-4p
- January 18**
- Chamber Energy Program Webinar, 12-1pm
 - Cookbook Club @ Oakwood Library, 5:30pm
- January 23**
- Family Hot Cocoa Bomb & Mug @ Oakwood Library, 11a-1p
- January 25**
- Beginner Cake Decorating Class @ Oakwood Library, 5:30pm
- January 27**
- Kids' Winter Bingo @ Oakwood Library, 11am
- January 29**
- Backyard Maple Production Workshop @ Warren Co. Fairgrounds, 6:30-9pm

OBITUARIES

CAROLERS ENTERTAIN FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Scripture of the Week

PAYNE, OH:

Earl Duane Cosey, 78, formerly of Payne, passed away Friday, December 22, 2023. Arr by Dooley Funeral Home, 5761 SR 500, Payne, Ohio.



CECIL, OH:

Debra L. "Debbie" Lehman, age 62, passed away on Thursday, December 28, 2023 at the Laurels of Defiance.

Debbie was born on February 11, 1961 in Paulding, OH. For 29 years, Debbie worked at P.C. Workshop. She loved Bingo, making pot holders, crafts, and playing games with her family. She was a social butterfly, who loved shopping and going out to eat. She attended church at Paulding Church of the Nazarene and Antwerp Community Church.

Debbie is survived by her brother, Allen (Linda) Hook, Jr., (Antwerp, OH); sisters: Dawn (Ralph) McDougall, Leipsic, OH; Stacy (Jeff) Betzer, Cecil, OH; Kelly (Dewayne Price) Jones, Antwerp, OH; 10 nieces and nephews; 8 great nieces and nephews; 2 great-great nieces.

Debbie was preceded in death by her fiance, Ronald Meeker in 1995; mother, Janet (Lehman) Hook; father, Allen Hook, Sr.; infant sister, Diana Lynn Hook.

Funeral service will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, January 3, 2024 at Antwerp Community Church with Pastor Rick Grimes officiating. Burial will follow in St. Paul Cemetery, Paulding Township.

Visitation will be held from 4:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at Den Herder Funeral Home. There will also be visitation from 9:00 A.M. until time of services on Wednesday at the church.

Memorial contributions may be made in Debbie's memory to Promedica Hospice, The Gentiva Foundation.

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

RULES TO LIVE BY

**By: Doris Applegate
Scribed by: Cynthia
Nichelson**

"School day, school day"
Dear old GOLDEN RULE days.

How well do I remember my wonderful school days where we had daily Bible reading and pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. We



Youth from Mt Calvary Lutheran Church are shown here with Donna Snyder in front of her home as they visit another home during caroling on December 20. Lori Hines and Ryan Zuber helped the group or-

ganize to stop by Antwerp Manor, grandparents and friends, and other members of the church.

see the Bible as a holy and vital part of our growing up days. We would also say the Lord's prayer: Our Father... thy Kingdom come on earth as it is in Heaven.

During my children's time in school, prayer was suddenly removed from our schools by ONE un-Godly and wicked woman who at the stroke of her evil mind removed prayer, Bible reading and goodness about our country.

We have not regained what we have lost in the school system. Our children learned from the Bible in the early days of our country, therefore were more apt to be Godly. If one un-Godly woman could do such damage to our school system and our children's lives, what can one woman full of the Holy Spirit of God do to restore things back again the way God planned it?

Not only was damage done by taking prayer and the Bible out of school, but other wickedness against us was done by removing the Ten Commandments from all public places. (Read: Exodus 20 verses 2:17 and Deuteronomy 5:6-21)

After we accept Jesus Christ and his great salvation, these rules are written on our hearts by the Holy Spirit and we know right from wrong and what to say and do.

This does not negate the importance for these rules written in ink for those without Christ Jesus the Lord.

Amen

WOODBURN CLOTHING BANK RECEIVES CHRISTMAS GIFT

Woodburn community clothing bank recently experienced what Christmas is truly about. Giving. Last year Tonya

Thompson had a humble amount of 30 children signed up for "santa toy patrol". A community driven event where they collect gifts for families or children in need for Christmas. This year though, Tonya had opened the toy patrol to surrounding areas. They had a large outcome, 232 children to be exact. This was something she most certainly had not been ready for. With great Christmas spirit and hope the clothing bank reached out to surrounding businesses for donations but very few had responded and helped. Fortunately businesses like Greg's getaway, Little Lights Preschool, Heckley Auto, Mark Hoepfner Construction and United Methodist Church all graciously donated and allowed the clothing bank to pull off a Christmas miracle within a month. By speaking with Tonya (owner of Woodburn clothing bank) she is extremely grateful for the help she received. Because of these people and many more, 232 children woke up to magic on Christmas morning.

PARSON TO PERSON

By: James Bachman

*Dear Parson,
If it is true that the Bible teaches divorced people are not to marry as long as their first mate is still living, why does 1 Corinthians 7:9 say, "But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn."*

Your first statement is correct: divorced people are to remain single or be reunited with their first mate. I Corinthians 7:11, 39 - "But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife." V. 39 - "The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord." Romans 7:2-3 - "For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth,

she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man." Mark 10:11-12 - "And he saith unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery." Luke 16:18 - "Whosoever putteth away his wife and marrieth another, committeth adultery; and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery."

There is, however, one exception given in the Bible, which is "fornication," where the woman defrauds her husband by declaring she was a virgin prior to marrying him, and he then discovers she was not (Deuteronomy 24:1-4). But even in such a case, divorce and remarriage is not the plan of God, but only permitted because of the hardness of the husband's heart, not being willing to forgive her and keep her (Matthew 19:3-9).

I Corinthians 7:9 is not a contradiction of that principle, because the "they" is referring to unmarried people who have never been married, and to the widows (see verse eight). If that were true, Paul would be contradicting Christ and himself. Notice verses ten and eleven: "And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: But and if she depart, LET HER REMAIN UNMARRIED OR BE RECONCILED TO HER HUSBAND (emphasis mine); and let not the husband put away his wife."

The reason the unmarried were being discouraged from marriage here was because of the "present distress" mentioned in verse 26. Christians were under great dangers and persecutions which were not conducive to a good marriage and family life.

Send questions and comments to: jamesbachman@juno.com

MATT'S MISHAPS

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

—Matt



Against US Army policy

Our son had been through basic training and was in the final stages of training to be a US Army Cavalry Scout when his Christmas leave came up one year. We were excited that the Army would allow him to visit us overseas for the holiday. The US Army doesn't have a lot of enlisted people based Stateside who travel overseas to see their families at Christmas, so their protocol doesn't fit well. I felt like a mishap father as I didn't know what advice to give him on getting to us.

First, he was told what clothes he could wear to leave and return to the Stateside base and even what he could bring in a small backpack to take on his Christmas holiday. Our son would wear his full camo uniform, cap, and boots for the three flights and four airports to get to us. Also, he was required to bring cold weather gear on holiday, even though we don't have cold weather where we live overseas and it filled up most of his small backpack. When he got to the first airport from the base, I told him to ask the airline desk if US military could get bumped up to business. My son informed me that it was against US Army policy to ask any questions like that.

An Army uniform is something we Americans are proud of, but not necessarily those from other countries. He would be wearing the uniform through places that were not friendly to the US Army. I asked him about removing his patches attached by Velcro to his uniform to blend in as a local military man when going through foreign airports. He told me it was against US Army policy to do this. Ironically, a captain in the US Army in civilian clothes was in one of these airports and saw our son. He encouraged our son

to not wear the US Army uniform for his wellbeing, but then realized the drill sergeants had not allowed our son to even pack any civilian clothes for the Christmas holiday. Our son said he was quite an attraction in some airports where people would unashamedly stare at him.

However, his uniform became less of a concern as his hunger mounted. When one flight away from our overseas home, he had a day layover. He went to McDonalds in the airport to get breakfast. His debit card did not work and he had no local currency. He had no credit card as his recruiter/sergeant warned against him taking it to the first base he was posted. It didn't help that his last flight was to be delayed. He called us and light heartedly laughed with us about his predicament. I told him to sit Indian style on the ground with his beret open and sitting in front of him to beg for food money outside of Starbucks. Surely any Americans in the airport would eventually make their way to Starbucks for an overpriced coffee. Again, he reminded me that it was against US Army policy, even though he knew I was joking.

We then lost phone coverage with our son until he arrived to our local overseas airport. He had no charging adaptor for the foreign outlets and had to get off the phone - not allowed to bring anything on the Christmas trip that wasn't on his official Army packing list.

On or off duty, being an American soldier isn't always easy with US Army policies.



Our son eventually made it to us for Christmas. His last flight that was posted as delayed, changed to being on time, but we didn't know. He stood around in our local overseas airport (with many stares) until he finally got a hold of us and we came to get him.

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

mattsmishaps@gmail.com Matt's Mishaps, PO BOX 114, Grabill, IN 46741

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DEPRESSION ERA RECIPES

Penny For Your Thoughts

By: Nancy Whitaker

If you lived any time during the Great Depression, you may recall the shortage and the high cost of food.

I have heard and read about Victory Gardens and the various methods and substitutions which people used in order to enjoy and cook some of their favorite foods.

If you ever gone to anyone's house for dinner and a big, sloppy "secret family recipe" dish is flopped down in front of you, chances are high that the messy goodness could have originated from the Depression era.

Families were taught to creatively stretch out their food budgets and toast, potatoes and flour seemed to be the popular most inexpensive ingredients.

Some foods were actually invented during the Great Depression, such as Spam, Ritz crackers, Krispy Kreme doughnuts and Kraft macaroni and cheese. (I did not know that Mac and cheese was that old.

Learning to "make due" with what they had sometimes took some creativity to

feed a family.
Now here is a few foods that was served in the depression. Do you remember eating them?
There was milk toast, chipped beef on toast, cucumber and mustard sandwiches, mayonaise or ketsup sandwiches, turtle, gopher, hot rice and milk, potato soup with a water base, and lard sandwiches.

Some of these I have ate such as the chipped dried beef and hot milk toast. (With sugar and cinnamon)
I ran across a recipe the other day which sounds



pretty good and I may have to try and bake one.

If you've never had or heard of Depression-Era Cake, or "Crazy Cake" as it's also known, then you're in for a real treat. This recipe goes as far back as the Great Depression.

It might seem crazy, hence the name, "Crazy Cake," but this chocolate cake they say is just as good, if not better than one stuffed to the brim with butter, milk and eggs.

The fact that the cake itself is vegan should have everyone with an intolerance

for eggs or dairy products jumping for joy.

Well here is the recipe:

- Ingredients:**
2 cups all-purpose flour
1 1/4 cups sugar
1 1/4 cups water
1/2 cup vegetable oil
1/3 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
1 T apple cider vinegar
1 T coffee, optional
1 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
1 1/2 tsp baking soda
3/4 tsp salt

Frosting:
2 1/2-3 cups powdered sugar
1 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
1/2 cup water
1/4 cup (1/2 stick) unsalted butter, room temperature
1 teaspoon vanilla extract, pinch of salt, teaspoon of coffee (optional), stir and pour batter into a lightly greased pan and bake in a 375 degree oven.

