

LONG WAIT COMES TO AN END: PAULDING'S TACO BELL OPENS!



Friday, January 26, 2024 - the day that Taco Bell opened in Paulding, Ohio. The new fast food chain has been a long time coming for the village of Paulding and the community showed up to voice their approval beginning at 7:00 a.m. on the 26th. Taco Bell is located on N. Williams St. near Marco's and McDonald's.

RGP PRESENTS JOBSOHIO INCLUSION GRANT TO PAULDING COUNTY



Jessica Sattler, with the Regional Growth Partnership (RGP), recently came to Paulding County to present to local small business owners and leaders about an available business grant opportunity. The JobsOhio Inclusion Grant (JOIG) is avail-

able to businesses located in the zip codes of Broughton, Cecil, Oakwood and Paulding villages. In addition, the grant is available to female, veteran, disabled or minority owned businesses throughout the county. Fifteen businesses were represented at

the meeting by 16 individuals.

The RGP team is the NW Ohio arm of JobsOhio. They help oversee 17 counties in northwest Ohio, including Paulding County, in economic development projects and grant opportunities. With the JOIG opportunity, businesses that are over a year old and provide business to business services with at least \$100,000 in annual revenue (but not over \$25 million) are eligible to receive a \$25,000 reimbursable grant. An additional \$25,000 is available to female, veteran, disabled or minority owned businesses that are located in the above-mentioned zip codes. There

(Continued on Page 2)

ANNUAL CHOCOLATE EXTRAVAGANZA TO BE HELD AT OAKWOOD LIBRARY

The Annual Chocolate Extravaganza will be held at the Oakwood Library Community room on Tuesday, March 12 and Thursday, March 14. This popular event, started in 2006, is a fund raiser for the Cooper Community Library, hosted by the Event Planners. Guests have come to look forward to the fun, décor, and especially the many various chocolates! A minimum of 30 variations of chocolate as well as drinks, prizes, and a favor are always included with the price of the ticket. The theme this year is "Chocolate Royale" for those who like to add to their fun by dressing according to the theme! There will be a discount for tables of 8 sold by March 1. For more information or to reserve your tickets, call 419.594.2615 or text to 419.438.1159.

CRANE TOWNSHIP PLANS BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Have you ever wondered what your township does? In 1998 Ohio legislators named February 1 Ohio Township Day as a way to recognize the hard work and dedication of township officials across the state.

Road maintenance, fire protection, cemetery upkeep, zoning, and parks & recreation are a few examples of township responsibilities. Serving as a township official requires commitment and can often encroach into personal life. Many officers find it difficult to strike a balance be-

(Continued on Page 5)



FORMER PAYNE RESIDENT APPOINTED TO SERVE ON NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES PUBLIC SAFETY & CRIME PREVENTION FEDERAL ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

Owen Brigner, Council Aide to Denver City Council member Amanda Sawyer has been appointed to the National League of Cities (NLC) 2024 Public Safety and Crime Prevention (PSCP) Federal Advocacy Committee. Brigner was elected to a one-year term and will provide strategic direction and guidance for NLC's federal advocacy agenda and policy priorities on public safety. The appointment was announced by NLC President Mayor David Sander of Rancho Cordova, CA.

"Public safety and crime prevention is consistently one of the top reported concerns of Denverites," said Owen Brigner. "This role gives us another opportunity to help inform policymakers in our nation's capital about the challenges facing Denver and municipalities across the country."

As a member of NLC's PSCP Committee, Brigner will play a key role in shaping NLC's policy positions and

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Support local Organizations
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West Bend News

Community Calendar

MON & WED

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

January 29

- Backyard Maple Production Workshop @ Warren Co. Fairgrounds, 6:30-9pm
- Teen Cookbook Club @ PC Library, 4:30pm

January 31

- GHBL Book Club @ Grover Hill library, 4pm

February 1

- Alzheimer's Program @ PC Sen. Ctr, 12-12:30pm

February 5

- PCRTA meeting @ Pancake House, 9:30am

February 7

- OPERS meeting @ PC Senior Center, 10am

February 9

- Purses for a Purpose Purse Bingo @ NSCC, 6pm

February 14

- Lenten Lunch @ 1st Pres. Church, Paulding, 12p

February 20

- Farmer Appreciation Breakfast @ PHS, 7-9am

February 21

- Lenten Lunch @ 1st Pres. Church, Paulding, 12p

February 22

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

February 28

- Lenten Lunch @ 1st Pres. Church, Paulding, 12p

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OBITUARIES

FORT WAYNE, IN:

Michael Lee Glass, 68, of Fort Wayne, Indiana, formerly of Payne, Ohio, passed away Sunday, January 21, 2024 at Ashton Creek Health & Rehabilitation Center, Fort Wayne. Arr by Dooley Funeral Home, 5761 SR 500, Payne, Ohio.

COMMUNITY LENTEN LUNCHES

The Paulding Ministerial Association invites the community to the 2024 Lenten Lunch series. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 14, and continuing each Wednesday through Wed., March 20, lunch and a brief time of worship will be held at First Presbyterian Church. The Ministerial Association is excited to welcome the community back to this long-standing community tradition.

Each gathering begins promptly at noon and ends before 1:00 pm, so that participants can easily attend during a lunch hour break. A free will donation is accepted to support the work of the Ministerial Association.

All six weeks of meals are held in the Fellowship Hall of the First Presbyterian Church, at the corner of Caroline and Cherry Streets, Paulding. The churches of the Paulding Ministerial Association rotate providing the meal and the Lenten meditation.

The hosting schedule this year is First Presbyterian (Feb. 14), First Christian (Feb. 21), Divine Mercy Catholic Parish (Feb. 28), St. Paul Lutheran (March 6), Church of the Nazarene (March 13), and United Methodist (March 20).

The Ministerial Association will also be collecting non-perishable food items, cleaning products, and personal hygiene items each week to benefit the Caring and

Sharing Food Pantry, Paulding, if attendees are able to contribute.

Everyone is encouraged to arrange their schedule to be able to join community members from all churches and all walks of life during this season of Lent.

For more information, please contact the church office of First Presbyterian Church, 419-399-2438, or any of the Ministerial Association churches.

CHORDS OF LOVE

By: Doris Applegate

Chords of love
So softly play
Within the heart
Where Christ holds sway.
Melodies of love divine
Play so sweetly
All the time
Songs and praises
Loudly ring
Even angels joining.
Such a pleasure has the soul

Who has given God control
Nothing else on earth compares
To this blessing we share.
Close to Heaven we do come
When thus we honor God's own Son
By our worship, praise and love
God shows His pleasure from above.
Giving us His Holy Spirit
And His presence, oh so sweet
Giving of His grace and glory
Making this, our life, complete.

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MCGARVEY SPEAKS AT KIWANIS



The Kiwanis Club of Paulding County was privileged to have Travis McGarvey (Paulding County Engineer) as the guest speaker at the January 18, 2024, club meeting.

Travis came at the invita-

tion of Richard Kipp (Kiwanis Member). Travis spoke to the Kiwanians about some of the things happening in the Engineers office for 2024, as well as some of the past projects that have been completed.

to continue to rack up miles of safety and efficiency.

The new fleet of 11 TUGs replaces the original fleet that was deployed when PRMC opened in 2012. They may look a little different – newer and sleeker – but they're still working 24/7 to keep the hospital running smoothly.

The TUG devices, manufactured by ST Engineering Aethon Inc., are smart, autonomous robots that transport carts of supplies, linens and waste throughout the hospital. In 2023, the TUG devices made 41,510 deliveries and traveled more than 9,400 miles within PRMC. It's estimated the fleet works the equivalent of 20 full-time co-workers.

"Because the hospital is so spread out, these robots save our co-workers from walking literally thousands of miles and pushing bins that can weigh as much as 800 to 900 pounds," said Casey Palumbo, director, Environmental Services, Parkview Health. "The TUG fleet allows our co-workers to focus on other priorities and avoid injuries from potentially strenuous tasks. Even though they're robots, they're an integral part of our team."

The TUGs are primarily used by Parkview's Environmental Services team to transport soiled linens, but they also transport items for the Supply Chain and Pharmacy departments. The devices are integrated with au-

tomatic dumping equipment, so their carts can be emptied without human assistance. This allows for a safer waste removal process and helps to prevent co-worker injuries.

"Safety for our co-workers and patients is paramount at Parkview," said Dr. Jeff Borden, chief quality and safety officer, Parkview Health. "The TUGs are able to operate day and night, transporting materials that support hospital operations while keeping our co-workers safe from injury or exposure to hazardous materials."

In 2023, Parkview was recognized by Aethon with a RoboHero Award, which recognizes healthcare organizations that have achieved excellence in the adoption and utilization of mobile robotic technology as part of their operations. Parkview was recognized in the category "Most Miles Traveled for a Single Robot," with one of its devices racking up 1,194 miles in a single year.

"While healthcare will always need a human touch, the TUG robots help lighten the workload for our co-workers and make their jobs easier," said Donna Van Vlerah, senior vice president, Support Services, Parkview Health. "The original fleet had an extremely positive impact on safety and efficiency, and we look forward to seeing how far we can take this new fleet in the years to come."

(OMJ grant...
Continued from Page 1)

is a requirement of increasing full time employment, within your business by 10%, over the next three years. A business that has 10 or less employees would only need to increase by one full-time equivalent. Last year Paulding County had two qualified businesses that applied and both received this reimbursable \$25,000 grant.

The event was hosted at the Paulding Eagles and organized by the Paulding County Economic Development office, in conjunction with RGP and the Paulding & Defiance OhioMeansJobs office. OMJ Workforce Supervisor Tiffany Rockhold shared several business partnership opportunities with attendees to make sure they were aware of the many options available through the OMJ office.

"The attendance of this event far exceeded what we expected, which shows that our business leaders are engaged and paying attention to opportunities our office is sharing," stated Economic Development Director Tim Copsey. "The questions and discussions that evolved out of this meeting to both Jessica and Tiffany were informative. It's great to see so many business leaders participating and thinking outside the box. We are now using the knowledge that we gained from this presentation to reach out and meet with other business owners that weren't able to attend and share in this opportunity."

If an Ohio business would like to learn more about this grant opportunity and qualifications, please reach out to your local economic development office for more information.

Scripture of the Week

"Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up."

— James 4:10

MATT'S MISHAPS



Trash pickers will use a stick to prop open the garbage container lid, so they can get back out without getting stuck inside. You learn quickly to not throw trash into a container that has the lid propped open!



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

—Matt

People are More Territorial than Dogs

I have many favorite running routes along sleepy country roads around small-town America. However, I get shaken awake on the sleepy road when a large dog stares me down and begins to approach as I pass its property. In most cases the dogs calm down and stop barking once past their territory. Nevertheless, people are far more territorial than dogs. It seems more striking overseas as it happens in such spectacular ways. For example, the garbage collection in our neighborhood happens at large containers at the corners of streets. Each day we lug our garbage 100 yards to the container (not leaving trash in the home overnight to attract cockroaches). There are not garages and yards like America, so no garage sales and yard sales, and people just have less stuff. Old stuff gets taken to the neighborhood garbage containers and "trash pickers" have their territories (neighborhoods) where they will violently guard their trash containers. They sort through the garbage (even climbing into the containers) and then sell anything of value to flea markets.

We have coastlands near us and locals will guard their territory from others who come to use their area to surf. "Locals only" is commonly graffitied and those who defy

the warning too many times will have their cars "keyed" or even torched.

My only problem with "territorial humans" overseas has been with taxi drivers. They work long hours and changing shifts, so this probably makes them more likely to get irritated and aggressive quickly. I was traveling through a large city and stayed at lodging that provided a free airport shuttle. I awoke early one morning and got loaded into the airport shuttle van with other weary-eyed travelers. We only drove about 50 yards as 3 taxi cabs pulled in front and blocked the path. The drivers got out of their cabs with very aggressive postures and just stood there blocking the way. We waited, and waited, and waited. The shuttle van driver just looked expressionless at the taxi drivers, and I don't know if he was scared, but the passengers were! We not only feared getting beat up, we feared missing our flights. After this went on for what seemed like an eternity, the shuttle van driver slowly maneuvered the vehicle around the taxi drivers and their cars and out through a flower bed.

It wasn't my only run in with angry territorial taxi drivers. Friends stayed at a hotel near our overseas apartment, and while I was loading them into my van to get to the airport, two angry taxi drivers approached me. The taxi drivers thought I was working in their territory. I tried to avoid them and explained that I was happy to contact the police to sort it out. They grudgingly let us drive away and get to the airport.

I think the best approach with territorial animals, people or dogs, is to avoid any confrontation when you are in their perceived territory as they are only in a barking and biting mood.

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

Matt's Mishaps, PO BOX 114, Grabill, IN 46741

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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,
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Arrangements can be made for after
office hours appointments

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WHEN I WAS YOUNG

Penny For Your Thoughts

By: Nancy Whitaker
 It's 2024, I'm ??? years old, and I still have so many unanswered questions!!!! I haven't found out who let the dogs out... where's the beef... how to get to Sesame Street... why Dora doesn't just use Apple Maps... Why do all colors of Fruit Loops taste exactly the same, or how many licks does it take to get to the center of a tootsie pop... why eggs are packaged in a flimsy carton, but batteries are secured in plastic that's tough as nails... what does the fox say... why "abbreviated" is such a long word; or why is there a D in 'fridge' but not in refrigerator... why lemon juice is made with artificial flavor yet dishwashing liquid is made with

real lemons... why they sterilize the needle for lethal injections... and, why do you have to "put your two cents in" but it's only a "penny for your thoughts"... (Good one ya know?)

Where's that extra penny going to... why does *The Alphabet Song* and *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star* have the same tune... why did you just try to sing those two previous songs?... and just what exactly is Victoria's Secret? And where IS Waldo?... can you hear me now?... and do you really think I am this witty?? I actually got this from a friend, who stole it from his brother's girlfriend's, uncle's cousin who lived next door to an old class mate's mailman.



**AMERICAN LEGION OHIO
 CHILDCARE WORKER OF
 THE YEAR: POST 178
 MEMBER TANGA MITCHELL**



spire hope, to teach and to care for children and families". Tanga feels this mission in her heart and soul.

Tanga's volunteer resume' includes:

*Van Wert Live performing arts Center and Performance Union in Fort Wayne where she helps with ushering and stage set up and tear down and working directly with the performers.

*The board of the YWCA for 6 years. this allows me to work with children and families one many levels of life and how to gain independence.

*A Big for the Big Brother Big Sister program. This is a mentor program for Young school-age youth.

*Van Wert High School Athletic Department



*She has recently become an emergency responder for the Van Wert County CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) which involves assisting the police and firefighters on the scene of emer-

gencies or traffic control needs for the city and county. This also gives her the opportunity to comfort the children and families that have been affected by a fire emergency. She often works with the children as their comfort buddy during the fire event

Tanga is a member of The American Legion Auxiliary and The American Legion Riders. While she has been an active member in many areas, one of her favorite activities in this role is starting the high school football games with the firing of the cannon after the national anthem.

Tanga was nominated for this honor by her fellow Legion Riders who see her leadership role in the lives of the youth in their community every day. They are very proud to have her in their group.

IMPROVING SEED GERMINATION

Farmers struggle to get their crops and seeds planted to germinate quickly. When seeds are dormant, they wait for just the right conditions before germinating. Often environmental stresses like not enough moisture (drought) or lack of oxygen make seeds wait until conditions improve. Seeds have built-in mechanism that prevents them from germinating too soon. This cautious seed germination approach also tends to hurt plant yields, because plants gets off to a late start.

Dr. Brad Binder, University of Tennessee has been working with various plant seeds and the plant hormone ethylene to study seed germination. Ethylene increases seed germination, increases leaf growth, and root growth early in a plant's life. When applied later in the growing season, ethylene causes plants to mature quicker (senescence) or die off and it promotes fruit ripening. Dr. Binder exposed tomato, cucumber, and wheat seeds to ethylene in the dark just like when seeds are planted and found that when the seeds started growing and were exposed to sunlight, the plants where taller, had larger leaves, more robust roots, and grew much better. A small dose of ethylene in the dark stimulated plant seeds to germinate and grow faster!

In plant seeds, abscisic acid (ABA) is called the stress hormone which helps plants survive certain stresses (too dry, too hot, lack of oxygen, too much salt). ABA helps plants survive but the result is lower yield. Ethylene is another plant hormone but it turns off the ABA switch. Dr. Binder

found that small doses of ethylene not only improved plant growth and yields it also allowed the plant to grow faster, and survive the environmental stresses better. The simplest answer is that plants with a more developed roots and larger leaves can tolerate more stress. For farmers, they may soon be buying crop seed that has been treated with brief doses of ethylene before planting to stimulate faster germination. It will be the farmers job to make sure they plant at the proper time so the seeds can survive what ever conditions exist.

On another note, its January and it started to snow. While snow is pretty to look at, it also has some agricultural advantages. A little snow is a great insulator for wheat, strawberries, perennial crops, and cover crops. It keeps the wind from desiccating or drying out the crowns of plants. It also keeps the ground a little warmer for the roots to survive while adding some moisture.

An old rule of thumb was that every 10-12 inches of snow held about 1 inch of water. However, that old rule may be wrong. The moisture content in 10-12 inches of snow may vary from as little as .1 inch up to 4 inches of water. Snow flake structure, wind, temperature and many other factors affect how much water is in the snow.

Snow and rain also contains nutrients. East of the Mississippi, rain and snow can add 2 to 12# of nitrogen (N) and 6 to 10# of sulfur (S) to soil per year. Due to the Clean Air Act, farmers use to get 20-30# S free, so that number is much lower now. Precipitation also contains potassium, magnesium, calcium, and sodium; but the rates are fairly low and only benefit crops slightly.

N comes in two forms, nitrous oxide (NO) and ammonium N (AN). In the NO, about 5-10% comes from lightning and about 90-95% are manmade sources of NO derived from motor vehicles, power plants, and industrial sources. For AN, about 20% comes from soil microbes while the rest comes from manure and fertilizer. The AN sources can make up 25-75% of the total N in precipitation like snow and rain. Most of the N comes from human activity, so farmers living in the East around bigger cities and larger industrial areas get larger amounts of free N. (Source Minnesota Extension).

Snow also has some negative effects on the land. Often pests like voles (field mice), slugs, and some insects can benefit from the snow by in-

(Owen Brigner ...

Continued from Page 1) advocate on behalf of America's cities, towns and villages before Congress, with the administration and at home.

"NLC's federal advocacy committees play an important role in helping policymakers in Washington understand the issues and challenges facing America's cities, towns and villages at the local level," said NLC President Mayor David Sander of Rancho Cordova, CA. "I'm thrilled to have Owen serve on NLC's Public Safety and Crime Prevention Committee this year, and look forward to working with him to strengthen the federal-local

partnership, and grow our common knowledge of the issues and opportunities facing our communities."

Owen is a 2018 Wayne Trace High School grad. He graduated with an Associates of Arts from Northwest State Community College in 2019 and a Bachelors in Political Science from the University of Colorado- Denver where he is currently pursuing his Masters of Public Administration (MPA).

For more information on NLC's federal advocacy committees, visit: <https://www.nlc.org/advocacy/federal-advocacy-committees/>.

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 HISTORY



By: Mark Holtsberry

Harry Harrison Kerns was born in Antwerp, Ohio July 30, 1888. The son of Mathew Allison born July 1844 in Ohio and Margaret (Groscoft) Kerns born February 1850 in Ohio. Thomas was a Civil War Veteran who served with Company A. 66th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He served October 25, 1861 to July 1, 1863. This couple was married February 26, 1868 in Indiana.

This couple became the parents of Cynthia Anne born February 5, 1869, Thomas L. June 29, 1871, Moses Edward May 15, 1875, Ellen Barbara January 7, 1880, Carrie August 1883, John January 1886, and Harry H. July 1888. This family lived in Antwerp, Ohio throughout the 1880's and 1890's. Mathew worked as a laborer in Antwerp.

By 1900, the Kerns family, except for Cynthia, Thomas and Moses Edward whom all married, but were still living in Antwerp and surrounding area. In 1898, Moses Edward had joined Company B. 2nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry during the Spanish American War. The other children were in school.

By 1910, Ellen Barbara had married and moved out of the home. John and Harry were still at home. Mathew was working odd jobs. They lived on Perry Street in Antwerp. In 1914, Mathew passed away and was buried in Maumee

Cemetery. On June 3, 1917, Harry joined the National Guard out of Paulding. He served in Company B. 2nd Ohio National Guard. He served until July 28, 1917, when he was Honorably Discharged. He was given a surgeons certificate of disability and labeled as, "almost totally disabled."

On September 12, 1918, Harry's brother John, registered for the draft. He was listed as medium height and build, blue eyes and brown hair. He was a farm laborer for Harrison Farms. He was not selected to serve, but Thomas's sons, Theodore Allen and William M. also registered for the draft.

On June 5, 1917, Theodore was listed as tall and slender build, gray eyes and light hair. He was missing a leg, so he was not chosen. William registered June 5, 1917, medium height and build, blue eyes and light hair.

He served with Company I. 77th infantry. He was Honorably Discharged, January 31, 1919. By 1920, Harry and brother John were living with their mother, Margaret, on River Street in Antwerp. Harry and John were working as laborers.

Margaret passed away in 1929 and was buried with Mathew in Maumee Cemetery. By 1930, Harry was living with brother John at 667 East River Street in Antwerp. Harry was working as a laborer on the Railroad, John was working as a laborer on a road crew.

On January 19, 1934, Harry passed away, due to heart disease. He was buried in Maumee Cemetery in Lot 505, grave 3. John passed away December 4, 1939 and is buried with parents, brothers Harry, Edward, Thomas, sister Ellen and also Avery Harrison Kerns. Avery is the son of Thomas. Born in 1902, Avery served in World War Two. Coastal Artillery Headquarters, 222 Anti-Aircraft Battery. He passed away in 1977.

...Until Next Time!

ulating them against cold temperatures and desiccating winds. Voles do not hibernation and they can use the snow to hide from predators and to provide them shelter. Deep snow prevents the frost from getting deeper into the ground, so slugs and insect pests can survive better. Most slugs and insects burrow down below the frost line. When cold temperatures and the frost line pushes them

deeper, they may reach the water line, get caught, and many perish. A good hard freeze like Ohio experienced last year around Christmas helped reduce many agricultural pests. With a warmer winter expected this year, expect more pests (voles, slugs, and insect pests) to survive.

—James J. Hoorman
 Hoorman Soil Health Services

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ANTWERP LOCAL SCHOOLS

Home of the Archers

February 2024



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE	MR. LICHTY- HS/MS	MRS. STOKES - ELEMENTARY	ATHLETIC CALENDAR
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The second semester of the 2023-2024 school year is in full swing and with many cold and snowy days before us, I would like to remind parents to have students dress warm when waiting for the bus or in preparation for the trip to school. Student drivers should be reminded that road conditions change throughout the day and caution should always be used when driving in the winter. The decision to delay or cancel school is always difficult, but the determining factor will always be the safety of our students. Appreciation goes out to our bus drivers for their difficult job of safely transporting our students to and from school each day. A reminder that delays and closings are sent out by Instant Alert and our school app, along with a message on various television and radio stations.