Another item that was served during the depression were onions and peanut butter.
Onions and peanut butter I hear was plentiful, so, whole onions were hallowed out and stuffed with a mixture of bread crumbs and peanut butter. Of course I tried it and we did not like it.

I don't know if I could have ate it during the Depression

If you have ever tried one of these recipes let me know how it turned out.
If you do I'll give you a Penny for your Thoughts!

(PCED OMJ... continued from Page 1)

maintained a job list on its website (www.pced.net), providing a valuable resource for local job seekers. However, with the dynamic nature of the job market, including filled positions, new job opportunities, and high turnover rates, it became challenging to ensure the accuracy of the list.

Seeing the need for a more up-to-date platform, PCED is now encouraging the community to utilize OhioMeansJobs' (https://ohiomeansjobs.ohio.gov/) job portal that offers a comprehensive and accurate representation of the local job market. Our local OhioMeansJobs office, is located at 252 Dooley Dr. Paulding, OH 45879.

Here are some additional offerings that employers should take advantage of through OMJ:

1. Pre-hire Testing: OMJ streamlines hiring for employers with cost-saving candidate assessments, ensuring a thorough evaluation before hiring decisions.
2. Top of Form
3. Offset Cost for New Hires: Recognizing the financial challenges of hiring new employees, OMJ supports employers by offsetting costs, covering six months of wages for new hires.*
4. Resume Building: The office offers assistance in resume building, helping job seekers present their skills and experiences effectively to potential employers.*

*Individuals must qualify for service. OhioMeansJobs will conduct an evaluation to determine eligibility.
PCED is committed to supporting the local workforce and enhancing employment in Paulding County. By using the features of OMJ, job seekers and employers can benefit from a more streamlined and accurate job matching process.

For more information or to connect with OMJ workforce supervisor and career coaches, visit the OhioMeansJobs office at 252 Dooley Dr. Or, you can contact Paulding County Economic Development at 419-399-8295 to get connected and take the step towards advancing your career or finding the right talent for your business.

HICKSVILLE VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 12/18/2023
Hicksville Village Council met in regular session on Monday, December 18. Mayor Ron Jones presided. All Council members were in attendance. Previous minutes and bills to be paid were accepted.
Jeff Gerhart, a candidate for the Council seat being vacated by Michael Barth, addressed Council, introducing himself and giving his reasons for being interested serving the final two years of the term. There are a number of citizens interested in serving and one will be appointed by Council to begin 2024.
Council held a public hearing to hear discussion to rezone 301 Meuse Argonne from A-1 Agriculture/Public Use to B-1 Central Business, B-2 Local Business, B-3 General Business. No comments from the audience were heard. Action will be taken at the next regular meeting.
Administrator Cory Wann presented a recap of the 2023 projects as well as a list of 2024 projects.
Police Chief Mark Denning reported the Marcs system will be on line soon. Chief Denning presented Amanda Moninger as parttime Mayor's Court Clerk. Mayor Jones recommended she be hired for the position, Council approved. Discussion was also held on the proposed K-9 unit which the Department is seeking.
Discussion was held with Fire Chief Bruce Hart on what effect the possible hospital closing will have on the Rescue Squad, its personnel and equipping extra rescue units. Police Chief Denning remarked that the closure will also effect the police department by needing more personnel to staff the village in case it becomes reality.
An audience member asked if there

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

MILITARY HISTORY IN PAULDING COUNTY



Oliver Oren Kemerer, an Antwerp fella, was born April 6, 1893, the son of Albert J., born in Ohio 1865 and Cloa L, (Rogers) Kemerer born in Ohio 1871.

This couple was married in Paulding on November 6, 1890 and were the parents of Carl J. born 1891, Oliver O. born 1893, a daughter, Florence M. born in 1900 and Kenneth born in 1903. Kenneth passed away in 1905.

By 1910, the Kemerer family was living in Carryall Township, farming. Carl and Oliver worked on the farm. Carl passed away July 1, 1912.

On June 5, 1917, Oliver traveled to the West Carryall precinct and registered for the World War draft. He was listed as medium height and build, light blue eyes, light brown hair, single and self-employed farmer.

May 1, 1918, Oliver married Mary M. Booth a school teacher from Hicksville, who was born in Hicksville July 26, 1892.

On July 22, 1918, Oliver joined the National Army out of Paulding. He was assigned to the 309th Infantry Replacement Battalion as a private 2nd class. On February 21, 1919, Mary gave birth to twin boys, Gerald Merwin and Harold.

On March 4, 1919, at Brest, France, Oliver boarded the ship, S.S. America and sailed for home. Oliver served until

March 13, 1919 and was Honorably Discharged, April 1, 1919.

As a side note, Mary's sister Clara, married Donel Cottrell. He was killed in France in World War One son, Harold, passed away June 2, 1919. He was buried in Forest Home Cemetery, Hicksville. By 1920, Oliver, Mary and son Harold, were living in Carryall Township. A son, Robert Morris Kemerer was born November 27, 1920 in Antwerp.

In 1929, Oliver's father Albert passed away and was buried in Forest Home Cemetery. By 1930, Oliver, Mary, along with sons, Gerald and Robert, were living on their farm in Carryall Township. The boys were both in school. By 1940, Oliver and family were still engaged in farming.

The sons had both graduated from school, but were still living at home. On October 16, 1940, son Gerald had to register for the World War Two draft. February 16, 1942, son Robert, also had to register for the World War Two draft. On July 10, 1942, Gerald enlisted in Toledo and served until December 28, 1945. Oliver, age 49, in 1942, did not have to register.

By 1950, Oliver's health was so bad, that he was unable to work. He was listed as long term disability. On June 12, 1953, Oliver was sent to the Veterans Administration Hospital in Ft. Wayne where he was diagnosed by Dr. Russell L. Hiatt, of having, well there were four different heart issues, and I am not going to try and make you, the reader, pronounce them. Oliver passed away at 5:10 A.M. June 13, 1953. He was brought home to Antwerp, where services were held at the Kemerer residence. The Rev. Fred Malott, pastor of the Antwerp Presbyterian church officiated. The Cottrell-Boylan American Legion Post held military rites at the Forest Home Cemetery.
Oliver's wife, Mary, joined him, September 23, 1968.

... Until Next Time!

could be a portable restroom placed at the park during the winter months for those who still use the park. Administrator Wann will look into the matter.

Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith presented a number of regular reports to Council.

Mayor Jones recognized a number of Village employees for their employment milestones.

Solicitor Troy Essex presented the final reading for Resolution 2023-26, by caption only, to enter a contract with Vernon Nagle Inc. for construction of the pool and pool house. The measure was defeated by a 1-5 vote from Council.

Mayor Jones presented comments regarding his years in office (20 on Council, 4 as Mayor) and thanked the citizens for the opportunity to serve.

Mayor-elect Mike Barth was sworn in as mayor, by Mayor Jones, effective January 1, 2024.

Before adjournment, retiring Councilman Taylor Klepper stated, his reason for voting no on the pool was motivated by the potential impact of the hospital's closure. He said the loss of their (hospital and employee) income versus general income dollars is potentially several thousand dollars to the Village general fund. At this time, he (and speaking for Council members in general) feel that it would not be prudent to use general fund money for the pool until the future for the community becomes clear. Hopefully it can be revisited in the future.

The next regular Council session will be Monday, January 2, 2024 at 6 pm in Council chambers.

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ANTWERP PHARMACY



4-H Flat Rock Junior Farmers placed 200 Wreaths in Sherman Cemetery.



Jack Moore and daughter Joanna placed the POW/MIA Wreath, Thank you Jack for your service.



Boy Scout troop 315 placed the Wreath in Honor of the Merchant Marine.

(Wreaths ... continued from Page 1)

impression on him. It was to be an experience that would follow him throughout his life and successful career, reminding him that his good fortune was due, in large part, to the values of his nation and the veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

In 1992, Worcester Wreath found themselves with a surplus of wreaths nearing the end of the holi-

day season. Remembering his boyhood experience at Arlington, Worcester realized he had an opportunity to honor our country's veterans. With the aid of Maine Senator Olympia Snowe (ret), arrangements were made for the surplus wreaths to be placed at Arlington in one of the older cemetery sections that had been receiving fewer visitors each passing year.

As plans were underway to transport the wreaths to Washington, a number of

other individuals and organizations stepped up to help. James Prout, owner of local trucking company Blue Bird Ranch, Inc., generously provided transportation all the way to Virginia. Volunteers from the local American Legion and VFW Posts gathered with members of the community to decorate each wreath with traditional red, hand-tied bows. Members of the Maine State Society of Washington D.C., helped to organize the wreath-laying, which included a special ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

For over a decade, this annual tribute went on quietly and privately. Everything changed in 2005, when a photo of the stones at Arlington, adorned with wreaths and covered in snow, circulated around the internet. Suddenly, the homespun tribute from a small town in downeast Maine was receiving national attention. Thousands of requests poured in from all over the country from people wanting to help purchase and lay wreaths at Arlington. Thousands more wanted to emulate the Arlington project at their local National and State cemeteries. Still others simply desired to share their stories and thank Morrill Worcester for honoring our nation's heroes. Many were surviving family members of some of those heroes.

Unable to donate thousands of wreaths to each state, Worcester began sending seven wreaths to every state: One for each branch of the military and an additional wreath to pray tribute to POW/MIAs. In 2006, with the help of the Civil Air Patrol and other civic organizations, simultaneous wreath-laying ceremonies were held at over 150 locations around the country. The Patriot Guard Riders volunteered as escorts for the wreaths going to Arlington in the beginnings of the annual "Veterans Honor Parade," a convoy that now travels the east coast every year in early December.

The wreath-laying that began more than 30 years ago is still held annually, on the second or third Saturday of December. WAA's annual pilgrimage from Harrington, Maine to Arlington National Cemetery has become known as "the world's largest veterans' parade." Every year the convoy of trucks, local law enforcement, staff and supporters stop at schools, monuments, veterans' homes and communities along the way to talk about the Wreaths Across America mission and remind people how important it is to remember, honor and teach.

When a volunteer places a wreath on a veteran's grave on National Wreaths Across America Day, we encourage them to speak that veteran's name aloud, thank them for their service and sacrifice, and reflect on that person and their life.

PAULDING FFA CHAPTER YEAR IN REVIEW



Pictured here are the Paulding FFA Officer team left to right: Mrs. Staci Miller, FFA Advisor, FFA Officers Brooke Kilgore, Addison Hunt, Tyler Schlatter, Kobe Foor, Jamy Hunt, Jaly Klopfenstein, Grace Goyings, Brooklyn Schlatter, Tytus Manz and FFA Advisor Mrs. Jen Bradford.

By: Grace Goyings, Paulding FFA Reporter

The Paulding FFA Chapter is proud to have over 120 members with an additional 18-8th grade students taking the 8th grade Vo-ag class. The chapter has 9 FFA officers and 2 advisors who help to lead the chapter. The Paulding FFA Chapter has had an enjoyable and eventful year so far and we are looking forward to the new projects in the coming months of 2024. Here is a highlight of our 2023 year starting last January to now.

In January, The Paulding FFA started the new year by putting the final touches on the state and American degree applications as well as the officer books. The FFA chapter had 9 students applying for state degrees and 3 students applying for their American Degree. At the district level, all of our officers' books received a GOLD rating for the 7th year in a row with all of the books receiving a perfect score on their books. Great job to Treasurer Jaly Klopfenstein for all her hard work on the treasurer's book. Wonderful job to our reporter Caydence Rue on creating a beautifully done scrapbook for our chapter. Great job Jamy Hunt who completed the secretary's book for a gold rating as well. 4 members traveled to Central State University to compete in the State agriculture biotechnology contest. In this contest, the team made a solution, identified laboratory tools, and made a presentation about food poisoning. The team was made up of Jamy Hunt, Casey Agler, Ally Jo Merriman, and Grace Goyings.

In February, the annual Paulding FFA Alumni Pancake and Sausage Supper was held. The Ag sales team consisting of Mason Schlatter, Jamy Hunt, Maci Kauser, and Brooke Kilgore placed 2nd in the district competition at Spencerville and got the opportunity to compete in the state contest. 4 FFA members participated in sub-district public speaking; Addy Hunt, Lucy Breier, Jamy Hunt, and Caydence Rue. Addy Hunt places 1st advancing her to districts. The FFA chapter planned many events in honor of FFA week. We didn't have school on Monday but on Tuesday we started the week off with a short ag quiz for a cookie sponsored by Ag Credit and had our competitive cornhole tournament with the student body. Then on Wednesday, we had our annual teacher appreciation lunch, and Dalton Mullins, a state officer, visited to talk to us. During Thursday, Dietz Racing came into class to give us a very hands-on experience with actual race cars and how they work. On Friday, we fin-

ished off the week with the annual Ag Olympics with the entire high school, a favorite event each year! There were also dress-up days at school the entire week which included cowboy on the beach day and sleepy farmer day. The chapter continued their community service project Crushing Cans for Cancer. The chapter collected pop cans at school with over \$700 earned which was donated to cancer research. The chapter is excited to continue this project to help everyone who has been affected by cancer and help work towards finding a cure!

In March, the chapter participated in the Ag basketball tournament and had a very fun time. The chapter members also got their strawberry orders in and delivered them to several community members. We also had over 12 members participate in Tractor Drive-In Day to show the younger grades. The equine team consisting of Brooke Kilgore, Johnny Lipps, Ally Jo Merriman, and Piper Kochel competed in the Spring Skills Contest. Over 14 members filled out officer applications and interviews were conducted for the new officer team. Our members always look forward to driving their tractors to school during this event. Anna Clemens, Johnny Lipps, Courtney Good, and Gracelynn Klopfenstein made up the Dairy Cattle judging team and got to compete in the state competition.

In April, 14 members submitted applications and had interviews for the upcoming officer team. The Outdoor power team consisting of Mason Schlatter, Tytus Manz, and Tyler Schlatter competed at Sentinel Career Center. The chapter held its 96th annual FFA banquet on April 15th with the theme being "Country State of Mind", where we will recognize the chapter's ac-

complishments of the past year, elect new officers, and give awards to community members for their support. The 2022 officer team made their last visit to Oakwood for a fun end to their OYA program. The greenhouse class helped out in the community by working together for several days to mulch Herb Monroe Park. The chapter had its annual greenhouse sale featuring various vegetables, flowers, and hanging baskets all put together by the greenhouse class. We also had our annual Petting Zoo where members could bring in their animals for the entire school to come down and see. Mason and Tyler Schlatter traveled to compete in the state trap shoot shooting event.

In May, our students were busy in the shop working on their still projects for the fair. We also celebrated the accomplishments of our chapter at the state level by attending the Ohio FFA State Convention with 41 members attending. 9 members received their State FFA degree. The officers helped the 9th graders for 2 days on their trip to Camp Lakota. At the end of the month, Mrs. Miller conducted SAE home visits as our members prepared for the Paulding County Fair which took place in early June.

During June, the Paulding County Fair took place, the chapter had over 100 members who participated in many activities. We had 45 members that had livestock projects and over 80 that had still projects. The chapter had at least one livestock project in each barn. As a chapter we had many members participate in the Lonnie Miller kickball tournament. We had five members who were royalty members on the court for the king and queen contest. The chapter had many members who received plaques or best-of-class ribbons on their still projects.

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

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Many of our members won awards for their livestock projects including grand/reserve champions. Safe to say that we had a successful year! The officer team went to Frazeysburg, Ohio for an officer retreat. This retreat was a great opportunity for the new officer team to get to know each other better so that they could work as a team for the 2022-2023 FFA year. The officer team did many team bonding activities with each other and were all challenged to make up their own team bonding game. The team also got the opportunity to go kayaking and they had a blast!

In July our chapter president, Jamy Hunt, and vice president, Kobe Foor, got an amazing opportunity to go to Washington D.C. for a leadership conference. They got to meet people from all over the United States and go outside of their comfort zone. They learned many valuable leadership skills to bring back home with them to further benefit our chapter.

In August, the chapter had their member and parent meeting, where they learned a little bit more about FFA from the officer team and their advisors. We decided to take the non-traditional meeting route and made the evening full of fun tours and hands-on activities to get the parents and members involved and excited for the upcoming school year. There were over 200 members and parents along with many FFA Alumni members that attended the meeting. The Alumni members prepared everyone who attended a sausage sandwich, lemonade, and cookies so that they had something to eat while the officers talked about

all of the different CDEs and opportunities that our chapter has to offer

During September, we had several members walk in the Oakwood Homecoming Parade to proudly represent Paulding FFA. A few members also stayed after to help run games for the kids to keep the festivities going. It was so much fun and a great way for our members to get more involved in the community. 31 members attended Farm Science Review to learn more about agriculture and its emerging technology.

In October, Our chapter had 8 members compete in the District 4 soils CDE in Upper Sandusky. There was one team for rural soils and then there was another team for urban soils. The rural soils team was made up of Brooke Kilgore, Jamy Hunt, Anna Clemens, and Sam Reinhard. The urban team was made up of Kobe Foor, Tyler Schlatter, Brooklyn Schlatter, and Tori Schlatter. Both of the teams had to take a general knowledge test, and a survey test, and judge 4 different soil pits. Both teams are looking at the soil texture, soil structure, slope, drainage class, and compaction when judging the pits. Both of the teams did very well and learned a lot. 10 members competed in the sub-district Job Interview. These members include Kate Manz, Mariah Klopfenstein, Clayton Manz, Addy Hunt, Jalyne Klopfenstein, Grace Goyings, Jamy Hunt, Tytus Manz, Sarah Lewis, and Trinity Salazar. We had one member from each division move onto districts which we got the honor of hosting this year. Mariah Klopfenstein and Jamy Hunt placed 1st in their

division and got the opportunity to compete in the state prelims. Our chapter also started the Paulding FFA Annual Fruit Sale in October, all of our members did a great job at selling as much fruit as they could to help out our chapter.

During November, our chapter had 12 members travel to Indianapolis, Indiana for the 96th Annual National FFA Convention. The members were there for 5 days and had a very busy schedule. On the first day of the convention, the members got to tour AgriCor, do some shopping, and stop at a haunted house on their way down. The next day the chapter toured Umbarger Feed, walked around the convention/expo center, and got to go to the Lainey Wilson concert. On the 3rd day of the convention, we toured Umbarger Feed and the chapter went to the 2nd general session, during this session our chapter was recognized as a 3-Star National Chapter which was the 3rd year the chapter had been Nationally recognized. Then on the 4th day, we took a tour of Ozark Fisheries and got to go to the rodeo. Then to conclude our trip, on the last day we watched 3 members; Janae Pease, Sam Woods, and Kyle Mobley walk across the stage to receive their American Degrees. The Aquarium Management team made up of Xander Bartley, Addy Hunt, Clayton Manz, and Jamy Hunt competed at the state contest. The Food science team members, Maci Kausar, Jamy Hunt, Grace Goyings, and Xander Bartley competed in the district competition and placed 2nd securing them an opportunity to compete in the state competition in January 2024.

In December, our chapter had a gingerbread house competition, each class split into 5 groups and made different gingerbread houses, then they got judged by the staff members at our school and the winners received candy treats from the chapter. All the members also decorated cookies during class and made some hot chocolate to celebrate the Christmas season before exams. The FFA officer team also had their Christmas party, they had a lot of fun bonding with each other and playing different holiday games.

We are so thankful for the support of our school district, FFA Alumni, and the community as our chapter continues to grow and thrive. We truly could not do it without everyone's support!

Editor's Note: We here at the West Bend News print all "Letters to the Editor" because we believe that everyone has a Constitutional right to freedom of the speech and press. In saying that, we do not hold agreement with the content that is printed. We are just the messengers. However, any letters that attack a person rather than the discussion will not be printed. The name of the person who wrote the letter is placed at the end of each article. To be considered for publication, letters must be no longer than 1000 words, and you must provide a name along with a phone number and/or address to confirm validity of content for our readership area. You can respond or submit a new letter by email, USPS or fax.

Responses need to be received by Thursdays at 5:00 p.m. to be considered for the next publication. We reserve the right to edit for length, content and worthiness.

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Antwerp, OH 45813

Non-Profit Corporation.

Articles of Incorporation were filed and recorded with the Ohio Secretary of State, effective date: 10/11/2023.

An IRS "Application for Recognition of 501(c)(3) Exempt Status" was filed online with the IRS on Nov. 28, 2023. Since then, an IRS letter dated 12/11/2023 has been received confirming our Exempt Status and stating "Donors can deduct contributions they make to you under IRC section 170".

With the Ohio Attorney General's Office, Charitable Law Section ("OAGCLS"), The Faithful of Divine Mercy's registration as a public charity in Ohio was completed Dec. 5, 2023.

Parishioners (or anyone who so desires) may donate to this charity. These funds are then available for use of building maintenance or improvements with approval by the Pastor. Anyone interested may send check donations payable to: The Faithful of Divine Mercy, Mail to: PO Box 181, Antwerp, Ohio 45813.

Those with questions or concerns may email: catholics.of.paulding.county@gmail.com or write us using the P O Box 181, Antwerp.

"Pray For Our Church"

THE FAITHFUL OF DIVINE MERCY

pletely blocked in two places by huge log jams and partially blocked by sandbars that have built up behind and around logs that have fallen across the creek. One huge log jam is behind the horse barns and is at least 100 feet long and 4-5 feet high with trees across the creek wedged between other trees and the second is around the corner past the railroad bridge just as bad though not as long.

We used to fish this creek from uptown to the dam and back but from the dam to probably a half mile past the railroad bridge it's so shallow and full of crap it's a wonder any fish could get up it. It's no wonder we have so much flooding as these jams are keeping the water from flowing freely to the river and forces the water to divert around them which causes more trees to fall and contribute to the blockage. It's too bad something can't be done about this to let the creek run freely as it used to.