A great way to beat the winter blahs is to view our winter sporting events in person, or if the event takes place in the main gym, you can view it on your computer. The events are viewable on your computer by visiting Youtube.com and typing Antwerp Athletics in the search bar. A specially designed camera has been positioned in the main gym to provide this service. Radio station 102.7 FM will also livestream and provide broadcasters for all Antwerp home varsity boys' and girls' basketball games. Visit www.my1027.org to view their broadcast of the Archers.

With the start of the 2nd semester, School Resource Officer Rich Phelan has assumed his duties replacing Paulding County Deputy Sheriff Caleb Miller. Rich has been employed with the Paulding County Sheriff office for the past seven years. Prior to his current service, Rich worked in vocational ministries for 15 years and spent 12 years with the Michigan Department of Corrections. Rich and his wife Julie (Antwerp Local Schools Aide) have four grown children and 14 grandchildren. Rich and Julie reside in the village of Paulding.

Construction of the Range Wellness and Recreation Center is progressing with completion currently scheduled for mid-March. A special thanks to our athletic booster organization for their efforts to provide a batting cage system, an adjustable basketball backboard, volleyball and pickleball netting, and equipment for the concession stand that will be located in the Center. The boosters are also raising funds for other endeavors associated with the facility. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend their 2nd annual mattress fundraiser on Sunday, March 17, 2024.

Looking ahead a couple of months, our musical department plans to present a spring musical program entitled *Beauty and the Beast*. The musical will take place Friday, March 15, Saturday, March 16, and Sunday, March 17.

We also have our Family Literacy Night scheduled for Thursday, March 14 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. A "Western" theme will be emphasized with the event. Specific events for the evening include literacy activities, a Book Fair, food, prizes, and educational based games.

Another major event to consider attending this spring is the annual Arts Festival. The festival is currently scheduled to take place Saturday, April 27.

Go Archers!
Martin A. Miller, Superintendent

We are already well into our 3rd quarter and 2nd semester and I have a few reminders to share with you.

Summer School will begin on Tuesday, May 28 and run for 10 school days. This will take place in person once again this summer. High School students who fail at least 1 semester of a class will be required to attend Summer School for credit remediation. Middle School students who fail a course for the entire year will be required to attend. More details will be shared as we get closer to May.

Annual Spring State Testing will take place on April 16-17, April 23-24, and April 30-May 1. Please try to avoid appointments during the morning on these days.

Our winter extra-curricular activities are in full swing. Come on out and cheer on your Archers!

Make plans to support the Arts this Spring! Our Spring Musical this year is *Beauty and the Beast*. Performances will be on March 15, 16, and 17. One other major event to consider attending this spring is the annual Arts Festival. The annual Spring Arts Festival will be held on April 27. We look forward to seeing you here to support our talented student in the Arts!

Go Archers!
~ Mr. Travis Lichty, MS/HS Principal

HS/MS GUIDANCE NEWS

Sophomores may attend the Vantage visitation trip on February 2. More information can be found in Mrs. Hammer's Google classroom. Applications for Vantage should be completed between February 2 and March 1. Visit <http://www.vantagecareercenter.com/> and click on future students for more information.

Sophomores will be taking the ASVAB test this month. ASVAB results give students access to planning tools they can use for their career project. Visit <https://www.asvabprogram.com/> for more information.

All juniors currently attending Antwerp will take the ACT on Tuesday, February 27. More information will be shared with students in Mrs. Hammer's Google classroom.

Scheduling for the 2024-25 school year will begin this month. Please talk with your student about making the best course choices. All scheduling information will be available on the school's website. Please contact Mrs. Hammer with scheduling questions. Scheduling forms are due to the guidance office by Friday, February 16.

PRESCHOOL SCREENINGS

Antwerp Local Schools will offer Preschool Screenings on March 20 and 21 from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Another screening will be held on April 19 from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Screenings are available for Antwerp School District children ages 3-5 years and are by appointment only. Contact Mrs. Carnes at 419-258-5421, ext. 2103, to schedule your appointment.

NOTE: There will be NO classes for current preschool students March 18-21, 2024, to accommodate staff trainings and preschool screenings.

NOVEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

KA-Kyler Smallwood, Emma Smith; KB-Emma Cross, Chloe Lavers; KC-Sophia Busch, Jasper Sweeney; 1A-Elise Graham, Ethan Flanary; 1B-Leah Ruffing, Easton Baumert; 1C-Kalieaha Edgar, Westin Winslow; 2A-Madison Muir, Pearl Overmyer; 2B-Braxton Schneider, Cambria Beregszazi; 3A-Garrett Bair, Leni Johnson; 3B-Ashlynn Dunham, Wynter Johnson; 3C-Reece Bidlack, Bristol Kauser; 4A-Chance Dockery, Ethan Smith; 4B-Braxton Smith, June Zuber; 4C-Sebastian Yanez, Sophia Friend; 5A-Charlotte Kauser, Landyn Hermiller; 5B-Conley Bissell, Sophie Partin; 5C-Brady Stairhime, Henley Gross

DECEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

KA-Brynley Bissell, Camden Foust; KB-Rose Larson, Adelyn Feasby; KC-Emerson Livingston, Landon Miller; 1A-Adalind Muir, Sawyer Parisot; 1B-Abel Kauser, Paula Lopez; 1C-Owen Wells, Emmagrace Baumert; 2A-Zac Barker, Jarron Leiter; 2B-Matias Rivera, Eve Graham; 3A-Aria Feasby, Paizley Cover; 3B-Wayne Zielke, Chloe Boroff; 3C-Grace Kobee, Parker Schmidt; 4A-Zoey Cottrell, Lily Mowery; 4B-Harper Morrow, Blair Bowlin; 4C-Olivia Bennett, Tsarina Gorbey; 5A-Emma Justinger, Carter Beregszazi; 5B-Carter Landis, Lily Zijlstra; 5C-Juliet Jones, Devin Smith

PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATION

Family BINGO will be held on Thursday, February 15. Doors open at 5:30.

2024-2025 KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Antwerp Elementary will soon begin scheduling appointments for 2024-25 Kindergarten screening and registration. These screenings will be held April 3, 4, and 5 at Antwerp Elementary. Students must be five years old before August 1, 2024, to attend kindergarten. Please call the elementary office starting February 26 at 419-258-5421, ext. 2200, to schedule your appointment.

OUTSIDE RECESS

As the temperature continues to fluctuate, please be sure students are coming to school with coats, hats, and gloves for outdoor recess.

FAMILY LITERACY NIGHT

Family Literacy Night will be held on Thursday, March 14 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. The theme for the event is "Western." Specific events for the evening include literacy activities, a book fair, food, prizes, and educational based games. Letters will be sent home with elementary students with additional details. Please plan to attend this fun-filled event!

~ Mrs. Tracey Stokes, Elementary Principal

ELEMENTARY GUIDANCE

This month's character trait is responsibility. Lessons were taught on this topic in all classrooms first through fifth grade.

Kindergarten talked about sandpaper (unkind) and cotton (kind) words after reading a story about a shark that bullied a fish.

As always, Mrs. Lichty is available to meet with individual students to meet their needs. She can be reached at 419-258-5421, ext. 2204 or via email at lichty_e@antwerpschools.org.

BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

Feb 2	6:00	vs. Ayersville
Feb 3	6:00	vs. Montpelier
Feb 9	6:00	@ Hicksville
Feb 10	6:00	@ Edon
Feb 16	6:00	vs. Tinora
Feb 22	6:00	vs. Hilltop

GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

Feb 1	6:00	@ Ayersville
Feb 3	3:00	vs. Montpelier
Feb 8	6:00	vs. Hicksville
Feb 12	5:00	@ Crestview
Feb 13	6:00	@ Hilltop
Feb 15	6:00	@ Tinora

BOYS FRESHMEN BASKETBALL

Feb 2	4:45	vs. Ayersville
Feb 16	4:45	vs. Tinora
Feb 17	TBA	GMC Round 1 @ Tinora
Feb 19	TBA	GMC Semi-Finals @ Tinora
Feb 20	TBA	GMC Finals @ Tinora

VARSITY WRESTLING

Feb 3	10:00	@ Ada Inv.
Feb 17	9:30	GMC @ Ayersville

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 9	2 HOUR DELAY - Teacher Inservice
Feb 13	Board of Education Meeting
Feb 15	PTO BINGO Night
Feb 17	HS Winter Semi-Formal Dance
Feb 19	NO SCHOOL - Presidents Day
Mar 1	Vantage Apps. Due for 24/25
Mar 11-15	Spring Book Fair
Mar 14	Family Literacy Night
Mar 15	End of 3rd Quarter
Mar 15-17	Spring Musical
Mar 17	Athletic Booster Mattress Sale
Mar 20-21	Preschool Screenings
Mar 23	Middle School Dance
Mar 28-Apr 2	NO SCHOOL - Easter/Spring Break
Apr 3-5	Kindergarten Registration
Apr 8	NO SCHOOL - Teacher Inservice
Apr 19	Preschool Screenings
Apr 27	Spring Arts Festival

CAFETERIA MENU

Thu, Feb 1	Salisbury steak on bun, corn, pineapple, & milk
Fri, Feb 2	Pepperoni pizza, salad, applesauce cup, & milk
Mon, Feb 5	Caesar salad w/ chicken strips, green beans, strawberry cup, & milk
Tue, Feb 6	Cheeseburger on bun, tater tots, pineapple crisp, & milk
Wed, Feb 7	Spaghetti/meatballs, garlic bread stick, peas, orange smiles, & milk
Thu, Feb 8	Hot dog on bun, carrots, apple, & milk.
Fri, Feb 9	French bread pizza, broccoli & cauliflower w/ dip, applesauce cup, & milk

Our menus are subject to change without notice.

THE COUNTRYSIDE KIDS CODE WITH SPHEROS



The tiny Spheros that the CountrySide Kids got the chance to play with!

By: Krandon Crites
DHI Media 4-H Writer

On January 20, 2024, the CountrySide Kids had their first meeting of the year. With only about 25 kids in attendance, the Secretary, Kailyn Karhoff, called the meeting to order, as the president nor the vice president was at the meeting. Then after that the reading of the minutes and Treasurer's report was read. She then congratulated the new officers: the president being Deklyn Schweinsberg, the vice president being Kaden Clark, the secretary is Kailyn Karhoff, Treasurer is Raelyn Schweinsberg, The News Reporter being Krandon Crites, Recreational Officer is Emily McCrory, and the Educational Committee Chairperson is Lilly Thompson. Congratulations to all of our new officers! Recreation was then held by Michael Scweinsberg from OSU Extension who brought spheros, little robot balls along with programmed tablets. Each kid got a sphero and a programmed tablet and learned the controls for a bit before getting ready to race them. The kids then did about 2 races before the Cloverbuds were released from their ses-

sion and were divided up with an older kid. The Cloverbuds then got to fiddle around with the spheros before they got ready for a Cloverbud race.

The CountrySide Kids had a lot of fun playing with the spheros and you could tell. Each of the kids' faces lit up with enjoyment when they saw how cool these things were. I would like to acknowledge Beth Schweinsberg for allowing this meeting to happen and I would like to give a big shout out to Michael Schweinsberg for giving us the opportunity to be able to play with these tiny robots!

FIELD REPORTS FROM THE OHIO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Central Ohio - Wildlife District One

State Wildlife Officer Adam Smith, assigned to Logan County, observed three anglers taking saugeye by snagging below the spillway at Indian Lake. The anglers were issued summonses for taking saugeye by illegal means and paid a total of \$600 in fines and court costs in Bellefontaine Municipal Court. The illegally taken saugeye were photographed and returned to the river alive. If you observe a wildlife violation, please report the violation by calling 1-800-POACHER (762-2437).