I suppose there is no money for this as this issue was a subject of meetings and discussion years ago and it has gotten much worse. It's hard to say what the solution is for this, cutting up the jams with chain saws to let it float away if we have spring high water but it would probably just get caught on the bridge or the sandbars farther down and start the problems over.

Years ago there was a group formed to confront this problem when it wasn't nearly as bad as it has gotten but nothing ever became of it other than taking our money when we volunteered to help. I suppose liability and land rights had something to do with it, but surely there is a way to get this mess cleared out even if it means dredging the creek as it's so shallow now that it dries up in summer and you can walk across it on dry land in many places.

I know it's probably a Catch 22 situation where positive and negative equal each other for a solution but it would be nice to be able to see the creek as it was when me

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, Lassus Handy Dandy, Marathon, Dollar General, Subway, Senior Center, Village offices, Johnson Memorial Library
- 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. Sheriff's Office, Board of Elections, Gardens of Paulding, Paulding County
- 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 Liquors, Post Office, Dollar General, Phoenix Manor, Chop Shop, ACP Library, Willies Cafe II

Read it online for FREE at westbendnews.net

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Faithful of Divine Mercy
 Who are we and what are we about?

We are parishioners of the Divine Mercy Catholic Parish of Paulding County with deep concerns about recent events of the Antwerp church closing and future Payne church closing.

We love our Church and Pastor but disagree with the direction the Church bureaucracy has taken in this matter.

As parishioners, we have rights under Church law, known as canon law, to support and to be involved with the maintenance of our buildings or sacred spaces.

We have enlisted the help of the St. Joseph Foundation to assist us in this endeavor. The Foundation "advises individuals and groups around the world to resolve legal issues in Catholic canon law". More information can be found on their website; https://stjoseph-canonlaw.com.

Additionally, we have established THE FAITHFUL OF DIVINE MERCY as an Ohio 501(c)(3) tax-exempt

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Our Creek

As most people know we have a great nature center to walk around with paths that are kept up by the town and a person with the scouts who keep them open when trees or branches fall across them. Lots of interesting things to see especially for some of us who grew up with them.

Only negative thing is the trash that people leave after fishing or walking, should be easier to carry out after it's empty than when full. 10% making it look bad for the other 90%, but beyond that I wonder how many people have walked below the old dam along our creek and seen what a mess it is. I walked it the other day and it's com-

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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*



Hicksville junior Garrett Turnbull was top scorer for Hicksville with 22 points! Shown here is Garrett with a jump shot basket, leading the Aces to finish the first quarter ahead of the Archers. More pictures at westbendnews.net

(Continued from Page 1)

...tory, 56-37. And now onto the second round of the opening night of the boys Annual Route 49 Tournament. The night concluded with a fierce match up of the Antwerp Archers and Hicksville Aces. The Aces took control straight away topping the 1st quarter 14-11, but the Archers stepped up their game to end the half in their favor: 30-24. This

Archer momentum continued after half-time, sending Antwerp to the championship game on Friday night, December 29th (after the newspaper was put to bed for the week; see conclusion in next week's newspaper and on our Facebook page!)

The week before Christmas the girls battled with the Lady Archers of Antwerp getting the Crown after beating both Hicksville (61-23) and Edgerton (47-34).

KNEUBUHLER'S LEAD WARRIORS PAST WAYNE TRACE



Harper Myers brought the Raiders within two points of Woodlan with this basket in the fourth quarter! More pictures at westbednenws.net

The Woodlan sister duo of senior Taylor Kneubuhler and junior Brooke Kneubuhler proved to be the difference Thursday night as the Lady Warriors outlasted a pesky Wayne Trace squad 51-46 in non-league girls basketball action at the 'Palace.'

After the two teams played to a 9-9 tie at the end of one quarter, the visiting Warriors

grabbed a slim 26-24 halftime advantage.

Woodlan then broke the open in the third stanza, putting together a 14-point stanza while limiting the Raiders to four markers in expanding the margin to 40-28 entering the final quarter.

Wayne Trace did make things interesting, trimming the deficit to 46-44 before



Woodlan's Taylor Kneubuhler was on fire in the game against the Raiders. She picked up this rebound and tapped it back in the bucket for two more Warrior points. More pictures at westbendnews.net

Woodlan's Reagan Widenhoefer hit a huge three-pointer to push the margin to 49-44. The Indiana squad held on from there as Woodlan improved to 9-7 overall on the season with the victory. I

Brooke Kneubuhler led the way for the Allen County squad with 18 points while also adding seven assists and six rebounds. Sister Taylor Kneubuhler chipped in 15 markers and eight boards for Woodlan while Alyssa Anderson finished with a double-double after totaling ten points and ten rebounds.

Widenhoefer (three), Chloe Gaff (three) and Alix Jacquay (two) also scored for the Lady Warriors.

Caren Winans topped Wayne Trace with ten points in the contest and also finished with five rebounds. Harper Myers added nine markers and seven boards for the Lady Raiders while Ava Zartman bucketed seven points.

Lexi Moore posted six points and ten rebounds to aid

RAIDERS ROUT CHARGERS

Parkview Sports Medicine held its annual Holiday Shootout last weekend at the MTI Center on the campus of Trine University where the Wayne Trace Raiders rolled to a 66-35 victory over West Noble, which is from Ligonier (IN).

The red, white and blue dominated the contest from start to finish.

Wayne Trace jumped out to an 11-0 advantage and never looked back from there, going on to record a 20-4 lead at the end of eight minutes of action.

The Raiders extended the margin in the second stanza, picking up 11 points compared to eight for the Charges as the red, white and blue recorded a 31-12 halftime lead.

If any doubt remained, Wayne Trace took care of it in the third quarter with 16 additional points to widen the Raider lead to 47-27 entering the final stanza.

Brooks Laukhuf totaled 31 points for the second straight game, after doing the same

the red, white and blue cause with Tianna Sinn and Caroline Winans both scoring five points. Kathleen Stoller and Amber Stoller picked up a pair of free throws apiece as well for Wayne Trace, which falls to 7-3 on the season.

Wayne Trace's junior varsity improved to 6-2 on the season with a 28-24 win over the Lady Warriors.

Olivia Zartman and Amber Stoller topped the Lady Raider efforts with ten points and eight points, respectively. Elizabeth Graham and Addison Stoller both picked up four markers for Wayne Trace while Kathleen Stoller connected on a pair of free throws.

McKenna Goble scored seven points to pace Woodlan in the contest while Addison Klotz chipped in five and Mariah Thullner posted four. Kyra Elwood (three), Grace Martin (two), Layla Hodson (two) and Emma McDaniel (one) also scored for the Lady Warriors, who fall to 10-6 overall.

against Arlington, while picking up six rebounds. Tanner Laukhuf posted nine points, four rebounds and five assists with Stoller and Carter Clemens both grabbing five boards.

Tanner Laukhuf dished out five assists and Hudson Myers dished out four helpers for the Raiders while Myers and Brooks Laukhuf each finished with four steals.

Jordan Eash paced West Noble with 13 points and Isaac Mast chipped in seven points. Other scorers for the Charges included Bradyn Barth (six), Nolan Kelly (five), Aiden Replogle (two) and Caleb Tyger (two).

RAIDERS HOLD OFF WARRIORS

Wayne Trace and Woodlan renewed their annual boys basketball rivalry Wednesday evening outside of Woodburn where the Raiders outlasted the Warriors for a 57-53 victory.

Kyle Stoller paced the way for Wayne Trace with a double-double, scoring 18 points while grabbing ten rebounds.

BULLDOGS SMASH BOMBERS IN OPENING ROUND OF ROUTE 49 TOURNAMENT



Opening round of the boys Annual Route 49 Tournament took place December 28th at Hicksville High School. Edgerton Bulldogs and Edon Bombers blasted the first round of competition into high gear. Pictured above, Edgerton junior Joel Walkup sneaks into the zone and scores for the Bulldogs, helping to send the team to the championship against the Archers. Final score for this match up: 56-37. More pictures at westbendnews.net

Stoller also dished out four assists for the red, white and blue.

Brooks Laukhuf chipped in 17 markers for the Raiders and hauled down six boards while Hudson Myers posted nine points. Cale Winans (eight) and Tanner Laukhuf (five) completed the scoring for Wayne Trace.

Tanner Laukhuf also recorded four assists to aid the Wayne Trace cause with Carter Clemens and Tanner Laukhuf both finishing with four rebounds.

Trey Yoder also had a double-double to lead Woodlan with 19 points and 11 rebounds. Jordan Halsey posted ten markers for the Warriors with Luke Meyer totaling nine markers and six rebounds. Braden Smith finished with seven points followed by Mason Moore (five) and Drew Fleek (three).

Wayne Trace led 19-15 at the end of one quarter before Woodlan rallied in the second stanza, outscoring the visiting Raiders 13-8 to record a slim 28-27 halftime advantage.

The Raiders responded in the third quarter, picking up 19 points compared to a dozen for the Warriors as Wayne Trace went on top 46-40 entering the final stanza.

Wayne Trace's junior varsity was also victorious, defeating the Warriors 48-29.

Ashtin Jacquay and Oliver Adams topped Woodlan with five points apiece with Jordan Halsey finishing with four markers. Caleb Kneubuhler, Nolan Beery, Landin Zern and Keaton Delagrangé all recorded three points and Caleb Linker added a basket.

Lance Maenle and Caden Sinn led the way for the Raiders with 19 and 14 points, respectively. Micah Sinn added six points followed by Nick Sinn (three), Eric Reinhart (three), Zach Stoller (two) and Blake Noggle (two).

CADETS HOLD OFF WARRIORS FOR WIN

Woodlan made the trip to Fort Wayne in non-league girls basketball action last

(Continued on Page 8)

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THE LEFT TURN



Will Kyle Larson 3-peat the Brad Doty Classic. Photo by Action Photo's Ohio

By: Ron Burt
Indoor Racing Kicks Off 2024

These next few weeks are big for indoor racing. The Tulsa Shootout set records for two new car entries in the 38th annual event. The Shootout in Tulsa, Oklahoma is the largest event for micro sprint racing in the world. Imagine sitting in the stands of a convention center and looking at the track infield with 1,666 cars waiting to take their turns to qualify in their respective classes. This year's car count had 258 Outlaw Midgets, 390 Outlaw NW, 409 A Class, 426 Outlaw NW, 148 Rest, and 119 Jr. Sprints.

Next week I'll have a full report on the Shootout as I follow Ohio driver Zac Wigal the 2023 USAC Thunder Midget Champion. Chad Boat and the CB Industries crew built a car especially for Zach to race at the 39th Shootout. He hopes this year to improve on his 11th place finish last year in the winged A-class feature. Zach will be running A-class wing and non-wing, and Outlaw non-wing this year. I will also be getting reports on our area Quarter Midget racers.

Indoor racing will stay in Tulsa for one more week for the 38th Annual Chili Bowl Nationals January 8-13th again at the Tulsa Expo Raceway. As of December 21st, the Midget car count is up to 350 entries from 42 states and 6 countries. So far 59 of the drivers have started past Chili Bowl National A Main's. Out of the current 350 entries 69 are rookies and 3 are past champions. This year the Chili Bowl National will pay \$20,000.00 to win.

The Chili Bowl National is unique being indoors, with truckloads of clay brought in to make the track. It's become

one of the crown jewels of racing over the years. It not only attracts Midget racers but also stars from NASCAR like Kyle Larson who's won the prestigious race twice. Retired World of Outlaw Champion Sammy Swindell won the very first race 37 years ago when it all started in Lawton OK. Even though he's retired as a driver he was one of the first to sign the entry form for this year's event.



The World of Outlaws 2024 Schedule Released. Photo by Action Photo's Ohio

World of Outlaws Ready For 2024

The World of Outlaws will look a little different this year. Some of the top drivers have opted out of the series to run the High Limit Series to try and get bigger payouts. Depending on the events drivers will cross-over for special races. The WoO will kick off their 2024 season on February 7th at the famous Volusia Park Speedway in the sunshine state with 4 big nights of racing for the Bike Week Jamboree and will then head deep in the heart of Texas and for the first time doesn't visit the historic Devils Bowl Speedway. The first track where the WoO series started has met the wrecking ball making way for a major business. After the Texas swing, the series will move to the upper Midwest making its way to Ohio. They race at Eldora on May 3rd and 4th. This starts a busy month in the Buckeye state. They will make stops at Attica, Sharon, Atomic, and Fremont Speedways. They'll return to Ohio

for the Famed Brad Doty Classic at Attica Raceway Park Tuesday, July 16th. Then it's back to Eldora for the Night Before July 19th and then The Kings Royal on July 20th. As the season winds down the WoO Series will make a late summer swing through the state starting September 27th at Wayne County Speedway in Orrville, then Sharon Speedway September 28th. The

Outlaws wrap the 2024 season at the Dirt Track in Charlotte North Carolina November 6th-9th for the World of Outlaw Finals. Soon I'll look at the High Limit Series and mention some of the drivers that have defected from the WoO to join Kyle Larson and High Limit Racing.

Keep your wheels down. Ron out! www.ohiosportsblitz@yahoo.com

NAMI FOUR COUNTY ADVOCACY PROGRAM

Since 1979, NAMI (The National Alliance on Mental Illness) has grown into the nation's leading voice on mental health. It is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization, with over 600 affiliates, dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. NAMI is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that supports public policies to help people with mental health conditions in the U.S. by advocating for national laws and regulations, state laws, as well as local policies.

NAMI Four County invites the area community to Your Voice Matters! being held at the Four County ADAMhs Board, Archbold on Tuesday, January 2nd at 7PM.

Attendees will learn how they can work together and raise awareness to ensure that people get the help they need when they need it in their communities. Wendy Jennings, Executive Director of NAMI Four County, will present the evening program. Jennings has experienced advocacy at the local, state, and national level.

She currently serves as an advocate member on the State Board of Psychology, is an Ohio Certified Family Peer Supporter, and a Certified Employment Support Professional.

All NAMI programs are FREE and open to the public. For more information call NAMI Four County at 419-439-8131 or email: info@namifourcounty.org.

NATHAN GERBER NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST AT CAPITAL UNIVERSITY FALL 2023

Nathan Gerber, of Latty, was named to the Dean's List at Capital University for the fall 2023 semester.

In order to be named to the Dean's List, full-time, degree-seeking students must have achieved a grade point average of 3.5 to 3.69.

Located in the Columbus, Ohio, neighborhood of Bexley, Capital University is a private, four-year undergraduate institution and graduate school. Capital prepares students for meaningful lives and purposeful careers through a relevant liberal arts core curriculum and deep professional programs. Influenced by its

Lutheran heritage, Capital places great emphasis on the free and open exchange of ideas, seeking out diverse perspectives, active participation in society, leadership and service. With a focus on rigor and experiential learning, the University capitalizes on its size, location, and heritage to develop the whole person, both inside and outside the classroom.

SINN NAMED TO OHIO DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY'S 2023 FALL SEMESTER DEAN'S LIST

Claire Sinn of Haviland, OH (45851) has been named to Ohio Dominican University's 2023 Fall Semester Dean's list. In order to make the Dean's List, full-time undergraduate students must have achieved a 3.5 GPA or better after taking a minimum of 12 credit hours.

Ohio Dominican University is a comprehensive, four-year, private, liberal arts and master's institution, founded in 1911 in the Catholic and Dominican tradition by the Dominican Sisters of Peace. The University has approximately 1,262 students and offers undergraduate degrees in 42 majors and nine graduate degree programs. At ODU, students connect their passion with a purpose.

KLOPFENSTEIN ANNOUNCES NATUREWORK GRANTS FOR 82ND HOUSE DISTRICT

State Rep. Roy Klopfenstein (R-Haviland) announced funding for three Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) NatureWorks Grants within the district.

Every year, ODNR awards NatureWorks Grants to communities around the state to assist with the acquisition, development, and rehabilitation of recreational areas.

Parks in the 82nd House District receiving grants are as follows:

- Hicksville Park: \$21,280 for relocating volleyball courts and replacing tennis court fencing (Hicksville, Ohio)
- Four Seasons Park: \$20,504 for installing a wheelchair swing (Kalida, Ohio)
- Stadium Park: \$19,560 for installing lights along walking trails (Delphos, Ohio)

(Continued from Page 7)

week as the Lady Warriors traveled to Concordia where the Cadets held off the Warriors for a 60-54 victory.

Taylor Kneubuhler topped the Woodlan effort with 18 points while grabbing seven rebounds. Alix Jacquay chipped in 17 markers and nine boards for the Lady Warriors and Brooke Kneubuhler posted nine points, four rebounds, two assists and four steals.

Alyssa Anderson totaled eight points, 16 rebounds and four assists for Woodlan while Reagan Widenhoefer and Karina Pepler both connected on one free throw.

Makenna Smith hauled down four rebounds and dished out a pair of assists with Widenhoefer picking up three boards and three assists for the Lady Warriors.

Chloe Gaff also had three assists for Woodlan.

PANTHERS VS PANTHERS IN HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL



Panthers from Paulding and the Stryker Panthers went head to head on December 22nd in high school boys basketball. Paulding played host on this pre-Christmas match up. Pictured above is Paulding Junior Greyson Harder being fouled while attempting a layup sending him to the line, scoring one point for the Panthers. Final score was a Paulding Panther home victory: Paulding 56, Stryker 33. More pictures at westbendnews.net

“Park improvement projects throughout the district will allow everyone to enjoy our public recreational spaces,” said Klopfenstein.

NatureWorks projects are funded through the Ohio Parks and Natural Resources Bond Issue, which was approved by Ohio voters in November 1993.

RIGHT TO HUNT & FISH PASSES OHIO HOUSE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Ohio House of Representatives' Energy and Natural Resource Committee passed legislation to send a proposed constitutional amendment to voters that would enshrine Ohio's right to hunt and fish for generations.

“Anti-hunting forces are pushing a radical agenda to ban fishing and hunting as we know it, and today Ohio took another step forward in fighting back,” said T. Roosevelt Action Executive Director Luke Hilgemann. “Hunters and anglers in Ohio want to protect their sporting heritage – this constitutional amendment is the best way to do it. T. Roosevelt Action will continue to advocate for our way of life and protect these cherished outdoor traditions for the next generation.”

“I thank Chairman Kick for holding the vote today. T. Roosevelt Action will continue to work with House leadership to get a floor vote scheduled as soon as possible.”

HJR 5, which passed the

committee 6-4, will now move to consideration for a floor vote by Ohio's House of Representatives before moving to the Senate. Once passed by the Legislature, the measure would go in front of Ohio's voters during the 2024 Election.

T. Roosevelt Action's efforts in Ohio follow their successful campaign in Florida to get the right to fish and hunt on the ballot in 2024. Nationwide, the organization is taking a proactive stance on engaging hunters and anglers about threats to their rights and urging them to enshrine those rights in their state constitutions.

Facts on Hunting in Ohio

- Hunting and fishing are deeply rooted in Ohio's heritage, with an estimated 479,000 Ohioans enjoying outdoor hunting activities in 2022.

- Hunting contributes \$1.3 billion annually to Ohio's economy and supports 15,500 jobs.

- American hunters contribute nearly \$9.4 million daily, adding more than \$3.4 billion annually for conservation.

- The amendment will provide robust legal protection against anti-hunting legislation and litigation in states previously lacking such safeguards.

- The amendment will protect those who rely on hunting and fishing for sustenance, particularly the less fortunate, from unnecessary restrictions.

HIGH SCHOOL Men & Women's Basketball SCORES & MORE
20 Conferences: 9:30 & 10:30PM
Ohio Sport Blitz Facebook Live with Ron Burt
www.facebook.com/ohiosportsblitz

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RAIDERS TOPPLE RED DEVILS



Cale Winans, Wayne Trace senior, adds two points to the Raider score with this picture by Harlee Moore. More pictures at westbendnews.net

The Friday before Christmas saw some holiday boys basketball at the Palace where the WT Raiders went head to head with Arlington Red Devils. The Raiders set the pace on their home court. Arlington made some shots on the Raiders but, each quarter Wayne Trace came out on top. Red Devils fell to the Raiders: 74-51.

Score by Quarters:
Arlington (4-3) - 13 7 15 16 = 51
Wayne Trace (6-1) - 16 20 19 19 = 74
Arlington:
Jase Vermillion 2-1-0-7;
Brady Kin 0-0-0-0; Luke Metzger 0-2-0-6; Wyatt Berry 1-0-0-2; Caden Russell 6-0-1-13; Brady Griggs 2-0-0-4; Trenton Heacock 0-0-0-0; Elijah Frysinger 4-0-4-12; Ayden Cavines 0-2-1-7
Wayne Trace:
Hudson Myers 3-0-1-7;

Tanner Laukhuf 1-0-1-3; Brady Miller 0-1-0-3; Caden Sinn 0-1-0-3; Tyson Gerber 0-0-0-0; Cale Winans 1-0-2-4; Brooks Laukhuf 7-3-8-31; Carter Clemens 2-0-0-4; Caleb Mosier 1-0-0-2; Lance Maenle 0-1-0-3; Kyle Stoller 5-0-2-12; Zach Stoller 1-0-0-2

Two Point Field Goals - Arlington 15-27, Wayne Trace 21-37
Three Point Field Goals - Arlington 5-28, Wayne Trace 6-14
Free Throws - Arlington 6-14, Wayne Trace 14-19
Rebounds - Arlington 36 (Cavines 10, Berry 6, Russell 6), Wayne Trace 31 (B. Laukhuf 8, K. Stoller 7)
Turnovers - Arlington 14, Wayne Trace 12
Assists - Arlington 13 (Vermillion 7), Wayne Trace 11 (T. Laukhuf 6)
Steals - Arlington 6 (Rus-

sell 2), Wayne Trace 10 (B. Laukhuf 4)

Junior Varsity - Wayne Trace 45, Arlington 25

PEONY QUEEN JUBILEE CANDIDATES SELECTED

Candidates for the Van Wert Peony Festival's Queen Jubilee Pageant have been selected for the 49th annual pageant. The crowning event will be held on Friday, April 5th at 7:00 p.m. at Lifehouse Church in Van Wert. Nine candidates from the area will compete in several areas of competition for the title of Queen Jubilee XLIX, and all contestants will receive a scholarship upon competition of the festival, and over \$5,000 in total scholarships will be awarded to the Queen and her court.