Northwest Ohio - Wildlife District Two

In early July, Lake Erie Wildlife Investigator Kelsey Brockman observed a boat returning to a marina in Lorain that was reported to be operating as an unlicensed guide. Investigator Brockman found that the clients had paid the captain to take them fishing

and bought that captain's portion of the day's walleye catch. The captain was found guilty of operating as an unlicensed guide and selling sport-caught fish. His fishing license was suspended for one year. He paid \$75 in fines, \$127 in court costs, and forfeited \$192 from the fish sales and the charter fee to the state.

In October, State Wildlife Officer Jason Porinchok, assigned to Putnam County, attended the 2023 Putnam County annual Pheasants Forever Black Swamp Chapter Youth Pheasant Hunt. The Black Swamp Chapter of Pheasants Forever partnered with Kalida Fish and Game Club to offer the hunt. Hunters aged 17 and under had the opportunity to hunt ring-necked pheasants with bird dogs and their handlers. More than 50 youth from Putnam County attended, and most were successful in harvesting a bird.

Northeast Ohio - Wildlife District Three

State Wildlife Officer Scott Cartwright, assigned to Carroll County, received a report of a white-tailed deer stuck in the mud near Atwood Lake. By the time Officer Cartwright arrived, the animal was fatigued and couldn't lift its head. Officer Cartwright moved the deer to solid ground. After a while, the deer regained some movement and awareness. The deer appeared to make a full recovery.

State Wildlife Officers Mike Greer and Zach Hillman, assigned to Cuyahoga and Summit counties, respectively, responded to a hunting without permission complaint from Lorain County. When the officers arrived, one of the hunters was calling 911 for another hunter in the party who was experiencing a medical emergency. The officers provided medical care and guided the ambulance to the individual in need of attention. The officers explained to the landowner that the hunter with the emergency was disoriented and trespassed inadvertently, and his friends were trying to help him. Considering the circumstances, the landowners did not press charges.

Southeast Ohio - Wildlife District Four

State Wildlife Officer Logan Ambrister, assigned to Belmont County, was recently contacted by a hunter who found an abandoned shotgun on Egypt Valley Wildlife Area. Officer Ambrister retrieved the firearm and searched for the owner. The firearm had not been reported as stolen

and had no identifying information. Officer Ambrister and Sergeant Tom Devaul of the Belmont County Sheriff's Office shared the information on Belmont County Sheriff's Office social media pages. Shortly after, the owner contacted Officer Ambrister and identified the shotgun, which had been a family gift. The owner was extremely happy and grateful to be reunited with a sentimental heirloom.

State Wildlife Officer Ted Witham, assigned to Jackson County, noticed hunter orange in a field on the opening day of the 2023 white-tailed deer gun hunting season. While walking toward the hunter, Officer Witham encountered a second hunter and conducted a license and permit inspection. The nonresident did not have the necessary nonresident hunting license or deer permit. Officer Witham then conducted a compliance check on the first hunter, who did not have a hunting license or deer permit. Each hunter was issued citations for not having a hunting license or deer permit. Both individuals appeared in Jackson County Municipal Court and pleaded guilty to the violations. They paid a combined total of \$570 in fines and court costs.

Southwest Ohio - Wildlife District Five

State Wildlife Officer Mark Schmelmel, assigned to Auglaize County, attended a meeting of the Tri-County Woman's Group, comprised of widows and widowers from Auglaize, Shelby, and Mercer counties. He provided a presentation on the local bald eagle population.

State Wildlife Officer Brad Buening, assigned to Mercer County, recently completed a case that began during the week-long white-tailed deer gun hunting season. The defendant pleaded guilty to charges of hunting without a nonresident deer permit or a nonresident hunting license. The suspect paid \$200 in fines and \$118 in court costs. In addition, the judge revoked the defendant's hunting privileges for two years and issued 20 days of jail time suspended on the condition that the defendant did not have similar convictions in the next two years. A shotgun and shells were forfeited to the Division of Wildlife.

BEING KIND ON MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY



Shown here are some of our children who spent the day with us: Savannah Coil, Ariya Lockwood, Garrett Wilhelm, Levi Lockwood, Wyatt Wilhelm, and Amelia Thrasher.

Ann's Bright Beginnings preschoolers and school agers spent the day together on Martin Luther King Day. We talked about how we can be kind and accepting of others.

We then made a craft of a heart with different colors and a poem that read: Friends at school are tall and small. Friends that care, Friends that share- we all need Friends everywhere!

(Crane Twp ... Continued from Page 1)

twelve township duties, a separate full-time job, and time for family life. Sadly, we seem to be in a period of apathy resulting in many township and municipal vacancies across the region. While the job of an elected official comes with challenges, it can also be extremely rewarding.

You might be surprised to learn that townships were the first form of government in Ohio, even predating state government. Ohio's 1,300 townships serve 35% of the state's population. Paulding County is home to 12 townships, with Crane Township being the first to organize in 1825.

Crane Township officials are researching the Township's history as they prepare for a bicentennial celebration in 2025. The Township is named for Oliver Crane, who traveled here from Goshen, New York.

He arrived in a dugout canoe on the Maumee River with his wife and three small children in about 1823. It was recently discovered that Oliver Crane

moved to Elkhart County, Indiana in 1831 and is responsible for naming the town of Goshen, Indiana, after his home town of Goshen, New York.

When the first settlers arrived here, the region was completely engulfed by the Great Black Swamp with little to no civilization. Because there was no organized government in the area, the responsibility of maintaining order fell to those early townships. Crane Township fulfilled that obligation by electing General Horatio Nelson Curtis its first Justice of the Peace in 1825.

As part of their research, Crane Township officials are seeking historical photographs of Crane Township landmarks, events, and/or people. Anyone with pictures to share can contact the Township by email at cranetwp@yahoo.com or by phone at 419-438-1433.

This February 1 take a minute to remember your township officials who give so much of their time and talents to serve their residents.

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.

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, Utilties 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 General, McDonalds, Ken's Meat Market, Paterson Hardware, Crumback Chevrolet, McDonalds, CVS, Clips, NH Bakery, Old City Hall, Richard's

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CORBIN KIMMEL IS A 3-TIME VAN BUREN INVITATIONAL CHAMPION



Corbin Kimmel grapples with his opponent prior to the pin. Photo by Carrie Kimmel



Corbin Kimmel is now a 3-time champion of the tournament, only the 3rd from Wayne Trace to achieve this. Photo by Carrie Kimmel

The Wayne Trace wrestlers traveled to Van Buren on January 19th, 2023, for the 45th Van Buren Invitational. The Raiders took eight wrestlers to the competition. As a team the Raiders finished seventh overall out of twenty schools. Four of the eight wrestlers took a spot on the podium as the top four placers of their weight classes.

At the top of the podium in the 120-pound weight class was Corbin Kimmel. The Junior is now a three-time champion of the tournament. Corbin pinned his way through the competition. Competitors pinned by Corbin Kimmel included Collin Tussing from Van Buren, Carter Breitgam from Fostoria, Branden Cross from Bluffton, and Cohen Lewis from Bowling Green. Kimmel is only the third wrestler to

achieve the 3-time championship in the history of the school at this tournament.

Colton Kimmel, the 113-pound freshman ended the day as the runner-up for his weight class. Colton had a bye in the first round and followed that up with a pin over Colin Failor from Bowling Green. Keeping the momentum going, Kimmel pinned Barrett Hernandez from Fostoria and projected himself into the finals. Colton was defeated in the championship match by Abraham Baldwin from Upper Sandusky.

The 190-pound wrestler, Nate Osborn, finished the day in third place. Osborn won his first match by pin over Ben Heitkamp from Van Buren. The senior then faced Alex Balderson from Arcadia and was defeated by a pin and sent to the consolation bracket. Osborn then defeated Heitkamp again with a score of 4-3 to send him to the final match for third place. In the final match of the day, Osborn defeated Loudon Auchmuty from Columbus Grove with a score of 8-6.

Graiden Troth, the 150-pound wrestler ended the day in fourth place on the podium. The senior defeated Kizer Young of Bluffton by pin and then got stuck in a pin by Thomas Tyson of Elmwood. In the consolation bracket, Troth pinned Miles McDorman of Allen East and then pinned Tommy Zemaitis of Bowling Green. Troth was defeated in the final match of the day by Thomas Tyson of Elmwood by pin.

Other wrestlers who competed on behalf of the Raider Wrestling team included Kamryn Sutton at 132 pounds and Dakota Denmore in the 215-pound weight class. Asa

Ames, the 165-pounder ended the day with a record of 2-2 and Blake Schultz completed the day with a record of 1-2.

ARCHERS STAY TIED ATOP GMC



Apache Sophomore Noah Shining attempts to get a couple points with this layup in the last minutes of the game! More pictures at westbendnews.net



Antwerp Sophomore Zaine McMichael draws in from the side of the court to shoot and score for the Archers! More pictures at westbendnews.net

Host Antwerp controlled the first three quarters and the Archers cruised to a 59-44 victory over visiting Fairview Friday night in Green Meadows Conference boys basketball action.

With the victory, the blue and white remain tied atop the league standings at 3-0 in conference play while improving to 12-1 overall. Wayne Trace is also unbeaten at 3-0 in league play.

The blue and white scored a dozen points in the opening period and held the Apaches to nine before bucketing 18 points in the second quarter while Edgerton scored 15 to put Antwerp on top 30-24 at the halfway

point. In the third quarter, the Archers added 15 more markers and limited the Bulldogs to six as Antwerp recorded a 45-30 lead entering the final stanza.

Both teams then scored 14 points in the fourth quarter to set up the 59-44 Antwerp victory.

Landon Brewer led the way for Antwerp, pouring in 20 points to top all scorers in the contest.

Carson Altimus and Zaine McMichael also reached double figures for Antwerp, bucketing 14 and ten markers, respectively.

Reid Lichty aided the (Continued on Page 7)

LADY RAIDERS GET RIVALRY WIN OVER ARCHERS



Raider Caren Winans isn't waiting to get close to the basket as she gets 3-points on this basket! More pictures at westbendnews.net



Antwerp Senior Aewyn McMichael is on top of her game with this layup in the fourth quarter! More pictures at westbendnews.net

In the annual battle of Paulding County rivals, it was visiting Wayne Trace who came out on top of host Antwerp 37-29 in Green Meadows Conference girls basketball action Thursday evening.

The red, white and blue jumped in front 11-5 at the end of one period but Antwerp trimmed the deficit to 20-15 at the intermission. The Lady Archers scored eight third quarter points

compared to the Raiders' five as Antwerp pulled within 25-23 entering the final period.

However, Wayne Trace doubled up the Archers in the fourth quarter as the Raiders bucketed a dozen markers compared to six for the blue and white to set the 37-29 final.

Caren Winans topped the Raider efforts with 11 markers in the contest while Lexi Moore added eight points and Caroline Winans chipped in

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six points.

Tianna Sinn (five), Harper Myers (three), Ava Zartman (two) and Amber Stoller (two) completed the scoring for Wayne Trace, which improves to 10-6 overall and 2-2 in the league.

Antwerp was paced by Aewyn McMichael with 13

points and Caroline Rohrs added seven for the Lady Archers.

Emma Townley (six), Madisyn Peters (two) and Faith Clem (one) finished out the scoring for Antwerp, which drops to 9-7 in all games and 2-2 in the conference.

four points with Hayden Neidhardt, Evy McAlexander, Alex Kenner and Adelynn Radford all bucketing two points. Ashlyn Steury also hit a free throw for Hicksville.

It's Military recognition

night for the girls basketball game at Paulding. The Lady Panthers are wearing their National Guard basketball uniforms in support of veterans and those serving.

PANTHERS TAKE GMC WIN OVER BULLDOGS



Casey Agler scores the 1st quarter buzzer beater in this 3 point, amazing shot for the Panthers! More pictures at westbendnews.net

QUICK START SENDS PANTHERS PAST ACES



Hicksville's McKenna Rice is open, shoots, and scores for the ACES! More pictures at westbendnews.net

NARROW VICTORY FOR WARRIORS



The Woodlan boys wore the classic Harlan hawks uniforms from the days when the old high school was still in use. Here Luke Meyer scores 3 points for the home team! More pictures at westbendnews.net

Friday night high school boys basketball went vintage at Woodlan High School where the Warriors wore the Harlan Hawks jerseys for their match up against ACAC rival Heritage Patriots.

Both teams met their match on this night and at the end of the time, Woodlan

came out with the win: 52-51.

Braden Smith was the top scorer of the game for the Warriors with 26 points followed by Trey Yoder with 9, Drew Fleek and Luke Meyer with 5, Oliver Adams with 4, and Jordan Halsey with 3 points.



Edgerton Junior Cory Herman grabs the rebound when the Panthers miss the shot. More pictures at westbendnews.net



While being guarded, Freshman Kate Manz shoots and scores for the Panthers! More pictures at westbendnews.net

The host Paulding Lady Panthers scored 20 first quarter points and pulled away from there for a 64-31 victory over visiting Hicksville Thursday in Green Meadows Conference girls basketball action at the 'Jungle.'

The maroon and white led 20-6 at the end of eight minutes of action and expanded the margin to 37-14 at the intermission. Paulding took a 53-22 lead into the final period.

Addison Pease topped a trio of Paulding players in double digits with 16 points while Kayleigh Dunham posted a dozen points and

Kate Manz finished with ten markers.

Brooklynn Bakle added seven points for the maroon and white followed by Brooklynn Schlatter (six), Tori Schlatter (four), Ameah Carr (three), Estie Pease (two), Lucy Breier (two) and Elli Barton (two).

Paulding improves to 7-7 overall and 2-2 in the conference with the victory.

Kennedy Adams paced Hicksville with 11 points and McKenna Rice chipped in seven markers for the Aces, who fall to 2-14 overall and 0-4 in the league.

McKenna Baird posted

(Archers GMC... Continued from Page 6)

Antwerp cause with eight points with Camden Fuller posting five markers for the blue and white. Ben Savina completed the scoring for the Archers with a bucket.

Kale Salyers scored nine points to pace the Apaches, who fall to 5-5 in all games and 1-1 in the conference.

Jackson Brady and Klayton Boland both added eight points for the black and gold with Jude Shiner chipping in six. Noah Shiner and Levi Panico picked up five apiece. William Zeedyk also scored three points to aid the Fairview cause.

Antwerp also captured the junior varsity contest, defeating the Apaches 29-27.

DELTA CAPTURES BATTLE OF PANTHERS

In a battle of the Panthers on Monday evening, it was the Fulton County version that posted a non-league girls basketball victory as Delta slipped past Paulding 48-41 at the 'Jungle.'

The green and white Panthers led the way from start to finish, taking a 17-12 lead at the end of eight minutes of action before widening the gap to 29-12 at the midway point of the contest.

Paulding did trim the deficit to 35-22 at the end of three periods but the Fulton County squad held on in the fourth quarter to record the

eight point victory.

Grace Munger led Delta with 11 markers on the night while Kendall Sprow and Olivia Smith bucketed eight points apiece.

Keagnyn Gillen chipped in six points for the Fulton County squad followed by Kate Friess (five), Alani Haas (five), Abbey Todd (three) and Ashlyn Lamb (two).

Pacing the way for Paulding was Brooklynn Bakle with ten points while the trio of Tori Schlatter, Brooklyn Schlatter and Addison Pease all chipped in six markers apiece.

Lucy Breier and Kayleigh Dunham both finished with four points for the maroon and white and Kate Manz bucketed three points. Estie Pease picked up the remaining two points for Paulding.

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THE LEFT TURN



The World of Outlaws return Tuesday, July 16th. Action Photos Ohio

By: Ron Burt

Racing in the Midwest might end in the fall, but race-tracks owners, promoters and staff never get breaks. Attica Raceway Park near Tiffin has made some positive changes for the upcoming 2024 racing season for fans and drivers. This week I will focus on the 410 Winged-Sprints.

January 13th, Attica Raceway Park Promoter John Bores announced Justin Liskai is the new director of operations for the track. Liskai will work closely with long-time Attica operations director Rex Lejeune and Bores over the next few months, learning the position. Justin is the son of Attica's long-time announcer Brian Liskai and grandson of former sprint car driver Al Liskai. Justin started at Attica helping with clean-up following races when he was a teenager. He also served as race director and head scorer at Fremont Speedway in the past and has helped as a pit worker at Attica the last few years. He knows the speedway, drivers, and fans very well. "Justin has a passion for racing and is very knowledgeable and has a calm and patient demeanor which this position demands. I believe he will be a great fit with our Attica family," said Bores. The past couple of weeks they all worked hard to finalize the 2024 schedule.

Attica Raceway Park will wake up from its winter break Friday, March 15 to open an action-packed season of sprint car and late model racing featuring 24 events featuring over \$800,000 in total feature money and point fund payouts. This is unheard of at most Midwest short tracks. There are several special events on tap for 2024 including the traditional Core & Main Spring Nationals Friday, April 12 and Saturday, April 13. Callie's Performance Prod-



Will Kyle Larson return to defend his Brad Doty Classic title? Action Photos Ohio

ucts 410 sprints will battle for \$6,000 to win. The Dirt Nerds Podcast powered by Propane.com UMP Late Models vying for \$2,000 to win Friday and the Fremont Fence 305 Sprints going for \$1,200 to win on Saturday.

The Outlaws make their first visit for the 36th Annual Ohio Logistics Brad Doty Classic Tuesday, July 16 paying the winner \$15,000. The Bert and Brigitte Emick Classic returns to Attica Raceway Park on Friday, June 7 to kick off the 42nd Annual FAST on Dirt Ohio Sprint Speedweek that features nine straight nights of sprint car racing across Ohio. The 410 sprints will race for \$6,000 to win and the venue will pay tribute to former All-Star Circuit of Champions promoters Bert and Brigitte Emick who began Ohio Sprint Speedweek. The traditional Attica Ambush will take place Friday, Aug. 30 and Saturday, Aug. 31. The FAST on Dirt 410 Sprints will contend for \$6,000 to win. The UMP late models will battle for \$2,000 to win on Great Lakes Truck Centers/Murphy Tractor Night on Friday. On Saturday's All Pro Aluminum Cylinder Heads Night Saturday, the 410 sprints will race for \$6,000 to win.

Next week I will cover Attica Raceway Parks normal Friday race night schedule featuring 410 Sprints, UMP Late Models and 305 Sprints. Until next week, keep your wheels down. Ron out!

POLLOCK HEADING TO NATIONALS

Leslie Pollock, a 2022 Antwerp graduate and Red-shirt Freshman at Ashland University, has won the Ashland Invitational in the weight throw. Her throw of 17.91 meters, 58.76 ft. Has qualified her for nationals.

Nationals takes the top 20 throwers over 17 meters. As of now Leslie is 12th in the nation in Division II weight throw.

Leslie has worked very hard for this a big shout out goes to Pat Leupp for helping her in Jr. High and High School with her throwing technique.

Jud Logan for having faith enough to offer her a scholarship and coach A.G. Kruger and the Eagles track team for all the coaching and support they have given her.

ARCHERS ROLL TO WIN OVER PIRATES

The Antwerp Lady Archers limited visiting Continental to just eleven points over the final three quarters in a 56-23 victory Tuesday night in non-conference girls basketball action.

The blue and white held a slim 14-12 lead at the end of one period before breaking the game open in the second quarter.

Antwerp poured in 18 points in the second stanza while holding the Lady Pirates to just four, expanding the margin to 32-16 at the intermission.

The Lady Archers then outscored Continental 11-7 in the third quarter, widening the margin to 43-23 entering the final stanza.

Olivia Crossgrove topped the Lady Pirates effort with 13 points with Kenzie Shock adding four markers. Destiny Pier, Ashlyn Dudgeon and Morgan Shock all had a basket as well for the Putnam County squad.

Aewyn McMichael outscored all players in the contest with a game high 29 markers for Antwerp, which improves to 9-6 overall on the season.

Caroline Rohrs also reached twin digits with a dozen points and Emma Townley posted five points for the blue and white.

Faith Clem (three), Mara Philipot (two), Madisyn Peters (two), Allison Sproles (two) and Raelley Franklin (one) also scored for Antwerp.

ANTWERP WRESTLING CLUB HAS GREAT SERIES OPENER

The Antwerp Wrestling Club recently wrestled in the first leg of the GMC tournament series at Edgerton High School on Sunday, January 21, 2024. The archer wrestlers had a tremendous tournament placing 25 of their 27 wrestlers in the top 4 of their respective weight classes. Placing 4th on the day were Starlette Ruffing, Carl Kosch, Paizley Cover, Wynter Johnson, Rylee Slattman, and Landyn Hermiller. Finishing in 3rd place were Owen Parisot, Ade-lynn Slattman, and Mary Adams. Earning 2nd place finishes were Bryson Perry, Ava Bauer, Sawyer Parisot, Brevyn Eicher, Blade Ruffing, Olivia Kosch, Ulrick Zijlstra, Aubree Frost, Oliver McCage, Cooper Nestleroad, and Edwin White. The archers also crowned 5

NH BULLDOGS FINISH 2ND IN NE8 TOURNNEY



Pictured here are the three grapplers who took the 1st place spot on the podium at the NE8 Wrestling Conference tournament on Saturday, January 20th at Huntington North High School: Juliana Ocampo, Timmy Rocha, and Brayden Clouser. Photo by Melissa Amstutz

New haven Bulldogs competed in the NE8 Wrestling Conference tournament on January 20, 2024 at Huntington North High School. The Bulldog grapplers placed 12 out of their 14 wrestlers and came in 2nd place by 21

points! Listed here are the finishes each of the athletes took on this day:

- 106 – Juliana O Campo 1st
- 113 – Karrington Cooper 2nd
- 120 – Timmy Rocho 1st
- 126 – Bakari Cooper 5th t

- 132 – Brayden Clouser 1st
- 138 – Lucas Barkley 2nd
- 150 – Aidan Elkins 3rd
- 157 – Ian Amstutz 5th
- 175 – Vinice Lepera 5th
- 190 – Chase Cline 6th
- 215 – Matt Poiry 2nd
- 285 – Charles McGrant 6th

champions on Sunday. Benson Slattman, Brody Adams, Richard Adams, Jameson Graham, and Emma White all earned 1st place finishes with all 5 wrestlers recording undefeated records to start their seasons. Sunday was also historic for Benson Slattman, Brody Adams, Richard Adams, and Emma White as it was the first tournament championship of their young careers. Congratulations to all of the archer wrestlers for their hard work this past weekend. We all look forward to next week at Fairview for the 2nd leg of the GMC tournament series. Good luck and GO ARCHERS!!

IHSAA GIRLS SECTIONAL PAIRINGS RELEASED

Girls high school basketball teams in Indiana will start sectional play between January 30 and February 3 with tournament pairings being released on Sunday.

In Class 4A, Sectional 6 at Columbia City, Huntington North and New Haven received byes into sectional semifinal action.

Fort Wayne Wayne and host Columbia City will open sectional play on January 30 with the winner returning to play Huntington North on February 2. The other sectional quarterfinal contest has Homestead playing Fort Wayne South Side with that victor coming back on February 2 to tangle with New Haven.

Class 3A action will be hosted by Garrett as the Lady Railroaders welcome in seven teams for Sectional 21.

In the lone game on January 30, Angola will square off against Leo with that survivor playing Fort Wayne Concor- dia Lutheran on February 2.