This year's candidates include:

Melissa Joseph, daughter of Kirby and Sammi Joseph, will be representing Crestview.

Emily Rode, daughter of Crysti Rode and Joe Rode, will be representing Delphos Jefferson.

Chloe Etkorn, daughter of Matt & Denise Etkorn, will be representing Delphos St. Johns.

Claire Keysor, daughter of Mike & Leah Keysor, is a homeschool student, representing independently educated students.

Sydney King, daughter of Craig King, will be representing Lincolnview.

Jessa Burgei, daughter of Chris & Megan Burgei, will be representing Ottoville.

Elli Barton, daughter of Ben & Tricia Barton, will be representing Paulding.

Macy Johnson, daughter of Demond & Lisa Johnson, will be representing Van Wert.

Tess Vonderwell, daughter of Dave and Sue Vonderwell, will be representing Vantage Career Center.

The lucky young woman crowned as Queen Jubilee XLIX and her court will reign over the 2024 Peony Festival, June 7 & 8, and have numerous other opportunities to be involved throughout the area.

ALL LUTHERAN HEALTH NETWORK BIRTHING HOSPITALS RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE IN INFANT AND MATERNAL HEALTH

All five Lutheran Health Network (LHN) hospitals providing birthing services - Bluffton Regional Medical Center, Dukes Memorial Hospital, Dupont Hospital, Lutheran Hospital and Lutheran Kosciusko Hospital - were recognized by the Indiana Hospital Association (IHA), in partnership with Governor Eric J. Holcomb and State Health Commissioner

Lindsay Weaver, M.D., FACEP, for their commitment to infant and maternal health at the fourth annual INspire Hospital of Distinction recognition program.

INspire, funded by the Indiana Department of Health's Safety PIN grant, was developed to implement the delivery of best practice care for Hoosier moms and babies and recognize hospitals for excellence in addressing key drivers of infant and maternal health.

"The daily work of our delivering hospitals makes a monumental impact on the lives of so many Hoosier moms and infants in every corner of our state," said Governor Holcomb.

All LHN hospitals earned an INspire Hospital of Distinction recognition based on implementing best practices in seven key areas, including infant safe sleep, breastfeeding, tobacco prevention and cessation, perinatal substance use, obstetric hemorrhage, maternal hypertension, and social determinants of health.

"We appreciate this recognition from Governor Holcomb, Indiana Hospital Association and State Health Commissioner Weaver acknowledging the quality of care that is consistently delivered within all five Lutheran Health Network Birthplaces in Fort Wayne, Bluffton, Peru and Warsaw. We are making a difference across the region by focusing on improving the health of area women and infants," said Domenic Martinello, MD, MBA, CPHQ, Chief Medical Officer of Lutheran Hospital.

"Our birthing hospitals work tremendously hard to make sure all babies born in Indiana have the best start at life, while caring for the mothers who delivered them," said Dr. Weaver. "Reducing infant and maternal mortality requires a continued multi-pronged approach over the course of many years to see impactful change. It is heartening to see the progress we've made but we must continue to adopt best practices so that we can celebrate more first births in Indiana."

DEFIANCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES 12/11/23

The Board of Defiance County Commissioners met in regular session at 8:45 a.m. on Monday, December 11, 2023, in the Defiance County 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 resolutions, contracts, and documents. The Commissioners also reviewed the calendar of events and discussed upcoming meetings.

Russ Herman, Defiance County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, met with the Board to provide an update on various pending legal matters.

Warren Schlatter, Defiance County Engineer and Landfill Director, met with

(Letter to ... continued from Page 5)

and a lot of us knew it back then. I hope other people will take a walk from the dam to the railroad bridge and beyond to see what is going on and speak out about it.

There is a lot to see along our creek but it looks more like a dump or sewer right now. There has to be a way to take care of this problem that just gets worse as the spring brings high water and more stuff to get caught in these big jams. It's not an easy problem to find a solution for but there has to be something that can

be done to get that out of the creek, maybe into the woods and the creek might clean itself out if the water can flow freely.

Anybody have any ideas or want to go look at what I'm talking about get in touch with me. I do a lot of walking out there in the fall, winter and spring. Thanks for reading this and hopefully considering what is going on with our natural resources at our creek. I'm always ready to take a walk out there.

—Gregg Gorman, 419-399-4606, Paulding, OH

WEST BEND NEWS
Crossword Puzzle
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

- Across**
3. Running events held at midnight or early on New Year's Day.
 4. Gatherings held on the eve of New Year's Day to celebrate.
 6. Wearing red undergarments for good luck in some cultures.
 10. Intentions to improve oneself or one's life in the coming year.
 12. A customary practice of making personal goals for the upcoming year.
 15. A tradition of counting down the final seconds while a ball drops before the new year begins happens here.
 16. Some individuals jump into icy waters as a daring tradition.
 17. Lighting fires to symbolize renewal and cleansing for the new year.
- Down**
1. Festive processions held in various cities around the world.
 2. A tradition where people wear disguises and visit neighbors singing and dancing.
 5. Cake eaten on New Year's Day that has a coin baked in it. Whoever gets the slice with the coin will have good luck in the new year.
 7. THESE ring at midnight to ward off evil spirits and welcome good luck.
 8. A song sung at midnight to bid farewell to the old year.
 9. In Greece, families hang THESE in doorways on New Year's Day as a symbol of good health, fertility and longevity.
 11. A superstition where the first person entering a home on New Year's Day brings luck.
 13. Displayed at midnight to celebrate the beginning of the new year.
 14. Eat 12 of these, one at each stroke of midnight, to represent the months of the new year.
 15. Raising a glass and offering well wishes for the new year.

solution on page 11

THIS PUZZLE BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



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the Board to provide a monthly update. The Engineer's office has finished County bridge inspections and is working on widening Farmer Mark Road in preparation for paving in 2024. The Engineer's office is also working on funding applications for potential future projects including improvements to State Route 424. Mr. Schlatter also gave an update on the status of the landfill, which has set a record for tonnage received for the year and is on track to also set a yearly record for cubic yards. Mr. Schlatter stated that this is due to an expansion of the service area of the landfill.

DEFIANCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES 12/18/23

The Board of Defiance County Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, December 18, 2023, in the Defiance County 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 the Jen-Querry of the Metro Parks Board for a quarterly update. Ms. English updated the Commissioners on new appointments and reappointments to the Metro Parks Board and outlined plans for meetings in 2024.

The Commissioners met with Sheriff Doug Engel and Chief Deputy Cliff Vandemark to discuss the Associate Deputies.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Carryall Township Trustees will hold their reorganization meeting on:

Tuesday, January 2, 2024,
7:00 p.m.
at 3408 County Road 192

— Deb Wyckoff,
Fiscal Officer
Carryall Township Trustees

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

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

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

Ronald J. Cherek, Attorney for Plaintiff

ANTWERP POLICE REPORTS



On December 14, an employee of the Sunoco Gas Station turned over a coat, a phone and other items that was left at the station and no one had returned to retrieve them.

On December 14, a resident of North Garden Apartments reported that the plastic covering his car window was torn and believed someone had intentionally uncovered the window.

On December 14, an employee of Paulding County Senior Center requested a welfare check of a resident at Frank Leinard Mobile Home Park. The resident was found to be in the hospital.

On December 14, at the conclusion of an investigation, an adult male was arrested for unlawful sexual conduct with a minor and was transported to Paulding County Jail.

On December 16, a resident of North Garden Apartments reported debris from a headlight assembly laying on the roadway at entrance of the apartments. Officer responded, collected the debris and unable to locate any damaged vehicles.

On December 18, a resident reported receiving harassing text messages from a former girlfriend. The case was investigated and complainant advised that he didn't want anything done.

On December 18, an alarm went off at a local business. It was determined that a delivery driver had set the alarm off.

On December 19, officers were called to a residence on Main St. in reference to the resident not answering the door.

On December 21, a resident of Archer Drive reported a suspicious vehicle driving up and down Archer Dr. The vehicle was located and it was determined they were there to make a purchase off of Facebook Marketplace.

On December 21, a resident reported a possible scam. She stated someone kept calling her in reference to a car warranty and was attempting to get personal information from her.

On December 23, a resident of Hicksville reported they believed money had been taken from their vehicle while it was at a local business. The call was investigated and determined no money was missing.

On December 23, an officer located an individual at North Garden Apartments

that had a warrant for their arrest. The individual was arrested and transported to Paulding County Jail.

On December 23, a manager of Dollar General reported a possible theft. The officer located the individual and the case is under investigation.

On December 26, an employee of Dollar General reported a suspicious person loitering outside the store. The individual was contacted, identified and was assisted with getting on his way.

On December 26, an officer assisted the Antwerp EMS at a residence for an unresponsive female.

On December 26, Antwerp Police Department assisted a local business with bad checks that had been issued to them. The case was investigated and the individual responsible had been arrested by US Marshall Service.

On December 27, a resident of 103 Frank Leinard Pkwy reported suspicious activity around her residence.

On December 27, a downtown business reported a suspicious vehicle with Georgia license plates that had been parked behind the business for a couple of days. The call was investigated and the driver of the vehicle identified.

If you would like to report any suspicious activity or if you have any questions, please contact the Antwerp Police Department, 419-258-2627. They are always ready to serve the residents of the Village of Antwerp!

PAULDING COUNTY GRAND JURY INDICTMENTS

Paulding County Prosecuting Attorney Joseph R. Burkard announced that the Paulding County Grand Jury indicted (17) persons on Wednesday, December 20th, 2023.