A pair of sectional semifinals on January 31 has host Garrett against Heritage followed by Fort Wayne Bishop Dwenger tangling with Woodlan. Those two winners come back on February 2 to play each other.

Sectional championships will be on Saturday, February 3, at both locations.

LADY ACES FALL TO LOCOS

The Montpelier Lady Locomotives made the trip to Hicksville Tuesday night for a non-league girls basketball contest with the Williams County squad taking home a 51-28 win over the Lady Aces.

Kennedy Adams had a solid contest for host Hicksville, bucketing 13 points while grabbing four rebounds and dishing out a pair of assists.

McKenna Rice chipped in 11 points for the red and white and hauled down four boards as well.

McKenna Baird and Hayden Neidhardt also scored two points each for Hicksville.

Baird and Alexandria Kenner recorded a trio of rebounds apiece with Neidhardt, Ashlyn Steury and Addie Sanders having two rebounds each.

Evangelynn McAlexander finished with three assists to lead Hicksville.

LADY WARRIORS PICK UP ROAD ACAC WIN

The Woodlan Lady Warriors wrapped up ACAC play on the road Saturday night with a 63-49 victory over host South Adams to improve to 14-8 overall and 4-2 in the conference.

Alyssa Anderson led a trio of Woodlan players in double figures with 16 points while Taylor Kneubuhler added 15 markers and Reagan Widenhoefer chipped in 13 points.

Brooke Kneubuhler and Chloe Gaff also had seven markers apiece for the Lady Warriors with McKenna Goble posting five points.

Anderson finished off a double-double with 11 rebounds to top the Woodlan effort while Gaff and Taylor Kneubuhler both recorded six boards. Widenhoefer, Addison Klotz and Leah Elwood each picked up four rebounds for Woodlan.

Gaff dished out four assists with both Brooke and Taylor Kneubuhler each picking up three assists. Widenhoefer and Anderson also recorded a pair of assists apiece for Woodlan.

Anderson paced Woodlan with three steals in the contest and Widenhoefer finished with two.

Macy Pries led the way for South Adams with 24 points, eight rebounds, five assists and six steals while Emmer- son Smith chipped in 11 points.

Liz Gerber recorded seven markers, eight rebounds and four steals with Laney Trausch adding seven points and six boards.

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THE ANTWERP POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORTS

On January 10, a minor motor vehicle accident was reported in the parking lot of the Oasis Bar & Grill.

On January 10, a village employee reported a suspicious vehicle parked at the drive to the Sewer Plant. The officer responded and verified the owner of the vehicle. The owner moved the vehicle.

On January 10, a resident of W River St reported she was being harassed by an ex-boyfriend.

On January 12, through an investigation an officer determined that a resident of Canal St was driving with a suspended license and no insurance. The owner of the vehicle will be cited.

On January 12, a resident of the village requested that officers keep the peace while belongings were being removed from a house.

On January 13, a third party caller reported a domestic incident on Main Street. Officers responded and found that nothing had occurred.

On January 13, a telephone line was found down across

Erie St. The officer moved the line and reported it.

On January 13, a water main break was reported to the police. The officer found the break and reported it to the Village Administrator.

On January 13, a resident reported a suspicious vehicle at a local business. The officer found nothing suspicious.

On January 14, a resident of Main Street reported their juvenile grandson had taken their vehicle without permission. The juvenile was on probation and the juvenile was arrested and the vehicle was returned home.

On January 20, a person reported open burning near the intersection of Erie and Waterplant Drive. The responding officer did not see any open burning.

On January 21, a call was received in reference to a person suffering from mental illness. An officer arrived and was assisted by the Paulding Sheriff's Office and the person was taken to the Defiance Regional Coping Center.

On January 22, officers went to the Women's Reformatory in Marysville, OH where they interviewed an inmate.

On January 23, a resident from Daggett Street reported that a resident from Paulding threatened him and took a vehicle from his residence. He did not want anyone charged, only to document what occurred.

On January 24, a dog was reported by residents on Victory Lane by the storage units. The dog was located and found to be home.



Ohio Wildlife Officer Mike Ohlrich. Photo provided by Division of Wildlife.

NEW OHIO WILDLIFE OFFICER ASSIGNED TO LUCAS COUNTY

Ohio Wildlife Officer Mike Ohlrich, of Liberty Center, has a new assignment in Lucas County, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Wildlife. He replaces Ohio Wildlife Officer Anthony Lemle, who was assigned to Noble County.

Officer Ohlrich is a graduate of Liberty Center High School. In 2008, he graduated from Hocking College with an associate degree in wildlife sciences. A 2009 graduate of the Wildlife Officer Academy, Officer Ohlrich began his career as an at-large officer in northwest Ohio. He has also served in Clermont County and Paulding County and was most recently assigned to Fulton County.

As a wildlife officer, Ohlrich has statewide authority to enforce wildlife regulations and protect state lands,

waterways, and property. He also contributes to public safety both locally in north-west Ohio and in Ohio's vast outdoors. Each year, Ohio's wildlife officers speak to clubs and groups about conservation and wildlife programs; perform fish and wildlife surveys; and provide technical advice and instruction about hunting, fishing, and other outdoor-related recreation.

To reach Officer Ohlrich, call 419-429-8388. To report suspicious activity involving wildlife, call 1-800-POACHER (762-2437). Reports can remain anonymous.

The mission of the Division of Wildlife is to conserve and improve fish and wildlife resources and their habitats for sustainable use and appreciation by all. Visit wildohio.gov to find out more.

ODNR ensures a balance between wise use and protection of our natural resources for the benefit of all. Visit the ODNR website at ohio.dnr.gov.

PARKVIEW BEHAVIORAL RECEIVES AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING NURSING QUALITY

Parkview Behavioral Health Institute has received the 2023 Human Experience (HX) National Database of Nursing Quality Indicators (NDNQI) Award for Outstanding Nursing Quality from Press Ganey, a global leader in healthcare experience solutions and services.

This award is part of Press Ganey's annual ranking of the top hospitals and health systems in the country, according to performance in nursing quality. Parkview Behavioral Health has been recognized with this award four times in the past six years.

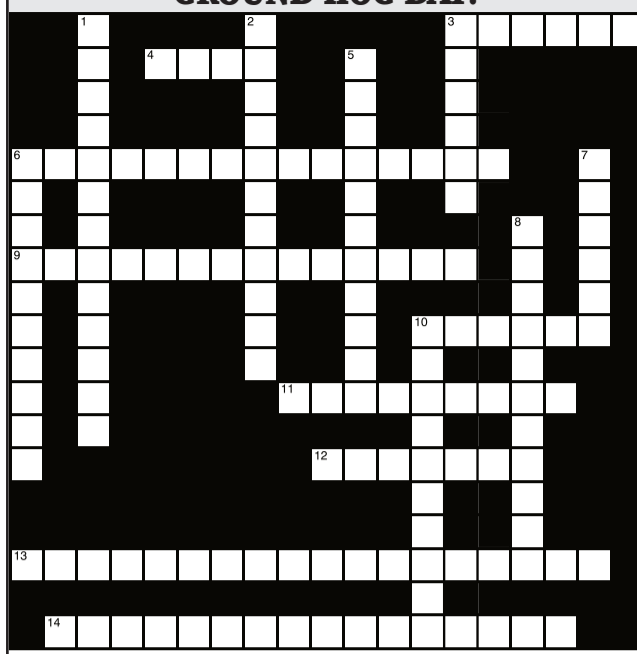
"Mental health care is so important to our communities and our acute inpatient facilities are critical to providing a safe environment for patients in crisis to receive the care they need," said Dr. Ahsan Mahmood, physician executive for Parkview Behavioral Health Institute. "Our team of experienced nurses, counselor and peer support specialists are dedicated to identifying each patient's individual needs and meeting them, and being recognized by Press Ganey once again is a testament to their skill and devotion."

Parkview Behavioral Health Institute's inpatient facility has 105 beds and provides acute psychiatric inpatient services to children, adolescents and adults.

"Providing safe, effective and compassionate care is an everyday goal for all of our nurses and co-workers, and is especially important in providing mental health services to patients in need," said Paula Bostwick, vice president of hospital services, Parkview Behavioral Health Institute. "We're proud to be recognized by Press Ganey in back-to-back years for our commitment to providing the best care to our clients."

As a winner of the Press Ganey HX NDNQI Award for Outstanding Nursing Quality, Parkview Behavioral Health Institute is one of seven healthcare organizations nationally to be honored for providing outstanding nursing quality. Press Ganey works with more than 41,000 healthcare facilities in its mission to reduce patient suffering and enhance caregiver resilience to improve the

WEST BEND NEWS Crossword Puzzle GROUND HOG DAY!



- Across
3. Punxsutawney has one of THESE of Phil in his honor.
4. First reported news of a Groundhog Day observance in the United States was in THIS year.
6. The ceremony where Phil emerges and predicts the weather.
9. Phil is often referred to as the "weather WHAT."
10. The place where the groundhog emerges to make its prediction.
11. The Catholic holiday that coincides with Groundhog Day.
12. Groundhog Day has its roots in THIS country's folklore.
13. West Virginia's resident groundhog meteorologist.
14. The famous groundhog known for weather predictions.
Down
1. The organization responsible for the annual Groundhog Day event.
2. It is said that Groundhog Day has been celebrated on February 2nd since WHEN?
3. Some view the groundhog's emergence as a symbol of the impending arrival of WHAT season.
5. Groundhogs are known to hibernate during the winter months.
6. Self-proclaimed "Groundhog Capital of the World" is in this town in Wisconsin.
7. Determines whether winter will continue or spring will arrive early.
8. The date celebrated as Groundhog Day each year.
10. A popular film titled "Groundhog Day" starred THIS actor.

solution on page 11

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"We applaud the accomplishments of Parkview and find inspiration in the commitment demonstrated by their clinical nurses and nurse team

leaders," said Patrick T. Ryan, chairman and CEO of Press Ganey. "The compassion, empathy, and human connection they bring to their roles serve as a testament to the transformative impact of nursing."

NOTICE: CHANGE OF MEETING TIME

During the month of February, the Village of Payne Council will meet on February 5, 2024 and February 19, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall, 119 North Main Street, Payne, Ohio. The Board of Public Affairs will meet at the regularly scheduled dates of February 12, 2024 and February 26, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall, 119 North Main Street, Payne, Ohio.

LEGAL NOTICE

The 2023 Annual Financial Report is complete and available at the office of the Fiscal Officer, Hilary Yoder: PO Box 155, Scott OH, 45886.

Hilary Yoder, Fiscal Officer, Village of Scott

Real Estate Taxes Are Due Wednesday, February 7, 2024

Mobile Home Tax are Due Friday, March 1, 2024

Failure To Receive A Tax Bill Will Not Avoid Penalty or Interest Charges.

For your convenience, there is a new burgundy colored drop box along the sidewalk on the East side of the courthouse.

- Please bring your tax bill with you when coming into the office to make a payment.
If you mail your tax payment into the office it must be postmarked by February 7 to avoid any penalty or interest. If you require a receipt, please include the top part of your bill as well as a self-addressed, stamped envelope. If this is not included, we will not mail you a receipt.
We have partnered with a new credit card company, Invoice Cloud, which offers multiple ways to pay your Real Estate and/or Mobile Home taxes.

If you would like to make a payment on line, please visit our website at www.pauldingcountytreasurer.com under Tax Information, then Real Estate Taxes and look for the green button that states Make a Payment.

Paulding County Treasurer • Lou Ann Wannemacher
Phone: 419-399-8280
Office Hours are Monday thru Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

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Self-Executing Contract/Security Agreement in Event of Unauthorized Use: BY this Copyright Notice, both the juristic person and the agent so said juristic person, hereinafter jointly and severally "user", consent and agree that any use of CLARENCE TONEY III© other than authorized use as set forth above constitutes unauthorized use, counterfeiting, of Secured Party's common-law copyright property, contractually binds user, renders this Copyright Notice and security Agreement wherein User is debtor and Clarence Toney III is Secured Party, and signifies that User: (1) grants Secured Party a security interest in all of User's assets, land, and personal property, and all of User's interest in assets, land, and personal property, in the sum certain amount of \$500,000.00 per each occurrence of use of the common-law-copyrighted trade-name/trade-mark CLARENCE TONEY III©, as well as for each and every occurrence of use of any and all derivatives of, and variations in the spelling of, CLARENCE TONEY III©, plus cost, plus triple damages; (2) authenticates this security agreement wherein User is Debtor and CLARENCE TONEY III is Secured Party, and wherein User pledges all of User's assets, land, consumer goods, farm products, inventory, equipment, money, instruments, deposit accounts, investment properties, commercial tort claims, letters of credit, letter-of-credit rights, chattel paper, accounts, documents, and general intangibles, and all User's interest in all such foregoing property, now owned and hereafter acquired, now existing and hereafter arising, and wherever located, as collateral for securing User's contractual obligation in favor of secured Party for User's unauthorized use of Secured Party's common-law-copyrighted property; (3) consents and agrees with Secured Party's filing of a UCC Financing Statement in the UCC filing office, as well as in any county recorder's office, wherein User is debtor and Clarence Toney III© is secured party; (4) consents and agrees that said UCC Financing Statement described above in paragraph "(3)" is a continuing financing statement, and further consents and agrees with Secured Party's filing of any continuation statement necessary for maintaining Secured party's perfected security interest in all of User's property and interest in property, pledged as collateral in this security Agreement and described above in paragraph "(2)", until User's contractual obligation therefore incurred has been fully satisfied; (5) consents and agrees with Secured Party's filing of any UCC Financing Statement, as described above in paragraphs "(3)" and "(4)", as well as in any Security Agreement, as described in paragraph "(2)", in the UCC filing office, as well as in any county recorder's office; (6) consents and agrees that any and all such filings described in paragraphs "(4)" and "(5)" above are not, and may not be considered, bogus, and that User will not claim that any such filings is bogus; (7) waives all defenses; and (8) appoints Secured Party as Authorized Representative for User, effective upon User's default re User's contractual obligations in favor of Secured Party as set forth below under "Payment Terms" and "default Terms", granting Secured Party full authorization and power for engaging in any and all actions on behalf of User including, but not limited by, authentication of a record on behalf of User, as Secured Party, in Secured Party's sole discretion, deems appropriate, and User, effective upon User's default, is irrevocable and coupled with a security interest. USER FURTHER CONSENTS AND AGREES WITH ALL OF THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL TERMS OF SELF-EXECUTING CONTRACT/SECURITY AGREEMENT IN EVENT OF UNAUTHORIZED USE: Payment Terms: IN accordance with fees for unauthorized use of CLARENCE TONEY III© as set forth above, User hereby consents and agrees that User shall pay Secured Party all unauthorized-use fees in full within ten (10) days of the date User is sent Secured Party's invoice, hereinafter "invoice", itemizing said fees. DEFAULT TERMS: In event of non-payment in full of all unauthorized-use fees by User within ten(10) days of date invoice is sent, User shall be deemed in default and: (a) all of User's property and property pledged as collateral by User, as set forth in above paragraph "(2)", immediately becomes, i.e.... is, property of Secured Party; (b) Secured Party is appointed User's Authorized Representative as set forth above in paragraph "(8)"; and (c) User consents and agrees that Secured Party may take possession of, as well as otherwise dispose of in any manner that Secured Party, in Secured Party's sole discretion, deems appropriate, including, but not limited by, sale at auction, at any time following User's default, and without further notice, any and all collateral by User, now property of Secured Party, in respect of this "Self-executing Contract/Security Agreement in Event of Unauthorized Use", that Secured Party, again in Secured Party's sole discretion, deems appropriate. TERMS OF CURING DEFAULT: Upon event of default, as set forth above under "Default Terms", irrespective of any and all of User's former property and interest in property, as described above in paragraph "(2)", in the possession of, as well as disposed of by, Secured Party, as authorized above under "Default Terms", User may cure User's default only re the remainder of User's said former property and interest property, formerly pledged as collateral that is neither in the possession of, nor otherwise disposed of by, Secured Party within twenty (20) days of date of User's default only by payment in full. TERMS OF STRICT FORECLOSURE: User's non-payment in full of all unauthorized fees itemized in invoice within said twenty (20) day period for curing defaults as set forth above under "Terms For Curing Default" authorizes Secured Party's immediate non-judicial strict foreclosure on any and all remaining former property and interest in property, formerly pledged as collateral by User, now property of Secured Party, which is not in the possession of, nor otherwise disposed of by, Secured Party upon expiration of said twenty (20) day default-curing period. Ownership subject to common-law copyright and UCC Financing Statement and Security Agreement filed with the UCC filing office. Record Owner: CLARENCE TONEY III© autograph Common Law Copyright 1998. Unauthorized use of "CLARENCE TONEY III" incurs same unauthorized-use fees as those associated with CLARENCE TONEY III©, as set forth above in paragraph "(1)" under "Self-executing Contract/Security Agreement in Event of Unauthorized Use."

FRED'S POCKET KNIFE

"And he turned the prize over and with evident satisfaction, I guess I know who owns it," said looking at it with a critical eye.



"I guess you don't," was the quick response.

"Just what I've always wanted." Fred held a beautiful pocket knife, with a white bone handle, and four beautiful shiny blades. It was probably the most beautiful knife he had ever seen. "It's mine," He told Tom as he showed him this beautiful pocket knife. "I think I know whose it is," said Tom.

Tom said he thought it belonged to Raymond the blacksmith, but Fred had seen his and it was much bigger than the one he held in his hand. That knife began to bother Fred and the longer he had it, the less comfort he took in carrying it. Fred thought about this every minute of the day and it began to occupy his mind. It tormented him so bad that he thought about burning it or burying it, or just give it away. He didn't want to keep it any longer but he didn't know how to get rid of it.

And Tom's tormenting really didn't help either. Tom reminded him several times a day that he had something that belonged to someone else. Fred was having a terrible week. Tom told him he had heard that Dr. Perry had lost his pocket knife, so Fred determined to go see Dr. Perry. He asked the teacher if he could go at recess and talk to Dr. Perry. As Fred arrived at the doctor's residence he was just leaving to make a call.

"I have something that I think belongs to you. Is this your pocket knife? I found it the other day. I was going to keep it, but I feel like a thief." The doctor said that was his pocket knife, but he had gotten a brand new one and Fred was welcome to keep that one. "Oh! Thank you!" Now what a different feeling it was to carry the pocket knife, than he had experienced for an entire week.

PS... I have had a pocket knife as long as I can remember. I have one in my pocket now. I have lost so many I can't count them but I simply go buy another. I don't buy expensive ones. As I am retired

it is easier to keep from losing one but I have lost at least one then. I had collected a bag full of knives, some fairly expensive. They are quite handy if only to open envelopes.

I've had them taken away, at The Indiana State House, the Atlanta Aquarium, and getting on an airplane. I always got them back somehow.

—James Neuhouser

HEIDELBERG UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES FALL SEMESTER DEAN'S LIST

Heidelberg University has announced the names of 406 students who have earned academic recognition on the fall semester dean's list.

Antwerp, OH: Siera Octaviano, senior; Hayden Wagner, sophomore

Defiance, OH: Casen Wolfrum, freshman

Paulding, OH: Gabrielle Stallbaum, junior

According to Provost Dr. Bryan D. Smith, students must be enrolled full time and meet academic criteria set forth by the university to be named to the dean's list.

Founded in 1850, Heidelberg offers 26 majors, 26 minors and 10 pre-professional programs, awarding the Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Bachelor of Music degrees, as well as master's degrees in Counseling, Business Administration and Athletic Training. For more information visit the website at www.heidelberg.edu.

HICKSVILLE VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 01/02/24

Hicksville Village Council opened the 2024 meeting year on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Mike Barth presided. Newly elected Council member Kent Miller and re-elected member Eric Bassett were sworn in to four year terms. Members Toni Egly, Charlie Martin and Ron Beverly were also in attendance. Councilman Charlie Martin was elected as Council president.

The Council's sixth member will be selected by Council to fill the two year vacancy left in Mr. Barth's seat. To that end, four interested candidates spoke briefly on their reasons for being given the opportunity to fill the seat. A fifth candidate had spoken at Council at their December 18 meeting. A decision will be made by Council in the coming weeks.

Moving on to agenda items, previous minutes and bills to be paid were accepted.

Solicitor Rachel Hammersmith presented readings on Ordinances 2024-01, 2024-02, 2024-03 and Resolution 2024-01. All were given first readings by caption only. Rules were suspended for each by 4-1 votes. The second and third readings were given and Council passed each measure.

Police Chief Mark Denning reported he had researched approximate annual costs for a K-9 unit and found them to be in the \$2,000 range.

Fire Chief Bruce Hart reported there were many things being dealt with in the department. They are working to resolve issues as soon as possible. They are also working to update their second unit so it will be fully ready for service if the hospital closure becomes a reality and its use becomes necessary.

Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith presented

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CHARTER BUS TOUR: April 20-25. Virginia Military Extravaganza, Norfolk & Virginia Beach, VA. One of our most popular tours, much included. Call for detailed flier. Evelyn's Excursions, 419-737-2055, 419-367-1471. Also on Web. 4-6

DEADLINE FOR CLASSIFIEDS IN WEST BEND NEWS IS FRIDAYS AT 12NOON!

a number of regular reports to Council.
The next regular Council session will be Monday, January 15, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in Council chambers.

CITY OF WOODBURN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 1/2/24

The meeting began at 7:00pm on January 2, 2024 with the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance was Mayor Kelsey, Clerk-Treasurer Hileman, SI (Superintendent) Walls as well as CM (Council Members) Sarrazine, Gerig, Watts, Gentz and Graber.
Chief's Report: Not Present.
Superintendent's Report: Nothing to report.

Mayor's Report: The mayor began by welcoming the newly elected council members to their positions. At 7:02 the mayor opened the public hearing on Ordinance 23-1421. No comments were made. At 7:03 the mayor closed the public hearing.
Clerk-Treasurer's Report: The minutes from the previous meeting were presented. After Review, CM Watts moved to accept as presented, seconded by CM Gerig, all in favor.

Presenting Ordinance 23-1421:
CM Watts moved to read by title only, CM Gerig seconded, all in favor.
After read CM Gerig moved to accept reading, seconded by CM Sarrazine, all in favor.

CM Watts Moved to adopt, Seconded by CM Sarrazine, all in favor.
Councilmen's Report:
CM Watts wanted to discuss what kind of agreement the city has made with former Clerk-Treasurer, Tim Cummins, regarding him giving professional services to the city for helping the newly elected Clerk-Treasurer. He was informed that Tim would be billing the city as a contractor at the end of the month for all services rendered in January.

Audience: Nothing to report, none present.
CM Sarrazine moved to adjourn the meeting, second by CM Graber, all present in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm.
Go to www.cityofwoodburn.org to see previously approved minutes and recent community news.

DEFIANCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES 1/8/24

The Board of Defiance County Commissioners met in regular session at 8:35 a.m. on Monday, January 8, 2024, in the Defiance County Commissioners' Session 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.

The Commissioners met with Prosecuting Attorney Morris Murray and Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Russ Herman for an update on various pending legal matters.