Brandon D. Kunkle (6/6/1984), Paulding, OH; Nonsupport of dependents, F5 (2 counts)

Jamie Derward Coombs (6/16/1978), Paulding, OH; Aggravated possession of drugs, F5 (2 counts)

Dennis Ray Mullins (9/22/1975), Defiance, OH; Failure to register, F3

Kyler A. Martinico (9/22/1998), Lima, OH; Dissemination matter harmful to juveniles, F5

Riley B. Leatherman (8/25/2005), Oakwood, OH; Failure to comply with an order or signal of a police officer, F3

Christopher J. Corwin (2/10/1982), Van Wert, OH; Nonsupport of dependents, F5 (2 counts)

Ronnie Lee Smith (9/7/1982), Grover Hill, OH; Aggravated possession of drugs, F2

Aaron Thomas Powell (8/25/1982), Cecil, OH; Open burning or open dumping of solid waste, UF

Ramon Richard Nadeau (1/30/1992) Keego Harbor, MI; Receiving stolen property,

F4; Failure to comply with an order or signal of a police officer, F3; Receiving stolen property, F5 (2 counts)

Kirslynn P. Camposano (1/16/2003), Paulding, OH; Theft, F5; Misdemeanor theft, M1; Unauthorized use of a vehicle, M1; Operating a vehicle under the influence of alcohol, a drug of abuse or combination of them - OVI, M1;

Joseph L. Wiswell (5/15/1983), Paulding, OH; Nonsupport of dependents, F5 (2 counts)

Tashia M. Johnson (12/31/1987), Defiance, OH; Trespass in a habitation when a person is present or likely to be present, F4; Improperly handling firearms in a motor vehicle, F4, Specification for forfeiture of a weapon; Domestic violence, M1; Assault, M1

Joshua Lee Newsome (8/26/1987), Oakwood, OH; Aggravated possession of drugs, F5

Tami L. Kamphaus (10/21/1985), Grover Hill, OH; Aggravated possession of drugs, F5

David Aaron Corson (2/28/2002), Antwerp, OH; Unlawful sexual conduct with a minor, F4 (2 counts)

Rhea M. Martin (8/22/1995), Cloverdale, OH; Aggravated possession of drugs, F5

Robert S. Zorman (10/4/1991), Van Wert, OH; Aggravated possession of drugs, F5

PAULDING COUNTY COURT RECORDS

Criminal/Traffic

Disposition Report

Joshua Williams Jr., Harrison, MI; Criminal damages; Case dismissed per state, costs waived

Darrole E. Willis, Indianapolis, IN; Possession of marijuana, Pled no contest, found guilty, Defendant to pay all fines and costs, Maintain general good behavior, All contraband shall be forfeited and destroyed or put to lawful use by the arresting agency; OVI/under influence, Pled no contest, found guilty, 30 days jail, 17 days suspended; No operator's license, Count B dismissed; Seat belt/pass, Count D dismissed

Travis D. Dix, Paulding, OH; Non-support of dependents (2 counts); Pled no contest, found guilty; 100 days jail suspended; Defendant to pay all fines and costs; Continue to make child support monthly payments; Probation shall monitor for 6 months

Christopher R. Wilson, Payne, OH; Drug paraphernalia, Case dismissed per state, Costs waived; Possession of marijuana, Pled no contest, found guilty, Defendant to pay all fines and costs, Maintain general good behavior, All contraband shall be forfeited and destroyed or put to lawful use by the arresting agency; Endanger child, Pled no contest, found guilty, 90 days jail suspended, Defendant to pay all fines and costs, Placed on standard probation, Evaluation, Complete Thinking For A Change or comparable program, Risk assessment, Parenting class, Online classes determined by probation; OVI/under influence, Pled no contest, found guilty, 90 days jail, 87 days suspended, Operator's license suspended from 01/01/2024 to 01/01/2025, May attend DIP in lieu of 3 days jail, Proof of insurance provided, Standard probation,

Evaluation with Westwood, 20 hours community service, Risk assessment, Probation to determine online course; determined lanes, Pled no contest, found guilty, Defendant to pay all fines and costs

Alexander D. Maag, Delphos, OH; Improper loaded gun; Guilty; Case was waived by defendant

Treavor W. Gross, Antwerp, OH; FRA suspension, Case A dismissed; Seat belt/drive, Pled no contest, found guilty, Defendant to pay all fines and costs; Display plates, Pled no contest, found guilty, Defendant to pay all fines and costs

Riley B. Leatherman, Oakwood, OH; No operator's license, Pled no contest, found guilty, Show proof of insurance today; Seat belt/drive, Pled no contest, found guilty, Defendant to pay all fines and costs

Matthew A. Hormann, Antwerp, OH; Driving/texting; Guilty; Case was waived by defendant

Daron K. Showalter, Grover Hill, OH; Improper loaded gun; Guilty; Case was waived by defendant

Awildra M. Falkner, Indianapolis, IN; Driving under non FRA suspension; Case dismissed at defendant's cost

Carla A. Drudge, Fort Wayne, IN; Driving/texting; Guilty; Case was waived by defendant

Chase F. Clark, Antwerp, OH; Marked lanes, Guilty, Case was waived by defendant; Seat belt/drive, Guilty, Case was waived by defendant; Distracted driving, Guilty, Defendant completed course

Nicholas W. Robinson, Plainfield, IN; Driving/texting, Guilty; Case was waived by defendant

Christopher J. Brueggeman, Paulding, OH; Failure to control; Guilty; Case was waived by defendant

Brandy N. Porter, Fort Wayne, IN; FRA suspension; Count A dismissed

Jacob Klassen, Aylmer RR, ON; Following too close; Guilty; Case was waived by defendant

Ramon Macias Jr., Defiance, OH; Distracted driving; Guilty; Case was waived by defendant

Zeid H. Saad, Dearborn, MI; Marked lanes; Pled no contest, found guilty; Defendant to pay all fines and costs

Brandon M. McAlpine, Mount Washington, KY; Permit violation; Guilty; Case was waived by defendant

Allison J. Ankney, Paulding, OH; Failure to control; Guilty; Case was waived by

defendant

Jessica L. Gantz, Lima, OH; Failure to control; Guilty; Case was waived by defendant

FIELD REPORTS FROM OHIO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE OFFICERS

Central Ohio - Wildlife District One

During the 2023 white-tailed deer gun hunting season, State Wildlife Officer Maurice Irish, assigned to Delaware County, received a Turn-In-a-Poacher (TIP) report regarding shots fired from the roadway at Delaware Wildlife Area. Officer Irish and Law Operations Manager Josh Shields responded to the area and located the suspect. The officers found the suspect had fired two shots from the roadway. Two summonses for hunting with the aid of a motor vehicle and shooting from a designated roadway were issued, and the suspect were ordered to pay \$277 in fines and court costs through Delaware Municipal Court. If you suspect a wildlife crime has been committed, call the TIP hotline at 1-800-POACHER (1-800-762-2437).

State Wildlife Officer Austin Levering, assigned to Knox County, and Wildlife Officer Cadet Breyer Ehrnfield attended the Morrow County Amish Safety Day. They spoke about hunting safely from a tree stand, fall arrest systems, and lifeline use, and provided demonstrations. They also discussed the importance of inspecting tree stands and straps prior to hunting, firearm safety, and safe zones of fire while hunting in a group. The event was attended by more than 300 participants and was sponsored by the Morrow County Health Department.

Northwest Ohio - Wildlife District Two

During the early white-tailed deer gun hunting season in the Chronic Wasting Disease surveillance area of Hardin, Marion, and Wyandot counties, State Wildlife Officer Brock Williamson patrolled neighboring Seneca County. Officer Williamson contacted two individuals wearing hunter orange and carrying guns. Both individuals were hunting deer with a firearm. The individuals were charged for hunting deer with a firearm in Seneca County out of season. The individuals were found guilty and each paid \$100 in fines and court costs.

During an ODN Job Shadow Day, State Wildlife Officer Brian Baker, assigned

to Lake Erie, and Lake Erie Investigator Kelsey Brockman talked to 45 high school students from a local vocational school about the wildlife officer career. The group learned about the job's requirements, benefits, training, and preparation. Additionally, State Wildlife Officers Ben Smith, Cole Tilton, Bob Nelson, and Matt Roberts, assigned to Morgan, Vinton, Ross, and Highland counties, respectively, and Field Supervisor Dave Warner participated in job shadow events around the state.

Northeast Ohio - Wildlife District Three

While patrolling Beach City Wildlife Area, State Wildlife Officer Michael Budd, assigned to Tuscarawas County, observed a woman spray-painting rock walls with graffiti. He contacted the individual, who did not comply with his orders. The suspect was later charged with criminal mischief, public indecency for, litter for leaving paint cans at the scene, and deterring a wildlife officer. The woman was convicted in New Philadelphia Municipal Court, received a \$300 fine and additional court costs, and was ordered to serve 40 hours of community service.

State Wildlife Officers Aaron Brown, Cory Burroughs, Michael Greer, Zach Hillman, Echan Huegel, Eric Moore, Dan Shroyer, and Randy White, assigned to Wayne County, Holmes County, at-large in northeast Ohio, Cuyahoga County, Ashland County, Medina County, Summit County, and Lorain County, respectively, built and installed four box blinds at Camp Belden Wildlife Area with help from Wildlife Technician Wade Dunlap. The blinds were built for youth white-tailed deer hunters. Soon after construction, a young hunter harvested a deer from one of the newly built blinds.

Southeast Ohio - Wildlife District Four

State Wildlife Officer Ryan Donnelly, assigned to Athens County, received a call from a landowner who witnessed two people conducting a white-tailed deer drive on private property without permission. Officer Donnelly contacted the individuals and found them to be hunting without permission. The suspects were issued summonses in Athens Municipal Court and each paid \$190 in fines and court costs.

State Wildlife Officer Cole Tilton, assigned to Vinton County, received a phone call

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during the 2023 deer gun hunting season about people hunting without hunter orange. During deer gun seasons, all hunters, regardless of their implement, are required to visibly wear a vest, coat, jacket, or coveralls that are either solid hunter orange or camouflage hunter orange. Officer Tilton contacted the hunter and determined that none of them met the hunter orange requirements. The suspects pleaded guilty in Vinton County Court and paid \$182 in fines and court costs.

Southwest Ohio - Wildlife District Five

During the white-tailed deer gun hunting season, State Wildlife Officer Gus Kiebel, assigned to Adams County, followed up on a Turn-In-a-Poacher (TIP) report of a deer hunting violation. Officer Kiebel determined that an Illinois resident had purchased a hunting license and deer permits for an Ohio resident, and used the other man's permits to game check deer. Officer Kiebel and State Wildlife Officer Micah Collier, assigned to Brown County, found that the nonresident harvested three antlered deer in the 2023 gun hunting season. Two were checked in under his friend's name, one improperly checked as a button buck. The suspect was issued summonses for taking more than the limit of antlered deer and failing to game check a deer. He was also cited for surpassing the Adams County deer bag limit during the 2022-23 season. The suspect was found guilty in Adams County Court on all charges. He was sentenced to pay \$1,500 in restitution and \$448 in court costs, and forfeited a rifle and three antlered deer. If you notice suspicious wildlife activity, call 1-800-POACHER (1-800-762-2437).

State Wildlife Officer Mark Schemmel, assigned to Auglaize County, participated in an annual Shop with the Blue event in Wapakoneta for more than 100 kids in need. State Wildlife Officer Isaiah Gifford, assigned to Clermont County, State Wildlife Officer Micah Collier, assigned to Brown County, State Wildlife Officer Trent Weaver, assigned to Montgomery County, State Wildlife Officer Matt Roberts, assigned to Highland County, and Communications Specialist Jordan Skates, Wildlife Research Technician Jordan Johnson, and Fish Management Technician Kelsea Downs participated in the annual Brown-Highland County Shop with a Cop event. The event took place in Hillsboro and 40 children enjoyed a day that included breakfast, bowling, and gift wrapping.