The Commissioners met with County Engineer Warren Schlatter for a monthly update. He stated that the Engineer's office had paved 13.1 miles of roads in 2023 and planned for roughly 24.5 miles in 2024. He stated that the deck would be replaced on the State Route 15/18 bridge across the Tiffin River causing a 90 day closure once the State Route 127 project is completed. Several smaller bridges on roads being repaved will also be repaired or replaced.

The Commissioners met with the Friends of Independence Dam. They shared updates on projects that had been completed in 2023, including repairs to shelter houses and the creation of the Garden and Butterfly Path. They shared the list of projects they would like to accomplish in 2024 including more shelter house updates; more signage for the Nature Center, Tow Path, and the Garden and Butterfly Path; totem carvings; a community fire ring; a pizza oven; and a container for sports equipment.

The Commissioners met with Superintendent Heidi Hull to discuss a vacancy on the Board of Developmental Disabilities.

DEFIANCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES 1/22/24

The Board of Defiance County Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, January 22, 2024, in the Defiance County Commissioners' Session Room. President Kern called the meeting to order. Also present were Commissioners Dana Phipps and Mick Pocratsky; 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.

The Commissioners met with Executive Director of Economic Development Erika Willitzer for a monthly update. She reported on several events that her office would be attending including a roundtable event for small businesses organized by Representative Kaptur and a summit to discuss manufacturing camps throughout the state organized by Senator Brown.

The Investment Advisory Committee of Vickie Myers (Defiance County Treasurer), Warren Schlatter (Defiance

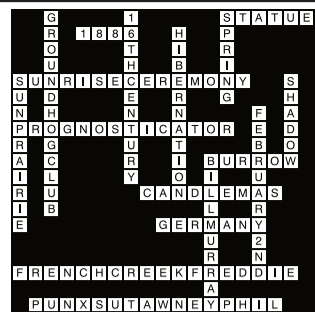
County Engineer) and the Commissioners met for the Third Quarter Investment Advisory Meeting. Ryan Nelson of Redtree Investment Group also attended the meeting. The Defiance County Investment Portfolio, Landfill Closure Portfolio and Post Closure Portfolio were approved.

The Commissioners were joined by Estee Miller, Mikayla Mueller, and Nick Walters of the Maumee Valley Planning Organization for the first public hearing for the PY2023 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Cory Wann, Hicksville Village Administrator, was also present. The purpose of the first public hearing is to provide citizens and local administrators with pertinent information about the programs available and program requirements. MVPO and the County will work with communities to identify potentially successful applications for funding. The second public hearing will be held at a future date and will review applications prior to their submission. Please note, communities do not have the authority to apply for CDBG programs. All applications must be approved by the Defiance County Board of Commissioners via resolution. The programs available to Defiance County are outlined in the State of Ohio Consolidated Plan and were presented at the Public Hearing by Maumee Valley Planning Organization. A broad range of activities can be funded through the programs, including neighborhood revitalization grant planning, economic development, downtown revitalization, water and sewer facilities, flood and drainage facilities, streets and sidewalks, senior centers, parks, and demolition of unsafe structures. Projects must be designed to primarily benefit low-to-moderate income persons, aid in the prevention of slum or blight, or meet an urgent need in the community.

DEFIANCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES 1/25/24

The Board of Defiance County Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 25, 2024, in the Defiance County Commissioners' Session Room. President Kern called the meeting to order. Also present were Commissioners Dana Phipps and Mick Pocratsky; 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.



Crossword solution from page 9

The Commissioners met with Senior Services Director Nick Wichman for a quarterly update. He updated the Board on statistics, including a total of 6322 meals distributed and 394 transportation trips made in December 2023. This is an increase of 254 meals and 157 trips over what was provided in December 2022. He announced several upcoming events, including a Valentine's Day Sweetheart Luncheon taking place on Tuesday, February 13th at 11:30am-1:30pm. Tickets are on sale for \$5 at both Defiance and Hicksville Senior Center locations. He also reported on 150 commodity boxes with shelf stable food that were distributed to seniors throughout the county that were provided by the Seagate Center in Toledo.

The Commissioners met with Heidi Hull and Amanda Westrick from the Board of Developmental Disabilities and the Good Samaritan School for a quarterly update. Ms. Hull reported on the expansion of the Special Olympics program, where they have doubled their basketball teams and have plans to add more sports programs based on what is in demand.

The Commissioners met with Wastewater Operations Director Brad Fritch and Tami James for a quarterly update.

The Commissioners met with Kirstie Mack from the Defiance Development and Visitors' Bureau to discuss the proposed Defiance County Marketing Plan for 2024-2026. The DDVB has been working with a marketing firm to create an advertising campaign to promote businesses, events, nature destinations, and historical sites throughout the County, with a plan to launch the campaign in spring of 2024. The DDVB will be working with local communities to create a full list of what to promote.



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PAULDING CHAMBER ACTION TEAM SPEAKS AT KIWANIS



The Kiwanis Club of Paulding County was privileged to have a few members of the Paulding Area Chamber of Commerce Leadership in Action team including Denise Kinder, Amanda Jewell, Owen Manz, Jamie Clemens and Cheryl Andres as the guest speakers at the

January 25th, 2024, club meeting. The group came at the invitation of Lora Lyons (Director, Paulding County United Way). They spoke to the Kiwanians about their community service project and the plans that they have to renovate the restrooms and pavilion at Reservoir Park.

PC RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOC. MEETING SCHEDULED

The Paulding County Retired Teachers Association will meet at 9:30 A.M. on Monday, February 5 at the Paulding Pancake House, the former Vagabond. Members should note this is a change of date. The group will meet for coffee and conversation. There will be no business meeting. All retired school employees are welcome to attend.

OPERS MEETING SCHEDULED

NOTICE!!! ALL 96 state members: OPERS will hold its meeting at the Paulding County Senior Center, 410 E. Jackson at 10:00 a.m. on February 7th. Speaker will be Jessica Pennington, CASA representative.

WINTER PROGRAMMING AT DEFIANCE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Defiance Public Library System is inviting the community to read, learn, and craft this winter at its three locations, offering a full slate of programming & activities in the coming months.

Registration is not needed unless otherwise indicated. See more programs, including new MakerSpace events for all ages, at defiancelibrary.org/calendar.

In addition, registration for the all-ages Winter Read-

ing Challenge continues through the month at defiancelibrary.beanstack.org, and the Teen Winter Craze reading challenge for grades 6-12 kicks off on Beanstack February 1 and continues through the month. Both offer patrons a chance to win prizes for time spent reading books or audiobooks.

Register for reading challenges at defiancelibrary.beanstack.org.

VIRTUAL

Decoding the Mysteries of Cats: Stephen Quandt explains cat behavior from the perspective of the evolutionary and adaptive forces that drive it. February 12 at 6:00 p.m. Register at defiancelibrary.org/cats to receive a link to this virtual event. Geared to adults.

DEFIANCE

Storytime: Join Defiance Public Library for Storytime for ages 2-6 every Monday at 6:00 p.m. and Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. from January 29 – March 26. Storytime will take place upstairs in the Nellie Gary Reading Room, with exceptions on February 26 and March 26, when the group will meet in the Children's Room. Read, Rhyme, & Romp for babies and toddlers will take place immediately before, at 5:30 p.m. on Mondays and 10:30 a.m. on Tuesdays.

Alzheimer's Series: The Alzheimer's Association of Northwest Ohio will continue its free educational series on February 13 at 3:00 p.m. at Defiance Public Library with

'What is Hospice and How Can it Help?' Register at defiancelibrary.org/alz5 or by calling 419-782-1456.

SHERWOOD

Gaming League: Grades 6-12 are invited to Sherwood Branch Library, 117 N. Harrison St., On the second Tuesday of each month from 4:00-6:00 p.m. for Gaming League, a group for those who love games: board games, video games, card games, & more.

Couples Paint Night: Create a Valentine's Day masterpiece on February 2 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Sherwood Branch. Must be 21+. Snacks will be provided and guests can bring refreshments, if desired. Registration is required. Register at defiancelibrary.org/heart or by calling 419-899-4343.

Friends of SBL Book Sale:

Find your next great read during the Friends of Sherwood Branch Library's Book Sale, taking place every Saturday in February (February 3, 10, 17, 24) from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the library. Books are available for a freewill donation, and proceeds support the library.

Financial Classes:

Postema Insurance & Investments will visit Sherwood Branch Library on February 13 to present 'Retirement You Can't Outlive' at 10:30 a.m. and Estate Planning at 3:00 p.m.

HICKSVILLE

Lego Club: Lego Club will take place at Johnson Memorial Library from 4-5:30 p.m. on February 27, and March 26. Geared to ages 7-12.

Make a Valentine's Day Mailbox:

School-aged kids are invited to Johnson Memorial Library on February 5 at 5:00 p.m. to make a special Valentine's Day mailbox for your class Valentines.

Financial Classes:

Postema Insurance & Investments will visit Johnson Memorial Library on February 10 at 11:00 a.m. to present on retirement planning, and March 9 at 11:00 a.m. to discuss estate planning.

VAN WERT COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY RECEIVES GRANTS FROM VAN WERT COUNTY FOUNDATION

The Van Wert County Agricultural Society has received two grants from the Van Wert County Foundation totaling \$16,375 from the John D. and Nellie S. Ault Memorial Fund. The Ag Society applied for the grants during the 2023 Fall Competitive Grant Cycle. The competitive

grant cycle is a biannual process where Van Wert County nonprofits, government, and schools can apply for funding for special projects or programs impacting Van Wert County. The applications submitted are reviewed and voted on by The Foundation's Board of Trustees with the main focus of the process being how the organization's project is focused on creating a well-resourced and thriving quality of life for our community.

This year marks our 168th Annual Van Wert County Fair. We have nearly 50 buildings, barns and arenas that need updated, upgraded and improved to continue to meet the needs of our agriculture and fair community. We rely on our fundraising efforts, grants and community donations to make this possible." states Mike Poling, Van Wert County Fair Secretary and Fair Manager. "We are grateful for the continued support of the Van Wert County Foundation and look forward to finishing our active projects."

These funds are allocated for specific projects, one being 2-way LED sign at Gate 2 to help advertise upcoming events and deadlines as well as continued marketing efforts to best communicate infor-

PCBW GUEST: McCORD & BIDLACK OF CUSTOM ASSEMBLY



This week on Paulding County Business Weekly we hear from Custom Assembly HR Manager, Robin McCord and HR Coordinator, Alyse Bidlack. Listen as they share the history and information about one of Paulding County's largest employers and best-kept secrets. Learn how this business is the hub and central location for facili-

ties located in 9 states. Tune in on Tuesdays & Thursdays at 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., or listen online at www.my1027.org/paulding-county-business-weekly/. PCBW is also in podcast form on several platforms including Apple, Google, and Spotify. Thank you to sponsor OhioMeansJobs. #paulding-countystrong

mation and events to the Van Wert Community.

To learn more about the projects on the grounds visit <https://www.vanwertcounty-fair.com/about-us/projects/>

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Come and check out our

Indoor Winter Food Truck!



We are a mobile BBQ food trailer, but soon hope to grow into something more permanent. Our unit is currently set up inside the Amanda Lee Coffee building (Southwest door) to serve throughout the winter for carry out BBQ.

(Carry Out Only)
959 E. High Street Hicksville Ohio
260-414-2168
(South West entrance of the Amanda Lee Coffee)
Wednesday 11:00-6:00
Friday 11:00-6:00
Saturday 11:00-2:00
Severe weather may effect hours

Menu

Menu may vary while supplies last.

- BBQ Pork Sandwich..... \$9.00
- Brisket Sandwich\$11.00
- Pull Pork Mac n Cheese\$10.00
- 10 pc Wings.....\$10.00
- Baby Back Ribs..... ½ \$12.00
Full \$22.00
- ½ Chicken.....\$7.00
- Loaded Backed Potato.....\$11.00
- Cole Slaw..... \$2.00



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