WOOLWORTHS 5&10

One of the greatest comeback stories I have ever heard. At age 24 Frank Winfield's life was over. A failure in his chosen field, and now he was dying. A neighbor girl was hired

to take care of him. She had faith in him and fed him when he was too weak to feed himself. She perhaps was the only one that believed in him, but as he regained his health he would prove her right.

Frank was too frail to be a farmer, and had always dreamed of being a retailer. In those days much of the merchandise was sold by door to door salesmen, so Frank would be a peddler. Frank was not suited for door to door sales, and he was a dismal failure.

Then he got a job in a department store in Waterford, New York, and failed at this. He tried so hard that his health began to deteriorate to the point that his life was in danger. He had done everything that he was told. At one point he worked a 14-hour day, then slept in the basement with a gun under his head, because the store had numerous robberies. He was mostly sweeping floors and cleaning cuspidors. He worked 3 years then took a job at another department store.



One day he collapsed, became bed fast and was an invalid. Even the doctor feared for his life. A neighbor girl by the name of Jenny Kriton was hired to care for him 24 hours a day. She had been a seamstress and with eight brothers and sisters had done some nursing. She was the only one that believed he would recover. With the encouragement of a beautiful blue-eyed teenage girl, he began to recover, and got stronger than he ever was.

Jenny became his constant companion and his encourager. They married Jun 11, 1876. Frank established a chain of 90 plus department stores in the US and foreign countries. His full name was Frank Winfield, F.W. Woolworth.

I personally have some fond memories of Woolworth Department Stores. When I was a youth there was one in Fort Wayne which we shopped at but it was overshadowed by G.C. Murphy's. Another I remember was on Main Street in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

When my children were young we went to visit the Kellogg's plant. In those days they would take you for a tour inside the plant as they were making corn flakes. It was a marked loop and you only saw that part of the plant, but it was actually operating. As you gather, two attractive girls in

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uniform show you a movie of the operation.

Then one guides you through the plant, and afterward you gather and she answers your questions. As you leave she gives you a six pack of individual boxes of cereal. Do they still sell those individual boxes of cereal? It was quite a neat experience for both parents and children. The cereal made a nice snack.

The city of Grand Rapids was beautiful with Main Street closed to all but pedestrian traffic. There were trees growing in the middle of the street. To get to Main Street you had to park behind a store and walk through the store. We parked in the Woolworth lot and walked the length of the store, of course shopping as you go.

We took our youngest years later and you could no longer go through the Kellogg's factory. There was no shopping downtown as everything had moved out to the mall. I guess this was a sign of the times because the malls are practically done. I miss the days when people actually lived in towns.

Woolworths changed the entire concept of marketing. When he began everything was in a case, and there was no set prices, you haggled with the clerk. The merchandiser purchased everything from a wholesaler. Frank did away with the middleman, and put things on tables so people could touch them. In his first store everything was a nickel, then his second store he had items for a nickel and items for a dime.

Incidentally, his first store in Utica New York, failed miserably. His second try in Lancaster Pennsylvania took off gangbusters. The Woolworth Building in New York City was the tallest building in the world, with the fastest elevators. He paid for it with 11 million dollars cash. Woolworth said, "You learn more when you fail than when you succeed." Whitie Heller used to say that you learn more when you lose a game then when you win.

Perhaps the greatest success story ever, from a man that was completely spent, became perhaps the richest man

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in the world in his time. There is a cute song from that era about the Woolworth store in Austin Texas. "Love at the Five and Dime" By Nancy Griffin. If you don't have a phone have a grandkid play it for you.

—James Neuhouser

ANTWERP SCHOOL BOARD MEETING 12/21/23

The meeting began with Superintendent Dr. Marty Miller announcing the guests at the meeting. President Sara Schuette asked for an approval of the minutes of the previous board meeting. Bob Herber said not much action has taken place at the state level. Recker stated that Assistant Governor Husted visited Vantage Career Center for their new Public Safety Grant.

Kristine Stuart presented the financial report for the month of November.

income: \$603,991.26
expenses: \$897,285.43
interest: \$47,168.59

High School Principal Travis Lichty gave the principal's report. December 22 is the last day of the semester. Travis said many of the negative behaviors are down and he attributes it to good kids and some changes made in positive reinforcement. The football team had seven kids on the All-State team. Last week a good high school band concert took place. Travis said a lot of extra-curricular activities are in the upcoming schedule.

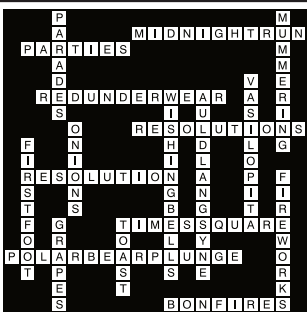
Dr. Miller presented Mrs. Stokes' report. Officer Phelan came into the school about DARE graduation. The PTO awards were given out and Dr. Miller said he appreciates the parent involvement. The third grade fall testing showed that 47% passing in the reading category at the state level and Antwerp was 73%, way above average.

Marty said the school will be hiring Sarah Thomas as the Intervention Specialist which is a much needed addition. Robert Philips is taking over as a full time bus driver. The Range construction is moving along nicely. Target finish date is March 7, 2024.

Harold Gottke was at the meeting, stating that cyber training is a required seminar and he was saying it really opened his eyes. He said training the staff here has been good. The school is creating a response training and must be quite detailed.

The 2024-25 school year calendar is to be approved. Coming up to this school year February 9th is a 2 hour inservice day and April 8 is full inservice day. Safe Routes to School is also being scheduled to see if sidewalk infrastructure can be improved in the village. More young people are going into education than last year, but still way below pre-2020 levels.

Thirteen Superintendents all met at Vantage Career Center last week, and Marty visited with several students there too. Truland



Crossword solution from page 9

Equipment had some sales reps meet with the school and said that equipment would be increasing January 1st. The school is interested in upgrading some of the equipment. There is also a conference in Orlando, FL that Marty, Harold, Elise Boyer and Travis are heading to after the new year.



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THIS WEEK ON PCBW: PETE SEYMOUR



Sportscaster Pete Seymour is the next guest on Paulding County Business Weekly. Learn how Pete transplanted from western Pennsylvania to northwest Ohio, becoming a sports staple through his weekly Saturday morning show on My102.7 FM, and doing play-by-play for MySports.Live. Tune in to this

week's episode on Tuesdays & Thursdays at 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. or listen online at www.my1027.org/paulding-county-business-weekly/ or check it out on several podcast platforms including Spotify, Google, and Apple. Thanks to OhioMeansJobs for sponsoring this program. #Paulding-countystrong.

PHS ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME ANNOUNCEMENT

The Paulding Athletic Hall of Fame committee met in the spring of 2023 to review and vote on a list of nominees for the 22nd induction class into the Paulding Athletic Hall of Fame.

We are excited to announce that we will have one new member being inducted during the 2023/24 school year, the late Ron Foltz, Sr.

Ron Foltz, Sr was a 1962 graduate of Paulding High School where he lettered in

Basketball (4 years), Baseball (3 years) and Track (2 years). Ron's achievements include:

- Paulding County Athletic Association 1st Team Basketball (Paulding Progress)
- Toledo Blade All Star Selection - First Team Basketball
- Two-time Toledo Blade All-County Award (Baseball)
- Held Points per Season scoring record from 1962-1976 (23.5 ppg)
- Held single game scoring record from 1961-1975 (43 points)

The 22nd induction ceremony will take place on Satur-

day, January 27th, 2024 following the junior varsity boys basketball game against Montpelier. The family and friends of Ron Foltz, Sr. will be in attendance to accept the award on his behalf.

If you would like to nominate an individual or a team for the Paulding High School Athletic Hall of Fame, please fill out and submit a nomination form which can be found on the school website, www.pauldingschools.org, under the Athletic tab.

Go Panthers!

ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS PROVIDES APPROVAL TO PAULDING COUNTY LAND BANK

The December meeting of the Paulding County Land Reutilization Committee (Land Bank) was hosted at the office of the Paulding County Commissioners.

Matt Wagner, with EPA consultant Tetra Tech, shared that the long-awaited letter of approval from the US Army Corps of Engineers has finally been received. The letter confirms that the bodies of water located on the former Stokely and Grizzley properties were man-made and are not actual designated Ohio wetlands. With this confirmation the water can be drained and the property leveled for approved future development. As the committee establishes criteria for a future excavation bidding, the current owner of the former Grizzley brake factory, Arvin Environmental Management, LLC, has committed to some property border foliage remediation and fence repair on the site.

The Paulding theatre building and adjoining None-

YOUTH PRESENT CHRISTMAS STORY AT MT. CALVARY



The youth of Mt Calvary Lutheran Church in Antwerp led the December 17 Sunday service by presenting the Christmas story

and gospel message under the direction of Kyle Zartman and Ryan Zuber. Church services are held every Sunday at 10:15 am; edu-

cation classes at 9:15 am. Rev. Mark Peters is the pastor for the congregation. For more information, call 419.258.6505.

man building demolition will begin after the first of the year. There continues to be research in regard to an adjoining wall on the west side of the theatre with a neighboring building. Legal pieces are taking place to make sure everything is legally covered should the demolition of the wall hurt the integrity of that building. The entire project must be complete by June 2024 for the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) funding to be used. The committee and Wagner are making sure the timeline will be met.

In regard to the residential and commercial blight removal program, completed applications continue to flow in. Estee Miller, Planner with Maumee Valley Planning Organization, shared the updated list of Paulding County completed applications that have been received. The com-

mittee discussed the list and also noted the several properties that applications have been sent out but not yet received. The group understands there may be more applications this year than funds to provide remediation for all properties. The committee will begin prioritizing the list. The applications will be submitted to the state by April 1, 2024.

Miller also shared that the remaining \$50,000 in funding from the first round of ODOD residential funds was approved to be used for existing projects. This allowed four more projects to be bid for remediation. These properties should see demolition work starting immediately.

Paulding County Economic Development Director, Tim Copsey updated the committee on the properties located on the Paulding County side of the Village of

Scott. A good meeting with the village council provided the detailed information requested by the county health department in regard to sewer and water connections there. This should allow future new residential development on the four Paulding County Land Bank owned properties including a potential new Vantage Career Center student-built home. If all details worked out the home would not begin until the 2025-26 school year.

The committee closed out the meeting going into executive session to discuss additional properties to acquire for potential remediation. No decisions were made. The land bank will continue to accept and work with property owners looking to find relief for properties that are behind on taxes or they are struggling to maintain or keep up.

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<p>FILET MIGNON FROZEN 6 OZ \$6.89 EACH</p>	<p>DAILY CHOICE SMOKED PEPPERED BACON \$3.99 PER LB</p>	<p>ECKRICH NASHVILLE HOT-STYLE CHICKEN BREAST HOT STYLE CHICKEN BREAST \$3.99 PER LB</p>
<p>BREADED CHICKEN WINGS PRECOOKED 5LB BAG \$9.99</p>	<p>GOLDEN KRUST JAMAICAN STYLE BEEF PATTIES 5 OZ \$1.49 EACH</p>	

SPECIALS OF THE WEEK